



Kiwaniis®

THOUSAND OAKS

The Official Newsletter and Minutes of the Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks, California

March 11, 2026

Happy Wednesday, Boss



A whole bunch of Kiwanians and spouses attended the Mardi Gras ball to support King Chuck Huffer and Executive Director Robin Britt. A good time was had by all.

See the Program section of the bulletin for an explanation of the headline. Sherrill Hyink opened the meeting by leading us in a stirring rendition of "America," and Paul Lopez followed with the flag salute. Don Christie emphasized care for our planet in his invocation.

The Kween brought along three members of the Los Cerritos Builders Club – Mark, Hanoor, and Tristan, better known collectively as "Hello, Kiwanis," to pick our pockets, which they did to

the tune of \$352 for the Crop Walk. Last year our local Crop Walk raised \$38,000 of which \$1,170 came from our team.

Doug Ryan offered a somewhat subtle but ultimately funny attorney joke, first making sure there were no lawyers in the room.

Tom Skinner has a birthday on the 15th, and we celebrate five Club anniversaries this week – Steve Coyne (1 year), Jerry Westby (4), Bob Engler (19), Jack O'Neil (19), and Lanny Arrowsmith (32). Steve, Jerry, and Lanny were present to



Sherrill Hyink was joined by some Builders Club students to help lead the club in singing "America." Paul Lopez led the pledge and Don Christie gave the invocation.

receive their certificates.

Presidential Announcements

"Thank you's" were delivered by President Brian to Teta Van Ommeren and her team for the Mentorship Night at Thousand Oaks High School last Thursday, and to Paul Lopez for hosting (and to Jerry Westby for presiding over) a great Friday night meeting.

Brian also announced that the latest Rising Star meeting at Pizza Cookery was very successful, and that the Board

approved two new Rising Star members at its meeting last night. Our next Friday Night Evening Edition meeting will be at Chuck Huffer's home on April 10.

The next DCM is tomorrow night at the ARC in Ventura and features the Cal-Nev-Ha Governor's official visit to Division 42.

Committee Reports and Announcements

President-Elect Jerry Westby was touched that he drew a whistle from the audience in addition to the usual sporadic applause as he ascended to the podium to bring us Committee Reports and Announcements.

Meals on Wheels - Sherrill Hyink announced that she will be Monday's Meals on Wheels driver.

Upcoming Speakers

03-18 Kathleen Turner, Dolly Parton Imaginary Library

03-25 Akbar Alikan, City of T.O.



Lynn Burdick and Robin Britt braved the elements to help with the AYSO soccer tournament.



Katy Porter, Kathy Smiley, Robin Britt and Martha Malamis made centerpieces for the Thursday DCM meeting in VTA.

Community Service – Gloria Dyok let us know that we are coming into a very busy time of the year for service projects and many of them are coordinated by her Committee. First up is the Disability Faire on March 21 from 11:00 to 3:00 in the Oaks Mall parking lot. We will have a table and need about four volunteers.

We will be helping stuff bags for kids at My Stuff Bags on Thursday March 26, 10 am -12 noon. We have enough volunteers signed up. The Thousand Oaks Girls Softball Family Day is coming up April 25 and Aut2Run is April 26. We'll be cooking a pancake breakfast there and need a lot of volunteers.

A potential new project is providing a limited number of volunteers the next weekend, on May 3, for the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley's inaugural 5K "Cottontail Color Run." Then comes the Grace Wolpert Memorial dance put on by CRPD's Therapeutics Unit for indi-

viduals with disabilities on May 9. We'll be cooking there.

The Love Run is June 7, and the Cancer Support Community's "Caravan for Cancer" fundraiser is July 26. We'll be cooking at both of those events as well.

Social Committee – Kathy Smiley gave a last call for our Saint Patty's Day social at Rick Herrerra's home on March 15.

Corks and Kegs – Seven months ago we staged our very successful first ever "Corks and Kegs" Foundation fundraiser, and it's time to start gearing up for the second ever. The date is Thursday

October 8. The site is the same as last year, Los Robles Gardens Event Center. Robin Britt is Chair, and she is planning to have the first Committee meeting later this month. She needs volunteers, particularly for the work that needs to be done before the event, and most particularly someone to head up the Sponsor recruitment group. Talk to Robin and join in with the planning and preparation for Corks and Kegs. Event day volunteers are appreciated, but there is also much work that needs to be done in advance. Fortunately, there is a good amount of time to do it and an inspired Chair to keep things moving.

Chuck Huffer announced that we need more volunteers for the AYSO Pot O' Gold Soccer Tournament the weekend of March 21-22. Six people volunteered last weekend for the first round of the Tournament, and the Club earned \$240 as it gets \$10 per hour for the volunteer time we provide.

Raffle

Suspicion of nepotism only grew today as Sharon McMahan was picked for the second week in a row to roll for the big bucks. Her first roll was a six, but a five came second, so she'll have to be satisfied with \$6, rather than the mega-millions a second six would have earned.

Roger Meyer and Gloria Dyok each rolled a four in the consolation round.



For the second week in a row, Sharon McMahan won the raffle. She rolled a six and then a five, coming within one dot of winning the big pot.

Fine Period

Teta Van Ommeren served as this morning's basket case.

Dave Biedebach dropped in \$3 and thanked Katy Porter for the excellent Regional Training Conference last weekend. He also had a great time chatting with fellow Kiwanians on the ride up to Santa Barbara and back.

Brian McMahan displayed a photo from the Agoura Acorn on the screen. It showed about 15-20 members who had gathered to honor Chuck Huffer as King of the Mardi Gras on February 28th. Brian had been advised by a senior member of the Club that it was traditional for any member whose picture had appeared in the paper to pay a fine of \$5. So, he gave it a whirl. A few guffaws, but as you will see, some members paid up.

Gloria Dyok was first up. She put in



Jerry Westby, Lanny Arrowsmith and Steve Coyne were called to the front to be recognized for their years of service to the club.

a measly dollar for the picture and then another dollar to leave early. A connection there? You be the judge.

Sherrill Hyink thanked members for their Crop Walk donations and whined about conditions, past and present, at the AYSO Tournament, for which she has volunteered.

Katy Porter put in a dollar to sympathize with Sherrill. Tim Hengst was amused by his seven-year-old granddaughter's reaction to playing catcher in her first year of kids' softball. At that age, the catcher isn't able to effectively serve a real purpose like catching the ball. Tim's granddaughter not only didn't catch the ball, but she also took direct hits, first to the mask, then everywhere else. Afterwards, her reaction? I want to be catcher all the time.

Roger Meyer donated his \$4 raffle winning. Sharon McMahan donated \$5 of her raffle winnings for the Acorn pic-



Sherrill Hyink and her students put on an entertaining skit about the Crop Walk before scurrying around with their hats out to collect money to support the event. They collected \$240.

ture and put in another \$5 for Brian (he has no cash). Inquiring minds want to know – was this disclosed in the prenup?

Robin Britt was also a good sport, dropping in a fiver for the Acorn pix and another \$5 for a nice article about Community Conscience. Paul Lopez also paid \$5 for his picture and said the Mardi Gras was a great event.

Chuck Huffer parted with \$5 for the picture – he had to because he was right in the middle of the shot wearing a crown. Couldn't hide. Mike Mathews followed suit with \$5 and offered his opinions on Special Guest Day for another buck. Don't let it be boring – have a fine period and some kids participating.

Steve Coyne observed that kids at the T-ball level want to be catcher because of all the equipment they get to wear. And they don't get hit with pitches. Brian McMahan said that Paul Lopez was his

son's first Little League coach.

Doug Ryan told of his son Jeremy playing youth soccer running up and down the field spraying sweat like a sprinkler. Doug was refereeing the match and as Jeremy ambled past Doug he confided, "I'm not built for speed."

Rick Herrera played Arnie Rudman for a day, reminding us of the Westminster Free Clinic food distribution event this afternoon at United Methodist Church.

Larry Levine closed the Fine Period by nailing Mike Mathews – he signed in on the wrong line.

Conejo Hospice

Vice President Kathy Smiley introduced Kyle Jorrey, Executive Director of Hospice of the Conejo. Kyle is a good friend of Kiwanis, and we work together on the Turkey Day Dash every year, which benefits both Hospice and our Foundation.

Conejo Hospice is a volunteer hospice that will celebrate its 50th anniversary of service to our community next year. Volunteer hospices do not provide any medical services and thus do not receive any Medicare or other insurance payments. Hospice is funded by donations, grants, and fund-raising, including the Turkey Day Dash and their annual golf tournament coming up in May.

It provides social and emotional support to persons suffering life-limiting



Our guest speaker was Kyle Jorrey, Executive Director of Hospice of the Conejo.

medical conditions, such as Parkinson's and dementia. A terminal diagnosis is not required. There is a cadre of 70 volunteers that Hospice can call on to provide these one-on-one services, always aiming for a good fit between client and volunteer. A valuable service that volunteers also provide is respite to family caregivers.

Grief support is another key program Hospice operates. This includes bereavement groups facilitated by licensed mental health professionals.

The Hospice paid staff consists of three people, Kyle, his assistant, and his office manager, Susie Chua. She has been with the organization for 20 years. Kyle appreciates her knowledge, dedication to service to others, and sunny disposition, and most especially her greeting to him when he arrives for work. Today it will be –

"Happy Wednesday, Boss."

Stick Draw

George Engdahl's stick was pulled today. He was not present, so he gets ... NOTHING! In George's defense, he is a charter member of our Club who has lived in Texas for decades but still keeps up his membership with us.

President's Message

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Written and edited by John Prescott; photos, production and distribution by Mike Mathews.



Vice President Kathy Smiley thanked Kyle for his presentation.

KIWANIS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Let the good times roll!

SUNDAY

15

3:00 PM

MARCH

RICK & EVIE HERRARA'S HOUSE
1691 VALLEY HIGH, THOUSAND OAKS

WEAR GREEN, BRING A DISH &
YOUR LUCKY SPIRIT!



KIWANIS CALENDAR

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE KIWANIS CLUB OF THOUSAND OAKS

2nd Saturdays: 9:00 am to 11:00 am: Safe Passage food distribution. 1707 Calle Diamonte, Conejo Creek Condos. See Gloria Dyok. **Every Wednesday.** Food distribution at Westminster Clinic at 1:00. Match 14 is the next date.

March 12, Thursday: DCM at ARC Ventura. Governor's visit. 6:00 pm

March 15, Sunday: St. Patrick's potluck party at the Herrera's, 3:00 pm.

March 21, Saturday: Disability Fair at The Oaks parking lot, 11-3.

March 22, Sunday: Crop Walk

March 26, Thursday: My Stuff Bags event. See Gloria for details. 10:00-noon.

April 9, Thursday: DCM at ARC, Oxnard is the host. 6:00 pm.

April 26, Sunday: Aut2Run pancake event at CSUCI.

May 7, Thursday: DCM at Moorpark Presbyterian Church, 13950 Peach Hill Rd. 6:00 pm.

May 9, Saturday: Teen Club Dance. 4:30 to 6:30.

June 6, Saturday: Ride On cooking event.

June 7, Sunday: The Love Run

June 11, Thursday: DCM at ARC in Ventura. 6:00 pm.

June 24-27, Int'l Convention, Manila

July 9, Thursday: DCM at ARC in Ventura. 6:00 pm.

July 26, Sunday: Caravan for Cancer event, we will be grilling, 4195 E. TOB

August 13, Thursday: DCM at CLU Oxnard.

September 10, Thursday: DCM Moorpark Presbyterian Church, 13950 Peach Hill Rd. 6:00 pm.

October 8, Thursday: Corks and Kegs

Club Officers

President

Brian McMahon

President Elect

Jerry Westby - Committees

Vice President

Kathy Smiley - Programs

Secretary

Lori Olbrich 9/2026

Treasurer

Jim Stephenson 9/2026

Director (Ass't Secretary)

Gloria Dyok 9/2026

Director (Ass't Treasurer)

Chuck Huffer 9/2026

Immediate Past President

Robin Britt - Membership

Director

John Prescott 9/2027

Director

Tony Antonelli 9/2027

Director

Mike Mathews 9/2027

Director

Lynn Burdick 9/2026

Director

Sharon McMahon 9/2026

Director

Patrick Connolly 9/2027

Director

Cristy Warner 9/2026

Meeting Location

Our club meets Wednesdays at the Los Robles Greens Golf Course located at 299 S. Moorpark Rd. in Thousand Oaks. We meet at 7:30 a.m. in the banquet room just off the snack bar.

Committees

Chamber of Commerce

Sean Leonard

Social

Kathy Smiley

Interclub

Paul Lopez

Bulletin

John Prescott

Web Site

Jennifer Chebi

House

Dave Freeman / Larry Levine

Health and Caring

Roger Meyer

Social Media

Norbie Gregory

Youth Services / YCP1

Teta Van Ommeren/Sean Leonard

Spiritual Aims

Dave Biedebach

Community Services

Gloria Dyok

Sponsored Youth

Bob Engler

Fundraising, Sharon McMahon

Meals On Wheels, Sherrill Hyink

BBQ Wagon, Mike Mathews

Strategic Planning, Tony Antonelli/ John Prescott

Contact Us

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