



# Kiwaniis®

## THOUSAND OAKS

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

April 29, 2026

### Westby Shines at the Helm



There were at least 35 volunteers at the Aut2Run event at CSUCI. They cranked out thousands of pancakes for the runners. The Camarillo Kiwanis club joined our club to get it done. What a great team. More pictures later in the bulletin.

In his second rodeo, President-Elect Jerry Westby did a commendable job, particularly in cleaning up what needed to be cleaned up in the conduct of the raffle. He even induced a couple of “1” rolls, which are financially beneficial to the Club.

Sherrill Hyink opened with “This Land is Your Land,” and Steve Weiss led the Pledge of Allegiance. Sean Leonard followed with the invocation, reciting the Prayer of an Unknown Confederate Soldier, which showed that unexpected blessings can result from life’s trials and tribulations.

We welcomed two guests this morning, Madeline Carden and John McIntyre, both of whom are prospective members. Madeline was the guest of Bernadet Azizian and John was the guest of Steve T. Smith.

There are two birthdays this week – Cassidy Heipler and “Ol’ Buddy” Buffalo Bob Rickards. No Club anniversaries, though.

Doug Ryan contributed another funny joke this week – about two people who died unnecessarily. Uplifting, no doubt.



Sherrill Hyink started off the meeting by getting us to sing “This Land is Your Land. Steve Weiss led the pledge and Sean Leonard gave the inspiration.

## Presidential Announcements

President-for-another-day Jerry Westby thanked Gloria Dyok and Roger Meyeer for, respectively, organizing our Aut2Run cooking crew and hauling the barbecue wagon. Roger was just one day out of the hospital to perform his yeoman service.

Our Friday Night Evening Edition meeting is this Friday at Donna Orraj’s house (do we really need that “j” at the end?, wondered Jerry). The next DCM is May 14<sup>th</sup> in Moorpark.

Jerry also congratulated Lori Olbrich for her induction into the Conejo Recrea-

tion and Park District’s Gratitude Circle, in appreciation of her years of service and contributions. He also called our attention to some old Conejo Valley Days badges that Doug Ryan had brought for members to take if they wished.

## Committee Reports and Announcements

Meals on Wheels – Sherrill Hyink announced that she would be driving our Monday route next week. She also reminded the “Lunch Bunch” that we deliver our meals to Harbor House this Friday.

Community Service - Gloria Dyok announced that the Conejo Valley Arts Council and Art Trek need some help with their inaugural “Cottontail Run” fundraiser at CLU on May 2<sup>nd</sup> (set-up)

## Upcoming Speakers

05-20 Scholarship presentations.





and May 3 (the event). Contact Glo if you'd like to volunteer. Lori Olbrich announced that we still need one more volunteer for cooking at the CRPD Therapeutics Division dance on May 9.

Kathy Smiley called our attention to the upcoming Love Run benefiting Senior Concerns. We cook a delicious pancake breakfast for the runners and volunteers. The date is June 7.

Youth Services - Chuck Huffer asked for volunteers to help run some kids' games in our booth at Touch a Truck on June 20th at Thousand Oaks Community Park. Shifts start at 9:00 am. Sign up on Member Day or the clipboard – wait, that doesn't work. He had a clipboard but no sign-up sheet.

Teta Van Ommeren announced that we are still collecting kids' books for distribution to organizations in the community that serve kids. Most recent batch of book donations went to Manna. She also announced that TrailFest is coming up June 6 – we provide hamburgers and hot dogs and sides to the riders and volunteers.

Scholarship Committee – Patrick Connelly announced that we will be awarding sixteen scholarships on May 20. We'll be using the larger banquet room and presenting them all in one meeting, rather than spreading them out over two meetings.

Scrip - Lynn Burdick promoted buying Scrip for Mother's Day gifts. What could be better?



Tim Hengst shows a six but rolled a five during the raffle.

Arnie Rudman continues to invite volunteers to help with Westminster Free Clinic's food handout each Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00 at United Methodist Church.

Steve T. Smith filled us in on a fundraising idea. Producers will pay \$25 a head for bodies to fill an audience during the taping of a TV show. Need at least 10 volunteers. He's trying to hook up with "Jeopardy," where they tape two shows at a time, so that's \$50 a head.

## Lottery

Tim Hengst held the winning ticket. He rolled a five, coming close to getting a second roll. Arnie Rudman and Doug Ryan both rolled ones in the consolation round and Steve Weiss rolled a three.

Remarkably, these proceedings were, well, unremarkable.

## Fine Period

Kathy Smiley toted the fine pot this morning. She collected a buck from Sean Leonard for not signing in. The wallet of Doug Ryan's wife Jackie went missing at a restaurant in Malibu ten months ago but was returned by someone from Stonehaus recently. \$80 gone, but otherwise intact.

Paul Lopez was \$5 worth of proud for the Club's Aut2Run service project. Twenty-eight members volunteered, plus we had six members of the Camarillo Club and fifteen Kiwins. He also is helping organize a trip to a Dodger game, including transportation by bus, stocked with beverages. Cost is \$175. Details to follow.

Sherrill Hyink was having a great day filled with positive experiences until she showed up at a Newbury Park High School Key Club meeting and was reminded that her badge was on upside down.

Steve Weiss encouraged us to come to the Pizza Cookery this Saturday. Sambuca will be playing from six to eight. Bob Engler and Arnie Rudman contributed some bucks for Aut2Run.

Lori Olbrich parted with \$20 and thanked Kiwanians who attended the ceremony marking her induction into the Gratitude Circle. Tim Hengst recently enjoyed an evening of drinking beer



Guest speaker Kirk DeWitt told us all about James Storehouse.

and singing beer songs at Pedals and Pints.

Katy Porter paid a buck to welcome our guests and congratulate Lori. Gloria Dyok parted with \$10 to thank the Aut2Run volunteers. Somehow got it done, even without Mike Mathews. Steve T. Smith also congratulated the Aut2Run volunteers and welcomed our guests.

Mike Mathews was \$20 worth of guilty for missing Aut2Run. He and Jean were having fun in Puerto Vallarta. Sean Leonard was thankful for 20 years of friendship with Larry Levine's son. No equivalent shout out for Larry, though.

## James Storehouse

Our speaker today was Kirk DeWitt, Chairman of the Board of Directors of James Storehouse. This non-profit has been serving kids in foster care and those who have recently aged out of the system since 2012. Its motto is "From



Vice President Kathy Smiley thanks Kirk DeWitt for his presentation.

Crib to College.” Kirk opened by thanking Kiwanis for all the good work we do for the community.

James Storehouse’ goal is to break the multi-generational cycle of abuse, neglect and poverty through providing essential resources and restorative relationships. Their Resource Center provides necessities such as clothing, toiletries, groceries, furnishings and more.

Restorative relationships are provided by mentoring. The mentorship program involves six adults working with the clients on a weekly basis to help set and reach goals. Most kids have not had the benefit of caring parents and other close family members who can guide and teach them as they grow up. As a result, teaching basic knowledge and life skills is essential for the older ones as they age out of the system and work towards independence.

James Storehouse also maintains two residences, which serve transitional age (18-20) females and former foster youth who are pregnant or parenting. And, due to generous donors, they are some-



Jerry looks relaxed as he conducts his second meeting.

times able to provide a car to someone in need.

Kirk told us that James Storehouse received more than \$1.5 million in in-kind donations last year and served more than 15,000 kids, teens, and caregivers. They are always looking for new or gently used clothing, shoes, and household items, and for volunteers in their mentoring program.

## Stick Draw

Chet Smiley’s stick was drawn. He’s a Friday night member and, after some discussion, it was concluded that he indeed did qualify for the \$20 dues credit. So, he gets ... SOMETHING.

## President’s Message

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” – Nelson Mandela

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

# 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.

**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.

**May 14, Thursday:** DCM in Moorpark

**May 15&16:** Key Leader Camp

**May 17, Sunday:** Burgers and Bingo at  
Mikey's.

**June 6, Saturday:** Ride On cooking  
event.

**June 7, Sunday:** The Love Run

**June 11, Thursday:** DCM at ARC in Ven-  
tura. 6:00 pm.

**June 20, Saturday:** Touch-A-Truck, T. O.  
Community Park

**June 24-27,** Int'l Convention, Manila

**July 9, Thursday:** DCM at ARC in Ven-  
tura. 6:00 pm.

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

**August 13, Thursday:** DCM at CLU  
Oxnard.

**August 21, Friday:** Triunfo Ball

**October 8, Thursday:** 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

Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks

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[www.tokiwanis.org](http://www.tokiwanis.org)