



Kiwanis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

July 1, 2026

Rita Phillips is our newest member



Participating in the ceremony to welcome Rita Phillips are from left: Past President Steve Weiss, Past President Larry Levine, Past President Mary Sepe, Rita, Immediate Past President Robin Britt and Past President Arnie Rudman.

President-Elect Jerry Westby opened our meeting right on time, ready for a meeting packed with information and fun.

The Kween Sherrill Hyink pulled a country favorite. The group sang "Country Roads" by John Denver [ed. *it's the anthem for the US World Cup Soccer team*].

Club members joined in with gusto, as Sherrill had our IT specialist Lynn Burdick post the words on the big screen.

The salute to the flag was led honorably by Dave Freeman, as we prepare for the 250th anniversary of our country's July 4, 1776 birth.

Arnie Rudman felt inspired by the holiday to share that while our country is not perfect, it is wonderful. He quoted Winston Churchill, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except when compared to all the others." He shared the wonder of our FIFA World Cup visitors, taking in the cities and shopping at Walmart.



Sherrill Hyink led the club in singing "Country Roads." Dave Freeman led the Pledge and Arnie Rudman gave the inspiration.

Further recognition of July 4th came from Dave Freeman with a wonderful video. It was entitled "I Am the Flag", starring a gentleman who passed recently at 99 years old. Jimmy Weldon served our country proudly in his youth, then went on to voice many a cartoon character including Yacky Doodle Dandy, a wee ducky. He narrated a patriotic story of the flag, from its birth in Betsy Ross' sewing basket through all our wars, and finally to today, expanding from 13 stars to 50 over the years. Thank you, Dave, for this heartwarming tribute.

It was good to have our jokester, Doug Ryan, back to provide us with a joke.

New Member Inducted

It is always a pleasure to welcome a new member to the Club. Today, Robin Britt hosted the installation of our newest member, Rita Phillips. Rita was given the mike to start, and simply stated, "Thank you for welcoming me!" Robin handed the presenting honors to a series of past presidents, starting with Larry Levine to present Rita with the Kiwanis pin (gold with diamonds, per his telling). Arnie Rudman provided the folder, sharing with Rita what was included, such as committees she may wish to join, and a list of activities to complete in order to earn her permanent badge. Steve Weiss provided a lovely, framed certificate. Last but not least, Mary Sepe presented the gift of her temporary badge sharing

Upcoming Speakers

More pictures from the installation.





President Elect Jerry Westby presented certificates of longevity to Jim Stephenson (37 years) and Katy Porter.

that she had already completed one of the five activities needed to exchange it for a permanent one.

Two birthdays this week – Don Christy and Sue Engler. We sang Happy Birthday to Don, since he was born on July 1, many years ago. Sue's date is July 4th, so she'll have the whole country celebrating hers!

Club anniversaries this week were for Tom Skinner, Katy Porter and Jim Stephenson with 37 years (Wow!). Jerry had a nice certificate for each of us.

Presidential Announcements

The battle for the fine free badge was barely there, with Paul Lopez starting low, then outbidding himself, but finally yielding to Don Christie.

Activities coming up include the next DCM on August 9 at the ARC in Ventura and the Cal-Nev-Ha Convention August 13-15 in Reno / Sparks, NV. Lori Olbrich

has more info, or you can go online at the District website. Keep Lori in the loop if you want to attend.

Committee Reports and Announcements

President-Elect Jerry Westby brought us more Club Announcements.

Meals on Wheels - Sherrill Hyink reported on Monday's Meals on Wheels driver, who is herself this week. She also reported that the project to donate "250 items" by the end of July is going well. She's in six organizations, and three have completed the task. We are well on our way, with 221 items donated already.

Community Service - The lunch bunch is delivering meals to Harbor House this week (generally first Thursday of the month). Gloria Dyok reminded us that on the morning of July 11 we have our usual volunteering to help Safe Passage distribute food on Calle Diamonte. Then, at 2:00, Mando Youth Organization will stage its "Unity in the Community" event at the same location, and we can help. The Cancer Support Community is having their annual cook-out on July 26, and we'll be doing the cooking.

Scrip - Lynn Burdick ordered more aprons. If you want one, they are just \$29.

Join Arnie Rudman at 1:00 on Wednesdays at United Methodist

Church to help Westminster Free Clinic distribute food to those in need.

Our Installation Banquet is scheduled for September 20th in Conejo Creek Park. The Rising Stars section of our club is meeting at a new venue. Watch for details.

There will be a social this Friday at Pizza Cookery.

Looking for ways to volunteer? Visit our website for more information, and to sign up.

Raffle

Four people tossed the big die. First winner, Don Christy! His happy birthday roll netted him \$2. The additional players were Rick Herrera for the big 6, Jeff Ellis stepping up with a 3 and Steve Coyne finished off with a 4. Each winner got their dollars from Larry Levine.

Congrats to the happy winners, and thanks to all who contribute to the raffle fundraiser each week.

Happy and Sad Dollars

We ran a bit tight in this segment, as we were anxious to hear all about Food Share! Doug Ryan is happy to be back after a difficult surgery. We're happy too!

Paul Lopez paid to say the trip to Manila, Philippines for the annual Kiwanis Conference was a lot of fun and encourages members to save up for next year in



Don Christie rolled a two after winning the raffle to collect \$2.

Dallas.

Sherrill Hyink is happy about that the family of local MIA pilot Eric Huberth, from the Vietnam war, has received his dog tags, which were recently discovered and returned. RIP sir.

Bob Engler was happy about the OTC for the Key Clubbers last weekend. He told us that brand new member Rita Phillips was there helping. He also apologized to Paul Lopez for calling him in Manila at 3:00 AM local time. He paid to welcome Rita.

Chuck Huffer paid for missing a meeting while he was in Hawaii. Also, he said that the Touch a Truck event for local kids was a success.

Steve Weiss shared that he and his wife are heading to Martha's Vineyard for their annual holiday there. Also, Sambuco will be playing on Friday. They also have a gig at "The Yacht Club" – If you don't know where it is, you are not invited.

Kathy Smiley and another member have granddaughters matriculating with

a Master's Degrees this year.

Jeff Ellis returned his three dollars won in the raffle and doubled it. Cool.

Gloria Dyok is celebrating Canada Day.

Jack O'Neil joined us today and paid to boast about his granddaughter graduating from HS with a 4.0, and a full ride scholarship to Minnesota.

Thanks to members who generously share their wallet and their lives every week.

FEEDING VENTURA COUNTY

Vice President Kathy Smiley introduced our speaker, Jennifer Caldwell, Chief Development Officer for Food Share. Kathy set aside the usual recitation of her vita, to allow more time for the presentation. Jennifer spoke in front of lovely slides, that mirror the website. She has been at Food Share for 10 years and is well versed in the organization.

We learned that FOOD SHARE is the name in Ventura County, but across the country there are parallel organizations working to help those who are food insecure. The numbers are staggering.

Food Share was started in 1978 by a woman named Jewel, who recently passed. She and her group would follow tractors, picking up the produce left behind. Once gathered, it was given to hungry neighbors.

Now, they are moving from a patchwork of different buildings into a 36,000



Our guest speaker was Jennifer Caldwell, Chief Development Officer for Food Share.

square foot building, with space to add 10,000 more if needed down the road. The need is great.

Food Share acts as a hub for food gathered from many sources, including a huge contribution from retail grocers. From their headquarters, 200 non-profits are provided with food for local distribution (such as Manna). Among other ways of getting food to people, once a month, 1,000 residents of Oxnard can find 30 lbs. of food waiting for them in a drive through.

All in all, Food Share distributed 23 million pounds of food last year.

Jennifer told us how the Port of Hueneme helps. If fresh food comes in a bit too ripe to be sold, they donate to Food Share. One time they had 738 pallets of pineapples, turning yellow, ready to eat. Jennifer said they took 30 pallets themselves and put the word out to other food banks to come and claim more. The image of all those pineapples that

would have gone to waste, saved to be served as a treat to hundreds of families, is really something.

We can volunteer in many ways. She suggested going to the website, and sure enough, it looks easy to sign up.

Kathy thanked Jennifer, providing her with a new Kiwanis hot/cold mug. Mike took the picture, and she thanked us.

Popsicle Stick Draw

Closing out the meeting, President for (another) day Jerry Westby drew a name from the basket. Roy Talley was not here today, and so he gets ... the crowd says, "Nothing". Sorry Roy.

President's Message

Jerry's final words of wisdom this day: "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value."

He then hit the bell to close our meeting.

Have a great week!

Respectfully submitted, Katy Porter

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



Vice President Kathy Smiley thanks guest speaker Jennifer Caldwell with a really cool Kiwanis mug.

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.

July 8, Wednesday: Rising Stars Meeting
at Bandit's, 5:30.

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

July 10, Friday: No Friday Meeting

July 11, Saturday: Mando, cooking burg-
ers at the Safe Passage food distribution
site on Calle Diamonte. 2:00-5:00 pm.

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

August 7, Friday: Friday Night meeting
at the home of the Englers, 6:00.

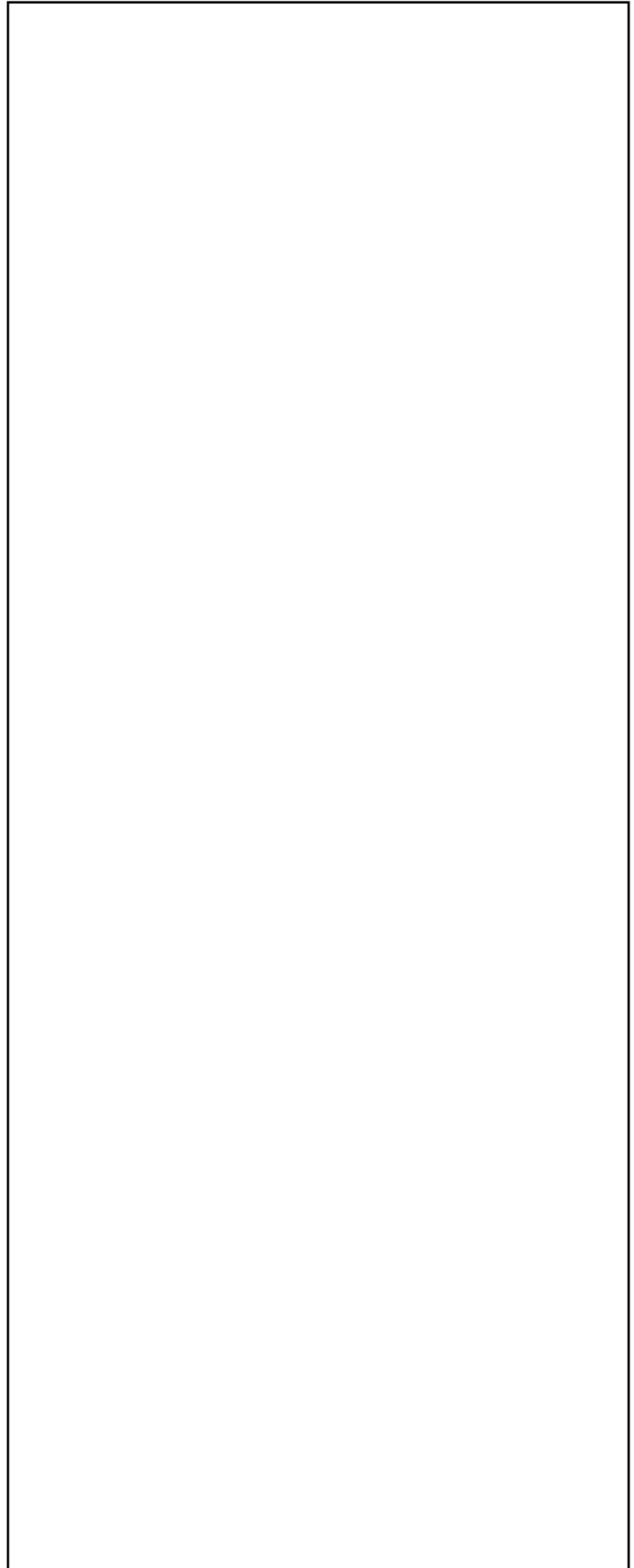
August 13, Thursday: DCM at CLU
Oxnard.

August 21, Friday: Triunfo Ball

September 11, Friday: Friday Night
meeting at the home of Teta Van Om-
meren, 6:00.

September 20, Sunday: Club Installation
at Dover & Hendrix Park.

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

Madeline Carden

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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