



Kiwaniis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

August 26, 2026

Remembering Dolly Parton

This morning's song as presented by Sherrill Hyink was a video of Dolly Parton singing "Jolene," one of the most well-known songs she had written and sung. While she was a great entertainer, Dolly was also known for her charitable works, including the Imagination Library, which provides books to little children at no cost. One of our programs earlier this year was given by local representatives of a project to open an Imagination Library in Ventura County. Like Kiwanis, Dolly served the children of the world.

Steve Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance and Steve T. Smith provided the inspirational message. He reflected on personal experiences to illustrate the wisdom and value of Wayne Dyer's message – "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will change."

A priest, a rabbi, and a minister walk into a bar ... not today, folks. Doug Ryan found some more low-hanging fruit for the morning joke. Seems a senior was given the old-age home qualifying test by his doctor. It involved a bathtub full of water and how to get the wa-



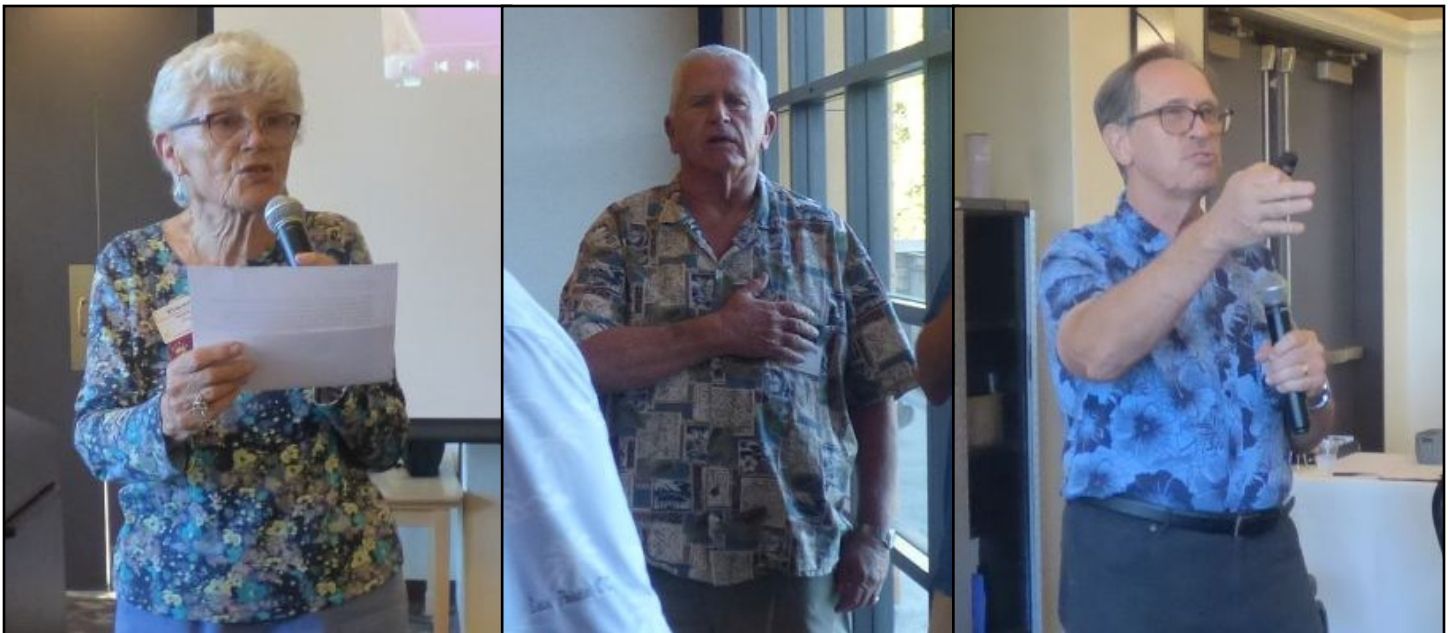
Robin Britt enters the La Fiesta del Triunfo as the newly crowned Doña at the Stagecoach Inn. She's riding with Wyatt McCrea in Donna Fargo's classic Model A truck. More pics later in the bulletin.

ter out. Needless to say, the senior forgot pulling the plug was an option and therefore qualified with flying colors.

No birthdays this week, but three Club anniversaries. Gloria Dyok (22 years) and Doug Ryan, also 22, were on hand to receive their certificates. Larry Lutz (21 years) was not in the house this morning, but worthy of our congratulations as well.

Presidential Announcements

President Brian McMahon thanked all who helped with cooking and serving at



For the song this morning, Sherrill introduced a video clip of Dolly Parton singing "Jolene." Steve Allen led the pledge and Steve T. Smith gave the inspiration based on the quote listed below.

last Friday's La Fiesta del Triunfo, where our own Robin Britt was honored as Doña Triunfo by the Conejo Valley Historical Society. He especially thanked Madeline Carden's partner, Taj, who is a professional chef and cooked the tri-tip, alongside Steve T. Smith, a promising amateur, who cooked the chicken.

The next Rising Stars meeting will be held September 2 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at Bandit's. All are welcome – no sign-up required, just show up. The Friday Night Evening Edition meeting is September 18th at Teta Van Ommeren's home, and our Club Installation Banquet is set for September 20th at Conejo Community Park.



Committee Reports and Announcements

President-Elect Jerry Westby brought us announcements from the floor.

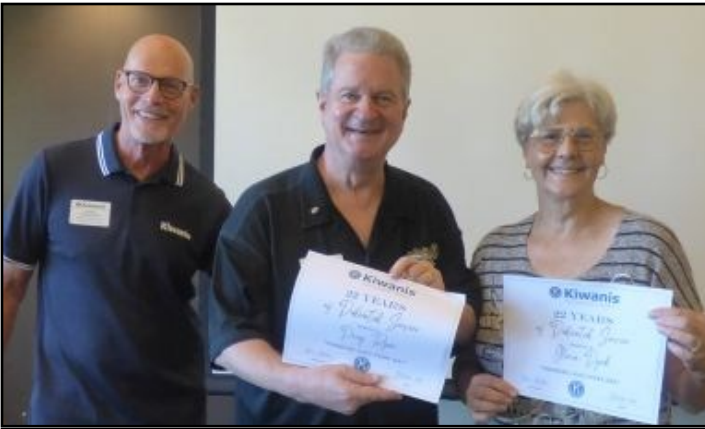
Meals on Wheels - Sherrill Hyink reported that Rita Phillips is taking the Monday route next week.

Corks and Kegs - Sherrill also doled out some fresh-baked (we assume) cookies to members who have recently rounded up items for the silent auction. Keep

Upcoming Speakers







President Brian McMahon presents certificates to Doug Ryan and Gloria Dyok for their 22 years in the club.

'em coming.

SLP – Bob Engler announced that the first Key Club DCM of the school year will take place this Saturday at 1:00 pm at Conejo Creek Park. Chuck Huffer noted that it's a pretty large park and did Bob have a more specific location? Bob said, "just look for a bunch of teenagers."

Community Service - Gloria Dyok thanked all who volunteered for the La Fiesta del Triunfo event last Friday. She also filled us in on some events of potential interest. The City is looking for seniors who'd like their photos in a senior services guide the City is preparing. Show up at the Goebel Center September 23rd between 1:00 and 3:00 pm if you'd like to volunteer.

The Sleep in Heavenly Peace non-profit is having a bed-building event at Lowe's on September 12th.

We'll be cooking a pancake and sausage breakfast for the Relay for Life participants September 19th from 7:30 am to



Members gather for the ever popular monthly omelet day.

10:00. Sign up on Member Day.

Scrip - Lynn Burdick advised us of the availability of Scrip Gift Cards with a list on each table.

Youth Services - Co-Chair Teta Van Ommeren reminded members that the Committee will meet right after the conclusion of this morning's Club meeting in the bar ... er, conference room adjacent to our meeting room. All are welcome.

Lieutenant Governor Paul Lopez reminded us of the Division 42 Club Leadership Education event this Saturday from 8:00 am to noon at the ARC in Ventura. There is no cost. The next Division 42 DCM is September 10th at the Presbyterian Church on Peach Hill Road in Moorpark. It begins at 6:00 pm.

Arnie Rudman asked members to join Westminster Free Clinic in distributing food to those in need 1:00 on Wednesdays at United Methodist Church.

Denise Cortes announced that Harbor House will be holding its "Concert 4 The Conejo" fundraiser on September 26th at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church on



Bob Engler shows off his technique of bouncing off the podium during the raffle. It earned him \$2.

Camino Manzanitas. Flyers were available on the tables.

Loteria

Bob Engler was first up, benefiting to the tune of \$2 from a ticket he received from Paul Lopez in an intra-table ticket swap. Lori Olbrich (\$2), Dave Biedebach (\$3), and Paul Lopez in his own right (\$3) were the other winners.

Fine Period

Steve T. Smith was this morning's basket case. Paul Lopez led things off by donating back his raffle winnings. Bob Engler did the same, labeling them as missed meeting dollars. He and Sue had just completed a coastal road trip to Seattle and back in a new car. Bob apparently forgot our Club's tradition of paying a "dollar a wheel" fine for a new car acquisition. He'll surely rectify that lapse next week (don't forget the spare and the flywheel).

Chuck Huffer also paid missed meeting dollars for a trip to Seattle. He flew

there for his grandson's sixth birthday. No new car, so no fine payment expected next week.

Katy Porter had a great time at the Cal-Nev-Ha convention, representing our Club along with Jim Stephenson and Jerry Westby. Roger Meyer dropped in Dave Biedebach's raffle winnings – Dave had left the building, so we'll consider that payment of a "leave early" fine. [Editor's note: Arnie Rudman also left early (and maybe there were some other miscreants as well), so we'll expect payment of an appropriate fine next week.]

Robin Britt parted with \$20. She said the La Fiesta del Triunfo experience was amazing and our Club was incredible.

Greig Best questioned Bob Engler's advice relative to finding the Key Club DCM in Conejo Creek Park of "going to the park and looking for teenagers." Has never worked out well for him. He also continues to whine about the cost of membership. Not only can he no longer afford to shop at Erewhon (new grocery store opening at The Lakes today, where you can get a \$20 smoothie), but he's upset having to pay \$35 to have dinner with Jerry Westby at our Club Installation Banquet.

Steve Weiss and Brian McMahon teamed to invite members to support one of our Corks and Kegs vendors, Giessinger Winery, where the renowned band "Sambuca" will be entertaining this Saturday from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Confusion reigned for Larry Levine



Jerry Westby and Katy Porter spoke about their adventures at the District Convention in Sparks, NV.

this morning. First, Jerry Westby signed in, then he didn't, then he did (final answer, so no fine). However, clarity was restored and Larry authoritatively nailed Steve T. Smith and Doug Ryan for not signing in.

Mike Mathews wrapped up the Fine Period with praise for all things La Fiesta del Triunfo - Robin's honor, Chuck Huffer's introduction of her, and the Club's cooking and serving. "All great."

Cal-Nev-Ha District Conference Report

Katy Porter and Jerry Westby presented an informative summary of their experiences at the recent Cal-Nev-Ha District Conference. The District theme for 2026-2027 is "United in Service" - say goodbye to the hippo. Katy was happy to report that District membership is up 6% from last year, bucking a long-term decline in service club membership.

Our next Division 42 Lieutenant Governor, Margaret Sigurdson was among the attendees, as were members of the Moorpark College Circle K Club, who

were "everywhere" at the Convention.

Jerry and Katy spoke favorably about the Keynote Speakers, Paul Palazzolo (opening breakfast) and Dave Curry (closing). Paul is the Executive Director of Kiwanis International. Dave showed how to turn couch potatoes into active doers.

At the convention, the delegates selected Brian Dahlquist as the 2026-2027 District Governor and Michelle Hock as the Governor Elect.

Next year's District Convention will be held in Indian Wells in August, and the Kiwanis International Convention will be held in Dallas in June.

Stick Draw

Shawn Moradian's popsicle stick was pulled this morning, and, after review and discussion, it was determined that he was entitled to the \$20 dues credit. He's a Friday night member and did attend the last Friday night meeting.

President's Message

"I don't know your destiny, but one thing I know is the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve others." Albert Schweitzer

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.

August 29, Saturday: Division 42 Club
Leadership Education event from 8:00
am to 2:00 pm at the ARC in Ventura.

August 29, Saturday: Key Club DCM at
Conejo Creek North, 1:00, see Bob Engler
for details.

September 2, Wednesday: Rising Stars
at Bandit's, 5:30-7.

September 10, Thursday: DCM in
Moorpark, see Paul Lopez for details.

September 18, Friday: Friday Night
meeting at the home of Teta Van Om-
meren, 6:00.

September 19, Saturday: Relay For Life,
7:30-10. CLU Memorial Field.

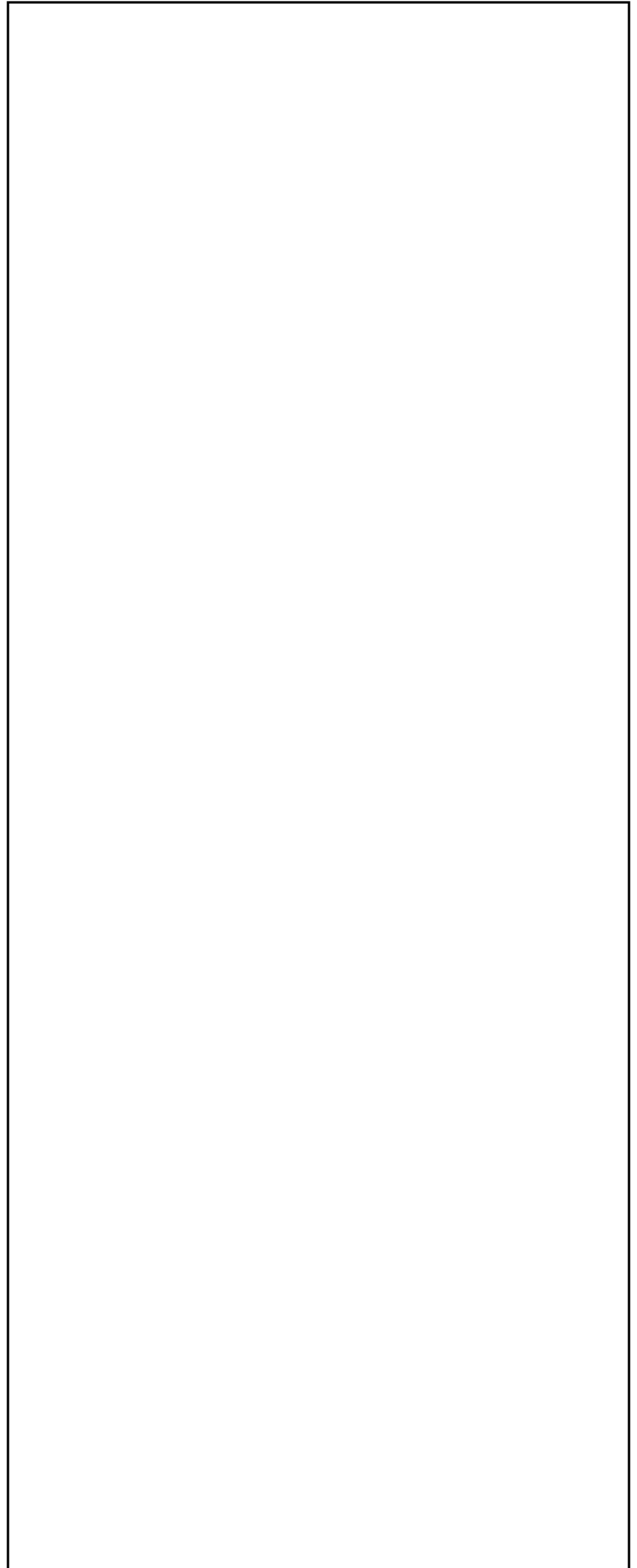
September 20, Sunday: Club Installation
at Dover & Hendrix Park. \$35/person.

October 8, Thursday: Corks and Kegs

October 22, Thursday: Succulent Social

October 28, Wednesday: Baseball Trivia
Night.

December 12, Saturday: Holiday Party



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

Greig Best

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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www.tokiwanis.org