



Kiwaniis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

September 2, 2026

Chicken Tampering??

Ask not WHY the chicken crossed the road. Ask WHO was the culprit who DEFLATED President Brian's rubber chicken so he could not SQUAWK the meeting to order. "Not I," said the Little Red Hen. (You youngsters are lost on this quote.)

OK, down to business! Katy Porter started the morning off with leading "America the Beautiful." Indeed, cooler days for us, so BEAUTIFUL it is!

Sean Leonard handled the flag salute, and Paul Lopez shared the heartfelt words of President Ronald Reagan about what a grand, magnificent country we live in.

Jokester Doug Ryan's focus today was on the sentence ... "Jesus is watching you." That is enough to make you mind your manners, but ... Jesus was the name of a Rottweiler DOG! Back to the doghouse, Doug.

Birthdays: President-Elect, Jerry Westby - who was out today celebrating somewhere.

Club Anniversaries: Three for 11 years - Donna Orraj, Sue Engler, and Mary Sepe. And for 19 years, the lovely Betty Stapleford. LADIES RULE!



President Brian McMahon can't get his chicken to squeak to start the meeting. It was a great prank. His regular squeaky chicken was returned.

The Fine Free Badge was up for grabs today for the month of September. Looks like Lori Olbrich has something she wants to cover, as her winning bid was \$40.

Presidential Announcements

The Rising Star group will have already met at Bandits Restaurant with speaker Tim Hagel. Your loss if you missed it. FREE WINE AND EATS.... No, not really. Our Kiwanis Division 42 DCM will happen on Thursday, Sept. 10th in Moorpark. WHAT/?? NO CLIP-



Katy Porter started the morning off by having us sing "America the Beautiful." Sean Leonard led the pledge and Paul Lopez gave the inspiration.

BOARDS WENT AROUND TODAY - WHEE!

Next Board meeting is on September 16th - 6:30 on Zoom, and our monthly Friday Night gathering is September 18th at Teta Van Ommeren's home. Don't you DARE miss our Installation Dinner on Sunday September 20th at Conejo Community Park. Good times await!

Committee Reports and Announcements

Meals on Wheels - The Kween (moi) shared- M.O.W. driver on Monday is Rita Phillips - for her first solo drive. Also, my Lunch Bunch team delivers about 70

lunches to Harbor House recipients on Thursday.

SLP - Bob Engler shared that the Key Club RTC (Regional Training Conference ... I think) will be held at Oxnard High on October 3rd from 10:00 to 3:00. All are welcome to witness the fun and leadership of our Key Club youth.

Scrip - Lynn Burdick encourages us to purchase gift cards through our Kiwanis menu which benefits our club. She also shared concerns for our esteemed member Steve Coyne who had a few health concerns this morning. We all wish you full recovery, Steve!

I received a call from Mangala Holt, whose husband, Steve Holt (Past President and vibrant member) passed away about two years ago. She is in a happy place now with daughter and granddaughter. She sends her hello and grati-

Upcoming Speakers



Brian presents a certificate to Mary Sepe for her eleven years of service to the club.

tude for how much our Kiwanis family meant to Steve.

"Always Arnie" reminded us of the GOOD event every Wednesday 1:00. It is the food handout for struggling families at the Methodist Church on Janss Rd. An hour of YOUR time brings smiles to many.

Happy/Sad Dollars

Well, Larry the Lip was Leaping for joy as he pegged four members who hadn't signed in. Needed to fork over a buck were Bob Engler, Don Christie, Jim Stephenson, and Roger Meyer. What's the big distraction at the check-in table?

As for my "Awesome Threesome" - number one HAS to be Sean Leonard's input. He gave a TOO DETAILED report on traveling with Milo, his 3-year-old son - first airplane ride. Unfortunately, Milo upchucked on the way TO the airport, then right IN the airplane when it landed. Lots of mix-ups, but the rotten bonus was returning to car after



Jeff Ellis tried a new technique to try to roll double sixes...and it worked!!

three days, in airport HEAT... smelling like ... you know what. Welcome to Parenthood, Sean!

Kathy Smiley reported that she attended Division 42 Training for Kiwanis officers and she was shaking in her boots. Don't worry, Kathy, you have many mentors to guide you ... and you will ROCK!

Chuck Huffer was miffed! He paid a buck or two to chastise Bob Engler for not being recognized. Apparently, there was a BIG, elite community members party at Bob's house. As Bob introduced all of the Big Wigs, he failed to recognize our own precious Chuck Huffer. For shame! Let's have Bob and Chuck duke it out!!

Ticket Time

We need a drumroll ... Jeff Ellis rolled a double 6 and won the "not so" grand prize of \$40! But it beats a poke in the eye! Other winners - Paul Lopez for \$1, and Tim Hengst (twice) for a total of \$7.



Thousand Oaks mayor Mikie Taylor told us about the latest developments in the city's planning process.

Mayor Taylor Speaks

Vice President Kathy Smiley introduced our speaker today who was Mikey Taylor, the current Mayor of Thousand Oaks.

Mikey shared his thoughts on the future growth of Thousand Oaks and the way our development will impact the upcoming younger generation. Being an avid and professional skateboarder in his earlier years, he extolled our community outdoors trails and activities such as the bike ramps in the park opposite Los Cerritos School, and the Skate Park facility at Borchard Park.

One of the most successful projects he is most proud of is the Thrive Homeless Shelter in Newbury Park. It is a place where unhoused people can get a new start on life, with the help they need. With the opening of that facility and other help, he said our homeless count was down 46%.



Vice President Kathy Smiley presents Mayor Taylor with a Kiwanis travel mug.

Mr. Taylor discussed topics of fire resources, crime prevention, and affordable housing issues. The state gives mandates on what needs to be done with housing in order to receive supporting funds. (Details and numbers are way beyond the Kween's mind.)

However, Mikey's desires are on inviting, keeping, entertaining, employing young people so that they will make Thousand Oaks their happy home. That plan takes the challenge to the City Council to make decisions for future generations. Same ole', same ole' is not an option for a vibrant community.

Thank you, Mikey, for a well-spoken, informative presentation. May your stint as Mayor be fun and successful.

Popsicle Stick Draw

Madeline Carden ... who was IN THE HOUSE! Winner!!

President's Message

"It's not what you are that holds you back. It's what you THINK you are not." - Denis Waitley

Over and Out
Kween Sherrill

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



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Grants for your club

The Kiwanis Children's Fund helps clubs improve kids' lives through financial grants for service projects. If your club could use funding help, keep these dates in mind:

October 1: Applications open for the [Microgrant Program](#), which supports clubs with 35 members or fewer with **grants of US\$250-\$1,000**. The application period ends July 1, and applications will be considered in the order received until all funds are distributed.

November 1: Deadline to **submit a Letter of Inquiry** to be eligible for a [club grant](#). If approved, full applications will be due by January 1 for the March 1 round of grant decisions.

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.

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

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

September 16, Wednesday: September
Board Meeting

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 3, Saturday: Key Club RTC
(Regional Training Conference) at
Oxnard High from 10:00 to 3:00.

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

Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks

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