



Kiwaniis®

THOUSAND OAKS

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

September 23, 2026

Praise for the Past, Excitement for the Future

OK, second to LAST “squawk” of that irritable rubber chicken from President Brian’s hands at the podium. Perhaps our food for NEXT Wednesday should be ... FRIED CHICKEN! Brian, take it away!

Katy Porter served up “God Bless America” for our opening song and Steve Coyne led the flag salute. Don Cristie’s invocation focused us on the “Changing of the Guard”, giving thanks for leadership and service this past Kiwanis year and looking forward to a busy supportive and active year to come under Jerry Westby’s reign.

Our visitor today was Hannah Blitstein from Many Mansions. She shared information about an upcoming event entitled “Growing Thoughtfully”- Cocktails and Conversation on Housing Solutions for the Conejo Valley. Both mayors of Thousand Oaks and Agoura Hills will present along with Chris Allen and Rick Schroeder. It happens NEXT Wednesday 5:30-8:00 pm at the Agoura Hills Recreation and Event Center. Cost is \$75. Go to Many Mansions website to purchase tickets.



Jim Stephenson is a awarded Kiwanian of the year by President Brian McMahon at the Installation of Officers.

Birthdays and Anniversaries - Members celebrating birthdays this week are Jeff Ellis, Lori Olbrich, and Kelly Cannan. Enjoy your celebrations and may each day of the coming year be ... your favorite!

We have two members celebrating Club anniversaries - Chet Smiley (3 years) and Steve T. Smith (4 years). Chet is a Friday member so was not amongst us to receive his certificate this morning, but never fear, wife Kathy was there to collect it and mug for the camera on his



Katy Porter led us in singing "God Bless America." Steve Coyne led the flag salute and Don Cristie gave the invocation.

behalf. We love your Kiwanis participation and friendship.

Jokester Doug shared a good "groaner" today about a wife who agreed to give her husband a "butt skin graft" to reconstruct her husband's burned face ... I will let YOU imagine the rest of the story. Got many chuckles.

Presidential Announcements

Brian shared his gratitude for the efforts of all toward planning and executing the Installation Dinner on Sunday. Hats off and high fives to Mary Sepe (planning and organizing and delicious desserts), Lori Olbrich with setting up and assistance in many areas, and Kathy

Smiley for the BEAUTIFUL fall table decorations.

Surprise Awards: Congratulations to our two surprise honorees - Kiwanian of the Year - JIM STEPHENSON, and Rookie of the Year - BERNADET AZIZIAN! Well-deserved on both accounts. Jim - longtime purposeful involvement, and Bernadet - new member giving our club opportunities and support. We cherish you BOTH!

Also, kudos to Teta Van Ommeren and her Friday Night dinner gathering. It was a huge success with delicious food and FABULOUS company!

President Brian also gave a push for members to consider the volunteering to fill the Vice President position for 2026-27, which is still vacant. He shared that his experience going through the chairs has been invaluable in so many ways. It

Upcoming Speakers

09-30 Bob Bender, Bookbinding

has broadened his circle of friendships and his knowledge of our community. He was particularly happy that he received the support and assistance of all our members as he fulfilled his responsibilities. So ... please CONSIDER the opportunity to join Jerry Westby and Kathy Smiley and accept the V.P. position. You'll get LOTS OF HELP AND DIRECTION in lining up speakers, and the first few months are already set. As Brian said, you're either growing or withering, and stepping up to a leadership role in the Club is certainly a growth (in a good way) move.

Brian also shared at text from Cristy Warner thanking our Kiwanis Club for supporting Relay for Life last Saturday - AWESOME pancake breakfast- special applause for Jeff Ellis as the "pancake master." And our team "Kiwanis Cares" raised more than \$11,000! No wonder my pocket has a hole in it. Cristy reports that the entire event fundraiser is inching close to their goal of \$175,000 and still growing. It ain't over until it's over ... final count in December.

Committee Reports and Announcements

Social Committee - Kathy Smiley shared the dates of our Social/Admin Fundraiser Activities. Mark your calendars - **Oct 22** Succulent Class Social, **Oct. 28** World Series Trivia, **Nov. 19** home-made Greeting Card Class, **Dec 12** - KI-



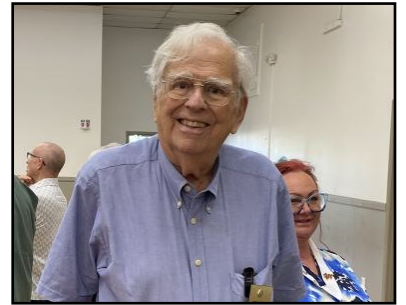
Jerry Westby was installed a Kiwanis President for 2026-27 at the installation dinner. More pictures on the next pages.

WANIS HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY. Details later.

Community Service - Gloria Dyok is seeking a few more volunteers at Safe Passage on Saturday October 10th (I believe). Arnie Rudman reminds us of the food distribution for Westminster Free Clinic at the Methodist Church on Janss Road from 1:00 - 2:00 each Wednesday. Easy, fun, and IMPORTANT! Show up and smile.

Corks and Kegs - John Prescott found two takers to distribute small promotion cards for Corks and Kegs to be placed on car windshields at the Margarita Mix-off event tomorrow night. SPEAKING OF "C AND K" - about two and a half weeks away. Have YOU - signed up to







Hannah Blitstein from Many Mansions shared information about an upcoming event entitled "Growing Thoughtfully"- Cocktails and Conversation on Housing Solutions for the Conejo Valley. Hannah also won the raffle and collected \$6.

help/BOUGHT YOUR TICKET/invited friends?? NOW is the time. Contact Gloria about the signup sheet - or go online. There is a **NEED for YOU!**

InterClubs - Greig Best encouraged us to attend Inter Club meetings that he has scheduled. The first one is with the Simi Valley Aktion Club on Tuesday, October 6th. Contact Greig for more details. Then, the evening of October 27th we'll visit the Camarillo Club, and the evening of November 16th it's off to see the Moorpark Club.

Denise Cortes encouraged us to attend the Harbor House Fundraiser - "Concert for the Conejo" this coming Saturday 4:00 to 7:00 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 588 Camino Manzanitas. Go to Harbor House Website - \$75.00 a ticket. This non-profit provides SO



Collecting awards for their years of service from President Brian are Chet Smiley and Steve T. Smith. Kathy Smiley collected the award for Chet.

MUCH for folks who are struggling in our community. Will I see you there?

The next Friday Night Evening Edition meeting will be October 2nd at the Herrera household. Apparently, Evie has Rick working night and day to spiff up the abode. So, if you attend, be sure to "Oooh, and Ahhhh!

Dice Time

Our guest, Hannah, had the first roll opportunity. She rolled the first six, but not the second, which would have put \$20 in her pocket. Moi (the Kween) rolled a 4, Lori Olbrich caught a 5, and poor Arnie only revealed a 1 ... and that makes him ... POOR.

Happy and Sad Dollars

Before I get to my Awesome three-some, I must thank Arnie for FINALLY contributing promised items for our Si-



Teta Van Ommeren and Jerry Westby are pictured at the Relay for Life event at CLU. We cooked pancakes and sausages for the participants. More pictures on the next page.

lent Auction. He came through with two BEAUTIFUL handmade charcuterie boards and two lovey wooden bowls, one of which was crafted by his father. Way to go, you talented man!

OK, first, there were several kudos given for the fun and efficiency of the Installation Dinner. Our MC, Host with the Most, handsome Bob Engler, kept the evening moving right along. Mary Sepe made sure he had a timeline to follow, and WHO would dare to offend Mary? She, who bakes a mean banana bread and serves it with ice cream for dessert.

Katy Porter had a donation in gratitude for the award presented to her at the DCM - "Tablet of Honor." It was from our club in appreciation for all her Kiwanis dedication to so many of our club's programs and activities, and to



Our own Robin Britt was the guest speaker today. She talked all about Community Conscience.

service as a District Trustee. We love you, Katie!

Jim Stephenson ALWAYS puts his money where his mouth is. This morning he donated \$100 indicating the surprise and pleasure he felt when he was awarded the Kiwanian of the Year title at the Installation dinner. He received a standing ovation of well-deserved applause.

Lori Olbrich got us pretty excited when she said she had payment for celebrating her 67th birthday plus 42nd wedding anniversary. Way to go, Big Bucks, Lori! Then she pulled out her FINE FREE BADGE!

Community Conscience Rocks

Robin Britt, one of our VERY WELL-RESPECTED Kiwanis members gave us the "cook's tour" of her non-profit organization, Community Conscience, via a PowerPoint presentation. And she



should know the details as she has been the super Executive Director for 12 years. Community Conscience owns and operates the Human Service Center which serves all of Ventura County. The building offers RENT FREE office space to 15 non-profit social service organizations. The mission of Community Conscience is to provide a single location where human service programs are available and accessible at **no cost** to recipients and to maximize coordination among agencies.

These 15 non-profit groups cover help in EVERY CATEGORY of need, be it pregnant mothers, dental/medical health care, physically/mentally challenged clients, teenagers in need of guidance, and seniors in need of any type of assistance. Between client visits to these various assistance groups and countless phone call referrals, Community Conscience serves around 79,000 people in need EACH YEAR.

So, we applaud service to the people. Who takes care of the aging building on Hillcrest? Robin says that is the challenge facing the non-profit at this time. It's not just "Call a plumber or repair man." The old building has sewer problems and a shifting foundation. That means, call in the BIG HONCHOS plus City Planners, etc.

Under Robin's watchful eye and careful fundraising and planning, corrections will be made to shore up the building and ... make way for more office space for other non-profits.



Robin thanked Kiwanis for our continued support of Community Conscience, and we give her a high five for her dedicated work.

Popsicle Stick Draw

Paul Campbell ... who was NOT present...so he gets ... NADA ... for now. Paul is a Friday member, so perhaps he can earn \$20 by showing up at the Hererras' next week.

President's Message

Coming from the mouth of our soon-to-be Past President Brian - "Thank you, Kiwanis members for working together with me to make my year as President so rewarding and successful."

Adios, Sherrill Hyink

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

**THOUSAND OAKS KIWANIS
SOCIAL & ADMIN COMMITTEES**

**AUTUMN & HOLIDAY 2026
SAVE THE DATES!**

OCTOBER 8 - CORKS & KEGS FUNDRAISER
LOS ROBLES GREENS 5:30 - 8:30 PM

OCT 22 - SUCCULENT CLASS SOCIAL, 3:00- 6:00PM
BRIAN & SHARON MCMAHON'S HOUSE
1237 COMSTOCK, NEWBURY PARK CA 91320

OCT 28 - WORLD SERIES OF TRIVIA
& HALLOWEEN PARTY
5:30 - 8:00PM - PIZZA COOKERY

NOV 19 - HOMEMADE GREETING CARD CLASS
2:00 PM, BRIAN & SHARON MCMAHON'S HOUSE
1237 COMSTOCK, NEWBURY PARK CA 91320

DECEMBER 12 IS OUR
KIWANIS HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY!!!

6:00 - 9:00 PM
THOUSAND OAKS INN

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.

October 2, Friday: Friday Night Meeting
at the home of Rick Herrera, 6:00

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

October 6, Tuesday: Interclub with Simi-
Su Aktion Club. Veterans Plaza in Simi.
Carpool from Los Robles Greens @
5:00pm.

October 8, Thursday: Corks and Kegs

October 22, Thursday: Succulent Social.
3:00 to 6:00pm at the McMahon's.

October 27, Tuesday: Interclub at 5:30
p.m. with the Camarillo Club. Location
TBD, carpool departs 5:00 p.m. sharp
from Los Robles Greens.

October 28, Wednesday: Baseball Trivia
Night and Halloween party. 5:30—8:00
at the Pizza Cookery.

Monday, November 16: Interclub at 6:00
p.m. with the Moorpark Club. Carpool
departs 5:30 p.m. sharp from Los Robles
Greens. Location TBD.

November 19, Thursday: Homemade
greeting card class. 2:00 pm at the
McMahon's.

December 12, Saturday: Holiday Party.
6:00 to 9:00 at the T. O. Inn.

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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www.tokiwanis.org