Kiwanis
THOUSAND OAKS
The Official Newsletter and Minutes of the Kiwanis Club of Thousand Oaks, California
November 11, 2026

Honoring Our Veterans

As is our custom for the Club meeting closest to Veteran's Day, we paused to honor our veterans through a special ceremony early in the meeting and later with the program topic.

After Sherrill Hyink led us in "You're a Grand Old Flag" and Jeff Ellis handled the Pledge of Allegiance, Dave Freeman conducted the Missing Man Table Ceremony. A table was placed near the windows overlooking the golf course. The table set up and items placed on the table all had symbolic meaning pertaining to missing service members. As Dave told us the meaning of each element, we paused to reflect on the price paid for freedom and to remember all those who did not come home.

President Jerry Westby introduced our very special guest today, Craig Burns. Craig is a Past President of the Club, now living in Nevada. He is affectionately known of the "old President," not because he is aged, but simply because another President used that term in reference to him. It is now part of Kiwanis lore. Sorry, Craig.

Katy Porter and Reina Paredes celebrate birthdays this week. Teta Van Ommeren's Club anniversary (5th) is this week, as is Lynn Burdick's (4th). Lynn was on hand to receive her commemorative certificate; Teta is now a Rising Stars member and was not in the house.



On display at the meeting was the Missing Man Table Ceremony. It has items placed on the table with symbolic meaning pertaining to missing service members.

Greig Best offered another funny joke - a little pause after the punch line but we all (eventually) got it.

Travels With the Mike and Patrick



Sherrill Hyink and Katy Porter led the club in singing "You're a Grand Old Flag." Veteran Jeff Ellis led the Pledge and veteran Dave Freeman presented the Missing Man Table Ceremony.

President Jerry gave us a double-header this morning. Mike Mathews and Patrick Connolly each brought back valuable souvenirs from their (separate) travels for the auction. Greig Best and Kathy Smiley engaged in a spirited bidding war, but Sean Leonard had the last word at $60. His acquisitions – a bottler of wine and chocolate bar from Luxembourg and some swag from the Philadelphia Art Museum, including a small book featuring "bum" art, which was particularly entertaining, at least to Patrick, its donor.

Upcoming Speakers

11-18 Turkey Day Dash, Kyle Jorrey and Janelle Achenbach

12-02 Margaret Sigurdsson, Lt. Gov.

12-09 VC Search & Rescue

12-16 Tony Antonelli—CNH Children's Fund

12-23 DARK

12-30 DARK

01-06 Villa Esperanza, Darryl Goodus

01-13 Amy Commans, Los Robles

01-20 Sr. Alliance for Empowerment, Rick Sauer

Presidential Announcements

Jerry thanked Cristy Warner for a great Friday night meeting with barbecue last Friday. Steve T. Smith, now a Friday member, was there and reported he will be leading the pet food drive again this year.

Corks and Kegs was a big success - the final net was almost $41,000. Division 42 Lieutenant Governor Margaret Sigurdsson's Division project this year is a jacket donation drive. So, bring in your unneeded jackets in decent condition.

The Board of Directors met Tuesday and is moving forward with a proposal to eliminate the Vice President position. This involves a change to the Club's By-Laws, which must be considered by the membership as a whole. It also involves

conforming changes to Club policies, which will be considered by the Board if the membership approves the By-Laws change. We will soon be sending out a special notice to all Club members with more detail. The vote will be scheduled for our December 1 meeting.

Committee Reports and Announcements

Meals on Wheels – Sherrill Hyink reported that Haze Arnold will drive the Monday route next week.

SLP – Sherrill also reported that Cristy Warner and the K-Kids and other sponsored youth will bring cheer to veterans at the Ventura Veterans Home later today. Bob Engler announced that Key Club Fall Rally at Magic Mountain this Saturday will happen rain (likely) or shine.

Fundraising –Robin Britt sent the sign-up sheet for Turkey Day Dash around again – we need more sign-ups particularly for take down after the event. You can also sign up on Member-Day.

InterClubs – Greig Best gave a run-down of upcoming DCM meetings and InterClubs. Next up is the DCM on November 12 and an InterClub at Moorpark on November 16. Greg also let us know that the Cal-Nev-Ha District Mid-Year Conference is scheduled for January 23 in Long Beach.



President Jerry Westby presented Lynn Burdick with a certificate commemorating her four years in the club.

Social Committee – Kathy Smiley called our attention to flyers on the tables for the Greeting Card Class on November 19 at the McMahons' home. Julie Snow, a real artist, will lead the class. Kathy also said that the Holiday Party will be on December 12 at the Thousand Oaks Inn. Cost to members and guests will be $50 ($5 less than last year). We'll have a great menu, and Sambuca is lined up to provide entertainment. As is traditional, members are encouraged to bring items for donation to a charity – more info to come.

Community Service – Gloria Dyok announced that we will be cooking again for the Jingle Bell Jog – it's on Saturday, December 19, at Dos Vientos Community Park.

Youth Services – Sean Leonard thanked members who have recently signed up to join the Committee – many hands make light work (thanks, Bob Engler). Our Career Expo is scheduled

for March 4, 2027, at Thousand Oaks High School.

Scrip – Lynn Burdick called for Scrip orders and announced that the last day for See's Candy physical orders is next Wednesday, November 18. You can still order online after that.

Health and Caring – Roger Meyer reported that Steve Coyne is having cancer surgery today at Los Robles, and Brian McMahon is going in for hip surgery next Monday.

Chuck Huffer asked that any check requests come to him – Jim Stephenson is off for a while and Chuck is running the money machine in his stead.

Rick Herrera (hopefully for the last time) channeled Arnie Rudman and reminded us of the opportunity to help Westminster Free Clinic distribute food every Wednesday at United Methodist Church on Janss Road. Show up around 12:30 or 12:45 and plan to spend a half hour or forty-five minutes.

Jerry Westby wrapped it up by announcing that the next Rising Stars meeting will be held next Wednesday at Pizza Cookery.

Raffle

One big winner – Jeff Ellis, who pocketed $10, but not for long. John Prescott and Steve Weiss each won $4. John behaved himself this time, much to the President's relief.



Jeff Ellis won the raffle and picked the pool ball worth the largest amount, $10.

Fine Period Follies

Lynn Burdick was this morning's basket case and led off the Fine Period with a buck for spotting and photographing a mountain lion in her back yard. Patrick Connolly parted with $20 for an entertaining Halloween spent in Philadelphia.

Mike Mathews also dropped in $20 for his travels – a Rhine River cruise. Sean Leonard coughed up a buck, in addition to the $60 to pay for his travel auction items, because he experienced his first beer on a burrito combination. Loved it.

Chuck Huffer honored veterans in his family, including his wife Gwen, his father, uncle, and cousin. Katy Porter followed suit with a dollar for her father plus $74 in birthday bucks.

Sherrill Hyink saluted her favorite veteran – son Jeff. She also broke into song - "I can see clearly now…" – apparently the cataract surgery was successful.

Bob Engler told us that the Borderline shooting tragedy took place a day after

he was elected to City Council eight years ago. He attended a memorial ceremony for the victims last Saturday. The pain felt by the families is still there.

Steve Weiss paid an advertising dollar – Sambuca brings its world tour to Giessinger Winery this Sunday from 3 to 5 pm. Greig Best thanked Julie Snow for adorning our Club banner with many patches that needed to be added.

As is his (generous) custom, Jeff Ellis donated back the $10 he won in the raffle, plus another $10. Dave Freeman had to cough up a buck because everyone signed in the morning.

Jerry Westby closed the Fine Period with a tribute to veterans in his family – two uncles who served during World War II and a brother in the Army.



Our speaker was John Short, President of California Chapter 1 of Rolling Thunder. He spoke of their goal to honor veterans.

Rolling Thunder

John Short, President of California Chapter 1 of Rolling Thunder, was our program speaker this morning. He was accompanied by the organization's Vice President Allan Woods and Secretary Christina Woods.

Rolling Thunder is a national organization, founded in 1991. Its primary mission is to publicize the POW/MIA issue. Many American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action have not come from war. Rolling Thunder helps and educates Americans to never forget these individuals – there is always a place for them in our hearts. Rolling Thunder is also very active in support of veterans.

John gave a recap of the many activities his Chapter has undertaken this year in fulfillment of its mission, such as escorting the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall in March and the Ron Helus Ride for the Blue in May, in which Rolling Thunder motorcycle riders – 400 strong - visited all the police stations in Ventura County to thank officers for their service. The ride honors Sergeant Ron Helus, a law enforcement officer killed in the Borderline mass shooting in 2018.

John also called our attention to a very special national event that Rolling Thunder supports – Wreaths Across America. Our local event will take place on December 19 at Conejo Mountain Cemetery, south of Camarillo, where more than 3,600 veterans are buried. Donated wreaths will be placed on these graves by volunteers who gather to honor these veterans. Nationwide, about 3,000,000 wreaths will be laid.

Rolling Thunder's purpose is to remember those who have fallen or are still missing or in captivity, honor our veterans, and teach the next generations that follow about the importance of their sacrifice and remembering them.



Robin Britt poses with the members of Rolling Thunder.

Stick Draw

Larry Lutz's popsicle stick was pulled this morning. He was not in the house, so he gets … nothing!

President's Message

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation." – George Washington

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



Katy Porter, Cristy Warner and Sherrill Hyink made their monthly batch of sandwiches for Harbor House.



Members make heart gestures for Steve Coyne who was undergoing major surgery today.

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.

November 14, Saturday: Fall Rally at Magic Mountain.

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

November 18, Wednesday: Rising Stars at T. O. Inn.

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

November 23, Monday: Turkey Day Dash bag stuffing, CRPD Community Room 401 W. Hillcrest. 6:00 - 8:00pm.

November 25, Wednesday: NO MEETING

November 25, Wednesday: Turkey Day Dash packet pickup, Roadrunner Sports, 9:30-5:00

November 26, Thursday: Turkey Day Dash at CLU, 5:30-11:00 am.

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

December 19, Saturday: Jingle Bell Jog.

March 4, Thursday: Career Expo at T.O.H.S.

December 8, Tuesday: Board Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 pm.

December 12, Saturday: Kiwanis Holiday Party, 6:00-9:00 pm at Thousand Oaks Inn Banquet Room. Bring a gift or supplies for a kid.

December 23, Wednesday: NO MEETING

December 30, Wednesday: NO MEETING

Club Officers

President
Jerry Westby
President Elect
Kathy Smiley - Committees
Vice President
TBD - Programs
Secretary
Lori Olbrich 9/2028
Treasurer
Jim Stephenson 9/2028
Director (Ass't Secretary)
Gloria Dyok 9/2028
Director (Ass't Treasurer)
Chuck Huffer 9/2028
Immediate Past President
Brian McMahon - Membership
Director
John Prescott 9/2027
Director
Tony Antonelli 9/2027
Director
Mike Mathews 9/2027
Director
Patrick Connolly 9/2027
Director
Sharon McMahon 9/2028
Director
Alicia Snarr 9/2028
Ditrctor
Alyson Berg 9/2028

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
???
House
Dave Freeman / Larry Levine
Health and Caring
Roger Meyer
Social Media
???
Youth Services / YCP1
Sean Leonard/Teta Van Ommeren
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
PO Box 1791, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358
www.tokiwanis.org