

KenneKiwanian



Kiwanis[®]
CLUB OF KENNEWICK

February 3, 2026

President Penny Gardner opened the meeting at 12:00 Noon with 39 members and 4 guests.

Greeter: Art King; **Invocation:** Gerry Berges; **Dog catcher:** Cyndi Kittson; **Song leader:** Glen Reiboldt; **Drawing winners @ \$5:** Art King and Chuck DeGooyer

Upcoming meetings and events

Youth Excellence Committee: *today* Tues Feb 3 after club meeting
Young Professionals: *tomorrow* Wed Feb 4 @ Kenmore Building @ noon
Kiwanis Foundation Board: Tues Feb 10 @ HFG Trust @ 3:30 PM
(change of date)
Division Council: Wed Feb 11 @ Camp Kiwanis @ 6 PM (Kennewick host)
Community Services Committee: Tues Feb 17 after club meeting
Finley Satellite: Wed Feb 18 @ Shooters @ 6 PM
Finley Food Pantry: Thurs Feb 19 @ Finley Comm Ctr @ 9 AM
Kiwanis Day of Giving: Wed Feb 25
Foundation Experience Raffle Drawing: Thurs Feb 26 @ Zintel Creek



Foundation Experience Raffle: The Kennewick Kiwanis Foundation is sponsoring another Experience Raffle and it all ends February 26, when the drawing will be held. There are a limited number of tickets for some very good prizes. Thanks to those Kiwanians and friends who donated prizes for this raffle and thanks also to those who are selling tickets and those who have bought. Buy a raffle ticket or two or three from one of the Foundation board members for some wonderful prizes and then show up for the drawing and you might be a winner! (You could be a winner if you don't show up, too—but you'll have to answer your phone!)

Hosted breakfast: Today Michelle DeGooyer announced that a Kennewick Kiwanis Club Hosted Breakfast is planned for March 4th for the community to learn our findings and the results of the Community Needs Assessment we conducted. This should be a great kick off to the future of the club. Michelle said this is exciting. The breakfast will be March 4, 2026; 7:30-8:30 AM at a location to be announced and RSVPs are required before February 27th. Community Needs Assessment Committee Members are encouraged to attend and Club Members are definitely welcome. This is not a fundraiser.

Here's an idea: Kiwanis Socials

For many, networking is a key part of the appeal of Kiwanis membership. Since 2023, the Kiwanis club of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, has grown its roster by holding Kiwanis Socials — monthly networking events where members and nonmembers get together in fun venues. On a [recent episode of our podcast](#), “Here’s an Idea,” club member Jarrod Goldsmith talks to Kiwanis International Executive Director Paul Palazzolo about the program’s formation, its impact and tips for making socials work in any club. [WATCH NOW](#)

Upcoming Programs:

Feb 10 Erin Erdman, Kennewick City Manager

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Art King--the old turtle isn't snapping quite as much these days,



Our greeter, Art, and Patti Gunn--who would dare snap at lovely Ms Patti?

SAVE THE DATE!

**Our annual Kiwanis Day of Giving
is February 25, 2026.**

GDKCF-1225-295

Think of it as 2/25 — a fitting date, since US\$2.25 is enough to make a difference in one child's life through the Kiwanis Children's Fund. This year, the goal is more ambitious than ever: to raise US\$125,000. That's enough to reach 55,000 kids in one day!

Give and gather with fellow Kiwanians online. See what's possible when we come together! Learn how to get involved at [kiwanis.org/dayofgiving](https://www.kiwanis.org/dayofgiving).



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Program: President Penny had the opportunity to introduce the program today and it was someone she was very familiar with—her middle son Skyler Gardner, Life Flight Pilot. Skyler was here today to talk about his job as a pilot for Life Flight but his journey getting there was just as fascinating.



Skyler married his wife Caroline in 2007. She became a registered nurse and he became a LS logistical specialist on the Submarine USS NEVADA. He said they did not have much in common to discuss when they were not working so he decided to go into a field that they could both discuss. He couldn't do anything with blood or any of the types of this that his wife the nurse did, so after ten years in a submarine, he decided he wanted to become a Life Flight Pilot.

It took many years. He learned how to fly a Bell helicopter but to get the required hours in he first had to work in the agriculture field, applying fertilizers, pollens, herbicides, drying orchards of wet cherries. etc. He worked from sunrise to sunset from March through October and didn't hear from his boss the rest of the year. After 8 years he started applying with Life Flight. The jobs usually went first to those with military experience in flying helicopters. He had to apply out of state but finally in 2022 was able to get on with Life Flight. He is stationed out of the Hermiston office. He works 12-hour shifts but must stop at 14 hours which sometimes doesn't get him all the way home and another pilot has to come in and take over while he drives the rest of the way home. Each station has 4 pilots, two mechanics, 6 nurses, and 6 medics. The nurses and medics work 24-hour shifts but usually have time to sleep during those shifts. Life Flight was Kadlec to Spokane and from Hermiston to Portland. They once picked up a victim of a snowmobile crash which lacerated his stomach. They were able to get to him in 15 minutes and he was released from the hospital before their shift was over.

A few in our Kiwanis club have been the “guests” of Life Flight and all appreciated the service to do in our area.

Notes courtesy of Vickie Bergum



Good crowd today