



## Presidents Newsletter April 2024

Welcome to April and the first full month of Spring, it is that time where we all have been cleaning the scorpion weed out of our yards. To start this month's newsletter, we are sure you noticed the new logo Kelli made for us. It definitely adds to our recognition and highlights our unique character. In addition to the new logo, Kelli brought a sponsor to the table, the JR Noble Company is a sponsor for Desert Storm. He wanted to donate his sponsor page to a nonprofit and Kelli suggested Kiwanis. He agreed and there will be a Kiwanis ad in the event guide for Desert Storm. We have attached a copy for you all to see.

As was mentioned last month we will be holding our club elections very soon. Stephanie Lueras was our President elect and was scheduled to assume the position on October 1. Unfortunately, she found that she needed to resign from Kiwanis for personal reasons. We will need someone to step up as the President for the 2024-2025 Kiwanis Year. As you all know, I have been the President for the past two years, the Treasurer for the two years prior to that and a Board member before that. I am stepping aside from leadership which will allow others the opportunity to steer this wonderful organization. In addition, we will need a Treasurer and a Secretary. It is imperative we have Kiwanis members to take on these important positions. If anyone is interested and would like to know more about the responsibilities, please ask and we will fill you in on the duties.

We had a milestone anniversary this month with Mike Carr celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> year as a Kiwanian. If you see Mike be sure to say happy anniversary and thank him for his many years of service to our community.

In our last newsletter, we discussed the Kiwanis American Flag Program and our relationship with the Lake Havasu High School Booster Club. We are waiting for the Booster Club Board to make a decision. On a good note, the Kiwanis Morning Club in Bullhead City is looking to start their own flag program modeled on our success. We will be meeting with their members to help them get things started.

You may have noticed more of the Kiwanis benches around town. We are working on a rehabilitation project to make sure they are all in good shape and represent the organization in a positive manner. If you see a bench in need of repair, please let us know and we will get right on it. This month we redid the benches at the English Village and the two between Dr Atassi's office and Lab Corp on Mesquite.

We completed this year's Easter Basket project and we put together 240 Easter Baskets for the food bank. Our members, Key Clubs and volunteers worked together to make these baskets with quality items. Some items were donated such as reading books from the Literacy Council and activity books from Toys for Tots. We even had a donation of See's candy for the baskets. We appreciate all of the help and donations which brought the project in under budget. In addition, we had a photo booth set up under the Kiwanis ez up at the Easter egg hunt sponsored by Burgers under the Bridge. There were about 300 children in attendance to gather eggs and have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

This month saw additional visitors to Kiwanis of Lake Havasu. David and Jan were here on vacation from Rome, New York and joined us for lunch. Jan is the Treasure of the Lake Delta Kiwanis and both she and David are members of the club. As always it is fun to meet other members from across the Country.

March 23 was a city-wide Earth Day with numerous organizations and clubs participating in trash pickup activities. Kiwanis was there along with all the other groups to pitch in and make Lake Havasu beautiful. We were on our adopted section of SR 95 between Kiowa Blvd and Palo Verde North with members, Key Club students and volunteers. In the past we "borrowed" yellow safety vests from the city to ensure our volunteers were seen by passing motorists. This year we have purchased 30 of our own vests with the Kiwanis logo on the back. Not only were our volunteers seen, but they were also flying the Kiwanis logo for club recognition.



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It is time again to form a scholarship committee to help our Key Club students fund their continuing education after high school. One of the things that makes me proud to be a Kiwanian is that we present scholarships to those that earn them during all four years of high school. If a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior puts in the community work and maintains the grades, they are eligible to earn a scholarship. If you would like to be on the Scholarship Committee, please let us know.

Our meetings this month were very informative. Andrea Helart the new CEO of the Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce spoke with us about the direction the Chamber is headed and her plans for the future. One of the big projects they will be working on is pairing with First Things First and the School District to help with childcare issues for employees across all sectors of the community. This is much needed as the economy makes it harder for families to survive without both parents working.

Speaking of the Chamber, our own Jeff Boyer is currently enrolled in the Chamber Foundation for Education and Leadership development program. Many of our members have been through this program and know that each year, the class does a signature project to give back to the community. This year they are adding to the amenities at Rotary Park with a set of swings and mobility mats, both of which are to assist those with mobility issues. The swings are specially built to ensure the child cannot fall out and the mats allow those using devices with wheels, such as wheelchairs and walkers, to be able to traverse the sand and access the water and beach. It was a pleasure for Kiwanis to support Jeff and his class with a check for \$1,000.00 to assist with this project.

Pam and Trevor Nelson came to visit us and make us aware of a nonprofit they are starting called Equine Facilitated Learning. They have a small farm in Yucca where children can go that may need some time away from people and spend it with animals such as horses, goats, and other farm animals. Having children interact with animals can help those that are struggling with feelings and inadequacy due to abusive relationships. It was a very heartwarming story to hear how they are helping children overcome traumatic experiences.

Another pet loving group came to see us, Pias Paws is a canine rescue organization here in Lake Havasu that takes the animals nobody else wants. They provide proper medical care, nutrition, and love for the animals as they await adoption. All the animals they rescue are placed in an adoptive home and should things change, or if it turns out to not be a good fit, they take the animal back until a suitable family can be found.

I saved our last guest speaker for the month for the end as it was very special to us all. Our members put in many hours of hard work at the Lake Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair, chairing events such as the 5K-10K run, golf tournament, corralling volunteers, staffing the Balloon Festival Store, preparing activities such as the paper balloons and the kid zone, marketing, attending meetings, whatever needed to be done. Because of the hard work of our members and the other service clubs and volunteers, this was the most successful year ever for the Balloon Festival. The festival hit a milestone and Mr. Steve Ticknor attended a meeting to present us with a check for \$50,000.00 for our portion of the proceeds. Yes, you read that correctly fifty thousand dollars was our part. This has become our biggest fund raiser, and we have enough money in the bank to fund all our projects and to give away a lot of money to other nonprofits next year. Whoever steps up to lead this club next year will have the resources to take us to the next level. Thank you everyone who helps with this project.

Until next month, be safe and thank you all for being part of this wonderful organization.

David