



# Kiwanis®

Monument Hill Club

K-News

December 6, 2025

Monument Hill Club - Service Since 1974

## Today's Program



Palmer Lake Historical Society

*Diane Kokes*



President Jim Head began the meeting at 8:00 a.m. Zoomers participating were Rich Rima, Don Johnson, Marlene Bizub, and Cay Price.

Larry Young was Sergeant at Arms.

Greg Bielanski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim Wolf was this week's Scribe.

## **Member Concerns**

Rich Hicks led member concerns.

Rich led a morning prayer. Heavenly Father, we are grateful for all our Club members and for their gifts of time and talent. Guide us in our mission as we serve those most in need. In this season especially, may our presence—among family, friends, and even those we have yet to meet—bring kindness, hope, and a positive impact through all that we say and do. Amen.



## **Guests and Visiting Kiwanians**

Scott Andrews welcomed back his wife Annie. Great to see you!

## **Upcoming Programs**

- Dec 13 - Pay for Play: The Death of Amateurism in College Sports - Jill Harris, USAFA
- Dec 20 - Career and Innovation Center - Amy Slenkowski
- Dec 27 - No Meeting
- Jan 3 - No Meeting

## Membership Minute

Bill Stoner led the Membership Minute. Here are upcoming events for the membership.

- Dec 9 - Christmas Party at the Golf Club at Bear Dance
- Dec 11 - Konnector's meeting at PPBC, Barr Room
- Dec 13 - MHKC Board meeting, following regular meeting
- Dec 20 - Regular meeting to be held at Career and Innovation Center, 1200 Synthes Ave



## New Member, Chris Muench

Bill Stoner and Jim Head welcomed our newest member, Chris Muench. Bill presented Chris with a Kiwanis hat, vest and pin as well as a membership packet. Chris told us he is a Colorado native, born in Pueblo. He has three children and four grandchildren. He said if he'd known that the grandchildren were so much fun he

would have had them first. He retired in April 2025 from the Trane air conditioning company. This is their second time in Monument since they were here in the early 2000s, moved to Washington State and have now moved back to Monument to be near children and grandchildren. His wife, Donna thinks there must be a thousand in our Club because everywhere she goes, she sees us involved in something. Chris is really looking forward to getting involved in our projects. Thanks for joining us!

## Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

Jeff Baker told us that we are doing pretty well on bell ringing but he needs some help for the last few days leading up to Christmas. Please take a look at the schedule and see if you could fill in some slots. Walmart employees are ringing the bell at the East and West doors on Saturday December 13th and Sunday December 14th.

We will ring from Friday, November 28 to Wednesday, December 24 on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at Walmart and King Soopers. Here is the [link to register and signup](#) for scheduled dates and times. We will also have help from Tri-Lakes Women's Club, LPHS Key Club and LP Middle School.



## Christmas Party

Jim Johnston provided a final update on our Christmas party. For those that have not been to the Golf Club at Bear Dance in Larkspur, it is a circuitous route. Below is a map with directions. If you have problems navigating, you can call Jim at 719-660-7297. We are expecting about 80 members and guests, plus the CU Buffoons for musical entertainment. The party is on December 9th from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Cocktails begin at 4:00 pm with a no-host bar. Attire is "holiday festive". Dinner from 5-6pm. \*\* No assigned seats. If you want to sit at a table with someone, plan to arrive early together and choose seats during social hour.

The address is 6630 Bear Dance Road, Larkspur, CO. It's going to be another great party!



#### Directions:

The address is 6630 Bear Dance Road, Larkspur, CO.

If you live in the Tri-Lakes area, take I-25 north to Exit 174 (Tomah Rd).

- Turn left / West crossing the I-25 bridge.
- Take an immediate right onto the frontage road. You should not enter the camp ground.
- At the 2 mile point turn Left at Tomah Road Stoplight and cross the railroad track.
- Take the immediate left onto Bear Dance Drive (headed south).
- Continue straight for 2 miles through the roundabout. You will see the clubhouse on the left.
- Parking is on the north side of the main building.
- Come in the main entrance on the west side. There will be a welcome desk in the foyer.



## NFL Pools

Dan Lopez updated us on the football pools for week 12. For Sally's Challenge, Rich Rima and John Spidell are still competing for first and second place.

There were 22 players in the Glenn Scott winners pool this week. Two players with 12 of 17, Charlie Brown and Pete Peterson. Charlie Brown won the tiebreaker, and the Sacagawea went to Benny Nasser with 3 out of 17 correct pics. Thanks for your participation!

## News & Notes

### Birthdays

Courtesy of Frank Wynne



**Ted Bookman Dec 12th**

Joined 2008  
Sponsor Rich Lybott



#### On Dec 12th<sup>th</sup> in HISTORY

- **1901:** Italian inventor Guglielmo Marconi sends first radio signal across the Atlantic
- **1946:** John D. Rockefeller, Jr donates 6 blocks of Manhattan to the UN.
- **2000:** US Supreme Court hands down a ruling in Bush V. Gore

## HUMOR



### Humor

Courtesy of Frank Wynne

A Connecticut rifleman once counseled his son that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his wheat mash every morning. The son did this religiously, and he lived to the ripe old age of 98. When he died, he left 14 children, 29 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, and a 15 foot crater where they cremated him.

## Happy Bucks



While helping a lady with a package in her car at the UPS store, Jim Wolf heard the ringing of the Salvation Army bells at Safeway. He thought it was cool and it adds to the spirit of the season.



RF Smith had three happy bucks: 1) He was happy that Diane Kokes was the speaker at our meeting to make us more familiar with the Palmer Lake Historical Society. 2) After 3 weeks helping his Aunt Caroline in Connecticut, she has had abdominal surgery and is doing well. RF asks for your thoughts and prayers on her behalf. 3) For the Air Force hockey team who beat Robert Morris University 4 to 1 on Friday night in an excellent game.



Scott Andrews had five happy bucks for the new Encore Community Arts program. Their Christmas show, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, is coming up next weekend, December 12th and 13th at Trinity Lutheran Church, but all shows are sold out. There is also a Christmas market at Trinity Lutheran Church on December 13th from 12:00 to 6:30 p.m.



Mike McGrath is taking all bets against Navy on the Navy - Army football game next week. All proceeds go to our foundation and are doubled thanks to an anonymous donor.



Little known, except for those who care like Jim Johnston, Texas Tech was in a big 12 championship game on Saturday which

Dave Bailey was happy and confident that the Ohio State Buckeyes were going to win the Big Ten championship game. Postscript: Ohio State 10, Indiana 13.

would put them in a national championship game against the winner of the Ohio State game. Postscript: Texas Tech 34, BYU 7.



Dan Lopez was happy that Friday night, everything went fairly smooth in the setup for the craft fair. It was a new venue, a new layout, a new set of people to work with and everything went really, okay.

Terri Carver was happy that the American Legion Post 9-11 is doing their Christmas holiday event next Saturday at King's Deer. She invited veterans or family members to attend.



Bill Kaelin's happy buck was to remind us of the Christmas concert to be held at St. Peter Church on Friday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. All proceeds go to Tri-Lakes Cares. It's a professional production and a great event! See below.





## Weekly 50-50 Drawing

We started all over again with a bagful of chips with a total drawing worth \$10. Larry Young built up the pot a little bit by pulling out a red chip.

## Program



### **Palmer Lake Historical Society**

#### ***Diane Kokes***

Scribe: Jim Wolf

Diane Kokes is the vice president of the Palmer Lake Historical Society. They were founded by Marion McDowell who was a history loving citizen of Palmer Lake in 1956. They are celebrating their 70th anniversary this coming year. Like many volunteer organizations during COVID the participation of their volunteers was reduced. But within the last two years their membership has grown and they hope it continues. They are located in the LUCRETIA VAILE MUSEUM (66 LOWER GLENWAY STREET PALMER LAKE). The club was invited to visit - it's free. You can bring your grandchildren, family and friends. It has information about the area - the trains, the ranching, the farming communities. And they also have a gift store so you can buy mugs. They have monthly programs on the third Thursday of the month at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Their upcoming program is a show on the vintage radio - which is a really fun show.



The Palmer Lake Historical Society was instrumental in getting the star on the Colorado National register. The society nominated the star, completed the research for it, proposed the site and were able to get on the Colorado historic registry. It's beautiful and we all see it during the Christmas holiday and several other times! The town is really proud of the fire department at Palmer Lake because they maintain the star, so they go up there and they cut the brush down and replace the lights.

Diane has been told the Kiwanis Club used to do a calendar. And the club used to come to the Historical Society to get pictures. And then they turned it over to the Historical Society because it was a big project, and they thought it fit their organization better. So, Diane brought calendars for everybody. If you need more you can pick them up at the Museum and they're free.

Next year, Colorado is celebrating its 150th anniversary of its entrance into the Union. It was the 38th state to join the union, and Diane showed a map during the Civil War of the original 17 counties showing El Paso and Pueblo Counties as reservations. But the interesting thing about this map is all those points of interest.

There are all places where the volunteers during the Civil War could register. Colorado City Museum has a really nice exhibit about soldiers from Colorado in the Civil War. Colorado is the only state formed 100 years after our nation – that's why we are referred to the Centennial State.



Diane invited us to attend the annual Yule Log Hunt. It's on December 14th at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. And it's a great family event. And if you ever go, you'll probably want to go again. And you don't have to go on the hunt. You can stay in the town hall where they have the fire. They sing Christmas carols, and it's just really a wonderful event, waiting for the finder of the Yule Log. The Yule Log Hunt was started in Lake Placid in 1933 and the tradition was started by Lucretia Vaile. They start the Yule Log Hunt with a trumpet player, and they have kept the tradition, so it's kind of like the movie Groundhog Day. They go into the woods to find the log. After it's found and brought back to the town hall they burn half the Yule Log in the fireplace. And the cool thing about the fireplace is that it is over four feet wide, and it was built for the Yule log. And the fire is only in the fireplace once a year. During the celebration the fireplace really gets going (and we're right next door to the fire department). The meaning of the Yule Log is to welcome in the new year, so it's really about celebrating. Diane hopes we will all join the event this year.

## Quick Links

[Monument Hill Kiwanis Website](#).....[Monument Hill Foundation Website](#)

[Facebook](#).....[Instagram](#).....[Twitter](#)

## Special Thanks

Senior Meals Drivers & Scheduler - Jim Murphy

Deliveries: Tues, Wed, Thurs; Senior Center; Grace Best Education Center

Photographer: Warren Gerig

Media Support: Frank DeLalla and Liam Wynne

## Virtual Meeting Reminder

**We need YOU to help with the K-News weekly.**

**It's FUN and a great way to support the club's communications efforts. Contact one of us to learn more!**

[Rich Hicks](#) \* [Mark Anderson](#) \* [RF Smith](#)

K-News Crew

(click on a name to email us directly)

Members receive a link to each week's meeting via email.

In-person attendance is encouraged. Zoom is available.

## Monument Hill Kiwanis Supporters

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*The Wine Seller*



**THANK YOU!**

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