

Club Officers:
President Lane Andrew
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Secretary Mike Jepkes
Treasurer Tom Durkin
Past President Ken Sweet

Directors:
2024-2026: Jim Foley, Susan Markley, Rick Sutton
2025-2027: Shavon Forte, Gary McCombs, Geri Reinhart

Past Governor Kathy Williams
District Governor Carol Chiarito
Division 5 Lt. Governor Rick Baldessari
Executive Director/Secretary Kirstin Litz

Published Weekly by Kiwanis Club of Columbine. Send your articles to the co-editors, Ken Sweet or Jim Foley, at news@columbinekiwanis.org

New Membership Contacts:
Ken Sweet info@columbinekiwanis.org
19Kiwanis15

Attendance

At our meeting on January 21
Total attendance – 39
Guests – 1 Kristy Tolan, from Blue Spruce Kiwanis, who was our speaker.

Project hours MTD for January is 412

Wednesday Meeting

6:45 Social, 7:00 Meeting

Mar 74G's Restaurant

5950 S Platte Canyon Road, Littleton, CO 80123

Links for signups and for reporting hours
Scan QR or click on link



[PROJECTS SIGN UP](#)

[VOLUNTEER 4HOURS](#)

Please report hours

Kiwanis Club of Columbine

Weekly newsletter for January 28, 2026

This Week Presenter is Tim Weaver
Traffic Operations Manager City of Littleton

Greeter /Pledge: Connie McLaughlin Invocation:

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.



Feb 03 Bill McElroy
Feb 03 Connie McLaughlin

Upcoming Club Programs

Feb 04	Jim Foley - Top Golf Fundraiser (p)
Feb 11	Student of the Month
Feb 18	Jan Philpy - Sharing with Sheridan
Feb 25	Brad Bridgewater - Water Rights in the West (p)

Future Club Events and Service Projects

Jan 26	Mon	Project CURE - George
Jan 27	Tue	Kiwanis After Dark – George Kinzer, 303 Sports Bar 5:00 PM
Jan 29	Thu	Sharing with Sheridan – Ferris
Feb 01	Sat	Seeds of South Sudan Brian Counteman
Feb 03	Tue	Satellite Meeting - Charlie Boyer– Colorado Credit Union
Feb 10	Tue	Kiwanis After Dark – George Kinzer, 303 Sports Bar 5:00 PM
Feb 14	Sat	Jefferson Symphony Orchestra – Jim R
Feb 21	Sat	Nibbles and Sips
Mar 07	Sat	Mid-Year Rally Kiwanis Division

Nourish Meals on Wheels (Note – check with master list)

Jan 28	Wed	Sandy Legge & Geri Reinhart
Jan 29	Thu	Ken Sweet & Anita Alberts
Jan 30	Fri	Janet Woodhull & Ruthann Moomy
Feb 02	Mon	Ferris Forar & Rick Sutton
Feb 03	Tue	Riggs & Bobbi Smith
Feb 04	Wed	Les & Mary Ann Burns
Feb 05	Thu	Need Driver
Feb 06	Fri	Janet Woodhull & Geri Reinhart
Feb 09	Mon	Jim Johnston & Mitch Waldman
Feb 11	Wed	Kathy Athens & Geri Reinhart
Feb 12	Thu	Denny Brehm Family
Feb 13	Fri	Steve & Debbie Barnes
Feb 16	Mon	Jerry & Jan Clayton
Feb 17	Tue	Riggs & Bobbi Smith

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Brain Bowl - Southern Region

On an even colder Saturday morning (1/24), 6 Club members joined the Optimists of Colorado/Wyoming for the 1st of 3 Brainbowl competitions for 2026. 59 Middle School teams from Colorado competed in 5 morning rounds of 30 quiz questions per round, followed by 3 afternoon elimination rounds for the top scoring 8 teams for each grade. The rounds consist of general knowledge questions in math, science, technology, history, geography, literature, and the arts. The questions are academic in nature and it's fun to see if you really are smarter than a middle schooler! The knowledge these kids have is truly impressive & fun to watch. Rick served as a Reader while Shavon, Jim, Anita, Connie and Don served as Timekeepers or Scorekeepers. Over 320 students and 120 volunteers participated in this event. Things are pretty serious and several protests had to be adjudicated. One elimination round had to go to 7 additional questions in order to break a tie. Lots of fun and good people to work and socialize with. We also learned that the Final Brainbowl competition will be held at Heritage HS (our backyard) on March 7th, instead of up in Denver, so please consider volunteering at: <https://optimistbrainbowl.org/brain-bowl-volunteer-registration/>

Note: the volunteer organization field has a pick for Kiwanis International.

Tournament Fundraising Event

Kristy Tolan delivered a presentation about the Evergreen Kiwanis Corn Hole tournament event. She was invited by the fundraising committee to share details and outcomes of this annual event.

The Corn Hole tournament has proven to be a successful fundraising initiative, generating over \$15,000 each year for the organization.



Science Fair – Normandy Elementary

It was another cold Thursday morning when our gang of 5 Club members revisited Normandy to support their Science Fair. The judging criteria evolved to focus on encouraging the students to pursue science and expand their curiosity in their experiments and research. We interviewed about 25 students spanning K – 5 grades about their projects as to why they chose their project and their knowledge and implementation of the scientific method, including rationale for both the project design and hypothesis. We loved asking them questions that would make them think about other ways of looking at the project and seeing their eyes light up with the possibilities. The Projects were rated essentially as either Good or Great (getting ribbons), with lots of constructive feedback. As a group we decided which Project in each grade would be the Grade winner, and then which Projects across all grades were the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd best. Some of the memorable projects were the characteristics of different recipes of Slime, the speed and efficiency of different cooking methods and types (colors) of popcorn, and the height in feet of Mento & Soda explosions. It was a really fun experience, meeting some very focused and curious future scientists and engineers. Thanks Logan, Abe, Ken, Rick and Don. Don Buck



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Sweet Dreams in a Bag

Kiwanis Club of Columbine,

Your generosity this year has truly made a difference. Because of you, children, youth and babies received warm bedding and the comfort of knowing someone cares. We see smiles and hear their stories—your kindness brings hope and sweet dreams to children who need it most.

It was a true blessing to be able to have two storage sheds built, thank you for those that helped make that dream a reality.

To aid in your record-keeping for tax purposes, below are the details of your donation:

- **Donation Amount: \$1,000.00**
- **Donation Year: 2025**

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. Your donation is fully tax-deductible. **EIN: 45-209409.**

Thank you for being part of our Sweet Dream family.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful New Year.

With heartfelt gratitude,

The Sweet Dream Board of Directors

Susie Fox

Kiwanis Division 5 Meeting Report

Last Thursday, I attended the Division 5 meeting of Kiwanis. The gathering included approximately 15 Kiwanis members, representing around five different clubs in the division. During the meeting, we had the opportunity to learn about the activities and initiatives undertaken by the other clubs. It was inspiring to see the positive impact that Kiwanis has in our community through the collective efforts of its members. In my personal opinion, our club stands out as one of the best within the division, reflecting our dedication and commitment to service. - Ken

Jefferson Symphony Orchestra

Shall We Dance?

Sunday, February 14, 1 PM



JSO Concert: Shall We Dance?

DATE CHANGED!!

SATURDAY, February 14, 2026

1:00 pm

Get ready to tap your toes and clap to the rhythm of a variety of dance music! Experience a variety of traditional, familiar and contemporary music from Argentine Malambo to Russian ballet, Austrian waltzes to Slavic folk dance, and more!

Also hear the world premiere of Synchrony for Silver by local composer Cherise Leiter featuring JSO Principal Flute Elizabeth Hicks-Kimmey.

Seeds of South Sudan

VALENTINES for SEEDS of SOUTH SUDAN
"A Party with Heart"



Teaching sewing to Seeds of South Sudan Students in Kenya

Alan and Linda Farb welcome you to their Westminster home to raise funds to nurture and educate refugee orphans from the UN's Kakuma camp through your generosity.

SAVE the DATE: Sunday, February 1, 2026 from 1-3 pm
Learn how Sponsors give Hope, a Home & Education to the "Seeds" 2pm

WHAT: LUNCH! Wine, Non-alcoholic Drinks, Treats and Valentines SILENT AUCTION - Bid on local business gift certificates, wine, candy, gift baskets - All proceeds go to students' room, board, and tuition costs

DONATE: Suggested \$30 Charitable Contribution to Seeds of South Sudan
Can't Come? Make a secure tax deductible donation online at www.seedsouthsudan.org

RSVP: Alan Farb alanafarb@gmail.com text: 303-668-6433
Linda Farb lfarb@centurylink.net text: 303-625-3509

Seeds of South Sudan has a **Charity Navigator 4 STAR Rating**

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Nibbles and Sips

It's that time of the year again!! Integrated Family Community Services Nibbles and Sips Gala is:

Saturday, February 21, 2026 • 5:00 - 8:30pm
[Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center • 7800 E. Tufts Avenue, Denver 80237](#)

Jazz Hands Foundation Band (Brian Dee Counterman) will once again be playing the music from the Ballroom during the Silent Auction and the Nibbles and Sips Portion of the event.

For more information please go to
[Nibbles & Sips Main Page - IFCS | A Denver Area Food Bank and More to Nourish Lives](#)

Brian Counterman

New Projector for Club Meetings

Our club has been relying on a projector that was generously donated by one of our members. This equipment has served us well for some time, allowing us to display presentations during our meetings. Over the past two weeks, we encountered issues with the projector and could not get it to work with the presenter's computer. The main challenge stems from the projector's age—it lacks an HDMI port, which is commonly used with modern computers. In our attempts to connect, we made use of a converter, but this solution proved unreliable. Considering these challenges, the club has decided to purchase a new projector. The updated model will feature both HDMI and USB ports. - Ken



Sharing with Sheridan

On a beautiful sunny day just ahead of the arctic front, we gathered to serve 178 families (613 neighbors). We continue to be well stocked through the generosity of our donors and food credits provided by the State.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stephanie

Be Cooler Than the Average Donor

Thank you for being a loyal donor! We think you deserve to be rewarded!

Exclusive Gift for Loyal Donors Like You

Step 1: Donate. Give blood with Vitalant 4+ times between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2026.

Step 2: Redeem. Log into your Donor Rewards account to claim your exclusive Vitalant backpack cooler.

Step 3: Celebrate! Proudly plan a picnic, head to a tailgate or enjoy a day at the pool with your new backpack cooler, knowing you've made a real difference for trauma patients.

Plus, you'll earn 200 points in the **Donor Rewards** program for each blood donation. After four donations, that's enough to redeem for a \$10 gift card of your choice!

SAVE THESE DATES

- MARCH 16
- JUNE 8
- SEPTEMBER 21
- DECEMBER 7



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Meet Rick Sutton

Rick Sutton experienced a somewhat chaotic childhood. While being in foster care, his mother and father divorced when he was 5 years old, and his mother lost custody of both Rick and his younger brother (due to a somewhat "rigged" court hearing). Rick lived with his father and stepmom during the school year and dad could/would prove to be frequently less than amiable to Rick, his brother, stepsister and younger half-brothers. He was able to reside with his mother only during the summers and see her for 1 evening during the school year. There were several stepfathers (one of which fathered an additional half sister and brother) along the way who came and went.



Rick relayed that the most important event of his life occurred during the year he turned 15 and commented that it was both the worst and the most meaningful year of his life. The worst part was living with his father on a farm just south of the small town (pop. 1170) of Weeping Water, Nebraska in a home that did not have central heating. It was heated by firewood (pot belly stove centered) and their meals cooked on a kitchen wood burning stove.

Rick recalls frequently missing school, sometimes twice a week (during the coldest months), because he had to drag, saw, and split wood to literally "keep the home fires burning". He also had to haul buckets of water from the local creek to the home when the pipes froze. Needless to say, Rick's grades suffered tremendously from his sporadic attendance at school.

The best part of that year was that his mother showed up in the late spring and demanded custody of both Rick and his brother (Neb. law allowed a 15-year-old to decide on which parent to reside with) and moved them both to Colorado Springs. She had married an Army officer, and the new family lived in a community west of Fort Carson. Rick was able to attend school on a regular basis and was finally able to experience a stable home

life. His grades improved to the point that he was able to attend college at Western State University. He subsequently earned a Master of Educational Administration degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

Rick taught Social Studies at a junior high school in Northglenn for 4 1/2 years and then another year at a junior high school in Boulder. He finally ended up as an Assistant Principal in a junior high school in Thornton for 2 years. Due to the closing of some schools in the district and Rick being the newest Assistant Principal, his contract was not extended, and he was unable to find another position in school administration.

Rick changed careers to work in corporate and individual insurance and investments and has been working in that field for the past 47 years. For about 20 years of these years he taught financial and insurance licensing courses to aspiring insurance carrier representatives.

Given Rick's early history, it is no surprise that he has dedicated his life to helping young people to learn and enhance their self-esteem. While a teacher and a father of two sons, he coached some 49 football, baseball, and wrestling teams (officiated the last two) for 35+ years. Rick shared that he has torn his Achilles tendon four (FOUR!) times, the last time occurring when he was teaching fumble recovery to 8th grade students. Surgery was needed and he completed the coaching season while on crutches. Rick has been involved with Key Club for 35 years, mostly at Arapahoe High School. He has also been involved with Junior Achievement for 19 years+ at Littleton and Arapahoe high schools and elsewhere around the metro area.

It is inspiring to see how a person can take a "volatile" upbringing early in life and turn it around to devote himself to the building up and supporting others. Thanks Rick for all you do. – Kathy Athens