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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

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**New Membership Contacts:**  
Ken Sweet [info@columbinekiwanis.org](mailto:info@columbinekiwanis.org)  
19Kiwanis15

# Kiwanis Club of Columbine

## Weekly newsletter for September 23, 2026

**This Week's Presenter is Riggs Smith**  
**Topic "The Star-Spangled Banner" (p)**

**Greeter /Pledge: Rick Sutton Invocation:**

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



**Sep 24 Will Knoblauch**  
**Sep 29 Dawn McEwen**

### Attendance

Attendance at the September 16 meeting was 39.  
Six guests/speakers: Andrea Cosens - Normandy Elementary, Sara Oliver - Dutch Creek Elementary, Christa Wilson - Columbine Hills Elementary, Kevin Kolasa - Leawood Elementary, Andy Paletta - Governor's Ranch Elementary, and Mike Freener - Community Support.

Project hours MTD for September is 309.5.

**Wednesday Meeting**  
**6:45 Social, 7:00 Meeting**

**4G'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

### Upcoming Club Programs

**Sep 30 Bill Worthington – Lt, Gov Installation of Officers**  
**Oct 07 Stan Moore “Moffat and Colorado RR’s” (p)**  
**Oct 14 Student of the Month**  
**Oct 21 Ken Caryl & Columbine HS Principals**

### Future Club Events and Service Projects

|        |     |                                                            |
|--------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sep 21 | Mon | Columbine Kiwanis Blood Drive – Tom D                      |
| Sep 22 | Tue | Kiwanis After Dark – George Kinzer, 303 Sports Bar 5:00 PM |
| Sep 24 | Thu | Sharing with Sheridan – Ferris                             |
| Sep 26 | Sat | Bike Helmet Distribution – Jim Roos                        |
| Sep 29 | Mon | Project C.U.R.E. - George Kinzer                           |
| Oct 06 | Tue | Satellite Meeting - Charlie Boyer– Colorado Credit Union   |
| Oct 13 | Tue | Kiwanis After Dark – George Kinzer, 303 Sports Bar 5:00 PM |
| Oct 17 | Sat | Columbine Kiwanis Fall Picnic – Ruthann                    |
| Oct 20 | Tue | Satellite Meeting - Charlie Boyer– Colorado Credit Union   |

### Nourish Meals on Wheels (Please check master list)

|        |      |                              |
|--------|------|------------------------------|
| Sep 23 | Wed  | Terri & Cleve McKinney       |
| Sep 24 | Thu  | Steve & Debbie Barnes        |
| Sep 25 | Fri  | Ferris Forar & Jim Johnston  |
| Sep 28 | Mon  | Ruthann Moomy & Sandra Legge |
| Sep 29 | Tue  | Riggs & Bobbi Smith          |
| Sep 30 | Wed  | Terri & Cleve McKinney       |
| Oct 1  | Thur | Geri Rinehart & Sandra Legge |
| Oct 02 | Fri  | Les & Mary Burns and Sally   |
| Oct 05 | Mon  | Ruthann Moomy & Kathy Athens |
| Oct 06 | Tue  | Riggs & Bobbi Smith          |
| Oct 07 | Wed  | Terri & Cleve McKinney       |
| Oct 08 | Thu  | Scott Story & Jim Johnstone  |
| Oct 09 | Fri  | Abe Baltazar & Mitch Waldman |
| Oct 12 | Mon  | Don Buck & Jim Foley         |
| Oct 14 | Wed  | Cleve & Terri McKinney       |
| Oct 15 | Thu  | Rod & Karen Hunley           |
| Oct 16 | Fri  | Ferris Forar & Ken Sweet     |

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## Local Elementary School Donation



Pictured– Not necessarily in order.

|                 |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Kiwanis         | Lane Andrew    |              |
| Columbine Hills | Christa Wilson | 303-982-5540 |
| Dutch Creek     | Sara Oliver    | 303-982-4565 |
| Governors Ranch | Andrew Paletta | 303-982-4625 |
| Leawood         | Kevin Kolasa   | 303-982-8257 |
| Normandy        | Andrea Cosens  | 303-982-3025 |
| Mike Freeman    |                |              |

Columbine Kiwanis donated a total of \$5000 to the schools for discretionary funds. A donation of \$2500 was made for Outdoor Lab Scholarships.

Last Wednesday we had five principals and a superintendent from local area elementary schools that we work with. They came to our morning meeting and told us about their schools. They expressed how appreciative they are of our work in the community. We gave them money for discretionary funds that are used for special purchases for the school. Each principal talked about positive things happening, including improved test scores and challenges such as School, consolidations. One principal mentioned specifically where they would be using our donation money. They have security cameras around the school and when they wear out or break, the school must buy them using discretionary funds and so the money we give is a great way to meet this need.

There are opportunities to volunteer at any of the schools from tutoring to, shelving books in the library, science fairs, and much more. - Lane Andrew

## Kiwanis Fall picnic

Save the date

October 17, Saturday 12-3pm

Potluck

Ruthann's House

Kiwanis members, family and friends are welcome. Bring a potential new member.

## Kiwanis of Columbine Community Blood Drive

Time and Place

**Monday, Sept. 21**

10AM-2PM

Riverwalk Clubhouse

2751 W. Riverwalk Cir Littleton

Or use this QR to sign up



Or call 877-25-VITAL to sign up

Use blood drive code: 0572

**With only 7 of 24 slots filled, there are many still available.**

## Action Center Food Drive

Our total number of pounds donated: 3,509! The Kiwanis Club brought 810lbs!

Thank you for coming out on Saturday. It was a pleasure getting to know your group. We truly appreciate the support and if there's anything we can help Kiwanis in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

I am getting our camera photos downloaded and will be in touch within the next week with those photos. Thanks again!

Claire



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## Aviation Is in His Blood

You could say that Les Burns has jet fuel running in his veins. Aviation and aerospace engineering was in his future from the time of his birth at Scott Field Air Force Base in Belleville, Illinois. His dad was an Army Air Corp Captain who flew B-24 & P-51 planes during World War II. After the war, his father flew for atomic bomb tests. Les grew up in Wichita, Kansas near an air force base with Boeing B-47 and B-52 planes on the tarmacs nearby.

Les was the class president of his high school and lettered in football, swimming, and track. While working for the city during the summers as a lifeguard, he helped save dozens of people who were nearly drowning.

Les studied mechanical engineering and graduated from the University of Kansas. He had an electrifying event at the age of 20 while walking home one evening. Lightning struck a post 2 feet from him and threw him across the parking lot of the building. He remembers everything going white, and he was unconscious for several minutes. He woke with reddened skin and severe muscle problems, which lasted for several months.

After college, Les was hired by Boeing as an engineer and worked on the B-52 bomber and 757 aircraft. The office was a smoke filled room with hundreds of drawing boards and Les recalls seeing the transition from using slide rulers, Fortran programming language and key punching IBM 80 column cards in college, to using hand calculators (which cost approximately \$200 at the time they were introduced and did little more than the \$5 calculators they used to give away when you opened a bank account) to computers – and now to AI.

After working at Boeing for 5 years, Les was given an opportunity to work for Martin Marietta (later Lockheed Martin), and he and his wife Mary Ann happily left Kansas and moved to Littleton. He worked on the Titan & Atlas launch vehicles, on the Earth Observation Satellites (EOS) and the Cassini spacecraft to planet Saturn. Les has spent time at Cape Canaveral and Vandenburg AFB and watched several space launches. For 12 years, Les also worked on the F-22 and F-35 fighter jets. He has 2 patents for a pneumatic latch mechanism.

Les was one of the first engineers to train in Computer-Aided Engineering Design (CAED). He became an expert and managed, taught and used CAED on numerous programs. He became a valuable resource to Lockheed Martin and traveled all over the US training other employees to use CAED. He worked for Martin Marietta/Lockheed Martin for 30 years.

Les's wife, Mary Ann, is a retired Douglas County school teacher and teacher of the year finalist. They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. All their children went to Columbine, and two of them were Key Club officers. His 2 daughters were at Columbine during the 1999 shooting tragedy. His second oldest daughter, a senior, knew the killers and waved to them as she was leaving and they were entering the building. She did not see them carrying any weapons. Unfortunately, his younger daughter, a sophomore, was stuck in the cafeteria as the shooting began. She and other girls ran to the bathroom and hid by standing on the toilets to escape detection. One of the coaches eventually led the children out of the school and to safety. Les relayed that his younger daughter still has post-traumatic stress 27 years later. He said that it was overwhelming as a parent because they didn't know how to help their children. One of his daughters is now a teacher and uses her knowledge to help the Douglas County school district in their preparedness training.

Besides the lightning strike, Les had another near-death experience. About 20 years ago, Les had life-threatening kidney failure and was clinging to life in an ICU. His darling wife wanted to help him with his fight for life. She gave him a great big hug and whispered to him, "when you get out of here, why don't you get that Corvette you want." Les recovered and bought a 2011 C-6 and was active in the Colorado Corvette Club for many years.

Les has been a Kiwanis member for 12 years, and has participated in Meals on Wheels, the Arapahoe Symphony events, the Action Center, Salvation Army bell ringing, the Colfax Marathon, and the scholarship program. Les has more interesting stories, like helping dairy cattle give birth and meeting Rod Serling (of "The Twilight Zone"), so chat him up sometime to hear those interesting tales. And in the future when you fly, remember all the engineers like Les who worked so hard to keep Americans safe in the skies.



## Dakota Ridge HS Key Club

Dakota Ridge HS Key Club held their first meeting of the year on 9/16/2026 with 20 students, two faculty advisors and one Kiwanis advisor present. Their club has elected to meet once a month on the third Wednesday at 7:30 am. Items covered at the meeting were: an introduction to Key Club, explained the requirements to receive a Key Club chord for their graduation cap, volunteer hours reporting, future volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events.

The Key Club was in charge of cleanup after the homecoming parade on 9/17. Key Club is also the school club responsible for everything to do with Trick or Treat Street at the school on Oct 30th. The theme chosen for the entire school was kids shows. The Key Club theme they chose for their display was Paw Patrol. The next meeting is Oct 21. - Rod Hunley

## Fire Muster

The 31st Annual Family Fire Muster; 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Saturday, Sept 26.

We are currently coordinating logistics and the transfer of project responsibilities with the Kiwanis Club of Alameda West. We anticipate needing approximately 10-12 volunteers to assist with the project. All volunteers will be required to complete a waiver provided by West Metro Fire.

More information to come.

Thanks,

Jim

Here is the website-

[Family Fire Muster - West Metro Fire Protection District](#)

## ProjectCURE

We are planning for our monthly visit to ProjectCURE on Monday, September 28 at 9:30am. Carpooling is available at 9:00am (Leaving promptly at 9:00) from the 4Gs parking lot. Our activities typically include sorting medical and surgical supplies by expiration date or type. These items are later shipped to provide essential medical care in developing countries. Members and friends are welcome to join us for these visits, and instructions will be provided for all participants. A number of members have already indicated that they will join us. You are welcome to add your name to the SignUpGenius site for ProjectCURE and join us on September 28. George Kinzer

## Leawood Elementary School – Can use help

Leawood needs 2 library volunteers, one for Thursdays and one for Fridays. Volunteers come in every week and many of us travel or have other commitments occasionally and that is okay. You would simply let the librarian know. The hours are flexible, most come in from 9-12 with one coming in the afternoon. Your job would be to check in books that have been returned, reshelve books and help the teachers and students when they come in for their library time. All teachers are proficient in checking books in and out, so if you are not there, they will do it all. Training is provided by the librarian.

We are delighted to have 2 of your wonderful Kiwanis volunteers already, Dayle and Lori. Anyone interested can contact me directly, Charlene Warneke, Leawood Volunteer Coordinator at 303-656-0881. We would love to have you and the teachers and librarian are so appreciative. Our librarian is split between 2 schools, so she is only at Leawood on Mondays and Wednesdays and half days on Fridays. Charlene Warneke

## Boo Bash

<https://mailchi.mp/fhprd/sjba-boo-rific-2026?e=d1b8c17a93>

This is a Halloween Event at Foothills. Last year there were several hundred families attending. It is great chance to show what Kiwanis is. There is \$25.00 fee for a table plus bring candy for 350 kids, I will lead this if we have any interest. Ken



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## Make A Lasting Impact on the Life of a Child

You can help a child on the road to success by volunteering one (1) hour a week to help them read, write, or learn math skills. Research indicates that grade school academic success heavily influences long-term life outcomes, including higher adult earnings, educational attainment, and high school or college graduation rates. What an incredible difference you can make in the life of a child by contributing your time and knowledge!

Columbine Hills Elementary school, located at 6005 W Canyon Ave, has many opportunities for you to play a role in improving the future for a child. The school is looking for volunteers once a week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at the following times:

### Kindergarten:

8:00-9:00 a.m. writing, 11:10-11:50 a.m. reading, and 12:35-1:35 p.m. math

### First grade:

9:25-10:40 a.m. math, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. writing, and 1:30-2:30 p.m. reading

### Second Grade:

8:15-9:30 a.m. reading,

### Third Grade:

8:00-9:00 a.m. math, 9:45-10:40 a.m. writing, 1:30-2:30 p.m. reading

### Fourth Grade:

8:00-9:00 a.m. math, 10:55-11:55 a.m. reading

### Fifth Grade:

9:05-10:05 a.m. math, 1:30-2:30 p.m. reading

There will be a welcome breakfast and training at the school on September 22, 2026 from 7:30-8:00 a.m.

Please consider volunteering your time and wisdom. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know your preferred day and time to volunteer, and the grade level you would like to be involved with.

My contact information is below:

Kathy Athens (303) 815-9904 [krathens@msn.com](mailto:krathens@msn.com)

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