

KI WEEKLY

Volume 3 Issue 12

January 16, 2025



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF GREATER ABILENE

Kiwaniis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time

If you are going to climb higher, you've got to grab the branches, not the blossoms.

MEETING NOTES

The January 16th meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene was Called to Order at 12:05 PM by President Gail Jay at The Beehive Restaurant. She welcomed members and guests to our meeting. She gave Happy Birthday wishes to Joe Cook (1/9), Ben Gray (1/12), and wished Happy Kiwanis Anniversaries to 1/5 Linda Chisholm—13 years, 1/19 Robert Marshall—3 years.

Greeters were Pete Hinman and Diane Terrell. Justin Whiteley led the club in prayer; and Dana Polen led the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayers were for unnamed members with health issues, California fire victims, the 25 CA fire death victims and their families, Time & Julie Cope, who lost everything in a fire, and Officer Henning, Craig Elementary Resource Officer, who passed from cancer. Prayers were also offered for the safe transition to a new President, new administration, our government and military.

Lee Ann Millender introduced the following guests—she welcomed back longtime members Vance Cooksey, Ben Gray and Judd White; Alysha Wooten, guest of Shelley Drennan who was approved for membership yesterday, and Karen Light, guest of Shelley Drennan, today's speaker.

CLYDE HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB WINTER FORMAL

Clyde High School Key Club is holding their Winter Formal at **The Grace Museum tomorrow, Saturday the 18th. Volunteers are needed @ 10:30 AM to help them decorate.**



KIWANIAN BEN GRAY RECEIVES LEGION OF HONOR

President Gail presented Ben Gray with a coveted 40-Year Legion of Honor. She read the award narrative and posed with Ben for pictures. Ben thanked the club for the award and stated, "Kiwaniis is a true family." He has cherished his time of service and comradery. Congratulations, Ben!



Kiwanis Bring Up Grades®

THERE WAS BUGS AT STAFFORD ELEMENTARY!!!

The Bring Up Grades
Presentation was held on
1/8/25 at Stafford Elementary
School. Thanks to Keith
Clifton, Susan Reid, and
Lyndel Cook who participated.



KIWANIANS SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!!!

Kiwanians Susan Holland and Charlene Kugle were busy during the Christmas Season spreading some Christmas Cheer around town.

Susan helped out at the Toys For Tots toy drive (photo left and upper left). She also helped present a \$10,000 check from Heros 4 A Cause to the Children's Miracle Network. Kiwanian Melinda Blay and Susan are pictured top middle photo. Melinda 5th from left and Susan 3rd from right.

Charlene was busy handing out warm blankets and Christmas cookies to the residents at the Beehive Homes of Abilene. (Photos far right) Thanks Kiwanians for your service!



MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE WITH PRIZES!!!!

Membership Chair A'Lisa Brooks (2nd from left) outlined our quarterly "Membership Challenge/reward" and asked Randy Bibb (right) and Doug Slack (left) to come forward. President Gail (2nd from right) helped with the prizes.

Randy and Doug sponsored new members last quarter. New member Susan Holland drew Doug's name for a Beehive \$50 gift card. Randy was presented with a special Banana Pudding Cake Bundtlet.

A'Lisa told members who sponsor new members in the next quarter that your names will be added to the next drawing. Please help grow our club. Keep inviting guests and ask them to join us!

NEED TO KNOW STUFF

Our next program: Ali Esfandiary will tell us about the history of the Beehive Restaurant.

Total Attendance: 41
GAK Members: 39
Visiting Kiwanians: 0 Guests: 2

BUCKET STUFF

K\$'s: 15

Goes toward Hixon award and Kiwanis Children's Fund

Bucket: \$78

Brag Bucket: \$10

Bucket monies January:

Snacks/food for Wylie High School Mentor's Care Program

In-Kind Project January: Same as above, with dietary restrictions, cash donations are necessary.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Gail Jay

President elect: Cameo Harvey

Vice president: Shelley Drennan

Vice president: Phil Hill

Treasurer: Diane Terrell

Secretary: Nancy Baker

Past President: David Sivley

DIRECTORS: ONE YEAR TERM

Robert Atwood

Kevin McSherry

Julie Neill

Susan Reid

DIRECTORS: TWO YEAR TERM

A'Lisa Brooks

Brad Birchum

Keith Clifton

Jennifer Hass

MOTTO:

Serving the children of the world

KI WEEKLY & CLUB INFO:

Co-Editors:

Lyndel Cook and Nancy Baker.

Design: Lyndel Cook

Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene.

P.O. Box 312

Abilene, Texas 79604-0312

Meets weekly on Thursday, noon,
The Beehive Restaurant, 442 Cedar,
downtown Abilene.

Website:

greaterabilenekiwanis.org



CLUB HEARS ABOUT SAFE HAVEN BABY BOX

Shelley Drennan introduced Karen Light from Safe Haven Baby Box (SHBB). Safe Haven Baby Box is a safe location for a woman to surrender a baby 60 days or younger that she is no longer able to care for.

Per the Texas State Haven Law, babies 60 days or younger must be surrendered by a parent and handed directly to a hospital staff member, fireman or they may use the anonymous Baby Box. Abilene's Safe Baby Box is located at the Abilene Fire Department, Station 7, 431 N. Pioneer Dr, Abilene, TX 79603. The SHBB will immediately contact Dept. of Health & Human Services for a private adoption.

From 2017-2023, Texas led the US in newborn abandonments with 103. Visit SHBB.ORG for further information. A 24-Hour National Crisis Hotline, 1-866-99BABY1. The hotline has provided counseling for over 7,000 callers from all over the US. This service has led to over 125 babies surrendered at Safe Haven locations and 31 babies thus far surrendered in a Baby Box.

INTERCLUB REPORT

Lyndel Cook, Gail Jay, Ben Gonzalez, Jennifer Hass, Phil Hill, Scott South & Joey attended the Abilene Club's Holiday Program on 12/18/24. Thanks everyone.

Please mark your calendar for the Pecan Valley Kiwanis Club's Annual Sweetheart & Awards Banquet, February 13, 2025 6 PM at the Brownwood Country Club. This is a ticketed event. Reservations due by 2/5/25. Cost is \$24. Please let Nancy or Joey know if you would like to attend.

GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Scott South, Co-Chair Golf Tournament announced the 5th Annual "Kids Need Kiwanis" Golf Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, 4/17/25 in lieu of our regular meeting. We'll have an expanded "Tavern on the Green" so we will need liquor (the more extravagant the bottle the better). No beer or wine please. Also, we have a new item/contest--a football type "Gun Board" which we hope will generate lots of interest and \$. We'll have two flights with shotgun starts, so we need lots more golfers, sponsors and hole sponsors.

THIS & THAT

President Gail announced the board had a very successful meeting Wednesday, 15th, and approved a membership application for Alysha Wooten.

Kiwanian Darrin Cox announced that McKinney Vento homeless students are in need of kids underwear. Contact Darrin at darrin.cox@abileneisd.org for more info.

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, 02-12-25, 12 noon, Cypress Street Station, all members are invited.

Here are some "**volunteer opportunities**" to help Meals on Wheels (call their office), Love & Care Ministries—Care Packs for Kids.

Do you have any Program ideas? Submit to Shelley Drennan at sdrennan@visitingangels.com.

KIWANIS EDUCATION:

Aktion clubs are Kiwanis International's newest sponsored program, officially adopted in 2000. Aktion club is a service club for youth and adults with disabilities, who elect officers, raise funds, and choose and conduct community service projects with guidance from their Kiwanis sponsors. More than 300 clubs are now providing their members with leadership and service opportunities.