

KIWEEKLY

Volume 3 Issue 30

May 29th, 2025



Kiwanis®

CLUB OF GREATER ABILENE

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

Grandchildren are God's reward for growing older.

MEETING NOTES

The May 29th meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene was Called to Order at 12:04 AM by President Gail Jay at The Beehive Restaurant. She welcomed members and guests to our meeting. Gail gave Happy Birthday wishes to Melody Cook (5/31), Lee Ann Millender (5/31), Phil Hill (6/5) and Happy Kiwanis Anniversary wishes to Daena "D" Lloyd (5/30)—5 years, Charlene Kugle (6/1)—3 years, and Jenni Jamison (6/1)—3 years. Thank you for your service to Kiwanis and children.

Greeters were Pete Hinman and Diane Terrell. Brad Birchum led the club in prayer; Carl Brown led singing, and Sunny Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayers were offered for the family of Phil Hill whose nephew passed away, individual member petitions, thanks for Kiwanis and our service to the community, the blessing of our food and the hands that prepared it.

Scott South introduced guests Alexa Vannatta, guest of Angela Nicolini & Madison Tarpley (our newest member!); Renee Williams, guest of Carl Brown; Anna Evans & Sheilah Evans, guests of Julie Neill; Eric Monet, guest of Justin Whiteley; Reagan Barr, Sophomore of the Year scholarship winner from Eula High School, and his family, Linda Barr, Glendall Barr, Rachael Barr, Aaron Barr, Adam Barr guests of Ikke Taylor, and Sam Nichols, today's speaker. ***The more members we have, the more hands to serve children!***



WELCOME NEW MEMBER ALEXA VANNATTA

Angela Nicolini introduced Alexa Vannatta, new corporate member—VP, Treasury Management at First Financial Bank who is replacing Kim Brown from FFIN. She is sponsored by Madison Brown & Angela.

They met Alexa at Alliance for Women & Children. Alexa is originally from Clovis, NM but has family roots in East Texas. She has two sons, Rio, age 14 and Ridge, age 7. She's been at FFIN for 8 years and attends Beltway.

A fun fact: Alexa grew up roping and doing ranch rodeos. She is a certified "equine chiropractor." Gail & Angela welcomed Alexa and presented Alexa with her membership pin, certificate and new member packet. Congratulations and welcome, Alexa!

SOTY PRESENTED AT CLUB

Ikke Taylor, Chair of the Youth Services—Sophomore of the Year (SOTY) Committee introduced Reagan Barr, from Eula High School and the recipient of our \$500 SOTY Scholarship. **(pictured left)**

Ikke read the history of the Walter Hurst SOTY Program which helps sophomore students prepare for college by completing this detailed application. Reagan excelled completing his app over a field of 13 other students from the Abilene area. Ikke presented Reagan with a certificate and letter with instruction about how to collect his \$500 scholarship when he enrolls in college. Congratulations, Reagan!



PLGA YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

President Gail read her submission for our club nominee for the T/O District Past Lt. Governors' Association (PLGA) Youth Leadership Award.

Dr. Angela Nicolini has been the 'face of Kiwanis' for our club for many years. She was a strong Club President with the ability to "persuade members" to be involved. Her love of children & passion as a professor at HSU instilled in her the desire to start a CKI Club at HSU. Most will say—if she's in charge—it will happen!

After 64 years of serving chili—COVID and other obstacles prevented us from having it. Angela researched the idea of having a Golf Tournament—our only fundraiser. The first year we almost doubled our profits from around \$23K for Chili Day to almost \$45K for Golf. In four years, we have grown our profits to \$79K. Angela served as lead for this committee and continues to advise and work with the committee to reach out to the community for sponsorships. T/O asked Angela to present her successful Golf Tournament fundraising formula to the T/O District Convention in Granbury.

She has recruited members to join our club and to served on committees. As the wife of a former Dyess AF Base Commander, she knows many families serving our country and interacts with military, as well as mentoring young airmen and women who are away from their own families. If you meet her—you will love her! If you get to know her—you will understand that she is the perfect example of what this award stands for—a **Youth Leader!** Angela was presented with a certificate. A \$100 donation will be made in her honor to the T/O District Foundation which funds scholarships to CKI and Key Club members. Congratulations, Angela! You make us proud.



RATLIFF SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

David Sivley, Chair of the Ratliff Scholarship Committee, introduced Kegan Ables the final winner of our six Ratliff Scholarships granted this year.

David read a short bio about David Ratliff for whom the scholarship is named. Kegan attended Hawley High School where he excelled academically and in sports playing Football, Basketball, Baseball, and Track.

He was #1 in his class academically through 7 semesters. He has dual college credit through Cisco College. Keagan was active with community & extracurricular activities – National Honor Society, Student Council, Church Youth Group, held student class offices sophomore through senior year, and led devotionals every day with the football team this season.

Keagan plans to attend HSU where he plans to major in business and play football. He also plans to apply for the honors program. Future goals are a career in finance or accounting and eventually owning his own business.

David congratulated Keagan and presented him with a Scholarship Winner certificate and a letter of instruction on how to activate his scholarship.



NEED TO KNOW STUFF.

Our next program: Grace Sosa, Christian Businesswomen's Job Corp.

Total Attendance: 52

GAK Members: 37

Scholarship guests: 2 Guests: 13

BUCKET STUFF

K\$'s: 26

Goes toward Hixon award and Kiwanis Children's Fund

Bucket: \$191

Brag Bucket: \$14

Bucket monies **May:** Abilene

Imagination Library for Long

ELC. Our goal is to raise \$2,400.

In-Kind Project **May:** Collect underwear/socks for Love & Care Ministries

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.

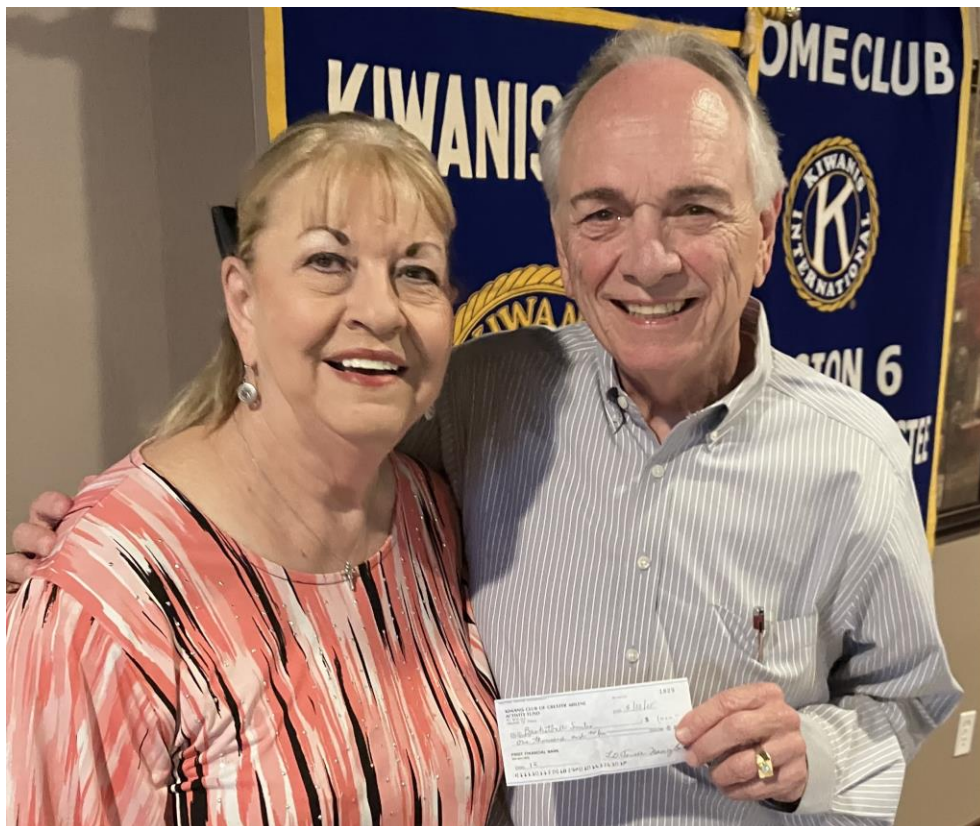
P.O. Box 312

Abilene, Texas 79604-0312

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

Website:

greaterabilenekiwanis.org



BASKETBALL SMILES RECEIVES \$1,000

President Gail on behalf of Kevin McSherry, Chair of the International Relations Committee, presented Sam Nichols with a \$1,000 check for Basketball Smiles Camp this summer in the Bahamas. Sam said, "This camp is bringing a week of smiles and hope through Basketball! Thank you."

President Gail said, "Everyone knows him as the weatherman, but he's also Mr. Basketball Smiles!" Sam showed a video of the camp participants and they told of the impact the camp has on their lives. Sam and a group of volunteers will be leaving to the camp in a few weeks.

ONESIES & TWOSIES

President Gail gave a Membership Challenge—a \$50 restaurant gift card for new members brought in before 6/30/25. Please ask a prospective member to join us for lunch.

Gail stated we have a few Golf T-Shirts available for \$20. Sizes are Large & X-Large. See Nancy if you are interested.

All new members may also receive new **COMPLIMENTARY** Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene Polo shirts. The shirts will be available at the meetings.

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, 6-11-25, 12 noon, Cypress Street Station, all members are invited.

2024-2025 Club Member Directories are here. Cost is \$5. Contact Nancy if you would like a copy.

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

KIWANIS EDUCATION:

Kiwanis International's address is www.kiwanis.org. This web site includes the texts of official Kiwanis documents, extensive information on club administrative and service topics, an on-line Kiwanis supplies catalog, the latest organizational news, and links to clubs, districts, and individual Kiwanians around the world.