

# KIWEEKLY

Volume 3 Issue 43

September, 11 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*

**Minor Operation:** Any operation that someone else has.

### MEETING NOTES

The September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene was Called to Order at 12:04 PM by President Gail Jay at The Beehive Restaurant. She gave Happy Birthday wishes to Joe Marshall who turns 100 tomorrow (9/12), Scott South (9/16), and David Miller (9/17). She wished Happy Kiwanis Anniversaries on 9/12 to Pete Hinman—20 years, and Violet Watson—1 year!! Thank you for your service to Kiwanis and children.

President Gail opened the meeting recognizing the tragic and historic events of 09-11-2001 and the senseless killing of Charlie Kirk. She read a poem entitled "9/11 Tragedy."

Greeters were Pete Hinman and Diane Terrell. Brad Birchum led the club in prayer; Steve Brown led singing, and David Sivley led the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayers were offered to remember the victims of 9/11 and their families; for our country for healing on 9/11; the family of Charlie Kirk; Joe Marshall who has been hospitalized with an infected toe; Page Carpenter Loudermilk (Age 30) who has stage 4 lung cancer; and praise for healing for A'Lisa Brooks friend's week-old grandbaby who is home now and doing very well.

Kevin McSherry introduced the following guests—Samantha Hill, guest of Susan Holland; Dr. Tina Butler and Nick Gonzales, guests of Justin Whiteley; Mark Clark, guest of Kevin McSherry; Kelly White, guest & spouse of Judd White; Holland Suel (daughter) and Pam Brenner (spouse), guests of Greg Brenner; Judy Silvey, guest & spouse of David Sivley; Ami Polston, guest of Nancy Baker; and Jen Blessing, Jill Christie and Kristi Harwell, today's speakers. Welcome!

***The more members we have, the more hands to serve children!***



### TWO LEGION OF HONOR AWARDS GIVEN

In the top photo, President Gail recognized Judd White with his 40 Year Legion of Honor certificate. Judd has held many offices in the club and helped with many fundraisers.

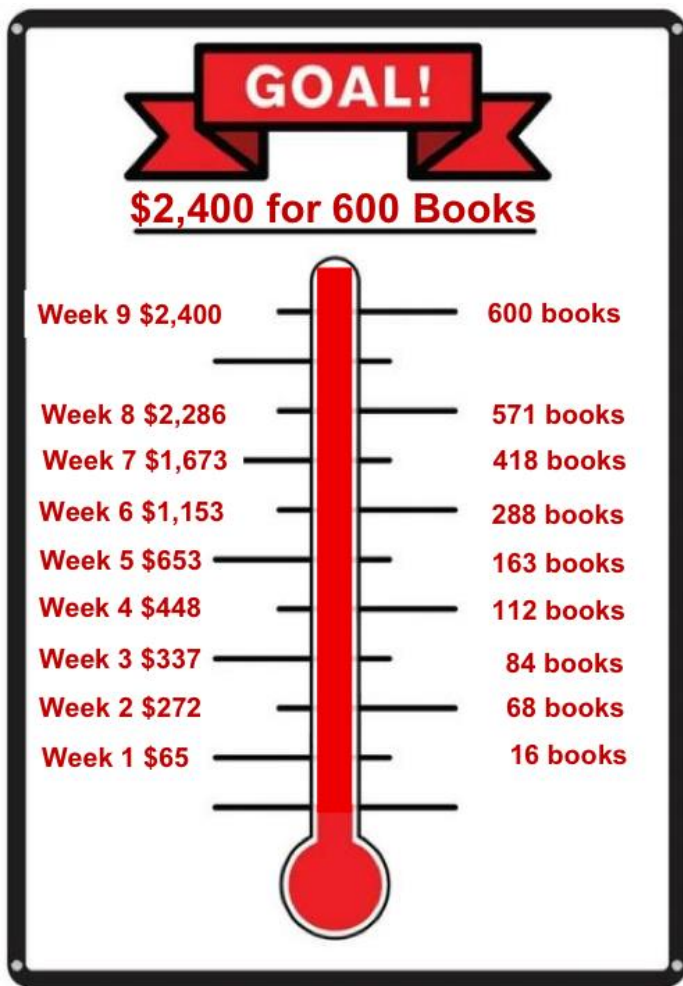
Next, in the bottom photo, President Gail presented Greg Brenner with his 30 Year Legion of Honor certificate. Greg has been a sponsor for several of our fundraiser over the years. Congratulations! Thank you for your combined 70 years service to Kiwanis and children.

**09.25.25 BUSINESS  
AFTER HOURS  
SPONSORED BY  
ARROW FORD**

### CHAMBER EVENT COMING IN SEPTEMBER

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene is a member of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce and our members may attend Chamber events.

**Business After Hours is September 25<sup>th</sup> at Arrow Ford, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and is also free admission. These events are a great way to network Kiwanis and your business!!!**



### IMAGINATION LIBRARY GOAL UPDATE

President Gail announced we have reached our goal of \$2,400 to purchase 600 books for Long ELC Imagination Library books for HeadStart students so we can give every Pre-kindergartener their own book! Thank you so much for your support and for providing a book to these underserved children.

### TXDOT SAFETY SPECIALIST PRESENT PROGRAM

Tom McAlister, Program Committee member, introduced Jill Christie and Kristi Harwell from TX DOT. Jen Blessing, mother of Aspen Blessing who was killed by a drunk driver, gave a heart wrenching speech about a journey of loss, hope, forgiveness and promoting the importance of One Choice ... don't drive while distracted or impaired.



### COMMUNITY CARING AWARD PRESENTED

Gail and Justin Whiteley recognized Dr. Tina Butler and Bianna Martinez from the HSU-Physician's Assistant Program for providing over 200 sports physicals to Clack Middle School students who could not afford them.

Community Caring Award certificates were presented to both. Dr. Butler said the HSU-PA Program helped the kiddos, HSU-PA participants learned medicine and were able to provide a valuable service to the local community which they plan to continue in the future. Coach Nick Gonzales was recognized for his participation in this great plan which allowed over 200 student athletes to participate in sports where they could not previously. The physicals saved over \$6,000.

### DRI SOCIAL COMING UP

Steve Brown, Chair of the DRI Social, stated there is a sign-up sheet for volunteer positions needed to support the hamburger lunch event which will be held on Tuesday, 9/23/25 at DRI. Please let Steve know if you can assist.



### CT BUSH AWARDS PRESENTED

President Gail read a short history of the T/O District of Kiwanis Past Governor C.T. Bush Award. She asked past recipients to stand. Gail announced that Past President David Sivley and Club Treasurer Diane Terrell are this year's recipients for their past service to Greater Abilene and Kiwanis. Congratulations!



## **NEED TO KNOW STUFF.**

Our next program: Lowell Perry Award

**Total Attendance: 507**

**GAK Members: 38**

**Guests: 12**

**Visiting Kiwanians: 0**

## **BUCKET STUFF**

K\$'s: \$14

Goes toward Hixon award and  
Kiwanis Children's Fund

Bucket: \$52

Brag Bucket: 0

Bucket monies **Sept.:** Coats for  
Kids Stafford elementary

In-Kind Project **Sept.:** Collecting  
caps, gloves & outerwear for  
Stafford students.

## **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](http://greaterabilenekiwanis.org)**



## **INTERCLUB REPORT**

Interclub Report: Joey Parker stated that Lt. Governor Lyndel Cook visited the Sweetwater Club, Wednesday, Sept. 10th. Sweetwater will once again be selling Christmas Wreaths as a fundraiser. Also, in the photo above, Sweetwater President Speedy San Miguel presented a Kiwanis Kid award to Creed Hodnett for his leadership with the Sweetwater Elementary K-Kids.

**We will have an Interclub with the Albany Club on the 24<sup>th</sup> and on 10/1 an Interclub with the Abilene Club.**

## **THIS & THAT**

**President Gail asked members to submit suggestions for this year's Large Grants in writing to David Silvey, Nancy Baker and Gail Jay by 9/15/25.**

President Gail asked Committee Chairs to spend down their budgets. See Diane or Nancy.

**Committee Chairs for 2025-2026 need to submit proposed budgets to Diane Terrell ASAP for consideration in her overall club budget planning.**

***Membership: We have just reached 100 members. There are two members that will be approved at the 9/10 BOD meeting. Do you have others? If you have sponsored a new member, please check in on them if they do not attend club regularly. Members, clear your dues with Treasurer Diane before 9/30/25. And assist us with membership roster clean-up.***

**Do you have any Program ideas? Submit to Brad Birchum, Program Chair for the 2025-2026 year.**

## **KIWANIS EDUCATION:**

Kiwanis was created by a professional organizer named Allen Browne. His concept for the new organization included the exchange of business among the members. However, the Detroit club had been organized only a few weeks when the members became involved in their first service project. During the next five years, Kiwanians would debate the purpose of the organization: mutual business exchange or community service.