

# KI WEEKLY

Volume 3 Issue 12

March 19, 2026



## 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*

The futility of riches is plainly stated in the Bible and the income-tax form.

### MEETING NOTES

The March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene was Called to Order at 12:07 PM by President Dr. Cameo Harvey at The Beehive Restaurant. There were no birthdays this week. Cameo wished Happy Kiwanis Anniversaries to Christi Krikorian, (3/20)—1 year and Susan Reid (3/22)—4 years.

Greeters were *Diane Terrell and Susan Reid*. Darrin Cox led the club in prayer; Lyndel Cook led singing & Alexa Vannatta led the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayers were offered for the family of Cameo Harvey on the passing of her father, James Harvey; Madison & Clayton Tarpley on the birth of their daughter, Mason, who is in the HMC NICU; Dian Swearinger (Joey's cousin) who broke her jaw & nose; and Ronnie Kidd, with failing health issues. Special prayers were offered for the world, our city, understanding & patience and for more rain for our dry land.

Justin Whiteley introduced the following guests—Kari Martin, guest of Angela Nicolini and David Miller, and Greg Young, today's program speaker (guest of Tom McAlister). Welcome!

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

### INTERCLUB REPORT

Joey Parker said we had an Interclub with the Abilene Club on Wednesday, 3/18/26. He thanked the following members for participating – Alexa Vannatta, Brad Birchum, David McCaghren, Lyndel Cook, Susan Holland, and Joey Parker.

### GOLF CAPS & VISORS AVAILABLE FOR FREE!!!!!!!

Neil Tatom announced that a very generous Greater Abilene Kiwanian has donated caps and visors for new Kiwanis members so they can wear them at the Golf Tournament April 16<sup>th</sup>. He asked all new members present to raise their hand so we can give them a Kiwanis cap. Let Lyndel or Nancy know if you need one.

### BUSINESS EXPO TICKETS AVAILABLE

The Chamber of Commerce Business Expo is Wednesday, 3/25/26. Greater Abilene is a member of the Chamber, so we have tickets to Business Expo. See Lyndel or Cameo for free tickets at the meetings.



### WELCOM NEW MEMBER KARI MARTIN

Angela Nicolini and David Miller introduced our newest member, Kari Martin. Kari and her husband, Jason, moved to Abilene last year from Belton, TX, when he started a faculty position at ACU. Kari has continued her role remotely as the Chief Financial Officer of Artcobell, a manufacturing company in Temple, TX. Kari also lends her expertise as a CPA to several local not-for-profit boards. She is the proud mother of a son who attends ACU and a daughter who attends TCU. In her spare time, she enjoys restoring her 120-year-old historic home near downtown Abilene. Welcome, Kari!

### DISABILITY RESOURCES EASTER PROJECT

President Cameo said that Greater Abilene will be making special Easter treats for the folks at DRI after our club meeting on **Thursday, 3/26**. All supplies will be provided. We need a few volunteers to stuff 60 Easter bags provided by Susan Holland's daughter to help brighten "the folks" Easter celebration. Steve Brown said the folks loved the Valentine Poppers we made. Thank you, Susan!

### ABILENE CLUB PANCAKE DAY MARCH 28

Randy Roewe (325-232-1230) and Liz Gray of the Abilene Club were at our meeting on Thursday to sell tickets to their annual Pancake Day which is Saturday, 3/28/26. Advance sales tickets are \$7. Cost of tickets at the door are \$8.



## GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE

**Golf Committee:** Member Alea Vannatta reported we are 4 weeks away from our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Kids Need Kiwanis" Golf Tournament presented by The Bhakta Family on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at the Abilene Country Club-North. She announced we have a sign-up sheet for the Golf Tournament. She hopes everyone will turn out wearing a Kiwanis shirt! Thanks everyone for your support.

**Golf – Gun Board:** Alexa announced that Scott South has the 2026 Gun Board. Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100. This year, the prize is a pump action Shot Gun.

**Golf—Tavern on the Green:** Alexa also announced that we can purchase the "tavern" supplies discounted at cost, so they are looking for cash donations to cover this expense this year. Angela stated they will start collecting money shortly.

Joey asked that every member help solicit more golf teams and hole sponsors. He also challenged the membership about the most hole sponsors contest for a "Beehive Steak Lunch" on Joey! Scott South is leading so far! Updated golf packets are at the registration desk. Let us know if you need a copy.

## 325 DAY COMING MARCH 25TH

Susan Holland introduced Liz Gray who gave a presentation on "#Celebrate 325 Day." Three Two Five Day is a civic initiative introduced by Abilene Teacher's FCU and Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, they encourage everyone to show their pride in 325 by supporting local vendors, giving back and having FUN. Go to [325day.com](http://325day.com) for more information.



## MENTOR'S CARE RECEIVES \$380

President Cameo presented Angela Nicolini with a gift card for \$380.25 from bucket collections for Mentor's Care. Angela and Phil Hill volunteer with Mark Blakely at Mentor's Care @ Wylie High School. The gift card will be used to purchase snacks. Angela will present the card to Mark next week.



## AISD HOMELESS RECEIVES \$100

President Cameo and Ikie Taylor presented Darrin Cox with a \$100 check for the AISD Homeless Student Ministry chosen by Ikie Taylor, the 2026 winner of our club's Outstanding Kiwanis Volunteer award.

## PRESIDENT CAMEO'S FATHER PASSED AWAY

President Cameo would like to thank you again for all the condolences. Here are the days and times of service for anyone that is able to make it.

James Harvey's Celebration of Life will be Wednesday, March 25th, at First Methodist Church, Abilene, TX at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will be Tuesday, March 24th, at First Methodist Church, Abilene, TX from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

## NEED TO KNOW STUFF

Our next program: Karen Light with Baby Box

**Total Attendance: 43**

**GAK Members: 42**

**Guests: 1**

**Visiting Kiwanians: 0**

## BUCKET STUFF

K\$'s: \$9

Goes toward Hixon award and Kiwanis Children's Fund

Bucket: \$68

Brag Bucket: \$15

Bucket monies APRIL: for purchasing box fans for Adult Protective Services

In-Kind Project APRIL: collecting kids socks and underwear

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Cameo Harvey

President elect: Shelley Drennan

Vice president: Brad Birchum

Vice president: Scott South

Treasurer: Diane Terrell

Secretary: Nancy Baker

Past President: Gail Jay

## DIRECTORS: ONE YEAR TERM

Kent Barnett

A'Lisa Brooks

Keith Clifton

Justin Whiteley

## DIRECTORS: TWO YEAR TERM

Susan Holland

Steven Leggett

Doug Slack

Ikie Taylor

## MOTTO:

Serving the children of the world

## KI WEEKLY & CLUB INFO:

Co-Editors:

Lyndel Cook and Nancy Baker.

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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)



## **48 BUGS AWARDS HANDED OUT**

The Stafford Elementary BUGS program handed out 48 BUGS certificates at the Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> Stafford Elementary awards assembly.

**Bring Up Grades** is a Kiwanis International program designed to provide recognition to students who raise their grades from one grading period to the next. Greater Abilene handed out treats with the help of Susan Reid, Keith Clifton and Lt. Governor Lyndel Cook. Congrats to these kiddos for Bringing Up Grades!!!!

## **K-KIDS KINDERGARTEN EASTER EGG HUNT APRIL 2ND**

Advisor Lyndel announced Greater Abilene members have collected approximately 1,200 Easter Eggs and candy to go with the eggs. Thanks to the K-Kids, Nancy Baker, Keith Clifton, Susan Reid and Lt. Gov. Lyndel Cook for helping the K-Kids stuff all the eggs. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Thursday, 04/02/26 at 11 a.m.

## **CLUB HEARS ST PATRICK'S DAY PROGRAM**

Program Committee member Tom McAlister introduced Greg Young with a St. Patrick's Day program. Greg read several poems and then introduced a book of limericks about Texas. He ended the program with a song. Thanks to Greg for this program.

## **ONESIES AND TWOSIES**

**President Cameo announced we received thank you letters from the Food Bank and Meals on Wheels Plus for our recent large grant checks for \$2,500 each to these organizations.**

**Nominating Committee:** President Cameo announced for Gail Jay that the Nominating Committee is starting up. Please consider stepping up if asked to serve for the 2026-2027 year.

**Ratliff Scholarship Committee:** Gail Jay thanked Larry Folwell for assisting with sending out the applications to the local schools. Gail asked if any Past Presidents would like to serve on the Ratliff Scholarship Committee to interview prospective recipients, please let her know. Interviews will be held after the Golf Tournament, and the dates will be announced in April..

**BUGs (Bring Up Grades) Committee:** Cameo announced that the next BUGs Presentation will be on Friday, 03/20/26 at Stafford Elementary School. Please see or message Julie Neill or A'Lisa Brooks for details.

**Spiritual Aims Committee:** President Cameo asked the membership to invite their Pastors to attend our **4/02/26** Pastor's Appreciation meeting as the Spiritual Aims Committee presents our club's Layperson of the Year award to a deserving Greater Abilene member.

**The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, 4/8/26, 12 noon, Cypress Street Station Restaurant, conference room. Board members are asked to come early if you plan to eat. Remember there is road construction on Cypress Street. Public parking is available at the lot on the corner of Pine and N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.**

## **KIWANIS EDUCATION:**

Each Kiwanis club in good standing is entitled to two voting delegates to each international convention and three voting delegates, two of whom must be the club president and president-designate, to each district convention. An alternate for each delegate also may be elected and will assume the delegate's duties if the delegate is unable to serve.