

KI WEEKLY

Volume 3 Issue 39

October 8th, 2026



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

Bad decisions make good stories – Ellis Vidler

MEETING NOTES

The October 8, 2026 Meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene was Called to Order at 12:01 PM by Club President Shelley Drennan. She gave Happy Birthday wishes to David Silvey (10/10), and Happy Kiwanis Anniversaries to Vance Cooksey (10/09)—34 years Keith Clifton (10/09)—3 years. Thanks for your many years of service to Kiwanis and helping children.

Greeters were *Susan Reid and Pete Hinman*. David McCaghren led the club in prayer; Lyndel Cook led singing & Angela Nicolini led the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayers were offered for the family of David Deaver on the death of his son; Janam A. Bhakta, son of Amit Bhakta, a 2-year-old who is recovering from a broken collar bone; Gail Jay's uncle Thomas Decker, hospitalized for a stroke.

Robert Atwood introduced the following guests—Becky Freeman, guest of Brad Birchum and Nick Williamson, guest of Angela Nicolini and today's speaker. Welcome!

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

WEST TEXAS FAIR UPDATE

Ikie Taylor, AG Committee Chair, asked for a show of hands for the volunteers who worked at the West Texas Fair & Rodeo. Several members worked the events. Ikie asked the volunteers to watch for an invitation to the West TX Fair & Rodeo Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. RSVP is required by 10/9/26 for the dinner which will be held on Tuesday, 10/13/26 on the Expo Center grounds.

WYLIE AG BOOSTERS POTOSI LIVE EVENT

Ikie Taylor, AG Committee Chair, announced he has 8 complimentary tickets to the Wylie AG Boosters 5th Annual "Champions Bash" @ Potosi Live on Saturday, 10/10/26. Join them for dinner, the Dueling Pianos, live auction and good times. Doors open at 6 PM, dinner will be served at 7 PM. Please contact Ikie if you are interested in attending and supporting them.



AMIT BHAKTA RECEIVES HIXSON PIN

President Shelley Drennan presented Amit A. Bhakta with a Certificate of Appreciation for his donation to The Kiwanis Children's Fund, George F. Hixson Fellowship and awarded him a Fellowship Pin. Congratulations and thank you!

The Kiwanis Children's Fund mission is to develop resources that transform the goodwill and vision of Kiwanians into programs that serve the children of the world. Through the Kiwanis causes, members' service makes a difference in each phase of a young person's development.

It's a continuum of impact. That's because the work Kiwanians do in each cause helps provide a head start on success in the next — ultimately creating leaders who then make the same impact on succeeding generations.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Brad Birchum, Membership Chair, challenged the membership. He needs help from everyone to meet the new member goal set by Club President Shelley. We have new membership brochures and information at the reception desk. Stop by and pick up a packet and invite a friend to attend our next meeting! Help grow our club!

INTERCLUB AT KIWANIS CLUB OF ABILENE

Lyndel Cook, Interclub Chair, stated 6 members attended the Abilene Club on Wednesday, 10/7/26 for their officer installation ceremony. Thanks to Trustee David McCaghren, Alexa Vannatta, Brad Birchum, Joey Parker, Phil Hill and Lyndel Cook for attending.

THE CHAMBER

ABILENE • TEXAS
POWERED BY BUSINESS



KIWANIANS ATTEND GRAND OPENING OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF ABILENE'S NEW EPISenter

The Community Foundation of Abilene had an Abilene Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting on October 7th to celebrate the new addition of the EPISenter.

The foundation acquired and remodeled the old Cloud Printing building next door. It will be a dedicated hub for education, philanthropy, community impact, meetings and nonprofit training.

Kiwanians Barry Gurley, Susan Holland and Michelle Parrish attended the ribbon cutting. Michelle is also the Chief Impact Officer at the Community Foundation of Abilene.



CLYDE HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YRS

Clyde High School Advisor Lyndel Cook reported that the Clyde High School Key Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a dinner at The Beehive Restaurant on Saturday, 11/07/26 @ 6 PM.

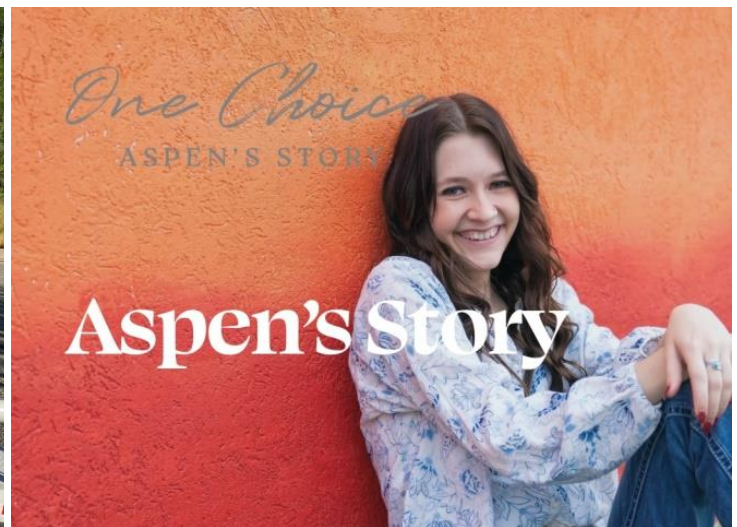


All Clyde Key Club Members and Greater Abilene Kiwanis members are invited to attend. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene will be hosting the dinner. A head count will be needed as we get closer to the date.



ONE CHOICE CAR ON DISPLAY AT THE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT ABILENE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kiwanians Steven Leggett, Gail Jay and Lt. Governor Lyndel Cook attended the National Night Out at the Abilene Police Department on Tuesday, October 6th. Jen Blessing, the mother of Aspen Blessing, was there with the car that Aspen was driving when a Dodge Ram truck hit her head on. Steven was there to present a check to Jen to help purchase an enclosed trailer for the car. The Kiwanis Club of Greater Abilene has donated \$20,000 toward the trailer which is slated for delivery right before Thanksgiving. The trailer will have display windows so the car can be viewed and kept out of the weather. Jen displays the car at events all over Texas.



NEED TO KNOW STUFF

Our next program: Crystal Church,
New School for Kids

Total Attendance: 39

GAK Members: 37

Guests: 2

Visiting Kiwanians: 0

BUCKET STUFF

K\$'s: \$9

Goes toward Hixon award and
Kiwanis Children's Fund

Bucket: **\$58**

Brag Bucket: \$10

Bucket monies **OCT:** purchase
"Coats for Kids"

In-Kind Project **OCT:** collecting
winter caps & gloves

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Shelley Drennan

President elect: Joey Parker

Vice president: Brad Birchum

Vice president: Justin Whiteley

Treasurer: Diane Terrell

Secretary: Nancy Baker

Past President: Cameo Harvey

DIRECTORS: ONE YEAR TERM

Susan Holland

Steven Leggett

Doug Slack

Ikie Taylor

DIRECTORS: TWO YEAR TERM

Steve Brown

Barry Gurley

Gail Jay

Kevin McSherry

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



DRI PUMPKIN PATCH

Steve stated DRI is holding their
"Pumpkin Patch" again this year
starting on 10/10/26 until all the
pumpkins are sold! Steve encouraged
our membership to support DRI by
attending the festival and pumpkin
patch.



CLUB HEARS UPDATE ON ABILENE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Angela Nicolini introduced today's program Nick Williamson, Abilene
Philharmonic Orchestra. The Philharmonic was founded in 1950 and this will
be the 76th concert season. The season started in September and ends in
April. There will be the Masterworks Series, Pops Series and Special Events.
Thanks to Nick for bringing us this informative program.

YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES PRESENTED TO CLUB

There is nothing more important than the safety of the children we serve. That
is why Kiwanis International dedicates a week each year to *youth protection*.
What to know—Knowledge. Safety. Trust. Past President Gail Jay gave a
short presentation on the KI annual training requirement for Youth Protection
(YP). Some of the Youth Protection Guidelines include a common sense
approach to dealing with youth: Never be alone with a child. Always have two
adults. Do not establish a social media relationship with non-family youth of
any age. Thanks to Gail for presenting these important guidelines.

THIS AND THAT

**Justin Whiteley has 2 spots to the "Mentoring Alliance Luncheon" on
Wednesday, 10/14/26, 11:30-1 pm. Contact Justin if you are interested in
attending.**

Coats for Kids: Tom McAlister issued a \$20 challenge to all members.
\$20 will buy a coat for a needy child. Darrin Cox said coats for toddlers'
sizes 4T – 6T are needed for Long ELC. Buy & bring a coat or give
generously and the committee will go shopping for you. Thanks, Tom!

**The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, 10-14-26, 12 noon, Cypress
Street Station Restaurant, conference room. Board members are asked
to come early if you plan to eat. Public parking is available at the lot on
the corner of Pine and N. 2nd St.**

KIWANIS EDUCATION

The Objects of Kiwanis guide our organization. They are our values. Our
beliefs. Our core. Delegates approved the **SIX** permanent Objects of
Kiwanis at the 1924 Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, Colorado.
They have remained unchanged through the decades.

**Object 1: To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the
material values of life.**