



# Kiwaniis Korner

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

.....Serving the children of the world .....

1921 104 YEARS OF SERVICE TO KIDS AND THE COMMUNITY March 4, 2025

## PRESIDENT'S KORNER by Matt Grant

### Kiwaniis: A Legacy of Service and Community Pride

At school, I often ask students to send me a brag sheet when writing letters of recommendation. As Kiwanis President, I can't help but feel that our club deserves its own brag sheet be proud of! Here are just a few reasons why:

**Strength in Numbers:** The International Kiwanis Club is a global force for good, with over **550,000 members** across more than **80 countries**, dedicated to improving the lives of children and communities. We currently have 97 members in the Olympia Chapter, one of the largest clubs in the region. Let's set our sights on 110 by year's end!

**Financial Impact:** Our Foundation holds a balance of over \$1 million, empowering us to make a lasting difference in the community.

**Service Hours:** In December alone, members reported 430 hours of service, spanning projects, Key Club support, committee work, and even unaffiliated community volunteering.

**Keeping Families Warm:** Our Firewood Crew has delivered 80-85 loads of wood to families in need over the past year, providing warmth during the cold months.

**Investing in Youth:** We support Olympia and Capital High Schools with seven \$1,500 scholarships each year, including Key Club, Achieving by Believing, Service Above Self, and Leighton Johnson Trade Scholarships.

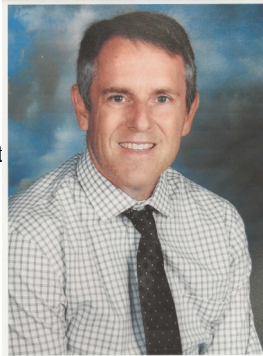
**Leadership and Legacy:** Our club boasts leaders like Sam Reed, former Washington Secretary of State, who championed electoral integrity, voter accessibility, and historical preservation with grace and dedication.

**Growing for Good:** With three garden locations and our new garden manager, Jess Colson, we help lead us in producing thousands of pounds of fresh food for the Thurston County Food Bank this year. Jess is an Ohioan, who has a wide variety of experience in farming and vegetable farming both in Ohio and Washington and recently worked with our club's great volunteers to host 50 4-H students at the annual Kiwanis Day of Giving on Feb. 15th.

**Community Support:** We volunteer at the pivotal Mile 25 aid station at the Capital City Marathon, giving runners a final boost with the encouragement of our Kiwanians and Key Club members.

**Empowering Youth:** Speaking of Key Club, we have around 160 members across our sponsored high schools, actively contributing to the community and making a global impact.

(continued on page 2)



## DON'T MISS THESE MEETINGS!

**March 3—No Meeting**

**March 10—**The Proposed Olympia Airport Master Plan

**March 17—No Meeting**

**March 24—**Hedgerows and Pollinators and how to create them, by Kianna Sinner

**March 31—**Nisqually Tribe and Hawks Prairie

**April 7—No Meeting**

**April 14—**Intercity Transit

**April 21st—No Meeting**

**April 28th—ENDANGERED**

SPECIES Kianna Sinner, Senior Education & Outreach Specialist at Thurston Conservation District

*All Programs are tentative.*

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

*Kiwaniis defining statement, adopted October, 2004*

O Lord, the meal is steaming before us and it smells good. The water is clear and fresh. We are happy and satisfied. But, now we must think of our sisters and brothers all over the world who have nothing to eat and only a little to drink. Please, please, give all of them your food and drink. That is most important. Give them also every day what they need to go through this life.

*Prayers by a young African*

## HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO

March 9—Shane Hamlin

March 16—Jane Field

March 18—Jim Hutchinson

March 19—Kathy Thompson

March 25—Lucille Carlson



## CLUB INFORMATION ~

### Officers:

President: **Matt Grant**

President Elect: **Karen Fraser**

Vice President: **Anna Knudson**

Treasurer: **Nicole Muegge**

Secretary: **Jonathan Lindsay**

Immediate Past President: **Shawn Myers**

**Board Members:** through 2026—Derek Harris, Steve Hall, Mackenzie McCall

Through 2024—Curt Steigers and Sarah Beth Hernandez Huot

Through 2025 Kathy "KT" Thompson, Derek Valley email: kiwanisclubolympia@gmail.com

DIVISION 37 LT. Governor Vacant

### Board of Directors Meetings:

Monthly during the last Thursday of the month at noon via Zoom. Next meeting:

March 27, 2025.

### MAILING ADDRESS:

**P O BOX 1847 Olympia 98507-1847**

## LUNCH MEETINGS:

**2nd and 4th Monday at 12 noon at TUGBOAT ANNIES VIEWPOINT ROOM—2100 West Bay Drive NW, Olympia**

**BOARD NOTES** by Jonathan Lindsay**Minutes: February 27, 2025, Club Board Meeting  
APPROVED via Email: February 28, 2025**

Present: Matthew Grant, Shawn Myers, Karen Fraser, Anna Knudson, Jonathan Lindsay, Curt Steigers, Steve Hal, Sarah Beth Hernandez Hout, Derek Harris, Steve Hall  
Absent: Nicole Muegge Proxy:

**Call to Order:** Matt Grant at 12:00 PM

**Reviewed:** Jan 2025 Minutes already approved by the board.

**Approvals:** February club agenda, and financial statements approved.

Financial Report - recommendations from Finance Committee

Recommendations from Finance committee

1. Improve process for tracking dues
2. Request a financial presentation to the club to relay the finances - referred to Fin. Com for ideas and get on Program agenda
3. Membership Committee: update and simplify Blue Badge process (or eliminate)
4. Fundraising Activity: needs to be heavily publicized
5. Prepare desk manual for future Treasurers (Shawn is working on it)
6. Recruit new Treasurer, any ideas contact Shawn

**Secretary's Report:**

- Membership roster at 96 members.
- Need to recruit one new board member at large, Jonathan will research current terms

**2025 Goals:**

- Membership - goal to add member a month do what we can to heighten awareness ○ Bring guests to meetings
- Lots of students signed up with Teams (students group engagements varies team to team) ○ 6 teams OHS
- Challenge getting in touch with CHS
- Check in with Rose and Joellen
- Feedback: Derek asked if KC Teams are looking for community service projects? Yes they can get ideas from the Garden Coordinator, they are ready to engage.
- 100 Hours for 100 Years - Celebration for KEY Club at the end of the year.
- Make it a program lunch or do something special maybe lunch at Squaxin or Tumwater Brewery Park with donated sandwiches - Events Committee

**Open Floor:****Other Business:**

**Adjourned:** 12:35 PM

- March 27th Next meeting

**KIWANIS OBJECTIVES**

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

*To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.*

*To promote the adoption and application of higher social, business and professional standards.*

*To develop by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.*

*To provide, through the club, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build a better community.*

*To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.*

In 1924, Kiwanis International adopted the Six Permanent Objects of Kiwanis. One hundred years later, the Kiwanis Objects still guide our service. Celebrate the anniversary.

**PRESIDENT'S KORNER**—continued from page 1

These achievements are not just points of pride — they're reasons to share our story and invite others to join us. Let's spread the word about the incredible work Kiwanis is doing because we have something to brag about!

Thanks,  
Matt

**KIWANIS "BLING"**

Do you want some "Kiwanis" bling? Or specialty products? There's more than just jewelry at the Kiwanis International store.

Go to the Kiwanis International Website—[www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org) . Go towards the bottom and click on "Kiwanis Family Store". Scroll down and shop the products! t-shirts, mugs, pins, blankets, aprons, whistles, hats, umbrellas, flashlight, pens, scarfs, neckties (do folks still wear neckties?) sunglasses, mugs, watches, pencils, balloons, regular shirts, vests, etc.

Fly the Kiwanis logo so when someone asks "what is that K for", you have the perfect opportunity to tell them about Kiwanis. This is a great way to invite someone to a club meeting or volunteer project and recruit new members.

**SERVICE HOURS****In January, Members reported 144.5 service hours .**

Report hours that include Service Projects, Key Club Support, Administration and Committee work, Events, and Community Service (even if not organized by



**Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Minutes by Jonathan Lindsay****Minutes: FEB 27, 2025, Foundation Board Meeting****APPROVED via Email: February 28, 2025****Date/Time: FEB 27, 2025 | 12 pm immediately following Club meeting**

Present: Matthew Grant, Shawn Myers, Karen Fraser, Anna Knudson, Jonathan Lindsay, Curt Steigers, Steve Hal, Sarah Beth Hernandez Hout, Derek Harris, Steve Hall  
 Absent: Nicole Muegge Proxy:

**Call to Order:** Matt Grant at 12:35 PM**Reviewed:** Jan 2025 Foundation Minutes already approved by the board.**Approvals:** February Foundation and financial statements approved.**Fundraising:**

Update on Plant Sale scheduled for June 7, proceeding.

Ask for Perennials to donate to the sale

**Open Floor:**

Derek asked that Service Projects are added to the monthly agenda to build consistency and awareness

Derek also recognized Steve Hall for the teamwork on the TCFB hiring process

Derek recognized Mackenzies ongoing support of the garden project even though not formally connected now.

Matt asked for ideas for March Newsletter - things to celebrate

- 90 4H Student volunteers helped stack over 5 cord wood and garden projects, students were from all over the state
- Key Club Teams volunteering at food bank warehouse with KCO members
- Achieving by Believing program with Kayleigh Lormor and Family
- Membership audit 97 members
- Scholarship distribution

**Next Meeting:** February 27, 2025, immediately after the Club Board meeting.**Adjourned:** 12:47 PM**SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 7, 2025**

The Food Bank Garden crew and other volunteers are planning a PLANT SALE to raise funds for the Food Bank Gardens. If you are dividing perennials and would like to donate plants to the sale, please do so! It would be appreciated.

More information will be provide later.  
**SAVE THE DATE.**  
**June 7, 2025!**



**Maria Victoria Hernández Peeler**  
 December 23rd, 1949 - February 16th, 2025

We lost one of our most dynamic and interesting members, Maria Victoria Hernandez Peeler. She had a remarkable life story. As you know, she was the wife of **Dave Peeler**, the mother of **Sarah Beth Hernandez Huot**, and the mother-in-law of **Matt Huot**.

Her funeral will be held Tuesday, March 4th at 12pm at St Michael's Catholic Church in downtown Olympia, with the reception in the gathering space immediately afterwards, and burial at Calvary Catholic Cemetery to follow.

Maria Victoria understood through her life experiences that we must share in our community to lift each other up, and so she dedicated the better part of her career and personal life in doing so. For without light, there is only darkness.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association are greatly appreciated. <https://www.alz.org/>

**WHO WE ARE**

Kids need adults who care. That's why people join Kiwanis clubs.

They're local groups of like-minded volunteers who make a difference. Friends. Neighbors. Anyone who loves serving together to change children's lives. In fact, Kiwanians are part of a global network of clubs and members who partner with each other and with organizations whose missions align with ours. All around the world — and in communities like yours — Kiwanis International is serving the kids who need us most.

**7,700,000 service hours** performed by the Kiwanis families around the world each year!!

**106—the average number of children reached by each Kiwanis member each year.**

***"We have one of those we could donate!"***

The Food Bank Garden's crew needs you help with the following items to make the garden operation run smoothly.

**GARDEN SPRINKLERS**—the type that sprays an arch over lawns and flowers.**GARDEN FORKS**—the type that you would dig potatoes and turn sod over.**GARDEN SPRAY NOZZLES**—there are many plants in the greenhouse and hoop house that need to be watered, buckets and equipment cleaned. New or used.**GARDEN HOSES**—an invaluable tool for cleaning and watering. We love non kinking, heavy duty hoses, standard lengths.

Donations of these pieces of equipment can be taken to the Westside Garden, 3839 11th Ct SW, Olympia, or can be brought to Club meeting. Contact **Derek Valley** at 360-951-9151.

Thank you!



## Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Scholarships



### George Yantis, Jr. 1916-2008

George served as President of Olympia Kiwanis in 1976-1977 and provided piano accompaniment for club songs for many years. He was a five term Thurston County Commissioner (only person in history to date). He helped found Capital Lakefair and served as grand parade marshal of Capitol Lakefair in 1993 and 2003.

George Yantis was born in Olympia, Washington on January 16, 1916, and graduated from Olympia High School in 1935. He enrolled at the University of Washington to become a lawyer but changed his major to engineering after three years. In 1942, two years after graduating with a bachelor's degree, he enlisted with the Army Corps of Engineers, and served in the South Pacific from 1943 to 1945.

Returning home, he shaped the landscape of the South Puget Sound region working as an excavating contractor and serving as a Thurston County commissioner from 1949 to 1950. (At that time, terms were two years, not four.) He served as a commissioner again from 1959 to 1976. He was responsible for creating the county planning department but might be best known for his role in the relocation of the Thurston County Courthouse from Capitol Way to its home atop the hill overlooking Capitol Lake.

George was designated in 2001 by Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Thurston County as one of the first "living legends" in the county. He was elected to the hall of fame at Olympia High School in 2004.

He said that the best thing he has done in his life is to serve 20 years as a 4-H leader and 35 years as a 5th grade Sunday school teacher at St. Johns Episcopal Church. He served on the Thurston County Fair Board and also designed and maintained the sound system at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. George Yantis, Jr passed away April 30, 2008. He was 92. He had a great work ethic and was always wanting to help people.

### 2025 KIWANIS YOUTH LAW ENFORCEMENT CAMP

Do you know any high school juniors or seniors that might be interested in a career in law enforcement? The 2025 KYLEC is set for July 13-19, 2025. The application deadline is May 10th! Let your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews know about the camp and check out the camp website at:

[www.kiwanislawenforcementcamp.com](http://www.kiwanislawenforcementcamp.com)

UNLOCK THE ADVENTURE!



### POLICIES OF THE OLYMPIA KIWANIS CLUB May 2022

**AP19: MEAL GUESTS** (continued from February Kiwanis Korner)

**AP19.06: Grant and Award Recipient Representatives:** One grant recipient or representative of the organization is a Club guest. All others attending for the presentation pay for their own meals.

**AP19.07: Special Invited Guests:** At the discretion of the House Committee, certain additional guests, invited by our Club, may receive a free meal. Forest Festival and Lakefair Royalty are Club guests.

Chaperones, relatives or others present for the event will pay for their own meals.

**AP19.08: Key Club Members:** The club will pay for lunch for 2 Key Club Members and their school advisors, per Key Club per quarter, to encourage attendance at our meetings by Key Club members.

### AP20: PAYMENT CARD INDUSTRY (PCI) COMPLIANCE

This club policy regarding PCI compliance will be reviewed and/or amended periodically. If a PCI certification is required, then the Board will review and approve.

- Only club members trained in the use of the terminal shall operate the terminal, and the training shall also include security as it relates to credit cards, credit card numbers, and this policy.

- The standard card processing terminal will be secured when not in use.

\*If credit card numbers are written down, imprinted with received in electronic format, or printed in full on paper, they shall be stored in a secure manner and destroyed immediately after input into the credit card machine. The exception is receipts produced by the terminal, with only 4 or 5 digits of the credit card number, which may be stored by the club.

- In the event of a compromise to customer credit card numbers or the terminal itself, the club will immediately notify the credit card processing company, Board of Directors, and follow instructions which may include notification of the appropriate law enforcement agency.

OLYMPIA KIWANIS CLUB COMMITTEES	Chairpersons and some members
Membership Growth and Education	Anna Knudson and Dan Myers
House Reception and Club Meetings	Curt Steigers
Human and Spiritual Values	Sam Reed
Circle K	Sharon Schnebly
Community Service	Jonathan Lindsay
Law Enforcement Youth Camp	Sharon Schnebly
Youth Services and Grants	Jane Field
Interclub Relations	Jonathan Lindsay
Programs	Sam Reed and Dave Peeler
Fundraising / Caring for Kids	Terry Bergeson, Mary Gould
Fire Wood for Needy	John Tobin
Garden	Don Leaf, Derek Valley
Newsletter	Jan Britt
Sponsored Youth and Key Clubs	Joellen Wilhelm
Communication and Social Media	Open
Club History	Sam Reed
Website:	Jonathan Lindsey
Nominating Committee	Mark Johnson and Sam Reed
Risk Management	Bob Lien



**KIWANIS ONE DAY / WEEKEND OF GIVING**  
by Jon Halvorson and John Tobin

February 15 and 16th, we were lucky to have 4H ers from throughout the state helping us at the Kiwanis Gardens and Wood Sites!

The Statewide 4H Conference organizer said there were 65 students from all over WA who came to work on the second day of the conference, 2-15-25. About half worked the Garden and half the Firewood teams.

Westside Baptist Church's splitter, provided by Austin Griffith, helped make several large piles of split wood. We ended up splitting about 5 cords and the 4-H kids got it all stacked--huge progress! Thanks to all of you who split in the morning and to those who stayed into the afternoon to help guide the kids. **Karen F** and **Jon H** taught them how to stack wood so it wouldn't fall down later when it dried! **John T** lead all of us.

I heard from a few of you and know the flu bug is going around, so please stay well (or get well!) Enjoy the morning off and stay dry!

**Derek V** led the gardening efforts. 31 students and 10 adults weeded the garlic/onion bed at Capitol Campus. **Wendy G** and **Carol P** helped. All beds weeded; all isles tilled. Manure spread as side dressing for plants. Soil unfthawed. Students helped in the greenhouse, spreading manure and pulling some Brussel sprouts. **THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!**



*Be present at our table, Lord.  
Be here and everywhere adored.  
Thy creatures bless and grant that we  
May feast in Paradise with Thee.  
.....John Cennick*



FEBRUARY SUNDAY 23	MONDAY 24—Noon Tugboat Annie's	TUESDAY 25	WEDNESDAY 26	THURSDAY 27	FRIDAY 28	MARCH SATURDAY 1—0900 West Garden and
2	3—NO MEETING	4	5	6	7	8 0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
9—DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	10— Noon Tugboat Annie's	11	12	13	14	15—0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting 0800-1000am
16	17— NO MEETING  St Patrick'sDay	18	19	20	21	22—900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
23 / 31	24—Noon Tugboat Annie's	25	26	27-Board Meeting via ZOOM	29	30 0900 West Side Garden And Wood Cutting

**Kiwanis Korner**

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Don Leaf braids  
 Garlic!



**Olympia Kiwanis Food Bank Gardens** celebrate 35 years of helping eliminate hunger in Thurston County. By **Derek Valley**  
 Formed in 1970, **Phil Paulsrude** suggested that Kiwanis could help the Food Bank clients by growing fresh vegetables. He had the land; a Club community service project was started. Fast forward to 2025 and our volunteers, working together, can make a difference in our communities.  
 We should applaud the efforts of **Mackenzie McCall**, a nine-year veteran garden coordinator. Under her leadership, the gardens have become more productive, delivering a wider variety of crops to an ethnically diverging community. Thank you, Mackenzie, for your attention to detail and labor. Mackenzie concluded her employment at the Thurston County Food Bank and is pursuing her other life's goals. **James Worth**, Garden Coordinator, was with us for one year and has decided to pursue his advanced degree.  
 The Thurston County Food Bank and Kiwanis club of Olympia have hired a new Gardens Coordinator. **Jessica Colson "Jess"** has a broad experience needed to be successful. She is learning quickly, working with experienced volunteers and calling on professionals in the field. As we prepare the fields for planting, start seeds in the greenhouse and get ready for the work ahead, the Food Bank Gardens need your participation. We are at the point of forming "volunteer days" during which vegetable gardening tasks will be completed. There are "light work" and "heavy work" activities, something for everyone. If you are yearning for some good physical activity right now, let us know. In the coming weeks there will be volunteer opportunities to join others in working to make this valued project a success. President Matt's comments on the Washington State 4-H Convention highlights our work. It was inspiring to see nearly 100 students helping with three projects supporting those in need.