



Kiwanis Korner

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

.....Serving the children of the world

1921

104 YEARS OF SERVICE TO KIDS AND THE COMMUNITY

April 4, 2025

PRESIDENT'S KORNER by Matt Grant

A High-Energy D-Con Weekend with Our Key Club Leaders

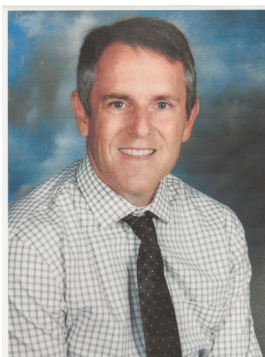
What did you do over spring break? For me, it kicked off with an unforgettable weekend at the Key Club District Convention in Seattle, where I had the privilege of supervising Olympia High School and Capital High School students. Imagine 1,600 students packed into one hotel (the Sheraton), cheers echoing down every hallway, and an energy level through the roof. Some might call that chaos—I call it inspiring.

Despite the whirlwind of activity, I left the convention more invigorated. There's something incredible about watching young people come together, fired up to make a difference

Our students represented us well, and I couldn't be prouder. A huge shout-out to CHS Key Club member **Nima Doyle**, who was awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship**—one of the few given at the event! Beyond that, I was amazed by the variety of volunteer work our students have already taken on:

- Helping at the **Food Bank**
- Assisting at the **Governor's Ball**
- Supporting the **Salvation Army**
- Tutoring a student online from **Ukraine**
- Serving as a **Senate Page**
- Teaching **Taekwondo**
- Providing **childcare** at school meetings
- Volunteering at **elementary schools**
- Contributing to **church** activities

One Key Club/Kiwanis team has already logged **100 hours of service!** While their dedication impressed me, what stood out most was how much of their service had been done independently. The challenge now? Harnessing that energy into a stronger, more connected team.
(continued on page 5)



DON'T MISS THESE MEETINGS!

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

May 5th—No Meeting
May 12th—THE CLOSEST GOVERNEMENTS TO THE PEOPLE by Steve Lundeen
 May 19th—No Meeting
 May 26th—No Meeting—Memorial Day Observed
May 27th (TUESDAY)—DESCHUTES ESTUARY
All Programs are tentative.'

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

Kiwanis defining statement, adopted October, 2004

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

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS TO

April 8th—Derek Harris
 April 12th—Don Law
 April 18th—an Seachord
 April 29th—Denise Steigers



Let the editor know if your bday isn't listed. It's hard to keep up with over 100 birthdays!

CLUB INFORMATION ~

Officers:

President: **Matt Grant**
 President Elect: **Karen Fraser**
 Vice President: **Anna Knudson**
 Treasurer: **Shawn Myers**
 Secretary: **Jonathan Lindsay**
 Immediate Past President: **Shawn Myers**

Board Members: through 2026—Derek Harris, Steve Hall, vacant
 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: April 24, 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: March 27, 2025, Club Board Meeting Approved with revisions via Email March 28 - 31, 2025 P

Present: Matthew Grant, Shawn Myers, Karen Fraser, Anna Knudson, Jonathan Lindsay, Curt Steigers, Steve Hall, Kathy Thompson, Derek Valley Absent: Sarah Beth Hernandez Hout, Derek Harris, Nicole Muegge Proxy: Jonathan for Sarah Beth
Guests: Joel Hansen

Call to Order: Matt Grant at 12:02 PM

Agenda: approved Note: Karen add discussion of garden finances - move to Foundation Minutes:

Minutes: Feb 2025 Minutes already approved by the board.

Financial Reports: Financial Report - recommendation to approve from Finance Committee Note: As of March 1 Shawn is taking over as interim treasurer Secretary's Report: Asked Joel Hansen to attend (who arrived) to consider filling vacancy for the rest of year.

Open Floor:

- ⇒ DCON Conference on Saturday, 20 students going to Seattle.
- ⇒ Good to have Key Club do a presentation maybe add to letter from president
- ⇒ Acknowledge Key Club 100th at a lunch or event.
- ⇒ Time to start promoting fundraising and announcement at Monday's meeting
- ⇒ Shawn clarified using debit/credit cards and there is no reason to switch to credit cards
- ⇒ Other Business: None

Adjourned: 12:34 PM • April 24th 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.

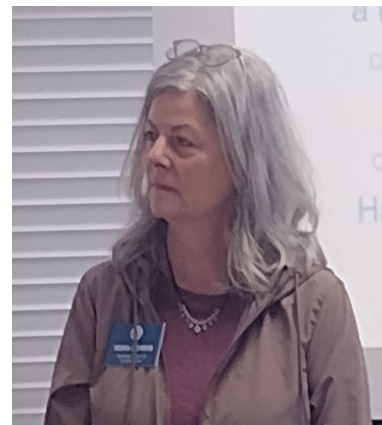
To provide, through the club, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build a better community.

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.

Photos from Key Club District Convention—March 2-30, 2025—by Matt Gran**Capital High School Key Club members****Some Olympia High School Key Club members****Welcome our newest member!**

Debra Clemens has joined our club as a transferee from the Kiwanis Club of North Thurston. She is a former superintendent of public schools from the North Thurston School District. Please introduce yourself to Debra and make her feel welcome.



Debra can be reached at:
dclemens@nthurstn.k12.wa.us

SERVICE HOURS

In February, 2025, members reported **312 service hours** to the community!

Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Minutes by Jonathan Lindsay

March 27, 2025, Foundation Board Meeting Approved with revisions via Email March 28 - 31, 2025 Date/Time: March 27, 2025 | 12 pm immediately following Club meeting

Present: Matthew Grant, Shawn Myers, Karen Fraser, Anna Knudson, Jonathan Lindsay, Curt Steigers, Steve Hall, Kathy Thompson, Derek Vally Absent: Sarah Beth Hernandez Hout, Derek Harris, Nicole Muegge Proxy: Jonathan for Sarah Beth Guests: Joel Hansen

Call to Order: Matt Grant at 12:35 pm Agenda: Approved with additional item for Garden Budget Overview Review Minutes: FEB 2025 Foundation Minutes already approved by the board.

Financial Reports: February Foundation and financial statements recommended and approved.

- Garden Budget: need additional funding for current projects Action: Approved Motion to amend garden budget up to \$3,000 of Leighton Johnson fund. Discussion: don't want to do additional fundraising and compete with other foundation fundraising better to use the LJ funds, but this is what it's for. The garden budget always has a surplus so funds will be used up to budget and if needed LJ funds will be added.
- Confirmed plant sale funds will be used for the garden.
- Agreement to fund TCFB at a reduced rate due to lapse in garden coordinator position. The amount for the food bank would be \$3875 for the first quarter 2025. Action: Motion Quarterly payment for Q1 2025 be prorated for the amount in which there was no garden director position.
- Fundraising: meeting with Jess at TCFBG to go over details of plant sale. Summarize on Monday.

Open Floor: • Curt reminded the Club that 5th Monday meetings were intended to be outside the normal range of standard meetings. One in June and September maybe meet at Squaxin Park for a picnic.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2025, immediately after the Club Board meeting. Adjourned: 12:55 PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Now is the time to sign up and volunteer for:

Capital City Marathon Waterstop—Sunday, May 18, at Milepost 25—0700-1300. Contact **Jonathan Lindsay**

Thurston County Foodbank Plant Garden Sale—Saturday, June 7th. 0900—1700. Contact Derek Valley

Key Club 100th anniversary. Date to be set. June 2025

KCO SUMMER POTLUCK—

Incoming President Karen Fraser will be hosting a club summer potluck at her home overlooking Puget Sound on Wednesday, August 20th, 4 pm—8 pm. Bring a dish to share, your family and / or prospective members!

We turn not older with years, but newer every day.

Emily Dickinson

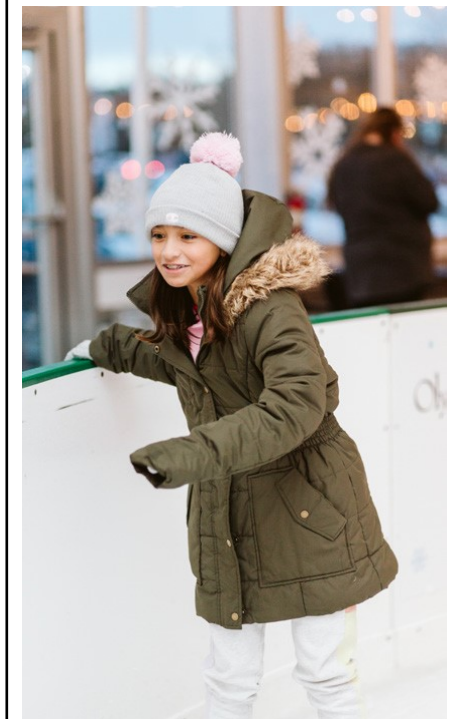
**A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Oly on Ice Sponsors**

As we look back on another incredible season of Oly on Ice, we want to take a moment to extend our deepest gratitude to you—our valued sponsors. Your support has helped create a winter wonderland in the heart of Olympia, bringing joy, connection, and cherished memories to thousands of skaters and visitors.

A Season to Celebrate This year, 20,737 skaters laced up their skates and took to the ice, embracing the magic of winter. Beyond the rink, we welcomed 383 students on field trips (up by almost 100 compared to last season), offering them a unique and exciting recreational experience. Our commitment to inclusivity continued with 398 participants at our Sensory Friendly Skate sessions, extending the joy of skating experience to a broader audience in a comfortable and welcoming environment. Additionally, 205 season passes were sold, making Oly on Ice a cherished tradition for many families.

Flexibility in the Face of Challenges This season brought unexpected challenges, including weather-related closures that impacted our planned schedule. Thanks to the flexibility of our staff and our operational partners at Ice Rink Events, we were able to extend the season by an additional week, allowing more people to enjoy the rink. Their adaptability and your support ensured that the magic of Oly on Ice continued, despite the unpredictable conditions.

With gratitude,
Scott River, Anna Uyeda, Luke Burns, Kevin Erickson
Parks, Arts & Recreation, Oly on Ice Staff Team



Let's get connected!

Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Scholarships

Darrell B. Hedges 1913-2006

Darrel Hedges was a champion for children, a 40 year member of Kiwanis and the Club's number one fundraiser.

He consistently sold more Poinsettia plants than any other member.

Darrell was Assistant Director of WA Department of Highways.



Darrell believed in family first, then active community involvement. He was a 60-year member of the United Churches, a 40-year member of the Olympia Kiwanis, and belonged to the Y.M.C.A., the Boy Scouts, the Explorer Scouts, and Adult Day-Care and Senior Services.

He was a graduate of the Racine Western Institute and did post-graduate work at the University of Washington. He married Marian Raymond in May of 1936; they had three sons, Loren, Ronald (Mary), and Paul (Cheryl); and 18 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great- great-grandchildren. Marian preceded him in death in March of 1991. He then married Barbara Naylor in April of 1994.

From 1936 until his retirement in November of 1976, Darrell was an employee of the Washington State Department of Highways and the Washington Toll Bridge Authority. His 40-year highway career began as an auditor in Seattle. At retirement he was the Assistant Director and C.E.O. of the Toll Bridge Authority. He enjoyed fishing, bowling, golf, rock-hounding, and photography. Darrell B. Hedges passed away at home in February, 2006.

SPRING FUN FAIR IN PUYALLUP!

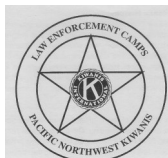
April 10-13th and April 17th –20th, at the Washington State Fairgrounds

Come to the Spring Fun Fair and see the **KIWANIS YOUTH LAW ENFORCEMENT CAMP** exhibit! Maybe you'll even see some of our club members staffing the booth to recruit camp cadets for the 2025 camp to be held July 13-19th, 2025, at the Washington State Patrol Academy in Shelton, WA.

Want to help staff the exhibit? Contact Derek Valley at schmidtvalley@comcast.net

High school juniors and seniors who might be interested in a law enforcement career need to apply before May 10th! Check out the website at:

Kiwaniislawenforcementcamp.com



POLICIES OF THE OLYMPIA KIWANIS CLUB May 2022

AP21: AGRICULTURAL LEASE AGREEMENTS and ACCESS on behalf of the club, the Board of Directors may authorize an officer or member to sign a lease or memorandum of understanding as an agreement on behalf of the club. Some of these current agreements include locations listed below.

AP21:01 West Side Garden:

- Pursuant to a five year lease agreement between the Club and Susan R. Stratton, Club members are permitted to use a portion of the property at 3839 - 11th Ave. NW, Olympia, WA to operate a greenhouse, a vegetable and plant garden and a wood splitting and storage area. The Club may also store its Roast Beef trailer and wood trailer on this property.

- Members who drive their vehicle(s) on to the property must have a Kiwanis Decal visible on their vehicle.

- Club activities are to minimize inconvenience to Ms. Stratton and not leave any waste on the property.

AP21:02 Capital Campus Gardens, including a site at the Governor's Mansion.

AP 21:03 Jim Goche garden on Friendly Grove Road.

AP22: FIRE WOOD DISTRIBUTION

- Only persons who have been screened by and referred to the Club by The Salvation Army, Saint Vincent DePaul, and/or Thurston County Community Action Council staff will be eligible to receive free firewood.

- All arrangements for delivery of split wood shall be made by the Chair or Co-Chair of the Club's Fire Wood Bank Committee.

A single grateful thought raised to heaven is the most perfect prayer.
Gutthold Lessing

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



Community Firewood Facts:

John Tobin, Chair, reports that Ninety one families have been served this winter season.

A great cadre of members and volunteers have worked to produce dry firewood for families. Now that the shed bays are nearly empty of firewood the committee members will start filling the bays again for next winter's service to those in need.

Thanks to all of our "**Kiwanis Kutters**" and community volunteers for keeping families and children warm this past winter!

Behind the scenes these two fellows who know engines and help us keep our fleet of small tools, rototillers and the tractor working. They need to be recognized for their volunteer hours and effort. Paul Peck and Casey Kanzler. Paul knows two.- stroke and Casey knows diesel. Thank you both for keeping us humming!



President's Korner—continued from page 1

If you've never been to a Key Club convention, let me paint the picture: it's loud. **Really loud.** Our own Division 38 held nothing back, belting out chants like "I feel good, oh I feel so good" and "We got more (spirit)!" as they went head-to-head with other high-energy groups. The room buzzed with excitement, and by the end of the weekend, even our quieter students had caught the spirit.

But it wasn't just about noise and enthusiasm—it was about growth. Students attended workshops on:

***Leadership & Club Building** – How to recruit members and make meetings fun

***Confidence & Public Speaking** – Even for introverts!

***Career & Resume Tips** – Preparing for the future

***Social Skills (Including How to Get a Date!)** – Because why not?

These sessions gave our students tools to lead, connect, and think bigger about their impact.

The biggest takeaway? Our students are **ready to lead**. Many younger members are eager to step up, some are setting their sights on running for office, and the whole group is committed to making our club more active, engaging, and impactful. The energy they brought back with them is contagious, and I can't wait to see how it transforms our local Key Clubs.

On behalf of our students, **thank you** to all our Kiwanis members. Your support made this experience possible, and I know it's shaping future leaders who will give back to our community in meaningful ways. The students had an absolute blast—oh, and did I mention? They **loved** the snacks.

Here's to a future filled with passionate, service-minded leaders. Thanks for being part of the journey!

Matt Grant

(OHS Key Club member to the left)

MARCH SUNDAY 30	MONDAY 31—Noon Tugboat Annie's	APRIL TUESDAY 21	WEDNESDAY 2	THURSDAY 3 0900 West Side Garden	FRIDAY 4	SATURDAY 5—0900 West Garden and Firewood
6	7-NO MEETING	8	9	10—0900 West Side Garden	11	12 0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting Full Moon
13—Passover begins Palm Sunday	14— Noon Tugboat Annie's	15 KYLEC meeting 2 PM St. Martins U	16	17—0900 West Side Garden	18 Good Friday	19—0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting 0800-1000am
20—Easter	21— NO MEETING	22—EARTH DAY	23	24—0900 West Side Garden Holocaust Remembrance Day	25	26—900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
27	28—Noon Tugboat Annie's	29	30	MAY 1 0900 West Side Garden	2	3 0900 West Side Garden And Wood Cutting

Kiwanis Korner

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Olympiakiwanis.org

**Olympia Kiwanis Food Bank Gardens by Derek Valley**

We are blessed in being able to be working with **Jessica "Jess" Colson** (pictured left) as our **Farm to Food Bank** coordinator. Jess's background can be highlighted by working in food gardens in the Midwest, Hawaii, Bainbridge Island and now in Olympia. She brings a robust background that will bode well for our gardens and the fresh, organic vegetables delivered to the Thurston County Food Bank. She and her partner Jeremy live in Mason County, they are building a house there, and Jeremy works in downtown Olympia. They are both musicians, playing music on weekends.

It takes many hands to produce vegetables during the 2025 growing season. That is where you as a Kiwanis member come in. Consider dedicating time on Thursday morning and/or Saturday to work in the gardens. There are a wide variety of projects to be done; some light work, others needing muscle, all benefiting the community. To place your name on the volunteer list, contact Jess, at jesse@tefb.com, she will find work that assists with our mission. This work is contagious, you can bring a "significant other" family members, grandkids, Key Club members and other friends to assist. Sign up, get exercise and feel good about our Club's good work.

Onion Planting at the Capital Campus Garden has begun! On a two-day work party, nearly 11,000 onion plant starts were planted. Three varieties: Walla Walla Sweet, Red Torpedo and Patterson were planted. The onions will mature at different time this summer, supplying the Thurston County Food Bank with fresh onions. Tom Badger is planting Walla Walla Sweet onion starts. Carol Piening, Wendy Gerstel, Tom Badger and Bill Liechty plant Red Torpedo onion starts.