

A Century of Service

The Centennial History of the
Olympia Kiwanis Club
1921 - 2021

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Olympia Kiwanis centennial logo by Kathy Thompson

Published by
The Olympia Kiwanis Club
P.O. Box 1847
Olympia, WA 98507-1847
2022

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Introduction

As an aspiring city council member, I was told that there was no better place to learn about the Olympia community than the Olympia Kiwanis Club. So, I found a willing sponsor and joined the club. (Thank you, Ken Mitchell).

I quickly learned that the Olympia Kiwanis Club has served the greater Olympia area with distinction since 1921. The club, while always keeping a sharp focus on serving the community and youth, became an important part of our changing and growing community. Weekly club meetings serve as a “stopping point” and a place for dignitaries and politicians of all types to engage with civic-minded and informed community leaders.

At the same time, I learned that the Olympia Kiwanis Club is continuously shaped by issues and changing cultural, societal, and community norms. One of the most significant events was openly enabling women to join Olympia Kiwanis as full members - years before the historic 1987 vote to admit women was passed at the annual Kiwanis International Convention. It was easy to become part of a forward-leaning service club.

I met dedicated members who are the heart of what makes the Olympia Kiwanis Club special. Since the club’s inception, members would work together, combine time, talent, and treasure to provide countless resources and assistance for those in need. There is no doubt in my mind that the club has improved lives in the greater Olympia area through their hard work and generous donations of time and gifts. Very few organizations successfully inspire service and fellowship over multiple generations.

For more than 100 years, the Olympia Kiwanis Club has remained a relevant and important part of the community. I have no doubt that the club’s legacy of community, service, and fellowship ensure that the next 100 years will be equally inspiring.

- Doug Mah, Former Olympia Mayor and Club Member

Early Years: 1921 - 1929

David Hansen

The organization that would become Kiwanis began in 1914 in Detroit when Allen S. Browne and Joseph G. Prance formed a fraternal association for business and professional men. Originally called the Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order of Brothers, the members changed the name to Kiwanis in 1915. The meaning of Kiwanis came from the Native American phrase “nun kee-wa-nis,” broadly meaning “we enjoy trading with each other and sharing our talents,” underscoring the original purpose of the organization of encouraging business between the members as well as serving the poor.¹

Kiwanis spread rapidly and its ideals of mutual support and service found ready acceptance. There were 93 clubs by 1919 and it established a presence in Canada when in 1916 a chapter was formed in Hamilton, Ontario. The Canadian branch of Kiwanis expanded and it was from the organizing efforts of a Canadian member that the Olympia Kiwanis club was formed. In 1918, Harry F. Nobbs arrived in Vancouver, BC, from Winnipeg; he had seen how Kiwanis there had done much to help under-privileged children and to promote general community welfare. By January, 1919, he had created a new chapter in Vancouver. In June of 1921, Nobbs was in Olympia and there he met with R. L. Fromme, superintendent of the Olympic National Forest, who was soon convinced that the capital city would be a better place with a Kiwanis club. It was about time: Seattle, Tacoma and Portland each had created a chapter in 1919 and Olympia businessmen were always eager to emphasize the role of their community in the region.

Fromme was part of a group of men who met on July 14 in the Olympian Hotel. Joining with him there were C. A. Rose, Martin Gottfeld, F. W. Stocking, P. M. Troy, Thad Pierce, O. M. Green, George Mills, John Dodge, Will Lasher, Adolph Schmidt, and Stanley McMagnus. The group included some of the best-known men in the community and individuals who were already involved in efforts to enhance their town. They all knew each other and they had much in common. Many were members of the Chamber of Commerce, however the connections were broader than that. C. A. Rose owned a car dealership and sat on the board of the Capital Savings and Loan Association, as did Martin Gottfeld. R. L. Fromme was a member of the Thurston County Sportsmen’s Association as was John Dodge, a dry cleaner and city commissioner who was a member of Rotary. O. M. Green was also a member of Rotary; he was vice-president of Olympia National Bank. Adolph Schmidt was perhaps the most prominent given his family ownership of the Olympia Brewery; he was an Elks member, along with Martine Gottfeld. Individually the group had devoted time and attention to the betterment of the city. Rose was active in the Red Cross and YMCA and had also sat on the County Council of Defense during the war. Gottfeld took part in the Jewish Relief Fund, and Fred Stocking was a member of the Olympia school board and was briefly county treasurer. P. M. Troy, an attorney, was a member of most of the fraternal organizations in town, a member of the European Relief Council, and president of the Olympia National Bank. Thad Pierce and his brother managed the Olympian

¹ According to Wikipedia, the term is from an Ojibwe expression meaning “to fool around.” Whatever the original meaning, the gist of “Kiwanis” was taken to mean “we trade,” and later “we build,” that term becoming the original motto of the club. It in turn was replaced in 2005 by a new motto, “Serving the Children of the World.”

Hotel; he was a member of the Western Washington Automobile Club and the Good Roads Association.

There was agreement and on August 11, 1921, the Olympia Kiwanis Club was organized. At its first meeting, the small group passed a resolution to assist the Thurston County Fair. The building of a club devoted to the community had begun. September 15 was the charter presentation night at the Olympian Hotel with 400 attending, a number that included 220 visiting Kiwanians. Prospective members began to apply soon after, one of whom was Jay Bolster, destined to become the club's poet laureate until his death some 40 years later. He fit the mold of the original organizers: member of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Good Roads Association, active member of the Grange and a dairyman, and partner in a grocery store. He was also a partner in the car dealership with C. A. Rose and a pitcher for the state champion Grange baseball team. He would go on to achieve 48 years of perfect attendance in the club.

The fundamental Kiwanis concept of service to the community was adopted formally at the 1924 convention in Denver. There the members outlined six enduring principles:

- 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 the application of higher social, business, and professional standards;
- to develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship;
- to provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities; and
- to cooperate in creating and maintain that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.

Those were attractive goals and the membership grew steadily during the boom period of the 1920s. The city increased its population by half during that time, to about 11,700 in 1930, and by 1929, Olympia Kiwanis had grown to include 72 men on its rolls. And they were all men – eventually women would belong too, but that was well in the future.

It was a busy organization that met weekly and carried out a far-reaching program of help to the community. It placed special emphasis on under-privileged children and had a continuing program that responded to the need in two ways – the Widowed Mothers Building Program and the Big Brother Movement.

The Widowed Mothers Building Program emerged from the club's Boys and Girls Committee. Local housing was in short supply and expensive, often not available with those who had little means. The idea was that the club would build a home for a widowed or dependent mother and her children who might otherwise go homeless; rent would be 15 dollars a month, easily half the typical cost. Individual members provided the plans, lot, lumber, hardware and concrete for the foundation, and the membership as a whole constituted the labor force. A widow and her three small children occupied the home for the first time in 1929. Club members found work for the mother and oldest boy, and one result was that all three children were able to remain in school. The plan was to build additional homes but that was never accomplished and the single-story home south of downtown became the only product.

The Big Brother Movement called for willing members to act as mentors for fatherless boys and provide them with protection, advice, vocational guidance, and fellowship. It was a mutual benefit for the participants and was deemed “exceedingly pleasant to the members as well as profitable to the boys.”

There were other related actions. The club helped support the Children’s Farm Home in Lacey; the home opened in 1926 to house orphaned and neglected children, and Kiwanians purchased clothing and materials to equip the facility which eventually housed about 80 residents. The club also defrayed the expenses of under-privileged boys so that they could attend summer camps offered by the Boy Scouts and the YMCA (Kiwanis members were well represented in both organizations) and furnished medical and dental care for other children. The club helped benefit kids in other ways, such as providing band instruments for grade and high school students who could not afford them. These efforts were on-going and extended in 1924 to providing transportation for young people to attend Olympia Day at the Puyallup Fair. The same was done the following year to allow children in need to attend the circus. There were special Christmas events for as many as 200 children who might have had no celebration at all but for what was provided by Kiwanis. The boys and girls attended a special party at the Liberty theater, and then moved on to a dinner in a hall decorated for the holiday, where each child received a gift.

In addition to its focus on the well-being of boys and girls, Olympia Kiwanis looked to general community betterment throughout the 1920s. It created a project to erect lighted pillars at the entrance to town and constructed a community house and shower in Priest Point Park. It arranged for an auto caravan out of Olympia as part of the dedication for the new Pacific Highway in 1923, and six years later, furnished cars for the Pacific Coast Port Officials conference. More generally, it worked with the Chamber of Commerce and the City Planning Commission to help identify and resolve city-wide problems.

Local agriculture was a special area of emphasis, and the goal was to improve the relationship between the farms and urban area. Olympia Kiwanis devoted club meetings to the study of the history and needs of the rural community and purchased prizes to be awarded at the county fair. In 1924, it asked the other Kiwanis organizations in the state to support cash prizes to be given out by the Washington State Chamber of Commerce for the best-performing dairy cattle. It instituted an annual Farmers’ Day Luncheon, where local farmers were the invited guests of the club members; it was a popular undertaking, with 60 farmers attending in 1925.

Energy also extended to the Kiwanis organization itself and its members, and in that regard, Olympia Kiwanis looked both outward and inward. Externally it helped the founding of Shelton and Elma clubs, and Olympia members attended charter presentations to the clubs in Renton, Port Orchard and West Seattle. To encourage a sense of fraternity, Kiwanis clubs in Chehalis, Centralia, Elma, Shelton and South Tacoma clubs were invited to the annual Olympia Kiwanis picnic. Internally, weekly meetings offered a range of programs that allowed attendees to stay current on important issues. Topics included “Accidents and Accident Prevention,” “Ethics,” “Sanitation and Civilization,” and “Our Own City Government.” Guests spoke on “Trade Markets of the British Empire,” “Rainier National Park,” and “Oyster Culture.” There were musical programs on occasion and brief talks by members on their own business activities; members also had an opportunity to offer “Kicks, Complaints and Bouquets,” limited to five minutes.

The early progress of the organization was marred by the death in 1929 of one of its founders, P. M. Troy. Preston Marion Troy had established his law practice in Olympia in 1893 and had become a well-known attorney in the state as a whole. He was elected president of the Washington State Bar Association and served for several years on the State Board of Bar Examiners. He seemed to be part of every important activity in the community, from banking to church work, and was particularly active in securing shipyards in Olympia during World War I. He was given large credit for acquiring the property of Priest Point Park, and it was he who suggested the naming of Stevens Park (better known now as Stevens Field) adjacent to Lincoln School. As a mark of respect, all the banks in Olympia closed in the afternoon of his funeral.

Olympia Kiwanis completed its initial decade on a wave of success that would carry forward into the 1930s, a period that presented unexpected challenges as the nation entered the Great Depression and then prepared for a global war. It would face those demands with a confidence built upon the same programs it had instituted in its first ten years.

The Great Depression: 1930 - 1939

David Hansen

The boom years of the 1920s faded quickly with the onset of the global economic Great Depression that lasted throughout the decade of the 30s. During this time, federal recovery programs brought many helpful changes to Olympia – port facilities were enlarged, new wharves pushed into Budd Inlet, the city’s water system was completely rebuilt, the airport (established only in 1928) was improved, and a concrete navigational beacon was put up on Doffelmeyer Point. Employment programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps helped put young men back to work. Despite the benefits of those national efforts, many needs went unmet, and Olympia Kiwanis organized to face those problems.

The programs that Olympia Kiwanis committed to during the 1920s fit comfortably into the broader responses to the impact of the Depression. In its initial decade, the club had identified several specific actions that it would take year after year rather than electing to sponsor short-term undertakings that might change every twelve months. As club president A. F. Witzigman put it, “[c]all it the 5 year plan or the 10 year plan, whatever you choose to call it, we find that it produces lasting results.” The areas were overlapping to a degree and there were changes during the decade but the emphases remained clear: underprivileged children, vocational guidance, citizenship, and a general support of youth activities. The involvement of rural and urban affairs that had developed several years earlier remained, although the subject took up less time and seemed to dwindle by the end of the decade.

Under the title of underprivileged children, the club continued its upkeep of the Widowed Mother’s Home, the small residence that the membership had built for the benefit of a mother and her children, “giving them access to one of the best schools of the city in a fine neighborhood.” The membership also continued its support of the Children’s Farm Home in Lacey, established to care for about 80 orphaned or neglected boys and girls. That support took different forms as needed, including transportation to and from the home, providing coal for the heating plant, clothing donations, and fund raising. Olympia Kiwanis also built a play shed large enough to accommodate the entire population of the home. The wives of club members helped as well, sewing 150 sleeping garments. A fire in 1936 destroyed the boys’ dormitory; it was never rebuilt and the Farm Home gradually faded away.

There was still plenty to do for disadvantaged kids. Especially significant was the Kiwanis Milk Fund, a program that furnished a warm lunch to every needy child in each of the city’s grade schools; in 1932, the effort included students in the high school as well. Members provided funds for shoes and clothes; paid for doctor’s fees, dental work and eyeglasses; organized Christmas programs; supervised at recreation centers; repaired a house for a family of nine; and found work on civic projects for over 100 boys and girls who came from poverty-stricken homes.²

² At Christmas in 1939, Olympia Kiwanis arranged for 16 children to be the dinner guests of a local Civilian Conservation Corps camp. The camp is not identified in club records, but it was most likely the one at Millersylvania State Park; it had a reputation for an able cook and good food.

Vocational guidance was an important commitment, especially so in the Depression years when jobs of any kind were scarce. The guidance program had a strong educational base and depended heavily on individual counseling between students and local citizens. Olympia Kiwanis sponsored speakers from universities, trade schools and industrial plants. Hundreds of boys and girls found permanent, temporary, and part-time jobs. The success was due in part to the fact that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Vocational Guidance Director and the local high school Vocational Guidance Instructor were all Kiwanians. The jobs didn't pay much, but it was something, and matters improved in 1935 with the creation of the National Youth Administration. It was a New Deal agency that provided work and education for young people between the ages of 16 and 25. Boys and girls from families on relief were paid 10 to 25 dollars a month for part-time work that included job training. Olympia Kiwanis was able to fold the NYA program into its on-going vocational activities and the success attracted hundreds of Olympia residents to help. Students in the NYA program were paid by the Federal government but Olympia Kiwanis made the job assignments and supervised their work. At times, working students needed help to pay for lunches, clothes, or medical and dental costs; they received loans from Kiwanis and paid back the amount from their wages.

The vocational guidance program in Olympia was exceptional throughout the national Kiwanis organization, no doubt the result of the emphasis on education brought about by N. D. Showalter. Dr. Showalter was the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction and also president of the club in 1936.

The Olympia Kiwanis citizenship initiative was just as active. It held classes to help those who were not yet citizens to pass the citizenship exam; the effort was a notable success, and during the decade, hundreds of the class participants became citizens. The club also encouraged voting, and Kiwanians helped in "Get Out the Vote" campaigns for state and national elections as well as special school initiatives. They assisted in voter registration and offered educational programs about current problems of the day.

Rounding out the several well-defined programs was a general category labeled "Boys and Girls Work," which was a catch-all that could have been just as easily called "Everything Else." It included the many individual actions that were a benefit to Olympia's youth. Members made cash contributions to the YMCA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; they helped raise funds to buy instruments for the high school band; they donated funds to buy raincoats for the School Boy Patrol (crossing guards); provided cars to transport members of the high school football team home after night games; sponsored the formation of the Olympia Sea Scout Troop; and paid the tuition of a girl who wanted to take the Red Cross Life Saving Course. Member contributions made it possible for several boys to attend the Boy Scout Summer Camp, to initiate construction of the Girl Scouts Home, and to underwrite room and board for a college student. Probably the most significant accomplishment was the creation of an endowment fund to help support students who wanted to pursue higher education.

Beyond the programs that were directed to families and children were other activities that benefited the community at large. Olympia Kiwanis sponsored a city-wide Safety Council to help reduce reckless driving, looked into improvements to the city jail, and proposed a bond issue for new fire apparatus. They worked with the Chamber of Commerce to beautify the grounds of the state capitol and donated funds for a community Christmas tree, which they decorated and lighted, and won an award for their efforts. In 1935, members worked to put on a

three-day event called a Pagan Frolic, which was probably a lot less exciting than it sounds now. They also formed a committee to promote the idea of a canal between Olympia and Grays Harbor, an undertaking that at one time was a contender with Grand Coulee Dam for Federal construction dollars. President Showalter summed it up best when he said the club “took active part in every movement for [the] betterment of the community whether initiated by Kiwanis or other organization.”

Olympia Kiwanis also placed its energies into its own internal organization, providing a welcome gathering for its members while maintaining its ties to the national organization and creating bonds with Kiwanis clubs in other cities.

The core of all that was the weekly meeting, held at the Hotel Olympian. The agenda was richly varied and a steady stream of speakers and entertainment attracted the members. The calendar governed some of the subjects: there was always a special program for Armistice Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas; meetings in February ensured that there would be talks about Presidents Lincoln and Washington; and May brought a celebration of Mother’s Day.³ At other times, the program offered subjects inspirational – “Getting a Kick Out of Life,” by a local minister – and educational – “Outlook for Disarmament at Geneva,” by the editor of the Daily Olympian. The speakers could be from among the members themselves, visiting fellow Kiwanians, educators, businessmen, or anyone else who knew something that they could be enticed to share. A representative of the Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Company talked about the manufacture of glass, State Highway Engineer Lacey Murrow talked about highways, two students from St. Martin’s College were brought forward to recount their college life, and the owner of the Capitol Steam Laundry explained how he got clothes clean. There was a “special entertainment” by an expert roller-skater and another guest demonstrated “some interesting experiments” with liquid air. Presentations that included motion pictures received particular note. Kiwanians saw films about the Tennessee Valley Authority, sites on the Olympic Peninsula, the attractions of the San Diego Fair, and Army outposts. The club scored a coup in 1936 when Al Ulbrickson, coach of the University of Washington’s Olympic gold medal winning men’s crew team, showed films of the victory. Sports players and coaches were always popular guests, whether they showed films or not. In 1938, Leo Lassen, a legendary baseball broadcaster, addressed the Kiwanians on his favorite subject. It must have been an event that stayed in the memory of all who were there on that day; Lassen was known for his patter and was hired for his first broadcasting job because he “could talk the legs off a chair.” Not to be outdone, Royal Brougham, another sports broadcasting luminary, appeared at a meeting several months later.

Many meetings included music (there was at times a special Music Week in conjunction with Mother’s Day) and the selection was diverse. Olympia Kiwanis had its own octette that performed frequently, and the high school offered performances from its boys double quartette and girls double sextette as well as its orchestra and 60-voice choir. There were appearances by an accordionist, more than one violin player, a trombonist, and a range of vocal soloists.

Other functions were more generally social. There was the annual picnic and oyster dinner, and special events for the wives of the members. A trip was laid out through the Olympic Mountains lasting three days and included stops at Civilian Conservation Corps camps along the way.⁴

³ But not Father’s Day, which did not become an official holiday until 1972, despite its origin in Spokane in 1910.

⁴ There is a tiny scrap of paper pasted into a collection of newspaper articles that is part of the Olympia Kiwanis archives that appears to be associated with the trip. It is the chorus of the “Olympia Highway Song” and is

There were golf tournaments and regular joint meetings with Rotary and the Lions Club. Additionally, under the somewhat social category of inter-club relations, there was a continuing succession of visits to other Kiwanis clubs in Shelton, Elma, Centralia, Pe Ell, Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Tacoma, Bremerton, South Bend, Raymond, Enumclaw, and Victoria, B. C.

By the end of the decade, club membership had grown to an average of 87 members; not bad for a community that had a population of about 13,000. Olympia Kiwanis had got through the years of the Great Depression and demonstrated imagination and commitment to its ideals. In the words of O. H. Olson, president in 1939, it was a combination of well-balanced social activities and constructive committee work that created fellowship among the members and paid off for the community. Kiwanians had proved the worth of their organization during a difficult time; they would be tasked to do it again with another difficult period about to begin.

reproduced here in full: "Oh Olympic Highway to the Olympics / Through the Olympic rich peninsula / Crank the Lizzie onward to the Olympics / Through the Olympic rich peninsula." Perhaps wisely, the author is unknown.

A World War and Recovery: 1940 - 1949

Frank Hensley

How many of us remember Betty Grable or Harry James? They were icons of the 1940s, a decade that started with the Great Depression still in effect. Bread was eight cents a loaf. A new car could be had for \$800. President Roosevelt was re-elected for an historic third term. Those ten years were a time of great change, starting with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7 and the entry of the United States into World War II. The Olympia Kiwanis Club (OKC) remained busy throughout the period, altering some long-standing programs and adding new efforts that matched the needs of the community.

As the 1940s began, OKC continued its emphasis on four areas centered on youth. A Boys and Girls program worked to encourage young people to secure a good education, to use leisure time wisely, and to develop responsible civic attitudes. The Underprivileged Child program sought to promote those same qualities in children whose circumstances might otherwise deny them the opportunity. The Vocational Guidance program helped young people to plan a life of usefulness and efficiency. And finally, the Public Affairs program promoted conditions that made it more likely that the youth would mature to future good citizenship.

In the weeks following Pearl Harbor, Olympia Kiwanis organized a special meeting on national defense with city and county commissioners, the city defense coordinator, and members of the city and state defense councils. Kiwanis members joined the USO, became leaders in Red Cross drives, and committed to 100 per cent participation in the purchase of War Bonds.

Pearl Harbor was followed in 1942 by the internment of citizens of Japanese descent. We still hear repercussions of that action. Remember war bonds? Dunkirk? The London Blitz? Anne Frank? Rosie the Riveter? Rationing? Near Olympia, Fort Lewis was a beehive of activity, together with McChord Field. The movie "Casablanca" was a hit. Boeing started making bombers.

It was a year of transition for OKC, with the club reorganizing to meet the war-time needs of the community. In addition to the programs already in place, club members heard speakers on defense related topics, took part in all civilian defense activities including scrap drives. Club membership suffered as Kiwanians joined the armed forces or became involved in defense industries; there were 71 members at the close of 1943, down from 84 at the end of 1940.

And our Kiwanis Club was busier than ever. We financed long-distance telephone calls for wounded and returning war veterans at Madigan Hospital. We co-sponsored a benefit football game to help finance this activity in cooperation with a city-wide committee. We also collected thousands of magazines for the wounded veterans. And yes, we sold War Bonds – about \$500,000 worth, which was a lot of money in those days.

We constructed and maintained two shelters for service men seeking a ride into or back from town. We converted a store into a hostel for soldiers stranded in town overnight, organized Christmas parties for service men in cooperation with the USO, and furnished a five-room house at the airport for those stationed there.

Kiwanians saw to it that underprivileged and orphaned children were cared for. Our club repaired and refurbished the home that we had established for a widow and her children. Some programs expanded to become city-wide programs. We held joint meetings with other agencies, the Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce among others. And we even held a gala celebration for Russian orphans from a ship in the harbor, an event undertaken with the consent and approval of the Russian Counsel and with the purpose of building international good will.

In 1943, Italy surrendered to the Allies and subsequently declared war on Germany. The tide of war was starting to turn, but we still had conflict in the Pacific Theatre with Japan. June of 1944 saw the Allies landing in Normandy, and the first V-1 “flying bombs” hitting London. OKC membership had recovered by the end of the year and the club began to look to the time when the war would be over. In the words of the club’s 1943 Achievement Report, “we have done something about making our city ready to receive the men in the service upon their return; not only as one big day of welcome, but have provided for social, economic and employment problems which we feel will provide for them and their families their immediate return to a normal life.” We provided speakers about patriotism, citizenship, public service and related subjects to other organizations. Vocational guidance was given to young people and youth groups. OKC continued its support of Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts, and sponsored the formation of an Air Scout Troop in the same manner that had led to the organization of a Sea Scout Ship previously.

In 1945, President Roosevelt died and Vice President Harry Truman took office. In the following month, Germany formally surrendered. Still later in 1945, the U. S. detonated atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Shortly thereafter, Emperor Hirohito announced the surrender of Japan. The war was over.

But Kiwanis continued its support of servicemen with a three-hour variety show for injured veterans at the Fort Lewis hospital. OKC members established regular correspondence with those in the armed services and invited those in town on furlough to club meetings. We purchased 100 pounds of candy for the annual Christmas party at the USO. We created and placed at key spots large church directories for service members unfamiliar with our city. We sponsored a naturalization class for ten individuals. Kiwanis continued to emphasize public affairs and citizenship in all its activities. Many volunteer hours were spent by our members and wives assisting the Red Cross, Community Chest, Rationing Board, and USO.

With the end of the war, things changed. 1946 was marked by both the Bikini atomic bomb tests and the bikini swimsuit. Dr. Spock’s first book on baby care was published. In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African-American baseball player in the major leagues. U. S. Secretary of State George Marshall spoke for the need to assist Europe in rebuilding. This was the start of the Marshall Plan.

Mahatma Ghandi was assassinated in 1948. Harry Truman was elected president despite headlines saying “Dewey Defeats Truman.” The Soviet Union blocked Western Allies routes into Berlin, stopping the flow of supplies and starting the Berlin Airlift. Following a Communist Revolution, the Peoples’ Republic of China was established in 1949.

OKC prospered after the war, with membership reaching 100 by the end of the decade. Immediate post-war activities continued – there were contributions to the fund for long-distance calls and programs of activities for several thousand veterans at the Madigan and American Lake

hospitals – however these dropped away as the years passed. The club returned to its foundational programs of Boys and Girls Work, Public Affairs, Underprivileged Children, and Vocational Guidance. The club purchased an airplane motor for the Air Scouts, entertained them at a luncheon, and found a place for them to meet. OKC members provided transportation for boys attending athletic events and acted as chaperones at teen dances. Support of the widow's home continued, although there was no more talk of establishing a second home, and the club paid the necessary fees so that several girls and boys could attend YMCA summer camp. There were no more citizenship classes for immigrants but more emphasis on local issues such as safe driving, getting out the vote, and better government. Club members helped arrange conferences between graduating high school students and college representatives as well as placing boys in apprenticeships with different industries.

Weekly meetings were a constant throughout the 1940s and provided a welcome event that was social as well as educational. A guest speaker was featured at almost every meeting and the topics were wide and varied. During the war years, topics addressed such subjects as "Our Duty on the Home Front," "The Public Schools and Total War," and "Our Navy." Later, the subjects stressed economy in government, labor and management problems, and taxation. OKC members visited other Kiwanis clubs in Raymond, Shelton, Tacoma, and Victoria, B.C., and were visited in turn by deputations from Salem, Chehalis, Seattle and other western Washington communities. Other events were strictly social. There was the annual picnic, a father-son dinner, and special programs for Mother's Day.

Kiwanis participation in the harvesting of crops and signing up volunteers to participate in this effort was also a significant postwar effort. We held joint meetings with the Ministerial Association, Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Lions Club. We observed newspaper week with guest speakers from all local newspapers. We continued to furnish speakers for granges, various service clubs and others, always emphasizing children and community service. And we enjoyed, for all our project and activities, an unusual amount of newspaper space publicizing club projects and activities.

New Energy and Fresh Ideas: 1950 - 1959

Sam Reed

The decade of the Fifties was the pivotal time after the Depression and World War II to revitalize our communities. The members of the Olympia Kiwanis Club were indefatigable as they enthusiastically and capably made a dramatic difference. It is a measure of these people that after sacrificing so much during the Depression and the war, they were so generous with their time, their talents, their brainpower, and their money. Rather than “it’s time for me to get mine,” they focused on making the broader community a good place to raise a family with a quality environment. The Kiwanians of the 1950s were remarkable for their selflessness, generosity and heartfelt caring for their community. It truly was “America’s Greatest Generation.”

The OKC surely was a shining example of David Halberstam’s perceptive observation regarding the 50s being an era of good will, expanding affluence, belief in the essential goodness of society, and optimism for the future. The community service provided by those 100-plus Kiwanians was extraordinary. Their commitment to the club is evidenced by an unbelievable 91% attendance record!

The club helped make Olympia a family-friendly community that cared for the needy as well as recognizing the successful. The work of its members with Olympia High School students was generous and productive. It is impossible to measure the impact they had on so many young lives and how many of those lives were changed for the better.

In its first three decades, the OKC could be characterized as a group of establishmentarian business and professional leaders primarily focused on civic betterment. Responsive to the immense transformations in America and in Olympia in the 50s, the club changed its focus and its style. For one thing, they had fun! Their meetings commenced with boisterous singing. Members were fined a dime for plugging their business or not wearing a Kiwanis pin. There was ubiquitous laughter as veterans’ humor dominated the meetings with practical jokes, swapping humorous stories, and good-natured ribbing. They enjoyed their meetings in the 50s.

Fundraising changed significantly in the 50s. Rather than just hitting up local businessmen for big bucks, it became more family-oriented and community-oriented. The Olympia Kiwanians flipped pancakes, hawked peanuts at the Pet Parade and Lakefair Parade, had fun-filled White Elephant sales, even had gum ball machines and (gasp) sold fruit cakes.

Rather than big projects for the city, the hospital, and the park system, the club appropriately emphasized its focus on families and youth. Examples of this dramatic change include school crossing lighting, the Olympia High School (OHS) music program, support for Cub Scout Packs, underprivileged children, the YMCA Youth Legislature, college and vocational guidance at OHS, safety booklets for grade school children, OHS scholarships for college, camp fees for needy children, and much more.

It is impressive to note the membership of more than 100 while the population of Olympia in 1950 was a mere 16,000 and Thurston County's was 35,000. The club's presidents were creatures of that time. They accurately reflected the dynamic 1950s. The club was fortunate to have exceptionally strong, capable and dynamic leadership throughout this pivotal decade, including three major figures in Olympia's history.

In 1950, the president was Jerry Kuykendall, an assistant Attorney General. Demonstrating that some lawyers actually have a heart and can be in tune with the times, Kuykendall launched the decade with many child-oriented projects including obtaining jobs for 150 students (with estimated earnings of \$22,460), providing trophies for youngsters in the City Recreation Program, providing 49 counselors for 513 OHS students covering 29 vocations, sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack, maintaining a widowed mothers' home, and providing money for cross walks and the OHS music program. But he made sure they had fun too. They had a Ladies Night, a stag dinner including entertainment, and a card party.

Reports of every OKC meeting were broadcast on KGY. To bring the Kiwanis families together, he threw a Christmas party with 145 in attendance, a past presidents/ladies dinner with 198 in attendance, and a Community Chest kickoff dinner (open to the community) with 385 in attendance. In addition to the child-oriented projects the club had in 1950, they provided speakers for eleven schools – including commencement addresses for high schools and colleges, provided the chairman and many workers for the Red Cross drive, helped pay for the St. Martin's debate team to go to West Point, and provided jobs for 102 students. These noteworthy services were provided by 107 members in 1951.

In 1952, one of the club's most revered stalwarts, Ralph Stormans, served as president. He owned and operated Ralph's Thriftway Store on Legion Street. An astute businessman, Ralph served on the board for the Puget Power & Light Company and the Capitol Savings Bank. His year was exceptionally productive. Since 1952 was an historic election year, the club sponsored two "Get Out The Vote" campaigns. They covered the city with window cards for the vote campaign. They provided every Kiwanis Club in the state with a booklet on state government and made it possible for every individual Kiwanian to obtain one. They had all candidates for local offices as guests to "state their policies." They did all the youth projects and community service projects of the previous two years. Ralph added his new wrinkles for social events with a joint meeting with the Olympia Host Lions Club, a dinner honoring the wives of deceased members, and a golf match with South Tacoma Kiwanis Club. The Olympia Kiwanians also helped Seattle host the Kiwanis International Convention that year – with 11,412 in attendance. Ralph Stormans went on to serve as Lieutenant Governor for Kiwanis in 1956.

The Stormans family has a long, impressive history with the club – dating back to the 1930s. Ralph's son, Ken, joined the club in 1965, went on to serve as a very capable president in 1970-71 and is still an active, contributing member at the time of this writing. The Stormans' grocery stores have contributed significantly to the club from the pancakes and peanuts of the mid-20th century to the roast beef sandwiches of the 21st century. The Stormans' leadership and generosity have helped the club make a huge difference in the community.

In 1953, the president was insurance broker Ray Weller. Like so many in the '50s, he must have liked to get in his car and drive. He emphasized interclubs – an activity that had just received formal definition by the Kiwanis International Board in September, 1951. Members of the club visited or hosted 21 clubs! They traveled 165 miles for an interclub with the Yakima Kiwanis Club and 120 miles for an interclub with the Ilwaco-Long Beach Kiwanis Club. They hosted clubs from Wenatchee and Pasco. There was excellent participation. For example, 22 members went to Shelton and 30 to the South Tacoma club.

With the enthusiasm of the 50s for economic growth and prosperity, the club engaged in a campaign to bring new industry to the county. Nearly \$50,000 was raised for the campaign. Sensitive to preserving Thurston County's beautiful, clean environment, the Kiwanians installed window displays advocating conservation of natural resources and assisted the Chamber of Commerce in hosting Congressmen regarding work on conservation issues.

Again typical of the decade, the members continued to emphasize children and families in the community. They provided student loans, sponsored dances, and held a Christmas party for their Cub Scout pack -- including a gift for each cub. The Kiwanians provided transportation and lunch for 395 children as well as 29 drivers, chaperones, and helpers for Kids Day at McChord Field. Responsive to those less fortunate, the club paid rent for a family stricken with tuberculosis, purchased shoes and clothing for children whose home was burned, and canvassed all county schools to develop a comprehensive list of under-privileged children. This remarkable community service was made possible because of the commitment of 109 active members.

In 1954, OKC had one the most colorful and exuberant presidents in its history. Harry Minor was a paratrooper during WW II. He dropped into France and was immediately captured by the Germans – ending up as a prisoner of war. He escaped and worked with the underground until the end of the conflict. Ten years later, he served as a president renowned for his humor and devilishness. He was the manager of the Olympic Theater -- now the site of the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. When presiding at the meetings, he would cleverly work in a plug for movies that were playing at his theater. While humorously feigning innocence, he was always fined for promoting his business -- a whole ten cents. Harry Minor provided quite a spark for the club and enlivened the meetings.

In 1955, the club's president was the most notable arts supporter in the Olympia area in the last half of the 20th century. He was Sherm Huffine, secretary for the Olympia Brewing Company, owned by the revered Schmidt family. Married to Clara Schmidt Huffine, he carried on that prominent family's Kiwanis tradition that began July 14, 1921, when Adolph Schmidt met with eleven other community leaders to organize the new Kiwanis Club of Olympia.

Huffine was a consummate gentleman. He quietly provided generous support and encouragement for decades to community leaders and organizations. This was particularly true with the arts. He served on the boards for the Seattle Opera and the Seattle Symphony. Locally, he helped spawn many arts organizations – including the Governor's Festival of the Arts, the Olympia Opera Association, and Ballet Northwest. Huffine was one of the initial leaders advocating and championing a performing arts center in Olympia.

With his interest in the arts, Huffine's presidency was characterized by contributions to the OHS music program, assisting in the Christmas display in Sylvester Park, and entertaining students, members of the armed forces, and others. He continued to provide support for families and youth. One new program was providing booklets on safety for 2500 grade school children.

His presidency emphasized big events and presentations. Among many other activities, the club assisted in promotion of the county fair, entertained the fair's queen and princesses, provided speakers for the city's elections, and observed Armed Forces Week by serving food to members of the armed forces. They also transported voters to the polls and distributed "I Have Voted" tags. He even arranged for a candidate for the President of the United States to be a speaker for the club!

During 1956, OKC sponsored the chartering of the Capital Kiwanis Club.

In 1957, Olympia Kiwanians provided key leadership in the founding of Capital Lakefair. The club sold peanuts in the first parade. Early in the history of Lakefair, the club had a food booth. They sold cotton candy and snow cones out of a trailer. While it was never very profitable, the members enjoyed working together and helped make Lakefair more fun for the kids.

The club's 1958 president was also prominent in Olympia's history. He was John Hendricks, well-known pharmacist, prominent business leader, well-liked community leader and later, in the 1970s, a Republican member of the Washington State House of Representatives. He was widely recognized for his heartfelt commitment to the greater Olympia community, for his booming voice, and for his "every customer is a friend and neighbor" drug stores. He was very outgoing, unusually capable, and a proud, loving family man.

His presidency stood out for its emphasis on reaching out to the community. He did this very effectively for his business and did the same for his club. For example, he ensured that there was a weekly news item in the *Daily Olympian* regarding Kiwanis activities and the birthdays of members. He also arranged with the KGY managers in the club to provide fifty spot announcements for the March of Dimes project. OKC also started the gum ball machines that year and raised \$550. The club assisted in the City Tennis Tournament and provided the trophies. Members organized conferences on future educational plans for high school seniors, with 22 colleges and nine trade and technical institutions represented.

Being naturally gregarious, Hendricks emphasized interaction with other clubs. Club members covered hundreds of miles to have interclubs with the Kiwanis Clubs in Bremerton, Raymond, South Bend, Pe Ell, Tacoma, and Onalaska. They even paid a visit to Centralia Junior College's Circle K Club.

Austin McClintock served as president in 1959. He liked hands-on activities, so he got the club doing things. For example, OKC took part in a city beautification project. With the help of a professional gardener, the members planted and fertilized a plot on West 5th Avenue. They also worked with the City Recreation Committee in a clean-up day of Priest Point Park. The Kiwanians not only worked, but they also provided supervision of the job by the Boy and Girl Scouts. They also took part in the YMCA's golden anniversary campaign. Finally, they

provided a home at nominal rent for a refugee family “who are adjusting themselves to American living.”

The decade was transformative for OKC, as it was for the nation and the world. WW II veterans provided new energy, fresh ideas and extraordinary enthusiasm for community service. The club was fortunate to have remarkable leaders throughout the decade. They helped make the change from a traditional get-out-the-checkbook service club focusing on community projects to a club delivering hands-on help and support for families and youth. The decade of the 50s set the course for the rest of the 20th century for this premier service club.

A New Commitment to Youth: 1960 - 1969

David Hansen

The Sixties began with the election of a President who seemed to offer a renewal of the promise of a better America, but those hopes dissolved with his assassination and the deepening commitment to an unpopular war. Other revered national leaders were lost and a generational schism divided the country with many young people questioning the values held by their elders. There was a draft, there were riots, and there were hippies, sex, drugs, and rock and roll. It was a confusing time, but the Olympia Kiwanis Club continued much as it had in years past while also committing to a major project that would greatly benefit youth at risk.

Like Kiwanis clubs elsewhere, the activities of OKC were guided by Kiwanis International. In the 1930s, the activities included a broad emphasis on underprivileged children and general community welfare; by the 1960s, the expectations of the national organization were represented by a more deliberate and comprehensive program. Each club had to report on at least five of eight activity areas: Agriculture and Conservation, Boys and Girls Work, Key Clubs, Circle K Clubs, New Club Building, Public and Business Affairs, Support of Churches in their Spiritual Aims, and Vocational Guidance. Moreover, there was a separate category for club administration. The local groups were expected to make progress in such areas as Membership Increase, Attendance, Education and Fellowship, Programs and Music, Inter-club Relations, Public Relations, as well as relations to the district and international organization. By the end of the decade, there were nine program activity areas with the addition of a category for International Relations, and Fellowship had been dropped from the list of administrative functions. The members of OKC didn't drop the idea of fellowship just because it was no longer included on reports to Kiwanis International; the spirit of fellowship was an important part of fulfilling the goals of the club.

A good idea of what OKC was like in the 1960s is best represented by the recollections of Cortland "Cort" Skinner. Like many Kiwanians, he was an active participant in his community. He served in the Navy during World War II and returned to his work with the Social Security Administration after the conflict. Cort Skinner was president of the United Way of Olympia and the Olympia Salmon Club and served on the boards of the State Capitol Museum, the South Sound Maritime Historical Association, and the Olympia Downtown Development Association.

I was President of the Olympia Kiwanis Club during the year 1966, golly, that's 35 years ago. How time flies when you're having fun. I opened each meeting with some egregious pun, a limerick, or some outrageous anecdote. The moans from the members were long and loud in response

This was a time of comparative quiet for the club. We were undertaking no bold new ventures, although some discussions were underway which led to the development of the OK Boys Ranch several years later. The club's biggest success was surviving my term in office practically unscathed. In those days, we had no women members. Almost all members wore suits and ties to the meetings for a more formal setting that in now the case, in part, because we had a smaller proportion of members who were retired. We didn't have happy dollars then, but there were many fines levied. The usual amount of the

fine as a dime, with most of the fines collected coming from the member's failure to wear his Kiwanis pin. Other fines were levied for a member's promoting his business, showing up with a particularly obnoxious tie, making an untimely wisecrack, etc. These fines pretty much covered our very modest administrative expenses.

We met in the Jade Room of the Hotel Olympian, Monday noon, followed by the Lions Club on Tuesday, and Rotary on Friday. The other two clubs knew what the menu was for the week from what we were fed on Monday. The saying then was Rotarians own the town, Kiwanians run it, and Lions have fun. The Jade Room served us at linen covered, round tables seating eight to a table. Down front was a table that charter members considered reserved for them and woe betide anyone else who had the temerity to attempt to sit there. Among the inhabitants of that table were G. I. Griffith (Mr. Kiwanis), Jay Bolster (poet laureate for the club), Carson Stookey, Howard Bench (song leader), Ted Eads, and others whom I can't recall. Meetings were opened as they do now [2001], with the flag salute, the "Star-Spangled Banner", "O Canada", a prayer, and we had time for at least one song which was usually "I want a girl, just like the girl who married dear old dad!" The club still owned the house that had been purchased during the Depression for use by a widow with children. By this time the need for this house was diminishing with the social welfare programs having taken over successfully. A few years later the house was sold at the time that the club built the O K Boys Ranch. One incident stands out in my memory. G. I. Griffith was introducing the speaker, Reno Odlin, bank president, Senate candidate, and a civic leader from Tacoma. The introduction had gone on for at least ten minutes and finally I asked, "Does he also make speeches?" With some hemming and hawing, Griff took the hint and let the speaker have the microphone.

The Olympia Kiwanians gave particular attention to local 4H clubs, support rising from a modest three 4H members in 1961 to 375 individuals by the end of the decade. For several years, the club contributed funds to help the purchase of calves that would be raised and exhibited by 4H boys and girls. A much more different undertaking was Kiwanis involvement with Youth in Government Day. During Spring vacation, 4H Junior Leaders spent a morning working with county government officials to develop an understanding of various government programs, and in the afternoon, they met as a group to formulate improvements to those programs. The following day, the Junior Leaders met with others in a conference for wider discussions. OKC also helped revise the awards presented to 4H members.

The 4H Junior Leaders responded by contributing to the beautification of the road in front of the County Fairgrounds by OKC. The 4H members provided labor along with OKC members, and other donations in the form of grading, topsoil, and plant material followed. The County Fair Board also chipped in, rebuilding the fence and gateway, and installing a new water system. A rose garden was planted in front of the main building and a row of Port Orford cedar was planted along the road next to the parking lot. The project significantly transformed the fairgrounds entry area.

Olympia Kiwanis maintained its involvement in the Scouting programs that it had established in previous decades. The members supported a Campfire Girls group, a Cub Scout Pack, and a Boy Scout Troop; funded two Girl Scouts to attend camp; purchased films for the Boy Scout Leaders Training Library; held a Court of Honor for a new Eagle Scout; and invited area boys who had attended the Boy Scout Jamboree to speak at a meeting.

Taking in the decade as a whole, OKC seemed to be everywhere at once. It continued the vocational guidance program at Olympia High School, provided financial aid for scholarships, and invited high school honors students to lunch. Kiwanis dollars went to the YMCA, the school boy safety patrol, the Child Guidance Association, the Christmas Service Bureau, and others. OKC members were active in Get Out The Vote campaigns, helped the American Legion in a flag display, worked with Morningside on a shelter workshop for the disabled, assisted the Red Cross chapter in preparing Christmas gifts for local servicemen in Vietnam, worked with the city on bus transportation, promoted the siting of a new four-year college in Olympia, and instituted a White Elephant Sale.

The most ambitious undertaking came with the decision to establish a home for junior high-age boys in trouble. The idea began in 1968 when a group of OKC members looked into sponsoring what they called a half-way house for pre-delinquent children. The next year, a committee further considered the project, met with juvenile officers and judges, and visited such homes in western Washington to provide a better understanding of the costs involved. The anticipated expense was steeper than anticipated, and there were more discussions with state officials about the availability of funding to help. The legislature agreed to cover the operational costs if the OKC could provide the building, and the matter was placed before the membership for its consideration.

Speaking on behalf of the project was OKC member Hewitt Henry, who was also a Superior Court judge. He told of boys brought before him when he presided as a judge in Juvenile Court, first offenders whose prospects for good citizenship hinged almost entirely on changing the living circumstances that had underlain the events that had brought them before the court. He was certain that one effective way to resolve their potential loss to delinquency was to provide a home that could take them as pre-delinquents. Other speakers echoed the same message and with that, the club members voted their confidence in the project.

The boys who would be the residents were wards of the court, of good character and who had been deprived of the advantages of a normal home life. They would attend public schools, go to churches of their choice, receive care and guidance, and would have recreational opportunities as well as medical attention if required. House parents would provide counselling and leadership, and a cook would prepare meals.

Initially the thought was to establish the home in a rural setting – and be known as the OK Boys Ranch – but since the boys came from an urban environment, it made more sense to locate the facility in the same type of area. One suggestion was to use a surplus Quonset hut for the purpose but it quickly became evident that the only satisfactory home was one that would last for a long time and would be designed for the specific needs of the occupants. It also became quickly evident that such a building would be more costly than originally thought. OKC had some funds available from the sale of the Widowed Mother's Home, a house that had been built decades before to shelter a widow and her children at below-market rent, and from \$100 pledged to the project by each club member. Hal Wolfe became OKC president in October, 1969, and under his leadership the club embarked on an aggressive and successful fund-raising campaign that involved the whole community. Some OKC members left the organization, feeling that the project was larger than the club could manage, however the OK Boys Ranch concept attracted many new members who liked the idea of doing something big. Overall, the undertaking gave

the club a boost in enthusiasm and pride, especially so when the project dramatically moved forward in the 1970's.

Olympia Kiwanis in the 1960s was a club that did things rather than a club that raised money. Its annual income rarely exceeded \$3,000 and most of that flowed out in the form of scholarships, grants, and club expenses. The most successful fund raisers were the Pancake Feed and Radio Day, which involved Kiwanians soliciting advertisements from community businesses and then reading those ads on the air. Smaller amounts came from selling popcorn to the crowds at Lakefair and the Pet Parade. Its many undertakings and fellowship attracted new members, the club roles growing from 116 in 1961 to 141 individuals in 1969. The 1960s were a confusing time, but OKC must have been doing something right.

Sponsoring a Boys Home and Key Clubs: 1970 - 1979

Lucille Carlson

The 1970s were a tumultuous time in our nation. In addition to the Watergate coverup and anti-war college campus riots, there was a continuation of 1960s movements, marginalized people continued their fight for equality, the women's movement was in full swing, and the Vietnam War was winding down. The Olympia Kiwanis Club celebrated its 50th birthday in 1971 and moved forward into the decade as a fully mature service organization of well over 100 members, one of the anchors in the Thurston County community. The club had its own continuation of a 1960s effort during the 1970s and that was the opening and supporting of a very ambitious Boys Home project.

The Boys Home project began in 1968 under President Bill Lowry as a response to homeless boys in the Olympia community. The membership, in an organized effort, took the homeless problem to the community and the Boys Home project was underway by 1970. It was patterned after the Deslyn Boys Ranch in Tacoma, a well-run, state funded institution and it was a long-term commitment to our community. G. I. and Della Griffith donated the property. Past Governor George Yantis donated the excavation work. Architect Bob Olsen drew up the plans and Lucas Construction built the facility at cost. Past Governor Don Miles provided legal advice. Much of the lumber and supplies were donated and 1969-1970 President Hal Wolf secured a \$100 donation from all members save one. Funds from the sale of the Widow's Home were also dedicated to this project.

The Boys Home opened in 1971 and OKC provided financial support by way of an \$8000 annual subsidy to the operator of the facility. Initially, the Boys Home took no public funds and had complete control over the occupants. The Boys Home continued to be the major focus of OKC in the 1970s. By 1980, 200 boys had been served. Over the years, OKC began to take public funds, lost control over the occupants, and closed the Boys Home in 1994. The club transferred the assets to Community Youth Services.

The Kiwanis Ladies, which consisted primarily of members' wives, dedicated many hours to the Boys Home providing activities for the boys with birthday parties, educational outings, Christmas celebrations, kite building, pizza parties, and more. Women were involved in support of OKC projects long before they were invited to be members in the late 1980s.

OKC sponsored the creation of two local Kiwanis Clubs in the 1970s, the Tumwater Kiwanis Club and the Senior Kiwanis Club. The club also provided scholarships to Evergreen Boys State, gave money to Thurston County Youth Services Drop-in Center and continued to sponsor the Lincoln School Cub Scout Pack.

By 1970, OKC had established and awarded scholarships to high-school students that could be used towards a two-year vocational schooling or a four-year degree in any field of study. Even before a formal Key Club organization was established, Kiwanis had achieved a notable reputation as a service club that supported and encouraged high-school students to achieve their goals. In 1974, the club continued to provide vocational guidance by adding Project Try, which provided vocational information to high school students. For two years, 1974-75 and 1975-76, under the direction of Leslie Metzger and Robert Olson, the club awarded a Thurston County Youth of the Year award.

OKC made another long-term commitment to our community in October 1971 when, under the direction of Kiwanis Presidents Kenneth Stormans and Fred Thunberg, it chartered the first Key Club at Olympia High School (OHS). The mission of Key Clubs is to promote caring as a way of making the world a better place. Students grow as individuals and leaders by answering the call to serve and lead. In the 1980s, Olympia Kiwanis also supported the Key Club at Capital High School (CHS).

According to Thomas Rainey's History of Olympia Area Key Clubs, OKC sponsored two service clubs at OHS, a Key Club and a Spade Club, founded in 1971. Encouraged by Kiwanis International and OKC, students of OHS established, with faculty help and encouragement, the Spade Club. This student service club at first had the primary mission "to promote the welfare of the physically and mentally handicapped people in Olympia and the surrounding area. The Spade club members changed their name in 1979 to the Sky Club and, in the course of time, merged with the OHS Key Club.

In 1971, there was community pressure for OHS Key Club to welcome female classmates. The self-governing boys club was divided at first on the admission of female classmates to their ranks. However, a second vote on the issue passed and then a torrent of interested female classmates flooded the OHS Key Club.

The first female President of the OHS Key Club was Lynne (Tolman) Urvina, who was elected to that post in 1972. Ms. Urvina (daughter of member Glen Tolman) would later become a president of OKC in 2013. Jennifer Statham (daughter of member Lawrence Gooch) was president of OKC during its 100-year anniversary. She was also a Key Club member in high school.

Eventually, the OKC-sponsored Key Clubs would benefit from another continuation from the 1960's, the Vietnam War. With the end of the war in 1975, Vietnamese refugees immigrated to the US in waves both just before and just after the fall of Saigon. President Ford initiated funding to help states facilitate the settlement of Vietnamese refugees. Daniel J. Evans, then Washington governor, actively facilitated locating these refugees in Washington State. In fact, Washington was the second state in the nation in accepting Vietnamese immigrants, behind California. On May 19, 1975, the first families arrived at Camp Murray near Fort Lewis where they were given temporary housing and matched with sponsors. Here in Olympia, Vietnamese refugees entered high schools and became active in the Key Clubs at OHS and CHS. Children in the Vietnamese community in Olympia have been part of the Key Club history now since that

time, holding positions of leadership in their local clubs and their district organizations and making great contributions in service to our local community.

How did Olympia Kiwanians support all these 1970s projects and donations? Lakefair was already part of the club's public face, but it was pre-roast beef days, with cotton candy, popcorn and snow cones sold from the Lakefair Kiwanis booth and peanuts sold along the route of the annual parade.

Another ongoing food-based project was a twice-per-year Pancake Feed at the Olympia Center, known for its Herman Koehler's delicious blueberry syrup. But, perhaps no other event brought out the "fun" in fundraising like the 1975 to 1979 "Magnificent Merchandise Mart". Originally envisioned as an oversized community garage sale, the event grew and grew some more until it required 10,000 feet of space and included unsold merchandise from local stores as well as boats and cars offered on consignment. Leftover items were donated to the Goodwill.

The Mart was both a complex task to bring off and a source of fun for the members. Members serving under Executive Chairman Fred Thunberg, aka "The Great White Elephant", took on their own names including "Loud Mouth (advertising chair), "Rembrandt" (sign committee chair) and "Mule Skinner" (selling committee chair). The sale took place variously at the corner of 4th and Cherry and at Lacey Village Center, and came equipped with two themes, one sung to the tune of "Sidewalks of New York" and the other to "Take me out to the ballgame":

Eastside, Westside
Mainly right downtown
Kiwanis is holding a mighty sale
A sale of great renown...

Take me out to the Mart
Take me out to the crowd
Buy me something useless that I lack
I don't care if we never get back...

Unlike the tumultuous national scene during the 1970s, OKC undertook its projects of the 1970s in an orderly fashion and had fun while doing it. Its two long term projects, the creation of a Boys Home facility and the beginning of area high school key clubs are still alive 50 years later. As of the Olympia Kiwanis 100-year anniversary, the Boys Home facility is still being used and operated under the name Touchstone through a lease with Community Youth Services and the state's Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration within the new state agency for Children. The OHS and CHS Key Clubs are still active and supporting the community. Job well done, 1970s Kiwanians!

Women Join Kiwanis!: 1980 - 1989

Jan Britt

As the eighties began, the Olympia Kiwanis Club pancake breakfasts continued as a fundraiser. Meetings were held at the Olympia Elks Club, which at that time was across the street from Capital Lake. There was a weekly newsletter mailed to all members; it summarized the Monday meetings and past and upcoming events. A balanced series of programs on political issues of the day continued to be a part of the OKC programs.

It was in 1982 that club began the tradition of staffing a water stop for the Capital City Marathon.

The April 18, 1983 meeting was devoted to a discussion on the issue of female membership in Kiwanis clubs. It was a close vote, but the club voted to exclude women members. Meanwhile, club members pitched in to help improve the park around Capital Lake to get it ready for the 1984 Women's Olympic Marathon Trials.

The club also began its annual Law Enforcement Officer of the Year recognition program in May, 1983, an event that continues to this day.

In 1984, the club supported the United States Olympic Marathon Trials that were held in Olympia during Mother's Day weekend. Club members provided transportation around the greater Olympia area for participants during the week preceding the marathon.

In 1986, the June 8th pancake breakfast was held at the Community Center at 1314 4th avenue. Adults were \$3 each, with children six to 12 years of age \$1.50 each. Children five years of age and under were free. "Oly-opoly", a board game based on Monopoly was sold as a fundraiser for \$10.00. Food booths remained a popular fundraising venue, at both Capital Lakefair and the Thurston County Fair (although we're not sure what type of food was sold). In 1986, the club netted \$825 from its booth at the Thurston County Fair.

In 1986, the club took another vote regarding women as members. This year, the vote was in favor of allowing persons of all genders to become members of the club. It was a risk-taking step since Kiwanis International still held that membership in Kiwanis was limited to men; the admission of Lorilie Thompson as a member of OKC was conditional on the approval of Kiwanis International. Meanwhile, the question of women membership in Kiwanis was impacted by a Supreme Court decision that opened Rotary organizations to women. At the 1987 Kiwanis International Convention in Washington, D. C., the feeling among the leadership was that the Supreme Court decision would also apply to Kiwanis. OKC President Rex Derr made a motion from the floor to admit women, and the motion passed. As a result, there was an increase in Kiwanis membership nationwide of 3,000 women in the six months following the action.

Poinsettia sales became a holiday fundraiser in 1986, and have been a successful venture for the club ever since. Meanwhile, a holiday tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army "red kettles" continued, with controversy over the designation of the Kiwanian bell ringers – should

they be called the “Storm Troopers” or the “ding-a-lings” or “ring-a-lings”? “Jail and Bail” events were also popular methods of increasing contributions for the American Cancer Society. Some Kiwanians got “arrested” and needed to make a lot of phone calls before they could raise their bail to get freed. Golf tournaments and contests also brought in money for community services.

To liven things up, at some meetings members wore their favorite hat. At other meetings, members wore their favorite bow-tie and favorite suspenders. Instead of happy dollars, the last meeting of the year encouraged members to announce and contribute “resolution” dollars. The club hosted a “recruitment reception” for prospective members at a local restaurant. During 1987, the club made donations totaling \$10,250 to projects including the OK Boys Ranch, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, the Salvation Army and the Japanese Garden. The children’s emphasis for the year was the American Diabetes Association Bike-a-Thon, with \$1,000 raised and donated to that cause. Another \$1,900 was presented to the Olympia Association for the Education of Youth Children to prevent child abuse. The club donated \$250 to the Bread and Roses kitchen for homeless persons. Annual Poinsettia sales netted \$6,000.

A new fundraiser was added in 1987 – the Capital Lakefair roast beef sandwich booth. This activity was modeled after previous successful events held by the Kirkland Kiwanis Club and South King County Kiwanis Club. The first year netted a profit of \$3,616.

In 1988, the Kiwanis International Convention was held in Seattle, Washington, with over 12,000 Kiwanians present. This was the second time that the international convention met in Seattle – the first was in 1952. Don Miles, an Olympia Kiwanian, successfully ran and was elected to the position of Kiwanis International Trustee also in 1988.

The club assisted in co-ed relay races at Olympia High School. They also had 12 residents of the OK Boys Ranch participating in the Diabetes Bike Ride Plus fundraiser, bringing in \$736. This was the largest amount raised by any group in the state.

The “Kiwanis Ladies” baked Christmas cookies for the OK Boys Ranch, made blankets, sponsored two pizza feeds, and baked personalized birthday cakes for every boy on his birthday. They also sponsored a picnic at Priest Point Park for all the kids and the staff.

A new “Capital Kiwanis Club” was sponsored and built, to meet in the evenings. It was chartered on June 30, 1988.

OKC formed a new committee to assist the community to build a railroad station for Olympia. Many organizations and individuals helped in the effort, and the new building opened in 1993. It is believed to be the only Amtrak station both constructed and operated by volunteers.

The 1988 Capital Lakefair roast beef sandwich booth netted \$6,100 for the club coffers. In 1988, OKC gave \$4,000 to the OK Boys Ranch to finance a van for transportation. Another \$448 was raised by passing the hat at a club meeting to fund Christmas presents for the boys. Club members also sold entertainment books as a fundraiser.

Olympia High School students were recognized for Achieving by Believing at regular meetings in 1989 and continued in the years ahead.

It was in 1989 that Olympia Kiwanian Phil Paulsrude started the club's first food bank garden. In that initial year, we grew slightly over 200 pounds of vegetables for the Thurston County Food Bank.

The state of Washington celebrated its centennial of statehood on 1989, and OKC had a hand in one of the activities that highlighted the occasion. The Lewis and Clark Trail Run followed a portion of the 1805 – 1806 route taken by the famed Lewis and Clark Expedition from the Idaho/Washington border to the mouth of the Columbia River. More than 1300 runners participated in the 505-mile event that took place over eight days. OKC coordinated all souvenir sales and netted \$4,021.73 for our club. Members also helped with the City of Olympia's new Japanese Garden. The garden was a product of the sister city relationship between Olympia and Yoshiro (later renamed Kato); two OKC members, Lew Yarbrough and Tim Malone, were both presidents of the Olympia-Yoshiro Sister City Association. Kiwanis members contributed \$500 toward the construction of the garden as well as using their own shovels and rakes in a work party to help get the garden started.

The first annual Olympia Kiwanis Picnic was held at Burfoot Park on September 17th, 1989. If your last name started with A-L, you brought a salad or vegetable dish. If your last name started with M-Z, you brought a desert dish. The club provided hot dogs and chips.

An "Earthquake Relief" hat was passed to help support our fellow Kiwanians in San Francisco following the Loma Prieta earthquake in October of 1989. The effort raised \$230.

The 1980's brought some major changes to the club that for the most part have continued to the present. They include:

- Women were allowed to become Kiwanians;
- Poinsettia sales for an annual fundraiser began,
- The Law Enforcement Officer of the Year recognition program began;
- Support of a water stop at the Capitol City Marathon began;
- The Capital Lakefair roast beef sandwich booth sales started; and
- The club started its food bank garden.

Keep on Keeping On: 1990 - 1999

Marla Kentfield

Thanks to the on-going commitment and leadership of members, significant projects begun in the 1980s thrived and grew in providing direct services to our community. The wood project, begun after the 1996/97 ice storm, delivered firewood to low-income residents using it as a primary heat source. Olympia Kiwanis Club members delivered more than 50 cords in 1998, and in that same year, built a large shed to store drying wood. The garden project, which delivered 200 lbs. of fresh produce to the Thurston County Food Bank in 1989, was growing and delivering 14,500 lbs. by 1998. The gardens received lots of community support and benefited from the assistance of interns from The Evergreen State College, Key Clubbers from Olympia High School (OHS), local business groups participating during the United Way Day of Caring in September timeframes, many individual volunteers and, for some years starting in 1998, supervised work crews from the state's Cedar Creek Corrections Center.

A major happening in 1980s Kiwanis world, the decision to allow women to become Kiwanians, began having positive results, clearly demonstrated by Olympia Kiwanis when Terri Loe became our first woman president in 1993/94. And that was just the start as Kay Hopkes took the reins in 1995/96, followed by Marla Kentfield in 1997/98, the same year that Kay Hopkes became the first woman Lieutenant Governor for Kiwanis Division 38, which included all the Kiwanis clubs in Thurston and Mason Counties. These women and all women Kiwanians have served with caring, passion and leadership skills equal to the job. The *Daily Olympian* designated Marla one of South Sound Residents Who Make a Difference in its 1998 "Leadership 2000" series (likely initiated by her fellow Kiwanians!). Its news article accompanying the designation noted that she feels community involvement was a great way for [anyone] to learn leadership skills and enrich their lives. As Marla explained for Sam Reed's profile of her that year, "I'm passionate about what I'm passionate about. And I am passionate about service." Olympia Kiwanis was able to flourish while other service clubs disbanded, and most certainly our women members contributed to that success.

Fundraising projects supported annual grants by our Youth Services Committee to non-profits helping the children of our community. Two major projects started in 1980s -- July's Lakefair roast beef sandwich sales (\$9,214 in 1999) and December's Poinsettia sales (\$11,000 in 1997) -- continued to be the primary fundraisers each year, and supplemented the proceeds of an entertainment book (\$903 in 1994) and gumball sales (\$1,180 in 1994). In 1945, the Ford Gum Co. hatched the idea for Lions and Kiwanis clubs to earn 1/10th of a cent for each gumball sold if they would setup and maintain machines in their downtown communities. Olympia Kiwanis' project was shepherded by former OKC President Wayne Bishop. And who can forget the Olyopoly fundraiser (licensed through the publishers of the "Monopoly" game) with local businesses sponsoring an advertising square on the board. Sale of the games kicked off in the summer of 1991, bringing in \$1,300 by August. As sales dipped over the years, the remaining games were donated to the Key Club; it earned \$575 in 1998 sales to use in service projects and attendance at the annual Pacific Northwest Key Club convention.

Not satisfied with just raising funds for Kiwanis, the Community Services Committee continued to marshal Kiwanis volunteers for the American Cancer Society's Jail & Bail fundraiser during the early 1990s, the March of Dimes Walkathon and the Salvation Army's holiday bell ringing campaigns throughout the 1990s. And those were just the official club-sanctioned projects. The involvement of Kiwanis members in our community expanded far beyond the club's work. At most weekly meetings, members involved with other local non-profits provided the opportunity for their fellow members to support their efforts, to the extent that in 1992 the OKC board requested that individual fundraising requests be kept low key, announced during the "Happy Dollars" segment of weekly meetings, with sign-ups left at the front table.

Lots of good to give! And, as with firewood and produce, it wasn't always about dollars. During the 1990s there were collections among Kiwanians of books for the alternative Puget Sound High School in Lacey (1990), baby food for the Thurston County Food Bank (1991), toys and cribs for the Salvation Army shelter (1991), toys and books for the Olympia Child Care Center (1993), pairs of eyeglasses for the Pacific Northwest District "Save Old Spectacles" drive (1993), and non-perishable food for the Salvation Army shelter (1998). The local high schools' co-ed relay races continued to be sponsored, as was the youth leadership training for Olympia High students. In 1991, OKC took on a new project -- the sponsorship of an Up With People concert by teenagers from around the world. The next year, the club provided breakfast for approximately 600 Special Olympians at their track meet at Olympia High.

Commitment to the Kiwanis International motto "We Build" was reflected in the work of the Program Committee in presenting a wide variety of civic-minded programs each week. Members heard the pros and cons of state-wide initiatives as well as those for school and other local bond issues., All candidates for local elections were invited to speak and local representatives gave summaries of state legislative action. Other informative presentations covered local culture and events, youth programs, non-profit activities, civic projects, and international issues. There were many favorites among the annual programs, including Dick Nichols' overview of the upcoming high school football season, speeches by the Lakefair princesses representing local high schools, and the club's sponsorship of North Thurston Kiwanis Club's luncheon presentation of the Thurston County Citizen of the Year award (particularly 1990 when our own Les Metzger received the award!).

Another favorite program was the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards, initiated in 1983 by member and 20-year (1974-94) Thurston County Prosecutor Patrick Sutherland. Pat served as Olympia Kiwanis president in 1994/95 and was a much beloved member of the club. Pat died suddenly of a heart attack on September 22, 1995, just as his term as president was ending. He always introduced friends to others as "my very best friend." He served his term as president with humor and integrity. A graduate of Notre Dame and the University of Washington Law School, he was quick to join in renditions of the school songs and donate "Happy Dollars" for football wins. Like so many Olympia Kiwanians, Pat was very involved in his community. He was a trustee of St Martin College and served on the boards of the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, United Way, Morningside, Olympia Heritage Commission, Eagles, and Elks. He was also a former president of the Thurston County Cancer Society, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and the Washington Association of County Officials. His service was an enduring asset to our club, our community and our state. After Pat's passing, his "very best friend" Don Law led the effort he began, now named the "Patrick Sutherland Officer of the Year Awards."

The 1990s also brought a difficult, challenging time for our club that tested the resiliency of our members. The Olympia Kiwanis Boys Ranch (OKBR), founded in 1971, unfortunately had a troubled history before it closed in 1994. The OKBR had a contract with the state's Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) that provided most of the financial support and a source for referral of boys to the Ranch. DSHS provided liaison people (inspectors) to frequently visit group homes and foster care homes. During the late 80's and through 1991, the OKBR inspection reports were positive, talking about a great atmosphere in a loving home with well qualified staff and an excellent reputation.

However, in June 1992, there were reports of serious issues at the ranch. A civil suit was brought against DSHS, Kiwanis, the Ranch, some of the OKBR directors individually, the ranch staff, and others. DSHS determined that it was in its interest to settle out of court for a significant financial payout and that action caused other defendants, including Kiwanis, OKBR, and several individuals to also settle. It became obvious that the Ranch should be closed. The property, in accordance with state law governing non-profit corporations, was given to Community Youth Services per resolution of OKBR board and approved by OKC members in 1994. Many Kiwanians were disappointed and disturbed by these events. Because of privacy and legal concerns, most details could not be shared with club members. As difficult as these issues were, it did not stop the ongoing good works of the OKC.

A highlight of those good works was the sponsorship of the Key Club at Olympia High School, first chartered in 1971. The Key Club is the oldest and largest service program for high school students; each club elects its own officers and forms its own committees, performs community service activities, and fundraises to support those projects. In addition, OKC supported Achieving by Believing awards to OHS students, who were selected by their teachers and administrators for overcoming challenges to excel in school and life. Many of our college scholarship were awarded to Key Clubbers and Achieving by Believing students. As one of our Sponsored Youth Committee members commented, "being around the 'best of the best' young people gave me faith and confidence in our future." Among Key Club service projects were writing letters to Gulf War soldiers (1990), holiday decorating at St Peter Hospital's Sunshine House for families of critically ill patients, babysitting for "Parents Night Out" at the Hands-on Children's Museum, and assisting at the annual Harbor Days Festival. The contributions of the OKC-sponsored Youth Committee to our community were doubled when Jan Britt and Tony Benjamins assisted with starting a Key Club at Capital High School in 1995.

Olympia Kiwanis also became part of a greater, global service effort in the 1990s. Kiwanis International 1990/91 President Dr. Wil Blechman believed that Kiwanis could have a global impact on improving children's health. The traditional "major emphasis" of his term was a multi-year international focus titled Young Children: Priority One. A first- ever, United Nation/UNICEF World Summit for Children was held September 29-30, 1990, and was attended by 71 heads of state and 88 senior officials. Kiwanis International signed on to partner with UNICEF to achieve one goal of the summit's action plan: the virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD), a disease that was the leading preventable cause of mental retardation, by 2000. Kiwanians worldwide raised more than \$80 million towards this Priority One goal, exceeding the initial target of \$75 million, and Olympia Kiwanis stepped up to do its part.

The Kiwanis Pacific Northwest District was part of an early roll out of the IDD project and thanks to generous donations by our own Don Miles, a Kiwanis International Trustee, and his wife Kathrine, we were off to a great start. In June, 1994, Jack Olson led a fundraiser selling fresh chocolate chip cookies at The Evergreen State College Super Saturday Festival with proceeds going to the Priority One project. After inviting all her fellow Kiwanians to their March, 1995, wedding, Marla and her husband Kurt Kentfield asked for donations to IDD in lieu of gifts, adding another \$2000 to the cause. Also in 1995, Human and Spiritual Aims Committee co-chairs Mark Dowdy and Ellen Lundberg started a “loose change” collection at weekly meetings with all proceeds in the first few years going to the IDD project. For three years, beginning in 1997, a unique golf ball drop raffle was held at the Eagle Quest Golf Center driving range with up to 1000 numbered golf balls dropped from a helicopter with the three balls closest to the cup winning cash prizes. Members sold and purchased \$5 tickets, and the project also benefited from local business in-kind contributions and sponsorships from Heritage Bank, South Sound Printing, Eagle Quest, Indian Summer, Classic Travel and Northwest Helicopter. In 1998, member and financial analyst Rick Millar won the “hole in one” grand prize of \$1,500, “doubled” his \$50 investment in tickets, and donated the \$1,400 balance to IDD. Thousands of dollars more in donations were added as individual members took part in the Kiwanis International goal of \$150 pledged by every Kiwanian worldwide by 1998. That effort was further incentivized by OKC president Marla Kentfield, who pledged an additional \$10 for every \$100 pledged by Olympia Kiwanis members.

The Kiwanis International Foundation received nearly \$25,000 towards the IDD project from Olympia Kiwanis. For each \$2,000 donated by OKC members, our club was able to recognize individuals through the presentation of the prestigious Kiwanis Tablet of Honor. It is the highest award given by the Kiwanis International Foundation to acknowledge the men and women who gave unselfishly of their time and talents to make a better community and a better world. A committee was appointed by the board to accept nominations based on significant contributions to the club’s efforts, with first year recipients in 1998 including Gene Forrester, George Yantis, and Les Metzger.

Olympia Kiwanis in a New Millennium: 2000 - 2009

Derek Valley

As the calendar's odometer clicked to the year 2000, anticipation and optimism as well as concern and worry filled the air. What lay ahead was unknown, but isn't that the situation we all face each day in life? Rich or poor, the world's population faces that unknown. Resoundingly, the poor need a hand to help rise from poverty, to be lifted from food insecurity, and to acquire an education. The Olympia Kiwanis Club members felt that trepidation of the future but knew that through service to community we were doing our part. Those feelings and that work wove through our volunteering for the next decade and beyond.

A close Presidential election, two wars, and a wobbly economy led to the recession of 2006, affecting families in need. The impending revenue downturn, loss of jobs, and unsteady economic situation in Washington State set up the need to plan for a supply of more fresh vegetables to the Thurston County Food Bank. OKC members responded with an expansion of the Kiwanis Food Bank Gardens.

Much discussion led to a proposal to use large raised beds located on the east Capitol Campus. Access was easy, and water and storage resources were available. The growing environment was perfect: large spaces, good solar exposure, concrete and brick raised beds for retaining heat, all of which led to an advantageous garden site. The soil was a well-drained sandy loam, needing only some good compost and fertilizer. Plans for spreading chicken manure turned into a temporary issue when the wind shifted from south to north and the sweet aroma of "chicken" entered the offices of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries through the building air flow system. That raised a "stink" with the employees. The Department of General Administration fielded complaints and reported the problem to Kiwanis members. Fast-acting volunteers rototilled the manure into the soil and the issue was solved. Labor and Industries as well as Department of Transportation employees joined a cadre of volunteers who worked those gardens. The produce raised went to the Food Bank with the help of this new set of volunteers who offered to help plant, weed, and harvest after work. Lincoln Elementary students were frequent visitors and helpers, and neighborhood families also pitched in. The Capitol Campus Garden, about a half-acre in size and very visible, led to the First Family starting a garden on the Governor's Mansion site and an offer from Jim Goche of the use of another one-half acre on his property in northeast Olympia. The club also tended a garden at Vista Village residential community in Lacey. During the middle of the decade, the harvest increased by 50 percent over previous years.

During the decade, our club members helped several established community service organizations that needed financial support to complete special projects, including the South Sound Reading Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, and the westside Olympia Child Care Center.

The South Sound Reading Foundation's goals are to get children interested in books through reading workshops, summer reading programs, and teaching that reading is the foundation of life. The Foundation approached each Kiwanis Club in Thurston and Mason Counties (Kiwanis Division 38) to support purchasing a van that would take books to the kids. Clubs in the Division completed the fundraising, and the South Sound Reading Foundation's new van was on

the road. OKC also donated books to the “Read 20 Minutes A Day” program. A thank-you letter from the Foundation acknowledged Kiwanis support: “Thank you, thank you for all of the wonderful books donated to the South Sound Reading Foundation. These books will help us with our summer reading program. We hope to make sure all kids are reading this summer and books you donated will help us do just that.”

South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity, a program that continues to build and repair homes for hardworking individuals and families in Thurston County, needed stimulus funds to help start its programs. Olympia Kiwanis stepped forward by awarding \$8000, and also approached the City of Olympia on behalf of Habitat for Humanity to request that required construction impact fees be reduced for the program that involved families donating “sweat equity” to their home building projects. In addition, the OKC satellite organization, the Waterfront Kiwanis Club, has long been involved in providing hot meals to community-minded volunteers who are donating their time to the efforts of South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity.

Finally, the renovation and opening of the Olympia Child Care Center on Olympia’s west side was aided by a grant from the club. The center has been active since that time.

After years of contemplating the formation of a foundation to support the activities of the OKC, in 2006-2007 a small group of members undertook the process and during 2006 applied for and received approval from Kiwanis International. The club’s community service projects, scholarships, and other funds supporting our mission were invested in the Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, an institution that manages giving in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties.

The rickety remains of an old barn roof (the rest of the building had collapsed years earlier) was the storage place for garden tools and supplies, and also provided shelter for garden crew meetings. It was patched with cedar shingles before seasonal rains or after a windstorm, and the weight of winter snows stressed the already shaky structure; it badly needed to be replaced. In 2008-2009, a concerted effort to design and start a fundraising campaign for construction of a new barn began. Once a functional design was completed, architectural drawings were developed and the capital campaign started in earnest. Club members, foundations, and community-spirited individuals pitched in financially, and the project was ready to break ground during the last year of the decade. Not all donations were cash. Member John Drebeck asked, “How do you weigh all of the produce grown in the gardens?” The simple answer was: inefficiently! Crated produce was weighed using a bathroom scale, one crate at a time. John invited us to look at something in his storage shed: a Howe dormant platform scale for weighing freight. It was previously used by the Eades Storage Company in downtown Olympia. John owned the Eades building, and his son Stuart and a friend dismantled the scale and stored it for the future. John donated the scale to the Kiwanis Food Bank Garden. Now restored and painted, the historic Howe scale can weigh hundreds of pounds of produce at a time. Ironically, Stuart was in high school when his dad hired him to dismantle the scale and help demolish the building that housed it. Thirty years later, Stuart, by then a member of the Olympia Master Builders, was instrumental in garnering support from over thirty OMB members who helped complete the new barn in 2010. The beautiful scale graces the structure and provides accurate weights. New member Leighton Johnson stepped forward and took a very active role in the construction of the barn building. His help and array of tools were invaluable.

The club's Community Firewood Project continued to collect and distribute firewood to families in need. After a fifty-cord shed was constructed in 1998, extra wood was stacked and covered with tarps in the winter season; it soon became clear that a second shed was needed. Not until 2015 was that accomplished. Again, Stuart Drebeck and the Master Builders came to the rescue to assist with the construction of the 16' x 60' pole building for wood storage. Leighton Johnson guided OKC member efforts to put the finishing touches on the building, which holds about 60 cords of firewood. One added feature of this new building was the placement of solar panels on the roof.

Kiwanis International recognized the success of OKC service projects with an article in *KIWANIS* magazine that featured the Kiwanis One Day event. In addition, the Pacific Northwest District of Kiwanis detailed the club's Food Bank Garden project in *The Builder* magazine. The helpful programs of OKC were further recognized in 2009 when Derek Valley was chosen to receive the Kiwanis Governor's Award from Governor Wendy Falkowsky at the District convention of that year. Regional organizations and foundations and individuals supported our efforts financially, and community volunteer groups responded affirmatively to the call for project support.

A significant challenge to service organizations everywhere is a change in meeting place. The Olympia Elks building had hosted us for a number of years, but inconvenient parking, meal cost, and other shortcomings encouraged OKC to look elsewhere. A member committee in 2004-2005 considered eight potential locations, and a decision was made to move our meetings to Tugboat Annie's at West Bay Marina. The Viewpoint Room was ideal for our purposes, and OKC has met there to this date. During the decade, a plaque made from the wood of a Big Leaf maple tree originally on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion was emblazoned with a Kiwanis International logo and was used to recognize the efforts of individual members during the preceding weeks.

A variety of fundraising opportunities availed themselves during the decade. Among the continuing events was the sale of Poinsettia plants during the Christmas season. Under the tutelage of Dr. Jim Hutchinson, members sold and distributed the plants, with the revenue averaging about \$8,000 each year. A midwinter Casino Night was also successful for several years. A mainstay was the roast beef sandwich booth at the annual Lakefair event. Popular, tasty, and friendship building, we worked the week of Lakefair with members and family to create roast beef sandwiches and raise funds for community service projects. The booth was actually a collection of several components --the cook trailer, barbeque trailer, and a "coffin" to hold the cooked roasts. It all required constant repair - electrically, plumbing-wise, and aesthetically.

While this story may have been referenced elsewhere, it is worth telling here. The sandwich trailer had previously been used as a construction trailer. Don Ernst guided the conversion, painting and rewiring to suit our needs of slicing roasts, tomatoes, onions, storing meat in refrigerators, and assembling the roast beef sandwiches. Construction of the barbeque trailer was the result of members haunting Boeing surplus for stainless steel panels. Once metal parts were purchased and transferred to the Shelton Correctional Center's welding shop, under the watchful eye of Dave Carnahan the barbeque trailer was attached to a used and modified utility trailer axle. It was then wired, licensed, and ready for the road. The "coffin" was also fabricated from stainless steel and wired with a heating element to keep the cooked roast warm. When the club

decided to discontinue participation in Lakefair, the equipment was stored for five years. In 2021, the trailer, barbeque, coffin and related odds and ends were donated to Enterprise for Equity, a program that helps create financial wellbeing in rural areas. The materiel went to “The Vet’s Café” in Grand Mound to be used as a cook trailer for a program that trained veterans in agricultural practices. This gave the equipment a good, new life.

At the end of our long Lakefair run (OKC participation began in the 1980s), the club adopted the sponsorship of the Harbor Days festival. The event could trace its beginnings back several decades when the State Capital Historical Association, which operated the State Capital Museum, got the idea of celebrating the maritime heritage of Olympia. The plan was a festival centered on historic tugboats, highlighted by a race among the vessels. The festival was later taken over by the South Sound Maritime Historical Association, however the popularity of the family-oriented, multi-day event grew beyond the interests of the group. Olympia Kiwanis agreed to step in as the operator of Harbor Days. Terry Kirkpatrick, OKC President at the time; Russ Carstensen, immediate OKC Past President; and a large number of volunteers including Les Eldridge, Jon Halverson, Dave Peeler, Leighton Johnson as well as others worked hard under the guidance of festival manager Carol Riley to make Harbor Days a success. The Covid pandemic closed the festival after four years of Kiwanis operation. The hope is that another organization will pick up the celebration when large public gatherings resume.

The Washington State Kiwanis Law Enforcement Youth Camp, started by the North Thurston Kiwanis in 1978, invites applications from juniors and seniors in high schools from the Pacific Northwest Kiwanis District who are interested in learning more about law enforcement careers. Washington State Kiwanis clubs, in coordination with the Washington State Patrol, conduct the week-long camp at the patrol’s academy in Shelton, Washington. The “cadets” are put through a challenging week of training techniques, early mornings, late nights, and leadership skills while learning about federal, state and local police opportunities. Representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington State Patrol, county and municipal police forces and specialty forces from Washington State Parks and Special Weapons and Tactics teams attend the camp, providing simulated work responsibilities for the students. About 80 percent of the graduates from the camp go on to law enforcement careers. This is a successful program sponsored by Kiwanis and actively supported by OKC. Because of the Covid-19 virus, the camp was suspended in 2020 and 2021 but hopes to return in 2022. Officer Russ Mize, Tumwater Police, and Washington State Patrol trooper Keith Huntley are graduates of the camp and enthusiastic supporters.

During this decade, the club’s academic scholarship program, available to students from Olympia High School and Capital High School and particularly those who have served in Key Club, continued. Recipients express their gratitude, looking forward to opportunities and challenges that lay ahead in their lives. As a sample: “I have been involved in Key Club for the past four years at Olympia High School and I have loved every minute of it. Getting to work closely with the Kiwanis Club has been one of the added perks of being involved in Key Club. Using this scholarship money, I will attend Pacific Lutheran University in the fall. I plan to major in either business or communications while also playing fast pitch for the school team. I am excited to start and know it will be an amazing experience. Thanks again.” (Ally Van Schoorl)

The Olympia Kiwanis Club also took part in several projects of Kiwanis International to improve the health of children worldwide. Members of OKC contributed pocket change at every meeting to help treat Iodine Deficiency Disorder and eliminate Maternal Neonatal Tetanus. At the same time, the Pacific Northwest District of Kiwanis began a district-wide effort to support the Kiwanis Children's Cancer Care project at hospitals in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, B. C.

While the decade started with millennium trepidation, the 100-plus members of the Olympia Kiwanis Club upped their efforts to support those in need through a variety of service projects and, by aiding other non-profit organizations, helped fulfill the Kiwanis mission of serving one child and one community at a time.

National Recognition and a Pandemic: 2010 - 2021

Jon W. Halvorson

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” That was how Charles Dickens opened *A Tale of Two Cities*, indicating a time for endings, a time for new beginnings, and a time of radical change. That also could be the theme for the Olympia Kiwanis Club in the decade that would complete its centennial. In 2010, OKC received its highest recognition from Kiwanis International for having the best community service project in the nation, the Kiwanis/Thurston County Food Bank Garden. In March, 2020, the Governor of Washington issued an emergency order to shut down everything due to a new and dangerous virus.

The primary contributions of OKC to the community during the decade were the gardens that raised about 25,000 pounds of vegetables a year for the Thurston County Food Bank and the firewood project that distributed about 75 cords of wood annually to the elderly, disabled, and needy.

The club also raised thousands of dollars through events that provided funds for high school Key Club leadership training and conventions, and scholarships for Key Club members at Olympia and Capital High Schools. Funds were also donated to many other local charities and causes such as the Kiwanis Children’s Cancer Fund at Seattle Children’s Hospital and the Olympia Salvation Army meal and housing services.

On April 24, 2010, the club broke ground to build a new barn to hold our garden and firewood project equipment. More than \$60,000 was raised over nine months, led by campaign chairs Marla Kentfield and Charles Shelan, and Derek Valley. Almost every club member donated. The Olympia Master Builders and 40 other organizations donated and Stuart Drebeck’s Adroit Contractors, LLC made a significant contribution of materials and labor. Dave Carnahan made the roof cupola and Leighton Johnson was recognized as “The Tool Man” for his help in designing and constructing both facilities. The completed barn was dedicated in September 11, 2010.

Olympia Kiwanis continued to support two important law enforcement service projects. The Pacific Northwest Kiwanis Law Enforcement Youth Camp was chaired initially by Jan Britt and later by Washington State Patrol Officer and Olympia Kiwanis President Mark Couey, himself a former participant in the camp. The Youth Camp is run at the Washington State Patrol Training Center in Shelton and allows 25 high school students from throughout the Pacific Northwest to come to a summer camp to learn about law enforcement – training in drilling, driving, water rescue, shooting and many other skills – to help them decide if they might like a career in law enforcement. Our club funds up to four scholarships each year. The Patrick Sutherland Memorial Law Enforcement Awards luncheon is chaired by Don Law and named for Pat Sutherland, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney, 1974-1994. The event recognizes the Law Enforcement Officers of the Year selected by their peers at the Washington State Patrol, Thurston County Sheriff’s Department and the city police departments of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater. The

officers, their families, supervisors and the public are invited as OKC provides the opportunity for a public recognition of these outstanding public servants.

Over the decade, OKC has held a number of fundraising events. These included Kiwanis-raised garden plant sales, root beer float sales, casino nights, auctions at officer installation dinners, and raffles. The four largest fundraisers have been the Poinsettia Sales for the holidays, the annual July Olympia Lakefair Festival roast beef sandwich sales, Harbor Days, and the “Caring for Kids” breakfast event. Lakefair and the Harbor Days tugboat races were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19. The 2020 Caring for Kids Breakfast was a virtual event done on Zoom.

Since 1986, Dr. James Hutchinson has chaired and organized the Poinsettia sales, which have consistently netted an average of \$10,000 a year for the club. The vast majority of club members participated in selling and then delivering plants to friends, work colleagues, businesses and church groups.

Jon W. Halvorson and Nancy LaPointe co-chaired the 90th club birthday party on September 22, 2011. Members of several area Kiwanis Clubs participated with featured speakers Secretary of State Sam Reed and author/lecturer Les Eldridge on the topic “90 Ain’t Old for a Club”. The Governor of the Kiwanis Pacific Northwest Region awarded OKC member Derek Valley the prestigious Kiwanis International Walter Zeller Fellowship Award for his many years of outstanding volunteer service and for OKC expanding from one to four Kiwanis gardens, including one on the State Capitol campus.

Wayne Gruen coordinated a successful campaign with the Rotary and Lions Clubs and the City of Olympia to place signs at four entrances to the city indicating the time and location of their meetings. Jon W. Halvorson helped the Olympia and Capital High School Key Clubs organize pancake breakfasts at the westside Olympia Applebee’s. Dave Kirk organized the March of Dimes fundraising walk, DeWayne Granacki organized the Salvation Army red kettle bell ringing teams, and Jan Britt and Don Powell organized the Kiwanis water table at mile 25 of the Olympia Marathon. Those four efforts continued throughout the decade.

Two OKC members received significant Kiwanis International awards in 2013. Sam Reed received the Kiwanis International Distinguished Service Award and Don Powell received the prestigious Kiwanis International Tablet of Honor Award for his 26 years of continuous service as OKC Secretary-Treasurer. Don was the longest serving officer in the club’s 92-year history.

In April of 2011, OKC leadership began negotiations with the South Sound Maritime Heritage Association (SSMHA) to take over management of the Olympia Harbor Days festival and the associated tugboat races. Bob Peck, Les Eldridge and Russ Carstensen (Les and Russ were members of both SSMHA and OKC) met with President Terry Kirkpatrick, President Elect Jon W. Halvorson, Vice President Lynne Urvina, and OKC members Doug DeForest and Kathleen Drew. An agreement was reached to have OKC sponsor and manage the festival starting in September of 2012; Shelly Lively was hired as director of the event. The first year netted KCO \$19,201, ensuring club interest in continuing the festival for years to come.

In March, the Waterfront satellite club of OKC, chaired by Dean Walz, started using their cooking/grilling skills to provide free lunches for the volunteer workers at the Habitat for Humanity housing build site every Wednesday noon. Other OKC members provided help for the Briggs YMCA “Safe Kids Fair” where volunteers helped fit new bike helmets on kids. Club volunteers also staffed the March of Dimes Walk for several years while the Waterfront members fed some 400 walkers.

In 2014 Olympia High School Key Club member Kevin Zhang was elected an International Vice President of the more than 5,000 Key Clubs. And super OKC volunteer Derek Valley received the Kiwanis International Jack Delf Distinguished Service Medal at the Pacific Northwest District Convention. Don Leaf completed 20 years as the Garden Committee Chair (1994-2014) and Harbor Days netted \$11,768 profit for OKC charitable activities.

Shelly Lively resigned during the year and Carol Riley was hired as festival director. Ms. Riley greatly increased the vendor sales revenue and sponsorship grants. On average, Harbor Days raised a net of \$15,000 per year for the OKC Foundation.

As part of the celebration of Kiwanis International’s 100th birthday in 2015, OKC was invited to the White House to participate in a “Community Leadership Briefing.” Dave Peeler, OKC President, and Thurston County Food Bank Executive Director (and Waterfront Kiwanis member) Robert Coit traveled to Washington DC to represent the Kiwanis Food Bank Garden, which was cited as one of the best service projects in the nation among the 16,000 clubs in Kiwanis International. There were more honors that year. At the Pacific Northwest District Convention, Jan Britt received the Distinguished Secretary Award for her years as Secretary of OKC. John Zuroske won the First Place Award for the best club newsletter. Olympia High School gave the “Community Organization of the Year” award to OKC at the Senior Honors program.

In 2016, the club also completed a \$30,000 project to build a shed to store up to 50 cords of firewood. It included solar panels on the roof which provided electricity rebates. Over 20 club members participated in the construction lead by Leighton Johnson and Derek Valley. It took 77 employees of Comcast/Xfinity and 13 OKC members to move 44 cords from ground piles into the new shed. The same group also put in 40 posts and 700 feet of wire surrounding the garden and put new covers on hoop houses. At the Pacific Northwest District Convention, Olympia Kiwanis received the “Community Spirit Award” for the garden and firewood projects. There are over 400 clubs in the district and this was the top award.

The Waterfront Kiwanis satellite club provided refreshments for the Native American Canoe Gathering in Olympia, involving dozens of tribes from the Pacific Northwest, including Canada, and netted \$3,600 funding their service projects with Habitat and the Boys & Girls Clubs. New Harbor Days executive director and OKC member Carol Riley had a very successful year raising over \$11,000 for OKC. The garden crew delivered over 33,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to the food bank and the wood crew delivered 90 cords of firewood.

The Pacific Northwest District Distinguished Service Awards in 2017 went to OKC Secretary Jan Britt and OKC Treasurer Shawn Myers. In April, Carol Riley and OKC Harbor Days won

the award for Best Multi-media Presentation at the Washington State Festival and Events Association convention; the association represents 85 different organizations. Capital High School Key Clubber Thu Nguyen was named Best Lieutenant Governor of the Pacific Northwest District.

In May, 2017 the Board of Directors decided to end 20 years of selling roast beef sandwiches at the Olympia Lakefair Festival. Almost all club members had participated in the event each year, raising on average a net of \$9,000 per year for the club's charitable giving. However, the changing interests of those attending Lakefair and the smaller crowds brought on by increasingly hot July days lead to lower net profits. It also had become difficult to recruit enough volunteers to run three shifts in each of the five days of the festival. And the profits from Harbor Days were growing each year. In 2019, all the trailers and equipment were donated to a veterans group for its community projects

By end of June, OKC member donations and club fundraising had helped the Scholarship Endowment Fund grow to \$188,372. This was the "nest egg" from which future scholarships would be funded from interest earned and market value increases as managed by the Community Foundation of Thurston County. The goal was \$225,000.

The volunteers of OKC continued to raise funds in 2018 – Poinsettia sales netted \$10,000, Harbor Days was even more successful netting \$19,000, and a brand-new event was started called "Caring for Kids: A Community Collaboration". Organized by Sam Reed, Renee Sinclair and Jon Halvorson, it brought over 200 attendees to a breakfast at St. Martin's University in Lacey on January 24, 2018, and netted a profit of \$21,000. OKC bell ringing raised \$5,300 for the Salvation Army, \$1,060 was raised at lunch meetings for the Kiwanis Children's Cancer Fund, and 70 cords of firewood were delivered to those in need. The Endowment Fund grew to \$239,000, topping the goal.

In recognition of a pattern of success, South Sound Partners for Philanthropy gave the 2018 Community Organization of the Year Award to the Olympia Kiwanis Club, chosen from among some 800 charitable organizations. There was also another significant achievement: Capitol High School Key Clubber Ingrid Redford was elected Governor of the 500 Key Clubs included in the Pacific Northwest District.

Olympia Kiwanis members continued their outstanding community service in 2019 and gave a \$7,500 grant to South Puget Sound Community College for student grants. Poinsettia sales netted another \$12,000, the garden produced 25,437 pounds of vegetables and 80 cords of firewood were delivered. At the March Key Club Pacific Northwest District Convention in Seattle, Denise Steigers was named the 2018-2019 Outstanding Key Club Advisor of the Year and Jon W. Halvorson was named the 2018-2019 Key Club Mentor of the Year.

The second "Caring for Kids" breakfast fundraiser was held at St. Martin's University on July 24, 2019, chaired by Renee Sinclair and Denise Steigers; OKC netted \$14,000. That amount was topped the next year when the third "Caring for Kids" fundraiser was held on January 29, 2020, attracting 250 people and netting \$26,000.

The very next day, January 30, 2020, the first person in Washington State died of Covid-19. By March 20, Governor Jay Inslee had ordered a shutdown of all public facilities and sent all state employees home. The pandemic was here. Our weekly Monday in-person lunch meetings were cancelled and we all had to learn in April about a new way of meeting virtually on a software program called “Zoom.”

By May, 2020, the Board of Directors were worried about our financial commitments for Harbor Days, promised grants, garden expenses, and whether or not the club would remain solvent. Led by John Drebeck, club members donated enough funds keep operations afloat. Unfortunately, as the pandemic got worse, the Board was forced to cancel the September, 2020, Harbor Days. In August the Board of Directors reluctantly voted to terminate the contract with Carol Riley and withdraw from the sponsorship/partnership with the South Sound Maritime Heritage Association (SSMHA). Vendors who had pre-paid for space at the 2020 planned event were reimbursed and physical assets were returned to SSMHA. With a tremendous effort of financial analysis, revenue projection, and clarity of message, Treasurer Dan Seachord laid out a plan. With the Board’s approval and continued donations from members, the club was able to end the fiscal year in the black.

As the pandemic continued to get worse, most in-person activities ceased. However, wearing masks and keeping appropriately distanced, the garden and firewood crews worked through the 2020 calendar year. By December, the garden volunteers had delivered 24,479 pounds of vegetables to the Thurston County Food Bank, which had seen a quadrupling of clients. The firewood crew delivered another 75 cords of wood as well.

There would be no more in-person fundraisers for the next several months. Fortunately for us, President Jennifer Statham was a particularly talented and resourceful person and the next thing we knew the fourth “Caring for Kids” virtual fundraising event was planned and executed on January 27, 2021. Net profits were over \$25,000.

During this decade the club increased the value of its Foundation assets from \$100,000 to \$250,000, enabling it to give over 45 scholarships to Olympia and Capital High School graduates totaling more than \$50,000. A total of \$80,000 was presented in grants to other local non-profit organizations serving needy families and children.

From 2010 until 2016, OKC members donated over \$25,000 to the project to Eliminate Maternal and Child Tetanus and \$10,000 to the Kiwanis Children’s Cancer Fund at Seattle Children’s Hospital. Members participated in annual United Way Day of Caring clean up and repair projects, supported the Olympia Marathon water table and the Cancer Relay for Life Walks, rang bells for the Salvation Army’s red kettle fundraising, sorted food donations at the Thurston County Food Bank, and supported hundreds of Key Club youth enabling them to attend conventions and other leadership training events.

Despite the pandemic, OKC members continued to meet the needs of the community. During this decade we lost many stalwart and long-time members who had begun many of our most successful community projects and fundraisers. ‘Still the club persisted’ and has continued to be

a vital contributor to community well-being. On September 14, 2020, the Olympia Kiwanis Club was 99 years old.

A Note on Sources

The Olympia Kiwanis Club maintains an archive of materials important to its past. These materials – annual reports, financial documents, newspaper clippings, and correspondence – were the foundation of the chapters covering the early years of the organization. The archives were important for the later chapters as well, however those chapters were enriched also by the authors themselves, who had often participated in the events they described.

A Century of Kiwanis Presidents

Charles A. Rose, 1921-1922

O. M. Green, 1923

Elmer L. Breckner, 1924

Jay Bolster, 1925

Thad Pierce, 1926

P. M. Troy, 1927

Lloyd Masemore, 1928

Harold D. Van Eaton, 1929

Ernest C. Grible, 1930

Griffith I. Griffith, 1931

T. S. Morrison, 1932*

W. G. Eads, 1933

H. L. Born, 1934

Volney C. F. Young, 1935

N. D. Showalter, 1936

Claude Lorimer, 1937

A. F. Witzigman, 1938

O. H. Olson, 1939

James H. Bohle, 1940

F. M. Donahue, 1941

R. D. Williams, 1942

Arley D. Mills, 1942

Charles R. Smith, 1943

Leonard D. Burrus, 1944

Lawrence O. Swenson, 1945

Howard C. Bench, 1946

Ernest Minor, 1947
Thomas P. Allen, 1948
Charles H. Bowen, 1949
J. K. Kuykendall, 1950
Elmer J. Holmberg, 1951
Ralph Stormans, 1952
Ray W. Weller, 1953
Harry L. Minor, 1954
Sherman R. Huffine, 1955
Donald E. Courser, 1956
Lawrence M. Wilson, 1957
John L. Hendricks, 1958
Austin R. McClintock, 1959
Matthew W. Hill, 1960
Walter A. Johnson, 1961
Robert I. Tenny, 1962
Burton Bowman, 1963
H. Byron Renshaw, 1964
Herman I. Hoehler, 1965
Cortland A. Skinner, 1966
Trane Burwell, 1967
Donald P. Holden, 1968
William A. Lowry, 1969
Harold T. Wolfe, 1969-70
Kenneth R. Stormans, 1970-71
Fred G. Thunberg, 1971-72
Richard L. Wolcott, 1972-73
Leslie W. Metzger, 1973-74

Robert T. Olson, 1974-75
Lewis L. Yarbrough, 1975-76
George F. Yantis, 1976-77
G. Eldon Marshall, 1977-78
Robert M. Barron, 1978-79
Paul C. Rodgers, 1979-80
John A. Hogle, 1980-81
H. Eugene Forrester, 1981-82
George M. Eisentrout, 1982-83
Herbert S. Anderson, 1983-84
Roger C. Gustafson, 1983-84, 1984-85
Clifford L. Stiltz, 1985-86
Rex E. Derr, 1986-87
Thomas A. Jones, 1987-88
Graham Johnson, 1988-89
Charles Shelan, 1989-1990
Wayne Bishop, 1990-91
Donald O. Ernst, 1991-92
Robert A. Van Schoorl, 1992-93
Teresa Loe, 1993-94
Patrick D. Sutherland, 1994-95
Kay Hopkes, 1995-96
James B. Hutchinson, 1996-97
Marla Kentfield, 1997-98
Walt Bowen, 1998-99
Mark Johnson, 1999-2000
Kathleen Benedict, 2000-2001
Sam Reed, 2001-2002

Robert Lien, 2002-2003
Robert Hauth, 2003-2004
Derek Valley, 2004-2005
Charley Barron, 2005-2006
Carol Lien, 2006-2007
Bill Moore, 2007-2008
Wayne Gruen, 2008-2009
Don Krupp, 2009-2010
Terry Kirkpatrick, 2010-2011
Russ Carstensen, 2011-2012
Jon Halvorson, 2012-2013
Lynn Urvina, 2013-2014
Dave Peeler, 2014-2015
Debra Seeman, 2015-2016
Mark Couey, 2016-2017
John Tobin, 2017-2018
Renee Sinclair, 2018-2019
Denise Steigers, 2019-2020
Jennifer Statham, 2020-2021