



Kiwanis Korner

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

.....Serving the children of the world

1921

104 YEARS OF SERVICE TO KIDS AND THE COMMUNITY

July 2, 2025

PRESIDENT'S KORNER by Matt Grant

As members of the Pacific Northwest District, we are part of a unique international community, one that bridges borders and strengthens friendships between the U.S. and Canada. Recently, during our inspirational moment, **Don Leaf** suggested that we reach out to our clubs in our district to show support. At this meeting, some other members also voiced concern about the tone of political discourse at the federal level and how it may affect our cross-border relationships. While we can't control national politics, **we can affirm what truly matters to us: connection, community, and shared purpose.**



As I have read in "The Centennial History of the Olympia Kiwanis Club", I discovered that our club has deep Canadian roots. In fact, Olympia Kiwanis wouldn't exist without the efforts of a Canadian Kiwanian. In 1921, Harry F. Nobbs, a devoted member who had organized a successful club in Vancouver, BC, visited Olympia and met with R.L. Fromme, then superintendent of the Olympic National Forest. Their shared vision led to the founding of our club, and the rest is history. Nobbs' spirit of international goodwill lives on in the work we do each day.

In that spirit, we're exploring the idea of writing a letter of support and solidarity to our Canadian Kiwanis counterparts that would be a heartfelt and meaningful acknowledgement of our partnership and a way to celebrate our shared values. Before we do, we'd love to hear your voice. What should go into this letter? What message would you want to send to our fellow clubs in British Columbia and beyond? Whether it's a story, a sentiment, or a simple thank you, we want this to reflect **all of us.**

Please send your thoughts to me directly (mgrant@osd.wednet.edu) or bring them to an upcoming meeting this summer. We want to get this done before the Pacific Northwest Kiwanis Conference in Wenatchee which starts on August 22nd. Valued member Derek Valley (and former Lt. Governor)

is going to connect with the Pacific Northwest Office in Gresham to find the best way to send the message to these groups from up North. Together, let's make sure our Canadian friends know they're not just neighbors, they are an essential part of our Kiwanis community. (continued on page 2)

CLUB INFORMATION ~

Officers:

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

Board Members: through 2026—Derek Harris, Steve Hall, Joel Hansen
Through 2027—Curt Steigers and Sarah Beth Hernandez Huot
Through 2025 Kathy "KT" Thompson, Derek Valley email: kiwanisclubolympia@gmail.com
DIVISION 37 LT. Governor Vacant

Board of Directors Meetings:

Monthly during the last Thursday of the month at noon via Zoom. Next meeting: July 24th, 2025.

MAILING ADDRESS:

P O BOX 1847 Olympia 98507-1847

LUNCH MEETINGS:

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

DON'T MISS THESE MEETINGS!

July 7th—No Meeting

July 14th—Washington Center for the Performing Arts with Jill Barnes

July 21st—No Meeting

July 28th—Hands on Childrens Museum with Patty Belmonte

August 4th—No Meeting

August 11th—Hedgerows for Pollinators in Town and Country

August 18th—No Meeting

August 25th—Tenino Stone Carvers

All Programs are tentative.

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

Kiwanis defining statement, adopted October, 2004

A Thought!

Buy 2 bags of pet food for an animal shelter instead of fireworks.

Make a difference instead of a noise.

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO

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

July 2nd—Bonnie Baker Muench

July 4th—Steve Sloan

July 18th—Debra Seeman



June Plant Sale raised \$1986 + from sale of plants. By Derek Valley

The Food Bank Gardens project also received generous donations for Garden work from Marla and Kurt Kentfield, Lucille Carlson and John Rumsey and support from the City of Olympia for working with students from Avanti High School. This spring we have received other donations and contributions of time to prepare for the growing season.

The plant sale was a cheery, exceptionally well organized, successful event. The weather was beautiful and spirits were high. Refreshments were plentiful. There were **lots of great K volunteers, including Charles Shelan, Derek Valley, Kathy Thompson, Anna Kundson, Karen Fraser, Jonathan Lindsay.**

Kiwanis Food Bank Gardens; Spring and early summer activities

Our greenhouse was put to the test this spring, receiving seeded cool weather vegetables plants like cabbage and broccoli .

Direct seeded vegetables: peas and fava beans and potatoes were planted in the fields. At the same time, we were raising vegetable starts for the Plant Sale. All of those plants are in the ground, many have been harvested, the rest are close to being harvested. All of Kiwanis Food Bank Gardens vegetables go to the Thurston County Food Bank. To date Jess Colson, our Garden coordinator, and a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers have delivered over 7,000 pounds of produce. With much more to come. Join the effort to support this valued community service. Contact Jess Colson at jessc@tcfb.org

**KIWANIS OBJECTIVES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

(continued from page 1)

As we look ahead, this is a chance to reaffirm what makes Kiwanis unique. This means that we not only have a commitment to children and community service, but we have the ability to build bridges across cultures, countries, and perspectives. At a time when division too often makes the headlines, our friendships, rooted in a century of collaboration, can be a quiet but powerful statement. Let's take this moment to celebrate that spirit and show our fellow clubs across the border that we continue to stand with them, side by side.

Matt Grant

Scones and pancakes round'the table,
Eat as much as ye are able,
Eat! Leave Nothing!
Hallelujah! Amen!

Scottish Traditional Grace

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Two new club members were welcomed at our June 30th meeting. Be sure to say hello to: **Lark Church** **Jeff Engle**



Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Scholarships

Wayne Thomas Gruen

1939 – 2018

Wayne was born in Greenwell Illinois and attended the University of Illinois earning a BS in Civil Engineering and a BA in Sociology. He went on to earn a Master's in Traffic Engineering and retired from the WSDOT as State Traffic Engineer in 1998. Most of the things Wayne accomplished in the Community were done jointly with his wife of 56 years, Carol. They worked together on many projects, including being ballot inspectors for the Thurston County Auditor's Office.



Wayne was a member of Olympia Kiwanis: 1984 – 2018, 35 years. He served as club president 2008-2009. He was also awarded the Kiwanis International Legion of Honor.

Wayne served as chair of the House Reception and Club Meetings Committee and as a member of, at least, four other Club committees. He worked on the Kiwanis Wood project for over 20 years. Wayne was a leader in the project with local Rotary and Lions clubs to procure and erect Service Club Entry signs at the major entrances to the City of Olympia.

Wayne contributed repeatedly to the Scholarship Endowment Fund. He sold vegetables at the Lacey Community Market to raise funds to support the Kiwanis gardens. He helped plan and manage the Casino Night Club fund raiser. He also served as a "Chef" for the Kiwanis roast beef booth at Lakefair, multiple years.

Wayne's contributions to the community extended beyond Kiwanis. He served as the Lay leader at the First United Methodist Church of Olympia and held or shared most of the leadership positions supporting the Church, including Bread and Roses, Camp Quixote and support to Rosie's Place. He chaired the Thurston County Hunger CROP walk for over 20 years. Wayne also served as a lead at the Olympia Community Kitchen (Catholic Community Services and Salvation Army) and worked on several Habitat houses. He served as a leader with Interfaith Works.

POLICIES OF THE OLYMPIA KIWANIS CLUB

May 2022

AP28: COMMERCIAL MATERIALS AND ADVERTISING:

AP28.01 In general terms the use of commercial materials by a private, for profit organization is not allowed at any Kiwanis activity. The major exception to this general policy concerns the use of commercial materials in connection with the sponsorship in whole or in part of any Kiwanis activity. The specific policies defining these general policies are as follows:

- a. We will not have commercial presentations by private, for profit organizations at club meetings.
- b. Neither the Club nor the Foundation will allow the use of advertising or display materials at general club meetings for a member or any for-profit organization, with the following exceptions:
 - ☐ If an organization or individual is a guest speaker or some other type of presenter, the name of a representative person and the organization may be used in the meeting announcement and by way of introduction at the event.
 - ☐ If the organization or individual is a guest speaker or some other type of presenter, that person or organization is allowed to distribute one piece of display material per attendee at the meeting.
 - ☐ The use of the individual or organization's name and other advertising as part of a power point, slide show or some other formal prepared presentation is permitted.

Scholarship Thank You's received! Capital High School Students

Dear Olympia Kiwanis Foundation, Thank you so much for the Darrell B. Hedges scholarship! I'm so grateful for your generosity. It really means so much to me. I've been a member and active volunteer of Key Club for all high school, and it really makes me happy to read about Mr. Hedges being passionate about his adulthood because I want to do that too. Thank you so much! I'm so excited for college!



Dear Olympia Kiwanis Foundation, Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your contribution towards my college journey! Receiving the "Service Above Self" scholarship has inspired me to maintain my commitments to volunteering through college and helped make that possible. I look forward to using this money to reduce my student loans, which, in turn, will give me the time and space to connect with my new community through service. I sincerely appreciate your contribution. Warmly, Calla Lamenzo

Dear Olympia Kiwanis Foundation, I am beyond grateful for the scholarship you have given me. I appreciate your foundation for recognizing my work and overall potential. This scholarship truly serves as a motivation for me. I strongly stand and believe that education is a privilege. Without financial help, I would not be able to achieve my future plans. Receiving this scholarship will give me an opportunity to continue my education at Hope International University and continue my passion for dance. I will be majoring in Sports Psychology and I will guarantee your foundation that I will put your generous help to good use. Your foundation will be part of my success. I can't wait to pass this on to others in the future. Again, words cannot express how grateful I am. Thank you so much. Sincerely, April Garvido

Kiwanis Club of Olympia Nominating Committee

It's time to move forward with electing our new officers for 2025-2026 and board members for 2025-2028.

The club's bylaws require that the membership be given fourteen days notice before voting. This is the notice. We will vote on these positions July 14th.

Those who are elected will assume office October 1st of this year.

After deliberation and due diligence, the Kiwanis Club of Olympia's Nominating Committee proudly puts forward this proposed slate for our club's future leadership. Thanks go to Anna Knudson, Matt Grant, and Jonathan Lindsay for their help.

Nominations will be open from the floor (or grass) at this coming Monday's meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Reed and Mark Johnson, Co-Chairs, Charles Shelan, Kathy Thompson, Terry Kirkpatrick, and Dave Peeler

Karen Fraser for President Karen serves on The Evergreen State Colleges board of trustees and as the vice chair for the Olympia Arts + Heritage board of directors.

She served as a state senator, a member of the state house of representatives, as a county commissioner and as the mayor of Lacey.

Karen graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a Master of Public Administration from the university's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs. She served ably as the club's President-Elect for 2024-2025.

Anna Knudson for President-Elect Anna joined the Kiwanis Club in late 2021. She has demonstrated strong leadership for the club – serving as vice president this year and as co-chair of the Membership Committee.

She graduated from Capital High School in 1989, and then earned a B.A. from Wesleyan University, an M.P.P from the University of Maryland and a J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law.

The daughter of dedicated public servants, Anna gets great joy and inspiration from collaborating to help improve the lives of others -- whether through government, non-profit organizations or the legal system.

She began her career working in state government in Maryland, and then worked for U.S. Senator Patty Murray from 1998 to 2003 in Seattle and Washington, D.C. After attending law school, she litigated for a decade in Seattle on behalf of workers and their families harmed by asbestos exposures.

Anna moved back to Olympia in 2017, and lives with her two sons, ages 16 (Riley) and 14 (Patrick), her husband Chris Ferko and their three cats (Lola, Jamie, and Jupiter).

Shane Hamlin for Vice President Shane joined our club in 2018. He was elected to serve as Secretary the same year and was re-elected Secretary in 2019. Shane has served on the Membership Committee the past year and recently joined the Program Committee.

He moved to Olympia with his family in 1985. He attended Capital High School and Tenino High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Eastern Washington University and a Master Public Administration from the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the UW.

Shane worked for the state for 18 years, including positions at the Senate, the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Office of Financial Management. For the past eight years, he's served as the Executive Director of a national nonprofit membership organization called the Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC. ERIC is a consortium of states that work together to improve the accuracy of their voter rolls and register more voters.

Jonathan Lindsay for Secretary Jonathan has served well as our club's secretary this administrative year. He is a past president. He is the Major and Individual Gifts Director for TVW. Previously he was a development officer for TESC and KBTC in Tacoma. His techy skills come from serving as an information technology specialist for TESC for four years. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from TESC and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Washington.

Treasurer Shawn Myers is conducting the search for a new club treasurer. The nominating committee has no one to nominate at this time.

Matt Grant, Past President Matt is in his twenty-eighth year in the Olympia School District. He began his career as a social studies teacher and Vice Principal before becoming the Principal at Olympia High more than sixteen years ago.

Matt graduated from the University of Puget Sound in 1989 as a History Major and Math Minor. He played tennis and ran cross-country in college. Additionally, he earned a Harvard University Masters in Teaching and Curriculum and a Harvard University Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration.

He has served well as our president – particularly in respect to reinvigorating our relationship with the OHS and CHS Key Clubs. He's been a member of our club for 22 years.

**Kiwanis Club of Olympia
Nominating Committee**

(continued from page 5)

Board of Directors, 2025-2028 Term:

Deb Clemens Deb has been a Kiwanis member since 2007 –first in eastern Washington and then at the North Thurston Kiwanis Club. She served on NTKW's board for several years. She also served as the president. She has been serving as a temporary board member for our club.

Professionally, she was an educator – including a high school teacher, a high school principal, and retired as superintendent of the North Thurston School District.

She earned her BS at Viterbo University (Lacrosse, Wisc.), an MBA from Gonzaga, a PhD from Gonzaga, and Principal and Superintendent's credentials from Washington State University.

David Halverstadt Dave participated in the Olympia and Tumwater Kiwanis club for several years in the 1980s and 1990s and returned to our club in recent years. He currently provides valuable service on the club's finance committee.

He worked for state government in various agencies for 42 years. He was primarily an HR Director for each of these agencies focusing on labor relations and compensation issues for employees.

Dave earned a BA from Whitman College, an MBA from Central Michigan University and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Puget Sound.

Membership Committee Report by Anna Knudson

Blue Badges for All

The Board of Directors recently approved a Membership Growth and Education Committee (Committee) recommendation to temporarily suspend our current blue name badge requirements found in the Club's written policies at AP08:

All new and returning members must attend and participate in new member orientation training. Returning Kiwanis members may be excused from the requirements below. All new members must:

- attend and participate in at least one Club Committee meeting.
- attend at least one Board of Directors meeting, or, in lieu of attending a Board meeting, attend either: 1) a division council meeting or 2) a regional conference.
- participate in at least one Interclub or service project activity.
- serve as greeter at a weekly Olympia Kiwanis meeting.

Upon completion of the above requirements, a blue member badge will be issued.

These prerequisites were put in place to help educate new members on the inner workings of our Club and to engage our newest members to become active in committees and leadership, service projects and/or fundraising activities.

However, the Committee learned that some members were confused about how to obtain their badges. **As a result, with the Board's permission, the mandates of AP08 have now been temporarily suspended.**

All members who had gold name badges now have official blue Kiwanis Club of Olympia name badges. If you are one of these people, your new badge is waiting for you to pick up at the next Club meeting! No gold name tags will be distributed to new members until after the Board reconsiders this policy in October 2025, the new Club fiscal year. During this trial period, the Committee advised the Club to find other ways to educate new members about club administration as well as new ways to encourage participation. If you have questions and/or feedback you would like to give the Committee, please feel free to contact **Dan Myers or Anna Knudson, Co-Chairs, or any other member of the Committee Stephanie Coleman, Karen Fraser, Matt Grant, Shane Hamlin, Krystal Kyer and Sam Reed.**

Please Participate in the "Why You Joined" Survey by July 9, 2025

This request for you to participate in a short survey is for those who did NOT already complete the survey at the June 9, 2025 Monday meeting, or in response to Jonathan's recent email with the survey link sent to all Club members..

Background

The Committee set a goal of adding 12 new members by the end of September 2025 – one new member per month. We are currently far short of that goal. So far this year we have welcomed 4 new members (not including 4 members from the North Thurston Kiwanis Club that dissolved).

To assist current members with recruitment, the Committee is developing simple talking points members might use as they approach others about joining our Club. In our discussions, we felt we needed a better understanding of what motivates new members to join, and what motivates current members to stay. Here's the link!

<https://forms.gle/Ff1HXPS8Mg7gY3rHA>

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

Donate
securely online:



MORE Scholarship Thank You's received! Capital High School Students



Dear Olympia Kiwanis Foundation,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of your award in honor of Shermine Huffine. I'm deeply grateful for this recognition, it's truly an encouragement as I continue pursuing my academic goals at the University of Washington.

Being a part of CHS Key Club has been a wonderful experience—it's become my second home, where I've grown up as a leader and volunteer.

I feel so lucky and proud to have the support of the Olympia Kiwanis, and I'm committed to carrying forward the values of Kiwanis!!

Sincerely, Nima Doyle (pictured above with her parents)

Dear Kiwanis Club of Olympia,

I am writing to extend my heartfelt thanks for awarding me the Kiwanis Club of Olympia Trades Scholarship. I am truly honored to be selected as a recipient, and I deeply appreciate your support of students pursuing careers in the trades.

This scholarship will make a meaningful difference in my educational journey by helping me cover the costs of tools, tuition, and other essential expenses. Thanks to your generosity, I am able to focus more fully on developing my skills and preparing for a future in the trades—a field I am passionate about.

Your commitment to supporting local students and investing in the trades is inspiring, and I am proud to be associated with such a community minded organization. I hope to one day give back to others, just as you have given to me.

Thank you again for your generosity and belief in my potential. Warm regards,
Wilson LaFran

Dear Kiwanis Club of Olympia,

Thank you so much for the \$1,500 scholarship! I look forward to using the money for a welding and mechanic class at South Puget Sound Community College. I've always had a strong passion for welding. I've been the first girl to master arc welding. That is including flat, horizontal, vertical, over-head, and pipe. The scholarship will help me continue gaining more knowledge as a profession! Thank you! Sincerely, Abox

Dear Kiwanis Board,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your incredible kindness and generosity in awarding me this scholarship. Your support will make a significant difference in helping me successfully navigate my first year of college.

I plan to pursue a degree in fashion design and merchandising, and thanks to your belief in me, my dreams are now within reach. I am truly excited to see where this journey takes me, and I am deeply grateful for your confidence in my goals.

Thank you again for investing in my future. With great appreciation,
Isabelle Allenton

JUNE SUNDAY 29	MONDAY 30—Meet at Squaxin Park— 12 noon brown bag lunch	JULY TUESDAY 1	WEDNESDAY 2	THURSDAY 3 0900 West Side Garden	FRIDAY 4 INDEPENDENC E DAY	SATURDAY 5—0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
6	7—NO MEETING	18	9	1200900 West Side Garden Full Moon	11	12—0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
13	14 Noon Tugboat Annie's	15	16	17—0900 West Side Garden	28	19—0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting 0800-1000am
20	21—NO MEETING	22	23	24—0900 West Side Garden	25	26—900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
27	28—Noon Tugboat Annies	29	30	31 0900 West Side Garden	AUGUST 1	2 0900 West Side Garden And Wood Cutting

Kiwanis Korner

Published by the 10th of each month
 Editor Jan Britt
 P O Box 2362
 Olympia, WA 98507-2362
 janiceleebritt@comcast.net
 Also available on the website:
 Olympiakiwanis.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**KCO SUMMER POTLUCK—**

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

**KIWANIS PICNIC LUNCH A DELIGHTFUL SUCCESS by Karen Fraser**

The picnic lunch at the Rose Garden at Squaxin Park on June 30th was a very pleasant success. Great turnout and perfect weather!

Our Caring for Kids and Community Campaign has raised over \$13,000 toward our \$20,000 goal. More information about further outreach plans to come.

Officers and Board members for the upcoming Kiwanis year were nominated. The election will be on July 14th.

Karen Fraser provided the Inspirational Moment with quote from ancient to modern about how nature provides inspiration. The most contemporary one was from a British author and blogger, Ralph Smart: "There is no WiFi in the forest, But I promise---you will find a better connection."

Jill Severn provided a thoughtful and lovely presentation on "**How Much Gardening is Enough in One's Life?**". Jill writes a column for JOLT on gardening, is a former journalist and editorial writer, and former gubernatorial speech writer. She was introduced by Sandra Romero.

She began by quoting our own Don Leaf who has said there is "not enough gardening in his life." She was very complimentary of Kiwanis' gardens.

She concluded that gardening promotes spiritual health and flowering of existential gratitude for all of life. That is why the Kiwanis garden matters so much.