



# Kiwanis Korner

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

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

1921

104 YEARS OF SERVICE TO KIDS AND THE COMMUNITY

August 4, 2025

## PRESIDENT'S KORNER by Matt Grant

### Why We Join – And Why We Stay

Recently, **Krystal Kyer**, a valued member of our Membership Committee, shared insights from our online survey about why people join Kiwanis and why they stay. Two clear themes emerged:

- 1) Most members joined because *someone personally invited them*.
- 2) Members stay because they *enjoy the friendships and find the programs engaging and informative*.

This tells us something powerful: a simple invitation can make all the difference.

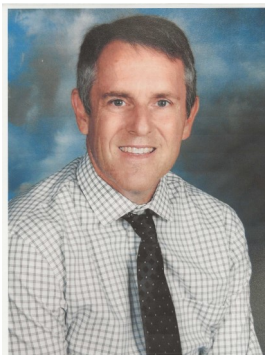
In an era when local news sources are shrinking, our Kiwanis Club plays an even more vital role, not just as a service organization, but as a *community hub*. When you bring someone to a meeting, you're not only offering them a chance to serve, you're connecting them with what's happening around them.

Take a look at our upcoming programs. Is there a topic that might spark someone's interest? Invite them to lunch! Although with over 100 members our club is thriving we don't take that for granted. Many service clubs are shrinking. We've remained strong, and that's because of **you**. To keep growing, we need to keep reaching out.

**\*Stronger Together:** Celebrate at the Kiwanis Summer Picnic. Membership isn't just about numbers, it's about community. One of the best ways to strengthen that community is by simply spending time together. So mark your calendar for our annual summer picnic at **Karen Fraser's** beautiful Cooper Point home on **Wednesday, August 20th from 5:00–8:00 PM**. (See the flyer in this newsletter for details.) Karen, our incoming President, has once again generously opened her home for this event, and if you've never been, you're in for a treat. With sweeping views, a beautiful outdoor area, and great company, it's the perfect setting to relax, reconnect, and recharge.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again: one of the best parts of being your President is getting to know the incredible people in this club. Please make time to join us later this month and you'll be glad you did.

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## DON'T MISS THESE MEETINGS!

**August 4th—No Meeting**

**August 11th—Hedgerows for Pollinators** in Town and Country, Kianna Sinner

**August 18th—No Meeting**

**August 25th—Mentoring Program** for at Risk Youth, Antonio McClinton

**September 1st—No Meeting**

**September 8th—Olympia City Council Candidates**

**September 15th—No Meeting**

**September 22nd—Cryptocurrency**, Amanda Starnes

**September 29—Port Commission Candidates**

*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*

## HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO

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

August 9th—Peter Leaf

August 16th—Bill Moore

August 20th—Sara Beth Huot



## 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](mailto: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: August 28th, 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**

**GOOD TO GROW by Derek Valley and Jess Colson**

The Kiwanis Food Bank Gardens have had a magical spring and summer. Now we transition to fall and winter crops. In our thirty-fifth year of operation, we can be proud of what we have accomplished, in the past and this year.

More than the weight produced and delivered to the Thurston County Food Bank, 24,577 pounds to date, the variety of crops from lettuces, basil, rhubarb, cabbage, garlic, fava beans, peas, onions, beets and more demonstrate the talents of our team. The Gardens' Coordinator Jess Colson and summer employees, Ethan, Willow and Jules, along with dedicated volunteers help reduce food insecurity in our community. Kudos to all who have joined our team to make our efforts rewarding.

With spring and early summer crops harvested, we turn our attention to late summer/fall crops in the ground and fall/winter crops currently being planted. Potatoes, squash, cabbage, broccoli, cucumbers and beans and more beans are coming along.

**A call to members! Join the fun of tending and harvesting vegetables. You can pick beans while standing up! Here are opportunities to volunteer:**

**Wednesday: Westside Garden 3839 11<sup>th</sup> Ave NW 9 to noon**

**Thursday: East Capitol Campus 212 Maple Park Ave SE 9 to noon**

**Friday: Calliope Farm 1335 Overhulse Rd NW 9 to noon**

**Saturday: Westside Garden 3839 11<sup>th</sup> Ave NW 9 to noon**

**Family members are welcome. There are a variety of jobs, something for everyone. Each volunteer hour helps someone or a family in our community.**

A final Note: This season will be our last at Calliope Farm. Olympia Kiwanis Foundation has an Agricultural Agreement with Calliope Farm owners. That five-year agreement ends in 2025. The future ownership of that land is under review. The property owners and farm manager decided to end the agreement. Kiwanis Club of Olympia appreciates the opportunity to use that farmland for more than seven years. The Kiwanis Food Bank Garden Committee is now looking for additional land to continue our work. Suggestions to the Committee are appreciated.

**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.*

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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.

O Lord God, who has called us Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see ending, by paths as yet untrodden and through perils unknown:  
Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us.  
Amen

.....Holden Village, Chelan, Washington





## KIWANIS CLUB OF OLYMPIA POTLUCK PICNIC

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 20  
5:00 – 8:00 P.M.



□ Karen Fraser's House  
7806 Cooper Point Rd NW  
Olympia, WA 98502

### □ Don't Forget to:

- Bring a dish to share
- Bring \$10/person or group to help cover beverages
- RSVP via email to [kiwanisclubolympia@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisclubolympia@gmail.com)

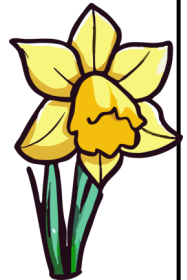


### DEADLINE APPROACHING!

Spread some joy with Yellow Golden Trumpet Daffodils!

\$10 per dozen bulbs  
\$25 for three dozen bulbs

Bulbs available in early September for Fall Planting. Olympia Kiwanis will notify you When your order is ready



Send an email order to:  
[kiwanisclubolympia@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisclubolympia@gmail.com) or call  
360-369-2215

**Pre-order ends August 15th!**

### AUGUST IS NATIONAL MAKE—A—WILL MONTH

Now is the perfect opportunity to take the next steps in securing your legacy. Through our partners at FreeWill, you can create a will for free in about 20 minutes.

You'll protect your loved ones and have the option to include a gift to SIGN—The Kiwanis International surgical implant program for those injured worldwide.

Scan the cod to creat your free will or learn more at  
[www.signfracturecare.org](http://www.signfracturecare.org)



### PRESIDENT'S KORNER

(continued from page 1)

Finally, please don't forget to reach out to your contacts for our annual Caring for Kids campaign. These donations are the engine that powers much of the impact we make throughout Olympia. When you talk to potential donors, remind them what this campaign makes possible:

**Fighting Hunger** - We combat food insecurity by donating over 25,000 pounds of fresh, organic vegetables annually to local families through our partnership with the Thurston County Food Bank.

**Empowering the Next Generation** - From scholarships to mentorship, we help youth thrive in academics, trades, and life

**Caring for Our Community** - We work with local organizations to respond to urgent needs and promote community well-being.

**Delivering Warmth in Winter** - Each year, we cut, season, and deliver over 90 cords of firewood to community members who rely on it as their main heat source. Your continued energy and outreach help keep our club vibrant, generous, and impactful.

Thank you for all you do, **Matt**

### Hello Kiwanians---

Our local *Habitat for Humanity* is inviting Kiwanians and Rotarians to participate in a volunteer work party day on **August 15, from 8 to 2:30.**

They are calling this day a "**WORK Day**" --- Women and men of Rotary and Kiwanis.

If you would like to participate, please email me at [Karenfraser22@comcast.net](mailto:Karenfraser22@comcast.net), to include your phone number.

Karen Fraser

## Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Scholarships

### Robert “Bob” Bigelow 1927 - 2005

**Bob Bigelow was Lt. Governor of Kiwanis for Mason and Thurston Counties, a long time Board Director of Olympia School District and was named a “Living Legend” of Thurston County. A decorated Marine wounded at Iwo Jima, Bob was a partner in Bigelow’s Office Supplies with his wife, Betty.**



Robert Bigelow was a member of the Waterfront Kiwanis for many years. He was an active volunteer and leader for the March of Dimes *Walk America* annual fundraiser.

A partner in the ownership of *Bigelow’s Office Supplies*, Robert “Bob” Bigelow and his wife Betty worked tirelessly for the children of Olympia and Thurston County. Bob was a positive and vocal advocate to allow women into Kiwanis, which occurred in 1987.

A former U. S Marine during World War II, Bob was a patriot and a leader who worked throughout his life to change the world, one child and one community at a time. Bigelow, who served in World War II, was wounded when he and fellow Marines landed on Iwo Jima. He was 17. He also served on the Salvation Army Board of Directors, and could be found every December ringing the bell and the Christmas kettles. Bigelow was named a Living Legend of Thurston County by Big Brothers, Big Sisters in 2002. He spent 60 years as a volunteer for the March of Dimes, served 18 years on the Thurston County Civil Service Board and served on the boards or as a volunteer for the YMCA, YWCA, Thurston County Fair, Friendship Board, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Senior Services for South Sound.

Bob had a great sense of humor, and always had an appropriate “story” for every situation.

One day, while at Kamp Kiwanis undergoing Lieutenant Governor training, Bob woke up and announced he had a “dream”. He dreamt that at the Capital City Lakefair celebration and parade this year, there would be a Kiwanis “float” display, representing the 8 Kiwanis Clubs in Thurston County. Bob took his dream back to the local Kiwanis clubs, and made it a reality. Members from each Kiwanis Club walked beside a trailer handing out balloons along the route to children with lists of the Kiwanis Clubs in Thurston County and their community contributions from the previous year.

## POLICIES OF THE OLYMPIA KIWANIS CLUB

May 2022

### AP28 (continue)

c. The Club and Foundation may solicit sponsorships to support a specific event or activity in accordance with a plan for the event or activity that (a) defines the types of sponsorships and incentives to be provided and (b) is approved by the Board of Directors of the Club or Foundation.

d. A sponsor may be any organization or individual, whether a member or not, that is offered the opportunity to provide cash or in-kind products or services as a supporter of a single event in exchange for incentives offered by the Kiwanis committee organizing the event. The organizing committee may group sponsors in terms of the value of the contributions (i.e., gold, silver, bronze) and offer more incentives for bigger donations, but the amount of the donation by any group bears no specific relationship to the incentive(s) provided.

e. To provide sponsors with greater visibility and thus to encourage greater participation by sponsors, the Club and/or Foundation will prepare and display free standing signs at regular club luncheon meetings and other club events that list all current sponsors. The names of the private or public organizations to be listed shall be subject to the approval by the Board of Directors. While any member may recommend a sponsor for listing, the Treasurer shall periodically review the list and make such recommendations as necessary to include all current sponsors and remove any that are no longer current.

f. Political candidates or advocates of a ballot issue, when invited as guest speakers, may distribute one piece of display material per attendee.

g. The distribution of advertising or display material of any kind for candidates or ballot issues is not permitted unless specifically related to the program for the meeting.

## PNW DISTRICT CONVENTION 2025

### Spirit Mountain Casino Hotel

27100 SW Salmon River Hwy, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

[District Convention 2025 – Pacific Northwest District](#)

### 2025 PNW District Convention August 22–24, 2025



Deep peace of the shining star to you,  
Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep joy of the leaping fire to you,  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

.....Celtic Prayer



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

Donate  
securely online:



### Calling all Committee Chairs, Co-chairs and members at large.

**It's Budget time.** Please start working with others to develop a budget for your part of our Club and Foundation finances for next fiscal year. All budget requests are due by August 31st.

If you are a member at large and have a great idea for fundraising (revenue budget) or a new project (expense budget), now is your chance to present it to the Board.

Please submit a written request/proposal by email to [shawneemyers@comcast.net](mailto:shawneemyers@comcast.net) by August 31, 2025.

Thank you. E mail to your acting treasurer, Shawn Myers and please copy our incoming President Karen Fraser—[karenfraser22@comcast.net](mailto:karenfraser22@comcast.net)

**DUES ARE DUE BY OCTOBER 1st!** Your Membership dues are due by Oct 1, 2025 for the 2025-2026 Kiwanis Year.

This is a notice that your dues can be paid anytime for the next Fiscal Year that begins on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. **The amount for an individual is \$200.** If more than one household member is paying, the first member is \$200 and the second is \$170. If you wish to pay in two installments, you can pay \$100 by Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and the remaining balance of \$100 in March 2026.

If you have a financial hardship paying your dues, please reach out to our Secretary, Jonathan Lindsay and he will look for an anonymous sponsor to help.

What are you paying for? Here is a breakdown of the dues schedule:

\$77 goes for dues to Kiwanis International

\$13 for General Liability/Risk Management Insurance

\$8 for publications

\$5 – Risk management

\$4 for Directors and Officers Insurance

(Total to KI is \$107.)

\$46 to PNW District dues

\$3 Member Convention Assessment

(Total to PNW District \$49)

**Our Club retains \$44 for our Admin Fund.**

For those who fail to pay dues by the Oct 1<sup>st</sup> date, he/she will be removed from our Roster that we report to KI on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. We will gladly add you back after your dues payment has been paid. Otherwise, our Club pays for someone who is not continuing to be a member. It happens.

### CARING For KIDS CAMPAIGN

We are in the final two months of completing our 2025 “Caring for Kids Campaign”. Our goal of \$20,000 has raised about \$13,000 so far. **You can donate by scanning the QR code to the left to donate**, or give it to the friends you would normally have invited to the breakfast to sit at your table! Give them the opportunity to donate too!

By not having a meal event we are saving about \$10,000 in costs. So donate now so our club can continue it's work with the youth in our community! Help to support:

Key Clubs  
Scholarships

Garden Project  
Achieving by Believing

Wood Cutting Project  
Law Enforcement Camp



|                              |                                   |                      |                        |                                                   |                               |                                                                |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JULY<br/>SUNDAY</b><br>27 | <b>MONDAY</b><br>28-NO<br>MEETING | <b>TUESDAY</b><br>29 | <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br>30 | <b>THURSDAY</b><br>31<br>0900 West Side<br>Garden | <b>AUGUST<br/>FRIDAY</b><br>1 | <b>SATURDAY</b><br>2—1000 West<br>Side Garden<br>PLANT SALE!   |
| 3                            | 4 NO<br>MEETING                   | 5                    | 6                      | 7—0900 West<br>Side Garden                        | 8                             | 9-0900 West<br>Side Garden and<br>Wood Cutting                 |
| 10                           | 11—Noon<br>Tugboat Annie's        | 12                   | 13                     | 14—0900 West<br>Side Garden                       | 15                            | 16—0900 West<br>Side Garden and<br>Wood Cutting<br>0800-1000am |
| <b>17</b>                    | <b>18—NO<br/>MEETING</b>          | 19                   | 20                     | 21—0900 West<br>Side Garden                       | 22                            | 23—900 West<br>Side Garden and<br>Wood Cutting                 |
| 24 / 31                      | 25—Noon<br>Tugboat Annie/s        | 26                   | 27                     | 28<br>0900 West Side<br>Garden                    | 29                            | 30<br>0900 West Side<br>Garden<br>And Wood<br>Cutting          |

**Kiwanis Korner**

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[Olympiakiwanis.org](http://Olympiakiwanis.org)

**Good Thoughts and Prayers in Memory of Don Law by Sam Reed**

During the past five years, **Don Law** has been in declining health which has rapidly progressed during the past month. We have been informed by his daughter, Kristi, that he passed away the morning of Sunday, August 3rd.



Don was a hiker who never met a dog that he didn't like or a Michigan football team that wasn't the best ever. He had a larger-than-life personality and those of us who knew him will miss his heckling, joking and bragging about Michigan football.

Don was very active since 1976 in a number of community projects such as THEM, Olympia Area Rowing (OAR), which he helped raise funds for their nice building on the bay, Olympia Kiwanis, and Olympia Historical Society. He would be proud of the newly opened Olympia history museum.

Don also spent many hours organizing the *Pat Sutherland Law Enforcement Officer of the Year* recognition program to support and encourage our local law enforcement officers and agencies.

A special thanks go to Anna Knudson who either drove Don or arranged for someone to drive Don to our club meetings as his Alzheimer's disease progressed.

Arrangements for a memorial will be forthcoming during the next 3 to 4 months. Address for cards and notes is his daughter, Kristi Benda. Her address is 15511 SE 55th Pl., Bellevue, WA 98006.