



Kiwanis Korner

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

.....Serving the children of the world

1921

104 YEARS OF SERVICE TO KIDS AND THE COMMUNITY

October 2, 2025

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

I'm looking forward to my special relationship with Kiwanis members during the coming year as I enter into the Presidency of this outstanding service organization. I think we can all take pride in that our Club is a growing, "roaring success" full of service and friendships. We are well known for the practical, effective community services we provide that help so many of our neighbors in need and contribute to our area being such a great place to live.



Our signature programs are progressing stronger than ever, thanks to the dedicated leadership of Kiwanians and the many volunteers from Kiwanis and others in the community. This year, we are producing a record amount of high quality vegetables for the Thurston County Food Bank from our three vegetable gardens. We are helping 80-90 families stay warm this winter with firewood collected, cut, split, dried, and personally delivered from our Wood Lot. We are contributing greatly to leadership development opportunities for a large number of high school youth through our Key Clubs and the Law Enforcement Training Camp. We are providing scholarships both for higher education and trade schools. And more!

The successes of Kiwanis Club of Olympia are linked in great part to our close and effective connections with other organizations and individuals in the community. Our successes also stem from the fact that Kiwanis members are highly engaged in a vast array of other facets of community life.

Let's keep this up and keep growing what we do! Thus, I suggest that our theme for 2025-26 be "Growing Community Connections"..

Karen Fraser 360-250-6261

PRAISE to the Father, Praise, to the Son,
Praise, praise to the Spirit,
All praise to the Three in One.
Bless each of our families.
Bless this food we eat.
May we be a blessing, To all that we meet.
Christian Renewal Center, Silverton, OR



CLUB INFORMATION ~

Officers:

President: **Karen Fraser**

President Elect: **Anna Knudson**

Vice President: **Shane Hamlin**

Treasurer: **Shawn Myers**

Secretary: **Jonathan Lindsay**

Immediate Past President: **Matt Grant**

Board Members: through 2026—Derek Harris, Steve Hall, Joel Hansen

Through 2027—Curt Steigers and Sarah Beth Hernandez Huot

Through 2028—Deb Clemens and Dave Halverstadt 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: October 30th, 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!

October 6th—No Meeting

October 13th—Department of Commerce Weatherization Program

October 20th—No Meeting

October 27th—State of the Club—New President Karen Fraser

November 3rd—No Meeting

November 10th—Capitol Campus Committee on History and Heritage

November 27th—No Meeting

November 24th—TBD

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

Always ask. They can only say "no".

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO

Let the editor know if your bday isn't listed.

October 5—Terry Bergeson

October 10—Linda Enlow

October 19—Ronda Larson-Kramer

October 20—Terry Kirkpatrick

October 23—Kathleen Drew

October 23—Lark Church

October 25—Gary Edwards

October 31—Matt Grant



BOARD NOTES by Jonathan Lindsay, Secretary**Approved Minutes: Sept. 25, 2025, Club Board Meeting**

Date/Time: Sept 25, 2025 | 12 pm Approved by the Board via email Sept. 26, 2025

Attending: Matt Grant, Karen Fraser, Anna Knudson, Shawn Myers, Jonathan Lindsay, Debra Clemens, Steve Hall, Joel Hansen, Curt Steigers, Sarah Beth Hernandez Huot, KT Thompson, Derek Valley. Absent: Derek Harris. Guests: Shane Hamblin. Proxies: None

1. The agenda for the meeting was called to order and approved.

2. The previous minutes were approved after revisions were submitted by Karen Fraser.

3. **Finance Report** The club is currently about **\$10,000 short** of its budget, though this is expected to be offset by payments received this month that will appear in the September report.

The club is close to about **60% of club renewals**, with Jonathan working to track and remind members who have not yet paid.

MOTION PASSED. to approve the Finance report presented by Shawn.

3. **Budget Proposal (2025-2026)** Shawn presented the proposed budget, which included the following points:

Membership Dues: The budget is based on a goal of 100 members paying \$200 each in dues.

Fundraising Need: To balance the club budget, approximately **\$4,300 in fundraising** is needed for the administrative side of the club.

Fundraising Ideas: Strategies discussed included a silent auction, possibly at the next installation dinner (a previous one raised about \$3,500), and smaller events like the pancake breakfast. Deb Clemens suggested an **online silent auction** for the foundation, noting its success for other nonprofits.

Lieutenant Governor Dues: \$300 was budgeted in anticipation of having a Lieutenant Governor, which is calculated at \$3 per member.

Leadership Education: No budget was set for the Continuing Leadership Education conference, but the budget can be amended later if someone expresses interest in attending.

Proposed Expenses and Changes

Reception/Lunch Coverage: Shawn proposed adding \$100 a month to compensate the person handling reception. An alternative suggestion was to cover reception's lunch which was generally agreed upon.

New Point-of-Sale System (POS): A proposal was made to purchase a **tablet for approximately \$200** to modernize and simplify credit card processing. The new system would use a portable card reader and an app, allowing payments to be toggled between the club and the foundation on the same device.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2025-2026 club budget.

The final motion was amended to remove the \$1,200 compensation line item for the reception role.

Next Meeting: Oct 30, 2025

Note: Finance Committee Meets: Thursday, Oct 23, 2025

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 *nd 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.

Welcome New Member!

Two new members were welcomed to the club at the September 22nd meeting.

Please be sure to say "hi" and introduce yourselves to:

Tom WHITE



Tom can be reached at:
tomwhite40@hotmail.com

Colin MEENK



Colin can be reached at:
colin.meenk@gmail.com

Some Potatoes Harvested in September!

Older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for.

Angela, Fairies & Cherubs - Oh My



It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!!

Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Board Meeting by Jonathan Lindsay Approved Minutes: Sept 25, 2025, Foundation Board Meeting

Date/Time: Sept 25, 2025 | 12 pm

Approved via email Sept 26, 2025

The Foundation meeting was called to order immediately following the Club meeting. Attendance the same as for the Club Board meeting.



1. The agenda was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.
2. The previous minutes were approved, incorporating suggested process changes submitted by Karen that were approved by email.

3. Finance Report The Finance Committee recommended approval of the financial report, which included the following updates:

***Investment Transfer:** A \$3,000 balance in account 5525 was transferred to the investment at the Community Foundation, and this will be reflected in the September report.

***Children's Cancer Donation:** The Foundation collected \$425 for children's cancer, surpassing the \$400 budgeted amount, and this will be sent to Children's Hospital. The final amount will be determined after the last collection lunch on Monday.

***Johnson Fund:** An additional \$4,240 was withdrawn from the Johnson Fund to cover half of the cost for "the well," and the payment check has already cleared the bank.

MOTION PASSED. to approve the Finance report presented by Shawn.

4 Foundation Proposed Budget

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2025-2026 Foundation budget.

* Don Law Estate Sale Contribution

The Foundation is expecting an "exceptionally generous" contribution from the Don Law estate sale.

KT will meet with the daughter on Saturday to receive the check and bring it to the Monday meeting.

*** Designated Purpose:** The proceeds from this donation will go toward the **Caring for Kids fundraiser**.

*** Thank You Letter:** Matt Grant (President) will write a thank-you letter to the Don Law family, and KT will provide the necessary mailing addresses for the family members, who are dispersed in different locations.

5. Caring for Kids Fundraiser, As of August 31st, the Foundation has collected \$14,000 for the Caring for Kids fundraiser and is still "quite a ways" short of the overall goal (\$22,000). The previous "Raise the Paddle" event generated an unbudgeted \$5,000. The upcoming "Raise the Paddle" at the event on the 2nd will be applied to the next fiscal year's fundraising goal.

Note: with the \$5,005 raised at the Don Law Estate sale, this brings us to a total of \$19,005.

6. Day of Caring. KCO will participate in United Way Day of Caring on 9/26 with over 60 volunteers at gardens and woodlot.

7. Next Meeting: Oct 30, 2025 Note: Finance Committee Meets: Thursday, Oct 23, 2025

SO Long, for now, by outgoing President Matt Grant

As President, I've learned something simple but powerful: our work matters. In a time when national politics often feels paralyzed, it has been a joy to focus on what truly makes a difference, our community, and the way we come together to serve. As I step down, I feel enormous pride in what our club has accomplished this year.

Earlier this year, when federal cuts to USDA programs strained the Thurston County Food Bank (TCFB) and our local farmers, the need for food was greater than ever. At the same time, the Food Bank was seeing a steady 5–7% weekly increase in first-time clients. In the face of that challenge, our Olympia Kiwanian Garden volunteers rose to the occasion. Typically, we provide about 23,000 pounds of produce each year. **This year, we are closing in on 40,000 pounds, nearly doubling our impact.** Special thanks go to our new Farm Manager, Jess Colson, and to **Derek Valley, Don Leaf,** and every volunteer who made this possible. You met a moment of crisis with extraordinary generosity.

At a time when many service clubs are shrinking, ours has held strong this year. We welcomed ten new members this year and continue to hover around 100, a number that has remained remarkably steady for over a century. That growth is thanks to the quality of our programs and the personal connections each of you foster. Our future is bright because you keep inviting people into this work.

We have seen a legacy of charitable support from our members this year. Thanks to **Kathy Thompson's** coordination with his family, we received \$5,000 from **Don Law's** estate sale, in addition to a \$5,000 gift Don himself made earlier this year. Additionally, with the continued benefit from the **Leighton Johnson Fund**, our scholarship program has expanded to twelve awards recognizing service, leadership, perseverance, and vocational talent among local youth.

This year we also launched a new tradition: combining our Officer Installation with the Key Club Installation. . (continued on page 6)

Some Pumpkins Harvested in September



Over 1,000 pounds of pumpkins were harvested in early September, plus bushels of potatoes and squash! All of it goes straight to the [Thurston County Food Bank](#) to help nourish families in our community.



Olympia Kiwanis Foundation Scholarships

Robert W. (Bob) McKay 1910-2007

Bob McKay was a 60 year member of Kiwanis and a leader of youth programs. He organized the Millersylvania Youth Camp and taught horticulture to many people.



Bob McKay was born in Portland, Oregon in 1910 and grew up in Puyallup, Washington. Bob graduated from Stadium High School in Tacoma in 1929 where he was a star end and pass receiver on the football team. His wife Beth Buchanan was a special education teacher in Olympia. They had five daughters.

Bob graduated from WSU in 1933 with a BS in Agriculture, after studying agricultural economics and poultry science. Worked for the Farmer's Home Administration from 1934 until 1947 in Pierce, Kitsap, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Lewis Counties.

Bob retired after nearly 27 years as chairman of the Thurston County Cooperative Extension Service on June 28, 1974. During his long career, he assisted in organizing marketing cooperatives for land clearing equipment, breeding associations, and farm forestry groups. He also assisted in organizing the Millersylvania Youth Camp, the Thurston County Cattlemen, a horticultural association, and others.

He was past president of the Washington State County Agents Association and was winner of the National County Agents Association's Outstanding Service award. He also produced 5000 Christmas tree a year on his farm on Black Creek, southwest of Olympia as a member of the Northwest Christmas Tree Association and was active in Christmas tree research. Besides being an ardent handball player, golfer, and fisherman, Bob was a mountain climber with many major peaks to his credit. Bob died at home in Olympia, Washington at 98 years of age, on December 14, 2007.

POLICIES OF THE OLYMPIA KIWANIS CLUB May 2022

AP30: KIWANIS BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE:

AP30:01 In August of each year, the:

- President-Elect and Club Treasurer begin development of initial OK Club and OK Foundation budgets for the upcoming year based on actual experience of the previous 12 months. Incorporate known changes for the upcoming year (usually new programs, dropped programs or change of program emphasis) and input from all Committee Chairs.

- Finance Committee reviews and makes recommendations.

- Board of Directors receives and considers initial draft of budgets.

AP30:02 In September • President-Elect and Treasurer incorporate all input. • Finance Committee (FC) reviews and makes recommendations. • Board of Directors considers and adopts budgets.

AP30:03 In April. • President and Treasurer review actual financial Year To Date data with special attention to results from Harbor Days and poinsettia fundraisers, and develop necessary mid-year changes to the budgets.

- Finance Committee reviews and makes recommendations.

- Board of Directors adopts changes to the budget.

Membership Committee Survey Results from Krystal Kyer

The Committee received 48 survey responses - online (25) and paper (23). Summary of responses:

1. Why did you join? - HALF of the respondents said they joined because someone they knew asked them to. Others joined for their work, for opportunities to volunteer, or to support kids.
2. Why do you stay? - networking /meeting new people, friends, volunteer opportunities / community service (garden, Key Club), to be informed/educated on issues in our community. The survey responses were similar whether they were completed on paper at the lunch or online.

What does this mean moving forward?

* The KCO membership growth and education committee should promote ways to support member recruitment and retention, including the following:

* Recruitment: Encourage current members to invite guests to events, share why they joined and what they/we do, and personally invite people to become members. If members stop sharing and asking, our membership will drop by half.

Conversely, if more people asked others to join or asked one more to join then our membership could significantly increase.

* Retention: Continue to offer community service opportunities including key (!) activities such as the food bank gardens and Key Clubs at high schools.

Retention: Continue to offer education programs and social opportunities such as (but not limited to) the lunch meeting.

Thanks to all who completed the survey!

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	Jonathan Lindsay
Fire Wood for Needy	John Tobin
Garden	Don Leaf, Derek Valley
Newsletter	Jan Britt
Sponsored Youth and Key Clubs	Joellen Wilhelm
Finance Committee	Anna Knudson
Club History	Sam Reed
Website:	Jonathan Lindsey
Nominating Committee	Sam Reed
Risk Management	Bob Lien



GRANT RECIPIENTS

We're excited to share that thanks to a generous grant from the [Olympia Kiwanis Club](#), Rosie's Place now has brand new desk top computers!

These computers will provide essential access for youth and young adults to fill out job applications, apply for medical benefits, access educational resources, and more. This support will empower them to meet their needs, pursue opportunities, and transition to safer, more stable environments.

Thank you Kiwanis Club of Olympia for helping us make a real difference!



SEPTEMBER IS HARVEST TIME; OCTOBER IS FOR HARVESTING, PLANTING, PLANNING AND CLEAN UP by Derek Valles

Jess, along with Ethan, Willow, Jules and an invaluable set of volunteers have started what can be described as "fall harvest".

All three gardens have abundant crops waiting to be picked, cleaned, weighed and delivered to the Thurston County Food Bank for client families in need. Many of these crops are storable for future use, some are for fun, including pumpkins for the kids. All of our produce is valued.

Thurston United Way "Day of Caring" (September 26) included volunteers from Target Distribution Center, Backlund, Mistry Law Firm, St. Johns Episcopal Church, The Evergreen State College, Lifespan Construction and Thurston Young Professionals.

Volunteers from these organizations joined our corps of volunteers to harvest:

410 pounds of carrots (Capitol Campus)

127 pounds of beans (West Side)

75 pounds of beats (Calliope)

And a yet to be weighed harvest of squash from Capitol Campus and Calliope. In addition, the volunteers helped clean up the garden spaces. It was a very productive day; we appreciate the help!

Ethan, Willow and Jules are finishing up their Thurston County Food Bank employment with us. We will miss their spirit, assistance, knowledge and strong backs. We wish them well on their next ventures.

With the loss of Calliope Farm acreage at the end of this year, we have been looking for additional garden space. Several potential spaces have been identified and during the coming months we will make a decision of which garden space will fill our needs and be added to the two garden spaces we have at the Capitol Campus and the West Side gardens. Along with Jess, **Don Leaf** and **Joel Hansen** have been very helpful in this process.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY 28	MONDAY 29- MEETING Noon Tugboat Annie's	TUESDAY 30	OCTOBER WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2 0900 Capital Campus Garden 5:30PM Installation Dinner at OHS	FRIDAY 3	SATURDAY 4—0900 West Side Garden
5	6—NO MEETING Full Moon	7 First day of Sukkot	8	9—0900 Capital Campus Garden	10	11—0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
12	13— Noon at Tugboat Annie's	14	15	16—0900 Capital Campus Garden	17	18—0900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
19	20— NO MEETING	21	22	23—0900 Capital Campus Garden	24	25—900 West Side Garden and Wood Cutting
26	27—Noon Tugboat Annie/s	28	29	30-0900 Capital Campus Garden	31 Halloween	NOVEMBER 1 0900 West Side Garden And Wood Cutting

Kiwanis Korner

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Pumpkins being delivered to the
 Thurston County Food Bank.

**SO Long, for now, by outgoing President Matt Grant** Continued from Page 3

.It was inspiring to celebrate side-by-side with the OHS and CHS Key Clubs, both of which are thriving. I loved getting to know these students at the District Convention. They may not always be the loudest voices, but they show up consistently to serve—and they make us proud. I look forward to deepening these connections with our next generation of leaders.

Looking ahead, I am deeply optimistic. With **Karen Fraser** stepping in as President, the steady leadership of President-Elect **Ana Knudsen**, and the expertise of Vice President **Debra Clemens**, we are poised to thrive. My gratitude also goes to Treasurer **Shawn Myers**, Secretary **Jonathan Lindsay**, our own “Mr. Kiwanis”, and to departing board members **Kathy Thompson and Derek Valley**. These leaders, and so many unsung heroes across our committees and events, embody what Kiwanis is all about. Also, a special shout out to **Jan Britt**, who makes sure this newsletter is done every month.

Thank you for giving me the honor of serving as President. This year has given me a deeper understanding of our club's impact and an even greater appreciation for the people who make it possible. Together, we've shown that when a community needs us most, Kiwanis shows up.

I look forward to seeing you at our Installation Dinner this Thursday.

Thanks, Matt

