

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Kiwanis **builder**

A quarterly resource to help build clubs and communities

Growing Community



**“KI President
Visits the
PNW”
See Page 6**



Spring 2026

**International Convention
June 25-27, 2026
Manila, Philippines**



WHAT TO PLAN FOR IN 2026



**District Convention
September 9-12, 2026
Ferndale, Washington**

The **KiwanisBuilder** magazine is produced quarterly by the Pacific Northwest District of Kiwanis International.

Submissions Guide and the Consent & Release Form can be found online at:
<https://k22.site.kiwanis.org/builder-magazine/>

Schedule - (Submission by...)

Winter	January 1	(by Dec 1)
Spring	April 1	(by Mar 1)
Summer	July	(by June 1)
Fall	October 1	(by Sept 1)

www.pnwkiwanis.org

KiwanisBuilder magazine

John Flaherty
Governor
2025-2026

Pacific Northwest District
of Kiwanis International

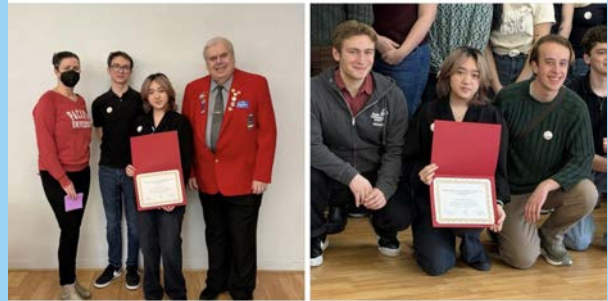
Submissions to the Editor
publications@pnwkiwanis.org

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- 2 Events in 2026
- 3 Builder Editor's Message
- 4 Governor's Message
- 5 SLP Updates
- 6 Mid-Winter Conf. Recap
- 7 Mid-Winter Photos
- 8 More Mid-Winter Photos
- 10 Fundraiser Cruise
- 12 Membership
- 13 Law Enforcement Camp 2026
- 14 Mount Hood Kiwanis Camp
- 15 MHKC Legacy Campaign
- 16 Club Service Showcase
- 17 Harding Memorial
- 18 Legacy Brick
- 19 100th Anniversaries
- BC New Kiwanians in the PNW

Cover photo courtesy of
David Cowan.

Circle-K at Pacific University Forest Grove Oregon have been nominated for and selected to win the 2026 Bevin McCarthy Spirit of Civic Engagement Award . It was presented to the CKI club at the March 7th Civic Engagement Summit. Circle K was selected this year from among many clubs and honors at the university because of their commitment towards diversity and excellence and serving the community.



"A community is a group of people who agree to grow together."
- Simon Sinek

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

As we head into Spring, this issue is a great reminder of the energy and connection that make Kiwanis so special. Mid-Winter brought together members from across the district for a weekend of learning, fellowship, and inspiration, and it truly set the tone for the months ahead.

A special thank you to David Cowan of the Kiwanis Club of Baker City, Oregon, for his outstanding photography featured on the cover and throughout this issue. His work beautifully captures the spirit of the weekend.

It's exciting to see clubs preparing for Spring and Summer projects, celebrating milestones, and continuing to make an impact in their communities.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue and to all of you who continue to share your stories and successes.

Here's to a service-filled season ahead!

David Pearson

Builder Magazine Editor 2025-2026 - dsec@pnwkiwanis.org

A message from 2025-2026 Governor John Flaherty

Your Energy and Commitment Impacts Our Communities



Fellow Kiwanians,

It was truly a pleasure to see so many of you at Mid-Winter. The energy, fellowship, and commitment on display were inspiring and a great reminder of what makes our district so special.

I also had the opportunity to join our District Key Club at their District Conference. Spending time with these outstanding young leaders reinforced something we all know; our youth programs are at the heart of everything we do. Their enthusiasm and dedication are a powerful reflection of the impact Kiwanis has in our communities.

Kiwanis is a family in so many ways, and I continue to be inspired by the passion and service of our members across the district.

We also have some exciting milestones ahead. Several clubs are celebrating their 100th anniversaries, including Pendleton, Oregon and Sandpoint, Idaho, in the coming weeks. I am honored to be able to join them in celebrating these incredible achievements and the lasting legacy of service they represent.

As we move into spring, I hope your projects are taking shape and you're gearing up for a successful and impactful summer.

In Service and Friendship,
John Flaherty, Governor 2025-2026
johnwflaherty@gmail.com



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SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

K-KIDS UPDATE

Why K-Kids?

K-Kids clubs are hosted in primary/elementary schools and organizations around the world. The clubs offer students, typically ages 6-11, opportunities to make friends, build skills, contribute through service and learn how to be leaders.

Members' service projects contribute to the community, increasing the visibility of the K-Kids club and the school or organization they represent.

It's student-led.

K-Kids is uniquely built on an important principle: Amazing things happen when students learn, engage, serve and lead. Together, club members and officers choose activities that interest them — with the guidance of advisors who empower their work.

It's age-appropriate.

The program and its resources offer experience designed specifically for primary and elementary school age students.

It's flexible.

No two clubs are alike. Each club determines its own meeting schedule, service projects and other activities. That way, it fits the needs of advisors and members—and serves the needs in its community.

It's supported by Kiwanis.

Adult Kiwanis volunteers and staff at the regional and international levels are available to support your club's success.

If your club is looking for a new community service project or have a new member just joining. A K-Kids Club is low cost, easy to operate but makes a huge impact. Please consider talking with your local school superintendent about starting a K-Kids.

Go online to kiwaniskids.org to start.

In Service to our Youth,

Debbie Johnson

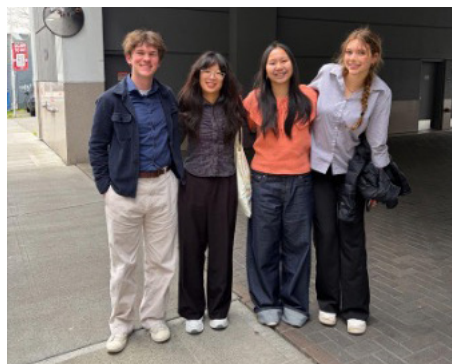
Past PNW District Administrator K-Kids

KEY CLUB UPDATE

The Pacific Northwest District Key Club Convention was an experience filled with energy, empowerment, and opportunities. The 1600 attendees enjoyed participating in exhilarating opening and closing sessions, listening to incredible speakers, participating in informative workshops and attending an energetic Governor's Ball. The convention featured three special guests: singer Carmen Dianne during the "entertainment" portion of the opening session, motivational speaker John Beede at the opening session, and NFL free agent Aaron Golub as a mega forum speaker. Awards were presented to clubs and members

We would like to acknowledge Immediate Past Governor Gavin Ahumada, and his Executive team, comprised of District Secretary Katelyn Kawamura, District Treasurer Lillian Willard, and District Editor Tiffany Vo, for their dedication and hard work this past year. Under their leadership PNW Key Club raised nearly \$7,000 and provided 8,285 hours of volunteer service in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC).

The new 2026-2027 Executive Committee consists of PNW District Governor Lawrence McConnell, District Secretary Rebekah Christensen, District Treasurer Alice Xu, and District Editor Linh Tran (see below).



Governor Lawrence and his executive team look forward to hosting you all for DCON 2027, to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Seattle, WA March 19-21, 2027. Mark your calendars now!

Rebekah Christensen, District Secretary
PNW Key Club

Mid-Winter Conference 2026

Mid-Winter Conference Recap

We were incredibly honored to welcome Michael Mulhail and Cathy Szymanski to the Pacific Northwest for this year's Mid-Winter Conference. Their presence, leadership, and insights made the weekend especially meaningful, and we are deeply grateful for the time they spent with our district.

This year's Mid-Winter Conference was a tremendous success, bringing together Kiwanians from across the district for a weekend filled with learning, connection, and inspiration.

From engaging workshops to meaningful conversations, the conference highlighted the strength and dedication of our Kiwanis family. A special thank you to all of our presenters and special guests; your time, insight, and enthusiasm made the weekend one to remember.

We hope you enjoy the following photos, capturing just a few of the many great moments from the weekend!



Mid-Winter Conference 2026



Photos courtesy of David Cowan



Mid-Winter Conference 2026



Mid-Winter Conference 2026



Photos courtesy of David Cowan





Announcing the 2nd PNW Kiwanis Fundraiser Cruise

Join Us Aboard the Discovery Princess for an Unforgettable Journey!

Set Sail for Service: PNW Kiwanis Fundraiser Cruise 2027

We are excited to invite you to the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Kiwanis Fundraiser Cruise, an extraordinary voyage that combines adventure, relaxation, and the opportunity to make a difference! Set your sights on the sun-drenched Mexican Riviera and join fellow Kiwanians, family, and friends for a week of fun, fellowship, and fundraising aboard the luxurious Discovery Princess.

Cruise Details

- Dates: January 9–16, 2027
- Departure Port: Los Angeles, California
- Ship: Discovery Princess
- Destinations:
 - Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
 - Mazatlán, Mexico
 - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Why Join the Cruise?

- Support vital Kiwanis service projects and initiatives in the PNW region
- Network and connect with fellow Kiwanians and their families
- Enjoy exclusive onboard events, seminars, and social gatherings
- Experience the beauty, culture, and excitement of Mexico's top coastal destinations
- Relax in style with world-class amenities and entertainment aboard the Discovery Princess





How the Fundraiser Works

A portion of each cabin fare booked through our special group program will go directly to support PNW Kiwanis projects. The more participants we have, the greater the impact we can make together! Look for additional opportunities to contribute through onboard activities and events benefitting our mission.

How to Reserve Your Spot

1. Contact our official Kiwanis cruise coordinator, Cindy Crowther for details on pricing, cabin options, and booking instructions.
2. Book your cruise early to secure the best rates and your preferred accommodation.
3. Invite friends, family, and potential new Kiwanians to join the adventure!

Important Information

- All Kiwanians, their guests, and supporters are welcome.
- Passports are required for this itinerary.
- Additional details, including special group events and fundraising opportunities, will be shared as the departure date approaches.

Contact & Questions

For more information or to sign up, please reach out to the PNW Kiwanis cruise coordinator Cindy Crowther at 20blueskys@gmail.com or call 541-419-9890.

*Don't miss this chance to cruise for a cause!
Let's make waves for service together—reserve your cabin today
and help us create lasting change in our communities.*

More Hands for Impactful Service

(Formerly known as Membership Matters)

WHAT COUNTS MOST IN WHAT WE DO?

It's not the number of members we have, yes, I said it.

What matters most is the number of lives we impact: children, neighbors, seniors, and those across our communities and the world. The need continues to grow, and to meet it, we must add more hands.

That's our responsibility as servant leaders; every one of us, in every club.

When we grow, we expand our reach. We welcome like-minded individuals who often become lifelong friends. We strengthen our leadership capacity and create more opportunities to serve.

And let's not forget that volunteering is good for your health. Everyone benefits.

So why wouldn't we share that opportunity with others? Friends, colleagues, and community members we simply haven't met yet. It starts with a conversation and an invitation.

This is a gift we get to give.

Let's lean into it. In a spirit of generosity, we have the chance to bring more joy to those who serve and those we serve. There's no downside, only greater impact.

So, when do we start?

Right now.

Talk with your club about how to add more hands. Begin your outreach today. Opportunities like this, true win-wins, are rare. And the ability to create them every day? That's something special.

May is Kiwanis Membership Month, so start planning now to grow and retain members. Thriving PNW Kiwanis clubs treat every month as Membership Month. Consider doing the same, and gain new friendships, new service opportunities, and a greater impact for those who need it most.

Need support? Your PNW Membership Team is just a phone call away.

Greg Wegrich, Membership Chair, 2025-2026

greg.wegrich@gmail.com

(360) 441-7082



UNLOCK THE ADVENTURE

Explore the excitement of a career in law enforcement!



Kiwanis Youth Law Enforcement Career Camp July 19–25, 2026

Start your journey into a world of law enforcement at the PNW Kiwanis Youth Law Enforcement Career Camp, co-hosted by Kiwanis clubs of the PNW District and the Washington State Patrol at the Washington State Patrol Academy in Shelton, Washington. This program is designed for high school juniors and seniors, male and female, who have a strong interest in criminal justice, whether it be in the FBI, ATF, Military, County or City levels. The intense camp will be an experience of a lifetime and give students a chance to experience these professions.

Applications are due by May 25, 2026. The website with more information and application forms is: www.kiwanislawenforcementcamp.com Or call Derek Valley, Olympia Kiwanis and KYLEC Board President at (360) 951-9151. Follow us on Instagram - @kiwanislawenforcementcamp

Clubs – remember when a student or the camp contact you to sponsor a youth who wants to attend the camp to give generously. Cost to each student is \$50. Cost for them to attend the camp is \$700 each! Can your club provide a full or partial scholarship to cover the \$700 camp cost?

We have a roughly 70% record of camp students progressing into public safety and military careers. Who do you know who might want to attend this camp?

Participating Local, State and Federal Agencies





MHKC 41st Annual Auction & Gala “All that Glitters”

Inspired by the glamour and glow of all things that glitter, we invite you to join us for an unforgettable evening in support of Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp. Together, we'll raise vital funds to empower individuals with developmental disabilities — all while shining in our favorite cocktail attire!

Friday, May 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Avenue Portland
631 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR 97232

Enjoy a full evening of celebration, including:

- Live & silent auctions
- Bubbles and wine from Stoller Family Estate
- A delicious dinner and dessert
- A DJ set guaranteed to fill the dance floor
- Special prizes for best dressed

Dust off your sparkle and join us for a night that truly shines.

Get your tickets today: MHKC.org/gala

MHKC Work Party

Volunteers needed! Join us at Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp for our Annual Work Party on Friday, June 5th from 9:00 AM–4:00 PM as we get camp ready for an amazing season.

Lunch is provided!

We'll be tackling a variety of projects including:

- Chopping and stacking firewood
- Wildfire mitigation
- Clearing trails
- Spreading and compacting gravel
- Setting up program areas
- And more!

Please bring gloves, shovels, and rakes if you have them. Your time and energy make a huge difference — come lend a hand and help us prepare camp for the summer!





This is a big and historic year for MHKC. We want to take a moment to share what 2026 has in store.

The construction process for our new dorm is under way. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we are fulfilling a vision that has been a priority for MHKC for many years.

The Summer 2026 MHKC experience will be affected by the new construction. Many of our campers will be accommodated in temporary quarters. We will make every effort to ensure the comfort of all campers while we move ahead on building the new dorm. Campers this year will also have the rare experience of seeing the new dorm taking shape day by day!

Looking further ahead, the successful completion of the new dorm this fall will continue our progress toward reducing waitlists in the years to come. By replacing our current 45-bed facility with a thoughtfully designed dorm, we'll be able to welcome up to 90 campers in a space that elevates comfort and creates an even better home-away-from-home.

MHKC also continues to envision new improvements to our camp facilities. In 2023, we entered our tenth decade of service as a camp. Even as we complete funding for the new dorm, the MHKC Legacy 90 Capital Campaign will also continue to secure the resources we need to launch a new century with pride and confidence. Thanks to all of our contributors, we are creating a long, bright future for MHKC.

To learn more or to donate, go to: <https://mhkc.org/legacy-90-capital-campaign/>

Thank you so much and let me know if you have any questions!

Skye Burns (she/her)
Development and Communications Director
Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp
(971) 230-2928



CLUB SERVICE SHOWCASE

\$2500 Grant For Books For Students

In January 2023, at one of our regular meetings, the Emerald Empire Kiwanis Club was treated to an enthusiastic program from Principal Karen Ramirez Gutierrez about her school, El Camino del Rio/River Road Elementary. From that presentation grew a partnership where our club provides time, supplies, and money to the students and staff.

We have read to students, built a Buddy Bench, and provided monetary support. In April 2023 we were given the unique opportunity to inspire students to enjoy reading by partnering with the school parent group in the purchase of a book vending machine where students were provided the opportunity to select a book for their very own. We have supplied books for the machine for the past two years.

In September 2024 we were made aware of the need for library as well as vending machine books in both English and Spanish. The school library had recently been purged of old and worn books and was in need of new items to stock the shelves.

In searching for ways to assist in the purchase of new books our club, in June 2025, submitted a grant to the Pacific Northwest Kiwanis Foundation. This Foundation promotes youth related activities in the Pacific Northwest District, a large area consisting of Oregon, Washington, Alaska, the Idaho Panhandle, Siskiyou County of California, the Province of British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory of Canada. As with all of Kiwanis International, the Foundation is committed to serving the children of the world.

We are pleased and proud to inform you that our grant was approved and we are honored to have presented a \$2500 check to the students and staff of El Camino to be used for the purchase of library and vending machine books. We look forward to continuing our partnership in support El Camino del Rio Elementary.

- Martha Wallin, President-Elect
The Emerald Empire, Eugene



The Harding Memorial Wreath Ceremony



President Warren G. Harding noted the importance of the U.S.-Canada relationship for our mutual prosperity and security when he visited Vancouver more than 100 years ago. The President was a proud member of Kiwanis, whose clubs funded the construction of a memorial that was built in Vancouver after the President's early death. On February 13, 2026 three Past Presidents of the Vancouver club participated in the ceremony with U.S. Consul General Shawn Crowley to honor the relationship. (Left to right) Joshua Tiong, George Cadman, Bob Grant, Shawn Crowley, Joseph Geraghty



Vancouver Club Kiwanian George Cadman (left) and Consul General Shawn Crowley (right) place a wreath at the Harding Memorial in Stanley Park to mark Presidents' Day.

HISTORY

In July 1923, U.S. President Warren Harding visited Vancouver on his way home from Alaska. The visit attracted a lot of attention, in part because it is the first time a US president would make a speech on Canadian soil during office term. In his brief visit the president was greeted by huge crowds. One week later Mr. Harding unexpectedly passed away.

In 1925, the Harding Memorial was unveiled on the spot where the president gave his speech while in Vancouver. It was paid for by Kiwanis Clubs across North America (Harding was a member) and designed by Vancouver sculptor Charles Marega (a Kiwanian). Thousands of people attended the unveiling.





LEGACY BRICK

Have you thought about honoring your Club President, Lt. Governor, Spouse, Friend, your Kiwanian of the Year or perhaps memorialize a member who has passed away with a brick?

It will be placed in the patio outside the District offices.

You can choose from a 4"x8" red brick with block lettering (14 characters on 3 lines) for \$100 or a 8"x8" gray brick with block lettering (14 characters on 5 lines) for \$250.

The PNW Kiwanis Legacy Brick Order Form may be found on the Kiwanis website at:

<https://k22.site.kiwanis.org/legacy-patio-at-the-district-office/>



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

The KIWANIS Club of Pendleton

is turning **100 years** old!

Chartered April 6, 1926

COME CELEBRATE WITH US

APRIL 18TH, 2026

1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Light refreshments

Pendleton Center for the Arts

Pearson Auditorium

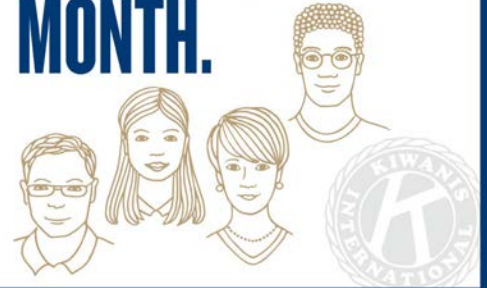
214 N Main

Pendleton, OR 97801

RSVP By March 31, 2026 Contact Sheryl at 541-969-6424 or sdsmith732@gmail.com



MAY IS
MEMBERSHIP
MONTH.



APRIL IS
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
MONTH



Kiwanis®



Sandpoint

100th Anniversary

2026 is the 100 year anniversary year for the Sandpoint Kiwanis Club. They are having a program on June 20, 2026 to celebrate this great milestone.

The program will start at 4:00 and will be held at Camp Stidwell on Mirror Lake (south of Sandpoint). Camp Stidwell is a 159 acre campground that the Sandpoint Club owns and operates, and is absolutely beautiful!

For more information contact...

Marty Behm

Lieutenant Governor, Northern Idaho Division

Kiwanis PNW District Finance Chair

mrbehm59@gmail.com

(208) 660-6843!

Saint Helens

100th Anniversary

The Saint Helens Kiwanis Club will mark its centennial year in 2026 through concelebrating its 100th year with “America 250” at its annual parade, amassing hundreds of service hours each month, and presenting the history of its hundred years of service to the community.

The 100th celebration will culminate in a gala dinner on November 7th with a “Roaring Twenties” theme.

All Kiwanians and supporters are invited to join them in the festivities!

For more information contact...

Margaret Trenchard-Smith, President of the Saint Helens Kiwanis Club at: drmtrenchardsmith@gmail.com

New Kiwanians in the PNW District

January 1 - March 31, 2026

Tim Amato	Winthrop	Jonathan King	Ferndale
Larry Anderson	Greater Kingston	Richard Lawton	Oliver
Cheryl Antonio	Richland	Rael Lonergan	Lake Oswego
Jay Banta	Tillamook	Rebecca Mabus	Moses Lake
Daniel Benefiel	Prineville	Cathy MacDonald	Omak
Robin Bergin	Canby	Carol MacKay	Port Townsend
Gloria Bible	Corvallis	Janika Mao	University, Seattle
Shawniene Bingham	Walla Walla	Vincent Mathews	Fairbanks
Wendy Bogard	Grants Pass	Ryan McLauchlan	North Central, Seattle
John Carlson	Olympia	Mark Mew	Sisters
Ginger Sarah Carpenter	Redmond	Lisa Monroe	Kirkland
Yvonne Cerrato	West Valley, Willamina	Warren Neily	Oliver
Emily Chavez	Pasco	Carson Nyman	Greater Kingston
Steve Claus	Tillamook	Stephanie Odell	Sisters
Jill Cofchin	Clover Park	Virginia Painter	Olympia
Shakira Collins	Dayton	Russell Pasic	Montesano
Trish Cox	North Central, Seattle	Petr Paulson	Pullman
Emily Curran	Northeast Spokane	John Peppers	Steilacoom
Elizabeth Dekker	Anacortes	Stephen Percy	Lincoln City
Alexa Dodd	Yakima	Frank Pineau	Providence Point, Issaquah
Monica Donovan	University, Seattle	Pat Price	Clover Park
Christine Drew	Sisters	Christie Ranslow	Tigard
Sheri DuMond	Redmond	Kim Raynor	Steilacoom
Phyllis Eckstein	Redmond	Shelley Reynolds-Wacker	The Dalles
Amanda Evans	The Dalles	Carlos Rice	Albany
Susan Feehan	Grants Pass	Jeni Roberts	Bend
Jeffrey Finley	Steilacoom	Shaun Robertson	Oliver
Hugo Fischer	Steilacoom	Colton Sachs	Bend
Wayne Foden	Oliver	Robert Sailer	Gig Harbor
Cheryl Fogg	East Spokane	Michelle Schueller	Federal Way
Robin Ford	Yakima	Joyce Schultz	Gig Harbor
Maria Foster	Lake Stevens	James Shannon	Moses Lake
Karen Germain	Central Okanagan	Karen Sliger	Prineville
John Glenski	West Valley, Willamina	Chelsie Smith	Yakima
Gary Goelitz	Steilacoom	Sara Spalding	Port Angeles
Jane Gosliga	Grants Pass	Abby Sprague	Liberty Lake
Linda Gott	Kristmas Town, Shelton	Dennis Staines	Sisters
Daphne Gunn	Pullman	Emma Stauffer	Ferndale
Lesley Hall	Providence Point, Issaquah	Sara Stolpp	Lincoln City
John Halliday	Steilacoom	Jessa Sutherland	Yakima
Kalia Haneberg	Sandy	Sarah Tallman	Lake Stevens
Tim Happeny	Olympia	Kelly Van Arsdol	Pullman
Peggy Hartman	Grants Pass	Aaron Waltemeyer	Columbia Gorge (The)
David Harvey	Richland	Gabby Waltemeyer	Columbia Gorge (The)
Duane Hefner	Silver Valley, Kellogg	Allyson Whalen	Greater Kingston
Marjorie Hefner	Silver Valley, Kellogg	Brian Wheeler	Mukilteo
Charles Henager	Kennewick	Necie Wheeler	Mukilteo
Lewis Hilton	Steilacoom	Lindsay Wilson	Saint Helens
Carole Hudson	Providence Point, Issaquah	Nadia Wilson	Oliver
Christina Jacobs	Medical Lake	Kyrsten Wooster	Greater Kingston
Michelle John	Post Falls	Charles Yusi	Okanogan
Amy Johnston	Canby	Juli Zook	Silver Valley, Kellogg
Luz Juarez	Bend		