



G.A.G. RAG

Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club

March 2025

www.alliedgardenskiwanis.org

Welcome Aboard: Club Celebrates Three New Members

Every new member of our Kiwanis Club represents a new opportunity to connect with, and serve, our community.

Every new member represents a new set of connections for networking and for telling the Kiwanis story.

And, most importantly, every new member is a new friend and a new part of our extended family.

We were lucky last month to add three new members, each of them with their own previous connection to Kiwanis.



Rosy Garcia-Rivas



Julie Thomas



Flora Brown

The influx of new members and new energy started on Thursday, February 6th when we welcomed **Julie Thomas** and **Rosy Garcia-Rivas** into the club, a joyful occasion as we added two members on the same day.

The following week, we were able to welcome “Mom Flo,” **Flora Brown**, a La Mesa resident who is a past Lt. Governor of Division 43 and a member of two other Kiwanis Clubs.

Learn more about these three ladies on Pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter. We look forward to serving with each of them and bringing them into our organization for (hopefully) many years to come.

For Phoebe Shoemaker, It's Time to Shine

During their recent Conclave on Saturday, February 22nd, Patrick Henry High School junior **Phoebe Shoemaker** (pictured, right) was unanimously elected to serve as the next Lt. Governor for Key Club Division 21 East.

Phoebe is no newcomer to the Kiwanis Family, as she had previously been a student volunteer for both K-Kids and Builders Club before starting high school. Originally from the Big Island of Hawai'i, where she lived until age 7, Phoebe spent the past year as the club Secretary for PHHS Key Club and the Division Secretary for Division 21 East. As Lieutenant Governor, she will be responsible for counseling and reporting on eight local Key Clubs, including her home club at Patrick Henry.

Phoebe has developed some lofty goals for her term in office, which officially begins at the Key Club District Convention, April 24th-27th in Ontario, California. Under her leadership and with the help of next year's club Presidents, she would like to see her clubs reach 500 members, 5,000 hours of service, and \$5,000 donated to the Kiwanis Children's Fund and other charities.

Due to an unexpected vacancy in the position, Phoebe's term in office will begin earlier than scheduled, giving her a chance to experience Key Club leadership at the highest level before most of her counterparts in the Cali-Nev-Ha District.

Her senior year figures to be a busy one, as she works to manage her time and her demanding academic schedule. In addition to her Key Club involvement, Phoebe is the chief editor of the PHHS Yearbook staff, Treasurer of the California Scholastic Federation, and a member of Girls Who Code, all while maintaining a robust 4.4 GPA.





by Jim Akin, 2024-25 Club President

It's getting close to that time of year. You know, it's very taxing. It is getting near the time when we have to pay up to Uncle Sam. Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, etc. We in Kiwanis, and other service clubs as well, pay another tax called community service. **Muhammad Ali**, the great boxer, has the following line inscribed on his tombstone:

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room in heaven."

It may be a bit of overkill to have this on one's tombstone, but it is really a straight up presentation of values.

Our service tax that we pay in time and money to the good of the community is different from the tax that we pay to various governments in only one way: We do it voluntarily. I'm sure that almost all of us do not voluntarily send money to the IRS. They know where we live.

So why do we pay this community service tax? The high-minded blurbs on many organizations' websites tell us that, in a lot of words, it is for the good of the communities in which we live. We are supposed to register a sense of fulfillment and broaden our skills in teamwork. These high-minded ideals are great, and do represent a part of why one would spend time and money on service projects. These ideals are not what I signed up for. Yes, I do get a sense of fulfillment. That feeling comes when we are putting out the flags and drivers honk and wave. But more so, I signed up because it is fun. It is sociable. I am surrounded by like-minded people.

You still have about two months left until the not so voluntary tax is due. Your voluntary tax is due now, and next week, next month, next year. Make sure you pay it on time because we too know where you live.

-- Jim

Who Takes The CAKE This Month?



March Birthdays

- 6 Jim Akin
- 14 Paul Vogel
- 18 Violet Devera (*Lewis Builders Club*)



March Wedding Anniversaries

- 28 Valerie and John Crawford

March Membership Anniversaries

- 1969 Gene Elmore
- 2005 Dave Erlanson
- 2017 Alan Young
- 2021 Bjorn Endresen



MEMBERSHIP METER

Club Membership (as of February 28 th , 2025)	27
Members Added Last Month	3
Members Deleted Last Month	0
Change, Year to Date (since October 1 st , 2024)	+3
Honorary Members	8



Kiwanis[®]

GRANTVILLE-ALLIED GARDENS

G.A.G. RAG is the official publication of the Kiwanis Club of Grantville-Allied Gardens (#K05285), our Foundation, and our Service Leadership Programs (SLPs). The G.A.G. Kiwanis Club, chartered by Kiwanis International on September 17th, 1960, meets on Thursdays at Palisades Church, 6301 Birchwood Street. Our club meetings are open to the public and guests are always welcome.

Our mailing address is P.O. Box 601211, San Diego, CA, 92160-1211. We can also be reached through our club website, on Facebook or Instagram, or via e-mail at grantvillealliedgardenskiwanis@gmail.com.

This newsletter is published for the first Thursday of every month. Please send any items for publication to the editor at kiwannabee@hotmail.com. Back issues of this newsletter are available upon request as far back as June 2006.

We encourage articles, photos, and other contributions from all members of the Kiwanis Club, from our SLP partners, and from the community at large.

G.A.G. RAG Contributors

John Crawford, Editor and Lead Writer

Kathy Butterstein, Additional Writing and Photography

Color Printing courtesy of **Hector Contreras**, Homestreet Bank

Special Thanks to **Mary Haas** for Archive Photos and Digital Scrapbooks.

Other contributors this month include **Gary Blume**, **Valerie Crawford**, **Vic Enchelmayer**, **Danielle Iwatsu**, **Alan Young**, and **Neill Kovrig** (Division 21 Lt. Governor). Sorry if we missed anyone!



Don't Miss our Friend
WANDA ELMORE
on "The Price Is Right"
with Drew Carey
Wednesday, April 30th on CBS



Volunteering at Track Meet, Kiwanis Runs Circles Around the Rest

G.A.G. Kiwanis volunteers, with additional assistance from the PHHS Key Club and Lewis Builders Club, flipped burgers and painted faces at the Elmer Runge Invitational at Patrick Henry High School on Saturday, March 1st.

Named for a 33-year athletic coach and P.E. teacher, the track tournament bearing Runge's name today attracts hundreds of athletes and fans from throughout San Diego County and beyond. Kiwanis helped feed many parents, athletes, and kids.

Heeding a plea for help from **Dorothy Ianuzzi**, a PHHS track parent and 5th-grade teacher at Hearst Elementary School, G.A.G. volunteers brought the cook trailer to this event for the second consecutive year.

Special thanks to **John Chandler** for coordinating the volunteer effort, and to **Danielle Iwatsu** for again bringing her ever-popular face painting kit to keep our students and athletes happy!



Manning the cook trailer – for hours at a time – were Kiwanis volunteers **John Chandler** and **Dave Erlanson**. These two make the entire project possible!



Gazing deeply into his eyes? No, that's just Key Clubber **Phoebe Shoemaker** putting great care into her face painting!



Kiwanian **Danielle Iwatsu** (right) spearheaded the face-painting aspect of the project, and got a kick out of it, too!



At left, **Laurel Bushnell** was one of the first kids to get her face painted. At right, Builders Club volunteer **Ruby Phillips** helped out for the second year in a row.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Julie Thomas and Rosy Garcia-Rivas

G.A.G. Kiwanis was fortunate to add two bright and eager young women to our roster in one fun-filled meeting last month.

On Thursday, February 6th, both **Julie Thomas** and **Rosy Garcia-Rivas** were given their membership certificates and temporary name badges in a ceremony hosted by Membership Chair **John Crawford**. John is serving as Julie's sponsor into the club, while Rosy is sponsored by **Alan Young**. Both new members received their temporary name badge and a certificate of membership in Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis.

Rosy Garcia-Rivas arrives in our club with a specific goal in sight: she is hoping to charter a new K-Kids Club for students at Foster Elementary School in Allied Gardens. As a graduate of the K-Kids program herself (at Birney Elementary School) in University Heights/Hillcrest, Rosy remembers what an impact the Kiwanis Family had on her life. Reflecting on her own experience as a member of K-Kids, she is hoping to pass those same lessons along to the next generation, including her own two children.

Given her connection to the Kiwanis Family at Birney Elementary School, it was appropriate to have Division 21 Lieutenant Governor **Neill Kovrig** of the Hillcrest All-Inclusive Kiwanis Club participate in Rosy's induction into our club. Neill and some of the other Hillcrest Kiwanians are hoping to re-establish the Birney K-Kids Club soon.

Rosy has already taken the first steps to build the new Foster K-Kids club by meeting with the school principal and gaining her endorsement for the new club. A faculty advisor and a meeting time will still need to be determined, but Rosy is certainly on the right track. We hope to have the new club officially up and running soon, with the goal of chartering sometime in 2025.

In her professional life, Rosy works as a senior statistical analyst for Material, having graduated from UCLA in 2015 with a degree in Statistics.

Rosy is a mother to two boys, and she's also a bride-to-be! She and her fiancée, San Diego Police Officer **Humberto Moreno**, both live in Allied Gardens with their sons, **Elijah** and **Jacob**. Humberto and Rosy have been together for ten years already, and now their wedding is set for May 3rd in Carlsbad! This is certainly exciting news, and we wish the happy couple nothing but the best.



Two of our newest members, **Julie Thomas** (left) and **Rosy Garcia-Rivas** bring a host of new ideas and enthusiasm to their new Kiwanis Club.

During the same meeting, we also welcomed **Julie Thomas**, a real estate professional for Coldwell Banker, covering the Del Cerro and Allied Gardens market area along with her business partner **Carrie Bailey**. Julie is originally from Mission Viejo (Orange County), but earned her degree in Public Administration from SDSU. She worked for several years for San Diego Youth Services before embarking on her current career in 2009.

Julie first came to our attention when she hosted a neighborhood blood drive in Allied Gardens last fall and then, collaborating with G.A.G. Kiwanis and our fellow club member **Stephan Barrington**, they hosted a free "Photos with Santa" event in December for our area's families.

G.A.G. Kiwanis offered to help co-sponsor that event and provide additional volunteers, and the match was obvious. Julie and Carrie continue to plan community-based events and will now have the added support of G.A.G. Kiwanis to boost them.

Julie's father was a longtime member of Kiwanis in Carson City, Nevada (Division 45), and while discussing the idea of Julie potentially joining our club, he enthusiastically encouraged her to do so.

She and her husband, **Jason Thomas**, have lived in Del Cerro since 2012 with their two daughters, **Mary** and **Sally**. Mary is 19 and currently a sophomore in college, while Sally, age 17, is a senior at Patrick Henry High School. She also has two dogs, named **Piper** and **Benny Pickles**. During her spare time (whenever she's not showing homes in person or online), Julie can often be found working out at Orange Theory Fitness.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Flora "Mom Flo" Brown

G.A.G. Kiwanis is delighted to welcome our newest member, **Flora Brown**, who was officially inducted into the club on Thursday, February 13th.

Flora, or "Mom Flo" as she is commonly known throughout the district, is a past Club President and Lieutenant Governor of Division 43 (Monterey Bay and Salinas area). She is also the mother of 2022-23 District Governor **Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef**, who was able to join us remotely via Zoom to participate in her mother's installation.

Originally from North Carolina, Flo has called several places home, both in the United States and in Europe, including New York City and Riverside. During her professional life, she worked for AT&T, then moved to her current home in La Mesa shortly after her husband passed away. She also has a son living in Yakima, Washington.

Owing to her daughter's encouragement, Flo is currently a member of two other Kiwanis Clubs – the Marina Club in Division 43, and the Kiwanis Club of Literacy for Southern California.

With her daughter serving as District Governor a couple of years ago, Mom Flo has become a familiar face at District events, attending several conferences and conventions. She stole the show during the House of Delegates at the 2022 District Convention in Indian Wells, California, after her daughter was officially installed as Governor. Mom Flo helped kill some time between elections by sharing several humorous stories about Valarie! She also helped to deliver hundreds of peanut butter sandwiches downtown after the Governor's Official Visit eight months later.

We are certainly happy to welcome Mom Flo to our club, and we look forward to making many more Kiwanis memories with her in our group.

At right, **Flora Brown** stops for a photo with her friend, past Division 21 Lt. Governor **Cloti Simpelo**, at the Kiwanis International Convention last summer in Denver.



Flora Brown reviews some new member materials with her sponsor, **Valerie Crawford**, a week before her induction into the club.

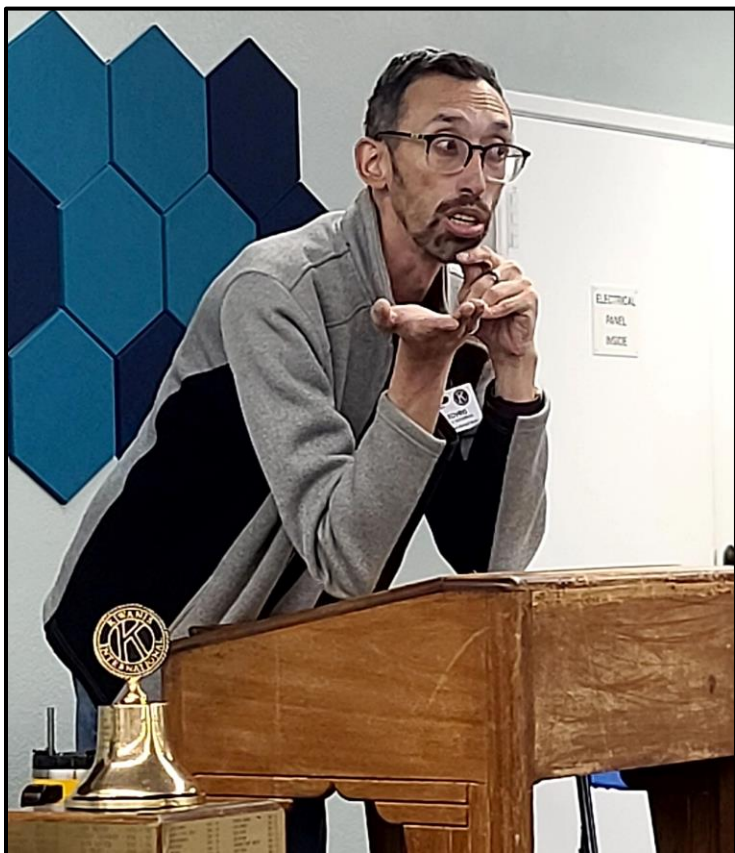


At left, **Flora Brown** completes her first Interclub as a member of G.A.G. Kiwanis, visiting with Division 21 Lt. Governor **Neill Kovrig** at the Governor's Official Visit in San Marcos. At right, **Valerie** and **John Crawford** induct Flora into the club, with **Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef** watching via Zoom!

Meeting Notes

Summarized by **John Crawford**
and **Alan Young**

February 6th – Welcome to Two New Members, and a Visit from Lt. Governor Neill



Lieutenant Governor **Neill Kovrig** has a commanding presence when he's at the podium, delivering his latest updates with his usual brand of energy, wit, and just a dash of dry humor.



10-year-old Girl Scout **Nessa Taft** was the first of our guests tonight – and the first Girl Scout to reach us with cookies this season!

It was a very fun meeting tonight as we welcomed two new members, some very special guests, and a Girl Scout bearing cookies. What could be better?

Our guests tonight included **Natalia Lorenzana** and **Jason Le** from the Patrick Henry High School Key Club. Natalia has just been elected to serve as the club's Vice President of Communications, while Jason was elected to be the next club Treasurer. We hope to see them more often in the year ahead as they work together to build a stronger Key Club.

We also welcomed **Flora Brown**, also known as "Mom Flo," who has agreed to join our club! While we had two other new members to induct on this day, we reassured her that her turn in the spotlight would be coming just a week later. Mom Flo also made plans to join us for the official visit of Governor **Doug Frost** on Saturday morning, February 8th, in San Marcos along with three other members of our club.

We were happy to meet **Shelley Samuels Taft**, whose 10-year-old daughter **Nessa** made a delightful presentation to our club members, encouraging us to buy some Girl Scout cookies in support of Troop 5224. She certainly sold more than a few boxes that night! We enjoyed her speech and appreciate the courage that it took to get up in front of a group of strangers and make her sales pitch!

Of course, the highlight of this meeting was the opportunity to officially install two of our newest members, **Julie Thomas** and **Rosy Garcia-Rivas**. Julie just made it in the nick of time! We also had the pleasure of having our Division 21 Lt. Governor on hand to help with the installation ceremony, reading the Objects of Kiwanis in his booming voice. For more about Rosy and Julie, please see the article on Page 4 of this newsletter.

Once that enjoyable presentation was complete, we turned the podium over to Lieutenant Governor **Neill Kovrig** for his Official Visit to our club, rescheduled as Neill had been out sick a month earlier. It's always a pleasure to hear from the Lieutenant Governor as we hear about important topics from around the division, including upcoming projects and challenges faced by some of the other Kiwanis Clubs in our area.

Neill lives in San Marcos but commutes daily to National City, where he works as an administrator for the San Diego College of Continuing Education. He is hoping to establish a new Circle K club there in the near future. He is also a Past President of the Hillcrest All-Inclusive Kiwanis Club.

Of course, Neill was sure to mention the Official Visit of Governor **Doug Frost**, who also lives in San Diego, and he gave us an update on Kiwanis One Day, scheduled this year for Saturday, April 19th at Mission Trails Regional Park. He thanked the Kiwanis Club of Tierrasanta and their club member **Rich Orr** for coordinating that project as he usually does.

This was a meeting filled with positive energy and feel-good presentations, certainly a great way to spend a Thursday night. We didn't leave much time for our Kiwanian of the Day, **George Butterstein**, but he still managed to get a few Happy Dollars from the audience before we called it a night.

Meeting Notes

Continued from Page 6



Costas Kotinopoulos, representing Allied Gardens Little League, gave us an overview of the league's ambitious plans to renovate.



Girl Scout **Sydney Roth** made the most of her opportunity to speak at the podium, giving us a very entertaining pitch to buy cookies!

February 13th – A Happy Val's Day! Another New Member and a Pitch for Little League

For the second week in a row, we welcomed a new member into the club, and we also had another Girl Scout ready to sell cookies to our club members. Of course we were happy to oblige!

Of course, we always like to celebrate Valentine's Day with some of our members' spouses present, and this year was no different. The room was beautifully decorated by **Lisa De Las Alas**, and we all enjoyed a delicious Chicken Marsala entrée prepared by our House Committee Chair, **Gary Blume**. We welcomed **Amy Blume**, **Mart Bushnell**, **Pam Chandler**, **Judy Enchelmayer**, and **Grace Young** as just a few of our favorite guests this week. New member **Rosy Garcia-Rivas** brought two of her Valentines along with her, namely her two boys! We also welcomed Past District Governor **Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef** via Zoom for a special presentation (more on that later).

This week, we welcomed **Michelle J. Roth**, and her daughter **Sydney**, who gave us quite the sales pitch! Sydney took to the podium and told us why it's important to support not just the younger Girl Scouts, but the older ones as well, as the older Girl Scouts have their own unique goals and programs that often need more financial support than those of their youngest counterparts. Even though we just had a different Girl Scout at our meeting last week, there was no shortage of Kiwanis members willing to hand over six dollars per box for some extra cookies. There's no such thing as too many!

The other big presentation this week was from a delegation representing Allied Gardens Little League, including the league's Sponsorship and Fundraising Chair, **Costas Kotinopoulos**, along with his assistants, **Justin** and **Jason**. Our club has a long legacy of supporting local youth sports, particularly Allied Gardens Little League (AGLL). It's a partnership that dates back for decades, so of course we were excited to hear from Costas and his team as they laid out their aspirations for the future of their league and its playing fields. The group definitely has big plans to restore and renovate the grounds, as they seek corporate sponsors and community partners to help fulfill their "wish list." We will help however we can!

Before **Kathy Butterstein** took the podium as our Kiwanian of the Day (collecting a bundle of Happy Dollars in the process), there was one additional piece of business to complete. At long last, we were finally able to welcome "Mom Flo" into our club! **Flora Brown**, a past Lt. Governor for Kiwanis in Division 43 (Monterey Bay and Salinas) was officially inducted as the newest member of our club! Mom Flo, as she is widely known around Kiwanis, makes her home in La Mesa and was looking for a fun and active Kiwanis Club closer to her adopted hometown. Making her installation ceremony extra special was a couple of "Vals" for Valentine's Day. Both **Valerie Crawford** and Dr. **Valarie Brown-Klingelhoef** agreed to co-sponsor Mom Flo into our club. As she was joining us remotely via Zoom, "Doc Val" had the distinct honor of helping to induct her own mom into our Kiwanis Club, reading the Objects of Kiwanis to us live via teleconference. As we all got up to shake her hand, it was clear that everyone was glad to bring Mom Flo on board, officially welcoming her into her new Kiwanis home! It was a night to remember.

Meeting Notes

Continued from Page 7

February 20th – Rise and Shine! Two Hearst Students Shine Especially Bright Today



A Day in the Spotlight: Fifth-grader **John Durante** was selected as one of two students recognized in February for our Student of the Month award. With him are (L-R) Principal **Barb Waller**, teacher **Dorothy Ianuzzi**, John's parents **Alicia** and **James**, and at right, Dr. **Doug Grosmark** of the Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club.



Fun For the Family: Hearst Principal **Barb Waller** (left) and teacher **Alison Borman** (second from left) were on hand to help us recognize **Avery Waugh** (holding certificate), along with her parents and three sisters. Kiwanian **Doug Grosmark** is at right.

Once per month, our club meets for breakfast to honor our local students and greet some of our members who can't make it to our evening meetings.

As he always does, Dr. **Doug Grosmark** presented our Student of the Month awards to two terrific fifth-graders from Hearst Elementary School in Del Cerro.

First was **John Durante**, who was there along with his parents **James** and **Alicia**, his teacher **Dorothy Ianuzzi**, and of course, Hearst Principal **Barb Waller**. John lives in Del Cerro with his family, and he enjoys baseball, reading, Legos, and video games. John thinks he was nominated for this award for being kind and respectful to everyone around him, and we can't think of a better reason to give out such an award. Congratulations, John!

Our next award winner was **Avery Waugh** from Ms. **Alison Borman's** class. Avery was joined by her parents, Allie and Curt, and three sisters – **Olivia**, **Mollie**, and **Maggie**. Avery enjoys softball, swimming, and reading. She doesn't know yet what she wants to do when she grows up, but based on her recent academic achievements, it looks like the sky is the limit! Both of our award winners were given a certificate and a gift card to Hooley's in Grossmont Center.

After the awards, breakfast was ready to be served. The egg casserole was worth the wait. Bacon, several types of fruit, bagels, and donut holes all rounded out another great breakfast by our House Committee Chair, **Gary Blume**.

We heard a quick review and summary of the previous weekend's "Babyless Baby Shower," which drew in more than 2,500 diapers to be donated to military parents!

We were also pleased to hear that our adopted women's shelter, New Entra Casa, has received a major grant from San Diego County for operations.

Dr. Doug mentioned that the Hearst Elementary K-Kids coin drive starts soon for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Last year \$1,160 was raised. The grand total raised is now over \$16,000 over more than a decade of participation with this project.

Finally, we were reminded of our upcoming service opportunity, cooking and flipping burgers in support of the PHHS Track team on Saturday, March 1st.

Meeting Notes

Continued from Page 8

February 27th – A Stir-Fry Dinner and Some Presidential Trivia, All Thanks to Gary

Tonight, we were treated to a delicious Asian-inspired chicken stir fry plate with white rice and a little vanilla-orange ice cream for dessert. We eat well at Kiwanis, and where else can you get such a wonderfully prepared meal for only ten dollars?

Out guests at tonight's meeting included **Judy Enchelmayer**, and **Elijah** and **Jacob**, the young sons of our new member **Rosy Garcia-Rivas**. We always welcome kids and we appreciate that these two boys are generally well-behaved at our meetings. (It's probably because of the food!)

Also visiting us from the Patrick Henry High School Key Club was **Phoebe Shoemaker**, who just last weekend was elected to serve as the Lt. Governor for Key Club Division 21 East. Phoebe will be tasked with the oversight of eight local Key Clubs, and because there was a vacancy in the position, she will be taking over in her new role immediately. Congratulations, Phoebe, and we hope to see more of you throughout your term.

Spring is in the air, and so several of our club members were out traveling on vacation, while others made plans for their own upcoming travel, including visits to Arizona for Padres baseball, and a church mission to Hermosillo, Mexico. We still had enough attendance for a good meeting tonight, though, and much of the discussion was about our upcoming March 1st track and field event at Patrick Henry High School. Our club, along with our youth volunteers, will be helping with the Elmer Runge Invitational, a local track tournament with hundreds of high-school athletes competing. We will be out there all day cooking burgers and helping to feed the athletes, coaches, fans, and families in attendance.

For the second week in a row, our Kiwanian of the Day was **Gary Blume** (also our head chef in the kitchen, responsible for tonight's tasty meal!). Gary had a number of multiple-choice questions regarding past Presidents of the United States, which he had prepared for Presidents Day earlier this month. We learned that of the eight Presidents who died in office, only two actually died IN the White House (**William Henry Harrison** and **Zachary Taylor**). We also learned that President **Jimmy Carter** won three Grammy Awards during his lifetime for Spoken Word albums (**Barack Obama** is next with two in the same category). Some of us knew that **Bill Clinton** was originally born **William Jefferson Blythe**. Perhaps most surprising was the fact that **Richard Nixon** was adept at playing five musical instruments, including the piano, violin, clarinet, saxophone, and accordion! This left some of us to wonder why we never got to see Nixon play the accordion on television!



Above: Division 21 East Key Club Lt. Governor **Phoebe Shoemaker** got to hang out with PHHS Key Club advisor **Valerie Crawford** (center) and "Mom Flo" **Flora Brown**! That's three generations of great Kiwanis volunteers!

Left: New club member **Rosy Garcia-Rivas** is always proud of her two boys, **Elijah** and **Jacob**.

PROGRAM PREVIEW

Contact **Lisa De Las Alas** or **John Crawford**

March 6th

Meagan Yu, Promises 2 Kids for Foster Children

K.O.D.: Vic Enchelmayer

March 13th

Clan Rince Irish Dancing

K.O.D.: Lisa De Las Alas

March 20th (Morning Meeting)

Student of the Month Awards

K.O.D.: Vic Enchelmayer

March 27th

**Paula Kelley, Executive Director,
Kiwanis Family House Sacramento**

K.O.D.: TBA

April 3rd

Marina D'Auria, Singer and Guitarist

K.O.D.: John Crawford

April 10th

John Crawford

Introduction to "Kids Snow Play Day" Project

K.O.D.: Rosy Garcia-Rivas

April 24th

Ed Presnillo, Remembrance of 9/11 Victims

K.O.D.: TBA

May 1st

PHHS Key Club Takeover

Alexis Green, 2024-25 PHHS Key Club President

May 8th

2025 G.A.G. Kiwanis Scholarship Awards

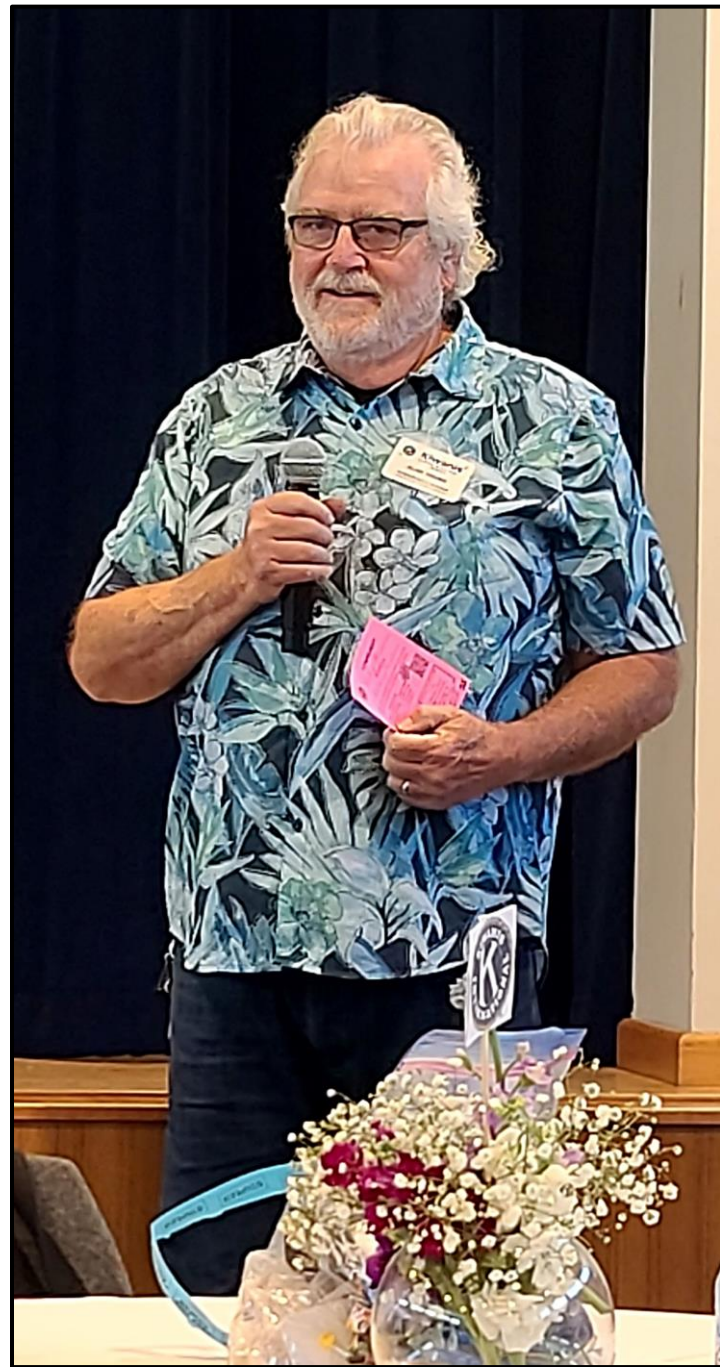
K.O.D.: Valerie Crawford

May 22nd

Lewis Builders Club Takeover

Violet Devera, 2024-25 PHHS Key Club President

*To recommend a speaker for an upcoming meeting, or to sign up as K.O.D., please contact **Lisa De Las Alas** or **John Crawford**.*



Alan Young takes advantage of an open opportunity – and an open microphone – to promote the club's Babyless Baby Shower during the Official Visit of District Governor **Doug Frost** on Saturday, February 8th at the San Marcos Civic Center.

Join us at our Surfin' Safari-Inspired
Dinner & Auction
Riding Waves, Improving Lives

March 29, 2025

San Diego Marriott Mission Valley

Scan me





"Babyless" Baby Shower is a Splash

A project that was in the planning stages for many months went off without a hitch, pulling in several volunteers from the community and an impressive number of donations.

The "No-Baby" or "Babyless" Baby Shower was a collaborative effort between the Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis Club and the Kiwanis Youth Development and Support (KYDS) Club of San Diego. **Valerie Crawford** is a member of both clubs and one of the main organizers of the project. KYDS Kiwanis Club members **Gary and Donna Jander, Kevin Myron, Geoff and Sara Tobias, and Lisa Watson** each provided help with the planning and completion of the project. Also providing support were **Alan and Grace Young** in securing the venue for the project, Palisades Church, where G.A.G. Kiwanis holds its regular meetings anyway.

Jacinda Dietz, faculty advisor to the Lewis Builders Club, dropped by with some baby supplies collected at Lewis Middle School as part of a separate project. Many donations were collected, piling into an impressive display of everything from formula to furniture, from a wooden rocking horse to bottles and pacifiers.

Those in attendance, both Kiwanians and first-time guests, were able to enjoy several fun baby-themed games typical of a baby shower.

Many thanks to **Flora Brown** for her donation of 198 diapers to the project. More than 2,500 diapers in total were collected for military moms through the Military Outreach Mission.



Above: Volunteers **Donna Jander** of the KYDS Kiwanis Club, and **Grace Young** of Palisades Church (wife of our club member **Alan Young**) compile goody bags to prepare for the baby shower.

Del Cerro Community
Kids' Clothing Swap!

SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH, 9-11AM
Princess Del Cerro Park

For questions/details and to RSVP:
DelCerroClothingSwap@gmail.com
please RSVP by April 1.

Meals on Wheels
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Delivery Schedule

March 6 th	George & Kathy Butterstein
March 13 th	Gary & Amy Blume
March 20 th	John & Pam Chandler
March 27 th	Alan & Grace Young

*If you would like to volunteer for a shift, please contact
Amy Blume at AmyGaryBlume@gmail.com.*

Key Club: A Century of Service

Key Club International celebrates its 100th anniversary this month. The organization is so named because it was initially made up of the "key" students at Sacramento High School.

1925: The first Key Club meets at Sacramento High School in California with 11 charter members.

1939: The Florida association of Key Club forms, becoming the first Key Club district.

1941: The Key of Honor is established. It remains the highest recognition presented by Key Club International.

1942: Former Key Club member **Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Jr.** dies in the Battle of Bataan. He becomes the first World War II veteran to receive the Medal of Honor.

1943: In Sanford, Florida, Delegates to the first Key Club convention vote to form the International Association of Key Clubs, electing **Malcolm Lewis** the first president.

1946: A Key Club Department is created at the Kiwanis International General Office in Chicago, Illinois. The first Key Club in Canada is organized in Riverside, Ontario.

1957: In Washington, D.C., the 14th annual convention features a popular U.S. Senator with "boyish" good looks, **John F. Kennedy** of Massachusetts. When the future U.S. president enters the convention hall, delegates storm him with banners bearing his state's name.

1958: Key Club members elect the first Canadian president, **C. David Sadleir** of Sarnia, Ontario.

1967: The first Key Club outside the United States and Canada is chartered in Nassau, Bahamas.

1969: The Patrick Henry High School Key Club is chartered in San Diego. It has never lost its charter since.

1977: Key Club begins admitting female members, ten years before Kiwanis does so.

1979: The first three female Key Club district governors are elected: **Beth McClain**, Kansas District; **Lynne A. Fletcher** O'Brien, New Jersey District; and **Sue Petrisin**, Michigan District. Petrisin later becomes the first woman elected president of Kiwanis International.

1980: For the first and only time, the Key Club International Convention is held in San Diego. **Craig MacDonald** of Patrick Henry High School is named Convention chair.

1991: **Michelle McMillen** of the Missouri-Arkansas District is the first female member elected Key Club International president.

1994: Key Club begins affiliation with Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

1996: **Craig Melvin** is elected as the first African American president of Key Club International. He is now the cohost of NBC's "Today."

1997: Key Club International launches its first website.

1998: Key Club partners with UNICEF and raises \$1.2 million to fight iodine deficiency disorders (IDD).

1999: Key Club International membership tops 200,000 for the first time.

2002: Key Club delegates officially adopt "caring, character building, inclusiveness, and leadership" as the core values of the organization.

2008: Key Club members raise more than \$1.3 million to fight HIV/AIDS in Swaziland.

2010: Key Club joins with the Kiwanis family in raising money to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). Over the next decade, members raise more than \$6 million.

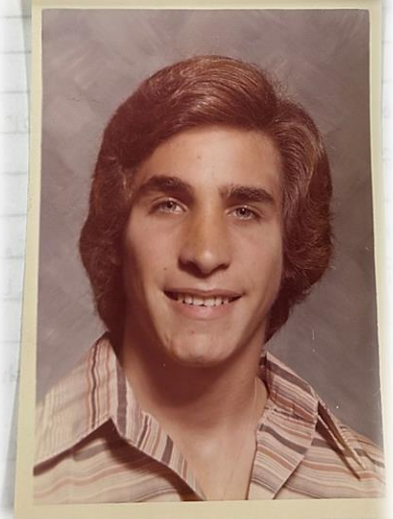
2020: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Key Club International Convention scheduled for San Francisco is cancelled.

2022: Key Club launches Start Strong: Zambia, a project with UNICEF USA to support early childhood education in the African nation.

2025: Key Club celebrates a century of service with their International Convention scheduled for Orlando, Florida.



Sacramento High School, as it appeared circa 1925.



*Our own **Doug Grosmark** as a Key Club member!*



Kiwanis
Service Leadership Programs



"On The Farm"

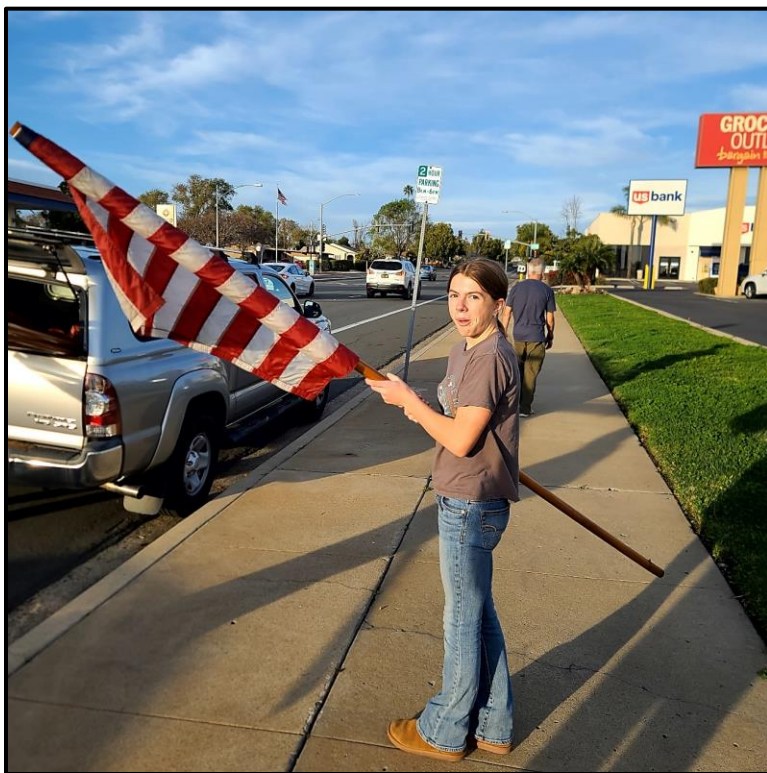
Springtime means that our SLP student volunteers are in full swing with service projects and club elections.

Seventh-grader **Ruby Phillips** has been one of the Builders Club's biggest contributors this year, and during last month in particular. Ruby recently helped our club with the American flag display on Waring Road for President's Day, then showed up at the Elmer Runge Invitational track meet two weeks later to assist with face painting. She is also a frequent guest at G.A.G. Kiwanis meetings.

Lewis Builders Club will host its always-popular Peanut Butter Jelly Jam project to help feed San Diego's homeless population for a day. The club will collect donations of peanut butter and jelly jars (unopened), juice boxes, bottled water, granola bars, and other nonperishables. Builders Club will decorate brown paper bags on March 17th, and then after school on March 24th, they will fill those bags with peanut butter sandwiches and more. Those brown bag lunches will then be distributed throughout Downtown San Diego where, sadly, the issue of homelessness has only continued to grow.

The K-Kids club at Hearst Elementary School will once again hold a fundraiser on campus to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society here in San Diego. K-Kids members there will spend time at their meeting on March 21st to sort and wrap the collected coins.

New G.A.G. Kiwanis member **Rosy Garcia-Rivas** has taken the first steps toward chartering a new K-Kids Club at Foster Elementary School. She has met with the school principal, who seems generally supportive, and submitted the charter paperwork to the school, but a faculty advisor has yet to be identified.



Lewis Builders Club member **Ruby Phillips**, in her second year with the club, has helped with several Kiwanis service projects, including some where nobody else from her club was present.

The biggest news out of Patrick Henry High School last month was the election of **Phoebe Shoemaker** to serve as the Lt. Governor for Division 21 East during the 2025-26 term. Phoebe has already been appointed to office due to a recent vacancy in the position, and she will be formally installed at the Key Club District Convention in Ontario, California next month, April 25-27. Phoebe is a graduate of K-Kids and Builders Club, and last year served as the Secretary of the PHHS Key Club, so her experience with the Kiwanis Family will serve her well in her new role.

Key Clubbers from Patrick Henry last month helped with the Cupids and Canines pet adoption project at Grossmont Center in La Mesa. They also help clean up their campus after school on Thursdays along with the Environmental Club.

The Cal-Nev-Ha Circle K District held their District Convention in Ontario, California from February 28-March 2nd. **Dylan Mua** of Sacramento State University was elected to serve as District Governor. Nobody from SDSU was present for the Convention.

G.A.G. Kiwanis scholarship applications have been distributed to the Key Club senior class at Patrick Henry High School. Those applications are due on April 24th. Contact **Gary Blume** if you would like to serve as a judge.

JOIN US AT OUR SURFIN' SAFARI-INSPIRED
DINNER & AUCTION

RIDING WAVES, IMPROVING LIVES!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CNH CHILDREN'S FUND

3-29-25
SAN DIEGO, CA

CAL-NEV-HA
 Children's Fund



Kiwanis

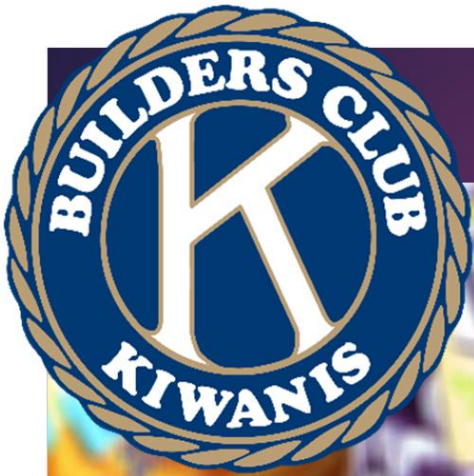
KEY CLUB

CKI
Circle K International

AKTION CLUB

Builders Club
Building Leaders

K-Kids
Young Leaders Helping Others



Lewis Middle School Builders Club
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY JAM

Help us
feed the
homeless!

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Grantville-Allied Gardens
... with additional support from Grocery Outlet of Allied Gardens

Help us make 500 brown bag lunches (or more!!) to help feed San Diego's homeless population!

MONDAY, MARCH 24th, 2025 – After School, 2:45 p.m. to 4:30 pm

Lewis Middle School Cafeteria, 5170 Greenbrier Ave., San Diego, CA 92120

Can't make it? Drop your donations of jelly, jam, white or wheat bread, fresh fruit, or juice boxes at Lewis (Main Office).



Hundreds of track athletes from all over San Diego County participated in the Elmer Runge Invitational Track Meet at Patrick Henry High School on Saturday, March 1st. G.A.G. Kiwanis was on hand to provide lunch and refreshments to the crowd.

Photo courtesy of Alan Young.



Service Opportunities in **RED**
Kiwanis Family Events in **BLUE**

March 2025

Cubs Scouts Pinewood Derby

Saturday, March 15th
Allied Gardens Recreation Center

Navajo Canyon Cleanup (City of San Diego)

Saturday, March 22nd, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
South Site: 67 Adobe Falls Road

100th Anniversary of Key Club International

Sunday, March 23rd

Builders Club PB&J Project for the Homeless

Monday, March 24th, 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Lewis Middle School Cafeteria

Cal-Nev-Ha Kiwanis Mid-Year Conference South

Saturday, March 29th
Marriott Mission Valley, San Diego

April 2025

Kiwanis One Day – Division 21

Saturday, April 19th, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Camp Kumeyaay, Mission Trails Regional Park

CNH Circle K Spring Training Conference

Saturday, April 19th

G.A.G. Kiwanis Scholarship Application Deadline

Thursday, April 24th

Foster Elementary School Spring Fling

Friday, April 25th, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Foster Elementary School, 6550 51st Street

Cali-Nev-Ha Key Club District Convention

April 25-27th
Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, California

May 2025

Region 1 Training Conference

Saturday, May 10th
Time and Location to be Announced

Memorial Day (Federal Holiday)

Monday, May 26th
Flags to be Displayed on Waring Road



Turn Back the Clock

Take a look back into the history of G.A.G. Kiwanis!
Special thanks to **Mary Haas** for maintaining our club archives.

Fifty-five years ago (March 1970) – Inspired by his son **Brad**, a seventeen-year-old diabetic at Patrick Henry High School, Kiwanian **Dave Wright** chaired a diabetes screening clinic at the Allied Gardens Recreation Center. The event was co-hosted alongside the San Diego chapter of the Diabetic Association of Southern California. Dave, an elementary school principal, would go on to serve as our club President in 1992-93, and as Division 21 Lt. Governor 1994-95.

Forty years ago (March 1985) – With memories of the previous year's World Series run still fresh in their minds, Padres fans from the G.A.G. Kiwanis Club headed to Desert Sun Stadium in Yuma, Arizona for a little Spring Training baseball. The weekend stay also included dinner at the Stag & Hound steakhouse and some "less than" luxurious accommodations at a Yuma Motel 6! Among those in attendance were **Ken Bonatus**, **Bob Frankhouser**, **Bill Hoover**, **Floyd Lee**, **Jim Moon**, **Cal Pancheri**, **John Peterson**, and **Boyd Sauter**, along with several of our members' wives and children!

Twenty-five years ago (March 2000) – At the Cal-Nev-Ha Circle K District Convention in Ontario, California, **John Crawford** of SDSU was elected District Governor. G.A.G. Kiwanis was represented at the Convention by longtime SDSU Circle K advisor **Jack Scott**.

Fifteen years ago (March 2010) – At the 62nd Annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival, eight of our G.A.G. Kiwanis volunteers rolled out the cook trailer and prepared a mountain of hot dogs for the kids and parents in attendance. Among those participating were **George** and **Kathy Butterstein**, **John Chandler**, **Luisa Jordan** and her son **Josh**, **Don Lydy**, **Boyd Sauter**, **Terry Shanklin**, and **Mickey Zeichick**, along with her husband, **Ron**. More than 1,000 hot dogs were handed out in support of the Ocean Beach Kiwanis Club... Club President **Mickey Zeichick** presented a 45-year Legion of Honor certificate to **Harold A. "Hal" Black**, a retired elementary school principal who had served multiple terms as our club Secretary. Hal was our Kiwanian of the Year in 1993-94 and club President in 2003-04.... G.A.G. Kiwanis took another big step into the Information Age by launching its Facebook page for the first time. That page is still up and available to follow today.

Ten years ago (March 2015) – The biggest Interclub ever? It sure seemed that way when **Valerie** and **John Crawford** were married at the Crowne Plaza Hanalei on March 28th. A large contingent of Kiwanis members were there from Grantville-Allied Gardens, but also from Valerie's adopted hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada. Perhaps not surprisingly, there were plenty of Circle K and Key Club alumni in the gallery as well. Former G.A.G. Kiwanis President and Past Division 21 Lt. Governor **Boyd Sauter** served as Best Man, while current Division 21 Lt. Governor **Neill Kovrig** performed the ceremony, complete with a "How Do You Feel?" Key Club cheer from the bride and groom.

Five years ago (March 2020) – As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continued to spread worldwide, G.A.G. Kiwanis members met at Brothers Restaurant with a spirited debate as to whether or not the club should continue meeting. Some argued against any shutdown, stating they would not live in fear, while others chose to err on the side of caution. Little did we know that was to be our last in-person meeting for over a year! The decision was eventually made for us as Brothers – along with every other restaurant in San Diego County – was ordered to close indefinitely due to the virus.

55 Years of Holiday Flag Displays on Waring Road



Presidents Day 2025 marks the 55th anniversary of our club's first flag display on Waring Road. Since 1970, and the holiday then known simply as Washington's Birthday, G.A.G. Kiwanis volunteers have been placing and caring for the flags every time there's been a federal holiday, replacing the flags and flagpoles as they deteriorate. At left, **John Chandler** and **Dave Erlanson** usually handle the truck driving. At right, volunteers **Alan Young**, **Dave Erlanson**, **Gary Blume**, and **Vic Enchelmayer** are among our regular helpers.

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 PHHS Key Club 12:58 G.A.G. Board Meeting, 6 p.m.	4	5	6 MOW Dinner 5:30 p.m. Happy Birthday, Jim Akin!	7	8
9	10 PHHS Key Club 12:58 Lewis Builders 2:40	11	12	13 MOW Dinner 5:30 p.m.	14 Happy Birthday, Paul Vogel!	15 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby at AG Rec Ctr,
16	17 PHHS Key Club 12:58 Lewis Builders 2:40	18	19	20 MOW Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Student of the Month Awards	21 Hearst K-Kids Room 12, 2:15 pm	22 Navajo Canyon Cleanup – 9:00 a.m. Sign up online with City of San Diego
23 Happy 100 th Anniversary, KEY CLUB!	24 PHHS Key Club 12:58 Lewis Builders PB&J Project, 2:40	25	26	27 MOW Dinner 5:30 p.m. <i>Program: Kiwanis Family House Sacramento</i>	28 Mid-Year South Setup and Unloading	29 Mid-Year South, Marriott Mission Valley
30	31 SPRING BREAK – No SLP Club Meetings					Don't forget to stay late at Mid-Year on Friday and Saturday for Hospitality Suites!

Club meetings take place on Thursdays – 5:30 p.m. at Palisades Church (3rd Thursdays are morning meetings at 7:30 a.m.)