Members were saddened by the news we received over the weekend that Past President Dick Wilson passed away. Better known affectionately as “Chief” in a nod to his long service with the Ventura County Fire Department, Dick was a friend to everyone in the Club and could always be counted on to contribute his time and efforts to accomplish our service projects. Chief joined the Club in 1972 and served as our President in 1977-78. He was our longest-tenured Kiwanian and took great pride in the Club. He got his Legion of Honor Certificate and pin for 45 years of membership at the end of the 2017-18 year.

In this morning’s invocation, Katy Porter asked for blessings on Chief’s family and reflected on his life and relationships within the Club. During the Fine Period, many members also expressed their sorrow and shared their thoughts about Chief Wilson.

As usual, the Kiwanis Kween led the opening song. She wasn’t feeling particularly adventurous today, sticking with an old standby, “My Country ’Tis of Thee.” Chuck Huffer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Once the preliminaries had been concluded, President Steve Weiss asked
for, and received, a moment of silence in remembrance of the Chief. We had two guests today – Denise Cortez, a potential new member (guest of Robin Britt), and Karen Abrahams, guest of President Steve. Karen shared information regarding a project that students at MATES charter school are undertaking to donate bicycles to those in need in Africa. In many parts of Africa, bicycles are necessary for transportation to school, markets, and doctors due to long distances and lack of roads. She asked for donations of used but usable bicycles and parts at MATES Elementary School (2000 La Granada Drive) on Saturday March 7, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Tom Sadowski and Nick Cigan have birthdays this week, and there are no Club anniversaries.

President Steve confessed that he missed last week’s DCM (Division Council Meeting) so that he could attend the BrewFest planning meeting. Details about this year’s BrewFest, including the date, will be forthcoming soon.

Leading the song was Sherrill Hyink and leading the pledge was Chuck Huffer. Katy Porter gave the invocation.

Club Announcements

President-Elect Craig Burns called on Jim Stephenson and Sherrill Hyink first to tell us the Meals on
The kids were out painting graffiti again. Or should we sat they were painting “over” the graffiti. Helping out were Bob Smith, Chuck Huffer, Mary Sepe, Sherrill Hyink and Arnie Rudman. So who was taking the pictures, you ask? None other than Bob Engler.
Wheels assignments. Jim had “no idea” about the weekend drivers, and Craig said that if you’re assigned, you should already know it. Haze Arnold is assigned Monday, according to Sherrill, and presumably he knows it.

Craig followed with a rundown of upcoming activities and projects, which is presented in the Club Calendar at the end of the bulletin. Sherrill gave a pitch for the annual Crop Walk, on March 1, and Chuck Huffer did the same for the Pot O’ Gold Soccer Tournament the weekend of March 28-29. Volunteers will be needed to walk around, and he’ll circulate a sign-up sheet soon.

Arnie Rudman is looking for someone to step up and chair the next Wheel to the Sea event, scheduled for May 2. Mary Sepe filled us in on volunteer opportunities to help the My Stuff Bags non-profit. These include volunteering to assemble bags at their local facility, and drinking wine while making blankets at her (or another member’s) home. She circulated a sign-up sheet to gauge interest – boys are welcome, too. Blanket-making is not just a girl’s sport.

Mary also relayed information from Gloria Dyok about the upcoming Cal-Nev-Ha mid-year conference. It’s at the Sheraton in San Gabriel on Saturday February 8, starting at 8:00 a.m. The Club is paying for registration and lunch, so just let Gloria know if you’d like to attend.

Mark February 2 on your calendar for the Super Bowl party at Randy and Julia Senzig’s home. Randy is very excited about the prospect of his (and Jack Talbot’s) beloved Packers playing in their 7th Super Bowl, but first they’ll have to get past Doug Ryan’s beloved San Francisco Forty-Niners, also shooting for their seventh trip to the Super Bowl.

Karen Abrahams, guest of President Steve, shared information regarding a project that students at MATES charter school are undertaking to donate bicycles to those in need in Africa. Below, Sherrill Hyink models a blanket to support another charity effort.

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Playing Pool

Aaron Podell was the lucky one this morning – with a ticket he had received in trade from Doug Ryan – and pulled the 10-ball. Aaron elected to take the $10 and declined the second-chance opportunity to grab the eight-ball, which was worth $40 this morning. Not an unexpected choice from a banker.
Other ticket winners, receiving a dollar and a scratcher, were Chuck Huffer, Al Vollmer, Jack Talbot, and Gary Lansdon.

**Fine Period**

Rod LeGate had to cough up a buck again – everyone signed in.

With Dr. Dave Biedebach and Jeff Ellis serving as the “basket cases” this morning, many members paid tribute to Chief Wilson in their remarks. Arnie Rudman was first, offering $50 and noting that his first contact with the Chief was when his (Arnie’s) son and a pal set fire to Wildwood Park back in the day. Somehow, Arnie got out of paying $26,000 for the helicopter used to fight the fire. Arnie also got out of paying the $50 because he possessed the Fine Free badge this month.

Other members paying tribute to the Chief were Paul Lopez, Doug Ryan (“his bad jokes were better than mine”), Kim Baumann, Jack Talbot, Randy Senzig, Buffalo Bob (knew and respected the Chief from his City days), Dave Biedebach, Aaron Podell (young Harrison, too, was saddened by the Chief’s death), Craig Burns (who appreciated the “missing man” formation at the Chief’s usual table), Mike Mathews, Roger Meyer, John Prescott (also knew Chief from the old City days), Bob Engler (when he joined the Club, he quickly identified with the Chief as a retired firefighter and thought of him as a classy guy), Sherrill Hyink (the Chief was a “gentleman’s gentleman”), Chuck Huffer, Jeff Ellis, and Steve Weiss (he lived a great life any of us could be proud of).

Kim Baumann, who is in close contact with the Chief’s family, let us know that services are pending and she will keep the Club posted.

While the Fine Period did have a somber tone this morning, there was a dash of the usual frivolity, mostly centered around the upcoming NFL playoff games, as well as our resident songbird’s choice of opening songs.

With the Packers eking out a victory (well, they were way ahead and then relaxed, maybe) in their contest with the over-achieving Seattle Seahawks last week, Randy Senzig and Jack Talbot were in full glory. Jack pressed Doug Ryan into a bet on Sunday’s game between the Packers and San Francisco. Doug agreed to “5.” Some discussion as to whether this meant $500 (as most professional sports bettors would think) or $5,000 (high rollers only), but eventually it was pinned down to just five actual dollars. And straight up! How bold. Doug didn’t even have to lay some points. Lowly Bears fan Steve Weiss hopped into Doug’s camp (“I can’t root for the Packers!”).

Jack also tried to stir things up with the Kween, putting in an “early retirement” dollar for her oft-selected “abba dabba” opening song. President Steve squelched that idea (but we’ll keep the dollar), telling the Kween to keep it coming.

Buffalo Bob fined Mark Frankcom for his new beard. According to Buffa-
lo, a fine must be paid for anything new. Mike Mathews put in a buck to welcome Lori Ulbrich to the meeting. Yes, Lori is a member and we'll be seeing her much more frequently now that she has retired from the Conejo Recreation and Park District staff.

Chuck Huffer echoed that, and also came down on the Forty-Niner side based on some pretty flimsy reasons – his non-football fan son lives in Seattle and someone else in the family likes San Francisco. He’s mainly upset that Ohio State lost to Clemson, though (no need to mention the “pro” football teams in Ohio).

Sherrill Hyink nobly did not respond to the attack on her choice of songs, but instead entertained us with a story about her bathroom re-model that involved a tub spout shooting across the room when she turned on the water.

**Hospice of the Conejo – Our Hidden Gem**

With Vice-President Aaron Kitzman out today, Craig Burns did the honors, introducing Hospice of the Conejo Executive Director Susan Murata. Hospice of the Conejo is a non-profit that was formed by local residents in 1977. It was originally chartered as a medical hospice, but changed to an all-volunteer hospice in the mid-1980’s when Medicare rules changed. As such, it is no longer eligible for Medicare or other insurance payments, and relies entirely on fund-raising, donations, and grants to maintain its services.

It is also not bound by certain Medicare rules that would limit the clientele it can serve. Hospice can begin providing services to those in need at an earlier stage and help clients transition to a medical hospice when the time comes. Hospice volunteers provide emotional and other support to the patient and the family, who are often the primary caregivers.

In addition to these services, Hospice also includes a grief support center that provides more than fifty sessions a month led by paid therapists for those suffering from the loss of a loved one. More than 500 people were served in 2018. Last year, new groups were formed for those affected by the Borderline mass shooting and the Woolsey fire.

Hospice has also incorporated students into their programs, by visiting patients and assisted living facilities to sing songs, play games, and “swap stories.”

A big part of the resources needed to provide these valuable local services comes from fund-raising. Hospice has three major fund-raisers – the “Tree of Life” at the Oaks Mall during the holiday season, the Festival of Trees, also during the holiday season, and its annual Golf Tournament at Sunset Hills Country Club, this year on May
18. Susan concluded her presentation by remarking that Hospice is not about death, but about living and joy where it can be found.

**The Popsicle Stick Draw**

Very new member Jennifer Chebi’s popsicle stick was pulled this morning, but she missed out on a $20 dues credit.

*Written by John Prescott, photos and production by Mike Mathews, and distribution by Jim Stephenson.*
YOU'RE INVITED!

2020 Kickoff
Relay For Life of Conejo Valley

**When:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020
6:30pm - 8:00pm

**Where:** Dave and Buster’s Thousand Oaks
Function Room 1
Address: 145 W Hillcrest Dr Ste 130 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Come join us to kickoff our event season and learn how to join in the fight against cancer!
Come Hungry - Appetizers Will be Provided

**RSVP Here**
or by emailing relay4lifecv@gmail.com

Sign up for Relay For Life of Conejo Valley today at [www.RelayForLife.org/ConejoValleyCA](http://www.RelayForLife.org/ConejoValleyCA)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 6, Fri</td>
<td>Friday Night Meeting at the home of Doug &amp; Jackie Ryan, 6:00 with a short meeting thrown in.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28&amp;29</td>
<td>Pot O’ Gold Soccer Tournament. Chuck Huffer is in charge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23, Thu</td>
<td>Margarita Mixoff.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Aut2Run at Cal State Channel Islands with Aaron Kitzman.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1, Fri</td>
<td>Friday Night Meeting at the home of Mary Sepe, 6:00 with a short meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2, Sat</td>
<td>Wheel to the Sea. We are looking for an event leader.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17, Sun</td>
<td>Cooking for Relay for Life with Cristy Warner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6, Sat</td>
<td>Cancer Support Lunch with Bud Larson.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 7, Sun</td>
<td>Love Run with Mary Sepe.</td>
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**Meals on Wheels Jan 18, 19, 20**
- Sat. Toni & Bud Larzon
- Sun. Donna Orraj
- Mon. Haze Arnold

**Meals on Wheels Jan 25, 26, 27**
- Sat. Don Christie
- Sun. Alice & Jim Stephenson
- Mon. Greg Sincock or Steve Weiss

**Meals on Wheels Feb 1, 2, 3**
- Sat. Larry Levine Howard Friedman
- Sun. Donna Orraj
- Mon. Sherrill Hyink

**Meals on Wheels Feb 8, 9, 10**
- Sat. Alice & Jim Stephenson
- Sun. Larry Hapner
- Mon. David Fox

January 21, Tue:
Kickoff for Relay for Live at 6:30-8 at Dave and Buster’s. Cristy Warner is in charge.

February 2, Sun:
Super Bowl party at the home of the Senzigs.

February 7, Fri:
Friday Night Meeting at the home of Craig Burns, 6:00 with a short meeting thrown in.

February 8, Sat:
Mid year Kiwanis Convention in San Gabriel. Let Gloria know if you’d like to attend.

February 29, Sat:
Little League Pancake Breakfast. Don Cristie in charge. Likely meeting time is 6:00am.

March 1, Sun:
Crop Walk. Sherrill Hyink is coordinating.