Congrats to all who thought to wear red, pink, hearts etc. to remind one and all that it is not too late to appreciate our sweethearts. The pre-meeting chow line included eggs benedict, and lots of satisfied members. President Steve Weiss started by inviting our Kween Sherrill Hyink up to the front. Being Sherrill, she brought up a small flag which she waved around, and asked us to guess the song she had selected. “Gitchi goomy?”, someone asked. “No, we’re singing “She’s A Grand Ol’ Flag,” replied Sherrill! Most of us knew most of the words, including Sherrill, who laughingly lost the thread in the middle. No worries, we all ended together, and the energy in the room was electric. All that Oxygen!

We saluted the flag led by Roger Meyer in good voice, then Paul Lopez led the heartfelt prayer. Paul prayed for our newly departed Chief Dick Wilson, who leaves a void at one of the back tables. He included all our departed members in his prayer, of which we have so many. It is a tribute to what this Club means to our members that many chose to go with their Kiwanis boots on, serving and supporting our mission, right to the end. Then Paul acknowledged the contributions and bravery of our founding fathers.

No Anniversaries this week. Birthdays to celebrate include Aaron Podell, who was present, and a longtime non-present member, George Engdahl. I hope you see this George, and know that we appreciate you and your contribution to the club over the years.

President Steve stated that the District 42 mid-year training conference in San Gabriel was especially good this year, and that we had seven members in attendance. The ones I caught were Kathy Smiley, Mary Sepe, Mark Frankcom, Chuck Huffer, Gloria Dyok, Steve Weiss and Craig Burns – well, well, that equals seven. Gloria stood to share a point from one of the sessions. We were given a visual to help us get the point. Gloria wore Groucho
Glasses, complete with the mustache, and said that the trainer was telling us all to have FUN at our meetings! Glasses for all!! Thanks to our powerful seven for representing the Club.

Steve pointed out another opportunity to mix and mingle and possibly learn something, this one closer to home, on Thursday. Yes, the Division Council Meeting, the second Thursday of this and most months, is being held at the ARC of Ventura. Carpoools available. Come for the free food and fun time.

**This and That Going On**

Craig Burns and the Kween told us that Meals on Wheels are set for this weekend and Monday. Jim Stephenson was not in the house this week, so Craig filled in with the weekend info.

Coming up: The next Friday Night Evening Edition, hosted by Doug Ryan, is on March 6. Last week’s Friday soiree was well attended, with about 30 members and guests enjoying the hospitality at Craig’s home.

Per Don Christie, we’ll be serving our awesome pancakes at the Little League Opening Day Saturday February 29th. Two shifts are available, so sign up now. Saturday the 29th is also the date of the service for Chief Wilson – Craig said to just wear your suit to make the pancakes, and you can go directly! The signup sheet was thinned, as members want to honor the Chief. If you are not going to his service, please consider backfilling to help us put on a good feed for the Little Leaguers and their fans.

DCM on Thursday, hosted by Santa Susana and Ventura Suburban. (Editor’s note: we had five club members there - Katy Porter, Gloria Dyok, Bob Engler, Stacie Marotta and Al Vollmer).

When Ted Driscoll joined us, a shout of “TED!” acknowledged his entry. Always happy when you are able to come. Then, Larry Levine rejoined the fray after stepping out of the room, so of course to be inclusive, we all yell, “LARRY!” – he looked startled, then saw Ted, and put two and two together.

Sherriff Sherrill (she wears many hats – and vests) happily stepped up to advertise this year’s Crop Walk to be held Sunday March 1. The Club has always participated in one way or another, including financially and with (literally) boots on the ground. She’s led the walk for ten years, so of course it has a special place in her heart. The K Kids will be coming to collect change (and bills) this month, so empty your piggy banks for a good cause. Sherrill pointed out that the Crop Walk supports Meals on Wheels, Manna and Harbor House, all of which have Kiwanis members who are deeply involved.

Mary Sepe made a final announcement for Thursday’s “My Stuff Bags” event where we will create the actual bags full of stuff. Seventeen members and guests are expected (and indeed showed up!!). We estimate that we set up about 100 bags,
ready to go to foster children and others in distress. Love the DIRECT hands-on involvement.

For more service opportunities and goings-on, check the Club Calendar at the end of the Bulletin or our website.

**Numbers Matter**

**Larry Hapner** settled for a dollar and a scratcher, after trying twice for the 8-ball. The crowd loves the tension!! Everyone adds their two cents after the first pull, as to whether it is worth trying again for the big prize (currently $60) or to just take the money and run. Each week it gets more tempting to take the second chance.

Other winners receiving a dollar and a scratcher were **Al Vollmer, Bill Steele,** and **Randy Senzig**, with a couple of no-shows in between.

**Happy and Sad Dollars**

Dr. **Dave Biedebach** started off our sharing segment, with a story of his daughter at Disneyland. He also gave a shout out to **Paul Lopez** for his excellent inspirational moment to get us started this morning.

**Randy Senzig** shared a smile from his two-week-old grandson. More than one person muttered “it is just gas” but hey, it looks and feels like a smile, so take it. Randy also congratulated **Chuck Huffer** on being recognized at Mid-Year for leading our club to Distinguished status. It takes focus all year to accomplish this feat!

Newer member **Melissa Cam** provided four dozen beautiful soft blankets to be included with the My Stuff contribution of $300 on Thursday. She was able to convince one of her sources to provide them, just for the shipping!! Way to step up, Melissa.

**Greg Sincock** paid to remind us that he now has SCRIP available for Total Wine and More. The club earns 7% of each gift card, or e-card you purchase. Thank you, Greg, for connecting us with this generous new source.

Councilman **Bob Engler** gave us an update on wife and fellow member, **Sue Engler**. She is in Puerto Rico, part of a Red Cross team assisting families disrupted by a huge earthquake.

Newer member **Helene Harris** paid a few advertising dollars to invite us to a CPR class. The cost is only $30, and it supports her son.

**Stacie Marotta** is looking for staff members for the Power Washing company she now works for. If you know a good solid worker (strong, I’d guess), let her know.

**Rick Herrera** is with us this week, in spite of having hip surgery LAST WEEK!! We always suspected you were tough Rick, but MAN, hats off. Love having you back with us.

**Mark Frankcom** celebrated his mum’s 90th birthday; she’s back in merry old England. He also reminded us that he is looking for a CEO for his
Buffalo Bob is pleased to let us know that he has completed a painting on commission, and will provide the club with a copy to be raffled off.

Gloria Dyok is pushing Krispy Kreme donuts, on behalf of her Circle K club – Cal State Channel Islands. See her if you have the munchies and want to support youth at the same time.

FACEBOOK UPDATE: The young ‘un that Katie McElroy has been growing for the last nine months arrived, and is very cute. Best to the new family.

Youth Crime Update

Aaron Kitzman introduced Ventura County Senior Deputy District Attorney, and Instructor, Catherine Voelker. Of course, we had a tech moment when the slides were playing coy, but soon her power point was up and working. I liked the dark background and white writing, which was a different look.

She told us what she was going to cover: 1) Youth Crime, 2) Human Trafficking and 3) How to help kids make positive choices.

Catherine started with concerns about youth, including the importance of helping kids stay in High School. Idle hands, we used to say, right? Young people are doing minor crimes such as assault, theft, drugs, but also major crimes all the way to murder. She explained how the Ventura County Probation Department oversees Juvenile Justice. They decide how the reported activities should be handled, all the way up to charging as an adult if the crime is egregious and the young person has a history of trouble with the law.

If a youth is able to be rehabilitated, and successfully completes their probation, then their record CAN be expunged and sealed, so as to give them a fresh start.

Moving on to trafficking, for sex workers or for labor, the Attorney educated us on the CSEC Collaboration. CSEC stands for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children. Makes you shud-
der! The good news is that there is more awareness, and targeting of those responsible. There is training given to many first responders, who are likely to come in contact with victims, on how to help them. She had local statistics, pointing out that the highest number of Ventura County referrals comes from Oxnard.

Finally, she provided a handout from THRIVE: “Training Habits to Reach Independence and Viable Employability”. She thanked us for supporting youth through the SLP clubs and other programs.

Craig Burns thanked Attorney Voelker for her information and time, with a lovely Kiwanis travel mug to take with her when she speaks with other groups.

We moved on to the draw that we all wait for...

**The Stick “Cheep” Draw**

Steve Weiss pulled Jim Smith as the potential winner of the $20. Nope. Maybe next time!

Happy Valentine’s Day Week to our whole Kiwanis Family! Hearts from your Club to you.

Katy

*Written by Katy Porter, edited by John Prescott, photos and production by Mike Mathews, and distribution by Jim Stephenson.*
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- Feb 29, Saturday: Memorial service for Dick Wilson at 10:30 at the Christian Church of Thousand Oaks, 301 W. Avenida de las Flores.
- March 1, Sunday: Crop Walk. Sherrill Hyink is coordinating.
- March 6, Friday: Friday Night Meeting at the home of Doug & Jackie Ryan, 6:00 with a short meeting thrown in.
- March 28&29: Pot O’ Gold Soccer Tourney. Chuck Huffer is in charge.
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- June 17-20: International Convention in Indianapolis.
- August 1, Saturday: Fishing Frenzy at Conejo Creek North.
- August 13, Thursday: Brewfest