

Kiwanis Community



Kiwanis® CLUB OF MARTINEZ

August 2025 Newsletter

Ed Williams 1950-2025

Another long time Kiwanian has left us. **Edward Allyn “Ed” Williams** died July 3, 2025, after a lengthy illness. Ed was a “downeaster”, born March 24, 1950, and was raised and schooled in Maine. He earned a doctor of optometry degree at University of California, Berkeley, and set up a practice of optometry in downtown Martinez, which he maintained for over 30 years. He joined the Kiwanis Club of Martinez March 24, 1981, and served as president 1989-1990. He was the second-longest serving member at the time of his death. For many years he was a stalwart member of the club’s bocce team. A memorial service was held August 1, attended by family and friends, including several Kiwanians. Ed was a man of few words, but when he spoke, people listened. He will be missed.



Ed Williams as president (left), a casual shot (right), and a “mug shot” from an old member booklet (below)



Christmas in July (and August)



It’s not too late to contribute toys to the Christmas in July event. **Perry Picchi** has lined up John Muir Hospital and Children Interview Center to accept the toys we donate. He suggests hot wheels and crayons and coloring books as age appropriate toys to add to the red barrel in the clubhouse. Thanks to **Laurie Pittman** who collected many toys at the Y.

Steve's Report from KI Convention

Here is President-elect Steve Francis' report from the 2025 Kiwanis International convention, along with pictures from the convention and the ballpark in Pittsburgh:



Pittsburgh Pennsylvania would not seem to most inviting place to hold an international convention in the middle of the summer but since my presidency term starts in October (and there were MLB games to be had) my wife Carrie and I decided to go.

I must say, we were pleasantly surprised at the good time we had in Mr. Roger's neighborhood. We only wish we could have had several club members with us! 2000 Kiwanis members from around the world attended. The convention was well run with good classes. The most popular topics were ideas and strategies to increase membership. Other topics centered on interesting club meetings, social and service opportunities and ways to connect with our sponsored youth. Circle K held their annual meeting concurrently so there were lots of college kids bringing energy to the group.

The convention center is right across the Allegheny River from PNC Park, the Pittsburgh Pirates home. Therefore, we walked across the Roberto Clemente Bridge and saw the Pirates beat the New York Mets on Friday night with 100's of other Kiwanians in attendance. Also, if you go to Pittsburgh, dinner on Mt. Washington is a must with a gorgeous view of the city, landscape and the 3 rivers! And don't forget the Heinz Museum and Andy Warhol Museum.

Carrie and I then drove to Cleveland on Saturday to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Cleveland Guardians at Progressive Field. On Sunday we visited Cuyahoga Valley National Park and saw a game at Tiger Stadium in Detroit. Quite an eventful 5 days!

Kiwanis Kalendar and News

Mark your calendars for these upcoming club events:

Saturday, August 9, Kiwanis will field two teams at the annual Colombo club bocce tournament at the waterfront courts

Friday and Saturday, August 8-9, is the CalNevHa District convention in Las Vegas

Friday, August 15, the club will sell beer, wine and soda at the Alhambra High School Decades Reunion, a fundraising opportunity for us

Saturday, August 23, is new club officer training at our clubhouse

Thursday, September 25, is our club's annual installation of new officers dinner in lieu of noon meeting

Saturday, September 27 is the Run for Education pasta dinner at which we (**Les Johnson** and help) prepare the dinner to support the Martinez Education Foundation

Wednesday, October 1, is the start of the Kiwanis fiscal year when new officers take over, including newly elected Division 26 Lt. Governor **Cecilia Stone** of the Pittsburg club

Thursday, October 23 is an inaugural evening "wine and cheese" club meeting

Some Interesting Programs

Thanks to monthly program chair Frank Hall

Chris Bachman, Asst. Chief/Fire Marshall for ConFire, gave us a fascinating overview of the high tech methods available locally and statewide to fight wildfires both on the ground and from overhead.



Eugene Ross, a local legend and father of Kiwanian **Mark Ross**, entertained us with stories of his time as coxswain of the Cal crew and his flight training and service as a pilot with Strategic Air Command during the Cuban missile crisis.



Visits From Grant Recipients

Founder Michelle Grant explains that children are the “Center of Gravity” at their preschool and transitional kindergarden program at their Pleasant Hill campus.



Pat Mori, chief interviewer at Children's Interview Center, says that our grant will provide snacks and toys for the young victims of abuse she interviews for law enforcement.



Kiwanis Day at the Sturgeon

A group of Kiwanians attended Kiwanis Day at the Martinez Sturgeon baseball game against the Dublin Leprechauns on July 25. Although the home team lost 6-5, there was plenty of action, including a batsman hit on the helmet by a pitch, two batters knocked down by a foul ball off their foot, and the umpire hit on the face mask. The rest of the season did not go well for the Sturgeon; they lost the last two games of the regular season and were swept 2-0 in the playoff season.



Vine Hill Creek Improved by Cleanup

The fourth annual Vine Hill Creek cleanup, sponsored by the club and spearheaded by **Denis and Barbara Smith**, was a success on July 19. Kiwanians, friends and neighbors pitched in to clear a stretch of the creek of rubble and underbrush. Denis thanks sponsors Republic Services, Bill's Ace Hardware, and Save Mart "Lucky" supermarkets and says the cleanup made a section of the creek better.



Vine Hill Creek (after)



Denis at work in the creek



Frank enjoys the work



Les works with his weed whacker



After the work is done, an Egret arrives to inspect and fish ((left)

The reward for hard work was a picnic lunch prepared by the Smiths (right)



Kiwanis Club of Martinez

750 Allen St., P.O. Box 1886, Martinez CA 94553, www.martinezkiwanis.org

Take a look at our improving website! Thanks, Dawn! And now you can find this newsletter on the website

Officers 2024-2025

President **Igor Skaredoff**

President-Elect **Steve Francis**

Treasurer **Patty Winsor**

Secretary **Bob Braun**

Immediate Past President **Sally Sweetser**

Directors-Trustees 2024-2026

Migs Carter

Connie Chapman

Bob Barker

Marylee Taylor

Directors-Trustees 2023-2025

John Noon

Donald Pallotta

Perry Picchi

Bill Patt

Committee Chairs

Bocce Capo **Les Johnson**

City Liasion **Donald Pallotta**

Chamber of Commerce Liasion **Denis Smith**

Community Grants **Donald Pallotta**

Dolly Parton Book Program **Frank Hall**

Safeway Food Bank Drive **David Gerson**

Leadership **Bob Braun**

Loaves & Fishes **Maureen Cowger**

Meals on Wheels **Bob Braun**

Membership **Denis Smith**

See's Candies fundraiser **Patty Winsor,**

Maureen Cowger, Connie Chapman

Service Leadership Programs (SLPs):

Alhambra High Key Club **Kristin Connelly**

College Park High Key Club **Denis Smith**

Diablo Valley College Circle K **Dawn Manley**

Scholarships **Donald Pallotta** temporary

Newsletter Editor **Tom Watrous**

Staff Photographer **Denis Smith**

Birthdays

August 28 **Donald Pallotta**

August 2025 Meetings

Program Chair: **Dawn Manley**

August 7

Setup: Squad 10 **Bill Patt, Patty Winsor, Sally Sweetser**

Invocation: **Igor Skaredoff**

Program: Supervisor (Dist. 5) Shanelle Scales
Preston

August 14

Setup: Squad 1 **Bob Braun, Perry Picchi, Migs Carter, Bambi Barker**

Invocation: **Barbara Smith**

Program: Republic Service Sustainability Advisors April
Canavan and Clare Dakhli

August 21

Setup: Squad 2 **Connie Chapman, Laurie Pittman, Kristin Connelly, Thora Harshman**

Invocation: **Denis Smith**

Program: Final Season Doula-Julie Jaecksch (End of
Life Care)

August 28

Setup: Squad 3 **Maureen Cowger, Igor Skaredoff, Susan France, Roy Jeans**

Invocation: **John Surges**

Program: Body Wellness-Monica Islas (Athletic
Trainer)



Kiwanis Anniversaries

August 4, 2010 **Marylee Taylor** 15 years

August 14, 1986 **Les Johnson** 39 years

Wedding Anniversaries

August 13, 1983 Sheila and **Donald Pallotta**