

BULLETIN

Kiwanis Club of Claremont

Serving Claremont and the world since 1924

www.claremontkiwanis.org

Volume LI Number 2 – October 8, 2026

Kiwanis Meeting on October 8, 2026

Written by Cass Armstrong

Edited by Steven Llanusa

Photographs by Steven Llanusa

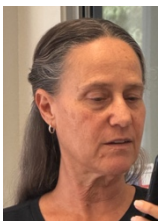
Another scorcher of a day to retreat from into the relative cool of our dining room at Saint Ambrose. The aroma of fresh roasted chicken breasts and broccoli with carrots greeted us as did crisp green salad, rice, tofu, filet of sole, and braised mushrooms (the latter three in the kitchen for pescatarians and vegetarians). Dessert included fresh fruit and cake.

Our newly minted President JoJo Treadwell called the meeting to order at 12:30.



Mary Ruybal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

JoJo Treadwell planned to ask Sandy Parker to accompany our singing on the piano but there were signs all over it saying DO NOT TOUCH. The song "America the Beautiful" got off to a rough start with everyone singing softly, so I upped the ante by bellowing out the words which I knew in a pitch I didn't know. Our speaker, Jim Elsasser, asked if anyone had a pitch pipe after the song.



LaNelle Maurer read a moving invocation.

Guests



Mary Ruybal introduced her daughter, Andrea Ruybal as her guest, and added "She hopefully will be joining us very soon, in about two weeks"

LaNelle Maurer then introduced her guest, her "really good friend", Alex Robles. LaNelle has been dear friends for decades with Alex and his wife. Alex is here today to find out more about Kiwanis.



President's Report

JoJo Treadwell began by telling us some of the results of the survey members completed at last week's meeting. She got

over 30 of them. Some people didn't notice there was a second side but she'd gotten a lot of good information from them.

One of the areas we rated ourselves highly was the statement "Our club is reliant on one individual or a small group for most activities" The surveys indicated this was the case, but not to the extent of failing in our endeavors. From the responses we landed in the second place described as "You should be proud" with 080-99 pts. vs the 100-120 pt. area "You are a model Kiwanis Club, keep it up."



The other area where we rated ourselves low was in having enough fundraising to support all our programs and charities. A lot of people had question marks in the areas of our support for youth and SLPs. It seemed they didn't know what



SLP stood for. It's Student Leadership Programs. JoJo went on to say it is her hope that, as we think about the student leadership programs at the High School with the Key Club and the recently established Junior High

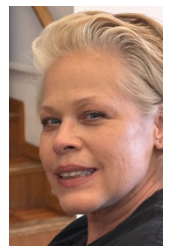
with the Builder's Club and the Elementary Schools, members will lean into this area of our club where we can grow. Let's get to know our students and serve alongside of them.

JoJo went on "I also said last week in my opening program, that I believe that choosing happiness is an act of leadership. If we have better meetings, people come. So let's lean in to the joy of serving Claremont together." Then she asked the group to each say one thing they were grateful for.



Mike Conley said "Even during a crappy week, I know that Thursday's going to roll around and I'll be among friends having fun planning service to the community."

Rowena said "I am just grateful for our weekly meeting and getting to speak with all of our wonderful Kiwanis members that I've gotten to meet just because I'm a Kiwanis member."



Shout Outs

JoJo Treadwell wanted to be the first to shout out to Raul Rodriguez. He led a budget meeting this week with a group of us and he is finalizing the Foundation and Club budgets. He's our treasurer, so shout out to Raul for getting that started. He's had this role for some time. If anyone would like to help out with his work, you can shadow Raul so you can fill in in a pinch and learn the scope of what he does.



Mason Prophet thanked Al Plummer because he donated a packing house picture for their new office in the village.



Rowena Schiller acknowledged Barbara Rugeley and Steven Llanusa for hosting her and Christine Duran at a benefit dinner for House of Ruth. She especially praised the dinner Steven cooked and the ginger stuffed strawberries.

Jerry Feingold gave a tongue in cheek hurrah to Arny Bloom, who finally got to celebrate a win for his team.



Raul gave a shoutout to Desiree Reyes for her two and a half hours of service instead of only the half hour we all were assigned at Route 66. Because the other people who signed up didn't show up, Desiree filled in for them.

Announcements



Jerry reminded us about tickets to the Christmas Is program at Citrus College. Tickets are going fast so we need to get our numbers in while there are still some left. We have a special price of \$24 instead of the usual \$35.

Steven Llanusa said there will be a new Trivia Night at Mozwell Restaurant on Tuesday, October 20, at 5:45. The restaurant is around the corner from Eureka Burger behind Claremont Forum. Drinks and dinner menu available.



JoJo Treadwell invited all members to The Claremont School of Music tomorrow night at 6:30. We will be able to see the Kiwanis Brick in recognition of the grant we gave them. The event will have a musical program and refreshments.

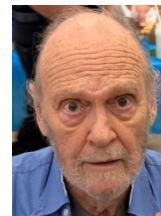
Julie Olesniewicz pointed out flyers that were at each table asking for supplies and donations to the CUSD Family and Community Resource Center. With El Niño bringing severe inclement weather, donations of raincoats, plastic ponchos, galoshes, and rain boots are sought.



CHS Key Club will be given a Pizza and Ice-Cream party as a Thank You for all their hard work at the summer Concerts in the Park and Fourth of July Snack Bar. The party will be on Tuesday, October 20, 12:40-1:20. Check in at the office for a pass.

Village Venture is Saturday, October 24. The Sign-up Clipboard is being circulated. Volunteers are needed for every shift except the 8:30 – 10:30 one. A truck that can be used to transport tables and chairs to Village Venture from Memorial Park at 6:30AM is needed.

Daniel Tilton exclaimed that one thing that makes our meetings fun is having high spirits. He said when spirits are high, everything is just that much more fun.



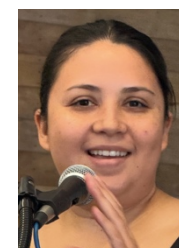
Jim announced there will be a board meeting next Wednesday and that we're all invited to attend. New members, if you haven't yet attended a board meeting yet, it's one of those little sticky notes on your badge you can get rid of. And, FYI, the minutes of the previous board meeting and agenda for the current one are on the website under Files at the Kiwanis site: claremontkiwanis.org.

Raffle

Tori Alvarez conducted the raffle. John Thompson had the winning ticket. He selected the Ace of Diamonds. John donated the \$1 he won to the Read Me Program. If only the Ace had the option of being worth \$11 as it does in Black Jack.



Tail Twister



Tori Alvarez was our Tail Twister and be-moaned the fact that no one had signed up to be one. [Author's Note: I never saw the signup sheet. We need to be sure it gets around to all the tables. There are probably more people that didn't see the Tail Twister clipboard.]

Tori had some Halloween questions for us to celebrate the season.

What does it mean if you see a black cat cross your path? Bad luck if you're not a witch, good luck if you are.



Which vegetable was cut up like we cut up pumpkins in Ireland and England? Turnips!



Traditional phrase for Halloween? Trick or treat.



There was a pause then Tori noticed some people didn't have their name tags on. LaNelle Maurer, Steven Llanusa, Cass Armstrong and Melody Batchelor all anted up for not having their badges on. Let this be a lesson to all members who leave their badges at home or in the car.



Continuing with the Tail Twister questions, Tori finished with Halloween Classic Movies.

In the movie Hocus Pocus what were the names of the three witch sisters? No one knew.

According to the internet, the names of the sisters were Winifred (Bette Midler), Sarah (Sarah Jessica Parker), and Mary (Kathy Najimy).



The next question answered itself. What was the name of the family in the classic tv show The Addams Family? Several answered correctly, Addams.



Which candy was originally called chicken feed when it was released? Jojo Treadwell knew it was candy corn.



In the original 1978 movie Halloween, what was the name of the masked killer? Melody Batchelor knew it was Freddy Krueger.

Who recorded the 1982 song Thriller? LaNelle Maurer knew it was Michael Jackson.

In The Nightmare before Christmas who was known as the Pumpkin King? Jack Skellington.

Before pumpkins became the classic Halloween carving choice in America, what was the vegetable that was cut into lanterns in Ireland and Scotland. A couple of people said potatoes but It turned out to be turnips! They have huge turnips in Scotland, feed them to the sheep and the horses. Mason was one of the people who guessed potatoes and someone guessed squash.



Which sitcom featured Herman, Lily and their eccentric family living at 1313 Mockingbird Lane? It was the Munsters.

Program



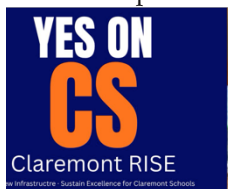
Julie Olesniewicz. introduced our speakers Superintendent Dr. Jim Elsasser and Sherry Nagel, the president of the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art.



District personnel also present include our own Desiree Reyes, Assistant Superintendent Rick Lopez in charge of HR, and Kevin Bowman who's providing tech support for the road show presentations on CS.



Sherry Nable began and thanked the club for its support for the last 5 years and the t-shirts for the Art start students at Claremont High. 100 students who meet every Friday afternoon for the whole first Semester to learn how to work with elementary school kids, then go into the classroom the second semester to work with them wearing the t-shirts we had made for them with Kiwanis emblazoned across the back. Sherry is a former Superintendent of Schools. When Julie O. was teaching Sherry was her Assistant Superintendent.



Dr. Elsasser then took the floor and thanked our club for

all the support it has given the Claremont Schools. He was thinking at the beginning of the meeting when we were talking about what we were all grateful for, how grateful he was to us for our contributions in the Read Me program, t-shirts

for the ArtStart students. He thanked us for helping to sponsor the lunch celebrating Chaparral winning the California Distinguished School award, the highest awards given to schools in California.

Jim Elsasser then thanked Kiwanis for the donations, the readme program, donating the most money to the staff lunch celebrating the award to Claremont Schools for Excellence



Sherry Nagel kicked off the presentation on Measure CS which will be on the November ballot. The \$77.5 million needed for facility maintenance will go to replacing plumbing, roofing, air conditioning, electricity and maintenance which are all long overdue. About 85% of the district's budget. goes to salaries and benefits for the thousands of employees in the school system. 6% for utilities and insurance.

There are school districts in every county in every part of the state that have bonds on the November Ballot and historically 75% of them pass.

Dr. Elsasser thanked Sherry for her presentation and went on to say that this November there are 10 districts in LA County that are putting general obligation bonds on the ballot. The average bond per district is \$118 million which is about \$23,000 per student. With our \$77 million ask, that's about \$13,000 per student.



Prop 30, tax on wealthiest top 2% of California tax for schools. Golden Bell award for arts program from TK through high school. 325 million initially noted as needed funds for maintenance. Our revenue gives schools about 10 million. 325 million to 77 million. 2 school bonds, measure Y . 2028 last time we pay on 1st bond, next bond payment will begin after 1st . Video of teachers praising the district for programs. Youngest school is 50 years old. Older systems can't keep up with recent Heat. Measure G replaced a lot of roofs. Several more schools now need new roofs. November ballot measure 77 million will not increase existing taxes. Two amounts will piggyback so taxes will not be levied at the same time. Systems at end of life, heating and cooling, extremely important in our current weather patterns.

Jim Wylie recalled his time as Assistant Principal at Claremont High when measure Y was being implemented. In rainy weather, he and his secretary would receive calls from the teachers reporting which classroom ceilings were leaking. We just replaced our HVAC system that was 20 years old because it was starting to fail. So you can imagine older systems supporting many classrooms, gyms, the theater and offices for more than twice that time.

The team that met with us has spoken to the Democratic Club, which has endorsed Measure CS, Active Claremont, and many other organizations in town. With the accolades received by the schools from State and County officials, Claremont citizens are happy to help support the level of education provided by these schools and the comfort of the students in their families attending the schools.

The meeting was adjourned after a few questions of the speaker.



We need volunteers to work Village Venture!
This event is a great way to raise our visibility in the community.



Mozwell Restaurant
Tuesday, October 20, 5:45
590 W. First St (behind Eureka)

Kiwanis Club Calendar

October 15 Weekly Meeting
October 20 Trivia Night
 October 22 Weekly Meeting
October 24 Village Venture
 October 29 Weekly Meeting
October 31 HALLOWEEN

St. Ambrose
Mozwell 590 W. 1st St.
 St. Ambrose
Downtown Claremont
 St. Ambrose
Worldwide International Saturday

Thursday Noon
Tuesday 5:15 – 8:00
 Thursday Noon
Saturday ALL DAY
 Thursday Noon
ALL DAY

Programs

October 17 – Roberts Campus Sports Bowl
 October 22 – Youth Protection Training
 October 29 – Ontario Airport Update
 November 5 – Tasty See's Candy Briefing

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. — *Kiwanis defining statement, adopted October 2004.*



Bulletin Team: Cass Armstrong, Linda Clinton, Peggy Constantine, Sara Mae Heady, Barbara Jefferson, Steven Llanusa, Barbara Rugeley, Rowena Schiller, Jess Swick, John Thompson, and Jim Wylie



Kiwanis
CLAREMONT

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – JoJo Treadwell
 PRESIDENT ELECT – Greg Negrete
 VICE PRESIDENT – Conrad Nicoll
 TREASURER – Raul Rodriguez
 SECRETARY – Jim Wylie
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – Linda Olin

DIRECTORS

2025-2027

Cindee Gee
 LaNelle Maurer
 Rowena Schiller
 John Thompson

2026-2028

Steven Llanusa
 Julie Olesniewicz
 Al Plummer

ONE YEAR BOARD APPOINTMENT

ASST. TREASURER – Mike Conley
 ASST. SECRETARY - Steven Llanusa

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

GRANTS COMMITTEE – Leah Moreno & Mike Conley
 SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE – Arny Bloom
 PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Conrad Nicoll
 TAIL TWISTER TEAM – Tori Alvarez
 READ ME PROJECT COMMITTEE – Jerry Feingold
 CONCERTS IN THE PARK – JoJo Treadwell, Scott Jacobs, Conrad Nicoll, & Rowena Schiller AN ALL-CLUB EVENT.
 PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Maria Rodriguez and Raul Rodriguez
 SEE'S CANDY STORE – John Thompson and Raul Rodriguez
 ADOPT A FAMILY HOLIDAY PROJECT – Peggy Constantine
 HYGIENE KIT COMMITTEE – Cass Armstrong
 VILLAGE VENTURE – JoJo Treadwell
 ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE – Jerry Feingold

SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS (SLPs)

CIRCLE K (Colleges) – Open
 CHS KEY CLUB – Jess Swick, Kathryn Dunn, & Cass Armstrong
 SAHS KEY CLUB – Julie Martin & Lanelle Maurer
 EL ROBLE BUILDERS CLUB – Desiree Reyes
 VISTA BUILDERS CLUB – Leslie Roberts & Sandy Parker

HOSPITALITY – Laura Bollinger
 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION COMMITTEE – LaNelle Maurer
 MEMBERSHIP ADVISOR – Pat Henny
 PUBLICITY COMMITTEE – Kathryn Dunn
 SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE – Julie Martin, Melody Batchelor, Rowena Schiller, and Peggy Constantine
 HOUSE COMMITTEE – varies each week via signups
 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL ROSE PARADE FLOAT PROJECT – Linda Clinton
 FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE – Club Treasurer Raul Rodriguez & Asst. Treasurer Mike Conley
 INTERCLUB VISITATIONS – Jess Swick
 KIWANIS ONE DAY PROJECT – Jerry Feingold
 CLAREMONT VILLAGE CRAFT BEER AND WINE WALKS – Mason Prophet
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE – JoJo Treadwell
 NEWLETTER PRODUCTION – Steven Llanusa
 NOMINATION COMMITTEE –President JoJo Treadwell and President-Elect Greg Negrete
 KIWANIS DIVISION 15 MEETINGS – JoJo Treadwell