

Almaden Valley Kiwanis Newsletter

Volume 1
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AVK Successfully Serves Community



Two of Pioneer Key Club's officers with just some of the more than 1500 items they collected during one week in November.

-Photo courtesy of Pioneer Key Club

Almaden Valley Kiwanians have reported over 590 service hours the last quarter (October through December), at projects like the Almaden Valley Counseling Services' 10k run, election night, and building a paver pathway at Simonds Elementary.

A few of our recent projects are:

Jacob Wiebe's Buddy's League through Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League – In its inaugural season, children with disabilities were able to participate in an adapted soccer league. Eight students joined the league and were paired with buddies who assisted

them during practice and games. At the end of the season, they held a jamboree, where club members provided refreshments, created certificates for the athletes, and gave soccer themed gifts.

Coat Drive - Benefitting the Bill Wilson Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth and the San Jose Family Shelter, over 1700 items were donated by the Kiwanis family, with our sponsored leadership programs at Simonds (K-Kids), Leland (Key Club) and Pioneer (Key Club) holding their own drives. Pioneer Key Club led the way with over **1500 items** on the Bill Wilson Center's

wishlist. Simonds was able to collect 139 coats that primarily were donated to the family shelter. Our drop-off box at Alain Pinel also brought in over 100 items.

Almaden Cares - Two of our members are also co-founders of this project to help reduce horrific traffic accidents involving teenagers in the Almaden area. With the support of the club and community, we hope to generate different ways to encourage teens to drive safely. This is an ongoing project, and we welcome your participation.

*Sarah Gianocarò,
2010-11 Vice-President*

President's Message



"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

-Sherry Anderson

Everyone has an opinion on how to make the world a better place. Everyone can wax philosophic about the ills of the world and bemoan that nothing ever seems to get done. But the 27 volunteers in the Almaden Valley Kiwanis Club do not wax and bemoan - they do. Every week they huddle together over breakfast to discuss what they're going to do next to make the world a better place. Every month there's something going on that will make a difference in the community.

Though the club is on its

24th year, I've only been a member for 6 years. Each year I have been surprised by the energy and enthusiasm of these volunteers. We all have work and family commitments, but still the club hosts food drives and builds walkways and collects coats for the homeless and raises money for scholarships. I cannot count the number of projects and events I have attended in just 6 years. Even though there's a long way to go until the world is a perfect place, this club has a staggering list of accomplishments. Our history is an inspiration, and I am proud to be a member.

Life is what you make it, and so it is with our community. Maybe I shouldn't be surprised by volunteer efforts after all, even in the current dismal economy. As Sherry Anderson put it, "volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

*Chris verBurg,
2010-11 President*

Secretary's Note



Speakers who have presented talks at our weekly meetings have kept us informed on a variety of topics. Here are some examples of programs presented since October:

Susan Gaydon spoke for Chrissy Derkson, founder and editor of the bi-monthly magazine 95120. The magazine, which focuses on the work of volunteer organizations, featured our Kiwanis Club in the initial fall edition.

Ed Barroll, owner of the Knitting Room, brought to our meeting samples of woolen helmet liners that he custom designed and

his clients knitted for U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan. These customized liners are coveted by the soldiers because they keep their heads warm and dry and are much more comfortable than Army issue.

Rakesh Bharania and **Catherine Nelson** from Cisco Systems' Tactical Operations unit described how their group responds to emergencies and natural disasters. The primary function of their team is to enable communications when normal channels are inoperative.

Certified Public Accountant and former IRS employee **Craig Malmgren** illustrated the complexity of federal income tax law by telling amusing anecdotes about tax payers who tried to beat the system.

Speakers keep us connected to the community and inspire us as a service organization. We are very fortunate to have Arnie Pinck as our speaker coordinator.

*Caroline Cooper,
2010-11 Recording
Secretary*

Past Lieutenant Governor's Remarks

Happy New Year!!

As we begin 2011, I want to thank each of you on behalf of Cal-Nev-Ha and Division 12 for your past and continued dedication, for the projects that make a difference in our community, and for your commitment to making our Division the hallmark of our great district.

Did you know that January is Kiwanis Public Awareness Month? The first Kiwanis club was chartered in January of 1915. How about a really great resolution for this year? Let's resolve to

spend more time serving visibly in our community through our service projects and:

- ★ Publicize community "hands on" service projects in local media.
- ★ Design a brochure.
- ★ Plan a social event for members and prospective members.
- ★ Do an exciting fundraiser.
- ★ Communicate to SLP parents the meaning of Kiwanis.
- ★ Ask yourself, "why am I a Kiwanian?" – and then tell your story!!
- ★ Contact as many people as you can to

tell them about your excellent and exciting club, and invite them to a club meeting or project.

Now is our time! Let's work harder and smarter to make this a great year for the communities we serve.

There's nothing this great club can't do. So, let's go do it and make a difference.

*Mike Montanari,
Immediate Past Lieutenant
Governor for Division 12*



Mike Montanari served as Lieutenant Governor in the 2009-10 year. He is the first member from our club to hold the position.

Leland Key Club

Leland's Key Club has about 150 paid members, and about 8 community service projects a month. We do projects all over the community, including local elementary schools, Sacred Heart, Almaden Community Center, and Sunday Friends. We also fundraise for major causes!

In October, we hosted a fundraiser for PTP at the new Yogurtland on Almaden Expressway; the entire division was invited and it was a successful event. Fall Rally was on

the 22nd, and about 30 members attended.

We hosted the November DCM at San Jose Skate, and made over \$750. This year we tried a 70's roller disco theme, and the winner of the costume contest got a Starbucks gift card. (Pictures are posted on our Facebook fan page!)

At the December DCM, we got creative and won first place for the annual gingerbread house competition. We raised a total of \$362.85 for

UNICEF. Family Giving Tree was again a success, thanks to our advisor Mrs. Lucarotti.

Officer elections are in February. The new board will start their term in April after District Convention (DCON), which is in Anaheim this year. We are hoping to host another fundraiser in time for DCON registration; we have about 20 members interested in going this year!

*Asami Osato,
Leland Key Club President*



Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley

PRESIDENT
CHRIS VERBURG

VICE PRESIDENT
SARAH GIANOCARO

RECORDING SECRETARY
CAROLINE COOPER

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY
ANN CHRISTIANSEN

TREASURER
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INFO@ALMADENVALLEYKIWANIS.ORG

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.almadenvalleykiwanis.org

or visit us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=54494327647

Upcoming Events

2/25: Blood Drive

The winter storms on the East Coast have forced the cancellation of hundreds of American Red Cross blood drives, causing a shortfall of more than 8,000 blood donations. Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but can make a big difference in the lives of others. The donation only takes about 10 minutes, though the whole process is about an hour and 15 minutes. Please consider signing up for our blood drive on February 25 – log on to www.redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code “ALMADEN”

2/26: Night @ The Races

One of our most popular fundraisers for Turnaround Scholarships, this event is now at Golden Gate Fields. For \$40 you get valet parking, a prime rib buffet lunch, and pretty darn good seats in the Turf Club. Tickets are being sold by Martha Kelley, so send her an email at marthakelley2000@yahoo.com.

About Kiwanis...

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis International and its Service Leadership Programs for young people dedicate more than 19 million volunteer

hours and invest US\$100 million to strengthen communities and serve children annually. The Kiwanis International family is composed of 600,000 adult and youth members in 15,000 clubs in more than 70 countries and geographic areas. Kiwanis members make

their mark by responding to the needs of their communities and pooling their resources to address worldwide issues.

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TO: