



Kiwanis[®]

CAREFREE

CLUB CONNECTION



KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER
KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG

DECEMBER 2025

A Message from our President Brian Kunkel

Dear Kiwanis Members and Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. This is a time for reflection, gratitude, and connection—and I could not let the year end without expressing my heartfelt appreciation for each of you.

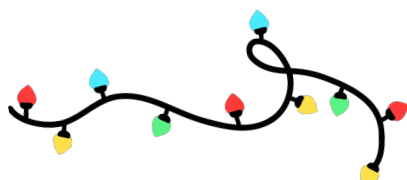
Your dedication, generosity, and unwavering support have made this another remarkable year for our club. Whether you volunteered at events, contributed behind the scenes, offered ideas, or simply showed up with a smile and a servant's heart, you helped strengthen our mission of improving the world one child and one community at a time.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am inspired by the spirit of service that defines our Kiwanis family. Thank you for your commitment and for making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

May this holiday season bring you peace, joy, and time with those you hold dear. I look forward to all we will achieve together in the coming year.

Happy Holidays—and thank you for everything you do.

With gratitude,
Brian



December MEETINGS

Be There!

Dec 3 - Jim Sherbert

Dec 6 - Kiwanis Christmas
for the Kids

Dec 10 - Scott Strong

Dec 17 - Holiday Lunch at
Harold's Corral

Dec 24 - NO MEETING

Dec 31 - NO MEETING



Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Harry Minniear
Tom Koehler
Dave Gordon -Welcome
Back!

Join Us!

Kiwanis Christmas

For the kids

SATURDAY, DEC 6TH
10 AM - 4 PM
DOWNTOWN CAREFREE

- Games & Prizes
- Exotic Animals
- Hay Rides
- Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus
- Hot Dogs, Cotton Candy & Popcorn
- Christmas Tree Giveaway *

**FREE
FAMILY EVENT!**



**RAFFLE DRAWING
FOR 50+ BIKES! ***

** Must be present to win*



Kiwanis
CAREFREE

Scan to find out more or visit kiwaniscarefree.org

Mark your Calendar!

MEMBER'S HOLIDAY LUNCH

WEDNESDAY

DEC 17

11:30 AM

Please join us for our annual Member Holiday luncheon, a fun, festive tradition filled with great food, laughter, and holiday cheer shared among friends, with entertainment provided by Jubilate Conservatory of Music and jokes and holiday fun by Ralph Spurgin.

Lunch will be \$15 at the door.

We will enjoy a buffet of:

- Prime Rib
- Salmon
- Green Beans
- Roasted Potatoes
- Brownies & Cupcakes

And two drink tickets - Full Bar

Bring a guest

RSVP by 12/8 to
administration@kiwaniscarefree.org

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



Kiwanis
CLUB OF CAREFREE

In Case you Missed



Nov 5
COMMISSIONER
KEVIN THOMPSON
Arizona Corporation
Commission



Nov 19
SHERIFF JERRY SHERIDAN
MCSO

50/50
WINNERS

LES HARDIE
November 12th
\$148

LARA LEWIS
November 19th
\$85

We draw a winner each
week but you must be
present to win!!



FOOTHILLS FOOD BANK - WHEN A NEED GROWS

Through our partnership with Foothills Food Bank, Kiwanis awarded grants to provide holiday meals for 1,000 families in need. According to Food Bank Director Leigh Zydonik, demand for Thanksgiving assistance has risen by nearly one-third this year. Kiwanis originally planned to support 1,000 families across both Thanksgiving and Christmas, but due to overwhelming need, that entire number will be reached for Thanksgiving alone. Leigh noted that their new Carefree Highway location is serving a larger population of food-insecure families and traffic has been higher than expected. The temporary suspension of the SNAP (Food Stamps) program has also increased community demand.



Updates

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the following members for sponsoring new members to our Kiwanis of Carefree Chapter:



John Skarda 5
Kathleen Haugner 10
Michael Moore 10
Howard Dicke 5
David Bell 15
Robert Hesselgesser 10
Ralph Spurgin 5
Bob Moore 5
Linda Wright 5



We are giving "Certificates of Membership" to new members of our Chapter; we recognize there was an interim period we did not do this. Should you not have received yours and wish to have one, please email Bob Moore, Membership Committee at ramco4032@gmail.com and request one. We regret this oversight.



Exciting Happenings at the Marketplace

The new sign is installed and looks fantastic!
Thank you to the Marketplace Committee
for seeing this through!



In Case You Missed

VETERANS DAY IN CAREFREE

We were honored to serve coffee, provided by Carefree Coffee Roastery, to all who attended the Town of Carefree's tribute to all Veterans. Kiwanis Club of Carefree proudly salutes our Veterans. Thank you for protecting our freedom and serving with honor.



CAVE CREEK RODEO DAYS PRINCESSES & WRANGLERS

We are proud to support the Cave Creek Rodeo Days Princesses & Wranglers!!! Here is a very patriotic picture of them at the Anthem Veterans Day Parade!



New Year's Resolution time!!!

Is there a crazy New Year's resolution that you have heard? Share them with us! Send your crazy resolution to communications@kiwaniscarefree.org

We would love to add these to the next newsletter!!



Member Spotlight



BRIAN KUNKEL

Brian Kunkel became a member of the Carefree Kiwanis Club of Carefree in June 2000, and made an immediate strong impression on the Club Members, having been selected as “Rookie of the Year” his first year in the Club. He achieved that recognition due to his active participation in the garage sale program as a member willing and able to do the pick-ups of contributions from members' garages because he had a truck and his own employees. He always had a strong back as he was raised on a farm in Iowa and was an active member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA).

By the time he was elected Club President in 2007, his efforts set a record of nearly \$100,000 in “garage sale” revenues, which allowed \$50,000 for local scholarships and other contributions to the local community. He was a consistent driver of kids’ projects like the Science Fair and was the wrestling coach for the Cactus Shadows High School for 15 years. Brian’s professional journey has spanned the fields of farming, construction, and then the Payless Cashways retail store here in the Phoenix area before launching his own business in flooring materials in the North Valley in 1990. He eventually settled in the Cave Creek area with both his business and his residence.

Brian is married to his high school sweetheart, Laurie, and they have two daughters, Lauren is a local veterinarian, and Brianne, who is a local realtor.

He has served not only Kiwanis as a collector of furniture for sale and as the Pancake Breakfast chair, but also as the President of the Chamber of Commerce; he had also previously served on the Planning Committee in Phoenix.

In his free time, Brian enjoys a variety of activities, including hunting, fishing, camping, and boating, as well as caring for horses for the family’s riding pleasures.

He was “school” to work hard to support his family and to give back to the community, which he has done so well. He will now be serving as the new President of Kiwanis.

Happy Birthday

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st - Joan Lessner

1st - Bill Mulliniks

5th - Don Szibdat

6th - Tom Leard

8th - Mike Poppenwimer

10th - Mike Ferguson

20th - Larry Key

21st - Leane Kok

31st - Toby Totten

2026

Happy
New Year



**SEND YOUR PICTURES TO
COMMUNICATIONS@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG
WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THEM!**

**GUEST SPEAKERS
★ WANTED ★**

**If you know of someone who would
be a great speaker at a luncheon
email Darlene Carter!**

ADMINISTRATION@KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG



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