



**Kiwanis**  
CAREFREE

## CLUB CONNECTION



### KIWANIS CLUB OF CAREFREE NEWSLETTER

KIWANISCAREFREE.ORG

FEBRUARY 2026

## A Message from our President Brian Kunkel

I hope this message finds you well and ready for some fun upcoming community events!

On **March 22nd**, we're excited to be part of one of our most truly rewarding events of the year — **Mutton Bustin'!** There's nothing quite like watching these little cowpokes grab on tight to the Wooly Bully and give it their all. It's guaranteed smiles, laughter, and unforgettable moments for everyone.

We'll have a Kiwanis tent at the event, and I encourage our members to volunteer a little time to help welcome the children and families. It's a wonderful way to connect with the community and show what Kiwanis is all about.

Then mark your calendars for **April 11th**, when we'll host our annual **Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast**. Come hungry, bring friends, and enjoy good food for a great cause.

Thank you for all you do to support our club and our community. I hope to see many of you at both events!

Warm regards,  
Brian



### February MEETINGS Be There!

**Feb 4** - Mayor John Crane - Town of Carefree and Mayor Bob Morris - Town of Cave Creek

**Feb 11** - Michele Guy - Certified Hypnotherapist

**Feb 18** - Dirk Van Leenen - Author & Holocaust Survivor

**Feb 25** - Brittany Ehrick - Inspirational Life Coach



### Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Anita Broeren

Ken McAllister

Brianne Beauchamp

# The Loss of a friend

## PETE CARPENTER

### The “Pete” Carpenter Story (1939-2025)

Peter Rockefeller Carpenter was born and raised in Sunbury, PA. Pete attended Sunbury High School, Mercersburg Academy and Pennsylvania State University where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and earned a BA degree in 1962. Pete served for 4 years in the U.S. Naval Air Force, including a tour in Southern Florida during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Following his military service, Pete enjoyed a 35 year career in the insurance and financial services sectors, earning the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for his leadership and contributions in his field. His most recent position was Vice President of Private Client Services at Wells Fargo.

Pete was a champion of civic involvement, serving his community in a number of roles including Lieutenant Governor and President of KIWANIS International, 32nd degree Mason of the Ancient York Scottish Rite, Chairman of Gompers Rehabilitation Center, Arizona Alumni Director for Penn State University and council member for Ascension Lutheran and Christ the Lord Lutheran churches. He was also an active member of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce, Valley of the Sun United Way, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale and the Maricopa County Sheriff's volunteer posse. The KIWANIS FAMILY will miss Pete's kindness, grace and wisdom.

Pete is survived by his 3 children, Karen, Jean and Peter, and 7 grandchildren. Pete was married to Janet Buck, who predeceased him in 2011.



# The Loss of a friend

Prayers for God to take dad peacefully. He is aware and is ready to see his maker. Our entire immediate family is here. All grandkids/wives...Such a blessing.

**Jeannie Chronis (Pete's daughter).**

May God bless Pete with His sanctifying presence as he approaches the finish line and prepare him for the joys to come in the greater life. May He send a holy angel to guard, cherish, protect, visit and defend your family in your gathering and give you wisdom and grace. **Canon Steven Dart**

I'm heartbroken that he's gone. Wonderful man with a wonderful attitude. I miss him every day.  
**Brian Kunkel**

BIGGEST Penn State fan ever. Not to mention being a ladies man! **Linda Wright**

I first met Pete while serving on the Winfield HOA Architectural Improvement Committee. As a senior member, he took me under his wing, showed me the ropes, and introduced me to the committee's lively personalities—especially the friendly football banter between Penn State-proud Pete and a Michigan alum. He brought humor to almost every home-improvement request that came our way.

I was especially struck by his Kiwanis dedication. Pete recruited more than 300 members, started three new Kiwanis clubs in Arizona, and launched Circle K, Key Club, and Builders Club programs. After moving to Winfield and joining the Carefree Club, he served as Membership Chair and brought in another 30 members. His recruitment motto was simple: "Just ask—ask someone every week." And he meant everyone: barbers, butchers, doctors, lawyers, church friends, Masons, and bankers.

Over his 50+ years of Kiwanis service, Pete earned the Distinguished President and Distinguished Lt. Governor awards. He also served as Host Chair for the 1984 International Kiwanis Convention in Phoenix. His son Peter proudly continued the family tradition as the first president of the Scottsdale Airpark Kiwanis Club.

Pete Carpenter set the example for me when he first asked me to join—and his legacy and motto should live on in all of us. We will truly miss him. **Bob Moore**



# In Case You Missed



Jan 7  
**DR. GABRIELLE FICCHI**  
Care 4 The Caregivers



Jan 14  
**KYLE TREUDE**  
Royal Family Kids Camp

**50/50 WINNERS**

**ROD LEWALLEN**  
January 7  
**\$85**

**BOB MOORE**  
January 21  
**\$108**

**BRIAN KUNKEL**  
January 28  
**\$80**

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



## REIGNING GRACE HORSE RANCH

Barb P., a member of the Funds Request Committee, enjoyed a beautiful morning at Reigning Grace Ranch while delivering a check in support of their inspiring mission to empower children through equine experiences.

## PARADISE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We are proud to support the EMT program at Paradise Valley Community College by funding new training equipment that enhances hands-on learning for EMTs and paramedics, specifically in birthing and neonatal care.



# In Case You Missed

## CAVE CREEK MUSEUM

Funds Request Committee member, Jacqui B., had the pleasure of dropping by the Cave Creek Museum to deliver a check to continue their Kiwanis' Family Fun Days!

The next one scheduled is an Archaeology Expo on February 7 at 10 am!



## SONORAN ARTS LEAGUE

We are proud to partner and support the Sonoran Arts League in offering free weekly workshops for Veterans and First Responders. Held every Thursday, these sessions introduce a new artistic medium each week, giving participants the chance to explore their creativity, discover new talents, and experience the healing power of the arts.

Do you recognize anyone in this photo?



## What's New at the Marketplace

### A NEW SIGN

This new sign displays on the wall of the Marketplace, which is updated quarterly to show how much the Kiwanis Club of Carefree Benefit Foundation has given back to the community.

# Happy Birthday

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bill Mulliniks  
Dave Gordon  
Evelyn Johnson  
Joyce Jordan  
Gordon Minns  
Selene Nelson

Jim Niles  
Blake Olson  
Ryan Pletnick  
Lisa Strohman  
Robert Zink

HAPPY  
*Valentine's Day*



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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