

Mansfield Kiwanis Newsletter

March 10, 2016

Kiwanis Club of Mansfield ♦ Kiwanis Club of Mansfield Foundation

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Remembering Our Friend, Lew Van Buskirk

Source: [Blessing Funeral Home](#)

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Lewis Franklin "Lew" Van Buskirk took his final rest on 4 March 2016. Lew was born August 13, 1937 to Harold and Wanetta Van Buskirk in Stockton, CA. He was an Eagle Scout with 3 Palms, Patriot Leader in the '49er Council, an instructor in Archery and Swimming, Junior Marksman and Range Master. He was active in DeMolay and achieved their highest honor with the degree of Chevalier. He swam competitively in high school and was a member of two championship teams. He attended San Francisco State University studying Finance and Business Administration and was active in both student affairs and athletics. He was the treasurer of the Student Counsel, a member of Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, and a member of the Swimming and Water Polo teams. He graduated with honors in Business Administration in 1960. Lew was married to Barbara Jean "Penny" Deicke on 23 August 1959 and they had 3 daughters.



After a short stint with the McCormack Schilling company in San Francisco, Lew joined his parents in the family Retail Nursery business in Stockton, California. On his father's passing, Lew became President and CEO of Van's Greenbriar Garden

See "Remembering Lew" on Page 2

A Message from the President

By Todd Simmons

As we move into Spring I am amazed each year with how fast time flies. We go through life always busy with some things that matter a great deal and some that do not. I want to encourage everyone to make your Kiwanis activities one of the things that **IS** important. We have been blessed recently with some unexpected donations to the club. Those came from people just asking others to help us. Another way you can help our club is to invite friends, co-workers, and those you interact with on a regular basis to attend a meeting. Our club is very active and one of the larger clubs in the Texas Oklahoma District. I am proud to tell people that I am a member of the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield, the morning club. With our focus being the children in the Mansfield ISD, we provide support for many deserving young people every month. Your support provides an opportunity for many Key Club

*The Kiwanis Club of
Mansfield – Serving the
Children of Mansfield
and the World since
1973*

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Mansfield Kiwanis Donate Books to Head Start

By Greg Barberee

On February 9, 2016, the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield donated books to the children attending the Child Care Associates - Head Start Program in Mansfield. The Club has made a tradition of donating books to the children in the Head Start Program. This year, Club members had the opportunity to read some of the donated books to the 51 students present. A great time was had by all volunteers and students! Thank you to Jerry Gray and Claude Cunningham for reading to the students and a special “thank you” to Bryan and Allison Adkison for selecting and purchasing the donated books.



The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield donated these books as part of the Kiwanis International initiatives: (1) Read Around the World: Kiwanis believes that every child should experience the joy of reading. (2) Young Children Priority One: Young Children Priority One focuses on children prenatal through age 5 through four areas: (i) maternal and child health, (ii) child care and development, (iii) parent education and support, and (iv) safety and pediatric trauma.

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Centers. Known as the “Gallopig Gardner” on his weekly radio show he eventually grew the business from their small shop on Country Club Blvd, to (3) retail outlets with (2) locations in Stockton and (1) in Brentwood, California. Van’s Greenbriar was known for their high quality trees, shrubs, and flowers and was loved by avid gardeners and landscapers throughout the region during their 35 years of operation. Each year during the Holiday Season, the Nursery was transformed into a Christmas wonderland with dozens of fully decorated trees and patrons would visit to immerse themselves in the festive offerings of ornaments, colorful lights, collectibles and the highest quality cut Christmas Trees from Oregon.

Lew was active within the nursery industry and in the Stockton community. He was a California Certified Nurseryman, was voted Young Nurseryman of the Year in 1971, is a past President of both the California Association of Nurserymen and the Master Nurserymen’s Association. In Stockton, Lew was a Mason and past Master of the Morningstar Lodge, was a member of the Downtown Rotary Club, President of the Stockton Chamber of Commerce and was voted Small Business Person of the Year in 1986. A lifelong hostage to the game of golf, Lew was an avid golfer and member of the Woodbridge (CA) Golf and Country Club for 40 years. Lew loved playing tournament dominoes and was a champion of the Yosemite Club of Stockton. He passed the game on to many, most importantly to his grandchildren. Lew and Penny moved to Mansfield, Texas in 2012 where Lew joined the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield and was a member of the Board of Directors.

A Memorial Service for Lew will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at 10:00 AM at the First United Methodist Church of Mansfield

Lew is survived by his wife of 56 years Penny, his daughters Jeanne Van Shuff and her husband Steven of Walnut Creek, California, Pamela Rodrigues and her husband Donald of Mansfield, Texas, Laurie Van Buskirk of Concord, California; his sister Sandy Lornson and her husband Roger of Arnold, California; his grandchildren Capt. (USAF) Alicia Pallett and her husband Nick, WO1 (USA) Alexander Rodrigues and his wife Savannah, Carissa Moore and her husband George, Caitlynn Shuff, and Andrew Rodrigues; and his great grandson Scott Pallett.

Services will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 10:00 am at First United Methodist Church of Mansfield. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in the name of Lew Van Buskirk to the Kiwanis Club of Mansfield Foundation which benefits local Mansfield high school students through scholarships. Donations may be mailed to: Mansfield Kiwanis, P.O. Box 25, Mansfield, TX 76063.

Calendar of Events

Thu Mar 10, 2016

10am Meals on Wheels: Mansfield KAN

3pm Mansfield HS Key Club Board Meeting

Where: Mansfield High School, 3001 East Broad Street, Mansfield, TX 76063

7pm Nursing Home Bingo

Where: Mansfield Nursing Center, 1402 E. Broad ST, Mansfield, TX 76063

Fri Mar 11, 2016

6:45am Weekly Club Meeting

Where: Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, 2700 East Broad Street, Mansfield, TX 76063

Sat Mar 12, 2016

2pm Children's Magic Show

Sun Mar 13, 2016

Daylight Saving Time starts

Mon Mar 14, 2016 - Fri Mar 18, 2016 MISD Spring Break

Thu Mar 17, 2016

10am Meals on Wheels

5pm Downtown Mansfield Third Thursdays

Where: Mansfield, TX, USA

Fri Mar 18, 2016

6:45am Weekly Club Meeting

Where: Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, 2700 East Broad Street, Mansfield, TX 76063

12pm Habitat Work Day



***Friday's Program:
Guys and Teacher
on the Month.***

"President's Message" Continued from Page 1

members to attend DCON, supply books to the head start program, food during the summer, and scholarships for graduating seniors. Let's keep up the great work. Ask someone to share a meal and hear a great speaker one Friday morning over the next few weeks. Finally, please take the time to love on your family members. The recent passing of Lew Van Buskirk reminded me that we are only here for a short time. Let's make the most of it by loving and helping others - just being a Kiwanian!

Mansfield Kiwanis Children's Magic Show Fundraiser is Saturday



The Club's annual Children's Magic Show will be Saturday, March 12, 2016, at Alice Ponder Elementary School, 12 Pleasant Ridge DR, Mansfield, TX. The show starts at 2:00 PM. **Tickets are \$10 and are still available! The Club will have tickets available for sale at Friday's meeting!** Please remember that the Club retains 100% of all the revenue from the tickets sold directly by the Club. Have you bought your tickets yet? If not then buy them on Friday. Can't make the show? No worries. Buy some tickets and give them to children in the neighborhood. The Magic Show is a great opportunity to introduce Kiwanis to young families in Mansfield and let them know about all the great programs we offer to the children of Mansfield. Finally, please be prepared to volunteer some time on Saturday to collect tickets and help out at the fundraiser.

Member News:

- **March Birthdays:** Steve Grammer (3/7) and Carole Stokes (3/20).
- **March Anniversaries:** Steve & Melody Grammer (3/4) and Bryan & Allison Adkison (3/13).
- **March Kiwanis Anniversaries:** Todd Simmons (15 years on 3/26), Pam Rodrigues (4 years on 3/30), and Greg Barberee (11 years on 3/31).
- Please keep Penny Van Buskirk, Pam Rodrigues, and their families in your thoughts and prayers.
- Please keep Dorothy Langston and her family in your thoughts and prayers for the loss of her son.

Why Join Mansfield Kiwanis?

Our Passion: Serving Children

Our service to the children of the world starts in our hometown!

SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield sponsors the following service leadership programs:

- Mansfield High School Key Club
- Summit High School Key Club
- Frontier High School Key Club
- Lake Ridge High School Key Club
- Mary Orr Intermediate School Builders Club

Through its Service Leadership Programs, Kiwanis teaches young leaders new ways to change the world by serving one child and one community at a time. Service Leadership is the next step beyond service learning. Once a young person fully understands the concept of learning by helping others, he or she begins to grow personally as a leader.



Club Meeting Information:

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield meets every Friday morning at 6:45 AM at the Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, 2700 E. Broad ST, Mansfield, TX 76063. **Guests are always invited to join us for breakfast!**

Please contact Greg Barberee at greg@imsi-usa.com if you have any Member news or concerns to share with the Club.

Member Program Schedule:

Below is the current program schedule assignment for members. The member next to the month is responsible for scheduling speakers/programs for the identified month. If you have any suggestions for speakers, please feel free to share with the members below or with the Club President.

- March: Jerry Grey
- April: Darryl Haynes

FEED THE KIDS FOR SUMMER PROGRAM

In 2006 Common Ground created a way to help feed children during the summer that relied on the Federal free or reduced lunch program during the school year by creating the Feed the Kids Program.

Money for this program was in very short supply until The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield heard about the efforts of Common Ground and joined forces to meet the needs of these children. The following year The Mansfield Kiwanis provided substantial financial resources, volunteers and bags to support the Feed the Kids Program.

The number of children served has increased more than four fold since its inception. The Mansfield Kiwanis continue to support the Feed the Kids for Summer Program. Club Member Phil Stover is a Co-Chair of this program.

ADDITIONAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY BY THE KIWANIS CLUB OF MANSFIELD

- Annually award multiple scholarships to MISD Seniors.
- Monthly recognition of a MISD Teacher of the Month.
- Monthly recognition of MISD Guys of the Month.
- Nursing Home Bingo: Each month we, along with members of our Key Clubs, provide a night of "Bingo" at the Mansfield Care Center, on East Broad.
- Meals on Wheels: Kiwanis members deliver Meals on Wheels to home bound community members every Thursday.
- Beautification Days: Our members historically assist with Citywide Cleanup Days.
- Habit for Humanity: We help with volunteers and fund raising for Habitat projects in Mansfield.
- Financial Support to North Central Texas Alzheimer's Association.