

OUR CLUB HISTORY

The Kiwanis club of Steilacoom was first conceived in 1993 to meet the goals of community service and outreach. MG John Hemphill, USA Ret, Wolf Fletter, Terry Hulin, Dick Muri, John Inselman, and others realized that our community did not have a community service organization and researched to find which one would most fulfill the needs of the citizens of Steilacoom.

Because of its vibrant community service programs, especially those targeted directly toward the future of our community and children, Kiwanis was selected as the organization that would best meet the needs of the community.

Early in 1993 the first exploratory meetings were held and after much hard work the charter was presented in late 1993.

Our club was primarily founded by the leadership of two men. MG John Hemphill, USA Ret., and Dr. Art Himmler, superintendent of the school district. Since its inception, our Kiwanis club has been an integral partner with Steilacoom Historical School District # 1.

At our inception, the Club chose red as its official color rather than Kiwanis International's traditional blue. Because Kiwanis is a civic service organization that supports our community, especially youth programs at Steilacoom High School, we adopted the High School's primary color, red, as our own. Red is also a Kiwanis color used to dignify the Pacific Northwest District Lieutenant Governors via a red jacket. It was also, coincidentally, the favorite color of MG John Hemphill, the revered Founding Visionary and Architect of the Steilacoom Kiwanis Club.

In our club's early years, from 1993 to 2002, we held our meetings at the historic Bair Drug and Hardware on Lafayette Street, thanks to the generosity of our charter member, Rosa Kreger, who prepared a hearty breakfast for everyone. The leadership selected Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:30 AM to ensure our active-duty military and working members could participate. A midday luncheon simply wasn't feasible for many of them, and this schedule offers the best opportunity for broad involvement. From 2002 to 2010, we primarily met at the Steilacoom High School library, and occasionally at Saltars Point Elementary, to better accommodate teachers, school officials, and Key Club members. The high school food service contractor prepared breakfast for us. In the fall of 2010, we moved our weekly meetings to the Professional Development Center (PDC) at the Steilacoom Historical School District #1 administration office. This facility was originally the Pioneer Middle School cafeteria, built in 2001 and later remodeled by the school district to include excellent audiovisual tools. The adjacent historic portion of the building, often called the "1918 building," dates to that year.

Our club has been blessed with many fine members and officers over the years, and we take pride in the fact that everyone has been willing to take their turn in leadership roles. This is a testament to the commitment to service our members display.

As of 1 April 2026

Charter Members

Harold Archibald Lois Birt David Bolesh Marcia Bolesh Michael Campbell William "Mike" Dunsmore Wolfgang "Wolf" Fletter Daniel "Dan" French Loren Gilbert Patricia "Pat" Gilbert	Mal Greene John Hemphill Terry Hulin John J. Inselman John Jewell Rosa Kreger Edgar "Ed" Larson Stephen M. "Steve" Lenzi Kathy Lykken Michael P. "Mike" Maddox	Vera Maddox Norb "Ski" Matelski Patrick G. "Pat" Moon Richard W. "Dick" Muri Robert J. "Bob" Neilan James R. "Jay" Randall James R. "Jim" Richards Carole Tinsley Debbie Willis Steve Wilson
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Past Presidents

Charter President 1993-94
John Jewell

1994-5 Terry Hulin	2005-6 Homer Dodge	2016-7 Nancy Henderson
1995-6 Jeff Lincoln	2006-7 Bob Mize	2017-8 Mark Haskins
1996-7 Vicky Lincoln	2007-8 Ron Lucas	2018-9 Ken Farmer
1997-8 Dave Hopkins	2008-9 Mark Pires	2019-20 Ron Krogh
1998-9 Ski Matelski	2009-10 Mark Pires	2020-1 Connie Kirkpatrick
1999-2000 Art Himmler	2010-1 Fred Crumley	2021-2 Pete Franklin
2000-1 John Inselman	2011-2 Harley Moberg	2022-3 Sam Scott
2001-2 Duane Hardesty	2012-3 Harley Moberg	2023-4 Mike Johnson
2002-3 Dick Muri	2013-4 Jeff Bryan*	2024-5 Patrick Kennedy
2003-4 Shelly Shellabarger	2014-5 Nancy Henderson	2025-6 Richard Ash
2004-5 David Langford	2015-6 Nancy Henderson	2026-7 David Boyd

*Served 7-months – Nancy Henderson finished the year plus the next 3-years.

Since 2017, when Mark Haskins served as club president, the goal has been to establish a system where presidents serve only one year and hopefully never serve again. It keeps our club vibrant and forces us to bring new members into leadership positions early.

As of 1 April 2026