

TUSCOLA KIWANIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2006

Upcoming Events

- Interclub Meeting – Tuesday, 2/14 Paris Early Risers 6:30am (Contact Ed Wachala if interested in going.)
- I-I District Mid-Winter Conference – February 17-19 in Bloomington. (Contact Carol Burwash or Wayne Ward if interested in going.)
- Pancake Breakfast – Saturday 2/25 at Forty Martyrs Hall. More details to follow.
- Club’s 20 Year Celebration – Saturday 3/25 at Linda and Mike Damler’s home. More details to follow.

Reminder: If you haven’t paid your first installment of 2006 dues of \$50, please do so as soon as possible to Treasurer, Candy Hudson. Dues will now be collected by the end of January and July.

Upcoming Program Assignments

February 6	Mike Damler
February 13	Cindy Bickers
February 20	No Meeting
February 27	Jeannine Fortney
March 6	Joe Fortney
March 13	Debbie Graber
March 20	Edie Griffith
March 27	Greg Hankey

Don’t forget your valentine on Tuesday, February 14th!

Our club web site is now a link on the tuscola.org web site. Click on “Calendar of Events”. Our link is under Service Clubs & Organizations.

**An Incomplete But Mostly True Account of
Historical Antics and Adventures of the
TUSCOLA KIWANIS CLUB**

The Tuscola Kiwanis Club was chartered in March 1986 with twenty-five members. About half of them promptly paid their dues and never showed up at another meeting. Their names remain proudly inscribed on the Club Charter, however no one has seen the Charter since 1988 so only they know who they are (if they remember).

The Club was off to a rocky start, but remained undaunted. Chuck Talbott, Chief Deputy Sheriff, was elected first President, and other officers included Wayne Ward, Jim Wood, Rich Carter, Carl Quinn, Darrell Boege and Paul Wisovaty. Other than Talbott, their specific offices and functions (like the Club Charter) are lost to history. But we are certain that they served honorably.

The Club may have started out with little more than a handful of active members, but it was also broke. So when the local Salvation Army Unit asked for a donation that first year, red faces abounded and little coin of the realm was forthcoming. Undaunted, Club members decided as an alternative to volunteer their time ringing the bell at the Tuscola IGA. This tradition, we proudly report, has continued to the present day.

While it may seem odd in today's world, it is none the less true that our twenty-five Charter members were, in accordance with national Kiwanis by-laws, all of the male persuasion. In 1988, someone of the female persuasion, apparently realizing that this was the 20th century, sued a fellow service club with a similar prohibition, demanding to be granted membership. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed, and the walls came a-tumblin' down. The Tuscola Kiwanis Club signed Lynn Taylor as its first female member, and the rest, as they say, is history. To put this in perspective, anyone who has attended more than a few inter-clubs meetings (visits with other Kiwanis clubs) is aware that we are one of the few clubs in the area (possibly the country) with more than 50% female membership. We are certain that this has made us a stronger club and cannot for the life of us understand why other clubs have not followed our lead.

By Paul Wisovaty (as best as he can remember)

Meeting of 1/9/06

There were 23 members and 2 guests: Leo Plaszczynski and Colleen Lehmann (reporter for The Tuscola Review).

Paul Wisovaty and Leo Plaszczynski inducted our own Ed Wachala into The American Legion of Polish Veterans as an honorary member. Ed was presented with a framed certificate. Believe it or not, Ed was almost speechless in his surprise!

Kiwanis International is again asking clubs to donate their meal money to the Skip-A-Meal project at our April 24th meeting. This money goes into the Kiwanis International Foundation's Children's Fund. One hundred percent of the donations to the fund will be used for meeting the special needs of young children and promoting leadership development and the ideals of voluntarism among our youth.

Darrell Helm is heading up the Pancake Breakfast project with Carol Burwash as chief advisor. Carole and Gary Weber are providing a pancake batter dispenser for the breakfast. All hands on deck for duty on Saturday, 2/25!

The program, an Introduction to the club's new web site tuscolakiwanis.org, was presented by David Butler. David reviewed the organization of the web site, the email options and content. Everyone in attendance received a hardcopy manual for the web site. If you would like a manual, please ask for one at any meeting (we have some stored there) or ask a member to pick one up for you.

As they were saying....Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.

Meeting of 1/16/06

There were 19 members and 5 guests: Richard Kaufman (Lt. Governor) and 4 members of the Decatur Early Birds, Rich Barnett, Paul Francis, Ned Hawbecker and Dan Daugherty.

Carol Burwash had received and presented the club with a Kiwanis International Foundation patch for the club's support to the foundation.

Kim Higgins presented the club with a framed certificate of recognition and appreciation from the Shriners for the club's hard work and participation in the 2005 Tuscola Harvestfest Parade. Kim, Queen of the Harvestfest Parade, advised that she would be willing to coordinate the parade again if she could get some help with phone calls. Mike Damler generously agreed to assist her as the Queen's Serf.

Richard Kaufman, Lt. Governor, spoke briefly regarding the 27th Division Mid-Winter Council Meeting and the April project of "Young Children Priority 1". He also advised that CPR training would be available in April at Springfield, but was not sure if it would be offered any closer to Tuscola. (If interested, further details are available from Carol Burwash or Wayne Ward). He also thanked the club for our projects and participation in supporting Kiwanis International.

A program on Travel Safety was presented by Janet Butler. Having traveled frequently in the U.S. and Europe, she presented many safety tips, and ideas of how to avoid theft and pickpockets. In summary, she advised always be alert, do not carry expensive jewelry/watches, do not allow anyone to distract you from your belongings and carry a cell phone whenever possible.

As someone was saying.....99% of the lawyers give the rest a bad name.

Meeting of 1/23/06

We were 21 members strong at this meeting.

At the 1/30 meeting, the club will host visitors from the Decatur Noon Club.

Cindy Bickers has scheduled a trauma doll workshop shop at her home on Friday, February 3 from noon to 3p. Cindy will be providing soup. Attending members are asked to bring something such as crackers, salads, desserts, etc.

The program was presented by Wayne Ward. Wayne was a member of the American Road Builders Association for many years. He showed the group slides of bridges, roads, road equipment and road conditions from the mid-1800s to present day. In the days of laying brick roads by hand, one man could lay 500 feet of brick 24 feet wide in one day. Wow! He advised that the three principles of road constructions are: 1. drainage 2. drainage 3. drainage. Wayne really enjoyed being a member of the ARBA and has traveled to many, many locations.

Wayne never saw a bridge he didn't like (even if he had to detour out of his way to see it)!

Life isn't like a box of chocolates... it's more like a jar of jalapenos.

Meeting of 1/30/06

We had 22 members in attendance; our expected guests from the Decatur "Noon" Club did not join us. (Was it something we said?)

Our own Mike Damler will be the master of ceremonies on February 9th for the opening night of "Guys and Dolls" presented by ArtCo. He promises a "plug" for the Tuscola Kiwanis Club.

Carl Quinn, Clarice Hausman, Ben Mingo and Carole Weber attended an inter-club meeting with the Decatur Golden K Club. The program topic was "CHELP - Community Home Environmental Learning Project" presented by Nancy Derby, associate director of the agency in Decatur, IL. CHELP is a social service organization that focuses largely on caring for the elderly. There are 9 different program areas within CHELP. The largest program is the Homemaker program which helps individuals over the age of 60 whose annual income is under \$13,000 or who have excessive medical expenses. Staff members are certified by the State of Illinois and bonded to help assure recipients of CHELP services that they are safe. Another program is associated with the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation. It is for individuals under the age of 60 who generally require a large number of hours of service from CHELP. They are often disabled and may be in wheelchairs or disabled in some other way. Another program is the free Senior Companion program for individuals 60 or older. Seniors visit seniors helping fill the need for companionship. Another program, the Respite Program, is for individuals 60 or older. It provides a CHELP staff member to sit with a senior allowing the regular caregiver to get away for awhile to help relieve the stress of caring for a loved one. Private Care is another program that requires payment for the CHELP service. Private Care is for any age and there are no qualifying requirements. CHELP also offers a program that provides transportation for individuals who need to visit doctors or hospital facilities in Decatur or Springfield. There also is a free program that provides minor repair and renovation services, such as leaky faucets, installation of safety handrails, etc. There is a CHELP outreach program that helps acquaint seniors with programs available to seniors such as; Medicare D, Circuit Breaker, etc. Also CHELP has a program for investigating and reporting elder

abuse. Abuse can take various forms; such as physical abuse, financial abuse, etc. The CHELP office is at 1429 N. Jasper Street, Decatur, IL 217-422-9888.

Paul Wisovaty announced that the Traveling Vietnam Wall will be in Tuscola July 5th through 8th south of the East Prairie School. Paul is looking for volunteers to help with this event. Contact Paul if you are interested.

Pat Damler presented an informative presentation on “Being an Informed Health Care Consumer”. Prepare for doctors’ appointments by providing a written personal medical history including information such as allergies, emergency contacts, past surgeries/medical conditions and present medical condition. Be sure to include any over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, vitamins, etc. Discuss your insurance pharmacy benefit with your doctor so that medication can be prescribed in the most cost effective manner for you. Write down any questions you have and take someone with you for support to the appointment. Gather as much trustworthy information as you can on your condition. The Internet is a good source of information. (such as www.webmd.com) Take a notebook with your information and questions; write down the answers from your doctor.

Things to know if you’re going into the hospital:

- Your primary care physician will not be taking care of you in the hospital; he/she will receive reports from the hospital.
- Many people will come to see you in the hospital. The list may include resident physicians, fellow physicians, advanced practice nurses, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, clergy, nurses, health care technicians, student nurses, dietary staff, home care nurses, etc.
- The day shift is now usually 7a to 7p. This is a busy time, especially during shift turnover when the outgoing nurses update the incoming nurses.
- Realize there are options and choices; don’t hesitate to ask questions.
- Any care and/or medication require a doctor’s order, including discharge.
- You have rights and should know what is going on with your condition.
- Don’t be afraid to use self-administering pain medication. It is safe. You cannot overdose. Controlling pain will help you do the things you will be asked to do to help with your recovery.
- You should be told what to expect and do post-operatively.
- If possible, have someone stay with you during your hospital stay as your advocate.

"One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others."
Lewis Carroll

Highlights from the January 2006 Board Meeting

- Wayne handed out copies of the December monthly report that is prepared for the I-I-District and Lt. Governor. There were 19 service projects reported for a total of 314 service hours.
 - Candy Hudson reported that the balance in the treasury was \$3,519.33.
 - Carole Weber reported that she and Gary were going to provide a pancake batter dispenser to the club. The Board gave a hearty thanks to Carole and Gary for the very generous donation.
 - The Board decided that the club would attempt to get placemats prepared, similar to the ones that the Clinton Club uses, in time for the pancake breakfast.
 - Next meeting is scheduled Wednesday, 2/1 at Tuscan's at noon.
(Full text on club web site)
-

A married couple was celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. At the party everybody wanted to know how they managed to stay married so long in this day and age. The husband responded "When we were first married, we came to an agreement. I would make all the major decisions and my wife would make all the minor decisions. And in 50 years of marriage we have never needed to make a major decision."

AN OUTING

It was a rainy, dreary evening on October 2004, when four brave souls assembled for a monthly experience.

They were about to embark on an adventure of meeting people in a distant city and experiencing new people belonging to the same family.

It rained during their entire journey on Route 36 West, it rained during the maneuvering through the city of Decatur and it continued to rain on the northern stretch of Route 51.

Fortunately, our four brave souls had a great gps (global positioning system) in the person of their own poet laureate who seemed to know where they were going.

They finally arrived at a little building in Clinton, Illinois, marked with our family emblem. Moving quickly from car to building, trying to avoid the water filled pot-holes, they made it safely inside. The room seemed to be ready for an interesting meeting with placemats announcing projects, fundraising proposals and activities for the coming year.

As it happened, they were not the only visitors this night for these Clinton family members. There was another family group from Decatur delivering a "traveling gavel" to this family branch. In this particular delivery, the gavel was wrapped in layers and layers of duct tape so it took the president, who had to unwrap it, quite some time.

The "traveling gavel" is like any gavel that a president of a family club would use to open and close a family meeting. However, the "traveling gavel" is moved from club to club (family to family) so that all the club families in a district receive it every year, and each club must deliver it to the next club as assigned by the district.

Each club tries to make their delivery, with the gavel wrapped in an innovative way, so that it is fun and difficult to get to it.

By visiting the other clubs in their district, and also in other districts, we meet other members of our KIWANIS family, and share ideas about projects and fundraising activities.

The best way to do this is to sign up for an inter-club meeting!

TUSCOLA KIWANIS CLUB

THE friendliest club (so proclaimed by others; not our brag)

Submitted by Ed Wachala

See the web site for new stuff!! For example, see “The Early Days” under Photo Albums and see new content under “Events”.

Please provide any information, pictures, updates and corrections for the newsletter and/or web site to:

dbutler@tuscolakiwanis.org or jbutler@tuscolakiwanis.org