



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF TUSCOLA

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2025

See club information and photos on our website at www.tuscolakiwanis.org
and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tuscolakiwanisclub

2025 Events/Activities

Monday, February 10	Board Meeting – The Breakfast Place at noon
Thursday/Friday, March 27-28	Fish Fry Thaw/Dinner – Forty Martyrs
Saturday, April 12	Easter Egg Hunt – rain date April 19
Saturday, April 26	Take Back Drugs
Saturday, May 17	Stamp Out Hunger
Wed-Sat, July 9-12	Garage Sale – Forty Martyrs Hall

Upcoming Meetings & Program Assignments

February 5	Linda Damler
February 12	Dan Craddock
February 19	Jeannie Craddock
February 26	Mike Damler
March 5	Recruitment Meeting
March 12	Marsha Dawson
March 19	Kathleen Dyer
March 26	Linda Glenn
April 2	Sue Gavin
April 9	Stuff Easter Eggs
April 16	Debbie Graber
April 23	Kim Higgins
April 30	Tim Hoel
May 7	Candy Hudson

May 14	Judy Landeck
May 21	Jean Leonard
May 28	Jerry Leonard
June 4	Carol Martin
June 11	Jeff Martin
June 18	Lisa McCallister
June 25	Dave Moody
July 2	Suzanne Moody
July 9	NO MEETING – Garage sale
July 16	Val Morgan
July 23	Lori Nichols
July 30	Dennis Opperman

If your program date does **not** work for you, please arrange a swap and notify Janet Butler as soon as possible so the calendar can be updated.

**Don't forget to give Janet Butler your Volunteer Hours
at the end of the month!**

Well Trained!



Meeting Minutes – January 8 2025

- Attendance

37 – Members

1 – Guest: Brian Moody, our speaker

- Birthdays – 1/13 Wilma Allen (we called and sang to her)
- Brags – Maureen Bergeson, Carol Burwash, Sharon Corum, Linda Damler, Debbie Graber, Kim Higgins, Tim Hoel, Val Morgan, Lori Nichols, Sue Wisovaty, and Doris Young
- Free Lunch Winner – Doris Young
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

2025/2026 Club Dues – Half of your 2025/2026 dues of \$75 is due by January 31st. You can pay the entire \$150.00 if you wish now or the remaining \$75 is due by July 31. If you need an invoice, let Candy know and she will be happy to provide one. Give your dues check to treasurer Candy or in her absence to Janet.

Thank You Notes – Jeannie read the thank you notes from NW, EP, and TCHS for the donations that were made from the club's Christmas Party to help with activities for teachers' morale and recognition.

KI Possibility Project – Jeannie explained the new 5-year KI project to raise funds to be distributed to Kiwanis clubs for their projects. Clubs would apply to KI for a project grant.

Key Club Volunteer of the Month – Olivia Wallace was the November winner with 8 hours of service.

Upcoming Events:

March 27/28 – Fish Thaw & Fish Fry

Program:



Carol Burwash introduced our speaker, Brian Moody. Brian serves as Tuscola Fire Chief and Director of Douglas County Economic Development Corporation.

Brian reported that Tuscola is a finalist regarding site selection for the former Lyondell/ Basell property. FuFeng USA Incorporated, headquartered in Oak Brook Illinois is part of a worldwide Chinese company that would invest in a \$600 million capital project. It would take three years to build. The facility is expected to purchase 15% of the corn from the seven local central Illinois counties. The corn would be processed to extract amino acids for animal feed markets. When completed, about 240 full-time employees would be employed at the facility.

The Cronus project is not dead, but still moving very slowly.

There has been some interest in the Tuscola Mall. The owners are now ready to sell.

The former Denny's Restaurant has been purchased. The Starlight Diner is expected to open in the next few months.

Meeting Minutes – January 15 2025

• Attendance

35 – Members

1 – Guest: Marsha Dawson's grandson, Oliver

• Birthdays – None

• Brags – Carol Burwash, Tim Hoel

• Free Lunch Winner – Jean Leonard

• News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

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Board Meeting News Highlights –

- Due to a pending move the summer of 2026, Ian advised the Board that he cannot fulfill his president term beginning 10-1-25.

Kim Higgins generously volunteered to serve again, and the Board voted unanimously for her to fill the vacancy.

-The Board reviewed a recruitment letter drafted by Jeannie to be sent to selected businesses in Tuscola asking them to join the club as a corporate member.

-A recruitment focused meeting was set for Wednesday, March 5. More details to come. See page 7 for the 1/13/25 board meeting minutes for more information and details.

Fish Fry Meeting – There will be a committee meeting immediately following our Wednesday, January 29 meeting.

Upcoming Events:

March 27/28 – Fish Thaw & Fish Fry

Program:



Our speaker today was Kiwanian Elaine Bryant. At the last minute, her scheduled speaker advised Elaine that she was ill and could not attend today.

So that we would have a program, Elaine sorted through her files, and came up with an entertaining program covering:

- Rules for teachers in 1872
- Rules for teachers in 1915
- Meanings of Words/Traditions
- Rednecks

The program was humorous and fun.

Elaine, thank you for going the extra mile!

Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2025

- Attendance

26 – Members

5 – Guest: Paris Interclub-Barb Bergdolt, Dianna Bennett, John Carrington, Dennis Thiel, and our speaker Matthew Schweighart

- Birthdays – 1/22 Pete Buckley, 1/26 Candy Hudson, 1/28 Kate Watson
- Brags – David Butler, Jeannie Craddock, Linda Damler, Kim Higgins, Tim Hoel, and Marci Shoemaker
- Free Lunch Winner – Glen Simpson
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

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Division 25 Council Meeting – Lt. Governor Pete Buckley held a division council meeting on Saturday, January 18. All five clubs – Champaign-Urbana, Danville, Decatur Early Birds, Decatur Golden K, and Tuscola – were represented. Our own Carol Burwash was elected unanimously as the I-I Division 25 2025/2026 Lt. Governor. Congratulation, Carol!

Bring Up Grades (BUG) – Linda Damler reported that there were 33 winners from 1st Qtr to 2nd Qtr. Postcards were given to volunteers for sending to the winners.

Recruitment Meeting March 5 – Mark your calendars! Jeannie confirmed our March 5 meeting will be a recruitment meeting. The club will pay for lunch for the potential member attendees. Jeannie will reach out mid February to see who we are inviting and who is expected to attend as a guest that day. If you are unable to or wish to have someone else reach out to your member suggestion, please let Jeannie know. She is happy to help with that. Jeannie must give Devon an estimated headcount on February 26 for the increased attendees we expect.

Music Boosters Fundraiser – Jaci Manzella reported that the event will be Saturday, February 22nd. The theme is “Music Across the Decades.” The dinner is \$18.00. Jeannie volunteered to coordinate a Kiwanis table(s) of eight. Contact her if you’re interested.

Fish Fry Meeting – There will be a committee meeting immediately following our Wednesday, January 29 meeting.

Upcoming Events:

March 27/28 – Fish Thaw & Fish Fry

Program:



Maureen Bergeson introduced our speaker, Matthew Schweighart, City of Tuscola attorney and in private practice. He grew up in Tuscola and graduated in the TCHS class of 1999. He has a finance/business degree from the U of I, and law degree from St. Louis University. Matthew specializes in residential/commercial real estate, wills, trusts, and estate planning.

Meeting Minutes – January 29, 2025

- Attendance

32 – Members

1 – Guest: Devin Black, our speaker

- Birthdays – 1/29 Marsha Dawson, 1/30 Doris Young, 2/1 Ian Rominger, 2/1 Judy Landeck
- Brags – David Butler, Jeannie Craddock, Linda Damler, Tim Hoel, Val Morgan, and Maribeth Opperman
- Free Lunch Winner – Val Morgan
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

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NW Skating - North Ward is doing their annual skating unit in PE. This year, the skate fee has increased to \$12/student. This is expensive for several students, especially for those families with multiple children. Logan Stenger, one of our K-Kids Faculty Advisors, is accepting donations from anyone who wants to defray the costs for some of the children. Jeannie has an envelope if anyone wants to contribute.

Upcoming Events:

March 27/28 – Fish Thaw & Fish Fry

Program:



Janet Butler introduced our speaker, Devin Black, director of the Tuscola Public Library. The Carnegie library was built in 1903.

Seventy-five percent of the library is funded from local property taxes. The remainder of income is from state funding and donations. Total income is \$203,000. Its collection holds 134,640 physical items and has access to over 351,000 electronic items. Over 25,000 items were circulated in 2024.

Program and event attendance has risen since COVID. The library will be starting a new program for pre-schollers called “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.”

The library is planning a program to families to purchase outside pavers that will be placed around the front court bench. The pavers will have book names and look like the spine of a book. Community members will be encouraged to purchase in honor of a person or family, or in memorial of someone. More details to come,

**TUSCOLA KIWANIS CLUB &
KIWANIS CLUB OF TUSCOLA ILLINOIS FOUNDATION
2025 JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at The Breakfast Place on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. by President Jeannie Craddock with the following officers, club directors and guests present as noted by an “X”:

Carol Burwash – V.P.	X	Candy Hudson – Treas	X	Guests:	
David Butler – Webmaster	X	Carol Martin (2026)	X		
Janet Butler – Secretary	X	Jeff Martin (2025)	X		
Jeannie Craddock – President	X	Ian Rominger – Pres Elect	X		
Dan Craddock (2027)	X	Julie Slaughter (2026)	X		
Sue Gavin (2027)	X	Cindy Wood (2025)	X		
Kim Higgins – Past Pres	X				

The following items of business were conducted:

1. Consent Agenda –

-Minutes of December 10, 2024 Board Meeting

-Secretary’s Monthly Reports –Hours reported were 658 service and 95 fundraising hours for a total of 753 volunteer hours. The top volunteers were Jeannie Craddock and Tim Hoel.

-Treasurer’s Monthly Reports –For balances ending January 13, 2025, the club was \$6,802.28 and for the foundation \$23,155.47.

Carol Burwash made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Kim Higgins seconded the motion, and it was approved. Copies of the reports are included in Board Meeting Documents under “Board Reports” in the “Members Area” of the club website.

2. Disbursements/Reimbursements –

Approved disbursements:

<i>Club Administrative Account</i>	<i>Club Foundation Account</i>
	\$119.76 Reimbursement to Jeannie Craddock for Key Club Volunteer of the month gift cards – project previously approved.

3. New Donation Requests – None

OLD BUSINESS

1. The KI Possibility Project – Jeannie will email Mary Lechner at KI to advise the club will support the project with a donation, but will not commit to pledging the amount required to be an Impact Club.
2. 2024/2025 Distinguished Criteria – Janet reviewed where the club stands currently in meeting the criteria. It appears the club will have little trouble in meeting the district level criteria for distinguished club.
3. Membership Plan Update – Jeannie reviewed the list of potential members. The Board agreed to have the March 5th club meeting as a recruitment meeting, pending program chair Pat Damler’s agreement. [Note: Janet contacted Pat and she is fine with March 5 being a recruitment meeting.]
4. KI Letter regarding Microgrants – Janet confirmed she had sent a letter to Paul Palazzolo at KI requesting that microgrants eligibility be expanded to include clubs who reside in a community with 10,000 or less population. She will advise when a response is received.
5. Easter Egg Hunt Update – Janet reported the donation request letters have been sent to the previous donors, and three new letters to Love’s, Tuscola Ford, and BP Oil. She will contact the NW and EP faculty advisors to set a date for delivering the plastic eggs for matching. She is awaiting official approval for using NW and Methodist Church.
6. Garage Sale – Janet and Cindy reported everything is on track. The committee will meet on February 6 to review the draft layout of Forty Martyrs and determine the lead persons in each area.
7. Stamp Out Hunger – May 17 - Janet reported from Maureen that Kirby Foods had been contacted regarding the “round up” for the week before the food drive. Rotary has been contacted to confirm their partnering with us and the Post Master will be contacted when she returns from vacation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2023/2024 Amador Award Candidates – Janet made a motion to nominate an undisclosed member. Carol Martin seconded the motion and it was approved. Board members were directed to email Janet if they wanted to nominate a member of the board.
2. Elble Award(s) – Tabled for February or March board meeting.

3. I-I Mid-Year District Conference – 2/21-23 – Springfield (Crown Plaza) – Janet reported that on Friday, 2/21, there is registration only. On Sunday, 2/23, there is only the meeting of the new I-I board. Below is Saturday’s agenda. Janet has requested a list of training workshops from I-I Education Chair Doug Fink. She will advise the board when Doug responses. If there is no training for the new KI “Kiwaniis Engage” website that secretaries will be using, the Butlers do not plan to attend mid-year.

Saturday, February 22, 2025

6:30AM - 7:45AM | **Continental Breakfast**

7:00AM - 5:00PM | **Registration**

9:30AM - 10:30AM | **Kiwaniis PLGA Meeting (former LTGs)**

10:30AM - 11:30AM | **Kiwaniis PGA Meeting (former Governors)**

12:00PM - 1:45PM | **KNRF Luncheon**

2:00PM - 3:30PM | **Kiwaniis Training Sessions**

3:30PM - 5:30PM | **Kiwaniis Board Meeting**

7:00PM - 9:45PM | **CKI/Key Club Recognition Dinners (Kiwaniis Members welcome to attend)**

4. Signature Service Project – The board agreed that at this time the club has no project to submit for a grant.
5. 2025/2026 President position – Due to a pending move the summer of 2026, Ian advised the board that he cannot fulfill his president term beginning 10-1-25. Kim Higgins generously volunteered to fill the vacancy. Janet Butler made a motion to select Kim Higgins as the 2025/2026 Club President to take office 10-1-25. Carol Martin seconded the motion and it was approved.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05PM.

Next Board Meeting – The next Board meeting will be Monday, February 10, 2025, at The Breakfast Place.

Submitted by: Janet Butler – Secretary



Don't Forget Your Sweetheart!

Please provide any pictures, updates and corrections for newsletter or website to:
dbutler@tuscolakiwanis.org or jbutler@tuscolakiwanis.org