



# Kiwaniis®

## CLUB OF TUSCOLA

**NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2025**

See club information and photos on our website at [www.tuscolakiwanis.org](http://www.tuscolakiwanis.org)  
and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/tuscolakiwanisclub](https://www.facebook.com/tuscolakiwanisclub)

### 2025 Events/Activities

Wednesday, March 12	Board Meeting – Flesor’s after club meeting
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
Friday, May 30	Downtown Movie Night
Friday, June 27	Downtown Movie Night
Wed-Sat, July 9-12	Garage Sale – Forty Martyrs Hall
Thursday, Sept 11	Stewardship Day – Walnut Point
Friday, Sept 26	Homecoming Parade
Saturday, Sept 27	Homecoming Breakfast – Community Building
Tuesday, October 28	Halloween Downtown Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 29	Safety Day – Arthur Christian School
Fri/Sat, December 5-6	Christmastown activities

### Upcoming Meetings & Program Assignments

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
August 6	Maribeth Opperman
August 13	Patty Russell
August 20	Marci Shoemaker
August 27	Glen Simpson

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.

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

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## Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2025

- **Attendance**

32 – Members

7 – Guest: Decatur Early Birds-Dan Basmati, Bob Ruehrup, Chris Phelps, Doug Warren, Chuck Zweck; and Becky Carroll, and Mike Carroll, our speaker

- **Birthdays** – 2/1 Judy Landeck, 2/1 Ian Rominger, 2/4 Patty Russell
- **Brags** – Pete Buckley, David Butler, Tim Hoel, Sue Gavin, Topy Mooday, and Doris Young
- **Free Lunch Winner** – Topy Mooday
- **News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities**

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.

Fish Fry Meeting – There was a fish fryers only meeting immediately following our meeting to cover final details. Next committee meeting is 2/26.

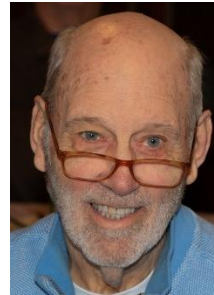
K-Kids Fundraiser – The NW K-Kids are selling Candy Grams for Valentine’s Day. The club is covering the cost of the candy. The proceeds will be used for various projects this Spring.

Upcoming Events:

March 27/28 – Fish Thaw & Fish Fry

April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt

### **Program:**



Linda Damer introduced our speaker, Mike Carroll. Mike is a graduate of TCHS, EIU, and the University of Illinois law school. He served as an officer in the Army, is a former Douglas County Attorney, and a former Circuit Court Judge.

He has recently published a book called “A Perfectly Designed Imperfect World: Understanding God’s Architecture for Spiritual Growth.” This book of philosophy and theology addresses why is there evil in the world if God is all powerful and good.

God gave mankind free will, logic and the ability to reason. We take the good with the bad, otherwise, how would we know when things are good. If the world was perfect, how would we know?

If you are interested in purchasing the book, go to Amazon.com - “A Perfectly Designed Imperfect World” by Michael. G. Carroll.

## Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2025

- Attendance

34 – Members

1 – Guest: Dara Gray and our speaker via Zoom Jason Smith.

- Birthdays – 2/12 Ken Rominger, 2/15 Jason Swearingen
- Brags – Elaine Bryant, David Butler, Jeannie Craddock, Pat Damler, Debbie Graber, Tim Hoel, and Doris Young
- Free Lunch Winner – Dennis Opperman
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

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.

Builders Club – As a project, the members are decorating East Prairie for Valentine’s Day.

Board Meeting News – See page 7 for the February board meeting minutes.

Upcoming Events:

March 27/28 – Fish Thaw & Fish Fry

April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt

## Program:



Dan Craddock introduced via Zoom our speaker, Jason Smith. He has been with IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) for 8 years and has been an engineer for 23 years.

Jason is the IDOT Construction Engineer for the Reconstruction I-57/I-74 Interchange Project. This project at \$280 million is four times the cost of any road project ever completed in our district. The current interchange was built in 1963-1965 with tight space and ramps.

The reconstruction provides twelve less tight ramps with higher speeds, large loops, two bridge replacements, rebuilt culverts, noise reduction walls by I-74 residential area, and a widening of the road. The project is scheduled to be completed mid-late 2026, with portions of resurfacing happening in 2027.



## Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2025

- **Attendance**

33 – Members

1 – Guest: Dara Gray

- **Birthdays** – 2/20 Erica Leonard
- **Braggs** – Dale Boyer, David Butler, Pat Damler, and Tim Hoel
- **Free Lunch Winner** – Dan Craddock
- **News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities**

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.

Fish Thaw/Fry Signups – Before our next meeting, 2/26 an email will be sent to sign up online for the Fish Thaw/Fry. Hardcopy sheets will be passed around beginning 2/26.

Upcoming Events:

March 27/28 – Fish Thaw & Fish Fry

April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt

## **Program:**



Jeannie Craddock was our speaker today. She provided a fun U.S. Presidents trivia with candy for all. She also included photos and stories of trips to Washington, D.C. and tours of the White House, when her daughter Rachel was working in the White House and from the recent weekend of the January 2025 inauguration.



White House



## Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2025

- **Attendance**

35 – Members

2 – Guest: Pastor Kim Woods and Jessica Ray, our speaker

- **Birthdays** – None
- **Brags** – Carol Beals, Pete Buckley, Carol Burwash, David Butler, Jeannie Craddock, Tim Hoel, Topy Mooday, Dennis Opperman
- **Free Lunch Winner** – Paul Wisovaty
- **News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities**

New Member Inductions – The club welcomed two new corporate members...TrustBank and Tuscola United Methodist Church. As their representatives, Dara Gray and Pastor Bennett Woods participated in the inductions. Lt. Gov. Pete Buckley and President Jeannie Craddock held the inductions with sponsors Wayne Ward to TUMC and Candy Hudson for TrustBank.



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.

Fish Thaw/Fish Fry Signups – Online signups are open. An email was sent with the link. Hardcopy sheets were passed around.

Upcoming Events:

March 27/28 – Fish Thaw & Fish Fry

April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt

### **Program:**



In the absence of Mike Damler, Linda Damler introduced our speaker Jessica Ray from ATI Physical Therapy. Jessica is a graduate of TCHS, University of Illinois, and a doctorate from the University of Indianapolis. She was worked in the physical therapy industry for eighteen years. ATI is the largest outpatient physical therapy provider in the U.S. with facilities in twenty-six states.

ATI primarily offers outpatient physical therapy services which include treatment for a range of musculoskeletal conditions like injuries, chronic pain, post-surgical rehabilitation, sports injuries, and work-related injuries; they also provide specialty therapies like dry needling, taping, and cupping. Usually insurance requires a referral for their services.

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

The meeting was called to order at The Breakfast Place on Monday, February 10, 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	AB	Carol Martin (2026)	X		
Janet Butler – Secretary	X	Jeff Martin (2025)	X		
Jeannie Craddock – President	X	Ian Rominger – Pres Elect	AB		
Dan Craddock (2027)	AB	Julie Slaughter (2026)	X		
Sue Gavin (2027)	X	Cindy Wood (2025)	AB		
Kim Higgins – Past Pres	X				

The following items of business were conducted:

1. Consent Agenda –

-Minutes of January 13, 2025 Board Meeting

-Secretary’s Monthly Reports –Hours reported were 578 service hours. The top volunteers were Jeannie Craddock and Elaine Bryant.

-Treasurer’s Monthly Reports –For balances ending February 10, 2025, the club was \$11,069.34 and for the foundation \$23,761.18

Kim Higgins made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Julie Slaughter 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>
	\$600.00 Club’s annual gift to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund to coincide with Kiwanis Day of Giving 2/25/25.

Janet Butler made a motion to approve the above budgeted donation. Carol Burwash seconded the motion, and it was approved.

3. New Donation Requests – None

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Banners – Jeannie and Julie will contact David Butler regarding Fish Fry updated banners. It was discussed to use “This Friday” or “This Saturday” on banners as appropriated versus an actual date.
2. Membership Plan Update – Jeannie had board members review a list of potential corporate business members, marking the entries to receive an invitation to our March 5<sup>th</sup> member recruitment meeting. Once a guest count is determined, Jeannie will advise Janet how many “packets” to prepare with the new member application, club brochure, and “What is Kiwanis?” handout. Jeannie will provide a 1-page club info sheet for each table at the meeting. Janet will send the recruitment PowerPoint presentation to Jeannie for her review.
3. Egg Hunt Donations – Janet reported that she has received an email that Love’s Travel Shops’ foundation has approved a \$250 grant for assist with egg hunt expenses. She has also received eight donations so far and is expecting at least two more.
4. K-Kids/Builders Club Update – North Ward K-Kids are selling Candy Grams this week for Valentines Day for a fundraiser. The club will cover the cost. They will use the money for various projects this Spring. East Prairie Builders Club is going to decorate EP for Valentines Day.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Christmastown – Jeannie reported that Becky’s Buddies is looking for an organization to take over Christmastown. There was a consensus that our club would not want to take it over, however the Board would consider our club partnering with Becky’s Buddies or another organization. Jeannie will contact Heather Brown and see what options there might be. There was concern about the low crowds in 2024 for the vendors. It was thought that it was due to the parade being on Friday evening. Before any decision is made, Kim will contact Tourism and see what the plan is for the 2025 parade.
2. Fish Fry Division Invitation – Jeannie reported that she had drafted a letter to the clubs of divisions 25 and 26, and emailed to Janet. Janet will email near the end of February with the flyer.
3. March Board Meeting Date Change – Due to a conflict, Jeannie asked for the March board meeting to be rescheduled. It was agreed to Wednesday, March 12, immediately after our regular Kiwanis club meeting.



4. Incoming 2025/2026 Officers – Carol Burwash asked the board and club members consider stepping up to be the club’s 2025/2026 Vice President, leading up to President in two years. If you have questions or are interested, contact Carol Burwash.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50PM.

Next Board Meeting – The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 12 following the regular Kiwanis club meeting.

Submitted by: Janet Butler – Secretary



***March 20<sup>th</sup> – Finally!***

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