



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF TUSCOLA

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2026

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

2026 Events/Activities

Monday, January 12	Kiwaniis Board Meeting – the Breakfast Place
Thur/Fri, March 12-13	Fish Thaw/Fish Fry Dine In – Forty Martyrs
Saturday, March 28	Easter Egg Hunt – NW & TUMC (rain date 4/4)
Saturday, April 25	Take Back Drugs – location TBD

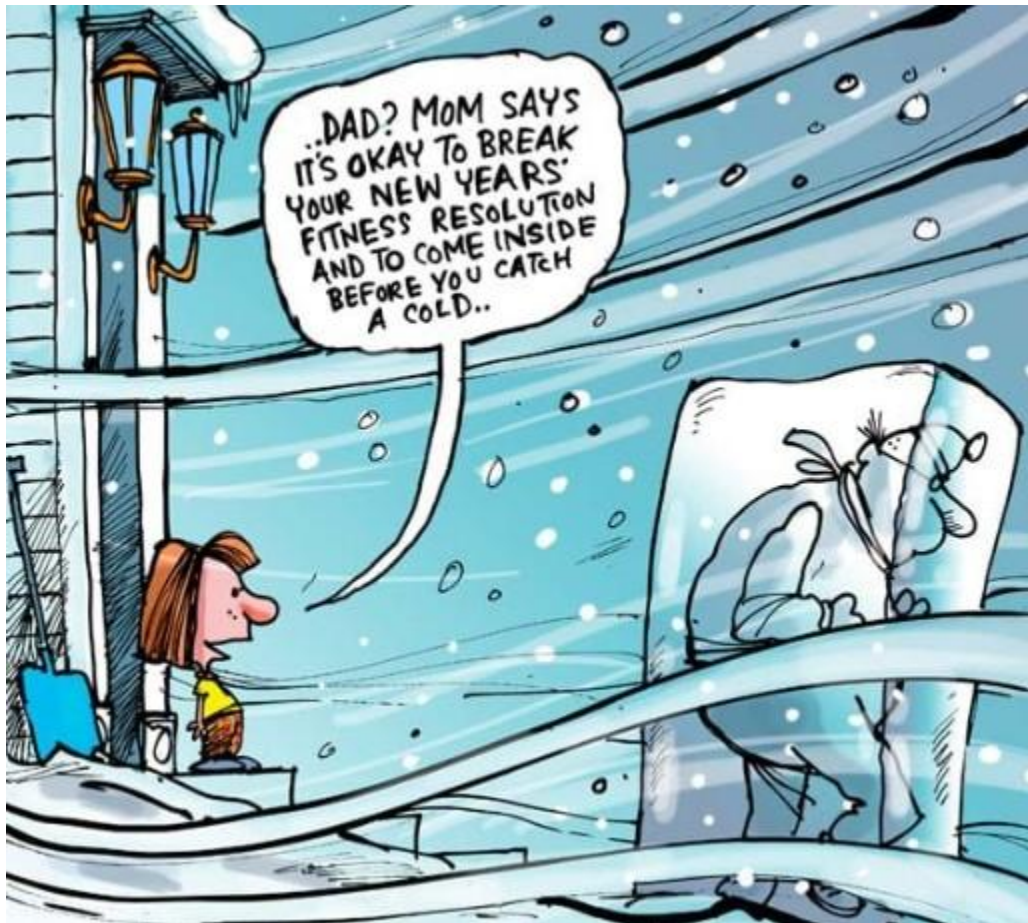
Upcoming Meetings & Program Assignments

January 7	Janet Butler – Tuscola United Methodist Church (Flesor’s closed) Bring your own lunch.
January 14	Dan Craddock
January 21	Jeannie Craddock
January 28	Linda Damler
February 4	Mike Damler
February 11	Pat Damler
February 18	Marsha Dawson
February 25	Debbie Graber
March 4	Linda Glenn
March 11	Sue Gavin
March 18	Kim Higgins
March 25	Easter Egg Hunt – candy stuffing
April 1	Tim Hoel
April 8	Candy Hudson

April 15	Lyn Kohlbecker
April 22	Judy Landeck
April 29	Jean Leonard
May 6	Jerry Leonard
May 13	Diane Little
May 20	Jaci Manzella
May 27	Carol Martin

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!**



Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2025

• Attendance

39 – Members

1 – Guest: Lauren Hunt-soon to be member

- Birthdays – 12/7 Kim Higgins, Jerry Reynolds, and Marci Shoemaker 12/9 Diane Little
- Brags – Carol Burwash, Sue Gavin, Tim Hoel, and Doris Young
- Free Lunch Winner – Lisa McCallister
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

New Member Induction – Greg Higgins sponsored by Kim Higgins, Jim Means sponsored by Dennis Opperman, and Carl Nichols sponsored by Lori Nichols were inducted into our club by president Kim Higgins and LTG Carol Burwash.



Welcome!!!!

Winter Coat Donations – Members generously donated 18 gently used winter coats. Kim Higgins delivered the coats to ERBA's office.

Board Meeting Update:

-The three new members above were approved.

-The club's meeting on January 7 will be held at the Tuscola United Methodist Church due to Flesor's being closed for vacation. Bring your own lunch.

-The Board also approved a proposal to start a satellite member group suggested by Lauren Hunt, soon-to-be-member. The goal is to recruit young professionals into our club by having a satellite member group that meets at a different day/time/place than the regular club meetings. Satellite members are members of our club and pay dues as all club members do. Jeannie Craddock, Kim Higgins and Janet Butler volunteered to be the initial Satellite Liaison Committee. As soon as Lauren Hunt is an approved club member, she will be part of the Satellite Leadership Committee that will lead the satellite group and work with the Liaison Committee. As this unfolds, more details will be shared.

Donation Envelops Circulation – For those members who wish to contribute, envelopes for a suggested \$10 donation for SAM Pantry and for the Flesor staff will be passed around on 12/10 & 12/17.

Program:



Pete Buckley shared his story of his path to the FBI. It took three times for him to be accepted. That is persistence! He thanks his Dad for his encouragement. Pete served full-time for 24 years in multiple locations.

Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2025

- **Attendance**

32 – Members

0 – Guests:

- **Birthdays** – None

- **Brags** – Carol Beals, Elaine Bryant, Pete Buckley, Debbie Graber, Kim Higgins, and Tim Hoel

- **Free Lunch Winner** – Debbie Graber

- **News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities**

Jingle & Mingle Bake Sale Results – The club raised \$770.80. Thanks to everyone to donated baked goods and worked the event!

Upcoming Events:

Salvation Army Bell Ringing – 12/13

Program:



Ian Rominger shared his story about Honor Flights and the Honor Flight trip that he participated in with his Dad, fellow Kiwanian Ken Rominger.

Honor Flight's Mission is to celebrate American's Veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. Their vision is a nation where all of American's Veterans experience the honor, gratitude, and community of support they deserve. In 2024, over 21,000 veterans made the one-day trip to memorials in Washington, D.C. including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Honor Flights are funded entirely by private donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, schools, and veteran groups. There is no state or federal funding. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit model is used and over 90% of funds go directly to mission costs like flights, meals, and transportation for veterans to see their memorials. Guardians often contribute a fee (around \$500) to cover their own costs, but all veteran expenses are free.

Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2025

- Attendance

36 – Members

1 – Guests: Lauren Hunt, soon-to-be member

- Birthdays – 12/22 Cathy Chaplin, 12/23 Lori Nicols, 12/24 Maureen Bergeson and Carol Burwash, 12/26 Debbie Graber, 12/27 Julie Slaughter
- Brags – Carol Burwash, Janet Butler, Pat Damler, Debbie Graber, Kim Higgins, Tim Hoel, and Judy Landeck
- Free Lunch Winner – Jeri Wills
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

I-I District Mid-Year Conference – The conference will be held in Springfield February 20-22, and the registration site is now available online. There will be a KNRF lunch on Saturday. If you're interested in attending, you can check out the I-I District website (iikiwanis.org) or see Kim Higgins. Registration closes January 17.

NO MEETINGS – CHRISTMAS EVE
12/24 AND NEW YEARS EVE 12/31

JANUARY 7 CLUB MEETING –
CHANGE OF LOCATION DUE TO
FLESOR'S VACATION CLOSURE –
MEET AT THE TUSCOLA UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH. Bring your
own lunch; drinks provided.

Program:

Club Christmas Party with hostess with the mostest, Jeannie Craddock



Tim & Dennis dressed for the occasion!

More photos on club website.

Jingle & Mingle – December 5-6, 2025



More photos on club website

Ringling the Bell for Salvation Army – December 13, 2025



More photos on club website

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

The meeting was called to order at The Breakfast Place on Monday, December 1, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. by President Kim Higgins with the following officers, club directors and guests present as noted by an “X”:

Carol Burwash – Pres Elect	X	Candy Hudson – Treas	X	Guests:	
David Butler – Webmaster	AB	Lyn Kohlbecker (2028)	X		
Janet Butler – Secretary	X	Carol Martin (2026)	X		
Dan Craddock – (2027)	X	Jeff Martin (2026)	X		
Jeannie Craddock – Past Pres	X	Lori Nichols (2028)	X		
Sue Gavin (2027)	AB	Julie Slaughter – Vice Pres	X		
Kim Higgins – President	X				

The following items of business were conducted:

1. Consent Agenda –

- Minutes of November 10, 2025 Board Meeting
- Secretary’s Monthly Report –Volunteer hours reported were 808 service hours. The six top volunteers were Jeannie Craddock, Patty Russell, Tim Hoel, Julie Slaughter, Kim Higgins, and David Butler.
- Treasurer’s Monthly Reports –For balances ending December 1, 2025, the club was \$4,840.86 and for the foundation \$19,654.39.

Carol Burwash made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carol Martin 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>
\$125.55 Reimburse Janet Butler for club pins, badges, and certificates from KI store.	

Lyn Kohlbecker made a motion to approve the above disbursement. Lori Nichols seconded the motion, and it was approved.

3. New Donation Requests – None

OLD BUSINESS

1. One Stop Community Christmas Results – \$500 budgeted from club foundation fundraising + \$1,075 from member donations for a total of \$1,575.
2. Backpack Buddies – Schedule for rest of the 2025/2026 school year is online; hardcopy signup will be provided 12/3.
3. ERBA - Gently Used Coat Donations – Coats collected at the December 3 meeting will be delivered that afternoon to ERBA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Member Approvals – Carol Burwash made a motion to approve membership for Jim Means, sponsored by Dennis Opperman, Carl Nichols, sponsored by Lori Nichols, and Greg Higgins, sponsored by Kim Higgins. Carol Martin seconded the motion, and it was approved.
2. Key Club Officers – The Key Club officers have been invited to attend a club meeting in January...date being determined. The headcount will be given to Candy Hudson so a foundation check can be prepared to pay for the lunches. Expense is budgeted.
3. Storage Unit Rental Increase – The club was notified by letter from M&A Properties (Marci & Alan Shoemaker) that the storage unit's rent will increase in April 2026 from \$90 to \$110 per month. After discussion, it was agreed that Janet would contact Marci and see if a reduced price could be negotiated as this is a 22.2% increase.
4. Club Christmas Party Donation for SAM Pantry – An envelope will be provided to the lunch ladies on 12/10 and 12/17 for any member who wants to donate a suggested \$10 to SAM Pantry.
5. Flesor's Staff Holiday Tip – For members who would like to give a holiday tip (cash only) for Flesor's staff who cooks and serves us each week, an envelope will be passed December 10 and 17. Cash will be put in a Christmas card and given to Devon during our club Christmas party to distribute appropriately.
6. Meeting Location – Flesor's is closed 1/7/26. Tentatively, the club will meet at the Tuscola United Methodist Church. Dan Craddock will confirm that this is possible. Jeannie will provide drinks, Janet will provide cups, and ice will be available. Mark your calendars.

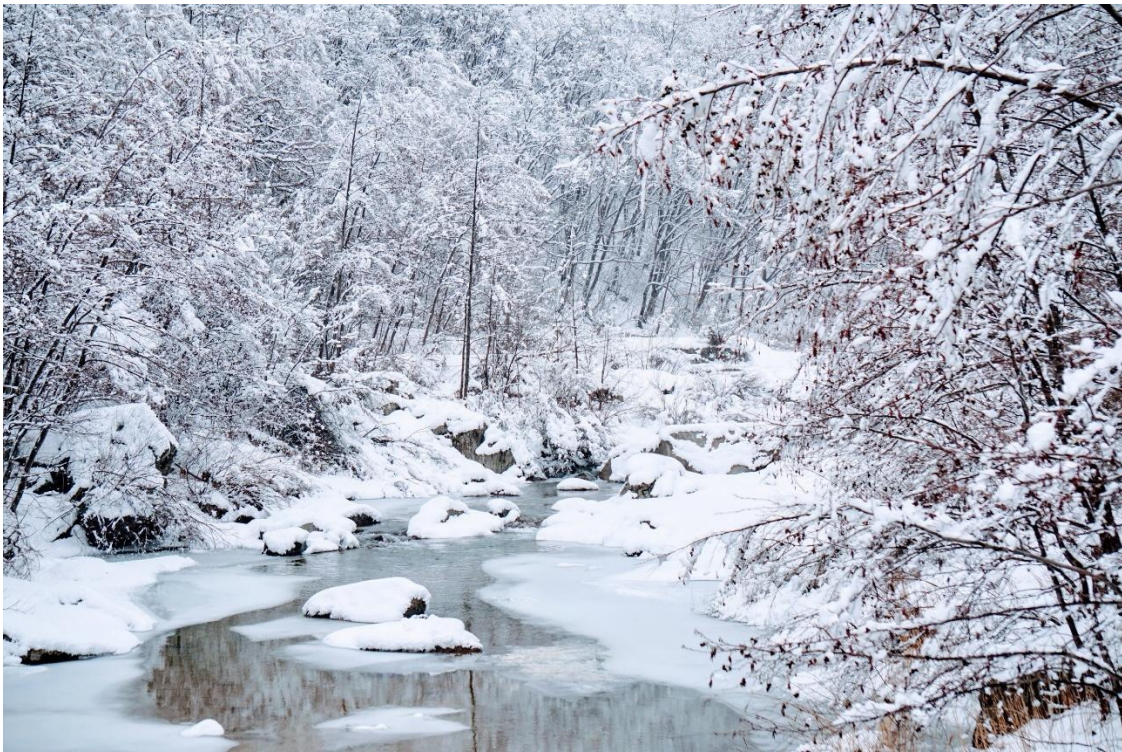
7. Proposed Satellite Members – Jeannie brought forward a proposal to start a satellite member group suggested by Lauren Hunt, soon-to-be-member. The goal is to recruit young professionals into our club by having a satellite member group that meets at a different day/time/place than the regular club meetings. Satellite members are members of our club and pay dues as all club members do. Jeannie Craddock, Kim Higgins and Janet Butler volunteered to be the initial Satellite Liaison Committee. As soon as Lauren Hunt is an approved club member, she will be part of the Satellite Leadership Committee that will lead the satellite group and work with the Liaison Committee. As this unfolds, more details will be shared. The key to a successful satellite group is education, communications, and support of the club Board and members. Kim Higgins made a motion to approve the establishment of a satellite group and for the Satellite Liaison Committee to move forward. Carol Martin seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45PM.

Next Board Meeting –

The next Board meeting will be Monday, January 12, 2026 at noon at The Breakfast Place.

Submitted by: Janet Butler – Secretary



It's Winter Now Brrrr!

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