



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF TUSCOLA

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 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, February 9	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
Saturday, May 16	Stamp Out Hunger – SAM Pantry Food Drive
Thursday, September 10	Environmental Stewardship Day – Walnut Point
Thursday, November 12	Safety Day – Arthur Christian School

Upcoming Meetings & Program Assignments

February 4	Janet Butler/Carol Burwash
February 11	Pat Damler
February 18	Linda Glenn
February 25	Debbie Graber
March 4	Linda Damler
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
June 3	Jeff Martin
June 10	Lisa McCallister
June 17	Dave Moody
June 24	Suzanne Moody

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 – January 7, 2025

- Attendance

31 – Members

1 – Guest: Lauren Hunt-soon to be member

- Birthdays – None

- Brags – Carol Burwash, Debbie Graber, Tim Hoel, and Dennis Opperman

- Free Lunch Winner – None (at TUMC)

- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

New Member Induction – Lauren Hunt sponsored by Jeanie Craddock was inducted into our club by president Kim Higgins and LTG Carol Burwash.



Lauren, welcome!!!!

Jingle and Mingle Bake Sale Results – Sales from the club's bake sale was \$770.80. Great job!

Club Christmas Party Donations - \$400 was collected in donations for SAM Pantry.

2026/2027 Kiwanis Dues - \$75 is due by January 31. If you wish to pay for the entire year, payment is \$150.

One Stop Community Christmas Results – From the seven counties, 1,053 families were served having 2,703 children. Douglas County was 8% with 76 families having 214 children. Thanks to the Kiwanians who donated and/or volunteered at the event.

Ruby K Pin Presentation – Dennis Opperman was presented with a KI Ruby K pin for bringing in five new members since his membership in the club.



Program:



Janet & David Butler toured Notre Dame Cathedral Paris in October 2025. With many photos, Janet shared the cathedral's story including the devastating fire of April 15, 2019, a miracle restoration, and reopening December 7, 2024.



Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2025

- **Attendance**

41 – Members

4 – Guests: Decatur Early Birds: Nina DeLude, Bill Meyer, Bob Ruchrup, and Doug Warren

- **Birthdays** – January 14 Wilma Allen-100 years old!
- **Brags** – Pete Buckley, Carol Burwash, Debbie Graber, Kim Higgins, Tim Hoel, Val Morgan, and Maribeth Opperman
- **Free Lunch Winner** – Topy Mooday
- **News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities**

B.U.G. Bring Up Grades – Linda Damler reported there were 29 East Prairie winners who brought up their grades. Post cards to be sent to the winners were distributed to volunteers.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Results – Woohoo!!! Our club collected \$1,630.59 for Tuscola Salvation Army with Rotary collecting \$899.54.

Board Meeting Updates:

- The club's 40th anniversary is March 28th. Janet Butler is chairing a committee to plan a special event to celebrate this anniversary.
- The Board voted to partner with Joe's Pizza for a fundraising evening. A Wednesday or Thursday date will be scheduled with Joe's and 10% of all sales (dine-in and take-out) sold that evening will be donated to the club's foundation. All the club has to do is promote the date to get people to come in.

Upcoming Events:

I-I District Mid-year Conference – February 21-22 in Springfield

Program:



Dan Craddock hosted a trivia program. He presented slides with photos of famous people, movies, movie phrases, and television shows. Teams had to identify the photo. Of course, there was candy and fun!

Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2025

- Attendance

40 – Members

5 – Guests: C-U Interclub: Cathy Campbell, Jim Campbell, Greg Fink, Donna Kesler, Robert Segebart

- Birthdays – 1/22 Pete Buckley
- Brags – Maureen Bergeson, Dale Boyer, Jeannie Craddock, Linda Damler, Tim Hoel, Lyn Kohlbecker, Lori Nichols, and C-U member Greg Fink
- Free Lunch Winner – Diane Little
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

Dues Reminder – 50% of the 2026/2027 dues of \$75 are due by Saturday January 31. Final payment of \$75 will be due in July. If you wish to pay \$150 now, nothing further will be due in July.

EP Industrial Arts Tour – Rich Knofsky has offered a tour of the IA lab and demonstration of the 3-D printer to Kiwanians on Tuesday, January 27 at 4p. See Kim Higgins if you want to attend.

Music Boosters Fundraiser TCHS Concert - February 21 - \$10 for dessert/drinks, \$5 for the concert only. If anyone wants to get a table together, see Debbie Graber.

Upcoming Events:

I-I District Mid-year Conference – February 21-22 in Springfield

Program:



Jeannie Craddock's program topic was music genre "The Blues", a subset of Jazz, including Swing, Bebop, Smooth, Cool, Latin, and Contemporary Fusion. She shared some of the lingo with a match the word/phase to the definition worksheet.

Her focus was the Blues and New Orleans Jazz. The Blues is the only music genre that has 100% U.S. American roots. Jeannie showed a clip from the movie "Adventures in Babysitting" with a typical blues song...Babysitting Blues.

Jeannie showed performance clips of Blues legend BB King. He was 12 years old when he purchased his first guitar for \$15, naming it Lucille. BB was the winner of 15 Grammys.

Jeannie moved on New Orleans Jazz legend "Trombone Shorty" (Troy Andrews) New Orleans Jazz legend. He is famous for blending jazz, funk, rock, and hip-hop into a unique sound called "Supafunrock." One of the video clips demonstrated his circular breathing technique on the trumpet.

Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2025

- **Attendance**

31 – Members

7 – Guests: Key Club Board: Christy Kerner, Claire Leonard, Lidia Manzella, Nicole Tschopp, Phoebe Wilkins, and Joyce Lewis (speaker’s mother), and our speaker Christine Dietrich

- **Birthdays** – 1/28 Kate Watson, 1/29 Marsha Dawson, 1/30 Doris Young, 1/31 Dara Gray, 2/1 Judy Landeck and Ian Rominger
- **Brags** – Elaine Bryant, Carol Burwash, Debbie Graber, Tim Hoel, Judy Landeck, and Jerry Leonard
- **Free Lunch Winner** – Sandy Simpson
- **News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities**

Dues Reminder – 50% of the 2026/2027 dues of \$75 are due by Saturday January 31. Final payment of \$75 will be due in July. If you wish to pay \$150 now, nothing further will be due in July.

K-Kids Week - February 9-13, members are doing morning announcements that week with an extra challenge each day for the kids in honor of the week. They will be selling candy grams and Valentine scented smencils (scented pencils) as a fundraiser.

Key Club February Events – Members are making knotted blankets and Valentines for teachers.

Builders Club Week - February 23-27, members are always busy! They are collecting pop tabs from now until February 27—if you want to bring your pop tabs on Wednesdays , Kim will deliver them. There is a friendly competition between the grade levels, and they made a commercial which was viewed. They are also very busy sorting our plastic Easter eggs so they’ll be fillable when we need them. Also, they will be selling Fun Dip Valentine’s during Builders Club week as a fundraiser – money will go toward some new recess equipment and a puzzle mat for the library.

Upcoming Events:

I-I District Mid-year Conference – February 21-22 in Springfield

Program:



Linda Damler introduced our speaker, Christine Dietrich- Associate Dean of Advancement at the U of I College of Veterinary Medicine. She oversees awards, scholarships,

fundraising, and alumni relations. Her topic was “More Than Just Dogs and Cats.”

The first graduating class was in 1948, twenty-four WWII veteran students. Today, only 160 students are admitted to the program out of approximately 3,100 applicants.

The Vet Med program includes learning about domestic large animals/small animals, wildlife, biomedical science, and research in cancer, genetics, neurology, environment effects, pathology, and more.

**TUSCOLA KIWANIS CLUB &
KIWANIS CLUB OF TUSCOLA ILLINOIS FOUNDATION
2026 JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at The Breakfast Place on Monday, January 12, 2026 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	X	Lyn Kohlbecker (2028)	AB	Dennis Opperman	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)	AB		
Sue Gavin (2027)	X	Julie Slaughter – Vice Pres	X		
Kim Higgins – President	X				

The following items of business were conducted:

1. Consent Agenda –

-Minutes of December 1, 2025 Board Meeting

-Secretary’s Monthly Report –Volunteer hours reported were 673 service hours and 77 fundraising hours for a total of 750 volunteer hours. The six top volunteers were Jeannie Craddock, Tim Hoel, Elaine Bryant, Kim Higgins, Judy Landeck, and David Butler.

-Treasurer’s Monthly Reports –For balances ending January 12, 2026, the club was \$4,578.86 and for the club foundation \$20,153.05.

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>
\$35.00 Reimburse LTG Carol Burwash for a Kiwanis background check	\$40-some Upon copy of the receipt to Candy, reimburse Jeannie Craddock for purchasing items for Builders Club’s Valentine fundraiser

David Butler made a motion to approve the above disbursements. Sue Gavin seconded the motion, and it was approved.

3. New Donation Requests – None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Jingle & Mingle Market Bake Sale Results – The club raised \$770.80 from the club's bake sale. Thanks to everyone who donated items and worked the event.
2. Salvation Army Bellringing Results – No results as yet. Expecting the results at the 1/14 club meeting.
3. One Stop Community Christmas Results – \$500 budgeted from club foundation fundraising + \$1,075 from member donations for a total of \$1,575.
4. ERBA - Gently Used Coat Donations –Eighteen coats were collected at the December 3 meeting and delivered to ERBA.
5. Club Christmas Party Donations - \$400 for SAM Pantry and \$700 for Flesor's staff.
6. Storage Unit Rental Increase Adjustment – At the club's request, Alan and Marci agreed to reduce the increase from \$20 per month to \$10 per month. Beginning April, the club will pay \$100 per month for its storage unit.
7. New Member Approval – The Board approved on December 22, 2025, via email, new member Lauren Hunt, sponsored by Jeannie Craddock.
8. Club 40th Year Anniversary – Janet is chairing a committee to plan something special to celebrate the club's 40th anniversary. Jeannie, Kim, and Dennis volunteered to be on the committee. Janet will contact Lauren Hunt about serving on the committee. Kim will include this on Wednesday's agenda to recruit a couple more members.
9. Key Club Officers – The Key Club officers have been invited to attend a club meeting in January...no date as of today. The headcount will be given to Candy Hudson so a foundation check can be prepared to pay for the lunches. Expense is budgeted.
10. 2026 New Fundraiser – Joe's Pizza – For a Wednesday or Thursday, Joe's Pizza will schedule a fundraising night where 10% of all sales (dine-in/take-out) are donated. The club only has to promote the fundraiser...no waiting on tables, cooking, etc. Kim Higgins made a motion to move forward with this option. Janet Butler seconded the motion, and it was approved. Kim will ask Wednesday for a Kiwanian to take the lead on this fundraiser. The Board agreed to not pursue a fundraiser in partnership with Travel Simple 4 You with Gigi Henderson.

NEW BUSINESS

1. K-Kids Club Advisor – Janet Butler advised Jeannie Craddock that her Kiwanis background check had expired. Jeannie will renew it. When confirmed, Janet will update KI’s website Engage.
2. Memorial Badges Updates – Janet has been unable to contact Jill Holbauch who has the blank patches and does embroidery services. Jeannie agreed to contact her through Messages and will advise. Maribeth Opperman told Janet that she might be able to machine sew on patches to the club’s banners. Janet will take to her one of the other patches that needs sewing on to Wednesday’s meeting and have her take the related banner home to try sewing it on.
3. Kiwanis I-I Mid-year Conference – February 21-22 – Crowne Plaza Springfield – Deadline to register is January 17th.
4. Kiwanis International Annual Convention – June 24-27 – Manila, Philippines – Online registration is open. Google “Kiwanis International Convention 2026.”
5. Fish Thaw and Fish Fry Dinner – March 12-13 – Dine-in/Take-Out – Forty Martyrs School – Co-chairs Julie and Jeannie have met and began the planning for the dine-in/take-out fundraiser. Kim will announce at our Wednesday club meeting that their committee will meet immediately after the 1/21 club meeting.
6. Easter Egg Hunt – March 28 (rain April 4) – North Ward School grounds/Tuscola United Methodist Church – Carol Burwash and Janet Butler will again co-chair this annual service project. Janet reported that the plastic eggs for matching were delivered to NW K-Kids and EP Builders Club on January 9th. The donation request letter were mailed on January 12, 2026. They will be moving forward confirming committee members and setting committee meetings.
7. Club Signature Project Contest – The Kiwanis International Contest with cash prizes for Club Signature Projects closes January 29, 2026. The Board agreed to not apply this year, but to address the 2027 contest this summer putting forward the Annual Eastern Egg Hunt for the 2027 contest.
8. North Ward Service Project Possibilities – Dennis Opperman reported that he had met with NW principal Jordan Lauwers, asking what our club might do for the school/students as a service project.
 - a) Smart Televisions for the 3rd Grade Classrooms – Four 75” smart televisions are needed for the 3rd grade classrooms. Approx. cost for all four would be \$4,000.00. The Board discussed that some of the cost could come from the club’s Teachers Grant program. Jeannie advised that there were grants out there for equipment,

technology upgrades, etc. Also mentioned from a grant from the Tuscola Community foundation and/or Tuscola Rotary. Dennis will follow up with Jordan, updating her from our meeting and suggesting that possible grants were researched. Dennis will report back to the Board at its February meeting.

- b) Volunteers Assistance for Students – The principal is interested in members coming to North Ward during school hours to help students with reading, math, catching up homework, etc. The student and volunteer would work outside the classroom, so they do not disrupt the classroom. Volunteers would bear the cost of the \$50 required school background check. Kim requested the parameters/expectations of the program. Dennis will invite Jordan to a club meeting to present this request.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20PM.

Next Board Meeting –

The next Board meeting will be Monday, February 9, 2026 at noon at The Breakfast Place.

Submitted by: Janet Butler – Secretary



Remember these? Happy Valentine's Day

Please provide any pictures, updates and corrections for newsletter or website to:

dbutler@tuscolakiwanis.org or jbutler@tuscolakiwanis.org