



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF TUSCOLA

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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, March 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)
Monday, April 13	Kiwaniis Board Meeting – The Breakfast Place
Saturday, April 25	Take Back Drugs – North Ward School
Wednesday, May 13	Club 40 th Anniversary Celebration
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

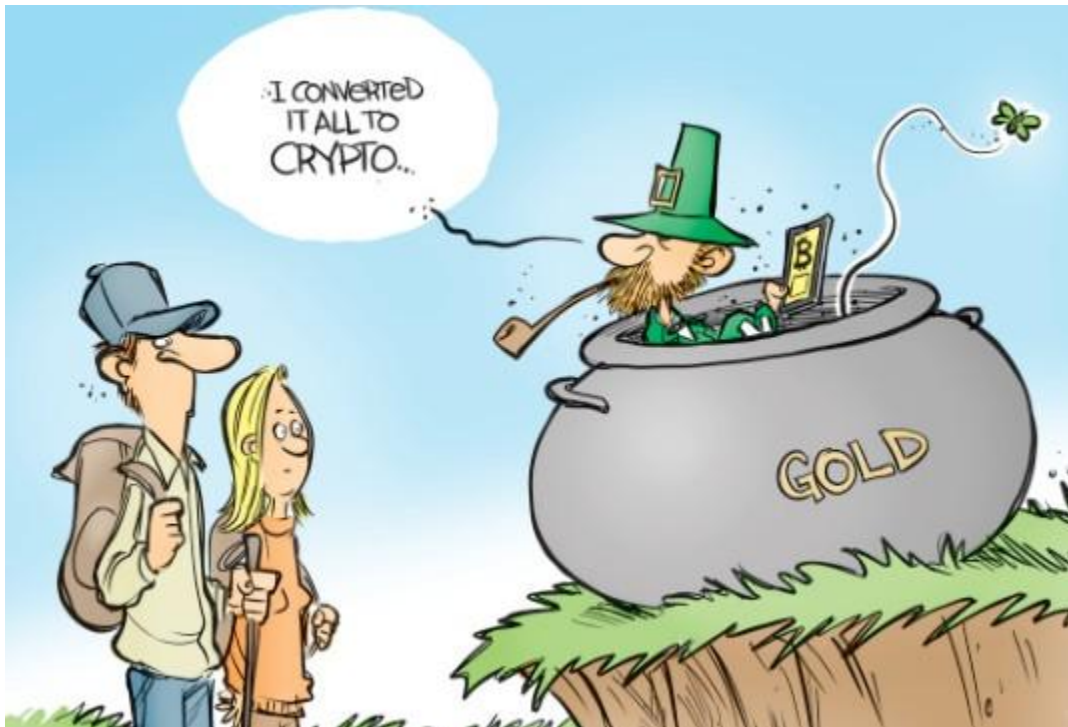
March 4	Linda Damler
March 11	Sue Gavin
March 18	Kim Higgins
March 25	Easter Egg Hunt – candy stuffing
April 1	Tim Hoel
April 8	Candy Hudson
April 15	Lyn Kohlbecker
April 22	Judy Landeck
April 29	Jean Leonard
May 6	Jerry Leonard
May 13	Diane Little

May 20	Jaci Manzella
May 27	Carol Martin
June 3	Jeff Martin
June 10	Lisa McCallister
June 17	Dave Moody
June 24	Suzanne Moody
July 1	Val Morgan
July 8	Carl Nichols
July 15	Lori Nichols
July 22	Dennis Opperman
July 29	Maribeth 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!**

Keeping Up With the Times



Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2025

- **Attendance**

33 – Members

1 – Guest: Kent Brown, our speaker

- **Birthdays** – 2/4 Patty Russell, 2/8 Lu Victor, 2/9 Pastor Anne

- **Brags** – Carol Burwash, Tim Hoel, Diane Little, and Maribeth Opperman

- **Free Lunch Winner** – Sue Gavin

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

Kiwanis International Convention – Manila, Philippines – Online registration is open. Deadline for registering is April 13.

Upcoming Events:

Fish Fry Thaw/Dinner – February 12-13

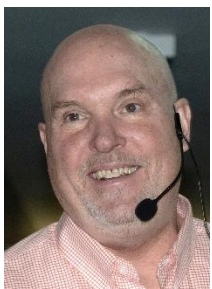
Easter Egg Hunt – March 28

Kent serves as the U of I Athletics Historian and is currently speaking to groups about the history of Huff Hall and the items discovered when the Huff Hall time capsule was opened in November 2025.

The Illini basketball team played at Huff Hall from 1925 to 1963. A time capsule was placed behind the cornerstone to be opened 100 years later in 2025. He showed historical photos of Huff Hall and many of the 40 paper items that were in the time capsule, all in excellent condition. Kent brought the copper box that the items were stored in as well as posters, banners, photos including Red Grange, local newspapers, coaching manuals, and more.

To benefit KNRF, two of Kent's personalized books and an Illini Football mug were auctioned off at our meeting. \$300.00 was raised. Thank you...Linda Damler and Doris Young for your winning book bids, and Dennis Opperman for his winning mug bid.

Program:



Carol Burwash introduced our speaker, Kent Brown, retired University of Illinois Sports Information Director from 2000-2023. He worked 32 years with the Fighting Illini and was inducted into

the Basketball Museum of Illinois Hall of Fame in 2024. He is the book author for “100 Things Illinois Fans Should Know and Do Before They Die.”



Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2025

- Attendance

34 – Members

0 – Guests:

- Birthdays – 2/12 Ken Rominger, 2/15 Jason Swearingen
- Brags – Kim Higgins, Tim Hoel
- Free Lunch Winner – Suzanne Moody
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

Board Meeting Updates –

-Plans for forming the club’s satellite group are moving forward. It will be known as the Tuscola Kiwanis Professionals Group (TKPG!). Lauren Hunt is taking the lead and has contacted several current members of the club who cannot regularly attend Wednesday meetings. This group with Board approval can plan service and fundraising events for the group or the entire club. The group holds their own meetings, probably twice a month but do not have their own officers. Group meetings will be led by an agreed upon group member. All members can attend the regular Wednesday meetings and/or the scheduled group meetings. The club Board must approve all expenditures and projects.

-The Board approved four \$500.00 grant requests for the North Ward 3rd Grade classrooms towards purchasing Interactive ViewSonic (smartboards).

-The Board set the date for the Joe’s Pizza fundraiser as April 22. Kiwanis will receive 10% of the gross sales for that day. All we have to do is get business in the door.

-Dennis Opperman has volunteered to head a North Ward School project to provide Kiwanis volunteers to help with classroom support for grades 1-4. You can volunteer for as little as an hour a week or set a schedule to assist the same teacher’s classroom when you report in. All volunteering is during the school day. Background checks are required, and the cost of \$51.00 is the responsibility of the volunteer. If you think you would be interested in volunteering, contact Dennis.

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

Upcoming Events:

Fish Fry Thaw/Dinner – February 12-13

Easter Egg Hunt – March 28

Program:

Pat Damler presented a program of “Travel Lessons Learned” including information about her Christmas Market River Cruise in December 2025 with her daughter Micki and Kiwanians Carol Burwash and Janet Butler.

Pat shared tips, warnings, and fun stories from her travels.



Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2025

- **Attendance**

35 – Members

0 – Guests:

- **Birthdays** – 2/18 Lauren Hunt, Erica Leonard 2/20
- **Brags** – Jeannie Craddock, Debbie Graber, Tim Hoel, and Jaci Manzella
- **Free Lunch Winner** – David Butler
- **News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities**

Club's 40th Anniversary Celebration – The club will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year at the Warren James Winery on Wednesday, May 13 starting at 5:30PM with dinner and fun activities. More details to come.

Upcoming Events:

Fish Fry Thaw/Dinner – February 12-13

Easter Egg Hunt – March 28

Program:



Linda Glenn provided a humorous program about odd, useless facts. Lots of LOL.

Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2025

- Attendance

24 – Members

1 – Guest: Heather Calcara, our speaker

- Birthdays – 2/29 Mike Adams (he’s still a year older even if 2026 didn’t have a 2/29), 3/3 Cathy Means
- Braggs – Maureen Bergeson, Carol Burwash, Kim Higgins, and Tim Hoel
- Free Lunch Winner – Doris Young
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

I-I District Mid-Year Conference – Ken Whitmore, KNRF Executive Director, presented plaques to Janet and David Butler to commemorate their induction into the Harry S. Himmel Founders Society for their support to KNRF.



Upcoming Events:

Fish Fry Thaw/Dinner – February 12-13

Easter Egg Hunt – March 28



Debbie Graber introduced our speaker, Heather Calcara from the Illinois Attorney General’s office. Heather is a Community Outreach Liaison, serving under Attorney General

Kwame Raoul. She is known for representing the office at public events and staffing resource tables to provide information to community members.

There are forty different bureaus in the attorney general’s office with Consumer Protection being the busiest. Heather spoke about protecting your identity and avoiding scams from social media, phone calls, and emails.

Heather recommends not answering the phone unless you are sure who it is. Let it go to voice mail; you can always call the party back. And, if it’s a “junk” call, it’s OK to hang up; no obligation to be polite...just hang up. If in doubt, hang up and call the bank, company or person to check it out. For email/texting spam, just delete it.

If you are a victim of identity theft, call the Illinois Attorney General’s office at 866-999-5630. You will be assigned a Consumer Advocate to guide you through the recovery process. Take immediate action to contact your bank, credit card companies, and creditors. Contact any one of the three consumer reporting agencies and place a fraud alert on your credit report, and the reporting agency will contact the other two. File a police report. Decide whether you want to place a security freeze with the three reporting agencies so no accounts or loans can be opened in your name.

Program:

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

The meeting was called to order at The Breakfast Place on Monday, February 9, 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)	X	Dennis Opperman	X
Janet Butler – Secretary	X	Carol Martin (2026)	AB		
Dan Craddock – (2027)	AB	Jeff Martin (2026)	X		
Jeannie Craddock – Past Pres	AB	Lori Nichols (2028)	X		
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 January 12, 2025 Board Meeting
- Secretary’s Monthly Report –Volunteer hours reported were 738 service hours. The six top volunteers were Tim Hoel, Elaine Bryant, Kim Higgins, Jeannie Craddock, Pat Damler, and Julie Slaughter.
- Treasurer’s Monthly Reports –For balances ending February 9, 2026, the club was \$9,779.40 and for the club foundation \$21,632.34.

Carol Burwash made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Jeff 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>
	\$600.00 Kiwanis Children’s Fund – budgeted annual club gift \$100.00 Kiwanis Children’s Fund – budgeted for The Possibility Project \$2,000.00 North Ward Activity Fund restricted towards purchasing Interactive ViewSonic equipment, granting \$500.00 for each of the four 3 rd grade classrooms.

Sue Gavin made motions to approve the Kiwanis Children’s Fund disbursements and to approve the four Teachers Grants application for \$500.00 for each 3rd Grade classroom designated for Interactive ViewSonic equipment. Julie Slaughter seconded the motion for the Kiwanis Children’s Fund and David Butler seconded

the motion for the North Ward 3rd Grade Interactive ViewSonic boards. The motions were approved.

3. New Donation Requests – None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fish Thaw/Fry Update – Julie reported that the event was in good shape regarding volunteers. No need to pass around the sign-up sheets again. Everything is on track.
2. Easter Egg Hunt – Janet reported that the egg hunt committee members were in place and would be meeting after the club's meeting on February 18. Carol Burwash reported that she would be attending the Tuscola city council meeting that day for the approval of blocking Forest Ridge and providing barricades/trash barrels for the event.
3. Club 40th Year Anniversary – From the committee, Janet presented two recommendations for a 40th anniversary club celebration...Aikman Wildlife Adventure and Warren James Winery. After much discussion, David Butler made a motion to select Warren James Winery as the venue with the committee proceeding with planning and confirming a date. Lyn Kohlbecker seconded the motion, and it was approved. As the venue holds private parties on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, it was suggested to reserve a May Wednesday in lieu of a regular club meeting on that day. There were also suggestions about some optional activities for adults and/or children. The committee will report back to the Board as planning moves forward.
4. Tuscola Kiwanis Professionals Group (TKPG) – Kim reported that Carol Burwash, Janet Butler, and she met with Lauren Hunt regarding moving forward with forming a club satellite group with club members that will meet at different days/places. All members are welcome to attend TKPG meetings especially those Kiwanians who cannot attend Wednesday club meetings. Lauren is actively recruiting. More details to follow as they become available.
5. North Ward Volunteer Teacher's Assist – Dennis provided more information about volunteering to assist teachers at North Ward. See enclosed letter. Volunteers can volunteer as little (an hour a week) or as much of their time as they want. If a standing schedule is set, the volunteer would assist the same teacher/classroom each time they reported in. If a volunteer cannot come as expected (appointment, illness, etc.), no problem, just call the NW office so the teacher is notified. Dennis agreed to lead this effort to recruit volunteer and be the liaison with North Ward. Janet agreed to prepare a sign-up sheet to be passed around on 2/11 to gauge interest in volunteering.
6. 2026 New Fundraiser – Joe's Pizza – Julie reported that she had contacted Joe's Pizza and was given some dates that would work for the restaurant. After discussion, Julie made a motion to move forward with the fundraiser setting the date for Wednesday, April

22 when baseball and softball will both be playing at the park. Sue Gavin seconded the motion, and it was approved. The club will receive 10% of all dine-in and take-out orders. Further details will be provided to promote Joe's Pizza on that date.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Teachers Grants Applications – The four 3rd Grade teachers submitted Teacher Grant applications to help fund the purchase of Interactive SonicView equipment for each of the four 3rd grade classrooms. The Board approved \$500.00 for each classroom for a total of \$2,000.00.
2. Kiwanis Day of Giving – February 25 – See above for club disbursements approved to Kiwanis Children's fund.
3. VIP Speaker for Club Meeting April 1 – Kiwanis International Director Paul Palazzolo, former I-I District Governor and Kiwanis International President, will be our speaker for Wednesday, April 1.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06PM.

Next Board Meeting –

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

Submitted by: Janet Butler – Secretary



Do you have the luck of the Irish?

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