



Kiwaniis®

CLUB OF TUSCOLA

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

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

2025 Events/Activities

Saturday, May 17	Stamp Out Hunger
Friday, May 30	Downtown Movie Night
Month of June	Peace Meals Deliveries
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
Friday/Saturday, October 24-25	Kiwaniis Kids Days - TENTATIVE DATES
Tuesday, October 28	Halloween Downtown Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 29	Safety Day – Arthur Christian School
Fri/Sat, December 5-6	Christmastown activities

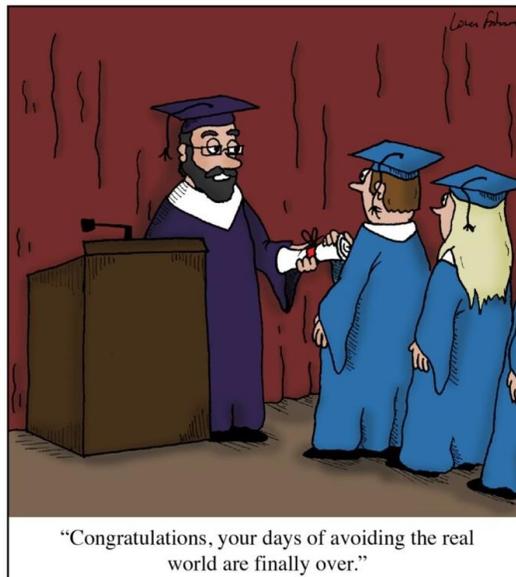
Upcoming Meetings & Program Assignments

May 7	Candy Hudson
May 14	Judy Landeck
May 21	Jerry Leonard (hosted by Kim H.)
May 28	Jean 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
September 3	Sandy Simpson
September 10	Julie Slaughter
September 17	Wayne Ward
September 24	Jerie Wills
October 1	Paul Wisovaty
October 8	Sue Wisovaty
October 15	Doris Young
October 22	TrustBank (Dara, Kim or Shanah)
October 29	NO MEETING

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 – April 2, 2025

- Attendance

39 – Members

0 – Guests:

- Birthdays – 4/4 Jeremy Bennett, 4/6 Sherrie Hoel, 4/8 Mike & Pat Damler
- Brags – Pete Buckley, Carol Burwash, Jeannie Craddock, Linda Damler, Pat Damler, Debbie Graber, Tim Hoel, Dennis Opperman, Julie Slaughter
- Free Lunch Winner – Sherrie Hoel
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

Fish Fry Results – Jeannie reported that the club took in \$3,749 with a net of about \$2,200 after expenses. There were 48 Kiwanians who provided/prepared food items, worked the fish thaw, setup, fish fry, cleanup, and/or donated. Four Builders Club, 5 Key Clubbers, and a TCHS student worked the fish fry. We served 206 drive-up and 33 Kiwanian meals, including five Kiwanians from Champaign. GREAT JOB!

KNRF Mega Event/I-I Governor's Visit – April 24 – Holiday Inn Champaign – Doors open at 5:00PM. There is still time to sign up for the event. Our club will be presenting a donation of \$4,200, raised from the Buckley-Butler challenge of late last year. Pete & Cathy Buckley and Candy Hudson will be recognized and honored with a KNRF Elble Award at the event. Dinner is \$25. The signup is online only. Jeannie has emailed the link. If you need assistance in signing up, check with Jeannie.

Kiwanis Cleanup - Mahomet – April 19 - Come join in the fun as Champaign-Urbana Kiwanis members help with Spring Cleanup activities at Camp Kiwanis. The focus is on trail restoration and mulching in preparation for the 2025 camping season. Volunteers will meet at Camp Kiwanis, 301 Sugar Lane, Mahomet IL at 9 am and end up with pizza for the volunteers at Noon. The camp is just north of I-74 off Lake of the Woods road. Bring work gloves and water, plus rakes and wheelbarrows if possible.

B.U.G. – Bring Up Grades – Linda Damler reported that there were 17 winners for the 2nd and 3rd grading periods. Though the number is lower than usual, Linda was advised that students who had brought up their grades were working hard to maintain those improvements. Packets to send out the postcards of congratulations were passed out.

Upcoming Events:

April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt

April 26 – Nunn Scout Bldg Cleanup

April 26 – Take Back Drugs - NW

Program:



Sue Gavin shared photos and stories from her trip to Morocco. The country is a constitutional monarchy under Islam law. The vast majority of people are very poor with twenty families, including the royal family, controlling most of the wealth.

Sue shared photos of Tangier, Casablanca, Rabot, Fez, and Marrakech. Photos included markets, mountains, desert, and daily living.

Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2025

- Attendance

39 – Members

6 – Guests: Decatur Early Birds-Bill Meyer, Bob Ruehrup, Doug Warren; Decatur Goldek K-Linda Durnil, Pam Smith, and Charles Smith

- Birthdays – None

- Brags – Carol Burwash, Tim Hoel, and Judy Landeck

- Free Lunch Winner – Jean Leonard

- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

KNRF Mega Event/I-I Governor's Visit – April 24 – Holiday Inn Champaign – Doors open at 5:00PM, dinner at 5:30PM, and the program at 6:00PM. There is still time to sign up for the event. Our club will be presenting a donation of \$4,200, raised from the Buckley-Butler challenge of late last year. Pete & Cathy Buckley and Candy Hudson will be recognized and honored with a KNRF Elble Award at the event. Dinner is \$25. The signup is online only. Jeannie has emailed the link. If you need assistance in signing up, check with Jeannie.

Upcoming Events:

April 12 – Easter Egg Hunt

April 26 – Nunn Scout Bldg Cleanup

April 26 – Take Back Drugs - NW

Program:

With six Kiwanians from Decatur Early Birds and Golden K plus thirty-nine Tuscola Kiwanians, over 5,000 plastic eggs were stuffed with candy for Saturday's Tuscola Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks to all!



More photos on club website

Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2025

- Attendance

35 – Members

1 – Guests: Richard Knofsky, our speaker

- Birthdays – None

- Brags – Maureen Bergeson, Pete Buckley, Carol Burwash, David Butler, Janet Butler, Sharon Corum, Jeannie Craddock, Pat Damler, Kim Higgins, Tim Hoel, Topy Mooday, Val Morgan, and Julie Slaughter

- Free Lunch Winner – Elaine Bryant

- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

KNRF Mega Event – The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at the Holiday Inn Champaign at 5:30PM. Our club will be presenting a donation of \$4,200, raised from the Buckley-Butler challenge of late last year. Pete & Cathy Buckley and Candy Hudson will be recognized and honored with a KNRF Elble Award at the event. This is online registration only. Jeannie will email out the link. If you do not use email, contact Jeannie and she will help you get registered.

Trauma Dolls – Dolls are being completed for distribution. Maribeth gave out 16 sewn dolls to stuff.

Board Meeting Minutes 4-14-25 – See page 11 for the meeting minutes.

Upcoming Events:

April 26 – Nunn Scout Bldg Cleanup

April 26 – Take Back Drugs – NW
May 17 - Stamp Out Hunger

Program:



Debbie Graber introduced Rich Knofsky, Tuscola Industrial Arts (IA) teacher. He teaches seven classes a day for EP and TCHS students in the EP IA workshop/classroom. Rich

is also a pastor in Hindsboro and a former Kiwanian. He served in the military, has a background in construction and worked for McDonald Douglas doing product testing for 14 years.

Rich thanked the club for helping fund a new 3D printer for his classes. The workshop/classroom has new and refurbished equipment with 12 laptops with AutoCAD, 3D printers, assorted building/construction equipment with room for 20 students. The students work on school and community projects. Donations are welcome to help the program.



Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2025

- Attendance

20 – Members

0 – Guests:

- Birthdays – 4/24 Jessie Hanner; 4/29 Maribeth Opperman
- Brags – Pete Buckley, David Butler, Kim Higgins, Tim Hoel, and Dennis Opperman
- Free Lunch Winner – Wayne Ward
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

KNRF Mega Event – The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 24 at the Holiday Inn Champaign at 5:30PM. Our club will be presenting a donation of \$4,200, raised from the Buckley-Butler challenge of late last year. Pete & Cathy Buckley and Candy Hudson will be recognized and honored with a KNRF Elble Award at the event. This is online registration only. Jeannie will email out the link. If you do not use email, contact Jeannie and she will help you get registered.

Upcoming Events:

April 26 – Nunn Scout Bldg Cleanup

April 26 – Take Back Drugs – NW

May 17 - Stamp Out Hunger

Program:



Kim Higgins presented a program on “Trees.” 38% of tree species are on the verge of extinction. Kim reminisced about childhood memories like collecting leaves for a school project and collecting black walnuts at her parents’ place of business.

Trees are a superpower for our environment. They collect carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the air. Trees are a major source of food, healthcare products, homes for animals, and more.

There are over 60,000 species of trees. Trees are the oldest living things on earth. There is a tree 4,800 years old. The rings of a tree can not only tell the tree’s age, but also date events such as drought.



Ginkgo Tree Before it Drops its Leaves

Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2025

- Attendance

41 – Members

1 – Guests: James Aikman, our speaker

- Birthdays – None
- Braggs – Linda Damler, Pat Damler, Kim Higgins, Tim Hoel, Val Morgan, and Maribeth Opperman
- Free Lunch Winner – Sue Wisovaty
- News, Announcements, Activities and/or Volunteer Opportunities

Ervin Park Playground – Dennis Opperman reported that the Prairieland Playground at Ervin Park is badly in need of ground chips. Dennis asks that the board consider working with the city to provide the chips and collaborating with youth organizations to help spread the chips.

Upcoming Events:

May 15 – K-Kids End-of-School Picnic

May 17 – Stamp Out Hunger-SAM Pantry

June – Peace Meals Deliveries

Program:



Tim Hoel introduced James Aikman, one of the owners of Aikman Wildlife Adventure. The home of the former Rockome Gardens, Aikman Wildlife has been open for nine years. It has grown over

the years and offers more wildlife options and other activities. Options are:

-Aikman Wildlife Adventure – features a drive-thru and walk thru adventures, plus premium adventures such as wagon, behind the scenes, and off-road adventures.

-Museum of Prehistoric Life – features life-size dinosaur models that can be touched and interacted with.

-Master of All Toys – Collection of 80s and 90s vintage toys, actions figure nostalgia, and 15 different toy line collections.

-Wildlife Manor – Is an onsite cabin for rental.

-Rustic Acres – Barn and area for weddings, receptions, parties, and events.

S.A.B.L.E. – Saving Animals By Lasting Encounters is Aikman’s 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations to it help provide food, homes, and care for the animals.

For operating days/hours and/or more information to go:

<https://www.aikmanwildlife.com>

ANNUAL FISH FRY – MARCH 28, 2025



More Photos on Club Website

EASTER EGG HUNT – APRIL 14, 2025



More photos on club website

TAKE BACK DRUGS – APRIL 26, 2025



More photos on club website

NUNN SCOUT BUILDING CLEAN UP – APRIL 26, 2025



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

The meeting was called to order at The Breakfast Place on Monday, April 14, 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	Val Morgan	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 March 12, 2025 Board Meeting

-Secretary’s Monthly Reports –Hours reported were 794 service and 322 fundraising hours for a total volunteers hours of 1,116. The top volunteers were Jeannie Craddock and Tim Hoel.

-Treasurer’s Monthly Reports –For balances ending April 14, 2025, the club was \$12,113.38 and for the foundation \$23,271.70

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>
None	\$4, 200.00 KNRF members’ donation \$ 322.52 Reimburse Dennis Opperman for fish fry expenses \$ 280.51 Reimburse Julie Slaughter for fish fry expenses. \$406.50 Reimburse Janet Butler for new fish fry banners \$ 514.70 Reimburse Janet Butler for egg hunt candy \$200.00 Budgeted donation to Sarah Bush Lincoln for Peace Meals

	<p>\$200.00 Budgeted donation to Tuscola Scouting for Nunn Scout Building Maintenance</p> <p>\$200.00 Budgeted donation to SAM Pantry as part of Stamp Out Hunger drive</p> <p>\$200.00 Budgeted donation to Tuscola Library for its Summer Reading Program</p>
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Carol Martin 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. Fish Fry Recap – The club netted (sales minus expense) \$2,208.38 on the event. Less than last year due to increased expenses and fewer meals sold.
2. Egg Hunt Results – Janet provided an egg hunt attendance summary 2023-2025. For this year, 244 children were registered. A 19% increase over 2024. Janet will send the appropriate thank you letters this week. Summary enclosed.
3. Membership Plan – Jeannie reported positive comments regarding a board member greeting and circulating before each club meeting. We will continue to do so. Members enjoyed the position switching for the egg stuffing, giving them the opportunity to chat with other members. Jeannie plans to continue this when the program is a game/trivia theme with tables participating.
4. Christmastown Craft Fair – This item was tabled from the March meeting. Our club was asked to take over the Christmastown Craft Fair by Becky’s Buddies, beginning this year. Jeannie contacted Mayor Dan Kleiss to see what the city’s intentions are for the 2025 Christmas parade and race. He referred her to Tourism Director Stepheny McMahan. Jeannie has not spoken to her. After discussion, the Board agreed to decline the request, though if the craft fair continues, we will continue our Bake Sale. No motion was required to decline. Jeannie will advise Becky’s Buddies. She will also contact Stepheny to pass on concerns about continuing the parade as a night parade and not starting or ending the race at the community building. There was not enough going on downtown last year to bring in the crowds that were expected.
5. 2025/2026 Vice President and two Club Directors – The Board discussed possible candidates for the positions effective 10-1-2025. Jeannie will contact possible candidates.

6. Nunn Scout Building Cleanup – Online signup is open. Hardcopy will be passed again on Wednesday.
7. KNRF Mega Event – April 24th – Jeannie will present the club’s \$4,200 donation check for KNRF to Ken Whitmore. Ken will present Elble awards to Cathy, Pete, and Candy. Several members from our club will attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025 TCHS Scholarships – Jeannie reported that the winners have been selected. She will present the scholarships on Honor Day on May 9th.
2. Miss Tuscola Pageants – Jeannie reported that the city is looking for a group or organization to oversee the Miss Tuscola Pageants. After discussion, the Board agreed to not take on this project. No motion was required to decline. Jeannie will advise Mayor Dan Kleiss.
3. NW Volunteer Opportunity – The school needs crossing guard volunteers on school days 7:30a-8a and 3p-3:30p. The Board agreed not to establish this as a club service project. If you are individually interested in being a crossing guard, contact the NW office. Regarding liability, there is no insurance coverage by the school district. If there was a volunteer or child injury, the volunteer would be personally responsible and liable.
4. Kiwanis International Bylaws – KI updated its bylaws February 2025. To remain in good standing, each club must approve the updates. David Butler made a motion to approve the updated bylaws as presented. Ian Rominger seconded the motion and it was approved. Janet will confirm our club’s approval on KI’s website.
5. Monarch Station at EP – The committee will get it ready for this season. Ian reported that the area will need mulch. He will take care of it.
6. Little Free Library – The Board agreed to re-brand our little libraries to “Tuscola Kiwanis Free Library.” Each book will be labels “Donated by the Tuscola Kiwanis Club.” The committee will check in to see if more books are needed and check into possibly establishing a little library at the laundromat on Main St. Janet will check with April Kauffman, DCHS office manager, to see if the library was moved to DCHD’s U.S. 36 location east of Tuscola. Sue Gavin volunteered to join the committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, see Jeannie.

7. October 29th Meeting – CANCELLED – Due to a conflict with Safety Day and 10/29 being the 5th Wednesday of the month, Sue Gavin made a motion to cancel the club's 10/29 meeting. Carol Martin seconded the motion and it was approved. Janet reported that Safety Day will be held at the Arthur Christian School, and will return to Thursdays in 2026.

Adjournment – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10PM.

Next Board Meeting – The next Board meeting will be Monday, May 12th at The Breakfast Place.

Submitted by: Janet Butler – Secretary



Don't Forget...May 11, 2025

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