

SMOKE



SIGNAL

A Monthly Publication of Janesville, WI Blackhawk Golden "K" Kiwanis Club
 Post Office Box No. 2712 Janesville, WI 53547 Web: goldenk.org
 Editor: Dave Figi, dfigi@charter.net

Meeting Each Wednesday: 9:30AM @ Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Dr. Janesville, WI
 Wisconsin / Upper Michigan Governor: *Kathy Durner* Division 4 Lt. Governor: *Vacant*

OFFICERS

President: Roger Willeford
Pres. Elect: Richard Johnson
Past Pres: Robert Wilcox
Vice Pres: Tom Neumann
Treasurer: Greg Turco
Asst. Treas: Linda Bontly
Secretary: Paul Neitzel
Asst. Secrt: Bruce Jorenby



DIRECTORS

2022-'25	Ron Shuler
2022-'25	Dave Thill
2023-'26	Linda Bontly
2024-'27	Carl Cramer
2024-'27	Ray Szczepaniak

"KIWANIS IS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS, DEDICATED TO"
"Improving the world one child and one community at a time"

PROGRAMS

July *Chair: Luci Cramer*
 02 Program Founding Fathers by David McKay
 09 Program ECHO by Jessica Locher
 16 Program Agriculture in Ireland by Jim Raymond
 23 Program Joseph Dutton Archives by Steve Skelly
 30 Program Lavina Goodell by Jennifer Motszko
August
 06 Program Hoofer Sailing Club by JoAnne Long

JULY CLUB CALENDAR

02	9:30 Club Meeting @ Rotary Gardens
09	9:30 Club Meeting @ Rotary Gardens
16	9:30 Club Meeting @ Rotary Gardens
23	9:30 Club Meeting @ Rotary Gardens
30	8:15 Board Meeting @ Rotary Gardens 9:30 Club Meeting @ Rotary Gardens
August	9:30 Club Meeting @ Rotary Gardens
06	9:30 Club Meeting @ Rotary Gardens

	GREETERS <i>Chair: Maury Frey</i>	RAFFLE <i>Chair: Maury Frey</i>	DEVOTIONS <i>Chair: Carl Cramer</i>	SERVER <i>Chair: Glenn Disrude</i>
July 2	<i>Ray Szczepaniak & Ron Shuler</i>	<i>Glenn Disrude</i>	<i>Richard Johnson</i>	<i>Bob Knudson</i>
July 9	<i>Bob Knudson & Bruce Jorenby</i>	<i>John Janes</i>	<i>Ron Shuler</i>	<i>Bob Knudson</i>
July 16	<i>Dave Peterson & Dale Henning</i>	<i>Ray Szczepaniak</i>	<i>Carl Cramer</i>	<i>Bob Knudson</i>
July 23	<i>Tom Neumann & Steve Skelly</i>	<i>Ryann Lewis</i>	<i>Bob Knudson</i>	<i>Bob Knudson</i>
July 30	<i>Dave Calverley & Bob Knudson</i>	<i>John Janes</i>	<i>Richard Johnson</i>	<i>Bob Knudson</i>
			July Juice Man: Maury Frey	

BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting: 6/25/25

Called to order by President Willeford at 8:15 a.m.

OFFICERS

President:	Roger Willeford
Past President:	Robert Wilcox
President Elect:	Richard Johnson
Vice President:	Tom Neumann
Treasurer:	Greg Turco
Secretary:	Paul Neitzel

Directors: Ron Shuler, Dave Thill, Linda Bontly, Carl Cramer, and Ray Szczepaniak.

Others Present: Ryan Lewis, Luci Cramer, Jim Farrell, and Glenn Disrude.

Secretary's Report: There were no corrections to the minutes and they were approved as printed in the Smoke Signal.

Treasurer's Report: The administrative checking balance was up about \$1600 primarily due to the mid-year appeal. The service checking was up about \$700 due to the Will Reck funeral donation. Greg Turco made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Carl Cramer and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Key Club Update: Ray Szczepaniak met with students and staff of the Rock University H.S. and stated that due to the end of year timing that it will be a work in progress for the time being but that there is enough interest to get this club going sometime during the next school year.

Buddy Bench Status: Glenn Disrude stated that a meeting will be held with the School District of Janesville to obtain approval to get "Buddy Benches" installed in schools and that grants will be applied for to get funds to help pay for this project. The "Garden Benches" have been built and are now being delivered to those individuals who ordered one. Thanks to Steve

Skelly and John Janes for delivery and to Steve and his helpers that built them.

Membership Committee Plans: Tom Neumann informed the board that the Farmers Market went OK but no new leads to report as far as recruitment of new members. Plans for working the Farmers Market, Senior Fair and the Lions 2025 Chicken Roast for publicity and membership leads are still in place. Tree Sales: Discussion centered on whether we as a club should continue with the tree sale since it was a break-even event this year due to unforeseen circumstances. Opinions were mixed but until we have something else to take its place, we will probably try it one more time and see if we get better results.

NEW BUSINESS

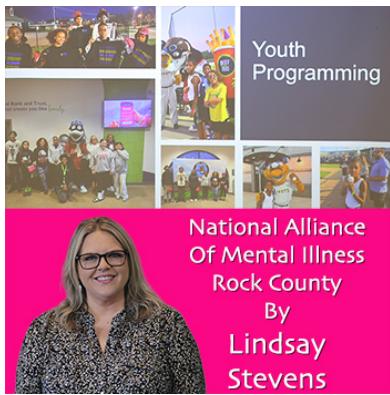
Budget vs. Actual Income & Expenses: Greg Turco reported that after being about 3/4 of the way through this fiscal cycle, we are on target with our proposed budget. The first step to preparing for next years' budget proposal in September is reviewing how this year is playing out and then adjusting accordingly with the results of income vs. expenditures. The approval of the new budget will take place in October. **Kiwanis Pledge:** It was mentioned that at some Kiwanis Clubs, the Kiwanis Pledge is recited.

Below is the Kiwanis Pledge as written by Kiwanis International:

"I pledge to uphold the Objects of Kiwanis International, to provide service to my community, to extend the opportunity of membership to all persons of goodwill, and to dedicate myself to serving the children of the world."

Motion to adjourn at 9:12am

Submitted by Paul Neitzel



June 4 ~ Lindsay Stevens



June 18 ~ Kris Koch



June 11 ~ Aimee Schrima



June 25 ~ Shelley Slapak



Kiwanis members are shown in a photo taken to thank John and Ann Dell for their generous donation in support of the Blackhawk Golden Kiwanis Will Reck Memorial Fund. Will Reck died in April of 2025. His commitment to serving others extended through his

work with the Golden K Kiwanis Club in Janesville, where he held positions as local and regional President, and later Treasurer for several years. His dedication was recognized through the prestigious George Hixon Fellowship and Heritage Society Award.

Happy Birthday Wishes

July 10 John Sarnow



Jim Farrell introduces a speaker



Janesville Velo Club Bike Race volunteers
John Janes, Tom Neumann, and Bob Knudson.



President Roger Willeford and program chair Luci Cramer.



Steve Skelly giving an update on the 'Buddy Chair' project.



Tom Neumann and Bruce Jorenby at the Farmers Market promo stand Saturday, June 21.



Bob Knutson [L], Steve Skelly [R], & Tom Neumann worked on producing Buddy Benches on June 6.



Kiwanis member Steve Skelly [above] has promoted the idea of constructing Buddy Benches both as a resource for schools and as a fund raising project for our group. Research of the bench idea is summarized in the following paragraphs.

The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. The idea is if kids feel lonely on the playground without anything to do, they can go to the buddy bench, and another student will come to the bench and ask if they want to play.

Research shows Buddy benches work because they are a physical place that makes other kids aware of how someone is feeling. If a student sees someone sitting on the bench, it's like a call to action that gives the student the power to help someone in need feel better with a simple act of kindness. Is a buddy bench a good idea?

Blackhawk Golden Kiwanis



Serving Children of the World

SUPPORTING

- High School Scholarships
- New Teacher Scholarships
- Early Literacy for Preschoolers
- Boys and Girls Club
- Craig and Parker Closets
- Camp Wawbeek for the Disabled
- Homeless Students (Project 16:49)
- Aid for New Mothers & many more

FUNDRAISERS

- Truck on Ice | Lily Day | Tree Sales

COMMUNITY ACTION

Blood Drives	Bike Race
Bell Ringing	Kiwanis Park
Meals on Wheels	Kiwanis Pond
Flag Retirement	Kiwanis Trail
Renaissance Faire	

Mission Statement: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Buddy Benches are not only about fostering immediate friendships; they are instrumental in teaching children valuable social skills. They promote understanding, patience, and the ability to recognize and respond to the needs of others.

The buddy bench, also known as a friendship bench, originated in Germany as a way to encourage inclusion and kindness in playgrounds. In 2013, a young boy named Christian Bucks brought the concept to his elementary school in York, Pennsylvania, after his family considered a move to Germany and he saw a similar bench in a German school. The school installed a buddy bench, and the idea gained national attention, sparking a movement to create more buddy benches in schools across the country and around the world.

Ray Szczepaniak one of the Kiwanis volunteers from our group is shown below constructing a bench.

