



Kiwaniis

Hastings • Nebraska

Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club
hastingskiwanis.org
myclub@hastingskiwanis.org
facebook.com/hastingskiwanis

*"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings." ~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
German writer, scientist, statesman and critic*

April 2025

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to
marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org OR Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org



Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ April

YWCA, 2525 W. 2nd St. ~ \$13.00 per meal

Catering by Emma Baker (meals subject to change)

Thur. 3 - Trip to Argentina, Dale & Kathy Schultz

Wed. 9 - Board Meeting, YWCA Conference Room ~ All members welcome

Thur. 10 ~ Skip-a-Meal — visit the Hastings Skate Park - \$10 contribution

(between the Parks & Recreation office at 2015 W 3rd St and Aquacourt)

See the current skate park and hear from local skaters about the hazards that exist and how the new skate park will help our area teens and young adults, and also draw visitors from outside the area.

NO MEETING AT THE YWCA. Bring your lunch if you'd like. There will be benches for seating.

Thur. 17 - Watch your email

Thur. 24 - Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Allie Trautman

NEW MEMBERS installed March 6th

Two new members were installed by George Howard.

Arielle Kimminau was sponsored by Taylor Musgrave.

Murray Wilson was sponsored by George Howard.

George reviewed the **Six Objects of Kiwanis**, which have remained unchanged since their adoption in 1924.

- 1) To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.
- 2) To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- 3) To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
- 4) To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
- 5) To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
- 6) To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.



Taylor ~ Arielle ~ Murray ~ George



SKATEPARK NEWS

Committed to raise \$200,000 ~ \$50,000 from the Club

- ~ Donations of \$331.90 on Pancake Day
- ~ **Skip-A-Meal Tour on Thursday, April 10th, Noon**
- ~ See March 6 report below

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED 2025-2026!

We are still in need of a Vice President.

This is a four year commitment as you advance from Vice President to President-Elect, then President, and Immediate Past President.

*** VOLUNTEER POSITIONS ***

If you are unable to attend Thursday noon meetings to sign up for volunteer opportunities, you can do so on the website.

Ongoing service projects include:

- Hearts & Hands Against Hunger – dates and times TBA
- Meals on Wheels – every Friday, 11:15 a.m. – 2 routes, approx. 30-40 min.

HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

PEACE Center, 622 N. Lincoln, South side
(former Middle School manual arts bldg)

****Please arrive 30 minutes prior
to the scheduled start time****

~~~ IR-Regular Monday packing 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. ~~~  
Jim Krebsbach will notify weekly

*Tuesday, April 22 ~ HMS 8th Graders*

*8:25 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. ~ 60 students*

*10:20 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. ~ 60 students*

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*Thursday, April 24 ~ HMS 8th Graders*

*8:25 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. ~ 60 students*

*10:20 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. ~ 70 students*

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*Wednesday, April 30 ~ 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.*

*St. Ann's, Doniphan ~ 20, 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders + adults*



Hearts & Hands Against Hunger, P O Box 1293, Hastings NE 68902-1293 \* 402-460-8627



**MEALS ON WHEELS – This is quick and easy!**  
**We have two (2) routes on Fridays for this service project.**  
**Two volunteers from Kiwanis are needed.**  
**Sign-up sheets are available at Thursday noon meetings**  
**or sign up on the website.**

**Meals are picked up at 11:15 at the Senior Action office, 212 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (block east of the Post Office ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> & Minnesota) and delivery usually takes 30-40 minutes. They have the routes set up for the most efficient delivery.**

**April 4 – George Howard – Marge Ormsby**

**April 11 – *Need 2***

**April 18 – Neil Grothen – *Need 1***

**April 25 – Dale Musgrave – *Need 1***

**Marge Ormsby is the Club Coordinator. Please notify me by text or call if you cannot make it or will be late. 402-469-3296**

## **ICYMI ~ March 2025**

### **March 6 – Skatepark Update, Mike Howie & Russanne Hoff**



You have seen in the newsletter some preliminary information about our "Next Big Project" - **upgrade and expansion of the Skatepark.** The public announcement of this

effort will be on Pancake Day, March 11th.

The current skatepark is 23 years old and the features are all metal base with a special covering. A preliminary concept provided by Spohn Ranch, who specializes in building skateparks, will be all concrete. The same company built the one in Norfolk, and will be building one in North Platte.

According to the three veteran skateboarders that the committee has met with, concrete dries more quickly after a rain, within minutes, making it more usable. Currently they may have to wait 2 to 3 days before everything dries out.

They were asked if the current space was enough for all the proposed elements. They said they have skated at smaller parks with more features than proposed, so they feel this is a good space to accommodate a beginner's area as well as features for the advanced.

They love that the concept includes a bowl feature. The nearest one to Hastings is 2-1/2 hours away. They likened the skateboard culture to golfers ... they like to travel to other locations. Something unique will bring

them here. These men gave us feedback on skate parks all across Nebraska as well as other states, including California.

They also like that we will be including a pump track, especially great for beginners. They had great comments as to how to improve the current concept layout to keep the beginning skateboarders protected from the advanced skateboarders.

They were also very mindful of safety. They pointed out many hazards in the current facility, and have all been injured at some point because of open metal edges, protruding screw heads, and other impacts.

They had also thought a lot about how to improve the facility as a whole. They suggested removing the fence to make it more inviting, but there still needs to be a barrier toward the street side to stop runaway skateboards. A curb along the street side would take care of that, and also be another feature for grinding. They suggested vending machines, spectator seating, and even a second trash barrel would make it a top-notch facility.

They were very excited about this project and were confident the upgraded skatepark would make this a destination for skateboarders from other cities. It would even be a desirable location for competitions.

#### **Fundraising**

Hopefully we will pick up some donations on Pancake Day. We will be working with the Hastings Community Foundation for Give Hastings Day on May 1st.

Any donation made by a Kiwanis member on Give Hastings Day will go towards becoming a "Skateboard Fellow." Any member who donates a total of \$1,000 towards this project over the 2-year time frame will have their name included on a plaque at the skatepark. This is a good investment in the community and could be a good draw to Hastings.

Members are needed to form a **Fundraising Committee** to meet with the skateboarders for

### **March 13 – No Meeting – Pancake Day Recovery**

### **March 20 – The Lark, Mickayla VanNatter**

*(notes from Kathy Schultz in my absence...Thanks!)*

Mickayla VanNatter is originally from Wyoming but came to Hastings to attend Hastings College. She graduated in May 2024 after working as an intern at The Lark her senior year, and she is now the director there.

The Lark aims to promote arts, entertainment and culture. The Listening Room concert series draws local people who have season tickets, as well as people from other communities and also from other states. They provide a space for other arts besides music—there is currently a display of artwork by a local artist.

The board is currently working on plans for the fall concert series. Most of the music in the concerts would be classified as folk, Americana or bluegrass. They try to bring back "community favorites" as well as new performers.

It's important for the board to find performers that will draw a crowd in Hastings so they can make enough to pay the performers' fees. The artists and their agents determine the amount they are paid. The money that is made at the bar helps to cover expenses.

### **March 27 – Pancake Day Recap, Jim Krebsbach**



Jim reported that 413 Kiwanis member hours were spent working Monday and Tuesday. Of those, 67 hours were from non-Kiwanis volunteers.

Bristol Station volunteers helped with the heavy lifting getting grills in the building, setting up tables and chairs, and also putting them away Tuesday.

Ladies from The Bridge helped prep on Monday and also filled in as needed on Tuesday. Some past members even pitched in.

A total of 40 members worked the 2 days. That is 61% of the membership. Many worked 12 hours or more on Tuesday.

fundraising opportunities. These will not generate as much as community drives or direct-letter appeals, but they will generate public interest and excitement within the skateboard community. A competition in connection with Kool-Aid Days has been suggested by the skateboarders. It's time for more members to become involved with this important endeavor!

A Skip-a-Meal meeting is planned for April 10th for you to see the skatepark in its current condition.



Other concerts are available besides the Listening Room series. They plan to offer programming aimed at Hastings College students this fall. There are three or four local musicians who sometimes do concerts or open for another performer. The suggestion was

made that they have comedians such as Nick Hoff or a hypnotist in the future.

The space at The Lark is available for rent, and the rates vary depending on if it is a weekday or weekend, full day or half day. There are different rates for non-profits. It is often used for events such as prom parties, private parties, showers and weddings. There is currently no construction or remodeling going on, but they are upgrading tables and chairs.

The Talbott Brothers are a perennial favorite and will draw a packed house. A "sold out" crowd is about 180-200 people. General admission ticket prices are \$35 for a Listening Room concert and \$25 for other concerts.

Seven major donors provided items such as milk, juice, syrup, and eggs. There were 26 different sponsors in all.

CCC made a large donation of the warmer oven used for sausages. In previous years they loaned it to us for the day, but this year said we could keep it.

**Two big sponsorships are needed for building rental, which runs \$525, and sausage, roughly \$1,200.**

As of today's meeting, member pre-sales total \$15,302 (down \$2,216 from last year). There were 502 sales at the door, up from 316 in each of the last 2 years.

Total income so far is \$19,689, down \$700 from last year. So far, expenses total \$5,446, up \$120 from last year. This makes a net income of \$14,243, down \$829 from last year. Jim is expecting more money to be turned in for presales, but also there could be more expenses.

There was \$331.90 in special donations for the Skatepark Project, and \$250 in other gift donations.

#### **Interesting Stats**

- 18 bags of pancake flour, 450#
- 60 gallons of apple and orange juice
- Total served: 1,711 (last year 1,733)
- 5# of lard
- Dan Rutt traveled the farthest to work on Pancake Day, from Aurora
- Roger Wright tied Gary Aadland for the number of burnt sausages consumed
- The busiest hours were from 11:00 to 3:00, followed by 3:00 to 5:00.

Ken Stein with the Platte Valley Antique Machinery organization purchased all of the uncooked sausage, as well as the unused cooked sausage.

Next year will be the 74th year for this fundraiser. Mark your calendars now! **March 9 & 10, 2026.**

### **PANCAKE DAY IN REVIEW**



*Jim L & Linda*



*Jim K & Darla*

Prior to Pancake Day, silverware needed to be wrapped and packaged. A group consisting of Kathy and Dale Schultz, Jim Krebsbach, Jim Lewis, Darla Bruna, Kathy Hohensee and Linda Stark made quick work of wrapping “approximately a lot!” of sets (The Schultzes and Kathy had already left before photos were taken.)



*KSNB Local 4 interview with Andrew Collins*







## 2024-2025 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

### Officers

**President** ~ Frank Koch  
franklink@hastingskiwanis.org

**Immediate Past President** ~ Michelle Musgrave  
michelle.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

**President-Elect** ~ Mike E. Johnson (Dr. Mike)  
michaelj@hastingskiwanis.org

**Vice President** ~ Russanne Hoff  
russanneh@hastingskiwanis.org

**Treasurer** ~ Jim Krebsbach  
jimk@hastingskiwanis.org

**Secretary** ~ David Kempf  
davek@hastingskiwanis.org

**Assistant Secretary** ~ Susan Price  
susanp@hastingskiwanis.org

### Board of Directors (# of years)

John Boltz (2)  
johnb@hastingskiwanis.org

Brandon McDermott (2)  
brandon.mcdermott@hastingskiwanisd.org

Casey Mohler (2)  
casey.mohler@hastingskiwanis.org

Dale Musgrave (2)  
dalem@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (1)  
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

George Howard (1)  
georgeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Taylor Musgrave (1)  
taylor.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

Marge Ormsby (1)  
marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Gaynor Watson  
6 Neil Grothen  
6 Nate Thompson  
11 Murray Wilson  
20 Greg Schultz  
26 Tom Ackles  
26 Taylor Musgrave  
27 Maureen Mohlman



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## APRIL IS ...

**Autism Acceptance Month** The theme for this year is “Celebrate Differences”. It is an annual opportunity to celebrate and discuss autism, and it is held in partnership with World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd.

**National Volunteer Month** highlighting the power of volunteer service and celebrating the impact of volunteers on society.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month** The theme for 2025 is “Together We Act, United We Change” which emphasizes the importance of collaboration in addressing and preventing sexual violence.