



Kiwanis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 8 December 17th, 2025 Editor, Joe Gastiger www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and green beans, salad, dinner rolls, cookies

Today's Meeting: Led by Caroline Collins

Invocation: Joe Gastiger

Officers for 2025-2026

President	Caroline Collins
President Elect	Sue Doubler
Vice President	
Treasurer	Bob Hoffman
Asst. Treasurer	Al Mueller
Secretary	Ken Doubler
Asst. Secretary	Jerry Wahlstrom
Imm Past President	Mike Mooney
Lt. Governor	Jean Erlenborn
District Governor	Mary Zeronas

Kishwaukee Kiwanis Meetings

2nd, 3rd, 4th, Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.
Faranda's Banquet Center
302 Grove St.
DeKalb, IL

K-Family Events/Meetings

Circle K Every other Thursday at
6:00 p.m. in HSC 506 or via
Teams Online.

AKtion Club – 2nd Wednesday, 3:45 at
Opportunity House
357 N. California St
Sycamore, IL

Defining Statement

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

Flag Salute

As our flag signifies purity, valor, and
justice, may we as true Kiwanians
exemplify these virtues as we serve
the children of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ken Doubler reminded us that we won't be meeting again for lunch until our next board meeting on January 7th — 2026. He announced that the Audit Committee will be meeting at the Doubler's home on Tuesday, January 13th, and yes, lunch will be provided.

Caroline Collins reported on the ongoing progress of DeKalb's *America 250* project — a proposed year-old series of events celebrating our country's Semiquincentennial, Sestercentennial, Sesquicentennial, Quarter Millennium — call it what you will. DeKalb Township plans to plant 250 trees as part of the celebration, and the City Council is hoping to put together a program of monthly speakers, concerts, library exhibits, along with a bike parade, a city-wide blood drive, and an essay contest for students as well. Stay tuned for more information once the new year begins.

Sue Doubler announced that it's our club's term to nominate a new lieutenant governor for our district. Currently, we're a small division, with only two clubs — our own and Sycamore's — so the job doesn't require much travel. Much of the work, she assures us, can be done online. She'd like us to come up with a candidate very soon.

PROGRAM

John Smith introduced Steve Lundin — Dekalb High School's band director and now head of our district's music program. Steve recently led 117 students on a tour to perform in Prague from November 22nd through the 29th. Needless to say, it was a remarkable trip for our teenage musicians; only four had ever been overseas before. Steve wanted to thank the community for its outpouring of support. Local businesses and generous donors covered a lot of the cost for students who wouldn't have been able to afford the trip otherwise. Along with the band, about thirty parents and friends, serving as chaperones, came along on a scheduled tour of their own.

High school marching bands are not commonly found in Europe, and they're almost unheard of in the Czech Republic. As our students wound through the streets of Prague, a lot of those living along the route threw open their windows, snapped pictures, and took videos. String orchestra players from DeKalb performed as well. They played at concert halls, and also at outdoor Christmas markets crowded with shoppers.

Students took guided tours through the old city of Prague, of course, but also visited Pilsen and, enroute to Dresden, stopped at the site of the former concentration camp at Terezin. One afternoon in Prague, they were led through a centuries-old synagogue where, in a number of rooms, the walls were covered with names of hundreds and hundreds of Jews who had been rounded up and killed in 1942. Row upon row of names, all in very small print, ran from floor to ceiling, and students for whom the

Holocaust had only been something mentioned in history class were deeply moved.

Steve fielded questions from our group about DeKalb's music program. He told us he tries to organize trips of this kind every four years, if possible, so everyone in the band will have at least one chance to visit another country before they graduate.

Link to Prague trip photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AujWaeUtb8NI3UGT1RoqvNLzbnxnG2IZ?usp=drive_link

Need a ride to Kiwanis?

Several Kiwanis members have volunteered to give a ride to our meetings if needed.
(Please give them a couple of day's notice if possible.)

Bob Gilmore 815-764-9010

Kathie Davis 815-751-9085

Bob Hadley 815-739-8869

Bob Hoffman 815-742-3765

Jerry Smith 815-751-6265

Thought for the day

(via Bob Hoffman)

"All the Christmas presets in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Jesus."

- (David Jeremiah)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS: (*Why not invite a guest?* – that could mean a prospective member!)

December 3: Board Meeting

December 10: Tom Mataya-Opportunity House

December 17: Steve Lundin-DHS Band

December 24: No meeting

December 31: No meeting

2026

January 7: Board Meeting

January 14: Anna Scott, Neighbors House After school program

January 21: Key Club (tentative)

January 28: Dan Templin, DeKalb Community Fund

February 4: Board Meeting

February 11: Wendy Pesavento, Toastmasters

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 31
	Zoom: Garrison Eckhardt
	Guests: Andy McFarland (Director, United Way), , Rick Hicks
	Outside Speaker: Steve Lundin, (DeKalb High School Band Director)
	Total 35