



Kiwanis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 9 January 14th, 2026 Editor, Joe Gastiger www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Cold cuts (roast beef, turkey, ham), cheeses, bread; Pasta salad; Soups; cookies and brownies

Today's Meeting: Led by Caroline Collins

Invocation: Jack Goodrich

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

On behalf of Bill Finucane, Jerry Smith got up to ask whether club members would like to see a women's basketball game together. NIU plays Central Michigan on Saturday, January 31st, at 2:00 pm over at the Convo Center. Tickets are \$4 apiece; Bill has agreed to pick them up ahead of time. Jerry Wahlstrom will send around a sign-up sheet, this week and next — sign up if you'd like to come.

Sue Doubler announced that Circle K Meeting will host its first meeting of the new semester today, January 14th, at 4:30 pm in Holmes Student Center, room 506. Everyone who'd like to find out what the group's been up to are welcome to attend.

Toney Xidis has fliers to distribute and sponsorship forms for our Mardi Gras celebration at Faranda's on Tuesday, February 17th. Of course, we hope to boost attendance; along with Biking with Beanzie, this dinner and dance is a big fundraiser for your club. Invite your friends, neighbors, your church members — please do help get the word out! If you'd like to contact a local business to ask whether they'd like to be a sponsor, check with Toney.

Jerry Walstrom noted that our next scheduled club outing comes up Saturday, February 7th; [Jazz at the Egyptian](#), featuring combos from NIU, DeKalb, and Sycamore. The show begins at 7:00 pm. Club members and friends can slip in early for a Pizza Party at 5:30 upstairs on the second floor.

Tickets are available at the box office for \$18; \$21.50 if you get them online.

PROGRAM

Max Heide introduced Anna Scott, director of Neighbors' House, a small, local, faith-based, nonprofit agency offering afterschool help and encouragement to kids in grades K through 5.

Neighbor's House began in 2003. It started as a stand-alone center in downtown DeKalb, but organizers realized early on they might have more success setting up programs in the apartment complexes where many poor and disadvantaged kids live. Currently, Neighbors' House operates three sites — one each in Cortland, DeKalb, and Sycamore — with more than 60 young children enrolled. That number swells over the summer: more than 100 kids take part once the school ends.

The guiding principle behind Neighbors' House is "Helping students reach their God-given potential." Throughout the year, volunteers help at-risk kids develop their reading skills and complete their homework. They also organize arts and crafts activities, group games, and try to build long-term relationships with children who may need guidance they aren't getting at home. Children get lessons in scripture as well: Neighbors' House requires that its volunteers identify as Christian.

It is important that the kids have fun, that they feel valued, and free to use their imagination at Neighbors' House. Currently, 76 % of the kids have been coming a year or more, and 100% of

the tutors are returnees. Eighty-five percent of them have been helping for more than three years. The summer program, especially, focuses on themes that small kids enjoy — stories about pirates or space adventures or who knows what. The program hosts holiday parties (where kids receive books and books), and sets up free family bowling outings for clients.

Neighbor's House operates on a tight budget — about \$80, 000 a year — and Anna Scott highlighted some ways to donate money and time. The agency holds a 5K- race fundraiser each year on Thanksgiving morning, and is looking for ways to become better-known.

Anna Scott says that in the future, they would like to expand their services to serve middle school students too.

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)

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it's the presence of justice.”

- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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

2026

January 21: Andy McFarland, Executive Director, DeKalb United Way

January 28: Dan Templin, DeKalb Community Fund

February 4: Board Meeting

February 11: Wendy Pesavento, Toastmasters

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 23
	Zoom: Kathie Davis, Garrett Eckhart, Misty Hadji-Sheikh, Bill Minor, Virginia Naples
	Guests: Jean Ehlrenborn, Lt. Govenor
	Outside Speaker: Anna Scott
	Total 30