



LUNCH: Meatballs, penne pasta with marinara, green salad, rolls and butter, cookies
Today's Meeting: Led by Mike Mooney **Invocation:** Joe Gastiger

Officers for 2024-2025

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

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:

Jerry Wahlstrom noted the return of our Kiwanis Bratwurst Barbecue tonight at Ken and Sue Doubler's house — Wednesday, August 27th, at 5:00 pm. So far, about 31 club members and spouses have signed up to come. Come and enjoy! BYOB.

Gary Vander Meer reminded us that all of our Meals on Wheels assignments for September have been claimed. He'll be sending out reminders along with contact info, and routes. Our first two dates are next Thursday and Friday. He also told us Peanut Day(s) are coming up — Friday, September 5th and Saturday the 6th — and all who can to sign up for time slots.

Program:

Bill Cumming, our expert on trains of all sorts, gave his talk today on Chessie the Railroad Cat — an icon created by the Advertising Department of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway back in the 1930s. In that era of long distance passenger service, the C & O's motto became "Sleep like a kitten," and Chessie, their mascot, was often shown cuddled under a Pullman blanket. Images like this suggested that customers could count on a comfortable, restful ride.

Some of the routes owned by the C & O had actually been surveyed by a young George Washington.

Chessie became very popular thanks to ads in *Life* and *Look*, and made regular appearances in *The Rail*, a company newsletter. Over time, Chessie acquired a pair of kittens — Nip and Tuck — along with a male partner named Peake. Peake eventually disappeared in 1949. Nip and Tuck remained and never grew up. Chessie was nearly always depicted as napping or sound asleep, while Nip and Tuck inspected their surroundings.

At the height of her career, Chessie got 8,000 letters a week — most, but not all, from children. The company hired women to answer each one.

Chessie appeared on calendars year after year, and promoted travel packages to the 1939 World's Fair. With the outbreak of World War II, Chessie became an unofficial "Sleep Warden" with the Civil Defense Administration. Chessie promoted the sale of war bonds after Pearl Harbor, and in ads at that time, gave

up her bed on the lower 9th berth to a soldier off on his way to camp. Chessie slept on the floor, beneath his bunk. Along with Nip and Tuck, she also posed with Lionel model trains.

As the war came to an end the C & O anticipated a major increase in ticket sales. The company ordered 1,000 new, streamlined Chessie cars, but never put together a Chessie train. Beginning in 1946, people went back to buying new cars, and passenger service plummeted all across the country. Chessie club cars hung on, but the boom years were gone.

In the 1970s, the C & O rebranded itself as the “Chessie System,” and adopted a new logo. It’s a stylized C with the silhouette of a cat dead center. The Chessie System changed its name to CSX in 1980. Chessie’s became a fading memory.

Bill fielded questions about the likelihood of DeKalb ever bringing back rail service to Chicago. He warned us that our old station, at Lincoln and Seventh, will probably disappear before too long.

You can find links to Bill’s Powerpoint presentation at

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jteww-wD8c8VonuODJLh4K96jRCNkLvx/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100409530126883550823&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Thought for the day

(via Bob Hoffman)

“. . . That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

-Abraham Lincoln

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

August 27: Bill Cummings, The Chessie System Cat

September 3: Board Meeting

September 10: TBD

September 17: Mike Kokott, Vice Pres. Operations KCH. Hospital

September 24: (Elvera Room) OFFICER INDUCTION

October 1: Board Meeting

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 31
	Zoom: Misty Haji-Sheikh, Jim Spencer
	Guests:
	Outside Speaker:
	Total 33