



Kiwaniis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 12 February 11th, 2026 Editor, Joe Gastiger www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Roast pork with stuffing, mashed potatoes, spiced applesauce, and mixed salad
Today's Meeting: Led by Caroline Collins **Invocation:** Shadow Gentry

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

Jerry Smith thanked the club for their participation in recent social events; MIU WBB game and Jazz at the Egyptian. Jerry Wahlstrom, Shadow Gentry, and Bill Finucane were the singled out.

From Sue Doubler. Mardi Gras tickets are still available from Al Mueller, and donations are still being accepted for the silent auction. There will be a 50/50 drawing and those of you with star quality may want to take over Master of Ceremony duties. Finally, thanks to Kathi Davis for keeping the website up to date.

Next week's program will be a club business meeting and we will induct Jack Scott, present the Service and Leadership award.

PROGRAM

President Caroline Conlin introduced our guest speaker today: Wendy Pesavento, District Director for Toastmasters.

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1924 by Ralph C. Smedley in Santa Ana, California. Smedley, who worked at a local YMCA, created the first club to help introverts develop public speaking skills and self-confidence. The concept proved highly effective, and the organization gradually expanded beyond California and across the United States, eventually becoming an international movement.

Today, Toastmasters operates in 150 countries around the world, serving members from diverse cultural, educational, and professional backgrounds.

The mission of Toastmasters is to empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. The organization provides a supportive, structured environment in which members can practice public speaking, improve interpersonal communication, and develop leadership skills. Its educational programs are designed to build confidence through constructive feedback, and hands-on experience. Central to this mission is the belief that communication and leadership skills are best developed in a positive, encouraging setting.

Toastmasters clubs typically meet regularly and follow a structured agenda. Meetings often include prepared speeches, impromptu speaking exercises known as "Table Topics," and formal evaluations in which members provide constructive feedback to speakers.

Toastmasters hosts speech contests, leadership opportunities within clubs and districts, and special events that further enhance members' skills and confidence.

DeKalb's Toastmaster Club now has about 12 - 14 regular attendees, and meets twice a month — down in the Bilder Room at DeKalb Public Library, on the second and fourth Monday of every month, from 7:00 until 8:00 PM. The club is open to anyone older than eighteen; fees are only 10\$ per month. Members take turns running the meeting, coming up with topics for speeches, serving as grammarians (keeping track of verbal ums and ahs), and timekeepers.

The group also sponsors training sessions for young people, such as the Gavel Club for students ages 13-17. These programs are offered free of charge.

Ever since COVID, some specialized Toastmaster Clubs (such as for standup comics, pastors, teachers, and corporate leaders) actually hold their meetings online.

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 you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

-Charles M. Schulz

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

2026

February 18: Member Day

February 25: Scott Zak, city of DeKalb

March 4: Board Meeting

March 11: Geoffrey Decker, NIU computer professor

March 18: Sheriff Andy Sullivan

March 25: DHS Key Club

April 1: Board Meeting

April 8: D428 Supt. Billy Hueramo

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 31
	Zoom: Virginia Naples, Misty Haji-Sheikh
	Guests:
	Outside Speaker: Wendy Pesavento, District Director, Toastmasters International
	Total 34