



LUNCH: Lasagna with sausage; vegetarian lasagna; green beans, Caesar salad, cookies and cupcakes
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

Toney Xidis thanked everyone who helped to decorate, host, and bought tickets to our 4th Mardi Gras celebration, held at Faranda's last night — Tuesday, February 17th. There were a number of new faces at the banquet, and while the numbers aren't final yet, it looks as if we raised about \$330 from our silent auction, \$750 in donations, and close to \$2,000 in ticket sales. Toney singled out Mary Seymore for special thanks: contributed a great deal of time and energy while turning an otherwise beige ballroom into a green, gold, and purple enclave of New Orleans. Everyone had a good time; the Black Tie Trio performed a long list of jazz standards, and Tim Lynch did a great job again as emcee.

Sue Doubler noted that NIU's Circle K chapter meets later today at the Holmes Student Center — Room 506 — from 4:30 until 5:30 PM. One of our student leaders plans to teach the rest of the club how to crochet, though what and for whom hasn't been announced yet.

Gary Vandermeer plans to hold a Community Services Committee meeting next Wednesday, immediately after our regular lunchtime gathering. The Voluntary Action Center has asked us to deliver Meals on Wheels again this year, in May and September.

Gary also asked to donate money on the Kiwanis Day of Giving, Wednesday, February 25. The goal is raise \$100,000 to support ongoing programs for children around the country and around the world. You can contribute by clicking on to the project's website at <https://www.kiwanis.org/who-we-are/ways-to-give/>.

PROGRAM

Today, we formally inducted our new member Jack Scott, who's come back to Kiwanis now that he's moved back to Illinois. Jack was born in Quincy, Illinois in 1934, but his family soon moved to Peoria, then on to Fairview in Fulton County — a village of about 500.

Jack graduated high school there and joined the army in 1953, hoping to pay for college with his GI Bill benefits. After serving, he went on to Western Illinois University, where he met his wife. Together, they raised four daughters.

Jack signed up for the National Guard, and worked as an accountant until he was called back to active duty during the Berlin Crisis. He became quite proficient at working with IBM mainframe computers, and eventually came to NIU to supervise operations here. For more than two decades, Jack was Payroll and Benefits supervisor at the college, until he retired and resettled in South Texas.

Now that he's returned to his Midwest roots, Jack is happy to be part of our club. He served as club treasurer once upon a time.

Gary Vandermeer presented this year's Kiwanis Service and Leadership Award to someone who's been part of our club for forty years, someone who's always worked hard on our projects, usually behind the scenes — Tim Duez. As is our custom, we will make a donation to the DeKalb Community Foundation in Tim's honor. Gary cited Emerson in saying that "The only way

to have a friend is to be one,” and Tim has been a friend to each of us for decades now. Gary even recalls the very first words he heard Tim say a lifetime ago: “Open please.”

Jerry Smith thanked all who volunteered at our Mardi Gras dinner, and encouraged us to do all that we can to boost our attendance next year. Through our donations, we support a long list of local social service agencies and childcare services. We ought to be more assertive, Jerry says, in asking the staff and governing board members of those organizations to buy tickets: the more money we collect, the more generous we can be.

Ken Doubler recalled spilling corn and scalding water all over Tim Duez’s tennis shoes when they worked together at Corn Fest many years ago. Actually, Ken recalled several mishaps together — all of which our genial dentist took with good humor and grace.

Ken reminded us, once again, that we need to choose a club vice-president, nominate a lieutenant governor (it’s our club’s turn this year), and brainstorm some future fund-raising projects. The median age of our members now is 72. This does make it harder for us to take on projects that demand a lot of physical effort.

Even so, our Freezing for Food and Let’s Talk Turkey collections of groceries for struggling families have been nominated for special recognition by Kiwanis International. We’ll find out in late March whether we’ll receive special recognition.

Jim Barker was asked to give us a preview of our upcoming speakers. In weeks to come, he reports, we’ll be hearing from Scott Zak, the city’s Communications and Engagement Supervisor; from Geoffrey Decker, professor of computer science, who directs mainframe operations at NIU; from Andy Sullivan, County Sheriff; from our Key Club sponsor at DeKalb High School; and from our incoming School Superintendent, Billy Hueramo.

Jim will be emailing us a folder of photos he took at our banquet last night. He also invites us to upload our own.

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)

”Ashes remind us not of our end, but of our beginning—that from dust we came, and in grace we are renewed.”

-Unknown

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS: (*Why not invite a guest?* – that could mean a prospective member!)
2026**

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) 29
	Zoom: Virginia Naples, Misty Haji-Sheikh, Jim Spencer
	Guests: Jeanne Ehrlenborn, Lieutenant Governor
	Outside Speaker:
	Total 33