



LUNCH: Caesar salad: Cheese Tortellini with tomato and ground beef sauce, Alfredo sauce; cookies
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 Wednesday at
 4:30 p.m. in HSC 506
 (usually 1st and 3rd
 Wednesday)

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

President Caroline Collins noted today was Jack Goodrich's birthday, and then asked if members had watched any news coverage of Artemis II's trip to the moon this week. A broadcast from the space capsule showed our astronauts floating in zero gravity beneath a *DeKalb 250* banner.

Jerry Smith announced that our club will celebrate Clergy Appreciation Day a little more than a month from now on Wednesday, May 13th. He encouraged us to ask our local worship leaders to attend. Next week the Human and Spiritual Values Committee — now merged with Social Sports — will meet at 11:30 at Faranda's to plan the program.

Sue Doubler asked for volunteers to staff our table at the DeKalb Chamber Local Showcase to be held at NIU's Convo Center on Saturday, April 23, from 3:30 until 7:00. This is a good opportunity for us to highlight our club's activities and recruit some new members.

Sue also passed out survey forms asking members for their opinions about whether we should continue, suspend, or modify our July Beanzie Ride after this year. Please bring those surveys back next week. On the following Wednesday — April 22 — Sue will lead a discussion about the future of the ride.

Kathi Davis announced that she will be handing out sponsorship forms for Beanzie at next week's meeting, and urged us to ask local business owners if they'd like to support our July bike ride.

She also pointed out the DeKalb High School's Crobotics team made it to the Midwest Regional semifinals this spring, at which 40 Chicagoland schools competed. "Crobotics" is a branch of engineering and computer science that involves the conception, design, manufacture and operation of robots. Built on the principles of simplicity, consistency, and efficiency, crobotics teams try to construct high-performance, reliable robots on a modest budget, then program their homemade devices to complete simple texts. You'll find a link to a video of the competition in this newsletter. The DeKalb club is supervised, in part, by Kathi's grandson (and Kiwanis Club member), Garrison.

Ken Doubler asked for a motion to increase our donation to the 4-H Speech Competition to \$125 this year. The top contestants will perform for us at our May 27 meeting. The motion was made by John Rey, seconded by Al Mueller, and was unanimously approved by our board members.

We received a notice from DeKalb Township Supervisor Mary Hess that her office is looking to appoint a new township clerk. Handouts are available for anyone who might like to apply.

Gary Vander Meer announced that we'll be covering the northern route for Meals on Wheels in May and again in September. He'll have sign up sheets to pass out at next week's meeting.

PROGRAM

Today, John Smith introduced DeKalb's new school superintendent, Billy Hueramo, who'll take over from Dr. Minerva Garcia-Sanchez in July.

According to Christopher Boyes, president of DeKalb's Board of Education, "After evaluating a diverse pool of exceptional candidates that included educators from across the country, it became clear that Billy Hueramo possesses the unique combination of institutional knowledge, visionary leadership, and a deep-seated commitment to our students. His proven track record within our own hallways and his clear plan for the district's future stood out during the final interview process."

Hueramo has spent nearly two decades within the district, beginning as a teacher in 2007 and moving through roles as assistant principal, principal, and most recently Director of Teaching and Learning for elementary education. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, he has been described by the school board as a "student-centered" leader whose selection suggests both continuity and renewal—continuity in his long-standing relationships within DeKalb schools, and renewal in the sense of a leader shaped by contemporary priorities of belonging, rigor, and community partnership

The district includes a dozen schools—from early childhood through high school—and employs more than 1,000 staff, a significant proportion of whom hold advanced degrees. Its stated mission emphasizes an "equitable and inclusive education" that attends not only to academic success but to the social and emotional development of students, reflecting broader trends in contemporary public education. In recent years, the district has pursued strategic initiatives around equity, community engagement, and facility investment, including new school construction and expanded programming, signaling a system in transition and attentive to the needs of a changing population.

Billy spoke about his own background today, as the child of undocumented immigrants who could not speak English when settled here in Rochelle. Our new superintendent was born and raised there, and had hoped to return there once he finished college, but found DeKalb to be a warmer and more welcoming community. His three children are all enrolled here in our schools.

As superintendent, his main focus, he said, will be to make sure that our kids have the resources and services that they need. Many students now are coming in with trauma, due to events they couldn't control. His own father died while he was a teenager, so Billy says he understands the hardships kids may face at home.

While working with school staff and finishing his doctorate — he still has a dissertation to complete — Billy says he tries to encourage a growth mindset rather than lament about what troubled students lack. Where there are problems, he insists, he can find creative solutions.

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

"Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain on it."

-Proverbs 22:6

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

2026

April 15: Michelle Groeper, TAILS

April 22: Club Business: The future of Beanzie

April 29: Committee Meetings (if scheduled)

May 6: Board Meeting

May 13: Clergy appreciation day

May 20: Denise Moran, Sycamore Hospital/Letitia Westgate

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 29
	Zoom: N/A
	Guests: Rita Elliott, Communications Manager D428
	Outside Speaker: Billy Hueramo, Incoming School Superintendent, DeKalb Community Unit District 428
	Total 31