



Kiwaniis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 20 April 15th, 2026 Editor, Joe Gastiger www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Salad, Pork with mashed potatoes, stuffing and applesauce, cookies
Today's Meeting: Led by Caroline Collins **Invocation:** Bob Hoffman

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

Jerry Smith announced that our club will celebrate Clergy Appreciation Day on Wednesday, May 13th. He encouraged us to ask our local worship leaders to attend, and passed out a sign-up sheet today

Shadow Gentry invited us to attend the "Bloom into Spring" art show and fundraiser, held on Wednesday, May 6th, from 4:30 until 6:30 at Blumen Gardens in Sycamore. This annual celebration is sponsored by Opportunity House.

Gary Vander Meer noted 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.

Toney Xidis invited us all to gather by the AMC Cinema early Saturday, April 25. We'll assemble volunteers to clean up the bike trail past the theater from 8:00 until 10:00 AM.

Toney also reminded us that our Beanzie Bike Ride is set for July 12th. He has flyers to distribute, big and small, to local businesses, as well as registration forms. This year we'll make a special effort to link the ride with our community's *DeKalb 250* program of events. We'll also be bringing back Beanzie jerseys, and club members are welcome to pre-order them through Toney. The next Beanzie Committee meeting will be a breakfast get-together on Friday, April 29th, just outside the partitions, at the Lincoln Inn.

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 pm. This is a good opportunity for us to highlight our club's activities and recruit some new members. Sue also asked us to turn in survey forms today, asking members for their opinions about whether we should continue, suspend, or modify our July Beanzie Ride after this year.

At our next Wednesday meeting — April 22 — Sue will lead a discussion about the future of the ride.

PROGRAM

Bill Cummings introduced Michelle Groeper, who's been the director at Tails out on Bethany Road for the last twelve years

The Tails Humane Society serves as one of the region's primary centers for animal welfare, rescue, and adoption. Founded by local advocates and expanded into its current facility in 2005, the organization has become a cornerstone nonprofit dedicated to "building a compassionate community through the care of companion animals." Each year, the shelter provides refuge for more than two thousand displaced pets—animals surrendered by owners, found as strays, or transferred from overcrowded facilities—offering them individualized care and a pathway toward adoption. In this way, Tails functions not only as a shelter, but as a bridge between crisis and belonging, working to reduce euthanasia and promote responsible, humane treatment of animals across DeKalb County and the broader region.

The scope of Tails' work extends well beyond housing animals. Its core programs include a robust adoption initiative, a low-cost spay/neuter clinic aimed at addressing pet overpopulation, and positive-reinforcement dog training classes that strengthen the bond between pets and their owners. Complementing these are a range of specialized efforts: a foster network that places vulnerable animals in temporary homes, a transport program that rescues at-risk pets from high-capacity shelters, and even a "Working Cat" program that rehomes feral cats as natural pest control in barns and similar settings. The organization also supports pet owners through lost-and-found services, community outreach, and volunteer opportunities, recognizing that animal welfare is inseparable from the health of the human community that surrounds it. Together, these programs reflect a comprehensive, humane approach—one that seeks not only to shelter animals, but to reshape the relationships between people and the animals in their care.

Last year alone, Tails arranged 991 adoptions for puppies and grown dogs, 1,118 for kittens and cats, and hosted a good-sized collection of other critters — orphaned or wounded rabbits and squirrels, mainly. Currently, Tails has 27 full- and part-time employees, and a great number of volunteers: about 100 helpers from local schools, colleges, and clubs donate about 1000 hours of service at the shelter each month. About 3400 pets were spayed and neutered at Tails last year as well.

Tails now partners with DeKalb's Meals on Wheels organization to provide pet food to homebound clients.

Michelle is proud to say that our local Chamber of Commerce honored Tails with its Nonprofit of the Year Award in 2026. She urges us, too, not to forget the *Give DeKalb County* special day coming up on May 7th.

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)

People can be divided into three groups:

- 1) Those who make things happen.
- 2) Those who watch things happen.
- 3) Those who wonder what is happening.

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

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

May 27: 4-H Speakers

June 3: Board meeting

June 10: NIU WBB coach Jacey Brooks

June 17: NIU MBB coach Matt Majkrzak

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 30
	Zoom: N/A
	Guests: N/A
	Outside Speaker: Michelle Groeper , Director of the Tails Humane Society
	Total 31