



**LUNCH:** Roast turkey and stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, Caesar salad, cookie  
**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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Chad Glover, the Executive Director of Opportunity DeKalb, came to thank us for our help supervising summer's Fun Jam in the Park, a program that started 3 years ago. This project, focused on the theme of "Building leaders for change," provides food, games, and other activities for kids living near Welsh Park and throughout the Annie Glidden North neighborhood. Last year, each weekly event gathered somewhere between 150–200 young people. This time, they'll be live jazz music, and all who wish to come are encouraged to bring an extra folding chair for those who might have to stand otherwise.

On behalf of our Youth Services Committee, Jerry Wahlstrom presented Chad with a check for \$500 to help cover costs. We'll be signing up to assist the program on evenings in June and July.

Jerry Wahlstrom presented a check from Youth Services for \$500. We'll be volunteering for June and July.

President Caroline Collins updated us on upcoming events sponsored by our local America 250 task force. On Monday — Memorial Day — they'll be a community luncheon honoring all those who served in the military at the RTW Veterans Center, 854 West Lincoln Highway. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Amvets will be distributing flags to all who'd like one.

The DeKalb Park District is inviting all kids ten and younger to a patriotic bike-decorating event at Rotary Park on Saturday, May 23 from 10:00 until 11:00 AM. This is in preparation for Monday's Memorial Day Parade.

Kathy Davis noted that the next Biking with Beanie meeting will be held at lunch time tomorrow at the Lincoln Inn. Early registrations are starting to trickle in, and we've received a check from one of our dependable sponsors — Meier's Supermarket.

Tim Dunlop shared that he is offering a number of treasures and collectibles for donation to Kiwanis, including eight or nine rocking chairs, World War I-era toys, Cowboys and Indians memorabilia, historical photographs, and pictures from Sonny Liston's training camp. We're all welcome to peruse his list of rare items, and make an offer.

Sue Doubler announced our slate of nominees for the upcoming Kiwanis year. They'll be one more notice going out, and then we vote.

Jerry Smith thanked everyone who helped make the Clergy Appreciation Day luncheon such a success. He also mentioned plans for a Prayer Breakfast to be held sometime before the close of the current Kiwanis year.

Gary Vander Meer expressed appreciation to all of the Meals on Wheels volunteers for their continued service and dedication.

Jerry Wahlstrom noted that personal items, such as toiletries, are currently being collected for donation through Rooted for Good and Century 21. Donate what you can!

## PROGRAM

Jim Barker introduced Denise Moran, author of Dr. Letitia Westgate: Medical Pioneer, as today's speaker. She is a former freelance writer and photographer for the Chicago Tribune, and has published two previous books — one, a history of Genoa-Kingston, and the other about Hampshire.

This afternoon, Ms Moran led us through a Powerpoint presentation about a pioneering woman in our county — a medical doctor, a surgeon, an architect, a philanthropist — whose contributions have been generally overlooked.

Dr. Letitia Westgate was one of the most remarkable early physicians in northern Illinois, a woman whose career unfolded at a time when female doctors were still regarded with suspicion or outright hostility. Born in 1866 on a farm near Mendota, Illinois, she earned her medical degree from Northwestern University in 1892 and soon afterward settled in Sycamore, becoming the first woman physician known to practice in DeKalb County.

In an era when surgery was often performed in private homes on kitchen tables, Westgate envisioned something far more modern and humane: a true medical hospital for the county. With extraordinary determination, she designed and financed the building herself, opening the Sycamore Surgical Hospital on May 1, 1900, at the corner of Elm and Somonauk Streets. The brick structure, which still stands today as the Old Sycamore Hospital, was reportedly arranged to resemble a comfortable home rather than a grim institution, with brass beds, flowers, rugs, and framed pictures in patients' rooms.

Westgate's life became a mixture of triumph, public service, and controversy. During a smallpox epidemic in 1902, she personally vaccinated more than one hundred local residents, despite widespread distrust of vaccines even then. She was celebrated as a surgeon, chemist, and civic pioneer, yet she also endured the prejudices directed at ambitious professional women of her age. Accusations of malpractice and damaging rumors eventually weakened public confidence in her hospital. Two nurses had accused her of killing a patient with an overdose of morphine, and though Westgate was exonerated after a well-publicized trial, the controversy destroyed her reputation.

Financial pressures and lingering scandal ultimately diminished the institution she had struggled to create. By about 1907, Westgate left Sycamore for Aurora, where she became that city's first female chemist.

Westgate's generosity was remarkable. On November 13, 1909, a fire erupted at a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois, and 259 workmen and children were killed. A month later, Westgate delivered a hundred sleds and a hundred buckets of candy to families that otherwise wouldn't have had Christmas that year.

Westgate died in 1945, but her legacy survived in the hospital building she conceived and in the path she opened for later women physicians throughout Illinois.

### 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

Jerry Smith noted that Hy-Vee hosted a special breakfast for veterans in honor of Memorial Day. He offered a closing prayer on behalf of all the loved ones who never came home, or came home wounded in body or spirit.

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

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) 32
	Zoom: N/A
	Guests: Ging Smith, Jackie Ripley, Sid Kincaid, Chad Glover
	Outside Speaker: <a href="#">Denise Moran</a>
	<b>Total 37</b>