



Kiwaniis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 26 June 17th, 2026 Editor, Joe Gastiger www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Chicken fajitas (onions, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, salsa, black beans, sour cream, rice), cookies.

Today's Meeting: Led by Sue Doubler

Invocation: Joe Gastiger

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

Sue Doubler welcomed three of this year's Barry Haber Scholarship Winners. Jaden Longeville plans to start this fall at SIU, where she'll pursue a degree in aviation management and technology. Steve Montgomey will start out Kishwaukee Community; ultimately he plans to earn his bachelor's in engineering. Olivia Otterle will be going to Ball State in Indiana to study elementary education.

Tiffany Tucker, Executive Director of Building Leaders Advocating Change, takes charge of the Fun Jam in the Park program at Welsh Park that we help support. Her organization will also host a Back to School event on Tuesday, July 14 to provide new shoes and personal hygiene products to local kids whose families cannot afford them. One DeKalb business, Shoe Sensation, has agreed to provide up to 200 pairs of shoes, at \$45 a pair, to those who need them. Tiffany asked our club to contribute whatever we can to pay for this program.

Bob Hoffman announced that Christ Community Church will hold a Global Leadership Summit here on Thursday, August 6th and Friday the 7th. This conference — for businesses and churches — features inspirational speakers from a variety of fields, and it's organized by the Willow Creek church in Barrington. It will be broadcast live here at Christ Community, and anyone interested in attending should speak to Bob. There's a significant discount if five or more sign up together.

Toney Xidis warned us, of course, that our annual Biking with Beanzie event is scheduled for Sunday, July 12. There's a whole lot of work to be done. Toney asked those who can stay late today to gather at our storage shed to sort through whatever supplies we already have. He passed around sign-up sheets for a number of tasks:

Organizing our Route Signs, to direct riders: Friday, July 3rd; Picking up water, fruit and snacks, and setting up at the high school Friday, July 10; Marking the routes with arrows before the race, Saturday, July 11. Please volunteer. Many hands make light work. Next week, Toney will be back with sign-up sheets for rest stop helpers and sag drivers.

Sue Doubler announced that they'll be a meeting of our Peanut Day Committee after our lunch program next Wednesday.

Sue Doubler announced that the Sycamore Kiwanis Club will throw a 75th anniversary party on Friday, July 17, at the St. Mary's Memorial Hall on Waterman Street. We're welcome to come join them.

Sue also reminded us that the Sycamore Kiwanis Club will host our last District 11 summer picnic at the Sycamore Golf Club on Tuesday evening, July 7th. Tickets are \$10 each. She'd like to take a headcount of how many members plan to attend, so they'll be enough food for us all. Starting this fall, the DeKalb and Sycamore clubs will be absorbed into District 10, which includes St. Charles, Batavia and Elgin. Some of those folks may be coming as well.

The 108th Kiwanis Illinois—Iowa District Convention meets at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield this year from July 31 through August 6. Any of us who'd like to go will share a small stipend to cover the registration fee and a meal or two.

Ellingsworth Webb noted that this summer’s America 250 celebration will be held at the courthouse in Sycamore on Wednesday, July 8, beginning at 3:00 pm. There’ll be free hot dogs, chips, and water; an air show overhead, at 5:00, a reading of the Declaration of Independence. There’ll be a number of performances and activities for kids. EW will hand out flyers to us next week.

PROGRAM

Bill Finucane welcomed Matt Majkrzak, NIU’s new men’s basketball coach, who spent the last seven years as head coach at Northern Michigan. He compiled a 136-73 overall record during his time up in Marquette including a 28-7 mark this season, setting a program record for wins in a season. Matt led the Wildcats to four consecutive NCAA Division II Tournaments, averaging over 24 wins per season during that stretch. Prior to that, Northern Michigan hadn’t made it to a tournament in twenty years.

Matt grew up in Elkhart, Indiana. Part of what drew him to DeKalb was the chance to live a bit closer to friends and family.

Matt spoke about the challenges of building an entirely new team here. None of last year’s starters opted to return this year. Nowadays, players often transfer after just a year or two; All-Conference athletes stars are usually the first to go. That’s partly due to NIL (Name Image Likeness) deals from better-paying schools, which smaller, poorer state programs simply can’t match. Matt emphasized how hard he’s tried to recruit talented newcomers — and keep some of those who’ve learned the most from him.

Matt’s looking for prospects who want to be at NIU — because it’s close to home, or because they like the community here, the bonds they form with others on the team. This year, the Huskies’ starting roster will have two incoming freshmen, and thirteen transfers — four from Northern Michigan.

Matt spoke about the difference between the MAC Conference and the twelve programs in the Horizon League. As far as who has better teams, they are about evenly matched: the MAC ranked 17 last year, Horizon, 18. The MAC, though, Matt said, is a collection of *haves* and *have nots* overall; Horizon teams are more evenly matched.

Basketball practices begin next week right after lunch at 1:00. Coach Majkrzak invites us all to come.

Thought for the day

Courtesy of Bob Hoffman

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken ones.”

- Frederick Douglass

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

- June 24: Poetry - John Bradley, Joe Gastiger
- July 1: Board Meeting
- July 8: Cricket! Jim Barker
- July 15: Maurice McDavid, Mitchell Elementary School principal
- July 22: Adam Van Boekel (Crowbotics)
- July 29: Committee meetings
- August 5: Board Meeting
- August 12: Steve Braser, Sycamore Mayor

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 27
	New scholarship recipients: Jaden Longeville, Steven Montgomery, and Olivia Otterle
	Guests: Tiffany Tucker, Executive Director, Building Leaders Advocating for Change Gary Billings, Food Pantry Coordinator, Salvation Army Sid Kincaid, potential member
	Outside Speakers: Matt Majkrzak, NIU Men’s Basketball Coach
	Total 27