



Kiwaniis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 30 July 22nd, 2026 Editor, Joe Gastiger www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Tacos (ground beef, shredded chicken, black beans, chips); cookies

Today's Meeting: Led by Caroline Collins

Invocation: Jerry Smith

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

Tim Dunlop made one last appeal to share some of the treasures he's collected before he relocates to Colorado. He's offered to donate any money he makes from the sale to Kiwanis, and to match that sum with a donation of his own. Those who'd like to see what's still for sale are welcome to stop by, although Tim says we might want to call beforehand to make sure there's someone at home: (815) 751-4440.

Toney Xidis announced that the Beanzie Committee will meet before lunch next Wednesday to gauge the success of this summer's ride, tally up receipts, and discuss plans for going forward. Again, he thanked all of the members who volunteered their time and event to make this fundraiser a success.

Jerry Wahlstrom reports that Ken Doubler is getting stronger at Aperion, and hopes to be able to come home on Friday. He's well-rested but bored, and welcomes visitors.

PROGRAM

Garrison Eckhardt introduced five members of DeKalb High School's Crowbotics Team, and their advisor. Each year, the group receives a challenge: to design and assemble a robot that can perform a specific task — simply, efficiently, and accurately as possible.

This year, they constructed a machine — dubbed "Crow Dexter" — that can motor around the room, gather up a number of yellow balls the size of cantaloupes, load them into a tank, and then launch them, one at a time, through a hoop eight feet overhead.



Approximately 10,000 teams from the USA, Canada, Mexico, Turkey, Taiwan, and a number of other countries — all try to create these devices with whatever resources they can gather, and, of course, some local programs are much larger and better funded than others. This year, the DHS team built its robot at a cost of about \$16,000, gathered from grants, businesses and private donors. Schools in wealthier communities may spend about twice as much.

This year, in regional competition, "Crow Dexter" placed 3rd in a field of 52

The DHS Crowbotics Team demonstrates what can happen when curiosity, imagination, and hard work come together. Founded by students in 2015 as the first

FIRST Robotics team in DeKalb County, the team has grown into a thriving program supported by dedicated mentors, teachers, parents, local businesses, Northern Illinois University, and community volunteers. But Crowbotics is about much more than robots. Students learn to solve problems creatively, work collaboratively under pressure, communicate effectively, and persevere when plans don't go as expected. They discover that engineering is as much about teamwork and resilience as it is about gears and code. Along the way, they represent DeKalb with distinction, competing against some of the finest high school robotics teams in the world and, in recent years, earning the opportunity to compete at the FIRST Robotics World Championship. Whether they pursue careers in engineering, medicine, education, business, or the arts, these young people leave Crowbotics equipped with confidence, practical skills, and the conviction that seemingly impossible challenges can be met with ingenuity, determination, and cooperation.

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

Courtesy of Bob Hoffman

"Your best teacher is your last mistake.."
- Ralph Nader

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

July 29: Committee meetings

August 5: Board Meeting

August 12: Steve Braser, Sycamore Mayor

August 19: TBD

August 26: Harlan Hawkins, Union Soldier Cemetery

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 27
	Guests: Five members of the DeKalb High School Crowbotics Team; Grace Slater (advisor); Liliana (mother of one of the boys
	Outside Speakers:
	Total 33