



Kiwaniis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 33 August 26th, 2026 Editor, Jim Barker www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Brisket, veggies, salad, horseradish, rolls, 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

Jerry Smith reminded us that we'll be holding our fall Prayer Breakfast in the Little Theater at Oak Crest on Friday, September 18th, from 8:00 until 9:30 AM. Cost is \$10 per. Our featured speakers will be local chaplains — for the Fire Department, and for our veterans groups as well. They'll focus, in part, on the Be the One initiative: a nationwide project that tries to help those afflicted with PTSD and prevent suicide.

From Toney, there will be a Mardi Gras meeting after the board meeting next week.

Gary Vander Meer asked for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels in September, and passed around sign up sheets. Next month, we're slated to cover the routes on Mondays and Fridays — with the exception of Labor Day. Ordinarily, we recruit teams of two — one to drive, one to help navigate — and meet out on Bethany Road in Sycamore, at 10:30 AM.

Gary also appealed to members to stop by and pick up boxes of peanuts. Our Peanut Day foray out in traffic is set for the weekend of September 11th and 12th

Sue Doubler is updating our directory, and asks that we each look over our info — phone numbers, addresses — to make sure they're correct before those new handy booklets get printed.

PROGRAM

Jerry Smith introduced Harlan Hawkins who grew up on a dairy farm west of Kingston, worked for 44 years for Del Monte, and a lifelong student of Civil War history. Harlan presented a program and supplied this narrative on the Grand Army of the Republic which surpasses my limited journalist skills, so I will present the opening paragraphs here and encourage you to finish reading from the document that has been attached.

The Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans

Between 1861 and 1865, roughly 2.8 million men served in the Union Army. The majority of these were young men, 77%, were 21 years old or younger. 2,388 were from DeKalb County.

They often enlisted with their brothers and friends when recruiters visited schools and churches. Some would not see their homes again until the end of the war and some would never come home.

These men had traveled thousands of miles, slept on the ground in all weathers, and they had fought pitched battles. They had done hard things and had seen terrible things. When the shooting stopped and they returned home, they were changed men.

For the rest of the country the war was over, but while these soldiers may have taken off their uniforms and had taken up civilian occupations, the war continued to affect them physically and emotionally. Old wounds, lingering effects of disease, and the unresolved grief of seeing friends die weighed heavily on them.

Small groups of comrades began to gather in the evenings, usually outside, usually around a coffee pot boiling over an open fire.

Here they began to talk with each other. In a time when no idea of a mental health professional existed and there was no Veterans Administration, their healing began here as they remembered and discussed events both small and great, sometimes humorous, sometimes sad.

-CONTINUED IN THE DOCUMENT ATTACHED TO THIS EMAIL

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

"I can" is a thousand times more important than IQ

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

August 26: Harlan Hawkins, Union Soldier Cemetery

Sept. 2: Board Meeting

Sept 9: Beanzie part deux

Sept 16: TBD

Sept 23: No meeting due to Faranda's unavailability

Sept 30: Officer installation. OFF SITE!

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 30
	Guests:
	Outside Speakers: Harlan Hawkins
	Total 31