



Kiwaniis®

Kiwaniis Club of Madison West – Kiwanogram

Guests: Char Devos, Dan Loichinger, Misha Peroŭansky, Peter Rayne, and Chris Shubak, guests of Case Dorresteijn

Program: "Our immigration system is broken! How did we get here and where exactly is here?" – **Raluca Vais-Ottosen**, Shareholder, Immigration Attorney, DeWitt LLP



Luca listed several myths versus facts surrounding immigration with the biggest one being that the U.S. has always welcomed immigrants. She presented the history of immigration laws in the U.S. starting with the first laws passed in 1790. Early laws had no restrictions on who could come to the U.S. as residents, rather the restrictions were on who could become citizens. Only white people could be citizens until 1870, when Africans and those of African descent were allowed to become citizens.

The first restrictions on who could enter the country were established in 1875 when "undesirable" persons were prohibited entry. This was initially defined as laborers from Asia but was expanded to other groups by subsequent laws in 1882, 1903, and 1907.

The first laws restricting the number of immigrants allowed each year were passed in 1921, establishing quotas from each country that already had immigrants in the U.S.

January 9, 2026

Presiding:	Dwight Gribble
Greeter:	Harley Skjervem
Checkpoint:	Joseph Tevaarwerk
Opening Word:	Ken Saville
Setup:	Tom McCrill

In 1952, all previous immigration laws were codified into Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations governing Aliens and Nationality and encompassing all immigration and nationality statutes, including laws on visas, citizenship, admission, deportation, asylum, and border enforcement processes.

The last "modern" immigration reform was enacted in 1986 and amended in 1996. An attempt at reform in 2013 passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support but was not acted on by the House. Since 1996, minor changes have been made through appropriations bills, executive orders, and enforcement priorities.

Another popular myth is that there is an "immigration line" (the "go to the back of the line" idea). In fact, there are many lines for the various types of immigration and the various types of immigrants. Wait lines for visas to become a permanent resident are anywhere from a few months to over 20 years, with most tending towards the longer timeframe.

Date	Event
Jan 16	Foundation Trustees Covenant, 1:00 pm
Feb 6	MWK Board of Directors Covenant, 10:00 am

Up Coming Programs

Date	Program	Greeter	Check In	Opening Word
Jan 16	The Cold War: NORAD (North American Air Defense) - Ron Schuler	TBD	Tevaarwerk	TBD
Jan 23	TBD	TBD	Aspinwall	TBD
Jan 30	No Meeting	NA	NA	NA

Meeting Time and Location

Every Friday, 11:45 am
Covenant Presbyterian Church
326 Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53705
Web site: www.madisonwestkiwanis.info
Email: lebaker@chorus.net
Facebook: facebook.com/madisonwestkiwanis

Next All-Madison Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of all the Madison clubs will be **February 2nd**, at the **Downtown Madison Club** meeting location. The program will be on Infectious Diseases presented by Dr. Michael Dieterle, UW Hospitals.

This means we will not meet at Covenant on Friday January 30. We are circulating a sign-up sheet at our next few meetings to get a head count for the caterer. Carpooling is encouraged.

Sauk Prairie Kiwanis Pancake Day – Saturday January 17th 8:00 a.m. – Noon

Held in conjunction with the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council's Bald Eagle Watching Event at the River Arts Center, 105 9th Street, Sauk City.

Dwight Gribble reports the next Midvale School **Lunch Buddies** dates are proposed for January 22nd and February 12th. We are awaiting confirmation from the school.

George Shook reports our next work date at **Habitat ReStore** West is January 15th, 9:00 am to Noon. Signed up are **Richard Donkle, Case Dorrestein, Jim Martin, Tom McCrill, George Shook, George Skupniewicz, and Joseph Tevaarwerk**. One slot remains open.

Jim Danner reports next date for volunteering at **Second Harvest** is January 29th.

The **2025-26 Club Meeting Programs** scheduling continues to be done by committee. March, July, and August still need a volunteer to arrange programs. Contact Dwight Gribble if you would like to take one of these months.

LaDonna Steinert reports that four **Ethel Allen Scholarships** are being offered this year.

Club Officers (2025-26)

President:	Dwight Gribble
President-Elect:	Cody Kramschuster
Secretary:	Leroy Baker
Assistant Sec:	Thomas DuVal
Treasurer:	Randy Grobe
Past President:	Ken Saville
Board of Directors:	
John Busby	Harley Skjervem
Jim Danner	Joseph Tevaarwerk
Ed Reisch	

Ken Saville is set to host **new member orientation** sessions. New or prospective members interested in attending should contact Ken at kensaville.1951@gmail.com to arrange a date.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Two of our awards committees are looking for new members. The **Community Grants Committee** is looking for one person to join this year with the intention of chairing the committee next year. Contact **Arlin Branstrom** or **Harley Skjervem**.

The **Middle School Awards Committee** is looking for one person to join this year. Contact **LaDonna Steinert** or **Harley Skjervem**.

Membership Committee Meetings - February 6, 2026, 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM at Covenant

This meeting will be in-person and online. This first meeting will be open to all members. Subsequent meeting invitations will be sent only to Membership Committee members.

George Skupniewicz asks that you RSVP via our Member Portal. Add a note if you are interested in becoming a committee member, even if you cannot attend this occurrence.

Charter: Utilizing a variety of traditional and modern techniques, increase the membership of MWK with a diverse demographic and a wide range of ages. Our initial goal is to increase the membership 5% above the typical attrition rate year on year.



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