



Serving the Children of the World

The Nugget

Golden K Kiwanis Club
Decatur, Illinois

Club Officers 2024-2025

President: Harold Wilkinson **President Elect:** Tom McQuiston **Vice President:** None

Secretary: Lynda Durnil *Asst. Secretary: Roberta Williams*

Treasurer: John Baird *Asst. Treasurer: Karen Sivils*

Directors:

Joel Hawkinson, Dave Johnson, Pat Riley, Cathy Sebok, Kathy Thompson, Marcia Uchtorff,

Past President: Kyle Anderson

Regular Meeting each Wednesday at 9:30 A.M. at Salvation Army Reception Hall

February 5, 2025

God Bless America / Pledge of Allegiance / Kiwanis Pledge: Bill Hogg

Invocation: Cathy Sebok

Piano: John Baird

Mike Runners: Dan Sebok, Joel Hawkinson

Photographer: Joel Hawkinson

Program: Cheryl Boss introduced Dr. Stephen Frech, Educational Leader at Unity Christian School (formerly LSA) here in Decatur. Reading proficiency is the greatest predictor of high school graduation, job success, lifelong learning & lifelong income. Before 3rd grade one is learning to read. After 3rd grade, you're reading to learn. Factors contributing to 3rd grade reading proficiency are school readiness, attendance, family support, summer learning, and high quality teaching in the home, community & school. Low 3rd grade reading proficiency warns of trouble ahead. Seven of ten 3rd graders in Illinois are not reading at grade level (that's 70%). If you google "Illinois policy literacy" you can see scores of all schools.

Unity Christian population looks like Decatur's in terms of social economics, poverty, Title 1 eligibility, racial & ethnic demographics. They are no different than Decatur Public Schools. Unity Christian has had elementary tutoring since Fall 2023 and middle school tutoring since Spring 2024 & over the summer. The National Honor Society high school students help. There is MAP testing through the 8th grade. It is thorough and tied to grade level standards. They saw growth in science, reading, and math

after tutoring started. Growth in reading for all elementary grades exceeded the national average. How can we help? Reach out to him or Mr. Booth to tutor 1 day a week for 2 hours. Another online search for more info – “Annie E. Foundation”. Brian Booth, Executive Leader of Unity Christian, was also introduced.

Health Report: Ron Black hurt his back. Mike Wortman had surgery last week & experiencing complications. He also just lost a brother

Attendance: Lynda Durnil

38 members 1 Kiwanis guest 2 guests 2 speakers 43 total

Announcements:

We are no longer collecting medicine bottles. The organization at St. Mary's is no longer taking them.

Cheryl Boss - Feb. 21 Franklin Grove will need volunteers to help serve breakfast. 2 shifts, 8:15-9:15 and 9:45-11. A sign-up sheet soon.

Charles Smith – Mt. Zion Key Club is having a Panda Express Fundraiser on Feb 8th. Anyone who orders that day & shows their flyer will be helping them as 20% will be donated to the Key Club. A picture of the flier on your phone will be accepted.

Dan Sebok – has Charity Mania tickets, \$20

- The St. T Key Club is planning a Snowball Dance Feb 8, proceeds to God's Shelter of Love
- Next week the Key Club advisor, Erinn Sweeley will be inducted as a new member

Marty Williams – The month of May is available for a speaker chairman. Use your GK table as a resource and he'll help, too.

Bill Hogg –this is his last meeting after 13 years; he's moving to FL 2/9. He's already been in touch with the Kiwanis group in FL. Kiwanis has been in his life for 35 years!!

Joel Hawkinson – Golf Outing will be June 20 at Hickory Pt. There are openings on the golf committee & he'd appreciate volunteers. See him.

Susan Rayhill

- Sign up to serve lunch at Good Samaritan Inn on 2/25

Lynda Durnil for Paula Luckenbill – Paula picked up & delivered 2 benches to Muffley Elementary & Mt. Zion Grade School. She may have enough “lids” for 2 more benches. We need to contact schools, businesses, etc. to see if they are interested. **If she doesn’t get more orders, we will have to stop collecting lids!!**

- We’re no longer collecting medicine bottles

Harold Wilkinson – Feb. 25 is Kiwanis Day of Giving for the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. We will be collecting donations at our meeting on Feb. 26. Checks can be made out to the Children’s Fund & put our club number (K10369) on it so we get credit for the donation.

- Anyone interested in being Lt. Governor?
- We currently have 6 Little Free Libraries in partnership with the Early Birds. Doug Warren wrote an article for the I-I District Newsletter.
- The Franklin Grove librarian is donating 1,000 used books to our project. If you’d like a copy of the letter to take to an elementary school that you have a connection with to see if their librarian would like to donate books, ask me or Lynda Durnil to email you a copy. If you have a school that is interested in donating, let me know so I will have a list of the schools contacted & the contact person.
- Thank you to those who stepped up to fill positions. We still need a speaker coordinator.
- We need to enlist another song leader to lead the Pledge of Allegiance & Kiwanis Pledge and another piano player to sub when needed.

Dates to Remember:

2/9/25 Careage House Meal, Susan Rayhill

2/10/25 Board meeting, Central Christian Church, 1pm

2/21/25 Franklin Grove Family Breakfast, volunteers needed, 2 shifts, 8:15-9:15, 9:45-11

2/25/25 Good Samaritan Inn, 11-1 pm

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Suzy Boehm, Norm Jensen, Jan Allen

Anniversaries: John Dunn

** Due to a directive from International we are not to publish personal information.

Humorous Quotes: Trying to solve the country’s problems with congressional oratory is like trying to untangle a traffic jam by honking your horn!

50-50 Drawing: Pat Durnil was the winner but did not draw the Queen of Hearts. The \$121 rolls over, get your tickets!

Up Coming Programs:

2/12/25 Clyde Chapman, topic: Foster Care

2/19/25 Jamalia Wicks from the State History Museum

2/26/25 Laura Cullison, Community Relations Coordinator at Evergreen Senior Living

3/5/25 Lelah Ray, Social Services Salvation Army

Ongoing Projects

- Collecting Food Coupons for military - Cheryl Boss
- Collecting clean plastic caps & lids for school benches & tables - Paula Luckenbill
- Collecting pop tops for Ronald McDonald House, Springfield - Paula Luckenbill
- Turn in hours to Karen Sivils - itcpa96@gmail.com, estimate #children helped
- Kiwanis clothing - Roberta Williams
- Golden K board meetings - 2nd Monday each month, 1:00 pm, Central Christian Church
- Decatur Lakeside 9/11 Memorial Flagpole and Flowers

Wednesday Donations

1st – Food Bank

2nd – K.N.R.F.

3rd – School Support

4th - Trauma Dolls

5th – Scholarship Fund

Humor for today: Jerry Pelz

Editor: Linda Thomas, lthomasxq@aol.com, 217-454-2605

Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams



