



# ***The Nugget***

Golden K Kiwanis Club

Decatur, Illinois

*Serving the Children of the world*

## **Club Officers 2024 - 2025**

**President:** Harold Wilkinson **President Elect:** Tom McQuiston **Vice President:**

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

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

### **Directors**

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

**Past President:** Kyle Anderson

**March 12, 2025**

**National Anthem / Pledge of Allegiance / Kiwanis Pledge:** Ron Black

**Invocation:** Mary Jean Bauer

**Piano:** John Baird

**Mike Runners:** Dan Sebok & Harold Dausman

**Program Introduction** - Ralph Czerwinski

**Program:** Andrew Taylor - Economic Development Officer for Decatur & Macon County

Topic - Providing existing and potential area businesses with the information they need to grow and prosper.

The EDC is a 501c3 organization with a mission of improving the economy of the area. One goal is attracting businesses to Decatur. They reach out to, and discuss businesses that might be interested in locating here. About 1 out of 20 businesses they work with turns into a true prospect.

They also work on retention - encouraging businesses to stay in Decatur. They helped convince Mueller to not only stay but to also build a new foundry facility. 80% of employment opportunities here come from existing businesses.

Recently they applied for and received a \$51 million grant for a Bio Fermentation facility. This facility would help businesses to move from small to medium scale production.

A third goal is community development. Decatur has 2,200 unfilled positions. There are 49,000 people employed here. Of the 11,000, 22% are employed in manufacturing. Many come from other communities.

There is a housing issue problem attracting more people from coming here. 92% of rentals were built before 1980, 42% before 1940. They are working on developing attractive housing for young professionals downtown. They prefer modern rentals with amenities. By providing such housing, we could add more residents, which could attract more businesses.

Decatur's location makes it a good site for distribution. Our railyard is more efficient than Chicago. There are 100 million people within 500 miles of Decatur.

**Attendance - Lynda** Durnil 41 members present 4 Kiwanis guests 1 speaker total 46 present

**Health Report:** Roberta Williams

Donna Dash is home doing well recovering from her shoulder surgery. Would welcome cards.

Joy Greive is now getting physical therapy at Hickory Point Christian Village, Room 408. She sends her thanks to all the thoughtful members who sent her messages and cards, which cheered her up. She said her physical therapy "is proceeding like a snail."

Darwin Shroyer is still trying to get transportation, so he can come and visit us.

Jack McCoy has started chemotherapy and would welcome cards.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:** Kevin Cleary

Birthdays - none

Anniversary - 3/21/1970 Kathy & Jim Kramer

**Announcements - Tom McQuiston**

Charles Smith - 4/26 is the Festival of Spring at Rock Springs. Sign up to park cars & hand out pamphlets.

3/30 is Key Club 100th Birthday Celebration in Mt. Zion. Sign Up to help us order enough pizza.

Dan Sebok - All the Charity Mania tickets have been sold. You will know your teams next Sunday.

St. Teresa Key Club meets 3/27 at 2:20. They are collecting their Birthday supplies for foster kids.

Kyle Anderson - Elks Pancake Day is 4/26 from 8-11am. Need 5 volunteers to bus tables. Invite friends!!!

Golf Outing Fundraiser is June 20th. We are putting together "Sponsor Packets" which will be hand delivered after the Millikin Children's Play. Let them know who you have contacted.

Silent Auction - Karen Sivils needs a committee to help with the Silent Auction.

Adopt A Street - April 11th is a tentative date. Kyle needs 8-12 volunteers to Sign Up.

Mike Heger - He needs one more person to help with Project LINUS Mar. 24 & 25.

Ralph Czerwinski - As of yesterday \$1,600 had been collected for the Children's Play, "Everybody Rocks, Rocks, Rocks." Members should buy tickets to sell or give away. Denise Meyers will speak at our club meeting next week. The play will be 3/29 and 3/30 in the Virginia Rogers Theater,

**Harold Wilkinson -Announcements**

Bring a guest to our club meetings.

Please turn in your volunteer hours.

We will have a box set out at each club meeting to collect food for the Salvation Army Food Pantry.

We are considering sponsoring an Aktion Club at MRI with the Early Birds who are having an Interclub with us today. Members were asked to vote by ballot on whether they would be willing to help either by volunteering or donating money. The ballots were collected and the results will be announced next week.

When writing checks for contributions to Golden K projects, if you write them to the Golden K Foundation, they go into our Foundation Account which is tax deductible. This is a different account from our Scholarship Account.

**Hours** Remember to turn in or email your "End of the Month Hours" to **Karen Sivils**, so she can include them in the report she gives Lynda Durnil for her report to Kiwanis International.

**itcpa96@gmail.com**

**Special Announcement - "Caps & Lids Sorting Party" Monday, March 17th**  
**9 - Noon at Scovill Zoo. Task: Sort bags from our Storage Unit and bags from Muffley School outdoor shed, and those bags Dan Sebok brought in today.**  
**We need a big group of volunteers to get all those bags sorted.**

**Thank you, Paula Luckenbill**

**Dates to remember:**

3/9/25 CareAge House Meals - Cathy & Dan Sebok  
3/10/25 Board Meeting 1:00pm Central Christian Church  
3/24 & 3/25/25 Project LINUS - Mike Heger, Sign Up Sheet  
3/25/25 Good Samaritan Inn - Susan Rayhill, needs 6 volunteers  
3/29 & 3/30/25. Millikin Children's Play - Ralph & Tom McQuiston, 10am Saturday & 2pm Sunday

**50/50 Drawing** - Mary Jean Bauer Pat Riley drew the three of Hearts. No winner today. **Pot \$265**

**Humor for today:** Bob Lewis

**Up Coming Programs:**

3/19 Denise Meyers, Millikin Children's Play  
3/26 Mark Sorensen  
4/2 ???  
4/9 Shyler Brianne Kraus, Marketing & Development Manager, Heartland CASA

**Ongoing Projects:**

- \* Collecting Food Coupons for military - Cheryl Boss
- \* Collecting "Caps & Lids" (benches) - Paula Luckenbill
- \* Collecting "flip tabs" for Ronald McDonald House, Springfield - Paula Luckenbill
- \* Decatur Lakeside 9-11 Memorial Flagpole and Flowers - Paula Luckenbill
- \* Kiwanis Clothing - Roberta Williams
- \* Golden K Board Meetings - 2nd Monday each month, 1:00 pm, Central Christian Church

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

Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams



*Andrew Taylor*