



*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

## **August 6, 2025**

**God Bless America /Pledge of Allegiance / Kiwanis Pledge:** Roberta Williams

**Invocation:** Mary Jean Bauer

**Piano:** Larry Wade

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

**Photographer:** Joel Hawkinson

**Program:** John Baird introduced Quay Owens, Director of Community & Athletics Ministries, Decatur Salvation Army.

- Quay had 5 years teaching experience at DPS-61, witnessed student struggles (hunger, lack of support, academic challenges).
- Majority of students not reading at grade level; identified as a significant community concern.
- After-school and summer programs initiated at Salvation Army since March, focusing on faith-based curriculum, character development, and educational enrichment.
- Emphasized need for mentors, sponsors, funding, and community involvement to support youth.
- Stressed that youth are resilient but require community support to thrive; called for action over discussion.

**Kevin Breheny and Brian Byers were introduced & spoke about the upcoming WSOY Food Drive on Oct 3 at Kroger on route 36.**

### **WSOY Food Drive: History, Impact, and Urgent Needs**

- WSOI community food drive marked 25th year; raised **23 million pounds** of food since inception.
- Hiatus occurred 3 years ago; program revived last year, raising **\$800,000 in 12 hours** for **23 food pantries**.
- Current need exceeds last year's funds due to rising costs and demand; **44% of Macon County** classified as poverty or ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families.
- Food banks face reduced purchasing power and higher prices; USDA cut **\$1.2 million** from Illinois Eats Program, impacting healthy food supply.
- Event scheduled for **October 3rd at Kroger on US 36**; donations accepted via website, Venmo, in-store round-up, and pre-bagged food purchases; volunteer opportunities available through United Way.

### **Community Partnerships & Fundraising Logistics**

- Hunger in the community directly impacts children's learning and overall well-being.
- Increasing numbers of young children and senior citizens face food insecurity.
- Food drive has operated for 22 years, expanding due to community support in Macon County.
- Food drive supplies local pantries, directly benefiting vulnerable populations.
- No specific donation request; all contributions are voluntary and impactful.

### **Volunteer Opportunities & How to Support**

- All funds raised on October 3rd go directly to food purchases; no administrative expenses.
- Community partners fund school awards; businesses cover all other costs.
- United Way and Community Foundation manage tax-deductible gifts and distribution.
- Sponsorships start at \$1,000; over 20 sponsors secured, ranging \$1,000–\$20,000.
- Toolkit for fundraising available at [WSOYFoodDrive.com](http://WSOYFoodDrive.com); event ends October 3rd, 6 PM.

### **Club Business, Recognitions, and Announcements**

- WSOYFoodDrive organization focuses on supporting children.
- Donations accepted via website ([WSOYFoodDrive.com](http://WSOYFoodDrive.com)).
- Fundraising events include carnival tournaments and trivia nights.
- Bags for food collection available and can be delivered; collection at Kroger on October 3rd.
- Volunteer opportunities accessible through the website's volunteer portal.

**Health Report:** Roberta Williams indicated no report.

**Attendance:** Lynda Durnil

49 members    1 Kiwanis guests    3 speakers    53 total

**Announcements:**

**Pete Buckley** (I-I Lt Governor)– he’s just back from district convention and 20% of the new members come from our division! He’s asking help for the Danville club. They have a pancake day fundraiser & he was selling tickets. They made \$22,000 last year & give it all back to the community.

**Roberta Williams** – Need a ballcap or bucket hat? She will put in an order next week.

**Charles Smith** – Lori Kerans is looking for volunteers at their athletic programs at Millikin – everything from laundry to serving beer! He has a list of all activities available.

**Kyle Anderson** – has applications for Dove RSVP.

**Lynda Durnil for Paula Luckenbill** - Paula needs at least 10 people to help with “Caps & Lids” Sorting with Millikin students on Thursday, August 21st. 9:30 – noon. Place: Scovill Zoo (big room on the left). There will be 2-3 MU students at each table getting the opportunity to help with a Service Project in Decatur. Everyone should turn in their “Unsorted Caps & Lids” before August 21st, so we have plenty to sort. We need a variety not just medicine bottle lids. Students will arrive at the Zoo between 9:45 and 10:00 and leave at noon.

The purpose of this is to give the students an opportunity to help with a community service project in Decatur. Millikin has asked that we talk about the *9/11 Memorial Project*, the *Ronald McDonald House Flip Tab Project*, and the *“Lids to Benches” program*. As you are at the table with the students, please talk about the importance of volunteering and pay it forward in ways that you can. Encourage them to get involved when and where they can. Share what you do to volunteer and why you do it. Talk about the good things in Decatur.

Ask them where they are from, why they came to MU, and what they are studying.

**Karen Sivils** – budget meetings will be held right after the club meeting on Aug. 13 & possibly 20.

**Bob Bischoff** – has letters ready for members to deliver to businesses. Will need 10-12 people the next 4 weeks to deliver them. Next week we start ordering cases of peanuts and sign up to do peanuts at the Farm Progress Show.

**Dick Virgin** – gave a report of the I-I conference that he & Harold attended. Especially interesting was a report on a surgery being done in utero for spinal bifida. More funds will be needed to create a model of the womb to be used to train surgeons.

**Harold Wilkinson** reminded us that we are still collecting weekly donations and food for Salvation Army box. He encouraged us to make a donation to the WSOY Food Drive Oct 3.

- Farm Progress Show, Aug 26-28. They have decreased the 6 booths they originally gave us to 4 booths. Only 3 slots left to fill!

Bring a chair

Selling bottles only

Will have cash aprons w/cash supplied

iPad to keep track of sales/credit

Will have parking/admission passes, golf cart transportation to stands (need drivers & coordinator)

- A new governor, Mary Zeronas, was elected at the district convention.
- Due to large amount of manpower required, **GK meeting August 27 will be canceled.**
- Here are sites where you can get our club information:

Website: <https://k10369.site.kiwanis.org>

You: [https://youtu.be/SRUaj2\\_GLFI](https://youtu.be/SRUaj2_GLFI)

Facebook: <https://www.kiwanis.org/10-reasons-to-attend-the-2025-convention/>

### **Dates to Remember:**

8/10/25 Careage House meal

8/11/25 Board meeting, 1pm, Central Christian Church

8/21/25 Lid Sorting – zoo, 9:30-noon

8/26/25 Good Samaritan Inn

8/26-28/25 Farm Progress Show

8/27/25 **No Golden K meeting**

9/18,19/25 Peanut Days at Walmart

9/19,20/25 Peanut Days

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries:** Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Larry Wade, John Baird, Don Wenneker, Kevin Cleary

Anniversaries: Jacki & Steve Woodward, Linda Rowden

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

### **Famous quotes:** Man: Man has his will, but woman has her way!!!

**50-50 Drawing:** John Baird was the winner but did not draw the Queen of Hearts! The \$121 rolls over. Get your tickets!'

### **Up Coming Programs:**

8/13/25 Mary Rogers, HSHS. St. John's Children's Hospital Foundation in Springfield, topic:

Children's Miracle Network

8/20/25 Connie Doty, Patient Services Coordinator Jerger Pediatric Dentistry. Title: Teddy Bear Dental Health Fund

8/27/25 **NO MEETING**

9/3/25 Kate Williston, topic: Women's Ice Hockey Team in Decatur

### **Ongoing Projects**

- Collecting Food Coupons for the 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](mailto: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**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Food Bank**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – K.N.R.F.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – School Support**

**4<sup>th</sup> - Trauma Dolls**

**5<sup>th</sup> – Scholarship Fund**

**Story for today:** Jerry Pelz

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Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams



