



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

July 30, 2025

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

Invocation: Don Wenneker

Piano: Larry Wade

Mike Runners: Dan Sebok & Kyle Anderson

Program Introduction - Ralph Czerwinski

Program: Bob Sampson

Title: "Decatur's Not-So Grand Base Ball Tournament of the Western States - - - September 1867"

Baseball came to Decatur after the end of the Civil War. There was national baseball fever from 1865 to 1870. William Johns learned about New York style baseball at the University of Michigan. In 1866, he laid out a baseball field at the intersection of two railroads in Decatur. Baseball was a club sport and games were social events. In Decatur, the MacPherson baseball club was formed. The club was not known for its skill level. One game was stopped early when the club was losing 56-20.

The MacPherson club decided to hold the Grand Baseball Tournament of the Western States in 1867. 80 teams were invited. Eight teams attended. The tournament was held in Fairview Park at the ball field near where there is still one today. Base ball was a gentleman's sport, and decorum was very important. Players were asked if they believed they were safe or out on close plays. They did not use protective equipment and used hard balls. Therefore, fielding was very difficult, and scores were high.

There were some strong rivalries. No one wanted to play the Chicago Excelsiors, because they were arrogant. They were declared ineligible to play in the tournament, because their train was late. Bloomington and Springfield were supposed to play, but didn't because one of the players was disqualified. Springfield players left. Pana agreed to play Bloomington. Pana was ahead and Bloomington blamed the umpire and refused to obey his calls. The ump ended the game early declaring Pana the winner.

Muffin games were played by teams of players with limited skills. They were intended to be humorous. There was a muffin game at the end of the tournament. Descriptions of the game included reporting a player failed to catch a ball, because he was sleeping. The MacPherson team was disbanded at the end of the season.

Special Presentation - Honorary Member

Tom McQuiston and Ralph Czerwinski read a Presentation Letter and presented Professor Emeritus **Denise Myers** with a plaque naming her an **Honorary Member of the Golden K Kiwanis Club, Decatur**. Dr. Myers has been affiliated with the Millikin's Theatre and Dance Department for 30 years. She has directed the Millikin University Theatre and Dance Department's "Children's Play" for 13 years. Golden K Kiwanis Club produces the play as a fundraiser and a way to involve Millikin students as well as, provide a quality Children's Play for the children and their families in our community.

We are very grateful to Professor Myers for taking this project and are happy to welcome her as a new Honorary Member of the Golden K Kiwanis Club.

Attendance - Lynda Durnil 50 members present 1 Kiwanis guests 1 speaker 52 total present

Guest: Dr. Denise Myers

Health Report: Roberta Williams Joy Greive is doing well and would still welcome cards & visits. Jan Allen is still slowing and steadily recovering and misses us. Roberta was singing with Memory Keepers at Lincolnshire and talked to Dick Vissering there who dropped his membership due to health concerns in 2021. Kyle Anderson said he talked to Jerry Sebok who is still recovering. He is doing better, but still can't drive.

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Kevin Cleary

Birthdays - 8/3 David Goebel 8/9 Larry Fichter 8/9 Erinn Sweeley

Anniversaries - 8/3 Mike & Sharon Heger 8/4 Noor & Lori Jensen
8/7 Harold & Nola Wilkinson 8/9 Kyle & Ruth Anderson

Famous Quotes: "Money" In the old days there were 3 ways to lose money: One-Racing, being the quickest, Two- Women, the pleasantest, and Three-Farming, the most certain!

Announcements - Tom McQuiston

Lynda Durnil - Please send her any needed updates in phone numbers (dropping a land line or adding a mobile phone), change of email address, or change of address for the 2025 - 2026 Directory.

Susan Rayhill - CareAge House Meals on August 10th. She has Sign Up Sheets. Good Samaritan on Aug. 10th. Volunteers no working at the Farm Progress Show need to Sign Up. God's Shelter of Love Today she and Steve are delivering the 14 boxes of donations she collected. Trauma Dolls She delivered 18 dolls to Jerger Pediatric Dentistry for their patients.

Karen Sivils - Announced "Budget" meetings will be held August 6, 13, and possibly 20. They will be right after the club meeting and any club member who is interested is welcome to attend.

Bob Bischoff - **Walmart has changed our Peanut Days dates to September 18th & 19th.**

The other locations will still be September 19th & 20th.

Kyle Anderson - If you would like to fill out an RSVP volunteer form, he still had some.

Harold Wilkinson -Announcements

Harold reminded us that we are still collecting "Weekly Donations" and food for the Salvation Army Box.

Little Free Libraries: The Library Committee of Harold Wilkinson, Doug Warren, and Rich Wessel met and said we are doing well on our supply of books. We have about \$738 left in the budget. They plan to place our 7th Little Free Library at the Decatur Housing Authority Office in September.

The "Farm Progress Show Committee": Harold announced that they have decreased the 6 Booths they originally gave us to 4 Booths. He put out Sign Up Sheets for Booths 1-2-3-6. Check the sheets to be sure they are correct and **fill up the empty slots!** We only have 8 slots left! He said they have no map for us to show us where our Booths are. (Maybe he will still get one?)

Gk meeting August 27 will be canceled!

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

Dates to remember:

8/10 CareAge House Meals -

8/11 Board Meeting 1:00pm Central Christian Church

8/26 Good Samaritan Inn - Susan Rayhill, needs 6 volunteers. 11-1pm

8/27 **No Golden K Club meeting.**

9/19 & 20 **Peanut Days**

50/50 Drawing - No winner today. **Pot Total \$ 74**

Up Coming Programs:

Aug 6 Quay Owens, Youth Program for Salvation Army

Aug 13 Mary Rogers, HSHS St. Jon's Children's Hospital Foundation in Springfield

Topic: Children's Miracle Network

Aug 20 Connie Doty Patient Services Coordinator Jerger Pediatric Dentistry

Topic: Teddy Bear Dental Health Fund

Humor for today: Charles Smith

Pam and I just got back from celebrating our 25th Wedding Anniversary. It sort of reminded me of Jake and Liz who are celebrating their 25th Anniversary. They dated in high school and shortly thereafter, they got married. About 3 months after they were married, Liz brings in this big trunk and sets it at the end of the bed. Jake looks at it and says; "What's in the trunk?" She says; "Its just filled with Knick-Knacks." Over the years, Jake asked again; "What's with the trunk?" And each time he asks, Liz just blows it off and says its just Odds and Ends. Over the years he keeps asking as nicely as he can, and finally on their 25th Anniversary, he asks again and Liz agrees to open the trunk. And when she does, Jake looks in and he is kind of puzzled. What he sees is 2 ears of corn and 3 stacks of money which looks like about \$5,000 in each stack, so about \$15,000. And he said; "2 ears of corn and money?" She said; " Well Jake, over the years each time I "cheated on you", I put an ear of corn in the trunk. Jake is shocked. You cheated on me? Well I guess twice in 25 years is not too bad. Then he said; " OK, what about the \$15,000?" Liz says; "Oh, well each time they reached a "bushel", I sold it."

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Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams

Bob Sampson



Honorary Member Dr. Denise Myers

