



Serving the Children of the World

The Nugget

Golden K Kiwanis Club
Decatur, Illinois

Club Officers 2025-2026

President: Tom McQuiston **President Elect:** Dick Virgin **Vice President:** None

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

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

Directors:

Cheryl Boss, Joel Hawkinson, Pat Riley, Cathy Sebok, Kathy Thompson,
Past President: Harold Wilkinson

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

Oct. 15, 2025

God Bless America / Pledge of Allegiance / Kiwanis Pledge: Ron Black

Invocation: Cheryl Boss

Piano: Larry Wade

Mike Runners: Dan Sebok, Harold Dausman

Photographer: Joel Hawkinson

Program: International Teachers in Decatur: Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent of Decatur Public Schools, Mary Brady, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Monica Wilks, Director of Human Resources, Melanie Schelling, Community Involvement

International Teacher Exchange Program Launch & Implementation

- International Teacher Cultural Exchange Program launched in Decatur, inspired by Peoria's 5-year model.
- DPS is 1 of 11 Illinois districts hosting international teachers; 86 candidates interviewed, 39 selected, 37 arrived.
- Teachers required minimum 2 years' experience, Illinois educator license, high English proficiency, and financial self-sufficiency.
- Support provided: airport pickup, housing assistance, welcome baskets, bus passes, phone setup, banking, and orientation.

- Community encouraged to assist with transportation, volunteering, gift cards, and local service recommendations.

Community Support, Integration, and Volunteer Opportunities

- Transportation for teachers remains unresolved; city and mayor are working on solutions.
- International Teacher Support Facebook group and Resurrection Life Church coordinate donations and home setup for teachers.
- Friendship family program connects teachers with local families for social support and activities.
- J-1 visa teachers must report travel outside local area to Peoria, their visa sponsor; strict monitoring enforced.
- Teachers receive monthly professional development from both Peoria Public School District and local host district.

Professional Development, Compliance

- Website, www.dps61.org/InternationalTeachers, will provide detailed program info and updates.
- District partnered with Peoria; brought in highest number of teachers this year; 71-item welcome baskets provided.
- Teachers onboarded with HR, set up bank accounts with Hickory Point Bank within 2 weeks, receive direct deposit, and financial guidance.
- Community connects teachers with friendship families based on interests; 25 teachers are interested in partnerships.
- Rotary Club and community partners offer city tours, support, and propose financial literacy classes for teachers.

Lynda Durnil presented our youth protection training

- Kiwanis International requires background checks for all advisors to service leadership programs; checks cost \$35, valid for 2 years, and are reimbursable.
- Background checks must be conducted and verified by Kiwanis International; school or other checks do not substitute.
- Liability insurance (\$13 of \$145 annual dues) only covers members with completed background checks; volunteers without checks are not covered.
- Volunteers must avoid one-on-one situations with youth, maintain proper supervision ratios (1:50 recommended), and obtain documented parental permission for transport/overnight events.
- Adult members must not initiate or accept social media connections with youth except via official club pages; all concerns about youth safety or mental health must be reported to appropriate personnel immediately.

Cathy Sebok presented Kiwanian of the month of September to Bob Bischoff. Congratulations!! She also presented a Certificate of Appreciation & Pin to Linda Thomas for the Nugget.

Health Report: Cathy Sebok – Prayers to Marcia Uchtorff & family for the loss of a grandson & a daughter is ill.

Attendance: Lynda Durnil

53 members 3 Guests 5 Speakers 61 Total

Announcements:

Dick Virgin – Word for the week – hygienevangelist – a person who tries to clean your teeth & save your soul simultaneously. Jerry Sebok won a prize for this.

Cathy Sebok – Thanked those who helped (Cheryl Boss, Donna Dausman, Kathy Thompson, Marcia Uchtorff, Mary Clare Cummins) with the Careage House meal.

Paula Luckenbill – thanked the board for approving the pocket dictionaries for Muffley's third grade.

Lid Sorting Workshop tomorrow, Thursday, Oct 15, 9-noon, Sailboat Club.

Mark Avery – thanked Bob Bischoff for all his help. **Net profit from peanut days is \$10,000!** \$5,500 was from store fronts.

Key Club Updates:

St. Teresa Key Club: Dan Sebok reported Sunday, November 2, 6 pm. Logan Shumaker was inducted as club advisor at the last meeting.

Dates to Remember:

10/16/25 Lid Sorting Workshop, 9-noon, Sailboat Club

10/18/25 Boo at the Zoo, 3-6pm

10/28/25 Good Samaritan Inn, 11-1pm

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Laurie Brown, Joy Greive, Sally Williams

Anniversaries: None

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

Politicians: A politician is like quicksilver, if you try to put your finger on him, you will find nothing under it!

50-50 Drawing: Jerry Pelz was the winner of the \$313!!! Get your tickets next week as it starts over!

Up Coming Programs:

10/22/25 Amy Bliefnick, MRI President, CEO & Kyle Karsten, MRI Director of Development

10/29/25 Dr. Dean Pribbenow, Millikin University President & Lori Kerans, Millikin University Vice President for Athletics & Engagement

11/5/25 Jeff Daly, Salvation Army Development Director. Topic: Red Kettle Kickoff

11/12/25 Dan Miller, Macon County Health Department. Topic: Starting Point

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, 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

Story for today: John Dunn

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

Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams





Click this web address to view meeting videos

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=golden+K+kiwanis+of+Decatur

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071723247020>