



*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, Sally Williams

*Past President: Harold Wilkinson*

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

**Nov. 19, 2025**

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

**Invocation:** Mary Clare Cummins

**Piano:** Larry Wade

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

**Photographer:** Joel Hawkinson

**Program:** Mark Avery introduced Abby Helm, Executive, Ameren IL.

### **Ameren Illinois Utility Scam Awareness Presentation**

- Ameren Illinois serves **1.2 million electric** and **800,000 natural gas** customers across **1,200+ communities** and **83 counties**.
- Utility scams occur **every 15 minutes**; median loss per victim is **\$500**; prepaid cards are the most requested payment method.
- Scammers use phones, in-person, and online tactics, especially during disasters; utility scams are more common than IRS scams.
- Ameren never demands immediate payment, never accepts Bitcoin/prepaid cards, and never requests personal info via unsolicited contact.

- Verify suspicious contacts by calling **1-800-755-5000**; report scams to Ameren and local police; never provide personal or financial info unless you initiate contact.

#### **Q&A: Scam Experiences, Prosecution, and Third-Party Energy Offers**

- Scams often involve impersonation, forged signatures, and misuse of company databases.
- Law enforcement faces difficulty prosecuting scammers, especially those operating overseas.
- Ameren Illinois delivers power but does not supply or generate it; third-party suppliers offer alternative rates and contracts.
- Third-party supplier offers are legal but can be confusing; rates fluctuate seasonally (e.g., \$0.12/kWh in summer, \$0.08/kWh in October).
- Best practices: do not click suspicious links, verify offers directly with companies, and be cautious with prepaid card requests.

**Ron Black read a tribute to Reese Binger followed by a minute of silence:**

**Reese Binger, 88, passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2025, in Decatur. Arrangements are pending at Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home. A celebration of his life will be planned for the Spring.**

**Reese was a retired teacher and coach at Stephen Decatur High School and joined Golden K in January of 2004. He started the Elementary School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Program and chaired this service project from 2005-2019. Reese was a valued member of the Golden K Kiwanis Club and will be missed.**

**Cathy Sebok presented Kiwanians of the Month of October to Joel Hawkinson & Gary Goeken. Congratulations!!**

**Health Report:** Cathy Sebok – Bob Bischoff not well today & couldn't come.

**Attendance:** Lynda Durnil

58 members    3 Speakers    1 Kiwanis guest    62 Total

**Dick Virgin** – word of the week – Snollygoster – a shrewd, unprincipled person. No one guessed the meaning!

Dick read a member's information sheet & Roberta Williams correctly guessed it was Sally Williams'. Both got a prize.

#### **Announcements:**

**Herb Dreier (Early Birds)** –will have cheese wheels to sell, \$17, at next meeting, Dec. 3.

**Dan Sebok** - Krispy Kreme order pick up will be tomorrow (20<sup>th</sup>), at St. T., after 2:30 in Main office & at 4:00 by All Purpose room, south end of the building.

- Has Charity Mania tickets

**Cheryl Boss** – thank you for signing up for bell ringing Dec 11 & Dec 13. All spots filled. There are subs if needed.

**Mary Jean Bauer** – Christmas Social will be Wednesday, Dec 10, 2pm, The Wagon, \$20, \$10 gift exchange. December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the last day to sign up. You are asked to park on east side of the building & use that door directly into the room.

**Marty Williams** – Needs 2 pickups to get bicycles that we donate to the WAND Spirit of Giving. He has 1 but needs another on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Contact him.

**Pat Riley** – On Dec 3 we'll start sign ups for the toy distribution at St. Paul's Dec15-19<sup>th</sup>.

**Susan Rayhill (for Paula Luckenbill)** – lid sorting tomorrow (20<sup>th</sup>), zoo, 9-noon. Paula is picking up a bench next Monday, Nov 24. Please turn in any lids you have so she can take them.

**Susan Rayhill** – Good Samaritan Inn, Nov 25, 11-1pm. Careage House (emergency shelter for homeless women & children) is Dec. 14. If interested in donating to the meal, sign up. She has fabric to cut for trauma dolls.

**Tom McQuistion** – Wishes everyone a safe, healthy Thanksgiving! No meeting next week (26<sup>th</sup>).

#### **Key Club Updates:**

**St. Teresa Key Club:** Planning a Winter Formal on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, going to do some red kettle bell ringing. Krispy Kreme delivery is Nov. 20.

**Mt. Zion Key Club:** No meeting on Nov 30, but one on 12/3 during activity period at school. They are planning their Children's Christmas Project. They have 47 children in need on their list from 13 families. Each child will receive toys, clothing, & an Aldi's gift card. The club will shop at Target on 12/3 & Kohl's on 12/4. Wrapping party on 12/14. They've raised funds by selling peanuts, hosting a chili supper, & contacting local businesses & organizations. Any Golden K members who want to help wrap, let them know.

#### **Dates to Remember:**

**11/20/25 Lid sorting, zoo, 9-noon**

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

**11/26/25 No Golden K meeting**

11/30/25 Mt. Zion Key Club – no meeting

12/3/25 Mt. Zion Key Club meeting, 2:15pm School Activity Period

12/10/25 Christmas Social – The Wagon, 2pm, \$20, Gift Exchange Game (\$10 limit), wrapped, no tag

12/11/25 Ring Salvation Army bell

12/13/25 Ring Salvation Army bell

12/14/25 Careage House meal

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:** Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Bruce Logan, David Shulke

Anniversaries: None

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

**Bob Hope Quotes:** I don't do political jokes, too many of them are getting elected!

**50-50 Drawing:** Gary Goeken was the winner but did not draw the Queen of Hearts. The \$206 rolls over. Get your tickets!

**Up Coming Programs:**

**11/26/25 No meeting**

12/3/25 Pete Buckley, topic: My Career in the FBI

12/10/25 Michael Warner, Holly Newbon, Webster Cantrell Youth Advocacy

12/17/25 Larry Wade, Kiwanis Christmas Carols

**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**

**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:** John Dunn

Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams



Click to view meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/@GoldenKKiwanisofDecatur>

Facebook:

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