



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

Dec. 10, 2025

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

Invocation: Don Wenneker

Piano: Larry Wade

Mike Runners: Harold Dausman, Dan Sebok

Photographer: Joel Hawkinson

Program: Mark Avery introduced Michael Warner & Holly Newbon from Webster Cantrell Youth Advocacy.



- Webster-Campbell Youth Advocacy formed from merger of two agencies in 2018.
- Webster founded in 1916 as orphanage; expanded to group homes, DCFS contracts, and residential programs.
- Youth Advocate program was established in 1972 to support DCFS and provide runaway/homeless youth services.
- Merger increased the number of youth served monthly from 500 to 1,500 through streamlined, early intervention services.
- Michael Warner (CEO, 20 years) and Holly Newbon (Director of Marketing and Giving, 33 years) lead the agency.

Agency Merger, Program Expansion, and Impact Metrics

- Tripled community impact by shifting from long-term residential treatment to early intervention and prevention.
- Focused resources on local children, reducing out-of-community placements.
- Two main programs: foster care (~200 kids) and intact family support to prevent removal from homes.
- Repurposed former residential facilities for supervised family visits, recreation, and skill-building.
- Operate four buildings: main office (foster care/intact), support services (parenting, housing, youth transition), Hilltop Shelter (runaway/locked-out youth), and Counseling Center (school-based and on-site counseling).

Community Needs, Donations, and Success Stories

- Western Central Youth Advocacy expanded support after merger.
- Focus on proactive assistance for children and families.
- Ongoing need for donations: diapers, wipes, financial support.
- Norman Housing Program provides housing for homeless families.
- Community donations directly impact families (e.g., refrigerator for diabetic father).

Q&A: Program Details, Financial Management, and Volunteer Involvement

- Key Club and Kiwanis regularly partner, supporting community projects and events.
- Transition from orphanages to family services began in the early 1970s, focusing on early intervention and family placements.
- Scholarship program supports youth in college and trade schools; currently **seven** youth in college, including one graduating from U of I.
- Set-aside donations fund urgent needs (e.g., car seats, diapers, appliances) not covered by contracts; **\$800** in gifts provided by St. Teresa Key Club.
- Funds are strictly allocated to direct child and family needs, not staff salaries or bonuses.

Health Report: Cathy Sebok – None

Attendance: Lynda Durnil

50 members 2 Speakers 1 guest 53 Total

Dick Virgin – word of the week –shivoo, Australian in origin & stands for a boisterous party or celebration.

- Who is this Kiwanian? It was Ralph Czerwinski. No one guessed.

Announcements:

Dan Sebok - Has Charity Mania tickets,

- St. T. Key Club wrapped \$800 worth of presents for Webster Cantrell kids.

Susan Rayhill – Mt. Zion will be wrapping presents this Sunday, 1pm. We can join them.

- Next Good Samaritan is Dec 23, 11-1, sign up. Last month we served 200 people & one of the international teachers volunteered with us.
- She has trauma doll fabric & stuffing for volunteers
- She took 18 trauma dolls to the dental clinic at Macon County Health Dept., 36 to Macon County Health Department Immunization Center, and 38 to Good Samaritan last month.

Mark Avery for Cheryl Boss – thank you for signing up for bell ringing Dec 11 & Dec 13. Call Mark or Lynda Durnil if you need a sub.

Harold Wilkinson – A new little library will be installed at the Decatur Daycare Center by St. Mary's next Tuesday, Dec. 16th at 1pm. All are welcome to attend. Jan Allen has volunteered to keep it stocked.

Marty Williams – Dec. 5th purchased 8 bicycles for WAND's Spirit of Giving. He thanked those that helped (Roberta Williams, Pat Riley, Kevin Cleary). They spent \$988 this year.

Mary Jean Bauer - Christmas Social is this afternoon (Dec. 10). You are asked to park on east side of the building & use that door directly into the room.

Tom McQuiston – Board Meeting;

- In January we will have a survey to complete how we can improve our meetings
- Committee formed to name a new club advisor (was Bob Bischoff most recently).
- Starting to explore signature projects (we have 2 already – basketball program & the children's pledge)
- We received a thank you from Teddy Bear Dental Fund (from Connie Doty) for our \$5,000 donation.

Key Club Updates:

St. Teresa Key Club: Planning a Winter Formal on Feb. 7th, going to do some red kettle bell ringing.

Mt. Zion Key Club: 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:

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
12/15-19/25 Toy Distribution
12/24,31/25 No meeting

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Melanie Caputo

Anniversaries:

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

Bob Hope Quotes: You know, I have been feeling very humble lately, but I think I have the strength of character to fight through it!

50-50 Drawing: After many drawings, Cathy Sebok was the winner of \$300! New pot starts next week, get your tickets!

Up Coming Programs:

12/17/25 Larry Wade, Kiwanis Christmas Carols

12/24/25 No meeting

12/31/25 No meeting

1/7/26 Tanya Melendez, Executive Director, Good Samaritan, topic: Mercy Gardens

1/14/26 Josh Chamblin, Financial Advisor, Chamblin Wealth Management, topic: "Smart Charitable Giving...and Other Retirement Topics"

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: Jerry Pelz

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

Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams

 **Golden K Kiwanis Club of Decatur** ...
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Golden K's Dan Sebok presented a check for \$200 to the Decatur PB & PA Unit for their "Shop With A Cop" program.



Our treasurer's technique for uncrinkling bills is to do a reverse fold...then give it a little snap!

Click to view meeting

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

Facebook:

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