



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

January 21, 2026

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

Invocation: Cathy Sebok

Piano: John Baird

Mike Runners: Harold Dausman, Dan Sebok

Photographer: Joel Hawkinson

Program: Mark Avery introduced Chris Ellis, Board President, & Devon Joyner, Executive Director, from Old King's Orchard Community Center.

Overview

- **Old King's Orchard (OKO)** mission: break cycles by focusing on **education, work, and peace** for youth in the community.
- OKO runs multiple programs: **OKO Education (remote learning)**, **OKO Green (lawn/landscaping)**, **OKO Next (leadership)** and **OKO Clean (professional cleaning)** that provide **skills, paid work and life training**.

- **Outcomes reported:** OKO Education serves **40 students** with an average **GPA ~3.3**, **over 100 youth** engaged in peace programming, and **60%** engagement for first cohort referred by police.
- Strong partnerships with **Decatur Police, probation, courts, regional education office** and funders — OKO brings in **≈ \$1,000,000/year in grants** to serve youth.
- Key operational needs: **volunteers**, mentor matches, expanded senior partnerships for OKO Green/Clean, and continued **grant writing** and long-term investment.



Old King's Orchard programs

- Board president framed mission as **hand-up, not hand-out** targeting underserved teens/young adults expelled from school or with law-enforcement interactions.
- OKO Education provided free, remote, credit-bearing instruction for expelled youth with a certified teacher; **40** enrolled and average GPA **3.3**; only nonprofit in Illinois offering certified driver's education.
- Work programs (OKO Green, OKO Next, OKO Clean) delivered paid jobs, life-skills, and leadership training; OKO Green employed **10–15** seasonal youth and serviced seniors; OKO Clean received Balance Foundation funding to train young women in professional cleaning with earned savings disbursed in fall.
- Partnerships with state's attorney, Decatur Police, probation, and courts produced referrals and prevention results; first cohort achieved **60%** contact rate and **>100** youth engaged in peace programming.
- Board changes in **2021** enabled organizational stabilization and grant writing, yielding **>\$1,000,000/year** in grants and a long-term, rapport-based strategy to reduce violence and provide second chances.

Education & Outcomes

- Provide remote education for expelled youth with a certified teacher; **40** active students; average GPA **>3.5**; free, credit-bearing, includes life-skills and advocate support.
- Operate the only nonprofit-certified driver's education program in Illinois; provide free instruction and support immigrant teachers to obtain licenses and learn road laws.
- Run OKO Green lawn/landscaping service employing **10–15** youth; provide free lawn care to Meals on Wheels seniors; reduce inter-group violence and build community pride.
- Operate OKO Next leadership pipeline and partner with Decatur Police to identify at-risk youth; first cohort achieved **60%** contact; engage **100+** youth in peace programming to prevent crime.
- Launch OKO Clean funded by the Balance Foundation to train young women in professional cleaning; offer free services to seniors/parents; provide paid jobs with part of earnings saved and delivered in fall.

Tom McQuiston read a tribute to Dave Sapp who passed away December 14, 2025.

Kevin Hale was inducted into GK. His sponsor is Marty Williams. Welcome!!

Cathy Sebok presented Pat Riley with Kiwanian of the Month of December. Congratulations!!

Health Report: Cathy Sebok – none

Attendance: Lynda Durnil

50 members 2 speakers 52 Total

Dick Virgin – word of the week – yaffle – an armload of dead fish.

Announcements:

Pat Riley – thanked everyone for their help with Toys for Tots.

Cheryl Boss – There will be a Kids Invite Someone Special breakfast at Franklin Grove on February 12. She'll need volunteers from 7:45-11:00. Sign up later.

- From Kyle Karsten – volunteers and donations are needed for MRI's Night to Shine, Friday, Feb. 13, GT Church

Dan Sebok – Feb. 7, 7:30 pm, Winter Formal Dance (St. T. Key Club)

- Has a few Charity Mania tickets left!

Susan Rayhill – Good Samaritan Inn is Jan. 27, 11-1.

- She has material to take home to work on trauma dolls. There will be a trauma doll workshop on Feb 17, 8-1pm, lunch included at the Police Benevolent Hall. Come cut, sew, stuff!
- Careage House meal is Feb. 8, a couple more volunteers are needed.

Paula Luckenbill – We sorted 375 lbs. of lids last Thursday. Lids workshop tomorrow (Thursday, Jan 22), 9-noon at the zoo. I'm going to Green Tree in Evansville on Thursday, Jan. 29th.

Harold Wilkinson – we need another location for a Lil Free Library.

Dick Virgin – we're going to ask all members to take part in an anonymous survey until next Wednesday, Jan. 28. The link is below. This is to get information about how you feel about the club. You will be able to click on a link to complete it. This is a local survey, not from International. It only has 24 questions & you can go back while taking it to correct any answer (before you hit "submit"). See more information below. 38 have completed the survey so far.

Lynda Durnil – a new Engagement system requires her to record differently. There was a sheet to fill out with our hours & number of children served to help her.

Tom McQuiston – Reminder - complete the survey this week

Key Club Updates:

St. Teresa Key Club: Planning a Winter Formal on Feb. 7th, 7:30 pm.

Dates to Remember:

1/22/26 Lids Workshop, zoo, 9-noon

1/27/26 Good Samaritan Inn, 11-1pm

2/1/26 Golden K Dues 2nd installment due

2/8/26 Careage House meal

2/9/26 Board meeting, Central Christian, 1 pm

2/12/26 Franklin Grove Special Someone breakfast, 7:45-11:00am

2/17/26 Trauma Doll workshop, Police Benevolent Hall, 8-1pm, lunch included

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Cheryl Boss, Mike Heger

Anniversaries: None

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

Bob Hope Quotes: The best thing about growing old is it takes a longer time to get there!

50-50 Drawing: Dan Sebok did not draw the Queen of Hearts. The \$136 rolls over. Get your tickets!

Up Coming Programs:

1/28/26 Leslie Risby & Ashley Grayned, Innovative Programs, Decatur School District

2/4/26 Lacie Elzy, City of Decatur

2/11/26 Jami Fawley, Decatur Arts Council

2/18/26 Mark Scranton, Lincoln Square Theater

2/25/26 Clay Gerhard, Decatur Park District

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

Speaker ideas...if you have an idea for a Golden K speaker, please let John Baird or Mark Avery know.

Golden K Kiwanis Member Survey

Members of Golden K, the link to the member survey is below.

All information is anonymous and results will be shared with the Board and the club.

If you would like assistance in completing the survey, please communicate with Mark Avery at: illinixctf1978@gmail.com or call/text to 217-520-3752.

If you send him a message, make sure you include your name and the best way to get back to you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BRN2HNF>

Story for today: John Dunn

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

Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams



Kevin Hale



Pat Riley

Click to view meeting

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

Facebook:

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