



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

February 11, 2026

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

Invocation: Joel Hawkinson

Piano: John Baird

Mike Runners: Harold Dausman, Dan Sebok

Photographer: Joel Hawkinson

Program: John Baird introduced Jami Fawley, Executive Director of The Decatur Area Arts Council.

Jamie Fawley: Why Arts Matter 🧠

- Returned as Executive Director in **January 2025**; previously taught and curated at the Decatur Area Arts Council; Decatur native.

- Organization focused in 2025 on shoring up its foundation for sustainability; entered **2026** with new programs and intentional direction.
- Cave handprints in Argentina ~**9,000 years ago** illustrate an innate human drive to create and connect; arts enable processing grief, imagining futures, and building empathy.
- Arts Council programs produced tangible community impact: gallery representation, school-based theater fostering courage, senior programs improving spirits, murals revitalizing buildings, and social dance restoring joy; located at **125 North Water Street**.
- Operational status: new staff auditing programs for mission-fit and cost; community mural project is currently **unfunded**, but staff connects artists to businesses; theater programming is popular but not covering costs due to low ticket sales.

Programs & Funding (murals, Fox, festivals) 🏛️

- Community mural programs are **not funded** and no formal projects are active.
- Organization connects artists to local not-for-profits and businesses for murals and sculptures and advises on costs and regulations.
- New staff analyzed each program for mission alignment, affordability, and funding after COVID; organization currently has **three staff**.
- Theater program proved financially unsustainable due to required advance purchase of Fox contracts; renegotiation and fewer productions are being pursued.
- Beer Festival is in Central Park on **May 2** with a **VIP Friday** and a dinner collaboration with Richland Community College to reach a broader audience.



Health Report: Cathy Sebok – Don Wencker is out of the hospital. Cards sent to Jim Watson, Rick Gillum. Jim Higdon is at Eagle Ridge.

Attendance: Lynda Durnil

47 members 1 speaker 1 guests 49 Total

Dick Virgin – word of the week – barbarygmus – the rumbling sound of gas moving through your intestines. No one guessed it!

Announcements:

Cheryl Boss – The Kids Invite Someone Special breakfast at Franklin Grove is tomorrow (February 12), 7:45-11:00.

Dan Sebok – Feb. 21, 7:30 pm, Sadie Hawkins Dance (St. T. Key Club). They could use donations of water, candies, cookies, desserts. You could bring to our meeting on the 18th or drop off at St. T.

- There is a trauma doll workshop Feb. 17, 8-1pm, Police Benevolent Hall at Fairview & Lincoln Park Dr., lunch provided. Come any amount of time.

From Paula Luckenbill – I have a lid sorting scheduled at the zoo on Thursday, Feb. 19 for 9-noon. Early birds are welcome at 8:30. The last lid drop/bench pick up was on Feb. 5. As of that time, we have secured 46 benches, 32 bird baths, 10 planters, 1 picnic table, and a few smaller items like an angel and a duck. We have taken 11,713 lbs of lids to Green Tree Plastics which is 5.856 US tons.

Karen Sivils – April 18 is Kite Day, Sinawik Park, noon - 4

Tom McQuiston – from the board meeting: working on by laws, working on slate of officers for next year, working on results of survey to share later, received a thank you note for the \$300 to the Boy Scouts.

Key Club Updates:

St. Teresa Key Club: Planning a Sadie Hawkins Dance on Feb. 21st, 7:30 pm.

Mt. Zion Key Club: Annual Baking Contest fundraiser, \$5, Feb. 22, 6pm, High School Cafeteria

Dates to Remember:

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

2/19/26 Lid Workshop, 9-noon, zoo

2/21/26 St. Teresa Key Club, Sadie Hawkins Dance, 7:30pm

2/22/26 Mt. Zion Key Club Bake Sale & Tasting, 6pm, High School cafeteria

2/24/26 Good Samaritan Inn, 11-1pm

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Jan Allen, Chip Donahue, Gary Cole, Paula Luckenbill

Anniversaries: Bob Lewis

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

Quote from Bob Hope I have a wonderful make-up crew, they're the same ones restoring the Statue of Liberty!

50-50 Drawing: Cathy Sebok did not draw the Queen of Hearts. The \$263 rolls over. Get your tickets!

Up Coming Programs:

2/18/26 Mark Scranton, Lincoln Square Theater

2/25/26 Clay Gerhard, Decatur Park District

3/4/26 Saramanda Hall, Big Brothers Big Sisters

3/11/26 Denise Myers, Millikin University

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.

Story for today: Bob Lewis

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

Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams

Click to view meeting

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

Facebook:

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