



*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 18, 2026**

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

**Invocation:** Donna Dash

**Piano:** John Baird

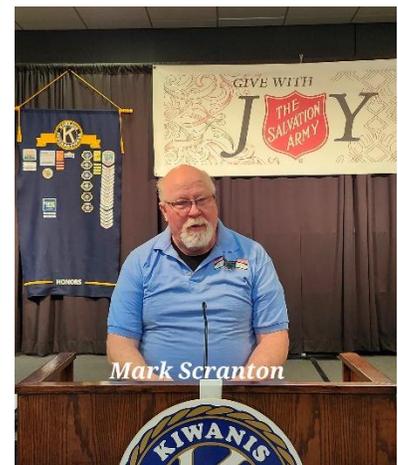
**Mike Runners:** Harold Dausman, Dan Sebok

**Photographer:** Joel Hawkinson

**Program:** John Baird introduced Mark Scranton, Vice President of The Lincoln Square Theater.

### **Overview**

- **Restoration & reuse** of the Lincoln Square Theater is largely complete; volunteers and local businesses contributed large amounts of time, materials and pro bono services.



- **Programming ramping up:** wide mix of events scheduled (tribute acts, national acts, comedy, community events) with several shows already selling hundreds of tickets.
- **Operational improvements** reduced utility costs (radiant floor heat, electrical upgrades) and changed seating/floor configuration to host more event types.
- **Community impact & fundraising:** past Decatur celebration put **\$100,000** back into local nonprofits; Spotlight Series engages local bands competing for a **\$10,000** prize.
- **Growth plans** include renovating the adjacent Odd Fellows building to restore box office and create pre/post-event space.

### Theater restoration & history

- Took over Lincoln Square Theater (est. **1916**) mid-**2020** after severe neglect: roof leaks, collapsing ceilings, extensive pigeon contamination.
- Earlier renovation work (circa **2003–2005**) left structural bones intact and included **> \$1M** in electrical upgrades, enabling rehabilitation potential.
- Local volunteers and businesses donated labor, materials and services for roof repairs, projection-room cleanup, repainting, plaster and plumbing.
- Removed fixed seats; sold many (**≈300–400** seats sent to California/HBO); rebuilt floor into four **11-ft** tiered plateaus, poured concrete over hex tubing with radiant heat, cutting utilities from **>\$10,000/month** to **≈50%**.
- Reopened as multiuse venue hosting concerts, galas, comedy and community events; drew **1,100** to a comedy show, launched Spotlight Series with **13** bands competing for a **\$10,000** prize; tickets sold via official website/Will Call; volunteers remain essential.

### Upcoming events & programming

- Weekend lineup: **Rebel in Red** (local) on Friday; **MJ, The Illusion** (Michael Jackson tribute) on Saturday, including choreography and a Thriller reenactment.
- Spotlight Series: **13** Central Illinois bands compete for a **\$10,000** prize; bands must promote and sell tickets; sponsorship and monthly/bi-monthly events provided.
- Past and recent performers included national artists: Ace Frehley, Crystal Gale, Lee Greenwood, Chris McGill, Jesse James & Jackal, Quiet Bright, and Noise Pollution (AC/DC tribute).
- Hospitality and community engagement: volunteer hospitality by Belle's wife; organizer provides barbecue/meals; Broken Rose leader directs Decatur Youth Symphony; Irish nights feature Irish stew/shepherd's pie and dancing.

### Facilities & expansion (Odd Fellows)

- Acquired the old Odd Fellows building **about three years ago**, originally donated to the theater by a local benefactor.
- Theater struggled financially in **late 2015** and sold that building.
- A church purchased the building, its renovation plans failed, and the theater later negotiated to re-purchase it.
- Building is currently used for storage, is adjacent to the theater, and originally housed the **box office**.
- Renovations planned between now and the **end of the year** to restore the box office and convert the space into an event facility for pre- and post-concert events.

Check out [Lincoln Square Theater on Facebook](#) or [lstevents.com](#) for upcoming shows. Volunteer opportunities available.

**Cathy Sebok announced Kiwanian for the month of January is Marty Williams.  
Congratulations!!**

**Health Report:** Cathy Sebok – Welcome back to Don Wenneker, cards were sent to Jack McCoy, Kathy Ferguson, Marcia Uchtorff. Jack is waiting to hear back from Drs & will be going to Rush Hospital in Chicago & starting radiation for his lungs & to see a cardiologist. Marcia will have major surgery in March.

**Attendance:** Lynda Durnil  
44 members    1 speaker        1 Kiwanis guest        46 Total

**Dick Virgin** – word of the week – obseum – an obese man of Latin heritage.

“Who is this Kiwanian?” Roberta Williams correctly guessed that the Kiwanian is Marty Williams!

**Announcements:**

**Dick Virgin** – we need a piano player.

**From Ron Black** – piano player needed for our meetings. Only need to play God Bless America & Happy Birthday! See him if interested.

**Dan Sebok** – This Saturday, Feb. 21, 7:30 pm, Sadie Hawkins Dance (St. T. Key Club). You can drop donations of water, candies, cookies, desserts to the office or that night at the dance.

- Lids sorting workshop at the zoo, 9-noon tomorrow (Thursday, Feb 19). Early birds welcome at 8:30.

**Lynda Durnil for Charles Smith** – Sunday (Feb. 22) is Mt. Zion’s Key Club Bake Contest, 6pm, High School Cafeteria, \$5, over 60 desserts!!

**Linda Thomas for Paula Luckenbill** – tomorrow (Thursday, Feb 19) is a lid sorting workshop, zoo, 9-noon. Early birds come at 8:30.

**Susan Rayhill** – 12 volunteers worked yesterday at the trauma doll workshop. They’re closing in on 1100 dolls completed! She took 14 to Webster Cantrell yesterday. Special thanks to Paula Luckenbill, Susan Rayhill, Mary Jean Bauer, Cheryl Boss, Steve Rayhill for the delicious lunch.

- Good Samaritan Inn is next Tuesday, Feb 24, 11-1
- In March we will collect items for Dove’s Domestic Violence & God’s Shelter of Love.
- There’s a great article on Facebook written by Ron Black about our projects & inviting new members.

**Cheryl Boss** – thanked Lynda Durnil, Marty & Roberta Williams, Joel Hawkinson, Melanie Caputo, Ron Black for helping at the Franklin Grove breakfast.

**Tom McQuiston** – They are currently working on survey results.

### **Key Club Updates:**

**St. Teresa Key Club:** Planning a Sadie Hawkins Dance on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 pm.

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

### **Dates to Remember:**

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: Don Kamm, Pat Durnil, Woody Woodward, Logan Shumaker

Anniversaries: Herb Thompson

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

**Quote from Bob Hope** People who throw kisses are hopelessly lazy!

**50-50 Drawing:** After 7 failed attempts by other members, Kevin Cleary drew the Queen of Hearts for the \$311! Congratulations!!

### **Up Coming Programs:**

2/25/26 Clay Gerhard, Decatur Park District

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

3/11/26 Denise Myers, Millikin University

3/18/26 Kent Newton, Sanitary District of Decatur

### **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](mailto: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

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

**Story for today:** John Dunn

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>