



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

May 6, 2026

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

Invocation: Ron Black

Piano: John Baird

Mike Runners: Harold Dausman, Dan Sebok

Photographer: Joel Hawkinson

Program: John Baird introduced Vanessa Duncan, Assistant Director of Development from Special Olympics.

Guest presentation: Special Olympics Illinois (Vanessa Duncan)

- Region I overview: **1,321 athletes** in Region I; Illinois total athletes **>18,000; 31,000 volunteers** statewide.
- Programs: traditional sports, **Young Athletes (ages 2–7)**, **18 Olympic-type sports**, **eSports** (Mario Kart, NASCAR, etc.), and **Cool School Challenge** for high schools.
- Competitions & advancement: Region I runs **~275** events; hosts **16** events locally; state Summer

- Games at ISU (**June 12–14**). Athletes must complete **8 weeks** of practice; divisions set by **ability, age, and gender**; winning **gold** advances athletes to higher-level events (lottery used if events are rained out).
- Polar Plunge: Region I’s largest fundraiser. This year Decatur Plunge raised **\$95,000**; notable individual fundraiser **Courtney Lindsey (\$27,000)**. Minimum plunger donation: **\$100** to receive the plunge hoodie. Activities include costume contests and awards; options range from toe-tip entry to full plunge.
- Safety & logistics: plungers sign waivers at registration; organizers coordinate with **Decatur Park District**, fire department scans, rescue divers in water, and ambulance on site to ensure safety. Park District cleared debris at Lake Decatur when water receded.
- How to help / contact: Volunteer roles (coaches, timers, measurers, scorekeepers, reporters, golf course support, Polar Plunge volunteers). Website: **soill.org**; search “Special Olympics Decatur” for local contacts (Vanessa, Joni).



Upcoming Special Olympics events (noted)

- Warrensburg–Lakeland **track & field** competition May 9th: **Opening ceremony 9:00 AM**, competition starts **10:00 AM** (this Saturday). Volunteers needed: **timers, measurers, scorekeepers, cheerers**; walk-in volunteers accepted.
- Polar Plunge locations in Region I: **Decatur, Effingham, Mattoon, EIU (Glow in the Dark)**.
- Region I hosts state golf competition in **September** (volunteer scorers/keepers welcome).
- Team Illinois: sending **83 athletes** to USA Games; Region I contributing **3** athletes.

Dick Virgin – word of the week – orthothorpe – the pound sign #. Cathy Sebok guessed it & received a prize.

Dick reported that our club survey revealed that the club should maintain clear connections with the organizations we make donations to. We need to have a participatory relationship and relate ways we can volunteer & participate in that organization. We also need to constantly look over our list of donations.

Health Report: Roberta Williams – Marcia Uchtorff continues to make progress.

Attendance: Lynda Durnil

54 members 1 speaker 55 Total

Announcements:

Kyle Anderson – 5 weeks until the golf outing, June 12: so far, we’re up to \$7,000 on hole sponsors, envelopes have been delivered, sign up for golf & the dinner, get 50-50 tickets, talk to Lynda Durnil or

Karen Sivils about the silent auction. Plan to come to the golf dinner even if you didn't play. Sign up soon, they need to turn in reservations.

- Adopt a Street, need 12 volunteers, meet at S.E. corner of Oakland & Harrison, June 12, 9am, he will have supplies, 1-1 ½ hours, pick up litter on Oakland from Harrison to Pershing Rd. Sign up with him.

Lynda Durnil for Paula Luckenbill - Lid sorting party on Thursday, May 7 from 9 to noon. Early bird sorting starts at 8:30. We will be at the zoo. This time of year, the school field trips are booming. If you don't get to the zoo before 9:15 you could be in a traffic jam and not be able to get a parking spot anywhere close to the doors. If you can make it great, if not, maybe next time!

Cheryl Boss – Franklin/Grove Play Day, May 22. Sign up. Shifts: 8-10, 10-11

Roberta Williams – Has some women's shirts from a close out. \$20 each.

Susan Rayhill – Good Samaritan sign up for May 26

- Has no more trauma dolls – recently gave 14 to Macon County Health Dept Dentistry, 32 to Macon County Health Dept Inoculation Dept, 18 to St. Mary's ER, 16 to Teddy Bear Dentistry). Trauma doll workday after June 1.
- Has trauma doll fabric to cut

Donna Dash – Beautify Decatur plant flowers downtown is this next Monday, May 11. Meet at 8:30 in Public Library parking lot (rain date May 12).

- Women's Tennis Tournament in Fairview Park will be June 8, 9, 10, 11. We are driving athletes again between the park & Convention Center from 8-5 each day. There will be 2-hour shifts, sign up soon.

Karen Sivils – 2nd Kiwanis Kite Day is June 15 for MacArthur High School Life Skills Class, 9-11:30, Sinawik Park. Will need help 9-noon.

Grant Bullock – invited us to become a big brother or big sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

- Big Brothers Big Sister having a fundraiser June 2 at St. Teresa High School, 4:30-6:30, drive thru, pick up a chicken dinner (Nelson's).

Jerry Pelz – New Member Orientation after next week's meeting

Tom McQuiston – next Monday, May 11, 1pm, board meeting, Central Christian Church

- Induction of 3 new members next meeting (Wed., May 13). Lt Gov will be here.
- We'll go over an update on our bylaws at the next meeting (May 13) & then vote. It's important that you attend that meeting.

- From **Elisa Lewis, Advisor for Mt Zion Key Club** - they need some help parking cars from 1-4pm, May 30th at the “Block Party” by Crawfords & Bevos in Mt. Zion. Lynda Durnil will send you the “LINK” if you are interested in signing up for the 1-4pm shift.

Key Club Updates:

St. Teresa Key Club: meets 1st Sunday of the month, 6pm, All Purpose Room

Mt. Zion Key Club: their last meeting is May 6 during their activity period at school.

- need some help parking cars May 30, 1-4pm, by Crawfords & Bevos in Mt. Zion. Key Club receives a portion of the profits from this. If interested, Lynda Durnil will send you the “LINK” to volunteer.

Dates to Remember:

5/7/26 Lids Workshop, zoo, 9-noon, early bird sorting – 8:30. Arrive before 9:15 for parking

5/10/26 CareAge House Meal – dinner, 6pm. Cathy Sebok for sign up

5/11/26 Board meeting, Central Christian Church, 1pm

5/11/26 Beautify Decatur, 8:30am Public Library back parking lot, plant flowers

5/13/26 New Member Induction with I-I Dist. Gov. Carol Burwash & Club votes on new Kiwanis

International Bylaws

5/16/26 Adopt A Street – meet at S.E. corner of Oakland & Harrison, 9am, pick up litter on Oakland from Harrison to Pershing Rd. Kyle Anderson for sign up.

5/22/26 Franklin/Grove School Play Day – sign up with Cheryl Boss, need 10 volunteers

5/26/26 Good Samaritan Inn, 11-1, Susan Rayhill sign up, need 6 volunteers

5/30/25 Help park cars, Mt. Zion Key Club fundraiser, at “Block Party”, 1-4pm, by Crawfords & Bevos in Mt. Zion

Birthdays & Anniversaries: Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Joyce Robinson

Anniversaries: Ron Black, Mike Carr

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

Famous Quotes: Bob Hope, “Bigamy is the only crime where two rights make a wrong!”

50-50 Drawing: Pat Durnil did not draw the Queen of Hearts. The \$106 rolls over. Get your tickets!

Up Coming Programs:

5/13/26 Linda Little, CHELP, Dementia Friendly Decatur, New Member Induction,

Lynda Durnil – new updated Kiwanis International Bylaws & vote to accept.

5/20/26 Kathryn Johnson, Community Liaison, East Central Area Agency on Aging.

5/27/26 Wayne Kent, Trips to Ukraine & Poland & Golf Outing Rally by Joel Hawinson & Kyle Anderson

Ongoing Projects

- Collecting Food Coupons for the military - Cheryl Boss
- 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: Jerry Pelz

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>