



# Illinois Elks Association Newsette



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MID-WINTER 2016

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## IEA welcomes Johnson County Lodge 2880

### State’s first new lodge since Oglesby in 1967

Johnson County Elks are well aware of the “Riddle” that was instrumental in the formation of their lodge, Johnson County Lodge 2880.

“It was David Riddle’s dream to form the lodge,” said Kevin MacDonald, one of the lodge’s charter members and current lodge public relations chairman. “He died in January 2015, and his wife Debbie and three other women continued his dream of opening the new lodge here in Johnson County.

“He was leading knight when he died and was a past exalted ruler” of Metropolis Lodge 1428.

Debbie Riddle, joined by Lori McClellan, Cheryl Qualls and Christy Furman, finished what David Riddle had started to bring life to Johnson County Lodge.

Johnson County Lodge 2880 was officially and formally recognized on Nov. 1 in an institutional ceremony held in the Vienna High School gymnasium. IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger led a delegation of Illinois Elks to take part in opening the first new Illinois Elks Lodge since Oglesby 2360 was instituted on Jan. 15, 1967.

Qualls, in chronicling the formation of Johnson County Lodge, credited the inspiration of David Riddle, calling him “the most dedicated Elk that I had or have ever met.”

“No matter who or where a conversation was being had by a group of friends or complete strangers, David had a way of



The “Grand Dames” of Johnson County Lodge 2880 – Lori McClellan, Debbie Riddle, Christy Furman and Cheryl Qualls — prepare to cut the cake to celebrate the lodge institution on Nov. 1. Originally of Metropolis Lodge, the four women combined to fulfill the dream of Riddle’s husband David Riddle (inset) to open Johnson County Lodge. He was the Metropolis leading knight when he died suddenly in January 2015.

somehow working the Elks organization into the conversation,” Qualls said.

David, who served in many capacities at Metropolis Lodge 1428, including esquire, leading knight and exalted ruler, took great pride in being one of the very few who could deliver the 11 O’clock toast in its original “Jolly Corks” format, Qualls said.

“He especially loved doing that at the State Conventions where many ‘new’ Elks were present and had never heard that version,” she said.

David was ER at Metropolis when Qualls’ husband Lyndal Qualls (now South District Vice President) was initiated. Because of David’s commitment, both Lyndal and Debbie, David’s wife,

later became ER’s at Metropolis Lodge. Debbie was ER when Lori McClellan was initiated, and Lyndal was ER when both Christy Furman and Cheryl Qualls were initiated.

“We four — Debbie, Lori, Christy and myself — went on to become the founding members of

Please See 2880, Page 2

## Illinois Elks in fight to fend off membership loss in 2016-17

Two-thirds into 2016-17 the Illinois Elks Association is less than halfway toward meeting its goal of attracting 2,684 new members and reinstatements for the year, a mid-November Grand Lodge report shows.

The IEA stood at 44 percent of reaching that goal with 1,191 members added or reinstated. (Nationally, Lodges were at 57 percent of reaching the national goal of 78,104.)

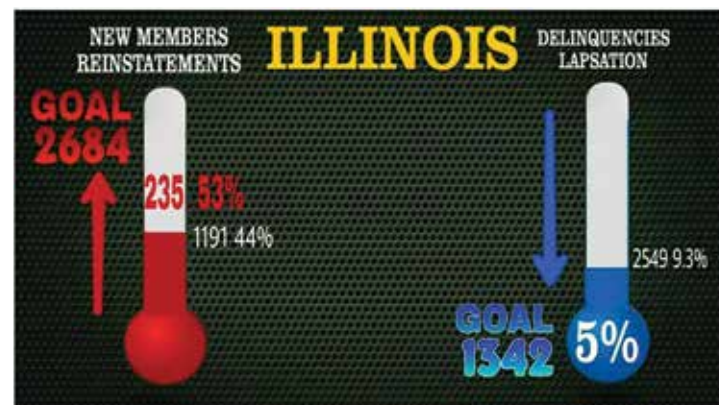
“Please work to initiate the 235 candidates by Dec. 15,” Grand Lodge membership and Public Relations Manager Rick Gathen urged in a Nov.

22 e-mail to the Newsette. Those 235 invitations would bring the IEA to within 53 percent of that 2,684 goal.

The IEA was projected to have a membership of 25,189, down 1,658, or 6.3 percent, from 26,847 at the beginning of 2016-17.

Also as of mid-November, the IEA is showing delinquencies of 2,549, or 9.3 percent of the membership. The Grand Lodge delinquency goal for Illinois is fewer than 1,342, or 5 percent of membership.

Please See FIGHT, Page 2



Compiled from Chicago Lodge Membership System



## STATE



Members are installed after the institution of Johnson County Lodge on Nov. 1 at Vienna High School..

## 2880 from Page 1

the Johnson County Lodge," Qualls said. "Without David's influence, it's likely none of us would have ever become Elks."

Qualls and Riddle were the organizational committee co-chairs; McClellan, its secretary; and Furman, its treasurer.

David had always felt that Johnson County was fertile ground for growing an Elks Lodge.

"When you would look at the map of southern Illinois, there was always that huge area that did not have an Elks Lodge and had never had such," Qualls said. "Metropolis would have members

join from that area but not continue membership due to the long evening drive in deer-infested southern Illinois."

On many occasions, while sitting in David's Metropolis home garage and solving the problems of the world, David, Debbie, Lyndal and Qualls would talk about how an Elks Lodge was needed in Johnson County.

"Such was the dream," Qualls said.

When David died in January 2015, the dream of an Elks Lodge in Johnson County was laid to rest with its original planner. Months passed and Debbie decided to sell her home in Metropolis and move to Vienna in Johnson County.

"Shortly after that move, while on our way to the Springfield state convention in September 2015, Debbie and I made the decision to rekindle David's extinguished flame and attend the Saturday meeting on new lodges, just to see what they had to tell us.

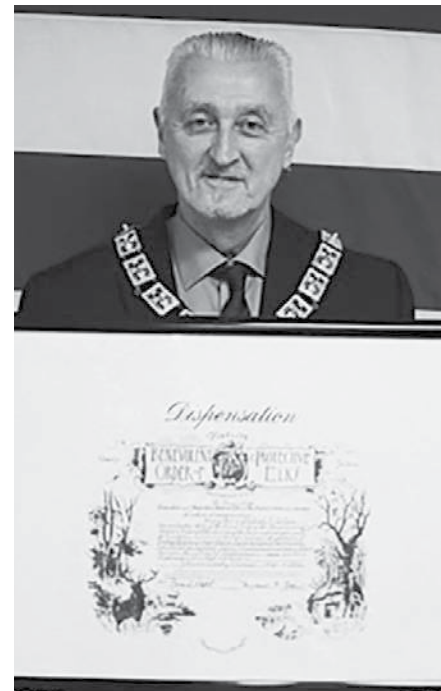
"The rest is history," Qualls said.

IEA New Lodge Chairman Bob Rolewicz, in his committee report at the IEA meeting in September, welcomed the institution of Johnson County Lodge, saying, "Good luck to the new lodge and its dedicated members, and may they be blessed in all their endeavors in furthering the goals of Elkdom."



## Johnson County Elks raise profile in festival parade

Johnson County Elks were conspicuous by their presence in the county's fall festival and parade in October. "We combined forces with 'This Able Veteran' to show the community what we do as Elks," said Kevin MacDonald, who holds the banner. He also is the newly-elected leading knight of Johnson County Lodge and veterans outreach coordinator for the This Able Veteran program. Veteran Sam Hoekstra, right, is a 2016 recipient of his service dog "Memphis."



Norman Suits, the first exalted ruler of Johnson County Lodge, holds the Grand Lodge charter, making the Johnson County Elks as one of the nearly 1,900 Elks lodges nationwide.

## Fight from Page 1

"We highly recommend you schedule District telethons with 2,549 delinquent members," Gathen urged. "Let's request lodges get on the phone, knock on doors, send out past due letters – whatever it takes to get these members to pay their dues."

He added that 14 Illinois lodges are trending toward "alarming" membership losses. Those lodges and their projected losses are: Des Plaines (-151); Mount Vernon (-142); Pontiac (-93); Effingham (-78); Harrisburg (-73); McLeansboro (-66); Quincy (-64); Flora (-64); Centralia (-64); Dixon

(-57); Macomb (-42); Princeton (-41); Carmi (-40); and Ottawa (-32).

"Please work with (these lodges) to turn this around," Gathen encouraged. "An immediate DDGER Membership Committee Review is recommended for (them)."

Meanwhile, nine lodges are projected to post membership gains for the year. Those lodges and their projected gains are:

Beardstown (+17); Rock Island (+12); West Frankfort (+10); Galesburg (+10); Jacksonville (+8); Mendota (+8); Canton (+6); Freeport (+4); and Cairo (+4).

"Thank you for your continued hard work and all that you are doing to grow membership," Gathen said.

Districtwide figures show the Northwest the closest to meeting the delinquency goal of 5 percent or fewer delinquent members as of mid-November. It is at 5.2 percent, followed by West Central at 6.8 percent; West, 8.7 percent; East, 9.8 percent; East Central, 10.8 percent; South, 11.2 percent; North, 12.2 percent; and South Central, 12.8 percent.

Districts closest to reaching 100 percent of their membership goals, ranked from best to worst, are: South, 55.5 percent; West Central, 54.4 percent; West, 52.8 percent; North, 42.2 percent; East, 40.9 percent; East Central, 39.9 percent; Northwest, 35.5 percent; and South Central, 34.7 percent.

"Let's kick the door down and grow membership in Illinois," Gathen added.

**"Let's kick the door down and grow membership in Illinois."**

**Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership and Public Relations Manager**



## Showcase your lodge's civic activities in the Illinois Elks Newsette!

Send your articles and photos, and show every Illinois Elk what you're proud of in your Lodge. **E-mail them** to Newsette Editor Joe Baker at [deejayeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:deejayeditor@yahoo.com). **Or mail them**, if you must, to Joe Baker, 59 S. Hale Street, Unit 301, Palatine, IL 60067-6267

**Submission deadlines** – March 22, 2017, for spring; June 15, 2017, for summer; July 20, 2017 for fall; and Nov. 21, 2017, for Mid-Winter

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## STATE

# Initiation of 50+ Johnson County Elks was a sight to see!

The BPOE and the Illinois Elks have a new Lodge!

On Nov. 1, I traveled, along with our State Sponsor, State Officers, and many others throughout the state, to Vienna to witness the institution of a new Lodge, the initiation of its charter members, and the installation of the first Officers. We can now proudly welcome Johnson County Elks Lodge 2880 into our Order and the IEA.

The addition of Johnson County marks the first time in nearly 50 years that the IEA has added a new lodge – Oglesby 2360, which was instituted on Jan. 15, 1967.

The institution of Johnson County Lodge was performed

by past district deputies of the South District. It was the first time that I, and many others, have observed this special Ritual, and it was impressive, but even more so was the Ritual of Initiation, which was conducted by officers of Harrisburg Lodge.

Now, I am a card-carrying Ritual judge, coach and past state Ritual chairman, so I have seen plenty of Initiatory Rituals, but none like this. This was the first time I have seen 50+ charter members escorted around the Lodge floor to take the Obligation in unison. In fact, there was even a service dog, and I'm still trying to find out if he received his membership card!

## IEA president

Ray Summers



Now, there are four special ladies that deserve our vast gratitude because without them none of this would have happened. They established the idea of a new lodge in our South District, held informational meetings, garnered interest within the community, found candidates for membership, and saw it through to the institution of the lodge. When you see these ladies, give them your

thanks. Well done, ladies!

The Organizational Committee of Johnson County Lodge 2880 is made up of Debbie Riddle, co-chair; Cheryl Qualls, co-chair; Lori McClellan, secretary; and Christy Furman, treasurer.

We also want to thank District Deputy Dennis Bierman for all the leg work with Grand Lodge to secure their charter.

Lodges, remember to claim your \$1,500 IEA grant for making Past State President Dennis Gerleman's goal of \$5.50 per member donation to the Elks National Foundation. You must claim the grant by Dec. 31. If you made the goal, send state Secretary Marvin Leathers an e-mail or letter. Don't leave

the money on the table! This past year we had 64 Lodges out of 70 make the president's goal. Let's try for 100 percent this year; and, remember, there are 71 Lodges now.

During the IEA meeting in January, we will host Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen and his wife Donna. Although the weather will be cold, I know the Elks of Illinois will show them a warm welcome.

Finally, be mindful of your initiation and the obligation that you assumed. If you follow that commitment and the instructions you were given, then you will be successful as an Elk!

## Cash prizes at stake in team Ritual competition

Cash prizes will be at stake during the IEA Ritual team competition at the January State meeting.

"Remember, our state president's financial program that will pay \$500 to any team representing one of the eight districts at state," IEA Ritual Chairman Roger Quinn said. "Please contact your district chairman or me if any Lodge wants more information or help."

Quinn may be reached at Rqlq12@yahoo.com or at 217-684-2008.



The IEA Ritualistic Committee held its annual individual chairs competition at the IEA Fall Meeting in September. The winners, receiving congratulations from IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, from left, are: Joliet 296 Chaplain Lori Bump, Mt. Vernon 819 Lecturing Knight Larry George



and Mt. Vernon 819 Loyal Knight Dave Edwards. The other winners, not pictured, were Champaign-Urbana 2497 Esquire Adam Malone and C-U Leading Knight Ole Ohlsson. Announcing the awards was IEA Ritual Chairman Roger Quinn. Judging the event were Jamey Hodges of



Fairfield 1631, Past State President Kirk Wallace of Fairfield 1631, John Baylor of Flora 1659 and Neil Armstrong of Macomb 1009. "I want to commend everyone who competed," Quinn said. "Thank you for your commitment to our tradition and your effort as we revive ritual in Illinois."

The Eleven O'Clock Toast competition — near and dear to many Elks members, Quinn said — will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday. This contest is open to any

current or past exalted ruler with the exception of anyone who has previously won this award.

"Come and compete against your fellow Elks members for this

meaningful award," Quinn said.

Also on Saturday, the IEA Ritualistic Committee will recertify Ritual judges and offer first testing for anyone interested

in being a Ritual judge.

"Let's Revive Ritual in Illinois!" Quinn implored, echoing a major thrust of IEA President Ray Summers.

## VP's, make sure your lodges get their ENF awards

It is very important for lodges that have not sent me their request for the state president's goal award from last year to do so! You know who you are. Do not let this award go away. You have until Dec.

31 to e-mail me at [elkelk1903@gmail.com](mailto:elkelk1903@gmail.com).

When the vice presidents of the districts read this, take the time to get with your lodges and make sure they have done this. As a back up, I will e-mail each district vice president a list of the lodges that need to contact me!

It's just about time for the January Elks state meeting! It will be our honor to have our Grand Exalted

Ruler Michael F. Zellen and his wonderful lady Donna to be in attendance.

That weekend, Illinois Elks can showcase all that we do for Elkdom! And the Illinois Elks are always on top, demonstrating that we have a great state association!

It is that time to start working on the state directory for next year. Time sure

flies! I will pass out the information sheets for the directory to the secretaries who will be in attendance.

For secretaries not attending the meeting, I will mail the information sheet to the lodge. I need these forms back by March 15.

Also, I will need the help of the district senior trustees to fill out district forms for me and return to me, also by March 15.

Working together, we always get the job done.

What a great time at the institution of our newest Illinois Elks lodge, Johnson County 2880! More than 50 new members were brought into the Order of Elks. Way to go, South District. Now we should start working on starting another new Elks lodge in Illinois.

Let's have a membership gain in Illinois this year. Work on getting new members and keeping all the ones we already have!

Remember, Illinois Elks do lead the way!

## IEA secretary

Marvin Leathers



## Newsette can be e-mailed

IEA Webmaster Craig Smith is working on reviving its online capability enabling Newsette readers to opt out of receiving a mailed copy of the quarterly publication in favor of reading it online.

The objective is to save the mailing and printing costs by having Illinois Elks sign up to receive the Newsette from the Illinois-Elks.org website. Those who opt out of receiving the mailed Newsette will get an e-mail alert when the latest Newsette has been posted to the website.

The opt-out capability, which has been dormant since the makeover of the website two years ago, was discussed at the IEA Publication Corporation meeting in September.

Also at that meeting, Treasurer Vicki Williams said the corporation was on budget after publishing two of the four Newsettes scheduled for 2016-17.

Fully \$21,203 of the 45,465 budget for 2016-17 had been spent, compared to \$20,649 after two publications in 2015-16, Williams said.

She added that the recent corporation audit revealed no issues or discrepancies, and the tax return and annual Illinois Charitable Bureau filings had been sent.

## STATE

## Qualifying lodges: Don't forget to request your per-member award!

Well, the clock is ticking on the Elks National Foundation goal award. If your lodge qualified by raising at least \$5.50 per member, make sure your lodge sends in a request for the \$1,500 grant. The deadline is Dec. 31 so double check as the grant expires on that date.

Another award coming up is the IEA Lady of the Year. Your lodge needs to submit a candidate to your district by Dec. 1, and Dec. 15 from the district to the state.

I know every lodge has a lady who would be very deserving

### IEA treasurer

George Hornung



of this award so don't let the deadlines go by without some effort to give that individual the recognition she deserves. Make sure that this nice honor doesn't go unnoticed.

To all exalted rulers, time passes quickly as you're in the eighth month of your tenure! Make

sure your goals are in place to implement your lodge programs.

One event that draws great participation is just around the corner. The Hoop Shoot will be here before you know it! Local and district Shoots should already be scheduled ahead of the state Shoot in February.

Hoop Shoot is a wonderful project, in which to get your youth involved. It offers them a chance of a lifetime to meet, compete and just have a great time with other youth. It also allows us as Elks to be more involved in our local

schools. The PR works quite well.

As always the Drug Awareness Program continues to educate our youth on the hazards and effects of drug use. IEA Drug Awareness Director Frank Burr has gone to great lengths to put out and promote material explaining this major problem that today's young people face.

Lastly, Kristi and I wish each and every one a joyous and prosperous year. We hope that Elkdom lends itself to be part of your life to help others in your community.

## Easter Bunny visits scheduled in April

Illinois Elks are reminded that Easter will be April 16 for visiting retirement centers as part of the IEA Easter Bunny program.

The occasion "gives you a chance to interact with the community and your members," IEA program Chairman Jim Cusack said in his September report. "Each lodge should have a budget line item and an Easter Bunny chairman."

Lodges are asked to report on their visits through their district chairs as soon as their programs are completed.



## Illinois Elks Association

# MID-WINTER CONVENTION

*Welcoming and honoring Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen and First Lady Donna*

**Jan. 26-29, 2016 ■ Wyndham Springfield Hotel**

### Thursday, Jan. 26

10:30 AM-5 PM Convention Office -- Plaza 4  
1-4 PM Executive Committee -- ConCtr 3

### Friday, Jan. 27

7 AM-5 PM Convention Office -- Plaza 4  
8-10 AM Executive Committee -- ConCtr 3  
11 AM-Noon Convention Committee -- Rendezvous  
Noon-7 PM Convention Registration -- Mezzanine, Registration Desk  
12:30-4 PM Advisory Committee -- Rendezvous  
1-10:00 PM Ritual Contest Practice -- Embassy  
7-9 PM Past State President Dinner -- Rendezvous

### Saturday, Jan. 28

6:30 AM-6 PM Convention Office -- Plaza 4  
7 AM-Noon Convention Registration -- Mezzanine, Registration Desk  
7 AM-Noon Ritual Contest -- Embassy  
7:30-9 AM Board of Directors Meeting & Training with Continental Breakfast -- Plaza 3  
8-10 AM District Deputies & Esquires with Continental Breakfast -- ConCtr 2  
8 AM-Noon Leading Knights Training -- Rendezvous  
9-10:30 AM Exalted Rulers Meet with Executive Committee -- Ambassador  
9-10:30 AM Secretaries Association -- Plaza 3  
10-11 AM Athletic Commission -- ConCtr 2  
10-11 AM Easter Bunny Committee -- ConCtr 3  
10-11 AM Elks National Foundation -- Plaza 1  
10-11 AM New Lodge -- ConCtr 1  
10-11:30 AM Lodge Trustees Training/Accident Prevention/Insurance -- Capitol  
10:30 AM-Noon Lodge Treasurers -- Plaza 3

10:30 AM-Noon Membership/Lapsation/Lodge Activities/Orientation -- Ambassador  
10:30 AM-11:30 PM Americanism -- ConCtr 4  
11 AM-Noon National Veterans Service -- Plaza 1  
11 AM-Noon Scholarship -- ConCtr 2  
Noon-1:30 PM Lady of the Year Luncheon -- Illinois  
Entrée: ½ Ham and Cheddar Sandwich  
With a cup of Tomato Basil Soup  
Dessert: Vanilla Mouse  
Cost: Pre-Registration \$16/On site \$18

1-2 PM Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shoot Program -- Plaza 1  
1-2 PM Youth Activities & Antlers -- ConCtr 4  
1-3 PM Children's Care Corporation -- Plaza 3  
1:30-4 PM PGER Meets with Lodges and Individuals -- ConCtr 3  
2-3 PM Bowling Association -- ConCtr 4  
2-4 PM Website Monitoring/Publication Corp/Public -- ConCtr 2  
2-4 PM Drug Awareness Program -- ConCtr 4  
5-6 PM Illinois Elks Association Reception -- Capitol/Illinois/Prairie  
6-9:30 PM Illinois Elks Association Dinner -- Capitol/Illinois/Prairie

Salad: Iceberg Chop Salad Choice of Dressing  
Entrée: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Mashed Potatoes with Garden Vegetables  
Dessert: Chocolate Mouse with Oreo Crumb  
Cost: Pre-registration \$28/Onsite \$30  
Dress: Dark Business Suit

### Sunday, Jan. 29

6:30-11 AM Convention Office -- Plaza 4  
7:30-8 AM Room Reservations for May Convention -- Capitol/Illinois

8-10:30 AM General Business Session -- Capitol/Illinois

**All Elks, Male & Female, Must Register** for convention functions. Pre-Registration \$10/On-site \$20

### Pre-Registration deadline is Jan. 11, 2017

By pre-registering for the convention, volunteer luncheon and banquet, you will give the Credentials Committee time to make sure your credentials will be waiting for you at the check-in desk and will also assist the Convention Committee in working with the Hilton in planning the workshops, breakfast and banquet.

### Room Cancellation cut off will be Dec. 26, 2016

All mailings must be postmarked prior to the above date to avoid additional late charges. Rooms cancelled after the above date will forfeit their deposit. Cancellation policy is 30 days out.

**Hospitality room assignments** will be determined by the Pre-registration numbers per district excluding the state president's district. The remaining District Hospitality Rooms will be assigned following the close of Pre-Registration.

**Members are encouraged** to attend the Banquet in Honor of Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen and First Lady Donna on Saturday, Jan. 28.

**DJ will play** on Friday night in the Pinnacle Room.

**All Hospitality Rooms shall be CLOSED** 6-until 9 PM on Saturday, Jan. 28..



**HOST LODGE:  
SPRINGFIELD  
#158**

## Registration badges necessary to attend all functions;

All Elks, male and female, must register for convention functions



# Jan. 11 deadline to sign up for IEA fall convention

Illinois Elks and guests attending the Illinois Elks Association Mid-Winter meeting, scheduled Jan. 26-28 at the Wyndham Springfield Hotel, are encouraged to pre-register. Pre-registration deadline is Jan. 11.

Attendees should fill out the form at right and mail it with a check or money order to Scott Flota, Chairman, Credentials, P.O. Box 1484, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

To assist in record-keeping, lodge secretaries are asked to copy the form for each registration instead of putting them all on a single form.

The pre-registration fee is \$10

and \$20 after Jan. 11. Checks should be made payable to the Illinois Elks Association.

The charge for the Saturday evening dinner is \$28 with pre-registration and \$30 on-site. The Lady Elk of the Year luncheon is \$16 with pre-registration and \$18 on-site.

Room cancelation cut off is Dec. 26 — 30 days ahead of the convention start.

All mailings must be postmarked by the posted dates to avoid additional late charges. Room canceled after Dec. 26 will forfeit their deposit.

# ‘Hello Bill’ Pittman announces run for third vice president

William Pittman, a 26-year member of Quincy Lodge 100, has announced his candidacy for third vice president of the Illinois Elks Association.

“Throughout our Elk years, (wife) Brenda and I have been given the opportunity to meet many good Elk friends and share in the joy of helping those in need within this great organization,” Pittman said. “We are now asking our fellow Elks members to cast their vote for me in May for the office of IEA third vice president and allow me to keep delivering the message of Elkdom.

“Please give out the cheerful salutation of ‘Hello Bill’ which once helped in ‘Delivering the Message’ around the world.”

Pittman also is a past district deputy, who currently serves as chairman of his lodge’s board of directors. He also is a Veterans

Administration Voluntary Service representative of Grand Lodge serving at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy.

“My involvement with the veterans gives me great pride and joy in serving these great men and women,” he said, adding that Brenda, with whom he has been married for 20 years, is a 19-year Elks member, who has served as Quincy Lodge secretary for eight years, including 2012-13, in which she was named IEA Secretary of the Year.

The Pittmans have three children and four grandchildren.

Pittman retired from the United States Postal Service after 35 years.

“I now serve full time in ‘delivering the message’ of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the good deeds of Elkdom,” he said.



BILL PITTMAN

# ‘Hello Bill’ a throwback to 1897 ‘Re-Union’

Bill Pittman’s invocation of “Hello Bill!” in his campaign for IEA 2017-18 third vice president is a tip of the hat to William Goddard of Minneapolis (Minn.) Lodge 44.

This cheerful salutation originated during the Elks’ National “Re-Union” in Minneapolis in 1897, according to Elks historian Mike Kelly.

Goddard, a junior partner of the Minneapolis firm of Barnaby & Co., had been a long-time treasurer of Lodge 44, chairman of the Finance Committee, and a member of many other committees that arranged the Elks’ Re-Union of that year, and he spent a great deal of his time at the Committee headquarters.

When visiting Elks came to the headquarters to

make inquiries, they were usually told to “Go over there and ask Billy Goddard.” The constant strain of “Billy can tell you,” “See Billy, he knows,” etc., etc. was so incessant that the visiting Elks, when they approached Brother Goddard, greeted him with “Hello Bill! I was told to see you,” etc., so the custom of greeting each other “Hello Bill!” was started.

Within days, the custom spread to the streets, with Elks from all parts of the country. Passing each other they sang out cheerfully, “Hello Bill!” and they carried the greeting back to their home lodges, and so it has continued to spread through 2016 and counting.

– This recollection of “Hello Bill!” is posted at Elks.org.

Pre-registration deadline  
**JAN. 11, 2017**

Scott Flota, Chairman  
Credentials Committee  
P.O. Box 1484  
Mt.Vernon, IL 62864  
scottflota@gmail.com  
Phone: (618) 316-0219 (text)

Pre-registration deadline  
**JAN.11, 2017**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION**

**Illinois Elks Annual Meeting  
Registration Form  
Mid-Winter Meeting January 27-29,2017  
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel**

Please make a reservation for the following: **(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

**Pre – registration - \$10.00    After January 11,---\$20.00**

ELK#1 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Elk Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

ELK#2 (Only if spouse of Elk #1) \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. \_\_\_\_\_

Title ELK#1 \_\_\_\_\_

**(To be typed on Convention Badge)**

Title ELK#2 \_\_\_\_\_

**(To be typed on Convention Badge)**

Registration Fee @ \$10.00 ALL ELKS (Male and Female) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If both male and female are members

Both pay fee (no exceptions)

Lady Of the year Luncheon @ \$16.00/\$18.00\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Honoring GER Michael F. Zellen @ \$28.00/\$30.00\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Cost of meal if check received post marked after January 11,2017  
or purchased on-site

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# IEA Hoop Shoot set Feb. 25

The 2016-17 IEA Hoop Shoot is scheduled Feb. 25 at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Decatur.

The Shoot headquarters, where the competitors and officials will stay both Friday and Saturday nights, will be at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel, where it has taken place in recent years.

The room rate is \$84 per night, and all contestants pay their own way, IEA Hoop Shoot Chairman

Jim Swisher said.

Swisher said the Hoop Shoot committee is following the same format it has used for the past six years.

“If anyone would like to see a change in anything at the Shoot, games, food and banquet, please feel free to write to me” at swishiv@consolidated.net, “as long as it’s for the kids and parents.”

## STATE

## Ladies treated to wine pairing at IEA meeting

Ladies enjoy the Wine Pairing program at the IEA meeting in September.



Illinois Elks First Lady Leta Summers, right, and Kirk and Jeri Kirkland presented a wine pairing program served with different types of food. LEFT PHOTO: Illinois State Sponsor Lou Sulsberger visits the ladies wine pairing to thank all the ladies for doing a wonderful job. He is accompanied by First Lady Leta Summers.

## Drug Awareness program partners with feds to expand reach in state

The IEA Drug Awareness program is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Agency to expand its reach in Illinois.

IEA Drug Awareness Chairman Frank Burr, in his September report, said he had met with DEA regional, state and group agents earlier that month for the first time.

"They were really surprised at everything the Elks are doing in Drug Awareness and that we want to partner with them."

In October, the Illinois DEA was to hand out more than 40,000 pieces of Elks Drug Awareness material, 4,000 pieces of material about other Elks programs and more than 6,000 of the Elks Drug Awareness Red Ribbons.

Speaking of Red Ribbons, Burr said, he handed out 100 red ribbons to each lodge while at the September meeting.

"Please use these red ribbons in a community event," he said. "Just do not hand them out at a lodge meeting or your bar. Again, it is time we as Elks take a more active role in protecting our children and our communities."

Also in his September report, Burr had a suggestion for what can be done to address the more than 1,500 drug overdose deaths in Illinois in 2013 and the 1,700 in 2014.

"Reach out to your police and community leaders and hold town hall meetings on the subject," Burr said in his report. "Get involved in the Drug Take Back Program and educate your members, community and anyone you can think of."

Burr said the Drug Take Back Program in April generated 49,000

lbs of unwanted prescription drugs.

He cautioned, though, that when law enforcement removes drugs from the street or a drug dealer, a void is created.

"If that void is not filled with something positive, it will be filled again by the drugs and dealers," Burr said. "Elks may not have all the answers but we have some of the answers to fill that void with positive events and activities, like Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Drug Quiz Program, Antlers program and Drug Awareness events, to name a few."

*"Reach out to your police and community leaders and hold town hall meetings" to help curb drug overdose deaths.*

— Frank Burr

## Lodge deadline slated Jan. 1 to judge ENF scholarship apps

Applications for Elks National Foundation scholarships, which were due to be filed online by Nov. 30, face a Jan. 1 deadline for judging by lodges before they are forwarded to the district level using the dashboard system at <http://www.elks.org/scholars/>.

District judging is to be completed by Jan. 15, also using that online filing system.

State judging dates were still being decided as of the IEA meeting in September, IEA scholarship chair Gail Sessler said, but will be held at Mendota Lodge 1212, probably sometime in February.

No information was immediately available on how many Illinois applications will move on for national judging.

Also at the September meeting, Sessler said:

- Most issues from last year will not apply since the application will all be completed online.
- ENF will use e-mail for all communications.
- ENF will send out a username and password to access the applications at each level.
- All local scholarship chairs need to verify their e-mail addresses with their lodge secretaries in order to receive the necessary information from ENF.
- The IEA Scholarship Committee reviewed the ENF's new process for filing scholarship applications online. Hard copies of the applications may be printed for judging purposes.
- The board reviewed the new changes and scoring system for the 2017 Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest. The changes are spelled out at the aforementioned link at [Elks.org](http://Elks.org).
- Additional instructions will be mailed by ENF as they become available.

## Hey, Corkie! Look this way!

Officials of the This Able Veteran organization were on hand for the dinner highlighting the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield in September to thank the IEA for its \$25,000 donation late last year. The organization trains service dogs for veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental problems resulting from their military service. From left are: Julie Hoskins, event coordinator for This Able Veteran; trainer Tally Fralish; service dog Corkie (named in



remembrance of the Elks' forerunner organization, the Jolly Corks); IEA Past President Dennis Gerleman, holding the plaque honoring the IEA; and This Able Veteran President Pam Largent. "You gave a veteran a new chance for a new life," Largent said in thanking the IEA. IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger (not pictured) replied, "That's what it's all about: We're helping our veterans."



## Welcome, Wisconsin visitors



Rae Marie Jurmu, Wisconsin Elks President-Elect George Myers and First Lady-Elect Muriel Myers, Illinois Elks First Lady Leta Summers and Illinois Elks President Ray Summers, at the IEA meeting in September.

## IEA Golf tournament sites announced through 2022

Sites for the IEA golf tournament through 2022 have been announced. They are: Peoria, 2017; Springfield, 2018; Mt. Vernon, 2019; Lincoln, 2020; Pontiac, 2021; and Kewanee, 2022.

IEA Athletic Commission Chairman John Bailey announced the sites in his September report.

Kankakee had been undecided on whether to host the 2018 event, but Kankakee Elk Jerry Shapiro confirmed that his lodge would not.

At the May meeting, the commission voted that if Kankakee

dropped out, Springfield would move into that spot.

"After much conversation, Kewanee will take the open 2022 year," Bailey said.

*Participation packets for the 2017 Elks tournament will be handed out at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting*

For the 2017 tournament in Peoria, Gary Nash and Gary Gladson updated the commission on plans for the event. Packets will be handed out to lodges at the January meeting, they said.

For the junior tournament in Pontiac in 2017, the suggestion was made to move the event to late July. Bailey said he would ask past commission chairman Bob Eckoff if the change would be possible.

# Joline Haerle breathing life into IEA Antlers program

IEA Antlers State Chair Joline Haerle is a leader by example of how to breathe life into a lodge Antlers program.

The long list of projects that Canton Antlers has undertaken in recent months reflects the effort she has made on behalf of her home lodge and the IEA.

In her September report, Haerle said, Canton Antlers have done several Honor Flight projects, including witnessing the return flight in June, and hand-sewing 75 poppy pins for the September flight.

They raised \$1,671 for the Fulton County Relay for Life; a few of the older kids have helped with the Elks' Adopt a Mile cleanup program; set up a table at the second Duney's Defense Drug Overdose Awareness Walk; handed out 46 bags containing Drug Awareness coloring books, book marks, pencils and crayons; and also raised \$31 in donations by face painting, and added \$69 for an even \$100 donation to the cause.

Canton Antlers also: ran a blanket and towel drive for the Spoon River Animal Clinic; helped serve dinner to the district deputies at the DD visit; set up a Drug Awareness table at the Soccer Shoot; made a float for the Friendship Festival Parade; and handed out Drug Awareness coloring books, book marks and candy.

Canton Antlers also held its second annual pool party at Big Creek pool and invited all Antlers and Elks families.

"It was our way of thanking the lodge for all the support they have given us throughout the year," Haerle said.

She also recognized the Mt. Vernon Antlers for using the Drug Awareness trailer at local events, and planning fundraisers for local programs.

In addition, Haerle noted that the Metropolis Antlers program has been disbanded after 3 1/2 years, in which it had staged ice cream socials at retirement homes, donated to charities and gave out Easter baskets to women and children at the local battered women's shelter.

Haerle said South District Antlers Chair Patricia

## Greater participation urged in Student of Month Program

IEA Youth Activities Chair Debbie Rinard is hopeful that at least three lodges in each of the IEA's eight districts will participate in the Grand Lodge teen of the month/year program.

Program instructions were handed out to the district Youth Activities chairs who attended the Youth Activities Committee meeting in Springfield in September.

Program material is also posted at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm>, including "fillable" certificates for lodges to type in recipients' names to create a more professionally looking product to give to winning students.

This Elk year, 2016-17, marks the third year that the Grand Lodge Activities Committee has been relying solely on the Elks.Org website as the source of all the material needed to implement the Grand Lodge Youth Recognition Program.

Also posted at that link is the "Recognize America's Outstanding Youth" pamphlet, which contains an important message from Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen on the value and direction of Elks youth programs.

To make a lodge Youth Recognition Program more meaningful to the student recipients, Rinard suggested that lodges host a banquet at the end of the school year to honor not only the Recognition Program youths, but also other youths who distinguish themselves — scholarship recipients, Girl and Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Hoop Shoot winners, Americanism essay contest winners and others.

Henry has expressed interest in setting up an Antlers program at Carbondale Lodge. Henry is relocating to Carbondale and transferring from Canton Lodge.

"I would like to see more Antlers programs start up in the future," Haerle said. "I truly would like to report on other lodges, and not just mine."

## West District takes on piracy theme at IEA fall meeting



The pirates of West District found land at the IEA meeting in September. Guarding the ship is Past State President Ralph Bradshaw and first mate Chris Schmidt.



Past State President Dennis Gerleman has his shipmates — Art Jorganson and Past First Lady Jeanette Gerleman — shipshape.



## STATE

## How to apply for grants to ENF is meeting topic

Illinois Elks who coordinate lodge grant applications to the Elks National Foundation have been advised that if they have questions about the applications process to get their questions ready.

People from the Elks National Headquarters in Chicago will be in attendance at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting to address any questions they may have.

"If they have any questions about the grants, they can ask the Grand Lodge grant personnel that will be coming down," IEA ENF chairman Jason Martin said in his September meeting report.

Also at the ENF committee meeting, Martin noted that Jeremy Cook had resigned as IEA National Foundation vice chairman and that Kristi Hornung of Fairfield Lodge 1631 was named to replace him.

Martin also announced that plaques will be handed out at the May meeting to the lodges with both the highest per member and total contributions to ENF in three divisions, up to 500 members, 501-900 and 901-1,300.

## March deadline looms for IEA essay contest

Lodge have enough lead time to ensure a good turnout for the 2016-17 IEA Americanism essay contest.

Students have until March 1 to submit essays to their respective lodge before the lodge submissions are due to district Americanism chairs by March 15. Winning essays will be selected by April 15 and announced to winning lodges by April 20.

Lodges also have time to get the essay packet material to schools, IEA Americanism chair Lisa Grygiel said in her September report. Grygiel may be contacted for information at lisacg1999@yahoo.com.

The essay theme is "Your American Hero." Prizes in both the fifth-sixth and seventh-eighth grade divisions will be awarded, \$500, \$300 and \$150 for first, second and third, respectively.

## Veterans representatives needed at Hines Hospital

Illinois Elks currently are serving all 11 Veterans Administration hospitals in Illinois and the state's six United Service Organization unit, but a representative is needed at the Hines VA Hospital near Chicago.

"If you would like to volunteer, please see me," IEA veterans chairman Bob Kane said in his September report. "Help us to share with these veterans how much the Elks care."

James L. Rooney of Brookfield Lodge 1510 had been the Hines rep until he died in December 2015.

## LOCAL LODGE



## Centralia Elks take to sky at annual balloon festival

Centralia Lodge 493 took to the sky in August to promote itself and the 26th Centralia Balloon Festival. Centralia Elks, a major sponsor of the event, flew a balloon high over the venue and city. "We proudly sponsor the Awards Brunch every year, and the pilots love it!" lodge spokesperson Barb Kyker said. Supporting the community, and pitching in help, front from left, are Centralia Elks Tom Walsh, Jason Hoerchler, Dan Laquet of the Balloon Fest and Rich Wilkinson. In back are: Patty Williams of the Balloon Fest and lodge members Dick Travis, Blake Freels, Joe Ray, Bill Luebben, Tony Korzenewski, Gene Howe and Stan Hayes.

## Centralia Elks help spread anti-drug message

The IEA Drug Awareness trailer was at the Centralia VFW earlier this year for a Don't Drive Distracted event, during which



200 coloring books, erasers, pencils and pamphlets were handed out. Attendees included Officers Gary Denton and Billy White, lodge Drug Awareness Chairman Tony Cob Korzenewski, Robin and Al Caderette, Tracy Rutledge, Steve Talbert, Lowe Jefferson, Brandon Gibson, Tim Hill, Patty Graham, Mimi Hawkins, Kevin Jackson, Kenneth Hawkins, Jim and Connie Murphy, A.C. Corzine, Jena and Butch Jolifg, Steve Tolbert and Kevin Jackson (in wheelchair). Jackson, who was left disabled after being hit by a drunken driver, drew attention to Centralia Elks' effort on behalf of "all accident deaths we have had (because of) distracted driving," Korzenewski said.



## Chicago South Elks thank Crestwood first responders

Crestwood police, fire and village personnel display the thank you cards they received from local school children for the effort they make on behalf of the village and public safety. The occasion was a Patriot Day luncheon in September sponsored by Chicago South Lodge 1596.

## Des Plaines Elks celebrate 90th year with dinner

Des Plaines Lodge 1526 celebrated its 90th anniversary with a dinner at the lodge earlier this year, in which nearly 130 people attended. "Probably one of the best dinner serving we have ever had, thanks to Al Helton's great entertainment," lodge spokesman Aug Schwiesow said "I think a good time was had by all."







Keia Horton of Bartlett proudly displays the keys to her “new” 2007 Honda Civic, flanked (from left) by Volunteers of America development coordinator Bridget Hickey, Chicago Northshore Lodge members Mike Reilly and Paul Ronzani, and VOA services coordinator Dazerie Woods, along with Horton’s daughters Satara and Kayliani.

## Chicago Northshore Elks surprise struggling single mom with car

A single mother and Navy veteran living in Bartlett has learned first-hand that the motto of Chicago Northshore Elks Lodge No. 1316 – “*Elks Care – Elks Share*” – is not simply empty words. Keia Horton, with her two daughters, Satara and Kayliani, were surprised by a gift of a 2007 Honda Civic, compliments of the Chicago Northshore Elks.

An estimated 20 Elks members and guests gathered Wednesday (Oct. 5) for the presentation at the lodge’s home at the Skokie VFW, 7401 Lincoln Ave.

No longer will Keia have to walk upward of 10 miles a day to her job as a nurse at Clare Oaks Assisi Health Care Center in Bartlett, not including walking to the grocery store and her girls to school.

“I just want to thank you all again so much,” Horton told the attendees. “It means no more walking to work. I had to be at work at 6 a.m. so I would have to leave at 5:15 a.m. to make sure I

got there on time.” Horton had been making the walk since April, when she landed her nursing job. She had moved to Bartlett in December from Rhode Island, where she had been “in a domestic violence situation that I got out of with my girls,” she said.

Home life then was a stark contrast to the four years she spent stationed in Norfolk, Va., aboard the USS Harry S Truman as a Navy enlistee.

“I loved every minute of it,” Horton beamed. “If I could change it I wouldn’t. I got to travel. I went in right after 9/11. My dad also served. I made him very, very proud, and he’s a happy dad.”

Horton’s pride as a Navy veteran is a fitting tribute to the wishes of Sandra Nathan of Evanston, who donated the Honda Civic with 38,000 miles that now belongs to Horton. Nathan had been battling cancer before her untimely death.

Nathan also was daddy’s girl. Leonard Nathan had been a Marine sergeant in World War II.

“Sandra Nathan was so inspired by her dad that her dying wish was to donate her car to a needy veteran,” Chicago Northshore Lodge Secretary Paul Ronzani told the gathering.

After Nathan died, her sister Renee Friedman of Buffalo Grove and her husband Stewart Friedman, started working on fulfilling

*“Getting the car donated was only half the deal. Finding someone to donate it to was a bigger deal.”*  
–Chicago Northshore Trustee Mike Riley

# Jeff Rodier

## Candidate 3rd Vice President Illinois Elks Association



- IEA State Chaplain (2012-13)
- IEA Credentials Committee (2013-16)
- IEA Trustee Committee Liaison with the Illinois Gaming Board
- West Central District Chaplain (2014-16)
- West Central District Traveling Secretary (2013-14)
- West Central District Americanism Chairman (2008-10)
- Two Time Exalted Ruler Springfield Lodge #158 (2010-12)
- Past Lodge Officer of the Year (2006-07)
- Chairman of the Board of Directors (2015-16)
- Sustaining Member of the Elks National Foundation



## LOCAL LODGE

## Chicago Northshore Elks have veterans project covered



Sande Skinner and Judy Enis talk over logistics while Avis Thomas and Pat Fraser work to complete one of the 54 blankets that Chicago Northshore Lodge 1316 assembled in October in preparation for Christmas at the Jesse Brown Veterans Administration Center in Chicago.



## Granite City Elks buy shoes for kids

Granite City Lodge 1063 put a \$2,500 Elks National Foundation grant to good use in September by buying new shoes for 101 children in the local Head Start program upon the recommendation of Niedringhaus United Methodist Church. "It was an easy decision" to help the children, said church member Karan Ambuehl, middle row, fourth from left. "The mission of the Elks organization and of our church match that of Riverbend Head Start and Family Services. We are all committed to assisting people in need. We knew that by helping the children enrolled at the Granite City Head Start Center, we'd be helping the kids right here in our own neighborhood." Front from left are: Granite City Past District Deputy Sonny Ambuehl and the first two kids to pick out shoes. Middle: Elks member Ron Smith and wife Carolyn, church members Louise Ware and Karan Ambuehl, and Head Start Director Becky Wingerter. Back: PER Al Leavell and church members Stan Meyer and Clancy Ellebracht.



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## News deadlines

Summer Newsette, June 15 **NEXT ISSUE!**  
Fall Newsette, July 20  
Mid-Winter Newsette, Nov. 21  
Spring Newsette, March 22

## Benton Elks promote fire safety

Benton Lodge  
1234 Exalted  
Ruler Jim Wallis  
presents a check  
for \$2,000 to  
Benton Fire  
Chief Shane  
Cockrum earlier  
this year. The fire  
department will  
use the funds to  
provide fire  
extinguishers  
for individual  
households in the  
community.



## Car from Page 9

Nathan's dying wishes. They  
contacted Mike Reilly, the VFW  
quartermaster and Chicago  
Northshore Lodge trustee. He and  
Ronzani accepted the car on the  
Elks' behalf. They arranged to  
have it serviced and detailed.

"Getting the car donated was  
only half the deal," Reilly said.  
"Finding someone to donate it to  
was a bigger deal."

Ronzani and Reilly were put  
in touch with Chicago-based  
Volunteers of America, which  
serves foster children, homeless  
veterans, the elderly and disabled  
adults.

"These people have made us  
look good," Reilly said of the  
VOA's choice of Horton to receive

the car.

VOA development coordinator  
Bridget Hickey said the VOA  
veterans team selected Horton to  
receive the car, adding, "Keia is  
a single mother who would walk  
her children to school and daycare  
over 10 miles a day, back and forth  
on her own. Walking was the only  
way."

"We couldn't have a better  
recipient."

Chicago Northshore Elks paid  
to detail the car, plus picked up the  
taxes, license fees and insurance  
for six months. They chipped in  
with a gift card for good measure.

"We hope this all makes your  
life a little better," Ronzani said,  
echoing the Elks' motto. "We all  
want to thank you for your service  
to our country. God bless you and  
your family."



LOCAL LODGE



Oak Lawn Elks prepare kids to go back to school

LEFT PHOTO: Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 put its Elks National Foundation Gratitude and Beacon grants to good use in August by hosting its third Backpack and School Supplies event for 190 needy students. Students were invited to the lodge to choose a backpack and supplies purchased with the grant funds.

RIGHT PHOTO: Along with its Back to School program, Oak Lawn Elks were host to a Say No to Drugs table in August.



Streator Elks stay busy with civic activities

Streator Lodge 591 earlier this year took to the streets for a motorcycle service ride to raise more than \$300 for the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation.

Fully 25 motorcycles and 49 riders participated in the 95-mile ride.

Participants made stops at the lodge and five other sites along the route. A meal was served to the participants after they returned to the lodge. Leading Knight Eddy Hunter organized the project.

Streator Elks' community outreach also extended to the Illinois Veterans Home in LaSalle, where the lodge donated \$2,600 – proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to the lodge – to buy outdoor furniture for the open air courtyard at the home.

A monthly dinner was also served to 10 residents of the home.

In other lodge news, Streator Elks had their first bowling session earlier this year for the Life Skills and Transition class from Streator High School. Once a month the lodge opens its bowling alley and



Streator Lodge 591 donated \$1,500 to Blessings in a Back Pack program earlier this year. From left are lodge Exalted Ruler Bob Luscombe Chairman of Trustees Bob Oberholtzer and coordinators for Blessings in a Back Pack program, Lara Armstrong and Tonya Carter, and volunteer Herb Holtz volunteer (back). Blessings in a Back Pack distributes food packages to more than 300 children in six area schools to help students get meals over the weekend during the school year.

serves pizza to the group.

Also, in November, the lodge held its eighth Chili Cook Off in conjunction of a funday Sunday of watching the Chicago Bears. Later

that month, Streator Elks sponsored a special event for Relay for Life with David's Dingles, in memory of Past Exalted Ruler David Hallowell.

Oglesby Elks award lodge scholarship

Oglesby Lodge 2360 awarded its \$1,000 Albert E. Delvallee Scholarship earlier this year to Cassie Danekas to further her nursing studies at Illinois Valley Community College. The scholarship, made available to a student pursuing a nursing



career, is funded by donations honoring deceased member Albert E. Delvallee, who headed the lodge Children's Care program for many years. Danekas, center, is flanked by lodge member and former scholarship recipient, Cindy Cadegiani, and lodge member Paul Danekas, Cassie's father.

Pontiac Elks pledge allegiance to flag in Labor Day parade



Pontiac Lodge 1019 members say the Pledge of Allegiance at the reviewing stand for the annual Pontiac Labor Day Parade in August. They drew attention to the lodge and their patriotism by carrying a 30- by 20-foot American flag in the parade.

C-U Elks promote fire safety

Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 Exalted Ruler Jen Haydon and Secretary Richard Woodworth in September visited the fire departments in Champaign and nearby Savoy to present 23 smoke detectors to each department to give to qualified homeowners.





LOCAL LODGE

## Decatur Elks take road trip to visit DuQuoin Lodge



Members of Decatur Lodge 401 took a bus trip to DuQuoin Lodge 884 for lunch in July. IEA Junior Trustee and DuQuoin PER Craig Smith, Leading Knight Joseph Fronek, Amanda Hargis and other volunteers opened the lodge just for the group. RIGHT PHOTO: During the visit, Fronek saw a man, later identified as Joe Sarrendino, riding a bicycle pulling a small trailer carrying Sarrendino's dog, Amy. After flagging him down, Fronek invited Sorrendino into the lodge for lunch. Sorrendino, a veteran, had embarked on a bike ride from New Mexico to South Dakota. Sorrendino was given a meal and some funds to help with his journey. He also picks up odd jobs along the way. "It was an experience for all involved," DuQuoin Elk Michael Carr said. "What an example of *"Elks Care, Elks Share!"*"



## ENF gifts are no fantasy

Decatur Lodge 401 is putting its enthusiasm for sports into action to support the Elks National Foundation. The lodge sold Cubs and Cardinals pennants at \$5 apiece to raise \$180 for ENF – \$95 in Cubs pennants and \$85 in Cardinals pennants.

Participating members also started a fantasy football league, which has raised \$100 so far this year. Eight teams are playing a 14-game regular season with four teams competing in two weeks of playoffs.

The champion will be crowned the winner of the first-ever Lodge 401 football league. The team owners/Elks members are Matt Munyon, Bill Meyer, Joel Hawkinson, John Reynolds and Mike Carr. Guests include Cam Meyer, Josh Meyer; and Brad Kauffman.



## Murphysboro Elks back community projects

Murphysboro Lodge 572 puts an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to good use earlier this year. TOP LEFT PHOTO: The lodge presented \$500 to Boy Scout Troop 114. Troop leader Lewis Akers (far left) and Assistant Scout Master Cameron Welch (back row right) receive the money from Lodge 572 Exalted Ruler Joe Patrick (far right). TOP RIGHT PHOTO: Cub Scout Pack 112 received \$500. In back



row are ER Patrick, Troop Leader James Heilig, Den Leader Brittni Heilig and Assistant Cub Master Curtis Hubbard. RIGHT PHOTO: Somerset Clovers 4-H Club received \$1,000. ER Patrick holds the left side of check) presented the check to 4-H Club Treasurer Asher Yuill (holding right side of check) as Club Leader Rosie Wece (far left) and other club members look on.



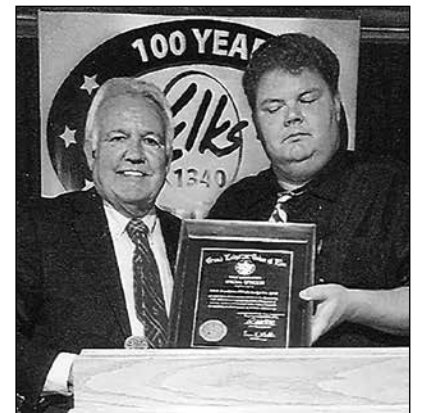
## Kewanee Elks donate drug collection box to local police

Karen Ream, left, of Kewanee Lodge 72 presented a drug collection box to the Kewanee Police Department earlier this year, as a donation from the lodge and the Elks Drug Awareness Program. The box was painted by Ti Bryner, center. Police Chief Jim Dison is at right. The police department conducts two drug takebacks each year, during which Kewaneeans can safely dispose of medications they no longer have a use for. The new drug collection box is situated at the police department, and people can bring in medications for disposal at any time.



## West Frankfort Lodge celebrates 100th

West Frankfort Lodge 1340 Exalted Ruler Cody Stacey displays the plaque he received from IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger commemorating the lodge's 100th anniversary earlier this year. Also on hand for the celebration were IEA Treasurer George Hornung, Vice President Tom Deien and Dave Jurnu, President Ray Summers and Secretary Marvin Leathers.



## Cairo Elks donate to service dog program



At the District Deputy visit in September, Cairo Lodge 651 donated \$100 to the This Able Veteran program, which trains service animals for veterans suffering from PTSD. South District Vice President Lyndal Qualls, left, accepts the check from Exalted Ruler Glen Klett.



## LOCAL LODGE

## Robinson Lodge dominates IEA Soccer Shoot Out



Robinson Lodge 1188 sent five participants to the Illinois State Soccer Shoot in Pana in October. Back, from left, Girls 12-13 state champ Kayla Guyer and girls 10-11 state champ Ella Baxter. Front, from left, are boys 8-9 state champ Derek Steward and boys 10-11 third-place finisher Garrett Winterrowd. Second-place finisher in the boys 7 and under, Josip Pulja, is not pictured.

The Elks State Soccer Shoot Out held in Pana on Oct. 1 attracted 21 competitors from four of the eight districts, including the West, East Central, South Central and West Central.

Co-chairmen Steve Albrecht and Darrell Swisher were pleased with the turn out. This is the second year of the state event since it had been discontinued in 2004.

"We hope this next year to have all Districts involved," Albrecht said, thanking IEA Second Vice President Tom Deien and his wife Brenda with helping score and cook for the day. Participants and parents were treated to burgers and hot dogs after the competition.

He also thanked IEA Drug Awareness Chairman Frank Burr for supplying soccer balls, participation medals and water bottles to all the participants.

The top competitors in each age division, in the order they finished, were:

**7 & U Girls** – Maiya Jones, Mt. Vernon 819; Grace Yates, Canton 626; and Isabella Slayback, Pana 1261

**7 & U Boys** – Frankie Jacinto, Mt. Vernon 819

**Girls 8-9** – Lenzie Merrimam, Mt. Vernon 819; Joey Laker, Pana 1261; and Addison Royer, Canton 626

**Boys 8-9** – Derek Stewart, Robinson 1188; and Truman Carine, Mt. Vernon 819

**Girls 10-11** – Ella Baxter, Robinson 1188; Brooklyn Phillips, Mt. Vernon 819; and Madison Long, Canton 626

**Boys 10-11** – Eli Eberle, Canton 626; Joshua O'Neal, Mt. Vernon 819; Garrett Winterrowd, Robinson 1188

**Girls 12-13** – Kayla Guyer, Robinson 1188

**Boys 12-13** – Brayden Fisher, Pana 1261; and Cade Tinsley, Mt. Vernon 819



## Mt. Vernon Elks back historical society

Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge 819 donated \$1,000 – part of an Elks National Foundation grant for per-member contributions – to the Jefferson County Historical Society earlier this year. From left are Exalted Ruler David Bowling, members of the historical society's board of directors, Jack White, Nancy Soddors, Sharon Francois, Howard Christ and Lucille White, and IEA ENF Chairman Jason Martin.

Macomb Elk  
Receives  
Republic  
of Korea  
Peace  
Medal

Don Crawford, a 51-year member of Macomb Lodge 1009, right, is awarded the Republic of Korea Peace Medal by Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, left, in a ceremony held recently in Cheyenne, WY. The medal is given by the Republic of Korea in recognition of war time service to South Korea. Crawford served with the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, the most highly decorated artillery battalion of the war. Crawford, 85, retired from Western Illinois University, where he was the chairman of the Instructional Technology Department in the College of Education. Through the years Crawford served on lodge dance committees, kitchen crews at food events, and was a member of the Macomb Elks 100th year celebration committee.

## Jacksonville Elks helps provide park toy for disabled kids



The city of Jacksonville cut the ribbon on an "Elks All-Inclusive Toy" to Community Park. Jacksonville Lodge 682 partnered with the city to provide the new attraction to benefit all children regardless of ability or motor skills. Also included is a DuraSafe Softile surface, accessible parking, restrooms and sidewalks connecting to the toy. From left are: Lodge Treasurer Rich Withee, Exalted Ruler Luke Tapscott, Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation board member Brad Besson, Lecturing Knight Doug Sills, Leading Knight Jim Goldsborough and Past Exalted Ruler Shawn Graham.

Marion Elks show  
hospitality to visitors  
from Missouri lodge

In October, 30 Elks from Jackson, MO Lodge took a bus tour to visit some of the South District Lodges. They arrived at 5 p.m. and departed at 6:30 p.m. During that time they enjoyed a snack buffet prepared and donated by our Marion Elks. They also met and visited with Marion members who came in especially for the occasion. Music, singing and dancing added to the party atmosphere. The visit was short but appeared that a great time was had by all. Their next and last stop was Anna Lodge, then back home to Jackson.



Some of Marion Lodge's new Elks friends from Jackson, MO enjoy a snack on their visit to Marion Lodge in October.



Part of the visiting group of Jackson, MO, Elks get ready to board the bus for the final leg of their trip.



## ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

## 2016-17 Children's Care Corporation board of directors



2016-17 Children's Care Corporation board of directors – Front from left are: Director Emeritus John Feld, Area 1 Director Tom Funk, Administrative Manager Bill Block, East District Director Kristi Wykes, IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, IEA First Vice President Dave Jurmu, IEA President Ray Summers and IEA Second Vice President Tom Deien. Back: CCC Vice Chairman Mark Bump, East Central District Director Dick Wyninger, South District Director Todd Lindsay, South Central District Director Chad Mitsdarffer, IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers, CCC Corporate Chair Tawn Williams, West Central District Director Brad Besson and Director Emeritus Charlie Campbell. Not pictured: Northwest District Director Don Koehler, Director Emeritus Richard Cheney, Director Emeritus Tom Hummel, Director Emeritus Roland Seibert, West District Director Jon Coulter, Area 2 Director Sharon Kay Dirck, Area 3 Director Brenda Wallis and IEA Third Vice President Greg Verdun.

## Scholarship applications to go online

Illinois Elks lodges are reminded that applications for the 2017-18 physical- and occupational-therapy scholarship will be posted on the Children's Care Corporation website, [illinoiselksccc.org](http://illinoiselksccc.org), in early December.

Completed applications will be due to lodges by March 10 and to the CCC office by March 17. Applications for the Lydia Miller Special Education scholarship are due to the lodge March 24.

Any incomplete applications will not be judged, CCC chair Tawn Williams said in her corporation report at the IEA meeting in September.

At that meeting, Williams introduced three of the four 2016-17 top scholarship winners — Alisha Kerr, representing Jacksonville Lodge; Carolyn Stoesser, DeKalb Lodge; and Kaity Vancil, Macomb Lodge, each of whom was awarded an extra \$1,500. Not present was April Brown, representing Danville Lodge.

Williams also announced the judges for 2017-18 scholarship applications, Mark Bump, Sharon Dirck, Brad Besson and Tom Hummel. She and John Feld will judge the special education scholarships.

Illinois Elks lodges were advised that many requests for assistance do not need to go through the CCC board of directors because the amounts do not exceed the administrative manager's spending approval.

Also at the Fall Meeting, the CCC board earmarked \$6,000 to make a vehicle handicap accessible. It also has been fielding requests for playground equipment for city parks.

"The CCC is willing to help out with handicap accessible playground equipment, however, there are few choices available," Williams said. "The city or township needs to approve said equipment before we are able to purchase the equipment."



## Swing for disabled

The Carlinville Park Board and Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation in October unveiled a new wheelchair swing on a park playground. From left are Park Board President Larry Smith, PSP, CCC Administrative Manager Bill Block and Park District Administrator Regina Byots.

## CCC puts scholars in spotlight

CCC Administrative Manager Bill Block, CCC Board Vice Chairman Mark Bump and CCC Board Chair Tawn Williams, with CCC scholarship recipients Kaity Vancil, representing Macomb Lodge 1009; Carolyn Stoesser, representing Mt. Vernon Lodge 819; and Alisha Kerr, representing Jacksonville Lodge 682.



## Calendars available at lodges and online

If you misplaced your order form for the Illinois Elks Children's Benefit Calendar, the calendar is now available at your Lodge or at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org).

"As always, this calendar makes a perfect gift for any occasion," CCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said. "For \$20 you could win \$50, five days a week Monday through Friday for a year."

There are also 12 monthly drawings for \$100, three drawings quarterly for \$1,000 and on Veterans Day a chance to win \$5,000.

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation assists families with shoes, orthotics, strollers, wheelchairs, therapies, communication devices and specialized equipment.

"This can only be done with your assistance, so please purchase your calendar so we can continue to do the work that makes us proud to be an Elk," he said.



ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN’S CARE CORPORATION

Mt. Vernon Elks’ 24th bass tournament raises \$7,000 for CCC



For the last 24 years, Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 has co-sponsored a bass tournament and auction every August to support the Illinois Elks Children Care Corporation. Area businesses donate items for the auction, which is held the evening before the tournament. Auction proceeds, combined with the tournament earnings, generate

the lodge’s largest annual contribution to the CCC. This year’s event raised \$7,000. In front of the fishermen, who ensure the tournament’s success, are Exalted Ruler David Bowling, Leading Knight John Tucker, and ENF chairman and lodge trustee Jason Martin. Clinics are held in the Mt. Vernon area every quarter.

2016 ILLINOIS ELKS FREE ORTHOPAETIC CLINIC DATES

	Clinic	Doctor(s)	Day of Week	Clinic Dates Scheduled for 2016				HELD AT
1	Champaign-Urbana 8:30 - 10:30 AM	James McKechnie	Tuesday	March, 15	June, 14	Sept., 13	Dec. 13	Presence Covenant Medical Center 1405 W. Park St.-Suite 306 - Urbana
2	Dixon 8:00 AM	David Yeager	Thursday	January, 28	April, 21	June, 23	October, 20	KSB Foot & Ankle Center 215 E. 1st, Suite 310 - Dixon
3	Effingham 8:00 AM	Timothy Gray	Thursday	February, 25	May, 12	August, 25	November, 17	Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic 1303 Evergreen - Effingham
4	Elgin 2:00 - 5:00 PM	Vincent Cannestra	Monday		May, 2		November, 14	Sherman Hospital 1425 N. Randall Rd. - Elgin
5	Galesburg 8:00 - 9:30 AM	Steven Potaczek	Tuesday	February, 16	May, 17	August, 9	November, 15	Galesburg Clinic 3315 N. Seminary - Galesburg
6	IVCH - Mendota/Oglesby 12:30 - 2:30 PM	Richard Erickson	Thursday	January, 14	April, 7	August, 11	October, 6	IVCH 925 West St. - Peru
7	Joliet 4:00 - 5:30 PM	Bradley Dworsky	Tuesday	February, 2	May, 3	Changed 6/7/16 August, 16	November, 1	Hinsdale Orthopedic - Joliet Office 951 Essington Rd. - Joliet
8	Lincoln 1:00 - 3:00 PM	David Olysav	Tuesday	January, 12	April, 5	June, 21	October, 4	Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital 200 Stahlhut Dr. - Lincoln
9	Mt. Carmel 8:30 - 10:30 AM	Julko Fullop	Friday	March, 11	June, 3	September, 2	December, 9	Wabash Gen. Hosp. Ortho Surgery & Sports Med. 1527 College Dr.. - Mt. Carmel
10	Mt. Vernon 3:00 - 5:00 PM	Alan Froehling	Friday	February, 5	May, 6	August, 5	October, 28	Neuromuscular Ortho Institute 302 Broadway - Mt. Vernon
11	NW District @ Rockford 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Scott Ferry	Wednesday	January, 20	April, 20	June, 22	October, 19	Rockford Orthopedic Associates 324 Roxbury Rd. - Rockford
12	Princeton 8:30 - 10:30 AM	Richard Erickson	Thursday	January, 14	April, 7	August, 11	October, 6	Perry Memorial Hospital 530 Park Ave. East - Princeton
13	Robinson 9:00 - 11:00 AM	William McDonald	Monday	March, 21	June, 20	September, 12	December, 12	CMH Bone & Joint Center , Suite C 1000 N. Allen St. - Robinson
14	Rock Island 2:30 - 4:30 PM	Michael Pyevich	Tuesday	February, 23	May, 24	Thursday August, 18	November, 8	ORA Orthopedics 520 Valley View - Moline
15	South District @ Du Quoin 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Alan Froehling	Friday	February, 26	May, 27	August, 26	November, 18	Marshall Browning Hospital 900 N. Washington St. - Du Quoin
16	Streator 10:30 - 12:30 PM	A. Roy	Monday	March, 14	June, 6	September, 19	December, 5	Orthopedic Associates of Streator 205 S. Park Ave. - Streator

CLINIC APPOINTMENTS AND INFORMATION ON ALL CLINICS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN’S CARE OFFICE 1-800-272-0074



## Top scholars

Scholar Kaity Vancil (front center), representing Macomb Lodge 1009, flanked by IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and Kaity's mother Pam Vancil. In back are: Macomb Lodge Leading Knight Patrick Stout, Macomb Lodge Chairman of Trustees Steve Yeast, Past State President Ralph Bradshaw and West District Deputy Terry Wilmot.



Scholar Alisha Kerr, representing Jacksonville Lodge 682, flanked by her parents, Leon and Crystal Kerr. In back are IEA First Vice President Dave Jurmu, IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and Jacksonville Lodge PER Brad Besson.


Scholar Carolyn Stoesser (front center), representing Mt. Vernon Lodge 819, flanked by IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and Carolyn's mother Cathy Stoesser. In back are IEA President Ray Summers, IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers, and IEA Vice Presidents Tom Deien and Dave Jurmu.



## Statewide drawing winners announced

Results of the 2016 IECCC Statewide drawing held at the Saturday evening dinner at the IEA Fall Convention have been announced. The winners, their lodges and place of finish, and the amounts they won are:

Terra Auvil, DuQuoin, First, \$2,500; Darlene Nasby, Quincy, second, \$2,000; James Donahue, Des Plaines, third, \$1,500; Robert Taylor, Dixon, fourth, \$1,000; Linda L. Johnson, Carmi, fifth, \$500; and Vernon Ray Landers, Centralia, sixth, \$250.



**ILLINOIS  
ELKS**

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**Children's Care Corporation**

# Illinois Elks honor top recipients of Children's Care scholarships

The Illinois Elks Association honored its top recipients of the Children's Care Corporation's physical- and occupational-therapy scholarships for 2016-17 at the association's meeting in September in Springfield.

The recipients are Alisha Kerr of Meredosia, representing Jacksonville Lodge 682; Carolyn Stoesser of Roselle, representing DeKalb Lodge 765; April Brown of Danville, representing Danville Lodge 332; and Kaity Vancil of Bushnell, representing Macomb Lodge 1009.

Kerr was the recipient of the Bill Leas Award; Stoesser, the Mike Manning Award; Brown, the Kenny Beltz Award; and Vancil, the Pete Matson Award.

Here are the biographies of the four recipients as they were read at the dinner highlighting the September meeting. (All of the recipients attended the dinner except Brown.)

**Alisha Kerr** – The graduate student at Washington University-St. Louis posted a perfect 4.0 grade point average as an undergraduate at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. She was also one of the Dean's Dozen, an "elite" student group that assists the school with recruiting and retaining students and faculty; represents the school at various functions; serves as peer mentors; and serves as goodwill ambassadors.

Alisha knew since early high school she wanted to enter physical therapy.

"I believe this was a field where I could awaken every day and love

my occupation, feel as if I make a transformation in the lives of others, and spread my optimistic attitude to every patient I touch," she said in her letter supporting her scholarship application.

Her desire is to specialize in pediatric physical therapy, in part to "give her gift to others."

Quoting Shakespeare, Kerr said — "the meaning of life is to find your gift, the purpose of life is to give it away."

**Carolyn Stoesser** – The Northern Illinois University doctoral student in physical therapy has a 4.0 GPA.

One of Carolyn's professors wrote: "She is a hard-working, enthusiastic, respectful, and dedicated student. She consistently exceeds my expectations with assigned work tasks as well as her interaction with families and children with special needs in our developmental playgroup."

Since Carolyn has had the opportunity to work with young children with developmental needs, she has seen their growth in just a few sessions. She has found children to be unpredictable and have a way to keep you on your toes.

Carolyn would eventually like to teach and mentor students to reach their goals.

**April Brown** – The graduate student at Bradley University in Peoria, has a 3.87 GPA. One of her professors said of her:

"Ms. Brown exceeds the average student in her abilities. Besides being determined and hard working, she possesses a great deal

of natural academic ability and intellectual curiosity."

Another wrote, "April has dedicated a significant amount of time providing service to children and adolescents with disabilities in a number of different programs. This commitment to service, as well as her solid experience in working with individuals with differences will impact her development into a successful and effective health care professional."

**Kaity Vancil** – The student at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA, lists her most recent GPA at 3.734. A professor wrote of her:

"Commitment to service, work ethic, professionalism and communication skills, along with a strong performance in the classroom and clinical settings are examples of the type of person and quality physical therapist Kaity will become."

Kaity stated in her essay: "Through my personal experiences growing up with physical therapy and my observations, I have developed an understanding of the trials and benefits that face each patient and therapists alike."

"I have enjoyed the benefits of successful therapy; that inspires me to use the best techniques and personality to make patients' recovery as enjoyable as possible. I can push them to their goals without pushing them away, and I can motivate them yet still keeping small steps in mind."

"Helping people have reduced pain and increased mobility to enjoy life will make this goal a worthwhile accomplishment."

## Jacksonville Elks golf event aids CCC

Jacksonville Lodge 682 raised \$3,300 at a golf tournament in October to benefit the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation.

The Canda Scott Memorial Golf Tournament has raised more than \$13,000 for the CCC since its inception.

The tournament was followed by a dinner and prize give-away at the lodge.

Tournament organizer Doug Scott thanked golf pro Keith Ward and the staff of Links Golf Course, all the participating golfers, and the cooks and servers who helped out at the lodge.



## More ties available at CCC booth at Fall Meeting

After several years of the same ties and hearing the same question, "Do you have anything new?" the answer is now YES, CCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said. "Stop by the booth and check out the new ties and give me your feedback," Block said. "Same price, same quality."