



Illinois Elks Association Newsette



VOL. 83 No. 3

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SPRING 2017

INSIDE



Chi-town bound for Rayci Phelps

Top 8/9 girl at IEA
finals wins Iowa City
regional to advance to
national Hoop Shoot finals
in Chicago in April

10, 11

Register early!

Please do your part
to help registration run
smoothly for the
Annual Meeting:
Preregister by May 3

5

Next stop, Reno

Registration deadline is
May 22 for Elks National
Convention set July 16-19
in the Biggest Little City

12

‘Be loud and be proud,’ GER Zellen tells IEA



Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen and IEA President Ray Summers, with Grand Lodge First Lady Donna Zellen, display the Tribute to Leadership plaque with which the BPOE's First Couple was presented at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting in January.

49 years later, Zellens still paying it forward

Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen continues to repay the debt of gratitude he says he has owed since joining the Elks 49 years ago.

Just as he did at the Grand Lodge Session in Houston in July, Zellen recounted the circumstances of that debt, on his visit to the Illinois Elks Association Mid-Winter Meeting in January in Springfield.

Zellen said he became an Elk because his dad, the late Charles M. Zellen, was a very active member of the Order for many years.

“I was 8 years old when he was exalted ruler,”

Zellen told the more than 200 people attending the Saturday evening IEA dinner. His dad went on to become a district deputy and a vice president of the Massachusetts Elks Association.

“Becoming an Elk was tradition in my family. My three older brothers became Elks members when they reached the age of 21,” he said. “Like them, when I became 21, my dad sponsored me into Elkdom.”

“Tragically, two weeks before my initiation

Calls community service key to rising membership

Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen said on the annual GER visit to Illinois in January that IEA members should be proud of the programs they provide in their communities.

“As you participate in the worthy community activities of your lodge, remember it is important that your lodge gets credit in the eyes of the community for the good that you do,” Zellen told the estimated 200 members and guests attending the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting in Springfield.

“We need to get the word out,” he said. “Use social media such as Facebook and provide your local newspapers and radio stations with information and press releases of community events being sponsored by your lodge.”

“Be loud and be proud.”

Zellen summarized the impact that Illinois Elks had in their respective communities in 2015-16, citing the 25,618 Elks workers and helpers who devoted 69,957 hours of service and had driven 129,818 miles in providing programs to 443,590 participants in those communities.

“The dollar value of the hours, mileage, cash and non-cash contributions totaled \$3,293,174.93, thus, demonstrating “*Elks ~ Leading the Way*,” Zellen said, citing the IEA youth and athletic programs, needy and handicapped programs, patriotic programs, Drug Awareness, veterans services, community service projects and the State Major Project, the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation.

“It is the local community service programs that will stimulate a return to

Please See **ZELLEN**, Page 6

Please See **VISIT**, Page 6



IEA Hoop Shoot finals end with a splash

Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher and Past State President Paul Ronzani toss miniature basketballs to eager Hoop Shoot participants, after the awards dinner capping the 2016-17 IEA Hoop Shoot finals in February in Decatur. Related photos, **Pages 10, 11**

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
IEA Children's Care Corporation
P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629-0222

STATE

Lodge year changes with season ... and with note of thanks to President Ray and First Lady Leta

Winter is gone and we can all be glad that spring is now here. The change of seasons also ushers in the new lodge year with its change of leadership in our local lodges and in our state association.

Thanks to all those who helped make this past lodge year a successful one and good luck to the officers in all the lodges in the

IEA
sponsor

F. Louis
Sulsberger PGER



upcoming year. I would like to especially congratulate President Ray and First Lady Leta for a very

successful year serving the Illinois Elks Association. Their dedication is an inspiration to all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the lodges that donated to the Elks National Foundation and the Illinois Children's Care Corp. It is another clear indication that "*Elks Do Care and Elks Do Share.*"

If you are attending the May meeting, I urge you to go to state President Ray's final banquet on Saturday night. I strongly encourage the district deputies and esquires to the district deputies to be present to show your support for any representative from your district and lodges who may receive a special award that

evening. And please remember the 2017-18 installation on Sunday morning. Let's show support for incoming President Dave, his wife Rae Marie and his officers, and wish them well in the year ahead.

I hope this finds you well. Beth and I look forward to seeing you in Springfield in May.

Until then, God bless.

Jeff Rodier

Candidate 3rd Vice President

Illinois Elks Association



- IEA State Chaplain (2012-13)
- IEA Credentials Committee (2013-16)
- IEA Trustee Committee Liaison with 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

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Credentials in mail for May election

Fellow Elks members, spring is here! Let's start with the May State Meeting:

As I write this article, I am preparing to send out credentials to the districts for your lodges. The credentials will need to be signed by the exalted ruler and the lodge secretary, and the lodge seal must be affixed.

Credentials go to the exalted ruler and lodge secretary, plus one for every 100 members and major faction thereof. Please be sure to pass out other credentials to other Elks members who will attend the state meeting.

The vote for third vice president will take place any time after 2 p.m. Saturday, May 20 during the business meeting. Three members are running for the post, Jeff Rodier of Springfield Lodge 158, Dave Copper of Granite City Lodge 1063 and Bill Pitman of Quincy Lodge 100.

On another subject, lodges need to watch for notice of their Illinois Elks state dues for 2017-18. The dues of \$4.25 stay the same as last year's. Note, this notice is of *Illinois state* dues. I know you are waiting for that notice!

IEA
secretary
Marvin G.
Leathers



To outgoing exalted rulers, I hope you have a great year. Now stay active and help your lodge any way you can.

To new exalted rulers, I know you have your committee chairs ready to start the new year. If help is needed during your year, the help is there.

You have maybe a past state president, district sponsor, and current and past district deputies. Use them. They are there to help you.

Remember, exalted rulers, plan your work and work your plan!

To outgoing State President Ray and First Lady Leta, thank you for your service to the Illinois Elks Association! You did lead the way for your year as state president.

In closing, thank you, Illinois Elks, for allowing me to be your state secretary for Elks year 2017-18. Illinois Elks do lead the way.



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. **Or mail them**, if you must, to Joe Baker, 59 S. Hale Street, Unit 301, Palatine, IL 60067-6267

Submission deadlines – June 15, 2017, for the summer edition; July 20, 2017 for fall; and Nov. 21, 2017, for Mid-Winter

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STATE



LEFT PHOTO: Cyndy Leininger, representing Bloomington Lodge 281 and the West District, displays the plaque she was awarded for being named IEA Lady of the Year for 2016-17. She is flanked by Grand Lodge First Lady Donna Zellen and IEA First Lady Leta Summers.

RIGHT PHOTO: Cyndy Leininger, representing Bloomington Lodge 281 and the West District (front center) was named 2016-17 IEA Lady Elk of the Year at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting in January. She is flanked by Carol Schwoebel, representing Fairview Heights and West Central District, left, and Dolores Tomscheck, representing Des Plaines 1526 and North District. In back are: Grand Lodge First Lady Donna Zellen; Lady of the Year candidates Peggy Lawson, representing Mendota 1212 and Northwest District, and Suzanne Pretzsch, representing Carmi 1652 and South Central District; and IEA First Lady Leta Summers.



Lady of Year Cyndy Leininger personifies Elks' Cardinal Principles

Cyndy Leininger, the IEA's Lady of the Year for 2016-17, is the personification of the Elks' principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Past District Deputy Bill Adams Jr. of Bloomington Lodge said in nominating Leininger for the honor.

"Cyndy has supported our charitable activities with her time and efforts (and her fair share of 50/50 tickets). Her watchful eye over the lodge helps ensure we meet our obligation to justice," Adams said.

"Her warm greetings extend brotherly love to all who walk through the lodge door.

"And finally, fidelity, her faithful service to our lodge and her support of (husband) Jerry and the other officers is unquestionable."

For 30 years, Adams said, Leininger has spent countless hours working supporting all Bloomington Lodge's Elks programs and spreading the good deeds of Elksdom in the community.

Leininger has supported husband Jerry for 30 years of their 47-year marriage, during which

Jerry has been exalted ruler eight times and chairman of every lodge committee.

"During this time, Cyndy has typed many reports for Jerry and all the committees he has served on," Adams said. "She has typed meeting minutes, veterans reports, monthly activity reports, monthly (lodge newsletter) articles and information for our scholarships programs. She helps carry the flag in parades, pass out Drug Awareness material and talks about the many good deeds that our Elks lodge does for our community."

Leininger also helps organize all of Bloomington Lodge's chili cook-offs.

"She puts in many long days helping load and unload tables, helping set up, clean up and getting everything back to the lodge where she continued to help by cleaning and getting everything ready for the next business day," Adams said. "Cyndy worked at all the air shows by helping set up the booth, sell food and passing out Elks information to the public."

At weekly bingo night and other social gatherings at the lodge,

Leininger is a familiar face.

"Every week she helped at bingo doing any of the many things that take place," Adams said. "During evenings when we were short-handed, Cyndy volunteered as a waitress, making sure all our members and guests were being served and enjoying a pleasant evening at the Elks."

She helps in the kitchen washing dishes and taking out the trash. She helps serve dinners, vacuum the floors and clean tables. Every Tuesday, she is at the lodge helping with its chicken dinner, and at Saturday Burger Day.

Adams said Leininger stripped

wallpaper, painted and helped clean Bloomington Lodge's new facility.

"She helped put together our 100-year anniversary party as well as our first-year anniversary party at our new lodge," he said. "Cyndy helps with all our holiday activities. She makes sure the lodge is decorated for the Christmas season. She has worked with the Easter Bunny, put together food baskets, collected coats and helped with the SOS program for our veterans."

Leininger is also a great help with setting up the district hospitality room at state meetings.

"She is there for setup and

teardown, and loads and unloads everything we need for the district hospitality room," Adams said. "She helps prepare the food and makes sure the food tables are always ready for our members."

As first lady of Bloomington Lodge – and now of the IEA – Leininger can be found at the lodge and in the community serving Elksdom.

"She does an outstanding job making new members and their spouses feel welcome to our activities," Adams said. "She is an excellent ambassador for our lodge" and, indeed, the IEA.

"Her warm greetings extend brotherly love to all who walk through the lodge door."

– PDD Bill Adams

'Hello Bill'

William (Bill) Pittman, Candidate for IEA 3rd Vice President



I am a 26 year Quincy #100 Elk member, Past Certified District Deputy, Chairman of Quincy's Board of Director and hold an appointment from Grand Lodge as their VAVS representative for the Illinois Veteran Home in Quincy. My involvement with the Veterans gives me great pride and joy in serving these great Men and Women.

I retired from the United States Postal Service after 35 years of dedicated service. I now serve full time in "Delivering the Message" of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and the Good Deeds of Elksdom.

My wife Brenda of 20 years is also a 19 year Elk member who served our Quincy Lodge as their Secretary for 8 years. She was extended the honor of receiving IEA's Secretary of the Year in the 2012-2013 fraternal year. We have 3 Children and 4 Grandchildren.

Throughout our Elk years 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.

We are now asking our fellow Elk members to cast their vote for me in May for the office of IEA 3rd Vice President and allow me to keep "Delivering the Message" of Elksdom.

P.S. Please give out the cheerful salutation of "Hello Bill"

Which originated in 1897 and once helped in "Delivering the Message" around the world.

PDD Walden wins Elks Pick 'em contest

Past District Deputy Dean Walden of Effingham Lodge 1016 took first place in Illinois with a winning percentage of 66.41 percent in the Elks Pro Football Pick 'em contest, edging out fellow PDDGER Mark Bump of Joliet 296.

Rounding out the top five were David Bowling of Mount Vernon

819, Terry Lovelace of Quincy 100 and James Gamboa of Des Plaines 1526.

Joliet 296 finished first among Illinois lodges with a winning percentage of 61.63 percent, followed by Des Plaines 1526 at 60.51 percent and Quincy 100 at 59.84 percent.



ANNUAL CONVENTION

Honoring our 2017-18 Class of Exalted Rulers

May 18-21, 2017 ■ Wyndham Springfield Hotel

Thursday, May 18

11:30 AM-5:00 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4
1-5 PM Executive Committee – Conference Ctr 3

Friday, May 19

8 AM-5 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4
9-10 AM Convention Committee – Rendezvous
10 AM-Noon Advisory Committee – Rendezvous
Noon-7 PM Convention Registration
Mezzanine, Registration Desk
2-4:30 PM General Business Session
– Capitol/Illinois

Nomination of Officers

1:05 PM State President ■ 1:15 PM 1st Vice President
1:25 PM ■ 2nd Vice President ■ 1:35 PM 3rd Vice President
■ 1:45 PM Secretary ■ 1:55 PM Treasurer
2-4:30 PM General Business Session (Closed Session)
– Capitol/Illinois

Reports of District Vice Presidents

East Central Bob Swisher
West Central Chris Ord
North Sandra Supancic
Northwest Gail Sessler
South Central Jeffery Johnson
South Lyndal Qualls
East Kristi Wykes
West Jerry Leininger
Presentation of Budget, 1st Vice President David Jurmu

State Committee/Commission Chair Reports

Preliminary Credentials Scott Flota
Americanism Lisa Cantu Grygiel
Antlers and Youth Activities Jolina Haerle
Easter Bunny James Cusack
Hoop Shoot Jim Swisher
Accident Prevention Jamey Hodges
Insurance Jamey Hodges
Lodge Trustees Training Mark Strange
Auditing & Treasurer Training William Gandolfi
Membership and Lapsation Merle Evans
Orientation Sharon Kay Dirck
Lodge Activities Dennis Bierman
Public Relations Mike Slape
Ritual Roger Quinn
Soccer Steve Albrecht

Saturday, May 20

6:30 AM-6 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4
7 AM-Noon Convention Registration
Mezzanine, Registration Desk
7:30-9 AM Board of Directors /Executive Committee
(Continental breakfast) – Prairie

8-9 AM Athletic Commission – Ambassador
8-9 AM Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation
– Conference Ctr 4

8-9 AM Secretaries Association – Plaza 3
8-9:30 AM Publication Corporation
– Conference Ctr 1

8-10 AM District Deputies & Esquires
(Continental Breakfast) – Conference Ctr 2

8-10 AM Leading Knights Training – Rendezvous

9-10 AM Exalted Rulers Meet with
Executive Committee – Embassy

9-10 AM Lodge Treasurers – Plaza 3

9-10 AM Lodge Trustees Training – Prairie

9:30-10:30 AM Ladies Brunch

Cost: Pre-Reg \$10/On site \$13 – Pinnacle

10-11 AM General Business Session

(Spouses & Guests Welcome) – Capitol/Illinois

Children's Care Corporation Awards Tawn Williams

Veterans Service Awards Bob Kane

Leading Knights Training Paul Ronzani

Scholarship Awards Gail Sessler

11 AM-Noon Memorial Service

by 2nd Vice President Tom Deien – Capitol/Illinois

Noon-1 p.m. Lunch (on Your Own)

1-4 PM General Business Session Reconvenes

– Capitol/Illinois

Committee/Commission Chairmen Reports Continue

Advisory Anthony Dardano
Athletic Commission John Bailey
Publication Corporation Vicki Williams
Children's Care Corporation Tawn Williams
Secretaries Association Stephanie Schwab
Drug Awareness Program Frank Burr
ENF Jason Martin/Kristi Hornung
Government Relations John Shull
New Lodge Bob Rolewicz
Website Monitoring Craig Smith
Bowling Association Michael Bergman
Convention Committee Kevin Kennedy
Final Credentials Report Scott Flota

Unfinished Business ■ Adoption of the Budget

Judiciary John Shull

Election of Officers (Credentials Required)

1:30-5 PM PGER Meets with Lodges and Individuals

– Conference Ctr 3

3-4 PM Drug Awareness Program – Conference Ctr 4

3-4 PM Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shootout – Plaza 1

5-6 PM Illinois Elks Association Reception

– Capitol/Illinois /Prairie

6-9 PM Illinois Elks Association Dinner

– Capitol/Illinois/Prairie

Honoring 2017-18 Class of Exalted Rulers

Salad: Garden Green Salad
Entrée: Apple stuffed Pork Medallions, Whipped potatoes and Green Beans
Dessert: Chocolate Raspberry Cake
Cost: Pre-registration \$28/On-site \$30
Dress: Business Suit

Awards Program

American Essay Contest Winners, Veterans Volunteer of the Year, All-American Lodge State Winners, District Vice President of the Year, Secretary of the Year, Exalted Ruler of the Year, Lodge of the Year, Elk of the Year, and Family of the Year

Sunday, May 21

7-11 AM Convention Office – Plaza 4
7:30-8 AM Room Reservations for the
September Convention – Capitol/Illinois
8-8:30 AM State Officers and Board of Directors
Pictures (Please be on time!) – Capitol/Illinois
8:30-10 AM Final Business Session Capitol/Illinois

*Installation of 2017-18 State and District Officers
(All Elks are encouraged to Attend)*

All Elks, Male & Female, Must Register for convention functions: FEES: Pre-Registration \$10/ On-site \$20
Pre-Registration deadline is May 3.

By pre-registering for the convention, 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 Hotel in planning the workshops, breakfast and banquet.

Room Cancellation cut off will be April 17 – 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.

The 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.

All Hospitality Rooms shall be CLOSED 6-9 PM on Saturday, May 20



**HOST LODGE:
SPRINGFIELD
#158**

Registration badges necessary to attend all functions;

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

Deadline to pre-register for Annual Meeting is May 3

Illinois Elks and guests attending the Illinois Elks Association Annual meeting, scheduled May 19-21 at the Wyndham-Springfield Hotel, are encouraged to pre-register. Pre-registration deadline is May 3. 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 May 3. Checks should be made payable to the Illinois Elks Association. The charge for the Saturday evening dinner is \$28 with pre-registration and \$32 on-site. The ladies luncheon is \$16 with pre-registration and \$20 on-site. Room cancelation cut off is April 19 – 30 days before the start of the convention. All mailings must be postmarked by the posted dates to avoid additional late charges. Room canceled after Dec. 26 will forfeit their deposit.

Copper announces candidacy for IEA third vice president

By DAVID COPPER
Candidate for IEA Third Vice President

I am honored to be a candidate for the Illinois Elks Association third vice president position. In looking at the Granite City Elks history, the last “past state president” representing my lodge was in 1974. I have been planning and working hard to be the next “state president” from my lodge. After having been exalted ruler three different years, I am currently the secretary and continue to work to make ends meet and help my lodge be successful. I will do the same representing the IEA. I have put the steps to the third VP position in motion by serving in the West Central District chairs, including being DDGER in 2014, while continuing to be an officer at the Granite City Elks Lodge. In the past, I have chaired or co-chaired lodge committees from Easter Bunny to Scholarship. I am very proud of my involvement in these committees because I feel it is the cornerstone of what makes Elks the Best People On Earth. The decision to run for third vice president was an easy one for me. Fortunately for me, my wife Teresa has been behind my desire to run



DAVID AND TERESA COPPER

for this office and understands that this journey is not only mine, but hers as well. If we are given the opportunity to serve the Illinois Elks Association as the Illinois state president and first lady, it would be a tremendous honor. Many of you know that I have been a firefighter for almost 30 years and have been a fire inspector these last few years. Being a firefighter requires dedication to do the job right and the ability to take on challenges as they come. My time as an Elks member and officer has been the same. That is why, if I am chosen to be the third vice president for the IEA, I encourage all of us “Let’s Put the Fire Back in Elkdom.”

Eclipse may be visible at JC Lodge

The IEA’s newest lodge – Johnson County 2880 – may be the place to be in August to view the anticipated solar eclipse. “Anyone who wishes to view the upcoming solar eclipse Aug. 21 (should) keep an eye on the Facebook page of the South District,” IEA Lodge Activities Chairman Dennis Bierman said in his Mid-Winter report. “Eleven of the 12 lodges of the South will have the best views of the eclipse in the U.S., weather permitting, of

course. “Our newest lodge, Johnson County 2880, has the longest duration at 2 hours, 40 minutes. Preparations have not begun yet, but I believe that several of the lodges will welcome guests.” Bierman said hotels and viewing sites are already taking reservations from on-lookers. “So if you wish to experience this event, the grounds of an Elks lodge might be the best place,” he added.

Pre-registration
Deadline
MAY 3, 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
MAY 3, 2017

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

Illinois Elks Annual Meeting
Registration Form
Annual Meeting May 19-21, 2017
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Please make a reservation for the following:
Pre – registration - \$10.00 After MAY 3, 2017---\$20.00

ELK#1 _____ **Non-Elk Spouse** _____

ELK#2 (**Only if spouse of Elk #1**) _____

Lodge _____ No. _____ Dist. _____

Title ELK#1 _____
Elk title (To be typed on Convention Badge)

Title ELK#2 _____
Elk title (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)

Ladies Brunch @ \$10.00/\$13.00* \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$28.00/\$32.00* \$ _____
(Honoring 2017-2018 class of Exalted Rulers)

Children’s Dinner (12yrs and under only)(\$17.00/\$19.00*) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

***Cost of meal if check received post marked after MAY 3, 2017**
Or purchased on-site

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Student of month rules readily available at Elks.org

The IEA Youth Activities Committee is promoting a way for lodges to reach the young people they serve by offering schools a Teen of the Month/Year program. Every detail of the Grand Lodge Student Recognition program is posted at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm>, including letters from the Grand Lodge Activities Committee chairman to local lodges and state youth activities chairs. Also posted there are a brochure outlining the program, suggestions for implementing a student recognition program, sample news release, awards certificates and promotional posters.

IEA Youth Activities Chair Debbie Rinard outlined the program at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting, in which the idea of an end-of-school-year event was discussed. “Invited youth could be scholarship recipients, Girl Scout, Eagle Scout, Americanism essay contest and Teen of the Month/Year winners from throughout the year,” Rinard said. She also asked for increased lodge communication between program chairs, exalted rulers and secretaries “to make sure nothing is missed that can be reported.”

Rinard’s call for increased communication echoes a point emphasized by the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee that lodges report all their charitable programs to protect the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks’ tax status as a charitable organization.

Correction

Brenda Pittman is a former secretary of Quincy Lodge 100. She had been erroneously referred to as the current lodge secretary in the Mid-Winter Newsette. The Newsette regrets the error.

Zellen from Page 1

my dad passed away. Although I was still grieving, I felt I had to go forward with my initiation in his honor.”

At that time, Zellen was a junior at Suffolk University in Boston. Having just lost his father and coming to the realization that his mother was not going to be financially able to support his education, he decided not to return to college for the spring semester, so he informed the registrar’s office that he was going to have to take a leave for a semester or two.

Two weeks later, Zellen said he received a telephone call from the president of Suffolk University, John E. Fenton, who also happened to be a Past Grand Exalted Ruler, having served in 1960-61.

“I had known Judge Fenton since I was a young boy, as he was a close friend of my father,” Zellen said. “He called to find out the reason why I was taking a leave from my education. I explained to him that due to my

father’s recent passing and the uncertainty of finances that I would have to take some time off from college.”

Fenton asked if Zellen would be attending classes the next day, and Zellen told him his first class started at 10 a.m. Fenton requested that Zellen come in early and meet with him in his office.

“When I arrived, he had several papers on his desk and asked me to sign them,” Zellen said. “He then informed me that I had just been awarded an Emergency Grant through the Elks National Foundation and that I would be receiving a full scholarship, tuition and books for the next year and a half to complete my degree.”

After graduating from college, Zellen said he felt he owed the Elks a debt of gratitude for their generosity.

“I became very passionate about the Order’s programs, its mission statement, its tradition of giving and providing aid and relief to those less fortunate and those who were in need, just as I was.”

Forty-nine years later, the passion still burns.

Visit from Page 1

increasing membership,” he said. “The successful Lodges of the future will adopt one or more continuing beneficial community projects that, through repeated service year after year, will become signature accomplishments in the eyes of the community.

“Consistency and letting people know of our service – that is the key!”

In addition, Illinois Elks reaped more than they sowed, thanks to the grants and awards they received from the Elks National Foundation in 2015-16, totaling \$470,180 or \$2.28 for every dollar the foundation received from the IEA, not including the 94 grants that 54 Illinois lodges received through the Community Investments Program, which totaled another \$211,396 or another \$1.03 for a total ratio of \$3.32 for every dollar.

“That’s a “232 percent return on your investment,” the banker by trade said.

Zellen urged all good Elks to support the ENF by donating and volunteering with the ENF programs. The per-member goal for 2016-17 is \$4.65 per member.

“I hope that I can count on your support in reaching our goal,” he said, adding that the state had a per capita of \$4.10 as of January.

In 2015-16, Illinois Elks donated \$205,658 to the ENF – or \$7.47 per member, surpassing then-GER Ronald L. Hicks’ of \$4.65.

Zellen also addressed the declining membership nationwide. The high-water mark of 1.649 million members ending in 1979-80, ebbed to just over 781,000 ending in 2015-16.

“A primary factor contributing to loss in membership was and continues to be, age,” he said. “Many lodges are losing a large percentage of members due to death each year.”

Many other elderly members are in nursing homes, or don’t leave the house except to go to church or visit the doctor.

“The lodge bulletin is the primary source of communication with those members, and it is important to include something in each edition that would keep these members satisfied and not feel disenfranchised from your lodge,” Zellen said.

“Remember, the forgotten member is a lost member.”

Despite the declining membership, the rate of loss has slowed, to 1.1 percent in 2015-16, after more than twice the average annual rate in the years leading up to 2015-16.

“I truly hope that this year, with your help, we can make history and achieve a gain in membership,” he said.

Zellen also urged Illinois Elks to focus on decreasing the number of members who let their memberships lapse and increasing the number of member reinstatements.

“After all, it’s easier to retain your current membership than it is to create new members,” he said. “Lapsation can best be controlled by making sure that each new member as well as existing members are made to feel welcome, and are offered and given an opportunity to participate and become involved in the lodge programs.”

For the dropped members who “once upon a time had at least one good reason to join our Order” – they should not be forgotten.

“Personal contact with them will often produce positive results,” Zellen said. “Be sure to inform them of the many worthwhile programs the lodge sponsors for the good of the community and encourage them to rejoin our efforts.”

Zellen asked Illinois Elks to reach out to members and constantly reinforce the programs that their lodges and the Order accomplish every day.

“Let’s rekindle the pride we had when we joined, and perpetuate that same fervor in each new member when he or she joins,” he said. “That pride and knowledge we embrace, properly cultivated in the hearts of our new members and keeping the membership informed and involved are the solutions to our problems.”

153rd Grand Lodge Convention-Reno
July 16-19, 2017
Peppermill*Resort*Spa*Casino
2702 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89502

(Please print or type)

Name _____ Spouse/Sig other _____

Title _____ Lodge name/number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Arrival Date _____ Arrival Time _____ Departure Date _____

Special Accommodations _____

Room Preference 2 Dbl King (Preference not guaranteed. All rooms non-smoking)

The room rate is \$138.00 per night, taxes included.
Free Parking

Room deposit (All except DDGER designates) \$138.00

Hospitality Room/Person \$50 X _____ = _____

TOTAL _____

_____ I do not wish to use the Hospitality Room

_____ I will not be staying with the Illinois delegation, but wish to use the Hospitality Room. (Accommodations not made through the State Housing Chairman or Grand Lodge must have prior approval of the State Housing Chairman or State President to be allowed access to the Hospitality Room.)

Make check payable to: IEA Housing

Mail completed form and check to:

Greg Verdun, 3rd VP/Housing Chairman
1616 Meadowlark
Pontiac, IL 61764

Phone: 815-822-4734
email: verdung@yahoo.com
(All changes must be brought to my attention via email)

Reservation deadline: May 22, 2017
Rooms reserved on a first come – first served basis. Illinois has only 110 rooms available.

“I truly hope that this year, with your help, we can make history and achieve a gain in membership.”
– GER Michael F. Zellen

STATE

Mt. Vernon 1st, C-U 2nd in team ritual competition



OLE OHLSSON OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA 2497 won the 11 O' Clock toast contest at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting, winning out over six other competitors. Ohlsson displays his plaque, flanked by Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen and IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger.

MT. VERNON LODGE 819 won the IEA ritual team competition at the Mid-Winter Meeting in January. Mt. Vernon beat Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 to win top honors. Front from left are: Lecturing Knight Larry George, candidate Kari Docherty, Exalted Ruler David Bowling, Leading Knight John Tucker and Chaplain Debbie Summers. In back are: IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, Coach Patrick Bevis, Inner Guard Tim Bain, Tiler Bob Kane, Esquire Anthony Burk, Loyal Knight David Edwards and Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen. IEA Ritual Chairman Roger Quinn, who announced the winners, also recognized the ritual judges, Ron Westerhold of Blue Springs, MO Lodge 2509; IEA Past State President Kirk Wallace of Fairfield 1631; John Baylor of Flora 1659; Don Butler of Dixon 779; Lowell Armstrong and wife Jan of Macomb 1009; and John Heltzel of Flora 1659.



TERESA TERVIN OF CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Lodge 2497, fourth from left, was the high scorer at the IEA team ritual competition at the Mid-Winter Meeting in January in Springfield. She scored 95.840 in winning for lecturing knight. IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen flank the individual winners, from left, Inner Guard Tim Bain of Mt. Vernon 819 with a score of 93.727; Chaplain Jeff Prible of Champaign-Urbana (94.331); Tervin; Loyal Knight Dave Edwards of Mt. Vernon (93.953); Leading Knight Ole Ohlsson of Champaign-Urbana (93.623); and Exalted Ruler Dave Bowling of Mt. Vernon (92.858). Unavailable for the photo was Adam Malone of Champaign-Urbana, who won for esquire, scoring 94.673. IEA Ritual Chairman Roger Quinn, who announced the winners, said, "There are no losers in this competition, and I want to thank these individuals for helping revive ritual in Illinois."



The Illinois Elks Pipes and Drums Corp performs to conclude the introduction of Grand Lodge and IEA officials at the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting in Springfield in January.

Bagpipes, gift exchange among highlights at IEA dinner honoring GER Zellen, First Lady



IEA President Ray Summers wasn't going to let Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen leave Illinois without a reminder of the state's flagship university, the University of Illinois.



Grand Lodge First Lady Donna Zellen shows off the earrings she received from IEA President Ray Summers and First Lady Leta on GER Michael Zellen's visit to the IEA in January.



Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen, left, displays the resolution he received from IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, naming Zellen an honorary member of the Illinois Elks Association. Zellen was in attendance at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting as part of his GER visits to Elks state associations nationwide.

IEA earmarks \$7K to Honor Flight

IEA President Ray Summers has announced that the IEA will donate \$7,000 each to three of the state's Honor Flight programs in 2017.

Those donations will be to three of the state's six Honor Flight programs, which arrange for World War II veterans to fly to the nation's capital to see the WWII memorial. Plans are to fund the other three in 2018.

The donations were announced at the IEA Advisory Committee meeting held in conjunction with the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting.

Also at that meeting, IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers said four IEA lodges failed to collect their \$1,500 awards for reaching the state president's goal for contributing to the Elks National Foundation in 2015-16. The deadline was Dec. 31.

STATE

Kewanee cop with hundreds of drug arrests wins Enrique Camarena Award for 2016-17

A Kewanee police officer involved in hundreds of narcotics-related arrests is the Elks Enrique Camarena Award winner for 2016-17.

Sgt. Justin Reed received the award, which recognizes police officers who make a significant contribution in drug prevention, at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting in Springfield in January. The award is based on nominations from Illinois Elks lodges.

The award was established to honor law enforcement officers who have made a significant contribution in the field of drug prevention and who exemplifies Agent Camarena's belief that one person can make a difference.

During Reed's appointment to the Street Crime Unit he was involved in hundreds of narcotics-related arrests, including one involving more than 500 containers of synthetic drugs with a street value of more than \$12,000.

Reed is assigned to the Illinois State Police

Blackhawk Area Task Force, in which he has initiated 52 investigations leading to 56 arrests for narcotic-related offenses.

Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen presented the award to Reed at the Saturday dinner highlighting the Mid-Winter meeting, accompanied by IEA Drug Awareness Chairman Frank Burr.

Reed's name and supporting documents have been sent to the Elks National Drug Awareness Program for consideration for the Elks National Enrique Camarena Award.

Reed also was presented with the President Volunteer Service Award for his work in support of his community.

In 2006, the Elks National Drug Awareness Program became a certifying organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award Program, through which the Elks are able to recommend individuals to receive this award.



Kewanee police Sgt. Justin Reed displays the plaque he was awarded as the recipient of the 2016-17 IEA Enrique Camarena Award for his effort to combat drug abuse. He is flanked by Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen, IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and IEA Drug Awareness Chairman Frank Burr.



Holiday cheer

The Illinois Elks Drug Awareness Program brought some holiday cheer to Brookfield Zoo with a Christmas tree decorated with red ribbons. Always looking for ways to promote the IEA Drug Awareness Program, Chairman Frank Burr said, "This will get the Elks name and the Drug Awareness message out to an average of 142,000 people who will visit the zoo during the holidays."

Robinson 1188 tops IEA in donation to help kids living with cancer

Robinson Lodge 1188 contributed \$500 to lead IEA lodges in donations to a newly announced partnership with the Elks National Drug Awareness Program.

The Elks National Drug Awareness Program announced the partnership with Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation in late 2016.

"This was a great way to show the communities that we as Elks are here to help kids with cancer and the communities we are in," IEA Drug Awareness Chairman Frank Burr

said.

Over the past few months Burr had sent out e-mails asking every lodge to participate in this program. Five lodges held an event, raising \$1,516 to help kids living with cancer, including Robinson's \$500.

Galena, DeKalb, Des Plaines and Fairview Heights lodges contributed the remaining \$1,016.

For its effort, Robinson Lodge was to receive 200+ DAP promotional items to use

at lodge events. Galena, DeKalb, Des Plaines and Fairview Heights each were to receive 100 DAP promotional items to hand out at Lodge events.

Burr said the Elks National Drug Awareness Program will partner again this year with Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

"We will be asking for every lodge to hold an event in September (as part of) Childhood Cancer Awareness Month," he said.

Key to membership gain is 'focus' on personal contact, letter campaign

Focus.

That's the key to forging a gain in membership for the BPOE, IEA Membership Chairman Merle Evans said in his Mid-Winter report.

"The attention that each lodge pays to its initiation schedule and campaign to recover delinquent members will determine whether the lodge, districts and our state will, indeed, achieve a membership gain," he said.

While "one-on-one personal contact" should be stressed in retaining delinquent members, Evans advised that contact should work in concert with a series of letters to those members who haven't renewed their membership.

The first letter should be sent in

early February, before the lodge year ends on March 31. That letter should appeal for payment of dues and to alert that a followup letter will be forthcoming in late February quoting Grand Lodge Statute Section 14.160 summarizing what will happen in March of an impending drop from membership if dues are not paid.

"(Mention of) the 60-day special reinstatement window, in April and May, is also included in the letter, along with a reminder that dropped Elks are prohibited from further club/lodge or lodge activities," Evans said. "Lodge secretaries are required by statute to issue this final letter."



Gifts for new lodge, Johnson County 2880

Johnson County Elks Lodge, which was instituted in November to become the IEA's first new lodge in 50 years, was the recipient of some lodge hand-me-downs to equip their new lodge. Johnson County Lodge Exalted Ruler Norman Suits, left, receives the Elks clock, formerly owned by the now-defunct Dalton Lodge. He is accompanied, from left, by South District Deputy Dennis Bierman, South District Sponsor Charlie Campbell and IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger. "It's been kind of a whirlwind ride" to get Johnson County Lodge in operation, ER Suits said, crediting members Lori McClellan, Debbie Riddle, Christy Furman and Cheryl Qualls for laying the groundwork leading to the lodge's institution. "Without them, this would not be taking place." Earlier, IEA member Tom Funk unveiled other lodge furniture to give to Johnson County Lodge, including oak chairs and an altar. "It's not perfect but it will get you going," Funk said. Sulsberger added, "I guess you'd call this a little icing on the cake." The give-away took place at the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in January.

New IEA website at Illinoiselks.org boosts timely content offerings

Mark Bump of Joliet Lodge 296 has been elected chairman of the IEA Publication Corporation for 2017-18, replacing Eric Judy, who has taken over as the new IEA webmaster.

Gene Howe of Centralia 493 was elected corporation vice chairman; Vicki Williams of Champaign-Urbana 2497, treasurer; and Joe Baker of Chicago Northshore 1316, secretary.

The election was held at the corporation meeting at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting, in which the 2017-18 corporation budget was also approved.

Judy is redesigning the IEA website under a new

name, Illinoiselks.org. The previous website included a "-" in the previous name, Illinois-Elks.org.

Illinoiselks.org is becoming a more content-based website in an effort to attract more readership. In fact, award photos from the Mid-Winter Meeting in January, including those from the IEA ritual team competition, are already posted there, along with coverage of GER Michael F. Zellen's keynote address at the Saturday night dinner.

Lodge news submitted to the Elks Newsette also is being prepared for upload to Illinoiselks.org.

COATS FOR KIDS

Danville Elks take Coats for Kids seriously

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was reprinted with permission from the Oct. 16, 2016, Danville Commercial-News, ahead of the Danville Elks' coat collection effort. A total of 434 coats and other winter wear were collected, surpassing the lodge goal of 400.

By **MARY WICOFF**
Danville Commercial-News

DANVILLE — In 2015, more than 400 coats were donated to the Danville Elks Lodge 332 Coats 4 Kids drive — its largest collection to date.

Organizers hope to meet or exceed that number this year, as the drive continues through October.

Boxes have been set up at 17 schools, churches and businesses around the Danville area to collect new or gently used coats in good condition. Hats, caps, mittens, gloves and scarves also will be accepted.

The seventh annual drive is being conducted by the Elks in partnership with the Salvation Army, which will distribute the coats to eligible families.

"The goal is to shoot higher than previous years," said Rich Carroll, co-chairman of the Elks coat drive. "It would be great if we got 100

Danville Lodge paces IEA coats collection

Eleven of the IEA's 70 local lodges bought or collected more than 700 coats to make for a warmer winter for children and adults in 2016-17, led by Danville, Princeton and Champaign-Urbana lodges.

Danville 332 in October collected 434 coats and other winter wear for distribution by the Salvation Army. Princeton 1461 reported collecting coats, hats and mittens and 200 youths, and C-U bought and collected 150 coats for distribution.

IEA Coats for Kids Chair Mary Leming, in her Mid-Winter committee report, also announced donations from Charleston 623, which purchased 50 new coats; Robinson 1188, which bought 34 coats for donation; Joliet 296, which collected 33 coats; Springfield 158, which collected three coats and other winter wear; and Mt. Vernon 819, which raised \$1,215 to buy coats for children.

Leming said she's aware of the competition to distribute coats for kids, adding, "It's not about the quantity of coats that a lodge collects but what we do as Elks for our community."

coats."

While the campaign is called Coats 4 Kids, that includes teenagers through high school age, many of whom wear adult sizes. Thus, all sizes are needed.

A new twist this year is that Schlarman Academy north campus students are competing to see which class will collect the most coats. Students in the winning class will receive free vouchers to the Danville Dashers opening game on Nov. 4.

Also, the individual student who collects the most coats, along with his or her parents, will be honored

at a dinner Nov. 2 at the Elks lodge. The hockey team also will be honored at that time for its support of the coat drive.

Mark Croy, dean of students at Schlarman, set a good example by donating a couple of coats already.

"We all have coats we no longer wear," he said. "So you might as well donate, and not have them hanging there."

The coat collection also fits in with the school's Faith Alive project, in which high school students complete 100 hours of community service in order to



Danville Lodge 332 members Rich Carroll and Ernie Truax, co-chairmen of the 2016 Coats for Kids program for the IEA, check out one of their signs to promote the collection effort.

graduate. Students will not get credit for donating coats, he said, but the drive meshes with the Faith Alive concept.

Ernie Truax, co-chairman of the drive and a trustee with the Elks, said the partnership with the Salvation Army started six years.

Starcrest and Custom Care cleaners also are involved by cleaning coats at no charge, when needed, he said. In fact, last year,

Starcrest donated 12 coats that nobody had picked up after several years.

Also, some people donated new coats that still had the tags on them.

Carroll, who is chaplain with the Elks, urged people to share their unwanted coats, which can keep someone warm this winter instead of just looking pretty in the closet.

"It's for a good cause. A lot of people are hurting out there," he said.

Gift of coats a dream come true for Mt. Vernon Elks



Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 continued to bring life to Past Exalted Ruler Mark Manis' dream of providing "Coats for Kids" who need them. Lodge Chaplain Debbie Summers teamed with the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club in December to distribute 140 coats to seven schools, whose teachers and social workers picked the recipients. Front from left are: Mt. Vernon Elk Jewel Marlow and some of the coat recipients. In back are: Summers, Primary Center social worker Sara Wiggins, Principal Shannon Marler and Rotary members Becky Whisenant and Brittaney Meeker.

Robinson Elks give kids head start with new coats

Robinson Lodge 1188 Loyal Knight Dave Marqua helps Head Start children show off their new gear, thanks to the \$500 that members donated to their Coats for Kids drive last fall. The funds enabled Robinson Lodge to supply coats, hats and gloves to both the Head Start Program and the Clothing Center Workshop. In another charitable effort, Robinson Elks raised more than \$10,500 at its annual Veterans Auction in November to support Crawford County veterans.



Kankakee Elks give coats to school kids

Kankakee Lodge 627 donated 75 coats to students of Kankakee grade schools in December. Lodge Coats for Kids Chair Kerry Blue met with the kids and administrators to make the donation.

Lodges to report Easter Bunny results by May 5

The due date for local lodges to report the results of their Easter Bunny programs for 2016-17 is May 5.

File reports to IEA State Chairman Jim Cusack. He may be e-mailed with results at sonotme1@yahoo.com., called

at 773-403-3739 or sent a letter to him at 5902 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60646.

Cusack convened a meeting of the IEA Easter Bunny program at the Mid-Winter Meeting, in which 11 people attended, including three of the eight district chairs and four

Rayci Phelps wins regional Hoop Shoot to advance to nationals

Rayci Phelps, representing McLeansboro Lodge 1882, won the regional Hoop Shoot competition in Iowa City in March.

Phelps hit on 23 of 25 shots in the 8/9 girls division to advance to the Hoop Shoot national finals in Chicago in April.

Three other Illinois shooters placed second at Iowa City – Anden Atwood,

representing Fairfield 1631 among the 10/11 boys, with 21 of 25 in regulation and shootoffs of 3/5 and 3/5; Brady Clark, representing Effingham 1016 in the 8/9 boys, on 22 of 25 and 4 of 5; and Brady Schemehorn, representing Galena 882, with 21 of 25.

Illinois' two other competitors placed

fourth in their divisions – Anna Beyers, representing Pana 1261 among 10-11 girls, with 17 of 25; and Sophie Bormann, representing Metropolis 1428 among the 12/13 girls, with 16 of 25.

Phelps continued her hot shooting from February in the IEA finals, where she was the top shooter among the girls with 22 of

25 shots made, one fewer than the 23 she hit in Iowa City.

In addition, Illinois' shooters overall sank more shots than their counterparts in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin with 120 shots made in regulation, compared to Wisconsin's 117, Minnesota's 116 and Iowa's 105.



IEA Hoop Shoot finalists gather for a group photo before the competition at Jefferson School in Decatur in February.



Camren Ray, representing Lawrenceville Lodge 1208, runs "the gauntlet" upon his introduction before the 12-13 boys competition.



Past State President Paul Ronzani mans the hot dog concession at registration.

Rayci Phelps, representing McLeansboro Lodge 1882 and South Central District, displays the Jim Watson Memorial Trophy as the top shooter among girls at this year's IEA Hoop Shoot, sinking 22 of 25 shots. She is accompanied by Past State President Ralph Bradshaw. The top boys shooter with 24 shots made – Brady Clark, representing Effingham 1016 and East Central District – was not present for the photo.



Hoop Shoot finalist signs one of the basketballs that were given to the participants who secured the greatest number of signatures of Elks members attending this year's event in Decatur.



IEA Hoop Shoot director Jim Swisher takes a pause for the cause while helping register shooters.



IEA President Ray Summers addresses the gathering of Hoop Shoot participants and guests at the Saturday night awards dinners.



Pam Turner and Thomas Tracy, both of Wheaton Lodge 2258, serve soft drinks as part of the IEA's welcome to Hoop Shooters.



Past IEA Hoop Shoot Director Bob Swisher assists patrons registering for the 2017 Hoop Shoot.

Top finishers at 2016-17 IEA Hoop Shoot finals



8-9 GIRLS – Rayci Phelps, representing McLeansboro 1882 and South Central District, won on 22 of 25, with Kenna Hight, second, representing Cairo 651 and South District, with 21 of 25, and Mylee Tracy, third, representing Beardstown 1007 and the West Central District, with 16 shots made.



8-9 BOYS – Elliott Acree, back, representing Mt. Carmel 715 and South Central District, placed third with 20 of 25 shots made. Also, from left, are: Devin Horace, representing Oak Lawn 2254 and the East District; Ethan Odam, representing West Frankfort 1340 and South District; and Charles Smith, representing Jacksonville 682 and West Central District. They all did not place in the competition. Winning the division was Brady Clark, representing Effingham 1016 and East Central District, on 24 of 25 shots made, followed by Avian Thomas, second, representing Rock Island 980 and Northwest District, with 21 of 25. Clark and Thomas were not present for the photo.



10-11 GIRLS – Anna Beyers, representing Pana 1261 and East Central District, won with 18 of 25 shots made, followed by Tori Geriets, second, representing Lincoln 914 and West District, with 16 shots made and 4 of 5 in a shootout; and Maddie Gourley, third, representing Pontiac 1219 and East District, with 16 and 2 of 5.



10-11 BOYS – Anden Atwood, representing Fairfield 1631 and South Central District, was the division winner on 22 of 25 and 5 of 5 in a shootoff. The second- and third-place finishers, not pictured, were Phillip Cipriani, representing Oak Lawn 2254 and East District, with 22 of 25 and 3 of 5; and Alex Gruca, representing Des Plaines 1526 and North District, with 21 shots made.



12-13 GIRLS – Sophie Bormann, representing Metropolis 1428 and South District, won with 18 of 25 shots made and shootoffs of 4 of 5 and 4 of 5, followed by Abbie Dabson, second, representing Jacksonville 682 and West Central District, with 18 of 25, 4 of 5 and 3 of 5; and Lauren Klien, third, representing Oglesby 2360 and Northwest District, with 17 of 25.



12-13 BOYS – Brady Schemehorn, representing Galena 882 and Northwest District, won with 22 of 25 shots made, followed by Camren Ray, second, representing Lawrenceville 1208 and South Central, with 21 of 25 and 5 of 5; and Nathan Kaufman, third, representing Marion 800 and South District, with 21 of 25, 4 of 5 and 4 of 5.



IEA Vice President Dave Jurmu confers with Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher.



Hoop Shoot participants received a Drug Awareness message in a high-traffic area during registration.



153rd Grand Lodge Convention-Reno
July 16-19, 2017
Peppermill*Resort*Spa*Casino
2702 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89502

(Please print or type)

Name _____ Spouse/Sig other _____

Title _____ Lodge name/number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Arrival Date _____ Arrival Time _____ Departure Date _____

Special Accommodations _____

Room Preference 2 Dbl King (Preference not guaranteed. All rooms non-smoking)

The room rate is \$138.00 per night, taxes included.
Free Parking

Room deposit (All except DDGER designates) \$138.00

Hospitality Room/Person \$50 X _____ = _____

TOTAL _____

_____ I do not wish to use the Hospitality Room

_____ I will not be staying with the Illinois delegation, but wish to use the Hospitality Room. (Accommodations not made through the State Housing Chairman or Grand Lodge must have prior approval of the State Housing Chairman or State President to be allowed access to the Hospitality Room.)

Make check payable to: IEA Housing

Mail completed form and check to:

Greg Verdun, 3rd VP/Housing Chairman
1616 Meadowlark
Pontiac, IL 61764

Phone: 815-822-4734
email: verdung@yahoo.com

(All changes must be brought to my attention via email)

Reservation deadline: May 22, 2017

Rooms reserved on a first come – first served basis. Illinois has only 110 rooms available.



Orientation of new members seen as marketing opportunity

IEA Orientation Chair Sharon Kay Dirck cleared up a misconception that spouses and significant others are not allowed to attend orientation for newly installed Elks members.

To the contrary, she told Illinois Elks attending the session she conducted at the Mid-Winter meeting. Orientation is a marketing opportunity.

"I told them I have on occasion done a great selling job in my lodge, and that I currently have 31 husbands and wives who are all members. And there are a few significant others who have joined also," Dirck said.

Dirck also discussed the need for a separate IEA or Grand Lodge orientation manual. She said the subject is addressed only in 3-1/2 pages of the Grand Lodge Membership Program and Planning Manual, which may be downloaded at elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/manuals.cfm.

"We need to have an agenda of things to cover, and we need to have more officers in attendance or committee chairs who can attest to actual experiences they have had while being an Elk.

"The more personal contact with the new members the better."

At the Mid-Winter orientation meeting, Dirck displayed a folder of information that she presents to new members of her lodge, Dixon 779. The folder includes: a copy of the lodge's 100th anniversary booklet, a copy of lodge bylaws, Drug Awareness information, Children's Care Corporation information, an Elks National Foundation donation envelope, the latest lodge newsletter, the "Why Become a Member of the Elks — Because" sheet, the "What It Means to be an Elk" booklet, lodge hours, officer contact information and a "Get Involved" survey.

She said she doesn't include a membership application because they are presented on initiation night, along with a welcome to the lodge membership committee.

"To get off the committee, they need to bring in one new member," Dirck added.

Reno registration deadline is May 22

Illinois Elks wanting to attend the Elks National Convention in Reno in July are asked to complete the reservation form, above, and mail it along with the room deposit to IEA Third Vice President Greg Verdun.

A "limited number" of rooms will be available, the IEA Convention Committee said in its Mid-Winter report.

Verdun may be reached for information at verdung@yahoo.com or by calling his cell at 815-822-4734.

Plans are to house Illinois Elks at the Peppermill Casino. The room deposit is \$138, the estimated cost of a one-night stay there. The hospitality room charge will be \$50 per person attending the convention.

The reservation deadline is May 22.

Also at the Convention Committee meeting, Area 3 Member Jim Rice suggested, and the committee agreed, to offer a price for children to attend the Saturday night dinners at IEA meetings to encourage attendance by young families.

The suggestion followed committee reports showing that pre-registrations for the Mid-Winter Meeting were down slightly in January. Room reservations also were down from 2016.

All Elks VAVS slots filled at state's 11 VA hospitals

The IEA has a full complement of Veterans Administration Volunteer Service representatives for the 11 VA hospitals in Illinois.

IEA National Veterans Service Chairman Bob Kane said he's found someone to take over as VAVS rep at O'Hare International Airport.

"Many thanks go to Florence Rooney who has been doing O'Hare many years," even after her husband Jim died, and while she has had health problems, Kane said.

He said the IEA's veteran volunteers have been busy the past quarter at all 11 VA hospitals and five USO's, including the new one added at O'Hare.

"Thanks to all Elks who take their time to volunteer to bring some joy to our soldiers," Kane said.

He also acknowledge Grand Lodge Veterans Service Commission Director Mary Morgan for the seminar outlining Elks' veterans services she presented at the Mid-Winter Meeting.

Illinois Elks top 7 million mark in tab top collections for McDonald House

Dan Jurka of Chicago South Lodge and participating Illinois Elks have topped the 7 million mark in the number of tab tops collected to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Jurka said he took 660 pounds of tab tops to Ronald McDonald House in December, including 415 pounds to reach the 7 million tab top mark and 245 pounds toward his next goal of 8 million.

Jurka started the program in June 2007, and an estimated 5,775 pounds of tab tops have been collected. Many of the collections come from the hospitality rooms at IEA meetings.

"Kudos to the IEA," Jurka said.

He estimated the value of the tab tops collected, based on 50 cents per pound, at "\$2,887.50 plus or minus a few bucks."

STATE

IEA teeing it up in June at state golf tournament

Peoria Lodge 20 will be host to the 2017 Illinois Elks State Golf Tournament June 22-24 at Madison Golf Course in Peoria.

The entry deadline is June 9. The cancellation deadline is two days later on June 11. No rain dates are planned. Tee times will be e-mailed to registered participants.

The entry fee is \$65 for each day, Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24, for 18-hole stroke play. The fee includes golf, cart, gift, prize pool and lunch.

At noon Thursday, a practice round is scheduled. Advance tee time reservations are required. Participants are asked to call the Madison pro shop at (309) 673-7161 to tell it that you are participating in the state Elks tournament.

Handicapping will be calculated using the USGA Modified Peoria Handicap System.

Seniors and ladies tournament divisions will play on Friday, June 23. Age will be based on date of tournament: young seniors, 50-56; mid-seniors, 57-63; seniors, 64-70; super seniors, 71+; and ladies, all ages.

Individual awards will be presented in each category.

The Elks member tournament is scheduled Saturday, June 24. All members – men and women – are welcome. A lodge team competition, in addition to individual competition and awards, is planned.

Live music will be provided Thursday and Friday evenings at the club.

The dining schedule includes all you can eat spaghetti, salad and garlic bread starting at 5 p.m. Thursday. Donations will be accepted.

Friday night includes steak, baked potato, salad and rolls, serving 4-7 p.m. Cost is \$12.

Beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday, tenderloin and pork chop sandwiches and trimmings will be served.

Accommodations, all under the group name of Elks State Golf, can be arranged at:

■ Springhill Suites-Marriott, (309) 681-2700. (Shuttle service will be provided to and from the tournament site.)

■ Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, East Peoria, (309) 863-3480.

■ Fairfield Inn and Suites, Marriott (309) 699-4100 (East Peoria).

For information, call tournament chairman Joe Boers at (309) 264-3987 or co-chairman John Bailey at (309) 696-6934.

2017 ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM
Please submit as a foursome if possible. Singles, twosomes and threesomes will be filled.
SUBMIT AN ENTRY FORM FOR EACH EVENT YOU PLAN TO ENTER
Send entries to: Peoria Elks Lodge #20, c/o Tournament Director, 1 Elks Drive, Peoria IL 61604

EVENTS: Friday Seniors 50+ _____ Friday Ladies (All Ages) _____ Saturday Elk Members (All Ages) _____

PLEASE PRINT

PLAYER 1 _____ LODGE # _____ AGE _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

PLAYER 2 _____ LODGE# _____ AGE _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

PLAYER 3 _____ LODGE# _____ AGE _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

PLAYER 4 _____ LODGE # _____ AGE _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

Preferred Tee Time: 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (_____) 12:00 noon – 2:30 p.m. (_____)

\$65 Entry Fee Per Player, Per Event. Amount enclosed \$ _____. **Make checks payable to Peoria Elks State Golf.**

PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON. Please print and provide name, address, phone and Email below.

Hole prizes at state tournament include Harley-Davidson motorcycle

Hole prizes have been announced for the IEA State Golf Tournament, scheduled June 22-24 at Madison Golf Course next to Peoria Lodge.

A hole-in-one on one of the Par 3's comes with a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle, along with prizes of \$100 and others on three other holes for closest to the pin.

The daily cost to play in the tournament will be \$65, including golf, cart, lunch and a gift. Thursday will be for practice, Friday for senior and ladies, and Saturday for members.

Entry forms (above) were distributed

at the Mid-Winter Meeting to district deputies, who will then give them to the exalted rulers to pass out in their districts.

For information, contact Peoria lodge officers.

Also at the Athletic Commission meeting in January:

■ Springfield Lodge will host the 2018 IEA tournament. Dave Cassens reported on the event and will do so again in September.

■ Commission Chairman John Bailey asked lodges planning to host junior golf events this year to let him know the dates

and times of their events to pass on to Kelly Eckoff to post on the state Junior Golf website.

■ Bailey also said the Greater Peoria Honor Flight is to host a golf outing later this year, and he will pass along more information when it becomes available.

■ Commission officers serving in 2016-17 were reelected for 2017-18: Bailey, chairman; Bob Eckoff, vice chairman; and JoEllen Bauer, secretary.

■ Bailey said he would forward to state officers Commissioner-at-large Dick Mattsson's request to be replaced on the commission.

DISTRICT/LOCAL LODGE



West District officers greet GER Zellen

IEA West District officers were glad to greet Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Zellen at Zellen's GER visit to the IEA in Springfield in January. The well-wishers, front from left, are: John Bailey, Candace Dawson, Alex Jordan, Julie Boers and Amy Jackson. Back: Joe Boers, Jennifer Woods, GER Zellen and Crystal VanWassenhove.

Canton Elks aid recovery from downtown explosion

Canton Lodge 626 was host in January to a fundraiser for the Canton Disaster Recovery Fund, which was established after the Canton downtown was devastated by a natural gas explosion on Nov. 16. Area musicians donated a Patsy, Loretta



and Johnny tribute show, and food was served by the lodge. All \$1,864 raised that evening was donated to the recovery fund. From left are Canton Elk Bruce Brown, who organized the event; Missy Towery of the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development; and Canton Lodge Secretary Ellie Miles.

LOCAL LODGE



Elvis spotted at Oak Lawn fundraiser

Elvis was spotted at Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 helping raise funds for the ENF in October. Members enjoyed an evening with Elvis and raised \$1,079 in the process.

Oak Lawn Elks give to vets home



Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 donated \$3,000 to the Manteno Veterans Home in fall 2016 to help fund a Thanksgiving luncheon for veterans at the home. Oak Lawn Veterans Chairman Mike Simental presents the check to Silvia Bell, a veterans assistant at Manteno, left, and Program Director Cindy Scott.



Jacksonville Elks donate smoke detectors

Jacksonville Lodge 682 Exalted Ruler Luke Tapscott, right, in December makes a donation to the Jacksonville Fire Department to buy smoke detectors for low-income families. Receiving the donation, from left, are: Jacksonville Firefighters Local 637 President Dan Klendworth and the department's public education officer, Capt. Mike Griffiths.

PSP Gerleman receives president's award for volunteerism



Past State President Dennis Gerleman, center, is presented with the President's Volunteer Award in January. Past District Deputy Jon Coulter, left, presented the award and Brandon Gerleman, right, the pin. Gerleman was nominated for the U.S. presidential award by IEADrug Awareness Chairman Frank Burr for Gerleman's more than 3,000 hours of community service.



Food baskets help 200 families in Carlinville

An estimated 200 families received a food basket in December from Carlinville Lodge 1412, continuing a holiday tradition that dates to the 1950s. More than 150 volunteers took part. Carlinville Elks depend on area businesses and individuals to donate to the project. "The Elks members are very proud to live in a community that continually steps up when asked to assist their fellow citizens in need," lodge spokesman Roy Robinson said. "Organized chaos soon turned into efficient delivery of the boxes of food. Drug Awareness pamphlets and coloring books for the kids were also inserted into the boxes."



Streator Elks give 'Blessings in a Back Pack'

Streator Lodge 591 donated \$1,500 to the Blessings in a Back Pack program to kick off the 2016-17 school year. Front from left are: lodge Exalted Ruler Bob Luscombe, Chairman of Trustees Bob Oberholtzer and Blessings in a Back Pack coordinators Lara Armstrong and Tonya Carter. In back is volunteer Herb Holtz. Blessings in a Back Pack distributes food packages to more than 300 underprivileged students in six area schools. Separately, Streator Elks held its first monthly bowling session in fall 2016 for the Life Skills and Transition class from Streator High School, in which they opened the lodge bowling alley and served pizza to this group. Also in November, the lodge held its eighth Chili Cook Off in conjunction with a "Funday Sunday" of watching the Chicago Bears. Later that month, Streator Elks were host to a dinner for veterans from the Illinois Veterans Home in LaSalle and all veterans who also are Streator Elks. To complete November, Streator Elks again sponsored a special event for Relay for Life in memory of PER David Hallowell.

Centralia Elks fund 'Shop with a Cop' project with ENF grant

Centralia Lodge 493 in December presented the Centralia Police Department with a \$1,500 check — proceeds from an

Elks National Foundation per capita grant — for its annual Shop with a Cop program. From left are Loyal Knight Tony Korzenewski, police Officer Andrew Harvard, Lecturing Knight Blake Freels, Exalted Ruler Jason Hoerchler, Trustee Pat Norrenberns and Secretary Joe Ray.



LOCAL LODGE

Oglesby Lodge takes step back in time to end of WWI ...

Oglesby Lodge 2360 members took a step back in time in November, when a Marine veteran passing through town stopped by the lodge to display his New York American newspaper, dated Nov. 11, 1918, that chronicled the Armistice ending World War I.

Oglesby Elk Ken Ficek said Albert Drexel was on his way from his tree farm in Oregon to his home in Greenville, NY, when he stopped for breakfast at an Oglesby truck stop.

It was Veterans Day and Drexel spotted a fellow Marines veteran. Drexel, a member of Greenville (N.Y.) American Legion Post, asked if there were any local American Legion Posts honoring veterans that morning.

"He had a treasure in his truck and wanted to share it with anyone who would be interested," Ficek said. "He owned an issue of the New York American newspaper dated November 11, 1918, the day that the Armistice was signed, ending WWI hostilities."

The local veteran directed Drexel to the Oglesby American Legion Post, where Drexel met with Legionnaires who were preparing for a march to their annual Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony.

"After explaining about the historical newspaper, Drexel was invited to join the marchers," Ficek said. "He proudly carried his prize possession in the parade to Memorial Park. There he joined fellow veterans in the ceremony and was introduced."

Drexel invited onlookers for a close up view of the newspaper headlined "Germany



Albert Drexel displays his copy of the New American newspaper announcing Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918.

Surrenders." Grade school students, who came to the park for the ceremony, were visibly impressed with the 98-year-old newspaper.

Afterwards, Drexel was invited to join his fellow vets for lunch at the Oglesby Elks, where he again displayed and explained how he obtained the historic newspaper.

"Drexel found the newspaper back in the 1970s while digging through a stack of old papers at a yard sale," Ficek quoted Drexel as saying. "He said he thought he paid about \$10 for it and doesn't know what it is worth today."

"One man's junk is another man's treasure," Drexel told Ficek.

... and gives to food pantry ...

Oglesby Elks continued contributing to the Illinois Valley Food Pantry during the holidays, using a \$2,000 Elks National Foundation grant to buy turkeys and hams for the pantry to distribute. In addition, they donated more than 150 pounds of canned goods collected at Elks bingo events. Ken Ficek, left, is accompanied by pantry Director Donna Hess and pantry representatives Lloyd Schultheis and Maxine Rynke.



... local homeless shelter ...

Carol Alcorn, executive director of the local homeless shelter, PADS, receives two gift cards from Ken Ficek, grant coordinator for Oglesby Lodge 2360. The funds – from a \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant – are earmarked for PADS clients to purchase medicine, pharmaceuticals and other necessities.



...and Students in Need initiative

Oglesby Public School Dean of Students Mike Balestri, left, and school nurse Mary Newcomer, right, show Oglesby Lodge Exalted Ruler Don Finley and Leading Knight Ken Ficek some of the clothes purchased with a \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to the lodge for the school district's Students in Need initiative.



Granite City Elks donate to USO

Granite City Lodge 1063 donated \$500 to the Lambert Airport-based USO in fall 2016. Past District Deputy A. Sonny Ambuehl presents the check to USO Director of Volunteers Jennifer Warner, flanked by USO Operations Manager Cary Warner and volunteer and Past VFW Commander Dave Miller.



Elgin Elks give dictionaries to eager 3rd-graders

Elgin 737 members Sue Steinback and Frank Celarek presented dictionaries to an appreciative class of third-graders at St. Thomas More School in Elgin in December. Pupils penned notes to Steinback and Celarek, thanking them for the "cool," "awesome" and "terrific, super" dictionaries they were given. "What a benevolent group the Elks are," Eduardo wrote.



Decatur Elks net \$500 at Bar Stool Open

Decatur Lodge 401 raised \$500 at its 16th annual Bar Stool Open in January to benefit United Cerebral Palsy. This year's hole, designed by Randy Hopwood, featured a single bank with several obstacles in the middle. "All in all it was a very successful day at the Elks!" lodge cyber assistant Mike Carr said.

Wheaton Elks honor Americanism essay winners

Wheaton 2258 Past Exalted Rulers Thomas Tracy and Judith Pokorney recognized their lodge winners of the Americanism essay contest, first- and second-place winners Julia Ryan and Katelyn Basel, both students at St. Isadore School in Bloomingdale. Ryan won \$25 for her effort.



LOCAL LODGE

Marion Elks big on serving kids, veterans



TOP PHOTO: Members of Marion Lodge 800 put an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to good use by funding a Back to School Party for district school children. Kids enjoyed food, various games and all received prizes. The party team, from left, was made up of Becky Bourland, Michelle Hamilton, Barb Bourland, Rose Davidson, Jackie Welch, and Lori

Tonazzi. Also assisting but not pictured were Ted Clendenin and Mikey Thomas. **RIGHT:** A flatbed full of school supplies was delivered to district schools. From left are: Marion Elk Becky Bourland; Lisa Drury, parent liaison for the school district; and Marion Elk Ted Clendenin.



Marion Lodge Hoop Shoot Chair Lori Murphy in November, with the lodge winners, from left: Frankie Leigh Nicholas, 10-11 girls division; Nathan Kaufman, 12-13 boys; and Gage Dirk, 8-9 boys.

Marion Lodge 800 held its 21st pancake breakfast for Veterans Charity Fund in October. **ABOVE:** Preparing the breakfast, from left, were: Dave Vauch, Mikey Thomas, Deon Bundren, Randy Barton, Don Trombetta and Ralph Graham. **LOWER LEFT:** Hostesses included: Judy Trombetta (seated), Jan Cunningham, Becky

Boulard, Carol Place and Rose Davidson. **LOWER RIGHT:** The welcoming committee was made up of Penny Bagby, chairperson of both the IEA and Marion National Veterans Services (standing) George Deichmueller and Tony Arvipas.



TOP PHOTO: Marion Elks in August grilled 1,200 hotdogs for children and guests attending the annual Illinois Department of Children and Family Services picnic in DuQuoin. From left are: Jerry Murphy; Mikey Thomas; Joe Campbell; Penny Bagby; the Williams family, (ER) Kevin, Heather, Bailey and Jake; and Wayne Corzine.

BOTTOM: Packing for the drive to the DCFS Picnic - Marion Elks member Ted Clendenin has been planning and organizing all aspects of the DCFS picnic for the past 23 years. All southern Illinois Elks lodges are involved in this project, led by Marion Lodge and Clendenin with assistance from fellow lodge members Becky Bourland, Jeannette Lamphear, Thor Linquist and Rose Davidson. Colter Deaton also was a hit with the kids, dressed as the Elks' Drug Awareness mascot Elroy.



Christmas program is labor of love for Princeton Elks

Princeton Lodge had a lot of

help for its annual Labor of Love Christmas Basket Program, led by Past Exalted Ruler Penny Best. With Best, in left photo, are area residents Lori Zeman and Franke Wolsfield; and, in right photo, three unidentified managers from the Bureau County food pantry.



The IEA Northwest District donated \$2,000 to veterans at the Illinois Veterans Home in LaSalle, just in time for Christmas. A home resident displays the \$2,000 check, along with Princeton 1461 Exalted Ruler Eric May, lodge Veterans Chair Penny Best and home activities director Susan Scully. The donation is in addition to the \$200 and case of chocolate-covered cherries the Northwest District donated earlier to the home.



LOCAL LODGE

Mt. Vernon Elks double down on promoting Americanism, youth, veterans programs



Members, Antlers present flag at Patriot Day ceremony

Members of Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge 819, along with Members of the Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge 819 Antlers and Jefferson County Girls Scouts, present the flag at a Patriot Day ceremony on September 11 at the Cedarhurst Craft Fair in Mt. Vernon.



Ladies ensure happy Halloween

Mt. Vernon Lodge 819's Ladies of the Elks donated bags of Halloween treats and Drug Awareness information to the local children's home in Mt. Vernon in October. From left are Ladies of the Elks members Darla Oliver, Kathy Bowling and President Ruth Rakey, and Tiffany Carroll, weekend group counselor at the home.



Lodge, Antlers are all heart in contributing to Valentines for Heroes

Mt. Vernon 819's Veterans Chairman Keith Hertenstein (left) and IEA Veterans Chairman Bob Kane (middle) present a staff member at U.S. Rep. John Shimkus' office with more than 600 valentines for Shimkus' annual "Valentines for Heroes" program to collect valentines for distribution throughout the region to veterans and those currently serving in the military. The lodge collected valentines in January to take to his office.



Mt. Vernon Antlers Lodge members Rebekka Delaney and Ashli Presswood put valentines in the Elks Lodge 819 Valentines for Heroes collection box. The lodge collected valentines in January for U.S. Rep. John Shimkus' annual Valentines for Heroes program.

Pana Lodge promotes Elks programs for Americanism and youth activities



A crew of 22 Pana Lodge Elks carry the American Flag during a Labor Day parade in September, in which 20,000 people were in attendance.



East Central was among IEA districts hosting a soccer shoot. Five girls and eight boys competed. Pana Lodge spokesman Kyle Slayback said there were 14 volunteers helping things run smoothly.

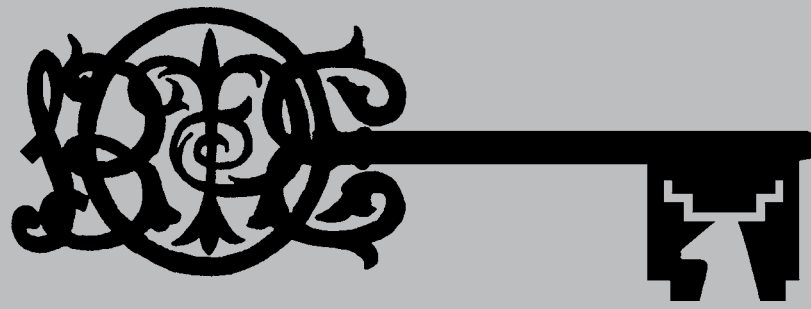


The Pana Lodge Hoop Shoot attracted 26 contestants, plus 60 parents, spectators and volunteers who helped run the event.

Pana Lodge joined forces with the local Women of the Moose to host the first Bar Stool Open golf-style event to raise funds for a scholarship in the name of now-deceased community stalwart Jim Downs, who was both a member of the Elks and Moose before



he died. Downs had wanted to organize a Bar Stool Open for the small town of Pana, and in October the Pana Elks participated in the first event. Approximately 240 members competed, while Pana Elks donated food and built one of the holes, shown here. All proceeds went to the scholarship fund and to update the city's Christmas decorations.



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Notice to candidates

A candidate for any IEA state office may submit at no charge one proclamation or endorsement from the candidate's lodge (or district), or a letter of intent. Copy with or without photograph shall not exceed 13 printed column inches (about 35 words per column inch). A candidate may also submit a photograph and biography, not to exceed 100 words, for publication in the spring issue of the Newsette at no charge. All other copy and photographs shall be considered paid advertising and shall be charged at the same rates as stated in the top left box in this advertisement.



Illinois Elks Association
Newsette



LOCAL LODGE

Mt. Vernon Elks give show of support for veterans

Mt. Vernon Elks, on Veterans Day, took part in the Waltonville Veterans Day Parade. The community paid tribute to the nation's veterans with a large turnout of participants and residents lining the streets. Mt. Vernon Elks carried a 20- by 30-foot American Flag the entire route. From left are: Mt. Vernon Exalted Ruler F. David Bowling, PER Patrick Bevis and Todd Kloppedal.



Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge in November hosted a steak dinner for the veterans in honor of the Elks' Veterans Appreciation Month. All veterans and Elks members were invited to be recognized for their service. The dinner raised funds for Mt. Vernon Elks to visit the two veterans homes in southern Illinois once a month to entertain veterans with games, prizes and often meals or snacks. This includes annual visits by Mr. and Mrs Claus and the Easter Bunny. Veterans at Veterans Administration centers in Marion and Anna arrived for a night out with dinners purchased by members and outside interests. Attendance for the Elks Veterans Appreciation Month steak night was well attended, and a portion of the proceeds was donated to the lodge Adopt-A-Vet fund. TOP PHOTO: Mt. Vernon Exalted Ruler F. David Bowling and lodge Veterans Chairman Keith Hertenstein stand over veterans from the Marion VA home. BOTTOM PHOTO: Illinois Rep. Terri Bryant visits with veterans from The Anna VA Home.

Kewanee Elks turn Hog Days Parade into a family affair

The annual Kewanee Hog Days Parade was a family affair for Jim and Karen Ream of Kewanee Lodge 724, along with granddaughter Katelyn Jagers (dressed as the IEA Drug Awareness mascot Elroy) on Labor Day weekend in August. Jim drove the truck, and Karen handed out pamphlets and supplies to kids and parents from the Drug Awareness trailer, which was parked downtown on Main street during the two-day festival.



CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

Still time to sign up for Jacksonville golf outing for Children's Care

The fifth annual Jacksonville Lodge 682 Children's Care Benefit Golf Scramble is scheduled May 6 at the Links Golf Course in Jacksonville. Donations help Illinois children with health care and medical equipment costs.

The lodge is seeking \$25 hole sponsors and \$100 major sponsors. Advertising for hole sponsors is placed on one of the 18 holes. Major sponsors are featured on banners at the golf course. Foursomes also are sought for the scramble.

Donations may be mailed or dropped off to the lodge at 231 W. Morgan, St., Jacksonville, IL 62650. Event sign up and donation information are available by contacting Doug Scott at 217-370-9363.

STATE

Scholarship process made easier

The Elks National Foundation is ironing out the electronic bugs in processing scholarship applications. The ENF is reviewing the zip code-based distribution of applications, and looking into creating a more user-friendly processing of applications. Processing now requires several links with different user names and passwords for each link, IEA Scholarship Chair Gail Sessler said in her Mid-Winter report to the IEA. She was quoting ENF Director Jim O'Kelley, who addressed the

IEA Scholarship Committee in January. "This new process (of judging Most Valuable Student applications) produced approximately 30,000 applications being received compared to the average paper application of 19,500 in the past," Sessler said. "ENF will continue to review and look to improve on this new system of judging the MVS applications." State judging in February produced 500 national semi-finalists ahead of a national judges' review in March.

Ray from Page 20

The final numbers for our donations were not available as I write this in March, but it looks like we are on the path to another momentous year for donations. I set a state-wide goal of \$250,000 in donations to the Elks National Foundation. Right now, our total donations have surpassed that goal. Thank you! Here's an interesting bit of information. The Better Business Bureau's standard for administrative expenses for charities is no more than 35 percent of total spending. The Elks National Foundation's spending on administrative expenses is 7 percent. That is one-fifth of what the average charity spends! The directors of the ENF are to be commended. You have been good to our State Major Project as well. This year you will have given over \$250,000 to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. The money you have donated helps physically challenged kids obtain treatment and equipment. It also provides scholarships for students who are going into physical and/or occupational therapy. The IECCC has been helping kids for more than 85 years. Leta and I had the pleasure of attending the state Hoop Shoot held in Decatur and the regional

Hoop Shoot in Iowa City. It is reassuring to see the caliber of youth that participate in this program. These kids are humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Illinois represented in the 8-9-year-old girls by Rayci Phelps, representing McLeansboro Lodge 1882 and the South-Central District won the Iowa City Regional, shooting 23 of 25. We will be at the National Finals in Chicago to cheer her to victory. I give a sincere thank you to the officers who served with me over the past year. They make everything enjoyable. To the state chairpersons, you have done a tremendous job, and you are to be applauded. A big thank you goes out to my hospitality crew: Larry and Anda Ohlsson, Ole and Sandi Ohlsson, Jen Hayden, Betty Pankau, Kirk and Jeri, and Roger and Lisa Quinn. You did a fantastic job from Houston to Springfield! To those in whom I confided and from whom I sought advice, I extend my deepest thank you. I know you gentlemen seek no accolades, but you know who you are. Thank you to Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 and the East Central District for your support over the last four years and beyond.

George from Page 20

we're going to accomplish. Our contributions to Elks National Foundation are the life blood for the IEA. The rate of return on the contributions is unreal. We just got back from the regional Hoop Shoot in Iowa City, Iowa. Illinois has one contestant advancing to the nationals in Chicago, Rayci Phelps of McLeansboro Lodge 1882 in the girls 8-9 group. Congratulations to her and all of our regional finalists. You are all winners in the eyes of the IEA. To all the incoming exalted rulers, your tenure to lead your

lodge for success is here! The year will fly by faster than you will ever believe so get going ASAP on the goals you have set. Remember, you can't do it alone so involve all officers and members in your plans! Let's have another great year in Elksdom for 2017-18. It's always a pleasure working with the membership, and I am looking for another great year in the IEA. My father once told me that we'll get a lot more done if no individual takes credit for it! Let's make it happen!



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110 apply for PT/OT scholarships

The 2016-17 Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Scholarship Program of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation came to a close on March 10 with 110 students applying for scholarships.

In addition, the Lydia Miller Scholarship for Special Education received several applications, which will be closing March 31.

CCC Administrative Manager

Bill Block said all applications will now move into the judging phase. Scholarship winners will be announced and notified late May early June.

"Good luck to all those students who applied," he said, adding that the 2018-19 Scholarship Programs will be back online December 1, 2017, at www.illinoiselksccc.org

Sucker Drive tops \$12K for CCC



Fairview Heights Lodge 664 raised \$12,066 at its annual Sucker Drive for 2016-17 to benefit the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, chaired by Past Exalted Ruler Rick Duncan and Exalted Ruler Teresa Barrington. The Sucker Drive was promoted as a Patsy Cline Tribute. "We are very proud every year of the hard work of our members," lodge spokesperson Annette Duncan said.

Getting around never been easier, thanks to CCC



A recipient of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation's generosity is all smiles while riding his specially made bicycle funded by the CCC. "Without membership, helping children would not be possible." Administrative Manager Bill Block said. "These families are so grateful for what the Illinois Elks do, and for how our generosity helps make life just a little easier, fuller, and richer for their child," he said. "Thanks for your support."

Latest calendar raffle winners announced

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation has announced its calendar winners for January through March.

January 2017 – Jake Thompson, Effingham; Greg Lewis, Lawrenceville; Joe & Teresa Basile, Elmhurst; Frank Grichnik, Carlinville; Jim & Rae Kulavic, Springfield; Terry Wilmot, Macomb; Keith Ray, Mt. Vernon; Bob Jones, Robinson; Jacob Rendleman, Carbondale; Marshall Crusing, Oak Lawn; Albert Vanpuyvelde, Rock Island; Randy Rose, Champaign-Urbana; Ernest L. Dickey*, DuQuoin; David J. Scott, Canton; Hunter Kurth, Dixon; Albert Faull, Mendota; Andy Bohnsack, Galena; William Rotramel, Champaign-Urbana; Joanne Milham, Chicago South; Mike Manker, Jacksonville; James R. Glass III, Des Plaines; Robert Hubbard, Jacksonville.

February – Terry Wellman, Freeport; Deb Daugherty, Carlinville; Ron Mitchell, Robinson; Tom Neill, Canton; Carl E. Maeder, Elmhurst; Floyd W.

Hutchinson, Springfield; William Hinterscher, Olney; William Johnson, Princeton; Tom Clough, Effingham; Tom Walsh*, Centralia; Dave Meyer**, Jacksonville; Alan Andich, Belleville; Damon Nejmanowski, Carlinville; Robert Jacob, Des Plaines; Donald E. Laird, Elgin; Richard Wolfe, Chicago South; Richard Lively, DuQuoin; Don Dunlap, Champaign-Urbana; Dave Garrard, Robinson;

March – George Durbin, Mendota; Ryan Storckman, Robinson; Jeffrey W. Pribble, Champaign-Urbana; Mike White, Galena; Robert Joyce, Dixon; Kristi Wykes, Pontiac; Tyler J. Reichmann, Carlinville; Mike Rann, Carbondale; Stephen Szabo, Dixon; Avery McKinney, Olney; Mike Pender*, Wheaton; Jared Alka, Mt. Carmel; Anthony Vella, Des Plaines; Louis Anderson, Springfield; Richard Tonozzi, DeKalb;

* \$100 ** \$1,000 *** \$5,000

Belleville outing raises \$5K for CCC

Belleville Lodge 481 raised \$5,000 in September at its fourth annual Chuck Staff Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. The proceeds were presented to the CCC at the Mid-Winter in January.

"To all the golfers and the staff family, the board of directors of the CCC thanks you for making this golf outing the success that it is," Administrative Manager Bill Block said. "Without your support it would be difficult to provide the assistance to those kids in need."

11th-hour gifts boost CCC

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation always ends the lodge year with a few last minute donations, and 2016-17 is no different.

Lincoln Lodge 914 made an 11th-hour donation of \$10,000, and Murphysboro Lodge 572 gave a gift of \$10,416 from its annual auction and dart tournament, Administrative Manager Bill Block said.

As of March 23, lodge donations of \$138,263 were down from last year's \$153,689, he said.

STATE

Ending IEA presidency is such sweet sorrow

Lately, I've been asked by some if I am ready for my presidential term to be over. My response has been "Shoot no!" Why that answer? Because Leta and I have enjoyed traveling from one end of the state to the other meeting the Elks of Illinois and witnessing the benevolence of the B.P.O.E. Yet, it has been a very quick four years. I thank you for affording me the opportunity to serve as your president of the Illinois Elks Association.

The new friendships we have made and the old friendships that

IEA
president
Ray
Summers



we rekindled throughout Illinois, Wisconsin, and across the country have been, and will be, cherished. We were always made to feel welcome everywhere we visited, yet that does not surprise me because that is what Elks do.

The Elks National Foundation has been very good to the IEA over

the past few years, and that is because the members in Illinois have been very good to the Foundation. Last year Illinois received over \$2 for every \$1 given. Ask your banker if they will give you that kind of return on your money. The money coming back to Illinois helps our lodges fund community investments, scholarships, veterans, youth activities, the Children's Care Corporation, and special grants through out the state.

Please See **RAY**, Page 19

Set your hopes for positive year

Well, another year in Elksdom has come and gone. I hope your lodges had a successful year and are looking forward to 2017-18.

It's never too early for lodges to set their hopes and dreams of continuing to reap positive results for their various charitable projects that we help and love. From Children's Care to our veterans and everything in between, all of the projects are more successful because of the Elks.

Frequently we don't receive the recognition for our help. But for me the personal satisfaction

IEA
treasurer
George
Hornung



of knowing that I can make a difference is reward enough! We do need to toot our horn now and again as a reminder of all that we support.

With that said, let's talk about the coming year or rather what

Please See **GEORGE**, Page 19