

'Get on Board' to recruiting quality people and growing IEA

What a thrill it was for me, Rae Marie and our family as I took the oath to become the 115th president of the Illinois Elks Association. It was both an exciting and humbling moment in my life.

As we begin our journey together for the coming year, I'm asking that you "Get on Board" and make a commitment to the IEA; recruit a quality person who will make a good Elk; and encourage all Elks with whom you come in contact. Our growth as a strong organization depends upon

IEA president

Dave Jurmu



it!

Making a commitment means rededicating yourself to not only helping grow the IEA, but furthering all the programs and goals of our beloved Order. I am firmly convinced that many of the very best Elks in our great

country are right here in our home state. Now is the time to exhibit to the rest of Elksdom what we are capable of doing, and by rededicating ourselves, going the extra mile and assuming a leadership role in the BPOE.

Recruiting is tough work. The average person doesn't exactly rush up to a lodge, beat on the door and demand to become a member. But, each of us knows someone who would make a good Elk. Ask them to join. You may get a "no," but each "no" brings

you that much closer to a person saying, "Yes, I like what I hear and I'll join." Just imagine what our membership numbers would look like if each of us recruited just one quality person into the Order this year.

Probably one of the most important, but often overlooked aspects of what is expected of us as Elks, is that of encouraging other Elks to be the best they can be. Sometimes all it takes is a simple "thank you" when someone cleans the Club Room; takes out

the garbage; volunteers for an event, etc. We need to encourage each other as we go about doing the great works for which we are noted. We need to encourage each other to make the commitment and recruit a new member or two or

The train is leaving the station. Your state officers are revving up the engine. All we need to make the trip a success is *you*. Time to "Get on Board."

I personally look forward to seeing you in Reno!



Illinois Elks Association Newsette

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SUMMER 2017

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IEA honors Old Glory



State Officers conduct the Elks Flag Day Ritual at the Rock Island Arsenal, the nation's oldest continually occupied Army base, second only to West Point. More photos and story, **Page 2**

West Central ups its game to win 2016-17 IEA District of Year

By **CHRIS ORD**
2016-17 West Central Vice President

West Central District had a phenomenal year in 2016-17. Improvements were made across the board, and the district continues to bond and grow in Elksdom.

Those improvements were good enough to earn West Central the IEA District of the Year. The district was awarded with a plaque at the IEA Annual Meeting in Springfield in May.

Examples of how West Central improved itself center on:

■ **Membership.** Everyone seems to be talking about kicking the door down. West Central knocked the whole house down.

The district went from a loss of 62 the previous year to a gain of 57 in 2016-17. Springfield, Beardstown and Jacksonville led the charge with the remaining lodges pulling through with small gains or tempered losses. Only one lodge had a loss of more than 10.

■ **Elks National Foundation.** West Central members donated \$29,801.58 to ENF. That works out to donations of \$6.26 per member, well above the national and state goals.

■ **Children's Care Corporation.** The district donated \$61,189.62 – or \$12.86 per member – to the State Major

Please See **DISTRICT** Page 10



West Central District Vice President for 2016-17 Chris Ord receives the honor on the district's behalf, flanked by 2016-17 IEA President Ray Summers and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger.

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

STATE



IEA traces history of flag in Flag Day ritual at Rock Island Arsenal

LEFT PHOTO: Soloist Linda Robertson, Americanism Chair Bill Adams, Brigadier General Dix, and IEA President Dave Jurmu salute the colors. RIGHT PHOTO: Cadets from the Civil Air Patrol present color guard to open the Flag Day ceremony.



IEA President Dave Jurmu, Brigadier General Richard Dix and State Sponsor Lou Sulsberger visit before the IEA Flag Day ceremonies. General Dix, the commanding General at the Rock Island Arsenal, spoke at Flag Day.



The 144th Army Band of the Illinois National Guard performs during the Flag Day ceremony



Brigadier General Dix presented a special commendation to all Vietnam Era veterans present at Flag Day.

General gets lesson on leadership of the BPOE

IEA President Dave Jurmu said the First Army one-star general, whom he contacted to participate in the IEA Flag Day ceremony in June, gave a terse one-word response when he learned about the size of the BPOE.

Jurmu said he told the general that past national president and IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger would be among the Elks attending the Flag Day ceremony, prompting the general to ask Jurmu what it means to be

the national president of the Elks.

"I said, 'Well,' and I put it into his terms. I said, 'What would you call an individual that was in command of almost a million troops?' Whereupon the general looked down and he said, 'God'" said Jurmu, recalling the general's response of incredulity.

Jurmu related the anecdote in the IEA Advisory Committee meeting in May.

Corrections, clarifications and IEA Directory updates

The solar eclipse, predicted to take place on Aug. 21, is estimated to last for 2 minutes, 40 seconds in the vicinity of Johnson County lodge in southern Illinois. The estimated time of the eclipse was misstated on Page 5 of the spring Newsette. The Newsette regrets the error.

Visit the South District page on Facebook for more information as Aug. 21 approaches, IEA Lodge Activities Chairman Dennis Bierman said in his Mid-Winter report.

Robert J. Rolewicz is senior trustee of the IEA North District for 2017-18, not Mike Lafferty as noted on Page 6 of the IEA Directory. Contact information for Lafferty should be replaced with:

Robert J. Rolewicz (wife Vicki) of Brookfield Lodge 1510; home address, 3803 Harrison, Brookfield, IL 60513; home telephone, 708-387-2063; and e-mail, rjrper@sbcglobal.net

The contact information for IEA

Third Vice President Jeff Rodier is 2421 Sussex, Springfield, IL 72703; (H) 217-529-5929; (C) 217-652-7570; jeffrodier13@gmail.com.

On Page 53 of the IEA Directory, Jason Martin's hometown should be listed as Bonnie, IL 62816.

The address of Al Urena, listed on Page 53 of the IEA Directory, is now 9462 Carlyle Drive, Apt. A, Indianapolis, IN 46240-3911.

775 Elks and helpers make Easter fun for 17,421 people

The IEA Easter Bunny program released its year-end totals for 2016-17 at the Annual Meeting in May.

Chairman Jim Cusack said 775 Elks members and helpers made Easter a bit more fun for the 17,421 people they visited at

261 veterans facilities, homeless shelters, retirement homes, schools, domestic violence center, lodge parties and hospitals in Illinois Elks communities.

Also, 4,933 miles were driven and \$23,010 was spent for gifts, which included candy, flowers,

baskets, writing materials, Drug Awareness items, coloring books, crayons, food, toys and stuffed animals.

"Thanks to all the lodge and district chairmen for all their efforts in making this a successful program," Cusack said.



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 – July 20, 2017 for fall; and Nov. 21, 2017, for Mid-Winter

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Congratulations to new IEA officers and thanks to last year's for their excellence

Congratulations to all the new officers who have taken the controls of our lodges and districts. Thank you for providing your leadership and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, I would like to thank last year's officers for the excellent year we had and look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Here it is June and thoughts turn to the Grand Lodge Convention, which is in Reno, Nevada, this year.

IEA sponsor

F. Louis Sulsberger PGER



Remember when you were a kid and your parents told you "the older you get, the faster time flies"? Well, Beth and I sure agree with that because we cannot believe that 10 years ago this month we were excitedly and nervously awaiting the Charlotte,

North Carolina, Convention where I would be installed as the 2007-08 Grand Exalted Ruler.

To have served as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks National President for that ensuing year was the honor of my lifetime and an experience Beth and I will never forget.

While that year was a "wild ride," the real work began a year later when I became a past grand exalted ruler. Joining the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee is a privilege, along with other duties,

including being the sponsor of two great states.

I am proud to serve our Order as I know all of you are too. You have stepped up to the plate to volunteer at the local, district, state and Grand Lodge levels. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

A couple comments for those delegates attending the Convention in Reno: You will hear a lot about the "business casual" dress code. Just a friendly reminder for the men this means a collared shirt,

slacks and your state jacket, if you have one, and for the ladies, appropriate similar dress. (No jeans or shorts.)

To all of the exalted rulers, most of you will have your way to Reno paid for by your lodge and so we want to see everybody, every morning at the business session.

In closing, have a wonderful and active summer. Let's all work together for the betterment of our communities and always remember, *Elks Care, Elks Share*. God bless.

IEA Family of Year Greg and Shar Huske called 'serious anchors' of Elgin Lodge 737

Greg and Shar Huske of Elgin Lodge 737 – the 2016-17 IEA Family of the Year – were instrumental in bringing success to the lodge this past year.

"Without their help we would have been hard pressed to be as successful as we are," lodge Exalted Ruler Duane Werth said in his nomination letter.

He pointed to the Huskes' involvement with the lodge's "Step Up" program to provide shoes for disadvantaged children.

Shar helped write the grant for the program to supply the shoes just before school starts in the spring.

"We received \$2,500 for shoes and Shar organized the shoe purchasing trip, storing them in her home until the time came to distribute them," Werth said. "Shar and Greg were right at the lead when it was time to pick out the shoes with help from several other members of our lodge."

The days before and the day of the distribution, Shar and Greg were there early helping organize the shoes by gender and size, "making sure we had all our issues taken care of."

"We distributed almost 1200 pairs of shoes to kids who were extremely thankful and happy," Werth said.

The couple also are a great help for the lodge Hoop Shoot and assisting veterans.

Greg and Shar were right in the thick of getting kids to sign up for



Greg and Shar Huske of Elgin Lodge 737 are the 2015-17 IEA Family of the Year. They received the honor from IEA President Ray Summers and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger.

Hoop Shoot and helping on the day of the Shoot.

And when Elgin Elks found out about the need for bedding and living needs for the new Veterans Home in Chicago, Shar was right there helping put the grant request together and sending it into Grand Lodge.

In addition, as lodge secretary, Shar has been the "rock" in making sure things are done on time. She gets the materials, people and resources together to ensure all runs smoothly.

As for Greg, for years he has been the lodge barbecue chef for many of the lodge's Tuesday

dinners.

"As our leading knight, Greg is always there for our meetings and importantly, actively participating and being productive there and in our board meetings," Werth said.

Neither Greg nor Shar has missed a state meeting in the last two years. (And sometimes they show up even when there isn't a meeting.)

"As a pair and as a team, Greg and Shar Huske have been very serious anchors, mentors and partners to me as I got through this year as ER," Werth said. "It has been a pleasure working with them."

Veterans Service adds another USO program at O'Hare

IEA Veterans Services added a new USO program at O'Hare International Airport, Terminal 3, bringing to two the number of military hospitality organizations at the airport.

Sande Skinner of Chicago Northshore Lodge 1316 is taking care of both programs, IEA Veterans Service Chairman Bob Kane said in his 2016-17 year-end

report.

Matt Piwowarski is the new Veterans Administration Veterans Service representative at Hines VA Hospital, replacing Florence Rooney, who stepped down as Piwowarski's assistant.

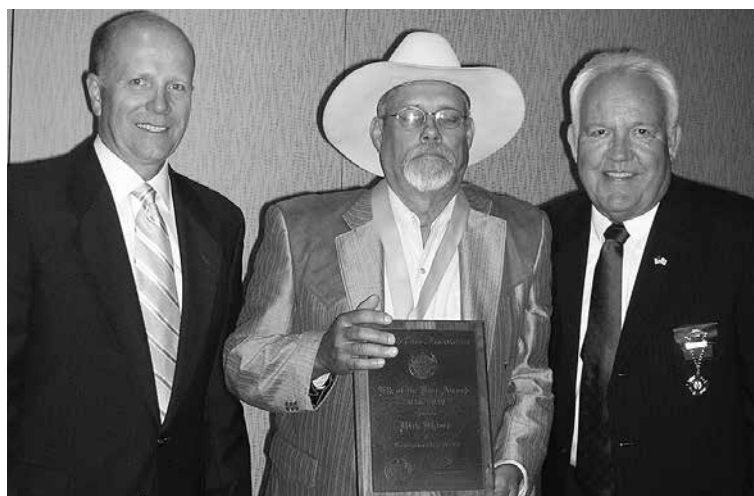
Rooney had been doing the job since her husband Jim died a few years ago. Together, Jim and Florence had been the Hines

representatives for many years.

"I look forward to the continued service to our veterans at Hines," Kane said.

All but one of the IEA's obligations to veterans are being fulfilled, except for the Great Lakes USO, which needs a volunteer.

Please See **VETS**, Page 13



Rick Ehlers of Murphysboro Lodge 572 is the 2016-17 IEA Elk of the Year. He receives the honor from IEA President Ray Summers and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger.

Shooting matches aiding ENF are forté of IEA Elk of the Year

The organizer of Murphysboro Lodge 572's benefit shooting matches for the past 10 years is the 2016-17 IEA Elk of the Year.

Rick Ehlers was recognized for the honor at the IEA Annual Meeting in Springfield in May. Ehlers was nominated from the South District by Murphysboro Lodge Secretary Merle Evans, a past district deputy.

Ehlers, a 13-year Murphysboro Elk, has maintained a consistent presence at the lodge and at most lodge events, Evans said in his nomination letter to 2016-17 South District Vice President Lyndal Qualls.

Ehlers' forté has been his support of lodge fundraising for the Elks National Foundation, most notably through the lodge's annual benefit shooting matches at various area locations.

"For some 10 years, Rick has spearheaded scheduling dates with these locations, which is often difficult, due to demand for weekend dates," Evans said. "Most schedule a year in advance, so planning is required."

That means product for meat raffles must be purchased, and Rick has always traveled the 70-mile round trip to Evansville, IN, at his own expense to pick it up and make sure it remains frozen for the event.

In some instances, Rick has had to make sure target cards are printed and on hand. At these matches, Rick leads the way by scheduling participant rotations. He also secures judges who determine winners of each round of competition.

Rick handles some raffle items himself, and helps with follow-up paperwork.

"Lodge 572 always meets and exceeds our state president's per capita goal for ENF, and this member has been a big part of that effort," Evans said.

Also, for the various raffles that Murphysboro Elks run for Children's Care Corp., ENF or other local, community support programs of the lodge, Rick is usually a key force in selling tickets.

"And when volunteer help is requested in our kitchen, Rick can be counted on to pitch in and do what is asked," Evans said.

STATE

IEA veteran volunteers of the year motivated by 'the smiles you get,' helping those in need

The Illinois Elks Association named its 2017-18 veteran volunteers of the year for men and women at its Annual Meeting in May. They are Dolores Tomscheck of the Des Plaines Lodge 1526 Ladies of the Elks and Stan Hayes of Centralia Lodge 493.

Tomscheck, a Lady Elk since 2007, took over the organization's veterans programs several years ago.

"This is kind of my favorite," she said, citing "the smiles you get from the guys when they play bingo, especially when they win."

Tomscheck and four other Ladies of the Elks go every third Monday to play bingo with the veterans, 14 of whom "we have adopted," she said.

Veterans also are invited to the lodge for lunch on occasion.

"They love doing this because they have a good meal," she said, "and I make up 'goodie' bags for them at Christmas time."

Tomscheck has two stops she makes at the Great Lakes Naval

Base: volunteer services at the Capt. James Levell Federal Health Care Center and then to the USO on the base itself.

"Both places I take a bunch of goodies, and once in a while I bring paper supplies," she said.

Tomscheck also volunteers when lodge members go to the Great Lakes base to have a picnic in August with the men.

"I always try to help out if I can when needed," she said.

Equally dedicated to veterans is Centralia Elk Stan Hayes, the IEA veteran volunteer of the year for men and veteran of Vietnam.

Lodge Secretary Joe Ray noted Hayes' involvement with veterans, including organizing the Centralia Lodge veterans breakfast and lunch; and helping organize the lodge's involvement in the Veterans Administration Stand Down at the Marion VA, including shopping, soliciting donations from vendors, and packaging and hauling wares to Marion for distribution.



The IEA named its Veteran Volunteers of the Year for men and women at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. The honoree for men, Stanley Hayes of Centralia Lodge 493, receives his award from IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and IEA President Ray Summers. Dolores Tomscheck of the Des Plaines Lodge 1526 Ladies of the Elks (above) is the 2016-17 IEA Veteran Volunteer of the Year for Women. IEA National Veterans Service Chairman Bob Kane said of Tomscheck and Hayes, "These two people are what Elks are all about."

Hayes also helps veterans make doctor's appointments and with anything else they need.

"Stan has a neighbor who is a young vet that has had a tough



time," Ray said. "Stan has become a father figure to him."

As a Vietnam veteran, Hayes has kept in touch with his fellow veterans since his service. He also

has sons and grandsons who are veterans.

"So in his heart he will always be of service to his fellow veterans," Ray said.

Small world seeing scholar-turned-doctor years later

I had to see my eye doctor in early June. The doctor I always see was out, so I had to see another doctor. Her last name was Hocking a number of years ago.

As we talked, she noticed my Elks shirt, prompting her to tell me, thank you.

It turned out that the Illinois Elks had awarded her a college scholarship. I had sent her a \$500 scholarship check from the Illinois Elks

Association for each of the four years she was in school.

Is this a small world or what!?!?

Lodge secretaries, we need your help to keep your mailing lists current with the Children's Care Corporation, which is the list used by the IEA.

The Chicago Lodge Membership System does not update the mailing list for the IEA!

Over the last few issues of the Illinois Elks Newsette, the number of postage returns has spiked, costing us 58 cents apiece to get our mailings forwarded to the correct address.

The proliferation of postage returns has taken a huge hit on

the budget of the Illinois Elks Publication Corporation, which publishes the Newsette.

Please, lodge secretaries, each month update your mailing lists to the CCC! This is a must! We're counting on you to help with this matter. Please help!

District vice presidents, work with your lodges to see that their mailing lists are current. We want our precious dollars to go to our charities, not to the Post

Office. Thank you!

I'm starting to work on sending out the annual \$500 scholarships. It is a labor of love

to be able to help these students. Without our lodges' help, we could not do this.

If your lodge made 2016-17 state President Ray Summers' goal for contributions to the Elks National Foundation, please e-mail me how you want the check made out. Remember, it's for \$1,500.

What we like is for the money to go to community service. Lodges should take a photo when they present the check and get the photo published in the local newspaper!

Let's all *get on board* for the trip to Reno. Illinois Elks do lead the way.

IEA secretary

Marvin Leathers



Secretaries asked to help stem spike in mailing costs

The IEA Publication Corporation is experiencing skyrocketing costs of paying for bad addresses that some Illinois lodge secretaries fail to update.

The corporation is charged 58 cents for each Newsette that is returned because of out of date addresses to their members. Lodge secretaries are asked to keep their lists current but some don't.

Publication Corporation Treasurer Vicki Williams told corporation directors at the Annual Meeting in May that the most pressing issue right now is the skyrocketing cost of Newsette issues returned because of bad addresses.

Williams called on each corporation district director to address this issue in his or her

own district. A printout from CCC showed a huge number of lodges who never update their mailing list.

"I personally plan to start with an e-mail to my lodge secretaries, district Newsette/PR chair and include my DD and district VP," Williams said. "If I don't get a reply I will get on the phone and call secretaries, but you all can figure out how you want to handle in your districts."

Williams said corporation directors need to get every lodge that hasn't done so to make sure CCC has an updated list by the next submission deadline in mid-June. CCC will need time to input all of the information into their system before the actual mailing. The next deadline after that is July 20, "so getting cleanup done before these

two issues will really help hold down the return cost."

She added that all secretaries need to understand that CLMS doesn't update the CCC mailing list so if CCC doesn't have the correct lodge roster, members are not only not getting the Newsette, they're not getting HODO, calendar, annual drawing, etc mailings.

The corporation printer, Peoria-based P&P Press, suggested a service that will compare the CCC mailing list to what the post office has for a one-time \$65 fee. The board authorized corporation Chairman Mark Bump to engage the service before the September meeting "if we feel it would be helpful but all the lodges need to send in their updates first," Williams said.

Never too early to decide how to use ENF award

Thanks to all the lodges for promptly submitting their state dues this year! Nice job!

It's never too early to decide what you want to do with your grant for meeting the Grand Exalted Ruler's per-member goal of \$4.65. I'm sure every lodge can find a deserving charity with which to share the grant money.

On June 10 the IEA held its Flag Day ceremony at Arsenal Island. Both the setting and service were unbelievable.

To the lodges, I hope you're well under way to implementing the goals you have established for 2017-18. Your year will go by way

faster than you can imagine.

If you're planning to attend the Grand Lodge

Convention in Reno, try to register online. You will receive a discount of \$10 from your registration fee. To do this go to Elks.org.

If you're planning to attend the

Illinois hospitality room it's still \$50 per person. It's well worth the cost for food, drinks and a great atmosphere with fellow Elks.

If you need a state directory, contact Marvin or myself as they are very useful to remind you of contact people and dates for various award contests.

This year's participation was quite low. We need more involvement from the lodges and their respective districts.

Kristi and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Reno for another Great Elks Convention!

IEA treasurer

George Hornung



STATE

IEA funds Honor Flights in Chicago, Springfield and Marion

The IEA earmarked \$21,000 to fund three Honor Flight programs in 2016-17, beginning with helping Marion area veterans fly to Washington, D.C., to the World War II memorial.

An IEA delegation consisting of Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, Secretary Marvin Leathers, Treasurer George Hornung, Vice President Tom Deien and Past State President Coy Cockrum visited Marion to make

the donation.

"They were so very happy to receive a \$7,000 check," Leathers told the Advisory Committee in May.

He said a Channel 3 news crew devoted several minutes to the veterans' flight to D.C.

Upon the return home, Leathers said the crowd of well-wishers was "just unbelievable," made up of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the VFW,

the American Legion and others.

"A good contingent of Elks were down there waving American flags," Leathers said. "They wanted us to thank the Elks big time."

IEA President Ray Summers and Sulsberger presented \$7,000 to Honor Flight Chicago in April during the national Hoop Shoot finals in April. They presented the check at Elks National

Headquarters upon the request of Mary Pettinato, who co-founded Honor Flight Chicago.

Summers quoted Pettinato as saying, "We want to do (the check presentation) at the memorial. That is the most beautiful building I've ever seen."

Summers added that he and Sulsberger both received thank you letters from Pettinato.

"She was ecstatic to get the

\$7,000," Summers said.

The IEA also made a check presentation to the Springfield Honor Flight. Summers said he invited Vietnam veteran Larry Ohlsson to attend. Ohlsson was shot down twice in Vietnam.

"You're coming with us to give a check to the Honor Flight" in Springfield, Summers told Ohlsson, a fellow member of Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497.



LEFT PHOTO: The Land of Lincoln Honor Flight in Springfield was the recipient of the IEA's generosity. IEA President Ray Summers and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger present \$7,000 to Land of Lincoln Honor Flight President Joan Bortolon. They are accompanied by Vietnam veteran Larry Ohlsson, a fellow lodge member of Summers at Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497. Ohlsson was a Medevac pilot who was shot down twice during his service in Vietnam. RIGHT PHOTO: Sulsberger and Summers used their visit to the Hoop Shoot Finals in Chicago to hand Chicago Honor Flight Chief Executive Officer Mary Pettinato a check for \$7,000 from the IEA to send veterans to the nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial. They made the presentation in the rotunda of the Elks National Memorial.



Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 member Amanda McNear, a regular visitor to the Anna Veterans Administration Home for the lodge's monthly games and activities there, chaperoned her buddy, Army veteran Billy Gray on his Honor Flight to the nation's capital in April. The one-day flight from Marion to Washington, D.C. enabled Gray to visit the memorials dedicated to World War II and the Korean conflict. Helping to see Gray (in wheelchair) take off on the flight are Mount Vernon Elks Jimmy Jones, Exalted Ruler John Tucker, Jim Hertenstein, chaperone

McNear, Anthony Burk, Cheryl Hertenstein and Keith Hertenstein. Gray, who served in Japan, Korea and Germany, was part of the Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment, Second Special Engineer Brigade. Lodge member Lynette Fair asked Gray what he remembers most about his service. "He said it was when he met, fell in love and married his wife, Ursula, in Germany. There they had four kids and the fifth one in California," Fair said, adding that, sadly, Ursula died almost two years ago.



Canton Elks Lodge 626 in April held an evening of food, dancing and raffles to raise \$1,715 for the Greater Peoria Honor Flights. In May, Honor Flight volunteers were presented a check for that amount to help send veterans to Washington D.C. for the day. From left are: Honor Flight volunteer John Myers, lodge fundraiser chair Brenda Reneau, and fellow Canton Elks Doug Painter, John Harmon, Gene Wallace and Aline Wallace, all Honor Flight volunteers.



The IEA donated \$7,000 to Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois at a presentation on April 18 at Veterans Airport of Southern Illinois, west of Marion in Williamson County. From left are Honor Flight board members Doug Kimmel, Randall Youngblood, Evan Youngblood and Bryan Questelle, along with IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers, Past State President Charlie Campbell, IEA Second Vice President Tom Deien, IEA Treasurer George Hornung and PSP Coy Cockrum. Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois is a hub of the Honor Flight Network, which honors those who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam with a trip to Washington, DC, to see their memorials. The southern Illinois unit was to conduct its inaugural flight on April 25 with 58 veterans. Honor Flight has been described by one veteran who took a flight as "the most exciting thing I have ever done, other than having a child." In 2016, Honor Flight transported more than 21,000 veterans nationwide to Washington.

STATE

PSP Benson eulogized for commitment to Elks, community and the law

IEA Past President Roger A. Benson was eulogized at the Annual Meeting in May for his commitment to the Elks as well as to the law and his Kankakee area community.

Fellow PSP Bryan Klatt delivered the heart-felt eulogy, in which he recalled Benson's involvement with the Elks, his service as an associate circuit court judge in Kankakee County, and community leadership.

For the Elks, Benson became a member on Nov. 27, 1967. He was a 51-year member who attained the honorary life membership, highlighted by twice being name lodge Elk of the year.

Benson, 84, was exalted ruler of Kankakee Lodge 627 in 1972-73; East District Deputy, 1992-93; IEA president,



ROGER BENSON

1995-96; and justice and chief justice of the Grand Forum in 1993-98 and 1997-98, respectively.

The 1950 Rockford West High School graduate got his undergraduate degree from Northwestern in 1954 and his law degree from DePaul in 1958.

Benson was an assistant state's attorney, justice of the peace, chief magistrate of Kankakee County, assistant public defender and associate circuit judge from 1968-92, when he retired to become a marriage officiant, general practice lawyer and mediator.

The awards Benson received over the years demonstrated his leadership in the legal community: Volunteer Attorney of the Year from Prairie State Legal Services, 2003 and 2011; Senior Counsellor Award from the Illinois Bar Association for his 50 years of legal service, 2008; and John C. McAndrew

Pro bono Service Award, also from the state bar association.

Another dimension of Benson's social consciousness was demonstrated in his membership on the board of directors of the Kankakee River Valley Community Foundation, for which he organized the Robert K. Dunn charitable trust to benefit junior sports activities.

He was a member of the Professional Advisory Council of the Shepard's Endowment Society Manor, a residential home for developmentally disabled male adults in Monmouth.

Benson also founded the John Lock Memorial Scholarship Trust, which provides scholarships for high school students. And he was a former member of the Easter Seals Society; Kankakee County Victim's Assistance Center; and adjunct professor of business law, negotiation and conflict

resolution at Olivet Nazarene University.

At the IEA Advisory Committee meeting in May, fellow lodge member and Grand Forum senior justice, Jerry Shapiro, thanked those members who attended Benson's wake and participated in the memorial service.

"I just want to thank, on behalf of our lodge, all of you who came to Roger's wake and participated in the memorial service, I thank everybody from the lodge.

He was one of the most truly dedicated Elks I've ever known," Shapiro said.

"In fact, there's so many of you who came to the service, and (Benson's wife) Nancy was just overwhelmed by everybody. Thank you."

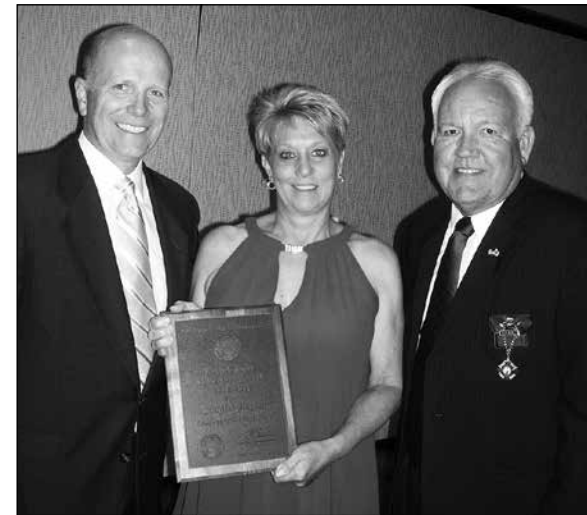
On a lighter note, Shapiro remarked about the emotion with which his friend and foil, Bryan Klatt, demonstrated in delivering the eulogy, telling the *Newsette* without elaboration, "Bryan cried like a baby."

All American Lodges

Galesburg 894, Salem 1678, Centralia 493, Springfield 158

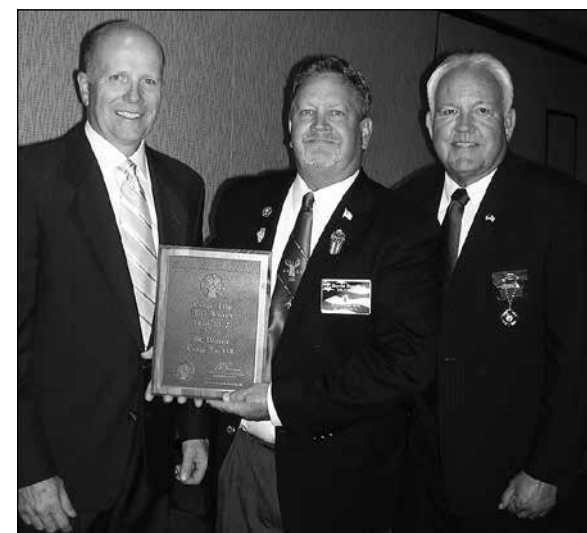


The IEA named its All American Lodges at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. Winning in Division 1 (clockwise from top left) was Galesburg 894, represented by Exalted Ruler David Beard; in Division 2, Salem 1678, represented by ER Mike Hooe; in Division 3, Centralia 793, represented by ER Bill Luebben; and in Division 4, Springfield 158, represented by ER Tom Duffy. They receive the honors from IEA Lodge Activities Chairman Dennis Bierman.



IEA EXALTED RULER OF THE YEAR – Jennifer Hayden of Champaign-Urbana 2497, flanked by IEA President Ray Summers and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, was named 2016-17 IEA Exalted Ruler of the Year.

IEA SECRETARY OF THE YEAR – Robert Bond of McLeansboro Lodge 1882 displays the plaque naming him 2016-17 IEA Secretary of the Year.



IEA LODGE OF THE YEAR – Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 is the 2016-17 IEA Lodge of the Year. Receiving the honor from IEA President Ray Summers and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger is Mt. Vernon Exalted Ruler David Bowling.

STATE



The Illinois Elks Association honored its top Elks National Foundation scholarship winners at its Annual Meeting in May in Springfield. The scholars, their sponsoring lodges and districts, and their prospective schools and majors are: David Gonzalez-Velez, Chicago Northshore 1316, North, University of Chicago, molecular engineering; Sierra Wetmore, Salem 1678, South Central, Southeastern Missouri State, computer science education; Sana Basheer, Joliet 296, East, Illinois Institute of Technology, biomedical engineering; and Samantha Johnson, Kewanee 724, West, Loyola, biology. Back: Linnea Rylander, Des Plaines 1526, North, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, computer science education; Vanessa Flores, Joliet 296, East, Southeastern, children and family ministry; Samuel Frosch, Granite City 1063, West Central, Illinois State, music education; and Ivy Truong, Belleville 481, West Central, Princeton, English.

IEA scholar awards no match for school events

The IEA Annual Meeting was held May 19-22, when schools of many of the top IEA scholars held graduation. Eight of the 21 scholars made it to the IEA meeting, but 13 did not.

Those not in attendance, their sponsoring lodges and districts, and their prospective schools and majors were: Alexander Frumkin, Chicago Northshore 1316, North, Harvard, political science and government; Evan Capelle, Fairview Heights 664, West Central, Washington University-St. Louis, biomedical engineering; Shannon O'Donnell, Oak Lawn 2254, East, Illinois Institute of Technology, mechanical engineering; Hannah Van Der Karr, Pontiac 1019, East, Marquette, communications;

and Amelia O'Halloran, Elmhurst 1531, North, Brown, cyber security.

Also, Jacob Fritchie, Robinson 1188, East Central, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, physics; Connor Kaeb, Watseka 1791, East, Stanford, computer programming; Elijah Henson, Mt. Carmel 715, South Central, University of Evansville, biochemistry; Mitchell Jansen, Effingham 1016, East Central, Notre Dame, mechanical engineering; Jacob Elling, Pontiac, East, Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, computer engineering; and William Ziehm, Marion 800, South, Missouri University of Science and Engineering, mechanical engineering.



Chicago Northshore 1316 Exalted Ruler Sande Skinner and DeKalb 765 ER Pete Bakken display awards for contributions to the Elks National Foundation, Chicago Northshore for its \$43.15 per member in the 50-500 division. DeKalb won for its \$5,321 total in the 50-500 division. Mendota 1212 also won for both its \$8,357 total and \$9.486 per member in the 501-900 division; and Mt. Vernon 819 for both its \$8.74 per member and \$8,709 total in the 901-plus division.

IEA reaps \$490K for \$202K in ENF gifts

Illinois Elks donated \$202,252 to the Elks National Foundation in 2016-17, but will get back \$490,390 in grants, according to the foundation.

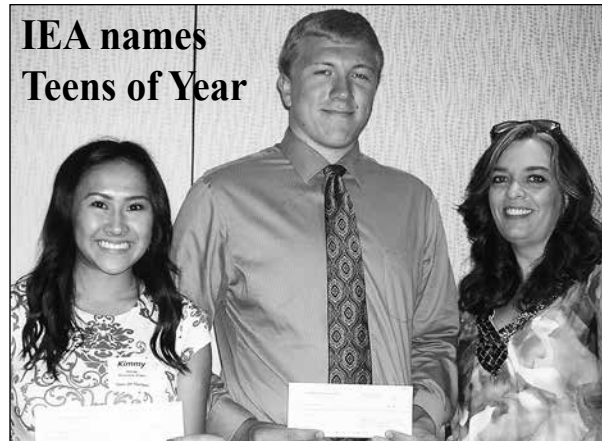
That \$490,390 includes a state charities grant of \$168,890; special projects grant of \$148,950; a bonus grant of \$35,350; Most Valuable Student scholarships of \$84,000; Legacy Award of \$28,000; and

\$25,200 for veterans service.

That's a ratio of \$2.425 for every dollar the foundation received from Illinois last year, not including money Illinois lodges got back through the ENF's Community Investments Program.

For 2016-17, ENF awarded a total of \$143,993 to 36 Illinois lodges.

IEA names Teens of Year



IEA Youth Activities Chair Debbie Rinard, right, introduced the 2016-17 IEA Teens of the Year, Chase Gripp of Sheffield and Kimmy Duong of Princeton, both representing Princeton Lodge 1461.



Lou finds friend in poster winner Ben

Ben Hopfinger, representing Fairview Heights Lodge 664, is congratulated by IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger for winning the 2016-17 IEA Drug Awareness Poster Contest. Ben was recognized at the IEA Annual Meeting in May.

IEA hears essays of Americanism contest award winners



Alia Harmon of Vienna, representing Johnson County Lodge 2880, reads the essay that won her the 2016-17 IEA Americanism Essay Contest in the fifth-sixth grade division, as Americanism Chair Penny Best looks on at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. Chloe Clay of Tunnel Hill, also representing Johnson County 2880, winner in the seventh-eighth grade division, also reads her essay. IEA Americanism Essay Contest winners were announced at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. Rounding out the top three finishers in the fifth-sixth division (not pictured) were Natalie Garcia and Anastacia Ham, both representing Galena Lodge 882. Finishing second and third in the seventh-eighth division were Clay Folks, representing Galena 882; and Harmony Womack, representing Johnson County.



STATE

Dave Jurmu asks Illinois Elks to commit to growing IEA, upon his installation as 2017-18 state president

LEFT PHOTO: Dave Jurmu is escorted to the dais by Past State President Coy Cockrum to be installed as 2017-18 IEA president. Cockrum said later he had his head bowed in prayer for Jurmu to have good luck in his year at the helm of the IEA. RIGHT PHOTO: President-Elect Jurmu, accompanied by First Lady Rae Marie, points to the theme for his year – “*Get on Board*” – in which he asks members to commit to the IEA; recruit a quality person into the Elks; and to be an encouragement to fellow Elks. “Our growth as a strong organization depends upon it!” he said.



Dave Jurmu leads his slate of officers at its installation at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. Past State President Tony Dardano conducts the installation for President-Elect Jurmu, vice presidents Tom Deien, Greg Verdun and Jeff Rodier, Secretary Marvin Leathers, Treasurer George Hornung, Chaplain David Neel, Sergeant-at-Arms Richard Card and Tiler Brad Besson.



PSP Dardano adorns newly installed IEA President Jurmu with the jewels of office.



Leta Summers applies husband Ray's past state president's pin.



IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, with Past State President Summers and wife Leta, displaying the plaque commemorating Summers' year as IEA president.

STATE

State and district officers installed for 2017-18 at IEA Annual Meeting



2017-18 STATE OFFICERS: IEA state and district officers for 2017-18 were installed at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. President Dave Jurmu of Rock Island 980, center front, is flanked from left by First Vice President Tom Deien of Mt. Vernon 819, Second Vice President Greg Verdun of Pontiac 1019, Third Vice President Jeff Rodier of Springfield 158 and Secretary Marvin Leathers of Mt. Vernon 819. In back are: Treasurer George Hornung of Fairfield 1631, Immediate Past President Ray Summers of Champaign-Urbana 2497, Chaplain David Neel Jr. of Dixon 779, Sergeant-at-Arms Richard Card of Rock Island 980 and Tiler Brad Besson of Jacksonville 682.



2017-18 DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS: IEA district vice presidents for 2017-18 were installed at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. Front from left, they are: Don Mowers of Danville Lodge 332, East Central District; Rick Peck of Jacksonville 682, West Central; Tawn Williams of Elmhurst 1531, North; and Bill Bushman of Dixon 779, Northwest. In back are: Scott Flora of Mt. Vernon 819, South Central; Debbie Sauer of Murphysboro 572, South; and Jennifer Woods of Kewanee 724, West. Unavailable for the photo was Jamie Greenley of Kankakee 627, East.



2017-18 SENIOR TRUSTEES: Front from left, they are: Craig Terven of Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497, East Central District; Phillip Reilly III of Quincy 100, West Central; Bob Rolewicz of Brookfield 1510, North; and Peter Bakken of DeKalb 765, Northwest. In back are: Debbie Rinard of Fairfield 1631, South Central; Craig Smith of DuQuoin 884, South; Greg Collins of Oak Lawn 2254, East; and Floyd Schmidt of Lincoln 914, West.



2017-18 JUNIOR TRUSTEES: Front from left, they are: Tony Murbarger of Robinson Lodge 1188, East Central District; Michael K. Pender of Wheaton 2258, North; and Betty J. Roliardi of Galena 882, Northwest. In back are: Darren Hays of Carmi 1652, South Central; Jessica Mitchell of Harrisburg 1058, South; Tom Hummel of Joliet 296, East; and Steve Albrecht of Canton 626, West. Not available for the photo was Kirk Newenham of Springfield 158, West Central.



Newly installed 2017-18 IEA President Dave Jurmu reads from the plaque commemorating Ray Summers' year as 2016-17 president, with IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, Leta Summers and Rae Marie Jurmu looking on.



Ray Summers is all smiles wearing his past state president's hat on, and wife Leta shows her glee.

DISTRICT

NORTH

Plea to do great things exceeds expectations, beginning with gifts to ENF

First-time visitors to Brookfield Lodge 1510 won't have to worry about missing the turn into the lodge, thanks to the newly installed street sign on 31st Street in Brookfield, about one half mile west of Brookfield Zoo. "Fundraising for the new sign was ongoing until three members joined together to completely finance the project for our Lodge," Past Exalted Ruler Bob Rolewicz said, referring to the generosity of members Tom Day, Joe Krizek and PER Marty Jackson.



By **SANDRA M. SUPANCIC**
2016-17 North District Vice President

At the beginning of this year, I asked North District lodges to continue doing great things so we would have something to brag about. They exceeded my expectations.

All district lodges met both Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen's and IEA President Ray Summer's per-member fundraising goals, paced by Chicago Northshore 1316's IEA-leading \$43.13.

A number of North District lodges qualified for Elks National Foundation Promise grants for programs such as Operation Santa Claus and DuPage Bike Rodeo. Lodges also used Beacon grants to buy books for kids, care packages for veterans and new shoes for kids going back to school.

Gratitude grants went to food pantries and homeless shelters, and for programs like Wings and Heart of a Marine.

You think we can stop here? No way.

Elmhurst Lodge 1531 was the first North District lodge and second in the

IEA to receive an Impact Grant. The community was more than thankful for the personal hygiene kits it received. Elmhurst will receive an Impact Grant again in 2017-18.

Also, two district lodges – Chicago Northshore 1316 and Elgin 737 – received Welcome Home Grants to help area homeless veterans. They helped furnish 48 apartments with pillows, sheets, blankets, cookware and small kitchen appliances.

Other examples of lodges giving to their communities are:

■ Brookfield 1510, which sponsors bingo for veterans and a Meals on Wheels program. Brookfield also was host to the last two exalted ruler balls.

■ Chicago Northshore 1316, which gave away a donated car to a veteran who, before she received the car, was forced to walk her two kids 10 miles to school every day. The gift came with insurance, a tune-up and gas money. Chicago Northshore also made blankets for veterans.

■ Elgin 737, which has worked with the community Step Up program for kids going back to school and with the Knights of Columbus for various youth

projects.

■ Elmhurst 1531, which also put together holiday baskets to give away, staged Halloween events for children and provided Thanksgiving dinner for more than 35 veterans at Hines VA Hospital, in which all district lodges pitched in to help.

■ Des Plaines 1526, which celebrated its 90th anniversary, put on a picnic for veterans at James Lovell VA Hospital and works with the O'Hare Airport USO. Its efforts have led to an increase in volunteerism and meeting attendance.

■ Wheaton 2258, which works with the DuPage County sheriff's department on a number of youth events, sponsors a Cub Scout pack, retired 800 U.S. flags and donated to Ronald McDonald House.

■ Woodstock 1043, which donated laptop computers to veterans returning to school and a washer and dryer to a veterans homeless shelter.

The North District was busy in 2016-17, setting the stage for a busy 2017-18. I was proud to be a part of it.

SOUTH

2016-17 marked by addition of new lodge

By **LYNDAL QUALLS**
2016-17 South District Vice President

The year 2016-17 brought many new and exciting things to the South District, led by the news that Johnson County Lodge had received its charter.

This group of outstanding people hit the ground running and has not slowed down. Recently, they have been looking at several buildings that are on the market, and looked at properties to possibly erect a new lodge. The search continues.

Eleven of the South's 12 lodges met both the GER's and State President's per member goal for gifts to the Elks National Foundation, and, yes, Johnson County was one of them.

The 12 lodges of the South raised more than \$1,000 for the This Able Veteran organization. I am extremely proud of this endeavor as I have a passion for this program.

The South District showed a very impressive membership gain over the past year, due in part to the opening of a new lodge. But eight of our



CAIRO LODGE 651 was host to veterans for a steak dinner in May, during which a moving ceremonial remembrance of those still missing from any USA conflict – called the "Missing Man Table" – was presented, from left, by Cairo Elks Morrissa Clanahan, Alda Beth Ingram and Inez Donnigan. Members also helped place more than 9,500 flags on the graves of the Mound City National Cemetery before the Memorial Day service there. Another contingent helped remove the flags a few days later.

Lodges showed an overall membership gain, including Cairo, which had a net gain of 45!

Some financial problems plagued South District, but we all banded together to fix the problem, demonstrating that we are a very close knit group.

One interesting fact is that we averaged 73 members at our district meetings throughout this year. I have been told that this is very good.

The South District has seen many younger people get involved, including two new young



THE HARRISBURG LODGE Easter Bunny (member Danielle Camp) visited Brownsville School near Carmi in April. Exalted Ruler Beth Barger said in the week leading up to Easter, the lodge Bunny was scheduled to visit well over 1,000 nursing- and shelter-care home residents and school children in southeastern Illinois. Sixty children were visited at Brownsville.

exalted rulers. We are seeing some younger faces in chairs at some lodges. Another encouraging fact is that two of our three District officers for 2017-18 are in their early 30s. This is great news because we are not getting any younger.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve the Illinois Elks Association and the South District as district vice president. There have been some ups and downs, but through it all, we remain the Super South.

District from Page 1

Project. The next closest district was at \$35,430. West Central also distributed \$50,250 in scholarships from CCC, almost double the amount of any other district in the state.

■ West Central continues to aid and assist veterans. Two VA facilities in the district, the Quincy Veterans Home and the East St. Louis Veterans Center. Its VAVS representatives and deputies worked diligently to serve residents.

■ All West Central lodges participated in Drug Awareness activities, Easter Bunny events, Hoop Shoot and the district held a Soccer Shoot.

■ Nominations were received for Elk of the Year, Lady of the Year and Family of the Year.

Like most lodges, ours have their ups and downs, but there have been no major issues to deal with this year, and no lodges have needed a special representative.

In conclusion, it has been my privilege and honor to serve as West Central's district vice president. West Central, in 2016-2017, was a thoroughbred race horse, and I am fortunate to have held the reins.

DISTRICT



OAK LAWN LODGE 2234 member and Army engineer, Capt. Dan Johnson, gives a thumb's-up upon his departure to Iraq on April 28. With more than 24 years in the service and four tours of duty, Johnson received a joint send off from Oak Lawn Elks and members of Johnson-Phelps VFW Post 5220, who wished Captain Dan good health and a safe return. Front from left are: Leading Knight Larry Nolan, Captain Dan and his wife Leslie, Loyal Knight Linda Riffice and Joann Lourdias. In back are: Butch and Meme Crusing, Lodge Secretary Rich Mearns, Joanne Mearns, Sharon Simental and Trustees Jack Riffice and Mike Simental.

EAST

Charitable gains off set membership loss

By **KRISTI WYKES**

2016-17 East District Vice President

The East District finished 2016-17 with 2,149 members, a decrease of 7.3 percent, or 149 members from last year. We also have 521 delinquencies for a 16.3 percent lapsation rate.

In spite of our declining numbers, seven of the East's eight lodges contributed \$8,840 directly to the Children's Care Corporation. Including individual donations, calendar sales and all other offerings credited to the East District, a total of \$31,400 was contributed to the Children's Care Corporation, a 12 percent decrease in donations over last year despite per member gifts of \$14.61.

All lodges exceeded both the Grand Exalted Ruler's and the State President's Elks National Foundation goals. Total donations credited to the district were \$15,479 for per member donations of \$6.74.

While five of eight district

lodges participated in Hoop Shoot this year, we continue to work on hosting more Soccer Shoots. Watseka is the only Lodge that hosts a regular event.

I am pleased to report that six of the district's eight lodges submitted candidates for IEA Lady Elk of the Year. Whereas this exemplifies the outstanding contributions our Ladies provide our Order, we still should aspire to submit more hard working and deserving Elks for the other categories as well.

Overall our district meetings are well represented. However, I am concerned by the lack of attendance by required Lodge Officers at state conventions. Lodge representatives that do not stay for all of the business sessions are missing too much valuable information.

As a district we will be diligent in encouraging full attendance at all functions, and will seek assistance from our State Officers and District sponsor in achieving our goal.

By **JERRY W. LEININGER**
2016-17 West District Vice President

West District had a fantastic year by promoting Drug Awareness, veterans, membership and charitable contributions.

All eight lodges made their \$4.65 per member contributions, earning each a \$1,500 Elks National Foundation grant, led by Macomb 1009 at \$12.72, followed by Galesburg 894, \$10.76; Bloomington, 281, \$8.12; Kewanee 724, \$7.13; Lincoln 914, \$6.75; Peoria 20, \$6.48; Canton 626, \$5.86; and Pekin 1271, \$5.69.

2016-17 is the third year in a row all eight lodges met the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal for per member donations.

In other programs:

Children's Care Corporation

— All calendars were sold, and just a few Hodo Pins remain for sale. No district total from the CCC was immediately available.

Grants — A total of \$31,000 in Gratitude, Beacon and Promise grants to the West District are confirmed. Other lodges had some approved but could not be confirmed at the time of this report. That \$31,000 went back into our Elks communities. What a fantastic job of demonstrating "Elks Care — Elks Share."

Membership — At the last district meeting in April, we had shown a membership loss of 4, but as of the last report on May 17, the district had a gain of 20 for 2016-17.

Elks awards — All lodges applied for some type of awards for membership (Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, Citizen of the Year). We need to make sure we show appreciation to our hard working members. Three lodges submitted IEA Elk Lady of the Year applications, with Bloomington Lodge 281's Cynthia Leininger winning the top honor. (How about

WEST

Membership gain, charitable gifts pace year

Canton students
Canton Lodge 626 raised \$3,000 at the lodge earlier this year for the Canton Junior and High School National Archery in the Schools Program. Approximately 300 students and family members attended the event aimed at helping students attend the NASP 2017 National Tournament held in May in Louisville, KY. In

addition, Canton Elks donated \$150 to cover the Academic Archer patches for competition shirts for students, based on grade point average. More than 50 students participate in the program. Past Exalted Ruler Terry Hayes accompanies participants Kayleen Tarter, Madison Long, Allysia Vaultonburg and Anna Reinmann.



that wife of mine?)

Hoop Shoot — All lodges participated in Hoop Shoot, but only one — Canton Lodge — held a Soccer Shoot.

Antlers Program — Canton Lodge 626 continues to excel with its program, which continues to bring in new members despite a change in chairmanship. All lodges need to look more closely at sponsoring programs.

Honor Flight — Peoria continues to support the program for veterans by providing a lunch and snack package for their flights. Bloomington made 80 cloth bags to carry these supplies for the last flight. We appreciate our veterans and also the volunteers who put this program together.

Major lodge events — Bloomington 281 installed two new furnaces and air conditioner units. Interior remodeling included new carpet.

Peoria 20 suffered a major water line break to its lodge, causing more than \$50,000 in damage, and is working with the Elks insurer, Aon. Peoria Elks were hoping for

a good turnout for its lodge charity golf scramble at 12:30 p.m. June 30 at Lincoln Green Golf Course. Anyone interested in playing is asked to contact Lodge Exalted Ruler Joe Bores at joeboers9631@gmail.com. I am sure they can use support.

Pekin 1271 continues to work on its facility and hopes to complete the project soon.

In the spotlight — After a large explosion in the downtown area, Canton Lodge opened its doors to the first responders. They used the lodge for about two weeks getting the downtown back to safe conditions. Hats off to Canton Elks for working with their community.

It has been a privilege to work with the West District officers of each lodge, the chairman, the volunteers and especially the ladies who work so hard along with the support of the state officers. We have had a fantastic year and look forward to continue to work with the members of this great organization to reach the goals that we have set for our children, communities and country.

SOUTH CENTRAL

A chronological review of the year, highlighted by Hoop Shoot run

By **JEFFREY S. JOHNSON**
2016-17 South Central District Vice President

At the district organizational meeting on June 12 at Mt. Vernon Lodge 819, gun raffle tickets were handed out to lodges, which succeeded in generating much-needed revenue for the district for the year.

Our August 14 district meeting was followed in September by the IEA fall convention. In October, November and December I attended as many district deputy visits as I could.

On Jan. 14 was our district

Hoop Shoot at Salem Lodge 1678 with winners moving on to the State Shoot on Feb. 25 in Decatur. I attended the State Shoot, in which Rayci Phelps outshot her competitors to move on to the Regional finals in Iowa, where she made 23 of 25 to gain a berth in the National Shoot in Chicago.

At the Jan. 15 district meeting, hosted by my home lodge Lawrenceville 1208, Carmi Lodge 1652 submitted PER Darren Hays for junior trustee. He was nominated at the April 23 district meeting. Also, Susanne Pretzsch,

was presented a plaque for district Lady of the Year, was invited to the Mid-Winter Meeting to participate in the IEA Lady of the Year luncheon.

Fairfield Lodge 1631 hosted the final district meeting for 2016-17 on April 23, in which a new position to the district chairs was approved. Like an apprentice to the junior trustee, this person's sole purpose is to manage the district hospitality room at state meetings, allowing the junior trustee to



Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 members, led by Exalted Ruler John Tucker, and the Easter Bunny (member Patrick Burke) helped make Easter a fun occasion for the children of military families and veterans at the Mt. Vernon Armory in April.

Please See **SC**, Page 12

DISTRICT

EAST CENTRAL

Lodge building sale, probation for another made worse by communications gap

By **BOB SWISHER**

2016-17 East Central District Vice President

One lodge had to sell its building and another was put on probation, but hopefully those lodges will get stronger. It seems when we are down everyone works a little harder to get back on top.

Our biggest problem in the district is communication. We don't know what some lodges are up to until we have a district meeting, and exalted rulers give their report. That is usually when we find out what lodges have been up to. It is always a good surprise.

The district started with 2,780 members in 2016-17, but ended with a loss of 285. I guess we know where we need to work a

little harder in 2017-18.

For Children's Care Corporation, district lodges donated right at \$20,000 as of mid-May.

For ENF, seven of the district's nine lodges met the \$5.50 IEA President Ray Summer's goal, and the other two met the Grand Exalted Ruler's \$4.65 goal.

For our Drug Awareness Program, six lodges used Drug Awareness material 12 times. The trailer was used five times and Elroy one time. The district also had one lodge that raised \$500 holding an Alex Lemonade Stand to help kids fight cancer.

Our Hoop Shoot Program again attracted good participation with

97 Elks who volunteered to help out 2,960 kids who enjoyed the district Hoop Shoot. Six lodges participated.

The district had a little trouble agreeing on a date for Soccer Shoot, in which only two lodges participated. But we had five lodges host lodge events, and I was told the district Shoot will be bigger and better next year. Dates are already set.

Seven district lodges participated in Wreaths Across America. They donated wreaths or money to buy wreaths for Veterans Cemetery in Danville.

District lodges helped with Coats For Kids, generously donating coats and their time

and raising money to buy coats. The district obtained 468 coats, 30 pairs of gloves, 34 hats, 15 scarves, one pair of shoes and one purse to help keep kids just a little warmer last winter.

At the beginning 2016-17, an exalted ruler called, asking how to put an orientation program together for new initiates. The ER had searched everywhere and could not find ideas. I asked district lodges what they do for orientation in an effort to publish a pamphlet. There has to be more than one ER who is having trouble coming up with an orientation program.

Membership is the lifeblood of Elksdom, making it necessary to

inform people of what we do. This is our chance to get them hooked for life, and we have had some great feedback. One lodge came up with a flyer that lists everything it funds to show new members exactly what Elks are all about. The flyer should help get the new initiates excited to get started and to make existing members a little more involved. Everyone wants their list to be a big one.

I am very proud of East Central District lodges for their input and for the Grand Lodge manual that helped come up with a pamphlet that will hopefully be used to help get new members excited about becoming an Elk and help keep existing members active.



Oglesby Elks Lodge 2360 agreed to donate \$500 to the Starved Rock Country Community Foundation to aid victims of the tornado that struck Ottawa and Naplate. Lodge Grant Coordinator Ken Ficek presents the check to Foundation President Pamela Becket, along with Exalted Ruler William Gandolfi. The money was made available through the Illinois Elks Association.

NORTHWEST

Focus on goals, membership gain pace year

By **GAIL L. SESSLER**

2016-17 Northwest District Vice President

The Northwest District was very active in trying to meet the goals that President Ray Summers set for 2016-17. At every meeting the required committee chairs reported on their respective areas. Meetings were well attended. And, as in past reports, we still have our checkbook balance in the black.

As for the specific goals set by the President Summers:

All district lodges participated in both the Easter Bunny and Hoop Shoot programs. Americanism Essay Contest entries declined; and Soccer Shoot is still struggling. There were not enough lodges to hold a district wide Shoot.

We are also struggling to start a new Antlers program in the lodges.

The majority of lodges held some type of Drug Awareness event. Elroy T. Elk visited several district lodges.

The district continues to donate \$2,000 to the LaSalle Veterans Home, and lodges continue to entertain the veterans at their respective lodges in a variety of ways.

The district donated more than \$22,000 to Children's Care Corporation and held four clinics during the year.

At district meetings, it was discussed to have orientation on a night other than meeting night. The main purpose was to invite the family and to place the candidate in a relaxed environment.

Members were encouraged to participate in the State Ritual contest by starting at the individual positions.

The district discontinued its website, but was encouraged to use Elks.org as well as the IEA website for information they provide.

The district donated more than \$32,000 to ENF with all nine lodges meeting the \$5.50 IEA state president's per member goal.

Four district lodges posted a membership gain, four a loss and one stayed the same, leaving the district with a gain of eight members for a total of 4,053 as of March 31. The majority of the lodges worked on their lapsed members early in the year to help the district post the year-end gain.

In conclusion, the year was fun and we met the majority of the president's goals.

SC from Page 11

attend required meetings.

We also voted to do another gun raffle for 2017-18, and presented awards for: ER of the Year Dave Dallas of Mt. Carmel 715; Secretary of the Year Carla Hooe of Salem 1678; Elk of the Year Brenda Wimberly of Mt. Vernon 819; and Family of the Year, the Ron Donoho family of Centralia 493.

Ray Baril also was presented a plaque for 35 consecutive years as secretary of Mt. Vernon Lodge 819.

Most Valuable Student state award winners and their sponsoring lodges were: Sierre Wetmore, Salem 1678; and Elijah Henson, Mt. Carmel 715.

Charitable donations totaled \$30,141 to the Elks National Foundation and \$34,149 to the Children's Care Corporation.

It's been a good year and an honor to serve as district vice president. Thanks to the other district officers for their help as I take the next step in my commitment. I know the district is in good hands.

LODGE

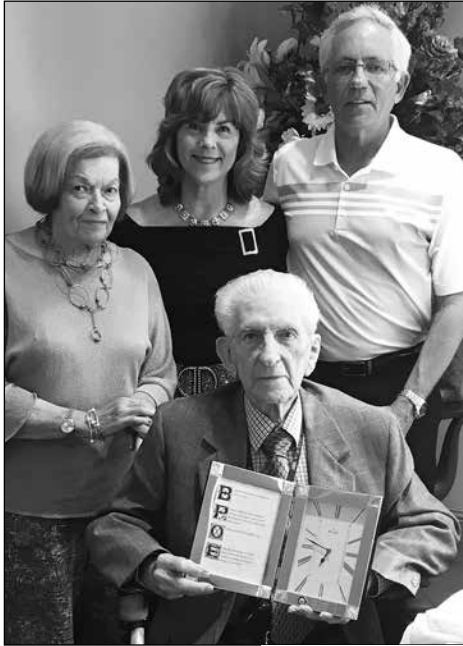


Carlville Elks help youth become Eagle Scout

Carlville Lodge 1412 used an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to help Lucas Mefford, second from left, become an Eagle Scout at Mefford's recent Eagle Scout ceremony in Carlville. The lodge earmarked the grant, plus other donated money, to coordinate a back-to-school back pack drive, said Exalted Ruler Eric Pfeiffer, second from right. "Lucas, the Elks and extra donations from local churches were used to fully supply over 250 children in the Carlville School District," Pfeiffer said. "The project was a huge hit and will be carried out every year forward with the help of the Elks and Boy Scouts." Also recognizing Mefford for becoming an Eagle Scout are Lodge Chaplain Bill Link, left, and Lecturing Knight Roy Robinson, right.

LODGE

Cairo Lodge shows commitment to members and community



To Rags go riches of love from Cairo Elks

Gilbert Swoboda – lovingly called “Rags” – joined Cairo 652 Lodge in December 1945 and was an active member for the next 72 years. On June 2, his family and friends celebrated his 97th birthday, and presented Rags a clock bearing the Elks Creed. Making up the happy birthday committee, from left, are Jane Solomon, Jo McNulty and Exalted Ruler Kevin McNulty.

Cairo Lodge 652 in April honored member Jo McNulty (left) as lodge Elk of the Year; Morrissa Clanahan, lodge Citizen of the Year; and Glen Klett, Officer of the Year.

“The conversation in the clubhouse this year often concerns the loyalty, faithfulness and cooperation of the entire membership toward getting things done,” Exalted Ruler Kevin



McNulty said. “The hard work of members like these three makes it possible.”

Oglesby Lodge centers community outreach on youth and veterans

With the help of a \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, Oglesby Lodge 2360 expanded its 36th annual Eighth Grade Ball in May to include additional



smaller local school districts with more than 185 students in attendance. The Say No to Drugs dress-up event was held in the lodge main hall and included a photo booth, meal and refreshments, all accompanied by teen dancing music. Each student received a Say No to Drugs wrist band as they entered the hall and a packet of Drug Awareness information as they left. Co-chairs Leslie Moriarity, Jackie Finley, and Tyler Finley welcome attendees Austin Christman and Morgan Shan, along with lodge Drug Awareness Chair Rudy Gandolfi.

Jackie Naas, Easter Bunny chair of Oglesby Lodge 2360, along with her two granddaughters, Bynleigh and Madisyn Engel, welcome the Easter Bunny, who arrived in a Oglesby fire engine. More than 175 children and parents enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt held on the lodge grounds.



Cairo Lodge 652 members, from left, Minta Comte, Bob Conroy, Inez Donnigan and Jane Solomon played the Easter Bunny on April 11 for 70 residents of Daystar Nursing Care Center. Proudly wearing their bunny ears and pulling a wagon filled with bananas and mandarin oranges, they went into each room sharing the fruit and a short conversation with each resident. Fruit was also left for the staff, and later that day for both the police and fire departments. On the following Saturday, Cairo Elks joined with other organizations in sponsoring a community egg hunt for children. Cairo Elks found “there is a lot of pleasure to be had when you can find the time to do something for others,” Exalted Ruler Kevin McNulty said.



Oglesby Lodge 2360 performed its Flag Day Ritual at the LaSalle Veterans Home on June 11 for about 40 veterans and their families, the second year in a row that the Oglesby Elks celebrated with the veterans at LaSalle. A history of the United States flag was presented, accompanied by patriotic music.

Robert Ebener receives a certificate of appreciation from Oglesby Lodge 2360 Exalted Ruler William Gandolfi, after the lodge Flag Day ritual. Ebener, a resident of the LaSalle Veterans Home, is a charter member of the lodge, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.



As good Elks, let's all make the pledge!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Past District Deputy Kerry Camp of Harrisburg Lodge recently put together the following words to the wise Elk.

By KERRY CAMP

Past District Deputy, Harrisburg Lodge 1058

■ Work together. Get involved with the officers. Get to know the exalted ruler!

■ Support the officers. Volunteer to the officers. Help and respect the officers.

■ Get involved in our programs. Volunteer to take on a role or assist with a project. Pick up the slack if you see it. Strap it on for the betterment of the Elks!

■ Remember it's the lodge that makes the club – not the other way around.

■ Seek ways to serve the lodge and community. Isn't that why we joined?

■ Remember the “business end” of things and support board and staff trying to make improvements. Really. This is how we keep our bills paid and our work sustained.

■ Keep personal prejudices far away. Poison. Owe that to lodge, and we took an oath to do it. We all have different styles, but let's all share the same dreams.

■ Ask questions. Make suggestions. Help some. Be part of something positive. Negativity helps no one. What can you do to create a little momentum?

■ Look for long-term success and how to get there. And if it ain't fun, why are you doing it? Don't obstruct. Use your “sweet spot” of talent/time to help!

■ Look around. Are we doing all we can do? Are you doing all you can do?

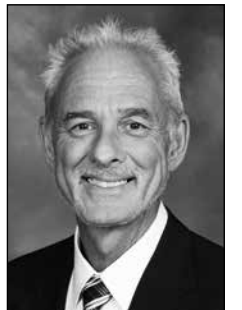
■ Learn about Elks. Go to <http://www.elks.org/> and sign up as a member and then read and refer to this vast resource when you can!

■ See the big picture. Everyone has a role. Are you fulfilling your role as best you can? Are you making a difference? Did I mention staying positive and having fun?

■ Ideas for how to improve something? New idea? Want to consider being a lodge leader? Talk. Ask. Explore. Inspire someone! Catch inspiration from another!

■ Communication ideas? How do we get our word out? To members? To social media and media outlets? It's 2017, you know.

■ What can your pledge be, and have you shared it with anybody? Can you please?



KERRY CAMP

Vets from Page 3

“If anyone would like to take on this USO, please get in touch with me,” Kane said.

Also in his year-end report for IEA Veterans Service, Kane said Illinois Elks donated of \$7,000 to each of the Veterans Honor Flights based in Marion, Springfield and Chicago.

“I would like to thank all Elks that help our veterans with VA visits, bingo, parties, whatever part you do,” Kane said. “The veterans are truly thankful.”

“God bless the veterans and our members who have not forgotten them.”

LODGE

Kewanee Elks honor youth with dinner, 30 years and running



Kewanee Lodge 724 held its 30th annual Youth Appreciation Banquet in May. Teens of the month, front from left, are: Hunter Nelson, Samantha Johnson, Victoria Crofton, Kelli Kluever, Zoey Murphy and Lauren Schmidt, along with Past State President Dennis Gerleman, who also is lodge Youth Activities chairman. In back are: Exalted Ruler Kevin Galbraith and students Kyle Davis, Ryan Russell, Nick Sheets, Andrew Roseman, Ben Buresh, Charles Schlindwein and Alex Bryan, Wethersfield. Absent were Nathan Soria and Jessica Crofton.



Galbraith and Gerleman also recognized Samantha Johnson for winning a Most Valuable Student scholarship. Johnson was a top 20 finalists for the scholarship out of more than 30,000 applicants. She was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship over four years, some of the \$1.4 million the Elks National Foundation will give out this year nationwide.



Kewanee Lodge Exalted Ruler Kevin Galbraith and Lodge Youth Activities chairman and Past State President Dennis Gerleman recognize the lodge's Teens of the Year, Kyle Davis and Hunter Nelson. Davis and Nelson also won West District honors and placed second in the Illinois Elks Association State Contest, each winning scholarship money for each level.

Harrisburg Elks treat students, teachers to picnic and fishing



Elks members gather with students for a group photo.

Dozens of Harrisburg Lodge 1058 members gathered with students of Brownsville School for the lodge's annual picnic and fishing event. Sixty students and teachers were treated in Karel Park in Eldorado in May to lunch, special T-shirts, fun, games and fellowship. Harrisburg Elks Terry and wife Cathy Ferrell led the activities, funded mainly by an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant.



Exalted Ruler Beth Barger presents a certificate to a student as Elk Cathy Ferrell looks on.



Harrisburg Elk John Okerson was among dozens of fellow members doing the "heavy lifting" to make the day a memorable one for Brownsville School special education students.

Brookfield Elks canvas community to bring Easter cheer

Two Easter Bunnies from Brookfield Lodge 1510 – Past Exalted Ruler Tony Zeman and volunteer Nicole Purchase – visited an estimated 250 residents at area nursing homes on Palm Sunday. On Easter Sunday, the bunnies greeted kids at the children's home in Oak Park, handing out



Easter baskets to approximately 35 children. In total, Brookfield Elks visited five local facilities and Hines VA Hospital during the Easter season, Past Exalted Ruler Heather Weyn said. John Purchase, active with the program for 26 years and chairman for 20, was joined by Exalted Ruler Vicki Rolewicz, Mike and Caroline Vincenzo and PER Bob Rolewicz. Also helping out on Easter Sunday were Charmaine Purchase (active for most of the last 20 years), Nicole Purchase (active for over 20 years), Greg Weyn (active for the last 5 years), PER Heather Weyn (active for almost 30 years), PER Tony Zeman (active for over 20 years) and first-timers Mark Roegner, and Alan and Alex Schure.



Oak Lawn Elks salute Old Glory at Flag Day ceremony



Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 members, joined by 20 area military and scout organizations, celebrate Flag Day at the lodge on June 11.

LODGE

Mt. Carmel Elks use cash incentives to spur essay participation



A total of 246 Wabash County students in grades fifth-eighth participated in the 2016-17 Americanism Essay Contest, addressing the theme “Your American Hero.” Cash awards of \$50 were presented to first-place winners, \$25 for second and \$15 for third. First in the seventh- and eighth-grade division was Kyle Dunn, who also won the South Central District competition and \$100. TOP LEFT: Mt. Carmel Lodge Americanism Chair Louise Acree presented awards to the students at Allendale School who had winning essays. From left are Allendale Principal Bob Bowser, Kyle Dunn, who won both the seven- and eighth-grade division and the South Central District competition; Emma Westlake, who tied for third in the seventh- and eighth-grade division, and Acree. TOP RIGHT: Acree awards Rayce Loudermilk of Mt. Carmel Middle School for placing second in the seventh- and eighth-grade division, accompanied by school Principal Steve Holt. LOWER LEFT: Acree, with St. Mary’s School Principal Cindy Brogan, presented awards to Alexia Stevens, second in fifth-sixth; Eric Acree, tied for third in fifth-sixth; Faith Fuller, tied for third in seventh-eighth in the lodge and second in South Central District; and Molly Rafferty, first in fifth-sixth in the lodge and third in district. LOWER RIGHT: Acree, with N.I.C.E. School Principal Chris Taylor, awards Kathryn Blake, who tied for third in fifth-sixth.

STATE

Veterans outreach, aid to victims of tornado mark Summers’ term

IEA President Ray Summers recapped his year, 2016-17, in providing outreach to veterans and tornado victims.

The IEA gave \$7,500 to the Carbondale-based This Able Veteran program, which trains service dogs for veterans suffering from mental disorders. A similar donation was made in 2015-16.

Summers also cleared the way to give \$7,500 to the PAWS Assisting Wounded Warriors program in Palos Heights whose representative was “ecstatic” to receive the donation, Summers said.

He expressed interest in bringing a couple veterans and their service dogs to an IEA meeting to show how Illinois Elks’ money is being spent.

Another \$5,000 went to the Fuller Center chapter in Peoria, the Valley Fuller Center for Housing, which provides housing services to veterans, similar to the Army of Hope program of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

Summers said a program representative told him in a telephone conversation of one veteran receiving assistance who was able to get running water for the first time in 10 years.

“We gave them \$5,000, and I thought the phone disconnected because I couldn’t hear anything. She was just flabbergasted that the Elks would do this,” Summers said.

In providing emergency funds, Illinois Elks gave \$5,000 to the Starved Rock Community Foundation to aid victims of the Feb. 28 tornado that struck the Naplate-Ottawa area in LaSalle County.

Summers looked to make sure the whole \$5,000 went to the victims and not for administrative expenses or to a tax-funded entity.

He also said he wanted to spread IEA outreach money around the state as much as possible to get “a little more bang for our buck, and more recognition on this.”

Lodges asked to nurture growth of newest lodge Johnson County

IEA New Lodge Chairman Bob Rolewicz, in his 2016-17 year-end committee report, encouraged Illinois Elks to lend a hand to keep the IEA’s newest lodge, Johnson County, afloat in its early years.

Johnson County 2880 became the IEA’s newest lodge in November 2016, led by Lori McClellan, Debbie Riddle, Christy Furman and Cheryl Qualls.

“I congratulate the Johnson County organizational committee for their hard work and determination,” Rolewicz said. “Without them, it never would have happened.”

He added that Johnson County Elks “need to know that we are all in this together.”

A good way for Illinois Elks

to show their support of Johnson County Lodge is to visit the lodge on Aug. 21. That is when a solar eclipse is predicted to take place, and experts say southern Illinois provides an especially good vantage point.

Johnson County Lodge is situated at 405 Gaineer St., Vienna.

The solar eclipse is estimated to last for 2 minutes, 40 seconds.

Visit the South District page on Facebook for more information as Aug. 21 approaches, IEA Lodge Activities Chairman Dennis Bierman said in his Mid-Winter report.

Also the lodge may be e-mailed at jocoelks@outlook.com for information.

ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN’S CARE CORPORATION

Calendar from Page 16

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, Du Quoin; 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, De Kalb; John & Peg Kahl, Carlinville; Thomas Linkowski, Chicago Northshore; Kaysey Weasel, Harrisburg; Don Humphrey, Paris; Dan Moy, Jacksonville;

Scott Hood, Charleston; Darren Gray, Metropolis; Sean E. Rees, Carlinville

April – Dennis & Patty Young, Dixon; Melissa Ferguson, Murphysboro; Scherrie Chamblin, Robinson; Thomas Hatalla, Carlinville; J. Robert Fuels, Lincoln; Robert A. Rice, Chicago Northshore; Rex Camden, McLeansboro; Richard Lively, DuQuoin; Jon Bunyan, Lawrenceville; Toyzann Musgrave, Fairfield; Paul & Sharlene Roge, Des Plaines; Kendra Evans, Murphysboro; Jon Bunyan*, Lawrenceville; David L. Rathgeb, Carlinville; Patricia Sloan, Quincy; James Purkaple, Granite City;

Wayne Wiltshire, Carlinville; Marion E. Devoy, McLeansboro; Mark Fumagalli, Joliet; Jenny Raetz, Fairview Heights

May – Mike Porter, Effingham; Darrell Darnell, Metropolis; Roy Robinson, Carlinville; Louise Ware, Granite City; Jared Alka, Mt. Carmel; Tammy Fish, Carlinville; Ken Lankford, McLeansboro; William B. Williams, Chicago Northshore; Doug Shockley, Metropolis; Herman Gandolfi, Oglesby; Pamela Jones, Springfield; Larry Speed, Ottawa; Quentin Jones*, Robinson; Betty Rutherford, Carlinville; Amy McGinnis, Chicago South; Mary Lou

Baldwin, Elgin; Jack V. Knoerr, Lawrenceville; Dave Hackett, Charleston; Shawn Graham, Jacksonville; Randy Barnett, McLeansboro; Sherry Vincent, Carlinville; Jeff Reinoehl, Robinson; Jacob Comte, Cairo
June – Barry Evans, Robinson; Jeff Rodier, Springfield; Scott Hawthorne, Belleville; Jerod Cottingham, Carlinville; Richard Ackerman, Harrisburg; Michael G. Sack, Oak Lawn; Barbara A. Rich, Benton; Hal Lamb, Pana; Janet Harms, Quincy; Lance Loftus, Metropolis; Bill Johnson, Oglesby; Dorothy Larose, Granite City
* \$100 ** \$1,000 *** \$5,000



Murphysboro Lodge 572, Champaign-Urbana 2497 and Elgin 737 were among the leading Illinois lodges contributing to the Children's Care Corporation in 2016-17. Representing those lodges and showing off the hardware they received, from left, are Murphysboro Exalted Ruler Debbie Sauer, C-U ER Craig Terven and Elgin ER Greg Huske.

Top CCC contributors are announced

Murphysboro and Lincoln lodges were the top contributors to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation in 2016-17, with Murphysboro 572 placing first with \$17,877 in gross contributions, and Lincoln 914 with \$47.67 in per-member gifts. Springfield 158 was second in gross contributions with \$16,533 followed by Fairview Heights 664 with \$14,180.

Also in per-member gifts were Elgin 737, second, with \$41.48 and Fairview Heights, third, with \$38.74. District leaders in gross and per-member contributions were: **Northwest:** Dixon 779, \$8,592; and Freeport 617, \$9.10 **North:** Des Plaines 1526, \$9,987; and Elgin 737, \$41.48 **East:** Oak Lawn 2254, \$5,341; and Kankakee 627, \$20.64

East Central: Champaign-Urbana 2497, \$9,876 and \$16.88 **South:** Murphysboro 572, \$17,877 and \$27.42 **South Central:** Mt. Vernon 819, \$10,428; and Flora 1659, \$15.55 **West Central:** Springfield 158, \$16.53; and Fairview Heights 664, \$38.74 **West:** Kewanee 724, \$11,737; and Lincoln 914, \$47.67

Top 3 lodges give \$48K of \$119K total to CCC

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation has issued its 2016-17 year-end report.

Year-end awards – The top three lodges in per-member contributions were: Lincoln 914 with \$47.67; Elgin 737, \$41.48; and Fairview Heights 664, \$38.74.

The top three lodges in gross contributions were: Murphysboro 572 with \$17,877.44; Springfield 158, \$16,533.38, and Fairview Heights 664, \$14,179.75 – totaling \$48,590.57.

The remaining 68 Illinois lodges contributed an additional \$71,014 through various fundraisers, generating a grand total of \$119,604.19 for the kids.

Scholarships – The Children's Care Corporation is awarding 87 students a total of \$143,100 in scholarships in physical and occupational therapy. A special thanks to judges Sharon Kay Dirck, Mark Bump, Tom Hummel and Brad Besson, who reviewed 110 applications.

The Lydia Miller Special Education Scholarship will be awarding 3 students \$8,000.00 in scholarships.

Notices of awards have been sent to all students.

Expenses – About \$341,075 was spent on patient and clinic expenses, and scholarships.

New clinic – A new clinic was established in Carmi

Ties and scarves – Several new ties and scarves were introduced at the Mid-Winter Convention, and at the Annual Convention with much success and look forward to introducing them at the National Convention.

Board Elections – The board of directors elected for 2017-18 Tawn Williams, chair; Mark Bump, vice chair; Todd Lindsay, secretary; and Brad Besson, treasurer.

Thanks to Don Koehler for his nine years as board secretary and best of luck to Lindsay, who succeeds Koehler as secretary.



P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629-0222
(217) 483-3020 ■ Helpline 1-800-272-0075
Fax (217) 483-2131 ■ E-mail HELPKIDS@MOTION.NET

Latest calendar winners

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corp. has announced it's calendar winners for January through June. They are:

January – Jake Thompson, Effingham; Greg Lewis, Lawrenceville; Joe & Teresa Basile, Elmhurst; Frank Grichnik, Carlinville; Jim & Rae Kulavie, 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,

Please See **CALENDAR**, Page 15

2017 ILLINOIS ELKS FREE ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC DATES

	Clinic	Doctor(s)	Day of Week	Clinic Dates Scheduled for 2017				HELD AT
	Carmi	Justin						Wabash
1	8:00 - 9:00 AM	Miller	Wednesday	February, 15	May, 24	August, 30	November, 8	Christian Therapy & Medical Center 1112 Oak St. - Carmi
2	8:30 - 10:30 AM	McKechnie	Tuesday	March, 7	June, 13	Sept., 12	Dec. 12	Presence Covenant Medical Center 1405 W. Park St.-Suite 306 - Urbana
3	8:00 AM	David Yeager	Thursday	January, 26	April, 20	June, 22	October, 26	KSB Foot & Ankle Center 215 E. 1st, Suite 310 - Dixon
4	8:00 AM	Timothy Gray	Thursday	February, 23	May, 11	August, 17	November, 16	Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic 1303 Evergreen - Effingham
5	2:00 - 5:00 PM	Vincent Cannestra	Monday		May, 8		November, 13	Sherman Hospital 1425 N. Randall Rd. - Elgin
6	8:00 - 9:30 AM	Steven Potaczek	Tuesday	February, 14	May, 16	August, 8	November, 14	Galesburg Clinic 3315 N. Seminary - Galesburg
7	12:30 - 2:30 PM	Richard Erickson	Thursday	January, 26	April, 6	August, 10	October, 12	IVCH 925 West St. - Peru
8	4:00 - 5:30 PM	Bradley Dworsky	Tuesday	February, 7	May, 2	August, 1	October 31	Hinsdale Orthopedic - Joliet Office 951 Essington Rd. - Joliet
9	1:00 - 3:00 PM	David Purves, PA-C,ATC	Tuesday	January, 10	April, 4	June, 6	October, 10	Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital 200 Stahlhut Dr. - Lincoln
10	8:30 - 10:30 AM	Julko Fullop	Friday	March, 10	June, 2	September, 8	December, 1	Wabash Gen. Hosp. Surgery & Sports Med. 1527 College Dr. - Mt. Carmel
11	3:00 - 5:00 PM	Alan Froehling	Friday	February, 3	May, 5	July, 28	November, 3	Neuromuscular Ortho Institute 302 Broadway - Mt. Vernon
12	2:00 - 4:00 PM	Scott Ferry	Wednesday	January, 25	April, 19	June, 21	October, 25	OrthoIllinois 324 Roxbury Rd. - Rockford
13	8:30 - 10:30 AM	Richard Erickson	Thursday	January, 26	April, 6	August, 10	October, 12	Perry Memorial Hospital 530 Park Ave. East - Princeton
14	9:00 - 11:00 AM	Lusardi	Wednesday	March, 22	June, 14	September, 20	December, 20	CMH Bone & Joint Center, Suite C 1000 N. Allen St. - Robinson
15	2:30 - 4:30 PM	Michael Pyevich	Tuesday	February, 21	May, 30	August, 22	November, 28	ORA Orthopedics 520 Valley View - Moline
16	2:00 - 4:00 PM	Alan Froehling	Friday	February, 24	May, 26	August, 25	November, 17	Marshall Browning Hospital 900 N. Washington St. - Du Quoin
17	10:30 - 12:30 PM	A. Roy	Monday	March, 13	June, 5	September, 18	December, 4	Streator Elks Lodge 202 N. Park Ave. - Streator

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