



Illinois Elks Association Newsette



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



Grand Exalted Ruler displays the plaque, titled "Tribute to Leadership," he received at the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in January in Springfield. He is accompanied, from left, by Grand Lodge First Lady Patricia McPherson, IEA President Dave and First Lady Rae Marie Jurmu.

GER McPherson touts \$1,500 grants for lodges to promote BPOE's 150th

In the countdown to the BPOE's 150th year celebration in July, Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson visited the IEA, urging Illinois lodges to get their \$1,500 grant to promote themselves during the celebration.

Twenty-five of the IEA's 70 lodges had been approved for the grant as of January.

"This grant will expand our charitable presence in our community," McPherson said in his keynote address highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in Springfield.

Please seize the opportunity. "If you have not applied for the Anniversary Grant, please do so when you return to your lodge."

The Elks National Foundation is offering the grant through its Community Investments Program.

McPherson said Illinois Elks donated \$202,252 to the ENF in 2016-17, and received back \$490,390 through the state charities grant, special projects grants, bonus grant, Most Valuable

Please See **GER**, Page 2

Hoop Shoot a great metaphor for Elks memories that'll last forever

Thanks for the memories!

At the North Central Region Hoop Shoot March 10 in Iowa City, the emcee stated, "Remember, sooner or later the trophies and medallions will be put on a shelf to gather dust, but the memories will live forever!"

How true that is. What each of the members of the IEA have done this year will live forever in my

**IEA
president**
Dave
Jurmu



memory. Whether it was a phone call from a 30+year Elk who told me he not only recruited one, but two members this year to prove he

"was on board," to the person who stated she was contributing to the Elks National Foundation for the first time because she realized the importance it has in our day-to-day activities as Elks. Or, the individual who told me that it really wasn't all that hard to say "thank you" to another Elk who had just done a great job in his lodge.

The three catch-words I used

this year were, "Commitment, Recruitment, Encouragement." It is my sincere hope that they will permanently be engraved in your memory going forward and you will remember them and act on them. That would be the greatest reward I could hope for in a year that went by all too quickly.

Please See **DAVE**, Page 5

Swishers a soft touch for smiles of Hoop Shooters

After 14 years as director, they come back for more

For IEA Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher and his brother Darrell, it's the smiles on children's faces and the thank-yous of parents that have kept them coming back for the past 14 years and counting to direct the annual event.

"Have you been hugged or seen that smile on a child's face before and after a Shoot?" Jim said of what keeps him coming back year after year. "How about when a parent comes up to you and thanks you? Or when you sit back at the hotel and watch these young adults make new friends?"

Darrell is equally motivated by the smiles.

Please See **SWISHERS**, Page 10



The IEA Hoop Shoot has been a family affair for the past 14 years for the Pana Lodge-based Swisher family. Jim Swisher, atop the award stand, is finishing his sixth year at the helm, preceded by brother Darrell (holding his granddaughter Rhiann), who served from 2004-05 to 2006-07; and brother Bob (left of Jim), who served from 2007-08 to 2011-12. Also contributing to successful events over the years has been brother Terry (right of Jim), Jim's daughters, Cassidy and Natalie Swisher, Jim's son Chris and Chris' wife Nakayla, holding the couple's son Bryden.

STATE



Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson displays the plaque he received from IEA President Dave Jurmu granting McPherson honorary membership in the Illinois Elks Association. RIGHT PHOTO: McPherson also displays one of the several gifts he received from his IEA hosts, a reminder of his visit to the Land of Lincoln.

Patricia McPherson, wife of Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson, unwraps a gift she received from IEA First Lady Rae Marie Jurmu at the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in January in Springfield.

GER from Page 1

Student scholarship, Legacy Award and the National Veterans Service Commission. Adding the \$256,993 that 61 Illinois lodges received through the Community Investments Program, the IEA received \$747,383.

"Truly amazing," McPherson said.

McPherson also called on Illinois Elks to boost their public relations and marketing efforts to grow their lodges.

"It's the mission of the [Grand] Lodge Public Relations and Marketing Committee to make

sure everyone is able to see the impact that *'Strengthening Elkdome Through Community Awareness'* is having in the communities we serve," McPherson said, alluding to the theme for his year.

The BPOE could not attract more members than it lost in 2016-17, but lapsation was reduced to less than 1 percent for the first time in 37 years, McPherson said, and nearly 75,000 new members and reinstatements were added.

"I am predicting with your assistance and hard work we will realize a gain in membership"

for 2017-18, McPherson said. "I need your help and assistance to realize this goal. In San Antonio I want to announce that for the first time in 37 years we had a gain in membership."

McPherson also used his visit to Illinois to promote his home state of New Jersey's Peer Leadership Program,

**"Truly amazing."
GER McPherson,
on the IEA receiving
\$747,383 from Grand
Lodge on contributions
of \$202,252 in 2017-18**

which he hopes to grow nationally through the Elks Drug Awareness Program. The Peer Leadership Program offers high school students tools to achieve a healthy lifestyle while creating an army of youth volunteers to affect positive change in their schools and communities.

"I really want to develop this program on a national level," McPherson said. "I need the help of all the state Drug Awareness directors to participate and join with us in this program."

In remembering veterans, McPherson talked about the Elks National Veterans Service Commission's newest program, Welcome Home," which was

inspired by a partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs to help end homelessness. The Elks National Foundation pledged \$4 million in support over four years.

"We are proud to contribute to the means and the necessary support for homeless veterans to transition to a better life," he said.

He also spoke about ritual, which he called "another important tool in helping us develop pride within our lodge."

"Ritual is part of our heritage and tradition, and when your officers work to perform an impressive ritual, it brings the officers together and I believe makes for a successful lodge."

New Jersey lawyer at the helm of BPOE

Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson Jr., who was a guest of the IEA at its Mid-Winter Meeting in January, was born in Newark, NJ on Dec. 7, 1955, to Malcolm J. McPherson Sr. and Miriam (née Murray) McPherson. Malcolm has one sister, Susanne McPherson. He attended Sacred Heart Grammar School, Lyndhurst High School, Seton Hall University, and Seton Hall Law School, from which he graduated in 1981.

Malcolm met his wife Patricia in high school and they were married on Aug. 15, 1981. They have two daughters, Meghan and Mallory, both of whom are officers of Lyndhurst Lodge 1505. Upon graduation from law school, Malcolm joined the law firm of Edwards and Antholis as an associate until becoming a partner in 1986, remaining there until 1990.

In 1991, he opened his own private practice specializing in civil law, including matrimonial, municipal land use, wills and estates. He was also a former attorney for the Passaic County Elks Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center. In 1992, he was appointed the attorney for the Lyndhurst Rent Leveling Board and presently still holds that position.

Malcolm was initiated into Lyndhurst Lodge 1505 in March 1981, and installed as lodge esquire in March 1982, later serving as lecturing knight, loyal knight and leading knight before his election as ex-

alted ruler in 1986-87. He also was the justice of the Local Lodge Forum from 1987-2005 and was named to Honorable Life Membership in April 1997.

On the state level, he was chairman for the North Central District's Ritual Committee and a certified Ritualistic judge, which he continues to be to this day. He was attorney for both the New Jersey State Elks Association Convention and Special Children's Committee. Malcolm was also chairman of the New Jersey State Laws Committee. He was elected president of the New Jersey State Elks Association 1999-2000.

At the Grand Lodge level, Malcolm was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of New Jersey's North Central District in 1995-1996, Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committeeman in 2002-2003, Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary in 2003-2005, member of the Grand Forum from 2005 until 2010, serving as its chief justice and chairman of the Pardon Commission in 2009-2010, Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for New Jersey from 2009 to the present.

On a personal level, Malcolm was a member and coach of the Little Falls Athletic Club. He coached basketball and softball in Little Falls from 1989 until 2001. He was a member of the American Bar Association. He and his family are parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel R. C. Church.



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, 2018, for summer edition; July 20, 2018 for fall; and Nov. 21, 2018, for Mid-Winter

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STATE

Behind-the-scenes efforts earn Shelly Ray IEA Lady of Year

Centralia Lodge 493 is as active as any lodge in Illinois, and a key to the lodge's enthusiasm has been the behind-the-scenes efforts of lodge Lady of the Elks member Shelly Ray.

Those efforts earned Ray the 2017-18 IEA Lady of the Year award. The award was announced at the ladies luncheon at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in January in Springfield.

"The lady's organization at Centralia 493 is very active and you can find Shelly at the front of the line to help," said South Central District Vice President Scott Flota in a nomination letter to IEA President Dave Jurmu. "Raising money for people in need, gathering and delivering Thanksgiving baskets and wrapping Christmas presents for underprivileged children are just a few of the functions at which you will find her."

For a volunteer meal or maybe just a special function at the lodge, Shelly is first in line to help cook, serve a meal or clean up after, he said.

"She will take any task asked of her," Flota said.



Shelly Ray of Centralia Lodge 493 and the South District (center), with IEA First Lady Rae Marie Jurmu and Grand Lodge First Lady Patricia McPherson.

But don't take just Flota's word for the impact that Ray has on the lodge. Exalted Ruler Bill Luebben said as much in his letter nominating Ray for the honor.

"Shelly is very active at our lodge as a member of the lady of the Elks, baking desserts for the Lodge Operation We Care dinners on Thursdays," Luebben said. "She is also active in helping to prepare and serve these dinners, thereby

helping the lodge raise funds for our community donations and assistance."

Shelly is always quick to jump in and help serve, clean up and do whatever is needed, Luebben added, alluding to the integral role she had in starting the lodge's Wings Wednesday taking order, serving, cleaning up and keeping the money straight.

"Shelly takes part in all of the Lady of the Elks functions, going above and beyond what is asked," Luebben said. "She helps with all the Elks projects and doesn't wait to be asked to help. She steps up and says, 'Let me know what you need me to do.'"

Flota said that while Shelly is involved in helping behind the scenes, she is equally involved at the forefront.

"There are many meetings and other outside activities that you will find her standing beside husband Joe, helping to promote Elksdom.

"She does so with a smile on her face and a welcome ear to listen to anyone," Flota said. "Shelly has many times said, 'What can I do to help?' There are a few junior



Shelly Ray of Centralia Lodge 493 and the South District displays the plaque she was awarded for being named 2017-18 IEA Lady of the Year. She is flanked, from left, by West Central District Lady of the Year Teresa Copper of Granite City 1063, West District Lady of the Year Tena Fowler of Bloomington 281 and South District Lady of the Year Nicole Davis of Carbondale 1243. In back are: IEA First Lady Rae Marie Jurmu, Grand Lodge First Lady Patricia McPherson and Beth Sulsberger, wife of IEA sponsor and Past Grand Exalted Ruler Lou Sulsberger.

trustees in the district who can tell you they have taken her up on those words."

"Lastly," Flota said, "anyone who knows Shelly, she is always

the first to give a please and thank you but never one to expect those words in return."

Good advice for winning friends and influencing people.

Lodges can lose their charters over harassment, bias lawsuits

A successful harassment and discrimination lawsuit can be enough for an Elks lodge to lose its charter.

IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers recounted a story at the trustees training session in January of a lodge that was sued over overt harassment.

The suit eventually resulted in the loss of the lodge's charter and the officers that participated personally liable for a large money judgment, IEA trustees training coordinator Matthew Stropes quoted Leathers as saying in his Mid-Winter report.

Stropes advised lodges to have a written harassment policy on file and for each employee to review the policy every year. The policy must contain a complaint procedure posted along with other employment posters as required by law.

"Any and all complaints need to be taken seriously and investigated, with the findings of the investigation being thoroughly document-

ed," Stropes said, adding that lodge officers should also document that they are aware of the policy.

For more information, consult the Grand Lodge Discrimination and Harassment Guidelines for Local Lodges, which is posted on the Elks website at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/default.cfm>.

org/grandlodge/manuals/default.cfm.

Stropes also offered tips for lodges using social media to reach their members and potential members.

"For lodges that provide WiFi connections at the club/home facility, it is imperative that

such connections be password-restricted (with) some level of encryption to avoid any unwanted use."

Stropes urged lodges to document their lodge internet policies within their house rules.

Also, any pictures that are posted online must have signed releases on file, "especially if those

Please See **TRUSTEES**, Page 5



Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 Exalted Ruler John Tucker displays the plaque he received on behalf of the lodge for winning the 2017-18 IEA team competition. Tucker is flanked by Mt. Vernon ritual coach Patrick Bevis and IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger.



Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 Exalted Ruler John Tucker (center) won the 11 O'clock Toast competition at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in January in Springfield. He is flanked by Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson and Illinois Elks Association Sponsor Lou Sulsberger.

Mt. Vernon Lodge advances to Ritual nationals

Mt. Vernon Lodge 819, the only lodge to compete in the IEA team competition at the Mid-Winter meeting, will represent the IEA at the Grand Lodge ritual competition in July at the Elks National Convention in San Antonio in July.

Competing for Mt. Vernon were Tiler Bob Cain, candidate Amanda McNear, Inner Guard Debbie Summers, Chaplain Jimmy Jones, Esquire Dave Rakey, Lecturing Knight Tim Bain, Loyal Knight Larry George, Leading Knight Dave Edwards and Exalted Ruler John Tucker.

Tucker was also the winner of the 11 O'clock

Toast competition.

Helping judge the IEA ritual meet were Lowell Armstrong of Macomb 1009, Past State President Ray Summers and wife Leta of Champaign-Urbana 2497, John Helzel of Flora 1659, PSP Kirk Wallace and wife Debbie of Fairfield 1631 and John Bayler of Flora 1659.

"There are no losers in this competition, and I want to thank these individuals for helping keep ritual alive in Illinois," IEA Ritual Chairman Roger Quinn said.



Annual Meeting

Honoring 2018-2019 Class of Exalted Rulers

May 17-20, 2018 ■ Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel

Thursday, May 17

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

Friday, May 18 5/18/18

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
1-2 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
– Capitol/Illinois

Reports of District Vice Presidents

East Central, Don Mowers ■ West Central, Rick Peck
■ North, Tawn Williams ■ Northwest Bill Bushman
■ South Central, Scott Flota ■ South, Debbie Sauer
■ East, Jamie Greenley ■ West, Jennifer Woods

Presentation of Budget – 1st Vice President Tom Deien

State Committee/Commission Chair Reports

Preliminary Credentials, Scott Flota ■ Americanism,
Bill Adams ■ Youth Activities, Greg Collins ■ Easter
Bunny, James Cusack ■ Hoop Shoot, Jim Swisher ■
Accident Prevention & Insurance, Jamey Hodges ■
Business Practice & Lodge Trustees Training, Matt
Stropes ■ Treasurer Training, William Gandolfi ■
Membership, Chris Ord ■ Lapsation, Merle Evans ■
Orientation, Sharon Kay Dirck ■ Lodge Activities, Dennis
Bierman ■ Public Relations, Mike Slape ■ Ritual, Roger
Quinn ■ Soccer, Steve Albrecht

Saturday, May 19

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 Children's Care Corp. – Conference Ctr 4
8-9 AM Secretaries Association – Plaza 3

8-9:30 AM Publication Corp. – Conference Ctr 1
8-10 AM District Deputies & Esquires
(Continental Breakfast) – Conference Ctr 2
8-10:00 AM Leading Knights Training – Rendezvous
9-10 AM Exalted Rulers Meet
W/Executive Committee – Embassy
9-10 AM Lodge Treasurers – Plaza 3
9-10 AM Lodge Trustees Training – Prairie
10-11 AM General Business Session – Capitol/Illinois
(Spouses & Guests Welcome)
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 Greg Verdun – Capitol/Illinois

Saturday, May 19

Noon-1 PM Ladies Luncheon & Safety Class
– Highland Room
Entrée: Half Club Sandwich with Soup ■ Dessert:
Ice Cream ■ Cost: Pre-registration \$18/On-site \$20

1-4 PM General Business Session – Capitol/Illinois

Committee/Commission Chair Reports, Continued

Advisory, Coy Cockrum ■ Athletic Commission,
John Bailey ■ Publication Corporation, Mark Bump
■ Children's Care Corporation, Tawn Williams ■
Secretaries Association, Stephanie Schwab ■ Drug
Awareness Program, Frank Burr ■ National Foundation,
Jason Martin ■ Government Relations, Ali Orr ■ New
Lodge, Joel Jorgensen ■ Website Monitoring, Eric Judy
■ Bowling Association, Ed Navales ■ Convention
Committee, Larry Smith ■ Final Credentials Report,
Scott Flota ■ Unfinished Business ■ Adoption of
Budget ■ Judiciary, Ali Orr ■ 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
– Prairie/Illinois

6-9 PM Illinois Elks Association Dinner, Honoring
2018-19 Class of Exalted Rulers – Illinois/Prairie

Salad: Spinach Cranberry Salad ■ Entrée: Chicken
Bruschetta, Bacon & Chive Mash Potatoes, Sautéed
Vegetable ■ Dessert: Apple Pie ■ Cost: Pre-
registration \$29/On-site \$31 ■ Dress: Business Suit

Awards Program – American Essay Contest Winners,
Veteran Volunteers 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 20

7-10 AM Convention Office – Plaza 4
7:30-8 AM Room Reservations for Fall Convention
– Capitol/Illinois
8-8:30 AM State Officers and Board of Directors –
Pictures – Capitol/Illinois
8:30-10 AM Final Business Session (All Elks are
encouraged to Attend) – Capitol/Illinois
Installation of 2018/19 State and District Officers

FEES: Pre-Registration \$10/On-site \$20

Pre-Registration deadline is May 2 – 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 15 – All
mailings must be postmarked prior to April 15 to avoid
additional late charges. Rooms cancelled after April
15 will forfeit their deposit. Cancellation policy is 30
days out.

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

All Hospitality Rooms shall be CLOSED 6-9 PM
Saturday, May 19.



HOST LODGE:
SPRINGFIELD
158

Registration Badges Necessary to Attend all Functions.
All Elks, Male and Female, must register for Convention Functions

New challenges await us

Well, another year has come and gone! I hope all of your goals and programs last year were successful. But now new challenges begin! As we start a new year, we all need to plan our agendas.

Congrats to all the state Hoop Shoot winners. And a special congratulations to Scottie Adkinson, our regional champion for boys 8-9

year olds. Marion Lodge 800 was the local Shoot that he advanced from. He's headed for Chicago in April for the national finals. The IEA wishes Scottie and his family all the best.

Don't forget all of the other great programs the Elks has to offer. Our state had a great showing in participation in Drug Awareness, scholarships and our veterans programs. Great job!

Remember, without your contributions to Elks National Foundation, none of these projects would be available.

By making the state goal of \$5.50 per member, funding is made available for these charitable projects to be a reality!

I hope all lodges applied for the special \$1,500 grant for Grand Lodge to commemorate our 150th anniversary of this great organization! I know my own lodge is going to use it in our community. I hope your lodge will do so as well.

It won't be long before we head to San Antonio. To honor this great organization for 150 years of all our charitable works is something we all can be proud of.

To all you exalted rulers, the new year is at hand! Ask any past exalted ruler how fast the year will go! Make sure your goals for the year are in place to become a reality for your lodge. Remember you can't do it alone so get your membership actively involved.

Have a great year! You won't regret it!

IEA
treasurer

George
Hornung



Super job, Dave and Rae Marie!

It is hard to believe that this Elks year is just about over! Let me say to President Dave and First Lady Rae Marie – super job this year in leading the Illinois Elks Association! I know our members did “Get On Board” for you this year. Thank you both for leading the state.

To out-going exalted rulers – I know that you will always remember your year as exalted ruler. You had a plan and you worked that plan for the betterment of Elksdom. Thank you for being a leader!

I hope by March 31 that every lodge did meet the Elks National Foundation goal of State President Dave. It would be great to send to every lodge in the state a \$1,500

IEA
secretary

Marvin
Leathers



award. Our communities can use the help from the Illinois Elks Association. As we know, we are here to help.

As we start our next Elks year, let's all get behind our next president Tom Deien and have a great year for him! Elksdom is what we all work hard for. We will always be there to help.

In closing, let me say to all: Thank you for always being there. Illinois Elks are the greatest.

Pre-registration
Deadline
MAY 02, 2018

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 02, 2018

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

Illinois Elks Annual Meeting
Registration Form
ANNUAL CONVENTION MAY 17-20 2018
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Please make a reservation for the following:

Pre – registration - \$10.00 After MAY 02, 2018---\$20.00

ELK#1 _____ Non-Elk Spouse _____

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

Lodge _____ No. _____ Dist. _____

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

Title ELK#2 _____
(To be typed on Convention Badge)

Registration Fee @ \$10.00 ALL ELKS (Male and Female) \$ _____
If both male and female are members
Both pay fee (no exceptions)

Ladies Lunch & Safety Class @ \$18.00/\$20.00* \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$29.00/\$31.00* \$ _____

Honoring 2018-2019 Class of Exalted Rulers

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*Cost of meal if check received post marked after MAY 02,2018
Or purchased on-site

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Please preregister by May 2 for Annual Meeting

Illinois Elks and guests attending the Illinois Elks Association Annual Meeting, scheduled May 18-20 in Wyndham-Springfield City Centre Hotel, are encouraged to preregister.

The preregistration deadline is May 2. Attendees should fill out the form at the top right of this page 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 at right for each registration instead of putting them all on a single form.

The preregistration fee is \$10 and \$20 after May 2.

The charge for the Saturday evening dinner is \$29 with preregistration and \$31 on-site. The ladies luncheon and safety class, is \$18 with registration and \$0 on-site.

The room cancelation cut off is April 15 – 30 days ahead of the start of the convention.

All mailings must be postmarked by the posted dates to avoid additional late charges. Rooms canceled after April 15 will forfeit their deposit.

Dave from Page 1

They say that “time flies when you’re having fun,” and Rae Marie and I had a blast representing you this year. And, part of the enjoyment was working with the cadre of officers who guide the affairs of the IEA, the great folks who handled our hospitality room duties, our state Sponsor Lou and former First Lady Beth, and especially you. Thanks to each and every one of you. I’m proud to be an Elk and I’m proud to be associated with folks like you!

But be forewarned. I’m not going anywhere, so have your answer ready because the next time I see you, I’m going to inquire, “Have you asked anyone to be an Elk today?”

Trustees from Page 3

pictures are of children,” Stropes said. “Never post the names of children on your lodge website or social media.”

For insurance, Stropes reminded attendees that they need to regularly reevaluate the insurance they have on their lodges to ensure that it is adequate. The coverage should include personal property and business fixtures.

Lodges were also informed that they should have a youth protection policy, which should be directed toward any lodge volunteer that works with children.

For information, consult the Youth Supervision Guide, which is available at the aforementioned hyperlink at Elks.org.

STATE

Wishing everyone an awesome year in Elkdom in 2018-19

I hope the arrival of spring finds you well and fired up for a new and exciting lodge year! Please remember the importance of setting lodge goals and then putting the plans in place to be able to achieve these goals this next year. I wish everyone an awesome year in Elkdom!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this past lodge year a successful one. Beth and I would like to especially congratulate

IEA sponsor

F. Louis Sulsberger PGER



State President Dave Jurmu and his wife Rae Marie for the wonderful job they did in serving our State Association. Together they spread Dave's message of "Get On Board," and we thank them for their dedication and friendship.

A big thank you to all the lodges that donated to the Elks National Foundation and to our State Major Project, Illinois Children's Care Corporation. It is another clear indication that "Elks Care – Elks Share."

If you are attending the May meeting, I urge you to go to state President Dave's final banquet on Saturday night. I strongly encourage the district deputies and the esquires to the district deputies to be present to show their support

for any representative from their district and lodges who may receive a special award that evening. And please remember the 2018-19 installation on Sunday morning. Let's show our support of incoming President Tom, his wife Brenda and his slate of officers and wish them well in the year ahead.

A friendly reminder to begin arrangements for the lodge annual audit. While the due date (June 30) is still a few months away, we know how fast time flies.

Finally, I'm sure everyone has heard that the BPO Elks celebrates its 150th anniversary this year (the actual date was Feb. 16). This year's National Convention in Texas will be bigger and better than usual because of the extra events being planned for our Order's 150th anniversary! We encourage you to make your plans now to join us in San Antonio July 1-4!

Beth and I look forward to seeing you in Springfield in May. Until then, God bless.



IEA assists another Honor Flight

The IEA earlier this year helped the Greater Peoria Honor Flight continue its activities with veterans by presenting the program with a check for \$7,000 at a ceremony held at the Peoria Lodge. From left are: lodge Exalted Ruler Joe Boers; Kari Dries, board secretary of Greater Peoria Honor Flight; IEA President Dave Jurmu; lodge Secretary John Bailey; and IEA Second Vice President Greg Verdun. Also present at the ceremony was WWII veteran, Gene Neeley, right. The donation was the IEA's third to Illinois Honor Flights in the past year.



Dedication to public safety earns Vienna officer Camarena Award

A Vienna police officer's work to institute safety and anti-drug programs at local schools has earned him the 2017-18 IEA Enrique Camarena Award.

Vienna Officer Phillip Stewart received the honor at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in Springfield in January based on the nomination of Stewart's boss, Vienna Police Chief Jim Miller.

"I write this nomination letter in the hopes that Officer Stewart would be recognized for the Enrique Camarena Award for all of the past 25 years that Officer Stewart has dedicated to public safety, crime prevention, drug and substance abuse prevention and education and enforcement, and working with the Johnson County public schools on all type of issues," Miller said.

Stewart's more recent efforts have centered on implementing programs at Vienna grade school and high school to promote internet safety, combat bullying, resolve truancy issues, put together a threat assessment team, coordi-



Vienna Police Officer Phillip Stewart receives the 2017-18 IEA Enrique Camarena Award from Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson upon the Grand's annual visit to the IEA in January in Springfield.

nate intruder training with school staff and organize K9 searches.

As a U.S. Army veteran, Miller said, Stewart learned valuable leadership skills, which he has brought to the Vienna police department. He also is a former K9 officer with many arrests for illegal drugs to his credit.

"Officer Stewart attends school functions outside of regular school hours on his own time," Miller said, citing school activities and sporting events. "Officer Stewart has always made himself available to school staff, parents and school children while in attendance in his off time at these school activities."

Joliet Elk wins Football Pick 'em contest

Keith Jorstad of Joliet Lodge 296 survived a late start to help his lodge finish first in Illinois, just ahead of Des Plaines 1526 in the Elks Pro Football Pick 'em contest.

Jorstad, who became a member of Joliet in October, made his contest debut in week eight of the contest and went 13-0.

He finished the season with a 118-32 record for a winning per-

centage of 78.7 percent, which was also number 1 nationally among individual competitors.

Joining Jorstad on Joliet's team were members Mark Bump, Kurt Frieders, Jack Alexander and Tom Hummel.

Jorstad said he can't wait to defend his title next year...and to get an earlier start on the season.



BPOE Day Jan. 27 in Springfield

Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson, left, receives a plaque from Springfield Mayor James Langfelder declaring Jan. 27 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Day in Springfield. The presentation was made at the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter meeting.

Newsette mulls cut from 4 to 3 issues per year

The Illinois Elks Publication Corporation, at its Mid-Winter meeting in January, discussed the possibility of cutting from four to three the number of Newsette mailings each year.

The cutback, if approved, would be an austerity move brought on by dwindling support of the Newsette and increased costs.

Historically, the Newsette has been funded by a \$1 cut from the dues of each Illinois Elks member. As IEA membership has declined over the years, the Newsette has received support from the state charitable trust, amounting to \$17,000 in 2017-18 and \$18,000 proposed for 2018-19.

The increased support has come

despite a spike in postal returns of Newsettes being sent to bad addresses. Because of the Newsette's mailing classification, the Publication Corporation is charged 58 cents for each bad address.

The Publication Corporation had budgeted \$85 for bad addresses in 2017-18, but the expense was listed at \$475 after three of the four mailings so far in 2017-18.

Membership leader Charleston discusses its methods

Charleston Lodge 623, with the IEA's largest projected membership gain as of mid-January, discussed its methods of attracting new members.

The discussion took place by the IEA Membership Committee at the

"These issues will be topics of discussion at our next meeting," Publication Corporation Chair Mark Bump said.

Also at that corporation meeting, the current slate of officers – Bump as chairman, Gene Howe as vice chairman, Vicki Williams as treasurer and Joe Baker as editor/secretary – was elected to serve in their same posts for 2018-19.

Mid-Winter meeting in January.

Also, committee co-chairs Chris Ord and Robin Lemay said the committee plans to request a meeting with IEA officers to discuss an action plan for recruiting new members.

STATE

Springfield Elks look for huge turnout at annual IEA golf tourney



The 2018 IEA Golf Tournament for men and women will be held July 20 and 21 on Springfield Lodge 158's Lincoln Greens Golf Course on Lake Springfield.

Practice rounds are also scheduled on July 19.

IEA Third Vice President Jeff Rodier reviewed the tournament plans at the IEA Athletic Commission meeting at the Mid-Winter meeting in January.

Information packets had also been passed out to the eight IEA district vice presidents to give to their respective lodges, Rodier said.

In his commission report, Chairman John Bailey encouraged meeting attendees to support the tournament, saying, "the members of Springfield Lodge are working hard to have a great golf tournament."

Go to <https://illinoiselks.org/2018-state-elks-golf-tournament/> for more tournament information, including local tourist attractions, lodging details and special

events.

The tournament registration form must be submitted with payment no later than July 9 to Springfield Lodge.

Tournament apparel is available and must be purchased by June 30. The state sponsorship form outlines opportunities to sponsor tee boxes, holes and cart paths or submit items for the silent auction/raffle.

Also at the January commission meeting, participation in the junior golf tournament was down by two lodges. Bailey said the lodges could not get enough kids to sign up.

"Those having a tournament were asked to get their dates to the commission as soon as they can," Bailey said.

The commission also elected officers for 2018-19. They are Dave Cassens, chairman; Bob Eckoff, vice chairman; and Jo Ellen Bauer, secretary.

IEA backs 'Horses for Heroes'

Therapy horses help disabled children develop beneficial life skills

EDITOR'S NOTE: The IEA awarded \$15,000 from the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation in January to the Kemmerer Village Horses for Heroes program and Autism and Movement Project, both in Assumption. The following is reprinted from the Sept. 14, 2017, Decatur Herald and Review.

By JAYLYN COOK
Decatur Herald and Review

ASSUMPTION — Along with the rest of the staff and residents at Kemmerer Village, Amber Miller had a lot to look forward to as fall approached.

In September, the Presbyterian child care agency kicked off its "Horses for Heroes" program, which allows children with disabilities to participate in riding sessions on therapy horses. The program spans five weeks in the fall and another five weeks in the spring.

Kemmerer Village also welcomed an 8-year-old, black and white Gypsy Vanner named Oreo to its group of horses a month earlier.

"She's going to be a very good therapy horse," said Miller, the agency's equine therapist and certified riding instructor.

She said that Gypsy Vanner horses such as Oreo are strong, calm and have broad backs.

"They're just super mellow horses," Miller said. "We have one boy that rides in our program whose entire body tremors," Miller said. "Having a horse like Oreo is



Austin Greenwood, 10, plays with a new therapy horse named Oreo at Kemmerer Village in Assumption.

critical to his safety."

Miller said Kemmerer Village won Oreo in a contest held by the LexLin Gypsy Ranch in Rockwood, TN.

The ranch agreed to donate Gypsy Vanner horses to the top 20 ranches and organizations that earned the most votes by the end of the contest. Kemmerer Village finished in seventh place with 15,442 votes, Miller said.

"We're really building a specialized herd now," she said.

Five horses are currently saddled and ready to ride for the Horses for Heroes program, and Miller said Oreo will join them in due time.

To assist with grooming the horses and attending to the children riding them for their safety, 12 of the 35 residents currently at Kemmerer Village are serving as "heroes" for the program.

The agency provides a wide range of services for the young people who stay at the facility and their families, including foster care, residential treatment and recreational therapy.

Autumn Warren, associate director of financial development, said creating a relationship with the horses not only provides a therapeutic outlet for the residents, but also helps them develop beneficial life skills.

"It's a constant relationship-building thing," she said. "It really is more like a human interaction. The more you see them, the more you have to work to build a relationship with the animals."

The kick-off session in September mostly served as a fundraiser for donors who support the Horses for Heroes program. Miller said the program was to return a week later to its focus of providing therapy for disabled children.

Among those who rode at the September opening were Payton and Paxton Carter.

The brothers said until that evening, they had never ridden a horse previously. After they dismounted and removed their safety helmets, Payton, 8, and Paxton, 9, excitedly chattered about their experience with each other.

When asked if they'd ride again someday, both answered with a simultaneous "yes."

"I'd probably ride again, if I got the chance," Paxton said.

The IEA, at its Mid-Winter meeting in January, awarded \$15,000 to two charities, the Kemmerer Village Horses for Heroes program and Autism and Movement Project, both based in Assumption. Front from left are Amber Miller, equine therapist of the Kemmerer Village Horses and Heroes program, which received \$10,000; Amanda Taylor, instructor of the Autism and Movement Project, which was awarded \$5,000; and AAMP owner and instructor Erica Matthews. In back are: Bill Block, administrative manager of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Program; Tawn Williams, IECCC chair; and Past State President Darrell Swisher. The \$15,000 came from the IECCC.



Learning center for autistic kids also a recipient of IEA support

The Autism and Movement Project, which was awarded a \$5,000 IEA grant at the Mid-Winter meeting in January, offers movement therapy for autism and special needs children, in addition to any child needing to build a stronger speech, academic, behavioral and motor skills.

"Our program cognitively redirects or remaps the brain," said Erica Matthews, owner and lead instructor of the AAMP Learning Center, Assumption. "It uses repetition of movement patterns and sequences to create pathways for information to travel."

Matthews was present to receive the grant — funded by the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation — at the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in January.

She said the AAMP mission is to provide a music and movement program for all individuals so that

they can be included in their community and have access to the arts.

"We want our kids to perform well and work on task. Mastering these skills can have a huge impact in all areas of learning," Matthews said. "We also want them to be the best they can be!"

AAMP currently serves more than 70 students from surrounding communities, including Ob-long, Pana, Nokomis, Taylorville, Hillsboro, Assumption, Harvel, Litchfield, Zion and Forsyth. AAMP works with groups for ages 2-13, along with a junior high and a high school/adult group.

"We are a not-for-profit that wants to help any child struggling with anything from dyslexia, O.D.D. ADHD, ADD to autism," she said.

The AAMP website is www.aamplearningcenter.org. Matthews may be e-mailed for information at matthresaamp@gmail.com.

"We want our kids to perform well and work on task."
— Erica Matthews, AAMP owner

Safety tips also on menu for ladies luncheon at IEA Annual Meeting

Elks members and guests attending the ladies luncheon at the IEA Annual Meeting in May — in addition to lunch — will receive safety tips in the event of an attack.

Renee Hatfield will give the tips centering on personal and family safety, IEA First Lady Rae Marie Jurmu said in announcing the luncheon speaker.

"It is amazing how a few simple suggestions can keep one safe," Jurmu said. "(Hatfield) will teach us to be more aware of our surroundings and what to do in the event of an attack."

The luncheon is scheduled for noon Saturday (May 19) in the Highlander Room of the Wyndham Springfield City Centre Hotel.

HOOP SHOOT

2017-18 IEA Hoop Shoot revisited



THE COMPETITORS and IEA officials and helpers, before the start of the 2017-18 IEA Hoop Shoot.

Adkinson headed to Nationals

The Illinois Elks Association will be represented at the Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals in Chicago after Scottie Adkinson, representing Marion Lodge 800, won the boys 8-9 boys division at the North Central Region Hoop Shoot March 10 in Iowa City, Iowa.

Adkinson sank 20 of 25 shots to beat Brady Bauer of Oshkosh, WI Lodge 292 by one stroke (19/25, 4/5) to advance to the National Finals on April 1 in Chicago.



The IEA's other regional entrants placed no higher than third. Ayva Rush, representing Johnson County 2880, hit 18 of 25 to place third in the 10-11 girls division, while Issy Dalke of Belleville 481 in the 8-9 girls (13/25), Trent Sternberg of Murphysboro 572 in the 10-11 boys (19/25, 3/5), Evan Cooper of Lincoln 914 in the 12-13 boys (20/25) and Maddy Butler of Carbondale 1243 (21/25, 3/5) – all placed fourth.



NATALIE SWISHER and Cassidy Swisher – both daughters of IEA Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher – and Jim's brother and former IEA Hoop Shoot Director Bob Swisher, register shooters at the 2017-18 event.



HOOP SHOOT COMPETITORS Joshua Green, representing Oak Lawn 2254, and Maddie Gourley of Pontiac Lodge 1219, run "the gauntlet" during introductions at the IEA Hoop Shoot.



FROM RIGHT, Terry Swisher, Darrell Swisher, Past State President Steve Harken and IEA Third Vice President Jeff Rodier greet Hoop Shooters as they arrive for registration.



CHRIS AND NAKAYLA Swisher, with daughter Rhiann, take in the atmosphere at registration.



LEFT: IEA Treasurer George Hornung, President Dave Jurmu and Third Vice President Tom Deien assist with registration.

RIGHT: Rae Marie Jurmu gets a kick out of overseeing the Hoop Shooters sign basketballs that will help commemorate the 2017-18 event.



SHERRY HARKEN gives a little moral support to husband and IEA Past State President Steve, right, and IEA Third Vice President Jeff Rodier during registration.

HOOP SHOOT

Hoop Shooters show off their hardware after awards dinner

8-9 GIRLS DIVISION – Izzy Dalka, representing Belleville Lodge 481, was the winner (scoring 18 of 25), followed, from left, by Elly Buch of Murphysboro 572 (15 of 25) and Audrey Clvcas of Kewanee 724 (12 of 25). Also competing, front from left, are: Kailey Young of Paris 812, Rennah Barrett of Watseka 791 and Emma Jereb of Oglesby 2360. Unavailable for the competition was Melanie Moreno of Des Plaines 1526.



8-9 BOYS DIVISION – Scottie Adkinson, representing Marion Lodge 800 was the winner, shooting 21 of 25, followed, from left, by Carson James of Flora 1659 (18 and 7 of 10) and Kayvion Graham of Peoria 20 (18 and 6 of 10). Also competing, front from left, are: Carter Verdeyn of Effingham 1016, Justin Canvin of Oak Lawn 2254, Breydon Martin of DeKalb 765, Tirth Patel of Des Plaines 1526 and Parker Wells of Belleville 481.



10-11 GIRLS DIVISION – Ayva Rush, of Johnson County 2880, was the winner, shooting 22 of 25, followed, from left, by Tori Geriets of Lincoln 914 (21 of 25) and Maddie Gourley of Pontiac 1219 (19 of 25). Also competing, front from left, are: Laila Cook of Jacksonville 682, Julia Holland of Galena 882, Ella Kinkelaor of Effingham 1016 and Kenidee Boldt of Mt. Vernon 819, Aaliyah Heredia of Brookfield 1510.



BANNER WELCOMES competitors to the 2017-18 IEA Hoop Shoot headquartered at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel on Feb. 23-25.



12-13 GIRLS DIVISION – Maddy Butler, representing Carbondale 1243, was the winner, shooting 22 of 25 and 5 of 5, followed by Ellyn Martinez of Lincoln 914 (22 of 25 and 4 of 5) – she was unavailable for the photo – and Kate Littleton of Robinson 1188 (20 of 25 and 5 of 5). Also competing, front from left, are: Pahton Lareau of Watseka 1741, Emma Frymive of Fairfield 1631, Marisa Vickers of Oglesby 2360, Elise Brown of Jacksonville 682 and Claudia Kadzielawa of Des Plaines 1526.



12-13 BOYS DIVISION – Evan Cooper, representing Lincoln Lodge 914, was the winner with 23 of 25 shots made, followed, from left, by Colton Shoemaker of Salem 1678 (22 of 25), and Ethan Lindberg (21 of 24 and 5 of 5). Also competing, front from left, are: Wes Wilson of Mendota 1212, Jake Chandley of Herrin 1146, Trevon Littleton of Jacksonville 682 and Joshua Green of Oak Lawn 2254. Unavailable for the photo was Austin Whittenburg of Effingham 1016.



AS THE BOYS were throwing miniature basketballs at each other in and around the pool, the girls were content to take in the action from the hot tub. The swimfest followed the awards ceremony capping the 2017-18 IEA Hoop Shoot.

IEA PRESIDENT Dave Jurmu gets a memento from the 2017-18 IEA Hoop Shoot – a basketball signed by all the competing Hoop Shooters. He receives the ball from IEA Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher.



HOOP SHOOTER Joshua Green rears back to toss a miniature souvenir basketball at fellow competitors in the pool after the awards ceremony, under the watchful eye of Devin Horace.



MADDY BUTLER, representing Carbondale Lodge 1243 and the South District, was the top girl shooter at the 2017-18 IEA Hoop Shoot, sinking 22 of 25 shots and 5 for 5 in a shootoff in the 12-13 girls division. Past State President Paul Ronzani awarded Cooper the Joe Beaudoin Trophy for being the top boy shooter.



EVAN COOPER, representing Lincoln Lodge 914 and the West District, was the top boy shooter, making good on 23 of 25 shots in the boys 12-13 division. Past State President Paul Ronzani awarded Cooper the Joe Beaudoin Trophy for being the top boy shooter.

STATE



Bob Swisher registers Hoop Shooters at the 2017-18 event in Decatur in February.

Swishers from Page 1

“The smiles are worth all the time it takes to put on a successful Shoot,” he said. “As we have often heard, it’s a labor of love.”

Darrell first started putting the Swisher family seal on the IEA Hoop Shoot, beginning with the 2004-05 event, when he took over the helm from Joe Beaudoin.

But it was actually 33 years ago that Darrell said he was bitten by the Hoop Shoot bug, making it still the biggest thrill in his decades-long involvement with the program. He wasn’t even an Elks member then when still another brother, Terry, got him involved.

“I guess my biggest highlight is the day Terry asked me to help out at the local Shoot some 33 years ago,” Darrell said. “I wasn’t a member then but after seeing what the Elks do for our kids, I joined shortly after.”

Darrell directed the IEA Hoop Shoot two more years, in 2005-06 and 2006-07, before he began scaling the IEA hierarchy to become president in 2008-09.

Still another Swisher brother – Bob – took over the program in 2007-08 and served for five years through 2011-12. IEA officers, at the urging of 2011-12 IEA President Kevin Kennedy, picked Jim to succeed Bob the following year, in 2012-13.

Jim said he hopes to remain in the post until the IEA officers replace him or “until the Good Lord says it’s time.” (Jim has already been tapped by IEA First Vice President Tom Deien to be Hoop Shoot director in 2018-19.)

But to Jim, “It’s not really who’s in charge. It’s the great Elks members who have a big part in the program.”

Jim says directing the Hoop Shoot continues to be fun, thanks to the enthusiastic support of family.

“It’s really not hard to get family involved,” Jim said, pointing to his son Chris and Chris’s wife Nakayla, who have been helping the last eight years taking photos and rebounding

during the competition.

“I think they enjoy it; they keep coming back. Bobby’s grandkids have helped out for as long as I can remember. Chelsy, our sister’s daughter, has made tie-dyed shirts we have used in our program.”

More help remains in the Swisher pipeline. Jim’s son Chris and Chris’ wife Nakayla have two toddlers.

“Maybe we will get them hooked,” Jim reckoned.

Family involvement, indeed, has been the key to the Swishers’ longevity in running the IEA Hoop Shoot.

“We all have our jobs to do to help out, and after so many years it goes down pretty nice,” Darrell said. “Over the years, I feel it’s done with the contestants in mind. We try to make them feel important and to show how proud of them we are.”

Fourteen years of administering the IEA Hoop Shoot have produced more ups than downs, Darrell said, including watching three Illinois shooters become national champions.

“I recall a parent coming to me and thanking us for getting their son out of his bashfulness,” Darrell said, remembering the tradition at one event of Hoop Shooters collecting signatures of IEA officers and Elks members to see who can collect the most.

“She couldn’t believe the difference in him” as her son was drawn out of his shell to ask people for signatures, Darrell said.

Jim, too, is more prone to remember the highlights over the lowlights. His only lowlight, he says, centers on his wish for more kids to enjoy Hoop Shoot.

The highlight that resonates most with Jim is of a family facing some tough time as their daughter approached competing in the Iowa City Regional Hoop Shoot.

“Mom came up to me and thanked us for bringing their family closer together,” Jim said. “They have not been on a vacation since they had their children.

“She said it meant a lot to her because it’s been a long time that she has seen the smiles on their faces.”

Soccer Shootout matches turnout from 2016 event

The IEA had four of its eight districts and 17 competitors compete at the IEA Soccer Shoot in September, the same turnout for the 2016 event.

Soccer Shoot co-chair Steve Albrecht is hopeful one or two districts will participate this year, probably in late September. The date will be set by the May meeting.

In his Mid-Winter report to the IEA, Albrecht said he is asking exalted rulers and district vice presidents to try to appoint committee chairs who have kids or friends involved in soccer.

“This may spark some interest in your lodge or district,” Albrecht said, adding that he or Past State President Darrell Swisher would be willing to help any lodge that needs it.

Don’t forget to file Easter Bunny reports

IEA Easter Bunny Chairman Jim Cusack reminds his lodge counterparts to file their annual reports.

“Please assure that at the conclusion of your Easter Bunny events your lodge reports to the Easter Bunny district chairman. In turn, the district chairman will forward the data for the state report by April 15.”

For information, Cusack may be reached at jamescusack58@gmail.com, (773) 403-3739 or by snail mail at 5902 N. Elston Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646.

“Our state goal is 100 percent participation,” he said, “and thank you for all your help.”

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Rooms reserved on a first come, first served basis. Illinois has only 120 rooms available.

STATE

Delinquencies stand in way of IEA achieving a Plus-1

A mid-January membership report listed the IEA with 26,979 members, up by 597 members from the 26,383 at the start of 2017-18.

The bad news listed delinquencies at 1,965, leaving the IEA 1,368 away from a gain for the year, IEA Lapsation Chairman Merle Evans said in his Mid-Winter report.

The report also said 211 candidates were awaiting initiation.

"This, between additional new candidates, reinstatements and reclaiming of current delinquents, our gain goal is about 1,157," Evans emphasized.

District delinquency rates ranged from a low of 3.1 percent in the East District to a high of 9.4 percent for South Central.

Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson, who attended the January IEA meeting, said a membership gain nationally would be the first since 1980, and would coincide with the BPOE's

150th anniversary celebration at San Antonio in July.

"Our efforts in Illinois can assist in reaching this goal," Evans told meeting attendees.

To help cut down on delinquencies, Evans presented two sample delinquency reminder letters for discussion. Also, Evans said Grand Lodge mailed a dues notice to the current 66,000-plus unpaid members nationwide.

"This effort is a test of the use of an outside firm to provide printing, mailing and tracking of delinquent member dues notices," Evans said.

Evans also suggested that lodges prioritize their delinquencies. Concentrate on those who "might still pay," he urged. The "will not or probably will not" group should be a lesser priority.

"It is time to be creative, think outside the box, to bring our delinquents back to current, paid-up status," Evans said. "Illinois, let's not quit now. Keep up the fight!"

IEA committee seeks to counter negative influences on children

The IEA Americanism Committee thinks more positive activities for children and children participation are needed.

"There is a need to promote Americanism," IEA Americanism Chairman Bill Adams said in addressing the committee in January. "Children are being exposed to a great deal of negativity about our government and country."

"It is our job to make sure they are also seeing and hearing the positive about our great country."

Adams said he plans to ask district Americanism chairs for ideas to involve children more in Americanism. He hopes to collect the ideas by summer for review at the IEA fall meeting.

On other meeting topics, Adams said participation in the

Americanism essay contest appears to be on a decline, perhaps due to earlier contest deadlines to coincide with those of the Grand Lodge contest: postmarks of Jan. 31 to districts, Feb. 28 to the states and March 31 to Grand Lodge.

"Some lodges did not have the number of essays like they have had in the past," Adams said. "Others did very well. I thanked everyone for being so flexible working with me this year."

The new schedule would continue for 2018-19.

"I will be getting the information out to (lodges) much earlier (in July)," he said.

Adams also broached the idea of advertising the contest to attract more participation.

Hoop Shoot chief sees silver lining

IEA Hoop Shoot Chairman Jim Swisher is pointing to the return of a couple shooters to this year's state finals as indicative of the strength of the program.

"This is very exciting that young adults are staying with our program," Swisher said in his Mid-Winter report. "That's all we need once you get them in the program. They have a good time and will be back."

He added that more contestants are needed not only to compete in Hoop Shoot but to provide a source of future lodge members.

"Now that most of you have your Shoot over with, now is the time to get going on next year's Shoot," Swisher said. "Try to find more contestants that would like to try to be the national champion."

LODGE

Rauner a guest of Springfield Elks for Pearl Harbor remembrance

Springfield Lodge 158 hosted Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Dec. 7 at the lodge. Past Exalted Ruler Bobby Edwards, left, and ER Tom Duffy Jr., center, accept a proclamation from Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, right, declaring Dec. 7, 2017, as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in Illinois. Rauner thanked the Elks for their community support and for remembering all veterans. In addition to Gov. Rauner, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and several veterans organizations were represented at the event, which attracted more than 125 people. A wreath of remembrance was launched into Lake Springfield to commemorate this day of infamy in U.S. history.



Cairo Elks attract gathering with rarely used pool table

Cairo Lodge 652 has given members another reason to patronize the lodge by putting a rarely used pool table into service for an 8-ball tournament.

Mike Warren, one of the newer Cairo Elks, questioned why the pool table was rarely used. He and his teenage son enjoy the game. Warren suggested a pool tournament and agreed to organize the event, which attracted 24 people from ages 15 to 86, including six women.

A best of three preliminary event was staged followed by a five-game championship round won by Steve Brinkmeyer with Jamie Williams placing second. "All participants reported that they enjoyed this event," lodge spokesperson Inez Donnigan said, "and it was not really a surprise to many that a lady won second place."

Williams, who had recently moved to Cairo from Florida, came prepared with her own pool cue stick.

The success of hosting a pool tournament has led to talk of scheduling a dart contest.



From left are Steve Brinkmeyer, who won the 8-Ball tournament held in Cairo in March, referee Ron Steers, organizer Mike Warren and second-place finisher Jamie Williams.

Oglesby Elks use ENF grants for library ...

Oglesby Lodge 2360 provided the lead donation for buying and installing automatic entrance doors to the Oglesby Public Library. The donations were made in March at the 20th anniversary celebration of the new library building. Exalted Ruler Bill Gandolfi, right, and Lodge grant coordinator Ken Ficek, left, present a \$1,000 check — proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant — to Library Board Vice President Rick Rigazio.



... and community center projects

Oglesby Lodge 2360 Exalted Ruler Bill Gandolfi, left, presents a check for \$1,500 to Oglesby Mayor Don Finley to help replace the roof on Dickinson House, the city community center. Lodge grant coordinator Ken Ficek is at right. The funds are from the Elks National Foundation Anniversary Grant to help the lodge promote the 150th anniversary of Elkdom.



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Note: Address corrections go to the Children's Care Corp. because that's who maintains the mailing list. Address corrections made through the Post Office cost the Newsette – and you Elks – 58 cents apiece. Please help us cut that cost by keeping the IECCC posted with your address corrections.

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 right box in this advertisement.

LODGE

Des Plaines Elks' chili cookoff proceeds go to food pantry



Fourteen competitors battled for the coveted award plaque and championship title at the third annual Des Plaines Lodge 1526 Charity Chili Cookoff in November. The Top three finishers, were Judie Enis, first; Kimberly Ibbotson, second; and Chris Duffiney, third. The cookoff raised more than \$800 for the Des Plaines Self Help Closet and Food Pantry, almost tripling last year's donation. Marc Walker, right, presents a check to Debra Walusiak, executive director of the Self Help Closet and Food Pantry. Volunteers who helped with the event included Patti Belmonte, Jim Dagro, Chris Duffiney, Kary Green, Alison Ito, Susan Logan, Bobbi and Bill Potratz, photographer Norb Wrobel and staff members Sally, Joselino and Uri.



Top volunteers recognized

Des Plaines Lodge 1526 recognized its top volunteers for 2017-18 at its annual volunteer awards night gathering at the lodge. From left, the recipients are: Exalted Ruler John Straub; K.C. Ferguson, officer of the year; Allison Ito, lady of the year; Charlie Weaver, merit award; Ed Jacobson, Elk of the Year; and Dan Hershberger, Elks Distinguished Citizen Award.



1,000 soldiers fed during 'The Exodus'

Every year Great Lakes Naval Training Center and School Command grant furloughs to eligible personnel to go home for the holidays in what is called "The Exodus." Many of the more than 1,000 traveling military en route home visit the USO while on a stopover at O'Hare Airport. Many of these traveling military guests have several hours before their flights leave. On Dec. 22, volunteers of Des Plaines Lodge 1526, VFW Post 2992 and the Chicago Police Emerald Society delivered and served eight assorted meat and cheese trays, 40 loaves of bread, 200 deviled eggs and 30 cases of pop. "There was an unending line of hungry military that took full advantage of the food provided," lodge spokesman KC Ferguson said. "These provisions provided lunch and/or snacks for two days. This is an annual project we all can take great pride in." The Des Plaines Elks volunteers, from left, are Ferguson, Dennis Chilver, Margie Chilver, Margie Ozawa, Christina Papish, Cheryl Roux, and Dudley Parenteau, who led the effort.



Brookfield Elks arrange for 1,000 area students to hear anti- drug message of DAP spokesman Ray Lozano

Brookfield Lodge 1510 was host to Ray Lozano of the Grand Lodge Drug Awareness Program in December. TOP PHOTO: Lozano spoke to more than 1,000 junior and high school students about the damaging effects of alcohol on the brains of underage children. He also addressed adults at Brookfield Village Hall, where lodge members (right photo) were also on hand to



hear about the ill effects of drugs and alcohol. "All in all it was a great tour and the Brookfield Lodge looks forward to hosting Mr. Lozano next year," Brookfield Exalted Ruler Vicki Rolewicz said.

Oglesby Elks contribute to holiday food distribution



Eight members of Oglesby Lodge 2360 assisted the Illinois Valley Food Pantry with its Thanksgiving distribution in November. Chuck Sherman, John Micheli, Dan Dow, Tim Watkins, Ray Brandt, Pam Coffey, Joan Rundle, and Ken Ficek helped pack more than 600 bags of food for area needy families. The Food Pantry provided almost 2,000 people with a turkey or ham and trimmings. In addition, Ficek (left photo) presented pantry Director Donna Hess with a \$750 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant donation to help replenish the shelves for the upcoming Christmas distribution. Elks members Ray Brandt, Joan Rundle, Bob Wiese, Ralph Storck, Tim Watkins, Dan Dow, John Micheli, Bill Warnell, Chuck Sherman, and Ficek also helped pack more than 500 bags for the Christmas distribution. "We care about those who need help and we are willing to share of our time and efforts to help when and where we can," Ficek said.



Oglesby Lodge 2360 Exalted Ruler Bill Gandolfi, from left, and lodge Grant Coordinator Ken Ficek present checks to Jacqueline Smith of the Public Action to Deliver Shelter program and to Washington School Principal Merritt Burns. Smith received \$500 in gift cards to buy medication for PADS' homeless clients, and Burns \$750 to buy clothes and other necessities for needy students. The support is part of a \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Another \$750 gift was given to the Illinois Valley Food Pantry for Thanksgiving.

LODGE

Centralia Elks serve veterans, underprivileged, promote fire safety



Centralia Lodge 493 spent a day in November assisting veterans during the annual Stand Down in Marion. LEFT PHOTO: Both Tiler Stan Hayes and Exalted Ruler Bill Luebben unload pallets. RIGHT PHOTO: Helping separate articles are member Jerry Schubert, Hayes and Lady Elks President Becky Luebben.



Centralia Lodge 493 helped feed some of the area's underprivileged by making 25 food baskets to distribute for the holidays. Centralia Elks and Lady Elks raised money for the project. LEFT PHOTO: Exalted Ruler Bill Luebben and lady Elks Angie Schnake and Patty Hahn separate items for the baskets. RIGHT PHOTO: Also assisting, from left, are: Helen Donoho, Angie Schnake, Ron Donoho, Shelly Ray, Sandy Mecum, Carl Mecum, Patty Hahn, Gary Toedte, Ann Toedte and ladies President Becky Luebben.

Centralia Lodge 493 recently donated \$250 to the Hoffman Fire Protection District to help buy much needed equipment. Present for the presentation, from left, are: Fire Chief Denny Haake, lodge Exalted Ruler Bill Luebben and South Central District Trustee Bill Guile.



Marion Elks welcome students...

Marion Lodge had a great turnout to welcome area students back

to school with a party. Team members, front from left, are: Carol Place, Becky Bourland, Rose Davidson, Mandy Simmons and Jackie Welch. In back are: Ted Clendenin, Thor Lindquest, Carol Conley, Peytie Lindquest, Lori Tonazzi and Kim Ross.



Mt. Vernon Elks promote Americanism...

TOP LEFT PHOTO: Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 held its Americanism Essay Contest earlier this year, in which Jefferson County students in fifth through eighth grade addressed the essay topic, "Why Our Veterans Are America's Heroes." Winners went on to compete at the South Central District event. From left are: lodge member Debbie Summers, lodge Americanism Chairman Keith Hertenstein, lodge seventh/eighth-grade second-place winner Malayna Bock, a Waltonville Grade School student, and lodge member Bob Kane. TOP RIGHT: The lodge's fifth/sixth-grade third-place winner was Spring Garden Middle School student Kristin Stinson. RIGHT: Lodge seventh/eighth-grade essay winner was Bluford Grade School student Kaitlyn Giatras, left. Fifth/sixth-grade second-place finisher was Bluford Grade School student Caleb Hardy.



... 'Valentines for Heroes' program...

Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 members in February delivered 547 valentines collected by the lodge, Jefferson County Girl Scouts and schools to U.S. Rep. John Shimkus' office in Harrisburg for the congressman's annual "Valentines for Heroes" program, which distributes valentines to veterans and active duty service men and women. Spearheading the lodge effort, from left, are: lodge Veterans Chairman Keith Hertenstein, Illinois Elks Association First Vice President and Mt. Vernon Elk Tom Deien, IEA Veterans Chairman Bob Kane and Mt. Vernon Inner Guard Debbie Summers.

...program to assist at-risk seniors

Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 recently donated \$1,000 to Project Rescue of Jefferson County, which protects at-risk senior citizens, special needs kids and adults. From left are lodge members Debbie Summers and Keith Hertenstein, Patti Wease of Project Rescue, Exalted Ruler John Tucker and lodge member Bob Kane.



Lodges asked to showcase themselves for 150th celebration

IEA Lodge Activities Chairman Dennis Bierman is calling on Illinois Elks to use the BPOE's 150th anniversary as a way to showcase their lodges.

The celebration, which started at the Grand Lodge Session in Reno, will culminate at the session in

July in San Antonio.

"Have your local leaders declare a special day for the Elks and have an open house to show the public all the things we do, that no one ever talks about," Bierman told committee meeting attendees at the Mid-Winter meeting. "This can be

a great way to get new members so that we can 'Get on Board' with our State President Dave Jurmu."

The Elks National Foundation is also offering lodges \$1,500 anniversary grants to promote

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...use ENF grants for civic projects

Marion Lodge 800 handed out \$2,000 in Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant proceeds to fund three area projects last fall. They included \$500 to the Dark Horse Ministry for the homeless and substance abusers. From left are: Kristi Phelps, Chris Lannotti, (with infant Lucca Lannotti), Joshua Lannotti, Exalted Ruler Randy Barton, Joe Nagel, Eula Leeper and Linda Nagel. In inset photo, ER Barton, right, awarded another \$1,000 to Alan Rix, caretaker at the HAVEN in Carbondale, which provides recreational opportunities for veterans. The remaining \$500 was earmarked for the Egyptian chapter of Cub Scouts for Day Camp Programs (not pictured).



STATE

Many students lose out due to incomplete scholarship applications

More than 1,200 high school students completed applications for Most Valuable Student Scholarships for 2017-18, including 381 boys and 862 girls.

That 1,243 completed applications contrasted with the 2,313 applications that were not completed, including some that lacked

a required counselor's report.

IEA Scholarship Chair Gail Sessler listed the numbers in her Mid-Winter report.

Other topics addressed at the scholarship committee meeting:

■ Because the Elks National Foundation uses e-mails from the Chicago Lodge Membership Sys-

tem, IEA scholarship officials and applicants are cautioned to check their computer spam and junk folder for communications.

"This year, we had some with no e-mails or wrong e-mails," Sessler said.

■ Kate Edsey from ENF noted that growing pains continue for

the new system of managing scholarship applications that was implemented two years ago.

"The biggest improvement is that we are not misplacing or losing applications" as much as before, Sessler quoted Edsey as saying.

Go to Elks.org to access all Youth Activities programs

The IEA Youth Activities Committee, at its Mid-Winter meeting in January, reviewed how to access all the program information and certificates that lodges need to participate in Grand Lodge youth activities contests and programs.

Simply go to the elks.org website at <https://www.elks.org/grand-lodge/activities/>. For example, all the files needed for the student recognition program can be found there, including program descriptions, certificates and promotional items.

Also accessed at that link are other links to the Grand Lodge Community Project Contest and certificates for golf, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Honor Our Flag and Medal of Valor/Service.

IEA Youth Activities Chairman Gregg Collins, who reviewed the Grand Lodge programs, suggested that lodges schedule a banquet at

the end of the school year to honor students.

Invited youth could be scholarship recipients, Girl and Boy Scouts, and winners of the Americanism essay contest, teens of the months/year.

"My goal for this year is to have at least three lodges per district participate in the Teen of the Month/Year program," Collins said. "Participation thus far is pretty good with five lodges with current teen of the month recipients."

Also discussed was "cross reporting" of lodge activities, in which lodge officers communicate with each other to make sure nothing is missed that can be reported.

"Make sure to work on getting every lodge to give at least an itemized report (of activities) to the district chairperson for every district meeting," Collins advised.

Team approach recommended for orientating new members

Teamwork would be a great approach for lodges in orienting new Elks members, IEA Orientation Chair Sharon Kay Dirck said in her Mid-Winter report.

"You need to ask members within your lodge to come and help with orientation," Dirck said, suggesting those who have worked with veterans, the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, scholarships, the Elks National Foundation and others.

"(These) are just a few examples of members who can share their experiences and/or enthusiasm

on those great things we do," she said, adding that someone from a lodge committee that needs more volunteers should also be a part of the orientation mix.

"Have the leading knight attend and talk about becoming an officer," Dirck said. "These members will be able to instill so much confidence and enthusiasm with their knowledge of our programs and what it means to be an Elk that the new members will know they made the right choice to join such an amazing Order."

awards, including Elk of the Year, Family and Teen of the Year and the All American Lodge Contest "A."

"I ask that all lodges use the Contest A application as one way to measure the success of their year," Bierman said. "Use this as a tool to push future exalted rulers to work a little harder to beat your score."

Carnival time at IEA



Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm and First Lady Patricia McPherson got into the spirit of Mardi Gras, which was the theme of the South District hospitality room at the Mid-Winter meeting. Showing hospitality to the First Couple is Rose Davidson of Marion Lodge 800.

Lodges: Post your civic news on illinoiselks.org website

Illinois Elks lodges are encouraged to post their community news on the illinoiselks.org website.

The process is easy. Simply click on the "members only" drop-down box at the top of the homepage and click on the listing "submit an article" at the bottom. From there, just fill in the blanks and submit.

IEA Webmaster Eric Judy listed the addition of the form in his Mid-Winter report.

He said links are also available to forms that lodges need to apply for a \$1,500 Elks National

Foundation Anniversary grant available to all lodges to assist in celebrating the BPOE's 150th anniversary.

"Any information you would like, please let us know," Judy said.

Judy has also developed an electronic reminder to lodge secretaries to update their mailing lists with the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, which maintains the IEA mailing list.

The illinoiselks.org website had more than 4,000 visits in 2017, and are currently averaging 300 hits per month, Judy said.

Avoid sex discrimination at all costs

The IEA is using the nationwide focus on sexual harassment to emphasize that the Elks have never and will never tolerate sexual harassment.

"Every lodge and every member need to make sure that this is not going on in their lodge," IEA Judiciary Chair Ali Orr said in her Mid-Winter report. "It is absolutely unacceptable behavior and no one should ever have to experience that, especially in an Elks lodge."

"That behavior taking place in an Elks lodge will also have di-

sastrous effects for that lodge, this association and the entire BPOE. Do not let that happen."

Orr also cautioned lodges to beware of individuals trying to scam them.

"Springfield Lodge had two men show up posing as IRS agents," she said. "They were not IRS agents, and thankfully our secretary realized this."

Alluding to a question that arose in September, Orr confirmed that Queen of Hearts drawings at lodges are for "members and their spouses only."

CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

Judges review scholarship applications

Two weeks before the March 31 end of 2017-18, the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation has collected 85 applications for 2018-19 Physical and Occupational Therapy Scholarships.

Several applications for the Lydia Miller Special Education Scholarships also have been received.

PT/OT Scholarship applications will now undergo judging.

IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block thanked Sharon Kay Dirck, Mark Bump, Tom Hummel and Brad Besson for reading and grading each of the applications.

Scholarship winners will be announced by early June.

"Good luck to all those students who have applied," Block said.

The 2019-20 PT/OT Scholarship application will again be available Dec. 1 at www.illinoiselksccc.org.

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Kendall Pemberton, Elgin; Rich Bollmeier, Centralia; Joel Gerdovich, Oglesby; Brett Sechrist, Jacksonville; Dylan Doss, Dixon; Kelly Eckhoff, Pontiac; Tim Hickmann, Springfield; Sharon Kay Dirck, Dixon; Mrs. Dorothy Parola, Oglesby; Wilson Grandkids*, Springfield; Philip G. Beers, Springfield; Ryan Storckman, Robinson; Joseph Koch, DeKalb; Richard Dykstra, Chicago South; Dick Wyninger, Champaign-Urbana; Joe Tuminello, Oak Lawn; Ryder Stein, Oak Lawn; Laura Mefford, Carlinville; Tony Dardano, Elmhurst; Pup Price, Robinson;

February – Nancy Kapel, Elmhurst; Dylan Doss, Dixon; Konnie Kensil, Springfield; James Graham, Peoria; Jim Nelson, Dixon; Anthony Cecola, Des Plaines; Hunter Kurth, Dixon; Amy Gilliland, Champaign-Urbana; R. Donald Johnson, Des Plaines; Paul Ronzani, Chicago Northshore; Anthony Dover, Cairo; Robert & Eileen Rice**, Chicago Northshore; R. Vaughn Rich, Robinson; Homer "Pete" Penninger, Joliet; Debbie Schultz*, Effingham; Dan Fogarty, Elmhurst; Joanne Maloy, Mendota; Larry J. Fitch, Flora; Jim Plahm, Oak Lawn; Christina Steinmetz, Harrisburg;

March 1-15 – William J. Thomas, Joliet; Marjorie Nance, Mendota; Harold Lamb, Pana; KC Ferguson, Des Plaines; Mark Mueller, Galena; Jody L. Perry, Freeport; Rick Warren, Marion; William Gutzmer, Des Plaines; Roger Landon, Beardstown; John R. Duffy, Pontiac; Jim Newbanks, Springfield;

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their lodges during the 150th year celebration.

Also discussed was the new BPOE News group on Facebook, which Bierman said is doing a great job of spreading the news about the Elks nationwide.

Bierman also initiated discussion of the various Grand Lodge



Special-needs park becoming reality, thanks to Mt. Vernon Elks

Mt. Vernon Elks are starting to realize their three-year-old dream of building a special-needs park for their home city and surrounding communities. The building finally began in July and was completed in September with the addition of swings to allow people in wheelchairs to swing by themselves or with help. Commemorating the occasion, from left, are: city Park and Recreation Manager Wes Plummer, Lodge members Keith Hertenstein, David Bowling, David Rakey, Kent Fair and John Tucker, city Alderman Mike Young and Mayor John Lewis. The addition of the swings culminated three years of planning that began in 2015. That is when then-Exalted Ruler Fair, whose idea it was to initiate the project, received encouragement from Illinois Elks Children's Care Administrative Manager Bill Block. The IECCC offered a donation to get the project started. The addition of the swings followed two years of planning with the city. The swings are just the beginning of Lodge 819's dream of developing the special-needs area.

Calendar winners announced

Winners from the final five months of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation's calendar drawings in 2017-18 have been announced. They are:

November – Gary Fellhauer, Jacksonville; Rae Marie Jurmu, Rock Island; Mike Eckstein, Peoria; Tom Meyen, Dixon; Betty Rutherford, Carlinville; Gary Sarge, Chicago South; Marcia Thomas, Danville; Paul & Sharlene Roge, Des Plaines; Lucette Abell***, Danville; JoEtta Grau, Chicago South; Karl & Angela Stodden, Galena; John Pini*, Oglesby; Andrew M.

Britt, Fairfield; Mikey Thomas, Marion; Abby Sisson, Dixon; Jerod Cottingham, Carlinville; Robyn Morgan, McLeansboro; Matt Dougherty, Springfield; Race McMahon, Mount Vernon; Ed Reeder, Carbondale; Robert Gansz, Carlinville; Robert T. Antkowiak, Princeton; Samantha Fischer, Oak Lawn;

December – D. Jean Theobald, Peoria; Wilburn Belford, Metropolis; Janice Kaufman, Mendota; Mike Slape, Fairview Heights; John & Margaret Miller, Chicago South; Ryder Stein, Oak Lawn; Douglas Mottl, Chicago South;

Wally Crouch, Bloomington; Ernest Launer, Springfield; Dennis Collins, Oak Lawn; James Chady, Benton; Bill Adams, Sr., Bloomington; Jan Hallman, Dixon; Dave Garrard*, Robinson; Mike Fear, Robinson; Kathryn Pearce, Centralia; Jack V. Knoerr, Lawrenceville; J. Chris Robson, Fairfield; Maria Rajic, Des Plaines; Larry Gillespie, Carlinville; William Spicer, Ottawa;

January – William Jones, Springfield; Jim Littig, Jacksonville; Rod Standard, Galesburg;

Please See **CALENDAR**, Page 15



Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

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IECCC board appoints nominating committee

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation board of directors, at its Mid-Winter meeting in January, appointed members of its nominating committee. They are: Roland Seibert, Brad Beeson, Kristi Wykes and John Bayler.

IECCC Chair Tawn Williams said the committee will report nominations of officers for 2018-19 at the next IECCC meeting.

Also in her Mid-Winter report, Williams said 2018 Physical and Occupational Therapy Scholarship applications are available on the Children's Care website at www.illinoiselksccc.org/. Applications are due to the lodge by March 2 and to the Chatham office by March 9.

"Lodges, please look over the applications for completeness,"

Williams said. "If an application is not complete, please contact the applicant to make them aware of the missing information. Incomplete applications that are sent to the CCC office will not be judged."

This year's judges are Mark Bump, Sharon Dirck, Tom Hummel and Brad Besson.

Williams also said in her Mid-Winter report that clinic schedules are available at www.illinoiselksccc.org/.

"To reduce the cost of newspaper advertising, we have reduced the number of newspaper ads for our clinic and are taking advantage of social media ads, such as Facebook," she said.

Gifts increase from last year

Lodges contributed slightly more to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation in 2017-18 than they did in 2016-17.

Unofficial current-year contributions are \$139,549, 16 days before the end of the year, compared to \$139,007 in 2016-17, IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said.

Total income also increased, to \$252,761 so far in 2017-18 from

\$250,020 in 2016-17. Total income includes contributions from lodges, members and all mailings – calendars, annual appeal, statewide drawing, memorials, ladies and special donations.

Of that \$252,761, \$96,158 was collected during the IEA Mid-Winter meeting.

"Thanks for all you do in support of our State Major Project and the kids," Block said.

Newest free clinic opens to serve Flora area kids

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation has established its latest free children's orthopedic clinic, in Flora, culminating a several month-long effort.

The first clinic was held on March 14.

"We saw several children at this clinic and it is my hope that this clinic will make it possible to reach out to those families in the Flora and the surrounding area that may have children needing to see an orthopedic doctor," IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said.

Block credited IECCC Area 2 Director John Bayler of Flora Lodge for helping make the clinic possible, along with Clay County Hospital and its clinical staff, orthopedic physician Dr. Timothy Gray and his nurse practitioner, Stacia.

"Without their efforts, this clinic would not be possible," Block said.



LEFT PHOTO: Dr. Timothy Gray, with 7-year-old Ronald. RIGHT PHOTO: 2-year-old Leland and his mom Taylor, and 2-year-old Nora with her mom Malory.