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

It's our turn to begin 'Working Together to Make a Difference'

IEA president
Tom Deien

I sincerely hope everyone who attended the Grand Lodge Convention in San Antonio had as great of a time as Brenda and I did. I cannot describe the feeling and pride I felt as I carried the Illinois flag to the podium.

And wasn't the opening ceremony great? The Lieutenant Dan Band was outstanding, not to mention the things they do for our veterans through the Gary Sinise Foundation.

It was a pleasure to meet our new Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr and have a photo with him (inset at right).

Now, it is our turn, as we put into action the plans of our Grand Exalted Ruler, that we begin *"Working Together to make a Difference."* In Illinois, we do work together, and we do work to improve our communities. We also help our kids and never forget our veterans.

We will work together and achieve that elusive membership gain. We are almost there; we can do it. Remember, awards for membership are still available to lodges with highest percentage gain. We hope to see some healthy competition for these awards.

Please welcome our Children's Care Corporation scholarship winners, who will be recognized at the September meeting. These kids are the "top of their class," and it is always great to hear their stories of why they chose to study physical therapy and learn where they are attending school. They truly appreciate everything we do to assist them. It really is heartwarming to listen to them and see that our work is truly appreciated.

IEA President Tom Deien carries the Illinois flag as part of the Parade of Flags that opened the 2018 Grand Lodge Session July 1-4 in San Antonio. INSET: Deien got his photo taken with GER Michael T. Luhr, who stood for two and a half hours to shoot photos with well-wishers.

Elmhurst Elks have an impact giving families a 'Hand Up'

Elmhurst Lodge 1531 is leveraging an Elks National Foundation Impact Grant to give area families a "Hand Up for Hygiene."

Elmhurst Elks are in their third year of partnering with the Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry and the local Dollar Tree store to provide personal hygiene and cleaning products every other month to 100 qualified recipient families.

"These families often do not have enough supplemental income to purchase personal hygiene products – products that can aid in boosting quality of life," said lodge grant coordinator and spearhead of the "Hand Up for Hygiene" project, Mike Pietrantoni. He was referring to the recipient families' self-esteem, confidence, ability to provide for family, pay bills, and their children's experience in school.

Elmhurst Lodge sought the Impact Grant, Pietrantoni said, because volunteers at the area Food Pantry reported that DuPage County, where Elmhurst Lodge is situated, had no other means of accessing personal

Please See **ELMHURST,** Page 2

New 'cops' on the beat

IEA district deputies for 2018-19 were installed at the Elks National Convention in San Antonio in July. They will help Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr oversee Illinois lodges for the year. From left, they are: Lyndall Qualls of Metropolis Lodge 1428 (South District); Jerry Leininger of Bloomington 281 (West); Jeff Johnson of Lawrenceville 1208 (South Central); Chris Ord of Belleville 481 (West Central); Sandra Supancic of Chicago Northshore 1316 (North); Kristi Wykes of Pontiac 1019 (East); and Bob Swisher of Pana 1261 (East Central).

STATE

BPOE's 150th an all-out celebration

It is my hope that those Elks and guests who were fortunate enough to attend this year's Grand Lodge Convention in San Antonio had a great time. I'm sure you know our great Order celebrated its 150th anniversary, and the planning committee for the celebration went all out!

From the opening ceremony Sunday night to the closing ceremony on Wednesday morning, it was one of the most memorable conventions this writer has attended.

One highlight included the 150 Elks scholars (former scholarship recipients) when they made their way to the dais at the opening ceremony. What a sight it was! I am sure the realization of what our donations to the Elks National Foundation can and have done over the years impacted

IEA **sponsor**
F. Louis Sulsberger PGER

the thousands of convention attendees present.

The highlight of the celebration was right after the opening ceremony when the rear of the convention hall opened with the performance of Re-Creation. Everyone waited in anticipation of the evening's main event – "The Lieutenant Dan Band," which put on a 90-minute concert. Actor Gary Sinise, whom I'm sure you remember from the famous movie Forrest Gump, formed this band many years ago and performs about 30 concerts a year to raise funds for veterans.

What a perfect fit for the BPO Elks celebration!

Congratulations to our eight District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers who were installed in their positions. This begins a year of hard work, but I can assure you will enjoy and not soon forget the experience. Good luck this year!

As we work on goals for this fraternal year, it is time we all concentrate a little harder on the membership issues our state faces. Last year the Order was close to a membership gain, experiencing only a 0.50 percent loss, which was the lowest in 30-plus years.

Unfortunately, we still struggle with membership so let's focus on this. Each Exalted Ruler should appoint a dedicated member who can form a team for membership and lapsation efforts. While we need to attract new members, we also need to work on those Elks who have decided not to pay their dues and lose the privilege of being an Elk.

Beth and I look forward to seeing everyone at the fall convention in Springfield. I'm sure we all hope the weather we have experienced this summer will have changed by then. No, I'm not ready for winter — but some relief from this heat would sure be welcome!

Until then, God bless.

Lou Sulsberger, as chairman of the Elks National Foundation board of directors, introduces the 150 Elks scholars to the opening ceremony as they came forward from the back of the convention hall. "What a sight it was," he said.

Members of Elmhurst Lodge 1531 who bring life to the Lodge's "Hand Up for Hygiene" project, from left, are Larry Comiskey, Jim Magner, Rita Mika, Hazel Orszula, Margaret Greene, Joyce Comiskey, Joyce Faulkner, Dan Greene and Mike Pietrantoni.

Elmhurst from Page 1

hygiene/cleaning products for distribution.

"This unmet need is what drew our lodge to focus on this area for our Impact Grant project," Pietrantoni emphasized.

The food pantry assists in identifying target families of working age adults with two or more dependents who have been regularly receiving charitable distributions from the pantry for the previous six consecutive months.

Impact Grant rules require that lodges cannot simply hand out grant proceeds regardless of a program's worthiness. Lodge members must be directly involved.

Pietrantoni said he, the Elmhurst Lodge board of directors and fellow lodge members operate all facets of the project.

"This includes ongoing communication with the (food pantry) for identification of families, as well as with our local Dollar Tree for purchase of readily available and affordable products," he said. "Members then pick up the hygiene products from the Dollar Tree, assemble the hygiene packages, contact all families by phone or e-mail prior to each package distribution, continually update contact lists, host bimonthly package distributions at Elmhurst Elks Lodge for the identified families in need, and collect/analyze quantifiable quality-of-life data from questionnaires distributed to our clients at each distribution, to ensure that our program is helpful to those we serve."

After three consecutive years of operating the project, Elmhurst Elks hope to continue it with the support of the ENF Impact Grant

After three consecutive years of operating the project, Elmhurst Elks hope to continue it with support of the ENF Impact Grant.

"In this time, we have received $30,000 in grant funds from the ENF to continue to serve the families in our project," Pietrantoni said. "We do intend to extend our grant for as long as possible to continue to serve families in our community."

Pietrantoni has one salient piece of advice for lodges contemplating applying for an ENF Impact Grant: Start early.

"Identify an unmet need in your community, involve as many Elks members as possible in your lodge, and partner with other organizations in your community to meet that need," he said.

To apply for a 2019 Impact Grant, lodges had until July 31 to detail their project proposal to the ENF. Other deadlines and details of the application process can be accessed at https://www.elks.org/cip/grants/impactGrantsDetails.cfm.

Delinquencies top national rate

Let's talk membership. Here are some facts from Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Manager Rick Gathen about membership in the Illinois Elks Association:

The IEA's average delinquency rate is 15.3 percent, a little higher than the 14.9 percent nationally, Gathen said, adding that Illinois Elks have 19 lodges (27 percent) that have not initiated a new member in more than 15 weeks.

We need to focus on getting a membership committee up and running. Each of our 69 lodges needs to work harder on membership.

IEA **secretary**
Marvin Leathers

Gathen gave a couple of reasons for declining membership. One is a

Please See **MARV,** Page 3

Illinois Elks Association Newsette

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 – Nov. 21, 2018, for Mid-Winter; March 22, 2019, for spring; June 15, 2019, for summer; July 20, 2018, for fall

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STATE

Get your district soccer kids ready for IEA Shoot on Sept. 29 in Rochester

The IEA Soccer Shoot program, hoping to build on the momentum it has generated since reviving the program two years ago, is planning its next Shoot for Sept. 29 in Rochester Community Park.

Community Park, 90 Wild Rose Lane, Rochester, is 7 miles southeast of Springfield on Illinois 29.

Registration is scheduled for 1 p.m. with the Shoot to follow at 2 p.m. All participants will receive a soccer ball, compliments of the IEA Drug Awareness Program. Also pizza and refreshments will be served.

IEA Soccer Shoot Chairman Steve Albrecht emphasizes that if lodges need help setting up a Soccer Shoot to advance competitors to the Rochester event, to e-mail him at Bowhunt10@sbcglobal.net or IEA Past President Darrell Swisher at Swish@newwavecomm.com.

Albrecht and Swisher have been encouraging lodges and districts to sponsor events.

"Darrell and I will try to come to any Shoot to help get started," Albrecht said in his 2017-18 year-end report to the IEA. "We also encourage our new district deputies and exalted rulers to encourage their lodges to get involved."

A "few more kids" participated in 2017, and "several other lodges" state they are committed to sponsoring a Shoot in 2018, Albrecht said.

He also points to the more centrally located site in the state — Rochester — as reason for brighter prospects for attracting more competitors.

The IEA Soccer Shoot program got its first start in 2003 and grew to more than 11,000 kids competing by 2007. But declining participation ended the program several years later before Swisher and Albrecht spearheaded its revival in 2016.

Peoria Lodge 20 remembers their veterans

Peoria Lodge 20 member Mike Dudley greets veterans participating in the Greater Peoria Honor Flight earlier this year. Peoria Elks have been involved with the Greater Peoria Honor Flight since 2014. "We purchase the snacks for each of their three flights each year and fill 74 snack bags for each flight," lodge Veterans Chairman Joe Boers said. "We then have two of our veteran members (Mike Dudley and Mike White) hand out the bags for each flight to Washington D.C. It is a privilege and honor to be a partner with the Peoria Honor Flight."

Lodges, claim your awards!

IEA **treasurer** George Hornung

If you missed the Grand Lodge Convention in San Antonio, too bad! It was a blast. The location was great and everyone was very friendly.

I want to thank IEA President Tom Deien and Credentials Chairman Scott Flota for all the work they did to make an enjoyable time. They worked very hard despite the hotel restrictions on the hospitality room. All in all it came together very well.

This year is flying by so don't forget that it's never too soon to get your goals for the year in place.

IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers and I are sending out the Elks National Foundation goal awards as we speak. Make sure qualifying lodges request their award. It's a great tool to make your presence known in your community. It shows that we are more than a bar and social meeting place!

Our lodges were very prompt in sending in their dues. This helps the state fund our programs that make us so proud.

Speaking of those programs, make sure your lodge takes full advantage of them. Whether it's Hoop Shoot, scholarships, Drug Awareness or Americanism, your lodge can touch everyone

Please See **GEORGE,** Page 8

Marv from Page 2

Likelihood that there is conflict and bad behavior by certain individuals driving membership out the door. A dues increase may also be a reason.

IEA Membership Co-Chairs Chris Ord and Robin Lemay plan to go to district meetings this year to push membership. Please take to heart and act on what they say.

It's time Illinois Elks have a gain in membership!

Lodges have until Dec. 31 to let me know how you want to spend your award for reaching the Elks National Foundation's goal for per-member contributions. Just e-mail me where the check is to be sent.

We had 61 lodges make the goal in 2017-18. I have sent out some checks, so, please, don't leave the award on the table!

Remember, get "On Board" and help our state President Tom Deien "Drive Elkdom Forward"!

LODGE

Salem Elks fulfill community need with youth lunch program

Salem Elks members presenting a $10,000 donation to the Hungry Hearts program earlier this year, from left, are: Mike Hooe, Trisha Marshall, John Consolino, Kristin Wilkins, Chris Maxey, Faith Evans, Rene Gozia, Jed Casburn and Nick Parker.

Salem Lodge 1678, one of the three Illinois recipients of the coveted $10,000 Elks National Foundation Impact Grant, donated the entire proceeds earlier this year to the local Hungry Hearts program to provide daily sack lunches to area children during the summer.

The grant was one of 77 awarded nationally in 2017-18, Salem Elk Mike Hooe said.

"It was a very elaborate application process where we had to specify, in detail, everything we were going to do, how the (Hungry Hearts) program helps the community," Hooe said. "It's all about the community. It's the Impact Grant, meaning they want it to have an impact on your community."

He said the lodge focused on the Hungry Hearts program after hearing about it from Salem Elk Rene Gozia, who helped establish the program a year ago, along with the Marion County YMCA.

"We knew that this was a really worthwhile program," Hooe said.

Gozia said the Impact Grant has enabled the program to accelerate in its purchase of food and provide room for expected growth.

The Elks grant also has enabled the program to include a literacy component to provide books for children receiving meals.

"The Elks had a book drive where we collected almost 600 books, and then we purchased some additional books through the Impact Grant," Hooe said.

Last year, the 10-week program averaged about 87 kids per day and served more than 4,000 lunches during the summer, with a high of 149 kids served and a low of 33.

The program relies on volunteers from eight community organizations who help prepare the meals at the community center.

Hooe is hopeful the grant will be renewed in coming years.

– Information for this story was culled from a report by Dennis Rosenberger, editor of the Salem Times-Commoner.

Illinois Elks Association

FALL CONVENTION

Honoring Children's Care Corporation scholarship winners

Sept. 20-13, 2018 ■ Wyndham-Springfield City Centre

Thursday, Sept. 20
11:30 AM-5 PM Convention Office *Plaza 4*
1-4 PM Executive Committee *– Conference Ctr 3*

Friday, Sept. 21
7 AM-5 PM Convention Office *– Plaza 4*
8-10 AM Executive Committee *– Conference Ctr 3*
10 AM-Noon Convention Committee *– Rendezvous*
Noon-7 PM Convention Registration at Desk *– Mezzanine*
1-4 PM Advisory Committee *– Rendezvous*

Saturday, Sept. 22
6:30 AM-6 PM Convention Office *– Plaza 4*
7 AM-Noon Convention Registration at Desk *– Mezzanine*
7:30 AM-9 AM Board of Directors Meeting & Training (Continental Breakfast) *– Plaza 3*
8-9:30 AM Lodge Trustees Training/ Accident Prevention/Insurance *– Prairie*
8-10 AM District Deputies & Esquires (Continental Breakfast) *– Conference Ctr 2*
8 AM-Noon Leading Knights Training *– Rendezvous*
9-10 AM Exalted Rulers Meet W/ Executive Committee *– Ambassador*
9-11 AM Secretaries Association *– Plaza 3*
9:30-11 AM Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation *– Conference Ctr 4*
9:30-11:30 AM Ritual Committee and Competition *– Embassy*
10-11 AM Athletic Commission *– Conference Ctr 2*
10-11 AM New Lodge *– Conference Ctr 1*
10 AM-Noon Membership/Lapsation/Lodge Activities /Orientation *– Prairie*
10:30 AM-Noon Lodge Treasurers *– Ambassador*
11 AM-Noon Scholarship Selection *– Conference Ctr 2*
11 AM-Noon Veterans Service Commission – Plaza 3
Noon-1PM Ladies Lunch *– Highland Room*
Menu: ½ Club Sandwich with Soup
Cost: Pre-Reg $18/On site $20
1-2 PM Elks National Foundation *– Plaza 3*
1-2 PM Youth Activities & Antlers *– Conference Ctr 4*
1-2:30 PM Publication Corporation/Website Monitoring /Public Relations *– Conference Ctr 2*
1-3 PM Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shoot *– Plaza 1*
1-4 PM PGER Lou Sulsberger Meets with Lodges and Individuals *– Conference Ctr 3*
1-5 PM Ritual Clinic *– Embassy*
2-3 PM Americanism *– Plaza 3*
2-3 PM Drug Awareness Program *– Conference Ctr 4*
3-4 PM Bowling Association *– Plaza 1*
5-6 PM Illinois Elks Association Reception *– Capitol/Illinois*
5-6 PM I Illinois Elks Children's Care Social *– Rendezvous Foyer*
6-8 PM Illinois Elks Association Dinner *– Capitol/Illinois*
Salad: Garden Green Salad
Entrée: Seared Tuscan Chicken Breast, Herb Roasted Potatoes with Broccoli
Dessert: Vanilla Cheese Cake
Cost: Pre-registration $29/On-site $32

Sunday, Sept. 23
7-10 AM Convention Office *– Plaza 4*
7:30-8 AM Room Reservations for the January Meeting *– Capitol/Illinois*
8-10:30 AM General Business Session – Capitol/Illinois

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

Pre-Registration deadline is Sept. 6

By pre-registering for the convention, volunteer luncheon and banquet before Sept. 6, you will give the Credentials Committee time to make sure your credentials will be waiting for you at the check-in desk and will also assist the Convention Committee in working with the Hilton in planning the workshops, breakfast and banquet.

Room Cancelation cut off Aug. 21

All mailings must be postmarked before Aug. 21 to avoid additional late charges. Rooms cancelled after Aug. 21 will forfeit their deposit.

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 from 6-9 PM on Saturday during the awards dinner.

Illinois Elks Association

HOST LODGE: SPRINGFIELD #158

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

STATE

Trio keeps hope alive for growing IEA Teen of the Year program

A scant seven lodges of the IEA's 69 submitted a total of 12 nominations for the 2017-18 Youth Activities Teens of the Year Awards.

And after the IEA meeting in September – in which only five people, and no district chairs showed up – IEA Youth Activities Chairman Gregg Collins feared there would be no awards presentation at the Annual Meeting in May.

"However, I didn't know how impassioned two people are in our IEA Teens of the Year program," Collins said in his 2017-18 year-end report, praising Past State President Dennis Gerleman and past Youth Activities Chair Debbie Wallace.

Collins added that he now counts himself as chomping at the bit to help ensure that the awards program doesn't fall by the wayside.

But he cautioned that for the 2018-19 event to succeed, lodges must contact high school principals, teachers and counselors *before* school starts.

"They are setting up their agendas now, not in August or September," he said. "I can't tell how many people get back to me that the high schools tell them that their school year is already in place and they cannot implement the Teen Program."

Lodges advised to contact schools BEFORE classes start in the fall

Meanwhile, the seven lodges from four districts that submitted nominations for 2017-18 were Kewanee, Salem, McLeansboro, Fairfield, Mt. Vernon, Chicago Northshore and Dixon, based on nominees' scholastic achievement, class leadership, athletics and community service.

Honorees among the girls, in the order of finish, were: Kaylee Addis, representing Kewanee 724; Katherine Horene Drone, representing McLeansboro 1882; and Chloe Jewell Hodges, representing Fairfield 1631.

For the boys, honorees were: Max Allen Phillips, representing Salem 1678; Carey Larson Meyer, representing Kewanee 724; and Samuel L. Beach, representing Fairfield 1631.

Winners were awarded $1,000, a plaque and family trip to Springfield for the May meeting; for second, $750 and a plaque; and for third, $500 and a plaque.

IEA ladies lunch set for Springfield Lodge

The ladies lunch will take place at 11:30 a.m. Saturday (Sept. 23) at Springfield Lodge 158.

Transportation will be provided. Attendees are asked to meet at the entrance of Wyndham Springfield City Centre at 11 a.m.

For those driving the 7.8 miles to Springfield Lodge, you can input into your search engine the hotel address – 700 E. Adams St., Springfield 62701 – and that of the lodge – 409 E. Lake Shore Drive, Springfield, 62712 – for directions.

Cost of the lunch is $15 with pre-registration and $17 on site.

The ladies lunch will be at Springfield Lodge, nestled in a garden setting overlooking Lake Springfield.

Pre-registration Deadline
Sept 6, 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
Sept 6,2018

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

Illinois Elks Annual Meeting
Registration Form
ANNUAL CONVENTION Sept 21-23 2018
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Please make a reservation for the following:

Pre – registration - $10.00 After SEPT 6, 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 …….. @ $15.00/$17.00* $ _____
LUNCH WILL BE AT SPRINGFIELD LODGE (TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED)
LUNCH AT 11:30/ TRANSPORTATION FROM HOTEL AT 11:00

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

Total Amount Enclosed $_____

*Cost of meal if check received post marked after SEPT 6,2018
Or purchased on-site

Home Address_____

City_____ Zip_____

Phone (___) _____ E-mail_____

Fall Meeting pre-registration due Sept. 6

Illinois Elks and guests attending the Illinois Elks Association Convention, scheduled Sept. 21-23, in Wyndham-Springfield City Centre Hotel, are encouraged to pre-register.

The pre-registration postmark deadline is Sept. 6.

Attendees should fill out the form, above, 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 above for each registration instead of putting them all on a single form.

The pre-registration fee is $10 and $20 after Sept. 6.

The charge for the Saturday evening dinner is $29 with pre-registration and $31 on-site. The ladies luncheon is $18 with registration and $20 on-site.

The room cancelation cut off is Aug. 21 – 30 days ahead of the start of the convention.

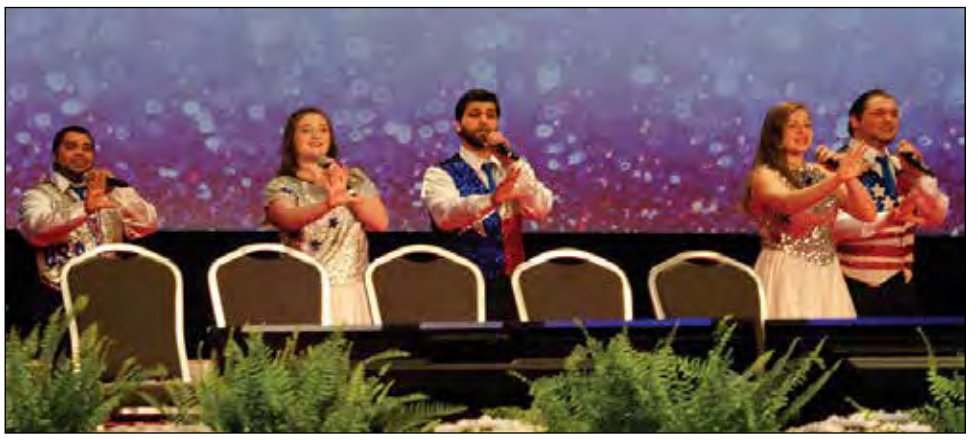
All mailings must be postmarked by the posted dates to avoid additional late charges. Rooms canceled after Aug. 21 will forfeit their deposit.

STATE

BPOE's 150th: A celebration for the ages ...

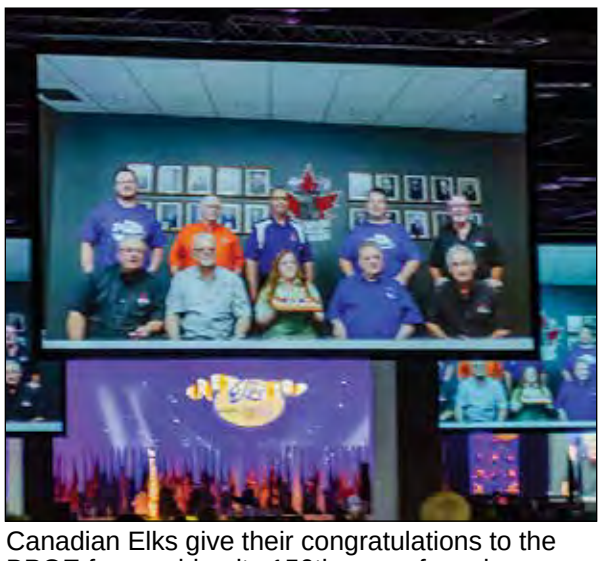
The stage is set for the open of the 2018 Grand Lodge Convention in San Antonio.

"The Lieutenant Dan Band," led by actor Gary Sinise of Forrest Gump fame, put on a memorable 90-minute concert to help open the convention.



Re-Creation performs ahead of The Lieutenant Dan Band. The group, which entertains veterans organizations nationwide, receives support from the IEA.

Convention attendees form a conga line to feel the beat of The Lieutenant Dan Band performance.



Canadian Elks give their congratulations to the BPOE for reaching its 150th year of service.

WHEN IN TEXAS ... – Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt of DeKalb Lodge 765, flanked by "pardners" Past Grand Exalted Ruler Millard Pickering and Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Manager Rick Gathen, give a western air to the opening ceremony.

Past State President Charlie Campbell and wife Jan made no secret of their whereabouts in early July.

... and also a time to get down to business

Mt. Vernon Lodge competes at ritual

Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 represented the IEA in the Elks national ritualistic contest in San Antonio in July, finishing 11th of 13 lodges competing in the western division. Mt. Vernon finished with a score of 93.791, a little more than 3 points behind national winner Okmulgee, OK 1822's 96.8617, but ahead of lodge entrants from both Missouri and Texas Elks associations. Mt. Vernon Lodge demonstrated to fellow Illinois Elks that it is a better lodge for having competed, and earned their respect as a result. Team members, from left, are Patrick Bevis, Tim Bain, Bob Kane, John Tucker, Amanda McNear, Dave Rakey, Jimmy Jones, Larry George and Debbie Summers.

IEA Past President Dennis Gerleman nominates fellow Past President Bryan Klatt of DeKalb Lodge 765 for grand secretary – and later offers his congratulations.

Michael T. Luhr, at his installation as Grand Exalted Ruler.

Alaskan Michael Luhr elected 2018-19 Grand Exalted Ruler

Michael T. Luhr of Petersburg, AK Lodge 1615 was elected as Grand Exalted Ruler for 2018-19 at the 154th Grand Lodge Session in July.

Luhr has been an Elk since 1977, and from 1990 has served his lodge as either a trustee or a lodge officer. He was elected president of the Alaska Elks Association in 2009. At the Grand Lodge level, he served on the Grand Lodge-Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee, served for four years as a Grand Trustee, and was elected Grand Esteemed Leading Knight at the 2017 Grand Lodge Session in Reno.

After the announcement of Luhr's election, supporters from Luhr's Area 8 streamed into the hall waving the U.S. flag and the Alaska state flag.

Once order was restored, the newly elected Grand Exalted Ruler spoke about his vision for the Order and his theme of "*Working Together to Make a Difference*." He also expressed his great pride in being an Elk: "Who wouldn't be proud to belong to an organization that does so many things to benefit our local communities and reaches out to young people with support and programs that help them make better life decisions?"

President Tom Deien and First Lady Brenda, chilling after a hard day of conventioneering.

President Deien visits with Past State President Dave Jurmu and wife Rae Marie.

The San Antonio River Walk contributed to the ambiance of the BPOE's 150th anniversary celebration.

Oak Lawn Elks support ...

... Scouting ...

Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 held its 2018 Blue and Gold/ Green and Gold ceremonies earlier this year for Cub Scout Pack 3652 and Boy Scout Troop 652. "The Elks enthusiastically support the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts," lodge spokesman Arthur Munin said.

... scholarship ...

Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 Exalted Ruler Larry Nolan and Leading Knight Lynda Riffice present Richard High School essay winners Brajon Carter (left photo) and Esmahn Muthana with $250 each for their efforts. They were entrants in the 2017-18 IEA Americanism Essay Contest.

Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 celebrated Flag Day in June with veterans participating from local VFW and American Legion posts, along with Boy Scout troops and Elks members. Leading Knight Lynda Riffice and Exalted Ruler Larry Nolan addressed the gathering, which took place at Oak Lawn Lodge. The celebration traced the history of the flag, and encapsulated its meaning, stating: "*The American flag serves as a symbol of our great nation. The flag represents, in a way that nothing else can, the common bond shared by an otherwise diverse people*."

... and their local July 4th parade

Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 celebrated the nation's independence day in the annual Oak Lawn July 4th Parade with Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury and U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski. Bury holds the "*Elks Care – Elks Share*" sign with Sandra Sexton, lodge Drug Awareness chair, left. Others are Leading Knight Lynda Riffice (beside Sexton) and members of the Mendez, Crusing, Landi, Lock and Neth families. RIGHT PHOTO: Elroy (Ken Neth), with Riffice, handed Drug Awareness material along the parade route, letting parade-goers know that "*Elks Care – Elks Share*."

Canton Lodge 626 put an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to good use, in which it provided, delivered and served meals to area special-needs youth and adults at the Kamping and Recreational Experiences day camp held in June at the Canton YMCA. Each day 10-20 Elks and family members served 20-65 participants. KARE, a non-profit organization in Fulton County, provides camping and recreational experiences for individuals with special needs. Canton Elks and Antlers served the campers. RIGHT PHOTO: Exalted Ruler Terry Haynes greets two campers as they enjoy their lunch.

Canton Elks maintain high civic profile

Canton Lodge 626 and its Antlers group were busy earlier this year participating in community outreach to honor veterans and to stage an Easter canned food drive.

The lodge Veterans Committee dedicated a new bench in honor of all veterans in downtown Canton at Jones Park, lodge spokesperson Brenda Reneau said. Money was raised through lodge veterans events.

Among the participants were Canton city employees Carol Kohler and Sharon Ubel, lodge Veterans Committee member Debbie Ryan and Chairman Ron Romine, along with fellow Canton Elks Joe Long, Tammy Long, Steve Widger and Steve Albrecht.

In March, the lodge held a month-long Easter canned food drive. Food was collected for three area food pantries, Reneau said, and monetary donations were also received from lodge members, the Antlers youth group and the Lodge Charity Account.

$1,050 was collected and divided between First Baptist Church, St. Mary's Church and the Salvation Army. Participating in the food drive included Exalted Ruler Doug Painter, Jeff Stanley of First Baptist Church, Antlers youth leader Kari Session, Sarah Eddy of the Salvation Army, and Jay Sheplar and Wilbur Pettett of St. Mary's Church.

McLeansboro Elks take care of their young

McLeansboro Lodge 1882 earlier this summer donated 52 backpacks and a check for $250 to Wabash Area Development Inc. to buy school supplies for students who need them. Lodge Trustee Jim Melton hands the check to WADI representative Michi Halligan, accompanied by fellow representative Maranda Pedigo.

McLeansboro Elks 1882 Past Exalted Ruler Jim Melton and Exalted Ruler Bryan Heil present Katherine Drone a plaque and $750 check for placing second in the Illinois Elks Association Teen of the Year program. Top recipients of the award were honored at the IEA Annual Meeting in May.

George from Page 3

in your community in a positive way.

I know everyone is tired of hearing about growing our membership, but it is necessary to make the Elks a viable organization to promote great programs and enjoy fellowship as well. It has been a positive in my life and hopefully in yours as well!

I wish that all of our lodges have a productive and successful year. Work hard and you will be surprised by the fun that can be created along the way. Good luck!

LODGE

Salem Elks spread the wealth of ENF grants

Salem Lodge 1678 earmarked proceeds from two Elks National Foundation grants totaling $4,000 to five community groups earlier this year.

The Marion County Diaper Ministry, operated by Grace United Methodist Church, Salem, received $750 of a $2,500 Gratitude Grant to hand out diapers monthly to qualified families.

Another $750 in Gratitude Grant proceeds went to the Youth Invasion program of Grace Church of the Nazarene, Salem, to help residents with small projects around the homes and yards, including building wheelchair ramps.

Salem Community High School received $500 in Gratitude Grant funds for its SCHS Closet program to provide shoes, shirts, coats and backpacks to students who need them.

Also receiving $500 of the grant was the Salem Little League to sponsor a team and help fund the league.

The $1,500 Anniversary Grant was awarded to the Marion County Health Department to buy home test kits to screen for colorectal cancer.

Members of Salem Lodge 1678 presented a donation to the Diaper Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church earlier this year to church representatives Rae DeLao (middle) and Lori Harvey (right). Salem Elks from left are: Loyal Knight Mark Gibson, Exalted Ruler Mike Hooe, Leading Knight Nick Parker, and Trustees Mike Phillips, Mike Morton, Bob Lafenhagen and Leon Chapman.

At the check presentation to assist Salem Grace Church of the Nazarene, from left, are: Loyal Knight Mark Gibson, church representative Tom Paulsom, Leading Night Nick Parker, Trustees Mike Phillips and Mike Morton, church representative Trent Ice, and Trustees Bob Lafenhagen and Leon Chapman, and Exalted Ruler Mike Hooe.

At the check presentation to benefit the Salem Community High School Wildcat Closet, from left, are: Loyal Knight Mark Gibson, Exalted Ruler Mike Hooe, Leading Night Nick Parker, Trustees Mike Phillips, Mike Morton, Bob Lafenhagen and Leon Chapman, and school Principal John Boles.

At the check presentation to assist the Marion County Health Department, from left, are: Loyal Knight Mark Gibson, Exalted Ruler Mike Hooe, Leading Knight Nick Parker, Health Department Director Lori Ryan, Trustees Mike Phillips, Mike Morton and Bob Lafenhagen, and Sue Andrews of the county Health Department, and Trustee Leon Chapman.

Joliet Elks support cancer research

Lodge raises $3,600 at Relay for Life

Joliet Lodge 296 raised more than $3,600 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in June at Joliet Memorial Stadium. Participating members, from left, are Frank Mlyniec, Jim Gibbons,Trustee Steve Rande, Lecturing Knight Karen Johnson, Mary Mlyniec, Trustee Karen Bellot, Exalted Ruler David Schultz and Carol Voigts. Members also presented the colors for the opening ceremonies and manned a booth to support cancer research and promote the lodge. The lodge has undertaken several fundraisers for cancer throughout the year. Relay For Life is a community-based fundraising event. Each year, more than 5,000 Relay For Life events take place in more than 20 countries.

Salem youth wins IEA Student of Year for 2017-18

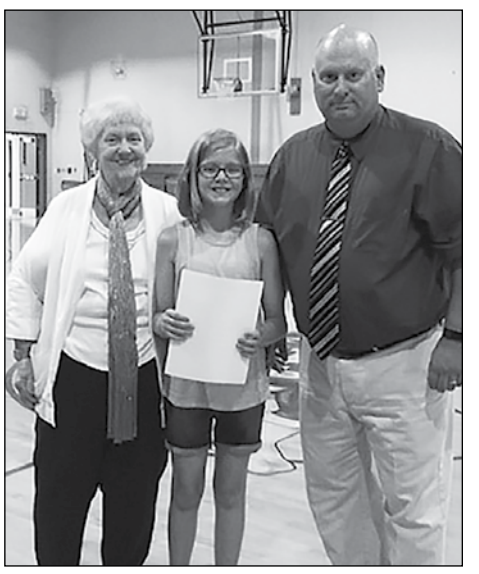
Salem Lodge 1678 awarded Salem Community High School senior Max Phillips as the IEA Student of the Year. Phillips received the award from Salem Elk Carla Hooe at the school's senior awards program.

DeKalb Elks put ENF grant to use for kids camp

DeKalb Lodge 765 members in July served pizza and ice cream to campers at Camp Maple Leaf in DeKalb. Exalted Ruler Angela Hudson and lodge ENF Chair Steff Barringer present a check to Kishwaukee Special Recreation Association Director Julie Eggleston. The lodge donated the food and $2,400 toward next year's campers, putting to good use an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant. Camp Maple Leaf is an integrated summer camp offered through KSRA, which has served DeKalb County and area communities for 35 years. Camp Maple Leaf provides children ages 4 and older, and of all abilities, a fun and rewarding summer. Campers participate in age-specific and age-appropriate group activities and join in whole-camp fun. Elroy was there as well handing out Drug Awareness Program coloring books to the 65 children participating at the camp.

LODGE

Mt. Carmel Lodge recognizes its winners of IEA Americanism Essay Contest



LEFT PHOTO: Mt. Carmel Lodge 715 recognized its winners of the IEA Americanism Essay Contest in Wabash County earlier this year. Lodge Americanism Chair Louise Acree, right, presented awards to the winners at St. Mary's School. From left are: St. Mary's Principal Cindy Grogan, Kali Walker (third in fifth-sixth grades), Molly Rafferty (first in seventh-eighth grades and first at District) and Madison Stevens (first in fifth-sixth). CENTER: Receiving an award from Acree at Allendale School was Hallie Courter (second in fifth-sixth), accompanied by Principal Bob Bowser. RIGHT: At Mt. Carmel Junior High School, Acree recognized Carli Merritt (second, seventh-eighth), Owen Dougherty (third in seventh-eighth) and Principal Steve Holt.

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Notice to candidates

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

Contest 'A' bragging rights at stake

IEA Lodge Activities Chairman Dennis Bierman has a suggestion for 2018-19 exalted rulers of lodges that competed in the Grand Lodge All American Lodge Contest A in 2017-18.

"Place a bet of a good meal or your favorite beverage with the past exalted ruler that you can lead your lodge to a better score than that of the past year," Bierman said in his year-end report. "In that way, you can only help your lodge to grow."

Current ER's should point to March 15. That's when they need file the Contest A form to show what they've done to lead their lodges throughout the year. The more points lodges accumulate based on the form, the better their score.

The form is posted at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/filescontestALodgeCertification.pdf.

"This contest is the best way to judge the performance of a lodge in comparison to past and future years," Bierman said. "I ask that new exalted rulers look at this program and use it to improve their year."

Bierman, who completed his fourth year as IEA Lodge Activities chairman in 2017-18, said his committee has focused on helping lodges coordinate with Grand Lodge programs, including Contest A.

"Through district chairs, we let the lodges know of deadlines and opportunities," he said. "Thanks to all the district LA chairs who helped in the past year."

Another way of emphasizing how lodges can honor those who serve both their lodges and communities is through the Elk of the Year program.

The award request form (PDF) is posted at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm. March 31 is the deadline for requesting awards for 2018-19.

CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

Lodges sole source of CCC funding

The Illinois Elks Association major state project, the Children's Care Corporation, relies solely on the support of Illinois Elks to fund its programs to benefit its special kids.

"The CCC only works because of you," IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said of Illinois Elks members. "Without your support we could not provide for the abundance of children we help each and every year."

The IEA assesses no per-capita funding requirement to support the CCC. It exists through the 69 IEA lodges and their planned fund-raising functions, and through the CCC's three annual mailings to Illinois Elks to sell them HoDo pins, raffle tickets and benefit calendars.

Total contributions for 2017-18 amounted to $290,400.

For 92 years the CCC has been helping kids through direct assistance and scholarships for students studying physical and occupational therapy, making this project one of the oldest and continuous state major projects in Elkdom.

STATE

Lodges advised: Stay on top of online charitable filings

IEA lodges are reminded to report their charitable works at http://www.elks.org/clms2web monthly, leading to a year-end filing on May 1.

Grand Lodge depends on those charity reports to retain its charity tax filing status.

The "Local Lodge Volunteer, Youth, Charitable and Community Service Programs" report form is contained in the back of the Charity Records Workbook, which is mailed annually to lodges.

"We need each and every lodge in Illinois to report their charitable hours, both accurately and on time."

The workbook may also be downloaded at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/.

IEA Government Relations Chair Ali Orr, in her 2017-18 annual report, said Grand Lodge suggests that lodges compile their statistics quarterly and post them on their lodge bulletin boards, monthly newsletters and e-mail blasts.

"Another good place to share this is with your local elected officials," Orr said. "Let them know what the Elks are doing, and invite them to one of your charitable events or lodge functions."

She quoted the 2018-19 Grand Lodge budget projecting $33.8 million in distributions: $12.4 million to lodges and community grants, $9.6 million to state major projects, $4.6 million in scholarships, $1 million to Hoop Shoot, $709,680 to Drug Awareness and $325,900 in miscellaneous grants.

She said the BPOE's 150th anniversary this year is also a good opportunity to show what the Elks do in Illinois and nationally.

"The main way we can do this is by keeping detailed records of all the awesome things that we are doing for our communities," Orr said. "We need each and every lodge in Illinois to report their charitable hours, both accurately and on time."

Careful what you post online; bias training help available

If it can't be printed on the front page of the local newspaper, don't put it online.

Those are words of caution from IEA Judiciary Chair Ali Orr in her year-end 2017-18 committee report, emphasizing that negative comments and photos posted on social media can cast an image that Elks do not want to portray.

"Please talk to your officers and let it be known that sexual discrimination will not be tolerated in any way."

"Always show a positive image of your lodge and Order," she said, suggesting that lodges consider addressing internet use in their house rules.

Moreover, educating both members and lodge employees on existing local and state laws and regulations is important to avoid potential lawsuits for the lodge, IEA or Grand Lodge.

"One important law would be to respect copyrights, especially on social media or advertisements," Orr said. "The use of anything that is copyrighted could lead to the lodge being taken to court."

And make sure lodges avoid sexual harassment.

"Please talk to your officers and let it be known that sexual harassment will not be tolerated in any way," she said, suggesting including a zero tolerance policy in lodge bylaws and house rules.

For assistance, the Grand Lodge Discrimination and Harassment Guidelines for Local Lodges is posted at https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/.

Orr also advised that lodges with swimming pools make sure that pool access is limited to Elks members and registered guests, cautioning, "Lodges that do not follow this, put their lodge, this association and Grand Lodge at huge risk of liability."

CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

Free orthopedic clinics through 2018

For information, call 800-272-0074

	CLINIC	HELD AT	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	**Carmi Elks** 8:00 - 9:00 AM	Wabash Christian Therapy & Medical Center 1112 Oak Street - **Carmi** Dr. Justin Miller	Wednesday 15			Wednesday 7	
2	**Champaign-Urbana Elks** 8:30 - 10:30 AM	Presence Covenant Medical Center 1405 W. Park Street, Suite 306 - **Urbana** Dr. James McKechnie		Tuesday 11			Tuesday 11
3	**Dixon Elks** 8:00 AM	**Dixon Clinic** - Morrison Hospital - 303 N. Jackson St. - **Morrison** Dr. David Yeager			Thursday 25		
4	**Effingham** 8:00 AM	Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic 1303 W. Evergreen Avenue - **Effingham** Dr. Timothy Gray				Thursday 15	
5	**Elgin Elks** 2:00 - 5:00 PM	Sherman Hospital 1425 N. Randall Road - **Elgin** Dr. Vincent Cannestra				Monday 12	
6	**Flora Elks** 9:00 AM	Clay County Flora Medical Clinic 929 Stacey Burk Drive - **Flora** Dr. Timothy Gray		Wednesday 12			
7	**Galesburg Elks** 8:00 - 9:30 AM	Galesburg Clinic 3315 N. Seminary Drive - **Galesburg** Dr. Steven Potaczek	Tuesday 14			Tuesday 13	
8	**IVCH Elks Clinic** **M**endota Elks & Oglesby Elks 12:30 - 2:30 PM	Illinois Valley Community Hospital 925 West Street, Main Floor - **Peru** Dr. Richard Erickson	Thursday 9		Thursday 11		
9	**Joliet Elks** 4:00 - 5:30 PM	Hinsdale Orthopedic - Joliet Office 951 Essington Road - **Joliet** Dr. Bradley Dworsky	Tuesday 7			Tuesday 6	
10	**Lincoln Elks** 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital 200 Stahlhut Drive - **Lincoln** Dr. Tomasz Borowiecki, Nathaniel Gregoire, PA-C			Tuesday 9		
11	**Mt. Carmel Elks** 8:30 - 10:30 AM	Wabash General Hospital Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine Clinic 1527 College Drive - **Mount Carmel** Dr. Julko Fullop		Friday 7			Friday 14
12	**Mt. Vernon Elks** 3:00 - 5:00 PM	Neuromuscular Orthopaedic Institute 302 Broadway - **Mount Vernon** Dr. Alan Froehling	Friday 10		Friday 26		
13	**Northwest District Elks Clinic at Rockford** 2:00 - 4:00 PM	OrthoIllinois 324 Roxbury Road - **Rockford** Dr. Scott Ferry			Wednesday 24		
14	**Princeton Elks** 8:30 - 10:30 AM	Perry Memorial Hospital 530 Park Avenue East - **Princeton** Dr. Richard Erickson	Thursday 9		Thursday 11		
	Robinson Elks 9:00- 11:00 AM	CMH Bone & Joint Center 1000 N. Allen St., Suite C - **Robinson** Dr. Twee Do		Wednesday19			Wednesday19
15	**Rock Island Elks** 2:30 - 4:30 PM	ORA Orthopedics 520 Valley View Dr. - **Moline** Dr. Michael Pyevich	Tuesday 21			Tuesday 27	
16	**South District Elks Clinic at DuQuoin** 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Marshall Browning Hospital 900 North Washington Street - **DuQuoin** Dr. Alan Froehling	Friday 31			Friday 30	

Calendar winners for May-July

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation has announced its calendar-drawing winners for May-July. They are:

May – Michael Himmes, Des Plaines; Brenda Hunt, DeKalb; William J. Thomas, Joliet; Nicholas K. French, Pana; Jay Coleman, West Frankfort; Tracie Fishburn, Carlinville; Casey L. Boyett, Carlinville; Kathleen M. Olson, Ottawa; Kathy Faircloth, Fairview Heights; PER Association, Peoria; Larry G. Vaughn, Cairo; Jan Campbell*, Carbondale; Janet & Kevin Kennedy, Oak Lawn; Douglas L. Carr, Murphysboro; Dennis Armour, Carlinville; George A. Bratsos, III, Beardstown; Mark Hachigian, Des Plaines; Robert W. Williams, Watseka; Travis Elliott, Dixon; Paula Anderson, Des Plaines; Brenda Veronda, Ottawa; Randy Barnett, McLeansboro; Kendall Pemberton, Elgin.

June – Tom Maxwell, Centralia; Gloria Sims, Sycamore; Richard Pitcher, Cairo; David Bruce, Springfield; Don Schillinger, Jacksonville; Jim Stephens, Carmi; Jackie Keller, Kankakee; Mark J. Pawlowski, Des Plaines; David Rose, McLeansboro; Jim Miller**, Elmhurst; Alicia Westjohn, Effingham; Karen M. Tillman, Mendota; Dean Welch, Jacksonville; Wilson G. Park*, Springfield; Jack Krause, Chicago Northshore; Sam Sonneborn, Carlinville; David A. Svenden, Des Plaines; Larry W. Stack, Springfield; Robert & Eileen Rice, Chicago Northshore; Molly Bohnsack, Galena; Wayne J. Reichling, Jr., Belleville;

July – Ray Burnside, Ottawa; David Hodges, Sr., Cairo; James D. Woomer**, Olney; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pottinger, Mendota; Tom Walsh, Centralia; Lauralee Ryan, Murphysboro; Brad Tadlock, Fairfield; Randy Dalton, Champaign – Urbana; Bill & Linda Whitman, DuQuoin; John Daniel Ragan, Harrisburg; Hunter Lyndon Kurth, Dixon; Tom Walsh, Champaign-Urbana; Rick McKinley*, Robinson;

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

IECCC wins Five Star Award, its eighth since 2006

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation received the Grand Lodge Five Star Award for its display booth at the Elks National Convention in San Antonio in July. IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said the latest Five Star Award is the IECCC's eighth since 2006. Also in San Antonio, Block said, the IECCC had its best three and a half days of sales, grossing $15,653. "That's a lot of ties, scarves, pins and lanyards," he said.

Lodges reap $129,275 largess to fund 70 Children's Care scholarships

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation has earmarked $129,275 in scholarships for 2018-19.

Judging was completed for 2018-19 Physical/Occupational Graduate and Assistant Programs earlier this year. A total of 97 applications from 22 lodges from all four IEA-service areas were submitted.

"We are proud to say the Children's Care Program will be awarding 70-plus student scholarships totaling more than $129,275," CCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said.

The students have been notified by letter of their award. Those students who did not receive an award have also been notified; in those cases the student simply did not score high enough to receive an award, Block said.

"Please note this application has become very competitive with many more excellent graduates applying."

This is a six-year major program and two-year assistance program, and Block encourages all students seeking this career to reapply whether they receive a scholarship or not. For students aspiring to be a PT/OT therapist, the 2019-20 application will be available Dec. 1 at www.illinoiselksccc.org.

Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

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

Award winners for 2018-19 are:

■ **Area 1, East Central District** – Effingham Lodge, Morgan Deters, Ashley Goeckner, Madeline Hartke, Caitlin Kaufman, Michelle Schmidt, Jessica Schumacher and Chandra Smith; Robinson Lodge, Meredith Brown, Kelsie Harper, Micah Murphy, Sydney Ogle, Rhiannon Pearse, Megan Sanders, Kendyl Surrells and Jack Webster; Champaign-Urbana Lodge, Keely Smith.

District total, $32.475.

West Central District – Quincy Lodge, Christopher Dietrich, Nicholas Dietrich, Amanda Gross and Taylor Smith; Springfield Lodge, Sarah Gehres, Hope Lang, Brooke Metzger and Harrison St. Clair; Belleville Lodge, Kaitlynn Borik, Caitlin Busch, Kristen Busch, Natalie Gass, Amanda Kaltwasser, Sarah Kuester, Alyssa Pellmann, Grace Reeves, Kristin Rein, Ashley Sauzek, Megan Scheibel, Megan Seibel and Kelsey Weatherford; Fairview Heights Lodge, Sierra Wittenauer; Jacksonville Lodge, Alex Bertman and Carlee Hively; Beardstown Lodge, Jill Harris and Addison Lagemann; Granite City Lodge, Kelsey Cunningham and Haley James; Carlinville Lodge, Arlen Magelitz.

District total, $49,300; Area 1 grand total, $81,775.

■ **Area 2, North District** – Des Plaines Lodge, Alina Wallin. District total, $2,250.

Northwest District – Freeport Lodge, Devin Hartman and Alexandra Perry; Dixon Lodge, Ethan Rocca; Galena Lodge, Kyle Wienen; Princeton Lodge, Alyssa Thompson; Oglesby Lodge, Steffan O'Brien.

District total, $12,050. Area 2 grand total, $14,600.

■ **Area 3, South District** – Murphysboro Lodge, Carly Carril, Mackenzie Grefe and Issiac Wingerter; Benton Lodge, Logan Buckner. District total, $7,350.

South Central District – Centralia Lodge, Bethany Coffey, Sydney Hitpas, Lauren Smith and Jacob Teleger; Mt. Carmel Lodge, Jayla Schwarzlose; Mt. Vernon Lodge, Divya Merchant; Olney Lodge, Lexanna Kocher.

District total, $11,250. Area 3 grand total, $18,600.

■ **Area 4, East District** – Joliet Lodge, Klarissa Aldridge, Alyssa Callans and Olivia Perozzi; Streator Lodge, Mikayla Greenwood. District total, $6,650.

West District – Peoria Lodge, Ashlyn Rulis and Carly Slagel; Lincoln Lodge, Rachel Durchholz.

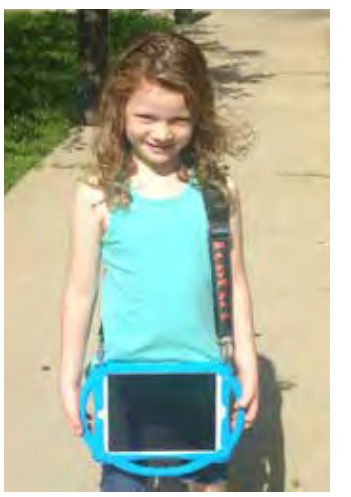
District total, $7,650. Area 4 grand total, $14,300.

Overall Grand total, $129,275.

Thank you, Illinois Elks!

Lodge donations provided the funding for the lift enabling Dalton to board the family van. The family remarked in a letter to the IECCC, "*The Illinois Elks for Children were instrumental in this family securing a nice, safe vehicle for Dalton's travels (as is the case with all of the families you guys help out.) It doesn't take long to see the joy on Dalton's face when he first got in the van, and I can assure you that Mom was smiling just as big. Thanks again, Bill.*"

The Elks Children's Care Corporation made it happen for Hunter with a new set of wheels. "Hunter says thank you for the new wheels," his family said." It came just in time for his 11th birthday today! Thank you so very much!"



Madison just received her new communications device, one of the Children's Care most sought after item.