



# Illinois Elks Association Newsette



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MID-WINTER 2018

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## Lodge membership leaders in spotlight

### Metropolis tops Brookfield with focus on civic involvement

Metropolis Lodge 1428 parlayed increased community involvement, more lodge events and reliance on the internet to post the largest percentage membership gain among IEA lodges in 2017-18.

Metropolis Lodge increased its membership to 159 from 140, posting a 13.6 percent gain for the year, eclipsing Brookfield Lodge 1510's 13.2 percent increase.

Both lodges were recognized at the dinner highlighting the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield. 2017-18 IEA President Dave Jurmu awarded Metropolis Lodge \$500 and Brookfield \$250 for their efforts.

Setting the stage for Metropolis Lodge's membership gain was its application of Elks National Foundation Beacon and Gratitude grants in 2016-17 to begin funding those membership-generating community activities, Exalted



The IEA, at its fall meeting in Springfield, honored Metropolis 1428 and Brookfield 1510 lodges for winning first and second place, respectively, for net gain in membership in 2017-18. 2017-18 IEA President Dave Jurmu recognized Metropolis Exalted Ruler Lyndal Qualls, left photo, and Brookfield ER Vicki Rolewicz, right photo, on behalf of their lodges. Metropolis posted a 13.6 percent membership increase, and was awarded \$500. Brookfield won \$250 with a 13.2 percent membership increase.



Ruler Mark Jones said.

Jones took the lead in applying for the grants at the request of 2017-18 lodge ER Adron Henley.

Those initial grants paid for cooling fans for those who needed them, in addition to school supplies and pool passes

for pre-school children. Lodge members and other community groups pitched in to distribute the fans and school supplies.

"This process allowed us to become more involved with other community groups," demonstrating that the Elks are all about improving the

community, Jones said.

For 2017-18, Metropolis Lodge was awarded three more ENF grants – Gratitude, Beacon and Anniversary awards.

In addition to the increased community involvement, the

Please See **ROLLS**, Page 2

## Holidays a busy time for already busy lodges

Merry Christmas to all! During the next few weeks, Elks across Illinois will be very busy with family and friends this holiday season. During December, Santa visits the children, and lodges collect food and canned goods for the needy.

Lodges, remember to collect your \$1,500 state grant. You have earned it through your donations to the Elks National Foundation. Your state secretary, Marvin Leathers, needs to have the information by Dec. 31. Call Marvin or send him an e-mail. Collect the money you deserve, and use it accordingly within your community.

**IEA first vice  
president  
Greg  
Verdun**



Membership, membership, membership! Effingham has more than 50 new members this year. Do not let new applicants sit waiting to be initiated. Fast track their orientation and ritual and involve them in your next

activity at the lodge. Have your seasoned members welcome these new members when they attend

lodge functions. Do not allow members who came in the front door go out the back door. Lodge Lapsation Chairmen should be reaching out so we do not lose these members in March.

Please See **GREG**, Page 2

### Deiens recovering from crash

IEA President Tom Deien and his wife, Brenda, were involved in an accident on Interstate 57 near Salem about 9 p.m. Oct. 10.

They were taken by ambulance to Mt. Vernon Hospital and airlifted to St. Louis University Hospital, to undergo surgery.

Tom had serious injuries to his left arm, broken ribs, broken sternum and a fracture in his right leg. After the surgery, Tom was placed in ICU for four weeks. He had four additional surgeries during the 28 days in ICU.

On Nov. 7, Tom was transferred for rehabilitation to Select Specialty Care at Missouri Baptist Hospital, 3015 N. Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO 63301, Room 514. Tom is looking at an extended road to a complete recovery.

Brenda had a broken right wrist and hand, right ankle, foot and toes, left knee, and a fractured sternum and tailbone. She was at St. Louis University Hospital until Oct. 17. She was transferred to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon, IL, and released on Oct. 24. She is rehabbing at her sister's home in Salem.

Tom and Brenda would like to thank Elks across Illinois for their thoughts, prayers, and cards during this difficult time. They can not wait to be reunited with their Elks friends.

– Submitted by IEA First Vice President Greg Verdun



## STATE

# 'Tis the season... for lodges to welcome district deputy visits

Beth and I missed being with those of you who attended the Fall Convention in September.

Most of you have probably heard by now that after the passing of Past Grand Exalted Ruler Ted Callicott in May, I was appointed as sponsor of the Missouri Elks Association. Unfortunately, their Fall Convention was scheduled for the same weekend as Illinois's and we felt it was important to attend that convention being it was our first with them. I would like to thank Grand Secretary and IEA Past President Bryan Klatt and his wife Sue for covering our duties for us that weekend.

IEA  
sponsor  
F. Louis  
Sulsberger PGER



December is here and with it brings the last of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler visits throughout our districts. Our dedicated DD's and their staffs do an outstanding job representing Grand Lodge and should be commended for their commitment to our Order. Please remember that they are a resource for you and your lodges. They are available to assist you in any way that is

needed.

Members, I hope you have heard by now of the serious car accident our state president and first lady were in. Tom and Brenda Deien were both seriously injured in the accident, which occurred in October. Please take the time to read on Page 1 of the Newsette the details of what they went through and how they are doing.

I know Tom and Brenda have the prayers and good wishes from everyone throughout the state and we thank you for that. They are great ambassadors of our Order and we wish them well and look forward to their

recovery so we can all be together again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the state officers who have stepped up and taken care of Tom and Brenda's duties in their absence – another example of how *"Elks Care – Elks Share."*

Plans are being completed for the Illinois Elks Association Mid-Winter Meeting in January. This is where we welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Luhr and First Lady Barbara to the great state of Illinois for their official visit. The Luhrs are the first ever GER and First Lady from Alaska. A slate of activities will keep them busy

as they witness the commitment and dedication the Illinois Elks have for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. We know they will take away with them many good thoughts and lasting memories from their visit with us. Thank you for your part in making this possible.

Beth and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their friendship and support this past year. We send best wishes to you and your families for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2019!

God bless you all.

## Push for members a group effort

It took a group effort led by the Metropolis Lodge officers to win the IEA award for percentage membership gain in 2017-18. Front, from left, they are: Exalted Ruler Mark Jones, Lecturing Knight Jeff Webber, Trustees Perry Dailey and Adron Henley, and Esquire Kathye Rose. In back are Secretary Mark Hunter, Leading Knight Lance Loftus, Loyal Knight Erik Schmidt, Chaplain Steve Johnson and Mark May, South District Junior Trustee of Herrin Lodge.



## Rolls from Page 1

lodge House Committee, led by Kathye Rose and Lance Loftus, began adding more live music at the lodge, in addition to its normal lodge activities.

"These events brought more members into the lodge... and these members brought guests," Jones said. "Once the guests experienced the close-knit 'family' atmosphere, they wanted to join."

"We also held a membership drive, which we had not done in many years."

Jones said that with the increased effort in community activities and Lodge events, the lodge expanded its reach into the community by increasing its posts on the lodge Facebook site to show every activity with which the lodge was involved.

"If we donated money, we posted," Jones said. "When we had music, we posted. When we installed floor locks at the school, we posted."

"We kept the members and community updated with what we were doing."

The community began to see what exactly it is the Elks do. The posts focused on the community events and the upcoming social events.

"We tried to limit posts highlighting the social events after they occurred," Jones added. "We wanted to try to change the perception that the lodge was about the events. We wanted people to see the Lodge as a community organization."

"People wanted to become a part of this group. When you combine these three aspects, the sum total of the efforts led to more members."

IEA officials emphasize the need to retain existing members as much as attracting new members. But Jones was candid that the lodge made no special effort to retain current members.

"I believe that many had a renewed interest with the changes we made," he said.

For other lodges looking to boost membership, Jones had some advice.

"I would recommend to be your own best cheerleader," he said. "Let people know what you are doing, but focus on the community activities. When you have a big event coming up, post about it and encourage people to share the post for more views."

Be sure not to post lodge events too soon before the event, or else people will forget about it," Jones cautioned.

"I try to post about a week to five days before the event, unless it is one that needs prepped."

Also, post routinely," he said, alluding the first rule of advertising: Repeat the message.

"We try (not always successful) to post once per week. I try to keep people on the hook without overkill."

All good advice ... from the 2017-18 IEA lodge membership leader.

## Greg from Page 1

Our state meeting will be in Springfield, between Jan. 24-27. We will host Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr and his wife Barbara. Since January will be cold, give them a very warm Elks welcome.

Brenda Deien will be hosting eight ladies from around Illinois at the ladies luncheon. One woman who is dedicated to Elks causes will be named as our Lady of the Year.

All of our districts will be holding their Hoop Shoots in January. The winners will advance to the state contest in Decatur on Feb. 23. If you would like to help in Decatur, contact Jim Swisher at 815-341-

4072.

During February 2018, our Order celebrated 150 years of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In Illinois, our Children's Care Corporation turned 85 years old. CCC has been providing services such as braces, wheelchairs, and physical/occupational therapy to children in need across Illinois. Elks are dedicated to easing the daily burden of a child's physical impairment. I urge members across the state to support this noble cause.

A full and strong slate of officers is needed to guide a lodge throughout the year. During February, we will be nominating and electing officers and trustees. Consider being a leader of your lodge.



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

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

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

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## STATE

## Let's shoot for 100 percent participation in Hoop Shoot and other state projects

If you're like me, the year has gone by way too fast. With that said, I hope your goals for 2018-19 are accomplished or in the process to make this year another success in Elksdom.

One of our major projects is Hoop Shoot. Hopefully your local chair has already scheduled the Shoot. We are still trying to get 100 percent participation from the districts. Please make it a reality as it's

IEA  
treasurer

George  
Hornung



a load of fun for the kids and parents alike.

Another great project is the Americanism essay contest. The essay submission deadlines are Dec. 15 to the lodge and Jan. 31

to your district. Make sure the youth in your lodge are aware and get involved.

There are other projects the state promotes throughout the year. Make sure your lodge takes advantage of them.

We just celebrated Veterans Day. I hope everyone took the time to honor the veterans who served to protect this great nation. Make sure you show them the respect they so richly

deserve.

The first Sunday of December is for our memorial service to honor our deceased members. It's just part of Elksdom.

Remember the Elks National Foundation goal award for \$4.75 per-member contributions has to be requested by the end of December. Every lodge that qualified for the \$1,500 grant can find a very worthwhile use for it!

As we move into the holiday season, I hope it brings joy and happiness to all!

Last of all, keep your thoughts and prayers in your hearts for President Tom and First Lady Brenda. They have experienced a horrible car accident and both are in rehab. We all want to wish them the best.

Have another great year in the IEA. Fraternally, George.

### Website, Newsette win Grand Lodge media awards



IEA Webmaster Craig Smith, accompanied by IEA President Tom Deien, displays the plaque for winning the 2017-18 Grand Lodge Four Star Award for the IEA website. He received the award at the IEA fall meeting in Springfield.



Newsette Editor Joe Baker displays the plaque for winning the 2017-18 Grand Lodge Five Star Award on behalf of the Illinois Elks Publication Corporation, which publishes the Newsette. He received the award from IEA President Tom Deien, left, and Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt. The award was the corporation's 11th Five Star Award since 2002-03. (It did not apply for the award in 2013-14 through 2016-17.)

## Our thoughts are with the Deiens; Applications due for lodge awards

Let me start by stating that our prayers and thoughts are with President Tom and First Lady Brenda! Plan on seeing Tom very soon.

Remember Dec. 31. That's when lodges, which are to receive the \$1,500 award from the Illinois Elks Association for making the state president's goal last year, must e-mail me how they are going to spend the award for community service. Please don't let this award go unused!

At our January state meeting, we have the honor of having our special guests, Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr and First Lady Barbara. They will bring a special message to the Elks of Illinois. We will be able to tell our story of all the great things we do for the Elks. Also at the banquet, we will have the winner of the Enrique Camarena Award.

IEA  
secretary

Marvin  
Leathers



Also at the January state meeting, I will be passing out forms for the 2019-20 state directory to all lodge secretaries who will be there, in addition to senior trustees. These forms must be back to me by March 5.

Please be sure, when filling out these forms, that all the information is correct! Our directory is used by many members to get in touch with one another, and the contact information must be correct.

Thank you all for your help with the state directory.

In closing let me say to all, have a very merry Christmas and a very great New Year!

## IEA membership gain possible for 2017-18

The IEA is on pace to post its first membership gain in decades.

"If we keep up our current pace," IEA lapsed chairman Merle Evans, said, "Illinois could see a membership gain this year (in 2017-18).

"Let us all go forth and do our best to recapture the delinquent members in our respective lodges."

The IEA was poised for a membership resurgence in 2016-17 when it finished in the top half of state associations in fewest delinquencies from being among the worst three state

associations the previous year.

That statistic came from Grand Lodge Membership and Public Relations Manager Rick Gathen who addressed both the IEA Membership and Lapsation Committees at the IEA Fall Meeting.

Gathen emphasized getting new initiates involved in the lodge to keep them as members.

Gathen reacquainted meeting attendees with the Grand Lodge membership tool kit posted at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/membership/>, which can be used to contact and work with delinquent members.

IEA Membership Co-Chairmen Chris Ord and Robin Lemay also touted the benefits of the membership toolkit in boosting lodge membership.

"All lodges should visit this website and take advantage of the free material that can be downloaded and printed" in an effort gain and retain members, Ord and Lemay said.

"If any lodge needs some help, or wants to share ideas, please feel free to contact us. We all need to work together to bring in new members."

## IEA Hoop Shoot scheduled Feb. 23 in Decatur

The 2018-19 IEA Hoop Shoot is scheduled for Feb. 23, headquartered in Decatur Conference Center and Hotel.

The Shoot will be at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 4735 E. Cantrell St, Decatur, pending school board approval.

Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher, in his report at the Fall Meeting, called on lodges to get more youths involved in Hoop Shoot.

"I'm asking all would you help out your lodge and your Elks to keep this program

moving forward," he said.

Swisher also asked lodge Hoop Shoot directors to let him know the dates and times of their lodge events. He may be e-mailed at [swishiv@consolidated.net](mailto:swishiv@consolidated.net).



### Joe Ray named IEA Secretary of Year

Centralia Lodge 493 Secretary Joe Ray was honored as the 2017-18 IEA Secretary of the Year at the dinner highlighting the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield. Presenting the award and offering their congratulations to Ray are 2017-18 IEA President Dave Jurmu and Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt.



# Mid-Winter Convention

*Honoring our  
Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr  
and First Lady Barbara*



**Jan. 24-27, 2019 ■ Wyndham-Springfield City Centre**

## Thursday, Jan. 24

10:30 AM-5 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4  
1-4 PM Executive Committee – Conference Ctr 3

## Friday, Jan. 25

7 AM-5 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4  
8-10 AM Executive Committee – Conference Ctr 3  
10-11:30 AM Convention Committee

– Rendezvous  
Noon-7 PM Convention Registration  
– Mezzanine, Registration Desk  
1-4 PM Advisory Committee – Rendezvous  
1-10 PM Ritual Contest Practice – Embassy  
7-9 PM Past State President Dinner – Illinois

## Saturday, Jan. 26

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

11 AM-Noon National Veterans Service – Plaza 1  
11 AM-Noon Scholarship – Conference Ctr 2  
Noon-1:30 PM Lady of the Year Luncheon – Illinois  
Entrée: Ham & Swiss cheese on Kaiser Roll  
With cup of Soup Dessert: Chef's selection  
Cost: Pre Reg-\$20/Onsite \$ 22

1:30-2:30 PM Government Relations and  
Judiciary Discussion – Conference Ctr 2  
1:30-2:30 PM Hoop Shoot / Soccer Shoot – Plaza 1  
1:30-2:30 PM Membership/Lapsation/Lodge Activities  
/Orientation – Ambassador  
1:30-2:30 PM Youth Activities & Antlers  
– Conference Ctr 4

1/26/19 1:30 PM 3 : 3 0 P M  
Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation Plaza 3  
1:30-4 PM PGER Meets with Lodges and Individuals  
– Conference Ctr 3

2:30-3:30 PM Bowling Association – Plaza 1  
2:30-3:30 PM Drug Awareness – Conference Ctr 4  
2:30-4:30 PM Website Monitoring/Publication  
Corporation/Public Relation – Conference Ctr 2  
5-6 PM Illinois Elks Association Reception  
– Capitol/Illinois/Prairie

6-9:30 PM Illinois Elks Association Dinner  
– Capitol/Illinois/Prairie

Salad: Seasonal Greens Entrée: Marinated Culotte  
Steak, Yukon Gold Potatoes, Asparagus Dessert:  
S'mores Pie Cost: Preregistration \$29/on Site \$32  
Dress: Dark Business Suit

## Sunday, Jan. 27

6:30-11 AM Convention Office – Plaza 4  
7:30-8 AM Room Reservations  
for the May Convention – Capitol/Illinois  
8-10:30 AM General Business Session  
– Capitol/Illinois

**Members are encouraged to attend the banquet**  
honoring Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr  
and First Lady Barbara on Saturday, Jan. 26

**REGISTRATION FEES:** Pre-Registration \$10/ On-site  
\$20. Pre-Registration deadline is Jan. 9. By pre-  
registering for the convention, lady's 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 Wyndham in planning  
the workshops, luncheon and banquet.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS:** Room Cancellation cut off  
will be Dec. 21, 2018. All mailings must be postmarked  
by Dec. 21 to avoid additional late charges. Rooms  
cancelled after Dec. 21 will forfeit their deposit.

**HOSPITALITY ROOMS:** The Hospitality room  
assignments are determined by the pre-registration  
numbers per district excluding the state president's  
area. The remaining District Hospitality Rooms will be  
assigned following the close of pre-Registration then  
sent to the Jr Trustee.

**All Hospitality Rooms shall be CLOSED** from 6 pm  
until the conclusion of the banquet on Saturday, Jan.  
26 and during all business sessions.

**No one will be permitted in the hospitality rooms**  
without proper convention credentials. Those not  
displaying proper credentials WILL be required to leave.



**HOST LODGE:  
SPRINGFIELD  
#158**

**Registration badges necessary for all functions including hospitality rooms**  
All Elks, male and female, must register for convention functions



## Jan. 9 deadline to pre-register for IEA Mid-Winter meeting

Illinois Elks and guests attending the Mid-Winter Illinois Elks Association Convention, scheduled Jan. 24-27, in Wyndham-Springfield City Centre Hotel, are encouraged to pre-register.

The pre-registration postmark deadline is Jan. 9. All mailings must be postmarked by the posted dates to avoid additional late charges.

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

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

The pre-registration fee is \$10 and \$20 after Jan. 9.

The charge for the Saturday evening dinner is \$29 with pre-registration and \$32 on-site. The ladies luncheon is \$20 with registration and \$22 on-site.

The room cancelation cut off is Dec. 21. Rooms canceled after Dec. 21 will forfeit their deposit.

## Greater participation urged for student awards program

The IEA Youth Activities and Lodge Activities committees are calling on lodges to participate in the Grand Lodge Teen of the Month/Year program.

“This is a great way to introduce the Elks to our youth and to their parents,” Lodge Activities Chairman Dennis Bierman said in his Fall Meeting report.

IEA Youth Activities Chairman Gregg Collins, in his committee report, challenged districts to set a goal of three lodges per district to sponsor a program for 2018-19, which concludes in the spring.

Collins distributed the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Program manual and Teen of the Month/Year information at his committee meeting.

The manual also is available for download at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/>.

Teen of the Month/Year information is posted at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/>

activities/ under the link titled “Student Recognition Programs,” which includes cover letters to both lodges and state associations from Grand Lodge Activities Committee Chairman Steven Davis, a brochure detailing the program, fillable certificates of achievement and promotional posters.

Lodge nominations are due to their respective districts by April 15. Contact information for district Youth Activities chairs is published on Page 65 of the 2018-19 IEA Directory.

District nominations are due to Collins at [collinsgac63@aol.com](mailto:collinsgac63@aol.com) by April 30.

Collins also suggested that lodges celebrate the end of school with a banquet, in which scholarship recipients, Scout participants and winners in both the Americanism essay contest and Teen of the Month/Year program honorees are recognized.

### MUST HAVE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER MEETINGS OR HOSPITALITY ROOMS

<b>Pre-registration Deadline <u>JAN 9, 2019</u></b>	<b>Scott Flota, Chairman Credentials Committee P.O. Box 1484 Mt. Vernon, IL 62864, <a href="mailto:scottflota@gmail.com">scottflota@gmail.com</a> Phone: (618) 316-0219 (text)</b>	<b>Pre-registration Deadline <u>JAN 9, 2019</u></b>
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**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION**  
**Illinois Elks Annual Meeting  
Registration Form  
MID-WINTER CONVENTION JANUARY 24-27 2019  
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel**

Please make a reservation for the following:

**Pre – registration - \$10.00    After JAN 9, 2019---\$20.00**

ELK#1 _____	<u>Non-Elk Spouse</u> _____
ELK#2 ( <u>Only if spouse of Elk #1</u> ) _____	
Lodge _____	No. _____ Dist. _____
Title ELK#1 _____ <b><u>(To be typed on Convention Badge)</u></b>	
Title ELK#2 _____ <b><u>(To be typed on Convention Badge)</u></b>	
Registration Fee @ \$10.00 ALL ELKS (Male and Female) \$ _____ If both male and female are members Both pay fee (no exceptions)	
Ladies Lunch .....	@ \$20.00/\$22.00* \$ _____
Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$29.00/\$32.00*	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____
*Cost of meal if check received post marked after JAN 9, 2019 Or purchased on-site	
Home Address _____	
City _____	Zip _____
Phone (____) _____	E-mail _____

## IEA Veterans Service gets assist from Chicago

The IEA Veterans Service got a helping hand from Sylvia Holman of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission office at the IEA Fall Meeting.

“She gave some very good information on what all we can do to help our veterans. She also informed us what VAVS reps can and can’t spend our funds on,” IEA Veterans Service Chairman Bob Kane said in his fall report.

In other IEA Veterans Service news:

■ Kane said his committee is in the process of adding a new facility, thanks to Murphysboro Lodge 572.

■ Kane thanked Jerry Edwards for his many years of service as VAVS rep at Danville. Edwards is stepping down from the post to tend to family health issues. As a result, Kane said if anyone would like to take over for Edwards to e-mail him at [bobkane8487@gmail.com](mailto:bobkane8487@gmail.com).

■ Re-Creation is to perform in the Chicago area in 2019. “If you

have never been to one of their performances try to see one. They tour all of the United States giving shows to our veterans. Their time is donated and they do this for a year.” Details will be reported as they become available.

■ Local lodges can be reimbursed up to \$200 in eligible expenses to make Welcome Home Kits to give to veterans who need help moving into a new place. Click on “Welcome Home” at <https://www.elks.org/vets/programs.cfm> for information.

## IEA 24th in charitable giving

The IEA ranked 24th nationally in the 2017-18 Grand Lodge Survey of Volunteer, Youth Charitable and Community Service program, amassing \$4.19 million of the \$676 million collected throughout Elksdom.

“While our numbers continue to rise,” IEA Government Relations Chair Ali Orr said, “lodges are still only reporting about 45 percent of all the charitable and volunteer hours that members and non-members perform within their local lodges.

“Every lodge needs to be keeping track of their charitable reports on at least a monthly basis on the Grand Lodge website and submitting their reports for the year no later than May 1 every year.”

In her report at the IEA fall meeting, Orr said Grand Lodge suggests that each lodge 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

Please See **GIVING**, Page 11

STATE

Lodge secretaries, please send in your address corrections

MEMBERSHIP ADDITIONS & CHANGES  
FOR ILLINOIS ELKS MAILING LIST

MAIL TO: ILLINOIS ELKS  
CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION  
1201 N MAIN - PO BOX 222  
CHATHAM IL 62629-0222

FROM: (Person Reporting)

LODGE NAME  
& NUMBER

DATE

REASON FOR LISTING	NAME	MEMBER NUMBER	NEW ADDRESS - STREET CITY - STATE & ZIP	OLD ADDRESS - STREET CITY - STATE & ZIP
NEW MEMBER [ ]				
REINSTATE [ ]				
CHANGE OF ADDRESS [ ]				
DECEASED [ ]				
DEMIT (Drop) [ ]				
NEW MEMBER [ ]				
REINSTATE [ ]				
CHANGE OF ADDRESS [ ]				
DECEASED [ ]				
DEMIT (Drop) [ ]				
NEW MEMBER [ ]				
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In the continuing effort to get Illinois Elks local lodges to send in their address corrections for the Newsette, here is the form for submitting membership additions, changes and corrections to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corp., which maintains the mailing list for the

Newsette on behalf of the Newsette publisher, the Illinois Elks Publication Corp. The form is also posted on the IEA website, IllinoisElks.org. Lodge secretaries are asked to file the completed forms by either mailing them to the CCC at 1201 N. Main,

P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629-0222; e-mailing to helpkids@elks.org or faxing to 217-483-2131. The Publication Co. continues to spend hundreds of dollars every year to pay for address corrections that could be avoided if the CCC mailing list was more accurate.

Publication Corporation asks for help in addressing long-standing money problem

The Illinois Elks Publication Corporation is asking IEA officers of the IEA's eight district sponsors to intervene on its behalf to appeal to local lodges to update their mailing lists.

The corporation has been plagued by more than a decade-old problem of mailing the Newsette to bad addresses, which cost the corporation 58 cents apiece.

The problem is worse with some

mailings more than others, but averages costing the corporation more than \$100 per issue for the Post Office to notify the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation of the bad addresses.

The CCC supplies the mailing list to mail the Newsette, but the Publication Corporation incurs the cost of the bad addresses.

"(From April through July), 31 lodges in the state have not sent any membership additions, changes or corrections to the CCC," Publication Corporation Chairman Mark Bump said in his Fall Meeting report. "Copies of this report have been sent to each district sponsor and the four state officers in hoping that they can encourage the lodges in their district/areas to send these changes on a monthly basis."

Benton, Centralia, Salem, McLeansboro and Jacksonville are the only lodges that have updated their mailing lists in each month from April through July.

Nine others have sent in updates in three of the four months, Galena, Elgin, Des Plaines, Joliet, Watseka, Champaign-Urbana, Fairfield, Beardstown and Carlinville.



## STATE



### Gail Sessler, fifth from the left

Gail Sessler's name was inadvertently omitted from the caption of this photo, which appeared on Page 1 of the fall 2018 *Newsette*. Sessler of Mendota Lodge 1212, fifth from the left, is the 2018-19 district deputy representing the Northwest District. Also installed at the Elks National Convention in San Antonio in July, from left, are: Lyndal 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).

## Guarding against sexual bias is responsibility of local lodges

The IEA Judiciary Committee is stressing to local lodges the importance of making sure sexual harassment is not occurring in their lodges or at their events.

"Please talk to your officers and let it be known that sexual harassment will not be tolerated in any way," IEA Judiciary Chair Ali Orr said in her Fall Meeting report. "It is important that we are educating both members and employees on existing laws and regulations in your respective communities as well as the laws of Illinois so we do not subject ourselves to lawsuits or fines that put our lodges, state association and Grand Lodge in jeopardy."

(For reference, consult the Discrimination and Harassment Guidelines for Local Lodges, which is posted on the Grand Lodge website at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/>)

In another note of caution, Orr said that while the state of Illinois does not prohibit selling Queen of Hearts tickets to the public, it does cause an issue with outside income and lodges' 501 tax status.

"This is why Queen of Hearts tickets must only be sold to members and members' guests," she said.

Also separately, Orr advised lodges and members to be careful in using social media to avoid negative comments and photos that can cast the Elks in a negative light. People increasingly get their news from Facebook than all other sources of news, so be careful with what is put out there.

"Always show a positive image of your lodge and the Order," she said. "Please consider putting the use of the internet in your house rules."

## LOCAL LODGE

## Marion Elks lend their support for a variety of youth programs

### They roll out red carpet for national Hoop Shoot finalist

Scottie Adkinson and his family members and parents, Richard and Bethany Adkinson, got VIP treatment at the lodge earlier this year. Scottie placed seventh in the boys 8-9 division at the Elks National Hoop Shoot in Chicago in April, after winning both the IEA and regional events. Scottie and his family also got a meet-and-greet at the lodge with Marion Mayor Anthony Rinella.



Marion Lodge 800 members, in conjunction with the Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau and Crappie USA, held its annual kids fishing rodeo at the Marion Elks lake property this past summer. Twelve kids caught a total of 140 fish, including 139 bluegill and one catfish.



### Contribute to kids in crisis program

Marion Lodge 800 Secretary Becky Bourland, left, and Exalted Ruler Ted Clendenin, right, present \$2,000 from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to Lindsey Bullman of the Night's Shield, which provides a safe haven to children of families in crisis. They also presented \$1,000 to Camille Doris of the Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless.

### Hold annual fishing rodeo on their lake property



Marion Elks member Adam Eggertsen, who donated the bait, helps bait the hook for one of the kids.



### Oak Lawn Elks assist returning students, surprise a veteran



Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 started the school year off with both its "Back to School Backpack" and "Say No to Drugs" programs in August. More than 225 area students needing school supplies were able to shop and pick up their school essentials. Oak Lawn Elk Lynda Riffice and Elroy (member Ken Neth) greet the children and hand out Drug Awareness information.



Oak Lawn Elks member and current U.S. Army Major Dan Johnson, right, had a pleasant surprise while volunteering at a barbecue that Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 members sponsored for residents of the Manteno Veterans Home in August. Attending from Manteno was Sgt. First Class Bruce Mettlock, left, with whom Johnson served 20 years ago.



Crappie USA, representative Jeremy Coe, left, and Darrell Van Vactor, right, with the 12 aspiring fishing champions.





## STATE

# IEA Soccer Shootout program gains momentum with increased participation



IEA officers Greg Verdun, first vice president; Past President Dave Jurmu; President Tom Deien; and Second Vice President Jeff Rodier led a delegation of Elks members and spouses to congratulate winners of the 2018-19 IEA Soccer Shootout in Rochester in September. The honorees are boys under age 7 winners Carter Sanudo of Kewanee Lodge 724, first, Jackson Fager of Murphysboro 572, second, and Brody White of Robinson 1188, third; girls under 7 winners Raven Copeland of Kewanee, first, and Clara Zine of Robinson, second; boys 12-13 winners Ryan Karback of Pana 1261, first, and P.J. Kloster of Mt. Vernon 819, second; 12-13 girls winner Karsen Manuel of Pana; 10-11 boys winners Corbun Kloster of Mt. Vernon, first, Tyler Beyers of Pana, and Graham Olson of DeKalb 765; 10-11 girls winner Jacey Smith of Charleston 623, first; 8-9 boys winner Daniel Copeland of Kewanee, first, and Liam Beck of Pana (not present); and 8-9 girls winners Julia Kloster of Mt. Vernon, first, and Isabella Slayback of Pana, second.

## Murphysboro top lodge with 40 competitors

The IEA Soccer Shootout attracted more than 250 competitors statewide, culminating in the finals in Rochester on Sept. 29.

"Participation was up this year," co-Director Steve Albrecht said, singling out lodge participation leader Murphysboro Lodge with 40 to earn the lodge \$100.

South and Northwest districts also sponsored district Shootouts for the first time in recent years.

"We are only needing three more districts to hopefully get involved," Albrecht said.

The IEA Shootout was held in Rochester Community Park, southeast of Springfield.

"The venue is a good centrally located place and easy to get to," Albrecht said, "and as long as they are willing to have us we are looking to stay there."

"So thank you, Rochester Park District."

Twenty-two out of 26 qualifying participants competed in Rochester despite rain and other sports commitments that kept a lot of the kids away.

"Getting kids there is always a challenge with school and club commitments," he said.

Moving the event to spring is also under discussion.

The Rochester event didn't lack for help, Albrecht said, thanking IEA President Tom Deien and wife Brenda, First Vice President Greg Verdun and his wife Sue, Second Vice President and his wife Norine, and Past Presidents Dave Jurmu, with wife Rae Marie, and Dennis Gerleman.

He added that he and co-Director Darrell Swisher are looking forward to next year's Shootout.

# Barringtons of Fairview Heights Lodge win IEA Family of Year for 2017-18

Mike and Teresa Barrington of Fairview Heights Lodge 664 can be excused for not being present to receive their 2017-18 IEA Family of the Year Award at the dinner highlighting the IEA Fall Meeting in September.

They were too busy doing the kind of behind-the-scenes work that earned them the honor.

"Sorry we were not at the banquet," Teresa said in an e-mail weeks after the IEA Fall Meeting. "We did not know (we were receiving the award. We were setting up the hospitality room for West Central District."

The couple's help in the hospitality room underscores Fairview Heights Lodge Exalted Ruler Michael Morris' reasons for nominating the Barringtons for IEA Family of the Year.

"The Barrington family of Michael, Teresa and daughter Jennifer is truly what Elksdom is about," Morris said in his nomination letter. "With their many hours of devotion

volunteering, chairmanships, committee participation and endless lodge functions, this family always finds ways to be a part of our lodge actively or simply just attending."

Michael finds time with a full time job to participate in and attend most lodge functions. He takes on side jobs around the lodge and helps in the kitchen or where he is needed.

"He always has a smile and never a negative outlook," Morris said.

Daughter Jennifer, a grade school teacher with two children, is a past lodge ladies president. She is active in lodge functions and helps in the kitchen and serving. She's chaired the lodge Drug Awareness Program the last three years.

"With her direction and help our lodge passed out coloring books and information during Fairview Heights' homecoming parade," Morris said.

Jennifer's husband Paul, also



Mike and Teresa Barrington display their plaque for winning the IEA "Family of the Year" Award for 2017-18.

a past lodge officer, volunteers many hours and helps with the lodge meat shoots.

Even the Barrington grandchildren, Brook and Evan, are involved in Elksdom, raising money for Alex's Lemonade Stand.

But it's the family matriarch, Teresa, whose name is familiar in West Central District circles as junior trustee. In the lodge, her many titles include chair of trustees. In her second year as trustee she helped the lodge cut food costs.

"She is very alert and attentive," Morris said, citing Teresa's efforts as kitchen manager, in which she keeps the kitchen organized, helps book catering jobs and generates positive cash flow.

"For this our lodge is better today financially and more stable," Morris said.

The Barringtons also are instrumental in marketing the lodge to the community.

"We stay active and in the public eye because of people like the Barrington family. (Teresa) takes great pride in making sure our lodge is recognized in the community," Morris said, citing the lodge's active participation in the annual Fairview Heights homecoming, barbecues and many other community events."

"These reasons and others I haven't put into words, are why the Barrington family should be recognized and awarded Family of the Year."

## IEA hosts individual chairs competition in ritual at fall meeting



LEFT PHOTO: Tim Bain of Mt. Vernon Lodge 819, second from left, won the IEA individual competition for lecturing knight, and Jim Niemann of Effingham 1016, third from left, won for leading knight, at the IEA fall meeting in Springfield. They are flanked, from left, by ritual judge Jamey Hodges of Fairfield 1631 and IEA Ritualistic Chairman Roger Quinn, who's also a member of the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee. RIGHT PHOTO: Dave Edwards of Mt. Vernon 819, who won for exalted ruler, displays his award. Larry George of Mt. Vernon Lodge, who won for chaplain, was unavailable for the photo.





## STATE

## Support for Honor Flights continues in Chicago and Moline



The North District voted in November to donate \$2,500 to the Honor Flight Chicago Program to recognize the bravery, determination and patriotism of America's senior war veterans with an all-expense paid journey to Washington, D.C., for a day of honor, thanks and inspiration. To date, the Elks have donated more than \$100,000 to the program, which has made 88 flights thus far, serving more than 8,000 World War II and Korean era veterans, in addition to Vietnam Veterans as well. From left are North District Vice President Robert Rolewicz, CEO and founder of the Chicago Honor Flight program Mary Pettinato and Past State President Paul Ronzani.



Past District Deputy Jay Wolfe, left, presents a \$7,000 check to Tom Bushman of the Moline Honor Flight, along with other Honor Flight representatives, Mike Thier, Jim Gorman, Cheryl Gorman and Becky Reilly. The check, compliments of the IEA, helped fly 100 veterans from the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War for a two-day trip to see the World War II memorial in Washington D.C., in August. The veterans were treated to a dinner before leaving the Moline airport. Wolfe presented the check on behalf of IEA Past State President Dave Jurmu, under whose administration the funds were authorized. The check presentation took place at Dixon Lodge 779.

# IEA honors cop's decisive action in foiling shooting at high school

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** At its fall meeting, the IEA recognized Dixon Police Officer Mark Dallas for intervening in a shooting in May at Dixon High School. Sharon Kay Dirck of Dixon Lodge 779, who was working elsewhere in the area that day, recounted to the IEA gathering her thoughts as the incident unfolded.

By SHARON KAY DIRCK  
Dixon Lodge 779

On May 16, residents of Dixon experienced the unthinkable – a shooting at one of its schools. Never again can they say it will never happen in our town.

I remember being at work (elsewhere in the area) and watching my coworkers panicking as word spread through the office. Many had children in the high school – they started reaching out to their children via text or calling. Then we got word it was over and fear was replaced with disbelief that this had happened at our high school.

But we were very lucky that our school district had resource officers in our schools and the one at the high school was where he needed to be to prevent this from becoming a tragedy.

That resource officer, Mark Dallas, is husband to Jennifer, father to Joshua and Lauren, and a 15-year member of the Dixon Police Department. He has 24 years in law enforcement and 19 years as a member of Dixon Lodge 779.



The IEA, at its fall meeting in Springfield, honored Dixon police officer Mark Dallas (holding plaque) who was praised as a hero for intervening when a former student opened fire at Dixon High School in May. Dallas, the school resource officer, was recognized at the dinner highlighting the meeting in September. He received accolades from IEA President Tom Deien, Dixon Lodge Secretary Sharon Kay Dirck and Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt.

And to many in Dixon, Mark Dallas is also hero.

Mark has been recognized by the governor of the state of Illinois, making May 30, 2018, Mark Dallas Day; received praise from Vice President Mike Pence; appeared on the Today Show; for a Monday night in September, he was honorary captain of the Chicago Bears; and has received many more honors.

And now, the Illinois Elks

Association would like to show our gratitude to you, Mark Dallas.

According to media reports, Dallas was responding to a 19-year-old suspect, formerly a student at the school, who opened fire near the school auditorium where students had gathered for graduation rehearsal.

The suspect reportedly fired several shots from a 9 mm semiautomatic rifle, then exited the building and began to run. He shot at Dallas as he was confronted. Dallas returned fire and struck the suspect in the shoulder, ending the threat to students.

No students or staff were injured in the incident.

*Illinois Elks join state, VP Spence and Bears in recognizing heroics of Dixon school resource officer*

## Two heads better than one in public relations effort

Two heads are better than one in boosting Illinois Elks lodges' efforts to promote themselves to the public.

IEA Public Relations Chairman Michael Slape made that point in his committee report at the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield.

"Why should district chairs forward their information to the state," he asked, rhetorically. "All lodge community activity that is receiving or should receive public notice, should be related to other lodges as examples of what can be copied."

"By reporting their successes at

state, all lodges are aware of the good works of Elksdom," which can be employed in the public relations strategies of other lodges, Slape said.

His plea is bearing fruit.

"I am happy to report that I have been receiving e-mails and texts from members, chairs as well as state officers," Slape said. "Hopefully, this is the start of a communication chain."

That chain centers on district PR chairs communicating with their lodge counterparts, "and back and forth."

"Then reporting would proceed from the district to the state."

## Americanism Committee seeks greater participation

The IEA Americanism Committee is working on a plan to coordinate with Regional Offices of Education in Illinois to get more schools to participate in the Americanism essay contest.

The idea for the plan emerged from a committee discussion at the IEA Fall Meeting in September.

Chairman Bill Adams said a committee member, who also works at one of the regional offices, recommended contacting the offices for who to contact at schools to initiate Americanism essay contests.

"The regional offices can provide us with a list of schools in our area, the

people to contact (their names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses).

"In fact, we should be able to do everything electronically, including receiving the student essays."

Adams said the committee hopes to have a step-by-step system on how to participate in the contest for presentation at the Mid-Winter Meeting in January.

"If you are an Americanism chair, please try to attend the meeting," Adams said. "Your feedback is important. We will also discuss Americanism programs that have proved successful in some of our lodges."



## LOCAL LODGE

# Mt. Carmel Elks fund kids, seniors food programs, promote Drug Awareness

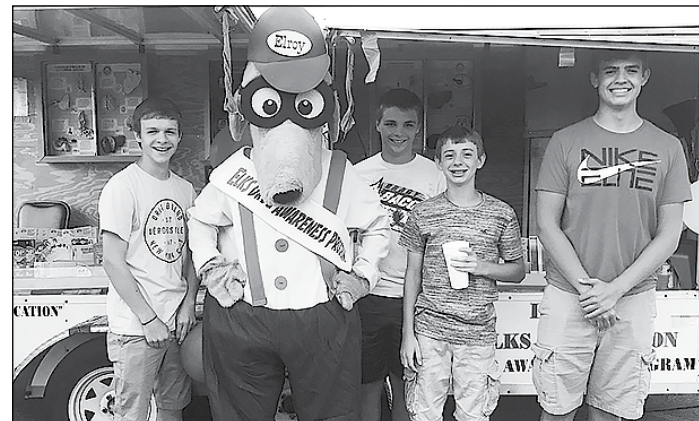


## Lunch program for kids gets boost

Mt. Carmel Lodge 715 recently used funds from a \$2,500 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to purchase food and supplies for the Lunch Wagon, a summer lunch program for children in Wabash County. Lodge members manned the trailer for one week in July. From left, they are Gary Wise, Jack Emmons, Charlie Acree, Martha Alka and Bob Alka, along with Lunch Wagon program director Melissa Smith.

## Support for Meals on Wheels

Mt. Carmel Lodge 715 earlier this year used money from an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to supplement the Wabash County Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels program. Accepting the donation from Leading Knight Marge Dallas, left, is Program Director Tracy Dunkel.



## Trailer at Ag Days draws kids' curiosity

Mt. Carmel Lodge 715 was host to the Drug Awareness trailer at Ag Days in uptown Mt. Carmel earlier this fall. Many children stopped by to view the Drug Awareness information and to enjoy the many give-aways the lodge had to offer. Some of those who stopped by, from left, are Kaleb Johnson, Ty Trauger (Elroy), Brady Decker, Jarret West and Zach Riggs.



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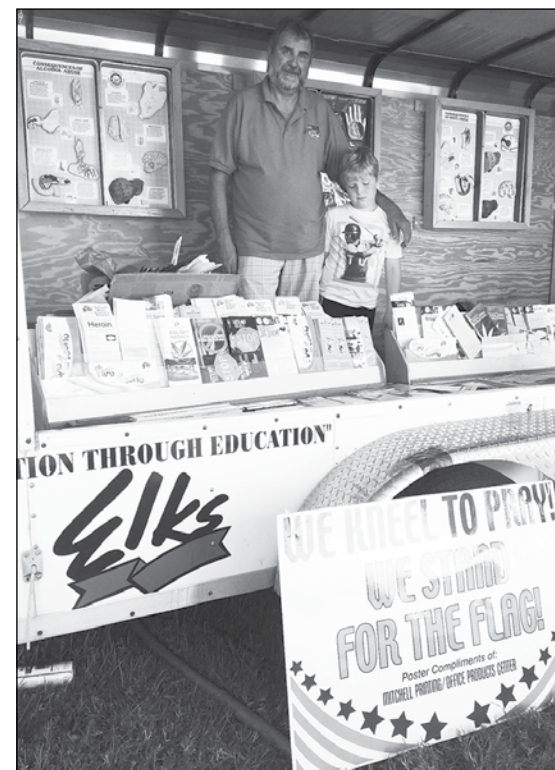
**Note:** Address corrections go to the Children's Care Corp. because that's who maintains the mailing list. Note, too, that address corrections made through the Post Office cost the Newsette – and you Elks – hundreds of dollars per issue. Please help us cut that cost by keeping us posted with your address 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 left box in this advertisement.

## Centralia Elks spread Drug Awareness

Centralia Lodge 493 made its presence felt at the annual Firefighters Picnic in neighboring Sandoval this past summer. Exalted Ruler and South Central District Drug Awareness Chairman Tony "Cobb" Korzenewski and his grandson Kylan man the district's Drug Awareness trailer.



## Pontiac Elks donate laptop to firefighters

Ray McGee, leading knight of Pontiac Lodge 1019, presents a laptop to Pontiac Fire Chief Scott Runyon. The laptop was purchased through the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant.



## LOCAL LODGE

# Elgin Elks Step It Up to provide shoes for kids returning to school

Elgin Lodge 737, for the fourth year, partnered with Elgin First Baptist Church for its Step It Up program to give new shoes for school to less fortunate area children.

Lodge spokespersons Shar Huske and Sue Steinbach said an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and Anniversary Grant were used to buy 177 pairs of shoes, some of the total 1,730 pairs of shoes donated for the program.

Eight members and two helpers selected the shoes from Shoe Carnival, which has discounted the shoes every year of the program, Huske and Steinbach said.

They recounted the two-day process beginning with carrying the boxes of shoes to the church Fellowship Hall, cutting tags, sorting shoes, setting up the tables with shoes, and setting up the overflow room.

"Our volunteers included 12 Elks members, two Ladies of the Elks and six helpers from Elgin Lodge," Huske and Steinbach said. "Many members from the First Baptist Church volunteered also."

Distribution day followed, in which 1,130 pairs of shoes were given to the children.

"On this day 17 Elks members, one Lady of the Elks, and two helpers pitched in anywhere they could be of assistance," the organizers said, including representatives from five of the six North District Lodges and Springfield Lodge, along with 60 church volunteers and others.

Among the helpers were IEA Vice President Jeff Rodier and his wife Noreen, Past State President Tony Dardano and his mother Nadine, North District Deputy Sandy Supancic, Brian Supancic



(Chicago Northshore), Lori Lichter (Des Plaines) and Mike Pender (Wheaton).

Brian Supancic dressed as Children's Care Corporation

mascot Elroy.

"The kids loved him," Huske and Steinbach said. "One child actually jumped up into his arms in excitement,"

Barb Carlson and Sue Kaszuba distributed Drug Awareness coloring books and Drug Awareness information to the youths and their parents.

Elgin Elks bringing life to the lodge Step It Up program, from left, are: Greg Huske, Diana Ankenbrandt, Barry Roberts, Sue Kaszuba, Rich Ankenbrandt, Pat Frank, Jeannette Rosenthal, Sue Steinbach and Lisa Depalo. Frank and Depalo are wives of Elks Elks members.



## Lawrenceville Elks Cookout for a Cause

Members of Lawrenceville Lodge 1208 in August presented checks to representatives of Units 10 and 20 school districts for their Pre-K programs. The funds were raised at the lodge's Cookout for a Cause. Each school received \$1,020 for their programs. From left are: Dee Jennings, Stacy Tipword, Donna Rossman, Doug Daugherty (Unit 20), Matt Fahr, Mike Briner, Spence Evans, Jeff Johnson and Aaron Tipword.



## Brookfield Elks host picnic for veterans

Nine volunteers from Brookfield Lodge 1510 in July hosted a picnic at the Veterans RCF Unit at the Hines Veterans Administration facility. The gala event was served to about three dozen veterans and to those staffing the unit. "It was a fun time serving and interacting with the vets," Brookfield Elk Bob Rolewicz said. "Vets were encouraged to take doggie bags back to their rooms for their enjoyment later in the day." From left are: Allan Schure, Vonda Schure, Leading Knight Mark Roegner, Peggy DeGuide, PER Bob Rolewicz, Trustee Greg Weyn and PER Tony Zeman.

## Chicago Northshore Elks fill backpacks before going to the Dogs



Members of Chicago Northshore Lodge 1316 filled 70 backpacks with school supplies, including spiral notebooks, protractors, a USB drive and other school staples in August. Destination: Lawrence Hall, the 150-year-old home for Civic War-era orphans that today serves foster children in Chicago. "We so enjoy this annual project," Exalted Ruler Jim Fornelli (right foreground) said. Among the crew helping put the backpacks together, from left, are Willie Williams, Randy Bassie, Don Stewart, John Feld, Pat Fraser, Patricia Kuczak, Gerri Allendorfer, Rick Ryan and Terry Boone. Members Sandy and Brian Supancic (not pictured) delivered the backpacks.

## ...the Chicago Dogs, that is

An estimated 80 members and guests of Chicago Northshore, Des Plaines and Wheaton lodges braved 95 degree heat in August to see the Chicago Dogs take on the Winnipeg Goldeyes at Impact Field in Rosemont. "All in all, this outing was a home



run," Chicago Northshore member Avis Thomas said. "Everyone is talking about next year." The Rosemont-based Dogs -- named after the famed Chicago-style hotdog -- began play in the American Association in 2018.

## Giving from Page 5

officials. Let them know what the Elks are doing. Invite them to one of your charitable events or a lodge

function."

Orr added that Elks need to speak up and show the government just how powerful and benevolent the Elks are nationwide, and especially in Illinois.

"The main way we can do this

is by keeping detailed records of all the awesome things that we are doing for our community," she said. "We need each and every lodge in Illinois to report their charitable hours, both accurately and on time."



LOCAL LODGE

Four North District lodges host veterans picnic

Des Plaines Lodge 1526, in conjunction with Brookfield 1510, Chicago Northshore 1316 and Elmhurst 1531, was host to the annual veterans picnic at the North Chicago VA Medical Center. Led by Dona Reda of Des Plaines Lodge, 20 volunteers fed 150 veterans meals including hotdogs, hamburgers, potato salad and baked beans. In addition, various toiletry and personal items, including apparel, were passed out. "A Great Elks time was had by all," Des Plaines Elk KC Ferguson said. "Thank you to our vets!"



Fairview Heights Elks back civic projects, accept school award



Fairview Heights Lodge 664 in September presented the French Village Fire Department \$1,500 for its fundraising project to buy a new Sparky the Dog costume for fire educational programs at local schools and events. The check – proceeds from an Elks National Foundation Anniversary Grant – was presented by Exalted Ruler Walter Holland and the lodge Grant Committee to firefighter Gerald Joyce. Fairview Heights Elks also donated to French Village firefighters the use of the lodge to host another fundraising barbecue. From left are Fairview Heights Elks Annette Duncan, Mike Holdener and Teresa Barrington, firefighter Gerald Joyce, and Exalted Ruler Walter Holland.

Donate equipment to special-needs kids

Fairview Heights Lodge 664 presented its 2018 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to Grant School to buy 17 noise-preventive ear phones and four touch-screen computers for special-needs children at that school. From left are Brien Bednara, Mike Holdener, Teresa Barrington, assistant Principal Natalie Lowe, Exalted Ruler Walter Holland and Annette Duncan.



Support of schools earns lodge principals award

Fairview Heights Lodge 664 was honored to accept the 2018 Reaching Out and Building Bridges Award at a gathering of the Illinois Principals Association Southwest Region in September. The lodge was recognized for its efforts to improve elementary, middle and or secondary education in its district by earmarking Elks National Foundation grants to assist special needs students at Grant Middle School for the last five years. At the Principals Association gathering, Lodge Exalted Ruler Walter Holland and lodge grant writer Annette Duncan display the plaque recognizing the lodge's generosity.

Lincoln Lodge grant used for 'Happy Feet'

Lincoln Lodge 914 has put an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to good use for its "Happy Feet" program to provide shoes and socks for 59 children in grades K-5 in Logan County. Loyal Knight Christine Schmidt said school personnel sent vouchers to the neediest families, and in August parents and children arrived at the local Shoe Sensation store, where volunteers fitted each child for a pair of socks and new shoes. "It was great to see their smiles, and watch them run down the aisle," Schmidt said.



Decatur Elks donate \$1,500 to veterans aid group

Decatur Lodge 401 Exalted Ruler Kevin Spain presents a check for \$1,500 to Kathie Powless, superintendent of the veterans assistance program, Help 4 Heroes. All proceeds go toward veterans in need in the Macon County.



Carlinville Elks back weekend food program

Carlinville Lodge 1412 used an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to purchase food for 75 local first- through third-grade students to ensure they are getting proper nutrition on the weekends. Carlinville Lodge plays a crucial role in packing the lunches for the Saturday Snacks Program, which is co-sanctioned with the Carlinville Area Hospital and local Federated Church. The Beacon Grant has allowed for further donations to start a similar program at the middle school and high school. From left are: Elks member Heather Pfeiffer, lodge Trustee Eric Pfeiffer, members Ann Kibe and Tanya Kessinger, and lodge Chaplain Bill Link.



## ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION



## Centralia Elks raise \$4,000 for Children's Care

CCC Centralia golf Centralia Lodge 493 held its major fundraiser for the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation – the Dudley Henry Memorial Golf Tournament – this past summer. More than \$4,000 was raised at the 18-year-old tournament.

# Tentative schedule announced for 2019 Children's Care clinics

## January 2019

Lincoln Clinic January 8th at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
Princeton Clinic January 10th at Perry Memorial Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
IVCH Clinic January 10th at Illinois Valley Community Hospital: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
NW Dist. @ Rockford Clinic January 23rd at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
NW Dist. @Morrison Clinic January 24th at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

## February 2019

Mt. Vernon Clinic February 1st at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
Joliet Clinic February 5th at Hinsdale Orthopedics: 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
Galesburg Clinic February 12th at Galesburg Hospital OFS Clinic: 8:00 to 9:30 AM  
Carmi Clinic February 13th at Wabash Christian Therapy & Medical Center: 8:00 to 9:00 AM  
Rock Island Clinic February 19th at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 4:30 PM  
South Dist. @ DuQuoin February 22nd Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

## March 2019

Mt. Carmel Clinic March 8th at Wabash General Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
Champaign/Urbana Clinic March 12th at OSF Healthcare

Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM

Flora Clinic March 13th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic: 9:00 AM

Robinson Clinic March 20th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM

## April 2019

Lincoln Clinic April 9th at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
Princeton Clinic April 11th at Perry Memorial Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
IVCH Clinic April 11th at Illinois Valley Community Hospital: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
NW Dist. @ Rockford Clinic April 24th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
NW Dist. @Morrison Clinic April 25th at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

## May 2019

Mt. Vernon Clinic May 3rd at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
Joliet Clinic May 7th at Hinsdale Orthopedics: 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
Elgin Clinic May 13th at Sherman Hospital: 2:00 to 5:00 PM  
Effingham Clinic May 16th at Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM  
Galesburg Clinic May 21st at Galesburg Hospital OFS Clinic: 8:00 to 9:30 AM  
Carmi Clinic May 22nd at

Wabash Christian Therapy & Medical Center: 8:00 to 9:00 AM  
Rock Island Clinic May 28th at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 4:30 PM

Mt. Carmel Clinic May 31st at Wabash General Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM

South Dist. @ DuQuoin May 31st at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

## June 2019

Lincoln Clinic June 4th at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
Champaign/Urbana Clinic June 11th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
Robinson Clinic June 12th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
NW Dist. @ Rockford Clinic June 19th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
NW Dist. @Morrison Clinic June 20th at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

## July 2019

No Clinics

## August 2019

Mt. Vernon Clinic August 2nd at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
Joliet Clinic August 6th at Hinsdale Orthopedics: 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
Princeton Clinic August 8th at Perry Memorial Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM

IVCH Clinic August 8th at Illinois Valley Community Hospital: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
Galesburg Clinic August 13th at Galesburg Hospital OFS Clinic: 8:00 to 9:30 AM

Carmi Clinic August 14th at Wabash Christian Therapy & Medical Center: 8:00 to 9:00 AM  
Rock Island Clinic August 27th at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 4:30 PM

South Dist. @ DuQuoin August 30th at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

## September 2019

Mt. Carmel Clinic September 6th at Wabash General Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
Champaign/Urbana Clinic September 10th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
Flora Clinic September 11th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic: 9:00 AM  
Robinson Clinic September 18th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM

## October 2019

Lincoln Clinic October 8th at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
Princeton Clinic October 10th at Perry Memorial Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
IVCH Clinic October 10th at Illinois Valley Community Hospital: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
NW Dist. @ Rockford Clinic October 23rd at OrthoIllinois: 2:00

to 4:00 PM  
NW Dist. @Morrison Clinic October 24th at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

## November 2019

Joliet Clinic November 5th at Hinsdale Orthopedics: 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
Mt. Vernon Clinic November 8th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
Galesburg Clinic November 12th at Galesburg Hospital OFS Clinic: 8:00 to 9:30 AM  
Elgin Clinic November 18th at Sherman Hospital: 2:00 to 5:00 PM  
Carmi Clinic November 20th at Wabash Christian Therapy & Medical Center: 8:00 to 9:00 AM  
South Dist. @ DuQuoin November 22nd at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Rock Island Clinic November 26th at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 4:30 PM

## December 2019

Champaign/Urbana Clinic December 10th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
Mt. Carmel Clinic December 13th at Wabash General Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
Robinson Clinic December 18th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
Effingham Clinic December 19th at Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM

# IEA golf tournament attracts 267, raises \$1,000 for Children's Care Corporation

The two-day IEA Golf Tournament in July attracted 267 entries from 12 lodges, and more than \$1,000 was raised from the charity hole for the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation.

In addition, a check was

presented to the IEA Athletic Commission for the junior golf program, and the shotgun start to tournament was met with golfers' approval.

Tom Hendrickson of Springfield Lodge listed the tournament

highlights in his report to the commission at the Mid-Winter Meeting.

Commission Chairman Dave Cassens said the 2019 tournament is scheduled July 25-27 at Green Hills Country Club, Mt. Vernon.

Tim Bain of Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 said an information booth will be set up at the Mid-Winter Meeting.

Cassens also capped results of the junior golf tournament, which attracted 75 participants. He

said Dixon Lodge is considering moving its tournament to a golf course in Byron, which should significantly increase participation.

Two other lodges – Paris and Herrin – have expressed interest in hosting tournaments in 2019.



## ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION



## Meet your CCC board of directors for 2018-19

Here are members of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation board of directors for 2018-19. Front from left, they are: John Baylar, corporate vice chairman; Amy Jackson, West District director; Kristi Wykes, East District director; Bill Block, administrative manager; Tawn Williams, corporate chair; Sharon Kay Dirck, Area 2 director; John Feld, director emeritus; Charles Campbell, director emeritus; and Mark Bump, Area 4 director. In back are: Brad Beeson, West Central District director; Todd Lindsay, corporate secretary; Tom Hummel, director emeritus; Tom Deien, IEA president; George Hornung, IEA treasurer; Marvin Leathers, IEA secretary; Greg Verdun, IEA first vice president; Dick Wyninger, East Central District director; and Donald Koehler, Northwest District director.

## Calendar winners announced for October and November

Winners of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation's calendar drawing have been announced for October and November.

**October** – Earl McGary, Joliet; Greg Fuller, Robinson; Dennis Armour, Carlinville; Avis L. Thomas, Chicago Northshore; Wil Bilbruck, Carlinville; Donald J. Kaszuba, Elgin; Chris Duffney, Des Plaines; Max Wyninger, Champaign-Urbana; Richard Bell, Beardstown; David Krohe, Beardstown; Margaret Ebersohl, Dixon; Mary Lee Klabunde, Elgin; Greg Amburgey\*, Robinson; Beth Barger, Harrisburg; Alan A. Zobel, Joliet; Teresa D. Sarginson, Carlinville; Rob Havens, Metropolis; Pat Callahan, Carlinville; Robert O'Neil, Des Plaines; George Snyder, Fairview Heights; Raymond E. Fiebrandt, Elmhurst; Marcia Thomas, Danville; Joseph G. Phelps, Chicago South.

**November** – Mike White, Belleville; Ryder Stein, Oak Lawn; Darwin W. Meier, Kankakee; Dave Dallas, Mt. Carmel; Jim Stephens, Carmi; Milton A. Gustafson, Des Plaines; Scott L. Hood, Charleston; Marlene M. Seaborn\*\*\*, Springfield; Alan Andich, Belleville; Inez Donnigan, Cairo; Todd Faulkner, Metropolis; Mr. Robert Dixon, Elgin; Alvin A. Suess, Jacksonville.

— \*\$100 \*\*\$1,000 \*\*\*\$5,000



### Oglesby Elks award nursing scholarship

Oglesby Lodge 2360 scholarship chair Cindy Cadegiani presented Vince Jessen the Delvallee Nursing Scholarship at a recent reception at Illinois Valley Community College. The \$1,000 scholarship was set up to honor Albert Delvallee for his work with the lodge as HoDo chair for many years raising funds for the Children's Care Corporation. Vince, son of Drew and Nita Jessen of Oglesby, will continue his studies toward a nursing degree.

## Members are lone source of support for special kids

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.

"The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation gives us a purpose and a cause," Block said, invoking the spirit of the Elks motto, 'Elks Care – Elks Share.' Thank you for your support and all you do for the kids."

## LODGE

## Belleville Elks recognize scholarship at annual scholars night

Belleville Lodge 481 recognized 23 area students in July at its annual Scholars Night. Presented were the Elks National Foundation scholarship winners, Children's Care Corporation Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Scholarship recipients, and the lodge Paul L. Kunz Memorial Scholarships.

Through the lodge, \$39,725.00 in scholarships was awarded, which is the highest total in recent years.

The top local ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarship went to Jonathan Hoerner from Belleville (East HS), who will attend the University of Chicago.

Receiving ENF Legacy scholarships were Lindsey Bastian

from Belleville (West HS) who will attend Arizona State University, and Daniel Giles from Swansea (East HS) who will go to American University.

The second scholars group included 14 Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy majors and assistants with students receiving awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,575.

Listed are the students, hometowns, and universities they are attending: Kaitlynn Borick (Belleville, St. Louis University), Caitlin and Kristen Busch (Waterloo, Bradley University), Natalie Gass (Belleville, St. Louis University),

Amanda Kaltwasser (Belleville, Maryville University), Sarah Kuester (Freeburg, University of Evansville), Alyssa Pellmann (Millstadt, Maryville University), Grace Reeves (Swansea, Missouri State), Kristin Rein (Columbia, St. Louis University), Ashley Sauzek (Freeburg, University of Evansville), Megan Scheibel (Belleville, Maryville), Megan Seibel (Belleville, Maryville University), and Kelsey Weatherford (Columbia, St. Ambrose University), and Kayla Kelley (Waterloo, Southwestern Illinois College).

Paul L. Kunz Memorial Scholarship awardees, majors,



with the schools they will attend included:

Grace Brauer (East HS), Xavier University; Kendall Patton (East HS), Southwest Baptist University; Georgi Warren (West HS), University of Richmond; Christopher Ord (O'Fallon

HS), University of Kansas; Brandon Wallace (Marissa HS), Southwestern Illinois College; and Nicholas Bahr (Columbia HS), University of Illinois.

– Submitted by lodge Scholarship Chairman Timothy Richards



## ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

## Our top CCC scholars and their supporters



**MIKE MANNING AWARD WINNER** Rhiannon Pearse, front center, is flanked by her boyfriend Evan Blankenship, left, and Robinson Lodge 1188 Leading Knight Tony Murbarger. In back are: IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block, IECCC Chair Tawn Williams and IECCC Vice Chair John Baylar.



**KENNY BELTZ AWARD WINNER** Addison Lagemann, front, second from left, is flanked from left by her father Bray Lagemann, her mother Laura Lane and grandmother Norma Lane. In back are: IECCC West District Director Brad Beeson, IECCC Director Emeritus Charles Campbell and IECCC East District Director Kristi Wykes.



**PETE MATSON AWARD WINNER** Madeline Hartke, front center, is flanked by her mother Beth Hartke and IECCC Director John Feld. In back are: Mike Porter, Effingham Lodge 1016 secretary; Tom Zacha, Effingham Lodge chairman of trustees; Effingham Leading Knight Jim Neimann; and Exalted Ruler Matt Dammerman.



**BILL LEAS AWARD WINNER** Chris Dietrich, front, second from left, is flanked by his twin brother Nick Dietrich, and parents, Nancy and John Dietrich. In back are: IEA West Central District Vice President Phillip Reilly, IECCC West Central District Director Amy Jackson, IECCC Northwest District Director Donald Koehler and IECCC East Central District Director Dick Wyninger.

## Applications for scholarships available online

Applications for the 2019-20 OT/PT Therapy and Assistant Scholarships, which went online Dec. 1, will remain available until March 1, at which time the website will be closed down until the next scholarship season, beginning Dec. 1, 2019.

"We wish all new and returning students all the best, and we look forward to receiving their applications," IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said.

Here are the important dates for applicants: Scholarship applications are due to the local lodge by March 8 from all the students applying. Lodges have until March 15 to return all applications to IECCC office in Chatham. Applications will not be accepted if postmarked after March 15.

"We ask all lodges to have a CCC chair or scholarship chair to review the applications as they come in and send them directly to the Chatham office," Block said. "As always, the Chatham office is here to help and assist you with any questions or problems that may arise with regards to the scholarship program."

Also available is the application for the Lydia Miller Special Education Scholarship for students who are currently enrolled in a special education program and will be going into their junior or senior years, or first year as a post-graduate.

There will be only three scholarships for each of those years. Deadline and due date to the CCC office is March 22.



### Benefit calendar now available

For those who misplaced their order form for the 2019 Children's Benefit Calendar or would like to re-enter the drawing, the calendar is now available at your Lodge or on the CCC website at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org). This calendar makes a perfect gift for any occasion. Just fill out the enclosed coupon included in the calendar and return it to the IECCC, and you are in for the year. For \$20 you could win a minimum of \$50, five days a week Monday through Friday for a year. There is also 12 monthly drawings for \$100, three drawings quarterly for \$1,000 and on Veterans Day a chance to win \$5,000. Best of all your name goes back into the barrel. You could be a multi-time winner. Every day the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation is assisting families with specialized equipment such as: orthotics, strollers, wheelchairs, therapies, communications devices, ramps for home and vehicles, and just about any specialized piece of equipment you can think of. This can only be done with the assistance of Illinois Elks so please purchase your calendar so we can continue to do the work that makes us proud to be Elks.

### Keegan from Page 16

mechanical trouble with their current lift/conversion van.

"The cost of the repairs makes it unreasonable to spend more money on the existing van."

Metropolis Lodge contacted local car dealers to help Owens get the best deal available, although she was able to secure a van on her own.

The IECCC approved a \$6,000 grant to equip Owens' "new" 2016 white Dodge Grand Caravan with 50,000 miles on it.

"(It) was a God send to us in just the right timing," Owens said.

The van has a manually operated rear-entry handicap ramp – "no electric involved, which means that it will never need maintenance," Owens said, sounding more like a seasoned car dealer closing a sale.

"It is a quick and easy load for Keegan to get in and out, which also is amazing when it is raining. No more standing waiting for the ramp."

She added that if Keegan could express himself, he would say he loves the van.

"The conversion is the perfect fit for his chair and easy lock in," Owens said. "He is able to see out the windows. My last van was a high topper, (and) he wasn't able to

see out."

The new van has provided some peace of mind during the mother's and son's many trips to St. Louis.

"Now I am very excited that we can make the trip without me stressing if we will make it there safely," she said. "Plus I save a ton of money on gas as well, which is amazing."

"Needless to say this purchase would not have been possible without the help of this donation" from the IECCC.

"I am more than thankful for the help of others to make this purchase," Owens said. "I hope this program can help other families in need like mine."





## 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@elkscore.org](mailto:helpkids@elkscore.org)

# Mom grateful for CCC assist

## Grant pays to convert van for her special-needs son

It was 1 a.m. on a cold rain-swept Interstate 57 in November 2017. Jessica Owens was about an hour from St. Louis, driving her not-too dependable 2000 GMC Savannah high topper van. She was following an ambulance containing her special-needs 16-year-old son, Keegan, who was being rushed to St. Louis to undergo treatment for aseprite pneumonia and the flu.

At that inopportune hour, Owens was confronted with one of the circumstances she most feared.

"My back tire blew out, which left me on the side of the interstate," the single mother of two children said. "I have

roadside assistance and all of that, but no one could get a hold of anyone close by at that hour to come and assist me."

A state trooper finally showed up an hour later and gave her a ride to Cardinal Glennon Hospital to be with her son. She left the van on the side of the interstate to be towed to a tire dealer.

The ambulance had continued the rush to take Keegan to the hospital, leaving Owens to fend for herself.

"He is nonverbal so for him to arrive way before me was very dangerous with his conditions," Owens said.

Keegan was born with a virus

that caused the left side of his brain not to develop, leaving him 100 percent dependent on care. He cannot sit up without a wheelchair, and he has severe developmental delays with cerebral palsy and seizure disorder.

Owens said Keegan has had more than 30 surgeries. He had scoliosis surgery four years ago in which a screw got lodged into his spinal column. The fact that Keegan is completely paralyzed from the chest down contributes to major respiratory problems for him.

The ordeal that Owens endured on I-57 in the wee hours of Nov. 17 was just one of many times Owens had been left stranded with Keegan in her broken down van. Enough was enough. She was now motivated to replace her aging GMC van with more than 190,000 miles.

She had been pursuing some fundraising options, when "a

*"It was a God-send to us in just the right timing,"*

Jessica Owens said of the van that Metropolis Lodge helped her equip for son Keegan.



Jessica Owens, left, with son Keegan and daughter Trinity, inside Keegan's "new" 2016 white Dodge Grand Caravan van.

very nice lady" messaged her to contact Mark Jones, exalted ruler of Metropolis Lodge 1428.

"He was amazing at talking me through the process and helping me fill out all the paperwork and get it submitted" to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, Owens said. "He was always available for

questions and following through to get me help."

Jones underscored Owens' need for a replacement van in his Aug. 20 application letter to the IECCC, saying, "In recent weeks, the family has begun to have almost non-stop

Please See **KEEGAN**, Page 15

# Top children's care scholars recognized at IEA fall dinner

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation announced its top scholars for 2018-19 at the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield.

Addison Lagemann of Milton, representing Beardstown Lodge 1009, won the Kenny Beltz Award; Rhiannon Pearse of West Union, representing Robinson Lodge 1188, the Mike Manning Award; Christopher Dietrich of Quincy, the Bill Leas Award; and Madeline Hartke of Teutopolis, representing Effingham Lodge 1016, the Pete Matson Award.

IECCC Area 2 Director Sharon Kay Dirck read thumbnail sketches of each of the four honorees at the dinner highlighting the meeting.

### Addison Lagemann

As a graduate student attending Maryville University in St. Louis, Lagemann currently has a GPA 3.955.

One of her professors wrote: "She continues to perform above and beyond expectations. She is dedicated and dependable as observed on many occasions when she volunteers her time on and off campus. Examples of her conscientious involvements include her participation as a



volunteer for falls prevention and health promotion for the elderly and serving as activities director for children with disabilities."

Another wrote: "In her pursuit of knowledge she goes beyond simple understanding and acceptance of information & asks 'why?'"

### Rhiannon Pearse

The Washington University-St. Louis graduate student, with a GPA of 3.956, grew up the

daughter of a special education teacher. She was able to spend time with many children with disabilities, thus guiding her to her path of physical therapy. She wants to change the lives of children with disabilities and encourage them to be all they can be.

Rhiannon possesses kindness, intelligence, positivity and determination. Throughout her life, when she resolved to do something, she does her very

Scholarship recipients, front from left, are: Kenny Beltz Award winner Addison Lagemann, Bill Leas Award winner Chris Dietrich, Pete Matson Award winner Madeline Hartke and Mike Manning Award winner Rhiannon Pearse. In back are: IECCC Director Emeritus Tom Hummel, West Central Director Brad Beeson, Area 4 Director Mark Bump, Area 2 Director Sharon Kay Dirck, Administrative Manager Bill Block and board of directors Chair Tawn Williams.

therapy profession."

Another described Christopher as a creative thinker with strong leadership skills.

Christopher says of himself that he has grown a lot professionally and is gaining experience everyday, which will allow him to grow and develop the skills needed to be proficient in his work.

### Madeline Hartke

The Maryville University-St. Louis doctoral student in physical therapy has a current GPA of 4.0.

A professor wrote of Hartke: "She possesses the intellect, disposition, self-discipline, leadership and interpersonal skills to make her a successful physical therapist. One area that separates her from the others is her initiative and commitment to work with others. She is a resourceful, creative and solution-oriented person who was able to come up with new and innovative approaches to her assigned projects."

One of her references wrote: "She has a beautiful smile and has the unique ability to make everyone feel special" — an asset when helping patients.

best to make it happen.

### Christopher Dietrich

The Maryville University-St. Louis graduate student in physical therapy has a 3.90 GPA, which demonstrates his high level of performance in the classroom while maintaining other extracurricular activities.

One of his professors said, "I believe he has both the academic ability and compassion to make significant contributions to the physical







