



# Illinois Elks Association Newsette



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### Thanks for the memories

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## IEA dominates regional Hoop Shoot

### Qualifies three for national finals

The IEA advanced three of the six winners from the 2018-19 regional Hoop Shoot in Iowa City, IA, on March 9.

Carter Hoene, representing Effingham Lodge 1016 in the 12/13 boys division; Maci Moore, representing Jacksonville 682 in 8/9 girls; and Colton Baudino, representing Pontiac 1019 in 8/9 boys, all won their divisions to advance to the national finals on April 27 in Chicago.

Hoene shot 22 of 25 and 5 of 5; Moore, 21 of 25; and Baudino the regional best 23 of 25.

"It's the first time in a while we had three (Illinois competitors qualify for the nationals) so all Elks members should be proud," IEA Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher said. "If you have a bucket list, add your Hoop Shoot to it and follow your shooter through. There's no better feeling than to be there to watch these young adults compete in your program to represent your lodge or state."

Joining Illinois in competing in the Iowa City regional were state winners from Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota.

Also competing for the IEA, but not advancing to the nationals, were: Justice Dagg, representing Fairfield 1631, who shot 15 of 25 to finish



IEA Hoop Shooters competing at the Regional Hoop Shoot in Iowa City, IA, on March 9 display the hardware they received. From left, they are: Maci Moore, representing Jacksonville Lodge 682, first in the 8/9 girls division; Mia Clark, representing Lincoln Lodge 914, third in 10/11 girls; Tori Geriets, representing Lincoln Lodge 914, third in 12/13 girls; Justice Dagg, representing Fairfield Lodge 1631, third in 10/11 boys; Carter Hoene, representing Effingham Lodge 1016, first in 12/13 boys; and Colton Baudino, representing Pontiac Lodge 1019, first in 8/9 boys. Lending their support, from left, are First Vice President Jeff Rodier, Past State President Steve Harken, immediate PSP Dave Jurmu, IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, PSP Ralph Bradshaw, IEA Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher, First Vice President Greg Verdun and President Tom Deien.

third in the boys 10/11 division; Mia Clark, representing Lincoln 914, who shot 18 of 25 to finish third in the 10/11 girls; and Tori Geriets, also representing Lincoln 914, who shot 18 of 25 in the 12/13 girls.

The 2019 regional Hoop Shoot results also measured the total number of shots made by each of the competing states. Illinois had 117 total to Wisconsin's regional high of 124 despite sending two of the

six shooters to the nationals compared to Illinois' three.

Minnesota also had more total points than Illinois' — 121 — but has no shooter going to the

Please See **REGIONAL**, Page 2

## Seeing our Hoop Shooters advance is heartwarming

One year ago, as I was waiting to be installed as your president, someone told me this year will go fast. That person was certainly right. Of course, I did not plan on almost four months in the hospital.

I thank the Lord that I am still with you. I thank Greg Verdun and the other officers for helping us through this very tough situation. Thank

you all very much.

As I am writing this letter, Brenda and I just returned from the Regional Hoop Shoot.

Illinois has three kids going to the finals in Chicago. What a joy to represent the IEA and watch these kids

compete. I wish every Elk had a chance to witness this truly

Please See **TOM**, Page 2

**IEA president**

Tom Deien



### Fairview Heights' Glenna Howell is 2018-19 IEA Lady of Year

IEA 2018-19 Lady of the Year Glenna Howell of Fairview Heights Lodge 664 and the West District displays the plaque she won for winning lady of the year, accompanied by Barbara Luhr, first lady of Elksdom; and Brenda Deien, first lady of the IEA. Related story and photo, **Page 2**

## STATE

# Fairview Heights' Glenna Howell is 2018-19 IEA Lady of the Year

Glenna Howell, who has been instrumental in supporting the programs of Fairview Heights Lodge 664 for decades, is the 2018-19 IEA Lady of the Year.

The 23-year editor of the lodge newsletter, active participant in all lodge ladies auxiliary activities and spearhead of lodge veterans and Children's Care Corporation programs, received the honor at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting in January.

Howell volunteered many hours as her husband Charlie went through his year as exalted ruler and joined the Ladies Auxiliary in 1995.

"She has been a continual volunteer since she walked through Elks Lodge 664's door," Exalted Ruler Walter Holland said in his nomination letter. "Even after the loss of her husband Charlie she continued to stay active at Lodge 664."

"Her efforts, dedication, volunteerism and donations to the lodge are instrumental to our success."

She has been editing the newsletter since 1995, in addition to printing, folding and mailing the publication to sometimes more than 400 Elks

members.

With the Ladies Auxiliary, Howell helps to organize events at the annual family picnic and makes all the baskets for the basket raffle. She has chaired the lodge's cakeless bake sale for the last 10 years.

Howell has gone on the Easter Bunny hop to the local nursing homes annually since 1995.

"She helps hand out the little bunnies the ladies make out of washcloths that hold tissue," Holland said. "She ensures the

Easter bunny greets everyone and always speaks kind words to all the patients."

Howell works numerous lodge and auxiliary food nights and the monthly Sunday chicken buffet, at which she greets every member and guest,

"taking money and keeping everything organized for each event," Holland said.

For all three of the annual lodge children's parties, usually attended by more than 75 children and 100 adults, Howell is a mainstay ensuring the parties' success.

"She starts a year in advance getting donations for raffle baskets, attendance prizes and



toys," Holland said.

Howell helps sell raffles at the lodge's spring and fall meat shoots.

"Even though she had never done this before, she stepped right up to help when help was needed," Holland said. "She organized getting cakes for raffles and pot shot items."

Howell's other lodge initiatives center on working with the lodge SOS Troops Overseas project, the annual turkey dinner and food drive for the local food pantry, and the Donor for Life program.

Howell has chaired three 25 cent auctions, getting more

than 150 items donated to raise money for our local charities.

"She was instrumental in helping our ladies auxiliary earn over \$1,000.00 each year for the Elks National Foundation," Holland said.

As the Christmas season approaches, Howell will again help shop for, put together and deliver the more than 60 food baskets for those selected to receive them.

Howell never misses helping with the annual lodge veterans breakfast.

"Her husband was a veteran and she is very proud of that," Holland said.

The IEA named its 2018-19 Lady of the Year, Glenna Howell of Fairview Heights Lodge 664 and the West District (front, second from left), at the ladies luncheon at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting. Other district nominees, front from left, are Brenda K. Stevens of Pana 812, East Central; Tina Hummel of Dixon 779, Northwest; and Amie Martin of Mt. Vernon 819, South Central. In back are: Barbara Luhr, First Lady of Elksdom; nominees Carol Voigts of Joliet 296, East; and Leeann Henley of Metropolis 1428, South; and IEA First Lady Brenda Deien. Nominees not present for the luncheon were Louise Cermey of Elgin 737, North; and Sheila Blair of Kewanee 724, West.

For the last 18 years, Howell has co-chaired the lodge's Funeral Luncheon Committee, which Holland calls "a very timely and sensitive program."

Every year, Howell donates 16 hours in a weekend for Children's Care Corp., contributing to the more than \$100,000 the lodge has donated to the IEA state major project over the past 10 years.

"Even though she says she is slowing down every year, she still works diligently to volunteer at Elks Lodge 664," Holland said. "She personifies the true meaning of our motto 'Elks Care - Elks Share.'"

## Tom from Page 1

heartwarming experience.

We have an election for third vice president coming this May. We have two qualified candidates from the South District vying for this position. I encourage *all* to vote their conscience for the person you feel most qualified.

I would like to take just a moment to thank each and every one of you for the opportunity to be your state president. It has been a truly rewarding experience that Brenda and I will never forget.

Also I would like to thank you all for the prayers, cards, letters and even money as we recover from that terrible accident. Brenda is further along than I am, I will tell you this, it is baby steps.

I look forward to good health and being with you all as we "Drive Elksdom Forward."

## IEA adds USO near Murphysboro

The IEA has added a new USO and is looking for someone to take over another.

The new facility — called The Haven — is at Crab Orchard Lake in Williamson County. Its sponsor is Murphysboro Lodge 572.

IEA Veterans Chair Bob Kane, in his Mid-Winter report, said he is looking for someone to take over the Danville USO.

Kane added that he thinks he has someone to take over

terminals 2 and 3 at the O'Hare Airport USO.

He said guest speaker A.J. French presented a program on mental health and veterans suicide, noting that as many as 23 veterans commit suicide per day, or 8,395 per year.

"Let's continue helping our veterans with all our programs," Kane said. "Step up and help to let veterans know the Elks are there and willing to help them," he said.

## Regional from Page 1

nationals.

Iowa's shooters scored the fewest total points with 113, but still has one shooter qualifying for the national finals.

For those national finals in Chicago, Swisher is asking lodges and districts to consider helping the families of the

Illinois competitors with expenses.

"I'm sure it would help with extra siblings going, and we know what it costs nowadays," Swisher said, cautioning that any help should go to the families and not to the contestants.

For information on attending the national finals, go to the Elks.org website at <https://www.elks.org/hoopshoot/>



## 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** – June 15, 2019, for summer edition; July 20, 2019, for fall; Nov. 21, 2019, for Mid-Winter; March 22, 2020, for spring

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## STATE

# GER Luhr presses appeal for increased membership

As of Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr's visit to the IEA in January, the IEA was on pace for a membership gain in 2018-19.

The IEA was showing a net gain of 835 members on a year-to-date gain of 1,439 offset by 390 in losses. Delinquencies stood at 1,873, or 7.3 percent, he said.

"Now is the time to stop the loss of our existing members," Luhr said in his address to Illinois Elks at their Mid-Winter meeting in Springfield in January. "This is the year the Elks need to show a gain in membership, and it is a reachable goal by working together to make a difference."

The IEA ended 2017-18 with a loss of 665, starting the year with 26,382 and ending with 25,717 for a loss of 665.

"Most of our 1,690 dropped members had only two years with us," Luhr said.

Also year to date, 16 of the IEA's 71 lodges have brought in fewer than five new members while some are doing very well.

"If the trend continues, some lodges will be in trouble," Luhr predicted. "In order to grow, we have got to get new quality members who agree with what we provide to our communities, and keep the ones we already have."

## Lodges challenged to add 20 members

The IEA Membership Committee in January was hopeful that lodges could be challenged to add 20 new members each in an effort for the IEA to post a membership gain for the first time in decades.

IEA membership Co-chairs Chris Ord and Robin Lemay issued the challenged at the committee meeting in January.

Ord said, as of Jan. 20, the IEA was projecting a loss of 1,228 for the 2018-19 fraternal year, which ends on March 31.

While the IEA has initiated 1,132 new members, reinstated 221 and affiliated 86 for a gain of 1,439, 794 have been lost through dimits, transfers and deaths. Another 230 candidates were awaiting initiation and 1,873 had not yet renewed their memberships.

"We need to act now to



**GER MICHAEL T. LUHR**  
...Addressing IEA gathering

Orienting new members with Elkdom "is the time to seal the deal," in retaining the new members.

"[It is] important to have a member with the knowledge of all our programs and who has the ability to share that with the candidates with passion — maybe more than one person," Luhr said.

Once initiated, make the new members feel welcome in the lodge and involve them soon, he said, and invite them back to a lodge meeting or ask them to help at a function.

In addition, "thank your membership and recognize them and your community" with a

Grand Exalted Ruler Award, recognizing outstanding service of members, officers and citizen of the year, he said.

Luhr also underscored the impact that Illinois Elks are having with its veterans, youth, Drug Awareness and Elks National Foundation programs.

For veterans in 2017-18, 1,984 Illinois Elks and helpers worked 9,134 hours, drove 41,877 miles, involved 40,573 participants and raised \$175,290 in cash for a total of \$463,388 in charitable contributions.

"This is what Illinois Elks do for our veterans," Luhr said.

For youth programs last year, IEA lodges donated \$99,768 in youth scholarships and involved 1,200 youth.

The Children's Care Corporation, in making a difference in physically challenged children's lives, Illinois Elks donated \$71,992 to make the lives of 11,984 children better in Illinois.

For the IEA Drug Awareness program in 2017-18, 2,295 Elks and helpers donated \$249,865 in charitable contributions helping educate 79,612 youth about the danger of illegal drugs and making Elks lodges a safe place for kids and their families to come and be themselves and have fun.

In terms of total youth service

programs, 3,927 Illinois Elks worked 16,418 hours, drove 16,405 miles, involved 45,916 youth and contributed \$264,352 in cash, and when combined with in-kind labor and miles driven, the total is \$1.039 million.

"That's what Illinois Elks do," Luhr said. "If that doesn't make you feel good, you're dead. And this is why our charitable reports are so important."

For the ENF in 2017-18, 25,717 Elks donated \$216,355 for \$8.41 in per-member contributions, eclipsing the GER goal of \$4.75.

For 2018-19, ENF will return \$170,140 in state charities grants, \$152,330 in special projects grants as well as \$34,570 in a bonus grant — all of which help support Illinois Elks programs.

In total, \$496,040 is coming back to Illinois Elks communities, or \$2.29 for each \$1 donation. That total

is in addition to the \$255,970 awarded to 62 Illinois lodges through the ENF Community Investments Grant Program.

In attracting new Illinois Elks, "make sure they know they are joining a group of 25,717 Elks in Illinois who last year worked 73,842 hours, drove 127,098 miles, donated \$1.178 million in cash and \$472,889 in non-cash for a total of \$4.196 million in total hours, miles and cash donations — \$163 per member," Luhr said.

*"In order to grow, we have got to get new quality members who agree with what we provide to our communities, and keep the ones we already have."*

Luhr stressed the importance of lodges filing their annual charitable records reports, not only because it's required by Grand Lodge statute, but because it proves to the government that the Elks are giving

back to their communities and are entitled to their not-for-profit tax filing status.

"Most important is to provide your orientation person a record of the support your lodge provides to your community," he added.



Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr, left, receives honorary membership in the IEA from IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, at the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in January.

overcome a project loss of 1,132," Ord and Lemay said in their committee report. "District wide initiations are suggested and

encouraged by GER Michael T. Luhr."

The committee discussed the importance of social media to

enhance lodges' presence in their communities.

"We must show the community what we do," Ord

and Lemay said, noting that Illinois Elks have contributed more than \$208 million to local charities since the IEA's inception.

"Without our support, many of these charities would suffer or cease to exist," they said.

Lodges needing help or ideas to boost membership may contact the co-chairs for information.

"We all need to work together to bring in new members and make a gain for Illinois a reality," they said.

Their contact information can be found on Page 52 of the 2018-19 IEA Directory.

## LATEST IEA MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

## IEA still 735 away from gain with 14 days left in 2018-19

With 14 days left in the 2018-19 fraternal year ending March 31, the IEA was still 735 members down from reaching a plus-1 in membership for the year.

"We need to initiate the 194 candidates (who were awaiting initiation) and reduce 541 delinquents" to show an increase, Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Manager Rick Gathen said in a March 17 report.

"Please fight hard," Gathen implored. "No one remembers ordinary effort. 'Let's try' are two words that have won many a battle."

Gathen singled out the South Central (-196), Northwest (-142) and North (-132) districts as having the greatest membership loss in Illinois.

The best district was East Central — the only Illinois district posting a gain — with +18, followed by the West with -41 and West Central with -51,

Illinois' delinquency rate was 4.5

percent, which is better than the 5.5 percent national average, Gathen said.

The district with the best delinquency rate in the state was the North with -1.87 percent, followed by the Northwest with -3.46 percent, East Central with -3.53 percent, West Central with -4.07 percent, East with -4.73 percent, West with -5.38 percent, South Central with -5.42 percent and South with -6.74 percent.

The lodges posting double digit membership gains were Effingham with +49; Canton and Springfield, both with +33; Galesburg with +31; Sycamore with +21; Herrin with +15; Champaign-Urbana with +14; and Jacksonville with +10.

Other lodges on the plus side were both Decatur and Carmi with +9; Watseka with +7; Lincoln with +5; Paris with +4; and Granite City and DeKalb, both with +3.

Both Cairo and Brookfield were at zero with neither a membership loss nor gain.



# Annual Meeting

*Honoring 2019-2020 Class of Exalted Rulers*

**May 16-19, 2019 ■ Wyndham City Centre Springfield Hotel**

## Thursday, May 16

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

## Friday, May 17

8 AM-5 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4  
9-10 AM Convention Committee – Rendezvous  
10 AM-Noon Advisory Committee – Rendezvous  
Noon-7 PM Convention Registration  
– Mezzanine, Registration Desk  
1-2 PM General Business Session – Capitol/Illinois

### Nomination of Officers

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

### Reports of District Vice Presidents

East Central ..... Craig Terven  
West Central ..... Phillip Reilly  
North ..... Robert Rolewicz  
Northwest ..... Pete Bakken  
South Central ..... Debbie Wallace  
South ..... Craig Smith  
East ..... Gregg Collins  
West ..... Floyd Schmidt

### Presentation of Budget – 1st VP Greg Verdun

### State Committee/Commission Chair Reports

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

## Saturday, May 18

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

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

8-9 AM Secretaries Association – Plaza 3  
8-9:30 AM Publication Corporation – Conference Ctr 1  
8-10 AM District Deputies & Esquires  
Continental Breakfast – Conference Ctr 2  
8-10 AM Leading Knights Training – Rendezvous  
9-10 AM Exalted Rulers Meet W/ Executive Committee  
– Embassy

9-10 AM Lodge Treasurers – Plaza 3  
9-10 AM Lodge Trustees Training – Prairie  
10-11 AM General Business Session  
(Spouses & Guests Welcome) – Capitol/Illinois  
Children's Care Corporation Awards ..... Tawn Williams  
Veterans Service Awards ..... Bob Kane  
Leading Knights Training ..... Paul Ronzani  
Scholarship Awards ..... Gail Sessler  
11 AM-Noon Memorial Service by 2nd Vice  
President Jeff Rodier – Capitol/Illinois

Noon-1 PM Ladies Luncheon – Highland Room  
Entrée: Half Italian Sub sandwich with Loaded  
Potatoes Soup ■ Dessert: Sherbet ■ Cost: Pre-  
registration \$18/On-site \$20

1-4 PM General Business Session – Capitol/Illinois

Committee/Commission Chair Reports Continue  
Advisory ..... Dennis Gerleman  
Athletic Commission ..... Dave Cassens  
Publication Corporation ..... Mark Bump  
Children's Care Corporation ..... Tawn Williams  
Secretaries Association ..... Michael Porter  
Drug Awareness Program ..... Frank Burr  
National Foundation ..... Jason Martin  
Government Relations ..... Ali Orr  
New Lodge ..... Joel Jorgensen  
Website Monitoring ..... Craig Smith  
Bowling Association ..... John Hierikko  
Convention Committee ..... Anthony Dardano  
Final Credentials Report ..... Scott Flota

### Unfinished Business and Adoption of the Budget

Judiciary ..... Ali Orr

### Election of Officers (Credentials Required)

1:30 5 PM PGER Sulsberger Meeting with Lodges  
and Individuals – Conference Ctr 3  
3-4 PM Drug Awareness Program – Conference Ctr 4  
3-4 PM Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shootout – Plaza 1  
5-6 PM Illinois Elks Assn Reception – Prairie/Illinois  
6-9 PM Illinois Elks Association Dinner – Illinois/Prairie

## Honoring 2019-20 Class of Exalted Rulers

Salad: Garden Greens Salad ■ Entrée: Caprese  
Stuffed Chicken Breast, Asiago Risotto, Green Beans  
■ Dessert: Apple Pie ■ Cost: Pre-registration  
\$29/On-site \$31 ■ Dress: Business Suit

**Awards Program** – American Essay Contest Winners,  
Veteran Volunteers of the Year, All-American Lodge  
State Winners, District Vice President of the Year,  
Secretary of the Year, Exalted Ruler of the Year, Lodge  
of the Year, Elk of the Year and Family of the Year

## Sunday, May 19

7-11 AM Convention Office – Plaza 4  
7:30-8 AM Room Reservations for September  
Convention – Capitol/Illinois  
8-10 AM Final Business Session  
(All Elks encouraged to attend) – Capitol/Illinois

### Installation of 2019-20 State and District Officers

**REGISTRATION** — All Elks, male & female, Must  
Register for convention functions: **FEES:** Pre-  
Registration \$10/On-site \$20. Pre-Registration deadline  
is May 1. By pre-registering for the convention, Ladies  
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. Registration badges are necessary to attend  
all functions, including hospitality rooms.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS** — Room cancelation cut off  
will be April 15. All mailings must be postmarked prior  
to April 15 to avoid additional late charges. Rooms  
cancelled after April 15 will forfeit their deposit.

**HOSPITALITY ROOMS** — The hospitality room  
assignments will be 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 junior trustee. All hospitality rooms shall be  
closed from 6 p.m. until the conclusion of the banquet  
on Saturday 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 to attend all functions, including hospitality rooms  
All Elks, male and female, must register for convention functions**

STATE

Pre-registration requested for Annual Meeting in May

Illinois Elks and guests attending the Annual Illinois Elks Association Convention, scheduled May 17-19, in Wyndham-Springfield City Centre Hotel, are encouraged to pre-register.

The pre-registration postmark deadline is May 1. 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 \$20 after May 1.

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 April 15 – 30 days ahead of the start of the convention. Rooms canceled after April 15 will forfeit their deposit.

Let's do more to support ENF, IECCC in 2019-20

Let me start by saying thank you to the senior trustees of our state! You helped me get the information for the 2019-20 Illinois Elks state directory. I had all the information by the date I needed it.

Way to go!

I hope all our lodges sent in the dollars for the Elks National

Foundation. Remember, the more we give, the more we get back to the Illinois Elks to do all of our charity works.

And, as always, the lodges of Illinois support the state major project, the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation.

Let's do more for both projects next Elks year.

As you know we will have an election at the May meeting. We will vote sometime after 2 p.m. on Saturday at the business meeting.

I'm sending to all lodges their credentials for the vote! The exalted ruler and lodge secretary must sign each credential, and the secretary is to place the lodge seal on it.

Please do not leave these credentials at your lodge. I will not replace them at the state meeting!

I will pass out credentials at the meeting to the state

officers, board of directors and past state presidents to save on stamps.

I want to give a big thank you to all Illinois Elks for their support and help during this Elks year! All lodges were very helpful whenever I asked for anything.

To the new exalted rulers, if you plan your work and work your plan, you will have a great Elks year.

Illinois Elks do lead the way!

IEA  
secretary

Marvin  
Leathers



Gift is reminder from Land of Lincoln

Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr shakes hands with IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger after receiving a gift of a bust of Lincoln at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting. Taking in the moment were First Lady Barbara Luhr and IEA President Tom Deien and First Lady Brenda.

MUST HAVE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER MEETINGS OR HOSPITALITY ROOMS

Pre-registration  
Deadline  
**MAY 1 2019**

Scott Flota, Chairman  
Credentials Committee  
P.O. Box 1484  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864,  
scottflota@gmail.com  
Phone: (618) 316-0219 (text)

Pre-registration  
Deadline  
**MAY 1 2019**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

Illinois Elks Annual Meeting

Registration Form

ANNUAL MEETING MAY 17-19 2019

Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Please make a reservation for the following:

**Pre – registration - \$10.00 After MAY 1 2019---\$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 ..... @ \$18.00/\$20.00\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Cost of meal if check received post marked after MAY 1 2019  
Or purchased on-site

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Delinquencies undercut IEA push for +1

Two months before the end of the 2018-19 fraternal year, the IEA was pinning its hopes for a strong year-end finish by reducing the number of Illinois Elks who are letting their memberships lapse.

As of the Mid-Winter Meeting in late January, the IEA's eight districts were averaging a lapsation rate of 7.3 percent, based on a high of 9.7 percent in one district and 5.4 percent in another.

Those total delinquencies stood at 1,873, IEA Lapsation Chairman Merle Evans said in

his Mid-Winter report.

"The delinquency numbers will have to be reduced significantly if a membership gain is to be achieved here in Illinois," Evans said.

He called on exalted rulers and lodge officers involved in membership to contact unpaid members and sponsors and friends of those potential delinquencies to keep them in good standing.

"In other words, everyone needs to help out at all of our local lodges that still have delinquencies," Evans said.

He suggested that lodges develop a working list of unpaid members using the Chicago Lodge Membership System, from which those unpaid members may be contacted by mail, e-mail, text or face-to-face to keep them in good standing.

"Concentrate on the individuals where there still appears to be some chance of bringing current status," Evans urged.

"If it is found that economic and/or health issues are involved, convene your standing

Please See **PUSH**, Page 6

## STATE

# Change in season means change in lodge, IEA leadership

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

Thanks to all those who helped make this past lodge year successful, and good luck to the officers in all the lodges in the coming year.

I would like to especially congratulate President Tom and

## IEA sponsor

F. Louis Sulsberger PGER



First Lady Brenda Deien for a very successful year serving the Illinois Elks Association. While involved in a very serious car accident last fall, they fought their way back. It has been an inspiration to us all.

I would like to thank First Vice President Greg Verdun, his wife Sue and the rest of the IEA officers for their help during the Deien's recovery.

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

If you are attending the May

meeting, I urge you to go to State President Tom's final banquet on Saturday night.

I strongly encourage the district deputies and esquires to the district deputies to be present to show your support for any representative from your district and lodges who may receive a special award that evening.

And please remember the 2019-20 installation on Sunday morning. Let's show our support of the

incoming slate of officers and wish them well in the year ahead.

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

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

Until then, God bless.

## Champaign-Urbana wins IEA ritual team award



LEFT PHOTO: Craig Tervin, left, receives the IEA ritual team award on behalf of Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 from IEA ritual chairman Roger Quinn. Tervin competed in the exalted ruler chair. Other team members, not pictured, were Inner Guard Bryce Smith, Esquire Teresa Tervin, Loyal Knight Jay King, Lecturing Knight Kathy Sattoff and Leading Knight Ole Ohlsson. Quinn also recognized the ritual judges, Lowell Armstrong and his wife Jan from Macomb Lodge 1009, Past State President Ray Summers and his wife Leta from C-U Lodge, John Heltzel of Flora 1659 and Jamey Hodges and his wife Heidi from Fairfield 1631. RIGHT: David Edwards of Mt. Vernon Lodge 819, left, won the 11 O'Clock Toast contest at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting in Springfield, and also received his award from IEA ritual Chairman Quinn. Edwards is to perform the toast at the memorial service at the IEA Annual Meeting in May.

## IEA dues increase by \$1

Well, if you're like me, this year has come and almost gone! I hope all the lodges had a great year by accomplishing all their goals.

As you know, the annual state dues have increased \$1 and now are \$5.25. We haven't had a dues increase since 1992. Inflation and the general cost of generating much needed funds to support our charities and various projects have taken their toll, making the \$1 increase well over due.

When you review your own lodge dues, remember that postponing dues increases in the long run will only make the increase that much greater and less appealing to the membership.

We just finished up the regional Hoop Shoot with great success. We will look forward to the National finals in Chicago.

Our state is blessed with the great turnout for all our major projects. Along with our memberships, great involvement makes them what they are!

It's very rewarding to see all the volunteerism. But that in a nutshell is what Elksdom is all about!

I would like to thank everyone

## IEA treasurer

George Hornung



who has helped Tom and Brenda during their challenges this year. By the grace of God, they are with us for years to come! God bless you two!

Also, a special shout out to First Vice President Greg and Sue Verdun for stepping up and filling in during Tom and Brenda's rehab. Now that's brotherhood!

At the reading of this, all of you new exalted rulers have been installed. It's never too early to get started on the goals for your lodge. One person can't do it all so get your officers and members active to make your lodge's year a success.

In closing, I have said many times that had it not been for this organization, I would have never met some of the great friends I've enjoyed along my travels in Elksdom. I can never thank this band of brothers for this gift!

## Bring passion to your orientations

IEA Orientation Chair Sharon Kay Dirck has a kindred spirit in her approach to orienting new Elks members.

Both she and Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr stress orienting new initiates with appeals from lodge members who have first-hand knowledge of the lodge programs they are promoting, and possess the passion to excite the new initiates to become involved.

For Luhr, orienting new members with Elksdom "is the time to seal the deal," in retaining the new members.

"[It is] important to have a member with the knowledge of all our programs and who has

the ability to share that with the candidates with passion — maybe more than one person," Luhr said.

Dirck echoed Luhr's plea for a passion-filled orientation, saying in her Mid-Winter committee report, "When we have that new candidate there, we need the people who are

passionate about their individual portion of the Elks [programs]."

She pointed to how Dennis Dempsey, a trustee in Dirck's home lodge, Dixon 779, relates to the

new initiates in talking about the lodge's annual Mother's Day brunch.

"He goes into great detail about what we serve, our hours that we serve, etc." she said. "Dennis has been responsible for managing the

kitchen for this event for many years and knows it like the back of his hand.

"Who better to talk about that event?" Dirck asked.

"This is an excellent example of having others at orientation who are passionate about, say, Hoop Shoot or what (the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation) has done or doing for the kids, or someone who is active with our veterans program, or someone who does the Easter Bunny program.

"They are the ones who will pass their excitement on to the new members so that they will want to get involved."

Dirck also reiterated the importance of holding orientation on a separate occasion than initiation night.

"Even though I try to limit orientation to an hour, on occasion this time runs over," she said. "If I was doing it on an initiation night, the new members might feel like I was rushing them through the process."

*"When we have that new candidate there, we need the people who are passionate about their individual portion of the Elks (programs)."*

— Sharon Kay Dirck

## Push from Page 5

relief committee to consider paying a member's dues," he said, "after all, it is just the per capita (portion of the dues) that you are picking up, not your local lodge dues portion."

Evans reminded lodges that delinquencies risk termination

of their ability to access lodges, club rooms, Elks events "even as the guest of a current member."

"Let's all help out to deal with reality, and to work alongside our member recruitment and reinstatement efforts, to see a long sought-after gain here in Illinois."

## Tribute to leadership



Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr and First Lady Barbara, left, receive a tribute to leadership from IEA President Tom Deien and First Lady Brenda upon the GER's annual visit to the IEA in January.

## STATE

## ‘You’ll be in our hearts forever’



IEA President Tom Deien, with First Lady Brenda, greets attendees at dinner highlighting the Mid-Winter meeting in Springfield. It was Deien's first address to the IEA gathering since both he and Brenda sustained injuries in a car crash in October. Tom had spent 28 days in intensive care. He told attendees that he kept reminding himself, "I've got to get well enough to get to the January meeting." And because of the out-pouring of support of well-wishers, "You'll be in our hearts forever."

## Know your civic leaders

Fresh off of attending the Government Relations Seminar in Oklahoma City in October, IEA Government Relations Chair Ali Orr underscored the need for lodges to get to know their local and state government leaders.

"It is important for every lodge in Illinois to reach out to local government leaders and make sure they know all the wonderful things the Elks do," Orr said in her Mid-Winter report to the IEA Government Relations Committee.

Orr said her lodge, Springfield 158, has as members the mayor, county clerk and a city alderman, all of whom help spread the message of Elksdom.

"Invite local officials out to your lodge, show them your charity reports and invite them to become an Elk themselves," she said.

A major talking point of the seminar, Orr said, was making sure lodges are reporting every charitable work they do.

"The amount of charity work that the Elks do is simply

outstanding, but the numbers that are being reported are still only about 45 percent of all the charitable and volunteer hours being done in lodges."

Orr asked lodges to make sure everything is included in the charity reports done.

Reporting should be done monthly and submitted no later than May 1 each year.

Sixty-five of the IEA's 69 lodges are reporting monthly. Four lodges, though — Lincoln 914, Beardstown 1007, Chicago Northshore 1316 and Elmhurst 1513 — had not yet started reports as of her January report.

"Please make sure those reports start getting submitted immediately," Orr said. "Not submitting these reports until the end of the year gives a greater chance for error and leaving out many important hours your lodge has done."

"Hopefully, we will be 100 percent reporting at our next state convention."

## CANDIDATES FOR THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

## Todd Lindsay of Herrin Lodge 1146

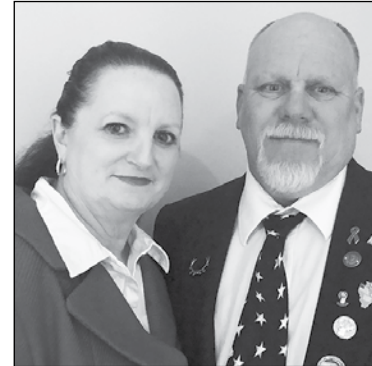
By **TODD LINDSAY**  
Herrin Lodge 1146

I am a proud 20-year member of Herrin Lodge 1146. I am also a candidate for third vice president of the Illinois Elks Association.

I am currently lodge secretary and have been since 2014. I've also been secretary of the Illinois Children's Care Corporation for three years and a member for 10 years.

I have served as exalted ruler for my lodge twice, in 2004-05 and 2014-15. I have also been district deputy twice in 2012-13 and 2017-18. (I went through district and Grand Lodge chairs twice). And I would do it all over again.

My wife of 37 years, Lisa, has



**TODD AND LISA LINDSAY**  
been there to support me and I couldn't do this without her, along with our three children and eight grandchildren who are growing up with the Elks.

The plans I have first and

foremost would be of course retaining and increasing membership, as well as improving communication within our Order. I also think there is an equally pressing issue involving Youth Activities in that young people still don't know what we are all about.

I work with a group of young people ages 19-26 who ask what the Elks are, and this disturbs me. As hard as we try, we are still the best kept secret on Earth. But with your help I will try to change this, and build on our membership as we move ahead.

I look forward to seeing you and would appreciate your support in the upcoming election at the May IEA State Convention.

## Dennis Bierman of DuQuoin Lodge 884

By **DENNIS BIERMAN**  
DuQuoin Lodge 884

I am Dennis Bierman of DuQuoin Lodge 884 and I am a candidate for third vice president of the Illinois Elks Association.

I am a 15-year member of my lodge, having served as exalted ruler in 2009. I twice served as district deputy in 2015-17 and currently serve as the IEA Lodge Activities chairman. My wife Jeanne is an Elks member and our lodge treasurer and past secretary.

Some lodges in the IEA have lost members and seen a drop in their finances. I would like to see



**DENNIS BIERMAN**

increased communication between the IEA and lodges. We need to

pass information on so lodges can better avoid problems and prosper.

Lodges need to use the experience of district and state officers. At other district meetings, I passed on ideas we use in the South, and learned new ideas that I have taken back to my district.

Cooperation at all levels of Elksdom can only help us all to succeed.

My wife and I have enjoyed traveling the state this past year and have met many new friends. Elksdom has given us many gifts, and I hope you will support me in May so I can give back to Elksdom.

## Remember you're representing the Elks while on social media

With the assent of social media to receive news and current events, IEA Judiciary Committee Chair Ali Orr cautions Illinois Elks to remember that these tools are still representative of their lodges, the IEA and Grand

Lodge.

That means:

■ "Copyright laws must be followed on all social media."

■ "You may not post photos that do not belong to you or are not of the actual food your lodge is serving."

■ "You may not post photos of minors without written permission of their parents or legal guardians, and you must keep records of that written permission."

Please See **ONLINE**, Page 15

## IEA serves up Pipes and Drums performance at Mid-Winter dinner, chili at Hoop Shoot



Bill Block of the Illinois Elks Pipes and Drum Corp performs at the dinner highlighting GER and First Lady Mike and Barbara Luhr's visit to the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting.



Sue Verdun of Pontiac Lodge 1019, Greg Huske of Elgin 737, Vickie Cockrum of Benton 1234 and Paul Ronzani of Chicago Northshore 1316 are all smiles as they man the chili concession at the IEA Hoop Shoot registration and dinner in February.

## STATE

# 2018-19 IEA Hoop Shoot: Thanks for the memories



Hoop Shoot competitors and Elks members converge in a group photo minutes before the start of the 2018-19 Hoop Shoot at Jefferson School in Decatur on Feb. 23.



The top girl and boy shooters at the IEA Hoop Shoot finals receive their trophies from Past State Presidents Paul Ronzani, left, and Ralph Bradshaw. Carter Hoene, representing Effingham Lodge 1016, shot 24 of 25, and Tori Geriets, representing Lincoln Lodge 914, shot 23 of 25.



IEA Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher, right, had some capable help from brother Darrell Swisher, left, and PSP Kirk Wallace of Fairfield Lodge 1631.



Jeanette Gerleman, left, maintains the pizza offerings as patrons file in from the just-completed IEA Hoop Shoot finals to serve themselves lunch.



PSP Coy Cockrum of Benton Lodge 1234 assists a newly arriving Hoop Shooter and his parent.



Former IEA Hoop Shoot Director Bob Swisher watches over a Hoop Shooter sign one of four basketballs. The red, white and blue balls go to the girl and boy shooters who collect the most signatures of Elks members attending the IEA finals. The other two balls go to IEA Director Jim Swisher and IEA President Tom Deien.



IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger helps score the 8/9 girls at the IEA Hoop Shoot finals in Decatur.



IEA President and First Lady Tom and Brenda Deien didn't let injuries they sustained in an October car crash interfere with attending the IEA Hoop Shoot finals.



PSP Paul Ronzani of Chicago Northshore Lodge 1316 helps Hoop Shooters leave the bus to make their way into Jefferson Middle School in Decatur, where the event was held.



Second Vice President Jeff Rodier shares a laugh with immediate PSP Dave Jurmu, IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers, PSP Coy Cockrum and President Tom Deien.



IEA Hoop Shoot finalists pinned their hometowns on a board at the headquarters hotel, demonstrating that the event is indeed statewide.

## STATE

# Meet your IEA Hoop Shoot finalists for 2018-19



**8/9 BOYS** – From the podium, Colton Baudino, left, representing Pontiac Lodge 1019, won the division on 21 of 25 and 5 of 5 shots made, followed by Kassidy Linkey of Benton 1234, second, with 21 of 25 and 3 of 5, and Isaac Hardiman of Robinson 1188 (not pictured) on 21 of 25 and 2 of 5. Also competing in the division, front from left, were Carter Ross of Beardstown 1007, Tirth Patel of Des Plaines 1526, Parker Duerr of Galena 882; Kormik Massie of Flora 1659; and Brody Ketcham of Canton 626.



**8/9 GIRLS** – From the podium, Maci Moore, representing Jacksonville Lodge 682, won the division on 17 of 25 shots made, followed by Ellie Johnson, left, representing Galesburg 894, second, (15 of 25 and 4 of 5) and Ashtyn Smith, Fairfield 1631, third (15 of 25 and 3 of 5). Also competing in the division, front from left, were Mya Friese, Effingham 1016; Ahmyrie McGowan, Dixon 779; Marley Parrish, Johnson County 2880; and Chloe Ponton, Watseka 1791.



**10/11 BOYS** – From the podium, Justice Dagg, representing Fairfield Lodge 1631, won the division on 23 of 25 shots made, followed by Jack Turner of Metropolis 1428, left, second, with 22 of 25, and Nicholas Olivero of Oglesby 2360, right, third, with 19 of 25 and 5 of 5. Also competing in the division, front from left, were Ivan Mora of Brookfield 1510; Braylen Willis of Peoria 20; Rysom Eilts of Pontiac 1019; Jackson Rigdon of Paris 812; and Evan Brewer of Granite City 1063 (not pictured).



**10/11 GIRLS** – From the podium, Mia Clark, representing Lincoln Lodge 914, won the division with 23 of 25 shots made, followed by Olivia Smith of Fairfield 1631, left, second, with 20 of 25; and Makaylee Spechter of Effingham 1016, right, third, with 18 of 25. Also competing, front from left, were Dalia Roman, Herrin Lodge 1146; Nicole Herrera, Brookfield 1510; Hannah Foster, Pontiac 1019; Kendal Bassett, Oglesby 2360; and Izzy Dalke, Belleville 481 (not pictured).



**12/13 BOYS** -- From the podium, Carter Hoene, representing Effingham Lodge 1016, won the division with the top score overall for boys, 24 of 25, followed by Anden Atwood, Fairfield 1631, left, with 23 of 25 and 10 of 10; and Grady Thompson, Princeton 1461, with 23 of 25 and 9 of 10. Also competing, front from left, were Jake Canvin, Oak Lawn 2254; Nathan Orah, Des Plaines 1526; Trent Sternberg, Fairview Heights 664; Landen Heinzl, Lincoln 914; and Luke Melvin, Benton 1234 (not pictured).

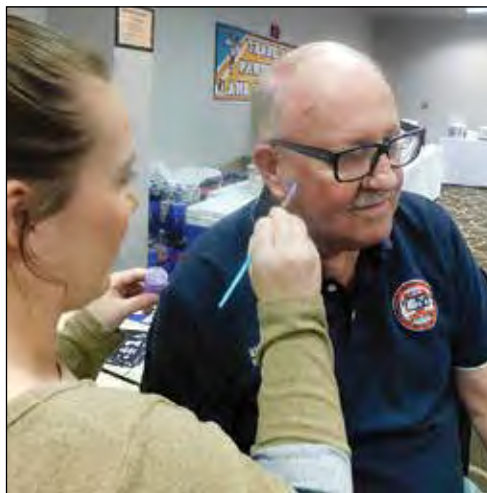


**12/13 GIRLS** – From the podium, Tori Geriets, representing Lincoln Lodge 914, won the division with the top score for girls of 23 of 25, followed by Grace Nelson, Effingham 1016, second (not pictured); and Kaitlyn Knipple, Dixon 779, right, third. Also competing, front from left, were Ayva Rush, Johnson County 2880; Kenidee Boldt, Mt. Vernon 819; Braley Wiser, Carlinville 1412; Ashliee Boyajeon, Watseka 1791; and Madison Terranova, Elgin 737 (not pictured).



A Hoop Shooter and his parents finish their pizza lunch, compliments of the IEA Hoop Shoot program.

A Hoop Shooter displays his haul of miniature basketballs that PSP Paul Ronzani rained on him and fellow competitors who took to the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel pool after the awards dinner.



It wasn't all hoop shooting at the IEA Hoop Shoot finals. IEA Secretary Marv Leathers gets his face painted from Natalie Swisher. Uncle and PSP Darrell Swisher got one too.



Albert Baker of Wheaton Lodge 2258 and Sharlene Huske of Elgin Lodge 737 take time out from assisting in welcoming Hoop Shoot competitors.



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## LOCAL LODGE



## Quincy Elks use ENF grants for kids to visit farm demonstrations, restock pantry

Quincy Lodge 100 used an Elks National Foundation Promise Grant to bus area third-fourth grade school children to the Adams County Fair Grounds in September for demonstrations of thrashing, sawing lumber, blacksmithing, rope making, corn shelling, printing, life in a one-room school house and sorghum pressing. Also on display was a round barn full of exhibits. Dinner was served to Olde Tyme Association, Elks Members and volunteers. A \$2,500 Promise Grant covered the meals, snacks and supplies for the event.



Quincy Lodge 100 partnered with Hy-Vee grocery store, WGM-TV and the Salvation Army in the Fall Harvest campaign in October. The goal was to raise \$60,000 during the month and restock the pantry for the rest of 2018. Quincy Elks were live at noon and 5 and 6 p.m. on Oct. 23 to push the sale of \$5 and \$10 bags of groceries in an effort to meet the goal. A \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant also was earmarked to reach the goal.

## Murphysboro Elks boost band, recognize flag display



ABOVE: Murphysboro Lodge 572 recently donated \$1,200 from its Elks National Foundation Anniversary Grant to the high school marching band, the Crimson Express. Accepting the check, from left, are band booster parent Peggy Riemer and band director Michael Moreland. Exalted Ruler Darcie Hastings and Chaplain Kirk Caskey make the presentation. RIGHT PHOTO: Murphysboro Mayor and Murphysboro Elks member Will Stephens presents Sarah Lavender Brashear the "Honor Our Flag" certificate, as provided by the Grand Lodge Activities Committee. Sarah brings honor and respect to the American Flag through a display at her local restaurant, "One Hot Cookie."



## Lodge 572 gets show of appreciation

The Murphysboro High School volleyball squad displays Elks Drug Awareness Literature that they helped pass out on "Elks Appreciation Night" at one of its home games. Murphysboro Lodge 572 volunteers and officers assisted, and provided the materials. In this coordinated community/lodge effort, all who presented an Elks membership card were given free admission to the game.



Illinois Elks from several communities remembered veterans in December while standing in the rain for a 30-minute opening ceremony of remembrance at Mound City National Cemetery to honor each branch of service. The group then



## Rain fails to dampen Elks' spirits at 'Wreaths Across America' event

participated in "Wreaths Across America" by placing wreaths on the individual graves. "This was also accomplished in the rain and mud, but without complaint," lodge spokesperson Inez Donnigan said. The sun came out the next day to reveal the beauty of the Elks' efforts. Mound City National Cemetery was started during the Civil War and is still active with more than 9,000 graves. Donnigan said there were not enough wreaths for all the graves, but those available were evenly distributed. The Illinois Elks Association contributed \$5,000 to this "Wreaths Across America" project, which was shared by the five National Cemeteries in Illinois. Realizing the limited parking space available, the Cairo Elks invited other Elks to a free breakfast, parking and bus service on the 10-minute ride to the cemetery and return. This Elks bus also made several loops from the cemetery to the church-provided parking in downtown Mound City. "Elks Care and Elks Share," and they will always remember the veterans," Donnigan said.

LOCAL LODGE

## Mt. Vernon Elks provide meals for seniors, shoes for kids, assistance for families

Join with city, county offices to serve 400 for Operation Love

Mt. Vernon Lodge 819's annual Operation Love prepares, packages and delivers an estimated 400 holiday meals to area seniors and shut-ins, assisted by the city of Mt. Vernon and the Jefferson County Housing Authority. Lodge spokesperson Lynette Fair said the lodge combined proceeds from both an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and Anniversary Grant to fund the meals. Operation Love Chairman Kent Fair, and lodge Secretary Scott Flota stand over veteran Don Bartles, who attended the annual dinner.



## ENF grant funds family assistance

Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 members in January distributed proceeds from an IEA grant for meeting the quota for donations to the Elks National Foundation in 2018-19. Lodge spokesperson Lynette Fair said those proceeds were donated to Kingdom Seed Ministries to provide shoes to school children, and to Family Life Center to assist families in need. TOP PHOTO: Leading Knight Tim Bains, left, and Exalted Ruler Dave Edwards, right, present a check to Monte Jo Clark of Kingdom Seed Ministries for its "Happy Feet" program. BOTTOM PHOTO: Bains and Edwards give a donation to Family Life Church Pastor Kent Jackson for its Family Life Center to assist families needing help with finding jobs and homes, and rebuilding a life in the community.



## Lodge promotes Americanism at school

Mt. Vernon Lodge recognized its Americanism essay contest participants for 2018-19 from Bluford Grade School in February. From left are lodge Americanism Chairman Keith Hertenstein, eighth-grader Emma Thompson, seventh-grader Sarah O' Dell, sixth-grader Gracen Sledge, sixth-grader Shelbi Yanez, seventh-grader Wyatt Jackson and eighth-grade English Teacher Karen Putt. Yanez placed first in the lodge competition and third in the South Central District competition. Her essay advanced to the state competition on Feb. 28.



## Kankakee Elks recognize Hoop Shooters

Kankakee Lodge 627 held its 2018 Hoop Shoot in November at Kankakee Community College. Among the participants, from left, were Tommy Rounds, who finished second in the boys age 10-11 division; Kason Bynum (first in boys 10-11); Jackson Shelton (first in boys 12-13); and Jaiden Timm (third in boys 10-11). Bynum and Shelton were to go on to compete in the East District Hoop Shoot in January.



## Pontiac Elks donate to food pantry

Pontiac Lodge in December collected food, dry goods and money for the Livingston County Food Pantry. More than \$500 and 65 pounds of goods were donated. Pantry board members Marge Brown and Donna Zarwell flank helper Aubrey Harms, along with lodge Secretary Greg Verdun.

STATE

## Wyndham adds lunch/dinner buffet

Illinois Elks looking for greater food offerings on their stays at IEA meetings, can take note that The Grille at the Wyndham-Springfield City Centre is changing its menu to a buffet on Friday and Saturday.

The buffet will be available for lunch and dinner in both the nearby Highland Room and The Grille, IEA Convention Coordinator Tina Haran reported at the Mid-Winter meeting.

The cost will be \$14, plus tax and tip, and includes soft drinks or coffee and dessert. Convention Committee Chair Tony Dardano reported the change in his committee report.

Also of note:

■ Haran reported that the district hospitality refrigerators would be split between the eight districts at \$62.50 per district.

Please See **BUFFET**, Page 13

## LOCAL LODGE/DISTRICT/STATE

## Benton Elks fund four community projects



Benton Lodge 1234 came bearing monetary gifts to four community programs earlier this year. TOP LEFT PHOTO: The lodge gave \$1,500 to the Willing Partners Working Training Companions program. TOP RIGHT: Lodge officers Vicky Pearce and Denise Minor presented \$1,000 to a representative of Ewing Northern Grade

School. BOTTOM LEFT: Pearce and Minor also gave a \$1,000 check to a representative of Akin Grade School. BOTTOM RIGHT: Benton Elk Vickie Cockrum presents a check to Boy Scout Troop 28 representatives to send a scout to summer camp.

## North District has a ball recognizing exalted rulers



The North District recognized its incoming and outgoing exalted rulers at its annual exalted rulers ball in March at Des Plaines Lodge 1526. In the front row, from left, are incoming ER's Jim Magner of Elmhurst 1531; Michael Hozian of Des Plaines 1526; and Avis Thomas of Chicago Northshore 1316. In back are outgoing ER's Vicki Rolewicz of Brookfield 1510; Andrew Mazzie of Elmhurst 1531; Michael Pender of Wheaton 2258; Andrew Parenteau of Des Plaines 1526; and Jim Fornelli of Chicago Northshore 1526.

## Buffet from Page 12

■ Credential badges would be required for all present on floors 29 and 30 of all times. Credentials Chair Scott Flota added that once registration closes at 7 p.m. on Friday the pre-registration credentials will be moved to the 30th floor to accommodate those arriving late and wishing to partake in "hospitality."

■ For those who arrive after 7 p.m. and did not pre-register, there will be badge holders on the 30th floor available for them to display their Elks membership card, which will serve as proper credentials for them to remain on the hospitality floors on Friday evening.

■ Area Member Joel Jorgensen reported that after concerns were raised at the September meeting of housekeeping entering rooms while still occupied, he has ascertained with the hotel that you could request "No Service" upon check-in.

■ Area Member Lane Berghoffer reported that members from his area had expressed concerns over the hotel's deteriorating furnishing and fixtures.

■ Dardano reported that during the walk-through of the hospitality rooms on Friday morning, the hotel announced that new furniture for the Pinnacle Room would be arriving in the near future.

■ IEA Third Vice President Jim Cusack asked that the room deposits for September 2019, which will be collected at the May 2019 meeting, be increased to more closely match the actual cost of a room, plus taxes.

A motion was made and passed to raise the room deposit to \$107 per room effective with the September room deposits collected at the May meeting.

## Easter Bunny reports due May 5

IEA Easter Bunny Chair Lori Bump said she is looking forward to another 100 percent participation in lodge reporting on their Easter Bunny programs.

Report forms were handed out at the Mid-Winter committee meeting. Reporting deadline is May 5.

Bump also asked to receive all pictures of any Easter Bunny activities, which she would forward for publication to the Newsette. She may be e-mailed at [loribump@warehousedirect.com](mailto:loribump@warehousedirect.com).



## Brookfield police honor Brookfield Lodge

The Brookfield Police Department, at a Brookfield Village Board meeting in January, presented a plaque honoring Brookfield Lodge 1510 for its long and dedicated commitment to aiding the village and police with a multitude of contributions and services. Most recently, Brookfield Elks gave police a device to see in the dark and through smoke for up to 875 yards. The gift was funded by an Elks National Foundation grant and donations from individual members. From left are lodge Chairman of Trustees Robert Rolewicz, member Marie LeGros, Exalted Ruler Vicki Rolewicz (holding the plaque), member Frank Clarke, Leading Knight Mark Roegner and Brookfield Police Chief James Episcopo.

GRAND LODGE

Luhr a machine shop entrepreneur and shipyard operator en route to becoming GER

Michael T. Luhr, who completed a visit to the Illinois Elks Association in January, was born in Petersburg, Alaska, on August 22 to Donald H. Luhr and Beulah E. (Reid) Luhr. Michael has one brother, Robert, and two sisters, Donna and Joyce. He attended elementary and high school in Petersburg, graduating in 1974.

Michael started his working career at the age of 9. He served as a janitor at a Ben Franklin store for two years, shelved boxes at a grocery store for two years, and worked at a fish cannery for another year. Through a school work program at the age of 15, Michael worked at a machine shop during the summers until

graduation. Upon graduating from high school, Mike worked with a logging company, a mining company, and a road construction company. In 1980, he purchased the floating machine shop where he worked as a teenager, becoming the fourth owner of the business. In June of 1984, Michael met

his wife Barbara (Barb) at the local day-care facility where their respective children were enrolled. Mike and Barb had their first child, Bradee, in 1989, and were married on January 8, 1991. Together they have four children, Sabrina, Francis IV (John), Justin, and Bradee, and five grandchildren. Also in 1984, Barb joined

Michael to operate the machine shop. They worked together as sole proprietors until 2011, when a group of fishermen approached them with an offer they could not refuse. With the support of 25 local fishermen, Mike and Barb bought the shipyard in Petersburg which had closed the previous year.



GER LUHR

Today, the business employs 17 people and provides a full service ship store with vessel haulout, engine service, and machine shop facilities.

Michael was proposed and initiated into Petersburg Lodge No. 1615 in November 1977 by his father, Exalted Ruler Donald, along with ten of his lifelong school friends.

He served as a Trustee from 1990 to 1998 and was appointed as Esquire in 1998. He continued through the Chairs and was named Exalted Ruler in 2001-02 and 2002-03. He was elected to the Trustees again, serving from 2003 to 2008. He has served as the Lodge Treasurer since 2008.

Michael began his service at the State level in 2004 when he was elected as Trustee. He was elected and served as President of the Alaska State Elks Association in 2009-10 and continues to serve as Chair of the ASEA's Charitable Trust Fund, Advisory Committee Chair, and on the Lodge Development Board.

At the Grand Lodge level, Michael was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Alaska's East District in 2005-06, 2007-08, and 2008-09. He was appointed to the G/L Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee from 2010-12. He was appointed as Special Representative to the Alaska East District in 2011, serving through December 2017.

In 2012, Michael was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees as Building Applications-West Member in 2012-13, as Board Secretary in 2013-15, and Vice Chair in 2015-16. He was appointed as Special Deputy for Alaska from 2016 to the present.

At the G/L Convention in Reno, Michael was elected as Grand Esteemed Leading Knight and served for 2017-18.

On a personal level, Mike was very active in baseball growing up and is in the Little League Hall of Fame. He coached women's softball and Little League for many years until the Elks became his passion. Children John and Bradee, as well as son-in-law Adam, are all Elks and were initiated by Michael.

155<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Convention- St. Louis

June 30<sup>th</sup>- July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Drury Plaza at the Arch

2 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, MO 63102

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Significant other: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Accommodations: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The room rate is \$140 per night

Room Deposit (All except DDGER designates) \$140

Hospitality Room/ Person \$50 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to use the Hospitality Room.

\_\_\_\_ I will not be staying with the Illinois delegation, but wish to use the Hospitality Room.

(Accommodations not made through the State Housing Chairman or Grand Lodge must have prior approval of the State Housing Chairman or State President to be allowed access to the Hospitality Room.)

Make check payable to : IEA Housing

Mail completed form and check to:

James Cusack, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP/ Housing Chairman  
5902 N Elston Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60646

Phone: (773)403-3739  
E-mail: jamescusack58@gmail.com  
(All changes must be brought to my attention via email)

\*Reservation Deadline: May 20, 2019

Rooms reserved on a first come, first served basis. Illinois has only 105 rooms available.

STATE

# Lodges top 36,800 lbs. in collection of unused drugs on Take Back Day

The IEA collected more than 36,800 pounds of unused or unwanted pills for disposal on Oct. 27 during the National Drug Take Back Day.

Those 36,800 pounds of pills add to the now total of more than 518,000 pounds collected from the 16 take-back programs held in Illinois over the years.

The Center for Disease control reported a 16.8 percent increase in overdose deaths in Illinois in 2018, which translates into a total of 2,900 overdose deaths reported last year.

Burr said those 2,900 deaths are actually understated due to incomplete reporting.

Illinois' 16.8 percent increase in overdose deaths contrasts with the 1 percent decrease nationally.

The next Take-Back Day is scheduled April 27.

At the Mid-Winter meeting, the IEA Drug Awareness Committee emphasized the continuing need to grow the Drug Awareness Program in every lodge "to stay ahead of the game and to help Illinois youth," Chairman Frank Burr said in his committee report.

Also discussed were the new drug-related laws and how to promote the Elks Drug Awareness Program.



The IEA Drug Awareness Committee arranged for an Elks DAP Coloring Book to be part of the table arrangements at the dinner highlighting the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting. The coloring book included the design of Ben Hopfinger, representing Belleville Lodge 481.

LOCAL LODGE

## Ottawa Elks remember veterans with 12-year annual dinner

Ottawa Lodge 588 continued a 12-year tradition in November when they were host to a steak dinner for area members of the American Legion/ VFW Honor/Color Guard, which attends every funeral for area veterans. Lodge spokesman Jim Rice said the dinner has been well received over the years and has helped the lodge forge a close relationship with area veterans organizations. "Ottawa Lodge is small but supports many civic activities such as donating coats and gloves for school children, and food to the Ottawa Food Pantry," Rice added.

LEFT PHOTO: Ottawa Elks Marlene Burnside, left, and Marylinn Rice, right, giving toiletries to Friendship Village resident Robin Foreman. Lodge members collected and donated the toiletries. RIGHT: Marylinn Rice, left, presents a 50 lb. bag of popcorn and oil to LaSalle Veterans Home representative Susan Scully for the veterans' enjoyment.



ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

# Winners announced from calendar drawing

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation has announced its 2019 Illinois Elks Children's Care calendar winners through mid-March.

**January winners** were: Miner Charitable Foundation Inc., Watseka; John Loftus, Springfield; Robert Thomas Jr., Des Plaines; Earl Konecki, Oak Lawn; Kathleen S. Swartz, Wheaton; Jeff Porter, Chicago South; Allen Frank, Elgin; Wesley Widger, Peoria; Dale Lonzerotti, Springfield; Deborah D. Kattenbraker, Belleville; Roland Wagner, Murphysboro; Also, George Konieczny\*, Des Plaines; Josh Wiegers, Belleville; Peoria PER Association, Peoria; Tony Doudera, Salem; Kymm Recht, Des Plaines; Tom E. Caliper, Herrin; Frank Medlen, Robinson; Don Schillinger, Jacksonville; Robert W. Roberts, Robinson; Arlan W. Bingham, Du Quoin; Nicki Palmer, Carlinville; Patricia Fraser, Chicago Northshore.

**February winners** were: Jordy Z. Gotschall, Jacksonville; Angie Roach, Du Quoin; Kathy Stout, Peoria; Thomas J. Ciecka, Danville; Tomi Sue Austin, Charleston; Konnie Kensel, Springfield; Victoria L. Williams, Champaign - Urbana; Brooks High, Anna; Dennis Hendricks, Dixon; Rose Marie Davidson, Marion; Also, David Comte, Cairo; Greg Amburgey\*\*, Robinson; Amy Gilliland, Champaign - Urbana; Jessica Barkley, Carlinville; Dan Francis\*, Streator; Gerald D. Strauman, Canton; Emme Pruefer, Elmhurst; Barb Ringenberg, Carmi; Jean Ellen Boyd, Anna Jonesboro; Dave Garrard, Robinson; Steve Tracy, Robinson.

— \*\$100 \*\*\$1,000 \*\*\*\$5,000

## IECCC announces slate for nominating committee

At the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in Springfield, the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation appointed Brad Benson, Kristi Wykes, and Chad Mistdarffer to the Nominating Committee.

IECCC Chair Tawn Williams said the committee was to report nominations for the 2019-20 CCC officers to the board at the next CCC meeting on April 13 in Chatham. The nominated officers will be voted upon at the May IEA meeting.

Williams also stated in her report that the clinic schedule is available at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org).

"The CCC website is a great resource for information," she said. "Patient referral forms can easily be downloaded and printed off of the website. Merchandise, such as ties, scarfs, and polo shirts, can be ordered from the website."

Williams encourages members to check out the photos on the website of children and families the CCC assists.

"These photos represent just a small amount that the CCC does for our children and our communities, but it wouldn't be possible without the support of the Illinois Elks Lodges and membership," Williams said.

## Online from Page 7

- "Absolutely no references to alcohol can be made on any Elks social media page. No drink specials, no booze baskets."
  - "Please be mindful if you rent out your lodge to have a clause in rental agreements that the Elks name cannot be used in advertisements."
  - "All bartenders in lodges must have proper training on how to identify visibly intoxicated persons, how to slow them down and how to handle the situation as well as understand why it is so important for them to handle the situation appropriately, the impact it could have on them personally and the lodge."
  - "Never allow people to serve themselves alcohol."
  - "Post numbers for taxis, Uber, Lyft, etc., in your lodge."
  - "Bartenders must document when they refuse to serve someone and what they did to try to get the person alternative transportation."
  - "Sexual harassment is never tolerated in any Elks lodge nor by any Elks member at anytime."
  - "Queen of Hearts drawings are for members and their spouses only. No exceptions."
- Orn noted the words of caution in her Mid-Winter committee report.



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

# IECCC supports autism program that's producing positive results

## Proof is in the pudding for Connor and Pana-based AAMP

Erica Matthews had been working with Connor for two weeks when she walked into the autistic child's home to talk to his mother.

"Where's mom?" Matthews asked Connor, expecting him to echo her words as he had done many times when treating the child's autism, which was marked by Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

The disorder left Connor trapped in his own world with little to no speech and many behavioral and sensory issues.

"She's upstairs," Connor told Matthews as he looked at her and pointed up.

"I stood in disbelief," an incredulous Matthews exclaimed. "For the first time in eight years (of knowing Connor), he finally spoke his first sentence."

And Matthews found her calling in life.

"This is the reason I knew I had to do this," she said of her motivation to form the Pana-based Autism and Movement Project, a not-for-profit



**ERICA MATTHEWS**

...with her prized pupil Connor

organization serving the autism community and providing community outreach.

The project's impact has attracted the attention of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, which awarded the program with a \$10,000 grant at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting in January.

IEA President Tom Deien traced the IEA's interest in the

program, saying, "Past State President Darrell Swisher made a presentation of the AAMP program run by Erica Matthews in Pana. Members were so moved by the success of this program that a \$10,000 donation was voted for the program."

"This shows what the Elks are all about."

Matthews' program employs autism movement therapy in an effort to redirect the brain using repetitive movement to help individuals with autism process, store and retrieve information effectively.

Matthews said the \$10,000 donation will allow the program to buy therapy items for its students, help provide various forms of stimulation, and improve balance and speech.

"The donation also allows us to offer scholarships to families of low income to ensure their child gets into our program," she said. "We are also able to take our kids on field trips."

One mother of an autistic child said of AAMP and its



The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting, awarded the Pana-based not-for-profit Autism and Movement Project \$10,000 to support its programs. From left are IECCC Chair Tawn Williams, IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block, Past State President Darrell Swisher, AAMP Founder Erica Matthews and Amanda Taylor of the AAMP staff. BELOW: Matthews addresses attendees at the dinner highlighting the Mid-Winter meeting, with Taylor looking on.

Autism Movement Therapy: "My son's coordination has improved to the point that he has earned an upper rank in his Tae Kwon Do," the mother said. "His social skills have progressed as well. He is beginning to understand social cues, and interacts with others in much more of a reciprocal manner than before."

For Connor, he attends regular school classes.

"He proved people wrong that said he would never speak or be able to stay in regular class," Matthews said. "This is



why I love what I do and why I believe in it!"

She's made a believer of the IEA, too.

## Quincy Elks take to the stage to raise \$2,500 to benefit Children's Care

Quincy Lodge 100 raised \$2,500 for the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation earlier this year with its performance of "Eat, Drink and Be Murdered" at its third Mystery Dinner Theater. In addition



to raising the funds for the CCC, the lodge thespians earned a standing ovation for their performances. Front from left are Bert Loos as Nurse Kelly, Bill Pittman as Father Mike O'Riley, Connie Triplett as Penelope and Kathryn Roderick as Kathleen McFadden. In back are Steve Barteau as Seamus O'Riley, Philip Reilly as Booger, Becky Reilly as Rose McFadden, Karla Labs as Hanna O'Riley, Steve Loos as Connor McFadden and emcee Steve Labs (not in photo). Behind the scenes (and out of the photo) volunteers were Catherine Barteau, Connie Brassfield, Larry Ippensen, Brenda Pittman and Hugh Roderick.

## Good week caps \$252,255 raised in 2018-19

Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation Administrative Manager Bill Block knew he had a good week going on Monday, March 19, when Richard Martin of Murphysboro Lodge 572 hand delivered to the IECCC a check for \$11,090.10.

The funds were proceeds from Murphysboro Elks' 24th dart tournament and auction held in February.

"What a nice surprise to start the work week," Block said. "A huge thanks to all who organized and

participated in this annual event."

That donation was part of the \$252,254.59 the IECCC has raised through March 19 — including \$158,813.40 raised by lodges and \$92,440.09 in IECCC fundraisers, Block said.

The total also includes \$94,563.12 the IECCC received from lodges at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting.

"On behalf of the IECCC's board of directors, thank you members and lodges for supporting the Children's Care Program," Block said.

## IECCC scholarships attract 72 applicants

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation's program for students applying for physical- and occupational-therapy scholarships came to a close on March 1 with 72 students applying.

The Lydia Miller Scholarship for Special Education also received several applications, whose signup period closed March 22.

All applications were to be

judged, and scholarship winners will be announced and notified by early June.

"Good luck to all those students who applied," IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said.

The 2021-22 Scholarship Programs will be back online Dec. 1, 2019, at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org)