



# Illinois Elks Association Newsette



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## Thanks for opportunity to lead Illinois' greatest benevolent group

I would like to thank all Elks across Illinois for the opportunity that has been given to Sue and me as president of the greatest benevolent group in Illinois.

Already we had a huge challenge when Tom and Brenda Deien were involved in an automobile accident last October. Sue and I had to step up to help the Illinois State Association run smoothly. The communication between Tom and Brenda Deien, Lou and Beth Sulsberger, Marvin Leathers, George Hornung, Jeff

IEA  
president  
Greg  
Verdun



Rodier and Jim Cusack, allowed the work of the Association to continue.

At our May convention, the membership elected a new third vice president for 2019-20, Todd Lindsay of Herrin Lodge 1146. He now assumes his main duty

of making the reservations for our three state conventions in Springfield and our National Convention in Baltimore in July 2020. I look forward to working with Todd and Lisa.

A special thank you to Dennis and Jeanne Bierman of DuQuoin Lodge 884 for traveling and meeting Elks across our state in his bid for third vice president.

On April 27, Illinois Elks had three participants in the Elks National Hoop Shoot held in Chicago at Roosevelt University.

Colton Baudino from Pontiac 1019, Maci Moore from Jacksonville 682, and Carter Hoene from Effingham 1016 were our three shooters with Colton being our highest finisher with 23 out of 25 and 4 out of 5 to finish fourth.

In four short months we will start to have the next round of Hoop Shoots in Illinois. Let's have six qualifiers in Chicago next April.

Who in your lodge has a cell phone? I bet your exalted ruler or secretary has one. Now they

Please See **GREG**, Page 2



IEA President Greg Verdun addresses the IEA Flag Day observance June 8 at the historic 144-year-old Livingston County Courthouse in Pontiac, attracting approximately 60 Elks from across Illinois. IEA officers performed the Flag Day ritual. IEA Americanism Chairman Dave Cooper of Granite City Lodge 1063 recounted the history of the flag, and retired U.S. Rep. Thomas W. Ewing, a 50-year Elks member and Army veteran, was the keynote speaker. After the Flag Day program, members and guests went to Pontiac Lodge for a flag retirement led by the lodge officers. More than 100 worn flags were retired, followed by lunch at the lodge. RIGHT PHOTO: IEA National Veterans Service Chairman Bob Kane guides Mt. Vernon Troop 103 Scout Korbyn Breeze in properly disposing of a worn out American flag at the annual Flag Day observance at Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 in June. Related photos, **Page 2**



## IEA honors Old Glory at annual Flag Day ritual in Pontiac

## BPOE posts first +1 in 39 years; IEA cuts rate of loss in 2018-19

While Grand Lodge posted its first membership gain since 1980 in 2018-19, the IEA substantially cut its rate of loss of members for the year.

"Illinois finished -437, but 228 better than a year ago. So good progress," Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Manager Rick Gathen said.

Nationally, the BPOE gained 94 members, ending the year with 770,937, Gathen said.

IEA Membership Co-chairs

Chris Ord and Robin Lemay thanked all Illinois lodges for reducing the IEA's membership loss from -665 in 2017-18 to -437 in 2018-19.

The IEA ended 2018-19 with 25,280 members.

"Our goal is still to achieve a gain for the state of Illinois," Ord and Lemay said in a joint statement. "We can make this goal a reality with all lodges pulling

Please See **ROLLS**, Page 2

## South is 2018-19 IEA District of the Year



The South District was named the IEA 2018-19 District of the Year at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. Receiving the award on the district's behalf is South District Vice President Craig Smith, flanked by IEA President Tom Deien and IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger. District Year-end reviews, **Page 6**



## STATE

IEA officers led the annual Flag Day observance in Pontiac on June 8. From left are: keynote speaker Thomas W. Ewing, IEA Third Vice President Todd Lindsay, Second Vice President Jim Cusack, First Vice President Jeff Rodier, President Greg Verdun, IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, Secretary Marvin Leathers, Treasurer George Hornung, Chaplain John Bailey, Sergeant at Arms Tom Tracy and IEA Americanism Chairman Dave Cooper.



The IEA had some capable assistance displaying the American flags spanning the nation's history, at its annual Flag Day observance. Members of Pontiac Lodge 1019 and the branches of service they represented, from left, are: Jack Arnold, Navy; Dennis Warren, Army; Bill Kallas, Air Force; Jim Sporrer, Navy; Bill Cole, Air Force; Don Moore, Army; and Steve Worthington, Army; along with Exalted Ruler Ray Magee.

## IEA work is labor of love

Let me start by saying a big thank you to the Elks of Illinois for allowing me to be your state secretary for the 26th year! It is a labor of love, and what a joy to do. Thank you!

Now let me count some of the reasons:

1. What a great job the Illinois Elks do for our state major project, the Illinois Elks Children's

Care Corporation. Illinois Elks are always there to help. We help children and also help with many scholarships. Thank you!

2. Great news: Based on formulas, the Illinois Elks Association is eligible for the following 2019-20 grant amounts:

■ Special projects grants, \$155,590

■ Regular state charities grant, \$165,390

■ Bonus grant, \$32,630  
This is great! This can only be

through our Illinois Elks lodges that give every year, the lodges, ladies groups, fund raisers, etc. Keep working hard and we will do better next year!

3. If your lodge made the president's goal under State

President Tom Deien, you have a \$1,500 award for community service. Please e-mail me how you plan to use the award.

4. A new program this year enables each lodge to receive a \$1,000 award to be used for the veterans in your community. Just e-mail our state president and he will let me know how your lodge will use the award. Funds are ready to send out to your lodge. Thank you in advance.

I look forward to seeing Illinois Elks at the Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis!

Again, thank you for all you do for Elksdom.

IEA  
secretary  
Marvin  
Leathers



## 'Bricks and Clicks' at Elks.org offers way for lodges to market themselves

Illinois Elks are finding they are just a few "Bricks and Clicks" away from boosting their lodges' efforts in attracting members and marketing the good they do in their communities.

The Grand Lodge Public Relations and Membership Marketing Committee rolled out its online Bricks and Clicks application in April. The application is aimed at building a lodge brand to attract new members, retain current members and motivate the membership

to be more active and engaged.

"We are excited about this significant upgrade designed for the betterment of our lodges," Committee Manager Rick Gathen said.

Gathen said the "Bricks and Clicks" application is accessible 24/7 to all Elks members registered on elks.org at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/>.

At the top of the page, simply click on either the "Membership Guide" or

"Marketing Guide." Each provides material on which you can either "click" for electronic files or choose traditional "brick" files of press releases, public service announcements and other printable material.

"No more book-form or PDF manual. No more limited access just to lodge secretaries," Gathen said. "No limitations when members can have access to it. It will never be obsolete.

It offers continuous — and collective — learning opportunities, which help deepen our members' understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

"It features dynamic pages with easy to find and easy to use applications. The intuitive navigation options are easy to locate and visually attractive."

Training sessions will be held at the Elks National Convention in St. Louis in July.

### Rolls from Page 1

together to bring in new members and to retain our existing members.

"Let's show our members not only the good works we do for our communities, but also the fun that can be had as an Elk!"

The IEA ended the year with a lot to build on in 2019-20, despite its minus-437, which Gathen said was the greatest aggregate loss among all 48 of the BPOE's state associations.

Both the West and East Central districts posted membership gains of +41 and +11, respectively, paced by Canton Lodge 626's +39 in the

West and Effingham 1016's +55 in East Central.

Results for the remaining six districts were -11 for the South, -21 for West Central, -72 for the East, -119 for the North, -122 for the Northwest and -144 for South Central.

Twenty-four of the IEA's 69 lodges posted at least a +1 in membership in 2018-19, led by Effingham's +55, followed by Springfield 158's +46, Canton's +39, Galesburg 894's +36, and both Herrin 1146's and Sycamore 1392's +25.

Other lodges posting at least a +1 were: Harrisburg 1058, +11; Marion 800, +11; Carmi

1652, +10; Lincoln 914, +10; Granite City 1063, +9; Decatur 401, +8; Jacksonville 682, +8; Murphysboro 572, +8; Benton 1234, +7; Watseka 1791, +7; Paris 812, +5; Brookfield 1510, +5; Mt. Carmel 715, +5; DeKalb 765, +4; Anna-Jonesboro, +2; Cairo 651, +2; Quincy 100, +2; and Fairview Heights 664, +1.

Metropolis 1428 narrowly missed a +1 with zero new members.

Lodges posting the greatest losses were Des Plaines 1526 with -84, Mt. Vernon 819, -53; Clinton 785, -41 (by transfer); Dixon 779, -34; Princeton 1461, -34; and Pontiac 1019, -31.

### Greg from Page 1

need to take pictures of your lodge events, then send them to Joe Baker at the *Newsette*, *The Elks Magazine* or your local newspaper. The published pictures will let other members or people of their community know what fun and caring people are in Elks lodges.

Finally, Senior Trustee Rod Franklin loves a quiet evening at home with his three children, but sometimes he likes to go out and kick loose. Rod agrees that the best way to have a good time is with friends at the lodge, and an even better time is bringing in new members, so he has more friends to party with at the lodge.

Every time you bring in new members, give them three applications, so they bring in three more of their friends. Have events at your lodge where members feel welcome.

I ask every officer when they step into their lodge to *greet* every member and guest. Make them feel appreciated.



### 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

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## STATE

## BPOE's +1 is inspiration for IEA to post a gain in 2019-20

I have great news to share. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks saw a gain in membership for the 2018-2019 fraternal year! For the first time in 39 years, our Order had a national net increase of 94 members. Let's use this awesome news to inspire our own state to make membership a priority and see some better numbers this year. I know we can do it and I

IEA  
sponsor

F. Louis  
Sulsberger PGER



appreciate everyone's commitment to this.

We are well into the new

lodge year and I know each and everyone is hoping for a successful year. Let's work hard to achieve the goals of the Grand Exalted Ruler and State President in the Elks National Foundation and the Illinois Children's Care Corporation.

As I write this message, the Grand Lodge Convention is just a couple weeks away. This year, it's

in our neighboring state of Missouri in St. Louis and it proves to be another exciting and well planned event for all of the attendees.

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

God bless.

IEA  
treasurer

George  
Hornung



## New grant gives another boost to our veterans

Well, another year is upon us. All of our members should enjoy Elksdom and its wonderful programs.

This year we have added a new grant to help veterans in your own community. The grant is for \$1,000 to aid veterans in anything from being homeless to providing meals to participating in Veterans Day parades.

I know that every lodge can figure out a great event to fill our veterans' needs. They sure deserve it!

We still have the past programs that I hope everyone takes advantage of. They all should make us proud and give us a good feeling if we do them.

IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers and I thank all of the lodges that have promptly submitted their dues as they are crucial to financing the aforementioned programs.

The Elks National Foundation goal award requests are coming in nicely. Secretaries of qualifying lodges are asked to submit their requests ASAP. It's a terrible thing to qualify for the award and not use it.

By the time you get your *Newsette*, we will already be back from the Grand Lodge Convention. Since it is in St. Louis, I'm hoping for a great attendance. If you have never attended one, there's no better chance than this one.

I want to again thank every program chairperson for all of the time spent to make our programs a huge success.

To all the lodges, make sure your goals for this year are already in full swing! The year will go much faster than you think.

In closing make the IEA a part of your life as it helps so many people. It's great to be an Elk! I am and I hope you are too!

Fraternally, George

## Service to Elksdom is mantra of IEA Elk of Year McBride

Murphysboro Lodge 572 member Selena McBride never misses a chance to help out the Elks.

The 2018-19 IEA Elk of the year not only assists whenever needed, she is an Elk 24/7, said lodge Exalted Ruler Darcie Hastings, who nominated McBride for the award.

McBride received the honor at the IEA Annual Meeting in May in Springfield.

Hastings recalled when McBride had been asked to help a friend with donating clothes to a charity.

"She realized these were very nice clothes and thought of the Elks, and asked if the Elks could use them for the newly started veterans assistance program," Hastings said.

For recently deceased Elks, McBride is quick to offer her services to help the children of the deceased who might be too overwhelmed to do what needs to be done.

"Selena did not hesitate to start

making phone calls to assist in making sure that happened for our departed member," Hastings said.

McBride has been quietly serving Murphysboro Lodge for several years now, never drawing attention to what she does to assist.

"However, this year she has gone above and beyond what I could even hope for from a member," Hastings said. "She finds time around her normal work schedule to participate in every parade and flag presentation that we have participated

in."

She assists with annual lodge events including its Mother's Day breakfast, the Children's Care Corporation dart tournament, the members Christmas party and the Elks golf tournament.

She has also volunteered for some new programs, including the veterans pork steak dinner fundraiser, and also the beer and chicken charity dance, for which she made 50 pounds of potato salad by herself.

*"I am amazed and proud of what one Elk chooses to step up and do."*

—Murphysboro ER  
Darcie Hastings



Selena McBride of Murphysboro Lodge 572 was named 2018-19 IEA Elk of the Year. She receives the honor from IEA President Tom Deien and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger.

McBride doesn't shy away from selling 50/50 tickets, and donating food for Sunday football and basketball games, the plant sale and the Elks volleyball appreciation night.

"In fact, Selena is the type of member that anytime an event comes up she will be more than happy to assist," Hastings said, citing the  $\pi$  day (pie day) fundraiser, in which McBride was

asked to donate a pie, and she showed up with four.

Besides offering her culinary skills, McBride never hesitates to nominate others to become Elks members.

"I am amazed and proud of what one Elk chooses to step up and do for not only the Elks as an association but for its members," Hastings said.

## Start laying groundwork *now* for Teen of Year program

Kewanee Lodge 724 represented two of the five top finishers in the 2018-19 Teen of the Year contest.

Kewanee had the first-place girl, Emilyann Elizabeth Wexell, and second-place boy, Gunner R. Spivey.

Oglesby Lodge 2360 represented the first-place boy, Joseph Soldati; Salem 1678, the second-place girl, Karli Janise Rose; Murphysboro 572, the third-place girl, Gabby Brown; and McLeansboro 1882, the third-place boy.

IEA Youth Activities Chairman Gregg Collins announced the winners in his 2018-19 year-end

report at the IEA Annual meeting in May.

Collins credited Past State President Dennis Gerleman and past Youth Activities Chair Debbie

Wallace for their efforts in overseeing the contest.

"With their help, it has made it very easy to make this program a success," Collins said.

For 2018-19, 12 nominations were received from five lodges in four IEA districts: Kewanee, Oglesby, Salem, McLeansboro and Murphysboro.

*Five lodges in four districts submitted nominations in 2018-19*

Nominees are judged on scholastic achievement, class leadership, athletic success and community service.

Collins emphasized that to get other lodges involved in the Teen of the Year program, they must ask school officials during the summer and not wait until school starts.

## All American lodge contest attracting new entries

Nine of the IEA's 69 lodges entered the Grand Lodge All American lodge contest in 2018-19, including several first-time participants.

"I feel that Lodge Activities had

a good year," IEA Lodge Activities Chairman Dennis Bierman said in his 2018-19 year-end report.

"I concentrated on passing on upcoming deadlines to the district chairs, along with emphasizing the

various awards and contests that lodges should consider."

He added, "I thank the district chairs and many others for their support this year."

STATE



The family of Carter and Roni Jean Lacy of Anna-Jonesboro Lodge 1641 is the 2018-19 IEA Family of the Year. They receive the recognition from IEA President Tom Deien and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger.

Remember, lodge orientation is for new officers too

Lodge orientation is not just for new members, but for new officers also. Orientation has more impact if it's conducted on a night separate from initiation. And lodge officers and program chairs should be encouraged to become more involved in orienting new members.

Those were the salient points of IEA Orientation Chair Sharon Kay Dirck's 2018-19 year-end report. New officers, and not just new members, should undergo an orientation annually. "We should never assume someone knows (his or her) new position and what is expected," Dirck said.

Holding orientation on a night separate from initiation "gives the lodge another opportunity to impress the new member," she said. "The more new members know about all of our good works, the longer they will remain good active members."

Please See **ORIENT**, Page 5

ER/secretary team of Carter, Roni Lacy is IEA Family of Year

The husband-wife team of Carter and Roni Lacy — the Anna-Johnsboro Lodge 1641 exalted ruler and secretary, respectively — is the IEA Family of the Year for 2018-19.

"By working together and incorporating an important group of officers, these two have managed to successfully make both physical and atmospheric changes" in the lodge, 2018-19 South District Vice President Craig Smith said in his letter nominating the couple for IEA Family of the Year.

Carter, who finished his second year as exalted ruler in March and was elected in April as IEA junior trustee, exceeds his duties to his lodge, and was credited to being an asset to Smith as Smith worked through the district chairs.

"Mr. Lacy has acted above and beyond the call of duty in his willingness to serve the needs and goals of the Elks and not simply just his local lodge's needs," Smith said, citing Carter's help in organizing the annual district golf fundraiser.

For Anna-Johnsboro Lodge, Smith said, "I've enjoyed watching the positive influence Carter has had on both a resurgence in youth and membership, but also to his obligations as a lodge officer.

"Reinstituting old traditions have sparked new life into Carter's term(s) as exalted ruler," Smith said.

Behind every organized exalted ruler is an even more organized secretary, Roni, Smith said.

"Just like Carter, Roni's commitment to our Elks policies and ways have helped the charitable giving of the Anna-Jonesboro Lodge in countless ways," Smith said, citing her efforts on behalf of the lodge's weekend backpack food programs, proper reporting of lodge activities and commitment to learning the proper Elks ways to aid in the lodge's success.

"Roni's self-education at state meetings and her drive to do more for her communities make her far and away one of the most valuable Elks that Lodge 1641 currently has," Smith said.

"Mr. and Mrs. Lacy together have rejuvenated, reinvigorated, or just simply reignited a proud Elks torch that burns bright in the Shawnee National Forest," he said.

"This couple's commitment to the Elks, their community, their kids and their grandkids shows just how valuable good folks in our lodges are," Smith added. "The teamwork they've used together to grow membership, initiate future physical changes and updates at the Lodge, aid their community, and quite honestly simply uniting several hundred members, to me is priceless."

Illinois Elks Association  
2019-2020 Budget Review

May '19 - April '20

	May '19 - Apr 20	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
400 (OPERATING INCOME)		
401 (Per Capita 18-19)	0	85,000
402 (STATE MEETINGS)		
402-00 (Registration)		
402-02 (On-Site Registration)	0	3,600
402-03 (Pre-Registration)	0	12,500
Total 402-00 (Registration)	0	16,100
403-00 (Meals)		
403-01 (Banquet)	0	29,250
403-02 (Ladies Luncheon)	0	4,360
403-04 (Past State Presidents Banquet)	0	990
Total 403-00 (Meals)	0	34,600
Total 402 (STATE MEETINGS)	0	50,700
405 (MISCELLANEOUS INCOME)		
405-00 (Miscellaneous Income)		
405-01 (Hotel Rebate)	0	4,500
405-02 (Per Capita Room Rebate)	0	3,800
405-00 (Miscellaneous Income) - Other	0	10,000
Total 405-00 (Miscellaneous Income)	0	18,300
Total 405 (MISCELLANEOUS INCOME)	0	18,300
Total 400 (OPERATING INCOME)	0	154,000
500 (RESTRICTED FUNDS)		
501 (GRAND LODGE HOSPITALITY)		
501-00 (Grand Lodge Hospitality)		
501-01 (Lodge)	0	2,500
501-02 (Individual)	0	1,750
Total 501-00 (Grand Lodge Hospitality)	0	4,250
501-03 (Hospitality)	0	12,000
Total 501 (GRAND LODGE HOSPITALITY)	0	16,250
502 (PUBLICATION CORPORATION)		
502-00 (Publication Corporation)	0	26,500
Total 502 (PUBLICATION CORPORATION)	0	26,500
Total 500 (RESTRICTED FUNDS)	0	42,750
Total Income	0	196,750



STATE



Fairview Heights  
a double winner...

Fairview Heights Lodge 664 was a double winner at the IEA Annual Meeting, capturing both the IEA Lodge and Exalted Ruler of the Year for 2018-19. Receiving the awards from IEA President Tom Deien and Sponsor Lou Sulsberger is 2019-20 Fairview Heights ER Sharon Seibert for 2018-19 lodge ER Walter Holland, who was unavailable to receive the awards.



...make that a triple  
contest winner

IEA Drug Awareness coloring book contest winner Julie Stock of Belleville and representing Fairview Heights Lodge 664 is congratulated for her winning entry by IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger. Her winning entry was to be published in an upcoming issue of the Drug Awareness coloring book.

Illinois Elks Association Charitable Trust  
2019-2020 Budget Review  
May 2019 through April 2020

	May '19 - Apr 20	Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
401-00 (Elks National Found. Grant)	0.00	35,350.00
Bonus (State Charities Bonus)	0.00	168,890.00
Grant (State Charities Grant)	0.00	148,950.00
Special Projects Grant		
Total 401-00 (Elks National Found. Grant)	0.00	353,190.00
410-01 (Charitable Donations)	0.00	1,875.00
Total Income	0.00	355,065.00
<b>Expense</b>		
500 (Management Expenses)		
501-00 (Office Supplies)	0.00	200.00
502-00 (Postage)	0.00	391.94
505-00 (Secretary, Treasurer Expense)	0.00	10,000.00
550-00 (Auditing Services)	0.00	4,500.00
590-00 (Miscellaneous)	0.00	450.00
Total 500 (Management Expenses)	0.00	15,541.94
640 (IEA Programs)		
640-01 (Drug Awareness)	0.00	28,500.00
640-02 (Hoop Shoot)	0.00	32,000.00
640-04A (Junior Golf)	0.00	4,500.00
640-05 (Soccer Shootout)	0.00	3,000.00
640-06 (National Foundation)	0.00	350.00
640-07 (Americanism Program)	0.00	2,500.00
640-08 (Publication Corporation)	0.00	20,000.00
640-09 (Youth Activities)	0.00	5,000.00
Total 640 (IEA Programs)	0.00	95,850.00
650 (IEA Charitable Contributions)		
650-01 (Benevolent Programs)	0.00	3,000.00
650-03 (Disaster Relief)	0.00	12,000.00
650-04 (Elks Veterans/National Service)		
650-04A (Veterans Projects)	0.00	10,000.00
650-04 (Elks Veterans/National Service) - ...	0.00	40,000.00
Total 650-04 (Elks Veterans/National Service)	0.00	50,000.00
650-05-06 (Honor Flight)	0.00	21,000.00
650-07 This Able Vet	0.00	21,000.00
Total 650 (IEA Charitable Contributions)	0.00	107,000.00
700-00		
2016		
MVS	0.00	16,000.00
Total 2016	0.00	16,000.00
2017 (MVS)		
MVS	0.00	16,000.00
Total 2017 (MVS)	0.00	16,000.00

C-U 2497 ritual team  
headed for St. Louis

Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 will represent the IEA in the Grand Lodge ritual contest at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 30 in the America's Center Complex, St. Louis.

"We would like to wish them the best of luck," IEA Ritual Chairman Roger Quinn said in his 2018-19 year-end report.

Quinn is also hopeful that more lodge officers will compete in the individual chairs competition at the IEA Fall Meeting in September.

"It's an opportunity to compete with your peers," said Quinn, who may be reached at 217-369-8958 or rqlq12@yahoo.com for information.

IEA visited 142 places  
during Easter in 2019

Illinois Elks visited 12,937 residents of nursing homes, veterans facilities, health care centers, retirement homes, housing authorities, the Salvation Army, daycare centers, nursery schools and disability facilities during Easter in 2019.

Also, 3,295 miles were driven, \$19,890 was spent, 645 Elks and members worked 2,309 hours and 142 places were visited, IEA Easter Bunny Chair Lori Bump said in her 2018-19 year-end report.

Gifts included candy, flowers, baskets, stuffed animals, food, coloring books, Drug Awareness items, puzzles, gift cards and cash, bicycles, toys, comic books and clothing, she said.

Orient from Page 4

And about Dirck's advice that orientation chairs and other lodge officers should be encouraged to talk to the new members, she asked: "Who better than the IECCC chair to talk about all of the great things IECCC does than the person who is more passionate about (the program)?" she asked.

"Those chairs might find another member to help their cause."

But Dirck's best advice for orientation chairs and other members is to keep the interaction positive.

"Never ever assume someone knows all there is to know about this great Order of the Elks. Have your best presenter presenting about their respective programs.

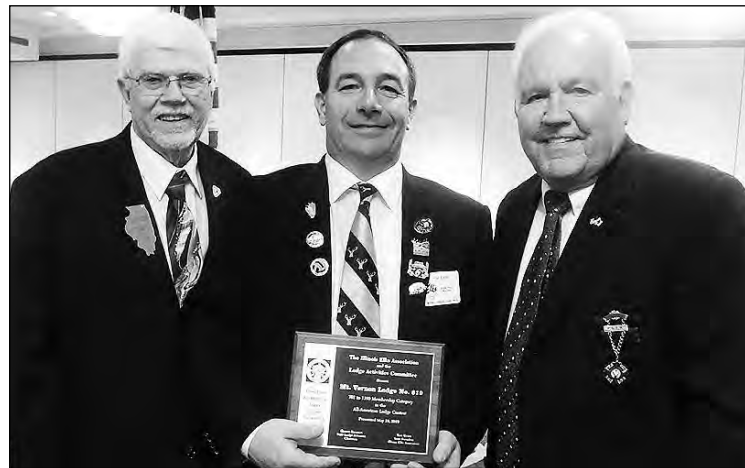
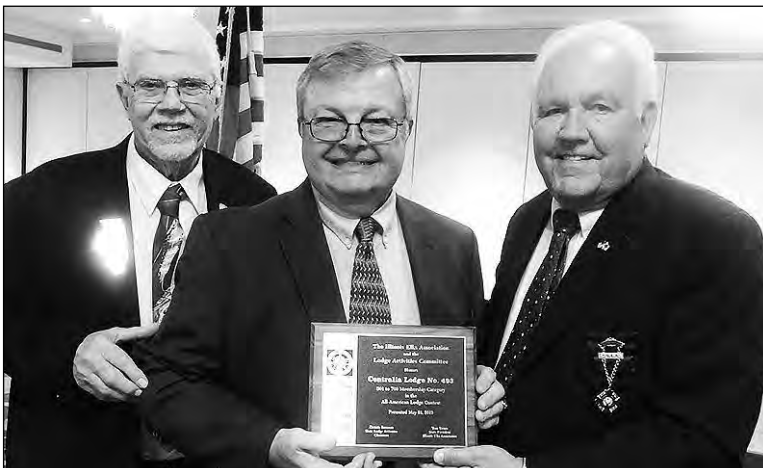
"Don't forget our history. We have around 150 years and have done some amazing things for our communities.

"And allow the new members time to ask questions."



## STATE

## Carmi, Salem, Centralia, Mt. Vernon lodges rated All American



Carmi Lodge 1652, Salem 1678, Centralia 493 and Mt. Vernon 819 were named All American lodges in their respective divisions for 2018-19. Receiving plaques and congratulations from IEA President Tom Deien and IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, from top left, are: Carmi Exalted Ruler Jason Packer (under 300 Division 1), Salem ER Bob Lafenhagen (301-500 Division 2), Centralia Trustee Bill Luebben (501-700 Division 3) and Mt. Vernon ER Tim Bain (701-1,100 Division 4).

## Newsette editor/secretary post available

The Illinois Elks *Newsette* is looking for a new editor/secretary.

Applicants with a background in news writing and layout are encouraged to apply. A bachelor's degree in journalism or related field is preferred, along with at least five years of experience in the print media.

Applicants are asked to e-mail a cover letter, three writing samples and a publication they have designed, to Joe Baker, *Newsette* editor/secretary, at [deejayeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:deejayeditor@yahoo.com).

Submission deadline is Aug. 14.

Three applicants will be selected for a personal interview with the Illinois Elks Publication Corporation board of directors on Sept. 21 at the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield.

The new editor will take over publication of the summer 2020 *Newsette*.

## Something new at IEA golf tournament

Foursomes participating in the 2019 Illinois Elks State Golf Tournament in July will be offered another, albeit undisclosed, game to play.

"In addition to the normal on-course games, a game played among the members of each foursome is going to be given a trial at this year's tournament," IEA Athletic Commission Chairman Dave Cassens said in his 2018-19 year-end report. "Information about the game will be forthcoming at the tournament site."

The registration form and related information for the tournament, scheduled July 26 and 27 at Green Hills Country Club, Mt. Vernon, were made available at the IEA Annual Meeting in May.

Entry deadline for the tournament is July 15, and a block of 50 rooms has been reserved at Drury Inn and Suites. Room reservations were to be made by June 23.

For junior golfers, the Tournament of Champions is

Please See **GOLF**, Page 11



From front left, Chicago Northshore 1316 Exalted Ruler Avis Thomas, Mt. Vernon 819 ER Tim Bain, Centralia 493 Trustee Gene Howe and Des Plaines 1526 ER Michael Hozian display the hardware they received on behalf of their lodges for contributions to the Elks National Foundation in 2018-19.

## \$1 to ENF gets \$2.40 for IEA

Illinois Elks reaped \$2.40 for every \$1 they contributed to the Elks National Foundation in 2018-19.

The return on investment was based on \$204,373 in donations that Illinois Elks made to the ENF for the year, which generated \$491,110 in grants and scholarships, ENF figures posted at [elks.org](http://elks.org) show.

That \$491,100 included: a \$165,390 state charities grant, a \$155,590 special projects grant, a \$32,630 bonus grant, \$84,000 in Most Valuable Student scholarships, \$28,000 in Legacy Awards and \$25,500 to the National Veterans Service Commission.

The grants for state charities, special projects and bonus to the state were earmarked for the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation and the IEA Drug Awareness, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot and educational programs.

For scholarships, \$84,000 will be divided among 21 MVS scholars, and \$28,000 will be awarded to up to seven Legacy scholarships to children, grandchildren and stepchildren of Elks.

The remaining \$25,500 will provide aid and comfort to

## Des Plaines top ENF contributor

Des Plaines Lodge 1526 was a dual winner in contributions to the Elks National Foundation in 2018-19 in the IEA, winning in both total and per-member gifts of \$14,630 and \$14.61, respectively, in the 901-plus membership category.

Also, in the 501-500 category, Carlinville 1412 was tops in total gifts with \$6,505 and Chicago Northshore 1316 led with \$36.58 per member.

In the 501-900 category, Mt. Vernon 819 led with \$6,745 in total gifts and Centralia 493 won with \$9.30 per member.

IEA ENF Co-chair Kristi Hornung announced the winners at the IEA Annual Meeting in May.

hospitalized veterans through the National Veterans Service Commission.

That \$491,110 total does not include the \$310,495 that 57 Illinois lodges were to get back in 2018-19 through the ENF Community Investments Program.



## STATE

# Vet volunteer of year Whitley makes students remember veterans too

Carmi Lodge 1652 member Amy Whitley is quick to remember veterans. And as a fourth-grade teacher, she also makes sure her students remember them too.

For the 2018-19 school year, Whitley learned of veterans' need for winter clothing, which inspired her and her students to undertake a three-week Sweats for Vets initiative, in which 400 articles of clothing were collected and delivered to the Illinois Veterans Home in Anna.

For that and other acts of veterans remembrance, Whitley was recognized as the IEA Veteran Volunteer of the Year for 2018-19, at the dinner highlighting the IEA Annual Meeting in May in Springfield.

Nominating Whitley for the honor was Carmi Lodge Secretary Barb Marks.

A year earlier, Whitley's fourth-graders collected socks for hospitalized veterans and residents



Chris Ord of Belleville Lodge 481 and Amy Whitley of Carmi Lodge 1652, were named the 2018-19 IEA Veteran Volunteers of Year, Ord for men and Whitley for woman. They received the recognition from IEA President Tom Deien and IEA National Veterans Service Chairman Bob Kane.

at the veterans home in Anna.

"The project turned into a school wide one, which snowballed once the community became involved," Marks said, recalling that 2,573 pairs of socks were collected and delivered to the Anna home.

Whitley also involves her students as much as possible for ceremonies honoring veterans, Marks said.

Citing a Veterans Day event at a park in downtown Carmi, Whitley walked with her class to the park so



they could attend the ceremony and show support for veterans.

"A Carmi Elks member was taking part in the program, and later that day he voiced his appreciation for Amy's efforts," Marks said. "It meant a lot to him and the

other veterans to have our young people in attendance to show their appreciation for the sacrifices of others."

The IEA also appreciates Whitley's efforts.

## Center spared from closing, thanks to veteran volunteer of year Ord

In 2015, the Vet Center in East St. Louis was at a crossroads in its existence.

Belleville Elks members Robin Lemay and Chris Ord were operating the center at the time, Lemay as the Veterans Administration Veterans Service representative and Ord as his deputy. Ord had founded the center in 2011.

Lemay was contemplating a career change, which meant he had to go back to

school, and he could no longer manage the center.

"I was worried that the monthly meals that we delivered would be stopped and the work we did there would come to an end," Lemay recalled. "I should've known better."

Lemay said Ord assured him "our guys" would not lose their center.

"It was now his turn to pick up the ball and run with it," Lemay said. "And run he

did!"

Lemay recalled the turnaround in his letter nominating Ord for IEA Veteran Volunteer of the Year for 2018-19. Ord received the honor at the IEA Annual Meeting in May in Springfield.

"Chris possesses an ability to put the veterans at ease and be comfortable with him, even the most cantankerous veteran," Lemay said. "It is a hard task to develop

trust in some of these groups of veterans, and I believe Chris has a rare ability to communicate his honesty and sincerity to 'the guys,' as he calls them," Lemay said.

Lemay credits Ord for the continued success of the Vet Center and the Belleville Elks' other veterans activities.

"That is why I know that he is deserving of receiving the Veteran Service Volunteer of the Year Award," Lemay said.

## Top scholars introduced to IEA

Six of the 21 IEA Most Valuable Student Scholars for 2018-19 were recognized at the IEA Annual Meeting in May in Springfield. Front from left are: Shruti Kollie, representing Wheaton Lodge 2258, who plans to major in public health and pre-med at the University of Florida; Gabriel Laniewski, Oak Lawn 2254, computer science, Princeton; and IEA Scholarship Vice Chair Lisa Quinn. In back are: Logan Lemon, Paris 812, music and electrical engineering, Purdue; Savannah Tiemann, Belleville 481, chemical engineering, Rice University; Preston Lewis, Mendota 1212, finance and accounting, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and Justin Powell, Chicago South



1596, economics, Princeton. Unavailable for the photo were Isabella Brown, Granite City 1063, biochemistry, Purdue; Miranda Fairbanks, Champaign-Urbana 2497, business management, Indiana University; Karen Ge, Wheaton 2258, mathematics, Stanford; Elijah Hall, Champaign-Urbana 2497, computer and information sciences, University of Michigan; Hanson Hao, Bloomington 281, mathematics, Yale; Tyler Jenkins, Streator 591, actuarial sciences, Illinois State; Maegan Jong, Elgin 737, computer science, Harvard; Lauren Kim, Chicago Northshore 1316, chemistry, Yale; Sophia McComb, Sycamore 1392, statistics, Boston College; Gatlin Miller, Mt. Vernon 819; public affairs and administration, University of Pennsylvania; Amatullah Mir, Oak Lawn 2254, medicine, University of Chicago; Hannah Shim, Bloomington 281, human and organizational development, Vanderbilt; Gregory Smith, Brookfield 1510, biology, University of Pennsylvania; Giselle Soares, Des Plaines 1526, biomedical engineering, Duke; and Steven Staubus, Brookfield 1510, political science, Stanford.

## Now the ascent begins from bottom of the well

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Most Valuable Student scholar Preston Lewis, representing Mendota Lodge 1212, addressed Illinois Elks, guests and fellow scholars at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. Here is his speech.**

Members of the Elks, parents and fellow Elks scholars, welcome. I'm Preston Lewis, and I am from Mendota. I will be studying finance and accounting at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign next year.

I'd like to start out with a story I was told a few years ago. A long time ago there was a farmer. The farmer owned an old donkey named Homer. On the farmer's land there was an old abandoned well. One day Homer was grazing in the pasture and fell into the well. The farmer decided that Homer was not worth the effort of rescuing from the well and he would just bury Homer alive. The farmer began to fill the well with dirt. When he threw the first scoop of dirt in the hole, it fell on Homer's shoulders. To the farmer's surprise, Homer shook it off and stepped up. The farmer again took a scoop of dirt and threw it on Homer. Again, Homer shook it off and stepped up. This cycle continued until Homer got to the top of the well and stepped out.

This story is a perfect example of the journey that my fellow Elks scholars and I are now embarking on. Just like Homer, we are at the bottom of a "well," that being the beginning of our adults lives. Throughout our lives we will have obstacles that will weigh us down. We will encounter people like the farmer

Please See **WELL**, Page 11



## STATE

# IEA caps Annual Meeting with installation of 2019-20 officers



IEA officers for 2019-20 are installed by Past State President Dave Jurmu.

IEA 2019-20 President-elect Greg Verdun is escorted by Past State President Tony Dardano to lead the installation of officers, which highlighted the Annual Meeting in May in Springfield.



Now the immediate past president, Deien stands with IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, who honored Deien with a ring commemorating Deien's year in office.



Verdun is bestowed the jewels of office, officially making him the 2019-20 IEA president.



PSP Kirk Wallace leads in prayer as part of the installation, flanked by IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and PSP Jurmu.



The IEA's newest First Lady, Sue Verdun, pins Brenda to commemorate Brenda's year as IEA First Lady.



Todd Lindsay of Herrin Lodge 1146 addresses the installation gathering upon his election a day earlier as IEA third vice president, besting Dennis Bierman of DuQuoin Lodge 884.



Tom and Brenda Deien are honored with a plaque memorializing their leadership during 2018-19, along with Sponsor Sulsberger and the newly installed President Greg Verdun.



Tom and Brenda Deien can now kick back as the former IEA First Couple, with Tom wearing his well-deserved past state president's hat he received from Sulsberger.



**2019-20 STATE OFFICERS** – Here are the 2019-20 IEA officers, led by President Greg Verdun of Pontiac Lodge 1019, front center. He is flanked, from left, by First Vice President Jeff Rodier of Springfield Lodge 158; Second Vice President Jim Cusack of Des Plaines 1526; Third Vice President Todd Lindsay of Herrin 1146; and Secretary Marvin Leathers of Mt. Vernon 819. In back are: Treasurer George Hornung of Fairfield 1631; Chaplain John Bailey of Peoria 20; Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Tracy of Wheaton 2258; Tiler Brent Harms of Pontiac 1019; and organist Dave Koelling of Centralia 493.



## Here are district VP's, junior, senior trustees for 2019-20



### 2019-20 DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS

— Front from left are: Kirk Newenham of Springfield 158, West Central District; Michael K. Pender of Wheaton 2258, North; and Lane Burghoffer of Rock Island 980, Northwest. In back are: Darren Hays of Carmi 1652, South Central; Jessica Mitchell of Harrisburg 1058, South; Tom Hummel of Joliet 296, East; and Steve Albrecht of Canton 626, West. Tom Funk of Pana 1261, East Central was unavailable for the photo.

## IEA's top finisher 4th at national Hoop Shoot

The IEA's three Hoop Shooters finished fourth, 11th and 12th, respectively, at the Hoop Shoot National Finals in Chicago in April.

Colton Baudino, representing Pontiac Lodge 1019, was the top IEA shooter with 23 of 25 and 4 of 5 to place fourth in the 8/9 boys division.

Carter Hoene of Effingham 1016, finished 11th on 19 of 25 in the 12/13 boys. Maci Moore of Jacksonville Lodge 682 was 12th in the 8/9 girls, shooting 11 of 25.

"It's a lot of pressure when you reach the Nationals, but we are proud of them no matter the outcome," IEA Hoop Shoot Director Jim Swisher said.

"It was a good time with (the IEA shooters), and their families seemed to enjoy everything."

In his 2018-19 year-end report, Swisher said 51 of the 69 IEA lodges reported having a lodge event, which is required under Grand Lodge statutes.

"Look how many kids miss a chance to become a lodge champion or a state or national champion," Swisher added.

He thanked Past State President Paul Ronzani, Joel Gerdovich of Oglesby Lodge 2360, IEA President and First Lady Tom and Brenda Deien, PSP Dave and Rae Marie Jurmu for helping at the Nationals, plus all who helped with the IEA Shoot earlier this year in Decatur.

"It takes a lot of good members to make the state Shoot run smoothly," Swisher said.



**2019-20 DISTRICT SENIOR TRUSTEES** — Front from left are: Todd Reardon of Charleston 623, East Central District; Teresa Barrington of Fairview Heights 664, West Central; Lori Lichter of Des Plaines 1526, North; and Matt Hartman of Mendota 1212, Northwest. In back are: Rodney Franklin of Flora 1659, South Central; Mark May of Herrin 1146, South; John Joyce of Oak Lawn 2254, East; and Ed Lavin of Macomb 1009, West.



**2019-20 DISTRICT JUNIOR TRUSTEES** — Front from left are: Ole Ohlsson of Champaign-Urbana 2497, East Central District; Eric Pfeiffer of Carlinville 1412, West Central; Greg Huske of Elgin 737, North; and Terry Herrington of Sycamore 1392, Northwest. In back are: Jim Melton of McLeansboro 1882, South Central; Carter Lacy of Anna-Johnsboro 1641, South Central; Jeff Sterr of Joliet 296, East; and Joe Boers of Peoria 20, West.

## More civic activities, less partying requested for illinoiselks.org posts

IEA lodges have been asked to show a little less partying and more civic activities in their postings on Facebook and lodge websites.

"Please do a better job of showing non-clubroom activities on your pages," such as charitable/community events and members working at the lodge, IEA website/Facebook Co-chairman Craig Smith advised in his 2018-19 year-end report.

Smith said four notices were handed out in April to lodges saying they were open to the public when they shouldn't and also showing alcohol, including a photo of Santa holding a bottle of alcohol, which was still posted as of mid-May.

"Be positive with posts," Smith advised. "Promote visiting other lodges or post for your fellow district lodges if a local event

approaches," Smith said.

Lodges violating IEA policy governing its use of the website and Facebook are reported to the lodges' district sponsors for their follow-up.

Sixty-five of the IEA's 69 lodges currently have active Facebook accounts, including 57 that have two-three posts per week, while six haven't used their account in more than three months.

Also, two of the IEA's eight districts have Facebook pages.

"Those that don't, consider starting one at your next district meeting," Smith advised.

Smith also called on lodges to get their lodge news posted at illinoiselks.org.

"Please send us what you can," he said. "We'll get it to the right spot, web page or Facebook page."

## Newsette rated four of five stars; only 29 lodges file stories for print

The Illinois Elks Newsette received a four-star rating from Grand Lodge in 2018-19, down from the five stars it received a year earlier.

Twenty-nine of the IEA's 69 lodges submitted news articles and/or photos for publication last year.

"Remember, the *Newsette* is only as good as the information provided by you, the lodges of the IEA," Publication Corporation Chairman Mark Bump said in his 2018-19 year-end report.

In its continuing plea for lodges to keep their mailing lists updated so the *Newsette* can avoid paying costly postage-return costs, Bump said 57 lodges submitted at least some monthly membership updates, but 12 did not submit any changes. Only eight lodges reported changes each

month.

"Thank you to the North, East and West Central districts for having all their lodges submit changes at least once" in 2018-19, Bump said.

The corporation also voted to retain its current officers, Bump of Joliet Lodge 296 as chairman, Gene Howe of Centralia 493 as vice chairman, Vicki Williams of Champaign-Urbana 2497 as treasurer and Joe Baker of Chicago Northshore 1316 as secretary/editor.

Baker also announced his resignation as *Newsette* editor after 19 years at the helm.

"Nobody should be allowed to have as much fun as I've had for the past 19 years," Baker said. "It's time to let somebody else have the fun."



## DISTRICT

## SOUTH

# Short of +1 by 11 members, with eight of 12 lodges posting gains



Cairo Elks member and Police Chief Leonard Harris brought along a new police officer, Brandon Sternau, for a lesson in “*Elks Care – Elks Share*” as they help distribute 70 boxes of fruit to residents of a local nursing home earlier this year. From left are Cairo Elks member Ouida Haralambidis, home employee Lori Farr (partially visible) and fellow Elks Alda Beth Ingram and Duke Jones. Farr led the group as they pulled two decorated wagons door to door to hand each resident a box containing a banana, two tangerines, a toy and a card wishing them a “Happy and Healthy Easter from the Cairo Elks.”

By **CRAIG SMITH**  
2018-19 South District Vice President

The South District, the IEA District of the Year for 2018-19, narrowly missed a +1 in membership, ending the year 11 members short.

The loss of 11 members left the South with a year-end 3,670. Eight of the district’s 12 lodges posted membership gains.

The average membership per lodge was 305.83 with a high of 672 and low of 57.

The average member’s age was 58 years, 2 months, and average meeting attendance was 70. Six of the 12 district lodges had new exalted rulers.

In donations, the district raised \$26,950 for the Children’s Care Corporation, and 11 of the 12 district lodges met GER Michael Luhr’s goal of per-member contributions to the Elks National Foundation.

Among other district highlights of the year:

■ Sixty-four volunteers from among the South and South

Central Districts and state officers helped at the annual Illinois Department of Children and Family Services picnic at the state fairgrounds in DuQuoin.

■ The South was host to IEA President Tom Deien’s Flag Day observance at the Marion VA Hospital in June.

■ All 12 district lodges participated in Hoop Shoot. The district Soccer Shootout was rained out, but was to be rescheduled.

■ The South donated \$3,400 to the This Able Veteran program to train service dogs for veterans.

■ Fundraising for 2019-20 district overhead spending was already under way by the beginning of the fiscal year.

■ The IEA’s newest lodge, Johnson County, is in a new building with a lot of work ahead for members, whose average age is the youngest in the district.

■ Murphysboro Lodge 572

finished third in the IEA Teen of the Year program and also fielded candidates for both IEA Lady and Family of the Year.

■ Murphysboro Lodge opened a USO site, The Haven, a veterans retreat on Crab Orchard Lake.

■ With Past State President Charlie Campbell’s nomination to the Grand Lodge board of grand trustees, the South welcomed new district Sponsor Coy Cockrum, PSP.

**11 district lodges met GER’s per-member fundraising goal**

It was with great honor and appreciation that I got to serve as district vice president under state President Tom Deien.

Thanks, Tom and your state officers, my fellow district vice presidents and the entire South District for all of their help in 2018-19. I now have a better understanding of our principles: charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

## Google project aids information flow

By **DEBBIE WALLACE**  
2018-19 South Central District Vice President

South Central District began 2018-19 with its organizational meeting in June, hosted by Centralia Lodge 493. We were pleased to have with us the district’s own and newest IEA president, Tom Deien.

The district budget was adopted, and a new project was discussed to use Google for filing district

committee reports before the August district meeting. The idea was to have information submitted and obtained for district committee chairpersons from a central location.

The summer district meeting in August was held at Mt. Carmel Lodge 715 with District Deputy Jeffrey Johnson for the first DD clinic. The Google committee reports project was well received

and fully utilized.

At the IEA meeting in September, I attended the board of directors meeting. This was followed in September and October by attending all but one of the district deputy visits.

The district Hoop Shoot was held in January in Salem with winners moving to the IEA Hoop Shoot in February in Decatur. Fairfield Lodge 1631 was blessed with sending four of the district’s six district Hoop Shoot winners to Decatur.

Justice Dagg, representing Fairfield Elks, won the state and later finished third in the boys 10/11 division at the regional Hoop Shoot in Iowa City. I was pleased to attend the state Hoop Shoot to see our district winners compete.

At the January district meeting, hosted by Mt. Vernon Lodge 819, Past Exalted Ruler Jim Melton of McLeansboro 1882 was submitted for consideration for junior trustee. District Lady of the Year was presented to Amy Martin, Mt. Vernon Lodge 819. I was honored to escort her, along with District Deputy Jeff Johnson, into the IEA ladies luncheon. I am pleased to report that six of our district’s 10 lodges submitted candidates for IEA Lady of the Year.

Olney Lodge 926 hosted the



Centralia Lodge 493 earlier this year awarded St. Mary Church a community grant of \$1,500 to develop a “Backpack for the Homeless” project in conjunction with the “Into My Vineyard” program of the Belleville Diocese to train lay ministers to help fellow parishioners to learn, love and live their faith. Presenting a check to some of the members of the group involved are Centralia Elks Tony Korzenewski, second from right, and Joe Ray, right.

spring April 28 meeting in which PER Melton of McLeansboro Lodge 1882 was nominated as junior trustee and Centralia Lodge 493 proposed PER Tony Korzenewski as the hospitality room coordinator.

District awards were presented, including Chris Lueke of Carmi 1652, Elk of the Year; Dave Dallas of Mt. Carmel 715, Exalted Ruler of the Year; both Kirk Wallace of Fairfield Lodge 1631 and Ken Bender of Flora 1659, Secretary of the Year; and Family of the Year, Jared and Amy Whitley of Carmi 1652, which was also named South Central District Lodge of the Year.

Most Valuable Student national

finalists and their sponsoring lodges were: Gatlin Miller and Maggie Piper, both representing Mt. Vernon 819. IEA recipients were Cameron Steel and Rachel Beckham, both representing Mt. Vernon 819; Hunter Martin, Centralia 493; and Tory Rose, Carmi 1652.

Among other highlights:

■ Charitable donations totaled \$29,476 to the Elks National Foundation and \$24,710 to the Children’s Care Corporation.

■ Nine of the 10 district lodges submitted entries for Grand Exalted Ruler citations in



Centralia Lodge 493 presented the flag before the championship game of the Centralia High School Holiday Tournament in December. The Elks were assisted by the local Emergency Services Disaster Agency.

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## DISTRICT

## NORTH

# All district lodges finish in IEA's top 14 in gifts to ENF

By **ROBERT J. ROLEWICZ**  
2018-19 North District Vice President

The North District, a perennial IEA leader in donations to the Elks National Foundation, reached \$16.10 in per-member contributions in 2018-19, led by Chicago Northshore 1316's \$36.58.

Each North District lodge finished in the top 14 lodges statewide.

The North District sponsored five girls and two boys who were finalists for Most Valuable Student scholarships.

And congratulations to Elmhurst Lodge 1531, which again was awarded a \$10,000 ENF Impact Grant for its Hand-Up for Hygiene project.

For the Children's Care Corporation, North District lodges collectively donated \$27,116, an increase of 9 percent from last year's \$24,880.

In addition, one North District member bequeathed \$35,784 to the CCC.

The CCC clinic now operating in Elgin serves the entire North District.

For veterans, district lodges and individuals continued their annual \$2,000 donation of comfort items and money to Hines Hospital. Elmhurst Lodge continued to host its Thanksgiving feast for 30 Hines veterans who were transported to the lodge.

Brookfield Lodge 1510 continued to hold monthly bingo at Hines, along with a picnic for residents. In addition, Brookfield and Des Plaines Lodge 1526 ran their annual picnic at the James Lovell Center for Veterans in Chicago, where about 100 veterans



Two-month-old Brooklyn Weyn had his first meeting with Elks in high places at the IEA Mid-Winter meeting in Springfield, where he met Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady Mike and Barbara Luhr. Brooklyn is the son of Greg and Heather Weyn of **Brookfield Lodge 1510**, Greg a lodge trustee and Heather a two-time exalted ruler. "Funny enough, Greg and I met and started dating at the Elks lodge, and now we have a baby Elk," Heather exclaimed.

were served. And the district's USO program remains fully funded and active.

The most recent project was a trip for a luncheon at the National Foundation building.

Among its other programs during 2018-19:

■ The North District entered the IEA Lady, Elk and Family of the Year contests.

■ All district lodges participated in Hoop Shoot, despite a long-

standing problem of lodges under-reporting participation in their preliminary Shoots. Those figures go unreported, but the district is addressing the problem.

■ Drug Awareness is getting limited promotion, and lodges are being encouraged to promote the program more.

■ The District Americanism program has generated six winning entries, which have been forwarded to the state for judging.



**Chicago Northshore Lodge 1316** honored its award winning members with plaques at the lodge installation in April. The honorees, from left, are: Tiler John Feld, Elk of the Year; Esquire Brian Supancic and District Deputy Sandy Supancic, both outstanding service commendations; and Exalted Ruler Avis Thomas, officer of the year.

■ All district lodges participated in the IEA Easter Bunny program.

■ The district website is regularly updated with information about lodge activities, news, calendar events and items from lodge and district officers.

■ District wide membership declined by 7.3 percent in 2018-19. Despite its best efforts, one lodge, formerly the largest in the IEA, lost more members than the rest of the district lodges combined, kindling hope that the lodge can reverse the trend.

■ District meetings were typically well represented by all lodges, and I thank the lodge representatives, district officers

and chairs for their attendance, dedication and hard work to further the aims of Elksdom and the district.

**Gifts to  
CCC up 9  
percent in  
2018-19**

Finally, as I reminisce about my term as district vice president of the old North East District (about 28 years ago), I am moved by how much has been preserved of the programs and values of years

gone by.

May God bless the IEA and may we truly realize that we are the Best People On Earth. It has been my distinct honor and immense pleasure to have served as 2018-19 North District vice president.

## Well from Page 7

who do not believe in us. Every time one of these obstacles or people come in the way of us achieving our dreams, we will simply have to shake it off and step up.

There are plenty of people and organizations that will help us along our journeys, one of them being the Elks. Today we students are the ones being recognized, but I believe it is also necessary to recognize all those who have made these scholarships possible. Many of us know the Elks as the organization that has the local bowling alley and sponsors the annual free throw contest. Personally, growing up my mother always told me about stories of her playing pool while my grandparents cleaned the Oglesby Elks lodge. The Elks are much more than all of

## Illinois Elks get cut of Legacy awards

Here are the 2019 Legacy Scholarship winners in Illinois. Each recipient will receive \$1,000 for four years.

They are: Max Bowman, represented by Des Plaines Lodge 1526; Julia Cogan, Galena 882; Katherine Frerichs, Carbondale 1243; and Corrie Grubb, McLeansboro 1882.

Also, Kayla Kokotovich, Belleville 481; Abbygail Madonia, Springfield 158; Madison Michels, Olney 926; Maggie Piper, Mt. Vernon 819; Samuel Quick, Robinson 1188; and Claire Schimmack, Quincy 100.

The scholarship is administered by the Elks National Foundation to children, grandchildren and stepchildren of Elks members.

A total of \$28,000 was earmarked for the program in 2018-19.

this. It is an organization that truly cares about the community and the people within it. The members run a national Drug Awareness organization to fight back against the effects of drug abuse in our communities. They provide services for veterans throughout the country. The Elks pledge, "So long as there are veterans,

the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." The Elks take this pledge seriously. The Elks provide services in more than 300 locations each month for veterans throughout the country. The members truly empower those who have put their lives on the line for our freedom time and again. Lastly, the Elks

and provide millions of dollars in scholarships to students throughout the country every single year. All of the members of the Elks have put in hard work all year to be able to give us these scholarships. They are the ones who have put in the long hours to raise the money for the scholarships. They have spent numerous hours going through all of the applications and making the difficult decisions of who moves on and who doesn't. I'd like to thank all of you on behalf of all of this year's recipients for all of the hard work that it took to provide us with these scholarships. You all truly believe in our futures and we couldn't be more grateful.

These scholarships are going to help alleviate the burden that the cost of college has on us students. We will be able to focus on our studies and be the best students

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## Golf from Page 6

scheduled July 15 at the Pontiac Elks Golf Course, 459 Elks Club Road, Pontiac.

The top five individuals in each division of both boys and girls at each qualifying site in June were invited to the Tournament of Champions.

Information for that tournament is available at [illinoiselksjuniorgolf.com](http://illinoiselksjuniorgolf.com). Local contact is Bob Eckhoff at [bobcat1812@gmail.com](mailto:bobcat1812@gmail.com).



DISTRICT

EAST

Gifts to CCC increase 4.1% despite drop in membership

By GREGG COLLINS  
2018-19 East District Vice President

The East District finished the year with 2,049 members, a decrease of 64 members or 3.02 percent.

As of mid-May, the district had 420 delinquencies — a 20 percent lapsation rate, but with 34 candidates awaiting initiation.

Despite the declining numbers, all eight lodges contributed a total of \$6,487 to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation.

The total swells to \$20,457 when including individual donations, calendar sales and other offerings. That's 4.10 percent more than last year's total contributions.

The district per member contribution was \$9.98.

All district lodges exceeded both the Grand Exalted Ruler's and State President's per-member contributions to the Elks National Foundation with \$17,413, or \$8.24 per member, in contributions.

Six of eight district lodges participated in Hoop Shoot, but only one staged a Soccer Shootout,



Oak Lawn Lodge 2254 and Chicago South 1596 join together for a Drug Awareness event and veterans family day program, which attracted more than 300 guests at the Orland Park Civic Center in April. From left are: Elroy, Oak Lawn Elk Ken Neth; Carol Neth of Oak Lawn; Mary Ferguson of Chicago South; Jeanette Schimpf and Pete Lock, both of Oak Lawn; and Karen Kaczynski.

leaving the district with more work to do to boost those numbers.

District meetings generally were well represented. Ottawa Lodge 588 is rebounding from lax officer attendance at past district and state functions. The lodge is now fielding a full slate of officers after several years of difficulty keeping the chairs filled.

All eight lodges have lent support to the two veterans homes in the district, LaSalle and Manteno. They bring veterans to the lodges for various functions

throughout the year.

All eight lodges have great programs for Americanism, Coats for Kids, Drug Awareness, Easter Bunny, Lodge Activities, scholarship and Youth Activities, along with helping the needy.

In addition, all district lodges have amazing accounts of how they have used ENF grants to give back to their communities.

Overall, our district does very well, and it has been my pleasure to serve as the East District vice president.

EAST CENTRAL

District golf outing well attended

By CRAIG TERVIN  
2018-19 East Central District Vice President

The East Central District held its golf outing in Danville at Turtle Run Golf Club, which was well attended, and fun was had by all.

The Hoop Shoot was held at Lincoln Trail College, which attracted representatives from six of the eight district lodges. Carter Hoene, representing Effingham Lodge 1016 in the 12/13 boys division, advanced to the national Shoot, finishing 11th.

Other highlights of 2018-19 were:

- Clinton Lodge 785 merged its 38 members with Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497.
- C-U 2497 competed at the state ritual contest and will compete at Grand Lodge in St. Louis in July.
- Eight lodges participated in the scholarship program with two boys and two girls winning district and one girl and two boys moving on to the national contest.
- Unfortunately, only two district lodges were represented in the Americanism essay contest. C-U Lodge 2497 had a first- and third-place winner at the state competition.
- The district was represented in Wreaths Across America.
- Total contributions to the Elks National Foundation were \$14,079, and \$20,532 the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. Unfortunately, not all district lodges met the GER goal, but hopefully that will change next year with hard work.
- Several lodges posted at least a +1 in membership for the year.

It has been both an honor and learning experience to be the East Central District vice president in 2018-19. I will be handing the gavel over to Tom Funk of Pana Lodge 1261, who I know will do a fantastic job.

2018-19 marked by merger of Clinton Lodge 785 with Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 and C-U qualifying for ritual competition at nationals

Well from Page 11

possible. This will allow us to follow our dreams to the fullest. With this capability we will be able to truly make a positive impact on the world. These scholarships will fund the education of a future computer programmer, chemical engineer and many more important careers. These are the students that will run the world in the future, and you can all be proud and say that you were a major part of our success.

The Elks make up an organization that is truly service based. It gives back to the community and those within it. Without the Elks, college would not be an option for many students. All of the hard work that all of you have put in during the last year has made college possible for many students like myself. Many of us students will face numerous obstacles throughout the next four years. With the help of these scholarships, we will be able to be like Homer and shake off the obstacles and step up. Again, on behalf of all of the recipients I would like to thank all of you for your support in our academic careers.

WEST

Membership up 2.7 percent, paced by Galesburg's 11.9 percent

By FLOYD SCHMIDT  
2018-19 West District Vice President

The West District posted an overall 2.7 percent membership gain in 2018-19, led by Galesburg 894 with a 11.9 percent gain, followed by Canton 626 with 10.4 percent and Lincoln 914 with 2.5 percent.

Districtwide lapsation totaled 207 members with five lodges posting no delinquencies.

For the Children's Care Corporation, districtwide per-member contributions averaged \$15.18, led by Kewanee 724's \$41.18, followed by Lincoln 914 with \$29.38 and Galesburg 894 with \$22.53.

For the Elks National Foundation, total districtwide per-member contributions were \$6.89, paced by Galesburg 894 with \$9.64, Peoria 20 with \$7.70 and Lincoln 914 with \$7.46.

The West District had 100 percent lodge participation in Hoop Shoot and 25 percent in the Soccer Shootout.

Attendance at district meetings posed little concern, despite no lodges reporting 100 percent of their officers attending district meetings.

Highlights of the year centered on veterans programs, lodge communities and the members themselves.

The West District helped the Honor Flight program by holding fundraisers and providing sack lunches for the flight with help from the local Emblem Club.

Community involvement centered on supporting a summer math program for fourth-graders and providing shoes for selected first-through fourth-graders in conjunction with the local Emblem Club.

District lodges were host to countless fundraisers, including a welcome-back party to start off the new year for the lodges, along with various raffles to provide money for committees and the ENF.



Galesburg Lodge 894 used a major portion of its IEA president's grant in April to fund the Dictionary Project for six area schools. Galesburg Elks delivered dictionaries, reference books, notebook paper, pencils and earbuds for third-grade classrooms. Past District Deputy Art Jorganson, member Matt Maguire and ENF Chair Valerie Maguire did the heavy lifting to complete the delivery. At Steele Elementary, from left, are a school staffer, Jorganson, teacher Jenni Sivving and Maguire.





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STATE

## DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULERS

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## ESQUIRE TO THE DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULERS

### EAST CENTRAL (Area 1)

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(E) sahims@hotmail.com

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## Corrections

Here are corrections from the recently released 2019-20 IEA Directory and Constitution:

**Pages 17 and 30** – The home telephone number listed for Charles Campbell is a fax-only number.

**Page 41** – The e-mail address for Area 4 chairman Steve Thomas is jstset5422gmail.com.

**Page 53** – The e-mail address of the chairman of the Elks National Foundation West District, Al Urena, is zoeyweiss@yahoo.com.

**Page 77** – Robert J. Rolewicz's correct phone number, lodge affiliation and e-mail address are: 708-387-2063, Brookfield 1510 and rjrper@scbglobal.net. Also, his last name is spelled with an "i" and not a "j."

**Page 83** – For Oglesby Lodge 2360, Kenneth J. Ficek is the exalted ruler, and the leading knight is Lee M. Thompson, 115 E. Porter St., Oglesby, IL 61348. His cell number is 815-830-0605.

**Page 91** – Brandon Francis is the exalted ruler of Herrin Lodge 116.

## District from Page 10

in an overwhelming response to Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Chairman Larry Smith's request to the districts and lodges.

■ The South placed second in the IEA Americanism essay contest, Alexandria Walls, representing Lawrenceville Lodge 1208, as well as two IEA Teen of the Year winners, Karli Rose of Salem Lodge 1678, second, and Zackarie Webb, Mcleansboro 1882, third.

■ Salem Lodge 1658 received a \$10,000 Elks National Foundation Impact Grant to help serve lunches to school children during the summer.

■ The South began 2018-19 with 4,565 members and finished the year with 4,385, down 180 members. Two lodges posted gains, Carmi 1652 and Mt. Carmel 715.

District meetings are always well attended. I am very proud of our South Central District lodges. We all work very hard for our lodges to do everything we can for our communities, veterans and children. And, as most everyone knows, the South Central District always has a great time doing it.

It's been an honor to serve as vice president. I thank my fellow past and current district officers for their assistance. As I leave to take the next step, I know the district is in good hands with our incoming Vice President Darren Hays.

**PORTIONS OF PAGES 9 AND 10** published in the 2019-20 IEA Directory and Constitution are incorrect. These are the corrected pages. For your convenience, these corrected

pages are sized for cutting out and pasting over the incorrect pages in the published directory. The directory was released at the IEA Annual Meeting in May.



## Elroy always ready to help lodges promote Drug Awareness

Elroy always wants to help Illinois Elks lodges have a great year and do something for them. Does your lodge have an event coming up that Elroy can help out with? Is there a community event that your lodge could have a Drug Awareness table or booth at?

Elroy is a great way to bring people to your booth or table. Elroy is not shy either and likes getting his picture taken with people.

Just a few things to remember, Elroy is always busy around major holidays like 4th of July, Labor Day, etc. However, every community has their own special event or festival that Elroy would like to attend and help your Lodge out at.

Here are the Elroy schedulers

### IEA DA program expands reach in Illinois

The IEA Drug Awareness program is expanding its reach in Illinois.

The program held three new events with the Drug Enforcement Agency in Illinois in 2018-19 and expanded its involvement with the Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shootout and the junior golf program, IEA Drug Awareness Chairman Frank Burr said in his year-end report.

As of mid-May, the IEA Drug Awareness program reached 77,586 children; and adults and members donated more than 8,300 hours to the program, and drove more than 8,000 miles.

At its National Drug Take Back Days in October and April, more than 72,486 pounds of unused drugs were collected in Illinois, bringing to more than 554,000 pounds that have been collected from the 17 take-back programs held in Illinois over the years, Burr said.

for each of the eight IEA districts:

■ Robert Swisher, East Central, (217) 562-9292, rswish@newwavecomm.net

■ Sandy Supancic, North, (773)

625-3924, sthurm@yahoo.com

■ Matt Stropes, West, (309)

346-3513, mattstropes@omnilec.com

■ Tony Korzenewski, South Central, (618) 201-7264,

cobracing2@charter.net

■ Chris Paul, South, (618) 924-3507, chrisandbillpaul@gmail.com

■ Larry Nolan, East, (708) 567-3532, larrynolan05@gmail.com

■ Gail Sessler, Northwest, (815) 866-6645, gessler65@gmail.com

■ Bill Block, West Central, (217) 483-3020, helpkids@elksare.org

The Elroy costumes are administered by the state Drug Awareness chairman or his designee and are the sole property of the IEA. They are not the property of a district or lodge.

The person(s) scheduling the use of the Elroy Costumes needs to know where it is at all times. They coordinate its use to the various Lodges. Elroy costumes are first come, first served.



CHILDREN’S CARE CORPORATION

Lucy from Page 16

or play certain sports. But when I got my first prosthetic I felt like I could do anything.

“(The Elks’) help has been appreciated beyond any words.”

But as Lucy grew in need of a better functioning prosthesis, Block said, he received another request from the Verduns and Lucy’s parents in April 2018. The CCC board approved \$10,000 toward the purchase, and the last payment was made May 21, Block said.

Lucy said the new hand is taking some getting used to. Instead of having fingers, “it almost looks like a claw opening and closing.”

“The only grip it has is on the thumb and index finger to hold thin things like paper, for example.

“I have never known what it has felt like to have two hands because I was only born with one. So for 19 years I have adapted to everything already, so it will take a long time to get the hang of the prosthetic because I have to re-learn how to do everything again, just this time with two hands instead of one.”

Lucy and her family are scheduled to be at the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield in September.

She said her main message will center on the role of support groups in helping people cope with a disability.

“A disability can really take a toll on someone’s mental health,” Lucy said, “but when you have the support and guidance from an organization like the Elks it can really help keep the negative thoughts away.”

Lucy, now as a sophomore majoring in social work at Heartland Community College, has a “dream job”



Lucy, the day she got her hand, along with Julie McCay who helped Lucy for 2-1/2 years to find the correct hand and fit it for her.

of investigating abuse and neglect claims of disabled people.

“My hand has helped me to become more confident, and gives me the ability to have a more broad job availability,” Lucy said. “I never was able to play volleyball and softball as a kid. I instead was a bowler and still am to this day. Bowling is a sport I will never give up on.”

Just as the Illinois Elks never gave up on Lucy.

Gift to Kei’anna ‘priceless’

Seven-year-old Kei’anna of Kaneville is all smiles now, thanks to the support of employees of Elk Grove-based contractor Steiner Electric who rallied to collect \$900 to benefit the Illinois Elks Children’s Care Corporation.

CCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said he had received a call from Terry Boone of Steiner Electric asking if the CCC would help a family out that’s in need of a home electric generator to support the life of Kei’anna in case of a power failure. Boone is also a member of Chicago Northshore Lodge No. 1316.

Kei’anna is on the type of medical support that if a power failure would occur his life support system would be endangered. Approval was given to Steiner Electric for the CCC to provide the generator and Steiner the labor to install the generator.

“Because of our quick response to the family’s needs and for all we do for children with special needs, it inspired the employees of Steiner Electric to give to the Children’s Care Corporation,” Block said. “Thank you again for the individual donations totaling \$900 to the Children’s Care program.”



KEI’ANNA

The generosity of the Elks to give Kei’anna the generator was not lost on the youth’s family of Dan, Angie, Mitch and Trevor Bateman.

“The gift you have given Kei’anna is priceless,” the family said in a statement to the CCC. “Having a whole house generator gives us all security and peace of mind to keep Kei’anna safe. We are truly blessed!”

Winners of calendar drawing announced for March through May

The Illinois Elks Children’s Care Corporation has announced its 2019 Illinois Elks Children’s Care calendar winners through May.

**March winners** were Chris Wilde, Brookfield; Gary Young, Bloomington; Gerald D. Strauman, Canton; Agnes Patterson, Beardstown; Michelle Genberg, Galena; Diane Holler, Springfield; Elizabeth Waldon, & Craig Felde, Elmhurst; Fred L. Smith, Carmi; Alice Lauer, Mendota; Jennifer Arnold, Jacksonville; Lisa Quinn, Champaign – Urbana; Patricia Siebrasse, DeKalb; James H. Wheeler, Mt. Vernon; Darren

Hays\*, Carmi; William Luebben, Centralia; Chuck McNeely, Jacksonville; Deborah D. Kattenbraker, Belleville; Michael Cayley, Des Plaines; Ed Doty, Benton; Joe Ray, Centralia; Charles R. Taylor, Springfield.

**April winners** were Gregg Dillard, Metropolis; Jake Thompson, Effingham; Gary T. Ashness, Centralia; Becky Ayers, Bloomington; Marshall Grimsley, Quincy; Doug Farster, Dixon; Bernard Heberer, Peoria; R. Ronald Johnson, Des Plaines; John W. Miller, Galesburg; John & Gayle Schwarz, Elmhurst; PER

Association, Peoria; Mitch Newell, Carlinville; Frank Grichnik\*, Carlinville; Lou Costa, Mt. Vernon; Mike Brogley, Galena; Tom Krall, Pontiac; Jacksonville Elks Lodge #682, Jacksonville; Peg Mitchell, Joliet; Chuck Wade, Cairo; Dominic J. Ronzani Jr., Chicago Northshore; Tom Cribari, Effingham; Richard D. Shank, Dixon.

**May winners** were Dea Welsh, Lincoln; Beth Stewart, Carlinville; Joan Mathews, Oak Lawn; Krista Pierson, Charleston; Tom Hobbs, Belleville; David H. Westberg, Jacksonville; Kurt Turner,

Carlinville; Joan Mathews, Oak Lawn; Jenny Kaiser, Galena; John Vallrugo, Joliet; Susan Cosper\*, Des Plaines; Eric Schmidt, Robinson; Alexavier Tyndall, Carlinville; James Gleeson, Des Plaines; Robert Newman, Ottawa; Bill Mier, Chicago South; Tom E. Caliper, Herrin; Lincoln Elks Lodge 914, Lincoln; Michael Porter, Effingham; Martin Flynn, Des Plaines; William Jones, Springfield; Phillip C. Engstrom, Chicago Northshore; Scott Hood, Charleston.

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

Josh from Page 16

with his brother Noah, and they are members of the Paris Little League Challengers Elks baseball team.”

Now that Joshua has a tryke, Block added, he can look forward to riding with his brother and having a great summer with his tryke and baseball.

Block also acknowledged Gallagher, a Paris firefighter, for taking delivery of the tryke and putting it together.

LODGE



Des Plaines Elks honor first responders

Des Plaines Elks Lodge 1526 was host to a First Responders Open House on June 1, providing refreshments to a number of area agencies. Police and fire representatives from eight communities participated, honoring those who serve. Three days earlier, Des Plaines Elks were host to a blood drive, in which 24 members donated blood, potentially saving more than 70 lives and proving again, “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

DeKalb Elks help serve 745 people at food pantry event

DeKalb Lodge 765 partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Pantry earlier this year to sponsor two mobile food pantry events at the pantry’s location in DeKalb. DeKalb Elks chipped in with an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to fund and give away 35 grocery carts to those who entered the raffle. “The carts were a huge help in assisting the individuals with collecting and carrying their groceries,” lodge Secretary Steffanie Barringer said, adding that between the two pantry events, the Elks were able to serve 745 individuals in DeKalb County with their dietary needs. “Thank you to the ENF for these wonderful grant opportunities to assist our community,” Barringer exclaimed.





# 'Because of the Elks, I felt like a normal kid'

Christmas came days early in December 2012 for 13-year-old Lucy Hodgson of Pontiac.

That is when the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation played Santa to help fund a prosthetic hand for Lucy. She was born without a left hand due to the disorder Symbrachydactyly, which is characterized by abnormally short fingers that are sometimes webbed or conjoined.

Sue Verdun, wife of IEA President Greg Verdun, was the bearer of the Christmas surprise, when she called Lucy, telling her, "Happy early Christmas."

An incredulous Lucy, recalling her

reaction to Sue's phone call, said, "I was like, 'What?' and she said, 'the Christmas present from us to you is help with your hand.' I don't know if she said anything else after that, but I cried — I was freaking out. It was one of the most amazing things in the world."

That fateful telephone conversation was recounted in the May 4, 2013, edition of Lucy's hometown newspaper, The Daily Leader in Pontiac.

Greg and Sue Verdun had been friends of the Hodgson family for years, and Sue had worked with Lucy's mother, Diane.

Greg said Sue had informed him in

November 2012 that Lucy was old enough to be fitted for a prosthesis.

"When I heard that, I gave (Lucy's mother) Diane a call and asked if she would be interested in applying for assistance through the Elks Children's Care Corporation, whom I had worked with for years," Greg said. "Once a request from Diane was submitted, I approached our board, got all the paperwork, contacted (CCC Administrative Manager) Bill Block and submitted what I had."

"He was able to OK Lucy's request."

The cost of Lucy's first prosthesis was \$2,600, which the CCC approved, Block

said.

Diane, already aware that a new prosthesis for daughter Lucy would top \$2,600, said, "For us, that might as well have been a million dollars right now, and my daughter was heartbroken."

But the prospect of getting the Elks' help with a prosthesis was a God-send to Lucy.

"Because of the Elks, I felt like a normal kid," Lucy said in an interview with the Newsette. "Growing up I didn't really get to have the childhood that every kid wanted. I wasn't able to play on the monkey bars or

Please See LUCY, Page 15



## 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)

## IEA honors top contributors in total, per-member gifts

The IEA, at its Annual Meeting in May, recognized its top lodge contributors in both total and per-member gifts to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation.

Leaders in gross contributions were Fairview Heights 664 with \$16,138, Des Plaines 1526 with \$15,445 and Springfield 158 with \$14,033.

Top lodges in per-member contributions were Fairview Heights 664 with \$43.27, Kewanee 724 with \$41.18 and Chicago Northshore 1316 with \$32.72.

In her 2018-19 annual report, CCC Chair Tawn Williams said the CCC raised more than \$278,000 in

2018-19 in what she described as a successful year for the CCC.

The \$278,000 was collected through fundraisers, including the sale of HoDo pins and calendars, and the statewide drawing.

Williams also announced that CCC board officers were elected for 2019-20. Williams of Elmhurst 1531, was elected chair; John Bayler of Flora 1659, vice chairman; and Chad Mitsdarffer of McLeansboro 1882, treasurer.

In other year-end happenings, Williams said:

■ Fifty-six applications were scored for the CCC's physical- and occupational-therapy, and



The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation awarded its top lodge contributors to the CCC, at the IEA Annual Meeting in May in Springfield. Representing the honored lodges, front from left, are: Chicago Northshore 1316 Exalted Ruler Avis Thomas, Kewanee 724 ER Amy Jackson, Ottawa 588 ER Alice Epperson, Fairview Heights 664 ER Sharon Seibert and Oak Lawn 2254 ER Lynda Riffice. In back are: Dixon 779 ER Kenneth Berogan, Springfield 158 ER John Beque Jr., Murphysboro ER Richard Martin, Centralia 493 Trustee Gene Howe, Champaign-Urbana 2497 ER Jeffrey Pribble, and Des Plaines 1526 ER Michael Hozian.

Lydia Miller Special Education scholarships. About \$163,000 in total scholarships were awarded in 2018-19, Williams said.

■ About \$338,000 was spent on patient expenses, clinics and scholarships for the year.

■ The corporation is looking

into expanding the driveway at the CCC office in Chatham.

■ The 2019-20 budget was adopted.



JOSH

## CCC funds answer to Josh's weight gain with specialized bike

Joshua's mom began to notice that her 13-year-old special-needs son was starting to gain weight, and was becoming concerned with his health. She set out to find a specialized bike for Joshua.

Besides losing weight, she also wanted Josh to increase his leg strength and endurance, and to improve his range of motion.

In searching for a tryke, she found one costing more than \$2,000. She was also given the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation's phone number from Jerry McDaniel of Paris Lodge 812 who told her the IECCC could probably help.

IECCC Administrative Manager

Bill Block said he also received a phone call from Steve Gallagher, Joshua's mother's brother-in-law, inquiring about a tryke for Joshua.

"I told him that I work with an American company called AmTryke, which specializes in specialty bikes. I also told him that I could probably do better with the cost than what was quoted to Joshua's mom."

Block was able to get Joshua his tryke for half the cost, and it was ordered and delivered.

"Like all boys, Joshua loves playing outside with his friends," Block said. "Joshua also loves playing baseball

Please See JOSH, Page 15

