



Illinois Elks Association Newsette



VOL. 86 No. 2

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE ILLINOIS ELKS PUBLICATION CORPORATION

FALL 2019

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250 Illinois Elks back home from Grand Lodge Session

Announcement of +1 nationally among highlights

More than 250 Elks members and guests attended our 155th Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis. One of the proudest moments of my life was to carry in the Illinois Elks flag during opening ceremonies.

Also, during the opening, presenting the firefighters flag, was member Dan Cusack of Des Plaines Lodge 1526, and representing Centralia Lodge 429 was

Christopher Walker carrying the Marine flag. Illinois Pipes and Drum Corp from Springfield preformed during the opening.

Our Past Grand Exalted Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger of Flora Lodge 1659 was the main presenter on Sunday. Sulsberger, chairman of the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees, presented the foundation’s report. A high point of his report was last year, in which \$13.7 million was spent for the Community Investment Program.

Our new Grand Exalted Ruler is Robert L. Duitsman of Culver City, Calif., Lodge 1917. He has been a member since 1989 and most recently was a justice of the Grand Forum. GER Duitsman and his

wife, Beth, will attend our January convention in Springfield.

One of the biggest announcements in St. Louis was the first membership gain nationally since 1979. This shows that by bringing our friends into the Order we can increase our membership. I hope we can now have a 30-year streak of membership gains.

Back to Illinois, at the May convention, we announced the new veterans grant of \$1,000 for lodges to use in their communities. Two months later more than 50 lodges have not applied for

their grant. E-mail me at verdung@yahoo.com explaining the purpose of the program, and we will send you the money.

Reviewing our state reports, many lodges have not applied for their State President’s grant of \$1,500 for last May. So, many lodges in Illinois have left a total of \$2,500 on the table. Please contact Marvin so we can get those dollars working in our communities.

The dog days of summer are upon us. Let’s use these hot evenings to meet at the lodge and do some planning. Complaints I hear center on “I didn’t know that

**IEA
president**
Greg
Verdun



IEA President Greg Verdun carries in the Illinois flag at Grand Lodge in what he described as “one of the proudest moments of my life.”

was happening” or “I didn’t have enough notice.” Exalted rulers, involve new members in planning for the next few months. Start now getting ready for an end-of-summer get together, kids Halloween party, Hoop Shoot, a membership dinner, turkey give-a-way for needy families, food baskets for Christmas or Red Ribbon Week.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the hospitality crew, Bob,

Kelly, Brent, Sarah, Ray, Linda, Donnie, Kelly, Kristi, and my wife Sue for all the planning, preparation and presentation of all the food and drinks in St. Louis.

Thank you to Dave and Teresa Copper and the Granite City Elks for food preparation. A super thanks to Jim Goldsborough and Bill Gandolfi for their donation to Children’s Care and Elks National Foundation after winning raffles.

IEA lends support to dog-training program for veterans



Marc Tibbetts remembers the conference call he received on Aug. 17, 2017, informing him that he had been granted a service dog to help him cope with post traumatic stress disorder from his years serving as a paramedic during the Vietnam War.

“I think I had to sit down,” Tibbetts said, upon getting the call from Behesha Doan and Pam Largent, founder and president, respectively, of the Carbondale-based This Able Veteran (TAV) program for training service dogs for veterans who need them.

Doan and Largent called to tell Tibbetts he had been approved to receive his new companion Oliver and to undergo nearly a month of training to help them mesh.

Tibbetts’ previous dog, a rescued

canine named Pepi, died a year earlier of old age, leaving him alone to deal with the disorder.

Diagnosed in 1986 with PTSD, Tibbetts was still prone to nightmares and nervous ticks, the results of helping deal as a paramedic with the seemingly endless stream of casualties flooding into the 95th Evacuation Hospital situated at the epicenter of U.S. war installations in Da Nang — all while under enemy attack.

Tibbetts, while serving in the Air Force, was attached with the Army to assist with mass casualties. That was in 1972-73 during Tibbetts’ second tour of duty in Vietnam.

Tibbetts said his diagnosis in 1986 was with “severe chronic PTSD with no other underlying factor other than experiencing

Vietnam.”

Local Elks lodges from the Illinois Elks Association South District, taking note of the good works of the TAV, had been

Please See **OLIVER**, Page 2



STATE



The IEA presented its latest grant to the Carbondale-based This Able Veterans service dog-training program earlier this summer to assist in training the golden retriever Ranger. The \$21,000 gift brings to \$46,000 the amount the IEA has contributed to the program, not including lodge donations. Accompanying This Able Veteran founder Behesha Doan at the check presentation, from left, are Past State President Charlie Campbell, IEA Treasurer George Hornung, Secretary Marvin Leathers, PSP's Tom Deien and Coy Cockrum, and IEA Veterans Chairman Bob Kane.

Oliver from Page 1

contributing to the program with small donations of less than \$1,000, IEA District Sponsor Charlie Campbell said.

By 2019, the IEA had matched the lodge effort, contributing \$46,000 in assistance to train the service dog Corky (named after the Jolly Corks) and most recently Ranger, TAV President Largent said.

As glad as This Able Veteran has been to receive the IEA's financial support, Largent said, it is equally glad to get the Elks' assistance in bringing awareness of PTSD, veteran suicide and the TAV program to the community.

The TAV is a 501(c)3 corporation founded in 2011 to assist veterans committed to reclaiming their lives.

"We realize that we cannot do this work on our own," Largent said. "Having partners like the Elks to inform and educate others means everything. The support shown by your organization by attending our graduation ceremonies is such a boost to our veterans."

Campbell has attended a couple graduations, in which the trained dogs are formally presented to their veterans.

"It is a very impressive and moving ceremony," Campbell said.

Meanwhile, Tibbetts, 65, of unincorporated Belle Rive near Mt. Vernon, remains glad to have Oliver to help distract him from reliving the memories of Vietnam.

Oliver, an 80-pound Golden Retriever, turned age 4 in March and could be expected to live into his early teens, Tibbetts said.

"He keeps me busy and on my toes. Before I wasn't," he said. "When I get a nervous tick, he'll come up and put his paw on me. He'd come up and alert you."

"He's living here next to me. He's really good."

Tibbetts thanked the Illinois Elks for assisting veterans and the TAV, saying, "I truly believe these dogs have a tremendous effect on those who receive them."

Tibbetts was equally effusive in his praise of the TAV program and founder Doan in particular.

"The program has helped me in more ways than I can express," he said, adding that Doan takes a hands-on approach, in which she "kind of watches over everybody."

"I think of her as my sister."

No small praise for a program that Illinois Elks have chosen to remember veterans who fought to preserve the nation's freedom.

St. Louis enjoyable and informative

Greetings all,

For those of you who attended the Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis, I hope it was enjoyable and informative for you. It was quite different to have a national convention practically in our own backyards with no airline flight to get there!

Our neighbors, the Missouri Elks Association, had more than 170 people volunteer for the Local Support Committee for this convention being held in their state. I may be partial since I am their sponsor now, but I've heard nothing but wonderful compliments of the job they did and I hope as visitors to Missouri, you felt welcomed by the Missouri Elks and had a great time.

To the past district deputies who served last year, I want to thank you for a job well done. You all made a great effort to keep me informed of the activities of the lodges in your districts and I appreciated that.

To our newly installed District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers, congratulations on this achievement and best of luck in this next year. I look forward to working with all of you, and please

IEA sponsor

F. Louis Sulsberger PGER



remember that I am just a phone call or e-mail away.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Past State President Charles Campbell on his installation at the St. Louis National Convention as a member of the Board of Grand Trustees. This is a four-year position that Charlie will hold and I have all the confidence in the world that he and his wife Jan will do an excellent job and will represent Illinois and Area 5 well.

As summer comes to a close, plans are being made for the Illinois Elks Association Fall Convention in Springfield on Sept. 20-22. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the convention, like last fall, as that weekend is also the Fall Convention of the Missouri Elks Association.

After being designated the sponsor of Missouri in May 2018, that association's convention commission worked with its hotel

to permanently change the week-end of its fall convention so the Illinois Elks schedule would not need to be disrupted and I would be able to attend both states' fall convention. They were able to accomplish this effective their 2020 fall convention but the schedule conflict is still there for 2019. I have asked Grand Secretary and PSP Bryan Klatt to cover for me at the Illinois Convention for which I know he will do an excellent job. To attendees of our fall convention, thank you for your understanding and cooperation of the situation.

Also, please try to attend as many of the seminars as you can and also the Saturday night banquet. As you know, it is tradition to honor our Illinois Children's Care Corporation Scholarship winners at our fall convention banquet. Celebrate the accomplishments of these young people and witness what our hard work has provided for them!

I will miss being with everyone in Springfield. Have a great convention and thank you for all you do and for your commitment to the BPO Elks!

God bless.

IEA lapsation remains 'the elephant in the room'

The IEA ended 2018-19 with 1,723 lapses in membership, in what IEA Lapsation Chairman Merle Evans said remains "the elephant in the room" denying the Illinois association a +1 for the year.

Evans, in his 2018-19 report he made at the Annual Meeting

in May, said Illinois lodges received a lot of encouragement during the year to maintain their memberships, including GER Michael Luhr's address at the Mid-Winter Meeting in January and the membership Tool Box posted at Elks.org.

"But it still boils down to each

individual lodge convincing its questioning or marginal members that maintaining their membership is a valuable and worthy thing to do," Evans said, adding that tenacity is required to reduce the ranks of "no pays."

Please See **LAPSE**, Page 5

Drug Awareness reminders for August, September

To help plan and schedule an Elks lodge's Drug Awareness Program and its events the following schedule was developed. It is not designed to contain all Drug Awareness events, just some of them.

For events that lodges would like to add, notify IEA Drug Awareness Chairman Frank Burr at

fjburr@speakeasy.net.

Here are reminders for August:

- Start planning for Drug Awareness Month in October
- Start planning for Red Ribbon Week in October
- Are you working on your Drug Awareness Poster Contest?
- Are you working on your

Please See **DRUG**, Page 10



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

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

Submission deadlines – Nov. 21, 2019, for Mid-Winter; March 22, 2020 for spring; June 15, 2020 for summer; and July 20, 2020 for fall

ILLINOIS ELKS NEWSETTE (USPS 889-800) is published quarterly by Illinois Elks Publication Corporation, 1201 N. Main Street, Chatham, IL 62629-0222. Periodicals postage paid at Chatham, IL and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ILLINOIS ELKS NEWSETTE, P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629-0222.

Published quarterly by the Illinois Elks Publication Corporation for

the benefit and education of Illinois Elks members, lodges and officers. Subscription to this publication is through membership in an Illinois Elks Lodge or by payment of \$2 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Chatham, Illinois, and other offices.

Opinions expressed by individual contributors are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Illinois Elks Publication Corporation, Chairman Mark Bump, 812 Bailey Drive, Joliet, IL 60404, telephone (815) 280-9333

STATE/LODGE

Mt. Vernon, C-U, Marion Elks observe Flag Day

MV Flag Day 2 Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 received a helping hand at its annual Flag Day observance from Cub Scout Pack and Troop 103 from St. Mary's Church in Mt. Vernon in June.

Exalted Ruler Tim Bain, left, stands with scouts Kentan Lundegreen, Brewster Davis, Chace Newborn, Callen Newborn, James Gentry, Landen Lundegreen, Tylan Vance and Korbyn Breeze, along with Scout leader and Elks member Cory Breeze, South Central District Americanism Chairman Keith Hertenstein and IEA Veterans Chairman Bob Kane.



Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 celebrates Flag Day in June while raising \$1000 for the local veterans hospital.



Marion Lodge 800 observed Flag Day in June, in which lodge member Ralph Graham provided a history of the flag. In attendance was Marion Mayor Mike Absher, Police Chief David Fitts, Miss Illinois Teen 2018 Peyton Newman, members of the Marion Fire Department and lodge. A luncheon, provided by lodge, was enjoyed by all.

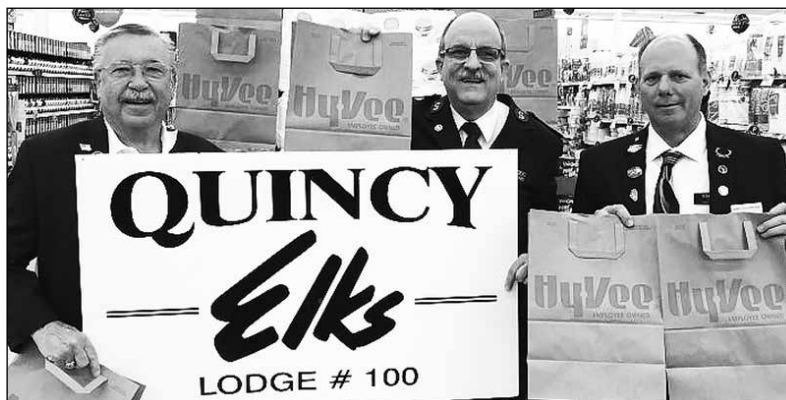


Oak Lawn, Chicago South Elks observe Memorial Day at Elks Rest

Members of Oak Lawn 2254 and Chicago South 1596 lodges join together for a Memorial Day ceremony at the Elks Rest in Mount Greenwood Cemetery in May.

Quincy Elks support effort for food pantry

From left, Past District Deputy Bill Pitman of Quincy Lodge 100, Salvation Army Major Andrew Miller and Quincy Exalted Ruler Steve Labs draw attention to the Quincy Elks' effort to assist the Salvation Army in putting together a list of items the food pantry was in need of. The items were ordered from local grocer Broadway Hy-Vee and put in grocery bags worth \$10. Lodge 100 purchased 200 of these bags and delivered them to the Salvation Army food pantry in May. "The Salvation Army and family participants were very grateful that Quincy Elks Lodge 100 stepped forward to help them in their time of need," a lodge spokesman said. "Our community highly respects the Elks Lodge 100 for the good deeds they do. It is also very fulfilling as Elks lodge members to know we can be a great service to others."



End of convention means Elks year nearly half over

I hope anyone who attended the Grand Lodge Convention had an enjoyable time and possibly learned a little more about Elkdom and our charitable grants for both the veterans and for community improvement. We also had a good number of scholarship requests. That's what the programs are intended to support.

We are fast approaching half way through our year so keep pushing your lodge projects. Doing so will be rewarding and helpful at the same time.

Congratulations to Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 for performing ritual at St Louis. In addition, the C-U Elks had fundraisers to defray the cost for the team's expenses. It's a great idea instead of counting on the IEA for the total cost.

I want to remind the membership that July 26 and 27 Mt. Vernon

IEA treasurer

George Hornung



Lodge 819 will host the state golf tourney. The first day will be for women and juniors. The 27th is the open. For more information contact Mt. Vernon Lodge. It's a great time and I hope to see you there.

Just a reminder that one of the resolutions has changed the auditing to online. This is a money saver for your lodge. Make sure your lodge secretary is aware of the change and acts on it.

In closing, have a great year in Elkdom. Just make the most of it as it's highly rewarding. Fraternally, George Hornung

New veterans grant for lodges

Lodges need to let us know of their intention to apply for the new program for veterans, a \$1,000 grant for use in their communities. The money is just waiting to be sent to the lodges that have not yet applied.

If you have not yet made the request to IEA President Greg Verdun, please do so. Our veterans always need the help.

Also, if your lodge made the Elks National Foundation goal in 2019-20, I need to know how you will spend the \$1,500 award this year.

Please just e-mail me how your lodge will spend the award. Again, the money is ready to be sent to

your lodge.

I know that all 69 lodges are working hard for the state major project, the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, and the ENF this year. Illinois Elks are always there to help. Way to go, Illinois.

Lastly, let's all work hard for a membership gain this year. We can do it.

Illinois Elks do lead the way!

IEA secretary

Marvin Leathers



Special C-U gift for special guests



Champaign-Urbana Lodge 2497 Exalted Ruler Jeff Pribble and his wife Gloria Marsh present a check for \$3,000 from Lodge 2497 to two special guests, Autumn and Jordan, at a local Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraiser. C-U Elks donate every year so children and people afflicted with MD or other muscle diseases may have a week of fun at the MDA summer camps.



Sycamore Lodge awards scholarships

Sycamore Lodge 1392 awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to six local graduating seniors earlier this summer. From left are Exalted Ruler Jeff Johnson, recipients Natalie Kraemer, Lizzie Egerman, MaKenna Klassen, Mia Schultz and Griffin Gower, and scholarship chair Jennifer Brock. Sycamore Lodge also used Elks National Foundation grant money to purchase an inclusive swing for installation at local Wetzel Park, as well as to make donations of \$800 to Opportunity House, \$500 to Pay-it-Forward House and \$200 to Kishwaukee Hospice, and general funds of \$500 to Salem Lutheran Food Pantry.



Fall Meeting

Honoring Children's Care Corporation scholarship winners

Sept. 19-22, 2019 ■ Wyndham City Centre Springfield Hotel

Thursday, Sept. 19

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

Friday, Sept. 20

7 AM-5 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4
8-10 AM Executive Committee – Conference Ctr 3
10 AM-Noon Convention Committee – Rendezvous
Noon-7 PM Convention Registration
– Mezzanine, Registration Desk

1-4 PM Advisory Committee – Rendezvous

Saturday, Sept. 21

6:30 AM-6 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4
7 AM-Noon Convention Registration
– Mezzanine, Registration Desk

7:30-9 AM Board of Directors Meeting & Training
(Continental Breakfast) – Plaza 3

8-9:30 AM Lodge Trustees Training/Accident
Prevention/Insurance – Prairie

8-10 AM District Deputies & Esquires
(Continental Breakfast) – Conference Ctr 2

8 AM-Noon Leading Knights Training – Rendezvous
9-10 AM Exalted Rulers Meet W/ Executive
Committee – Ambassador

9-11 AM Secretaries Association – Plaza 3
9:30-11 AM Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation
– Conference Ctr 4

9:30-11:30 AM Ritual Committee and Competition
– Embassy

10-11 AM Athletic Commission – Conference Ctr 2
10-11 AM New Lodge – Conference Ctr 1

10 AM-Noon Membership/Lapsation/
Lodge Activities/Orientation – Prairie

10:30 AM-Noon Lodge Treasurers – Ambassador

11 AM-Noon Scholarship Selection

– Conference Ctr 2

11 AM-Noon Veterans Service Commission – Plaza 3

Noon-1 PM Ladies Lunch – Meet Lois!

– Highland Room

Menu: Chicken Salad Croissant Sandwich with Soup.
Dessert: Sherbet Cost: Pre-Reg \$18/ On site \$20

1-2 PM Elks National Foundation – Plaza 3

1-2 PM Youth Activities & Antlers – Conference Ctr 4

1-2:30 PM Publication Corp./Website Monitoring/
Public Relations – Conference Ctr 2

1-3 PM Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shoot – Plaza 1

1-4 PM PGER Meet with Lodges and Individuals
– Conference Ctr 3

1-5 PM Ritual Clinic – Embassy

2-3 PM Americanism – Plaza 3

2-3 PM Drug Awareness Program – Conference Ctr 4

5-6 PM Illinois Elks Association Reception
– Capitol/Illinois

5-6 PM Illinois Elks Children's Care Social
– Rendezvous Foyer

6-8 PM Illinois Elks Association Dinner
– Capitol/Illinois

Salad: Baby Spinach Entrée: Smothered Chicken
Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Corn Dessert:
Chocolate Cake Cost: Pre-registration \$30/On-site
\$33

Sunday, Sept. 22

7-10 AM Convention Office – Plaza 4

7:30-8 AM Room Reservations for January Meeting
– Capitol/Illinois

8-10:30 AM General Business Session
– Capitol/Illinois

REGISTRATION—All Elks, male & female, Must Register for convention functions: **FEES:** Pre-Registration \$ 10/ On-site \$20. Pre-Registration deadline is Sept. 4. 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.

ROOM RESERVATIONS – Room Cancellation cut off will be Aug. 20. All mailings must be postmarked prior to Aug. 20 to avoid additional late charges. Rooms cancelled after Aug. 20 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 PM 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**

Pre-registration deadline Sept. 4 for fall convention

Illinois Elks and guests attending the fall Illinois Elks Association Convention, scheduled Sept. 19-22, in Wyndham-Springfield City Centre Hotel, are encouraged to pre-register.

The pre-registration postmark deadline is Sept. 4. 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 Sept. 4.

The charge for the Saturday evening dinner is \$30 with pre-registration and \$33 on-site. The ladies luncheon is \$18 with registration and \$20 without it.

The room cancellation cut off is Aug. 20 – 30 days ahead of the start of the convention. Rooms canceled after Aug. 20 will forfeit their deposit.



Kids aid Mt. Carmel Elks' Easter visit



Mt. Carmel Lodge 715 held its annual Easter Bunny program, in which area children gathered at the lodge to decorate cupcakes and color Easter pictures for residents of Oakview Nursing Home and Acorn Assisted Living. Lodge members then transported the children to the facilities to deliver their gifts. TOP: Easter Bunny Ty Trauger greets resident Bill Berry, along with Aleah Newkirk and Hattie Newkirk. LEFT: Resident Jeanette Risley gives little Lydia Deming a hug of appreciation for her visit.

MUST HAVE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER MEETINGS OR HOSPITALITY ROOMS

Pre-registration
Deadline
SEPT 4 2019

Scott Flota, Chairman
Credentials Committee
P.O. Box 1484
Mt.Vernon, IL 62864,
scottflota@gmail.com

Pre-registration
Deadline
SEPT 4 2019

Phone: (618) 316-0219 (text)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

Illinois Elks Annual Meeting
Registration Form
FALL MEETING SEPT 19-22, 2019
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Please make a reservation for the following:

Pre – registration - \$10.00 After SEPT 4 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 @ \$30.00/\$33.00* \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*Cost of meal if check received post marked after SEPT 4, 2019
Or purchased on-site

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Brookfield Elks raise profile with walk in July 4 parade

Brookfield Lodge 1510 participated in the Chicago suburb's fourth of July parade, led by Exalted Ruler Billy Rodriguez. Walking along the mile-long parade route, Brookfield Elks celebrated the nation's birthday by passing out miniature flags along with a note outlining what the lodge does throughout the community. They also displayed their new banner showing that Elks donated more than \$4.7 million back to the community.



Lapse from Page 2

Evans cited the experience of his own lodge, Murphysboro 572, in January, when it was faced with 41 delinquencies before the year ended on March 30.

“But one by one, by one, with individual contact, with searching out help from Elks who were close to these unpaid members, we worked it down to 21 on March 30.

“While often aggravating, and always challenging, persistence is required in keeping delinquency as low as we can, given the particular yearly situations and atmosphere in each individual lodge,” he said.



Illinois Elks leave their mark at Grand Lodge



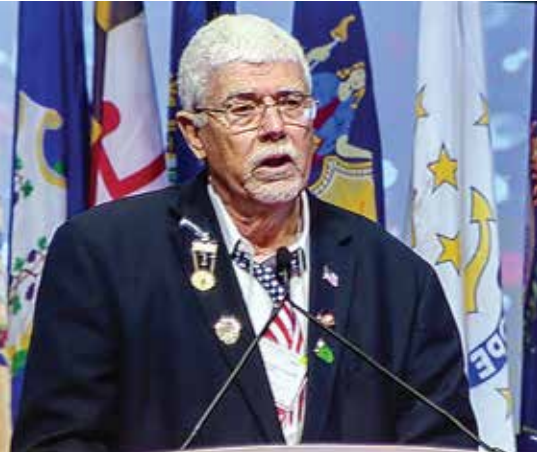
IEAPast State President Charlie Campbell of Carbondale Lodge 1243, center, is sworn in as a 2019-20 member of the Grand Lodge Board of Grand Trustees.



Past Chief Justice of the Grand Forum Jerry Shapiro of Kankakee Lodge 627 nominates Charlie Campbell of Carbondale Lodge 1243 to the Grand Lodge Board of Grand Trustees.



The IEA's district deputies for 2019-2020 were installed at the Grand Lodge Session in St. Louis in July. From left, they are: South Central District Deputy Scott Flota of Mt. Vernon Lodge 819; East Central DD Don Mowers of Danville 332; South DD Debbie Sauer of Murphysboro 572; East DD Jamie Greenley of Kankakee 627; West Central DD Rick Peck of Jacksonville 682; Northwest DD Bill Bushman of Dixon 779; North DD Tawn Williams of Elmhurst 1531; and West DD Jennifer Woods of Kewanee 724.



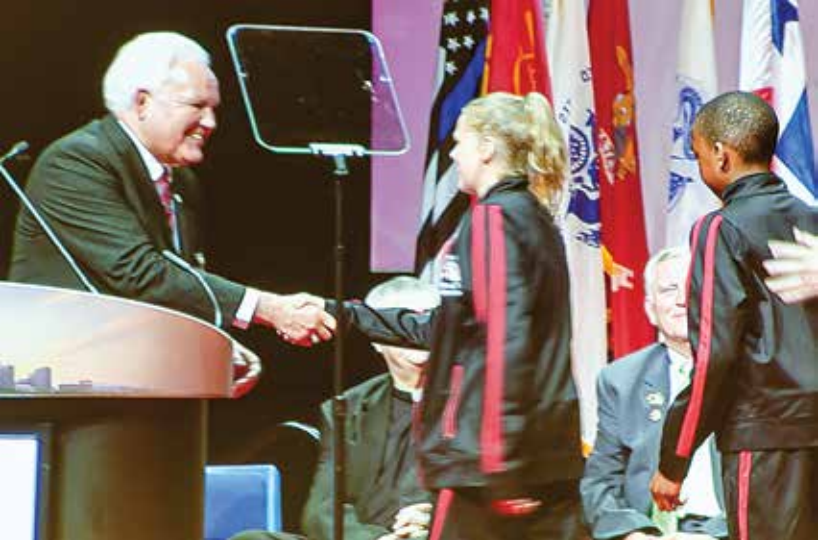
IEAPast State President Tom Deien nominates fellow Illinois Elk Bryan Klatt as Grand Secretary.



Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt of DeKalb Lodge 765 does a Blues Brothers imitation in addressing the convention gathering.



The Illinois Elks Pipes and Drums Corp helps usher in the start of the Grand Lodge Session in St. Louis.



IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger, as chairman of the Grand Lodge Elks National Foundation, congratulates Hoop Shoot winners Jamisyn Stinson and Anthony Thompson as part of his report on the ENF presentation.



Dan Cusack of Des Plaines Lodge 1526, left, carries the firefighters flag as part of the parade of flags at the opening of the Grand Lodge Session.

STATE

GER Duitsman: His resume includes 34 marathons

Robert Duitsman of Inglewood, CA, a lawyer and expert parliamentarian who has run all 34 Los Angeles Marathons, was installed as 2019-20 grand exalted ruler at the Grand Lodge Session in July in St. Louis.

Duitsman, a University of Southern California graduate who was awarded a juris doctor degree in 1981, joined Culver City, CA, Lodge in 1989, moving through the chairs before being elected exalted ruler in 1993-94 and again in 1995-96. He was association vice president in 2001-02, becoming district deputy in 2005-06.

With his interest in ritual, Duitsman has been a ritual judge since 1995, later becoming the California-Hawaii Elks Association ritual training chair and CHEA ritual contest chair in 2007-08. He also served on the CHEA Major Project Board of Trustees from 2013-16, the last year as chair, and elected president of the CHEA in 2018-19.



Bob Duitsman of Culver City, CA Lodge is sworn in as grand exalted ruler for a year of *"Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future."*

Nationally, Duitsman served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary from 2009-15, the last two years as its chair. He also served four years as a justice of the Grand Forum and two years on the

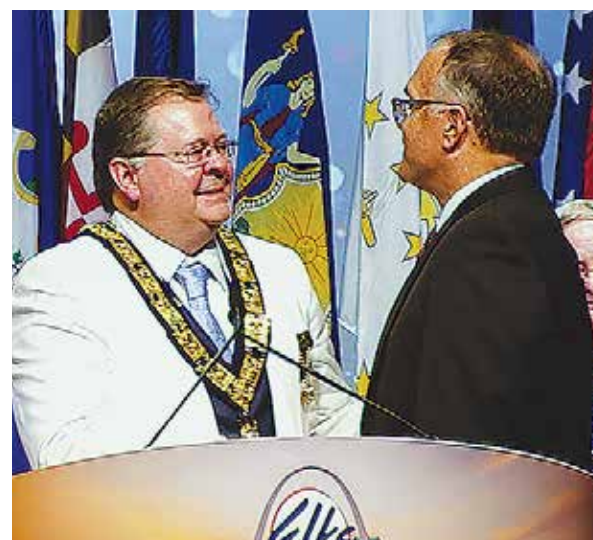
Grand Lodge Pardon Commission.

As a lawyer for more than 35 years, Duitsman has been in private practice in the Culver City area with emphasis in estate planning and parole-revocation defense.

He is a past chair of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Culver City Lions Club and past president of the Inglewood District Bar Association. For 20 years, he was a temporary judge of the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior courts.

For more than 30 years, he was a volunteer at the Culver City Senior Center, helping members with their legal problems.

Any ability to speak publicly Duitsman owes to his 30 years in Toastmasters and attaining the designation of distinguished toastmaster. And what he knows about parliamentary procedure, he owes to attaining the designation of professional registered parliamentarian through the National Association



Immediate Past GER Michael Luhr, left, congratulates Bob Duitsman upon Duitsman's election as 2019-20 grand exalted ruler to highlight the Grand Lodge Session in St. Louis in July.

of Parliamentarians. He is also an ordained elder at Knox Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles.

Duitsman married wife Beth in 1987. They have no children. He enjoys gardening, puttering around the house and spending time with

his dog Winston.

In competing in all 34 Los Angeles Marathons, Duitsman is reportedly only one of 131 people to achieve the distinction. His best time is 3 hours, 52 minutes.

His stamina will come in handy during his travels as GER.



Immediate Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Luhr and wife Barbara greet convention-goers.

IEA President Greg Verdun does his Abraham Lincoln imitation at the Illinois hospitality room, accompanied by Wisconsin Elks President Nikki Shannon doing her imitation as Uncle Sam.



Wisconsin Elks President Nikki Shannon tosses a bean bag with Bill Block on deck and Sue Verdun taking in the action.



Kim Block of Springfield Lodge 158 and Wisconsin State President Nikki Shannon strive to be the last player to remove a block without causing the stack to crash in playing the game Jenga, in front of Illinois Elks Hospitality room.



IEA Past President Larry Smith, a member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, left, directs a patron at the committee booth.



Baltimore will be the site of the 2020 Grand Lodge Session.



Opening Night Entertainment: Party Crashers Band performs at the opening night of the Grand Lodge Session in St. Louis.

LODGE



Kewanee Elks recognize student scholarships at annual appreciation dinner

Kewanee Lodge 724 held its 32nd Youth Appreciation Banquet in May. TOP LEFT PHOTO: Teens of the Month, front from left, are: Grace Sturtewagon, Emilyann Wexell, Brookelynn Smith, Darrah Schilling, Laine Winter and Lauren Bryan. In back are: Tyler Nichols, Zachary Olson, JD Darnell, Gunner Spivey, Dylan Wolf, Zac VanOpDorp and Shiram Patel. TOP MIDDLE: Past State President Dennis Gerleman recognizes Teens of the Year Gunner Spivey and

Emilyann Wexell. Both Gunner and Emilyann won West District teen of the year and proceeded to the IEA competition in May, in which Gunner placed second and Emilyann first. TOP RIGHT: Girl Scout Bronze Award winners, front from left, are: Hannah Moore, Gabby Hampton, Emmalee Kilstrom, Jaidyn Clayes and Savanna Moore. In back are: Ashley VanWassenhove, Kaytee Hewitt, Hannah Butcher and Shaylee Walker. BOTTOM LEFT: Kewanee

Elks Citizen of the Year is Amber Patch-Troxell, accompanied by PSP Gerleman. BOTTOM CENTER: The Kewanee Elks Eagle Scout Award winner is Jackson Watson. Absent was Caelin Foley. BOTTOM RIGHT: Special Award honorees of Kewanee Lodge, from left, are: Shane Milroy, special commendation; Amy Jackson, officer of the year; Sheila Blair, lady of the year; and Clark Blair, special commendation and Elk of the year.

All American Mt. Vernon Lodge promotes child safety, commerce

Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 was recognized at the IEA Annual Meeting in May as an All American lodge in the IEA and as a top contributor to the Elks National Foundation. Mt. Vernon Elks were the top All American lodge in Division 4 for IEA lodges with 701-1,100 members. They also won in Division 4 in the IEA for its aggregate \$6,745



in contributions to the Elks National Foundation. Helping garner the awards, from left, are Leading Knight Anthony Burk; Lecturing Knight Conan King; Trustees Kent Fair, John Tucker and David Bowling; Chaplain Cindy Flanagan; Exalted Ruler Tim Bain; Secretary Scott Flota; Trustee David Rakey; Inner Guard Larry George; and Treasurer Patrick Bevis.



Mt. Vernon Elks don red noses at a lodge meeting in May to draw attention to their support of Red Nose Day for promoting child safety. Raymond Baril, a former long-time secretary of Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 and Red Nose Day supporter, bought noses for the meeting attendees. Red Nose Day, which was May 23, is a campaign of Comic Relief USA to end child poverty worldwide. Funds are raised through the sale of the noses.



Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 held its annual citywide "Taste of Mt. Vernon" event at the lodge in April. All local restaurants were invited to prepare and promote their business. They set up decorated stands and served their speciality dishes, encouraging the community to realize what they offer and to shop locally, lodge spokesperson Lynette Fair said. This year's winner was lodge chef Scott Cuff, right, who served up honey garlic wings and baby back ribs, and Exalted Ruler Tim Bain.

LODGE

Salem Elks showcase charitable works throughout community



Family, friends and fellow Elks in May attend the annual Memorial Service to honor absent members of Salem Lodge 1678.



Members of Salem Lodge 1678 worked alongside members of the Salem Community High School Band to raise \$748.10 for a Sunday brunch earlier this year. From left are Salem Elks Mark Jornd, Becky Schuler and Pete Meyers, SCHS band member Mikel Peters, Salem Elk Mike Hooe, Exalted Ruler Bob Lafenhagen, SCHS Band members Abby Cunningham and Logan Jornd, and Salem Elks Leon Chapman, Chris Webster and Mike Phillips.



Salem Lodge 1678 officers present the Salem Fire Protection District with \$2,200 to purchase farm safety equipment for the Marion County Grain Rescue Team.



Salem Lodge 1678, led by Bob Lafenhagen, hold a chicken dinner fundraiser to support the Pioneer 4-H Club.



Volunteers of Salem Lodge 1678's annual golf outing present the Salem Police Department with \$1,500 to assist with its Shop with a Cop program.



The Grace Nazarene Youth Invasion, the Salem Little Egypt Festival and the Salem Little League receive \$500 each to aid in the good works they do in the community.



The IEA South Central District Hoop Shoot 2019 was a great success in spite of the winter weather woes. District and state officers presented awards to the age group winners who were to advance to state competition in February. LEFT PHOTO: Winners in the 8/9 age division were Kormick Massie, representing Flora Lodge 1659, and



Ashtyn Smith, representing Fairfield Lodge 1631. MIDDLE PHOTO: Winners in the 10/11 age division were Olivia Smith and Justin Dagg, both of Fairfield. RIGHT PHOTO: Winners in 12/13 age division were Anden Atwood of Fairfield and Kenidee Bolt of Mt Vernon Lodge 819.



STATE

Thankful to live in America despite its flawed but beautiful history



EDITOR'S NOTE: Winners of both the fifth-sixth- and seventh-eighth-grade divisions of the IEA Americanism Essay contest read their essays at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. Here are their winning entries.

By SOPHIA STIERWALT
IEA seventh-eighth-grade essay winner

America has had many monikers over the years. The land of opportunity, golden land and melting pot are some of the names given to our country by people around the world. Why does America have these nicknames? What makes it different from other countries? I am proud America stands apart because of its opportunities, mistakes and

culture.

Over its history, many unique opportunities have been available for Americans. For instance, immigrants were able to see a better life here, instead of being poverty-stricken in their native country. In addition, discriminated groups such as African Americans were able to pursue a job where they earned the same salary as a white man. Because of the public school system, everyone was also free to attend school, whether rich or poor. Therefore, the land of opportunity nickname was well deserved since anyone could achieve their dreams by working hard and taking advantage of the opportunities here in America.

However, America has cracks in its golden land moniker. To name a few, prejudice, slavery and discrimination all blemish

our history. Nevertheless, those mistakes do not define America. We are learning from those problems and our culture is slowly changing. For example, America's melting pot nickname comes from its diversity. America's past is filled with instances of racial discrimination, but people in our country are becoming more welcoming of differences among Americans.

In conclusion, America has a flawed but beautiful history. I am proud of America because of the many freedoms and opportunities but also because I have learned I am free to make mistakes and learn from them. I know my mistakes do not have to define me as a person. This is why I am thankful I live in America, a truly unique country filled with opportunities.

The IEA named its Americanism essay contest winners at the Annual meeting in May. Reading their award winning essays, left photo, is fifth-sixth-grade winner Olivia Partin of Princeton, and seventh-eighth-grade winner Sophia Stierwalt of Sadorus. Listening to them are Granite City Elk Dave Copper, who announced the awards, and IEA President Tom Deien.



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Notice to candidates

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

Appreciating our country: freedom, rights, resources

By OLIVIA PARTIN
IEA fifth-sixth-grade essay winner

Can you imagine living in another country? I couldn't ever imagine living in any other country other than our own country, America. Here are three reasons why I can't imagine leaving our wonderful country, America.

We are proud to be American because our country does not have slaves. One of our presidents freed them. That president was Abraham Lincoln, and the slaves were African American. But now African Americans can live without fear, and they can be treated better by whites. It is still a work in progress.

We are also proud to be American because we have women's rights. Women can go to school, vote, have any job they want and they are able to wear pants! Some countries do not have women's rights because they did not have ladies like Susan B.

Anthony living in their country.

We also should be proud to live in America because we have clean water. Some countries do not have water as clean as ours. Because they do not have the supplies to filter their water, they do not filter the water. But in our country, we do have enough supplies to filter water, so we can have clean water.

Appreciate that our country has what most other countries can't have.

We are proud to live in America because we have enough food to survive. Some other countries don't have either the right weather conditions or not enough water to nourish the crops. We have both of those, so not only do we have food, but the food is

healthy too.

We have more reasons why we are proud to be American, but this will have to do. We hope that thinking about freedom, rights and resources made you appreciate your country more than you already do. Appreciate the fact that our country has what most other countries can't have.

Drug from Page 2

Drug Awareness Essay Contest?

■ Are you planning for Alcohol Awareness Week in November?

■ Remind your Districts and Lodges to enter all DAP information into CLMS

For September:

■ Planning for Drug Awareness Month in October should be completed

■ Planning for Red Ribbon Week in October should be completed

■ Lodge Enrique Camarena Award winners are due to the State DAP Chair by Nov. 15.

■ Are you planning for Alcohol Awareness Week in November?

■ Start planning for a Great American Smoke-out event on the third Thursday of November

■ Are you working on your Drug Awareness Essay Contest?

LODGE

ENF grant assists youth in launching food program

The son of Harrisburg Elks members Danielle and Kerry is inspiring others by his volunteerism.

Every week eighth-grader Briley Houston goes to the First Presbyterian Church Annex to help feed people in need.

"We really do care for them and if there's ever anything that they need, we can do as much as we can," he told WSIL television.

Heaven's Kitchen, which feeds hot meals every Tuesday night to about 125 children and adults, has no administrative costs, and uses all volunteers in space donated by the church. Everything is free.

The program, created by Harrisburg Elks Kerry Camp and Dale Fowler, put to use a \$2,500 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant.

Briley helps greet and serve the crowd and then goes on deliveries to feed the shut-ins.

The 14-year-old admits he was a little apprehensive at first when the mission began in September 2018 by the philanthropic Fowler-Bonan Foundation.

"After the first week, the inaugural week, I just kind of really got into it and I was like, you know what, now every Tuesday I look forward to going and you know, it kind of brightens up my Tuesdays," said Briley.

Fowler, who is also Fowler-Bonan Foundation chairman and an Illinois state senator, said Briley has not missed a Tuesday since the mission opened. That's more than 30 times.

"It's really encouraging to see that spirit and that passion to



Briley Houston (front, center), with his volunteers at Heaven's Kitchen.

serve others in our young people and so Briley is really an example for others," said Fowler.

Heaven's Kitchen Chairwoman Dawn Horn also works at the middle school so she sees Briley every day. Even though she only got to know him this year, Dawn says he's been like a son to her and calls him her right hand.

"He stands alone sometimes but I do know, he stands up for what he believes in, that's not always popular in this age group, but it's also very freeing," said Dawn.

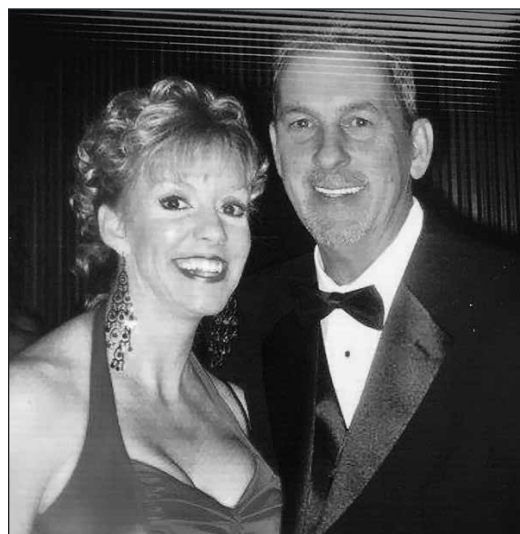
Briley credits his parents for getting him into volunteering for Heaven's Kitchen.

"I don't really feel like a hero. I mean, I think it's just something that you should do anyway," said Briley.

Briley will be headed to high school next year, but plans to continue at Heaven's Kitchen for as long as he can.

He can thank the Elks' spirit of volunteerism — and that \$2,500 ENF grant — for showing him the way.

—This story, written by WSIL television, was edited for brevity and to highlight the work of the Elks.



The Harrisburg Elks 37th annual Charity Monopoly Tourney was renamed this year in memory of Past Exalted Ruler Roger Craig, who died in late 2018. Craig was honored as IEA ER of the Year in 1997.



Harrisburg PER Paul Cummins congratulates lodge Secretary Jennifer Cain for winning the 2019 lodge Charity Monopoly Tourney. Cummins chaired the tournament committee.

Harrisburg Elk conspicuous by his absence at tourney

For the first time in most every Harrisburg Elks' memory, Roger Craig was absent for the annual charity monopoly tournament in Harrisburg, held in February.

But that's not to say his presence wasn't felt.

Craig passed away in December. The Saline County clerk and three time exalted ruler of his lodge, Craig also was the IEA Exalted Ruler of the Year in 1997.

In the spirit of true brotherly

love, the charity event began with a somber video tribute to Craig, followed by a special salute to his widow Genny Craig — herself the long-time club manager at Harrisburg.

Dry eyes were rare.

Roger's greatest claim to fame may be as the winner of the official United States Monopoly game championship in 1996. He later competed in the world monopoly championships in Monte Carlo in

1997, finishing fourth.

Harrisburg's 37th annual charity monopoly tournament was renamed in Craig's honor.

This year's tourney raised more than \$14,000 for Heaven's Kitchen, a community feeding program that opened in September thanks to a \$2,500 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant awarded by the lodge. (See related story, above.)

CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

Scholarship recipients for 2019-20 announced

Recipients of physical- and occupational-therapy scholarships for 2019-2020 have been announced.

Area 1, East Central District – Danville Lodge, Dawson LaBaw; Effingham Lodge, Morgan Deters, Ashley Goeckner, Madeline Hartke, Caitlin Kaufman, Michelle Schmidt, and Chandra Smith; Robinson Lodge, Micah Murphy and Dylan Webster; Pana Lodge, Anna Lowry; Champaign – Urbana Lodge, Keely Smith. District Total, \$20,775.

West Central District – Springfield Lodge, Sarah Gehres, Hope Lang and Brooke Metzger; Belleville Lodge, Casey Berberich, Amanda Kaltwasser, Sarah Kuester, Alyssa Pellmann, Grace Reeves, Megan Scheibel, Megan Seibel and Kelsey Weatherford; Jacksonville Lodge, Alex Bertman and Carlee Hively; Granite City Lodge, Brittany Milton; Carlinville Lodge, Molly Lewis, Arlen Magelitz and Adriann Welte. District Total, \$26,775; Area 1 Grand Total, \$47,550.

Area 2, North District – Des Plaines Lodge, Alina Wallin. District Total, \$2,550.

Northwest District – Freeport Lodge, Devin Hartman; Dixon Lodge, Ethan Rocha and Jacob Tegeler; Galena Lodge, Morgan Wheelwright and Kyle Wienen; Oglesby Lodge, Kristi Wallin. District Total, \$14,500; Area 2 Grand Total, \$17,050.

Area 3, South District – Murphysboro Lodge, Carly Carril; Herrin Lodge, Erin Lukens, Tori Schullian and Makayla Smothers. District Total, \$4,625.

South Central District – Centralia Lodge, Bethany Coffey, Sydney Hitpas and Alexis Patton; Mt. Carmel Lodge, Jayla Schwarzlose; Mt. Vernon Lodge, Divya Merchant. District Total, \$7,700; Area 3 Grand Total, \$12,325.

Area 4, East District – Joliet Lodge, Alyssa Callans and Holly Hildebrand; Oak Lawn Lodge, Karina Folliard and Katherine Pappas. District Total, \$4,500; Area 4 Grand Total, \$4,500. Overall Grand Total, \$81,425.

Winners from Page 12

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 – 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;

Also, 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;

June – Barb Ringenberg, Carmi; Brian Curtner, Fairfield; Jerry Von Bokel, Belleville; Steve Harken, Peoria; Melanie Retuerzo, Jacksonville; Lincoln Elks Lodge #914, Lincoln; Kevin Tucker, Anna – Jonesboro; Steve Prestin, Champaign – Urbana; Jim Melton, McLeansboro; Robert Marshall**, Oglesby; Thomas Culp, Charleston; Howard Duckels, Carlinville; Robert Oberholtzer*, Streator; Theodore Magura, Des Plaines; Gregg Collins, Oak Lawn; Karen Bellot, Joliet; William Anderson, Jacksonville; John Omischl, Chicago Northshore; Barry Byars, Centralia; Trent K. Bevis, Mt. Vernon.

– *\$100 **\$1,000 ***\$5,000



CCC vows comeback from downgrade

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, whose booth at Grand Lodge conventions are a perennial Five-Star winner, had to settle for a Four-Star award at St. Louis. IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block attributed the downgrade to the flurry of activity surrounding the CCC booth on the morning of judging, preventing him from giving the booth a final once over before judging started. "Because of a small oversight, or maybe not so small, it cost a star. This will not happen again in Baltimore," Block vowed. The IEA did have a great convention, he said, in thanking all who stopped by the booth.

Sales brisk at CCC booth at Grand Lodge

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation had what Administrative Manager Bill Block said was the best Grand Lodge Session of his tenure leading the CCC.

After opening Saturday morning, Block said, sales at the CCC booth of ties, pins and other wares were very brisk and remained that way throughout the convention.

"After the second day we had sold out of convention pins, and by the end of the third day we sold out of all flag ties and scarves, Antler pins and nearly 300 of the new tie clasps," Block said.

Also sold were more than 700 lanyards and other ties contributing to grossing more than \$19,590



The 2019-20 CCC pin was among the hot sellers at the Grand Lodge Session.

over the three days.

Block thanked Dave Copper and Chris Ord for transporting the booth and merchandise to and from St. Louis as well as helping with the set-up and tear down. Ord

and Robin Lemay also helped with sales Monday and Tuesday.

"As a side note I believe Chris single handedly sold a lanyard to everyone who passed by the booth including a past grand," Block said. "As crazy busy as it was I also have to thank past board member Brad Besson and current board member Jim Goldsborough who stepped in to relieve Kim (Block) and I so we could be part of the opening ceremony Sunday.

"Without their assistance I really don't know what I would have done. Thanks so much. To Dave, Chris, Robin, Jim, (Brad, if you are still around) and of course Kim, dinner is on me in September."



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

Lack of support puts CCC program at risk

Judging for all 2019-20 scholarship programs of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation ended earlier this year with 56 applications submitted from 21 of the 69 lodges from all four IEA service areas.

"We need your help if we are to continue this program," IECCC Administrative Manager Bill Block said, citing two ways to help.

"First, it is incumbent on each lodge and its membership to help promote the scholarship program," he said.

Every fall the CCC gives each of the 69 IEA lodges a number of posters to give to their area high schools to help promote the scholarship program.

"Whether or not the schools receive this information is up to each lodge/member to see that the counselors' office received the posters" aimed at making seniors aware that scholarships in occupational and physical therapy and special education are available and where to find the applications.

Second, 18 of the 56 applications submitted failed to qualify this year. Ten had missing requirements and eight did not score high enough.

"It is possible that all 10 applications could have been judged if they had been opened and inspected by the CCC chairman or a scholarship chairman," Block said, adding that missing or duplicated information caught early by a member gives the student an opportunity to correct the application before it gets to the CCC office.

"Just one or two dedicated members each year can help these students," Block said. "To those that helped the 56 applicants thank you for what you do.

"Just a thought if we are to continue with the CCC Scholarship Program."

The Children's Care program will award the 56 students scholarships totaling \$99,725. They all have been notified by letter of their award. Likewise, those students who did not receive a scholarship have been notified.

For students aspiring to be a PT/OT therapist or a PT/OT assistant, the application will be available Dec. 1 at illinoiselksccc.org. For students studying special education that application will also be available Dec. 1 at illinoiselksccc.org.

Calendar-drawing winners through June announced

Illinois Elks Children's Care calendar winners have been announced for 2019. They are:

January – 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; and 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, DuQuoin; Nicki Palmer, Carlinville; Patricia Fraser, Chicago Northshore.

February – Jordy Z. Gotschall,

Jacksonville; Angie Roach, DuQuoin; Kathy Stout, Peoria; Thomas J. Ciecka, Danville; Tomi Sue Austin, Charleston; Konnie Kensel, Springfield; Victoria L. Williams, Champaign - Urbana; Brooks High, Anna - Jonesboro; 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.

March – 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;

Also, 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 – 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;

Also, PER Association, Peoria; Mitch Newell, Carlinville; Frank Grichnik*, Carlinville; Lou Costa, Mt. Vernon; Mike

Winnings donated back to CCC

Two Illinois Elks were thinking as much of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation as themselves after winning games of chance at the Grand Lodge Session in St. Louis in July.

Bill Gandolfi of Oglesby Lodge 2360 won \$400 and gave the CCC \$200. Jim Goldsborough of Jacksonville Lodge 682, and the newest CCC board member, won the Wisconsin 50/50 and donated \$230 to the Kids.

"Thanks again for the very generous donation of \$430," Administrative Manager Bill Block said. "Members and lodges make good things happen through the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation."