



# Illinois Elks Association Newsette



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MID-WINTER 2019

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## Listening to the 'Choir'

And thanking Illinois Elks for aiding communities

You have heard the term, "Preaching to the choir," many times. During the past six months I have attended meetings in all our wonderful districts. I have listened to our lodge and district officers (choir) share the great events that are happening in our lodges across Illinois.

From Galena to Chicago Northshore to Fairview Heights to Carmi, Elks are helping people in more than 69 communities.

Thank you to all the Elks across the state for your efforts.

At our Mid-Winter meeting we will host Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L. Duitsman and his wife, Sandy. They will arrive early on Thursday and depart late on Sunday. Past State President Coy Cockrum and wife Vickie will be the personal host for our visitors.

Since January will be cold, give them a very warm Elks welcome.

First Lady Sue Verdun will host eight ladies from around Illinois at the ladies luncheon. One woman who has given her time and dedication to Elks causes will be named as our Lady of the Year.

At the 2019 Elks National Convention in St. Louis, Past Grand Exalted

Ruler Mike Luhr issued a challenge to the Elks members to raise funds for the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawaii. Our ultimate goal is to raise \$783,000, or a dollar per member, to truly help preserve history, perpetuate peace and reconciliation, and ensure that the memories of our veterans, passed and living, are never forgotten.

Please See **GREG**, Page 2

### IEA president

Greg Verdun



### IEA funds Honor Wreaths for Veterans

The IEA recently contributed \$5,000 to the Honor Wreaths For Veterans program, which was organized to honor, remember, assist with special needs and educate people about veterans. Its purpose is to place wreaths on graves of U.S. veterans; maintain U.S. veteran cemetery plots; and other veteran charitable needs. Jim Koonce of Honor Wreath for Veterans and member of Carbondale Lodge 1243 displays the check, flanked from left by IEA Past President Charlie Campbell, IEA Treasurer George Hornung, IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers, IEA President Greg Verdun, IEA Third Vice President Todd Lindsay and PSP Coy Cockrum.



### IEA honors top scholars of Children's Care

The top recipients of scholarships from the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation were introduced at the dinner highlighting the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield in September. The recipients, holding their plaques, from left, are Pete Matson Scholar Sarah Kuester of Freeberg; Mike Manning Scholar Alyssa Pellmann of Millstadt; Kenny Beltz Scholar Divya Merchant of Mt. Vernon; and Bill Leas Scholar Megan Seibel of Belleville. They are accompanied, from left, by CCC Secretary Kristi Wykes, CCC Area 2 Director Sharon Kay Dirck, CCC Area 4 Director Mark Bump and CCC West Central District Chair Jim Goldsborough. Related coverage, **Page 12**.

## Elizabeth Conaway named Newsette editor

The Illinois Elks *Newsette* has a new editor/secretary. She is Elizabeth Conaway of Edinburg.

"I owned and operated a weekly newspaper," Conaway said in applying for the position. "I have experience with editing, layout, design and deadlines. I'm confident I could generate exactly what you're looking for."

Conaway was owner and editor of the Herald-Star newspaper in

Edinburg, a town of 1,000 people 25 miles southeast of Springfield in Christian County, from June 2005 to September 2017.

She is now director of art and production for Springfield-based Futures in Rehabilitation Management, Inc., an association management company.

Conaway, a journalism graduate of Milikin University in Decatur, replaces Joe Baker, who

announced his retirement from the post earlier this year.

She was elected *Newsette* editor by the Illinois Elks Publication Corporation in September, and will take over the *Newsette* beginning with the spring 2020 edition.

Lodges are advised to begin e-mailing their lodge news to Conaway beginning Jan. 1. She can be reached at: ilelksnewsette@gmail.com or (217) 827-3799.



ELIZABETH CONAWAY

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to  
IEA Children's Care Corporation  
P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629-0222



## STATE

# Lodges charged with implementing new financial reporting system by April 1

We've all said it before: Where does the time fly? It is hard to believe how fast fall came and went, and now the holidays are upon us. I hope you took time to pause, reflect and remember on Veterans Day. As Elks, we should all be proud of our pledge, "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

December is here and with it brings the last of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler visits. Our dedicated DD's do an outstanding job representing Grand

## IEA sponsor

F. Louis Sulsberger PGER



Lodge and should be commended for their commitment to our Order. Please remember that they are a resource for you and your lodges. They are available to assist you in any way that is needed.

As many of you know, delegates at the Grand Lodge Convention

in St. Louis voted to implement a new financial reporting system that replaces the annual audit. This new system, "FRS", can be found on the Elks.org website. Our state coordinator for this program, Kelly Eckhoff of Pontiac Lodge 1019, is available to assist your lodge with any questions as you work through this conversion, which must be implemented by April 1. Her e-mail address is eckgolf@mchsi.com. We realize that this is a big change, but it is mandatory and important that every lodge comply with this new monthly

requirement. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Mid-Winter State Elks meeting is in January and we will have the privilege of welcoming our Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Duitsman and his lovely wife, Beth. You will find them delightful and I know that you will extend a fantastic Illinois welcome.

As a reminder, our annual Lady of the Year awards luncheon will be held on Saturday at noon at our Mid-Winter Meeting. Please make plans to attend this event to honor both First Lady of Elksdom

Beth Duitsman and First Lady of Illinois Sue Verdun and to support the eight district winners. And of course we will all share in the excitement of the announcement of our Illinois Elks Association Lady of the Year!

Beth and I thank everyone for their friendship and support this past year. We send best wishes to you and your families for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2020!

God bless you all.

## Greg from Page 1

never forgotten. Send checks to the Elks National Foundation with memo to Pearl Harbor Restoration.

The \$1,000 veterans grants are slowly going out to help veterans across Illinois. I have just 18 more awards to distribute. That means our Illinois Elks Association has given out \$51,000 for veterans.

By the time this *Newsette* reaches you the Americanism, Most Valuable Student scholarships and Lady of the Year contests have closed. But you still have time to participate in Elk of the Year, Family of the Year, and Teen of the Year contest.

All districts will hold their Hoop Shoots in January. The winners will advance to the state contest in Decatur on Feb. 22. If you would like to help in Decatur, contact Jim Swisher at 815-341-4072.

Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation has been providing services such as braces, wheelchairs, physical/occupational therapy and scholarships to children in need across Illinois. Elks are dedicated to easing the daily burden of a child's physical



The Illinois Elks Association earlier this year awarded Pontiac Lodge 1019 \$1,000 to assist veterans through Pontiac Township with housing and utility expenses. IEA President Greg Verdun made the award to Pontiac Township Supervisor Lori Pemberton.

impairment. I urge members across the state to support this noble cause.

A full and strong slate of officers is needed to guide a lodge throughout the year. In February, we will nominate and elect officers and trustees. Consider being a leader of your lodge.

Do not let new applicants sit waiting to be initiated. Fast track their orientation and ritual and involve them in your next activity at the lodge. Have your seasoned members welcome these new members when they attend lodge functions. Do not allow members who came in the front door go out the back door. Lodge lapsation

chairs should reach out, so we do not lose these members in March.

"Great Caesar's ghost!" It is with great sorrow that Perry White (Joe Baker) has decided to retire from The Daily Planet (Illinois Elks *Newsette*) as editor. Perry (Joe) worked at a newspaper in Chicago before becoming our editor. During the past 20 years our Daily Planet (*Newsette*) has received many five and four star national awards. As this is his last edition before handing over leadership to Liz Conaway (not sure if she is Lois Lane) we wish Perry (Joe) a very happy retirement.

## Veterans grant a hit with lodges

I hope all is well in your respective lodges as we are far into the fiscal year! Make sure you are focused on your goals for 2019-20.

I'm pleased to report that the new \$1,000 veterans grant has been well received! To date more than 50 lodges have requested the grant. That's great. I'm sure the veterans in your communities appreciate your help.

My home lodge used the grant for our Veterans Day parade, during which we help feed all veterans and helpers. Don't forget we owe so much to these brave men and women who have stepped up to maintain this great nation.

Well, another great Elks project — Hoop Shoot — is just around the corner. Lodge and district contests should be well under way for the state Shoot on Feb. 22, which will be here before you know it. If you haven't been a part of Hoop Shoot, you are missing

## IEA treasurer

George Hornung



out on the feeling our young people experience! Sometimes I think the parents get more excited than the kids do! It's a great event in Elksdom.

Make sure you look on the back cover of the state directory for the dates of all the projects we support. From Americanism to Elk of the Year and everything in between. They are all important to having a successful year in your respective lodges. Who ever came up with "Elks Care — Elks Share" really hit the nail on the head!

Have a great holiday and new year! Looking forward to seeing everyone in January at Springfield.

## Let's share our good works with GER Duitsman upon visit

Happy holiday to all the great Elks of Illinois. I hope this holiday is a very happy time to get together with family and friends!

At our January state meeting, Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Duitsman and wife Beth will be in attendance. This is the time that all the great work that we do for all of our communities can be showcased!

Lodges that met last year's Elks National Foundation goal have until Dec. 31 to let me know how

## IEA secretary

Marvin Leathers



the \$1,500 award will be used for community service. Just e-mail me at elkelk1903@gmail.com and I will see that the check is sent to your lodge.

Remember, I must know by Dec. 31 or you will lose the award!

Also, remember we have another \$1,000 award for a lodge veterans event. Just e-mail President Verdun at verdung@yahoo.com how you intend to use the grant. Greg will let me know and the check will be sent. Please don't let these awards go out the back door!

Last but not least: We all must work on membership. Let's get a gain this year for the IEA!

Remember, Illinois Elks do lead the way.

## Lodges asked to submit lists of deceased Elks for IEA memorial service

The IEA wants to help ensure that deceased Illinois Elks are never forgotten.

IEA Second Vice President Jim Cusack has asked lodges to forward their lists of members deceased

in 2019 upon completion of their memorial services, which are to be held the first Sunday in December.

Cusack, who is charged with organizing the IEA memorial service at the IEA Annual Meeting

in May, said, "I will accept USPS, e-mail, or text messages."

His contact information is: Jim Cusack, 5902 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60646; (773)403-3739; Jamescusack58@gmail.com.



## 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 Liz Conaway at ilelksnewsette@gmail.com, (217) 827-3799.

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

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## STATE

## IEA shows appreciation for Re-Creation performance

Re-Creation USA performed for veterans at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Anna in September. After the performance, Illinois Elks presented a check for \$5,000 to help defray the group's cost. Presenting the check was Past State President Tom Deien and wife Brenda, IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers, Elks VA representative Steve Schemonia and IEA Veterans Chairman Bob Kane. Re-Creation USA representatives said "a very big thank you to the Illinois Elks" for the donation, Kane said.



Oak Lawn Elks helped entertain veterans at Hines Veterans Hospital in Maywood in May with the help of Re-Creation USA, an Elks-supported group that provides live, therapeutic entertainment nationwide to hospitalized veterans. Following the event the entertainment team was invited back to Oak Lawn Lodge for dinner to thank them for entertaining the veterans. Two of the entertainers dressed in their performance costumes greet veterans Mike Brock (left photo) and Ed Mazcika and Ray Shepack (right). Re-Creation, founded in 1976, has performed thousands of concerts nationwide.

## Ritual contests scheduled for Mid-Winter Meeting

The IEA Ritual Committee will conduct its annual ritual competitions at the Mid-Winter Meeting in Springfield, providing opportunities for all officers past or present to compete.

Team competition of the complete Initiatory Ritual is scheduled at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. This is an opportunity for a lodge to bring a team of officers to compete against other lodges in the state. This would include Exalted Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Esquire, Chaplain, Inner Guard and a candidate.

Teams are judged on Word Accuracy, Department, Proper Pronunciation and Impressiveness. Contact IEA Chairman Roger Quinn or your District Ritual Chairman to pre-register by Jan. 10.

At 10:30 a.m., the Individual Chairs competition is scheduled to start with registration at the designated site. This competition is open to current or past officers of the following chairs: Exalted

Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Esteemed Loyal Knight, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Esquire, and Chaplain. Individuals are judged on Word Accuracy, Proper Pronunciation and Impressiveness.

At 1:30 p.m., the 11 O'Clock Toast Contest will start with registration on-site. This year the winning individual will have an opportunity to represent the IEA in the first Grand Lodge National Toast contest at the Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore in July. This competition is open to current Exalted Rulers or Past Exalted Rulers. Individuals are judged on Word Accuracy, Proper Pronunciation and Impressiveness.

Awards will be presented at the IEA Banquet Saturday evening. Please note that previous winners are ineligible to compete.

The IEA Committee on Ritual is available to help any team or individual.

Contact your District Ritual Chairman or Roger Quinn, IEA Chairman/Grand Lodge Committeeman, at RQLQ12@Yahoo.com or 217-369-8958.

## IEA Hoop Shoot Feb. 21, 22

The IEA Hoop Finals are scheduled for Feb. 21 and 22 in Decatur.

The headquarters hotel will continue to be at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel, 4191 U.S. 36 (also Wyckles Road) Decatur. The site of the Shoot had not been determined as of Nov. 1.

Director Jim Swisher said he would continue to book rooms for contestants and parents, but unlike in past years, all others coming to the shoot will have to book their own rooms.

The hotel may be reached at (217) 422-8800.

The IEA offers \$300 to districts that succeed in getting at least 80

percent of their respective lodges to sponsor Hoop Shoot events.

"There should be no reason (for lodges) not to have six" winners advance to district competition, Swisher said, urging, "Do what you have to do to make this happen."

Swisher is hopeful all 69 Illinois Elks lodges will stage a Hoop Shoot. He said 11 lodges for the past several years have not sponsored the Grand Lodge-required event.

"Can we make this year our year for 100 percent participation?" he asked. "If you don't hold any of our programs, the only thing you're doing is hurting your lodge and our future lodge members."



## IEA continues support of Honor Flight

On behalf of the IEA, Quincy Lodge 100 presented Great River Honor Flight with a \$3,500 donation in November, one of seven checks the IEA has given to Honor Flight hubs throughout Illinois. Participating in the check presentation, from left, are Honor Flight board member Barry Cheyne, IEA Past President Bill Marsh and Quincy 100 Exalted Ruler and Honor Flight Board Member Steve Labs.

## Youth panel seeks to boost student recognition program

The IEA Youth Activities Committee is hopeful that it can breathe new life in the Grand Lodge Teen of the Month/Year program.

Committee Chairman Gregg Collins, in his report in September, set a goal of at least three lodges per district to participate in the program.

Lodges have a deadline of April 15 to submit nominations to their respective districts, which are to submit their

nominations to Collins at collinsgac63@aol.com by April 30.

All the certificates, guidelines, nomination forms, posters and news releases are available to all lodges, and district and state Youth Activities chairs to download at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm>.

The certificates are made "fillable" for program

Please See **YOUTH**, Page 5

## New veterans reps at O'Hare, Carbondale, Marion

The IEA Veterans Service program has three new representatives for O'Hare International Airport, Carbondale and Marion.

Barry Roberts has taken over the O'Hare USO in terminals 2 and 3, replacing Sande Skinner of Chicago Northshore Lodge 1316 for health reasons.

"I would like for everyone to keep Sande in our prayers," IEA Veterans Service Chairman Bob Kane said in his September report. "Her dedication was never ending."

At Carbondale, Steve Schemonia is sponsoring bingo and a monthly meal at the new facility on Crab Orchard Lake called "The Haven."

"His group is increasing every month," Kane said.

At the Marion VA, Rose Marie Davidson has moved up from deputy rep to rep to replace Penny Bagby, who died earlier this year. Davidson had helped Bagby for several years.

In other IEA veterans news:

■ Kane announced that the IEA is opening a new VA in

Chicago. "More about this as it gets closer to opening," he said.

■ A rep is still needed for the Danville VA to replace Jerry Edward, who was forced to resign to care for his wife.

■ At the Anna VA earlier this year — one of several stops to entertain veterans around Illinois — the music group Re-Creation received a \$5,000 donation from the IEA. Past President Tom Deien and wife Brenda, and IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers were on hand with Kane to make the check presentation.



# Mid-Winter Convention

*Honoring our  
Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L. Duitsman  
and First Lady Beth*



**Jan. 23-26, 2020 ■ Wyndham City Centre Springfield Hotel**

## Thursday, Jan. 23

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

## Friday, Jan. 24

7 AM-5 PM Convention Office – Plaza 4  
8-10 AM Executive Committee – Conference Ctr 3  
10 AM-11:30 PM Convention Committee – Rendezvous  
10:30-11:30 AM Initiatory Ritual Individual Competition – Embassy  
Noon-7 PM Convention Registration (at desk) – Mezzanine  
1-4 PM Advisory Committee – Rendezvous  
7-9 PM Past State President Dinner – Illinois

## Saturday, Jan. 25

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

10:30 AM-Noon Lodge Treasurers – Plaza 3  
11 AM-Noon National Veterans Service – Plaza 1  
11 AM-Noon Scholarship – Conference Ctr 2  
Noon-1:30 PM Luncheon - Lady of the Year – Illinois

Entrée: Turkey & Swiss cheese on Croissant with Cup of Soup. Dessert: Sherbet. Cost: Pre Reg- \$18/ On-site \$20

1:30-2:30 PM Government Relations and Judiciary Discussion – Conference Ctr 2  
1:30-2:30 PM Hoop Shoot / Soccer Shoot Program – Plaza 1

1:30-2:30 PM Membership/Lapsation/Lodge Activities/Orientation – Ambassador  
1:30-2:30 PM Ritual 11 O' Clock Toast Competition – Embassy

1:30-2:30 PM Youth Activities & Antlers – Conference Ctr 4  
1:3-3:30 PM Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation – Plaza 3

1:30-4 PM PGER Meet with Lodges and Individuals – Conference Ctr 3

2:30-3:30 PM Drug Awareness Program – Conference Ctr 4

2:30-4:30 PM Website Monitoring/Publication Corporation/Public Relation – Conference Ctr 2

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

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

Salad: Classic Caesar. Entrée: Sirloin Steak with Mushrooms sauce, Fried Potatoes Pancake Green Beans. Dessert: Jamaican Rum Cake. Cost: Preregistration \$30/on Site \$33. Dress: Dark Business Suit

## Sunday, Jan. 26

6:30-1:00 AM Convention Office – Plaza 4  
7:30-8 AM Room Reservations for May Convention – Capitol/Illinois

8-10:30 AM General Business Session

– Capitol/Illinois

**MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED** to attend the banquet in honor of Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L. Duitsman and First Lady Beth on Saturday, Jan. 25.

**REGISTRATION** – All Elks, male & female, Must Register for convention functions: **FEES**: Pre-Registration \$10/ On-site \$20 Pre-Registration deadline is Jan. 8. By pre-registering for the convention, Lady's luncheon and banquet, you will give the Credentials Committee time to make sure your credentials will be waiting for you at the check –in desk and will also assist the Convention Committee in working with the Wyndham in planning the workshops, Luncheon and banquet. Registration Badges are Necessary to Attend All Functions, including hospitality rooms.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS** – Room Cancellation cut off will be Dec. 20. All mailings must be postmarked prior to Dec. 20 to avoid additional late charges. Rooms cancelled after the above date will forfeit their deposit.

**HOSPITALITY ROOMS** – 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 Jr Trustee.

**All Hospitality Rooms shall be CLOSED** from 6:00pm until the conclusion of the banquet on Saturday, Jan. 25 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**



## Junior golf expansion sought

The IEA Athletic Commission is looking to breathe new life in the annual Elks junior golf tournament series after the champions tournament was canceled due to a lack of registration.

Commission Chairman Dave Cassens said in his September report that the commission is considering the possibility of getting the Elks junior events sanctioned by the Junior Golf Association so its players could earn association points as an incentive to enter the Elks events.

Past Commission Chairman Bob Eckoff and Sarah Faith of Lincoln Lodge 941 are to look into the two organizations working together, Cassens said.

In addition, an exploratory committee is being formed by Joel Joergensen of Fairview Heights

664 to create a junior golf site in the St. Louis Metro East involving six area schools.

Also in his September report, Cassens quoted Kent Fair of Mt. Vernon Lodge 819 as saying that 153 players representing nine IEA local lodges competed in the IEA state golf tournament in July.

A check for \$459 in green fees was presented to the commission.

For the 2020 state tournament, Faith announced it will take place July 17 and 18. The cost will be \$70 per player, which will cover green fees, cart, gifts and lunch.

More information will be posted at the IEA Mid-Winter Meeting.

Also, Chad Stevens of Paris 812 reported that the state bowling tournament will be held the last weekend of May and the first weekend of April.

## Watch your Facebook posts

Many Illinois lodges continue to have inappropriate posts on their Facebook pages, and that needs to stop, IEA Judiciary Chair Ali Mikels cautioned in her fall committee report.

She cited as impermissible posts of photos of minors without written parental consent, photos of alcohol or mention of alcohol specials on social media.

All photos posted must be taken by an Elks member or spouse due to copyright laws, and all photos posted of food must be the food cooked and served at your lodge or event, she said.

“If making a post about a specific member, make sure it’s appropriate to post and the member the post is about approves of the

post,” Mikels said. All postings should be related to the lodge, Illinois Elks Association or Grand Lodge — no memes, or political or religious posts.

“Remember, these are Elks pages for Elks members only, not the public, and all information should be Elks related,” she said. “This is not someone’s personal page so it should not be used as one.”

Mikels added that educating both members and lodge employees on existing laws and regulations in their respective communities is important “so we do not subject ourselves to lawsuits or fines that put our lodges, state association and Grand Lodge in jeopardy.”

## IEA seeks to form lodge in Rockford

The IEA New Lodge Committee is looking into forming a local lodge in Rockford.

Committee Chairman Joel Joergensen said Rick Tonozzi has been added to the committee.

“He has sources to help look more into Rockford,” Joergensen said in his September committee report. “Any other help would be appreciated.”

### Newsette a Four Star

Newsette editor Joe Baker displays the plaque he received on behalf of the Illinois Elks Publication Corporation, from IEA President Greg Verdun, right, with corporation Chairman Mark Bump. The Newsette received four of five stars in judging by the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee in its Contest “I” for state publications.



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

**Pre-registration  
Deadline  
JAN 8 2020**

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

**Pre-registration  
Deadline  
JAN 8 2020**

**Phone: (618) 316-0219 (text)**

### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

**Illinois Elks Annual Meeting  
Registration Form  
WINTER MEETING 24-26 2020  
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel**

Please make a reservation for the following:

**Pre – registration - \$10.00    After JAN 8 2020---\$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 JAN 8 2020  
Or purchased on-site

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Please pre-register by Jan. 8

Illinois Elks and guests attending the Annual Illinois Elks Association Convention, scheduled Jan. 24-26, in Wyndham-Springfield City Centre Hotel, are encouraged to pre-register.

The pre-registration postmark deadline is Jan. 8. All mailings must be postmarked by the posted dates to avoid additional late charges.

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

To assist in record-keeping,

lodge secretaries are asked to copy the form above for each registration instead of putting them all on a single form.

The pre-registration fee is \$10 and \$20 after Jan. 8.

The charge for the Saturday evening dinner is \$30 with pre-registration and \$33 on-site. The ladies luncheon is \$18 with pre-registration and \$20 on-site.

The room cancelation cut off is Dec. 26 – 30 days ahead of the start of the convention. Rooms canceled after Dec. 26 will forfeit their deposit.

## Youth from Page 3

administrators to type in recipients’ names to create a more professional looking product.

At the September meeting, Collins reviewed the process for judging.

“Discussion was held on events to celebrate the youth in our communities,” Collins said, “events such as a banquet at the end of the school year for all of the youth of the community.

“Invited youth could be scholarship recipients, Girl Scout, Eagle Scout, Americanism contest and Teen of the Month/ Year winners from throughout the year.”



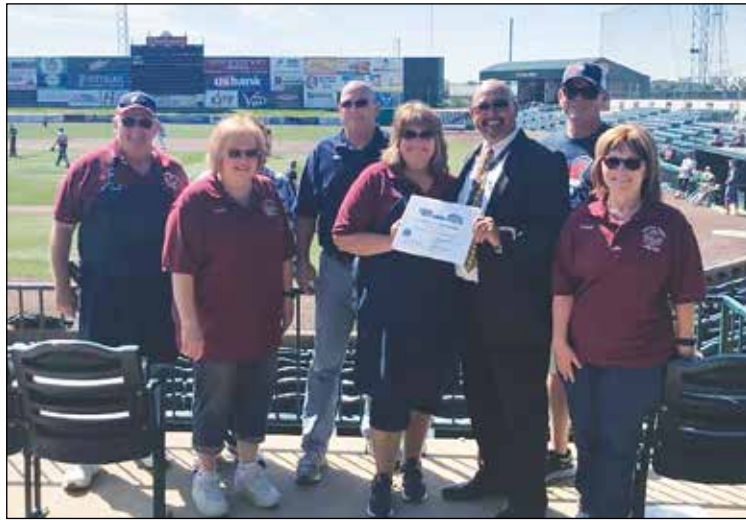
## LODGE

# Fairview Heights Elks remember veterans by funding softball, golf outings

## IEA, ENF aid effort for Boots on Diamond, Green

Fairview Heights Lodge 664 used a \$1,000 Veterans Grant it received from IEA President Greg Verdun earlier this year to support the Boots on the Diamond event held in October at GCS Credit Union Ballpark, home of the Gateway Grizzlies of the Frontier League, in the Metro East community of Sauget. The round-robin double-elimination softball tournament attracted approximately 100 retired veterans, disabled veterans and active military. The grant was used to provide lunch for the participants and to buy lap blankets and socks for

VA patients' weekly physical therapy sessions. At the awards presentation, Fairview Heights member Teresa Barrington accepts a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the lodge's continued support of veterans and active



military in the Metro East. Also, from left are: Fairview Heights Lodge members Ray Pafford, Brenda Willette, Barb Pafford (behind Willette), Mike Holdener and Barrington, receiving the certificate from Paul Hopkins and



John Schmeink, both of the St. Louis VA Health Care System, and Elks member Debbie Holdener. RIGHT PHOTO: A veteran makes contact to advance a runner.



## 'A great day to share what the Elks organization is all about'

An Elks National Foundation Freedom Grant allowed Fairview Heights Lodge 664 in June to fund its fifth year of the Boots on the Green program to provide veterans with disabilities, active duty and retired military an opportunity to play golf. Lodge spokesperson Teresa Barrington said the lodge also provided luncheon for 135 veterans, which included 41 active duty, 67 disabled veterans, 27 retired military and 35 caretakers. "During the tournament and luncheon, we had the opportunity to interact with the golfers on the course and met some amazing veterans and active military," Barrington said. Fairview Heights Lodge was recognized as the Boots on the Green Volunteer of the Year. "It was a great day to share what the Elks organization is all about and how we will always support our veterans," Barrington added.

## Carlinville Lodge raises profile with addition of gate on Main Street

Motorists driving down Main Street in Carlinville have a new sight to see, thanks to the father-son team of Carlinville 1412 Elks, Danny and Cody Maguire. They designed, constructed and installed a gate depicting the 11 O'Clock Toast with the 11 O'Clock emblem emblazoned beneath. Danny owns a machine shop in Carlinville, and Cody was exalted ruler of Carlinville Lodge in 2016-17. PER Eric Pfeiffer said the recently installed gate leads into the lodge beer garden. "The gate is right along Main Street in Carlinville," Pfeiffer said. The gate was funded by "generous" donations of Carlinville Elks, Pfeiffer said.



## Bloomington Elks welcome clinic with gift

Bloomington Lodge 281 in November awarded a \$1,000 grant to buy a coffee cart for the new VA Clinic in Bloomington. Twelve Bloomington Elks and spouses attended the ribbon-cutting. Attendees, front from left, were: Exalted Ruler Teresa Hudak and Chaplain Kris Ohler. In back are: Dan Leifel, spouse of a member; Carol Abbott, member; Carolyn Gatenby and Sue Border, both lodge trustees; member Mary Wilkenson; and Esquire Paul Clark. Not pictured but present were lodge Secretary Mike Fowler, Inner Guard Dennis Fries and Jan Fries, spouse of a member.



LODGE



Marion Elks get student assistance with lodge project



Marion Lodge 800 members and volunteers from the Marion High School automotive class – Emily Porritt, Jacob Gamble, Alex Burger and Noah Tate – work at the lodge’s Lake of Egypt property to replace 20 rotted ties in the front fence and reattach the cables to the ties.



Marion Lodge 800 members work with volunteers from John A Logan Community College to repair pavilions at the lodge’s Lake of Egypt property.



Belleville Elks recognize student scholarship

Belleville Lodge 481 recognized 16 area students in June at its annual Scholars Night program. Presented were the Elks National Foundation Scholarships, the Illinois Elks Association Children’s Care Corporation Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Scholarships and the Belleville Lodge Paul L. Kunz Memorial Scholarships. Through the lodge, \$29,225 in scholarships was awarded, bringing to \$99,150 the total the lodge has granted over the past three years. The top local Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship went to Savannah Tiemann of Millstadt, who plans to attend Rice University. Receiving ENF Legacy Scholarship was Kayla Kokotovich of Belleville, who will attend the University of Findley. Eight physical- and occupational therapy majors were recognized with students receiving awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,550. The students, hometowns and universities they attend are: Casey Barberich (Lebanon, Maryville University); Amanda Kaltwasser (Belleville, Maryville University); Sarah Kuester (Freeburg, University of Evansville); Alyssa Pellmann (Millstadt, Maryville University); Grace Reeves (Swansea, Missouri State); Ashley Sauzek (Freeburg, University of Evansville); Megan Scheibel (Belleville, Bradley University); Megan Seibel (Belleville, Maryville University); and Kelsey Weatherford (Columbia, St. Ambrose University). Paul L. Kunz Memorial Scholarship awardees, hometowns, with the schools they will attend included: Elizabeth Bourgeois (Waterloo, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville); Kelli Determan (Belleville, University of Tennessee); Delaney Grimes (Highland, SIU-E); Jacob Graf (Mascoutah, Murray State University); Robert Radden (Swansea, University of Southern Indiana); and Alexander Sievers (Evansville, University of Alabama-Huntsville).



Metropolis Elks help nursing home veterans without local family

Metropolis Lodge 1428 recently earmarked a \$1,000 IEA grant to help local veterans. Lodge Treasurer Janet Krueger, center, spearheaded the effort to purchase personal items for six veterans who live in a local nursing home, but have no local family to help purchase needed items. The remainder of the money was to be spent later to purchase Christmas gifts for an additional 31 veterans at Southgate Rehab and Nursing Home. Accompanying Janet, from left, are: lodge Trustees Perry Dailey, Lyndal Qualls and Adron Henley; Leading Knight Lance Loftus; and Exalted Ruler Mark Jones.



Mt. Vernon Elks host Military Family Fun Day

Mt. Vernon Elks hosted a Military Family Fun Day at the lodge in November. Activities for the whole family featuring the Character Party Crashers including Exalted Ruler Tim Bain, Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator Shelia Forristall and lodge Veterans Chairman Keith Hertenstein. They helped provide fun for the kids that were in attendance. Leading Knight Tony Burk checks out the Lazer Tag with some of the kids.





## LODGE

# Boobie Bingo raises \$48K

Watseka Elks take inventive approach in its nine-year fight against cancer

By **CHERYLE LAURENT**  
Watseka Lodge 1791

Watseka Lodge 1791 was host to its annual Bingo for Cancer Fighters (aka Boobie Bingo) in November, its ninth year hosting this event.

To date we have helped 61 families fighting cancer in Iroquois County. We have also raised \$48,704, which we are humbled by and proud of.

This idea started to let area people know we have some phenomenal Elks in our lodge. The first year we donated the money to Relay for Life. We were slightly disappointed that only about 7

percent of the funds raised come back to our county despite Iroquois having one of the highest cancer rates in Illinois.

Cancer has not been a stranger in my family. My mother, brother, nephew and niece have passed because of it. My twin sister is a breast cancer survivor. When I thought of the name for this event, I asked her if she would be offended by the name. She laughed and asked to be a part of it. What started out as breast cancer bingo, now involves all sorts of cancers.

We wanted to be able to do this without spending money,



so we solicited donations from area businesses. All monetary donations go directly into the account for cancer recipients. All other gifts collected are given away as bingo prizes. We have

130 businesses that donate. This number grows every year.

Cancer patients receive \$500 from us; any of our Elks members receive \$700. All money raised stays in Iroquois County, which

Watseka Lodge 1791 has been helping people fighting cancer for the last nine years through its "Boobie Buddies" program. Boobie Buddies helping this year, in back row, are: Jill Terro, Kim Gocker, Cheryle Laurent, Deb Swigart and Amy Reetz. Middle: Stephenie Noland, Kat Thiele, Leslie Myers and Pam Thurston, along with Marsha Knauth, front. Missing are Paul and Bridget Tobeck, Marilyn Conger, Mary Decker, Rich Kingdon, Sarah and Scott Kingdon, Teresa Castonguay and Val Watts.

our donors love!

We refer most of the people who help put this on as "Our boobie buddies" who have helped for

Please See **BINGO**, Page 9

## Mt. Carmel Elks host countywide Americanism essay contest

Students in fifth- through eighth-grade in Wabash County participated in the 2019-20 Americanism Essay Contest, which addressed the theme, "What Makes You Proud of America." Mt. Carmel Lodge 715 Americanism Chair Louise Acree announced the fifth- and sixth-grade winners: Elizabeth Hefner, St. Mary's School, first; Zeme Moore, Mt. Carmel Grade School, second; and Isabella Andrews, St. Mary's School, third. Seventh- and eighth-grade winners were: Molly Rafferty, St. Mary's School, first; Marissa Goldman, Mt. Carmel Jr. High School, second; and Liv Alka, Mt. Carmel Jr. High School, third.

TOP LEFT PHOTO: Students at St. Mary's School who had winning essays, shown with lodge Americanism Chair Louise Acree, from left are: Elizabeth Hefner (first in fifth-sixth grades); Isabella Andrews (third in fifth-sixth grades); and Cindy Brogan, principal. TOP RIGHT: Americanism Essay winner Zeme Moore,



who placed second in the fifth-sixth grades, was presented with a \$25 check and a certificate from Acree. From left are Acree, Zeme Moore and Sarah Morris, social worker at the Mt. Carmel Grade School. BOTTOM LEFT: Receiving awards in the seventh-eighth

grades contest, from left, were: Liv Alka, third; Marissa Goldman, second; and Mt. Carmel Jr. High School Principal Steve Holt. BOTTOM RIGHT: Molly Rafferty of St. Mary's School captured first place in the contest for seventh-eighth.

## Murphysboro Elks enlist volleyball team in pressing anti-drug message



Members of the Murphysboro High School volleyball team display Elks Drug Awareness materials from the South District trailer, during the October Community Night Out event, held at Longfellow Park in Murphysboro. More than 400 bags of literature were distributed, under direction of Apryl Gordon, MHS volleyball coach and lodge Youth Activities director.



## Centralia Elks up, up and away at balloon fest

Centralia Lodge 493, a major sponsor of the Centralia Balloon Fest for more than 20 years, continued its support of the event with the help of Exalted Ruler Blake Freels, IEA Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and pilot Jim House.

## Danville Elks come to aid of homeless vets

Mike Gerrib of Danville Lodge 332 presents two \$1,000 checks to Natalie Long, coordinator of the Homeless Veteran Program at the Danville Veterans Administration office. The funds, presented during dinner night at the lodge in August, will be used to support the Vermilion County homeless veterans program with various activities and supplies. One of the checks came from the Illinois Elks Association and another from East Central District. The donation was the Elks' latest to the program. Previous donations have been of kitchen items, beds and other household items.



## Effingham Elks provide for vets' families



Effingham Lodge 1016 donated \$1,000 from the Illinois Elks State President Grant to the Effingham County Veterans Assistance Commission to provide emergency food for families of veterans experiencing financial difficulties. From left are lodge Treasurer Dave Campbell, commission representative Phil Toops and lodge Exalted Ruler Bryan Kibler.



## STATE

## IEA lags nationally in attracting new members, reinstatements

Illinois Elks lodges had 171 candidates awaiting initiation as of Nov. 26, contributing to the IEA lagging nationally in attracting new members and reinstating existing members, Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Manager Rick Gathen said.

The IEA stood at 46 percent of the goal of 100 percent at the 7 1/2 month mark of the 2019-20 fraternal year. The national average at that point was 65 percent.

"A stronger urgency is needed to recruit and reinstate," Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing Manager Rick Gathen said, pointing lodges to the new Virtual Membership Manual for ideas on boosting membership.

The manual can be accessed on the Elks.org website at <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/membership-guide/>.

Gathen cited 12 lodges for their "outstanding work" in membership, including Kankakee, at +10; Watseka, +5; Charleston, +3; Paris, +4; Chicago Northshore, +2; Cairo, +1; Marion, -1; Benton, +9; West Frankfort, +1; Flora, -2; Galesburg, +3; and Quincy, +7.

But Gathen suggested the IEA focus on the 10 lodges with large loss trends.

"They need your help to stop the bleeding," Gathen said, citing: Robinson, at -95; Harrisburg, -81; Mount Vernon -71; Fairview Heights, -68; Lawrenceville, -62; Macomb, -62; DeKalb, -54; Pontiac, -53; Princeton, -52; and

Herrin, -51.

Lawrenceville, at -62, was cited for having no initiations so far in 2019-20. Likewise for DuQuoin, -41; Wheaton, -8; and Ottawa, -16.

IEA Membership Chairs Chris Ord and Robin Lemay stressed the importance of lodges reducing their delinquencies.

"Any reduction in delinquency can also assist us in reaching the goal of a gain for Illinois," they said in the September report.

The national delinquency average was 9.1 percent as of Nov. 26, Gathen said, with the IEA slightly better at 9.0 percent.

"Review lodges running higher than the national average," Gathen urged.

Those lodges, and their percentages of delinquencies on Nov. 26, were: Ottawa, 14 percent; Pontiac, 13; Chicago South, 10; Danville, 10; Decatur, 16; Effingham, 11; Robinson, 15; Pana, 9.2; Champaign-Urbana, 9.6; Brookfield, 21; Elmhurst, 9.8; and Wheaton, 10;

Also, DeKalb, 15; Rock Island, 22; Princeton, 23; Marion, 11; DuQuoin, 14; Harrisburg, 20; Herrin, 12; West Frankfort, 13; Metropolis, 16; Anna-Jonesboro, 13; Lawrenceville, 13; Fairfield, 12; and Johnson County, 39;

Also, Carmi, 12; Salem, 11; McLeansboro, 10; Canton, 12; Kewanee, 16; Lincoln, 10; Macomb, 18; Springfield, 9.3; Belleville, 19; Fairview Heights, 19; and Granite City, 14.

## Protecting lodge rests with members

IEA Government Relations Chair Ali Mikels underscored the importance of lodges protecting their right to exist as a private nonprofit charitable organization.

"Each and every Elk must be vigilant of harmful situations that could impact their lodge because unfortunately threats to our organization can come from the inside, not just the outside, and we

become our own worst enemies," Mikels said in her fall committee report to the IEA.

Some of the negative habits she cautioned lodges to avoid included: inappropriate social media posts, overconsumption of alcohol by members and guests, minimizing concern of members, not abiding by statutes and bylaws, and mismanagement of lodge finances.

### CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

## Scholarship apps available online

Applications for 2020-21 physical and occupational therapy scholarships will remain available online at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org) through March 5.

Applications are due to lodges by March 13 and to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation office by March 20.

Applications for special education scholarships will be due

to the CCC office by March 27, CCC Chair Tawn Williams said in her September report to the IEA.

The top four PT/OT scholars for 2019-20 were introduced at the dinner highlighting the September IEA meeting, Divya Merchant, representing Mt. Vernon Lodge 819, and Alyssa Pellmann, Sarah Kuester and Megan Seibel, all representing Belleville Lodge 481.

## Bingo from Page 8

the past nine years, including Leslie Myers, Kim and Scott Gocker, Kris Schroeder, Pam and Mick Thurston, Sarah and Scott Kingdon, Kat Thiele, Marsha and Keith Knauth, Jill Tarro, Brian Lowe, Rich Kingdon, Kristie Cheatum, Marilyn Conger, Cindy and Mark Skowronski, Mary Decker, Brenda and Dave Mayotte, Sherry and Tim Johnson, Carol Lareau, Kevin Coughenour, Hillary Houbert, Amy Reetz, Bridget and Paul Tobeck, Deb Swigart, Teresa Castonguay, Val Watts, Stephanie Nolan and me.

To raise additional money we sell T-shirts and have half a processed hog donated every year. A Watseka hospital donates a mammogram for a door prize. Prizes for bingo are valued at



Scott Kingdon calls the bingo at Watseka Lodge.

upward of \$150.

This year, organizers have logged 100 miles and spent 300 hours collecting gifts.

It is a blessing to be involved

in this project. You can't help but feel good while helping people. We look forward to next year, our 10<sup>th</sup> of helping people with cancer. Please come and join us.



# Keys to your Illinois Elks Newsette

### 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.

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### News deadlines

Summer Newsette, June 15

Fall Newsette, July 20

Mid-Winter Newsette, Nov. 21

Spring Newsette, March 22 **NEXT ISSUE!**



CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION

# 2020 tentative clinic schedule

## January\*

■ Pontiac Clinic January 3<sup>rd</sup> at Sullivan Center: 1:00 PM (other clinic dates to be added later)  
 ■ Lincoln Clinic January 7<sup>th</sup> at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
 ■ Princeton Clinic January 9<sup>th</sup> at Perry Memorial Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ IVCH Clinic January 9<sup>th</sup> at Illinois Valley Community Hospital: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
 ■ NW District @ Rockford Clinic January 22<sup>nd</sup> at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
 ■ NW District @Morrison Clinic January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

## February

■ Joliet Clinic February 4<sup>th</sup> at Hinsdale Orthopedics: 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
 ■ Mt. Vernon Clinic February 7<sup>th</sup> at Neuromuscular Orthopaedic Institute: 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
 ■ Galesburg Clinic February 11<sup>th</sup> at Galesburg Hospital OFS Clinic: 8:00 to 9:30 AM  
 ■ Rock Island Clinic February 18<sup>th</sup> at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 4:30 PM  
 ■ South District @ DuQuoin February 28<sup>th</sup> Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

## March

■ Mt. Carmel Clinic March 6<sup>th</sup> at Wabash General Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ Champaign/Urbana Clinic April 10<sup>th</sup> at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30  
 ■ Robinson Clinic March 18<sup>th</sup> at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
 ■ Effingham Clinic March 19<sup>th</sup> at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic 8:00 AM

## April

■ Lincoln Clinic April 7<sup>th</sup> at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
 ■ Princeton Clinic April 9<sup>th</sup> at Perry Memorial Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ IVCH Clinic April 9<sup>th</sup> at Illinois Valley Community Hospital: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
 ■ NW District @ Rockford Clinic

April 22<sup>nd</sup> at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
 ■ NW District @Morrison Clinic April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

## May

■ Mt. Vernon Clinic May 1<sup>st</sup> at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
 ■ Joliet Clinic May 5<sup>th</sup> at Hinsdale Orthopedics: 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
 ■ Elgin Clinic May 11<sup>th</sup> at Sherman Hospital: 2:00 to 5:00 PM  
 ■ Galesburg Clinic May 12<sup>th</sup> at Galesburg Hospital OFS Clinic: 8:00 to 9:30 AM  
 ■ Rock Island Clinic May 19<sup>th</sup> at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 4:30 PM  
 ■ South District @ DuQuoin May 29<sup>th</sup> at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

## June

■ Lincoln Clinic June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
 ■ Champaign/Urbana Clinic June 9<sup>th</sup> at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ Effingham Clinic June 11<sup>th</sup> at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM  
 ■ Mt. Carmel Clinic June 12<sup>th</sup> at Wabash General Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ Robinson Clinic June 17<sup>th</sup> at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
 ■ NW District @ Rockford Clinic June 24<sup>th</sup> at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
 ■ NW District @Morrison Clinic June 25<sup>th</sup> at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

## July

■ No Clinics

## August

■ Joliet Clinic August 4<sup>th</sup> at Hinsdale Orthopedics: 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
 ■ Mt. Vernon Clinic August 7<sup>th</sup> at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 3:00 to 5:00 PM  
 ■ Galesburg Clinic August 11<sup>th</sup> at Galesburg Hospital OFS Clinic: 8:00 to 9:30 AM  
 ■ Princeton Clinic August 13<sup>th</sup> at

Perry Memorial Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM

■ IVCH Clinic August 13<sup>th</sup> at Illinois Valley Community Hospital: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
 ■ Rock Island Clinic August 18<sup>th</sup> at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 4:30 PM  
 ■ South District @ DuQuoin August 28<sup>th</sup> at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

## September

■ Mt. Carmel Clinic September 4<sup>th</sup> at Wabash General Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ Champaign/Urbana Clinic September 8<sup>th</sup> at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ Effingham Clinic September 10<sup>th</sup> at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM  
 ■ Robinson Clinic September 16<sup>th</sup> at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM

## October

■ Princeton Clinic October 8<sup>th</sup> at Perry Memorial Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ IVCH Clinic October 8<sup>th</sup> at Illinois Valley Community Hospital: 12:30 to 2:30 PM  
 ■ Lincoln Clinic October 13<sup>th</sup> at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
 ■ NW District @ Rockford Clinic October 21<sup>st</sup> at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
 ■ NW District @Morrison Clinic October 22<sup>th</sup> at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM  
 ■ Mt. Vernon Clinic October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 3:00 to 5:00 PM

## November

■ Joliet Clinic November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Hinsdale Orthopedics: 4:00 to 5:30 PM  
 ■ Galesburg Clinic November 10<sup>th</sup> at Galesburg Hospital OFS Clinic: 8:00 to 9:30 AM  
 ■ Elgin Clinic November 16<sup>th</sup> at Sherman Hospital: 2:00 to 5:00 PM  
 ■ Rock Island Clinic November 17<sup>th</sup> at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 4:30 PM  
 ■ South District @ DuQuoin November 20<sup>th</sup> at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00-4:00 PM

## December

■ Champaign/Urbana Clinic December 8<sup>th</sup> at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ Mt. Carmel Clinic December 11<sup>th</sup> at Wabash General Hospital: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
 ■ Robinson Clinic December 16<sup>th</sup> at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
 ■ Effingham Clinic December 17<sup>th</sup> at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM

\* All Clinic dates are subject to change.

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

Lucy Hodgson of Pontiac, addressing attendees at the dinner highlighting the

IEA meeting in September, shows off the latest prosthesis she received from the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. Hodgson was born without a left hand due to a disorder characterized by abnormally short fingers. "Because of the Elks, I felt like a normal kid," the appreciative Hodgson said in an interview earlier this year.



## Calendar winners through November

Illinois Elks Children's Care calendar winners for July through November have been announced. (Winners for January through June were published in the fall 2019 *Newsette*.)

### July

Mickie Phillips, Brookfield; Kenneth Crews, Jacksonville; James White, Lincoln; Bryan Cannon\*\*, Lawrenceville; Walter Telford, Elgin; Wayne C. Wasmund Sr., Galena; Chad Stevens, Paris; Sharon Miller, Robinson; Beverly Weber, Olney; Todd Cameron, Carlinville; Charles Vaughn, Streator; Rick Rose, Metropolis; Patrick F. McCabe\*, Joliet; Raymond Sisi, Des Plaines; Everett Jackson, Quincy; Don Krock, Streator; Dick Kinter, McLeansboro; Kevin & Pamela Verkler, Watseka; Bob Vercoglio, Carlinville; Sandra Herring, Murphysboro; Ressie Carr, Murphysboro; Mitch Newell, Carlinville; Joe & Mary Kartheiser, Elmhurst.

### August

Lane Pfeiffer, Carlinville; Karissa Jones, Fairfield; Judith Pokorny, Wheaton; John Goy, Dixon; Beverly Weber, Olney; Raymond J. Sisi Jr., Des Plaines; Lisa Patrick, Oak Lawn; Grace Pruefer, Elmhurst; Centralia Elks 493, Centralia; Darwin Meier, Kankakee; Robert Heppe, Mt. Vernon; Peg Turney, Oak Lawn; Cathy Lamping, Ottawa; Lloyd D. Riley, Salem; Wayne Neese\*, Charleston; Ken Wood, Mt. Carmel; Jeff Baker, Fairfield; Ralph W. Gallagher, Springfield; Krista Hatfield, Robinson; Salem Elks Lodge 1678 "In Honor of Steve Lober," Salem; Travis Looney, Kewanee; Charles Tracy, Lawrenceville.

### September

Brooke McAllister, Quincy; Michael Pender, Wheaton;

Ron Kruger, Streator; Richard Merrifield, Pana; Leslie Layton, Beardstown; Sarah E. Pikel, Mendota; Dan Fitzpatrick, Champaign-Urbana; The Thomas Family, Joliet; West District IEA. Peoria; Beverly Weber, Olney; Floyd W. Hutchinson, Springfield; Barb Neal, Benton; James Raben\*, Flora; Mike Edwards, Jacksonville; Tim Williams, McLeansboro; Jill Jacob, Des Plaines; William Warnell, Ogelsby; Carroll Partain, McLeansboro; Brian & Sandy Supancic, Chicago Northshore; James A. Carlsen, Des Plaines; Mary Sotirakopulos, Elgin.

### October

Peg Turney, Oak Lawn; Ryan Rubenacker, McLeansboro; Michael R. Magruder, Kankakee; Bennie Vick, Herrin; Justin York, McLeansboro; Jean Schwarze, Fairview Heights; Aaron Thomas, Benton; Melissa Proud, Streator; Jerry Hirstein, Springfield; Raymond Stefanski, Joliet; Robert Antkowiak, Princeton; Kara Kuykendall\*, Carmi; Colleen Tholen, Oak Lawn; Natalie Wheatly, Fairfield; Joni Limper, Carlinville; Jacob Inness, Galesburg; Lynne Johnson, Sycamore; Beth Zirbes, Elmhurst; Alexander Munroe, Joliet; Loretta M. Bandyk, Chicago South; John Loftus, Springfield; Lane Burghoffer, Rock Island; Darin Haworth, Charleston.

### November

Delora Koscielski, Quincy; Kevin Schott, Carlinville; Pat Gregerson, Oak Lawn; Jerry Von Bokel, Belleville; Jason Rives, Carlinville; Brad Paddock, Robinson; Rodney Vose\*\*\*, Springfield; Kerry Price, Carlinville; Hillary Wernsing, Carlinville; Nikki Sturm, Robinson; Jeremy Woodrow, McLeansboro

— \*\$100 \*\*\$1,000 \*\*\*\$5,000



## Bass tourney winners have fish stories to tell

Dan Morehead and Duke Jenkel placed first at the 27th Children's Care Corporation Bass Tournament held in August.



CHILDREN’S CARE CORPORATION



**Centralia golfers raise \$4K for CCC**

Centralia Lodge 493 raised more than \$4,000 for the Children’s Care Corporation during its annual Dudley Henry Memorial Golf Tournament. This year’s winning team was made up of Jerry Loepker, Butch Beer, Past Exalted Ruler Pat Norrenberns and Tom Frerker.

**Scholars** from Page 12

for children with autism and is a caregiver for a child with cerebral palsy – both of which have allowed her to earn money and learn more about her profession.

Alyssa’s greatest hope as a future physical therapist is to be as open-minded as possible and mindful of those around her. She hopes to use her degree not only to help her patients heal and gain strength, but also to show her patients that being a physical therapist is more than just treating an impairment.

Her goals are to be a good listener, a caring healthcare provider and someone who can help her patients achieve their goals.

**Divya Merchant**

Merchant, sponsored by Mt. Vernon Lodge 819, is attending Maryville University in St. Louis as a second-year graduate student with a 3.90 GPA.

Divya stated that once she graduates she hopes to help diagnose and treat children who have a variety of problems, including minor ones such as an ankle sprain or major ones such as cerebral palsy. She hopes to make a difference in the child’s life, as well as their parents’ lives, in order to make them more functional and to give them a better quality of life.

Collaborating with other health professionals, such as physicians, occupational therapists, and

speech language pathologists will be equally as important so that the child’s best plan of care is achieved.

She also plans on using her degree to help promote health and wellness within her community. Preventing injuries will be as much of a priority as treating injuries to improve the quality of life for her patients and those around her.

Merchant considers using her skills to better someone’s life as extremely exciting and humbling.

**Sarah Kuester**

Kuester, sponsored by Belleville Lodge 481, is a graduate student at the University of Evansville (Ind.) with a 3.97 GPA.

A professor said of Kuester: “It’s hard to express in a letter her communication skills, natural leadership ability and how truly authentic she is. She is honestly one of the nicest people I have ever met, giving of her time and has the desire to make everybody around her better. She is a rare student who is destined to make a difference in her community.”

Sarah has been taking part in a program called Ace Buddies, in which each semester a student is paired up with a buddy with developmental delays. Students work with their buddies for six weeks to help make gains in the development; as well as build a relationship with them. She hopes to impact their lives and become a better physical therapist.

**Letters** from Page 12

kindness I have been shown for the past five years.

“Thank you again.”

Alyssa Pellmann, recipient of the Mike Manning Scholarship, was equally effusive in her praise of Illinois Elks, writing:

“My name is Alyssa Pellmann, and I was one of the scholarship recipients present at the Fall Meeting in Springfield.

“I am writing to say thank you for all the support that this organization has given me

throughout my education. Your financial contributions have helped me pay for my tuition for my classes along with textbooks.

“My parents and I had a wonderful time at the Fall Meeting, and we are very appreciative of your hospitality that weekend. I truly cannot say enough great things about the Elks, from the CCC, to the veterans organization, to the Elks National Foundation.

“You all have touched so many people’s lives, including myself, and I will be forever thankful for all that the Elks have done for me.

“Sincerely, Alyssa Pellmann.”

IL Elks Children’s Care Corporation 2020 Benefit Calendar

Price of calendar \$20.00 each

Make checks payable to IL Elks Children’s Care Corp. (IECCC)

Please put a check mark next to your choice for the 2020 Benefit Calendar.

☐ Yes, I would like to receive a 2020 Benefit Calendar and be entered into the daily drawings.

☐ I would just like to be entered into the daily drawings and receive **no** 2020 Benefit Calendar.

☐ I would like to order a 2020 Benefit Calendar as a gift and enter their name into the drawings.

☐ **Tax Deductible Donation only - 100% of all donations goes to the Children.**

Fill the form out below to indicate the way you would like your benefit calendar drawing card to be filled out by our office. If you are ordering a larger quantity of calendar(s) you may use a separate sheet of paper using all the information that is on this form. Make sure you place a check mark by mail directly to me or mail directly to individual so we know where to send the calendar. **Thanks!**

BELOW ARE ORDER FORMS FOR THE 2020 BENEFIT CALENDAR / DRAWING FOR YOU, FRIENDS & GIFTS.

1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail directly to me \_\_\_\_\_ Mail directly to individual \_\_\_\_\_

2.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail directly to me \_\_\_\_\_ Mail directly to individual \_\_\_\_\_

3.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail directly to me \_\_\_\_\_ Mail directly to individual \_\_\_\_\_

4.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail directly to me \_\_\_\_\_ Mail directly to individual \_\_\_\_\_

Cash prizes offered in CCC calendar drawings

Here’s the form for ordering the 2020 Children’s Care Corporation benefit calendar or for re-entering the periodic drawings for cash prizes.

The calendar is also available at your lodge or on the CCC website at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org). This calendar makes a perfect gift for any occasion.

For the periodic drawings, just fill out the coupon included in the calendar and return it to the IECCC, and you are in for the year. For a \$20 donation you could win a minimum of \$50, five days a week Monday through Friday for a year.



There are also 12 monthly drawings for \$100, three drawings for \$1,000, and on Veterans Day a grand prize drawing of \$5,000. Should your name be drawn during the year your stub is returned to the

barrel for future drawings.

Every day the Illinois Elks Children’s Care Corporation is assisting families with specialized equipment such as orthotics, strollers, wheelchairs, communication devices, ramps for home and vehicles, and just about any specialized piece of equipment you can think of, as well as a variety of therapies.

Helping children with their special needs can only be done with your assistance. The Illinois Elks Children’s Care Corporation is a 501c(3) organization for tax purposes.





## Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

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

# Top scholars announced at IEA Fall Meeting

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation announced their top scholars at the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield.

They are Megan Seibel of Belleville, winner of the Bill Leas Award; Alyssa Pellmann from Millstadt, Mike Manning Award recipient; Kenny Beltz Award recipient Divya Merchant of Mt. Vernon; and Pete Matson Award recipient Sarah Kuester of Freeburg.

CCC Area 2 Director Sharon Kay Dirck introduced the four scholars at the dinner highlighting the meeting in September.

Here are the summaries Dirck read for each of them:

### Megan Seibel

Seibel, sponsored by Belleville Lodge 481, is a fifth-year graduate student with a 3.82 GPA at Maryville University in St. Louis, where she is studying physical therapy.

One of her professors called Megan "an intelligent, motivated student who strives to understand material and the connection from

classroom material to real-world settings. We often have intelligent conversations during interactions in the gross anatomy lab pertaining to conditions of the cadavers and possible health conditions associated with the various aspects of dissection."

Another professor stated: "Megan's ability to give her best at every endeavor she engages in is also evident in her leadership role as a peer tutor."

Megan said, "At times the future seems frightening and full of unknowns, but the excitement regarding the fact that I will one day be able to help others and improve their quality of life on a day to day basis is so motivating and comforting for me."

### Alyssa Pellmann

Pellmann, sponsored by Belleville Lodge 481, is attending Maryville University, in St. Louis as a sixth-year doctorate student with a 4.0 GPA.

Alyssa has worked for a camp

Please See **SCHOLARS**, Page 11



**KENNY BELTZ SCHOLAR** — Recipient Divya Merchant of Mt. Vernon, with her mother Kinny Merchant. In back are CCC Chair Tawn Williams, CCC Vice Chair John Bayler, IEA President Greg Verdun and IEA Secretary Marvin Leathers.



**PETE MATSON SCHOLAR** — Recipient Sarah Kuester of Freeburg, with her parents Kevin and Karen Kuester. In back are: IEA President Greg Verdun, CCC Area 4 Director Mark Bump, CCC West Central District Director Jim Goldsborough, and Timothy Richards and John Schaberg, both of Belleville Lodge 481.



**MIKE MANNING SCHOLAR** — Recipient Alyssa Pellmann of Millstadt, with her parents Kurt and Mary Beth Pellmann. In back are IEA President Greg Verdun, CCC West Central District Director Amy Jackson and Chris Ord, Timothy Richards and Robin Lemay, all of Belleville Lodge 481.



**BILL LEAS SCHOLAR** — Recipient Megan Seibel of Belleville, with her parents Robyn and Tim Seibel. In back are: IEA President Greg Verdun, CCC Secretary Kristi Wykes; and Timothy Richards and John Schaberg, both of Belleville Lodge 481.



**THE ILLINOIS ELKS CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION 2019-20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**, accompanied by the IEA state officers, assembled for their annual group photo for the 2020 benefit calendar, which will be distributed later this year. Front from left are: Mark Bump, CCC Area 4 director; CCC West Central District Director Amy Jackson; Sharon Kay Dirck, CCC Area 2 director; Greg Verdun, IEA president; Kristi Wykes, CCC secretary; John Feld, CCC director emeritus; and Don Koehler, CCC Northwest District director. In back are: Bill Block, CCC administrative manager; Marvin Leathers, IEA secretary; CCC West Central District Director Jim Goldsborough; Chad Mitsdarffer, CCC treasurer; Tawn Williams, CCC chair; John Bayler, CCC vice chair; Charles Campbell, CCC director emeritus; Jeff Rodier, IEA first vice president; and Todd Lindsay, IEA third vice president.

## Scholars express gratitude for CCC awards in letters

Two of the top scholars recognized at the IEA Fall Meeting in September were appreciative enough of their scholarship awards from the Children's Care Corporation that they wrote thank you letters to the CCC office.

Sarah Kuester, recipient of the Pete Matson Scholarship, wrote:

"I don't know how to express my gratitude to you all in a letter. It was one thing to receive the scholarship from you this year, but then being invited to Springfield to receive the award and extra scholarship money was much more support than I ever could have imagined coming from the Elks!

"I've been thinking about how great the weekend in Springfield was, and I wanted to thank you for inviting me. I lost count of all the members who approached me to congratulate me and assure me that they would always be there to



**KUESTER**

**PELLMANN**

support me in any future endeavors I have as a physical therapist.

"Before the dinner, I had a very minimal understanding of the activities of the Elks, but after hearing and seeing the stories of how you have impacted so many lives, I am blown away!

I am honored to be recognized by a corporation that does so much good for the people of Illinois, and I hope to remain connected to this corporation and help repay the

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