



Illinois Elks Association Newsette



Vol. 86 No. 4

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SPRING 2020

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GER Robert Duitsman brings a little bit of the Golden State to the Land of Lincoln

Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Duitsman and First Lady Beth entered the Mid-Winter meeting to the sounds of the Illinois Elks Pipes and Drum Corp. They were welcomed with waves and smiles from the Elks of Illinois, pictured right.

They live in Culver City, CA, a far cry from the cold wintery weather they were met with in Illinois, but that didn't stop them from having a great time. Along with the Mid-Winter meeting and awards ceremony the two spent some time with our Elk leaders, including IEA President Greg Verdun and his wife Sue. They took in the Lincoln sites, including a trip to the museum, pictured below.

“Everyone has been kind and welcoming,” Beth said during her time at the podium.

“There are a lot of good hearts here in Illinois,” GER Duitsman added during his speech to the IL Elksdom.

Duitsman's touched on his motto “Embracing the Past -- Honoring the Future” as he encouraged IL Elks to use the “tools in the toolbox” to keep creating interest in Lodges to new members. He encouraged reaching out to community leaders to see how a partnership with the Elks could be beneficial for both. “Pay the dedication of past members forward.”

Please see **DUITSMAN**, Page 2



While attending the Illinois Elks Mid-Winter meeting, Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Duitsman and his wife Beth visited the Abraham Lincoln Museum with Illinois Elk President Greg Verdun with his wife Sue. Also on hand was the Lincoln Family.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

As of press time, we are currently under a “stay-at-home” order in the State of Illinois and have restrictions on the number of people allowed to gather at one time. With the unknowns surrounding COVID-19, we are unable to say at this time whether or not it will effect the Annual Meeting scheduled for mid-May. We have included a registration form and a schedule in this edition of the Newsette and ask that if you are planning on attending you register as usual.

Please keep an eye on your e-mail and our website, www.illinoiselks.org, to stay updated on information as we receive it and decisions are made. The Illinois Elks value our members health and safety and will do our best to ensure that we follow all of the necessary precautions moving forward with our Annual Meeting.

Some days go so slow, but the years fly by

About five years ago I attended the West District meeting in Bloomington to start my campaign for Illinois Elks State President. Five years that have seemed to fly

by so quickly. Never would Sue and I think that we would meet so many fantastic people and attend as many great Elk events as we have.

Attending meetings at every district in the state, visiting lodges across Illinois, and participating as a member at our Elks Children's Care sessions has exposed me to the great activities that Elks are known for across the state.

We are so lucky to have three national representatives as members in our state. Our state sponsor F. Louis Sulsberger, Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt, and Grand Trustee Charlie Campbell help Elks across Illinois to be well directed and informed. In Illinois we have been fortunate to have Past Chief Justice of the Grand Forum, Jerry Shapiro, attending our state conventions and explaining the laws of our Order.

Many members laughed a few years ago when district sponsors were renamed leaders. All our Past State Presidents are leaders. The Past State Presidents use their knowledge to help lodges cope with the many changing issues facing the lodges every day. The three presidents before me, Ray Summers, Dave Jurmu, and Tom Deien helped me through the years. The three officers following me, Jeff Rodier, Jim Cusack, and

Please see **GREG**, Page 2

IEA
President
Greg
Verdun



Joliet's Stephanie “Stevie” Alexander is the 2019-2020 IEA Lady of the Year

IEA 2019-20 Lady of the Year is Stephanie “Stevie” Alexander of Joliet Lodge 296. She is pictured, center, with IEA First Lady Sue Verdun (left) and First Lady of Elksdom Beth Duitsman (right). Related story and photo on page 4.



Stay Healthy

Dear Friends -

We are all living through a time of great uncertainty when we do not know exactly what will come in the weeks and months ahead. We find ourselves in extraordinary circumstances, coming together to ensure the health and safety of our families, friends and communities as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to escalate. The health and safety of our Elks Family is the Illinois Elks Association's top priority. We know convention attendees are wondering about the status of May's Spring Convention and as of this writing it is still on. However the situation is evolving daily and that may change of course. I assure you that the officers and leaders of the Illinois Elks Association are on top of the situation and will keep you informed as decisions are made.

I also encourage all members to follow the guidelines recently sent out to all lodges by our Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L. Duitsman.

Let's pray that this pandemic is short-lived so we can all get back to a normal life as we know it. God Bless and please stay healthy.

IEA
Sponsor

F. Louis
Sulsberger PGER



Greg from Page 1

Todd Lindsay have supported the state projects with great dedication. I wish our new state officer to be, Floyd Schmidt of Lincoln, a successful tenure in office. State Secretary Marvin Leathers and State Treasurer George Hornung use their years of experience to ensure that our programs across Illinois run smoothly.

Last year we had a new \$1000 Veterans Grant program for our lodges. The North District combined their grant into a \$6000 Adaptive Athletic program at Hines Hospital for veterans. Other lodge activities were bus tickets for veterans, Hope for Heroes, deployed soldier care packages, and many other programs for veterans across Illinois.

Our new lodge year will be started by the time this issue is mailed. Hopefully all lodges had a membership gain and submitted their information to CLMS for the Financial Reporting System. Have your new officers sit down and plan for the new year. Try to have a member's activity at least once a month.

As I write this, lodges have closed because of the COVID-19 virus. My hope that when the Newsette arrives to you we will be open doing our fraternal activities.

At the state meeting in Springfield May 15-17, 2020, our chair people will be giving their end of the year reports on Friday and Saturday. Unfortunately, one report, Hoop Shoot, will be short since the COVID-19 virus has caused these regional and national events to be canceled.

Two important activities at the state convention are the Memorial Service and Installation of Officers. Our Memorial Service under the direction of Second Vice-President Jim Cusack will be at 11am on Saturday. The Installation of Officers will be Sunday morning. I urge all members to attend these ceremonies.

Sue and I would like to give a special thank you to our helpers, Bob and Kelly Eckhoff, Brent and Sarah Harms, Kristi Wykes, Don Paris and Kelly Scott, John Bailey, Tex Tracy and Pam Turner.

We wish a huge thank you to all Elk members across Illinois for being members of such a great organization.

Duitsman from Page 1

He noted that while membership gained nationally last year, Illinois needed to continue "bringing in members in a timely manner to build on the excitement of last year." As of the meeting Illinois membership was down 1297 members (see page 3 for updated membership numbers).

One suggestion that Duitsman had for members was promoting Open Houses and making sure that the physical appearances of the Lodges were as inviting as the members themselves. Making sure your Lodge has great curb appeal and signage can be the difference between whether or not someone walks in to see what the Elks is all about.

Duitsman encouraged IEA Lodges to keep submitting grant requests to the National Lodge. Grants can be used for a variety of different activities and services by Lodges that receive them.

He complimented IEA's dedication to the children's support program and was touched by the generosity he saw when member after member came forward during the awards ceremony to donate on behalf of their lodges and as individuals. An additional \$87,321.00 was collected over the course of the weekend.

It was a great night for Elks National Foundation donations as well \$45,335.34 was collected and \$1,589.00 was collected for the Pearl Harbor Camp.

Duitsman was given Honorary Membership to the Illinois Elks, as well as an Illini Jacket and a sculpture piece featuring Abe and Tad Lincoln sitting on a bench from President Verdun.

Beth was given a jewelry set that she recognized complimenting on her time exploring Downtown Springfield with Sue Verdun. The couple was also presented with a inscribed wood case that featured a photo of their time in Illinois.

"Thank you all very much," Duitsman stated with a smile.

Overall, GER Duitsman uplifted members during his time at the Mid-Winter meeting and, ultimately, took a little bit of the Land of Lincoln back to California with him.

To learn more about Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Duitsman and First Lady Beth check out his biography on page 6.

Let's be prepared

Members All: At the time of writing this message, we are experiencing a challenge like no other in life and Elksdom. All events and meetings are question when they will resume.

As our new officers begin their tenure, look at this time to reevaluate your goals for the coming year. Remember that this disruption will come to an end which means that we need to accelerate our work in your lodge, district, and state activities for 2020-2021.

Right now nobody can guess when our lives will return to normal. The key is to be prepared when it Does! Even with these distractions our presence in the communities will endure as we are to carry on our works in the charitable programs we support. Stay positive and the benevolent existence will continue.

It's a great time to reflect on Elksdom in our efforts to maintain the great charitable work that we are known for. Stay focused and energized as we as a whole will pursue the place we have established making us The Best people on Earth. Recharge and great success for all of our fellow Members! God Bless.

IEA
Treasurer

George
Hornung



Keep the faith my fellow Elks

All I can say is... What a Spring! We will all get through this. Keep the faith my fellow Elks.

As our Elk year comes to an end, let me say that I hope all lodges sent info in for Elk, Family and Teen of the Year. The other contest are currently being reviewed and, hopefully, at the May meeting we will have all the winners at the banquet.

I know some of our lodges worked very hard on membership gains this year. Sometimes it doesn't happen, but I know that you're all trying your very best. Let's keep working hard to recruit new members for the next Elk year!

Again, next year will have the \$1000 Awards for the lodges' programs for veterans. With 69 lodges that is \$69,000 that will

IEA
Secretary

Marvin
Leathers



go to our vets. Thank you lodges!

I do hope every lodge submitted their dollars to the Elks National Foundation by March 31, 2020. As you know the State awards your lodge \$1500 for a service event. The ENF is the lifeblood of our order.

In closing, I want to extend a big THANK YOU to President Greg Verdun and First Lady Sue on the outstanding job they did this year. I also want to thank Illinois Elksdom for letting me serve as your Secretary. It's a great labor of love that I'm proud to do. And remember... Elks do lead the way!

Illinois Elks Association Newsette

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

Follow us on Facebook for Deadlines,
Announcements, and to submit stories!

[@ilelksnewsette](http://www.facebook.com)

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Mid-Winter Meeting Highlights -----



President Verdun presented Land of Lincoln Honor Flights Board President Joan Bortolon with a check. The IL Elks donated \$7000 to Springfield, the Quad Cities and Peoria, as well as \$3500 to Quincy.



President Verdun presented PSP Steve Harken and Member Al Urena with plaques from the Elks National Foundation recognizing the donations of \$5000 over the years. Pictured left to right: Harken, Urena and President Verdun.



Police Chief James Woolford awarded the Enrique Camarena Award

The Pontiac 1019 nominated Chief James Woolford for consideration. The Enrique Camarena Award recognizes law enforcement officers who have made a significant contribution in the field of drug prevention. Woolford came to the Pontiac Police Department after serving in law enforcement in the U.S. Army in 1994. He was named chief of police in 2012.

Among his achievements at PPD are co-organizing the Tactical Response Team and becoming the department's first K-9 handler. He has also been instrumental in drug enforcement and rehabilitation with the Safe Passage Programs and Drug Court team.

In addition to the award, Chief Woolford was granted a one-year membership with the Elks. He is pictured left with GER Duitsman at the Saturday night awards ceremony.

Financial Reporting System to be in use as of April 1

All lodges are reminded that they need be in compliance with the new Financial Reporting System by the opening of the April 1, 2020 lodge fiscal year.

The newly adopted Grand Lodge Chart of Accounts must be utilized to record all financial transactions of the lodge, club and other. It is not necessary to incorporate new software and/or record keeping methods. All monthly reports generated from whatever method now used must be submitted into the Grand Lodge reporting system.

Important Deadlines that need to be met:

- BY APRIL 17, all activity for each month of 2019-2020 must be submitted into FRS. The Lodge Budget must also be submitted.

- BY MAY 15, the final close out of the Lodge books must be submitted into FRS. This includes closing entries, adjustments and transfers.

- AT A MINIMUM, each Lodge must submit 2018-2019 year end account balances. These will allow the system to start the financial analysis going forward.

Moving forward, monthly reports must be submitted by the 3rd Friday of the month for the previous month activity.

Kelly Eckhoff is the Illinois coordinator for this implementation. She is available to help any lodge that has questions about any of the process. Please contact her at kellyalane1023@gmail.com or call 815.674.3703.

IEA is 855 members away from a gain

With only a few days left in the fraternal year, Illinois Elks are down 855 members.

There have been a total of 1,656 new members added this year, but it hasn't been enough to offset the non-pays, demits outs and deaths. There are also currently 967 delinquents still on the books.

Our lodges currently have 161 candidates awaiting initiation. (This number will likely not change due to shut down from COVID-19).

Delinquents can pay through the end of May so this may affect our final number.

Membership co-chairs Chris Ord and Robin Lemay encourage all lodges to continue to try and contact and bring our delinquents back into the Elk Family. Please try to keep in touch with our candidates and assure them that we look forward to initiating them as soon as safety restrictions allow.

According to reports from Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Manager, all districts as a whole are showing a loss, but a few individual lodges did outstanding work this year and had a gain in members. Those

lodges include: Olney 926 +4, Flora 1659 +19, Galesburg 894 +19, Quincy 100 +5, Springfield 158 +6, Beardstown 1007 +18, Kankakee 627 +4, Watseka 1791 +12, Charleston 623 +12, Paris 812 +12, Chicago North Shore 1316 +2, Galena 882 +7, Sycamore 1392 +5, Cairo 651 +14, Marion 800 +15, Carbondale 1243 +11, Anna-Jonesboro 1641 +9 and **Benton 1234 +25 (highest gain)**.

There are 25,386 Elks in the state of Illinois and hopefully many more to come in the future!

With everyone at home, now would be a good time to reach via phone, text or e-mail to delinquent members.

Lapsation Chair Merle Evans suggests "directing non-current members to positive articles that might be quick and easy for them to review."

The most current issue of the Newsette is always available online and a great starting point for great things happening in Elkdom. "Stay focused! Stay determined! Hang Tough!" Evans concluded in his report.

What Elks need to know about recreational marijuana

As of January 1, 2020 recreational marijuana is legal in the state of Illinois, however, lodges need to be mindful of the laws. According to the Judiciary Report submitted by Chairperson Ali Mikels, "it is only legal to consume marijuana or marijuana infused products in a private residence or at a licensed and approved on-premise dispensary. Any person, business, or landlord can prohibit use on private property. Marijuana remains classified as a Schedule 1 substance and its use is illegal under Federal Law.

"Our The Grand Lodge Drug Awareness Committee teaches the possession or use of marijuana on Elks property or at an Elks sponsored event is wrongful conduct, and the Elks National Policy states that no form of marijuana products may be cultivated, used or possessed in Elk facilities or on its grounds.

Lodges should modify their existing facility use agreements to let temporary users of an Elks facility know that it shall be considered a breach of the use agreement for any guest in attendance to use marijuana on Elks property."

Mikels also reiterated that all lodges must continue to be mindful of local gambling laws and make sure their Lodge is in compliance, as well as following the standards for social media and making sure there is zero tolerance for sexual harassment.

Mid-Winter Meeting Highlights -----

IEA LADY OF THE YEAR

Nominated by Joliet 296, Stephanie "Stevie" Alexander is a member of the Ladies of the Elks 296. She has served their treasurer and is a Past Sunshine Chair.

Stevie is always ready to help her lodge in anyway she can. Fundraiser, raffle donations, baked goods, and serving Friday Night Fish dinners are just a few of the ways Stevie helps support her lodge.

Her husband Jack, a 34-year Joliet Lodge member, is a past trustee and has been the Veterans Chairman, Bingo Chairman & Easter Bunny Chairman, and Stevie was always at Jack's side to help with these committees. While helping Jack with the Easter Bunny program, their daughters were bunnies.

Stevie's community services doesn't end with the Elks. She is also active in her church where she heads the sewing and crafting

committee for Operation Care Package, an active group sending care packages to deployed serviceman.

Stevie is a devoted wife, mother, and very active with the Ladies of the Elks 296, because of her skills, time donated and dedication to the Order.

The Illinois Elks are pleased to have Stephanie Alexander as their 2019-20 Lady of the Year!



Pictured above: Back row (l to r): Joanne Woods Kewanee #724 - West, Bethany Jacquot Murphysboro #572 - South, Sue Rose Champaign-Urbana #2497 - East Central, Cathy Ronzani Chicago Northshore #1316 - North, Becky Shipp Granite City #1063 - West Central. Front row: Connie Lee Dixon #779 - Northwest, IEA First Lady Sue Verdun. First Lady of Elksdom Beth Duitsman, and IEA Lady of the Year Stephanie Alexander Joliet #296 - East. Not pictured Debbie Mitchell Centralia #493 - South Central.

Elks take back over 29,000 pounds of unused/unwanted pills

The Drug Awareness Program held its session on Saturday, January 25th. We reviewed how we must continue to grow the Elks Drug Awareness Program in every way possible and in every Lodge to stay ahead of the game and to help the youth in the State of Illinois. We also reviewed items on how to promote the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

As a reminder the Annual Lodge Drug Awareness report is due to me on or before April 1st.

On October 26 DEA held another National Drug Take back day. In total over 29,000 pounds of unused or unwanted pill were collected in Illinois alone. In total over 584,000 pounds or 292 tons of unused or unwanted pill have been collected from the 17 take-back programs held in Illinois over the years.

CDC reported a total of 2,700 overdose deaths were reported in Illinois in 2019. This number is understated due to incomplete reporting. Nationally the total of deaths was down by .2% over last year.

Next Take-Back Day is scheduled for April 25.

Registration for Annual Meeting

As stated on the front page, with the COVID-19 restrictions and unknown, we ask that those who are planning on the Annual Meeting in May register as normal. We will be reaching out to Elks via e-mail to let them know more about the situation as it unfolds. The registration form is located on 7 and will also be available online at www.illinoiselks.org.

The Mid-Winter meeting showed 474 Elks registered plus 127 spouse for a total attendance of 601 according to the Credentials Report from Chairman Scott Flota. There were 225 banquet tickets sold and 125 Ladies Luncheon tickets sold.

Contest Winners Announced



The individual chair winners were announced at the Mid-Winter Meeting awards ceremony. Pictured above is Esteemed Lead Knight Avis Thomas - Northshore 1316 and State Champion Exalted Ruler Tim Bain - Mt. Vernon 819.

Pictured below is State Champion Chaplain Darren Clendenny - Canton 626 (far right) being presented his award by fellow Elks West District Vice President Steve Albrecht and Ritual Chairman Terry Haynes.



The Eleven O'Clock Toast winner was Craig Tervin - Champaign-Urbana 2497. He finished with a score of 97.7773.

Congratulations to all the contestants and winners!

Youth Activities Chair encourages lodges to improve involvement

During their meeting at the Mid-Winter meeting Youth Activities, Chairman Gregg Collins encouraged lodges to reach out to him to help improve Lodge involvement.

There were only 12 nominations from 5 lodges out of 4 different districts last year. The number can easily go up if lodges participate. Aside from reaching out to Collins, he suggests utilizing Elks.org for certificate templates and awards.

Discussion was also held at the meeting regarding ways to celebrate youth in the community. Events such as banquets at the end of the school year or inviting groups such as Girl/Boy/Eagle Scouts, Americanism contests and Teen of the Month/Year winners are all great ideas!

Set a goal for your lodge and take advantage of all of the resources Elks have to help IEA improve their Youth Activities numbers.

Peoria Honor Flight received check from IEA



On Monday, January 13, 2020 at the Peoria Elks Lodge #20 a check for \$7000 from the Illinois Elks Association was presented to the Peoria Honor Flight. Pictured from left to right are: John Bailey - Peoria Secretary, Ralph Bradshaw - PSP, Phyllis Piraino - Vice President and founder of the Peoria Honor Flight, Karri Dries - Honor Flight Secretary and snack bag coordinator, Barb Moore - Honor Flight volunteer and Joe Boers - Peoria ER.

Getting to Know GER Robert Duitsman

Robert "Bob" Duitsman was born in Inglewood, California and attended local schools, including Inglewood High School, the University of Southern California, and Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, receiving a Juris Doctor degree in 1981.

Bob joined the Culver City Elks Lodge in 1989. Moving through the chairs, he was elected Exalted Ruler for 1993-94 and again in 1995-96. He was Association Vice-President in 2001-2002 during the presidency of John Carvalho and his wife Sandy, and was then District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2005-2006 during the national presidency of the Honorable Louis J. "Jim" Grillo and his wife Lucia. Bob served on several district committees, but developed a particular interest in the ritual program. He has been a ritual judge since 1995 and served in a number of positions in the ritual community leading to CHEA Ritual Training Chair and finally CHEA Ritual Contest Chair in 2007-08. He also served on the CHEA Major Project Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2016, the last year as its Chair. He served as President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association in 2018-2019.

On the Grand Lodge level, Bob served on the Committee on Judiciary for six years, 2009 to 2015, the last two as Chair, and is currently in his fourth year as a Justice of the Grand Forum, in effect the Supreme Court of the Order. For two years he served on the Grand Lodge Pardon Commission.

For over thirty-five years, Bob has been an attorney in private practice in the Culver City area, with emphasis in the areas of estate planning and parole

revocation defense.

He is a Past Chair of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, a Past President of the Culver City Lions Club, and a Past President of the Inglewood District Bar Association. For over twenty years, he was a Temporary Judge of the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior Courts. For more than thirty years, he has been a volunteer at the Culver City Senior Center, helping its members with their legal problems on a volunteer basis. What little he knows about speaking before groups he owes in large part to the Toastmasters organization, of which he is a thirty year member with a designation of Distinguished Toastmaster. He also knows a little about parliamentary procedure, having attained the designation of Professional Registered Parliamentarian through the National Association of Parliamentarians. He is an ordained elder at Knox Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles.

Bob met the love of his life, Beth, in 1982, and they married in 1987. They do not have any children, unless you count their dog, Winston. Together they live in the Ladera Heights area of Los Angeles County.

Bob enjoys gardening, puttering around the house, spending time with his dog, and is one of only 131 people on earth who have finished all 34 editions of the Los Angeles Marathon, with a best time of 3:52.

Bob and Beth are proud and excited to have the opportunity to serve as National President and First Lady of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America; meeting and making friends during their travels, and talking about their slogan "Honoring the Past - Embracing the Future."

Letter to the Editor: Are Rituals Lost?

As an Elks Grand Lodge ritualistic judge for over 25 years, it has been my privilege to have observed some of the best exemplifications of our initiatory ritual. When this ceremony is done properly from memory, it produces one of the deepest impressions which can be made upon the minds of candidates. From my own experience of being initiated many years ago, I remember being almost overwhelmed by the beauty and solemnity of a well-crafted ritual conducted by men in tuxedos who knew not only the words in their parts, but how to convey the meanings within those words. It was also very impressive that their every move seemed to be choreographed and in sync with one another. On that first night of Lodge, I made up my mind to learn the parts and become a member of the officer corps.

Sadly, today little emphasis is given to our rituals, particularly the initiation ritual. In my lodge, and I suspect many others, it has been a number of years since an Exalted Ruler has even learned the 11 O'clock Toast, let alone his part in the initiation. The same applies to the opening and closing ceremonies, which are but a shell of what they used to be - and I have yet to hear even that done from memory. Mention Thanatopsis to most Elks these days and you get a blank stare.

Apathy toward ritual isn't solely directed at initiation. Look at the attendance at our Flag Day and Memorial Day ceremonies and then remember the crowds at these events 30 or so years ago.

Short of mandating the resumption of part memorization, I am short of ideas to induce lodges to bring good ritual back into their goals and objectives. If we realize that the primary purpose of the initiation ritual is to make a favorable impression, then perhaps we can take steps toward making this a reality. One idea is a drill team consisting of PERs within a lodge or perhaps a cadre of PERs within a district who would be willing to perform occasionally when a lodge has new candidates. Another idea, and this would need approval of Grand Lodge, would be to produce a video of a well done initiation and distribute it to all lodges and stipulate showing it in a meeting.

As with most things involving behavioral change, there are no simple answers. The easiest, of course, is to make up your mind that the task is too difficult and, therefore, nothing gets done. If I were an ER being installed in that position this spring, one of the things I'd do in my first meeting with the lodge PERs is to ask for their help and guidance. Many PERs around the country have years and years of experience dating back to when good ritual was considered vital. Most will be ecstatic that interest is being shown and will lean over backwards to help in the implementation.

As an old Navy man, I can tell you that one of the first things instilled in the minds of new sailors is Navy tradition. You learn things you'll probably never use like knot tying, signaling with flags, calling walls bulkheads, floors decks, and hundreds of others. All branches of service have their own traditions (and vocabulary) and all fiercely guard and honor those traditions. As Elks, we too have a proud history with all the requisite traditions and customs which are part and parcel of the great institution that it is. For example, in 1918, one of our members, General John J. (Blackjack) Pershing was so enamored by the tenets of the 11 O'clock Toast, he selected the exact time and date for the signing of Armistice based on his reverence of the Toast.

Let us go back to the good traditions which make the Elks what it is: distinctly American with members who guide their course in life by the Cardinal Principles of Our Order: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

Lowell Armstrong PER
Macomb, IL Lodge #1009



Annual Meeting

Honoring the 2020-2021 Class of Exalted Rulers

May 14-17, 2020 ■ Wyndham City Centre Springfield Hotel

Thursday, May 14

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

Friday, May 15

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

Nomination of Officers

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

Reports of District Vice Presidents

East CentralTom Funk
West CentralKirk Newman
North.....Michael Pender
Northwest.....Lane Berghoffer
South Central.....Darren Hayes
South.....Jessica Mitchell
East.....Tom Hummel
West.....Steve Albrecht

Presentation of Budget – 1st VP Jeff Rodier

State Committee/Commission Chair Reports

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

Saturday, May 16

6:30 AM-6 PM Convention Office – *Plaza 4*

**HOST LODGE:
SPRINGFIELD
#158**

7 AM-Noon Convention Registration
– *Mezzanine, Registration Desk*
7:30-9 AM Board of Directors /Executive Committee
Continental Breakfast – *Prairie*
8-9 AM Athletic Commission – *Ambassador*
8-9 AM Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation
– *Conference Ctr 4*
8-9 AM Secretaries Association – *Plaza 3*
8-9:30 AM Publication Corporation – *Conference Ctr 1*
8-10 AM District Deputies & Esquires
Continental Breakfast – *Conference Ctr 2*
8-10 AM Leading Knights Training – *Rendezvous*
9-10 AM Exalted Rulers Meet W/ Executive Committee
– *Embassy*
9-10 AM Lodge FRS/Trustee Training – *Plaza 3*
9-10 AM Lodge Trustees Training – *Prairie*
10-11 AM General Business Session
(*Spouses & Guests Welcome*) – *Capitol/Illinois*
Children's Care Corporation Awards.....Tawn Williams
Veterans Service Awards.....Bob Kane
Leading Knights Training.....Paul Ronzani
Scholarship Awards.....Gail Sessler

11 AM-Noon Memorial Service by 2nd Vice
President James Cusack – *Capitol/Illinois*

Noon-1 PM Ladies Luncheon – *Highland Room*
Entree & Cost: TBD Payment collected onsite.

1-4 PM General Business Session – *Capitol/Illinois*

Committee/Commission Chair Reports Continue

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

Unfinished Business and Adoption of the Budget

Judiciary.....Ali Mikels

Election of Officers (Credentials Required)

1:30 5 PM PGER Sulsberger Meeting with Lodges
and Individuals – *Conference Ctr 3*
3-4 PM Drug Awareness Program – *Conference Ctr 4*

3-4 PM Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shootout – *Plaza 1*
5-6 PM Illinois Elks Assn Reception – *Prairie/Illinois*
6-9 PM Illinois Elks Association Dinner – *Illinois/Prairie*
Honoring 2019-20 Class of Exalted Rulers

Salad: Garden Greens Salad ■ Entrée: Pork Loin with Port Wine
Sauce, Au Gratin Potatoes & Green Beans Almondine ■ Dessert:
Apple Pie ■ Cost: Pre-registration \$29/On-site \$31 ■ Dress:
Business Suit

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

Sunday May, 19

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

Installation of 2019-20 State and District Officers

REGISTRATION — All Elks, male & female, Must Register for
convention functions: FEES: PreRegistration \$10/ On-site \$20.
Pre-Registration deadline is May 6. By pre-registering for the
convention, Ladies luncheon and banquet, you will give the
Credentials Committee time to make sure your credentials will
be waiting for you at the check-in desk and will also assist the
Convention Committee in working with the Wyndham in planning
the workshops, luncheon and banquet. Registration badges are
necessary to attend all functions, including hospitality rooms.

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

HOSPITALITY ROOMS — The hospitality room assignments will
be determined by the pre-registration numbers per district excluding
the state president's area. The remaining District Hospitality Rooms
will be assigned following the close of pre-registration then sent
to the junior trustee. All hospitality rooms shall be closed from 6
p.m. until the conclusion of the banquet on Saturday and during all
business sessions. No one will be permitted in the hospitality rooms
without proper convention credentials. Those not displaying proper
credentials WILL be required to leave.

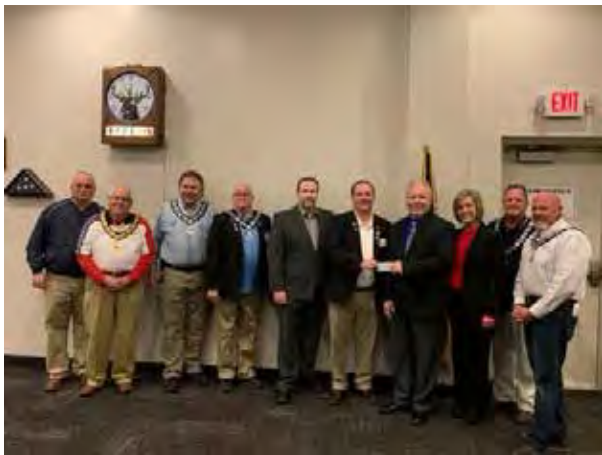


Registration badges necessary to attend all functions, including hospitality rooms
All Elks, Male and Female, must register for Convention Functions

Mt. Vernon 819 uses Spotlight Grant to donate for shoes and books

The Mt. Vernon 819, working in conjunction with Mt. Vernon District 80 and the Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center will be purchasing shoes and books for students. After the Elks contacted the district, there was identified a need for shoes for their students. The Elks will also be helping purchase books, for use in an ongoing program at the Primary Center.

Mt. Vernon 819 has donated money obtained through the Spotlight Grant, pictured right. This grant is part of the Elks National Foundation Community Improvement Program. It is specifically designed to provide clothing and help improve literacy for students from preschool to the third grade.



Salem 1678 host dinner for high school basketball players

The Salem 1678 hosted a dinner for the Salem Community High School Boys and Girls Wildcat basketball teams.

Members of the Salem Police Department served the drinks and bused the tables.

Area businesses also pitched in to make the event happen. Over 70 people were in attendance, including 48 players, 7 coaches and two speakers.

Effingham 1016 partners with Library for Suds & Stories

On Thursday, Mar. 5 the Effingham 1016 partnered with the Suzette Brumleve Memorial Effingham Public Library and Becker’s Wash and Dry to provide Suds & Stories – a opportunity for families to do laundry while children enjoyed a special story time and received books to take home.

Families called the library at 217-342-2464 or registered online at effinghamlibrary.org for a 6 or 7:30 p.m. laundry times. Seven families registered for the 6 p.m. time while three families registered for the 7:30 option.

Grant funds covered the cost of laundry detergent, fabric softener sheets, quarters for the washers/dryers, snacks/drinks for children and books to give away. Six volunteers with the Elks were on hand to assist families while two library staff provided story time.

Suds & Stories was funded by the Elk National Foundation Community Investment Program through its’ Spotlight Grant. Effingham 1016 used this opportunity to shine a light on an important issue facing nearly every American community—family literacy.



Pre-registration
Deadline
MAY 6, 2020

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

Pre-registration
Deadline
MAY 6, 2020

Illinois Elks Annual Meeting
Registration Form
Annual Meeting May 15-17 2020
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Please make a reservation for the following:

Pre – registration - \$10.00 After MAY 6, 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 luncheon @ Price to be determined * (pay on site) \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$30.00/\$33.00* \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*Cost of meal if check received post marked after MAY 6, 2020
Or purchased on-site

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

2019-20 IEA Hoop Shoot a slam dunk



The roster for the 2019-20 IEA Hoop Shoot was stacked! Pictured above are all of the competitors, Elks in attendance and everyone's favorite mascot!

A great time was truly had by all in attendance! The turnout was great at the host school, Decatur's Eisenhower High School. The awards ceremony was held after at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel. Check out winners on next page!

A Note from Jim Swisher IEA Hoop Shoot Chairman

As you all know the Hoop Shoot is over, it's sad but it was a good move to shut it down. As most of our members are over the young age of 60, with all that is going around we do not need to have everyone getting the virus.

I want to thank everyone for their outstanding work on trying to have a shoot. A many thanks to the contestants and their parents as well for being involved in a great program. I have received many cards and emails from contestants and their parents thanking the Elks for a great 2-day vacation filled with meeting many new friends and a fun filled weekend!

Our 6 winners will get their warm-ups I hope sometime next month; each warm-up will come with their names and Lodge name and the Drug Awareness boy. So they can proudly wear and show off that their number 1 in Elks Hoop Shoot.



Above: The 10 & 11 year olds anxiously awaiting their chance to shoot! Below: A few familiar faces keep track of scores.



The players ran down center court after being announced and hi-fived Elks along the way!



Getting ready to pass the proverbial ball! First Lady Sue and President Greg Verdun with 1st Vice President Jeff Rodier.



Lining up for the perfect shot!



Shooting with style!



Above: Players exchanging autographs. Below: Shooter perfecting his pre-shot routine.



Hoop Shoot Winners Announced



8/9 Boy (podium l to r): 2nd Anson Anderson – Herrin 1146, 1st Brently Bryan – Salem 1678 (20/25 shots made), 3rd Brock Noblitt – Robinson 1188. Other contestants were: Joshua Lepper – Quincy 100, Mason Flack – Des Plains 1526, Matthew Duerr – Galena 882, Conner Onnen – Watseka 1791 and Troy Wear – Macomb 1009.



10/11 Boy (podium l to r): 2nd Jonathon Gwaltney – Herrin 1146, 1st Reed Sparrow – Quincy 100 (22/25 shots made), 3rd Colton Baudio – Pontiac 1019. Other contestants were: Cameron Roedl – Charleston 623, Rodney Simpson – Brookfield 1510, Brody Nicklaus – Dixon 779, Carson James – Flora 1659, MJ Louck – Kewanee 724.



12/13 Boy (podium l to r): 2nd Tre Neiderman – Macomb 1009, 1st Nicholas Olivero – Oglesby 2360 (22/25 shots made), 3rd Trent Sternberg – Fairview Heights 664. Other contestants were: James Bullock – Effingham 1016, Nathan Draha – Des Plains 1526, Landen Keck – Fairfield 1631, Hunter Smith – Du Quion 884, Carton Ponton – Watseka 1791.



8/9 Girl (podium l to r): 2nd Gabrielle Dalke – Belleville 481, 1st Kendall Mast – Mt, Vernon 819 (19/25 shots made), 3rd Grace Martin – Effingham 1016. Other contestants were: Fatima Andablo – Brookfield 1510, Lucy Heller – Galena 882, Addison Sieviking – Benton 1234, Madeline Langle – Oak Lawn 225, Maci Eskra – Lincoln



10/11 Girl (podium l to r): not pictured - 2nd Isabelle Dalke – Belleville 481, 1st Addison Elliot – Carmi 1652 (17/25 shots made), 3rd Emma Kraemer – Paris 812. Other contestants were: Jamie Mizwicki – Wheaton 2258, Emma Jereb – Oglesby 2360, Marley Parrish – Johnson County 2880, Rennah Barrett – Watseka 1791, Bailey VanWinkle – Kewanee 724.



12/13 Girl (podium l to r): 2nd Olivia Lindsay – Pontiac 1019, 1st Braley Wiser – Carlinville 1412 (21/25 shots made), 3rd Olivia Smith – Fairfield 1631. Other contestants were: Alaina Nolte – Charleston 623, Angel Tiu – Elgin 737, Allison Abell – Dixon 779, Alyssa Brokering – Du Quion 884, Chyanna Rodgers – Kewanee 724.



Top Shooters

Left: Top Shooter - Boys: Nicholas Olivero with Past President Paul Ronzani. Nicholas made 22/25 shots and 5/5 in the tie breaker. Nicholas represented Oglesby 2360 in the shootout.
Right: Top Shooter - Girls: Braley Wiser with Past President Ralph Bradshaw. Braley made 21/25 shots. She represented Carlinville 1412 in the shootout.



LODGE

All in the Family...

By Joan Hooson
Des Plaines Lodge 1526 Esquire

"Bye Honey, I'm off to the Lodge."

Another night at the Lodge? Another night away from family? Not so with this herd of Elk.

Long-time member John I. Hozian (pictured seated left in front) has forged the way for a whole new line of members here at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge #1526.

A member of the Lodge for 47 years, John has upped our membership by adding all 7 of his children to our rosters in 2016, and is now working on bringing in the next generation, too! The Hozian Family now has 11 active BPOE members, with plenty of room to grow. John and his wife Lorraine (second left in front) have 17 living grandchildren.

Michael Hozian, current Exalted Ruler of the Des Plaines, IL Lodge, was first of the kids to sign up over 8 years ago. (pictured 2nd from left in rear)

Under Michael's tenure as ER, the Lodge has already worked together in initiating 77 new members during this current year. He was recently installed for a 2nd term as ER as well!

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em", said Joan Hooson (maiden name Hozian--and yes, the names are very similar!), now Lodge Esquire. (pictured second from left in middle). Joan became a member in 2014 and helped recruit the other Hozian's, now all initiated. In addition to Joan's service, her husband, Dan, was recently installed as Lecturing Knight for 2020.

Since that year, the family has added several additional family members, with the next generation showing interest.

Michael's daughter Emily (pictured seated far right in front) was initiated in September 2019.

The Hozian Family serves the Lodge in many areas including Membership, House Committee, Bingo, Bunco, Annual Picnic, Parade, and fundraiser overflow staffing.

If only all our members would reach out to their families and friends, get them to join and have their fun at the Lodge, our support efforts in the community would advance all the more.



Paris 211 made the holidays a little brighter this past year



Paris Members pictured above before the start of the annual Shop W/A Cop at the local Walmart Dec. 14th, 2019. Paris Lodge annually helps support this worthwhile charity by donating \$500 each year from the Elks State Presidents State grant and also continually volunteer 3-4 hours on this particular day as well.

Members from left to right; PER Kenneth Miller, Wayne Young, Don Humphrey, Kay Humphrey, Tom McDaniel, PER Jerry McDaniel, Current ER Chad Stevens, & Treasurer Bruce Young, attending but not available for the picture as well was Ron Humphrey.



The Lodge also donated \$750 to the Paris local Ladies Legion 211 Auxiliary's Veterans Committee. Money raised is used to ensure each shut-in veteran within the Paris area has a better Christmas.

From left to right: Current ER Chad Stevens, Auxiliary President Becky Morris, Elk member and Aux member Jennifer Osborne, Aux Vice President, Diane Boyer, & Elk member Jason Driver.

Fairview Heights 664 donates to VA Lady Veterans



On Friday, February 28th, Fairview Heights 664 was able to deliver much needed personal and hygiene items to VA Lady Veterans at the Jefferson Barracks VA Campus. For the Primary Care Clinics, we were able to supply them with coloring books, games, puzzles, and books.

The Managers of the program was overwhelmed with the volume of items donated by Lodge 664 providing the needed supplies for 50 women.

Looking for something to do during your time sheltering-at-home?

- Call up an Elk! Lots of Elks depend on their lodge for social interaction! A friendly chat may be just what they need to lift their spirits during this time!
- Take a walk! It's important to stay active! Practice social distancing, but get some fresh air!
- Listen to the Midday podcast! www.elks.org/midday. Stay home, and let ENF entertain you! Midday is a podcast that gives an insider's look into Elks National Foundation!

Pontiac 1019 uses Promise Grant for tutoring sessions

The Pontiac 1019 was able to use Promise Grant funds to provide funds to the Livingston County Special Services and Pontiac United Methodist Church. These funds were used for tutoring programs for youth in our community. Illinois State University-led tutoring sessions were provide to all of the students plus a parent session. Meals were provided for 3 student/parent sessions.

Pictured below: students and tutorsgather round for meal time.



Pictured above and below: tutoring sessions in action.



Centralia 493 held Benefit Breakfast and raise over \$2500



On February 22, the Centralia 493 and the Centralia Lady of the Elks held a benefit pancake and sausage breakfast to raise funds for new American flags for the City of Centralia Veteran Affairs Committee. The flags are used for patriotic displays throughout the city on national holidays. The LOTE donated \$700 profit from a bale sale held during the breakfast as well as helped Lodge members raise over \$1900 from the breakfast. A check for \$2616 was presented to the VA Committee.

Those present for the check presentation are pictured left ot right: Vernell Burris, VA Committee, Becky Luebben, LOTE Trustee, Spanky Smith, City Council, Bill Luebben, Elks Trustee, Herb Williams, Mayor, Rosanna Perkins, LOTE Treasurer, Ann Toedte, LOTE President, David Sauer, City Council, Ann Chappell, VA Committee, Bill Smith, City Council, Andre Marshall, City Council, and Butch Mathus, VA Committee.

Spotlight Grant helps Pontiac 1019 add to public Library



Pontiac 1019 put their Spotlight Grant funds to good use by establishing a partnership with Pontiac Public Library to provide books and coats to children in need in our community. This picture depicts a good number of the books that were provided. In addition, the library held a craft session for all the coat recipients and the food and supplies were funded by the Spotlight Grant.

IL Elks on the Move!

Chicago 1316's Lecturing Knight Terry Boone recently visited Scottsdale 2148 in Arizona. He traveled with fellow Elk Rick Ryan.

They met up with ER Lynn Young and her husband, also named, Terry who were more than welcoming. "Everyone we met--from the Elks to the lodge staff--was great!"

Boone's only complaint was the fact that he got beat at a shuffleboard game by Terry Young and Ryan. There's always next time!



A few photos from inside and outside the Scottsdale 2148 Lodge.

A friend of Boone's from Arizona met up with him at the Lodge and had such a great time that he petitioned for a membership at the end of his visit!

It's so great to see Elkdom spread across the country! Thanks to Terry and Rick for their story and photos!



Want to show what your lodge has been up to?
Send it to the Newsette! ilelksnewsette@gmail.com



Have you visited out-state lodges? We'd love to hear about it! Share your photos and stories with the Newsette at ilelksnewsette@gmail.com. It's a great way for IL Elks to get see what's happening in Elkdom around the country!

LODGE

Marion 800: Kozy Kids & Backpacks for Buddies

Marion 800 has been busy! With donations to both The Promise Mission and Backpacks for Buddies they setting a great example for Illinois Lodges.

They have purchased warm clothing for The Promise Mission in Marion. After hearing they were desperately needed coats, gloves, hats, socks and hoodies for their growing teen population. Their Kozy Kids program was able to deliver 11 bags full of new items, pictured right.

The Promise is volunteer, Christian mission filled with people who need our help, many of whom are homeless. God bless those who tirelessly work to improve the lives of people in our community.



The Lodge also purchased and stuffed backpacks for the Backpacks for Buddies project.

Representative Dave Severin started the backpack drive in October following a meeting with DCFS officials where he was informed that children placed in emergency foster care are often made to carry their personal belongings in black trash bags when they are removed from their home. His goal is to give children in those situations something they can call their own, and provide them with some comfort and care items to assist in their transition to a more permanent housing situation.

The Marion Elks were glad do their part to help a much needed program. They donated 100 backpacks filled with personal care and comfort items, pictured below.



Mt. Vernon 819 Activities: A donation to Family Life Church and help out a Girl Scout seeking a Gold Star



In February, Mt. Vernon 819 donated \$500.00 to the Familylife Church for their work with homeless, many being veterans. This donation was made possible through Illinois Elk Association Grant.

Pastor Kent Jackson and his wife Julie accepted the check with much appreciation. Kent acknowledges that these donations help with keeping the doors open at the Veterans Memorial Dr. facility and providing to the needs of those who visit. They provide 3 meals a day at their church. Also help with

organizing personal affairs/apply for employment/clothing & showers. They are humbled and amazed daily with people that enter their doors.

Lodge 819 also hosted Miss Grace Seidel, pictured below. Grace is a high school Senior and a Girl Scout. She is currently working on her Gold Star Program, this program is the highest award in Girl Scouting. Grace's program is titled "Swinging Wheels" and involves developing a wheelchair special needs area at Lincoln Park. Working with the Elks and the City of Mt. Vernon, Grace will develop and erect a wheelchair and special needs swing. The Mt. Vernon Elks is acting as sponsor for Grace and assisting her in planning and fund raising.



Benton 1234 supports children's shelter

The Benton Lodge donated \$2000 to The Nights Shield Children's Shelter.

The funds for the donation was received from a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

Pictured right (l to r): Dane Johns, Executive Director of Night Shields and Benton Lodge Trustee Robert Hines and Secretary Coy Cockrum.



McLeansboro 1882 hosts Hunter Safety Course



The Illinois Hunters Safety Course was held on February 28 and 29 for both youths and adults. A great turnout pictured above!

Mt. Vernon 819 Hoop Shoot Results

Mt. Vernon 819 held their Hoop Shoot and the winners were as follows:



8&9 (left to right): First, Zaydon Withrow, Opdyke/BellRive. Second Luke Bolt, Summersville, Tim Bain ER, Second Emmalee Beckham, Opdyke/BellRive. First Kendal Mast, Summersville.



10&11 (left to right) First, Arwyn Wilkey, Summersville. Second, Paige Watson, Field School, Tim Bain, ER. Second, Ian Bennett, Woodlawn. First, Nolan Mast, Summersville.



12&13 (left to right) Payton Knight, Farmington. Second, Faith Hayes, Field, Tim Bain, ER., Second, Gage Peterson, Waltonville. First Kyle Cooper, McClellan
Winners went on to compete on January 4, 2020 at Salem Junior High against other winners of the South Central District Elk Lodge Hoop Shoot, pictured right.

District Hoop Shoot Results: South Central

The South Central District held their Hoop Shoot at the Franklin Park Middle School in Salem. Competitors include shoots from article to the left.



8&9 (back: left to right): George Hornurg(IL Elks State Treasurer), Lou Sulsberger (Past Grand Exalted Ruler), Scott Flota(District Deputy), Marvin Leathers(IL Elks State Secretary), Darren Hays(District Vice President), Jim Melton(District Senior Trustee) and the winners were (front left to right): Kassie Atwood from Fairfield 1631 and Bentley Bryan from Salem 1678.



10&11 (back: left to right): George Hornurg(IL Elks State Treasurer), Lou Sulsberger (Past Grand Exalted Ruler), Marvin Leathers(IL Elks State Secretary), Darren Hays(District Vice President), Jim Melton(District Senior Trustee) and the winners were (front: left to right): Carson James from Flora 1659 and Addison Elliot from Carmi 1652.



12&13 (back: left to right): George Hornurg(IL Elks State Treasurer), Lou Sulsberger (Past Grand Exalted Ruler), Scott Flota(District Deputy), Darren Hays(District Vice President), Jim Melton(District Senior Trustee) and the winners were (front left to right): Landon Keck from Fairfield and Olivia Smith from Fairfield 1631.



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.

ADVERTISE YOUR SPECIAL LODGE EVENT!

Golf Outing ■ Poker Run
■ Fundraisers
\$75 per insertion of business-card
size advertisement
or
\$65 per insertion
on four-issue contract!
Call or e-mail us!

Illinois Elks Association.
Newsette

SECRETARIES! **We want your address corrections!**

Send to: Children's Care Corp.,
P.O. Box 222,
Chatham, IL 62629-0222
Fax: (217) 483-2131

E-Mail: helpkids@motion.net

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

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

Send to: Newsette editor, 414 S. Eaton,
Edinburg, IL 62531

E-Mail:

ilelksnewsette@gmail.com
For information, call Editor Liz Conaway
at (217) 827-3799

Newsette Deadlines

Summer - June 15 NEXT ISSUE!

Fall - July 20

Mid-Winter - Nov. 21

Spring Newsette - March 22

WE COULD ALL USE A REASON TO SMILE!



Koen received a new electric chair and he was thrilled! Left he is pictured with ICC Chair Bill Block, Koen’s mom Noel, grandfather Bob and sister Remi!

Below, his whole class was excited for him!



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. Here are just a few success stories we’ve had over the past couple of months!

Helping Kids, it's what we do.



Gracie, pictured right, is over-the-moon with her new transport chair! Her parents sent a super sweet thank you card to ICC and they would all love to see her picture in an upcoming calender!



The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation with assistance from Joliet Elks Lodge 296 and member Bill Spratt recently presented Sophia, pictured right and left, with her new wheelchair. ICC hopes this chair makes life just a little bit easier as well as safer.



One more child that has a smile on her face. Even in tough social times like this, a smile and laughter go a long way.

Thank you to Illinois Elks members and their continued support.



“School therapy and outpatient therapy are shutdown so home therapy it is. Thanks to the Illinois Elks we have this awesome stander so she hopefully won't regress too much. Dad just makes it more fun.”

Jamie and her Dad are making the most of it, pictures to the left.

CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION



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

PT/OT Scholarship Received for Judging

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation program for students applying for physical-and occupational Therapy scholarships came to a close on March 6, 2020 with 83 students applying. The IECCC Special Education Scholarship also received 5 applications, whose sign-up period closed March 20. All applications will now enter the judging phase and winners will be announced and notified by mail by mid-June. Good luck to all those students who applied. Next year's Scholarship Program will be back online December 1, 2020 at www.illinoiselksccc.org.

Winners announced from calendar drawing

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation announced its 2020 calendar winners through mid-March.

January winners were: Rick Hoy, Elgin; Leif Nielsen, Charleston; Katie Jo Pierson, Charleston; Joseph P. Kunzer, Galesburg; Nance Maguire, Carlinville; Jen Barnick, Des Plaines; Leslie L. Layton, Beardstown; Scott Winningham, Springfield; Terry Wilmot, Macomb; Jean Elliott, Chicago South; Thomas Melvin*, Pontiac; Laura Joens, Elmhurst; Laura DeBrocke, Elgin; Mark Mueller, Galena; Ivan Porter, Flora; Pat Carstens, Oak Lawn; Dolores Novotny, Brookfield; David Boyd, Robinson; Ralph Donald Johnson, Des Plaines; John C. Maurer, Mt. Vernon; Joyce Mahaffy, Elmhurst; Shon Park, Charleston; Sherman Shaw, Mendota.

February winners were: Patricia Fraser, Chicago Northshore; Levi Draper, McLeansboro; Rae Marie Jurmu, Rock Island; John I. Schaberg, Belleville; Kenneth Ficek, Oglesby; Jason Boston, Carlinville; Susan Steinbach, Elgin; Joyce Bowling, Mt. Vernon; Carol Abbott, Bloomington; Jen Barnick, Des Plaines; Kirby Bates**, Carlinville; Samuel T. Utz, Carbondale; Connie Barnett, McLeansboro; Keith Wilson*, Springfield; Beth Visel, Champaign/Urbana; Dean Chesnut, Champaign/Urbana; Frances K. Bonny, Chicago South; Mary Helminski, Des Plaines; Carol Clennon, Chicago Northshore; Andrew Rapp, McLeansboro; Garai Doll, Olney.

March winners were: Sarah Harms, Pontiac; Kelly Considine, Dixon; Steve Pommier, Kankakee; Steve Cowgur, Jacksonville; John D. Duffy, Oak Lawn; James H. Harper, Champaign Urbana; Lance Loftus, Metropolis; John & Gayle Schwarz, Elmhurst; Matt Taylor, Des Plaines; Jared & Rebekah Alka, Mt. Carmel.

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

Murphysboro 572 Dart Tourney raises \$19,000 for Children's Care Corp

Murphysboro 572 recently held a Dart Tourney to raise awareness and funds for the IEA Children's Care Corp. With board sponsors and a live and silent auction they were able to raise \$19,000!

They want to say thank you for all of the donations and members who made it a very successful event! This was the events 25th year!



Dart Tourney winners were Jeff & Terry, above center, 2nd place Eric & Jake, above middle and 3rd place, above right, Ben & Eric.

They would also like to thank BJ for his hard work, Kali Cates for helping run the tournament and Darcy for great bar service! Additional thanks to T&T, Lynn, Sue, and Faith Ann for collecting auction items.

From the Editor...

Hello Elks! I'd like to take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude for making me feel so welcome at the Mid-Winter Meeting. I feel honored to have been chosen as the Newsette editor and hope to deliver quality content and information to Illinois Elks. I want to extend a special thanks to President Greg Verdun and former editor Joe Baker for all of their back and forth e-mails with me! You have both been tremendously helpful!

I hope you'll all bear with me as I learn my way around Elkdom. With so many faces, name, titles, contest, activities and more, it's a bit overwhelming, but I promise to do my best to become a well-educated Newsette editor!

Again, thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to putting out many more Newsettes during my tenure. I hope you're all staying safe and healthy at this time and I look forward to seeing and meeting more of you in person when we are allowed.

Happy Reading,

Liz

PS. I would like to add that my favorite part of the Mid-Winter Meeting awards ceremony, aside from meeting wonderful Elks members and learning about all of the good you do in the state of IL, was the Pipes and Drums. It was quite a rush to see and hear them perform for everyone! What an awesome addition to Elks!

