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Convention**  
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## GER Bruce A. Hidley visits IEA

The Illinois Elks Association was pleased to honor Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley and, his wife, First Lady Helen at the Mid-Winter Convention. Hidley gave a passionate address to the audience about the importance of Elkdom. He also congratulated the IEA on their great work this past year and thanked them for their hospitality during his visit.

The Soccer Shoot-Out winners were also recognized. Two of the recipients are pictured below.



## Oglesby #2360 Cares and Shares \$70,000 with Special Needs School

Before their regular February 21st, 2023 meeting, Oglesby #2360 ER Lisa Fultz and Lodge members presented a check for \$70,000 from the Lodge's Children's Care Fund, (CCF), to Lighted Way Executive Director,



Jessica Kreiser, and, Building Committee members Amy and Jim Bolelli. The funds will be used to cover the entire cost of the new special outdoor playground flooring at Lighted Way's new Children's Developmental Center in LaSalle, Illinois.

Lighted Way is a school for Special Needs Children that currently provides assisted schooling for forty-seven Special Needs students. The new Center which will be renovated and retrofitted, will be better suited to provide for the needs of students. They plan to open the center in August, 2023.

The donation is from the Lodge's restricted Children's Care Fund that is set up to be used only for children's projects and especially for children with Special Needs.

Oglesby Lodge #2360 was chartered in 1967 as Illinois' Centennial Lodge and is celebrating its fifty-seventh anniversary as a way of sharing their Elks Children's Care funds and supporting Lighted Way.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

*Todd Lindsay*

## Looking forward to the Annual Convention

I hope all is well with each and every one of you.

We have had a great year so far. Thank you all. It is because of your hard work and dedication--from donations to ENF, CCC, Veterans, Easter Bunny programs, and all the other programs we support. Without the Lodge members' hard work, we could not attain the level that we have.

As of this writing, we have just completed the Regional Hoop Shoot in Iowa City. We have three kids from Illinois that will be competing in the National Competition in Chicago in late April. We have one in the 8/9 boys category from Jacksonville Lodge, one in the 10/11 girls from Herrin Lodge, and one in the 12/13 boys from Benton Lodge. Congratulations to all. Your State Officers, several Past State Presidents as well as PGER F. Louis Sulsberger will be there to support them all at Nationals in Chicago and will share the results at the May meeting.

At the May meeting, during the Saturday night Banquet, we will be presenting awards for Elk of the Year, Family of the Year, Teen of the Year, Americanism Essay winners, Drug Awareness poster contest winner, as well as ER, District and VP of the Year. All of these are great honors for the recipients.

Lisa and I would like to thank each of you for the support and confidence you have placed in us to be your State President and First Lady. It is a journey we will never forget; the support we have received from you has been greatly appreciated.

We hope you will give Floyd and Chris Schmidt the same support you have given us as they step in as State President and First Lady of the Illinois Elks Association.

Remember to *Strive, Survive, and Drive.*  
Todd Lindsay

## Illinois Elks Association ANNUAL CONVENTION

**May 18-21, 2023**  
**Springfield – Wyndham Hotel**

*More info on pages 2 & 3*



**REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 4**

A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...



IEA SECRETARY  
*Joe Ray*

Members all,

As the Lodge year nears the end, I want to congratulate all the Lodges on the great things that the Lodges do. They yearly awards will be presented at the Saturday night banquet. This is quite a thrill for me in assisting our State President Todd Lindsay in presenting the awards. As far as I am concerned all Lodges and Officers are winners in our Illinois Elks Association.

This year I had my first chance to attend our State Hoop Shoot. Jim Swisher does a unbelievable job in running our State Shoot. The Friday evening festivities were had at the Springfield Lodge and was very nice. The many volunteers that attended thank you. Jim had this old man and Dave Neel rebounding for the girls. We did the first two age groups and had to be replaced before someone had to call 911.

I will be mailing out State dues notices for the upcoming year, right after State Meeting, at this point we have only two Lodges that have not paid 2022-2023 dues. As far as the State Directory goes by this time will have sent to printer. I greatly appreciate the effort of the Lodges that have gotten things in on time.



IEA TREASURER  
*George Hornung*

Members all,

The year is winding down so let's get all your goals cleaned up. If you qualified for your grants, make sure that they are in place. The amounts for these grants will remain the same for next year, so start now in choosing the direction to make these grants. If you don't, time will pass by quickly. Remember that ALL grants must be sent to State Sec Joe Ray, then processed and sent to me. As a note make sure that your Lodge Sec is listed on the request so it can be sent directly to them. That way there will be less confusion on where it's delivered. I hope that every Lodge has had a successful year. These grants along with your hard work in your community will be well received and much needed from your Elks Lodge.

Let's Play Around @ the IEA Golf Tournament - July 28-29

The annual Elks Golf Tournament is being hosted by Kewanee #724. For more information and a registration form please visit <https://illinoiselks.org/2023-illinois-elks-association-state-golf-tournament> or contact Doc Gerleman (309) 854-3235 or [dgerlemandc@kewanee.com](mailto:dgerlemandc@kewanee.com)



ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM  
May 18-21, 2023 • Springfield, IL • Wyndham Hotel

MUST HAVE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER MEETINGS OR HOSPITALITY ROOMS

Pre-Registration Deadline May 3, 2023	MAIL TO: Scott Flota Chairman of the Credentials Committee PO Box 1484 Mt. Vernon, IL 62864	Pre-Registration Deadline May 3, 2023
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Pre-Registration - \$10.00 After May 3 - \$20.00  
Checks payable to Illinois Elks Association

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 ..... @ \$20.00/\$22.00\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$30.00/\$32.00\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Cost of meal if check received post marked after January 11th or purchased on-site

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

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

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

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

Annual Convention COVID-19 Guidelines

Please be aware that attendance at the Illinois Elks State Convention in Springfield, Illinois may pose a risk of exposure to and illness from infectious diseases, including but not limited to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) and its potential variants. While preventative measures aimed at reducing exposure to infectious diseases have been taken for this event and may reduce the risk of exposure and infection, the risk of illness does exist.

Convention COVID-19 Guidelines and Precautions

Safety measures and plans are constantly evolving to provide the safest event possible; however, please be aware that the convention will observe Centers for Disease Control (CDC) plus local government recommendations and guidelines regarding COVID-19 safety measures and precautions.

All Convention attendees should visit <https://illinoiselks.org/iea-state-convention-covid-guidelines> to view guidelines and complete a waiver. It should also be noted the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends that individuals who are NOT fully vaccinated shall be required to cover their nose and mouth with a face covering in a public place and are unable to maintain a 6-foot social distance. This requirement applies whether in an indoor space, such as a store, or in a public outdoor space were maintaining a 6-foot social distance is not always possible.



Illinois Elks Association

ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 18-21, 2023 Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Thursday, May 18, 2023

11:30AM-5:00 PM

Convention Office

1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Executive Committee

PLACE/ROOM

Plaza 4

Conference Ctr 3

Friday, May 19, 2023

7:30 AM-9:00 AM

Executive Committee

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Convention Office

9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Convention Committee

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Advisory Committee

12:00 PM-7:00 PM

Convention Registration

1:00 PM-4:30 PM

General Business Session

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

2:00 PM-4:30 PM

General Business Session – Closed Session

Reports of District Vice Presidents

Presentation of the Budget

State Committee/Commission Chairmen Reports

Conference Ctr 3

Plaza 4

Rendezvous

Rendezvous

Mezzanine - Registration Desk

Capitol/Illinois

Saturday, May 20, 2023

6:30 AM-6:00 PM

Convention Office

7:00 AM-12:00 PM

Convention Registration

7:30 AM-9:00 AM

Board of Directors /Executive Committee

8:00 AM-9:00 AM

Athletic Commission

8:00 AM-9:00 AM

Illinois Elks Childrens Care Corporation

8:00 AM-9:00 AM

Secretaries Association

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Publication Corporation

8:00 AM-10:00 AM

District Deputies & Esquires - Continental Breakfast

8:00 AM-10:00 PM

Leading Knights Training

9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Exalted Rulers Meet W/ Executive Committee

9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Lodge Treasurers

9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Lodge Trustees Training

10:00 AM-11:00 AM

General Business Session

Spouses & Guests Welcome

Children's Care Corporation Awards

Veterans Service Awards

Leading Knights Training

Scholarship Awards

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Memorial Service

12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Ladies Luncheon

Entrée: ½ Club on a croissant w/ Pasta Salad, Dessert: Brownie Blondie-Chocolate chip with walnut pecan. Cost: Pre-registration \$20.00/On-site \$22.00

1:00 PM-4:00 AM

General Business Session

State Committee/Commission Chairmen Reports Continue

Unfinished Business

Adoption of the Budget

Election of Officers (Credentials Required)

1:30 PM-5:00 PM

PGER Meet with Lodges and Individuals

3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Drug Awareness Program

3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shootout Program

5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Illinois Elks Association - Reception

6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Illinois Elks Association - Dinner

Honoring 2023-2024 Class of Exalted Rulers

Salad: Garden Green , Entrée: Sothern Fried Pork Chop, Dessert: Vanilla Cheesecake

Cost: Pre-registration \$30.00/On-site \$32.00 Dress: Business Suit

Awards Program –American Essay Contest Winners, Veteran's Volunteer 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

Plaza 4

Mezzanine - Registration Desk

Continental

Prairie

Embassy

Conference Ctr 4

Plaza 3

Conference Ctr 1

Conference Ctr 2

Rendezvous

Embassy

Plaza 3

Prairie

Capitol/Illinois

Capitol/Illinois

Ambassador

Capitol/Illinois

Conference Ctr 3

Conference Ctr 4

Plaza 1

Illinois/Prairie

Illinois/Prairie

Sunday, May 21, 2023

7:00 AM-11:00 AM

Convention Office

7:30 AM-8:00 AM

Room Reservations for the September Convention

8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Final Business Session (All Elks are encouraged to Attend)

Installation of 2023/2024 State Officers and District Officers

Plaza 4

Capitol/Illinois

Capitol/Illinois

REGISTRATION

All Elks, male & female, Must Register for convention functions: **FEES:** Pre-Registration \$ 10.00/ On-site \$20.00. **Pre-Registration deadline is May 3, 2023.**

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.**

ROOMRESERVATIONS

**Room Cancelation cut off will be April 17, 2023.**

All mailings must be postmarked prior to the above date to avoid additional late charges. Rooms cancelled after the above date 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 Jr. Trustee.

All Hospitality Rooms shall be **CLOSED** from 5:00 pm until the conclusion of the banquet on Saturday, May 20, 2023 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.

**Please see Page 2 for registration form and COVID Guidelines.**



IEA CONVENTION INFORMATION

# May holidays salute moms, service members

by Bruce A. Hidley, GER

The winter months are well behind us now. It is time for us to focus on our Elks spring and summer activities.

May has many events that we as Elks are proud to recognize and participate in. Let's start with Mother's Day, which this year falls on Sunday, May 14. Thank you to each Lodge that has a Mother's Day celebration. You may want to consider assembling a committee and starting an event if your Lodge has never had one. Mother's Day is a very special day to spend not only with your mother but your grandmother, your great-grandmother, sister, or your aunt. Take a moment to call your relatives, and send flowers or candy. Make them feel as special as they are. Happy Mother's Day!

During the month of May, we celebrate Armed Forces Day, which will occur on Saturday, May 20. This is a day for all of us to say thank you to all of the men and women in all branches of service in the military. Each of these individuals are the ones who have taken time to defend this great country of ours and protect the liberties we enjoy today. What a better way for our Lodges to recognize Armed Forces Day and show them Elks Care about their service to our country.

May is also when we remember our departed service members on Memorial Day. This year Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 29. There are so many ways that we

as Elks can take the time to reflect on our departed service members. You can place flags at the graves of deceased military veterans. Participate in or host a Memorial Day parade. Please take part in this very important way to honor the deceased veterans in your community. I remember the day when my community opened our first veterans park. It was during a Memorial Day ceremony. There was nothing more heart wrenching to see all the names of the people who served our country with distinction.

Each year, I proudly walk with veterans in our local Memorial Day parade. It makes you proud to be an Elk knowing that you stand behind our pledge, "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them" and we never will. Take the time to hold some type of ceremony or participate in a community remembrance for the veterans who fought so hard to enjoy the freedoms all of us enjoy today. There is no better way we as Elks can continue "Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm" than to remember our veterans.

Helen and I would like to say thank you for all that you do during the month of May, and for the very special events that are so important to us as Elks. God bless all of you. God bless our troops, past and present. And most of all, God bless America.

## Elks grow again

By Rick Gathen, Membership Marketing Manager

Congratulations to everyone throughout the Order on another terrific year in membership!

In 2020–2021, the BPO Elks showed great resilience in surviving through the pandemic year, and in 2021–2022 our membership numbers bounced back as we grew by nearly 26,000 Members.

This past year, we managed to take things even further, gaining more than 11,000 Members. By recording another year of growth, we've achieved back-to-back membership gains for the first time since the two-year period ending in 1980—43 years ago.



Support our Foundation by donating online. You could give through the Lodge, but the *only* difference when you donate online is how quickly your gift helps others.

Donate to the Elks National Foundation online at  
**enf.elks.org/MyLodge**

# Pre-register and acquire badges for Minneapolis

Pre-registration for the Minneapolis Grand Lodge Convention opened on April 1st, at <https://www.elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm>, and will remain open through June 28.

The online pre-registration fee is \$50 for all Members, while the on-site registration fee will be \$60. A current credit card for PayPal will be needed. There is no fee for a non-Elk spouse or guest.

On-site registration will open on Friday, June 30, from noon to 4 p.m. When you arrive at the Minneapolis convention center, go to the designated pre-registration line in the Registration area. You will need your e-mail confirmation and current membership card to receive credentials (and voting credentials, if qualified) for you and your spouse or guest. A registration badge will be required to enter the exhibit hall and all business sessions.

All non-Elk guests, including widows and widowers of Elks, must register at the Guest Registration Station at the convention center to obtain registration badges. Guests need a badge to enter the exhibit hall, see the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, or attend any other events where they are permitted. Be advised Exhibits/Vendors will not open until 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Grand Lodge registration and its required fee are not included in any State Association's "package" arrangement. *You can also register thru the IEA with the form below.*

## 158th Grand Lodge Convention-Minneapolis

July 2-5 2023  
Embassy Suites  
Minneapolis Minnesota

(Please print or type)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Sig other \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge name/number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Room Preference **2 Dbl.** ☐ **King** ☐ (Preference not guaranteed. All rooms non-smoking)

The room rate is \$150.00 per night, taxes included.  
parking 39.00 per night

Room deposit (All except DDGER designates) \_\_\_\_\_

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

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I do not wish to use the Hospitality Room

☐ I will not be staying with the Illinois delegation, but wish to use the Hospitality Room. (Accommodations not made through the State Housing Chairman or Grand Lodge must have prior approval of the State Housing Chairman or State President to be allowed access to the Hospitality Room.)

Make check payable to: **IEA Housing**

Mail completed form and check to: \_\_\_\_\_ For questions only:

David Neel, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP/Housing Chairman  
1622 Burkett Rd.  
Dixon IL 61021

Phone: 815-973-6494  
email: [bufford@centurylink.net](mailto:bufford@centurylink.net)

(All changes must be brought to my attention via email)

**Reservation deadline: May 15, 2023**  
Rooms reserved on a first come – first served basis. Illinois has only 85 rooms available.

# Hoop Shoot review; IEA sending three to Nationals

by Jim Swisher, Hoop Shoot Chair

The State shoot and Regional are over! The IEA should be very proud of their contestants this year. It's the first time in a long time that we have had three shooters advance to the Nationals.

At the Regional, IEA also had two shooters that took home the Dick Froeschle Award for highest scores: Sophie White (Herrin #1146) and Sawyer Wiklerson (Benton #1234). Illinois also won the Jerry & Carole Grafton Award with the Best State score of 110. See the photos

below to see how all six of our shooters finished at the Regional.

I want to say thank you to all the Lodges that held a shoot and to all the dedicated Elk Members that keep this program where it's at. Check out the next issue of the Newsette to see how our three shooters fair at the National Hoop Shoot in Chicago!

If you would like to watch the National Hoop Shoot on April 22nd, search @ElksNationalFndn on Youtube.



8-9 Boy - 1st Place  
**Maddox Chapman**  
Score: 22/25  
Jacksonville #682  
★ Nationals Bound★



8-6 Girl - 3rd Place  
**Selah Veler**  
Score: 12/25 - 5/5  
Centralia #493



10-11 Boy - 3rd Place  
**Jordan Johnson**  
Score: 18/25 - 3/5  
Metropolis #1428



10-11 Girl - 1st Place  
**Sophie White**  
Score: 20/25  
Herrin #1446  
Dick Froeschle Award  
for Highest Score  
★ Nationals Bound★



12-13 Boy - 1st Place  
**Sawyer Wiklerson**  
Score: 23/25  
Benton #1234  
Dick Froeschle Award  
for Highest Score  
★ Nationals Bound★



12-13 Girl - 3rd Place  
**Lynlee Rubach**  
Score: 15/25  
Murphrysboro #572



Pictured above is all of our great IL Hoop Shoot participants and the Elks that kept things running!



Pictured above is the IEA delegation that attended the Regional and our winners.



Pictured above is the IEA delegation and all of the shooters from IL, IA, WI and MN.

Great Job!





### 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 regular advertisements.

### ADVERTISE YOUR SPECIAL Lodge EVENT!

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

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

**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](mailto:ilelksnewsette@gmail.com)**

For information, call Editor Liz Conaway  
at (217) 827-3799

#### Newsette Deadlines

Summer - June 15 **NEXT ISSUE!**  
Summer - June 15  
Fall - July 20  
Mid-Winter - Nov. 21  
Spring - March 22

## Joliet #296 doles out grant funds

Joliet #296 had a very busy winter of Caring and Sharing.

The Lodge used its \$2000 check from the Illinois Elks Association (IEA) as a donation to the Warriors for the Children Organization. This organization meets at the Lodge on a monthly basis and provides services to children of physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse.

The Lodge used a \$1000 Veterans check from the IEA to make a donation to Catholic Charities of Joliet Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program.

The Lodge used its \$2000 Spotlight Grant to provide over 150 winter clothing items to the Morning Star Mission in Joliet and a monetary donation to help in providing meals for families that stay at the shelter.

They used its \$2500 Gratitude Grant to provide 887 dictionaries to 3rd graders in the Joliet Public Grade School system and also provided 100 red ribbons and over 800 Drug Awareness Book Markers for the students.

The Lodge used its \$4000 Beacon Grant to the Healthy Eating and Living Gardens Food Pantry which provides services to low income families and the elderly.



## NEED HELP WITH YOUR Lodge MARKETING EFFORTS?

VISIT  
**[virtualmanuals.elks.org](http://virtualmanuals.elks.org)**  
today for  
marketing tips, tricks,  
shareable social media  
and print graphics and  
more!

## Effingham #1016 uses Spotlight Grant to support four local charities



Effingham #1016 used \$2000 ENF Spotlight Grant to support 4 local food banks \$500 each to Catholic Charities, St. John's Lutherans, Enduring Freedom and Fish. Pictured above (l to r) are ER Jacob Cowger, Enduring Freedom Ministries representative Vicki Kight and Tiler Gary Cameron.

## McLeansboro #1882 uses grant funds locally

McLeansboro #1882 received two \$2,000 grants from the Elks National Foundation. The first \$2,000 was donated this money to Ruby's Helping Hands Food Pantry. They also held a food drive for the pantry in December and donated that in addition to the money.

Pictured top right (left to right): Pantry Representative Brandy Combs and ER Patrick Flannigan.

The second \$2,000 they was donated to the Hamilton County Senior Center. Pictured bottom right (l to r): Senior Citizen representative/City Alderman Tom Maulding, ER Patrick Flannigan and Jeff Johnson, McLeansboro City Alderman



Find us on  **@ilelksnewsette**

**[ILElksNewsette@gmail.com](mailto:ILElksNewsette@gmail.com)**

## Macomb #1009 donates to local organizations

Macomb #1009 made numerous donations to charitable organizations this past year. Donations have been made to the Quincy Veterans Home, local high school After-Prom Programs, Macomb Police Shop with a Cop Program, McDonough County Big Brothers Big Sisters, Humane Society of McDonough County, and local food pantries to name a few. These donations were made possible by contributions to the Elks National Foundation, as well as to the Macomb Elks Lodge #1009 by members and the community. Total cash donations for this Lodge year exceed \$7,500.00.

Macomb #1009 Treasurer Craig Wille presented Good Food Collaborative (GFC) a check for \$250.0, pictured right, to assist families with food insecurities, who hosts programs such as the Mobile Food Pantry, Kids Cook cooking classes, and the Victory Garden community garden.



people.

Macomb #1009 Treasurer Craig Wille presented a \$500.00 check to the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) for their Project Santa program, pictured right, which provides Christmas gifts to the children of income-eligible families in the western Illinois counties of Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, and Warren.



Macomb #1009 BOD chair Rick Reimolds presented a check to the Industry United Methodist Church food pantry, pictured left, to assist families with food insecurities.

Get your password online at:  
[www.elks.org/register](http://www.elks.org/register)

Elks news, features, and reports.

Works on all mobile platforms including smartphones and tablets.

## Lawrenceville #1208 donates to IL State Veterans

Lawrenceville #1208 donated a \$1000 Illinois State Veterans grant to the Heritage House in Hutsonville. The center is a home for displaced veterans who might otherwise have no place to live. In addition, a holiday food drive at the Lodge collected multiple food and drink items for donation.

Pictured left to right are caregivers from the Heritage House and Elk members Dee Jennings, Sandra Grove, and ER Jeff Johnson.



## Elmhurst #1531 hosts St. Baldrick's Day event

On March 19th, Elmhurst #1531 held a St. Baldrick's Event to support children's cancer research in honor of departed brother Andy Mazzie.

#1526 PER and Current North District Deputy Lori Lichter, #1531's own Cathy Dardano, and #1526 PER and incoming District Jr. Trustee Marc Walker were amongst the participants giving up their hair for a worthy cause.

Over \$5,000 has been raised for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.



## Galesburg #894 puts their best foot forward

Galesburg Lodge #894 donated \$2,500 to the Jack Larson Shoe Project. This was started to help kids in local schools get a new pair of shoes and socks. This year the fund was able to provide 300 students with shoes. Their members went to a local elementary school today to help students pick out shoes.



Pictured above (l to r): Steve Brown, Jean Jacobs, Dennis Jacobs, Linda Murphy, Kathy Legge, Jorga Thiel, Jan Thomas, Ali Beeth, Val Maguire, Penny Way, Monty Way and Wendy Godfrey.

# Fur real: Benton #1234 helps local PD get K-9



Benton Lodge #1234 awarded \$2,000 to the Benton Police Department on March 14. The contribution goes toward the purchase of a K-9 dog for the Benton Police Department, which costs a total of \$17,000. Pictured above (l to r): Coy Cockrum, Lodge secretary. Vicky Pearce, Exalted Ruler, Chris Funkhouser, Benton Police Chief and Jeremy Watkins, Officer of the K-9 unit.

# Pekin #1271 helps students stay hydrated

Luke Arnsman, Principal of Jefferson Elementary School in Pekin, is presented a check for \$5,600 by PDDGER Matthew Stropes, from the Pekin #1271, to be used to purchase and install a bottle filler. The monies were obtained through grants from the Elks National Foundation.



The students need to be able to fill their water bottles throughout the day to stay hydrated and keep themselves ready to learn.

# Olney #926 hands out throws, backpacks and books

Olney Lodge #926 Used the Gratitude Grant to have a pizza and cake party while handing out 160 throws to a local nursing home residents. That same week they used the Beacon Grant to pass out 125 backpacks and books to local school kids. They said the smiling faces were the best “thank you!”

# Oak Lawn #2254 pawesome donation!

Oak Lawn #2254 helped with the purchase and training of a service dog named Riley. They donated \$500.00 from our Lodges Veteran’s Fund to help pay for Riley. Just a Beautiful Pup!

The recipient of Riley is Shireen O’Brien, a Worth resident who served as a Marine and has been dealing with a series of threatening illnesses since she concluded her service.

Shireen and her husband were both so impressed with the Lodge and members that they are joining the Elks and will be installed this month.

Pictured right (l to r): Larry Nolan, Lynda Riffice, Chairman Dan Johnson, Shireen O’Brien and Riley.



OBTAINED A  
NEW MEMBER ?

Have a fun recruitment idea?  
Created a new program and seen  
success in membership growth?

Share your recruiting tips in the  
next issue of the Newsette! E-mail  
to ilelksnewsette@gmail.com!

# 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, mail to 414 S Eaton, Edinburg, IL 62531 or call (217) 827-3799.

**Submission deadlines** – June 15 for Summer, July 20 for Fall, Nov. 21 for Mid-Winter, March 22 for Spring,

Follow us on Facebook for deadlines,  
announcements, and to submit stories!

**www.facebook.com --- @ilelksnewsette**

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Want to show what your  
Lodge has been up to?

Send it to the Newsette!  
ilelksnewsette@gmail.com



## Robinson #1188 makes the most of grants

Robinson Lodge #1188 recently handed out their grants funds to various local organizations.

Pictured right: Leading Knight Brent Rick presents Robinson High School Cares Pantry with \$1,000 from the IEA State Grant.

Pictured below: Robinson #1188 Elks Officers present the Robinson VFW a check for \$3,000 from it Veteran's Fund to assist with their Veteran medical transport program.



Pictured right: ER Rusty Reinoehl presents a check to the Kirby Ackman with the Nutrition on Wheels Program for \$3,000 (IEA State Grant and Spotlight Grant); a check to Dave Garrard \$1,500 (IEA State President's Grant) for the Veterans Program at Robinson #1188; and Cathy Holley with the Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels Program for \$4,000 (Beacon Grant).



## Brookfield # 1510 delivers coats and cash to Beds Plus organization

Brookfield #1510 recently delivered a collection of coats and a check for \$500 to the Beds Plus organization in La Grange, IL. They assist homeless people and families with shelter and nutrition.

Pictured right is member Frank Clarke, a Korean Veteran, delivering coats.



Pictured left is PDDGER Bob Rolewicz presenting a \$500 check to Erin Molek the Development Manager of Beds Plus. This was earmarked for their food program.

## Watseka #1791 helps some get a good night's rest

Watseka #1791 used \$2,000.00 of the Beacon Grant and several Elk members to help Sleep in Heavenly Peace build 40 beds in February.



LODGE NEWS

## Harrisburg #1058 delivers trailer full to local pantry

Harrisburg #1058 was awarded the Gratitude Grant from ENF/CIP programs in the amount of \$2,500.00. The funds were utilized to purchase much needed non-perishable grocery items for one of our local food banks, the Christian Community Compassion Center. The 4Cs resources have been severely depleted due to the increased number and needs of our local homeless and underprivileged population. Coordinating with Mrs. Mona Crim, 4Cs director, we were able to determine the critical needs which could best be served by this grant. Pictured below are #1058 members delivering a substantial amount of groceries to the 4Cs food bank. Our members surround Mr. Mona Crim, Director, centered in the picture. The staff was overwhelmed by the quantity of items provided and most grateful for the opportunity to better serve and provide for their patrons.

## Harrisburg #1058 delivers gift bags to veterans

Harrisburg #1058 provided 49 gift bags to veterans in six of our area assisted living and nursing homes. Each of the facilities provided a list of veterans in their care. The bags contained blankets, hats, scarfs, gloves, socks, word search puzzles, writing instruments and personal hygiene supplies.

Funding was graciously provided by meeting our state ENF goal (\$1,000.00), and donations from local businesses and individuals. PER Jeff Thompson and his wife Nancy (also a Lodge member) spearheaded this project, with Kay Ackerman instrumental in purchasing.



Pictured above are PER Thompson and wife Nancy presenting the bags at Brookstone Estates. The staff at the facilities were extremely gracious and thankful for our Lodge's generosity.



## Ottawa #588 delivers grants funds to area organizations

Ottawa #588 handed out checks to four area organizations with the help of ENF grants. Salvation Army/Ottawa, Servants Heart and Pads Shelter.

The Salvation Army/Ottawa and Servants Heart, working together, has assisted over 100 families with gas cards, winter clothing and assistance with utility bills. They also feed homeless residents a daily lunch. The Pads Shelter houses homeless families and makes sure meals are provided and lunches packed or paid for at the schools for children in need of lunches at school.

Pictured below is Exalted Ruler Lynne Schlink and representatives from the organizations.



## Des Plaines #1526 celebrated a "Season of Giving" by supporting three community-action programs

**Des Plaines Community Backpack Project**

Lodge #1526 was extremely proud to present a check for \$6,000 to the local Community Backpack Project. The program, started in 2011, provides backpacks filled with food for needy students in the Des Plaines' schools. The backpacks bridge the need for food between the free Friday meals in school to the free Monday breakfast at school. The donation will help provide weekly meals for the more than 160 students benefitting from the program. Pictured here from left to right: Lodge Secretary KC Ferguson, Elks member Jim Feth, Community Backpack Project representatives John Paul, Jean Weiss, George Bielat and Elks Exalted Ruler Ed Pizza.



**Purse Collection - a Partnership between #1526 and American Airlines Professional Women in Aviation Chicago**

The Lodge partnered on this worthy cause with American Airlines Professional Women in Aviation Chicago to donate more than 350 new and gently used purses that will be distributed to various women's shelters in the greater Chicagoland Area. The purses included items such as toiletries, hats, scarves, gloves, jewelry and an empowering note. Shown here with Exalted Leader Ed Pizza is Kathy Garza, Customer Care, American Airlines Professional Women in Aviation Chicago - President.



**Self Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines**

Serving the Des Plaines community since 1971, the food pantry provides much-needed food and clothing to clients weekly. The Lodge presented the pantry with a check for \$2,000 which will be used to replenish the pantry's shelves. Accepting the donation for the Self Help Closet & Food Pantry is Executive Director Debra Walusiak. Also present was Lodge Secretary KC Ferguson, Jim Feth, Trustee Andy Parenteau and Exalted Ruler Ed Pizza.



## A great view at Galesburg #894

Galesburg #894 held their quarterly Veterans Lunch and had eighty-one veterans attend along with sixteen elks volunteers. They used a portion of their Veterans Grant to supply the meal. They love inviting veterans to enjoy a nice meal on them!





# Jan-Mar 2023 Children’s Care Calendar Winners

## JANUARY

Ken Meece, Carlinville; Karl Stodden, Galena; Jesse J. Niendiek, Effingham; Raymond Rosa, Des Plains; Beth Barger, Harrisburg; Josh Hunt, Sycamore; Molly Bohnsack, Galena; Linda Lovvorn Dohnke; Mel Terpstra, Oak Lawn; Anton Zeman, Brookfield; Richard D. Larson, DeKalb; Phillip G. Beers, Springfield; Vicky Rose, Salem\*; Steve Stein, Centralia; Ray Murphy, Joliet; Jerry Tadlock, Champaign-Urbana; Jeanne Poore, Chicago South; John Hargis, Charleston; Mike Blickhan, Quincy; William Wade, Galena; Jeff Lockwood, Carlinville; Jessy Marasco, Joliet

## FEBRUARY

William Propp, Pontiac; Gail Friedman, Oak Lawn; Vicki Williams, Champaign-Urbana; Terry L. McNew, Herrin; Catherin Shipp, Chicago Northshore; Lillian Howell, Joliet; Robin Harris, Carmi; Robert Taylor, Harrisburg, James Rosater, Elgin; Beth Parks, Oak Lawn; Dorn Johnston, Joliet\*; Robert Creech\*\*; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Stanczak, Elgin; Dan Beard, Jacksonville; Harold C. Gibson, Pana; Margaret Tobin, Des Plains; Leonard Justus, Macomb; Robert Joyce, Dixon; Jack Guetterman, Cairo; Becky Barnhill, Harrisburg

## MARCH

Wendy Martinson, DeKalb; Tony E. Tesch, Princeton Virtual; Bruce A. Brown, Champaign-Urbana; F.E. Strode, Beardstown; Judy Wojcik, Belleville; Marty Durbin, Carlinville; Carl Anderson, McLeansboro; Mike Kelshmeimer, Robinson; Bill Benoit, Joliet; Kathy Faircloth, Fairview Heights; Darrell Cowsert, IECCC; Ronnie E. Gough, Springfield; C. Maurice Theriac, Lawrenceville

# McLeansboro #1882 donates athletic equipment to local grade school

There is a special place for the youth of the community in the heart of Elks. That is why McLeansboro #1882 donated more than a dozen pieces of athletic equipment that include basketballs, footballs, volleyballs, and soccer goals to the Dahlgren Grade School. This equipment will help to replace aging and outdated athletic equipment while helping to promote physical activity for our community's youth. Matt Bryson, Tiller and Drug Awareness Chairman, was on hand to deliver the goods to the excited children!



# Champaign-Urbana #2497 make the rounds in the community with checks

Champaign-Urbana #2497 recently delivered checks to area organizations. Cunningham Children’s Home, Rantoul Community Center, Larkin’s Place, Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, and Developmental Service Center were on the list to receive checks.



## Upcoming Elks Children’s Care Clinics

### April 2023

- Elgin Clinic April 19th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- NW District at Morrison Clinic April 20th at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

### May 2023

- Flora Clinic May 3rd at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Rock Island Clinic May 23rd at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
- South District at DuQuoin May 26th at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

### June 2023

- Mt. Vernon Clinic June 1st at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- Bloomington Clinic June 2nd at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 to 1:00 PM
- Lincoln Clinic June 6th at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
- Champaign/Urbana Clinic June 7th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM
- Effingham Clinic June 8th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM
- Robinson Clinic June 14th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
- Mt. Carmel Clinic June 19th at Wabash General Hospital: 2:30 to 4:30 PM
- NW District at Rockford Clinic June 21st at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- NW District at Morrison Clinic June 22nd at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

### July 2023

- No Clinics

ER Tymothé Willis, Leading Knight Joel Cluver, Lecturing Knight Jeff Pribble were on hand to deliver! All in all, \$3,000 was handed out.



Elks Care, Elks Share!



## Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

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

### A short Lodge & Membership income report for 2022-2023

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

As this year comes to a close I would like to thank all outgoing officers, the membership, and the Lodges for their support to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation this past year. With less than two week left of this fiscal Lodge year, and no anticipated donation before April 1, 2023. Here are closing numbers on Lodge & Membership donations for 2022-2023. The Lodges raised \$165,331.62, and the membership raised \$95,197.80, with miscellaneous support of \$291,527.32, giving a year-end total so far of \$552,056.74.

On behalf of Board of Directors and myself we thank you tremendously for a job well done. I wish nothing but the best for all the new incoming officers for a great and wonderful new Lodge year.

### THAT'S A BULLSEYE FOR THE CCC!



Murphysboro Lodge #572 held its 27th Annual CCC Dart Tournament and Auction on February 25, 2023. They featuring a \$1,000 prize payout and fifty-six players showed up. Over fifty local businesses donated to the Dart Board Sponsorships. In photo above are the tournament winners Brad Oxendine and Kerri Newsom displaying their trophies. Other fundraising activities included various raffles & drawings, a prize wheel, and a live and silent auction. This year's event for the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation garnered over \$14,280!

**Next Newsette deadline is June 15, 2023!**

**Send your items to [ilelksnewsette@gmail.com](mailto:ilelksnewsette@gmail.com)**

DEAR MR BLOCK AND  
THE ELKS,

THANK YOU SO VERY  
MUCH FOR THE NEW  
STROLLER FOR ANNIE! THIS  
IS SUCH A WONDERFUL  
BLESSING FOR HER! SHE  
IS SO HAPPY TO HAVE A SAFE AND SECURE  
WAY TO GET AROUND. IT MAKES A HUGE  
DIFFERENCE FOR HER AND WE ARE ALL  
SO GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU DO TO HELP  
CHILDREN LIKE ANNIE WHO CANNOT WALK.

THANK YOU AGAIN! GOD BLESS YOU AND  
YOUR WORK FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

SINCERELY,  
MICHELLE AND ANNIE MCGOWAN



### Scholarship Report

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

All IECCC 2023-2024 scholarships have been turned in and are being recorded and will move to the next phase for grading. The breakdown of the PT/OT Scholarships received is: 15 Graduate Student up 3 students from last year, 5 Seniors up 3, 2 Juniors, 3 Sophomores up 2, and 7 Freshmen up 2, we also had 1 PT/OT Assistant apply. There is also 3 Lydia Miller Special Education Scholarships, and 1 Speech Pathology Grant from the Carroll Scholarship Program. All scholarships will be given to the Judges early April and winners will be announced by mail mid-June. Good luck to all those who applied. Next year's Scholarship Program will return online December 1, 2023 at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org).



**Read a digital version of the Newsette at [www.illinoiselks.org](http://www.illinoiselks.org)**