

INSIDE

Fall Meeting
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*Lots of great
pictures!*

Grand Lodge
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Randy P. Shook installed as Grand Exalted Ruler



Nashville, Tennessee is the birthplace of country music, bluegrass, and Randy Paul Shook who was born in its rolling hills on the 25th of November. Along with his parents, D. Webster Shook, Sr. and Joyce Fay (Sims) Shook, his younger sisters, Pam and Patty, Randy grew up and went to school in Loretto, a small town in Lawrence County.

Completing school in 1974, Randy worked in the family farming operation until 1977 when he joined the team at Genesco, a shoe manufacturer in nearby Pulaski. His career advanced while at Genesco, as he was promoted to Assistant Department Manager in 1980 and Department Manager in 1982.

Randy's time at Genesco is significant for another reason: in 1981, this is where he met the love of his life and his soulmate, Wanda. They have been partners in life, love, and laughter ever since.

In 1984, Randy discovered his vocation while studying Real Estate, Banking, and Economics at Columbia State Community College and became an affiliate real estate broker. After continuing to take courses through the Tennessee Real Estate Educational System and graduating from the Nashville Auction School, Randy became a licensed Real Estate Broker and Auctioneer in 1986. He served as President of the Southern Middle Tennessee Board of Realtors in 1989.

Randy founded his company, Appraisals Plus, in 1992 after becoming a Certified Real Estate Appraiser. He remains the sole proprietor of Appraisals Plus which serves seven counties in southern Tennessee. For more than 20 years his son, Billy, and niece, Kristy have worked side-by-side with Randy as Certified Appraisers.

Randy was proposed and initiated into Lawrenceburg Lodge No. 2206 in 1993 and continues to this day to be an active and dedicated member. He was elected Esteemed Loyal Knight in 1995-1996, Exalted Ruler in 1996-1997 and 1998-1999, and Trustee from 1999 to 2001. Randy was named Lawrenceburg Elk of the Year in 2008-2009.

He was elected Treasurer from 2010 to 2015 and again in 2019-2020.

Randy began his service to the Tennessee Elks Association in 1998-1999 as Vice President-Elect and was Vice President in 1999-2000. He was elected President-Elect in 2004-2005 and as Tennessee State President in 2005-2006. His service continued as Government Relations

State Chair from 2003 to 2016, Raffle Committee State Chair from 2005 to 2018, Budget Committee State Chair from 2010 to 2022, Executive Committee from 2009 to present, and the Board of Directors and Advisory from 2006 to present. He was named Tennessee Elk of the Year in 2007-2008 and was inducted into the Tennessee Elks Hall of Fame in 2012-2013.

At the Grand Lodge level, Randy was appointed Esquire to District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2000-2001. In 2001-2002, he served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the Middle District of Tennessee. Randy was named Area 3 Grand Lodge Government Relations Member from 2007 through 2009. He was elected Grand Treasurer for 2009-2010. Randy was named Area 3 Public Relations



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Floyd Schmidt

Together We Can!

Brothers and Sisters,

I know this comes out in early fall, but I'm going over some GREAT things that happened so far.

How about the Grand in Minneapolis?! I hope everyone had a great time at the Convention. I hope you enjoyed the IEA Hospitality Room. This year we had the Hospitality trailer and crew tending to your lunch and dinner needs. This was a perfect addition to the week. Ask people who went this year and if it sounds good to you, sign up to go to Austin next year. The more the merrier. The purpose of going is not just hospitality but to further your knowledge on the great things that Elkdom is doing. There is a workshop for everyone.

Speaking of workshops, we have a new Area 5 Public Relations and Membership Marketing Committeeman, Jim Ross from Festus, Missouri. He's a member of Festus-Crystal Elks Lodge #1721 a PDDGER, Missouri Membership Chairman, and President Elect for Missouri Elks. Our state membership numbers are lacking, so do what you can to get our numbers up. Further information will be forthcoming, so let's see what we can do. Use social media to showcase what you have done for your community. Anything to promote the Order is a plus.

We have a new Grand Exalted Ruler, Randy P. Shook from Lawrenceburg, TN Elks #2206. His slogan this year is "We are the Elks." It looks to be an exciting year. The GER will be visiting Illinois in January, so I hope you get a chance to meet him.

I'm hoping that many of you are getting to your District Meetings. These meetings are informative for your Lodge, District, and State Elks. It's a great way to meet new people, renew old friendships, and learn more about promoting our Great Order.

I would like to give special recognition to our Grand Lodge 1st Place Americanism Essay contest winner, Lily Strode. She is a seventh grader at Thomas Metcalf Laboratory School in Normal. She was sponsored by Bloomington Elks #281. Way to Go, Lily.

Remember, the influence of a good deed, honestly and properly performed, will continue forever.




IEA President Floyd Schmidt is pictured above at Grand Lodge. Check out pages 6-7 for more photographs from Minneapolis.

Continued on Page 4

STATE NEWS

A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...



IEA SECRETARY

Joe Ray


Members all,

Those of you that were at Grand Lodge, I hope you had a good time. The hospitality room was very nice and the crew did a great job. Of course, I am a little bit prejudiced since they all are from my district, the South-Central District. Pops and Mom Schmidt did an outstanding job with raffle items and keeping things rolling. We were fortunate to be next door to the Wisconsin room. These are some of the nicest people I have ever met and they also do an excellent job with their hospitality room. The new GER Randy Shook seems like a very nice man and I really liked hearing the *Tennessee Waltz* and *Rocky Top* played, it just got the crowd in the spirit. Monday evening at the Twins game GER Hidley threw out the first pitch and there were several Elks in attendance.

There are just a very few Lodges that have not paid their IEA per-capita news. I will be following up with these Lodges in the next few weeks. I have mailed forms to the District Scholarship winners and have received several back. I will deliver them to George Hornung and then he will write the checks. I then will send them on to the schools. If a student or parent contacts the lodge, just have them contact me. I will get back to them as soon as I can.

As far as the State Grants grants go, I try to forward to George Hornung the same day. The process normally takes about week to two weeks. Please list what you are going to use the grant for so I can put it in the State Charity Report. This is for IRS guidelines. If you do not receive the check, contact me.

This August 26th is the DCFS picnic at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds, this one of my favorite things to attend. This is a big deal for the young foster kids and the newly adopted ones. I have only missed one in twenty years. I would encourage anyone to attend. The smile on the face of a child when they get a sack lunch and an arm to ride the rides all day, is why we are Elks.



IEA SPONSOR

F. Louis Sulzberger

PGER

Greetings all!

For those of you who attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I hope it was an enjoyable and informative convention for you. The final business sesssion culminated in the swearing in of our new Grand Exalted Ruler, Randy P. Shook. Beth and I have known GER Shook and his wife Wanda, the new First Lady of Elkdom, for many years.They are a wonderful and dedicated couple and will be excellent ambassadors representingthe Order this year. We look forward to their official visit to Illinois in January of 2024.

I would like to thank the Past District Deputies who served last year for a job well done. You all made a great effort to keep me informed of the activities of the Lodges in yourDistricts and I appreciated that.

To our newly installed District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers, congratulations on thisachievement and best of luck to you. This will be a year of hard work, but I can assure youthat the experience will be one that you will enjoy and not soon forget.

As summer comes to a close, plans are being made for the Illinois Elks Association FallConvention in Springfield on September 22nd-24th. I encourage you to make the trip to our State Capitol so that we can enjoy a full weekend of Elkdom together. I am pleased to report that Jim Ross, the new Grand Lodge Membership Committeeman for Area 5 will be in attendance that week-end as a guest of the Illinois Elks Association. Jim is from Festus, MO and he is excited to share with you ideas for membership growth in our Lodges. Please welcome Jim to Illinois! I would also like to encourage you to attend the Saturday night banquet. As you know, it is tradition to honor our Illinois Children’s Care Corporation Scholarship winners at our Fall Convention banquet. Please join me as we celebrate the accomplishments of these young people and witness what our hard work has provided for them.

Enjoy the rest of you summer, stay cool and we will see you soon!

HAVE YOU



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!

From the Editor...

Five Stars! Thank you to the Grand Lodge committee for selecting our Newsette as a 5-Star Winner! I’m honored to be a part of the Elks and help spread the word each quarter about all of the fantastic things the Illinois Elks do! Keep up the good work and keep submitting your articles! I’ve also been working on a new layout to better display all of the great donation, fundraiser and Veterans work you all do! I hope you like it on pages 8-10.

Congrats to John Tucker for his 5-Star Website Award and making sure the Illinois Elks look great online!

State Association Website Winners

• Five Star Awards - *****

Arizona

Georgia

Illinois

Maryland-Delaware-DC

Connecticut

Idaho

Louisiana

Florida

Kentucky

Mississippi

Four Star Awards - ****

Arkansas

New Mexico

Kans

Wash

• Three Star Awards - ***

Utah

State Association Bulletin Contest Winners

Five Star Awards - *****

Arizona – Shawnee Carlie

Georgia – Lynda Lewis

Kansas – Carl Lindsey, Jr

MD-DE-DC – Janie Swigert

New Jersey – Joyce Powell

Florida – Rachel King

Illinois – Elizabeth Conaway

Louisiana – Buddy Hartle

Missouri – Joy Clarkson

Four Star Awards - ****

Michigan – SP Dave Slader

Pennsylvania – Glen Klein

North Carolina – Ashley Buckwell

Happy Reading,

Liz

Illinois Elks Association

FALL MEETING

September 21-24, 2023

Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Thursday, September 21, 2023

11:30 AM-5:00 PM

Convention Office

1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Executive Committee

Friday, September 22, 2023

7:00 AM-5:00 PM

Convention Office

8:00 AM-10:00 AM

Executive Committee

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Convention Committee

12:00 PM-7:00 PM

Convention Registration

1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Advisory Committee

Saturday, September 23, 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 Meeting & Training - Continental

8:00 AM-9:30 AM

Lodge Trustee Training/Accident Prevention/Insurance

8:00 AM-10:00 AM

District Deputies & Esquires - Continental

8:00 AM-12:00 AM

Leading Knights Training

9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Exalted Rulers Meet w/ Executive Committee

9:30 AM-11:30 AM

Ritual Committee & Competition

10:00 AM-11:00 AM

New Lodge

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Membership/Lapsation/Lodge Activities/Indoctrination

12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Ladies' Luncheon

Entrée: Club on Croissant with Pasta Salad Dessert: Brownie Blondie

Cost: Pre Reg-\$25.00/ Onsite \$ 27.00

1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Elks National Foundation

1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Youth Activities & Antlers

1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Publication Corp/Website Monitoring/Public Relations

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Hoop/Soccer Shoots

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Secretaries' Association

1:00 PM-4:00 PM

PGER Meet with Lodges & Individuals

1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Ritual Clinic

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Americanism

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Athletic Commission

2:30 PM-4:00 PM

Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Drug Awareness Program

3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Lodge Treasurers

3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Scholarship Selection

3:00 PM-4:00 PM

Veterans Service Commission

5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Illinois Elks Association - Reception

5:00 PM 6:00 PM

Illinois Elks Children's Care Social

6:00 PM 8:00 PM

Illinois Elks Association - Dinner

Salad: Iceberg Chopped, Entrée: Chicken Marsala with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Green Beans.

Dessert: Chocolate Cake. Cost: Pre-registration \$37.00/On-site \$39.00 Dress: Business Suit

Sunday, September 24, 2023

7:00 AM-10:00 AM

Convention Office

7:30 AM-8:00 AM

Room Reservations for the Mid-Winter Meeting

8:00 AM-10:30 AM

General Business Session

PLACE/ROOM

Plaza 4

Conference Ctr 3

Plaza 4

Conference Ctr 3

Rendezvous

Mezzanine

Rendezvous

Plaza 4

Mezzanine

Plaza 3

Prairie

Conference Ctr 2

Rendezvous

Ambassador

Embassy

Conference Ctr 1

Prairie

Highland Room

Plaza 3

Conference Ctr 4

Conference Ctr 2

Plaza 1

Ambassador

Conference Ctr 3

Embassy

Plaza 3

Conference Ctr 4

Conference Ctr 2

Conference Ctr 4

Ambassador

Plaza 3

Plaza 1

Capitol/Illinois/Prairie

Rendezvous

Capitol/Illinois/Prairie

Plaza 4

Capitol/Illinois

Capitol/Illinois

REGISTRATION

All Elks, male & female, Must Register for meeting functions: **FEES:** Pre-Registration \$ 10.00/ On-site \$20.00. **Pre-Registration deadline is September 6, 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 August 23, 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, September 23, 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.

Covid-19 Guidelines for the Fall Meeting can be found on the IL Elks website. Precautions and guidelins are the same as previous meetings. Please take care and do not attend meeting if you are feeleing ill or exhibiting any symptoms. Let's keep everyone safe and healthy.

GER Shook, cont'd.

and Marketing Member from 2014 to 2018. In 2018, he was elected to represent Area 3 on the Board of Grand Trustees, serving as Building Applications–West Member in 2018-2019, as Pensions and Benefits Member in 2019-2020, as Secretary of the Board in 2020-2021 and Chairman of the Board in 2021-2022. Along with his service to the Elks, Randy has demonstrated his civic commitment through his service on various Boards and Commissions within his community. He was appointed to the Lawrenceburg Regional Planning Commission in 2003 and served until 2023, serving as the Chairman for the past ten years. He was also on the Zoning Board of Appeals from 2003 to 2023, Lawrence County Joint Economic Board from 2011

to 2023 and Historical Planning from 2019 to 2023. Randy is a 32nd Degree Mason and has been a Shriner for over thirty years. Randy and Wanda were married on March 19, 1982, and together they have two sons: Brad and Billy. When Brad was 21 years old, Randy had the honor of initiating him into the Elks. When Billy was 21, Randy was the District Deputy of Tennessee's Middle District and was present as Billy was initiated into the Order. Tragically, Brad died in 2021 after a brave fight against pancreatic cancer. Randy and Wanda continue to reside in Lawrence County, Tennessee where they are surrounded by extended family, friends, and most importantly, their four wonderful grandchildren: Madison, Jacob, Griffin, and Vaida. Randy and Wanda are looking forward to the adventures ahead and are thankful and humbled to represent the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady. We welcome the opportunity to meet new friends and let our communities know that: We are The ELKS!

FALL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

September 21-24, 2023 • Springfield, IL • Wyndham Hotel

MUST HAVE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER MEETINGS OR HOSPITALITY ROOMS

Pre-Registration
Deadline
September 6, 2023

MAIL TO:
Scott Flota
Chairman of the
Credentials Committee
PO Box 1484
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Pre-Registration
Deadline
September 6, 2023

Pre-Registration - \$10.00 After September 6 - \$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 @ \$25.00/\$27.00* \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$37.00/\$39.00* \$ _____

*Cost of meal if check received post marked after September 6th or purchased on-site

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

A Coloring Contest & Ice Cream

McLeansboro #1882 held an end-of-year coloring contest for their local grade schools during Elks Youth Week in May. They received an overwhelming number of entries. Elroy and ER Brittany Bowers surprised the kids at each school and presented the winners with gift cards to Dairy Queen.



Ronald McDonald House support from North District Lodges



PDDGER Bob Rolewicz of the Brookfield #1510, made one of his periodic visits to the Ronald McDonald House located in Hines, Illinois to drop off over 40 lbs. of pop tabs for the RMHC (Ronald McDonald House Charities) fundraising project. For many years now, Mr. Rolewicz has made the visits to the House to drop off the pop tabs collected by the combined efforts of 3 of the IEA North District Lodges: Elgin #737, Chicago Northshore #1316 and Brookfield #1510. Whenever 40 lbs., or so, are collected by these Lodges, a drop off to the House is arranged. Pictured above (l to r) in front of the Ronald McDonald House are: Mr. Ray Campbell (House Manager) Ronald McDonald (mascot) and Bob Rolewicz (Elk representative).

DeKalb lauded as *Most Veteran Friendly City*



DeKalb Elks #765 is proud to announce the national veteran organization 40&8 recently bestowed upon the City of DeKalb with the title of “Veteran City of the Year” for 2023-2024. The announcement, made by the Illinois chapter, is meant to spotlight a city or town which has or is doing something significant for veterans or their families in the community. The initiative undertaken must be supportive of the veteran community.

“Our award committee was extremely impressed with the extensive number of veteran projects in the DeKalb area said Illinois 40&8 Award Chair Wallace Hammond. “The various memorials and veteran acknowledgements really speak volumes about the attitude toward military veterans in the DeKalb community.

In recent years, DeKalb has seen the installation of a new Veterans Memorial built on the property of the DeKalb Elks Lodge #765. The memorial pays tribute to local veterans from all branches of the United States Military, including the recently added Space Force.

The DeKalb Elks #765 Veteran Memorial joins a 100-year-old Memorial clock in downtown DeKalb

that honors World War I veterans dedicated in 1919 and sits at the corner of First Street and Lincoln Highway. DeKalb Hometown Banners, reserved parking spaces for veterans and signage welcome veterans may be seen throughout the city.

DeKalb Elks #765 member, Michael Embrey and recipient of the Illinois Elks Association Veteran Volunteer of the Year 2021-2022 stated “It has been exciting to see new memorials and update tributes to our fellow veterans. It is important to let the people not only in the community, but throughout the Midwest know that DeKalb is a Veteran Friendly City and extend a welcome to all veterans and veteran families to come and visit. This is not about one person or one group but a unified effort to support all veterans.”

City of DeKalb Mayor, Cohen Barnes, a U.S. Army Veteran, will be attending the presentation ceremony in Bloomington, IL to accept the award at the State 40&8 mid-August Convention.

Exalted Ruler Jerry Evans, Officers and Members of DeKalb Elks #765 invite all Veterans and their families to visit the memorial to reflect, pray and thank those who have served our great nation.

Charleston #623 celebrates with their winning Girls’ Softball team

Charleston #623 recently had a pizza party for their Elks Pony League Girls 8-10 year old softball team.

The girls had a great season winning both the regular season and the league tournament.

They brought their trophy and presented it to the lodge

The girls and their families were treated to pizzas and drinks provided by the lodge. They were also given out Drug Awareness bags with coloring books, rulers, pencils, erasers, and pamphlets to the players and siblings. Exalted Ruler Todd Reardon mentioned some of the good deeds the Elks Lodge does for the local community. A good time was had by all.



LODGE NEWS

Great Flag Day Coverage



Ottawa #588 received some awesome coverage of their Flag Day celebration! It's a great reminder to invite the press to your next events!

100 Years Young, 79 Years an Elk

Members of Pekin #1271 celebrated a couple of birthdays in April with a long time member and his wife. Seventy-Nine year member, James Johnson turned 100 years young and just a couple of months later, his wife, Mary Kay turned 100 herself. Terry Howell (left) Lodge Secretary had just presented James (right) his membership card and a birthday cake to Mary Kay (center) at their home in Pekin. Although they are not as mobile as they once were, they still reminisce about the good ol days at the lodge, especially the dances. James is a veteran of WWII. Originally enlisted in the Army, he served in a code unit. He could type, so they grabbed onto that quick. However, he wanted more and signed up to be an air cadet. He had glider experience in the Army so he was accepted. Eventually he ended up as a B25 bomber pilot with the Air Force. When he finally received his orders to go overseas, it was postponed, they dropped the bombs in Japan and the war was over. Through his time in the service, Mary Kay followed James around the country for different assignments. His most notable assignment was when he was stationed in Texas. With Texas being a dry state, he had a Captain request him to be his co-pilot and fly to Colorado (monthly) for a booze run for the Officers Club. More important than the booze, was that by flying once a month James was able to maintain his flight status and receive his flight pay. After discharge, James and Mary Kay returned to Pekin, raised a family and both retired from Caterpillar in Peoria.



**2024
GRAND LODGE
WILL BE HELD
JUNE 30-
JULY 3, 2024
IN AUSTIN, TX!**



IL ELKS IN MINNEAPOLIS



Dr. Dennis Gerleman (Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee) working at opening ceremony.



PGER and State Sponsor F. Louis Sulsberger and wife, Beth, being seated during Opening Ceremony.



Grand Lodge Opening Ceremony - Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem.



IEA President Schmidt nominating Brian Klatt for Grand Secretary.



Delegates celebrates Shook's election.



PGER Bruce Hadley and First Lady's Farewell Speech.



GER Randy Shook receives his gavel.



PGER Bruce Hadley and PGFL Helen after being released from office.



PGER Hadley congratulates GER Shooks on his election.

Children's Care Corp in action

Left: Admin Manager Bill Block and Kim working the Booth.

Right: It's a 5-Star win for the CCC Booth! Way to go!

Grand Lodge Photos
courtesy of Bill Gandolfi



GRAND LODGE 2023

GRAND LODGE NEWS



IEA PSP Todd Lindsay, State Advisor and PGER F. Louis Sulsberger, East Central DDGER Ole Ohlss and 1st VP Roger Quinn.



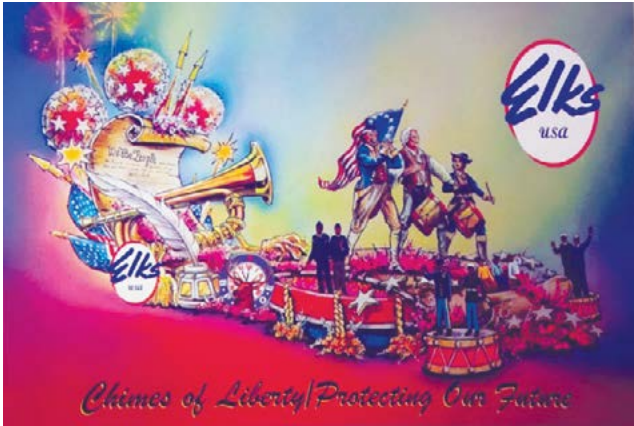
Elks Grand Exalted Ruler Randy and First Lady Wanda Shook.

Did someone say karaoke?

Illinois and sister state Wisconsin enjoying the Karaoke in the Wisconsin Hospitality Room.



Elks 2023 Rose Bowl Float. The first one since 1990.



The plans for 2024 Rose Bowl Float.



Lily Strode, Sponsored by Bloomington #281, Winner of National 7th grade essay contest.



An unusual item from the lost and found. An ax.

2023-2024 Grand Lodge Officers being sworn in



Fundraisers and Donations



Galesburg #894

Galesburg #894 Spurgeon's Garden's Camp a check for \$1,222. It is a summer camp for girls ages 12-14 to learn planting, seeds and feeding the soul.

They raised their money from pizza night, German Fest and donations.

In the picture above (l to r): Amy Lybarger (Lodge Activities Chair), Eloise Spurgeon Director of the Camp, and ER Sue McNaught.



Centralia #493

This past Spring, Centralia #493 made a \$250 donation to the City of Wamac for their annual Easter Egg Hunt. Approximately 15,000 eggs were hidden for local children. Pictured above are Wamac Mayor Jackie "Butch" Mathus and Centralia #493 Trustee Tony "Cobb" Korzenewski.



Social Media is a great way to promote your Lodges! Are you sharing your events, photos and more?

Galesburg #894 donated \$1,419.94 to the Rainbow Riders Therapeutic Horseback Riding center. They picked them for the charity of the Month for June. Funds were raised through 50/50 drawings, steak dinner and member donations.

The Rainbow Riders will be using the money to get mats for the horse stalls. In the picture, right, (l to r) is Krista Bushmaker from Rainbow Riders, Dolly the horse and ER Sue McNaught.



Galesburg #894



Oglesby #2360

Lynn Sheedy, Oglesby Library Director, requested help from Oglesby #2360 to install firewall computer protection for the bank of public computers at the library. This firewall was necessary to protect the children who use the computers from being exposed to inappropriate information.

Oglesby Elks responded by donating \$3,000 from their Oglesby Child Care Fund, OCCF, to cover the cost of the firewall installation. The OCCF funds are restricted and can only be used in support of children's needs and programs.

Pictured above (l to r): Library Trustee Mike Porter, Oglesby Elks Exalted Ruler Sam Sankovich, Library Board President Rich Vollmer, Library Director Lynn Sheedy, Elks Grant Coordinator Ken Ficek, and Library trustee Austin Cullinan.

Oglesby Elks over the past ten years has contributed over \$150,000 to support local area needs.



McLeansboro #1882

McLeansboro #1882 donated \$100 to the Village of Dahlgren for the Dahlgren Park.



Harrisburg #1058

Harrisburg #1058 donated proceeds from the 40th annual Monopoly tournament in the amount of \$17,000.70 to Heaven's Kitchen, a local non profit that provides weekly meals to this in need in the area.

Pictured above (l to r) Jeff Thompson - Trustee, Nancy Thompson - Member, Mark Adams - Treasurer, Jim Etienne - Exalted Ruler, Dale Fowler, Danielle Camp, Amy Oxford, and Dana Hooven - Heaven's Kitchen.

Harrisburg #1058 also combined their Spotlight and Beacon Grants from the ENF (\$6,000.00) to assist the local Harrisburg District Library in their efforts to support the homeless in the community. This is not typically a function of the library, but it is being used as a warming shelter and gathering location for homeless and underprivileged populations. The library staff has been accommodating and assisting people by providing clothing and assistance from their own personal resources. #1058 donated grant funds to the library so they could continue and expand their efforts of support for the underprivileged population.

Pictured below (l to r): Ray Gorman, member, Jim Etienne, ER, Krystal Gulley, Library Director, Carmen Conci, Grant Coordinator, Tom Love, South District President, and Bruce Boone, member.



Harrisburg #1058



Quincy #100

On June 21st, Quincy #100 on presented a check to Kidz-Pak in Quincy with the Beacon Grant. The organization helps to feed the children on weekends.

Fundraisers and Donations



On April 29, Champaign-Urbana #2497 hosted a Trivia Night which included a silent auction with donated baskets and baked goods to fight against cancer. The lodge raised \$3,120 for the MILLS Breast Cancer Institute. The money will stay in the Champaign-Urbana area to help those battling cancer. Pictured left (l to r) are Sharla Jolly, Director of Leadership Giving, Lisa Quinn, & Mary Leming.



Pontiac #1019 Exalted Ruler Bill Tolbert, along with Elks members Barb Howard & Mary Ann Wright, made check presentations during a recent City Council meeting, pictured above. They celebrate a nearly 20 year partnership with the City of Pontiac to provide the annual Independence Day fireworks show with a \$7,000 contribution. This contribution is funded by the generosity of members' support of the Queen of Hearts and Pull Tabs raffles. They also used funds from Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to provide funding for the Pontiac Parks and Recreation Summer Youth Camp program. Pontiac #1019 also recently held their Bar Olympics with 66 participants in attendance. They raised \$1,535 for the Livingston County Cancer Fund. Pictured below: Lecturing Knight Bruce Mustread and Salad Luncheon chairman Lisa Martin had the pleasure of presenting a check for \$2,400 to members of the Women Empowered group from OSF Saint James - John W. Albrecht Medical Center. The funds were raised from our recent Spring Salad Luncheon and will provide funding for the SmartMeals program.



Jacksonville #682 proudly help fund disabled children at a Summer Camp every year at Lake Jacksonville. Camp Courage is a place for many campers to go and enjoy the outdoors who are turned away from other camps because of their special needs. Shown above is Exalted Ruler Sherry Sills with a check to Camp Courage Director, John Hunter, for \$2,500 that will fund 5 campers for a full week at camp.

Send your
Newsette
storeis to
ilelksnewsette@
gmail.com



Scholarships

LODGE NEWS



Belleville #481 recognized 13 area students on July 19th at the annual Scholars Night program. Presented were the Elks National Foundation Scholarship, Illinois Elks District Scholarship, the Illinois Elks Association Children's Care Corporation Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Scholarships, and the Belleville Lodge Paul L. Kunz Memorial Scholarships. Through the lodge, \$25,550.00 in scholarships were awarded. Over the past six years, a total of over \$217,000.00 has been awarded to area students.



Galesburg Elks Lodge #894 gave out 13 scholarships to area high school students. Total awarded was \$9700. Funds were raised by the committee by donations, raffle, silent auction and chili cookoff.



Anna-Jonesboro #1641 awarded three \$1,333 scholarships to Union County graduating seniors. These are presented yearly to a student at each high school that serves Union County students. The scholarships are intended for students who are going into a trade and plan to attend either Shawnee Community College, John A. Logan or a local program preapproved by the Elks. While the lodge sets the criteria for the scholarship, each high school is responsible for choosing their recipient.

Veterans



Brookfield #1510

On Saturday July 8 , 2023. Brookefield #150 members presented Mr. Jim Stein representative from Fisher House located by Hines Hospital, a check for \$500 (pictured above) thanks to The Gratitude Grant. Fisher House provides a home and food free of charge for military/ vets families to stay while loved ones are hospitalized. They also deliever delivered 912 pair of men's briefs to The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago (pictured below) thanks to the Freedom Grant.



Brookfield #1510



Pontiac #1019

Veterans needs are one of the central points of the mission of an Elks Lodge. Recently, Pontiac #1019 ER Bill Tolbert and members of the grant team had the pleasure of presenting new winter coats to several members of the Livingston County Honor Guard Team. They proudly purchased 15 new coats for this dedicated group of men. Rendering military funeral honors is one final way to show the deep gratitude to those who have faithfully defended our country. The Lodge is proud to help outfit the Honor Guard with uniform pieces to wear for this ceremonial paying of respect.

Galesburg #894 recently used their Beacon Grant to welcome 92 vets in for lunch. Representative Dan Swanson came in and gave a talk to the Vets.



Galesburg #894



Oak Lawn #2254

Oak Lawn #2254 hosted a luncheon for the Manteo Veterans on June 15th. It was the first event after the pandemic. In this picture are all the volunteers who came out to cook and serve the Veterans. We are so thankful to them for their service to our country.

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

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

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

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ilelksnewsette@gmail.com

Community service builds foundation for our future

by Randy P. Shook, GER

After being elected Grand Exalted Ruler at the convention in Minneapolis, Wanda and I are humbled and honored to represent our great Order this year. We have truly been blessed by the aid and support of so many people throughout the years. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our family, friends, and to you, our Elks family. We say thank you, one and all, for everything. My slogan for 2023–2024 is “We Are The Elks.” I am sure

Calendar Winners

- APRIL**
- Kathy Moore, Springfield; Chris Pemberton, Elgin; Charles A. Hinners, Champaign-Urbana; Colleen Marchese, Chicago South; Rick L. Hoy, Elgin; Jim H. Key, Cairo; Boden Briney, Des Plains; Delores Ford, Oak Lawn; Bryan Nelson, Pontiac; Dominic J. Ronzani Jr.; Carl Rice, Chicago Northshore; Victoria Shipman, DeKalb; Lennie Howard, Murphysboro*; Jehnnie Doty, Charleston; Les Hinrichs, Belleville; Scott Hood, Charleston; Craig D. Smith, DuQuoin; Darwin & Barbara Meier, Kankakee; Michael Ashner, Carbondale; Richard Bell, Beardstown
- MAY**
- Nathan Meaney, Mendota; Tom Christiansen, Des Plains; Sue Williams, Decatur; Michael McKeague, Mendota; Eleanor Balog, Elgin; Dan Trout, Herrin; William Blough, Springfield; Brian J. Verdun, Pontiac; Tom Meyen, Dixon; Raymond Rosa, Des Plains; Carl LaCrosse Jr., Harrisburg; Robert Zipprich, Jacksonville; Karissa Jones, Fairfield*, William L. Armstrong, Mt Vernon, Patrick Beals, Mendotata, Vernon Boeckmann, Fairview Heights, John Feld, Chicago Northshore; Mikey Thomas, Marion; Jane McGinnis, Quincy; Jeanine Harbison, Jacksonville; Karen Kaczynski, Chicago South; Debra Bock, Elmhurst; Dave Laird, Mt. Vernon

- JUNE**
- Jerome A. Doetsch, Des Plains; Sandra Begue, Springfield; Sandi Brown, Oak Lawn; Ronald Elger, Mendota; Jesse J. Niendiek, Effingham; Chris Thurman, Robinson; Andrew Rentz, Joliet; Krista Van Fleet, Galesburg; Patricia Wagner, Rock Island; Janie Wright, Murphysboro**, Jean Rosater, Elgin; Gail Ninness, Marion; Ms. Genny Nies, DeKalb; Terry A. Hodous, Oak Lawn; Frank Clarke, Brookfield*; Allen Litchfield, Pekin; Richard Simkins, Mendota; Khalid Sibri, Des Plains; Joyce Todd, Jacksonville; Sheila C. Mulcahey, Champaign-Urbana; John A. Ronchetto, Danville; Mike Titus, Charleston;

- JULY**
- Kevin E. Spring, Murphysboro; Larry Bock, Elmhurst**, Brian Nyberg, Jacksonville; Drew Pemberton, Elgin; Barb Neal, Benton; Baylee Prestin, Champaign-Urbana; Wayne Horstmann, Harrisburg; Craig D. Smith, DuQuoin; Milton A. Gustafson, Des Plains; Jeff Cain, Harrisburg; Rick Fancher, Granite City; Vaughn Flesner, Quincy; Jeff Sterr, Joliet*; Jim Stevens, Carmi;

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

you will be hearing more about this at your District Deputy Clinic this month.

As we travel the country, Wanda and I are committed to promoting our Elks programs like never before. It is our belief this will make our Lodges stronger and improve our image throughout our great Order.

We will be promoting community service programs throughout our travels. These programs build stronger communities while stimulating a response that motivates worthy members of the public to seek Elks membership. In this way, our community service builds the foundation for our future.

Successful Lodges of the future will create and develop local projects that will become signature accomplishments in the eyes of the community. In turn, members of the community will see these projects mature over time and want to become involved.

If we work together toward our charitable pursuits and remain faithful to our programs, I’m confident we will soon see an increase in membership—not mere temporary gains, but a new era of growth where participation becomes commonplace.

A great source of funding for some community projects is the Elks National Foundation, known as the “Great Heart Of Elkdom.” The ENF helps build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet the needs in areas where we live and work.

The Foundation has allocated almost \$16 million for Lodge Community Service Grants. This grant program allows your Lodge to complete more for your communities. This is once again a way for you to show your communities that Elks Care—Elks Share.

Make the Elks presence felt in your community by using these grants. What is your Lodge known for in your community? What reputation would you like to have? Find that need in your community and get it done. This will ensure people in your community know that “We Are The Elks.”

The support we provide makes the Foundation’s work possible. The goal we have established for the 2023–2024 fraternal year is \$4.80 per Member. That is not much when you consider the outstanding achievements of this program.

Remember “Elks Care—Elks Share” and “We Are THE Elks.”

God bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

Upcoming Elks Children’s Care Clinics

- August 2023**
- Champaign/Urbana Clinic August 9th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM
 - Rock Island Clinic August 22nd at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
 - Flora Clinic August 23 rd at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
 - South District @ DuQuoin August 25th at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- September 2023**
- Bloomington Clinic September 1st at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 to 1:00 PM
 - Mt. Vernon Clinic September 7th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 - Robinson Clinic September 13th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
 - Effingham Clinic September 14th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM
 - Mt. Carmel Clinic September 18th at Wabash General Hospital: 2:30 to 4:30 AM
- October 2023**
- Lincoln Clinic October 10th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
 - Elgin Clinic October 18th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- November 2023**
- Champaign/Urbana Clinic November 8th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM
 - Flora Clinic November 15th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
 - South District @ DuQuoin November 17th at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 - Rock Island Clinic November 28th at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
- December 2023**
- Mt. Vernon Clinic December 7th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 - Bloomington Clinic December 8th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 to 1:00 PM
 - Robinson Clinic December 13th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
 - Effingham Clinic December 14th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM
 - Mt. Carmel Clinic December 18th at Wabash General Hospital: 2:30 to 4:30 AM
- Dates subject to change.



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@elks.org

Grand Lodge Booth Report

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

Although the booth received a 5 Star Award, I wish I could report 5 Star earnings. Saturday and Sunday started out to be very promising and then fizzled out Monday and Tuesday. The first day we recorded \$2,953.59 in Square charges, the second day we recorded \$2,305.86, on the third day we recorded \$1,103.80, the last day we recorded \$1,039.32, for a total of \$7,402.57 in Square Charges. The booth also collected \$3,508.00 in cash, we also received a \$95.00 donation from Sue Kazuby for the IECCC 95th Year Anniversary, making a Grand Total of \$11,005.57. I would love to blame it on the booths placement at this year convention as we were in the very back of the Convention Hall. I would also like to blame it on the economy, but who knows for sure, it is what it is. I look forward to Austin next year.



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

This year's Grand Lodge Convention Pin: 95 Years of helping kids

This year's Grand Lodge Convention Pin was not available for the May Meeting in Springfield as it was still under production. It will be available for the September Meeting and it commemorates the 95 Years of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation helping children with special needs. Pin is \$5.00 online or at the September Fall Convention, and of course all proceeds goes to the kids.



New IECCC Scholarship

Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation is pleased to announce a new Scholarship for Speech Therapist. This scholarship will be posted along with the Physical & Occupation Scholarships starting on December 1, 2023 on the website. Eligible scholars must be a Senior or Graduate in college. The Speech Therapist Scholarship can be awarded for College Seniors and/or 3 Graduate Years whose major is Speech Therapist. We are still fine tuning the application but wanted to get the word out about this new scholarship.



**Next Newsette
deadline is
November 21st!**
Send your items to
ilelksnewsette@gmail.com



The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation Top Four Occupational / Physical Therapy Scholarship Award

Winners

Bill Leas Award
Abby Hanselman
St. Charles, IL – Elgin Lodge #737
St. Louis University – St Louis, MO

Mike Manning Award
Carly Carril
Ellis Grove, IL – Murhpysboro Lodge #572
Maryville University – St Louis, MO

Kenny Beltz Award
Skyler Kuntzman
Rochester, IL - Springfield Lodge #158
St Ambrose University – Davenport, IA

Peter Matson Award
Danielle Schultz
Swansea, IL – Bellville Lodge #481
Washington University – St Louis, MO

These student have been invited to Fall Elks Convention on Saturday night. A reception before dinner will in held in the Rendezvous Foyer from 5:00 - 6:00 in their honor. We hope that each Lodge's ER and Representatives will be present for this social for pictures.