

## INSIDE

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## Lori Bump named Lady of the Year



The annual Lady of the Year Recognition Luncheon was held on the January 27th during the Mid-Winter Meeting. The eight district nominees were recognized: East Central - Karen Willis, Champaign-Urbana #2497, West Central - Angela Zinnen, Springfield #158, North - Diane Ankenbrandt, Elgin #737, Northwest - Shirley Crabtree, Dixon #779, South Central - Julie Kohrig, Salem #1678, South - Joy Wayman, Murphysboro #572, East - Lori Bump, Joliet #296 and West - Jenna Osborne, Canton #626.

Although all of the nominees were impressive and loyal Elks, Lori Bump was ultimately selected as the Lady of the Year for her service and dedication to the organization.

Also there to give their remarks and appreciation were First Ladies of Elkdom Chris Schmidt (IL) and Wanda Shook (WI) as well as Past First Lady Beth Sulsberger (IL).



Pictured above, front row (l to r): Diane Ankenbrandt, Wanda Shook, Lori Bump IEA Lady of the Year, Chris Schmidt, Shirley Crabtree. Back row (l to r): Julie Kohrig, Jenna Osborne, Joy Wayman, Angela Zinnen, Karen Willis.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

*Floyd Schmidt*

## Together We Can!

Brothers and Sisters,

Where has the year gone? I've been told time flies when you are having fun. Well, the Schmidt Show is coming to an end in May.

First Lady Chris and I would like to thank everyone we met these past four years as a State officer. Your hospitality, encouragement, and most of all, your friendship has been exceptional.

I'd like to thank all the State officers for their time and support over the last few years. The Committee Chairs that have stepped up to help support our Elk programs. I'd like to thank all the Lodge officers who came to the State meetings and took knowledge back to their Lodge. It really does take a village to achieve the goals of our great organization.

The IEA truly exemplifies BPOE [Best People On Earth]. What you, our members, do for your communities, Veterans, Children's Care, and our youth is beyond compare. It's a testament to who we are, people of faith, who have respect and compassion for your fellow man.

Chris and I wish President Elect Roger and wife Lisa nothing but the best in the coming year. I know you, our members, will help them in the coming year as he steers us into the future.

I welcome all our new Lodge officers and wish you the best in your coming year. There is a lot of tradition that has gotten us through some trying times; please keep it alive. ELKS and life can be summed up in three words: IT GOES ON.

So always put your best foot forward and don't be afraid to ask questions of some of us older members. Sometimes we even have a useful piece of knowledge.

## GER Randy Shook visits IEA

The Illinois Elks Association was pleased to honor Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and, his wife, First Lady Wanda at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Along with a rousing speech and his attendance at many of the events and meetings during the weekend, Shook also served as auctioneer for an exciting gift auction during the banquet!



**A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...**



**IEA SECRETARY**

*Joe Ray*

Members all,

The year is winding down, and I would like to thank all the members who have contributed in any way to your local Lodge, District, and the IEA. Special thanks go to President (Pops) Floyd Schmidt and First Lady Chris. They are truly fine people and have become close friends to Shelly and myself. They truly have given their all for our great organization. All the other officers, Roger Quinn, Dave Neal, Jeff Johnson, George Hornung, Mike Higgins, Steve Albrecht, and Steve Thomas, have given many hours this past year. To them I say, "thank you." Hopefully, the roast for Floyd on May 4th in Lincoln is well attended. Remember, this is a roast, so everyone is fair game.

We have an election at the May Meeting for the Office of State Treasurer. We have two fine candidates, Bill Gandolfi and Jeff Rodier. I will be sending out voting credentials around the middle of April. Please be prepared to show your membership card to receive your ballot to vote.

I have enjoyed working with my longtime friend George Hornung, our current State Treasurer. He has been a tremendous help since I have become State Secretary. His wife Kristi is a very special person and probably knows more about the Elks than most anyone. Her Dad was a Past District Deputy. George and I both are from the South Central District and have become pretty close over the years.

The last couple of months, I have had the pleasure of attending both State and Regional Hoop Shoots. They both are great events. Jim Swisher does an outstanding job at our State Shoot. It is just a super event. Illinois had two kids advance to the Nationals in Chicago. Congrats to them and good luck.

Everyone be safe and enjoy what you do, and do what you enjoy.



**IEA TREASURER**

*George Hornung*

Members all,

The year is almost gone so make sure your Lodge has met all required goals and grants. I hope all dues have been paid as well.

We have had a very positive 2024 with more to come. As I announced at the January meeting, I'll be stepping down as IEA Treasurer. I want to thank my home Lodge Fairfield #1631 and the State for its help and support during my tenure. I couldn't have made it alone. The new IEA treasurer will need the same support as well.

Thanks again for the lasting friendships made and at times making this job easy and fun.

*Illinois Elks Association*  
**ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**May 16-19, 2024**  
**Springfield – Wyndham Hotel**  
*More info on pages 2 & 3*

**Pre-registration  
Deadline  
MAY 1, 2024**

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

**Pre-registration  
Deadline  
MAY 1, 2024**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION**

**Illinois Elks Annual Meeting  
Registration Form  
Annual Meeting May 16-19, 2024  
Springfield – Wyndham Hotel**

Please make a reservation for the following:

**Pre – registration - \$10.00 After MAY 1, 2024---\$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 Continental Breakfast @ \$25.00/\$27.00\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

***(Honoring 2024-2025 class of Exalted Rulers)***

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

\*Cost of meal if check received post marked after MAY 1, 2024  
Or purchased on-site

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 16-19, 2024 Springfield – Wyndham Hotel**

*Thursday, May 16, 2024*

11:30AM-5:00 PM Convention Office  
 1:00 PM-5:00 PM Executive Committee

**PLACE/ROOM**  
 Plaza 4  
 Conference Ctr 3

*Friday, May 17, 2024*

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

Conference Ctr 3  
 Plaza 4  
 Rendezvous  
 Rendezvous  
 Mezzanine - Registration Desk  
 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

2:00 PM-4:30 PM General Business Session – Closed Session  
 Reports of District Vice Presidents  
 Presentation of the Budget  
 State Committee/Commission Chairmen Reports

Capitol/Illinois

*Saturday, May 18, 2024*

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 - Continental  
 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

Plaza 4  
 Mezzanine - Registration Desk  
 Prairie  
 Ambassador  
 Conference Ctr 4  
 Plaza 3  
 Conference Ctr 1  
 Conference Ctr 2  
 Rendezvous  
 Embassy  
 Plaza 3  
 Prairie  
 Capitol/Illinois

11:00 AM-12:00 PM Memorial Service  
 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Ladies Luncheon  
*Entrée: Chicken, Bacon & Ranch Chicken Croissant Dessert: Key Lime Pie with walnut pecan. Cost: Pre-registration \$25.00/On-site \$27.00*

Capitol/Illinois  
 Ambassador

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)

Capitol/Illinois

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

Conference Ctr 3  
 Conference Ctr 4  
 Plaza 1  
 Illinois/Prairie  
 Illinois/Prairie

Honoring 2024-2025 Class of Exalted Rulers  
*Salad: Iceburg , Entrée: Tuscan Chicken with Rice & Broccoli Dessert: Chocolate Cake*  
*Cost: Pre-registration \$37.00/On-site \$39.00 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

*Sunday, May 19, 2024*

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 2024-2025 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 1, 2024.**

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 16, 2024.**

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 18, 2024 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 calendar has events for moms, military, youth

by Randy Shook, GER

*May is a busy month for the Elks. There are several different opportunities to show our communities that “Elks Care—Elks Share” and “We Are THE Elks.”*

The Elks National Youth Week is celebrated May 1–7. This is an excellent time to show our support for the many programs dedicated to our youth such as scholarships, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness, and the Dictionary Project, just to name a few. They demonstrate to our communities the dedication we have for the youth of today and our commitment to helping them become the leaders of tomorrow.

The second Sunday in May is Mother’s Day, a time to honor mothers and grandmothers. Our mothers spent endless hours teaching and guiding us, shaping who we are. They inspired us, protected us, taught us about devotion to family, and loved us unconditionally. We give them gifts, take them to dinner, cook them a special dinner, or send them flowers—anything to make them feel as special as they are. To them, Mother’s Day is a day to be surrounded by loving family. Happy Mother’s Day.

This is also the month we celebrate Armed Forces Day, on Saturday, May 18. This is the day to say thank you to all men and women in all branches of the military. These individuals protect and defend this great country of ours. Please show them that Elks Care and appreciate their service to our country.

Memorial Day, on May 27, is a time to demonstrate patriotism for our great country, exhibit pride in our flag, and show our commitment and appreciation for those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice so we can live free. There are many services that honor these deceased military men and women. Please take the time to hold a ceremony or participate in a community remembrance for the heroes who served.

Finally, remember GER Award for DDs deadline is on the 15th. The Annual Report and Annual Charity Report are due May 1.

## 14 states lauded for informative, vibrant bulletins

Contest I – State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins. Today’s various forms of media have increased the pressure on the editors to create eye-catching publications.

Judging is based on four categories: Content, Layout & Typography, Pictorial, and General. Thank you to the many State Associations and their editors who entered.

### 5 Star Awards

Arizona: David G. Dean  
Florida: Rachael A. King  
Georgia: Linda Lewis

### 4 Star Awards

Colorado: Cynthia Wyszynski  
North Carolina: Ashley Buckwell  
Washington: Jen Steele

### Illinois: Liz Conaway

Kansas: Carl E. Lindsey, Jr.  
Louisiana: Buddy Hartle  
MD, DE, DC: Janie Swigert  
Michigan: Jean Chapdelaine  
Missouri: Joy Clarkson  
New York: Timothy Welpé  
New Jersey: Kelly Miller

*We did it.  
Thanks for sending  
in your awesome  
articles and photos!*

## Your charitable works matter—especially when reported

By Steven L. Johnson,  
Committee Member

The Government Relations Committee would like to congratulate all the newly installed Elks officers. You have the privilege of helping make this year one of the best yet for our organization.

Spring is here and summer is coming. By now you should have sent your charity reports 2023-24 to Grand Lodge. In 2022-23 we reported approximately \$500 million, and we believe only a portion of the actual information is being reported. We also believe in 2024-25 we can make it to \$1 billion if all the actual volunteer hours and miles, etc., we give for our Lodges, states, and communities are reported.

We remind our Lodge and state volunteers and chairpersons to distribute the charitable work forms for tracking their events, hours, round trip miles, and other monetary contributions in a timely manner. Remember, this includes committee meetings, maintenance and repairs completed by volunteers, and more.

Submitting the Charitable Reports monthly to your secretary or the person responsible for entering the reports into CLMS, the national database, keeps us on track throughout the year. This information is shared with our government officials, which in turn helps the Elks keep its tax-exempt classification status.

The success of our Order, whether at the national, state,

**Continued on Page 9**

## Elkdom celebrates major milestone

By Rick Gathen, Membership Marketing Manager

In an era where organizations often struggle to maintain their memberships, it is with great pride and excitement that we announce the Order’s remarkable achievement: three consecutive years of membership growth.

This milestone, reached for the first time in 45 years, stands as a testament to the dedication, hard work, and collective spirit of everyone involved in the BPOE.

The significance of this accomplishment cannot be overstated. Amidst a landscape of shifting priorities, evolving interests, and competing commitments, the sustained growth of our membership speaks volumes about the enduring relevance and appeal of the Order’s mission and values. It reflects the trust and confidence placed in us by our Members and the wider community alike.

Each year of growth signifies the expansion of our Elks family, the strengthening of our bonds, and the widening of our impact. It is a validation of the efforts invested in fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where individuals from all walks of life find meaning, purpose, and belonging.

Behind this success lies the dedication and hard work of countless individuals – from our tireless volunteers and dedicated staff to our passionate and engaged Members. It is their commitment to our shared vision and their unwavering belief in the transformative power of community that has propelled us forward, year after year.

Moreover, our achievement of three consecutive years of growth serves as an inspiration and a source of encouragement for the future. It demonstrates that even in the face of challenges and uncertainties, progress is not only possible but achievable through perseverance, innovation, and collaboration.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us also reflect on the journey that brought us here and the lessons we have learned along the way. Let us acknowledge the importance of adaptability, resilience, and a willingness to embrace change. And let us renew our commitment to serving our Members and our community with passion and integrity, and empathy.

We are filled with optimism and excitement for what the future holds. With the momentum of three consecutive years of growth, we stand ready to embark on new initiatives, pursue new opportunities, and continue making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

I congratulate everyone throughout the Order on this remarkable achievement. Together, we have demonstrated the power of unity, the strength of purpose, and the resilience of the human spirit. Let us carry forward this momentum with pride and determination as we chart the course for a future filled with promise and possibility.



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](https://enf.elks.org/MyLodge)

# Hoop Shoot review; IEA sending two to Nationals

by Jim Swisher, Hoop Shoot Chair

Our hoop shoot program was a big hit; we had over 263 contestants, parents, siblings, grandparents and more plus our 30 some Elk members that helped out. A big “thank you” to Springfield Elks for hosting the Friday Night Check-in even though the weather wasn’t that great, we did manage!

There was some tough shooting in all divisions, but only one winner can advance. Our winners were: Boys 8/9 - Jacob Williams, Jacksonville #682; Girls 8/9 - Kirra Temperly, Galena #882; Boys 10/11 - Bryden Bainter, Macomb #1009; Girls 10/11 - Carsyn Witt, Bloomington #281; Boys 12/13 - Brock Turner, Galena #882; Girls 12/13 - Kori Buscher, Pontiac #1019.

They all went on to represent Illinois at the Iowa Regionals. After the regional shooting concluded, we have two going to the Nationals in Chicago: Jacob Williams and Bryden Bainter. Let’s wish them good luck in the Nationals. You can view the National Shootout on Youtube at [www.youtube.com/@ElksNationalFdn](http://www.youtube.com/@ElksNationalFdn) on or after April 18th.

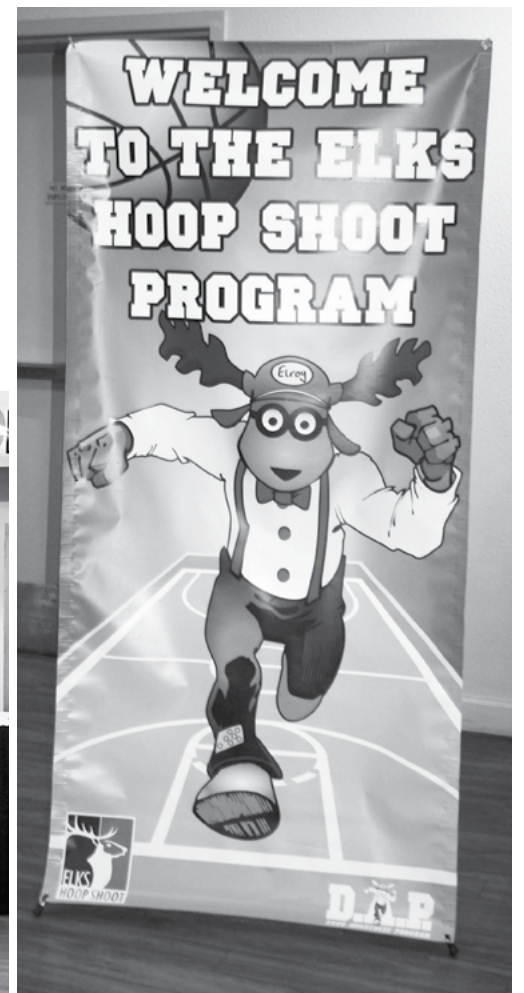
## Great Job!



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



Pictured above is the spread of medals and trophies.





### 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.,  
1201 N. Main St. • Chatham, IL 62629  
**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

## Candidate for IEA State Treasurer



- IEA State Chairperson Audit & Accounting
- IEA Treasurer Trainer
- Two Time DDGER
- Twice Special Rep & Two Time Trustee for Closed Lodges
- Twice ER, Treasurer, & Most Other Lodge Positions
- NW District VP
- Lodge Officer of the Year
- Lodge Elk of the Year
- MBA
- Bachelor's & Master's Degrees (Accounting & Finance)

### Bill Gandolfi

I have been a member of the IEA and Oglesby Lodge 2360 for many years and actively involved for over twenty-five years. I am currently retired after a successful business career. In the business world I worked my way up to the Director Level, Chief Financial Officer, Vice-President, Chief Operating Officer, and President in companies doing up to eight hundred million dollars and with over four thousand employees. As Chief Financial Officer, I dealt with all facets of finance, accounting, and investment. I also served five years as the Director of the Management & Financial Training Institutes for Parkland College. Finally, I ended my career with my own Consulting and Training Company. In this capacity, I consulted and trained primarily in accounting, finance, budget design & management, and leadership development for small/mid-sized companies.

My education includes a BS in Accounting (minors in Business Administration & Psychology), a Master's Degree in Accounting (specializing in Forensic Accounting, Fraud Investigation, and Fraud Prevention), and an MBA focused on leadership (specializing in Not-for-Profit and Government Finance & Accounting). I believe my background and education provide me with the requisite skills and knowledge to serve as treasure for our great organization. Being retired would allow me to dedicate to the position as much time as may be required.

I ask for your vote and support in the May Election and would be honored to serve as your IEA Treasurer.

## ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

# GOLF

## TOURNAMENT

### 2024

SCAN ME WITH YOUR  
MOBILE PHONE CAMERA



Hosted by: Peoria Elks #20 at Madison G.C.

July 26, 2024  
FRIDAY

GREEN FEES, CART, BOX LUNCH, SWAGBAG & PRIZES  
\$80 per day – see entry form for details

July 27, 2024  
SATURDAY

ENTRY FORMS & TOURNAMENT INFO: [ELKS.ORG/20](https://elks.org/20), [FACEBOOK.COM/PEORIA#20](https://facebook.com/peoria#20) OR SCAN THE ABOVE QR CODE  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFO: CONTACT TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN, SHAWN HEROLD, AT 309-303-8073 OR [SHAWNHEROLD1@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SHAWNHEROLD1@YAHOO.COM)

*Elks Care, Elks Share!*

# In the Community

## One busy bunny in Mt. Vernon



Mt. Vernon #819 Easter Bunny (Elk Jason Reich) made his appearance at the Mt. Vernon Armory for the Survivor Outreach Services and Military Family Support Event. Then, he hopped over to the Mt. Vernon Airport for their Egg Hunt!



## Centralia #493 helps restore a piece history

Centralia #493 Trustee Bill Luebben is shown presenting a check for \$250 to Jan Monken, representative of the Alumni Association of Centralia High School. The committee is raising money to remove, restore and enshrine three stained glass windows from the old high school to the new school. The windows depict the long traditions of sports in Centralia, especially the basketball program. The Centralia Orphans are the winningest high school basketball team in the country. The money was made available from the Lodge Operation We Care program.



## Galesburg #894 donates to Senior Center

Galesburg lodge #894 donated \$2,092.02 to Gordan Behrents Senior Center. It is a center for Seniors who might be facing challenges and need interaction with other people. They do crafts, lunch and games. They also provide transportation. Recipients and Elks are pictured right.

## McLeansboro #1882 takes Drug Awareness Campaign to Family Fun Night

McLeansboro City Police Sergeant and Elks Drug Awareness Chairman, Matthew Bryson, were at the Hamilton County Pre-School Family Fun Literacy Night at the Old High School gym this evening.

They are proud to partner with the McLeansboro Police Department to help distribute drug awareness material to our community. Both local law enforcement and the McLeansboro #1882 continue to make efforts to combat the illegal drug/narcotic epidemic facing our community.



## Galesburg #894 donated \$500 to Knoxville High School Robotics Team

The Knoxville High School Robotics team is hoping for another great season. With a little help from the Elks they'll be able to fund their projects and travel. Last year they made it to the World Competition in Houston, TX.

In the picture below (l to r): Elk Amy Lybarger, Team Director Hannah Heimer, students from Knoxville team, Team Director Cory Heimer Director and Elk Linda Murphy.



# LODGE NEWS *Fundraisers and Donations*

## Belleville #481 makes March donations



ER Lauren Elliott (second from right) is pictured above with recipients.

Belleville #481 made donations at their March 2024 meeting. ENF Beacon and Spotlight Grants totally \$3,000.00 each went to the Interfaith Food Pantry and Cathedral St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

The Lodge also used a \$2,500.00 Gratitude Grant the Downtown Belleville YMCA.

A \$500.00 community donation was made to the Teen Court Foundation of St. Clair County which promotes an alternative approach to justice for nonviolent, first-time juvenile offenders.

Illinois School of Autism Center for Autism also received a \$500.00 community donation.

The Catholic War Veterans Post 370 received a \$500.00 Lodge donation for use in supporting its causes.

## Oglesby #2360 Help Feed The Hungry With \$4,000 donation



Oglesby Elks #2360 ER Sam Sankovich and members Bob Weiss, Ken Ficek, Gary Ferrari and Tim Watkins are pictured above checking out the boxes of food destined for needy families with IV Food Pantry Executive Director Mary Jo Credi. The Oglesby Lodge donated \$4,000 to the Food Pantry to help ease the burden of providing needy food for over 650 families in the Illinois Valley. The donation was made possible using an Elks National Foundation (ENF) Grant. Elks Care and Elks Share is the Elks motto.

## Champaign-Urbana #2497 makes the most of 23-24 donations

It was a busy year for the Champaign-Urbana #2497 Elks! With nearly \$10,000 in Grant funded donations and just shy of \$40,000 from raised from Lodge events and member donations. Over 40 area organizations were given funds to help their cause and spread the good work of the Elks! Great job!

Pictured right and below are just a few of the recipients and Lodge members at work.



## Joliet #296 spread the holiday spirit in 2023

Joliet #296 had a busy holiday season of caring and sharing. It provided 30 coats and other winter items to St. John Lutheran Church in Joliet as part of its Coats for Kids Program and also donated food items to the church's food pantry as a part of its Reverse Advent Calendar event.

The lodge used its \$1,000 Grant from the Illinois Elks Association to make a donation to the Missing in America Project, and used its \$2000 IEA Grant to make a donation to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The Lodge combined Beacon and Spotlight Grants to donate \$6,500 to the H.E.A.L. River Walk Food Pantry in Joliet.



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



# Fundraisers and Donations

## Des Plaines #1526 brings the heat with a Chili Fundraiser



On February 18th, Des Plaines Lodge #1526 held its Annual Charity Chili Cook off. There were 10 competitors with The coveted Plaque awarded to the Top 3. They raised \$325.00 to be donated to Gigi's Playhouse an organization dedicated to children with Down's Syndrome When brought to the Lodge floor that number was increased by an additional \$400 from lodge raised Charitable Funds. Bringing the total to \$725.00.

The proceeds were presented on Thursday March 7th during the weekly queen of Hearts drawing.

Pictured above (l to r): Tiler Bob Fehling, Loyal Knight Michele Domaracki, Lecturing Knight Sarah Bootz, Lodge and District Trustee Marc Walker, Lodge members Ernie and Debbie Scheitel, ER Ed Pizza, Dominic and Adam Scheitel. Dominic is a participant at Gigi's.

## Benton #1234 recognizes two local organizations with \$1000 grants



Benton #1234 recently congratulated and thanked two local volunteer groups - Passion to Action and the Benton Volunteer Group! They both received \$1,000. They truly appreciate their dedication and commitment to making Benton a better community!



Benton #1234 also held awesome winter events! Glo-Bingo (one bright participant pictured left), a past ERs dinner and a Veterans Christmas tree which helped gather items for the Marion VA pantry.




Join in the conversation.

LODGE NEWS NATIONAL NEWS

## Harrisburg #1058 hauls a trailer full to the local food bank

Harrisburg #1058 was awarded the Gratitude Grant and utilized the funds to purchase non-perishable food items for the Christian Community Compassion Center (4Cs), our local food bank. The 4Cs support the homeless and less fortunate members of our community and their supplies have been greatly depleted this winter. We were grateful for the opportunity to assist provided by the ENF grant.



Pictured above are members of the Gallatin Co. high school Auto Club who assisted with the loading & delivery (earning community service hours), PERs Pat Koester and Bruce Boone, and ER Jim Etienne.

## Charitable works continued...

district, or local level, depends on the success of our programs. We have a great organization promoting patriotism, community service, and programs for kids and veterans, individuals with disabilities, and others in need. Combined with our social activities and fundraising events, we have an amazing and successful organization we can all be proud of. Let's continue working together to make this a record year for the Elks.

## That's a lot of books!

Elks have provided more than 85,000 dictionaries to students. The Elks have successfully completed another year with the Dictionary Project.



Since 2003, 1,257 Lodges have participated in this program providing 4,426,142 students with dictionaries. This school year alone, the Elks were able to provide 85,628 dictionaries to our third graders. That means we were able to get our name out to more than 80,000 families and let them know We Are THE Elks!

# Veterans

## Charleston #623 supports the Honor Guard



The Charleston #623 used their IEA Veterans Grant to support the Charleston VFW/American Legion Honor Guard. These men and women attend funerals and military services year round. Rain, snow, heat or cold these veterans are always there to show support for military services and events. The \$1,000 donations will go towards new uniforms, shirts and insignias. This grant is a great way of showing Elks Care!

Pictured above (l to r): Jeff Ludwig - Lodge Veterans Chairman, Dave Finley - Lodge Member and President of the Auxiliary, Dale Downs - Lodge member and VFW Post Chaplin and Honor Guard Chaplin and Mike Zimmerle - Honor Guard Commander.

## Harrisburg #1058 distributes gift bags for Vets



Harrisburg #1058 was awarded \$1,000.00 from the state BPOE for Veterans. The funds were used to purchase gift bags for veterans in our local nursing homes/assisted living facilities. In total, 28 bags were distributed, containing toiletries, socks, a blanket, note pads, playing cards, and snacks.

Pictured above are Nancy Thompson Lodge member, two veteran recipients, and Jeff Thompson Lodge member and PER. The Thompsons were kind enough to single-handedly facilitate this entire program for our Lodge.

## All Trails Lead to Austin

G	O	P	I	N	S	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	Y
N	N	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	L	L	A	T	E
P	E	G	R	A	N	D	L	O	D	G	E	N	X
C	O	N	T	E	S	T	S	C	K	R	G	N	A
C	A	M	A	R	A	D	E	R	I	E	N	M	L
S	E	E	C	T	E	X	A	S	C	O	N	E	T
A	U	S	T	I	N	N	A	N	B	B	Q	M	E
M	A	E	A	U	B	A	D	G	E	S	I	B	D
O	M	N	B	A	T	S	N	E	N	A	S	E	R
D	T	L	O	N	G	H	O	R	N	S	L	R	U
K	O	L	I	V	E	M	U	S	I	C	A	S	L
L	S	T	M	D	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	E
E	R	C	E	A	E	E	S	C	I	B	E	S	R
B	D	U	L	O	N	E	S	T	A	R	I	G	E

- LIVE MUSIC
- LONESTAR
- CONTESTS
- AUSTIN
- BADGES
- DONATIONS
- CAMARADERIE
- EXALTED RULER
- ALL AMERICAN
- CEREMONY
- BBQ
- ELKDOM
- BATS
- GRAND LODGE
- TEXAS
- LONGHORNS
- MEMBERS
- PINS

## Pre-register and acquire badges for Grand Lodge in Austin, TX

Pre-registration for the Austin Grand Lodge Convention is available at [elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm](http://elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm) through June 26.

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 28, from noon to 4 p.m. When you arrive at the Austin 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 and vendors will not open until 8:00 a.m. Saturday.

Grand Lodge registration and its required fee are not included in any State Association's "package" arrangement.

Things to Do in

# Austin

See the Congress Bridge Bats.

Visit the Bullock Texas State History Museum & State Capitol.

Try some great BBQ!

Listen to Live Music!

Take a dip in the Hamilton Pool Preserve.

Visit [AustinTexas.org](http://AustinTexas.org) for more fun ideas!

# Calendar Winners

**JANUARY:** Tom E. Porter, Chicago South; Roy Robinson, Carlinville; Anthony Schuster, McLeansboro; Austin Axley, Carlinville; Sally Blinkhan, Quincy; Michael Porter, Effingham; Bill Mier, Chicago South; Cindy Holt, Murphysboro; Beth Schmidt, Carlinville; Marlene Seaborn, Springfield; Bruce Young, Paris; Denise Amraen, Oak Lawn; Baylee Prestin, Champaign\*; John Hickey, Des Plaines; Micheal Karcher, McLeansboro; Ryan Ord, Belleville; Vicky Rose, Salem; Tyler Skidmore, Robinson

**FEBRUARY:** Laukie Smith, Champaign; Gloria Marsh, Champaign; Robert Newman, Ottawa; Todd Bittle, Harrisburg; Mark Hachigian, Des Plaines; David Eccleston, Streator; PER Association, Peoria; Julia Brewer, Springfield; Isaac Nauten, Harrisburg; Erica Turley, Carlinville; Steve Andich, Belleville; Patrick Poiter, Murphysboro\*\*; Roger Phillips, Canton; Lynde Riffice, Oak Lawn; Emily Ohmart, Bloomington\*; Van Pfeiffer, Carlinville; Ed Kentka, Brookfield; Tom Durment, Des Plaines; George Hornung, Fairfield; Jamie Lundquist, Des Plaines; Thomas Sakalauski, Glen Carbon

**MARCH:** Dennis Shelton, Herrin; Kelly Hidy, Des Plaines; Bob Ruff, Springfield; Lisa Riess, Belleville; Jerry Bailey, Robinson; Kelsey Mikos, Chicago South; Michael Uppinghouse, Quincy; Molly McKenzie, Belleville; Robert Heppe, Mount Vernon; Richard Merrifield, Pana; Daryl Williams, Chicago South; Steve Andich, Belleville; Rick Wunningham, Springfield\*; Deborah Hanks, Harrisburg; Nance Maguire, Carlinville.

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

## From the Editor...

I don't know about you, but I'm desperately looking forward to the warm weather of Spring and Summer! Which also means I'm looking forward to seeing all of your awesome outdoor events and fundraisers! Remember as you head out for your events, take lots of pictures! Because of your great submissions, we were able to take home another 5-Star Award for our Newsette! Keep up the good work and enjoy the sunshine!



Happy Reading,  
*Liz*

CHILDREN'S CARE CORP

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

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**POSTMASTER:** No change service requested.

## Upcoming Elks Children's Care Clinics

### April 2024

Lincoln - April 9th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
Effingham - April 11th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic: 8:00 AM  
Elgin - April 24th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
NW District @ Morrison - April 25th at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM  
South District @ DuQuoin April 26th Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

### May 2024

Flora - May 1st at Clay County Flora Medical: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
Rock Island - May 21st at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 3:30 PM

### June 2024

Lincoln - June 4th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
Champaign/Urbana - June 5th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30  
Mt. Vernon - June 6th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Bloomington - June 7th at Cortese Foot & Ankle: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM  
Carmel - June 10th at Wabash General Hospital: 2:30 to 4:30 AM  
Robinson - June 12th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM  
NW District @ Rockford - June 19th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Dixon - June 25th at Dr. Yeager Podiatry: 8:00 AM

No July Clinics

### August 2024

Effingham - August 8th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM  
Flora - August 21st at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
South District DuQuoin - August 23rd at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

### September 2024

Bloomington - September 6th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 to 1:00 PM  
Mt. Carmel - September 9th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:00 to 1:00 PM  
Champaign/Urbana- Clinic Sept. 11th at OSF HC/Heart of Mary MC: 8:30 to 10:30 AM  
Mt. Vernon Clinic September 12th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Robinson - September 18th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM

*Dates and times subject to change.*



## Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

1201 N. Main • Chatham, IL 62629  
 (217) 483-3020 • Helpline 1-800-272-0075  
 Fax (217) 483-2131 • E-mail helpkids@elkscc.org

### 2023-2024 Year End Report

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

As this year comes to a close I would like to thank all outgoing officers, the membership, Elk Ladies, and the Lodges for their continued support to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation this past year. With one week left of this fiscal Lodge year and no anticipated donations before April 1, 2024 here are closing numbers for the 2023-2024 Lodge. Income \$640,662.44, Expense \$560,060.59 for a gain of \$80,602.36 as of this writing. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the IECCC, we thank you for a tremendously for a job well done. We wish nothing but the best for all the new incoming officers or another great and wonderful new Lodge year.

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

## 28 Annual DART TOURNAMENT

Murphysboro Elks Children's Care Results



1st Place  
Nik & Buff



2nd Place  
Kozzie & Matt



3rd Place  
Cotton & Chicken Strip

This year's 28th Annual C.C.C. Dart Tournament garnered a net total of \$11,139.88 for the state major project of the Illinois Elks Association. While this long-running fundraiser, of the Murphysboro Lodge, depends on a variety of incomes, including raffles, live auction, and a silent auction, much of the income is a result of community businesses, individuals, and Elk members purchasing the SPONSOR BOARDS that are displayed alongside the Dart Machines being used the day of event, and also later listed in the Lodge Newsletter. This year, some 60 Boards were purchased - bringing in \$6,000. for Children's Care programs! It is noticeable that the Business Community, in and around Murphysboro, has come to recognize the C. C. C. as a great entity to HELP CHILDREN, and readily open their checkbooks!

## Your Donations at Work

Specialized equipment purchased and delivered in the past 90 days.

- Case #1 - Wheaton: Van Lift Conversion, \$4,900.00
- Case #2 - Wheaton: Van Conversion, \$4,500.00
- Case #3 - Harrisburg: Grillo Gait Trainer, \$3,808.90
- Case #4 - Brookfield: Alvantor Bed Canopy Tent, \$169.99
- Case #5 - NW District: Orthotics, \$150.00
- Case #6 - Joliet: Curved Stair Lift, \$4,000.00
- Case #7 - Chicago Northshore: NuMotion Standard Car Seat, \$1,484.72
- Case #8 - Mt. Vernon: Communication Device, \$1,960.00
- Case #9 - Anna-Jonesboro: Communication Device, \$1,280.00
- Case #10 - Peoria: Pediatric Digital Scale, \$424.00
- Case #11 - Springfield: Van Conversion, \$2,000.00
- Case #12 - Springfield: PRC Saltillo Communication Device, \$700.00
- Case #13 - NW District: Orthotics, \$446.80
- Case #14 - Streator: Orbiting Lifting System, \$4,000.00
- Case #15 - Elmhurst: Van Conversion Ramp, \$3,000.00
- Case #16 - Champaign-Urbana: 1 OFT Tri-Fold Suitcase Ramp, \$748.99
- Case #17 - Office: Wonderland Luxe Stroller Wagon, \$899.00
- Case #18 - Quincy: National Seating & Mobility Spirit Car Seat Plus, \$2,122.52
- Case #19 - Wheaton: Lifeway Mobility Res. Platform Ramp, \$3,000.00
- Case #20 - Lawrenceville: Gait Trainer, \$296.00
- Case #21 - Mount Vernon: Adaptive Mall Stroller, \$2,737.03
- Case #22 - Bloomington: Van Conversion, \$5,000.00

**TOTAL: \$47,627.95**

### Scholarship Report

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

All 2024-2025 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: 13 Graduate Students, 3 Seniors, 2 Juniors, 3 Sophomores, and 16 Freshmen. PT/OT Assistance 2Year Program 3, The Elks Special Education Scholarships 5 students, and the new Speech Pathology Scholarship 13 students. All scholarships will be given to the Judges in April and winners be announced by mail mid-June. Good luck to all those that applied.

Next year Scholarship Program will return online December 1, 2024 at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org).

**Next Newsette  
deadline is  
June 15, 2024!**

**Send your items to  
ilelksnewsette@  
gmail.com**