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SUMMER 2024

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CCC Catchup



IEA PRESIDENT

Rogen Quinn Let's Be Great Together!

Members All,

We extend our appreciation to members of the Illinois Elks Association for entrusting us with the opportunity to lead this great organization. It's a responsibility we hold with humility and great enthusiasm.

Congratulations are due to Chris and Floyd Schmidt for their outstanding leadership over the past year. They've set a high standard and we're honored to follow in their footsteps.

A special acknowledgment is owed to George Hornung and his wife Kristi for their 15 years of service to the IEA. The sound financial position we find ourselves in today is largely due to George's savvy financial advice. Thank you!

Congrats to PSP Jeff Rodier on his election to State Treasurer and to Jeff Sterr on his election as 3rd Vice President. We look forward to working with you both.

We hosted the IEA Flag Day service on June 8th at Champaign Urbana #2497, and we thank all who attended and supported this event. A special thanks to the membership of Champaign Urbana #2497 for their help with this event.

By now, many of us will have attended the Grand Lodge convention in Austin,

TX. This convention offers us a "big picture" of the BPOE and we trust that all attendees found something of value to take back to your Lodge and met some of the "Best People On Earth!"

Let's discuss grants. The ENF goal per capita for the IEA's goal remains at \$5.50. Lodges that achieved \$5.50 or more per capita last year are eligible for \$2000 in community grants from the Illinois Elks Association. Simply inform State Treasurer Jeff'Rodier, State Secretary Joe Ray, and myself of your intended use of the funds, and it will be disbursed accordingly. Additionally, the IEA is offering a \$1000 Veterans Grant to each lodge. Similarly, districts are eligible for a \$1000 Veterans Matching Grant upon raising or collecting \$1000 for veterans. Don't forget you also have many ENF grants available. Make sure you take advantage of this "Free Money."

Membership growth remains a priority for us. Let's seize the opportunity to invite others to see the meaningful work we do and the camaraderie we share in doing so. While numbers matter, let's not forget that as Elks, we are united by our belief in God and our commitment to good character.

Our motto for this year is "Let's be great together." We are really good in many areas, from supporting veterans to providing drug awareness programs, scholarships, youth programs, etc... The list is long. Let's continue our efforts and strive for greatness. Utilizing various media platforms, including social media, TV, radio, and newspapers—let's showcase the positive impact we make in our communities.

Lisa and I look forward to seeing all of you in September. We take great pride in leading the Illinois Elks Association and look forward to celebrating our successes.

Let's be great together, Roger & Lisa Quinn

Meet the new slate of Officers, VPs, and Sr. & Jr. Trustees



2024-2025 Officers - Pictured left to right - Sitting: President Roger Quinn, 1st VP David Neel, 2nd VP Jeff Johnson, 3rd VP Jeff Sterr. Standing: Tiler Mike Porter, Sargeant of Arms Jay King, Chaplain Ole Ohlsson, Secretary Joe Ray and Treasurer Jeff Rodier.



2024-2025 District Sr. Trustees - Pictured left to right - Sitting: Vicky Pearce (South), Jacob Cowger (East Central), and Lynda Riffice (East). Standing: Doug Painter (West), Marc Walker (North), Jesse Johnson (South Central) and Todd Smith (Northwest). Not pictured: James Duncan (West Central).



2024-2025 District VPs - Pictued left to right - Sitting: James Cochrane, Jr. (Northwest), Darcie Hastings (South), Chad Stevens (East Central), Mike Hozian (North). Standing: Jeremy Pretzsch (South Central), Stephanie Schwab-Parnell (West Central), Ray McGee (East), and Amy Jackson (West).



2024-2025 District Jr Trustees - Sitting: Mike Pender (North), Melanie Combs (West), and Tim Bowen (South). Standing: Dave Marqua (East Central), Tim Logeman (Northwest), and Rich Grillion (East). Not pictured: Doug Sills (West Central) and Tony Korzenewski (South Central).

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A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...

E NEWS

Joe Ray

Members all,

As the IEA year continues, there are many things going on. The retirement of George Hornung as State Treasurer and the election of Jeff Rodier as his replacement we are working through change. Grant checks will start going out as soon as possible, so please be patient. I have started a file with the requests, Jeff and myself will meet and get these out. State dues are in the mail as of the writing of the article.

The State Directory will be mailed to the District Vice Presidents as soon as possible. We have many delays this year from varied sources.

The Executive Board has begun having short meetings and going over things anytime we are together. PSP Floyd Schmidt started this last year and has helped tremendously on communication. The awards that were given out that are based on the point system were extremely close. Of the many things I do, this is my favorites!

I had conversations with many of the winners and believe me it was hard not to let it slip who won. Being Lodge Secretary myself, I know what takes. Secretary of the Year winner Gail Sessler has been my friend for many years. Her award was deserved as she also does an excellent job as State Chairman of Scholarships. As do all of the other winners!

> lea treasurer Jeff Rodier

Members all,

Thanks to all of you who supported my candidacy for State Treasurer! I would also be remiss if I did not thank Past Treasurer George Hornung and his wife Kristi, for the 15 years of dedicated service they gave to the IEA over that time.

As I stated at the May State Convention, we will all have to practice patience while the transition from George to myself takes place. Association bills are being paid as received. Grant requests, however, will take a little longer.

For those of you attending Grand Lodge in Austin, Norine and I look forward to seeing all of you. Thank you again for your patience and support.

Don't see your submission in this Newsette? Don't Fret!

Turn around for the next issue is a quick! We'll have a new issue out by August 3rd!

Submissions due by July 20th.

Fresh slogans, videos, tools on tap

By Rick Gathen, Membership Marketing Manager

Get ready for an exhilarating National Convention as we embark on exciting new initiatives curated by the Grand Lodge Public Relations and Membership Marketing Committee! With a lineup of innovative programs, captivating videos, and promising opportunities set to launch, this convention promises to be a gamechanger for our organization.

Here's a sneak peek into what's in store:

- 1. Let's Soar with Four: Dive into our new Grand Lodge Membership growth slogan and artwork, igniting a spirit of unity and progress.
- 2. Elkdom's Heart for America: Discover the power of our new GER slogan, coupled with heartwarming artwork that embodies our commitment to Elkdom and our nation.
- 3. Top proposer reports and social media strategy: Explore our latest tools for boosting membership, including innovative social media tactics and recognition programs designed to celebrate our top recruiters.
- 4. Pre-Orientation video and letter: Unveil our compelling resources crafted to welcome and engage new Members right

from the start, setting the stage for active participation and involvement.

- 5. Simplified introduction GER e-greeting message: Delve into our strategic approach for reaching out to potential Members with a clear and compelling message, enticing them to join our thriving community.
- 6. Grand Lodge branding guide: Gain insights into our comprehensive branding guide, ensuring consistency and coherence in our messaging across all platforms.

7. Social shareables best practices: Learn how to leverage our engaging social shareables effectively, maximizing our reach and impact in the digital sphere.

By delving into these key areas together, we aim to amplify the effectiveness of our collective efforts, driving significant growth and engagement for our Lodges.

Together, let's soar to new heights and make a lasting impact on Elkdom!

Visit www.elks.org/ grandlodge/membership for more tools on Public Relations and Marketing!



Mevsette | Market |

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

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

www.facebook.com ---@ilelksnewsette

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Elk of the Year: Wayne Shreve



Photo via Mt. Carmel Lodge Facebook.

Nomination Letter...

I would like to nominate a very compassionate and worthy Elk for the prestigious honor of Elk of the Year. To Fairfield Lodge he exemplifies this honor with his dedication to Elkdom in every way. Wayne Shreve has been an Elk for 22 years and in those years has been a constant support to our Lodge. He has been Exalted Ruler 2014, every chair Officer, Trustee, Housekeeper, Lawn care specialist, Chef, Fry Cook, Bartender, Waitress, and all-around Jack of all trades. You name it and Wayne has done it to help their Lodge. They would not know how they could do what they do without him and nor do they ever want to find out. He's the first person that gets called to help when someone can't make it in to work a shift. He's the first person to call when they have an event, because you always want Wayne there. His entire family is involved with his love for their Lodge. His wife was their Districts, Lady of the Year, two years ago; she is now a member of their Lodge. His children can always be seen around the Lodge on the weekends helping out. He donates his heart, his money, his time, his every free moment and his kindness for the betterment of their Community, their Veterans, their Children and most importantly for the sustainability of their Lodge. This is the first year that Wayne has not been an Officer of the Lodge and could be nominated for this prestigious honor.

Wayne will tell you that his favorite Officer Ritual position is that of Leading Knight because of the story that it tells and how it inspires him to be the best Elk possible. You will find him filling in during Ritual as Leading Knight for their degree team any opportunity they have for him to give the Leading Knight ritual. Charity is the greatest of all the virtues and Wayne has that in abundance. Wayne lives by the principles of our order charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. At one point in time over the last 15 years Wayne has been involved in every committee and every event in some fashion. On a humorous side note: Wayne is also the chairman for their Easter Bunny program and they always look forward to seeing what creative and exciting ways he will bring forth the Easter Bunny. In the District, Wayne is known for his very vivid, hilarious, and detailed reports for Easter Bunny. It is so much fun to see what funny report he will give for each District meeting.

In short, please consider their treasured Friend, our Brother in Elkdom and One Amazingly Great Elk...Wayne Shreve for Elk of the Year.

Fraternally, Jason Martin South Central VP

Elk Family of the Year: The Huske Family

Nomination Letter...

"People don't buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe." --Simon Sinek

Enough said... Because when you observe the Huske Family in action, you know that the Heart of Elkdom throbs for all the good they perform!! Ok, so let's take a step back with a more intimate look at what they do. Oh, by



Greg & Sharlene Huske are pictured above with President Floyd Schmidt and State Rep F. Louis Sulsberger.

the way we are speaking of Sharlene and Greg Huske, sons Shawn and Scott, grandson Trevor (soon to be initiated).

Over the years, Shar and Greg have held various positions within Elgin #787. Both are PERs with Greg holding that position numerous time and Leading Knight; Shar has been the extraordinary Secretary and Leading Knight. Shar has been the grant developer of which Elgin Elks have received many over the years to help Veterans and the Community.

On the other hand, you might find Greg being grillmaster on Tuesday for the Lodge's weekly dinners, or maybe shoveling snow to assure members have a safe walkway in the winter; or cook & bottle washer as one of the Lodge's volunteer bartenders... or whatever is needed when!!

When called upon both Shar and Greg have worked diligently in their roles within the North District of Illinois Elks. Currently Greg is the DDGER and Shar is the Secretary of the District assisting District officers. Both have demonstrated their commitment to our Veterans representing our Lodge and the North District with providing Holiday meals for Veterans at the 65th or assembling "Welcome Home" hits for those Veterans leaving a life of homelessness!!

Scott and Shawn have followed in their footsteps in ways they know they can contribute. That contribution is seen by sponsoring events at the Lodge; by providing special dinner meals for Elk members; by being a volunteer bartender when necessary! When you ask members of the Lodge what they think of Scott & Shawn they all reply their positive outlook on life and their great attitudeshum, wonder where they inherited those traits!!

Grandson Trevor began his Elks association helping Grandma and Grandpa by tagging along to various Lodge events and helping out where he could. Trevor was one of the first "carry-out', boys getting dinner meals out to those waiting for their pickup of Tuesday dinners!! After that he helped with Flag Day, Lodge cleanup day and event preparations.

Let's take a deeper dive into activities the Huskes direct or work at. One is the "Step It Up" program. This program in association with First Baptist Church in Elgin provides shoes to youngsters before they return to the classroom in the fall. A Grant, which Shar developed, is the funding source to acquire over \$2,000 worth of shoes. They coordinate shopping and delivering them to the church for prep for pick up day. Flag Day has always been a highlight of the Elks year as Greg and Shar have led Elks members and Community in the ceremony honoring our country's Flag and its heritage. Just prior to Flag Day is the observance of honoring our Veterans at the Memorial Day service at veterans cemetery in Elgin where American Flags adorn the roadway and Veterans' grave sites have flags attached.

One cannot, forget the school kids at Coleman School in Elgin. From books, drug awareness materials, clothing for needy kids or just a treat for the teachers... They are involved. Veterans shelter in McHenry County for which materials, bedding and such, along with identified food items are donated. What else... How bout Hoop Shoot where they greet shooters, rebound for them, make them feel welcomed!!

So whether it be of the Lodge, District or State level, hopefully you can see why Elgin Elks Lodge #737 have nominated the Huske Family {Shar, Greg, Scott, Shawn and Trevor} as the Elks Family of the Year!! For now you know what they do... And what they do simply proves what they believe!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Fraternally,

ER Sue Kaszuba #737

ANNUAL CONVENTION AWARDS BANQUET

It was a big night for awards at the Annual Convention Banquet held in May at the Wyndham Centre in Springfield, IL. Congratulations to all of the winners! Keep up the great work!



DISTRICT OF THE YEAR South District Accepting Representative: Tom Love. Presenters: IEA President Floyd Schmidt and State Rep F. Louis Sulsberger.



Mendota #1221. Presenters: IEA President Floyd Schmidt and State Rep F. Louis Sulsberger.



ER OF THE YEAR Ed Pizza Des Plaines #1526. Accepted by Mike Hozan. Presenters: IEA President Floyd Schmidt and State Rep F. Louis Sulsberger.



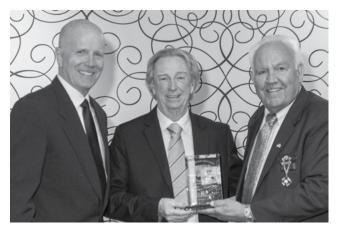
GE OF THE YEAR Des Plaines #1526West Central. Accepting Representative: Jody Shimkus. Presenters: IEA President Floyd Schmidt and State Rep F. Louis Sulsberger.



Way to go,

MORE WINNERS

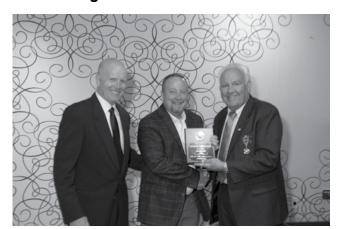
Ole & Mike will represent Illinois in the Flag Charge and 11 O'Clock Toast Rituals at Grand Lodge. Good luck to both!



Charge - Ritual



Ole Ohlessen - Champaign-Urbana #2497 - Flag Mike Hozan - Des Plaines #1562 - 11 O'Clock Toast - Ritual & Loyal Knight



Darren Clendenny - Chaplain - Canton #626 -**Accepted by Steve Albrecht**

--- Not Present: Veronica Miles - Harrisburg #1508 - Lecturing Knight & Leading Knight ----



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Springfield #158 - 501+ Members - ER Matt Willis accepting. Winner both Per Capita & Total Donation per Lodge.



Highest Total Donations - Belleville #481 (right) . Highest Per Capita - Fairview Heights #664 (left). Less than 500 members.

FAREWELL, FLOYD!



IEAPresident Floyd Schmidt and wife Chris were presented with numerous gifts and thanked for their time serving. Floyd hands the Presiency off to Roger Quinn!

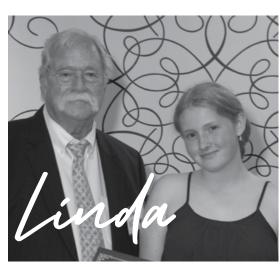


Grand Americanism Essay Winner! way to go, girls!



Ex Essay Winners









Congratulations to our Americanism Essay Winners! Top Left: Halle Snell - 5th grade - Flora Elementary - Flora #1659. Top Right: Linda MacDonald - 6th Grade - Holy Cross School - Mendota #1212. Botton Left: Isabella van den Berg - 7th grade - Princeton Christian Academy - Olgesby #2360. Bottom Right: Paison Ogrzewall - 8th grade - Raccoon Grade School - Salem #1678. Halle was also selected as the 1st Plae Grand Americanism Essay Winner! Way to go, girls!



George Hornung was presented with a special certificate honoring his years as State Treasurer. He and his wife Kristie have both dedicated lots of time and energy to the Elks and we are forever grateful for their service!





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ANNUAL CONVENTION AWARDS BANQUET

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Vet Volunteer of the Year - Sandy Spunic - Chicago Northshore #1316. Presented by Bob Kune, IEA Vet Chair.



Vet Volunteer of the Year - Alice Beck - Springfield #158. Presented by Lou Sulsberger.



Vet Volunteer of the Year - Bobby Edwards - Springfield #158. Presented by Lou Sulsberger and Bob Kane.



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Scholarship Award Winners



Congratulations to all of this year's Scholarship Award winners. Nine of the recipients were in attendance at the Annual Convention.

Pictured above, left to right, front Row: Gail Sessler, State Scholarship Chair; Amy Dederich, Katelyn Luu, Vennela Reddy Vakati, Eve Foley. Back Row: Gabriel Peeck, Jay Bliler, Julian Luaders, Michael Joyce, Jaden Schwarzlose

Winners are listed below with nominating Lodge and field of study/college information:

- Gabriel Peeck Centraila #493 Kaskaskia College Nursing
- Jay Bliler Pana #1261 Lake Land College Agribusiness
- Julian Luaders Quincy #100 Illinois College English & Biology
- Michale Joyse Oak Lawn #2254 University of Nevada, Las Vegas Hospitality
- Jaden Schwarzlose Mt. Carmel #715 Olney College Automotive Technology
- Eve Foley Champaign-Urbana #2497 Bowdoin College Pre-Law/Philosophy & Sociology
- Vennela Reddy Vakati Wheaton #2258 Benedictine University Heath Sciences
- Katelyn Luu Chicago South #1596 Georgia Institute of Technology Industrial & Systems Engineering
- Amy Dederich Bloomington #281 Maryville University of St. Louis Cybersecurity/ Spanish

The recipients below were unable to attend the ceremony, but we congratulate them none the less.

- Ojas Shah Bloomington #281 University of Illinois Mechanical Engineering
- Joshua Vonder Haar Centraila #493 Missouri University of Science and Technology -Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering
- Bryce Kurfman Belleville #481 University of Illinois Computer Science
- George Werderich Joliet #296 Purdue/University of Alabama Unmanned Aerial Systems/ Engineering
- Tyler Wilson Kankakee #627 Illinois State University Special Education
- Taylor Snook Kewanee #724 St. Ambrose University Exercise Science/Physical Therapy
- Abigail Rosas Brookfield #1510 Northwestern University Journalism & Political Science
- Emma Furlong Galena #882 University of Nebraska Computer Science
- Alana Scherts Joliet #296 University of Notre Dame Mechanical Engineering
- Evelyn Walters Galena #882 St. Ambrose University Nursing
- Libby Conkle Metropolis #1428 Murray State Speech Language Pathology
- Abby Mascal Streator #591
- Jensen Coonradt Joliet #296 MIT Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
- Jenna Jiang Harrisburg #1058 Harvard University Government & Ethics

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All America Lodge Winner - Division IV - Joliet #296. Accepting ER Debra Bruno-Nevin. Presented by David Copper, IEA State Chair, Lodge Activities.



All America Lodge Winner - Division VI - Springfield #158. Accepting ER Matt Willis. Presented by David Copper, IEA State Chair, Lodge Activities.

In the Community

Giving back in a big way



ER Nathan Reyling of McLeansboro #1882 presented a check to Bethany Moore, Hungry Hearts representative, and Cade Moore. Thanks to an ENF grant, they donated \$2000 to the Hungry Hearts lunch program. Giving back to their community to support the youth is an honor they are proud to fulfill.

Elks Care, Elks Share!

Combined Flag Day Ceremony



On June 15, 2024, Brookfield, Elmhurst, Des Plaines, and Chicago Northshore held a combined flag day service at Elmhurst Lodge. It's great when lodges work together!

Putting Grants to GOOD use!



Jacksonville #682 applied for and was awarded a \$2,000 spotlight grant that was used to help the Jacksonville Area Community Food Center for their summer time needs. Lodge Officers LC Clinton, James Lomelino, Peggy West and Sheryl Hansen loaded food items from Aldi and took them to the food center where they were unloaded.

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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@elkscare.org

2023-2024 Year End Report

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

In 2023-2024 the Illinois Elks Lodges raised \$136,113.54 for the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. The Children's Care through its three annual fund raisers raised the following; Annual Appeal (HoDo) \$24,733.48, Statewide Drawing \$22,050.00, and the Benefit Calendar \$46,489.00 for a twelve-month total of \$229,386.02, and other miscellaneous income \$43,094.25 for a grand total of \$272,480.27.

Expenses - Patient Assist \$179,144.30, Clinics \$24,550.35, all Scholarships \$48,550.99, Totaling \$252,245.64.

The 2024-2025 Elected Board Officers- Chairman, Tawn Williams of Elmhurst #1531, Vice Chairman, John Bayler of Flora #1659, Treasurer, Chad Mitsdarffer of McLeansboro #1882, Secretary, Kristi Wykes of Pontiac #1019.

The CCC only works because of you, without your support we could not provide for the abundance of children we help each and every year. The IEA places no Per-Capita on this project, we exist only through our Lodges and the planned functions provided for the CCC, and through our three annual mailings throughout the year: The Annual Appeal/HoDo Pin, the Statewide Drawing, and Benefit Calendar. For nearly 97 years the CCC has been helping Kids, making this Project one of the oldest and continuous State Major Projects in all of Elkdom. The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation gives us a purpose and a cause; thank you for your support and all you do for the Kids.

At year's end 2023-2024 the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation saw a total of 116 children at their Free Orthopedic Clinics throughout the state. The IECCC also assisted an additional 93 children with direct assistance in the amount of \$179,025.50. We also provided classes at two horseback riding academies for kids with autism and other special needs. We also assisted the Oglesby Park District with a ADA swing.

It's been a great year! Let's keep up the GREAT work!



2023-2024 Top Three Lodge Contributors to CCC

GROSS CONTRIBUTIONS

1 - Paris #812	\$33,653.20
2 - Murphysboro #572	\$14,994.00
3 - Des Plaines #1526	\$13,350.50

PER CAPITA

1 - Paris #812	\$343.40
2 - Chicago Northshore #1316	\$52.84
3 - Kewanee #724	\$52.12

Next Newsette deadline is JULY 27, 2024!

Send your items to ilelksnewsette@ gmail.com