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*Lots of great  
pictures!*

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## Top Scholars announced at IEA Fall Meeting

The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation announced their top scholars at the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield.

IECCC Scholarship Chairman Sharon Kay Dirck announced the 4 scholars at the dinner; Judges Mark Bump and Jim Goldsborough read brief summaries of each winner. Unfortunately one of the scholars, Danielle Schultz, wasn't able to attend. Their summaries are below along with a photo from the night's events.



The applications for 2024 will go online December 1, 2023 on the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation website and will be taken down the first Friday in March. The IECCC Board is excited to provide scholarships to Speech Pathologist for the first time this year. Those applications will be on the website also.

Please spread the word about these scholarship opportunities for residents of Illinois.

The winner of the Bill Leas Award is Abby Hanselman referred by Elgin Lodge #737; attending Saint Louis University in their Physical Therapy Program. She has a Grade Point Average of 3.99.

Starting in the Spring of 2022, Abby began to work with Dr. Patrick Corrigan's research lab at SLU. She collaborated with her lab team during weekly lab meetings to problem solve and progress research projects. Her primary project investigates the association between pain and the Achilles tendon forces in runners with Achilles tendinopathy during the return-to-sport phase. With the Supervision and guidance of Dr. Corrigan, she submitted an abstract for APTA's 2023 Combine Sections Meeting and presented her findings through a podium presentation in February 2023. With continued data analysis and writing, she aims to publish the complete findings in 2023.

Abby is motivated by her desire to provide the most effective care to her future patients; by contributing to the field through research. She hopes to contribute to the literature and impactful practices to improve patient outcomes. She wants to provide her patients with the strength, range of motion, balance, coordination, and education to partake in whatever activities they desire. Movement is such an inherent and instrumental component to a fulfilling life.

The winner of the Mike Manning Award is Carly Carril referred by

**Continued on Page 2.**



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

*Floyd Schmidt*

**Together We Can!**

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope your summer and fall were filled with great events like ours was. I see many of our Lodgers are stepping up the number of events they are hosting. It's always refreshing to see new ideas and new faces taking charge. New events don't always have to be fundraising, they could be just FUN.

Get some new people involved and delegate some authority, and, yes, even plead for help. When they get involved, they tell others. Always remember events should be members only, but encourage all to bring a friend.

Where has the time gone, half the year is gone, but the good thing is there is half a year left. So let's get some prospective members signed and end the year with a bang. Speaking of a BANG... our Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee Lodge #2206 will be attending our January Mid-Winter Meeting. We hope to see you there.

Thanksgiving is always a special time of the year to be with family and friends. This year and every year should also be a time to give thanks for being a citizen of the United States of America. For our Military men and women, and our first responders for their continual vigilance. As Norman Vincent Peale said best "The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for."

On Friday, November 17, IEA was fortunate enough to make a presentation to Missing in America Project (MIAP), represented by Don Gerspach, Region 5 coordinator. The presentation took place at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery near St. Louis. Presenting a check for \$25,000.00 was IEA President Floyd Schmidt, IEA Veterans Chairman, Bob Kane, Veteran Steve Thomas from Galesburg #894, and his wife Jan Thomas along with Emblem Cub State President Chris Schmidt. Jan Thomas informed Bob Kane that she attended the Supreme Emblem Club Convention in September and heard about this Project.

Also, a check for \$1,500.00 was presented to MIAP from our Illinois North District First Lady Chris would like to invite all women to attend a continental breakfast on Friday and Saturday.

This will be held in the Presidential hospitality room on 30th Floor, starting at 8:00. Come enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and make a new friend.

*Illinois Elks Association*  
**MID-WINTER MEETING**

**JANUARY 25-28, 2024**

**Springfield – Wyndham Hotel**

*Schedule of Events, Registration  
Form and More on Pages 3 & 4*

A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...



IEA SECRETARY  
*Joe Ray*

Members all,  
I have just a few things this time, as the year begins to wind down.

1. IEA Grants, Veteran and Presidents ENF goal. The deadline is December 31, 2023.  
The amounts are \$1,000 for the Veterans Grant and \$2,000 for the ENF per capita goal. When requesting grants, please copy myself and the State President. If I don't respond, just give me a call. The turnaround time is approximately three weeks, because of the issues with USPS. It seems like the mail going from Southern ILL to Chicago has many delays.
2. Info for the State Directory will be due by April 1st, 2024. First Vice President Roger Quinn and I both will be needing info from the incoming District Vice President in a timely manner.
3. Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and his wife Wanda will be our guests at the January State Convention, please make them feel welcome.
4. I think all IEA Scholarships issues have been addressed and taken care, the Scholarship Committee does an outstanding job getting info to myself so George Hornung and I can get checks out.  
Everyone have a safe Holiday Season and see you in January.



Scholarships continued...

Murphysboro Lodge #572; and attending Maryville University as a Physical Therapy Graduate. She has a Grade Point average of 3.98.

Carly's Professors and Personal References all stated that she employs respectful, caring, dependable, and wonderful interpersonal and communication skills, and she knows the meaning of dedication and hard work. They all feel she is an outstanding role model of academic achievement for her peers.

In Carly's Essay she talked about her interest in Hand Therapy; she learned through her classes just how complicated the hand truly is. She was fascinated to learn there are many types of

grips and many hand injuries involve nerve injuries; thus, it takes detective work to decide which nerve is causing the lack of sensation or decreases in strength. Carly also talked about providing education for her patients; without educating her patients about why certain treatments are important, along with how treatments will help them reach their own personal goals, it will be hard for her patients to be motivated to make permanent changes in their lives.

The Winner of the Kenny Beltz Award is Skyler Kuntzman referred by Springfield Lodge #158; and attending Saint Ambrose University as an Occupational Therapist Graduate. She



IEA SPONSOR  
*F. Louis Sulberger*  
PGER

Greetings all!  
We've all said it before, but where does the time fly? It is hard to believe how fast fall came and went and now the holidays are upon us. I hope you took time out of your busy schedule to pause, reflect and remember on Veteran's Day. As Elks, we should all be proud of our pledge and so long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

December is here and with it brings the last of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler visits throughout our Districts. Our dedicated DD's do an outstanding job representing Grand Lodge and should be commended for their commitment to our Order. Please remember that they are a resource for you and your Lodges. They are available to assist you in any way that is needed.

As I write this message, plans are being completed for the Illinois Elks Association Mid-Winter Meeting in January. I am sure that I do not have to tell you what an exciting meeting this will be as we welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook and First Lady Wanda Shook to the great state of Illinois for their official visit. Beth and I have known Randy and Wanda, who are from Tennessee, for many years and we know they are looking forward to coming to Illinois. A slate of activities will keep them busy as they witness the commitment and dedication the Illinois Elks have for The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. We know they will take away with them many good thoughts and lasting memories from their visit with us. Thank you for your part in making this possible.

As a reminder, our annual Lady of the Year Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday at noon at our Mid-Winter Meeting. Please make plans to attend this event to honor both First Lady of Elkdom Wanda Shook and First Lady of Illinois Chris Schmidt and to support the eight District winners. And of course, we will all share in the excitement of the announcement of our Illinois Elks Association Lady of the Year!

Beth and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their friendship and support this past year. We send best wishes to you and your families for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2024!

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

has a Grade Point average of 4.0.

One of Skyler's Professors wrote: "Ms. Kuntzman is a very wellrounded student and has experience working with both the pediatric and adult populations.

Her experience working with children includes typically developing children and children with atypical needs. She has learned about the unique needs and helped meet the development needs of children with autism. She demonstrates high level skills such as self-directed learning, self-discipline, adaptability, and excellent problem solving. She approaches learning new and difficult material with a positive attitude.

In Skyler's Essay she wrote:

"My personal goal is to make everyone feel included and satisfied with their life. I want them to feel fulfilled and confident within themselves. My love for occupational therapy comes from how versatile every day can be and my drive to make a difference in people's lives."

The winner of the Pete Matson Award is Danielle Schultz referred by Belleville Lodge #481; and is attending Washington University School of Medicine as an Occupational Therapist Graduate. Her Grade Point average is 3.91.

Just a few things her professors had to say about Danielle. She is an eager learner who is motivated and engaged on a

consistent basis. She is empathetic, communicates clearly, a critical thinker, and a willing and contributing team member.

In Danielle's Essay she wrote about being on the Cross Country Team and as leader of the team, she understands how to lead by example and ensure that those around are able to adopt these characteristics as well, which will benefit her patients in overcoming difficult obstacles. She desires a career where she can make a positive impact on people's lives by helping them live a fulfilling life.

Illinois Elks Association

MID-WINTER MEETING

January 25-28 2024      Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Thursday, January 25, 2024

10:30 AM-5:00 PM	Convention Office
1:00 PM-4:00 PM	Executive Committee

Friday, January 26, 2024

7:00 AM-5:00 PM	Convention Office
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Executive Committee
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Convention Committee
10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Initiatory Ritual Individual Competition
12:00 PM-4:00 PM	Convention Registration
1:00 PM-4:00 PM	Advisory Committee
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Past State Presidents Dinner

Saturday, January 27, 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 Meeting & Training - Continental
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	District Deputies & Esquires - Continental
8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Leading Knights Training
8:30 AM-10:30 AM	Initiatory Ritual Competition
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Exalted Rulers Meet w/ Executive Committee
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Secretaries' Association
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Athletic Commission
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Easter Bunny Committee
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Elks National Foundation
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	New Lodge
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Lodge Trustee Training/Accident Prevention/Insurance
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Americanism
10:30 AM-12:00 PM	Lodge Treasurers
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	National Veterans Service
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Scholarship
12:00 PM-1:30 PM	Ladies' Luncheon - Lady of the Year
	Entrée: Ranch Chicken Bacon, Cheddar and Lettuce Croissant with Pasta Salad
	Dessert: Brownie Blondie - Chocolate Chip with Walnut Pecan Cost: Pre Reg-\$25.00/ Onsite \$ 28.00
1:30 PM-2:00 PM	Government Relations & Judiciary Discussion
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Hoop/Soccer Shoots
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Membership/Lapsation/Lodge Activities/Indoctrination
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Ritual 11 O'Clock Toast Competition
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Youth Activities & Antlers
1:30 PM-3:00 PM	Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation
1:30 PM-4:00 PM	PGER Meet with Lodges & Individuals
2:30 PM -3:30 PM	Bowling Association
2:30 PM -3:30 PM	Drug Awareness Program
2:30 PM -4:30 PM	Publication Corp/Website Monitoring/Public Relations
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Illinois Elks Association - Reception
6:00 PM-9:30 PM	Illinois Elks Association - Dinner
	Rosemary Garlic Pork Loin with Classic Ceaser Salad
	Dessert: Pecan Pie Cost: Pre-registration \$37.00/On-site \$40.00 Dress: Business Suit
	Members are encouraged to attend the banquet in honor of Grand Exalted Bruce & Hidley and First Lady Helen Hidley.

Sunday, January 28, 2024

6:30 AM-11:00 AM	Convention Office
7:30 AM-8:30 AM	Room Reservations for the May Convention
8:00 AM-10:30 AM	General Business Session

PLACE/ROOM

Plaza 4  
Conference Ctr 3

Plaza 4  
Conference Ctr 3  
Rendezvous  
Embassy  
Mezzanine  
Rendezvous  
Illinois

Plaza 4  
Mezzanine  
Plaza 3  
Conference Ctr 2  
Rendezvous  
Embassy  
Ambassador  
Plaza 3  
Conference Ctr 2  
Conference Ctr 3  
Plaza 1  
Conference Ctr 1  
Capitol  
Conference Ctr 4  
Plaza 3  
Plaza 1  
Conference Ctr 2  
Illinois

Conference Ctr 2  
Plaza 1  
Ambassador  
Embassy  
Conference Ctr 4  
Plaza 3  
Conference Ctr 3  
Plaza 1  
Conference Ctr 4  
Conference Ctr 2  
Capitol/Illinois/Prairie  
Capitol/Illinois/Prairie

REGISTRATION  
All Elks, male & female, Must Register for meeting functions: **FEES:** Pre-Registration \$ 10.00/ On-site \$20.00. **Pre-Registration deadline is January 10th, 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 December 19th, 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, January 27th, 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 Mid-Winter 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.**

## A message from GER Shook

Wanda and I want to wish each of you a very happy new year as we welcome in 2024. New Year's Day is a time when we reflect upon the events of the past year and plan for the upcoming year. New resolutions are made to improve health, diet, and other ambitions.

For us as Elks, it should be our resolution to improve our Lodge and our Order.

January is the beginning of the last quarter of the Lodge year. Get your membership retention and arrears program into full stride. Have your committee reach out

to delinquent Members. ThYou and your Lodge Officers should be reviewing how and where you stand with your Local Lodge goals for the year. Should you see you are falling short, make January, February, and March your last big push to meet those goals. Your

Lodge has all the assets needed to meet those goals with the right plans. Use your Past Exalted Rulers Association, Board of Directors, and Lodge committees to analyze what is needed to declare victory.

This is also a great time to review your hard-working Members and decide who deserves an award for the great work done for your Lodge. Some of the awards you can present to a Member and Officer who has done so much to promote the Order are Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Citizen of the Year. There is no better way to say thank you for the hard work and dedication

they have demonstrated. You may involve other Members to promote the good work that your Lodge does in your community.

Finally, the Auditing and Accounting Committee should review Lodge books and report at the last meeting of the month.

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

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

## MID-WINTER MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

*January 25-28, 2024 • Springfield, IL • Wyndham Hotel*

MUST HAVE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER MEETINGS OR HOSPITALITY ROOMS

**Pre-Registration  
Deadline  
January 10, 2024**

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

**Pre-Registration  
Deadline  
January 10, 2024**

***Pre-Registration - \$10.00 After January 10 - \$20.00***  
***Checks payable to Illinois Elks Association***

<i><b>ELK#1</b></i>	<i><b>Non-Elk Spouse</b></i>
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100	100

**ELK#2 (Only if spouse of Elk #1)** \_\_\_\_\_

<i>Lodge</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Dist.</i>
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**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/\$28.00\*      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$37.00/\$40.00\*** \$

\*Cost of meal if check received post marked after January 10th or purchased on-site

**Total Amount Enclosed** \$

Home Address

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

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

## Pace set for another membership gain

**By Rick Gathen, Membership Marketing Manager**

The Order can make history by achieving membership growth for the third consecutive year—a milestone not seen in 45 years!

While the final numbers for 2023–2024 won’t be confirmed until March 31, optimistic projections indicate we are on our way. Central to this projected growth is the goodwill generated by our impactful charitable efforts. The Elks National Foundation’s substantial philanthropic support, totaling over \$43 million for 2023–2024, plays a pivotal role in supporting local communities nationwide.

Equally important is the power of word-of-mouth marketing, amplified through social media, e-mails, and cell phones. Elks who proudly share their personal experiences and accomplishments not only strengthen the Order's reputation but also form deeper social ties with neighbors, peers, and friends. To facilitate this, the Public Relations and Membership Marketing Committee has curated a collection of shareable images, available at [virtualmanuals.elks.org/shareables/](http://virtualmanuals.elks.org/shareables/).

As we continue to provide generous support to our communities and promote our achievements, the Elks stand on the precipice of accomplishing “Three in a Row—Let’s Grow!”

## Per capita and fees set for 2024-2025

For the 2024-2025 fraternal year, on April 1, 2024, the following per capita and fees will be due from each Member: Grand Lodge per capita—\$6.50; Insurance assessment—\$22.00\*; and the Elks Magazine assessment—\$5.50, for a total of \$34.00.

\*This amount represents a \$5.00 per Member increase from last year.

Attention must continue to be given to retaining our delinquent Members as well as attracting new or reinstated Members. Involvement in Lodge activities should be encouraged to help keep Members interested.

If you, or someone you know, plan to visit Chicago over the winter, call the Grand Secretary's office to set-up a time, and staff can give you your own personal tour of the National Headquarters.

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays from your Grand Lodge staff.

Find us on  @ilelksnewsette

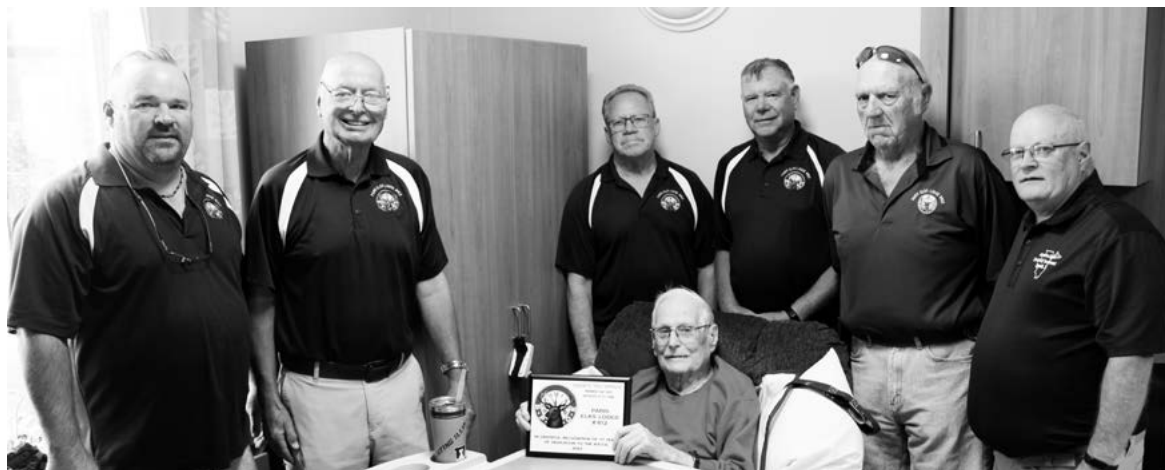


## It's never too late to become an Elk!



Agnes Johnson, 91, became the oldest member to be initiated into the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Jacksonville Lodge #682 on November 15th. Her son-in-law and Past District Grand Exalted Ruler, Mike Elliott, presided over the ceremony that consisted of 14 new members including Agnes. Agnes' children, Everett, Darryl, Trish and Chris are already members as well as daughter-in-law, Stacy Johnson and son-in-law Mark Dyer. Numerous grandchildren and cousins are also members of the Jacksonville Lodge. Pictured with Agnes is her son Darryl and daughter and son-in-law Trish and Mike Elliott.

## 77 Years of Elkdom for Doc Sprague



Paris Elks Lodge #812 recently celebrated Robert "Doc" Sprague for being a loyal member and oldest living member of their Lodge of 77 years.

In the picture from left to right are; P.E.R. Chad

Stevens, Leading Knight Alan Speicher, Lecturing Knight Ray Korte, Chaplain Jim Cooper, member Don Humphrey, & Esquire Greg Erwin.

Members presented a recognition plaque to Doc

and talked to about yesterday. Doc replied after coming home from the war, he went to college and settled in Paris and before retiring, was a life long dentist here in Paris.

## From Antler to Elk

Murphysboro Lodge #572 initiated their first Antler, Fallon Cochran, this past August.

In the photo, right, she displays both her new

membership card, and her former Antler card.

Her sponsor, and Grandfather, Jim Ferguson, was on hand for Fallon's transition from Antler to Elk!



## City of DeKalb achieves National Honors as *Veterans City of the Year*



After being honored as the "Illinois Veteran City of the Year" the City of DeKalb was awarded "National Veteran City of the Year" by the 40&8 National Organization on September 15th, 2023. 40&8 Award Chair Mildrew Wright-Pierson presented the award to Air Force Veteran Michael Embrey and member of DeKalb Elks Lodge #765. "We can never do enough to support and honor our veterans for their service, sacrifice, and willingness to serve their country as well as those who gave their lives for something greater than themselves," commented Embrey during his acceptance speech. Mr. Embrey is also the recipient of the IEA Veteran Volunteer of the Year award for 2021-2022 and has spearheaded the DeKalb Elks #765 Veteran's Memorial that opened to the public October 1st, 2022. The presentation of 100 new bricks, a memorial bench and fountain will take place at a future dedication ceremony at the memorial. City of DeKalb Mayor Cohen Barnes was unable to attend the event and chose Mr. Embrey to accept the award on behalf of the City of DeKalb.



Send your Newsette stories to [ilelksnewsette@gmail.com](mailto:ilelksnewsette@gmail.com)

# Soccer Shootout a Success!

By Steve Albrecht, Shootout Chair

First, I would like thank everyone that participated in the State Soccer Shoot this year, this was our biggest participation to date. We had five Districts participate with a total of 33 kids in all age groups except 14/15 girls.

I want to thank the District Coordinators for making this happen, our State President Floyd Schmidt (Chris), 1st Vice Roger Quinn, 2nd Vice Dave Neel , and 3rd vice Jeff Johnson, along with past State Presidents Doc Gerleman, Todd Lindsay, and Darryl Swisher for their help.

Last, but not least. the parents that traveled hours to bring our Contestants. Listed below are where Contestants in their age groups, winners will be entered into the Virtual National Shoot for Grand Lodge.

- Boys 7-U**  
1st Louie Orso South District / Marion  
2nd Tripp Petty South Central / Olney  
3rd Emersyn Robertson East Central / Pana  
4th Gavin Reneau West District / Canton

- Girls 7-U**  
1st Kynlie Gerleman West District / Kewanee  
2nd Olivia Rude South Central / Olney  
3rd Genevieve Byers East Central / Pana

- 8-9 Boys**  
1st Myer Starr West Central / Carlinville  
2nd Andrew Porter East Central / Pana  
3rd Carter Gerleman West / Kewanee

- Girls 8-9**  
1st Chloe Heldebrandt East Central / Pana  
2nd Olivia Dembinski West / Canton

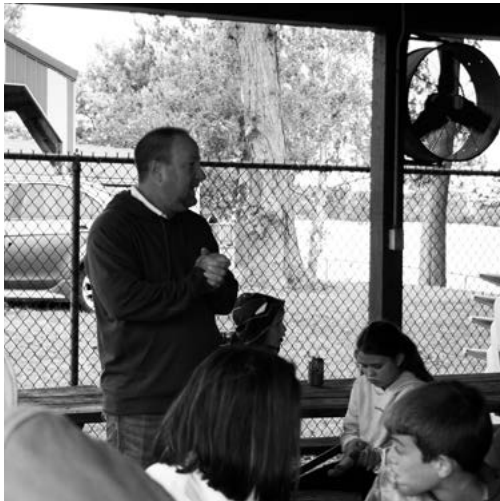
- Girls 10-11**  
1st Katelyn Ridings South / Marion  
2nd Ella Tait South Central / Olney

- Boys 10-11**  
1st Liam Shaughnessy South Central / Olney  
2nd Roman Collins  
3rd Noah Dembinski West / Canton

- Boys 12/13**  
1st Carter Sanudo West / Kewanee  
2nd Luke Starr West Central / Carlinville  
3rd Carson Seessengood / South  
4th Quentin Porter East Central / Pana  
5th Joe Hunt South Central / Olney

- Girls 12-13**  
1st Evelyn Graves. West Central / Carlinville  
2nd Kadence Rochkes East Central / Pana  
3rd Gia Orso South / Marion  
4th Sophia Leach. East Central / Pana

- 14-15 Boys**  
1st Noble Neese South / Anna Jonesboro





In the Community

LODGE NEWS



Murphysboro #572

On September 21, 2023, Murphysboro Elks Lodge #572 partnered with local VFW Post to host and provide a lunch, for Illinois Gold Star Bike Riders. American Flags were displayed along route by Elk members to welcome the Riders. Here, Lodge Antlers members and volunteers hold American flags at entry to Lodge parking lot.



Elgin #737

Elgin Elks Lodge #737 Sue Kaszuba, Exalted Ruler during Red Ribbon Week presented Greg Huske, North District DDGER, drug awareness coloring pages from our youth. We proudly display drug awareness coloring pages at our Lodge. Jim Cusack, PSP was also present at our DDGER visit.

Submit your articles and photos to...  
ilelksnewsette@gmail.com



Mt. Vernon #819

On November 18, 2023, Mt. Vernon #819 smoked up some funds for ENF. Fundraising coordinator and members smoked eight hams, 13 turkey breasts, five whole turkeys for sale to our members and community. Two hams and two breasts were purchased by an anonymous veteran to be distributed as determined. The ENF coordinator with help of VA/DAV was able to distribute meat to five veteran families and remaining meat has accepted by Kent @ FLC.

Elks National Foundation (ENF) is designed to help build stronger communities by investing in and where Elks live and work. They help youth develop lifelong skills, send students to college, meet the needs of todays veterans, support charitable work of state Elk associations and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local community.

Lodge #819 has held two, very successful, smoker days at Harbour Freight and 100% after cost goes into this Lodge fund.

*Pictured above from left to right: Kent Fair, ENF fund coordinator and Nate Hull, kitchen boss, Family Life Church.*



Galesburg #894

Galesburg Elks Lodge #894 donated \$3548.04 to the local "Shop with a Cop." This will allow 30 kids to go shopping for Christmas presents for themselves or family members.

Funds were raised by doing a breakfast for Lodge members, a nacho bar and 50/50 drawings.

*Pictured above, left to right: Officer Blake Carr, Chief Officer Idle, ER Sue McNaught, PER and Officer Jason Shaw, Elks Activities Chair Amy Lybarger, Officer Travis Smith, Officer Kevin Legate, and Officer James Kubis.*

On Saturday November 11, 2023 members and their families decorated The Elks Sponsored tree at Brookfield Zoo. Over 800 trees were purchased at 195 dollars, money went to the general conservation of facility at the zoo.



Brookfield #1510



Brookfield #1510

MAKE GIVING EASY & JOIN THE CLUB!

Sign up for our monthly, sustaining giving program—the ENF Fidelity Club!

- Give automatic, regularly scheduled donations each month from your credit card or bank account.
- Receive special membership benefits and recognition pieces.
- Update, adjust or modify your gift any time online or by calling us.
- Sign up by scanning the QR code and make a sustaining difference in Elks communities today!

Use the QR code to sign up today.



# Fundraisers and Donations



**Watsseka #1791**

Watsseka Lodge #1791 hosted the 12th annual Boobie Bingo event on Saturday, November 11th. There were 158 players and \$8,514.00 was raised that evening. This money is given directly to Iroquois County residents who are battling cancer. Over \$76,000.00 has been raised to date helping 116 families.

*Pictured above are the Elks member who helped that night. Cheryle Laurent, Marilyn Conger, Kim Gocker, Derek Hagan, Carla Hanson, Kat Berry, Traci Zabel, Stephanie Wengerter, Denny Lowe, Cookie Swigert, Amy Reetz, Dawn Tobeck, Pam Thurston and Scott Kingdon.*



**DeKalb #765**

DeKalb Lodge #765 worked in conjunction with member Roger Finnan to donate \$8,000 to the Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Cancer Center. Roger's wife Shannon died from cancer just one month short of her 50th birthday. Earlier this year, members of DeKalb Elks organized a local golf outing where 116 golfers participated. Shannon was an avid golfer and a familiar face at #765 Lodge. Shannon received treatment for nine months at the Kishwaukee Cancer Center. Roger wanted the money raised to benefit those locally receiving treatment at the cancer center. These funds will likely be given to patients via gift cards to use where they need them the most.

*Pictured above, left to right: Jerry Evans, Exalted Ruler; Michelle Scheri, Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Cancer Center and Roger Finann, DeKalb Elks Member.*

## Nomination time for Veteran Volunteer of the Year

By Hannah Graber, ENVSC Programs Coordinator

Each year, ENVSC recognizes outstanding volunteers from each state who have demonstrated their commitment to veterans and military members in need with the Veteran Volunteer of the Year.

Last year, Kentucky presented this award to Michelle Anderson for leading monthly interactive events for veterans. Anderson took flowers to the VA hospital, organized supply distributions, delivered beds to Fisher House, hosted meals, and provided entertainment for veterans. Her contagious attitude and passion for service have engaged other Elks Members in veterans' service.

In Alabama, the Veteran Volunteer of the Year award was given to John Ray. As a Voluntary Service Representative, Ray visits veterans at the Bay Minette VA every month, hosting bingo, providing games and fishing equipment, and being there to give support. He was described in his nomination as steadfast and second to none.

Do you know volunteers like these in your community? Now is the time to nominate fellow Lodge Members for this award. Eligible nominees may be active in the Elks Voluntary Service program, as Lodge Veterans Chair, as State Veterans Chair, or in another volunteer capacity serving veterans in need. Both Elks Members and their spouses are eligible for this award.

Please submit nominations for this award to your State Veterans Chair no later than January 31. Individual states may have earlier deadlines to submit a nomination. Once the State Veterans Chair receives all the nominations, two winners from each state will be selected.

The nomination form is available at [elks.org/vets/volunteerawards.cfm](http://elks.org/vets/volunteerawards.cfm).



## NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

A candidate for any IEA state office may submit at no charge one proclamation or endorsement from the candidate's Lodge (or district), or a letter of intent. Copy with or without photograph shall not exceed 13 printed column inches (about 35 words per column inch). A candidate may also submit a photograph and biography, not to exceed 100 words, for publication in the spring issue of the Newsette at no charge. All other copy and photographs shall be considered paid advertising and shall be charged at the same rates as regular advertisements.

## ADVERTISE YOUR SPECIAL Lodge EVENT!

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

## SECRETARIES!

### WE WANT YOUR ADDRESS CORRECTIONS!

**Send to:** Children's Care Corp.,  
P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629-0222  
**Fax:** (217) 483-2131  
**E-Mail:** [helpkids@elkscore.org](mailto:helpkids@elkscore.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

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



Fundraisers and Donations

LODGE NEWS



Galesburg #894

Galesburg Lodge #894 donated \$2850 to Turning Point Child Advocacy Center. We had a fajita night, bar bingo, and a 50/50. Funds will help supply additional supplies for the children.  
Pictured left, right to left: Lyn Johnson, Jill Mann from Turning Point and Elk Nadine Nice.



Mt. Vernon #819

On November 29, 2023, Mt Vernon Elks #819 presented Kent Jackson, Family Life Church in Mt. Vernon with a check for \$6,000.00. This is money from a Beacon grant through the Elks National Foundation (ENF) that was applied for by our Lodge Grants coordinator. The Beacon Grant is specifically for use in community investment. Family Life Church has always assisted the community in helping, housing and feeding our under served population. During the search for valid uses it was discovered that FLC had a shortage of beds for overnight clients. This donation will allow them to purchase and increase the capacity of their beds. Elks #819 is proud to be able to help Kent Jackson with his community efforts.  
Pictured above left to right: #819 Grant Coordinator Kent Fair, Kent Jackson of Family Life Church, #819 ER Rockie Thompson, and #819 Secretary Tim Bain.



Benton #1234 & Mt. Vernon #819

On October 7, 2023 multiple Lodges gathered, serving hotdogs to trick or treaters at Wayne Fitzgerald Illinois State Campground, and Benton High School (BHS) Wrestling team entertained the DAV tram riders to a haunted trail. The team dressed as clowns and provided cheers and fears for all ages along a 1 plus mile bike trail.  
On November 1, 2023, a \$2000.00 Gratitude Grant was given to Coach Robinson and several of the participating wrestlers at Benton Elks Lodge #1234. The wrestlers reported having a great time and were excited to start their plan for the trail next year. They plan to put the grant money toward already purchased new wrestling mats.  
Pictured above left to right: Grant Writer Kent Fair #819, Peyton Roberson BHSW, Trustee Vicky Pearce #1234, Coach Aaron Roberson BHSWC, Kingston Palmer BHSW, Past IEA President Coy Cockrum #1234, Leading Knight Kay McDowell #1234, Event Coordinator Scott Flota, ER Denise Minor #1234, Loyal Knight Steven Pate #1234, Chaplain Tammy Martin #1234.



Brookfield #1510

On Wednesday October 18, 2023, 96 backpack's were delivered to Jesse Brown VA hospital in Chicago. They will be distributed in November at the Stand Down at The Armory given to homeless veterans.  
Personal hygiene items and daily essentials were packed inside. The \$2,000 Spotlight Grant made this possible.



Harrisburg #1058

Harrisburg #1058 was awarded the Spotlight Grant from ENF CIP program. We utilized the funds to purchase non-perishable food items for our local junior college Adult Education program. Many participants in the program are working to better themselves but have no means or opportunity to provide lunch, etc. for themselves.  
Pictured delivering to Southeastern IL College are Laurie Fields, GED instructor, Jessica Whitaker, Adult Education Program, Dan Chambers, Lodge member & PER, Audrey Talbot, Adult ED Assistant Director, Bruce Boone, Lodge member & ENF Coordinator and Carmen Conci, Lodge member & Grant Coordinator.



Brookfield #1510



# Veterans

On Friday, November 17, 2023, President Floyd Schmidt and Veterans chairman Bob Kane were honored to represent the Illinois Elks. They presented the check for \$25,000 to Missing in America Project.

The North district presented a check for \$1,500. Jan Thomas was there to represent North District. Also in attendance was Chris Schmidt, Steve Thomas and Phyllis Kane.

MIAP searches funeral homes and crematory's for unclaimed remains. They DNA test to see if any are Veterans. If so, they buy an urn and transport to family if possible. If not, they provide a final resting place with dignity. To date they have recovered 30,951 remains. Of those 6,625 are Veterans. They have interred 6,274 Veterans. To learn more about Missing in America Project visit [www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us).



Missing in America Project



Missing in America Project



Harrisburg #1058

Harrisburg Elks Lodge #1058 was awarded the 2004 CIP Freedom Grant for purchase of (5) new wheelchairs for the Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois. These will replace severely damaged chairs from the continual on/off loading on flights & buses. We are grateful for the opportunity to demonstrate our gratitude and support of our area veterans.

*Pictured are Jim Etienne, Exalted Ruler, Hope Patterson, SI Honor Flight Director and Carmen Conci, Grant Coordinator.*



Brookfield #1510

Peggy DeGuide delivered household and personal items to Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago. The Lodge is collecting for homeless veterans who are being placed in their own apartments.



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



Oglesby #2360

Living up to the Elks motto, Elks Care and Elks Share, Oglesby Elks Lodge #2360 members delivered 32 cases of toiletries to the Veterans Home in LaSalle, Illinois. This is part of the ongoing support of the approximately 90 veterans in the Home.

Earlier in the year, the Oglesby Lodge hosted a luncheon at the nearby picturesque Camp Aramoni for 15 veterans and staff.

These projects were possible using an Elks National Foundation (ENF) Freedom Grant of \$1,000, plus funds from the Illinois Elks Veterans Grant and local Lodge funds.

*Shown delivering the toothpaste, shampoo and body wash are Elk Veterans Ken Ficek PER, (2nd from left) Inner Guard, Ralph Stork, and Esquire Tim Watkins, from the Oglesby Lodge#2360, flanked by Jerry Bacidore and Cassandra Seaborne from the Staff of the Veterans Home in LaSalle.*

The Lodge also supplied pumpkin pies for the Veterans' Thanksgiving feast.



# Order Your New and In Full Color 2024 Children’s Benefit Calendar

Want to be a winner? 262 chances to win your portion of \$21,500.00 in total prize money to be drawn all year long. There will be 246 weekly drawings Monday – Friday for \$50.00, 12 monthly drawings for \$100.00, 3 special drawings for \$1,000.00 and 1 Grand Prize drawing for \$5,000.00 and your ticket cost only \$20.00 with a free full color calendar.

Think about it, \$20.00 will get you \$50.00 and your name goes back in the barrel and you are still eligible to win again all year long. Help the Kids with your purchase of our Benefit Calendar. Calendars can be purchased at your Lodge, online at [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org) or fill out the form below, make check payable to the IECCC and return to IECCC, P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629 and we will enter you into the drawing.

You could be a winner as well as the kids. Thank You!

## Calendar Winners

**AUGUST**  
Brent Ellis, Flora; Melissa Marasco, Joliet; William Wade. Galena; Bryan Cannon, Lawrenceville; James Cusack, Des Plaines; Melanie Grumley, Belleville; Gerald W. Kowzan, Du Quoin; Margaret Almon, Marion; Ronald D. Smith, Granite City; Tonika Tokgoz, Centralia; Marjorie Leefers, Carlinville; Randi Kelsheimer, Robinson\*; Kelli Potter, Chicago South; Thomas A. Christiansen, Peoria; Don P. Eckstein, Champaign- Urbana; Duane Gillespie, Kewanee; Roger Williams, Dixon; Ralph E. Guderian, Des Plaines; Mary Cassel, Champaign-Urbana; Sue Cosper, Des Plaines; Sharon Sample, Macomb; John Loftus, Springfield; Debra Ledbetter, Harrisburg;

**SEPTEMBER**  
Carla Burgland, Galesburg; Kathy Craig, Robinson; David Amraen, Oak Lawn; Randal Reichert, Beardstown; Joe Daniels, Joliet; Daria Blumenthal, Des Plaines; Larry Gillespie, Carlinville; Charles V. Betz, Mendota; Gregory A. Collins, Oak Lawn; Mark A. Koehler, Rock Island, David Tomalis, Brookfield; Gerald W. McGinnis, Jacksonville; Ron Johnston, Joliet; David Holt, Murphysboro\*; Peter G. Steward, Springfield; Mike Jones, Harrisburg; Jeff Arnold, Robinson; Ellen Gayon, Pontiac; Dinah Lee Waschow, Elgin; Tom E. Caliper, Herrin; Quentin Jones, Robinson

**OCTOBER**  
Daniel Irvin, Joliet; Sarah Harms, Pontiac; Kendall Hill, Salem; Bruce A. Brown, Champaign-Urbana; Bob Reams, Herrin; Patti Pitcher, Peoria; Vicky Pearce, Benton; Julia Brewer, Springfield; Tomi Sue Austin, Charleston; Barbara Nix, Des Plaines; Thomas E. McCrea DeKalb; Avis L. Thomas, Chicago Northshore; Valerie Eastman, Dixon\*; Everett Jackson, Quincy; Dave Harmer, Lincoln; Beth Freligh, Springfield; Kristen A. Pemberton, Elgin; Ronald Budreau, Watseka; Gloria Papish, Des Plaines; Billy May, Herrin; Rick Grillion, Kankakee; Kelley Keeling, Metropolis.

**NOVEMBER**  
Joseph Wenze; Peoria; Cindy Hall, Springfield; Randy Bastian, Belleville; Steve Washko, Springfield; Tom A. Durment, Des Plaines; Fraya Carroll, Belleville; Ron Ramza, Streator; Doris J. Turner, Oak Lawn; John & Sue Elliott, Peoria\*\*\*; Darlen Buchanan, Streator; Steve J. Davis, Carlinville; Tom Anselment, McLeansboro\*; Lauren Stott, Sycamore; Rachel Marasco, Joliet; Kelli Potter, Chicago South

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

## Winnners of the 2023 Statewide Drawing

- 1st Place**  
David Nichols #819 Mt. Vernon Elks - \$2,500.00
- 2nd Place**  
Cindy Neiggemann #591 Streator Elks - \$2,000.00
- 3rd Place**  
Dennis Lage #2497 Champaign-Urbana Elks - \$1,500.00
- 4th Place**  
Mina Potter #882 Galena Elks - \$1,000.00
- 5th Place**  
Merle Evans #572 Murphysboro Elks - \$500.00
- 6th Place**  
Lucille Auten #1882 McLeansboro Elks - \$250.00

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that participated in this drawing. Because of your participation you make winners out of all the children’s help throughout the year.



## Upcoming Elks Children’s Care Clinics

- January 2024**  
Lincoln - January 2nd at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM  
NW District @ Rockford - January 17th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
South District @ DuQuoin February 19th Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Dixon - January 23rd at Dr. Yeager Podiatry: 8:00 AM
- February 2024**  
Flora - February 7th at Clay County Flora Medical: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
Rock Island - February 20th at ORA Orthopedics: 2:30 to 3:30 PM
- March 2024**  
Bloomington - March 1st at Cortese Foot & Ankle: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM  
Champaign/Urbana - March 6th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30  
Mt. Vernon - March 7th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Mt. Carmel - March 11th at Wabash General Hospital: 2:30 to 4:30 AM  
Robinson - March 13th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
- 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 24 th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
NW District @ Morrison - April 25th at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM  
South District @ DuQuoin April 26 th 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 - June19 th at OrthoIllinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Dixon - June 25th at Dr. Yeager Podiatry: 8:00 AM

Dates and times 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@elksccare.org](mailto:helpkids@elksccare.org)

### Your Donations at Work

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

Without Your Support none of this would be possible. These are a few cases approved this past six months.

Case #1 – Eight year old female diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and non-ambulatory. Family was seeking assistance with a van conversion for their daughter confined to a wheelchair. \$5,000.

Case #2 – Three year old male diagnosed with an Autistic disorder and nonverbal. Family was requesting a communication device. Cost \$1,196.

Case #3 – Two year old female CP and lower limb defect, mother is asking for our assistance the purchase of a Galileo Plate which is a special vibration table which is experimental and alternative treatment. Cost \$2,600.

Case #4 – Four year old female diagnosed with Autism and nonverbal. Family are seeking our assistance for \$700 to cover the cost of a communication device not covered by insurance.

Case #5 – Fifteen year old female diagnosed with neuro fibromatosis type 1, optic glioma and mobility dependent. Family is seeking assistance for stair lift as her bedroom is on the 2 nd floor. Cost of the stair lift is \$13,898 and they are asking for \$4,000 in assistance. \$4,000 was approved

Case #6 – Nine year old male diagnosed with Duchenne/ Becker MD which is a muscular disorder. He is confined to a wheelchair as he is non-ambulatory. Mother is seeking assistance for a Hoyer Lift for everyday lifting care. We will be sharing the with cost of \$9,013 in the amount of \$4,000.

Case #7 – Twelve year old female diagnosed with a CP and non-ambulatory. Family is asking assistance with a van conversion, approval of \$2,000 was awarded

Case #8 - Three year old male diagnosed with many severe developmental deficiencies. Such as neonatal encephalopathy, hearing impaired, hip dysplasia and club. Mother is seeking assistance with a gait trainer cost \$3,619.27, approval was given.

Case #9 - Sixteen year old female diagnosed with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia (blind). Single mother of three is asking us for assistance for a Perkins Braille machine for home schooling. \$810 approved.

Assisting these families and many more not included in this writing, is only made possible by you and your contribution to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. On behalf of myself and my Board Members thank you for all you do for the KIDS.



**Next Newsette deadline is March 22nd!**

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

## Illinois Elks Association Newsette

### Showcase your Lodge's civic activities in the Illinois Elks Newsette!

Send your articles and photos, and show every Illinois Elk what you're proud of in your Lodge. **E-mail them** to Newsette Editor Liz Conaway at [ilelksnewsette@gmail.com](mailto:ilelksnewsette@gmail.com), mail to 414 S Eaton, Edinburg, IL 62531 or call (217) 827-3799.

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

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