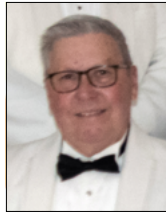


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IEA PRESIDENT

Roger Quinn

Let's Be Great Together!

Members all,

As we welcome December, it is hard to believe the calendar year is already ending. This year, we have had the privilege of attending many district meetings and events, and it has been inspiring to see the outstanding work being done by our lodges and districts across Illinois. Take a moment to give yourselves a well-deserved pat on the back—your dedication does not go unnoticed.

Without the Elks in Illinois, our communities would be missing the important help and contributions to numerous great causes.

If your lodge or district has not yet requested the \$1,000 Veterans Grant, now is the time to do so! The deadline for this grant is December 31st. Likewise, if you have not applied for the State President's Matching Grant of \$2,000, please be sure to submit your application before the same deadline. These grants, along with ENF grants, provide a valuable opportunity to make a meaningful impact in your communities and support those in need.

Remember, your lodge is the face of the Elks in each community. We encourage you to share your lodge's activities by submitting photos to your local newspaper or posting them on Facebook. Show others what the Elks are doing in Illinois and inspire others to get involved.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Steve and Val Albrecht and all the soccer chairs around the state for organizing a great IEA Soccer Shoot this year. Your hard work is appreciated!

In January, we look forward to welcoming our Grand Exalted Ruler, Doug Schiefer, and his wife, Julia, to Illinois. Let us give them a warm and hearty welcome!

At our state meeting in January, First Lady Lisa Quinn will host a luncheon to recognize eight candidates for Lady of the Year. One of these remarkable women will be honored for her dedication, time, and effort in supporting our Order. We encourage everyone to show their appreciation and support to these deserving individuals.

Also at the January state meeting, we will be hosting ritual competitions for individual chairs, the 11:00 Toast, and the Flag Charge. We wish the best of luck to all those participating—your commitment to preserving and practicing the ritual is essential to keeping the traditions of the Elks alive in Illinois.

Lisa and I have been inspired by the many fundraising efforts supporting Bryan and Sue Klatt as the Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler. Your continued dedication is appreciated. We still have a way to go, but together, I am confident we can achieve our goal.

As we look toward the future, we are focused on reversing the 20-year trend of membership loss in Illinois. With the help of Merle Evans and Mike Hosian, we are committed to increasing our membership numbers. If each of us takes an extra step to engage others, we can break this cycle.

During November and December every lodge that has an initiation and sends me a picture will be recognized at the January IEA meeting with our Grand Exalted Ruler present. I hope to recognize EVERY Lodge. Thank you all for your continued support—every effort counts!

Finally, Lisa and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in January. Keep up the great work in the name of Elksdom, and let us continue to Be Great Together.

Klatt endorsed to become next Grand Exalted Ruler

Bryan Klatt announced his endorsement to become the Elks next Grand Exalted Ruler. Klatt is a long-time member of Dekalb #756 and has served as the Grand Lodge Secretary. He will be installed at the next Grand Lodge Convention in July 2025 in Kansas City.

You'll do great, Bryan! A proud representative of Elksdom and our great State!



IEA Scholarship Recipients honored at banquet



(From L-R) Bill Block - Adm., Hailey Wang - Speech Path. winner, Mark Bump - Board Mem., Hallie Schneider OT/PT winner, John Hargis - Board Mem., Makayla Irlam - OT/PT winner, Jim Goldsborough - Board Mem., Kristi Wykes - Board Mem., Sharon Kay Dirck - Board Mem., Tawn Williams - Board Chair. The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation announced their top scholars at the IEA Fall Meeting in Springfield.

The winner of the Bill Leas Award is Makayla Irlam referred by Jacksonville #682; attending Maryville University in their Physical Therapy Program. She has a Grade Point Average of 3.97.

One of her Professors had this to say about Makayla - "In addition to her academic performances, she possesses the intellect, disposition, self-discipline & interpersonal skills and they make her a successful physical therapist in the future. She is a creative, hardworking, resourceful, and dependable person. Beyond the classroom, Makayla has proven her sincere interest in being a contributing member of society. She has participated in several extracurricular activities for several years. However, she has also been actively involved in her community as a volunteer serving those who are less fortunate which is a testament to her caring nature."

In her essay Makayla stated - "When thinking about my future and what I want to do in life, one thing always comes to mind. I want to have a job where I get to help people daily."

The winner of the Mike Manning Award is Hallie Schneider referred by Pana #1261; and attending Maryville University as a Physical Therapy

Continued on page 12

A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...



IEA SECRETARY

Joe Ray

Members all,

As we are entering into the Holiday Season, we can all be proud of what the BPOE does for our communities. Without question how many more families would go without our help.

Please ask for the IEA grants before Dec. 31st, which is the deadline. Jeff Rodier, our State Treasurer and myself have worked to get all the kinks of the transaction from George Hornung to Jeff. We both appreciate the help that George and Kristi have given. The annual audit is complete with no problems and we are financially sound in both regular IEA account and the Charitable Trust account.

I hate to beat a dead horse, but many Lodges are not sending any address corrections to the CCC office for the Newsette, I'm going to send the list that have been sent in and those you haven't to the District Vice Presidents and District Leaders as well the State Officers.

I will be sending out voting credentials in early to mid April for the upcoming election of the 3rd Vice President at the May Meeting, of which we have three candidates Dave Copper, Chris Ord and Stephanie Schwab from the West Central District.

The Grand Exalted, Doug Schiefer, will be at the January meeting along with his wife Julia. Let's give them a huge welcome. As most know I be retiring next April from Sherwin Williams after almost 41 years of service. I will not be at the Sunday Morning Meeting because my flight to the Sherwin Williams National Sales Meeting will leave St. Louis early Sunday morning. Myself and the rest of the retirees will be honored Sunday evening by being brought out on stage by years of service. This will be done in front of around 10,000 employees of the Paint Stores Group.

Let's everyone have a wonderful holiday season and God Bless each and everyone!



IEA TREASURER

Jeff Rodier

Members all,

Reminder that the deadline for applying for the State Matching Grant for meeting Past State President Floyd Schmidt's per capita goal is December 31st. As of this writing, 19 eligible Lodges have not applied for this Grant! Likewise, 25 Lodges have yet to apply for their Veterans Grant!

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE THIS MONEY ON THE TABLE!

Contact State President Roger with your request for these monies, copy State Secretary Joe and myself and we'll send you your check. It's as simple as that.

On the good news front, Grand Lodge has sent the IEA our annual share of Grant money for the year. That money has been deposited and is ready to be used for our charitable works statewide!

Norine and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Looking forward to seeing you at the State Convention in Springfield in January!



IEA SPONSOR

F. Louis Sulberger
PGER

Greetings all!

It is hard to believe that winter and the holidays are upon us where we look forward to special times with our families and friends. Many of our lodges have special holiday activities for their members, Santa visits for the children, holiday goodies for shut-ins and much, much more. I commend all of you for your extra efforts in bringing the joy and peace of this holiday season to those that are less fortunate than most.

As I write this message, our lodge year is more than half over. District Deputy visits have been completed and we turn our thoughts to preparations for the Illinois Elks Association Mid-Winter Meeting in January. Once again, we will have the opportunity to come together to review our progress thus far, gain new insights and information from other members and of course renew and enjoy our friendships.

In addition to the regular business we will tend to that week-end, we are most fortunate to have our Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer and First Lady Julia here for their official visit. 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. We are excited for them to join us, and I know you will all give them a warm and wonderful Illinois welcome.

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 Elksdom Julia Schiefer and First Lady of Illinois Lisa Quinn 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 2025. See you in Springfield next month! God Bless you all.

Illinois Elks Association Newsette

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

Send your articles and photos, and show every Illinois Elk what you're proud of in your Lodge. **E-mail them** to Newsette Editor Liz Conaway at ilelksnewsette@gmail.com, mail to 1937 N Walnut Road, Rochester, IL 62563 or call (217) 827-3799.

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

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

www.facebook.com --- @ilelksnewsette

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December generosity requires detailed documentation

By Richard E. Stone, Committee Member

As your Lodge prepares to help those less fortunate in your community, remember to document your time and mileage along with the funds expended. Whether you are distributing food baskets or hosting a dinner for the homeless, all your time, mileage, and expenditures must be reported to your Lodge Secretary for documentation. This Charitable

reporting shows our local, state, and federal elected officials that we are serving our communities.

This is a wonderful time to invite elected officials to your Lodge to see what you are doing for the community. Ask them if they would like to help with your project. This will get them involved and give them a better understanding of what Elks do for

their community.

If you rent your Lodge out for functions, remember to have separate contracts for the hall rental and the food and bar services. This keeps the hall rental from incurring taxes as Unrelated Business Income (UBIT). If an Elk is renting the hall and has non-Elks attending, the non-Elks' purchases are taxed under UBIT. If the Elk

pays for everything then there is no tax as an Elk paid the tab.

Lastly, the new year will bring a start to legislative activity. Local, state and the US Congress will be writing new laws that will be introduced and voted on. You should keep a watchful eye on this activity for a law that may adversely affect your Lodge, State Association, or the Order. Be sure

to pass along this information to your state Government Relations Chair so he/she may up-channel this information to their Area Government Relations Committee person.

May you have a happy and prosperous new year!

Illinois Elks Association

FALL CONFERENCE

January 23-26, 2025 Springfield – Wyndham Hotel

Thursday, January 23, 2025

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

Friday, January 24, 2025

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

Saturday, January 25, 2025

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
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Initiatory Ritual Competitions
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
<i>Entrée: Ranch Chicken Bacon, Cheddar, Lettuce & Tomato Croissant with Broccoli Soup</i>	
<i>Dessert: Brownie Blondie - Chocolate Chip with Walnut Pecan Cost: Pre Reg-\$27.00/ Onsite \$30.00</i>	
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 Ambassador
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
<i>Dinner: Whiskey Glazed Pork Loin with Roasted Red Potatoes & Broccoli with Iceberg Chopped Salad</i>	
<i>Dessert: Chocolate Cake Cost: Pre-registration \$40.00/On-site \$43.00 Dress: Business Suit</i>	
Members are encouraged to attend the banquet in honor of Grand Exalted Douglas A. Schiefer and First Lady Julia.	

Sunday, January 26, 2025

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

Plaza 4
Capitol/Illinois
Capitol/Illinois

REGISTRATION

All Elks, male & female, Must Register for meeting functions: **FEES:** Pre-Registration \$ 10.00/ On-site \$20.00. **Pre-Registration deadline is January 8.** FORM ON PAGE 4.

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 20, 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, January 25, 2025, and during all Business sessions.

No one will be permitted in the hospitality rooms without proper convention credentials. Those not displaying proper credentials WILL be required to leave.

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

Complete your Mid-Winter Meeting Registration Form and return before January 8th!

MID-WINTER MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

January 22-26, 2025 • Springfield, IL • Wyndham Hotel

MUST HAVE CREDENTIALS TO ENTER MEETINGS OR HOSPITALITY ROOMS

Pre-Registration
Deadline
January 8, 2025

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

Pre-Registration
Deadline
January 8, 2025

Pre-Registration - \$10.00 After January 8 - \$20.00
Checks payable to Illinois Elks Association

ELK#1 _____ Non-Elk Spouse _____

ELK#2 (Only if spouse of Elk #1) _____

Lodge _____ No. _____ Dist. _____

Title ELK#1 _____
(To be typed on Convention Badge)

Title ELK#2 _____
(To be typed on Convention Badge)

Registration Fee @ \$10.00 ALL ELKS (Male and Female) \$ _____
If both male and female are members both pay fee (no exceptions)

Ladies' Lunch @ \$27.00/\$30.00* \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$40.00/\$43.00* \$ _____
*Cost of meal if check received post marked after January 8 or purchased on-site

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

A Message from GER Douglas A. Schiefer

Bucyrus, Ohio - Elks Lodge No. 156

Merry Christmas! Let's focus on the reason for the season: Remember to be kind and compassionate to one another as you attend social events at your Lodges. It must be a time when we can be the best of who we are. At the end of the day, it's truly about putting our hearts toward enjoying family, friends, and service to others.



The Elks Memorial Service is to be held on the first Sunday of December. It is an occasion to honor those Elks who have passed away. It's a time to remember the honorable way these Elks have served our Order. The great heart of Elkdom in our Eleven O'Clock Toast symbolizes how we feel about our departed Members.

Think of ways to serve your community by donating presents to underprivileged children and families and giving veterans a gift or holiday card. Giving is always better than receiving. Be sure to spread the word of your charitable works through your membership.

I'm confident you'll receive a positive response and many helping hands. In 2019 GER Michael T. Luhr issued a challenge to Elks Members to raise funds for the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawaii. There is no better way to honor the service and dedication of Americans, whose profound contributions to our nation should never be forgotten, so that generations to come will know and appreciate the enormous sacrifice of the "Greatest Generation."

Julia and I want to wish you a happy, joyous Christmas season. We wish your loved ones a heartfelt safe and enjoyable holiday season as you demonstrate "Elks Care—Elks Share" and show "Elkdom's Heart For America."

God bless our great Order and our troops, and God bless America!

Per capita and fees set for 2025-2026

Starting April 1, 2025, the following per capita and fees will be due from each Member:

Grand Lodge per capita: \$6.50
The Elks Magazine assessment: \$5.50
Insurance assessment: \$15 to \$25*
TOTAL remitted with report: \$27 to \$37

*To provide adequate funding of the Master Liability Program, each Lodge will be assessed on its own claim history and exposure. Accordingly, the per capita assessment will range from \$15.00 to \$25.00 for the 3/31/25–3/31/26 policy year. Each Lodge's assessment will be updated in the fees and dues section of CLMS no later than November 1, 2024. Please make sure that your Lodge budget includes this increase for the fraternal year beginning on April 1, 2025.

Call the Grand Secretary's office to set-up a personal tour of the National Headquarters if you, or someone you know, plan to visit Chicago over the winter.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!
Best wishes in 2025!

In the Community

IEA NEWS

Honor Flight Chicago Check Presentations

The IEA presented a donation check in the amount of \$3,500 to Honor Flight Chicago Co-Director Doug Meffley by GER-Elect Bryan Klatt on September 25th. The check was presented at Chicago's Midway Airport where Honor Flight Chicago was welcoming back 110 veterans from their well-earned flight to Washington DC. Many family members and friends of these heroes were in attendance and cheering along with a symphony orchestra and the Bag Pipe troupe. Also pictured right are IEA 3rd Vice President, Jeff Sterr and North District VP, Mike Hozian. Thank you, Honor Flight Chicago and IEA, for your continued support of our veterans!

Check out the Honor Flights that IEA donated to this year!



Chicago Honor Flight



Quad City Honor Flight Presented by 1st Vice President Dave Neel



Land of Lincoln Honor Flight: Presented by IEA State Officers



Veterans Honor Flight of Southern Illinois: Presented by 2nd Vice President Jeff Johnson



Great River Honor Flight: Presented by State President Roger Quinn and State Treasurer/PSP Jeff Rodier.



Peoria Honor Flight: Presented bu Past State President Floyd Schmidt and Member Steve Thomas

In the Community

Soccer Shootout Success

by Steve Albrecht, IEA Soccer Chairman



I would like to take this time to thank everyone that participated in the Soccer Shootouts this year, if you had one it was very much appreciated and I hope you will continue and ask others to join in your District. Thank you to our District Chairs (Craig Smith, Pete Luzader, and Sean Reese—who worked hard and continue to help get these young people to this competition. We had a great competition this year with 30 participants from five districts & and five no shows. I believe moving the Banquet & Awards inside made a big difference, I want to thank the Springfield Elks, along with Stephanie & Galen Schwab, for setting up the room and helping with the food and Sandy Bague for all the pictures. Thank you to our State Officers, President Roger Quinn, Vice Presidents Dave Neel and Jeff Johnson, State Secretary Joe Ray, along with PSP Floyd Schmidt, Todd Lindsay, Jeff Rodier (and current Treasurer), PDD Chris Ord, and, last but not least, my wife Val Albrecht. As you have heard me say before the Elks has the best platform in the world to introduce people to the Elks, but it only works if we get these programs into ours. It doesn't take much, so let's go. Listed right are our finalists.

7-U Girls: 1st Azalea Newell - Olney, 2nd Odella Byers - Pana
7-U Boys: 1st Landon Padilla - Kewanee, 2nd Paxton Davis - Charleston, 3rd Marshall Kissing - Marion
8-9 Girls: 1st Ava Kissing - Marion, 2nd Sofia Hellums - Carlinville, 3rd Mckinleigh Davis - Charleston
8-9 Boys: 1st David Fleming - Olney, 2nd Jace Vertico - Carlinville, 3rd Dawson Winn - Metropolis, 4th Jax Culumber - East Central, 5th Jace Henkin - Canton
10-11 Girls: 1st Addisyn Swan Carlinville, 2nd Fiona Phelps Marion, 3rd Elliana Baily - Charleston
10-11 Boys: 1st Elliot Ledue - Canton, 2nd Karsten Cline - Pana, 3rd Gavin Dunavent - Marion, 4th Romen Collins - Carlinville
12-13 Girl: 1st Eve Ledue - Canton, 2nd Blakely Swan - Carlinville, 3rd Addisyn Christen - Pana, 4th Briana Beard - Olney, 5th Bryce Blankenbecker
12-13 Boys: 1st Mason Musgrove - Metropolis, 2nd Rylan Pierce - Mt. Vernon, 3rd Ford Melton - Carlinville, 4th Quentin Mitchell - Canton
14-15 Boys: 1st Trace Thompson - Metropolis

Brookfield #1510 celebrates 8 years with CNN

It has been over 8 years now that the Brookfield #1510 has allowed the Community Nutrition Network (CNN) to run



a cafe in the Lodge daily from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Mon.- Fri.) for the purpose of feeding the elderly in the area, who might otherwise be suffering some food insecurities. The cafe serves an average of about 25 senior citizens per day and over 5000 per year. In addition, from the Elks Lodge location, about 68,000 meals on wheels dinners are sent out annually. The Elks are proud to aid this worthwhile program in its efforts to take care of our beloved community elders.

Pictured (left to right): Ericka Larrieu Director of Operations, Jennifer Owens General Manager of Operations, Tanya Harrison Site Manager, Edward Rentka Exalted Ruler, PER Heather Weyn Chairman of the Board of Directors and PDDGER Robert Rolewicz Senior Trustee.

Hurricane Relief via Centralia #493

Centralia #493 recently donated \$500 for Hurricane Helene Relief in North Carolina. Pictured are Leading Knight Tom Cagle, relief workers Stephanie Waggoner and Shane Swartzlander, and ER Bill Luebben.



Send news items to
ilelksnewsette@gmail.com

In the Community

IEA Hoop Shoot Program 2025: Feb 14 & 15

Jim Swisher, Chair

February 14th: We will check in at the Springfield #158 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Contestants will draw for shooting positions and Elk Members will serve chili, hotdogs, chips, ice cream, and soda. Contestants will also receive their shirts and some other goodies.

Hotel where we will stay at is Northfield Inn Suites and Conference Center in Springfield. (217-523-7900) I will only make Contestant and Parent room reservations only. If Elk Members wish to stay you will have to make your own room reservations rate is \$101.00. Rooms are under "hoop shoot" and rooms are held till February 1st deadline! After that you will stay next door, rooms are filling up we have so many rooms. So if you are coming make them early as you can.

Elk Members if you can come out support your program and have some fun. Now is the time on getting the word out about our program, talk to other towns nearby, churches, grandkids your neighbor down the street remember they don't have to be a basketball players to be in our program. If your Lodge isn't having a shoot but as a member you know a group or kids that wish to shoot get with me we'll work something out.

Members come out watch these kids join in help out, we always need extra bodies it's a fun time. Banquet is on Saturday eve around 6:00 PM runs till 9:00 PM or so and then at the end it's our pool bash, where we throw rubber balls into the pool with the kids. It's like dodge ball so far no one's been hurt; every child will get a orange hoop shoot ball to take home. A big THANKS to Springfield Elks lodge #158 for hosting our Friday night check-in. Plus if you don't want to eat chili try some of their food off their menu at the lounge are-can't beat it. Thank You ALL!

Galesburg #894 gives Peoria Honor Flights \$7000



Galesburg #894 donated \$7000 to the Greater Peoria Honor Flight. Funds were raised by 50/50 drawings, shrimp boil and donations from bartenders, Galesburg Corvette Club and the lodge.

We had the honor flight sponsors attend our Veterans lunch on 9/16 where we presented them the check and had them talk about the flight. The \$7000 will pay for 14 Veterans to fly. It was a great honor to be able to assist them with this.

In the picture from left to right: Exalted Ruler Dennis Jacobs, Activities Chair Amy Lybarger, Honor flight Speaker John Myers, Elks Veterans Chair Steve Thomas, Honor Flight speaker Bob Reed, Honor Flight speakers Gene Wallace and Aline Wallace.

Drug Awareness spreading Holiday Cheer

Since 2016 the Illinois Elks Drug Awareness Program as decorated a tree for the Holiday of Lights event at the Brookfield Zoo. Were an estimated over 100,000 visitors enjoy the event. The tree is decorated with DA red ribbons with the saying "Be Smart. Don't Start" and the Elks logo. Along with decorating the tree this year we handed out over 100 red ribbon bracelet. Pictured below.



Elgin #737 celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Brian Supancic, North District DDGER and his staff were presented Drug Awareness Youth artwork for Red Ribbon Week by Elgin #737. The lodge also passed out drug awareness materials at their Adopt a Schools Trunk and Treat for Halloween. Pictured below.



Galesburg #894 helps warm up the locals

Galesburg #894 is at it again. They distributed 86 coats between Safe Harbor and Lutheran Social Services. This was made possible by an Elks National Foundation Grant.

Picture 1 (bottom left): Lutheran Social Services representatives and Kathy Legg chairman for the Elks Coat program

Picture 2 (bottom right): Elks member Steve Brown, Safe Harbor representative Amy and Linda Murphy, Elks member.



Fundraisers and Donations

Fairview Heights #664 has had a busy year helping the community



On May 9th, they presented the Spotlight Grant of \$2,000 to the First Presbyterian Church to which help supply summer lunches. *Pictured left.*

July 9th, the Fairview Heights food pantry put out a call for an Emergency Food Drive and Members of #664 stepped up and in a few days we delivered 523 food items plus a cash donation.



Children in their local area were in need of school supplies. They partnered with Morrison Plumbing and on July 26th they delivered over \$3,300 of school supplies to two local schools to help them throughout the school year. *Pictured above.*

With their IEA Grant, LOTE, and Lodge donations they were able to participate in the VA Lady Veterans Baby Shower on Oct 5th. Diapers, wipes, sleepers, bibs, bath care, bouncers, and bath towels now await newborns.

Their Beacon & Gratitude Grant were combined, \$6,500, for the Teen Driver Safety Days on Oct 16th & 17th. This event shows high school drivers the impact of drunk driving, distractive driving, and there were classes with the Illinois State Police.

Their Freedom Grant \$1,000 along with Lodge funds abled us to participate in 2 golf tournaments. Aug 23rd Disabled Veterans and 1st Responders Tournament and Oct 17th Patriot Cup for Disabled Veterans. It was such an honor to serve a light lunch and then cater their banquet, but especially to spend the day with such a wonderful group of Veterans. *Pictured below.*



Meet 3rd Vice President Candidate

CHRIS ORD
Belleville #481



Education

- Althoff Catholic High School (Belleville)
- Greenville College (Greenville, Illinois)
- Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership

Elk History

- 22 Years as an Elk
- Exalted Ruler 2011-2013
- State District VP of the Year 2016-2017
- Presidential Lifetime Volunteer Award 2016
- District Deputy 2018-2019
- Illinois Male Veterans Volunteer of the Year 2018
- Past State Membership Co-Chair
- Current State ENF Co-Chair
- Current Vavs Rep at Metro East Vet Center

CHRIS ORD
Belleville #481

Hello! My name is Chris Ord and I would like to announce my candidacy for 3rd Vice President. I look forward to the opportunity to work with State Officers on issues affecting Illinois Elks. Increasing membership, visibility, supporting our charities and working for our Veterans are among my top priorities.

McLeansboro #1882 supports local library

McLeansboro #1882: We can't emphasize enough the importance of having a library in our community. Books give you the opportunity to learn about people you'll never meet, take you places you've never traveled, and expand your mind and soul. McLeansboro #1882 was proud to donate \$1,000 to the McCoy Library.



Thanks to McCoy Library for all they offer to the community!

Pictured above (left to right): Jim Melton, PDDGER, Mathew Bryson, Loyal Knight, Janice Crow, Amanda May, Nathan Reyling, ER and Sarah Reyling



Want to show what your Lodge has been up to?
Send it to the Newsette! ilelksnewsette@gmail.com

Fundraisers and Donations

Galesburg #894 Donations

Galesburg members were spreading early holiday cheer with money raised from our yearly golf outing.



\$1000 to Children’s Care. Pictured is Lodge Secretary Candy Dawson and Golf committee member TJ McNaught.



\$1000 to Critter Cove of Knox County. Pictured is Golf Committee Chair Carla Bledsoe, Critter Cove Buddy Montgomery and Golf Committee member TJ McNaught.



Knox Co Humane Society \$480.22. Pictured is Golf committee Chair Carla Bledsoe and Erin McMasters of the Humane Society.



\$1000 to Peoria Greater Honor Flight. Pictured Brent Bixby from the honor flight and golf committee member TJ McNaught.

East Central #2560 Donation to V.A. Illiana Health Care Systems

Picture left to right are Chad Stevens, District Vice President, Jamie Elson V.A. Specialist Coordinator, & Past DDGER Don Mowers making a \$2,000 donation to the VA to be used for patients and used to purchase bingo prizes which consist of gift-cards to the local Dairy Queen and other canteen items.

Elson stated the VA patients love being able to go on an outing to get ice cream. Other items always needed are bottled water, body care items, and small Dinty Moore microwave meals.



Joliet #296 had a busy month of November of Caring & Sharing

Joliet #296 used the \$1000 Illinois Elks Association Veterans Grant for Caring Patriots, NFP to help with the organizations annual Food Drive to help provide meals for veterans in need during the holidays.

They used the \$1000 Freedom Grant to make a donation to the local chapter of K9’s for veterans. An organization that provides service dogs for veterans.

They used the Gratitude Grant to provide 625 dictionaries to both the Troy and Joliet Grade school districts. The lodge also provided 750 Drug Awareness Book Markers to both school districts.

They used the \$2000 Community Service Grant from the Illinois Elks Association to the Joliet Fire Departments CARES Foundation. This program provides community education programs, materials, equipment and safety education and training for older individuals and teens.

The lodge concluded its giving by combining its Beacon and Spotlight Grants to make a \$6000 donation to the River Walk Food Pantry which helps provide food for families in need in the Joliet community(ies.)

Mt. Vernon #819 donates to Family Life Shelter



Mount Vernon #819 presented a check for \$1450.00 to Family Life Shelter as a result of a benefit chicken dinner held on September 15, 2024, at the Mount Vernon Elks Lodge. Pictured are Mt. Vernon #819 Exalter Ruler Rockie Thompson (Left) along with Family Life Pastor Kent Jackson (Right) and members of Family Life Church.

Family Life shelter opened its doors in 2017 as a warming shelter and expanded into a year-round shelter in 2022-2023. For more question contact Kent Jackson at Family Life Shelter (618) 242-2002.

LODGE NEWS Fundraisers and Donations

Kishwaukee Special Recreation Association receives donation from DeKalb #765 to help send children to Camp Maple Leaf



Kishwaukee Special Recreation Association (KSRA) received a donation from the DeKalb #765 of \$1,740 to provide scholarship for KSRA's 7-week summer camp, Camp Maple Leaf (CML).

DeKalb #765 Exalted Ruler, James Brantley, donated two checks to the KSRA Office, 1403 Sycamore Rd., DeKalb, on Tuesday, October 15. This donation will allow KSRA to provide financial support to families who might not be able to cover the full cost of the camp in 2025. The DeKalb Elks have been involved with CML for many years through their annual visit to camp where Elroy comes to hang out with campers and the Elks provide a pizza lunch for the entire camp. This is always a special day for the campers and the Elks.

CML runs from June to July for 7 weeks. CML is open to school age children of any ability. Siblings are also welcome to attend camp. Activities include group games, water activities, pool trips, art, sensory bins, relaxing in a sensory room, playground adventures and so much more.

Sending a child to summer camp is crucial as it continues their growth from the school year. During camp, they will work on their social skills by making new friends, practicing teamwork within their group, increasing physical activity through all the games and nature play, engaging

in mental stimulation through mindfulness activities and increasing their confidence as they develop new and build on current skills all while having a good time.

KSRA partners with DeKalb, Flag-Rochelle, Genoa, Sandwich and Sycamore Park Districts. Programs are planned according to the principles of Recreational Therapy (RT). RT uses strategies to address the social, emotional, cognitive, physical and leisure needs of those impacted by illness, injury or disability. Participation in therapeutic recreation programs, like those we offer at KSRA, can promote improvement and prevent decline in these areas for greater independence and well-being.

Elgin #737 awards money to PADS

Elgin #737 donated \$2000 to PADS in Elgin. The money was a President Grant from Illinois Elks Association awarded to the lodge. PADS, Public Action to Deliver Shelter, is a non profit organization. The money will be helping to aid the homeless.

Pictured (left to right): Carrie Schneider, PADS Operation Manager, Greg Huske PDGER and lodge Leading Knight, Jen Keller, PADS Development Manager.



Oglesby #2360 provide lead \$2,000 donation to local Police "Beyond the Horizon Linked Autism Safety Project"



Oglesby #2360 provided the lead \$2,000 donation to help purchase Autism Response Kits to provide training and information for local police to better deal with responses where a person with autism may be involved. Police squads from LaSalle, Peru, Spring Valley, Mendota and Oglesby will be equipped with the Response Kits.

Peru Police Officer Brendan Sheedy, shown receiving the check from Oglesby Elks Exalted Ruler Sam Sankovich, is heading up the "Beyond the Horizon, Linked Autism Safety Project".

The donation is made possible from the local Oglesby Elks Children's Care Fund and the IEA Gratitude Grant supplement.

The Band will march on (in new shoes) thanks to Murphysboro #572



The Murphysboro High School Crimson Express is marching on New Shoes this 2024-2025 Season, thanks to a \$2,000 donation by Murphysboro Lodge #572. The Lodge's ENF Gratitude Grant enabled this gift to a very deserving group. Lodge Secretary, Merle Evans (L), and E. R., Todd Doody, join band members, Bonnie Chen and Elijah Kimmel, who are displaying the new shoes.

Calendar Winners

AUGUST
Mike Baker, Joliet; Michael L. Layne, Murphysboro; Marilyn J. Small, Mt. Carmel; Robert Sheridan, Dixon; Phyllis Smith, Quincy; James Gibson, Watseka; Brett Vaughan, McLeansboro; Meredith C. Jamison, Beardstown; Jimmy Dillon, Peoria; Larry Finnan, DeKalb; Randy Rose, Champaign Urbana; Michael White, Galena; Maria Bohnsack, Galena; John Gardner, Harrisburg; Frank Giordano, Chicago South*; Bridget Reeves, Belleville; Greg Fuller, Robinson; Roger Cravens, Herrin; Jayne Walsh, Oak Lawn; Gail Sessler, Mendota; Joey Bandyk, Chicago South; Bill Mier, Chicago South.

SEPTEMBER
Alex Schure, Brookfield; Eliza Meade, Murphysboro; Jeff Kinkade, Kankakee; Jack Manion, Granite City; Wally Suchanek, Fairview Heights; Eddie Carder, Brookfield; Caroline Ryan, Beardstown; Douglas Stam, Kankakee; Philip Honey, Jacksonville; Sharon Brockwell, Mendota; Wendy Thurman, Kewanee; Jim Bone, Robinson; Robert Bond, McLeansboro*; Max Wyninger, Champaign-Urbana; Jim Beebe, Champaign-Urbana; Steve Brown, Galesburg; Lisa Dyer, Dixon; Jerry Miller, Decatur; Nathan Reyling, McLeansboro; Jason Holstein, Oak Lawn; Dennis Power, Springfield.

OCTOBER
Larry Smith, Jacksonville; Joseph Chickerillo, Oak Lawn; Adah Mitchell, Jacksonville; Stanley Zawadzki, Wheaton; Ralph Guderian, Des Plaines; Rick Poore; Chicago South; Mike Easton, Charleston; William Reininger, Mt. Vernon; Margie Gale, Murphysboro; John Nosari, Springfield; Cathy Whitler, Carlinville; Stephen Questelle, Harrisburg*; Bob Bosworth, Elmhurst; Dolores Ford, Oka Lawn; Ken Neth, Oak Lawn; Thomas Zuber, Olney; Gordon Herbert, Champaign-Urbana; Melissa Beck, DeKalb; Mike Blickhan, Quincy; Mike Quinlan, Watseka; Michael Hoerdeman, Elmhurst; Mike Graham, Carlinville; Carol Lawson; Dixon.

NOVEMBER
J.P. Roberts, Carlinville; Charlie Campbell, Carbondale; Dan Mack, Oak Lawn; Bobby Gene Simpson, Harrisburg; Lawrence Bock, Elmhurst; Frank Patton, Kewanee; Jeanne Poore, Chicago South***; Sarah Harms, Pontiac; Max Neal, Champaign Urbana; Rick Winningham, Springfield; Patrick Stout, Macomb; Ronda Hicks, Dixon;

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

Mt. Vernon #819 wrestles up some funds



Mount Vernon #819 presented a check for \$1500 to the Benton High School Wrestling team. The wrestling team recently helped run the haunted trail at the Wayne Fitzjerrell State Park Trick-Or-Treat the Campground.

The check was a result of Mt. Vernon #819 receiving a Gratitude Grant from Grand Lodge. The grant money will be used for to help a program for the wrestlers as well as the purchase of new wrestling mats.

Pictured (left to right): Mt. Vernon Elks Lodge #819 ENF Grant Coordinator Kent Fair, Chaplain Larry George, Benton High School Wrestling Coach Aaron Robinson and Trustee Tony Burk.

Elks Children’s Care 2025 Clinics

January 2025
Lincoln Clinic January 7th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
NW District @ Rockford Clinic January 15th at Orthollinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
South District @ DuQuoin February 17th Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Dixon Clinic January 21st at Yeager Podiatry: 8:00 AM

February 2025
Flora Clinic February 5th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

March 2025
Mt. Vernon Clinic March 6th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Bloomington Clinic March 7th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Mt. Carmel Clinic March 10th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:00 to 1:00 PM
Robinson Clinic March 12th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
Effingham Clinic March 13th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic 8:00 AM
Champaign/Urbana Clinic March 26th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM

April 2025
Lincoln Clinic April 8th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Elgin Clinic April 23rd at Orthollinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
NW District @Morrison Clinic April 24th at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM
South District @ DuQuoin April 25th Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

May 2024
Flora Clinic May 7th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

June 2025
Lincoln Clinic June 3rd at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Mt. Vernon Clinic June 5th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Bloomington Clinic June 6th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
Mt. Carmel Clinic June 9th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:00 to 1:00 PM
Robinson Clinic June 11th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
Effingham Clinic June 12th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM
NW District @ Rockford Clinic June 18th at Orthollinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Champaign/Urbana Clinic June 25th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM
Dixon Clinic June 24th at Yeager Podiatry: 8:00 AM

July 2025 - No Clinics

August 2025
Flora Clinic August 20th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
South District @ DuQuoin August 22nd at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Champaign/Urbana Clinic August 27th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM

September 2025
Bloomington Clinic September 5th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 to 1:00 PM
Mt. Carmel Clinic September 8th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:00 to 1:00 PM
Robinson Clinic September 10th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
Mt. Vernon Clinic September 11th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Effingham Clinic September 18th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM

October 2025
Lincoln Clinic October 7th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Elgin Clinic October 22nd at Orthollinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
NW District @Morrison Clinic October 23rd at Morrison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

November 2025
Flora Clinic November 19th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
South District @ DuQuoin November 21st at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Champaign/Urbana Clinic November 26th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM

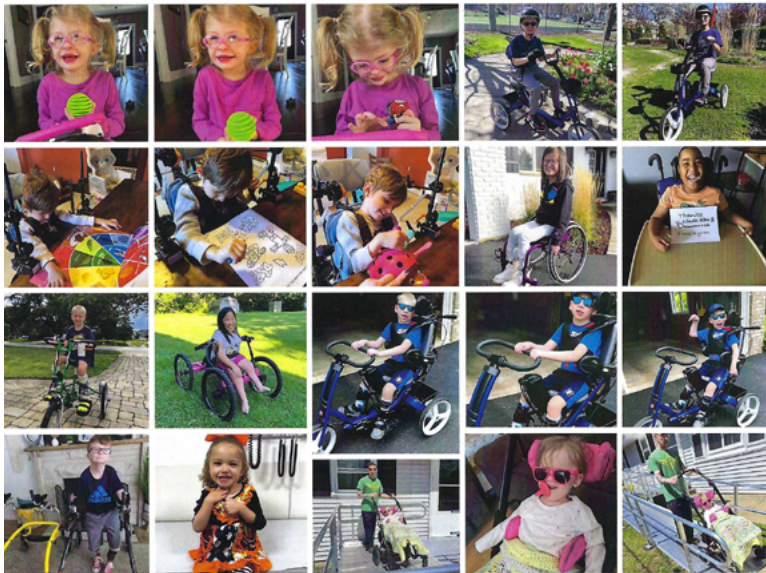
December 2025
Mt. Vernon Clinic December 4th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Bloomington Clinic December 5th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 to 1:00 PM
Effingham Clinic December 11th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM
Mt. Carmel Clinic December 15th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:00 to 1:00 PM
Robinson Clinic December 17th 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@elksccare.org



2025 Illinois Elks Children's Benefit Calendar

Don't Forget To Order Your 2025 Children's Benefit Calendar

Claim your portion of \$21,550 to be given away throughout 2025. The minimum return on your \$20 dollar donation is \$50 dollars. You have multiple chances to win: 247 Weekly Drawings for \$50.00, 12 Monthly Drawings for \$100, 3 Special Drawing for \$1,000 and 1 Grand Drawing for \$5,000. If your name is drawn as a winner, it will be re-entered to the barrel for future drawing. All proceeds go to the Children and your \$20 dollar donation is tax deductible. You can't win if you don't play calendars! **ORDER FORM AVAILABLE AT WWW.ILLINOISELKSCCC.ORG OR WWW.ILLINOISELKS.ORG.**

2024 September Fall Convention SWD Winners

- 1st Place: Jack A. Emmons Mount Carmel #715 - \$2,500
- 2nd Place: Lisa Frese Harrisburg #1058 - \$2,000
- 3rd Place: Frank Arnold Quincy #100 - \$1,500
- 4th Place: Scott Rodgers Carlinville #1412 - \$1,000
- 5th Place: Jerry C. Cosgrove Quincy #100 - \$500
- 6th Place: Ilene Shaw Mendota #1212 - \$250

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

Scholarship winners, continued...

Graduate. She has a Grade Point average of 3.87.

All 3 of her Professor's Reference letters stated that she is intelligent and yearns to gain an in-depth knowledge of Physical Therapy. And with her strong determination and hard work, they all have no doubt that she will succeed in all her endeavors. Beyond the classroom, Hallie has proven her sincere interest in being a contributing member of society. She has served as an inspiration & role model for other students exemplifying not only the technical aspects of physical therapy but also more importantly the caring nature of the profession.

Hallie started her essay off with – "My main focus in the physical therapy field is to HELP people." The word "help" was in bold and underlined. She also said "she wanted to help people reach their goals. I want my patients to learn more about how their body works and how to protect it. Physical Therapy isn't just about healing what's injured but also preventing injury from happening again."

The Winner of the Kenny Beltz Award is Miranda Skorch referred by Murphysboro #572; and attending Maryville University as an Physical Therapist Graduate. She has a Grade Point average of 3.98.

One of her Professor's wrote – "I have witnessed her extraordinary determination and thirst for knowledge while continuing to assist others who need a helping hand. I am confident she will be a phenomenal physical therapist some day and will continue to make a significant difference in the lives of those around her."

One of her reference letters stated – "Throughout my time working with Miranda as a Physical Therapist, I have seen her give her best to each and every person she meets. She will go out of her way to provide excellent care."

In Miranda's essay she wrote about the qualities she possesses that will help her become a trusting, effective physical therapist. She's a good listener, she's passionate about learning her

field, she's a hard worker and she works well with others. She feels these qualities are essential in setting up one's success in the Physical Therapy field. She adds that she wants to be an effective advocate for her patients; fighting for what they need is very important, especially if you want to provide the best care for them.

The winner of the Kirk Wallace Award is Hailey Wang referred by Joliet #296; and is attending University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a Speech & Hearing Science Graduate. Her Grade Point average is 3.77.

Hailey's professors had the same words her – She demonstrates strong potential for exemplifying the ideal characteristics of the future speech language pathologist. She has demonstrated her commitment to the field through her experiences and extracurricular activities; she contributed to multiple projects aimed at understanding voice disorders and developing treatment methods to improve speech production and perception. Her involvement in research reflects her dedication to advancing knowledge in the field and her proactive approach to learning.

In Hailey's essay she wrote about how she struggled with speech as a child. She does not want children to feel the same humiliation she felt as a child. She said "They should not feel awkward about a simple task such as speaking, I want them to be self-assured and confident."

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!



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