



NEWSSETTE

VOL. 92 No. 3

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE ILLINOIS ELKS PUBLICATION CORPORATION - IEA NEWSSETTE (USPS 889-800)

WINTER 2025

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POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
IEA Children's Care Corporation
1201 N. Main Street, Chatham, IL 62629



IEA PRESIDENT

David Neel, Jr.

Stand for Elkdom!

Members All,

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and best wishes to Sandra. She appreciated it and so did I.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Just a reminder to all Lodges to apply for the State ENF Grant if you made PSP Roger Quinn's goal last year. It's free money so please apply. Just email State Secretary Joe Ray. Deadline is December 31. Also look at the back of the State Directory for deadlines for other awards.

A big shoutout to Jeff Sterr, (aka J3) for covering for me during my absence at the September Meeting. I hear he did a fantastic job. To all who helped with the Hospitality Room, thank you.

Membership is still especially important to our organization. We need to do all we can to have a gain this year. Merle and Mike are doing an excellent job getting out the word around the state. Let us get this gain so we can break this cycle of losing years. I know we can do it.

The local support group is still looking for volunteers to help at the Chicago National Convention next year. Contact Tony Dardano if you want to volunteer or scan QR code below.

Remember the next State meeting will be in February. Hope to see you there. Safe travels to all and see you next year.

VOLUNTEERS NEED for Grand Lodge in Chicago July 5 - 8, 2026



Scan to Sign-Up



Send in your stuff!
Eventpics, Newslette
articles, fundraiser
recaps and more!

ilelksnewsette@gmail.com

Deadline for next Newslette is March 22, 2026



New location, same great mission: Fall Meeting held at Crowne Plaza

The Illinois Elks held their annual Fall Meeting at the Crowne Plaza in September and a great time was had by all. Lodge and individual awards were handed out (see page 5) and they welcomed Wisconsin ER Elect, Manuel "Manny" Salinas III, as their special guest. Pictured right with Ray Summers who auctioned off gifts that Salinas brought for his IL friends.



Overall, the new venue was wonderful--welcoming staff (including a few familiar faces from the Wyndham), great rooms and delicious food. We'll be back the Crowne Plaza in February for the Mid-Winter Meeting! Complete your registration forms found on Page 3 and plan to attend!

Be the Difference this holiday season

Bryan Klatt, GER

Season's greetings and happy holidays!

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. Think of ways to serve your community by donating food or presents to less fortunate children and families, or giving veterans a gift or holiday card. What about hosting a breakfast with Santa? Keep in mind, giving is always better than receiving because 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. The ceremony is an occasion to honor all Elks who have passed away. It's a time to cherish the memory of those who recently left us, as well as rekindle the thoughts of those who left us long ago and remember how each served our Order.

An integral part of the ceremony and assisting us in remembering those Members who have left us is our Eleven O'Clock Toast. The Toast symbolizes how we feel about our departed Elks. "To our absent Members." Does your Lodge do the Toast regularly?

Membership! Membership! Membership!

The current Lodge year has less than four months until it's over. Have you achieved the membership goals you set at the start of your year? The goal of every Lodge is simple: a plus-1 in membership. It's not too late to form a committee to contact delinquent Members and ask them to re-up. How about one or two last efforts to get those new applicants onto the membership rolls? Can you Be The Difference and show a membership gain this year?

In closing, Sue and I wish you and your family a very merry holiday season and a joyous new year, always keeping in mind that you can Be The Difference by promoting "Elks Care—Elks Share."

A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...



IEA SECRETARY
Joe Ray

Members all,

First of all, I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and will have a Merry Christmas. The Holidays can be a very stressful time of year, please be nice to everyone and remember it is just the right thing to do.

If your Lodge has not sent in a request for the President's Community Grant or the Veterans Grant, please do ASAP. The President's Grant you need to have reached Roger Quinn's goal of \$5.50 per member. The Veterans Grant all you need to do is let me know you are using it for. The Deadline is December 31st, 2025. Let's not let free money go to waste. If you have any questions, just let me know.

As most of you, the State Directory is or can be a real pain. Our 1st Vice President and our website chairman John Tucker are working on a google sheet format for the Lodges and District Senior Trustees to use. The deadline will be March 15th, if info has been sent in, the District or Lodge will not be in the directory. This way I can send rough copies to the State Officers and we can eliminate as many mistakes as possible. I will contact your District Leader for assistance in getting this information.

I want to thank all who called or texted me when our 1st Vice-President Jeff Johnson passed away. Jeff was one of my closest friends in Elkdom. His passing shook me to the core. He was one the finest Elks I have ever known or will ever know.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Joe



IEA TREASURER
Jeff Rodier

Members all,

First of all, Norine and I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! This is the season of giving and no one gives like the Illinois Elks Association!

Secretary Joe has informed me that we have received and deposited our ENF check for this year. Our Charitable Trust account is waiting to help perform many more miracles in this coming year.

I am also happy to report that all Lodges have paid their state dues for the year giving us the needed flexibility in our Association account to help conduct our day to day business.

However, as of this writing, about 10 qualified Lodges have not put in their request for their \$2000 State Matching Grant and 15 Lodges have not submitted their request for the \$1000 Veterans Grant. ERs, you have until December 31 to submit your request to President Dave and Secretary Joe for you State Matching Grant. Please don't leave this **FREE** money on the table!!

If you have any questions as to whether you have submitted a request for either grant, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you at the Mid-Winter Meeting at at Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Remember that it's being held in February this year due to scheduling conflicts. Take care!

Jeff



IEA SPONSOR

F. Louis Sulsberger
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, "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 which traditionally is always held in January. Due to the situation with the Wyndham Hotel in Springfield that our Association has had to deal with this year, we are now holding our meetings at the Crown Plaza. Unfortunately, we have had to change the date of our Mid-Winter Meeting as the hotel was not available for our original date. Your convention committee, along with Convention Coordinator Tina Haren, worked diligently and exhausted all other options to resolve this and, in the end, we had no other choice but to move the date of our meeting to February 12-15, 2026. Regrettably, this results in the Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady, our very own Bryan and Sue Klatt not being able to make their official visit to their very own Illinois this year. The GER's travel schedule is determined by Grand Lodge years in advance which means they are already committed on February 12th – 15th and cannot join the Illinois Elks Association that weekend. In fact, the trip they will be on is the Mid-Year Advisory Meeting that all Past Grand Exalted Rulers attend and I will, of course, be there and not able to attend the IEA Mid-Winter meeting as well. This is an unfortunate circumstance, and we are saddened that the IEA will not be able to host Bryan and Sue in their home state the year they are GER and First Lady. Plans are to move their official GER visit to our fall meeting in September of 2026. While Bryan will be a PGER at that time, you can be sure the Illinois Elks Association will pull out all the stops to provide them with a "GRAND" visit as we show our appreciation to both he and Sue for their lifelong dedication to the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. While Beth and I will miss being with you at the Mid-Winter Meeting in February, our State is served by many capable leaders in our Past State Presidents and Past First Ladies, and you will be in good hands.

As a reminder, our annual Lady of the Year Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday at noon at the Mid-Winter Meeting. Please make plans to attend this event to honor and support the eight District winners. And of course, to 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 2026!

God bless you all!
Lou

Oglesby Elks support the local police department christmas programs

Oglesby #2360 members met with Mardy Moreno, Spring Valley Police Dept. and Blake Frund of the Peru Police Dept. (center) and presented each of them with a check for \$500. The funds will be used for Spring Valley's Star program and Peru's Red and Blue Christmas for Kids program that bring Christmas presents to needy children of the local communities. Oglesby Elks also presented \$500 checks to LaSalle Police for their Officer Santa, Oglesby Police for their Shop with a Cop and Ottawa Police for their Shop with Santa programs. Using Oglesby Elks Childrens Care Funds and an Illinois Elks Association President's Grant, Oglesby Elks donated a total of \$2,500 to local Police to help make Christmas a little brighter for children in need. Elks Care and Elks Share!



Illinois Elks Association
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
February 12-15, 2026 **Crowne Plaza Springfield Hotel**

Thursday, February 12, 2026

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

Friday, February 13, 2026

7:00 AM-5:00 PM	Convention Office	Topaz
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Executive Committee	Lincoln Boardroom
10:00 AM-11:30 PM	Convention Committee	Plaza A
12:00 PM-7:00 PM	Convention Registration	Registration - 1st Floor
1:00 PM-4:00 PM	Advisory Committee	Plaza A
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Past State President Dinner	Ruby

Saturday, February 14, 2026

6:30 AM-6:00 PM	Convention Office	Topaz
7:00 AM-12:00 PM	Convention Registration	Registration - 1st Floor
7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Board of Directors Meeting & Training - Continental	Sapphire
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	District Deputies & Esquires - Continental	Plaza F
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Individual Ritual Competition	Plaza H I J
8:00 AM-12:00 AM	Leading Knights Training	Diamond
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Exalted Rulers Meet w/ Executive Committee	Ruby
9:00 AM-10:30 AM	Secretaries' Association	Plaza E
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Athletic Commission	Plaza B
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Easter Bunny Committee	Turquoise
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Elks National Foundation	Plaza A
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	New Lodge	Opal
10:00 AM-11:30 AM	Lodge Trustee Training/Accident Prevention/Insurance	Plaza F
10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Americanism	Ruby
10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Ritual Performance	Plaza H I J
10:30 AM-12:00 PM	Lodge Treasurers	Plaza E
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	National Veterans Service	Plaza A
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Scholarship	Plaza B
12:00 PM-1:30 PM	Lady of the Year Luncheon	Emerald

Entrée: Bruschetta Chicken Penne – Penne Pasta Tossed in a Garlic Alfredo Sauce with Diced Chicken Breast & Bruschetta Topping with Warm Breadsticks. Dessert bar. Cost: Pre Reg-\$30.00/ Onsite \$33.00

1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Governement Relations	Plaza F
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shoot	Plaza A
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Membership/Lapsation/Lodge Activities/Orientation	Plaza E
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Youth Activities & Antlers	Plaza C
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	Ritual 11 O'Clock Toast Competition	Plaza H I J
1:30 PM-2:30 PM	State Web Page	Plaza B
1:30 PM-3:30 PM	Children's Care Cooperation	Ruby
1:30 PM-4:00 PM	PGER Meet with Lodge & Individuals	Lincoln Board Room
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Bowling Association	Plaza A
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Drug Awareness	Plaza F
2:30 PM-4:30 PM	Web Site Monitoring/Publication Corp/Public Relations	Plaza B
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Reception	Emerald/Saphire
6:00 PM-9:30 PM	Illinois Elks Association - Dinner	Emerald/Saphire

*Salad: Traditional House Salad with Ranch & Italian Dressing
Entrée: Chicken Piccata with chef selected starch and vegetable plus dessert.
Cost: Pre-registration \$40.00/On-site \$43.00 Dress: Business Suit*

Sunday, February 15, 2026

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

REGISTRATION

All Elks, male & female, Must Register for meeting functions:
FEES: Pre-Registration \$ 10.00/ On-site \$20.00. **Pre-Registration deadline is January 26, 2026.** FORM ON PAGE 6.

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 Crowne Plaza in planning the workshops, Luncheon and banquet.

Registration Badges are necessary to attend ALL functions, including hospitality rooms.

ROOM RESERVATIONS
Room Cancelation cut off will be January 10, 2026.

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, February 14, 2026, 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 feeleing ill or exhibiting any symptoms. Let's keep everyone safe and healthy.

Awards presented at Fall Meeting



Volunteers of the Year
Greg & Sharlene Huske
Elgin #737



ER of the Year
Todd Doody
Murphysboro #572



District of the Year
South
Accepting award - Darcie Hastings
Murphysboro #572



Secretary of the Year
Mark Bump
Joliet #296



Per Capita
50-500 Members - Bellville #481

Gross Donations & Per Capita
501-900 members - Des Plaines #1526

Gross Donations & Per Capita
901+ Members - Springfield #158

Not pictured. Gross Donations
500-500 Members - Fairview Heights #664

DuQuoin #884 gives to Baby Sarah's Playground

DuQuoin #884 recently donated \$2,092 to Baby Sarah's Playground.

Baby Sarah's Playground is an all-inclusive playground being built in the Pinckneyville, IL park to enhance the current playground. This will be a space where ANY child can experience the simple joy of play- regardless of ability.



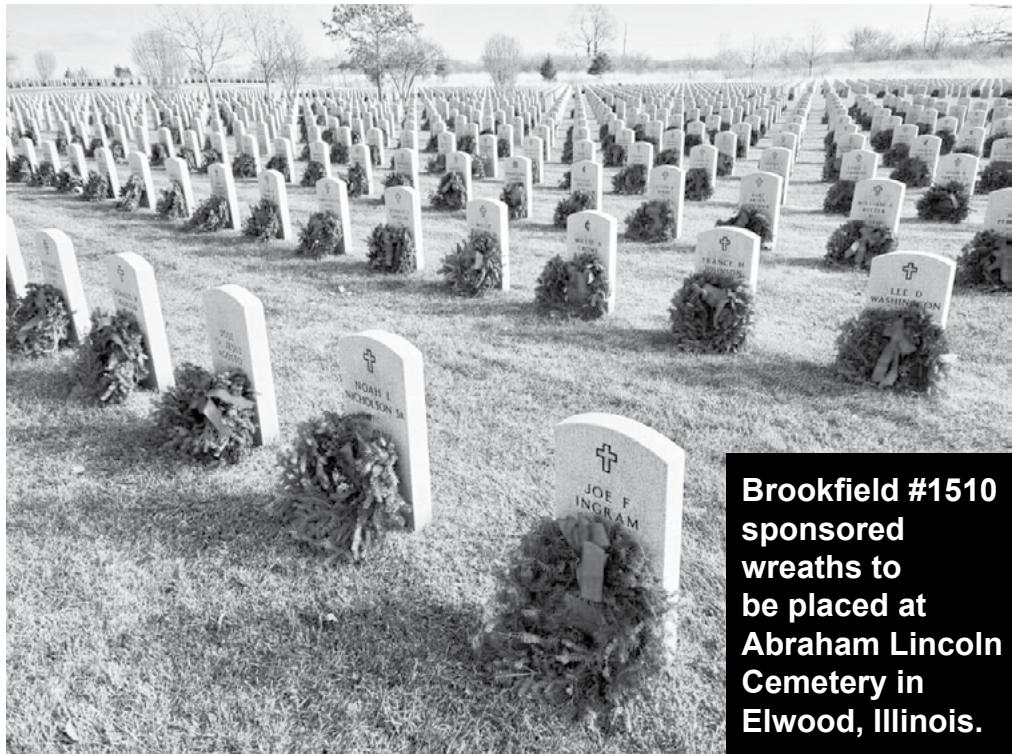
Centralia #493 teams up with Verizon for backpacks

Centralia #493 teamed up with Verizon of Centralia to distribute backpacks, pencils, erasers and coloring books to students this fall. Pictured right are Zac Whalan of Verizon, Lodge Trustee Tony (Cobb) Korzenewski and Kendra Shoots.



Giving back to our Veterans

This Fall and Winter the IL Elks have been busy giving back to our Veterans! Check out some highlights below!



Brookfield #1510
sponsored
wreaths to
be placed at
Abraham Lincoln
Cemetery in
Elwood, Illinois.



Oglesby #2360 delivered 15 pumpkin pies to the LaSalle Veterans Home for the Veterans 2025 Thanksgiving meal. They used their Freedom Grant and Lodge Bingo profits to fund.



Watseka #1791 gave the 2025 State Veterans Grant of \$1000 to the Veterans Assistance Commission of Iroquois County to purchase gas and grocery gift cards.

Elgin #737 delivered 31 Thanksgiving dinners to veterans and their families at the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers in Chicago. Meals were funded with the Focus Grant.



Brookfield #1510 along with The Joshua Harris VFW of Brookfield hosted 35 Navy Cadets from Great Lakes Naval Base for Thanksgiving Day. Volunteers let them use phones to call loved ones. The Elks sponsored \$500 dollars in grant funds to the event.



Galesburg #894 delivered their 3rd Welcome Home Kit to Veteran Susan Fredricks (pictured above right), donated \$2000 to the Greater Peoria Honor Flight, and served 86 veterans lunches in September (pictured above left).

Soccer Shootout Fun

This fall the IL Elks held their Soccer Shootout. Attendance was great and as always the Elks volunteer team showed up and organized a fun event! Good work!



Revised Chairman List

Orientation

Des Plaines #1526
Judy Shimkus
630-272-9947
20 W. 533 Nordic Rd.
Itasca, IL 60143
jdshim85@aol.com

Secretary Training

Dixon #779
Sharon Kay Dirck
815-973-3456
1958 IL RT. 52
Dixon, IL 61021
sunshinekay@comcast.com

Treasure Training

Pontiac #1019
Kelly Eckhoff
815-674-3703
1812 Cardinal Ct.
Pontiac, IL 61764
Kellyalane1023@gmail.com

Trustee Training

Herrin #1146
Tod Lindsay
618-925-8677
620 N. 9th
Herrin, IL 62948
jdhtg@hotmail.com

Lodge Activities

Granite City #1063
Teresa Copper
618-972-6649
4905 Redwood Dr.
Granite City, IL 62040

Youth Activities

Dixon #779
Janda Hicks
815-517-3052
504 S. Hennepin Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021
Jandahicks84@gmail.com

New Lodges

Dixon #779
Timothy Logemann
815-440-0440
219 Sherman Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021
hawk9326@gmail.com

Public Relations

Brookfield #1510
Heather Weyn
708-669-5181
8309 44th St.
Lyons, IL 60534
roleheat@gmail.com

Hoop Shoot

Canton #626
Steve Albrecht
309-224-5829
1500 E Chestnut St
Canton, IL 61520
bowhunter10@sbcglobal.net

3rd Vice-President

Mt. Vernon #819
Scott Flota
618-316-0219
PO Box 1484
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
scottflota@gmail.com

Note: New addresses for mailing!

Pre-registration

Deadline
January 27, 2026

Gene Howe, Chairperson
Barb Marks, Co-Chairperson
Credentials Committee
P.O. Box 1484
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

Pre-registration
Deadline
January 27, 2026

Illinois Elks Annual Meeting
Registration Form
Winter Meeting Feb. 12-15 2026
Springfield – Crown Plaza

Please make a reservation for the following:

Pre – registration - \$10.00 After January 27,2026 - \$20.00

ELK#1 _____ Non-Elk Spouse _____

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

Lodge _____ No. _____ Dist. _____

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

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

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

Ladies' Luncheon @ \$30 Pre-Register \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$40 Pre-Register \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

*Cost of meal if check received post marked after January 27,2026

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Elks Children's Care 2026 Clinics

January 2026

Lincoln Clinic January 6th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
 South District @ DuQuoin January 9th Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 Champaign/Urbana Clinic January 14th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM
 NW District @ Rockford Clinic January 28th at Orthollinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 NW District @Morrison Clinic January 29th at Morison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM

February 2026

Flora Clinic February 20th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

March 2026

Mt. Vernon Clinic March 5th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 Mt. Carmel Clinic March 9th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
 Robinson Clinic March 11th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
 Effingham Clinic March 12th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic 8:00 AM
 Bloomington Clinic March 13th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

April 2026

Lincoln Clinic April 7th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
 Champaign/Urbana Clinic April 8th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM
 Dixon Clinic April 21st at Morrison Podiatry Clinic: 8:00 AM
 Elgin Clinic April 22nd at Orthollinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 South District @ DuQuoin April 24th Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

May 2026

Flora Clinic May 20th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

June 2026

Lincoln Clinic June 2nd at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
 Mt. Vernon Clinic June 4th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 Bloomington Clinic June 5th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
 Mt. Carmel Clinic June 8th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:30 to 1:00 PM
 Robinson Clinic June 10th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
 Effingham Clinic June 11th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM

July 2026

No Clinics

August 2026

Flora Clinic August 12th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
 NW District @ Rockford Clinic August 19th at Orthollinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 NW District @Morrison Clinic August 20th at Morison Community Hospital: 8:00 AM
 South District @ DuQuoin August 21st at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

September 2026

Bloomington Clinic September 4th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 to 1:00 PM
 Robinson Clinic September 9th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM
 Mt. Vernon Clinic September 10th at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 Mt. Carmel Clinic September 14th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:30 to 1:00 PM
 Effingham Clinic September 17th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM
 Champaign/Urbana Clinic September 23rd at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM

October 2026

Lincoln Clinic October 6th at Lincoln Memorial Hospital: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
 Elgin Clinic October 20th at Orthollinois: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 Dixon Clinic October 22nd at Morrison Podiatry: 8:00 AM

November 2026

Flora Clinic November 4th at Clay County Flora Medical Clinic 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
 South District @ DuQuoin November 20th at Marshall Browning Hospital: 2:00 to 4:00 PM

December 2026

Mt. Vernon Clinic December 3rd at Neuromuscular Orthopedic Institute: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
 Bloomington Clinic December 4th at Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic: 12:00 to 1:00 PM
 Champaign/Urbana Clinic December 9th at OSF Healthcare Heart of Mary Medical Center: 8:30 to 10:30 AM
 Effingham Clinic December 10th at Sarah Bush Lincoln Bonutti Orthopedic Clinic: 8:00 AM
 Mt. Carmel Clinic December 14th at Wabash General Hospital: 11:30 to 1:00 PM
 Robinson Clinic December 16th at CMH Bone & Joint Center: 9:00 to 11:00 AM

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Don't forget to order your 2026 Children's Benefit Calendar

Claim your portion of \$21,550.00 to be given away throughout 2026. The minimum return on your \$25 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 \$1,000.00 and 1 Grand Drawing for \$5,000.00. 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 \$25 dollar donation is tax deductible. You can't win if you don't play calendars are also available at your Lodge or on our web site: www.illinoiselksccc.org

Thank you in advance!

CALENDAR ORDER FORM

IL Elks Children's Care Corporation YEAR Benefit Calendar
 Price of calendar **\$25.00 each**

Make checks payable to IL Elks Children's Care Corp. (IECCC)

Please put a check mark next to your choice for the YEAR Benefit Calendar.

Yes, I would like to receive a 2026 Benefit Calendar and be entered into the daily drawings.

No, 2026 Benefit Calendar I just want to be entered into the daily drawings.

Donation only.

Fill the form out below to indicate the way you would like your benefit calendar drawing card to be filled out by our office.

BELOW IS AN ORDER FORM FOR THIS YEAR'S BENEFIT CALENDAR/DRAWING FOR YOU, FRIENDS & GIFTS.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Lodge Name & Number _____

Mail to: IL Elks Children's Care Corp.
 1201 N. Main St. • Chatham, IL 62629



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)



Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

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

The reason we keep at it

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

I received this letter recently, and wanted to share just one of the wonderful things we do for those in need. As you can see, we are needed & appreciated because we "make a difference" in so many children's lives, as well as the family members who care for them.

My daughter, Lydia, was seen at the Effingham Orthopedic Clinic in September sponsored by the Elks. She had been having hip/back pain at the age of 14. We had taken her to the chiropractor twice with no relief. I signed her up for the orthopedic clinic honestly not knowing what I was getting into, but had just remembered the email the school sent out about it. So glad I did, because it far exceeded our expectations. Bill Block, Dr. Gray and the staff were wonderful. She was scheduled for a visit with physical therapy. At her PT appointment, the therapist was very thorough and noticed one of her legs was longer than the other by about 1/2 in., which was likely causing her pain. She gave her some orthotics to put in her shoes. We ordered more orthotics from Amazon for all of her shoes. She is now pain free and thankfully feeling much better!

I want to sincerely thank you for covering all costs of these appointments. This would have been a huge financial burden to our family as we are still paying bills from when she broke her arm several months ago. We greatly appreciate this act of kindness from your organization.

Thank You,
Lisa K.

2025 September Fall Convention State Wide Drawing Winners

1st Place - Douglas Hoague, Herrin #1146	\$2,500.00
2nd Place - David Dodd, Macomb #1009	\$2,000.00
3rd Place - Brenda Anderson, Canton #626	\$1,500.00
4th Place - Michael Karcher, McLeansboro #1882	\$1,000.00
5th Place - Mike Elliott, Belleville #481	\$500.00
6th Place - Lawrence & Diane Reardon, Murphysboro #572	\$250.00

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.

**Next Newsette deadline is
March 22, 2026!**

Send your items to ilelksnewsette@gmail.com

Your Donations at Work

Anniversary lottery open in January

The new year is near and with it comes an exciting milestone: the lottery is officially open for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Elks National Memorial.

The building has stood for a century as a remarkable tribute to the service and sacrifice of the nation's veterans and the enduring spirit of Elkdom. In 2026, as part of the Elks National Convention in Chicago, we will honor this landmark with a special anniversary ceremony on Saturday, July 4.

Enter the Lottery Today - elks.org/memorial/Anniversary.cfm

Elks wishing to attend the anniversary ceremony may now enter the online-only ticket lottery, available January 1 through March 15, 2026. Please remember:

- One entry per Elk.
- Phone entries cannot be accepted.
- Lottery winners will receive two ceremony tickets and bus transportation to the event.
- The ceremony will feature a one-hour outdoor program and guided tours of the Memorial Building.

This once-in-a-lifetime celebration is expected to draw interest from across the country—don't delay your entry. Full details and the lottery link are available at: elks.org/memorial/Anniversary.cfm.

Commemorative Merchandise Still Available

As we move deeper into this anniversary year, Members can continue to show their Elks pride with official 100th Anniversary Memorial merchandise. Shirts, hats, pins, and additional items may be purchased at: dturin.com/elks-usa/100th-anniversary-national-memorial-merchandise.

Let us begin 2026 with gratitude for our history, pride in our traditions, and excitement for the memorable celebration ahead.