



NEWSETTE

Vol. 92 No. 4

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SPRING 2026

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IEA PRESIDENT

David Neel, Jr.

Stand for Elkdom!

Members All,

Our new year is here, and I wish good luck to all our new Exalted Rulers. I hope you meet all the goals you have set for yourself and your year is a good one. Mentor all your officers so they can have the confidence to move up next year. Start your new year by bringing back the delinquent members. We have a lot of 25+ year members that are delinquent. Make a call or send a letter to these members, try to persuade them to come back to the greatest organization in the nation. Do what it takes to get them back.

My time as State President is coming to a close. This has been an uplifting experience for me. The loss of J2 hurt me personally. Jeff was truly a good friend and made me a better President. RIP Jeff. J3 will be a great State President. Julie and him will do an excellent job representing the IEA.

Hoop Shoot is ongoing, for his first year Steve did a fantastic job. Very organized and professional. He had a good teacher in Jim. Thank you two and all the volunteers who helped to make this another successful year for our State Hoop shoot.

This being my last article I would like to thank all my officers and PSPs for their advice, and to all the members that helped me this year, without all of you this would have been a long year, thank you. And a very special thanks to Sandy Begue. Sandy was my assistant this year. Without her I am not sure things would have gone so smoothly. And thanks to John. To Rich and his wife for helping with the food, thanks. And thanks Brother Bill for bartending. And one last thanks to Immediate PSP Roger Quinn and Lisa. Roger and Lisa gave me good advice all year and were there when I needed them, thanks.

Leave your membership doubts behind

When it's time to renew your Elks membership, a question may cross your mind: Does my membership really matter?

Yes. It does. So leave your doubt at the door.

When you walk into your Lodge, you walk into a place where veterans are honored, children are protected, and communities are lifted. You stand shoulder to shoulder with Elks across this nation—past, present, and future—who believe in service, compassion, and doing the right thing.

Your membership is not symbolic. It feeds families. It funds scholarships. It supports veterans. It changes lives.

You may not always see the impact—but it's there, every day, in every community we serve.

Being an Elk means showing up. It means caring. It means belonging to something bigger than yourself.

So, renew with pride. Move forward with confidence. You are an Elk. And that matters. Leave your doubt at the door.

Lady of the Year: Sandra Begue

Congratulations to Sandra Begue - Springfield #158 on being selected as the Elks Lady of the Year. Sandy's dedication to the Elks and her lodge is contagious and inspiring. A well-deserved honor.



Congratulations to all these amazing ladies and we thank you for all your hard work at our lodges.

Front row: Laura Lopez, Lisa Quinn (IEA past 1st Lady), Sandy Begue, Lady Elk of the Year, Jill McKeighan.

Back row: Susan Johnson, Lori Litcher, Kendra Steinmetz, Shelby Bachman, Becky Sappington.

Set yourself up for success as Lodge year begins

Bryan Klatt, GER

April is here and hopefully spring has arrived. It always feels like a new beginning in April as the new Lodge year takes over.

As the new fraternal year begins, I want to congratulate the Officers for accepting their office and taking on the challenge of providing leadership within your Lodge.

Be sure to review and implement the programs of the 2025-2026 Grand Lodge Program booklet so you can continue to Be The Difference during the upcoming year. Strive to make sure you have all your committees prepared and they know their responsibilities. Stressing communication is the key.

Your Lodge must be ready to present a sound budget for the membership to adopt no later than the last regular meeting in April or the following regular meeting. The annual report for the previous year is also due May 1 so make sure that your financial reporting system is up to date.

The Lodge, at this time, should review the by-laws, house rules, and regulations to verify if any need updating.

It's for the good of the Lodge to make everything orderly and to always prioritize the integrity and safety of the Lodge.

Many Lodges make a calendar of social events for the Lodge's upcoming year. Try creating a reasonable and achievable monthly list of events that will excite and attract membership.

Outside of your Lodge you are encouraged to establish a community project that emphasizes charitable work. Your Lodge life should always have a balance of what you do inside your Lodge and outside in the community you serve.

Don't forget to set aside May 1-7 as Elks National Youth Week. All Lodges are urged to sponsor programs dedicated to the youth of our country.

Always remember to Be The Difference by promoting "Elks Care—Elks Share."

A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...

IEA NEWS

LODGE NEWS



IEA SECRETARY

Joe Ray

Members all,

This year has flown by; we've shared some laughs and some tears. With the passing of Jeff Johnson and Tex Tracey, things will be different without seeing the smiles on these two wonderful Elks' faces. I hope that we have a large crowd for the Memorial Service to honor the many members that have passed. There will be many changes to come in the near future. Lou Sulsberger PGER will pass the torch of leadership to Bryan Klatt. I want to thank Lou for the guidance he has given to me over the years, and we look forward to working with Bryan.

I want to thank Jeff Sterr, Roger Quinn and John Tucker for helping with the IEA directory and transferring to the Google sheet in gathering information. The plan is the directory to put on the website with easy access to make corrections, as we all know have to be made. I would like to give congratulations to the new Lodge Officers, District Officers and Jeff Sterr our new IEA President, Chris Ord - 1st Vice President, Scott Flota - 2nd Vice President, Mike Hozian - 3rd Vice President and Jeff Rodier Treasurer. A big hand goes out to Dave Neel for the effort that he has given going to the State Chairs, which is not always the easiest job, dealing with many different personalities that we have in Elksdom.

The yearly awards will be given out at the Saturday night banquet, I enjoy looking at the faces of people who have won after the announcement of their names. Just a reminder to send to Scott Flota your room changes for the May Meeting by May 15th and to also send your Grand Lodge Room Reservation to him ASAP. Tony Dardano and Carter Lacy will also be recruiting people to help out at Grand Lodge this summer, the more help, the easier their jobs will be.



IEA TREASURER

Jeff Rodier

Members all,

Welcome to Spring and the start of a new Lodge year! Norine and I want to wish all new, and returning, Exalted Rulers and their respective officer corps all the best in the coming year. The State Officers are here to help! Please don't hesitate to pick up the phone, or mouse, to contact us with your needs.

ERs, Secretaries and Treasurers, please don't delay in getting your 2026-2027 State dues into us, once Secretary Joe sends those billings out to you.

Veterans' Grants are still available until May for those three Lodges who have not yet applied for them. Just email President Dave and Secretary Joe with your one-sentence request and we'll send your check right to you.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in May at the Crowne Plaza for the IEA kick off for our new Lodge year. Remember to BE THE DIFFERENCE at your Lodge and in your communities!

Next Newsette deadline is JUNE 15, 2026!

Send your items to ilelksnewsette@gmail.com



IEA SPONSOR

F. Louis Sulsberger

PGER

Greetings all!

I hope the arrival of spring finds you well and fired up for a new and exciting Lodge year! Please remember the importance of setting lodge goals and then putting the plans in place to be able to achieve those goals this next year. I wish everyone an awesome year in Elksdom!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this past Lodge year a successful one. Beth and I would like to especially congratulate State President David Neel for the great job he has done in serving our State. We look forward to his serving the Illinois Elks Association for many years to come.

A big thank you to all the Lodges who donated to the Elks National Foundation and to our State Major Project, Illinois Children's Care Corporation. You have proven once again that "Elks Care and Elks Share".

If you are attending the May meeting, I urge you to go to State President Dave's final banquet on Saturday night. I strongly encourage the District Deputies and District Officers to be present to show their support for any representative from their District or Lodges who may receive a special award that evening. And please remember the 2026-2027 Installation on Sunday morning. Let's show our support of incoming President Jeff Sterr and Julie and his slate of Officers and wish them well in the year ahead.

As you probably know, this year's National Convention is in Chicago. How wonderful it is that our very own Bryan Klatt, this years Grand Exalted Ruler, will be coming home to Illinois to preside over the Convention proceedings! Bryan and Sue have been on a journey of a lifetime, representing the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, traveling this country and spreading his message "BE THE DIFFERENCE." Another exciting thing is The Elks National Memorial building will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary at this summer's Convention. We anticipate that attendance will be larger than normal as Elks will have the opportunity that week to visit the Headquarters building to view this beautiful structure. Celebration plans are in the works and I'm sure it will be great!

With the Convention being in Illinois and Bryan and Sue going out of office, the Illinois Elks have a lot of work to do. The Local Support Committee, under the direction of PSP Tony Dardano, has been working hard with the Chicago Convention Office to make this a great Grand Lodge Convention. If you have plans to attend the Chicago Convention, please be sure to offer your help in any way they need, as hosting a successful Grand Lodge Convention requires the help of many volunteers. In advance, thank you!

Beth and I look forward to seeing you in Springfield in May. Until then, God Bless.

Champaign-Urbana #2497 Donate to the Rolling Heat



Champaign-Urbana #2497 was able to make a \$5,000 donation to the Rolling Heat basketball team. Coached by Kaitlyn Eaton, a 2-time Paralympian, the group of children ages 6-13 play in six tournaments year and are a joy to watch.

"To go from handing a check over to actually seeing what took place and how joyful it made somebody ... it was a blessing," Lodge #2497 Exalted Ruler Mark Montgomery said. "The kids were having an absolute blast. Seeing the looks on the faces of the parents was amazing. To be just a little part of what was going on felt really great." (The News-Gazette, 2025)

Illinois Elks Association

SPRING CONFERENCE

MAY 7-10, 2026 Crowne Plaza Springfield Hotel

Thursday, May 7, 2026

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

PLACE/ROOM

Topaz
Lincoln Boardroom

Friday, May 8, 2026

7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Executive Committee
8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Convention Office
9:00 AM-10:00 PM	Convention Committee
10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Advisory Committee
12:00 PM-7:00 PM	Convention Registration
7:00 PM-9:00 PM	Past State President Dinner
1:00 PM-4:00 PM	General Business Session
	Nomination of Officers, District VP Reports, and Committee Reports

Lincoln Boardroom
Topaz
Ruby
Plaza A
Registration - 1st Floor
Ruby
Sapphire/Diamond

Saturday, May 9, 2026

6:30 AM-6:00 PM	Convention Office
7:00 AM-12:00 PM	Convention Registration
7:30 AM-9:00 AM	Board of Directors/Executive Committee – Cont. Breakfast
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Athletic Commission
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation
8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Secretaries Association
8:00 AM-9:30 AM	Publication Corporation/Website Monitoring/Public Relations
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	District Deputies & Esquires - Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM-10:00 AM	Leading Knights Training
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Exalted Rulers Meet w/ Executive Committee
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Lodge Treasurers
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Lodge Trustees/Accident Prevention/Insurance
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	General Business Session
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	Memorial Service by 2nd Vice President – Chris Ord
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Ladies' Luncheon

Topaz
Registration
Ruby
Plaza D
Plaza B
Plaza E
Plaza C
Plaza A
Emerald
Plaza F
Plaza E
Plaza G
Sapphire/Diamond
Sapphire/Diamond
Capitol View

Entrée: Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap - Lettuce, Tomato, Spinach Tortilla
Tri-Color Pasta Salad and Assorted Dessert Bars
Cost: Pre Reg-\$30.00/Onsite \$33.00

1:30 PM-5:00 PM	PGER Meet with Lodges and Individuals
3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Drug Awareness Program
3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Hoop Shoot/Soccer Shootout Program
5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Illinois Elks Association - Reception
6:00 PM-9:30 PM	Illinois Elks Association - Dinner

Lincoln Board Room
Plaza B
Plaza A
Emerald/Ruby
Emerald/Sapphire

Honoring 2026-2027 Class of Exalted Rulers

Awards Program – American Essay Contest Winners, Veteran's Volunteer of the year, All-American Lodge, State Winners, District Vice President of the year, Secretary of the Year, Exalted Ruler of the Year, Lodge of the Year, Elk of the Year, and Family of the Year

Salad: Traditional House Salad with Ranch & Italian Dressings
Entrée: Grilled Chicken Breast with Garlic Cream Sauce, Spinach & Sundried Tomatoes
Chef's Selection of Seasonal Vegetable & Starch Dessert: Chef's choice
Cost: Pre-registration \$40.00/On-site \$42.00 Dress: Business Suit

Sunday, May 10, 2026

7:00 AM-11:00 AM	Convention Office
7:30 AM-8:00 AM	Room Reservations for the September Convention
8:00 AM-10:30 AM	Final Business Session

Topaz
Sapphire/Diamond
Sapphire/Diamond

REGISTRATION
All Elks, male & female, Must Register for meeting functions: **FEES:** Pre-Registration\$10.00/On-site \$20.00. **Pre-Registration deadline is April 16, 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 Cancellation cut off will be April 16, 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, May 9, 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.

A Dream Became a Reality for Troops Around the World

What began as a simple idea on an October Sunday in 2007 has grown into a powerful mission of compassion, consistency, and community.

Springfield Cares Soldier Mailing Inc., based in Springfield, Illinois, and a branch of Springfield #158, sent its very first “goody boxes” to deployed service members nearly two decades ago. Since that day, the organization has never stopped.

Month after month, year after year, boxes filled with snacks, toiletries, and reminders of home have been shipped to troops serving overseas and on ships at sea. What started as a dream has become a lifeline of encouragement for thousands.

In April 2022, Springfield Cares took the next step in its journey by officially incorporating as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its mission is simple but deeply meaningful: to support troops serving in harm’s way and ensure they know they are not forgotten.

To date, more than 6,000 care packages have been sent around the globe.

Along the way, challenges have grown. Postage costs have more than tripled, rising from \$8.00 per box to over \$27.00. Yet the mission has never slowed. Through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and organizations, Springfield Cares continues to meet the need.

At the heart of this effort is something even more powerful than funding: people.

Each month, dedicated volunteers gather to sort, pack, organize, and prepare shipments. Their work is a well-choreographed act of service. On December 16th, that spirit was on full display as 45 volunteers came together to pack 204 boxes destined for remote locations around the world.

Volunteers from Springfield #158, local lake clubs, private organizations, and businesses worked side by side. They baked pizzas, packed boxes, rotated inventory, broke down cardboard, loaded trucks and trailers, and prepared supplies for the next shipment. Every task, no matter how small, contributed to something much bigger.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of these volunteers and the continued support of the community.

Members and Coordinators Alice and Bill Beck, PER, extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported this mission over the years. Their message is one of both thanks and hope: “Our earnest prayer is that our troops remain alert and safe, and know that they are loved.”



Coordinator Bill Beck, right, and a volunteer sorting items for soldiers.



Coordinator Alice Beck, left, and a volunteer adding a Christmas touch to the December mailing.



The team of volunteers does everything from sourcing, packaging and delivering to the post office.



Over 19 Years
6,228
Packages Sent
\$100,000+
Postage Spent
532
Mailing Events



A Model Worth Repeating

Springfield Cares is more than a local success story; it is a blueprint.

Elks Lodges across the country are uniquely positioned to create similar programs within their own communities. With organization, consistency, and a dedicated team, even a small group can make a global impact.

Key elements to replicate:

- Start small with consistent monthly mailings
- Build a volunteer base within your lodge and community
- Partner with local businesses and organizations
- Focus on reliability rather than scale at the beginning
- Share the mission often to grow support

What matters most is not how many boxes are sent, but that they are sent regularly, carrying with them a message every service member deserves to hear: ***You are not forgotten.***



A couple of happy recipients with their boxes from Springfield Cares.



Giving back to our Veterans

LODGE NEWS

The IL Elks have been busy giving back to our Veterans! Check out some highlights below!



Brookfield #1510 donated \$4,000 with help from the Gratitude Grant to K9s for Veterans. The organization helps train rescue dogs for vets.



Elgin #737 fulfilled Welcome Home Kits for veterans at the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers in the new year. The kits are purchased by Lodge members with money funded by ENF. Kits of small appliances, household items and bedding, help veterans transition to their own living quarters. As of April 1, 2025, the lodge has delivered 86 Welcome Home Kits to veterans. Pictured above are Greg Huske, PER and veteran Ms. Howell (left) and veteran Ms. Grover and son (right).



Streator #591 made a donation to the LaSalle Veterans Home to provide essential items and support for residents.

Drug Awareness



Chad Stevens, Drug Awareness Chair from Paris #812 had the pleasure of working with D.E.A. Agent Fidel Arroyo Jr. and Kansas, IL law enforcement and presenting the “One Pill Can Kill” program to both staff and students.

Fidel expressed his trust in the Elks and backed him with materials and thanked Chad for being involved with the DAP program. Fidel and the DEA are working to spread the word through the Midwest schools on this presentation.



A small but mighty group of Granite City #1063 members helped Elroy spread drug awareness during the annual Granite City Candy Cane Parade held on Dec. 6th. Pictured with Elroy are members Bob Stevens, Chris Vangel, and Judy Markowski. Other participants were John Verschuyt, Sam Verschuyt with son Lucas, and Leslie Verschuyt.



A fresh wrap on the DAP trailer at Oak Lawn #2254. Pictured above left to right: Larry Nolan Esteemed Leading Knight, Lynda Riffice Exalted Ruler, Debbie McKay Member designer and installer, Greg McKay Trustee installer.





NEED HELP WITH YOUR Lodge
MARKETING EFFORTS?

VISIT
virtualmanuals.elks.org
today for marketing tips, tricks, shareable
social media and print graphics and more!

Note: New addresses for mailing!

Gene Howe, Chairman
Barb Marks, Co-Chairman
Credentials Committee
P.O. Box 1484
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
medic6773@yahoo.com

Pre-registration
Deadline:
APRIL 16, 2026

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION

Illinois Elks Annual Meeting
Registration Form
ANNUAL MEETING MAY 7-10, 2026
Springfield – Crowne Plaza Hotel

Please make a reservation for the following:
Pre – registration - \$10.00 After APRIL 16, 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 the fee (no exceptions)
Ladies luncheon @ Price \$30 / \$32* \$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet @ \$40 / \$42* \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____
**Cost of meal if check received postmarked after APRIL 16, 2026, or purchased on-site*

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

See You in the Windy City!

The Elks National Convention is right around the corner, and the Elks National Foundation hopes to see you there!

Convention is a jam-packed event, and while it’s impossible to see everything, you won’t want to miss all the ENF will have to offer.

While you’re at the ENF booth in the Convention Hall, pick up a special ENF ribbon for your badge and ask any ENF-related questions you have! You may be able to finally put a face to the name of an ENF staff member you’ve communicated with, and the staff is always eager to do the same with Elks.

You will also have the chance to interact with all your favorite ENF programs, including the 2026 Elks Hoop Shoot Getty Powell Award winners and members of the Scholar Advisory Board, who want to show their appreciation to the people who have made their awards possible.

Convention isn’t just about spending time with fellow Elks—it’s also a time to learn! Of course, the ENF will be hosting several seminars to equip you to continue building stronger communities. The Community Investments Program session on Sunday is all about grants and the best practices for using them (including the \$500 increase to the Spotlight Grant); the Elks Hoop Shoot team is hosting a session on Monday about the upcoming season and how the program unleashes gritty kids; and the Development team will teach you how to implement broad-based fundraising techniques to help your Lodge exceed the per-member-giving goal on Monday.

The ENF can’t wait to see you in the Windy City—you’ll be blown away!

A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. For more information on the ENF, visit elks.org/enf.

JOIN THE
Fidelity Club!

Start an automatic monthly gift to the Elks National Foundation through your credit card or bank account at secure.elks.org/FC or learn more by scanning the QR code.

VOLUNTEERS NEED

for Grand Lodge in Chicago
July 5 - 8, 2026



Scan to Sign-Up



Des Plaines #1526 donates to Kids’ Pantry & Education Fund

On Thursday, March 5, Des Plaines #1526 presented donations to The District 214 Education Foundation and the Mt. Prospect Kids’ Pantry.

District 214 has Food Pantries in all of the District High Schools. It seems food insecurity has been the ongoing theme in our grant distributions.

Both Organizations were awarded \$2,650.00 as a combination of ENF, State and Lodge funds.

Pictured right (left to right): Shannon Silverman D214 foundation board Member, Lazaro Lopez, D214 Education Foundation Exec Director. Gene Polissky Kids Pantry Mt. Prospect, PER Marc Walker Grant Coordinator Des Plaine Elks, Bob Fehling Leading Knight, Debi Karpinski Lecturing Knight, Sarah Bootz Esquire, William Ochab Tiler & Gloria Struck-Markiewicz Loyal Knight



Elks Children’s Care 2026 Clinics

- 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 21stat 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.

CALENDAR WINNERS

OCTOBER
Dennis Lowe, Watseka; Gary Ferrari, Oglesby; Tom Sanson, Carlinville; Keith Diedrick, Streator; Christine Jamruska, Des Plaines; Wayne Horstmann, Harrisburg; John McGrath, Oak Lawn; Marilyn Krezwick, Chicago South; Kevin Woods, Paris; Dennis Shafer; Judy Wrona, Joliet*; Bernell Haerer, Granite City; Gail Friedman, Oak Lawn; Austin Axley, Carlinville; Gil Gonzalez, Chicago South; Imelda Nino, Brookfield; David Eccleston, Streator; Brett Lemay, Belleville; Robert & Pamela Grivetti, Oglesby; Fred Smith, Carmi; Don Simental, Oak Lawn; William Mirza, Des Plaines; Thomas Shearer, Fairview Heights.

NOVEMBER
Julie McGowan, Charleston; Semira Kunz, Jacksonville; Judith Greer, Carbondale; Geoff & Chris Burris, Pana; Gene Gehret, Mount Carmel; Heidi Jasper, DeKalb; Debbie Glisson, Elgin***; Frank Schmitt, Mendota; Ed Reeder, Carbondale; Marla Joel-Zegart, Chicago South; David Mawson, Jacksonville; Ryan O’Daniel, Carmi; Arianne Randall, Canton*; Lawrence Comiskey, Elmhurst; Rich Shepherd, Chicago South; Steve Joiner, Murphysboro; Karen Joynt, Dixon; Jacob Rendleman, Carbondale; Danny Talkington, Jacksonville; Ruane Tanner, Anna Jonesboro.

DECEMBER
Ted Brock, Sycamore; Derek Winningham, Springfield; Zeb Karrick, Carlinville; Nanvi King, Belleville; Charles Gramlich, Springfield; Jack Hayes, Chicago South; Steve Stein, Centralia; Karl Heritsch, Chicago Northshore; Nate Waldon, Jacksonville; Sarah Harms, Pontiac; Kevin Harder, Effingham; Steve Sims, Herrin; Michael Karcher, McLeansboro*; Mike Mulholland, Murphysboro; Robert Stavnem, Des Plaines; Beverly Tesch, Rock Island; Gordon Ellis, Mount Vernon; Louise Acree, Mt. Carmel; Theodore Hemrich, Flora; Thomas Hummel, Dixon; Cheryl Mayer, Carbondale; J.C. Barnard, Canton; Mary Lenza, Chicago South.

JANUARY
Elizabeth O’Donnell, Champaign-Urbana; Norma Woods, Olney; Frank Carroll, Springfield; Larry Kemner, Pana; Becky Krutsinger, Flora; Bill Mier, Chicago South; Kurt Strothmann, Mount Vernon; Tony Tesch, Princeton Virtual; Leslie Layton, Beardstown; Kimberly Tozer, Jacksonville; Richard Landgraff, Des Plaines; Edy Donaldson, Dixon; Harvey Cohen, Chicago Northshore; Ed Doty, Benton; Danny Trout, Herrin*; Walter Kirpan, Des Plaines; Adah Mitchell, Jacksonville; Sam Wilkinson, Centralia; Mary Jo Copeland, Galena; John Feld, Chicago Northshore; Linda Kozil, Chicago Northshore; Steve Looney, Kewanee.

FEBRUARY
Brian Beissert, Brookfield; Beverly Sterling, Charleston; Mike Elliott, Jacksonville; Lucy Yost, Beardstown; David Panfil, Oak Lawn; Elizabeth Heintz, Chicago Northshore; Debbie Rodriguez, Streator; Laura Debrocke, Elgin; Brenda White, Centralia; Ilene Shaw, Mendota; Greg Begel, Pontiac**; Ann Elizabeth Cook, Elgin; Tom Maxwell, Belleville*; Henry Kijonks, Lawrenceville; Judy Grubb, Dixon; J.C. Barnard, Canton; Chris Ord, Belleville; Bonita Bonnell, Champaign-Urbana; Frank Kobilsek, Mendota; Andrew O’Neill, Peoria.

MARCH
Dalton Cordier, Springfield; Don Fane, Dixon; Sharon Meeks, Des Plaines; Austin Brough, Beardstown; Dan Lynch, Streator; Dave Rathgeb, Carlinville; David Farley, Sycamore; Michael Warnick, Harrisburg; Donna Wolf, Dixon; John Galiher, Galesburg; Scott Kingdon, Watseka; Samantha Plahm, Oak Lawn.

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



Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

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(217) 483-3020 • Helpline 1-800-272-0075
Fax (217) 483-2131 • E-mail helpkids@elkscore.org

CCC Year End Report

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

As this Lodge year comes to a close, I would like to thank all the Lodge officers, Lodge membership, and Elks' ladies for your continued support to the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. With one week left in this fiscal Lodge year, and early Newsette deadline, this is where we stand as of March 20, 2026 for the 2025-2026 Lodge Year. Income \$624,799.02 and Expenses of \$583,464.50. Our net income is \$41,334.52.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, we thank you for a job well done. We also wish nothing but the best for all the new incoming officers for another great and successful new Lodge Year.

The 2026-2027 Elected CCC Board Officers - Chairman Tawn Williams of Elmhurst #1531, Vice Chairman John Bayler of Flora #1659, Treasurer Chad Mitsdarffer of McLeansboro #1882, and Secretary Kristi Burton of Pontiac #1019.

The CCC only works because of you; without your support we could not provide for the abundance of children we help each and every year. The IEA places no Per-Capita on this State's Major Project; we exist only through our Lodges and the planned functions provided by each Lodge for the CCC. The Children's Care Corporation also provides three annual fundraiser mailings throughout the year, and we invite you to participate in: The Annual Appeal/HoDo Pin, the Statewide Drawing, and Benefit Calendar. For nearly 100 years, the CCC has been helping Kids, making this Project one of the oldest and continuous State Major Projects in all of Elksdom. The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation gives us a purpose and a cause, your help is much appreciated; thank you for your support and all you do for the Kids.

Filling up the Food Pantries

Lodges across the state have been doing their part to help restock food pantries. Left - Brookfield #1510, center - Streator #591, and right - Champaign-Urbana #2497.



Your Donations at Work

Specialized equipment purchased and delivered in the past 120 days.

Case #1	Effingham	Huckleberry Hiking Cart	\$2,252.00
Case #2	Decatur	Communication Switches	\$1,180.00
Case #3	Carmi	Stander	\$5,000.00
Case #4	Chicago South	Van Conversion	\$6,000.00
Case #5	Decatur	Van Conversion	\$6,000.00
Case #6	Elmhurst	Stair Lift	\$3,799.00
Case #7	Effingham	Adaptive Stroller	\$7,035.00
Case #8	Peoria	Positioning Chair	\$2,868.00
Case #9	Decatur	Communication Device	\$1,067.00
Case #10	Mt. Vernon	Adaptive Bike	\$3,588.00
Case #11	Effingham	Adaptive Bike	\$1,376.00
Case #12	Pana	Hero's For Horses	\$7,500.00
Case #13	Mt. Vernon	Stand Assist Device	\$890.00
Case #14	Galesburg	Van Conversion	\$4,163.00
Case #15	Oak Lawn	Communication Device	\$857.00
Case #16	Effingham	Fairefly Friend Seat	\$1,053.00
Case #17	Macomb	Ramp	\$2,500.00
Case #18	Joliet	Safety Bed	\$4,440.00
Case #19	Oak Lawn	Van Conversion	\$8,413.00
Case #20	Joliet	Van Conversion	\$4,085.00
Case #21	Des Plaines	Huckleberry Hiking Trike	\$2,713.00
Case #22	Granite City	AFOs	\$2,572.00
Case #23	Oak Lawn	Adaptive Bike	\$3,419.00
Case #24	Herrin	Equine Service	\$7,500.00
Case #25	Cairo	Sensory Swing	\$802.00
Case #26	Olney	Stroller	\$540.00
Case #27	Peoria	Safety Bed	\$4,940.00
Case #28	Mt. Vernon	Ablenet Switches	\$260.00
Case #29	Elmhurst	Van Conversion	\$6,000.00
Podiatry & Other Miscellaneous Equipment			\$5,258.00

\$108,170.00