



NEWSETTE

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SUMMER 2025

INSIDE

New District
Officers
Pages 3

Flag Day
Ceremonies
4-5

CCC Catchup
7-8



IEA PRESIDENT

David Neel, Jr.

Stand for Elkdom!

Members All,

For those who missed my acceptance speech, here it is. I would like to start out by thanking the one person who is noticeably absent from my side. The first lady of the Illinois Elks Association, my wife of 21 years, Sandra. About nine months ago she was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and is no longer able to travel. This will be a challenging time for us. Your prayers will be appreciated.

Now I would like to introduce my assistant, Sandy Begue from Springfield #158. Sandy has stepped forward to help me in the duties of the first lady along with her husband John, they will be a big help. In case I forget, thank you.

This has been a long journey of 26-year membership. And along the way I have meet a lot of amazing Elk members and friends, I thank each and every one of those friends for standing by me and believing in me on my journey to being your President. I would also like to thank Dave Jurmu and Bryan Klatt for the nominations. And thank you Dave and Doc, for installing me. It meant a lot.

Also, I would like to thank the Dixon Lodge and the Northwest District for their support going through the District Chairs, starting at Junior Trustee, and doing that job for two straight years to being District Deputy. It was a long journey and with their support it was an easier journey.

This year my motto is **Stand for Elkdom**. In life you need to stand for something. For all the things we do as Elks members this is a good thing to stand for. From the CCC to helping Veterans and everything in between, being an Elk is something to stand for. **Stand for Elkdom**, that is my motto for this year.

I would like to thank Past State President Roger Quinn for the excellent job he did as State President. Your input and knowledge will be needed and required. Your new title sure sounds good with that P in front. I feel privileged to follow you, you have inspired me and taught me a lot. Thanks, from all of us. I would also like to thank past first lady Lisa, she has represented the Elks well in her first lady role.

Let's make this year a successful one and improve our membership numbers. Recruit, Reinstate and Retain.

Meet the new slate of Officers

An abbreviated Annual Meeting was held at the Springfield #158 to install our new officers for 2025-2026.

Pictured below left to right: President Dave Neel, 1st VP Jeff Johnson, 2nd VP Jeff Sterr, 3rd VP Chris Ord, Secretary Joe Ray, Treasurer Jeff Rodier, Chaplain Bill Bushman, Tiler Lane Burghoffer, and Sergeant-at-Arms Rich Hunt

They are looking forward to a great year of Elkdom!



Elks showed heart, made 2024–2025 a special year

By DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER, Grand Exalted Ruler

Happy Independence Day, the Fourth of July. We live in the greatest country on the face of the earth. We, as proud Elks, want to uphold the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity in order to honor our great nation.

This is the perfect time for me to reflect on this amazing year of travel to meet all of you. We could never in our wildest dreams have thought that we would have this great honor. We want to thank each and every one of you for your love, hospitality, and support in fulfilling our year as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady.

It was easy to stay enthused by visiting each unique state convention. But there truly was a common bond in all of our visits: Heart.

Everyone has to serve others to show what the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are truly about. You are the reason we are 800,000 Members strong. You are the reason that we have more than 1,800 successful Lodges. You are

the reason that we are the greatest charitable organization in the United States of America. We are strong, mighty, and blessed to be citizens in our great country, and I want to express my gratitude for your service to others.

We would like to thank our family. We truly missed them during our travels, but they were always gracious and encouraging when we missed special events. We are so thankful for having such a loving family.

God bless our family, the Elks, and God bless the United States of America. I believe that my motto, "Elkdom's Heart for America" will live on for many years to come. Remember we are 157 years young!



Send in your stuff!
Grand Lodge pics,
Newsette articles,
fundraiser recaps
and more!

ilelksnewsette@gmail.com

Deadline for next Newsette is July 20th



A WORD FROM OUR OFFICERS...



IEA SECRETARY

Joe Ray

Members all,

By now everyone should have received their Lodge's IEA per capita invoice. Please send it to PO Box 752, Centralia, IL, 62801, so we can record payment.

Directories will be sent Fedex as soon as they are done to the District Vice Presidents for the August District Meetings. Next year the information will be gathered by Google Sheets if at all possible, this will cut down the expense of directories, as we will not print near as many.

Grant requests should be sent to myself first and then I will forward them to Jeff Rodier. If you do not receive your check within a month, contact myself and I will investigate the status of your request.

By the time the Newsette reaches you, our own Bryan Klatt will be the new Grand Exalted Ruler. Bryan taught the Leading Knights training, when I was Leading Knight—which was over twenty years ago—Bryan is one the finest Elks I have ever known. The new Grand Secretary will have a tough act to follow.

Also, I want to thank Roger and Lisa Quinn for the job they did for the IEA during Roger's year as State President. I have gotten to know Roger and Lisa for the last four years and they have become very good friends.

The State Awards will be presented at the September State Meeting at the Crowne Plaza. The executive committee decided to wait present in September, so they could be recognized at the Saturday Banquet. I know it is a thrill to hear for the ones who have won.



IEA TREASURER

Jeff Rodier

Members all,

Welcome to the start of a new year! Please remember to remit your annual IEA dues to State Secretary Joe Ray as soon as possible. And as a reminder, please submit your Matching Grant and Veterans Grant so checks can be sent to your Lodge to help with all the good works that Elks perform.

Norine and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Kansas City for Grand Lodge and celebrating our own Bryan and Sue Klatt as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady for the coming year!!! They will do a fantastic job representing Illinois in spreading their message throughout the United States in the coming year!

This promises to be a great year for Illinois Elks and we can't wait to see how things turn out!

Net new Members with online invites

Has your Lodge promoted the online Membership application for signing up new Members?

Using the Elks website, a current paid-up Member of the Order can forward a membership invitation to family and friends. Invitees can complete and submit the application online.

Lodge Secretaries will be notified of these applications via the "Alerts" screen of CLMS2, then can process the electronic version the same as a paper application. All data provided by the applicant will be imported into the Lodge's CLMS2 database with the simple click of a button.

What better way to gain a Member than by using technology to its fullest?



Remember the foundation of Government Relations

By Robert E. Wambach, Committee Member

As we know with everything we do as a fraternal organization, it is always good to remember what brought us to where we are today. With the transition of our leadership, I thought that this would be the perfect time to do that.

First Amendment to the United States Constitution

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

This has been interpreted, as by United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas in 1972, as "My view of the First Amendment and the related guarantees of the Bill of Rights is that they create a zone of privacy which precludes government from interfering with private clubs or groups."

Thus, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States establishes our right to exist as a private organization.

Mission Statement of the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee

Although not glamorous, the work being done by your Government Relations Committee is essential to maintaining our status as a non-profit, tax-exempt, private charitable organization, and is vital to the very survival of our great Order. We need the support and assistance of each and every Member. The tremendous amount of work required to achieve its mission cannot be accomplished by the committee alone. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every single Member to help us meet these goals and protect the status of our Order as the greatest nonprofit, private charitable organization in the United States of America.

When we are reminded of these fundamentals it should rekindle the importance of our work and just how critical proper charitable reporting is to our Order.

We also need to stress timely reporting. We all have the ability to procrastinate—what I have found during my time serving on this committee is that the longer a report is put off, the likelihood that important information will be forgotten and omitted becomes too great. Please report often and on time!

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 Rd, Rochester, IL 62563 or call (217) 827-3799.

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

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

www.facebook.com --- @ilelksnewsette

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**Don't see your submission in this
Newsette? Don't fret!**

**Turn around for the next issue is a
quick! We'll have a new issue out
by August 3rd! Submissions due by
July 20th.**

District Officers sworn in across the state

North District



North District welcomed their new slate of officers for the year. Way to go! Pictured front row (l to r): Sharlene Huske Elgin #737, Lori Lichter - Des Plaines #1526. Second row (l to r): Mike Reilly - Chicago Northshore #1316, Marc Walker - Des Plaines #1526, Heather Weyn - Brookfield #1510, Judy Shimkus - Des Plaines #1526, Mark Roegner - Brookfield #1510, Sandy Bosca - Chicago Northshore #1316.

Northwest District



Congrats to Northwest’s new officers! Pictured left to right: Treasurer - Sharon K. Dircks, Secretary - Gail Sessler, Junior Trustee - Lisa Fulfs, Senior Trustee - Tim Logeman, and Vice President - Todd Smith.

Don’t see your District? Send us your officer pics and we’ll get them in the next issue!

Congratulations to all of the new District and Lodge officers! Best wishes for a successful year!

West District

West District Officers 2025-26 (L-R) Melanie Combs Senior Trustee and Jason Shaw Junior Trust are pictured below. We hope you have an awesome year!



South Central District

An exciting welcome to South Central’s officers. Pictured below left to right: Secretary - Debbie Wallace - Fairfield #1631, Vice President - Jesse Johnson - Mcleansboro #1882, Senior Trustee - Tony Korzenewski - Centralia #493 and Junior Trustee - John Tucker - Mt Vernon #819.



Elks Award Nearly \$4 Million in College Scholarships

The Elks National Foundation welcomed 850 students to the Elks family, awarding more than \$3.9 million in scholarships to high school seniors. An Elks scholarship is more than just financial aid; it's an invitation to a network of service-minded peers and a promise that an Elks Lodge is always there with open arms.

Out of more than 21,500 applicants for the Most Valuable Student scholarship, the Top 20 scholars received \$30,000 scholarships and a ticket to Chicago for the Leadership Weekend.

From May 1-4, the Leadership Weekend allowed scholars to get acquainted with their new Elks family through programming facilitated by current and former Elks scholars, team-building activities, and a service opportunity.

"The [Leadership] weekend was one of the most impactful experiences of my life," says Hannah Cross, sponsored by Ponca City, Okla., Lodge No. 2002. "I'm so grateful for the opportunity to meet other incredible students and to learn more about college and beyond. I'll forever cherish this powerful experience."

A total of 482 runners-up received \$4,000 Most Valuable Student scholarships.

Service is a tenet of the Elks, which is why there's a service requirement for recipients of the \$4,000 Legacy Awards scholarship, which is exclusively for the children or grandchildren of Elks members. The new class of 350 scholars will serve with an Elks Lodge three times during the four years they receive the scholarship.

"This recognition means so much to me," says MiKayla Klinger, sponsored by Tucumcari, N.M., Lodge No. 1172, "not just as a scholarship but as a reflection of the values and support the Elks continuously offer to families and communities like mine."

To see a full list of the scholarship winners and to learn more about the Elks National Foundation's scholarships, visit elks.org/scholars, follow the ENF on Instagram @ElksScholars, and like the ENF on Facebook @ElksNationalFoundation.

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.

Flag Day Ceremonies



Oglesby #2360 perform Flag Day ceremony at LaSalle Veterans Home



Oglesby #2360 performed their Flag Day Ritual at the LaSalle Veterans Home for 32 residents of the facility on Flag Day June 14. The ceremony presents the history of the American Flag starting with the Pine Tree Flag carried at Bunker Hill to the present flag of 50 Stars and 13 Stripes. In all, eight different flags are paraded to patriotic music. A ninth flag honoring MIA/POWs was added to never forget those still unaccounted for.



Oglesby Elk and American Legion member, Jim Ebner, is shown above addressing the Veterans with Elk Esquire Tim Watkins holding one of the American Flags and Oglesby Elks Exalted Ruler Bill Gandolfi looking on.

Elks are committed to never forgetting to honor those who have served.

Elks Care, Elks Share.

Brookfield #1510 celebrates Flag Day with the Girl Scouts

On Saturday June 14, 2025, Brookfield #1510 celebrated Flag Day. The Girl Scout/Brownie troop from St. Mary's School in Riverside, Illinois. Thirty-five people attended, flags were given to all the scouts and family members, and lunch was provided.



Pictured above left to right: Scouts Zadie and Alina, ER Billy Rodriguez, Scouts Naomi and Mackenzie, Chaplain Frank Clarke, and Elk Beth Sadowski who organized the event.

Flag Day & Essay winners celebrated at Oak Lawn #2254

During Oak Lawn #2254's Flag Day Ceremony they congratulated four Elk Americanism Essay Winners who won 1st Place in the State of Illinois, in each category: 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade - "What Does Patriotism Mean To Me." All of the winners were from #2254.

Pictured below from left to right; Elk Mike Morgan; 6th grade, Annalisa Colorato; 8th grade, Gianna Colorato; 5th grade, Emma Sanchez; 7th grade, Cameron Dix; Exalted Ruler Lynda Riffle, PER; Lodge Americanism Chairman Matt Piwowarski PER.



Flag Day Ceremonies



Galesburg #894 presents certificates to local businesses and outfits the cemeteries with flags



On June 13th, Galesburg #894 members presented 32 local businesses with certificates for flying the flag in celebration of Flag Day. Members who participated are pictured above left to right: Sam Chaney, CJ Johnson, Jan Thomas, Anna Moore, ER Jim Carter, Sue Chaney, Terry Leafgreen, Linda Murphy, Gary Wilson, Mary Padilla, Kelly Shawgo, Carey Shawgo and Amy Lybarger.

Galesburg #894 also helped the VFW by putting out 1200 flags at the Galesburg West Linwood and Memorial Cemeteries. Celebrating veterans for Memorial Day.



Pictured above left to right: Linda Murphy, Wayne Hammerschmidt, Patty Harrison, Anna Moore, CJ Johnson, Connie Wessels, Linda Hartshorn, Dana Underwood. Back row Steve Brown, Carey Shawgo, Jim Carter, VFW Terry Bruns, Deniis Jacobs, Jean Jacobs and Jan Thomas.



Pictured above left to right - Front row: Patty Harrison, Anna Moore, Linda Murphy, Conniw Wessels, Linda Hartshorn, CJ Johnson, Wayne Hammerschmidt, Dana Underwood, Jean Jacobs, Back row: VFW Terry Bruns, Steve Bown , Jim Carter, Carey Shawgo , Dennis Jacobs



Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities
ONE CIP GRANT AT A TIME

The Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program puts

\$16.3 million

directly into communities where Elks live and work.

Scan the QR code below to start building a stronger community today with an online donation.



 elks.org/ENF



Oak Lawn #2254 hosts Veterans Luncheon

Oak Lawn #2254 hosted a luncheon for veterans from the Veterans Home at Manteno. Twenty nine veterans traveled by bus to our lodge and enjoyed lunch, raffles and bingo. Each veteran brought home a goody bag. All veterans left with smiles and stories to share.



Pictured are some veterans who attended. Andrew Schifler, Steven Kemp, Kevin Deering, Brian Pekny, Chuck Callahan, Ken Anderson, Maury Deering, Tom Penland, Joe Kilroy, and Jack Riffle.



OBTAINED A NEW MEMBER ?

Have a fun recruitment idea? Created a new program and seen success in membership growth?

Share your recruiting tips in the next issue of the Newsette! E-mail to ilelksnewsette@gmail.com!

CIP Turns 20

Twenty years ago, Carrie Underwood gained national fame by winning American Idol, Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith ended the Star Wars franchise for good (or so we thought), the Chicago White Sox weren't historically bad (and won a World Series to prove it), and the Community Investments Program was born. When the CIP debuted in 2005, each grant was worth \$200, and we approved applications from 695 Lodges. A lot has changed since then, but one thing remains the same: the CIP's commitment to helping you build stronger communities.

This year, to commemorate the CIP's anniversary, the base level of the Gratitude Grant will increase from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Every Lodge that meets the per-member-giving goal of \$5.00 will have \$1,000 more to support community needs; Lodges will be eligible to receive a total of up to \$5,000 through additional bonuses. With the Beacon, Spotlight, and Gratitude Grants, Lodges can receive up to \$11,000 to use in their community to help fight hunger, prevent veteran homelessness, or address other needs.

Now that's a reason to celebrate! Follow the ENF on social media, and be on the lookout for more as we celebrate 20 years of the CIP. For 2025-26, the Elks National Foundation allocated nearly \$18 million to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through CIP grants that offer Elks opportunities to serve their community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit elks.org/CIP.

In the Community

Elgin #737 delivers Welcome Home kit to Veteran



On May 7, Elgin #737 delivered a Welcome Home Kit, consisting of small kitchen appliances, linens and household items to a veteran at the 65th Infantry Regiment Borinqueneers. The lodge works with the 65th Regiment and the local VA hospital, supplying the Welcome Home kits. Pictured above left to right: Greg Huske, ER, PER, PDDGER and Veteran recipient Brian.

Champaign/Urbana #2497 goes the extra mile at the Christie Clinic Marathon

Recently, the Champaign/Urbana #2497 volunteered at the Christie Clinic Illinois Marathon with a hydration station at mile marker 18 of the 26-mile course.



Kewanee #724 celebrates two Student of the Year winners

William Ly and Katelyn Attig They both received honors of Student of the Year for the Kewanee Lodge. There were 150 student in each category They moved on to District where they both received 1st place. From there they advanced to State where Katelyn got first place and William second! They each received a certificate and scholarship awards in each level. Each is pictured right with Secretary Dr. Dennis Gerleman.



A PAWesome donation from the Murphysboro Antlers



The Murphysboro Elks Antlers recently donated two K9 Rescue / First Aid Kits to Jackson Co. K9 Officer, Blake Bachmann, and his K9, Nala. Presenting were (pictured above left to right): Antler sponsor, Rene' Doody; past Antler president (& now Elk Member), Tyler Doody; Jayden Milton, current Antler president; Jacob McClain, Antler member; and #572 E.R., Todd Doody.

Brief Relief: Brookfield #1510 Donates 912 Pairs to VA Hospital



On Wednesday May 21, Elks members distributed 912 pair of underwear to the Jessie Brown VA Hospital located in Chicago. The Freedom Grant made this possible.

Pictured above are Veteran Ron, Chaplain Frank Clarke, member Helen Clarke, Grant Coordinator Michelle Stach , and Don Johnson from social services at Jesse Brown. They are given to homeless veterans.

Harrisburg #1058 uses Beacon Grant for



Harrisburg #1058 utilized their 2025 CIP Beacon Grant (\$4,000.00) to purchase 264 backpacks containing hygienic products and winter clothing, blankets and supplies. These backpacks were distributed to our region's 5 Golden Circle centers covering 4 counties in our area for their elderly and economically challenged population.

Pictured left are Lodge member Christina Bishop, Golden Circle Executive Director Kasi Stunson, and lodge treasurer Lisa Frese with samples of the backpacks and contents.

2025 Illinois Elks Children’s Care Calendar Winners

- MARCH**
Steven Pate, Benton; Heather Baker, Olney; Caroline Ryan, Beardstown; Gregory Johnson, McLeansboro; John Jun, Joliet; Jacob Stefanski, Joliet.
- APRIL**
John G. Hill, Jacksonville; Michael Anthis, Benton; Richard Landgraff, Des Plaines; S. Buehnerkemper, Effingham; Debbie Etienne, Harrisburg; Blakelee Snedigar, Springfield; Colleen Marchese, Chicago South; Kathy Ryan, Chicago Northshore; David Camp, Springfield; Alicia Westjohn, Effingham; Mark Young, Galesburg; Darold Jones, Herrin*; Edward Reis, Robinson; David Tomalis, Brookfield; Lynda Regep, Chicago South; Elaine Baran, Brookfield; Donna Sisi, Des Plaines; Jeff Porter, Chicago South; Robert Osborne, Beardstown; Marcia Warner, Lincoln; Dominic Ronzani, Jr., Chicago Northshore; Jack Guetterman, Cairo.
- MAY**
William Benoit, Joliet; Greg Jeffords, Metropolis; James Jumper, Springfield; Mary Ann West, Herrin; Chris Yorbing, Jacksonville; Victoria Downs, Chicago South; Frank Palladino, Brookfield; Keith Davis, Carmi; Robert Luscombe, Streator; Jim Etienne, Harrisburg; Kathy Pabian, Oglesby; Charles Kieffer, Mount Carmel; Bob Zipprich, Jacksonville; Steve Looney, Kewanee; Richard Stefan, Des Plaines*; Jerry Pierce, Belleville; Margaret Norcross, Joliet; Fred Sparano, Des Plaines; Hal Lamb, Pana; David Jansen, Galena; Danny Trout, Herrin; Steven DeRenzy, Canton.
- *\$100 **\$1,000 ***\$5,000

Elks Children’s Care 2025 Clinics

- 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.



NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

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

ADVERTISE YOUR SPECIAL Lodge EVENT!

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

SECRETARIES!

WE WANT YOUR ADDRESS CORRECTIONS!

Send to: Children’s Care Corp.,
1201 N. Main St. • Chatham, IL 62629
Fax: (217) 483-2131
E-Mail: helpkids@elks scare.org

Note: Address corrections go to the Children’s Care Corp. because that’s who maintains the mailing list. Note, too, that address corrections made through the Post Office cost the Newsette – and you Elks – hundreds of dollars per issue. Please help us cut that cost by keeping us posted with your address corrections.

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

Send to: Newsette Editor
1937 N. Walnut Rd., Rochester, IL 62563
E-Mail:

ilelksnewsette@gmail.com
For information, call Editor Liz Conaway
at (217) 827-3799

Newsette Deadlines

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

CHILDREN'S CARE CORP



**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

2024-2025 Year End Report

By Bill Block, CCC Admin

In 2024-2025 the Illinois Elks Lodges raised a total of \$135,922.56 for the KIDS. In direct donations from members \$22,629.48, and Memorials from our Past Members \$6,464.52 for a total of \$29,094.00. The Children's Care through its three annual fundraisers raised the following; Annual Appeal (HoDo) \$23,336.00, Statewide Drawing \$21,651.00, the Benefit Calendar \$48,255.00 for a twelve-month total of \$93,242.00, for a Grand total of \$258,258.56.

Expenses—Patient Assist \$226,728.35, Clinics \$31,791.54, all Scholarships \$46,400.00, Totaling \$304,919.89.

The 2025-2026 Elected Board Officers are Chairman, Tawn Williams of Elmhurst #1531, Vice Chairman, John Bayler of Flora #1659, Treasurer, Chad Mitsdarffer of McLeansboro #1882, 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 project, we exist only through our Lodges and the planned functions provided for the CCC, and through our three annual mailings throughout the year: The Annual Appeal/HoDo Pin, the Statewide Drawing, and Benefit Calendar. For nearly 98 years the CCC has been helping Kids, making this Project one of the oldest and continuous State Major Projects in all of Elkdom. **The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation gives us a purpose and a cause; thank you for your support and all you do for the Kids.**

Jake's new ride

The Effingham #1016 in conjunction with the Sullivan, IL. AMBUC presented the new Paceline 16 Amtryke to Jake Nuwburn on Saturday June 7, 2025 purchased by the Illinois Children Care Association in Chatham, IL.



Pictured above left to right: Jim Durbin -Grandfather, David Nuwburn – Father, Samantha Nuwburn – Mother, Jesse Nuwburn , Jim Wacker Secretary of Sullivan AMBUC, Nancy Durbin – Grandmother, Mike Whitacre - Elks Loyal Knight, Mike Esker - Elks Exalted Ruler, Tanner Thoele - Elks Trustee, Mike Porter - Elks Secretary, Scott Denton – Elks Trustee, Tony Feeler –AMBUC, Don Rogers AMBUC, and Jake Nuwburn on his Amtryke.

Your Donations at Work

Specialized equipment purchased and delivered in the past 90 days.

Case #1	18YO / Metropolis	\$2,000 Chill-Out Chair 4/3/25
Case #2	7 YO / Springfield	\$2,062.81 Communication Device 4/11/25
Case #3	8YO / Mount Vernon	\$2186.25 Adaptive Tricycle 4/11/25
Case #4	6YO / Springfield	\$1,924.66 Communication Device 4/11/25
Case #5	3YO / Harrisburg	\$3,007.87 Safety Bed 4/11/25
Case #6	3YO / Joliet	\$5,000.00 Van Lift 4/21/25
Case #7	5YO / Lincoln	\$5,000.00 Van Lift 4/23/25
Case #8	10YO / Dixon	\$120.00 Orthotics 5/2/25
Case #9	6 Kids / Herrin	\$2,400.00 Equine Service Session #2 5/9/25
Case #10	8YO / Lincoln	\$277.50 PT Sessions 5/13/25
Case #11	8YO / Kankakee	\$5,312.97 Hercules Car Seat 5/13/25
Case #12	6YO / Belleville	\$2,250.00 Adaptive Trike 5/13/25
Case #13	16YO / Anna Jonesboro	\$1,199.99 Electric Patient Lift 5/13/25
Case #14	4YO / Benton	\$1,306.00 Communication Switches 5/13/25
Case #15	9YO / Effingham	\$44.99 Safety Rails 5/13/25
Case #16	15YO / Charleston	\$498.70 Communication Device 5/13/25
Case #17	7YO / Murphysboro	\$2,010.80 Adaptive Trike 5/13/25
Case #18	10YO / Peoria	\$6,000.00 Van Lift 5/22/25
Case #19	10YO / Harrisburg	\$4,190.00 AbleNet Comm. Device 5/30/25
Case #20	16YO / Anna Jonesboro	\$521.34 Swing Seat 6/11/25
Case #21	7YO / Pana	\$489.99 Communication Device 6/11/25
Case #22	6YO / Herrin	\$2,652.57 ThomasHilfen Car Seat 6/11/25
Case #23	18YO / Granite City	\$2,348.18 Croc Gait Walker 6/11/25

\$52,804.62

2024-2025 Top Three Lodge Contributors to CCC

GROSS CONTRIBUTIONS	
1 - Murphysboro #572	\$18,898.00
2 - Lincoln #914	\$12,744.00
3 - Champaign Urbana #2497	\$12,703.00
PER CAPITA	
1 - Freeport #617	\$97.75
2 - Kewanee #724	\$50.06
3 - Chicago Northshore #1316	\$48.12

Next Newsette deadline is JULY 20, 2025!

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

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www.illinoiselks.org**