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Eckoffs name Family of the Year

The Illinois Elks Association is excited to announce that Bob and Kelly Eckhoff of Pontiac Lodge #1019 have been selected as the Elks Family of the Year.

Both Bob and Kelly are members of Pontiac Lodge #1019 and active participants in our Order in leadership positions. During the past three IEA Golf Tournaments held at Pontiac Lodge Bob and Kelly were co-chairpersons. The Eckhoffs were hospitality hosts for PSP Kevin Kennedy in Phoenix 2012 and this year for SP Greg Verdun in St. Louis.

Bob became a member in June of 1982 at Pontiac Lodge #1019 with his father-in-law Alan Gschwendtner proposing him. Bob became Exalted Ruler in 1994 when the Exalted Ruler John Raube stepped down. Bob, then served the next full lodge year 1995-1996. Bob is currently our Head of Trustees. After his two-term experience as Exalted Ruler, Bob advanced through the East District Chairs.

In 1999-2000 Bob served as Vice-President of the East District. Two years later Bob started his term as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the East District representing Grand Lodge. For the past fifteen years Bob has been a member of the IEA Athletic Commission and he has been chairman many of those years. Last Spring Bob assumed the position of Secretary of the East District for the second time.

Kelly became a member of Pontiac Lodge #1019 in September of 2016 with Bob proposing her. Five months after becoming a member Kelly ran for treasurer of the Pontiac Lodge and was elected. Her accounting background

Eckhoff Cont'd on Page 2

Elk of the Year Whitley makes the most of three years

Amy Whitley has been selected as the Elk of the Year. She is a member of Carmi Lodge #1652. Even though she's been a member for 3 short years, she has made her presence known, not only at her Lodge but, also throughout her community and within the State Elks organization.

Amy has contributed to the community and Lodge #1652 by spearheading a program that collects clothing for veterans. In 2017, the students of Washington Attendance Center in Carmi, where Amy is a fourth grade teacher, collected 2,572 pairs of socks to be distributed to veterans. That has carried over into the past two years, expanding to accept all types of clothing. Once the clothing has been collected and sorted, Carmi Elks Lodge Members have delivered it to the Illinois Veterans Home in Anna and the Marion Veterans Administration Medical Center Hospital. Amy's family has always been part of the group that makes the deliveries and visits with the veterans as much as possible. Because of all this, Amy was named the Illinois Veterans Service Female Volunteer of the Year for 2018-2019.

Anytime there's work to be done at the Lodge, whether big or small, you can usually find Amy in the middle of it. She helps during cleaning days at the Lodge, decorates for Christmas, bartends over the Corn Days weekend, etc. She was very helpful when we were responsible for the District hospitality room a few years ago, taking care of things when others were attending meetings. Whenever there's something going on, Amy pitches in. She and her husband Jared, also a Member, include their children as much as possible. She does all this on top of being dedicated to her classroom and her students.

National Convention Update: See you next year in Tampa!

The National Elks Convention was scheduled to take place July 5-8, 2020 in Baltimore, but COVID-19 had other plans. The cancellation of the annual event was surely disappointing to all of those who look forward to attending every year. The National Convention Chairman, James L. Nicholson, PGER thanked everyone for their patience and understanding in the July 2020 Grand Lodge Newsletter and told members he hoped to see them all in Tampa for next year's event schedule for July 4-7, 2021. Baltimore is now on the schedule for the 2028 Convention, so the Elks will visit get a chance to see Maryland! Your lodge will keep you updated on all upcoming events as the COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines are updated.

ANNUAL MEETING STILL ON THE SCHEDULE

As of press time, an abbreviated Annual Meeting, with limited attendance is scheduled to be held in Springfield at 1 pm on July 19, 2020. A backup date of July 26, 2020 is reserved. Information will be released as it becomes available.

FALL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES WAIVED

As a way of saying THANK YOU to the IEA members for their patience and understanding for the postponed May State Meeting and the cancelled Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore, the incoming Executive Committee and Convention Committees have voted to waive the \$10.00 Registration Fee for the Fall Convention in September. You must still register in advance to obtain your credentials and pay for the Ladies' Luncheon and Saturday Banquet. If you do not pre-register, you will be required to pay the \$20.00 late fee at the registration table.

A Look At The Coming Year

State President Greg Verdun earned a much-needed rest, so I'll be filling his space in this issue of the Newsette.

Since we were unable to get together in Springfield last May, I thought I would use this article to outline what will be coming up in the coming 2020-2021 IEA year.

First, I would like to introduce the State Officers Designate for the coming year: State Chaplain – Joel Joergensen, Fairview Heights #664; State Sergeant-At-Arms – Eric Judy, Springfield #158; and State Tiler – Mark May, Herrin #1146.

The theme for the coming year will be "ELKS UNITED".

The IEA per capita goal will remain at \$5.50.

The IEA will be increasing our involvement with the State Soccer Shoot Program. If your Lodge hasn't been participating, I am asking you to consider reinstating this worthwhile program for your youth in the Fall. Contact State Chairman Steve Albrecht with any questions.

Incoming State Public Relation Chairman Jeff Pribble has developed a generic Public Service Announcement (PSA) about the Elks for radio use statewide. Contact Jeff for more information or how to access this PSA for your local radio station.

Incoming Government Relations Chairman Mike Slape reports that the Governor has extended the deadline for payment of your Lodges' State Liquor License to December 1, 2020.

The Financial Reporting System (FRS) for Illinois Lodges is still incomplete! As of this writing, only 34 of 69 Illinois Lodges have either completed, or submitted some portion of the mandated requirements. Contact FRS Coordinator Kelly Eckhoff if you have any questions or problems.

The Pull Tab Program will return to the Hospitality Suites for all State Conventions this year. State Chairman Larry Nolan, and his committee, will coordinate the program.

Norine and I are looking forward to seeing you in Springfield at the upcoming Fall Convention, September 25 to 27 and wish all of you and your families continued good health and a great summer!!!

IEA 1st Vice President

Jeff Rodier



Invite new members online

Did you know that current, paid-up members of the Order can use the National Elks website to send invites to potential members? It's a great way to recruit! When an invitee completes and submits application, the local lodge secretary will receive an alert on CLMS2. Make the most of the technology offered and start inviting new members today! Visit <https://www.elks.org/members/emasFAQ.cfm> to learn more.

Let's stay positive

Members All: Under these challenging times all is well with family and friends. Hopefully everyone is adapting to the regulations as prescribed

**IEA
treasurer**

George
Hornung



by the state. I want to thank all the lodges that have sent in their state dues. Only 16 Illinois lodges haven't paid their assessments yet. Make sure to check with your lodge secretary to see if they sent dues ASAP. As for all the lodge and district officers keep in contact with the membership to continue all the works that we are so proud of both locally and at the state level.

Once again the ENF Grants are very generous in relation to what we contribute. This money allows us to continue all the projects we do to assist our youth, our veterans and the less fortunate members. We should all be proud that our organization can assist in the projects that we all have come to love. We, hopefully, can all meet in September for our Fall meeting in Springfield. Let's stay positive and remember why BPOE does stand for Best People on Earth. God bless.

Great news & great thanks

With COVID, I'm reminded of the early 60s song, *See You in September*, because that seems to be the case at the moment! I'll hopefully see you all in September at the Fall Meeting.

**IEA
secretary**

Marvin
Leathers



Now for the good stuff! Thank you to all Illinois Elk lodges and the many Ladies' Elks Association for all money donated to the Elks National Foundation!

This year the Illinois Elks will be getting back the following amounts, to be used for our charities:

Special Projects Grant	\$158,890.00
Regular State Charities Grant	\$173,330.00
Bonus Grant	\$33,200.00

Thank You Illinois Elks!

In other good news, 60 LODGES made the State President's goal. Each lodge that made the goal will receive a \$1,500.00 award for community service. Just email me at elkelk1903@gmail.com as to how you will use the award and I will see that it is sent to your lodge.

Another award that we have for this year is that each lodge will receive \$1,000 to be used in your city for a Veterans Service Program. Again, just email me and I will see that the check is sent to you.

So Proud Of The Illinois Elks!!!

IEA DIRECTORY ADDITION

Please add to your new directory.

Grand Lodge Officer
Grand Trustee
Charles Campbell (Jan)
Carbondale #1243
1010 Ivey Land
Carterville, IL 62918
H-618-985-4382
C-618-534-0192
e-campbell@midwest.net

Eckoff Cont'd from Page 1

enabled her to reorganize the accounts of Pontiac Lodge to become more efficient. In the Fall of 2019 Grand Lodge introduced the new Financial Reporting System. Kelly was appointed by Past Grand Exalted Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger as the Illinois Elks Coordinator. She is helping lodges across Illinois adapt to the new accounting system. Because of her voluntarism Kelly was selected as "Lady of the Year" in 2007-2008 for the Illinois Elks. Three years ago, Kelly helped start Pontiac's Jolly Corks wine tasting. This event helps raise money for Elks National Foundation and Children's Care Corporation.

Bob has proposed his three sons-in-law as active members of Pontiac Lodge. Joe, Eric, and Andy have helped at our Fourth of July celebrations, Hoop Shoots, High School Athletic Banquets, carrying the American Flag in parades, and many other activities. The boys have learned to help and participate by watching Bob and Kelly be active participants and leaders at Pontiac Lodge #1019.

Bob and Kelly are true examples of Elk virtues and are strong role models of them to both their family and to our Lodge Members. They pour their time, energy and hearts into not only our local lodge, but to this Fraternal Organization overall, and do it with no expectations of anything back except the success and growth of both.

Teen of the Year Winners

The Kewanee Elks #724 announced the winners of the Teen of the Year Contest. Pictured are Keagon Rico, a senior at Annawan High School and she is the daughter of John & Courtney Rico (top picture).

Austin Earley is a senior at Annawan High School and he is the son of Don & Darcy Earley (bottom picture). Also pictured is Dr. Dennis Gerleman, Youth Activities chairman for Kewanee #724 and the West District #2820. Both Keagon and Austin won the West District Teen of the Year Contest, and continued onto the Illinois Elks Association for competition and consequently won the IEA Teen of the Year.

Unfortunately, the Annual IEA Meeting was cancelled, they were able to get their scholarship checks early.



VICE PRESIDENTS DISTRICT REPORTS

EAST DISTRICT

Tom Hummel, PDDGER, East District Vice President

The East district held only three meetings this year, our attendance was around 40 members, the lodges did their best to welcome us in hosting our meetings. Our last meeting in April was cancelled due to the COVID-19.

I had good reports from our district chairman and a big "thank you" goes out to the Committee Chairs for the great job they did in giving their committee reports, the lodges reported on the different events scheduled for the year, hosting the veterans for dinners and lunches, Flag Day, hosting Hoop Shoots, Kids party's, Breakfast with Santa, and other events

But the year was cut short due to the Coronavirus and the shut down of the lodges.

I only have a few year end reports to give, as the Easter Bunny program was cancelled, as well as the Veterans visits and other programs.

Six out of eight lodges held a Hoop Shoot, for a total of 54 Elk members, 58 Volunteers, 50 boys & 34 girls for a total of 84 shooters.

Membership for the East District started April 1, 2019 at 2,041 members, as of March 31, 2020, the District ended with 1,951 members, a loss of 90 members, but on the bright side, we had two lodges with a gain, Watseka Lodge, started with 244 members and ended with 256 members, an increase of 12, and Kankakee Lodge, started with 201 members and ended with 204 members, a increase of 3 members.

Congratulations are in order for these two lodges in their gain in membership, keep up the good work.

The other lodges had a total of 14 candidates waiting but due to the close down of lodges, they are now waiting for the reopening of the lodges for initiation into our Order.

The Illinois Elks Children's Care reported the Lodges of the East District raised a total of \$20,706.66, while the Expenses were \$24,010.22,

The Elks National Foundation reported as of 3/31/2020, the total donations from the lodges of the East District was \$15,603.25, with Pontiac lodge leading with \$3,242.00 in donations and Ottawa Lodge leading in Per-Cap of \$15.52 per member.

It was an Honor to have the State President come from the East District this year and it was an Honor to serve the District as your Vice-President and the State Association.

WEST DISTRICT

Steve Albrecht, West District Vice President

Membership Gain: This year we started with 2419 and ended with a total of 2326 a loss of 10%. Galesburg #894 & Canton #626 Lodges are the only two Lodges with no losses.

Lapsation: West District started the year with 2419 Members, there was 122 initiations 24 reinstated for a gain of 149, but had 47 Deaths, 166 Drops, and 26 Demits giving the West District a total of 2326. That is a loss of 124 ending at a 10% loss.

ENF: District Chairman Al Urena set this year's goal for all 8 Lodges to make State Presidents Per Capita Goal and for total donations of \$20,000. West District contributed a total of \$20,599 for \$8.52 Per Capita. 7 out of 8 Lodges made the President Goal with Lincoln #914, Kewanee #724 and Galesburg #894 leading the way. Pekin #1271 missed by .09 cents.

CCC: Year-to-date West District has donated a total of \$3895.93 with Lincoln #914 leading the way with a total of 1,923.30.

Hoop Shoot: We had a total of 7 out of 8 Lodges participate in the Hoop Shoot Galesburg # 894 was the only Lodge that did not have a shoot, due to illness of Coordinator. They will be up and running this next year.

Soccer Shoot: Canton #626, Kewanee #724, and Galesburg #894 all participated in the Soccer Shoot.

We had no Lodge with 100% attendance for Officers this year.

We are happy to say that West District has been very active in our communities this year. We have had Lodges use Grant money for Veterans Suppers, Honor Flights, Feed Special Need Summer Camps, fill hundreds of Holiday Food Baskets along with Bloomington Lodge #281 receiving the Spotlight Grant, in which they used the money to Prepare 5 daily meals for the Homeless Veterans at the Home Sweet Home Mission in Bloomington.

We are immensely proud of our Lodges and our District and will continue to strive for excellence this next year. We hope everyone is healthy and well and look forward to seeing you hopefully in September.

SOUTH CENTRAL

Darren Hays, South Central District Vice President

South Central District began 2019-20 with its organizational meeting in June, hosted by Lawrenceville Lodge #1208. The district budget for the year was adopted. All District chairs read their reports and all District committee chairpersons read their reports from the lodges.

The summer district meeting in August was held at Fairfield Lodge #1631. District Deputy Scott Flota had his DD clinic. All District chairs read their reports and all District committee chairpersons read their reports from the lodges.

At the IEA meeting in September and January, I attended the board of directors meeting, along with other meetings throughout the weekend. In September and October, I attended some of the District Deputy visits, (when work allowed). The South Central District have an individual chair winner at the IEA state meeting. State Exalted Ruler winner was Tim Bain, Mt. Vernon Lodge #819.

The District Hoop Shoot was held in January in Salem with winners moving to the IEA State Hoop Shoot. The South Central District had the following winners at the IEA State Hoop Shoot. Brentley Bryan from Salem Lodge #1678 won first place in the 8/9 yr. old boys, Kendall Mast from Mt. Vernon Lodge #819 won first place in the 8/9 yr. old girls, Addison Elliot from Carmi Lodge #1652 won first place in the 10/11 yr. old girls, and Oliva Smith from Fairfield Lodge #1631 took 3rd place in the 12/13 yr. old girls. Unfortunately the Regional and National Hoop Shoots were cancelled. I know our kids were heart broken.

At the January District meeting, hosted by Carmi Lodge #1652, Gene Howe of Centralia Lodge #493 was submitted for consideration for Junior Trustee. District Lady of the Year was Debbie Mitchell from Centralia Lodge #493. Unfortunately, she was not able to attend the IEA state meeting due to prior arrangements.

Our April meeting had to be cancelled due to the Governor's and Grand Lodge's orders. We had already picked our district winners in the following categories, Lodge of the Year is Mt. Vernon #819, Secretary of the Year is Carla Hooe from Salem Lodge #1678, Elk of the Year is Amy Whitley from Carmi Lodge #1652, Family of the Year is Robin and Michelle Harris from Carmi Lodge #1652, and ER of the Year is Jason Packer from Carmi #1652. Gene Howe from Centralia Lodge #493 was voted in to become the Junior Trustee and Jason Martin from Mt. Vernon Lodge #819 was voted in to become the hospitality room coordinator.

- Charitable donations totaled \$31,951.55 to the Elks National Foundation, an increase from last year, \$30,028.66 to the Children's Care Corporation, also an increase from last year.

- The South Central District did receive a Certificate from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for their appreciation, support and dedication to the foster and adoptive families of Southern Illinois.

- September 28th, Carmi Lodge #1652 held the first "Elks South Central District Caddyshack Classic" an 18 hole putt putt golf tournament to raise money. The morning session there was 6 teams from the South Central District Lodges that competed, raising money for the District. Carmi Lodge #1652 took 1st place and the traveling trophy which they will have to defend this year. The afternoon session was a fundraiser for the Carmi Lodge. Other teams arrived to play in the fundraiser. 5 out of the 6 district teams stayed and paid there fees to play again, showing support for the Carmi Lodge.

I would like to thank the State Officers that attended our District meetings.

Our District meetings are always well attended. I am very proud of our South Central District Lodges. We all work very hard for our Lodges and our District to do everything that we can for our communities, our veterans and our children. And, as most everyone knows, the South Central District always has a great time in everything that we do. Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 virus, that has everything shutdown, our lodges has not been able to do the charitable work they want to do. Luckily with text and email, our members and our District Chairperson have stayed in contact discussing business and most important, the checking on everyone and making sure they are OK.

It's been a good year and an honor to serve as the South Central District Vice President, and I thank my fellow Past and current District Officers for their assistance during the year.

SOUTH DISTRICT

Jessica Mitchell, PER, South District Vice President

The South District managed to have two successful fundraisers that profited a total of \$7,188.22 to help us pay for the year's expenses.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, we were not able to have our April district meeting, as I'm sure was the case with the other districts. And, it looks as if we're going to have to find a creative way to have our June 7th district meeting.

I am happy to report that all lodges were able to creatively swear in their 2020-2021 officers.

I'm pleased to also report that we have a few lodges that have been able to stay the course in the South even though the majority of operations have come to a halt. Marion is still selling lunches via curbside M-F, West Frankfort has a continuous dinner menu three nights a week. Carbondale just had a successful Fish Fry that sold out this past weekend. Harrisburg is in the process of doing a pork butt fundraiser for the Memorial Day holiday.

Regarding the Chart of Accounts, I can confirm with certainty that Metropolis and Herrin have complied and completed everything that needs done. I'm waiting responses from the remaining lodges.

South District Lodge Losses & Gains

Anna-Jonesboro +12

Benton +26

Carbondale +3

Cairo +14

Du Quoin -40

Harrisburg +17

Herrin -32

JOCO +5

Marion +19

Metropolis -8

Murphysboro -21

West Frankfort +12

District Loss/Gain +7

Want to show what your lodge has been up to?

Send it to the Newsette!
 ilelksnewsette@gmail.com



VICE PRESIDENTS DISTRICT REPORTS

NORTH DISTRICT

Michael K. Pender, North District Vice President

I have known for some time that the North District Elks have a soft spot in their hearts for our Veterans. At our first District meeting of this last year, our representatives from each lodge voted to request a grant for veterans from Illinois Elks Association President Greg Verdun, in the amount of \$1000.00 per lodge. These funds were donated to the Special Adaptive Sports Program at Hines Veterans Hospital. This allows disabled veterans the ability to obtain partial funding to purchase adapted sporting equipment that will make them able to compete in various sports. We would like to thank Greg for the grant and assisting our district in helping these veterans.

Other veteran's activities in our district included,

- Brookfield Lodge traveling to Hines Veteran's Hospital for Bingo with the veterans;
- District veteran activities in support of the 65th Infantry Regiment Veteran's Housing.
- In previous years, our district lodges secured ENF grant money to help outfit and provide appliances, furniture and other items for some of the 65th Regiment apartments. This year, Chicago North Shore and Brookfield lodges held an Easter Brunch for the 65th Inf. Reg.
- Elmhurst serving at the Thanksgiving Dinner for the Vet's at the Roselle VFW;
- Chicago North Shore & Des Plaines Lodges annual picnic at the Lovell Veteran's Center in North Chicago;
- The annual Veteran's Holiday Dinner in Antioch, which receives donations from our district lodges to help cover event expenses. And, to which many members from our district lodges attend annually to help serve food.
- Our District Veterans Chair Barry Roberts from Elgin Lodge 737 is our new rep with the USO.
- In June, Barry Roberts participated in Operation Horses and Heros. A program for veterans suffering from PTSD and other related issues that provides therapy horses for a 3 day weekend at no charge to the Vets.
- In August of 2019, Elgin Lodge presented its 7th welcome home kit this year to veterans returning home.

Wheaton Lodge Treasurer, Thomas "Tex" Tracy has been approved as a recipient for an "HONOR FLIGHT". This event was scheduled to occur this spring. However, due to COVID-19, it has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

Congrats to Chicago North Shore Lodge #1316 for your lodge taking Number 1 in District and Number 1 in Illinois for ENF "per member" donations with a total of \$48.93 per member! The North District averaged out at \$8.68 per member. All lodges met the GER and State President ENF donation goals.

Congratulations to Elmhurst Lodge in securing a \$10,000.00 Impact Grant this year! All district lodges received Beacon and Gratitude Grants. In addition, three lodges received the Promise and Freedom Grants. One lodge also received a Spotlight Grant. All together the North District received over \$ 40,000.00 in grant money.

Additionally, five of our six lodges have contributed to the Pearl Harbor Campaign with a total of \$1,839.00.

Last year our Children's Care Corporation donations were over \$27,000. This year we are proud to say we collected \$39,700.94. The CCC clinic operating in Elgin serves the entire North District.

A very large Congratulations goes out to current Exalted Ruler Avis L. Thomas of Chicago North Shore Lodge #1316 for taking First Place in the Leading Knight Ritual Competition at the January State Meeting. It seems like it has been a while since our district has seen any entry from our district lodges that has come home with an award.

Drug Awareness seems to have gained a little traction with placing materials at Hoop Shoots and other district events and showing off some of the new brochures. This year, Wheaton Lodge had Drug Awareness materials including coloring books at the Train Show held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds where the Wheaton Lodge serves food monthly. Additionally,

- Most of our lodges added Drug Awareness materials in the Easter Baskets they hand out.
- Materials and Elroy were present at the National Hoop Shoot in Chicago
- Wheaton held a Coats for Kids event with Drug Awareness materials and the extra coats that were left over were donated to the Milton Township Food Pantry in Wheaton and found their way to DuPage World Relief (with additional Drug Awareness materials).
- Wheaton Lodge also presented a check to the Ronald McDonald House in Winfield, IL and provided Drug Awareness materials to be placed in the lobby. We refresh their supply as needed.
- Elgin Lodge regularly places Drug Awareness materials out for their annual Step It Up Program and enlists the services of Elroy as well.
- Des Plaines Lodge hosted a First Responders Day that included a Drug Take Back Day (with Elroy)
- Elgin, Wheaton, Chicago North Shore and Des Plaines lodges held a Trunk or Treat event at the Des Plaines Lodge parking lot for kids with candy, Drug Awareness materials and Elroy!

Among other programs for 2019-2020:

- North District submitted an entry for Lady of the Year; an Elk of the year; and a Family of the Year
- All lodges held a Hoop Shoot competition. The District Hoop Shoot was held at the Wheaton Park District Facility sending 3 girls and 3 boys to the State Hoop Shoot in Decatur.
- The district officers were in attendance for the state hoop shoot as scorekeepers, and court attendants for the event.

- Americanism Essay Contest winners
 - 5th & 6th grades - 3 total (2 from Elgin Lodge and 1 from Des Plaines Lodge)
 - 7th & 8th grades - 3 total all from Elgin Lodge
- All North district Lodges participated in the Easter Bunny Program (April 2019)
- District website regularly updates with lodge activities
- District membership – this year we dropped 140 members from our six lodges.

We need to do a better job keeping our members.

- District meetings have been typically well represented by the lodges.

We worked hard, had fun, helped others and kept the faith, charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity.

I thank the lodge representatives, the District Officers, and committee chairs for their participation, dedication and commitment to further the aims and goals of Elkdom in the North District of Illinois.

It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to have served as the North District Vice President of the Illinois Elks Association.

NORTH WEST

Lane Burghoffer, North West District Vice President

Overall, the District had a reasonably good year this past year. Our checkbook finished in the black even with increasing costs and a small loss in membership. The District had enough money in the checkbook to waive collection of the State per capita from the lodges and pay it directly out of the District treasury. The District ended the year with 3760 members which is a loss of eight for the year.

Our Districts donation to the Elks National Foundation was \$31,676, which comes out to a per-capita of \$8.42 with eight of nine Lodges exceeding the Grand Lodge and the States goals.

Children's Care Corporation held clinics in four different locations within the District with a total expense of over \$25,000.00. Children's Care also provide approximately \$18,000.00 of scholarship support to students from the Northwest District. The District's total donation for the year to Children's Care Corporation was \$26,133.81.

Our Hoop Shoot program is as strong as ever with eight of nine Lodges sending participants to the District Shoot. The District sent a full slate of participants to the State Hoop Shoot in Decatur with two going on to participate in the Regionals.

Soccer on the other hand is still struggling to get going. There was not enough lodge participation to hold a district shoot out this year but we still hope to generate more interest in the District this coming year. However, we did send participants to the State Hoop Shoot.

The Americanism Program was down a bit year over year in our District with under 400 essays submitted from five lodges. The District also had 100% participation in the Easter Bunny program again this year. The Northwest submitted a District Nominee for Lady Elk of the Year at the State level.

All the lodges had Veterans Programs to visit them in their homes, invite them into their lodges for dinners, or involve them in other activities. The District also continued our yearly donation of \$2000.00 to the LaSalle Veterans Home to help with their needs.

All in all it was a pretty good year for the Northwest District.

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 414 S Eaton, Edinburg, IL 62531 or call (217) 827-3799.

Submission deadlines – July 20, 2020 for Fall; and Nov. 21, 2020, for Mid-Winter, March 22, 2021 for Spring, June 15, 2021 for Summer

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announcements, and to submit stories!

www.facebook.com -- @ilelksnewsette

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VICE PRESIDENTS DISTRICT REPORTS

EAST CENTRAL

Tom Hummel, East District Vice President

To begin the year, our incoming Vice President was unable to continue and I was asked by a contingent of past vices to fill in for a year. It had been eight years since I was Vice President and a lot of things had changed in the district, but I couldn't say no.

Membership is still a problem as our district didn't show an increase as a whole, but some lodges did individually. The main problem is still lapsation.

All but two of our lodges participated in Hoop Shoot. Our district shoot was a huge success with a great show put on by Robinson Lodge #1188.

We had some problems with lodges not showing up for the Sunday meeting in September, but after a very informative district meeting in October they were all represented in January and I was proud.

I believe all but one lodge made the State President's and Grand Exalted Ruler's goals for Elks National Foundation.

All in all it was a good year and everyone was great to work with!

WEST CENTRAL

Kirk Newenham, West Central District Vice President

The West Central District has experienced a respectable year up to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. All the prior year's District Officers advanced chairs and participated/contributed to the District. An incoming Junior Trustee, Robin Lemay, Belleville Lodge #481, was appointed and joined the district ranks.

Three District Meeting were held throughout the year drawing ample attendance from the District's Eight Lodges. Excellent reporting from the District Committee Chairs provided varieties of information to the Lodge Representatives. Unfortunately, the final District Meeting, scheduled for April was cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency.

The District did hold a Hoop Shoot event in Jacksonville and supported Veterans at the Quincy Veterans Home with a fishing activity and Veteran related programs in the Bellville vicinity. In addition, the District designated Becky Shipp of Granite City Lodge #1063 as WCD Lady of the Year, Ken Holdener, Fairview Heights #664 as WCD Elk of the Year and Doug, Dennis, Dale and Linda Kress, Fairview Heights #664, as WCD Elk Family of the year.

The District Year did not conclude as a stellar year for Membership as a 111 member loss was reported resulting in a total population of 4,633 Members, as of March 31, 2020. It is noteworthy to mention that Jacksonville and Springfield Lodges realized gains, 17 and 8 respectively.

Elks National Foundation WCD contributions ended 2019-2020 on a positive note. Overall District per capita donations came in at \$9.14/Member. Likewise, Cripple Children Corporation offerings resulted in a total of \$52,560.00 given, which equates to \$11.08 per capita.

The year began with Bill Marsh, PSP/PDDGER, as the District Leader. Bill took the opportunity to relocate out of State and Larry Smith, PSP/PDDGER, has since filled the District Leader standing. The District bids Bill and Rhonda best wishes in their new adventures in Florida.

All in all a decent year for the West Central District. I thank all the Lodges for their participation and great works and the Committee Chairperson for their voluntarism and great accomplishments, as well.

Publication Corp reminds lodges to submit monthly changes

Mark Bump, PDDGER Chairman of the Pub. Corp.

One -third of the lodges submitted articles to the Newsette with some lodges submitting to each edition. Thank you for publicizing your support of your communities throughout the lodge year.

After nineteen years as Editor, Joe Baker resigned and the board selected Liz Conway from a list of thirty-three applicants to become new editor. Thank you Joe for your years of service and support and welcome aboard Liz. Information can now be emailed to her at www.ilelksnewsette@gmail.com.

In regards to lodges submitting their monthly membership changes to the CCC it has improved from this time last year but work still needs to be done. Fourteen of the sixty-nine lodges reported on a monthly basis with seven lodges not reporting any changes throughout the year. Lodge Secretaries need to submit this information on a monthly basis to help in decreasing the cost of returns being charged the CCC and the Publication Corp. Even if a lodge does not have any changes for a particular month it should still notify the CCC that there were no changes. By submitting these changes it helps in getting out to the membership the great deeds the lodges do for their communities as well as helping maintain an updated mailing list for the CCC for its mailings.

Lodges needing a copy of the form used in submitting changes can contact the CCC at 1-217-483-3020 or Mark Bump, PDDGER Chairman of the Pub. Corp.

State Easter Bunny Report

Lori Bump, Easter Bunny Chairman

Due to the coronavirus many of the districts were unable to hold an event for the Easter Bunny Program. I would like to thank the District Chairmen who responded to my email and have sent in reports for the year.

Having heard from three districts here is the totals for the program this year.

Miles traveled: 175

Dollars spent: 2,767.00

Number visited: 565

Elk members/volunteers: 55

Hours spent: 82 hours

Places visited were: children's shelter, Salvation Army, assisted living facilities, food pantry, lodge, city parade with Easter Bunny, and a women's shelter.

Items passed out were toys, books, puzzles, chocolate rabbits, stuffed animals, donations of \$275.00

Again, thank you to all who were able to hold an event for the Easter Bunny Program. I look forward to working with all of you in 2021. Stay safe everyone.

State Soccer Shoot Report

Steve Albrecht, IEA State Soccer Chairman

Hello , I am happy to report that we had a great year last year. We had 7 Districts with shoots this past year, with that there was also a rise in participation. Even though our participation was up , we only had 21 compete at the State Shoot due to travel and prior commitments. Our winners were registered, and was able to compete in the Elks National Virtual Contest . It was a successful day , all Contestants and their families were able to enjoy pizza and refreshments during the award ceremony. I would like to thank our State President Greg Verdun (Sue) , 1st Vice Jeff Rodier (Norine), and Past State Presidents Doc Gerleman (Jeanette) , & Tom Deien (Brenda) and incoming 3rd Vice Floyd Schmidt (Chris) with their help and support at the Shoot.

This year we are planning on having a State Shoot , which is scheduled for October 10th in Springfield , hopefully this will give Lodges and Districts more time to organize their shoots. This next year we are planning on giving a travel expense to Contestants & their families. Basically it will be set up the farther you travel the more money they will receive, that way maybe a Contestant that travels 3 hrs can either drive or it maybe enough to get a Hotel. We are working on a nicer dinner and banquet for Contestant and their family's. Also I have been in contact with Indiana Soccer Chairman, and this next year in 2021 we are planning a Regional Shoot. We are very excited with this news, this means after our winner will be able to compete regionally and be a regional champion. A few years ago people said this would probably never go anywhere or happen , but we are getting support from all of our Leaders from State all the way to Grand Lodge and we thank them for that. We hope that all of our Lodges and Districts start to get more involved, this is a great opportunity to support our youth in these trying times and an opportunity to introduce younger families to our Lodges.

We hope to see you get involved this year, if you have any questions please contact myself (Steve Albrecht) or Darrell Swisher Thank you again.

Below is list of 2019 State winners.

8-Under: Boys - Knox Burris Pana #1261 Base Score: 43, Girls - Elainia Smith Quincy #100 Base Score: 31. 10-Under: Boys -Trey Klassen Galesburg #894 Base Score: 33 , Girls: Lilly Marland Murphysboro #572 Base Score: 21, 12-Under: Boys - Tyler Boyers Pana #1261 Base Score: 40, Girls - Bianca Rochkes Pana #1261 Base Score: 34. 14-Under: Boys - Ryan Karbach Pana #1261 Base Score: 31, Girls - Calie Klassen Galesburg #894 Base Score: 31.

20-21 Freedom Grant Recipients

This year 325 Freedom Grant winners were selected throughout the country. Among those, these Illinois Lodges were included: Quincy #100, Fairview Heights #664, Murphysboro #572, Elgin \$737, Galena #882, Pontiac #1019, Chicago Northshore #1316 and Oak Lawn #2254.

We can't wait to hear what you do with the grants!



Follow the Newsette on Facebook!
www.facebook.com --- @ilelksnewsette

Anna-Jonesboro #1641 held birthday parade

The Anna-Jonesboro Elks Lodge, #1641, in conjunction with the Carroll P Foster VFW Post 3455, Anna, IL, organized a 101st Birthday Parade for WWII Veteran, Spec. 5 David Johnson (pictured right), U.S. Army of Du Quoin, Illinois who is currently living at the Anna Veterans Home.

The parade was organized in response to the facility's lock down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Johnson and some of his friends at the home were moved to an area outside where they could witness the parade that lasted a half hour on a beautiful southern Illinois Sunday.

The May 31st parade, organized by P.E.R. and current Illinois Elks Association South District Senior Trustee elect Carter Lacy, included: over 160 participants, local police/fire vehicles, television news coverage, the presentation of the American Flag courtesy of the Murphysboro Elks Lodge # 572 carried by 14 Elk Lodge members, the Harrisburg Elks Lodge #1058 Flag Day Flag collection (driven by P.E.R. Tom Love and wife Samantha), and representatives from 9 of the 12 South District Lodges.

The Anna Veterans home annually collects donations and grant money from many Lodges in the IEA South District as it's a collective of our local southern Illinois veterans and a wonderful place for them to receive long term care while remaining close to their families and hometown communities. The Anna Veterans' Home is located in the Anna-Jonesboro community in Union County. This modern, single story structure opened in August 1994. Situated on 16 acres, the Home provides skilled nursing care services to eligible veterans. The Home has a 50-bed nursing care capacity and twelve beds in six adjoining apartment-style domiciliary units.

Special thanks to all of those who participated in this wonderful event for one of our American Veterans.



Marion Elks #800 had a lot to celebrate

Marion Elks #800 held a double celebration on February 15, 2020. We celebrate our Elks Birthday each year. The 152nd Birthday celebration was held with a cake, snacks, and music (pictured below).

It was also the Commemoration of Clarence (Penny) Bagby Jr. (pictured right). This day was originally proclaimed for 3/15 of each year, by the Mayor Marion in 2019. Penny died on 3/15/2019. He was honored for his outstanding contributions as a veteran, volunteer in the Marion and Mt. Vernon Elks, American Legion and Sportsman Club. He was also active in his church and received many awards on behalf of veterans such as Southern Illinois Outstanding Leadership Award, Elks State of the Year Award, and State White Clover Award (several times). He was also winner of the 2016 Marion Chamber of Commerce Mayor's Service Award. We are proud to have known and worked with him and he will always be missed by all.



Ongoing efforts for food pantry donations by Galena #882

The Galena Elks distributed goods to the Hanover, Elizabeth, East Dubuque, Galena and Galena School Food Pantries, as well as the residential houses for consumers of The Workshop, which has been promoting the general welfare of individuals with disabilities in Jo Daviess County since 1961.

In addition to the donations of food, \$500 checks were presented to each food pantry to continue gathering goods for what they need. The Galena Elks will continue to collect goods to do another drop off to all 5 food pantries in the near future as long as goods are obtainable. A GoFundMe campaign has been created to support future needs <https://www.gofundme.com/f/galena-elks-food-pantry-drive>.

As of April 3, 2020, Galena Elks Lodge #882 has committed just over \$12,100 to help alleviate the demand for necessary items created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Picture top right: Pictured (L-R): P.E.R. Tim Wickler; P.E.R Garrett Hahn; P.E.R Wayne "Arty" Moyer; Elizabeth Food Basket Volunteer Norma Schwartz; Esquire Brian Kelly; P.E.R Robert "Bobby" Hahn.

Picture bottom right: Pictured (L-R) Exalted Ruler-Elect Michael Staver; P.E.R. Daniel Cogan, Galena School District #120 volunteer Heidi O'Shea; P.E.R Wayne "Arty" Moyer; P.E.R Robert "Bobby" Hahn; P.E.R Scott Reinke; P.E.R. Tim Wickler; P.E.R Garrett Hahn.



Sycamore #1392 springs to action

Sycamore #1392 made the most of the Spring by helping out three community organizations.

Right, Sycamore Leading Knight Neilly Berger, left, presents a check to Spartan Food Pantry administrator Atlee Smith, right.

Middle right, Sycamore member and fire fighter Dan Marcinkowski shows off his gift certificate to Slow Smoke BBQ.

Below, Sycamore police officers pose at the entrance to Sycamore Lodge.



LODGE

Des Plaines #1526 delivered

Des Plaines Elks Lodge #1526 launches a program to live out the fraternal slogan of Elks Care, Elks Share.

With their full service restaurant and bar currently experiencing the state mandated shutdown, the Lodge offset losses by offering curbside and delivery only service to their members and the community.

Lodge Officers, in conjunction with their House Committee, created a Gift Certificate program, where the community can get \$120 in hot menu items delivered to first responders and essential workers for \$100.

“What a perfect way for my family to thank our hospital nurses, while supporting our local Lodge at the same time!”, said Joan Hooson, Lodge Esquire.

“The staff at Lutheran General Hospital have been champions during this pandemic.” Hooson’s father, John Hozian, 86 years old, and a 48 year member of the Elks, was recently hospitalized for non-COVID reasons.

“These nurses were working overtime. The least we can do is bring over a hot complimentary meal in the name of Elkdom.”

The Des Plaines Lodge continues to raise funds for ENF, CCC, and local charities through their food Gift Certificate program, raffles, and other Lodge events, which are now experienced remotely on Facebook Live and other venues.

On Monday, June 1, 5 of our members (pictured below), also just packed and delivered 157 hot lunch meals for police and fire departments in surrounding towns including Niles, Park Ridge, Mt. Prospect and Chicago. We are calling these guys and gals The DO CREW. These are all towns within the North District Elks. A small token with the message, “we’ve got your backs”.

Bobbi Potratz (pictured right) delivering to Chicago Police Officer Peter Lesny.



Overstock of homemade goodies was heartily accepted by local fire and police departments. Joan Hooson Lodge Esquire (left) and Officer Laurie Weber, Des Plaines Police Dept. (right)



Elks in action Mike Hozian and Joan Hooson deliver 20 hot meals to Nurse Marva Lou and Team at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Thursday, 5/21



Streator #591 handed out grants to 3 organizations

Streator Elks Lodge #591 ENF given to charities in the community. \$500 was granted to Blessings in a Backpack, \$500 was granted to ADV/SAS and \$500 to the Streator Ramp Builders. The Streator Ramp Builders were also awarded an extra \$1000 in a veterans grant to be used for any veteran that is in need of a ramp built by the volunteers. Photos below.

Left: Ed Davis Streator Ramp Builders with E.R. Streator Lodge #591 Robert Oberholtzer.

Center: E.R. Streator Lodge #591 Robert Oberholtzer with Susan Bursztynsky ADV-SAS.

Right: E.R. Streator Lodge #591 Robert Oberholtzer with Lara Armstrong Blessings in a Backpack.



Oak Lawn #2254 got a little help from the Girl Scouts

Oak Lawn Elks Lodge No. 2254 received a donation of 300 cases of Girl Scout cookies from the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana through their Gift of Caring Program. The Lodge was very excited to receive this donation and many members helped distribute the cookies to first responders and military organizations throughout the community.



Pictured above: Larry Nolan Leading Knight and Mike Simental Trustee along with Terry Vorderer Village Trustee of Oak Lawn Police Chief William (Randy) Palmer and Fire Chief Michael Mavrigorge and other village staff.



Pictured below Village of Chicago Ridge with Mayor Charles (Chuck) Tokar, Police Chief Robert Pyznarski, Deputy Chief Jim Jarolimek and Fire Chief Robert Muszynski, along with other officers and firemen.

Quincy #100 stocked the pantries

Quincy Elks Lodge #100 distributed 2940 items and \$2500 in non-perishable food items to two of our local food pantries Salvation Army food pantry and Lutheran Church of St John Open Hands food pantry. This month will be especially trying for individuals in our area due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The food will provide a family the food to enjoy a dinner during the month of May. The two pantries have continued to serve the community, as they have modified their delivery methods to make it safe for both volunteers and patrons. The pantries anticipate the numbers of people to increase with the current Coronavirus outbreak. Food pantries are a way people can be food secure, and not have to worry about their next meal.



CHILDREN'S CARE CORPORATION



Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629-0222
(217) 483-3020 ■ Helpline 1-800-272-0075
Fax (217) 483-2131 ■ E-mail helpkids@elkscc.org

Officers elected and donations totaled

In 2019-2020, the Illinois Elks Lodges raised \$150,737.91 for the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation.

The Children's Care through its three annual fundraiser raised the following: Annual Appeal (HoDo) \$23,375.00, Statewide Drawing \$20,988, and the Benefit Calendar \$43,855.00 for twelve-month total of \$238,955.00

Expenses (Clinic Related) Patients \$137,073.00, Clinic \$47,246.85, all Scholarships \$124,275.00 Totaling \$308,612.85.

The 2020-2021 Elected Board Officers - Chairman, Tawn Williams of Elmhurst Lodge 1531, Vice Chairman, John Bayler of Flora Lodge #1659, Treasurer, Chad Mitsdarffer of McLeansboro Lodge 1882, Secretary, Kristi Wykes of Pontiac Lodge #1019.

Top Illinois Lodges in Gross & Per Capita will be awarded at the Convention in September.

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 93 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.

CCC Earmarks \$124,275 in Scholarships for the 2020-2021

Judging has been completed for 2020-2021 Physical/Occupational Graduate and Assistant Programs. A total of 78 Applications from 36 Lodges from all 4 Areas were submitted this year. Special Education 7 Applications submitted and 1 Carroll Application submitted.

We are proud to say the Children's Care Program will be awarding 69 students scholarships totaling more than \$124,275. The students have been notified by letter of their award. Those students who did not receive an award have also been notified; in those cases, the student simply did not score high enough to receive an award. Please note that this Application has become very competitive with many more excellent graduates applying.

The Physical & Occupational Scholarships are six-year programs and we encourage all students seeking this career to reapply whether they receive a scholarship or not. For those students aspiring to a PT/OT Therapist the 2021-2022 Applications as well as the PT/OT Assistant Application will be available in December 1, 2020 as well as the Lydia Miller Special Education Application at www.illinoiselksccc.org.

Three New Ties

Three new ties were to be introduced at this year's National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. Now the ties will make their debut at this year's Fall Convention in Springfield, and will be available at the following Winter & Spring Conventions before going to Florida next summer. Hope you like them!



Convention Pin: Sure to Be a Collector's Item

COVID-19 put a damper on many things this year; Weddings, Graduations, Vacations, Socializing with Friends, going out for dinner, just damn near everything. For Elks, it meant the cancellation of the 156th Elks National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. A true disappointment for all. It was especially disappointing for the IECCC who had several hundred of their annual convention pins made just for the occasion that would never happen. Sure to be a special item for the pin collector, or a commemorative pin for the everyday Elks member that would like to help defray the cost of this memorabilia. This pin can be yours for a small donation, + \$1.00 to cover the shipping. The convention price for this pins sells for \$5.00.

To order pins or ties please contact us at IECCC, P.O. Box 222, Chatham, IL 62629 or they can call our office at 217-483-3020 and order over the phone.



STATE

Des Plaines #1526 gives Gratitude Grant to local fire department

On January 23, 2020, officers from the Des Plaines #1526 visited the Prospect Heights Fire Department to present them a Gratitude Grant check in the amount of \$2000 that will be used to purchase ballistic vests for their firefighters and paramedics. In these times, fire personnel may be called upon to provide support services while an active threat is currently in process. Our donation will help them to purchase 4 vests to be used by the personnel to keep them safe in difficult situations.



Picture (from left to right): PH FF Nick Fuderer, Ron Nishimoto, Mike Hozian, PH Fire Chief Drew Smith, Jim Feth, KC Ferguson, and PH Lt Markus Rill

From the Editor...

Hi Elks! Thank you all so much for the submissions. This edition of the Newsette is a little lighter than normal. As most of you know we're missing articles and photos from the May meeting as well as lodge events that have been cancelled due to COVID-19. I'm still amazed at all the great work lodges were creatively able to do. Ingenuity is something that will take the Elks a long way during this difficult time.

With only one official meeting under my belt, I'm still looking forward to meeting more of you and getting to know all of the great things about Elkdom. With that in mind, I'm always on the hunt for great stories about Elks of today and the past to include in the Newsette. As great as the accomplishments are, it's nice to hear about members and their families as well. Please submit if you have stories!

As we all acclimate to our current "normal" I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. I hope to see you all sooner rather than later!

Happy Reading,

Liz

Next Newsette deadline is July 20, 2020!

Send your items to ilelksnewsette@gmail.com