



Volume 65, No 2

TELEPHONE 815-744-3355

May, 2026

The Joliet Elks Lodge #296 Newsletter is a monthly newsletter distributed electronically and in limited print to its membership, district lodges, and state association officers. This publication brings invaluable articles of interest to and for our lodge members and families. Throughout the year, features include news and events, information from Grand Lodge and information on social gatherings.

A WORD FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to May! I hope this message finds you and your families well.

Our Lodge is proud to announce the recipients of our 2025–2026 awards: Janice Flint as Officer of the Year, Edward Forneris as Elk of the Year, and Donna Grey as Citizen of the Year. Congratulations to all! Thank you for everything you have done—and continue to do—for our members and our Lodge.

One of our biggest challenges is growing our membership. Consider inviting a spouse or partner, family member, or friend to join. If each of us brings in just one new member, it would make an incredible difference—one truly makes a difference! Our goal this year is to welcome 30 new candidates, and with your help, this is absolutely achievable.

It has been wonderful to see so many members enjoying the lounge

lately. With the change in weather and recent celebrations, it's been especially nice to welcome back familiar faces we haven't seen in a while. Thank you for celebrating with us and supporting our Lodge!

A reminder that our annual Flag Day Ceremony will be held on June 13 at 2:00 p.m., with food and drinks to follow. Also, if you have a song in your heart, join us for karaoke every Friday night.

Please keep all of our members and their families in your thoughts and prayers. I look forward to seeing you at the Lodge.

GOD BLESS!

Debra Bruno-Navin, P.E.R.



MEMBERS WITH 50+ YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

William Kurkamp, John Metrick, Richard Siegel, Dan Ward, Joe Wedic, Ray McShane, Mike English, John Prescott, and James Hearn.



QUEEN OF HEARTS:

- 3-27-25: Chris Marry, #27 (Queen of Hearts)
- 4-3-26: Tony Ragusa, # 24 (4 of diamonds)
- 4-10-26: Jan Parzgnat, #4 (4 of spades)
- 4-17-26: David Goodal, # 9 (2 of diamonds)

KENTUCKY DERBY



Saturday, May 2nd 4pm-?

Come out to the Lodge to watch the Kentucky Derby, celebrate Cinco de Mayo, have some good food, play some games and have a great time. Wear your best derby hat—there will be a prize for the best one. Bring a dish to share. See you there? You can bet on it!



May 15 and 16

Enjoy the games, food and fun at the Lodge!

Please bring a dish to pass

First pitch Friday—15th @ 6:40

Saturday— 16th @ 6:10

Bar opens at 4 each day

2026-2027 LODGE #296 OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler.....Debra Bruno-Nevin PER
 Est. Leading Knight.....Karen Johnson PER
 Est. Loyal Knight.....Dan Ward
 Est. Lecturing Knight.....Ricky Gray
 Secretary.....Mark Bump PER, PDDGER
 Treasurer.....Jan Flint
 Tiler.....Claire Annette
 Esquire.....Stanley Cupp
 Chaplain.....Lori Bump
 Inner Guard.....Anna Conda

Trustee (2027).....Larry Burns PER, PDDGER
 Trustee (2028).....Andy Lopez
 Trustee (2029).....Jacqueline DiVecchio-Tyler
 Trustee (2030).....Chris Marry
 Trustee (2031).....Penny Burns PER, PDDGER
 Board of Directors Chair.....Ricky Gray
 P.E.R. President.....Debra Bruno-Nevin PER
 Editor..... Jeff Sterr PER PDDGER
 Casting Director.....Daisy Dukes
 Very Temporary Assistant Editor.....Tish Hughes

Lodge Information

Office Hours: M-F 9am-12pm

Lounge Hours: Mon, Wed. 4pm to 10pm

Tuesday , Thursday -CLOSED;

Friday & Saturday 4-11

Phone # : 815-744-3355

Address: 250 SE Frontage Rd., Joliet, IL 60431

Email: elks296@att.net

Website: <http://www.jolietelks.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Joliet-ElksLodge-296

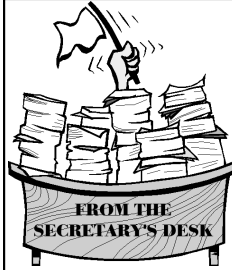
Mark Bump– District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler

Elks Website: www.elks.org

Illinois Elks Association: <http://www.illinoiselks.org>

Illinois Elks Children’s Care: www.illinoiselksccc.org

For lodge updates as it relates to lodge functions, check out the lodge website and/or Facebook page.



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

As a PDDGER and the current DDGER for the IEA East District I have access to different information from throughout the Order. As the new lodge year is underway I found this post from the Texas State Elks Association most appropriate: " Many of you will be receiving your 2026-27 Membership cards in the mail or at the lodge. As you prepare to sign your new card (not valid until you sign it) take a moment to notice they took the time to emboss your lodge seal on the card. Now take a moment to think about what that card represents to the hundreds of thousands of Elks across America.

This membership card acknowledges our active membership in the BPOE, who provides of annual scholarships, charitable giving, inspire our youth, and are trusted and long time friends of our nations veterans. It represents the ability to travel across this great nation and visit other lodges in fellowship with like minded individuals whom also promote and practice our four cardinal principles of our Order.

So while it might be a simple piece of paper, plastic and ink, it represents an organization with a 158 year history of having a positive impact in this world.

So when you retire you last years membership card and put it in a desk drawer, or pile with all the others, it may be worn and tattered a bit. It might have gone through the wash once or twice in the last year. But what we can't do is forget all of the wonderful things that Membership card has allowed us to be a part of over the past year, i.e. the friendships we have made and the lives we have touched in Elkdom.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY to the Mother’s of our lodge.

Finally, as I turn another year older this month I have come to realize a couple of things: 1) Getting old sucks!. I used to wake up feeling like a million bucks. Now I feel more like a bounced check. and 2) An Ostrich will often walk around and then forget where they are going. I have never related more to an animal in my life.

Sincerely and Fraternaly submitted,

Your 2024-25 IEA Secretary of the Year,
 Mark Bump, DDGER



**You can lead a horse to water,
 but a pencil must be lead.**



FRIDAY MAY 8TH 7:00 PM

Please arrive by 6:30 to get your table and something to drink. We have a good selection of both in the Lounge. Come with your own team or feel free to join one of the teams that are already here. All members and their guests are welcome.



- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Fichter, Michael | 18 Kasprisin, Bryan J |
| 2 Forneris, Edward L | 20 Galick, Jerry M |
| 5 Cole, Thomas | 22 Schultz, Donald T |
| Fazio, Michael J | 23 Bellot, Jennifer |
| Thomas, William J | 24 Allison, Terrence J |
| 8 Olvera, Jose E | Munroe, Alexander |
| 9 Block, George R | 25 Head, Russell |
| 10 Ranallo, Lynette | 26 Bump, Mark |
| 13 Medveskas, Joseph | 31 Smego, Frances A |
| 14 Kurtz, Kenneth T | |

Editor reserves the right to edit the submissions for Grammar, Punctuation, and Content as space allows.

Flag Day
Ceremony
June 13
1 PM
@ the Lodge



For sale: An antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.
Call Mark

MEMBERSHIP-MONTHLY REPORT

JOLIET ELKS LODGE #296

Membership as of 4-1-2026: 177
Membership as of 4-21-2026: 177
Delinquent as of 4-21-2026: 86

April 1st started the new lodge year for all Elk lodges. It is a perfect time to bring in new members. If you have a friend, coworker, or family member that you know would be a great addition to our membership now is the time. Membership applications are located in the lobby of the lodge or see any lodge officer.

JUST A REMINDER: According to sect. 14.160. Members who are delinquent in their dues and/or dropped for non-payment of dues are not entitled to the privileges of membership (i.e., use of club or lodge facilities) until they are a member in good standing (i.e. dues are paid/reinstated.)

Questions, contact the lodge secretary.

Mark Bump, PER, DDGER, Lodge Secretary

LODGE NEWS

At the IEA Annual State Meeting, Joliet's own Jeff Sterr, PDDGER will be installed as the president of the Illinois Elks Association for the 2026-27 year.

Also, our Exalted Ruler, Debra Bruno-Nevin, PER will be installed as the Junior Trustee of the IEA East District.

Congrats and well deserving to both!!! Here's hoping you both have fantastic years in your new positions!!!

And to complete our trifecta, Mark Bump (P)DDGER continues as DDGER of the East District until July 8th of this year.

Lodge sale approved by Floor vote!

Lodge votes to sell property for \$1,875,000 to Holliday Properties. Next step—sent to Grand Lodge for final approval. Search begins for new temporary and permanent locations.



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Ricky 815.955.2705
Donna 815.955.2706

thegrayteamsells@gmail.com
www.thegrayteamsells.com



Ricky & Donna Gray
Brokers/Realtors



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815 SHERWOOD PLACE, JOLIET 815-722-0276

Greg R. Olin - Dan Merriman - Steven Olin

greg@olininsurance.com

YOUR AD HERE

Call the Lodge for more information



JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR May, 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue; margin: 0;">Happy Hour</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue; margin: 0;">every Fri/Sat</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue; margin: 0;">5-7pm</p>					1 HH—5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	2 HH—5-7 DERBY/Cinco De Mayo 4-?
3	4 Euchre 6:30 pm	5	6 Euchre 6:30 pm	7 IEA Annual Meeting - Springfield	8 TRIVIA Night Queen of Hearts 7:30	9 HH—5-7
10 IEA Annual Meeting	11 Euchre 6:30 pm	12 Lodge Meeting 7 pm	13 Volunteer 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	14	15 HH—5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	16 HH—5-7 Bid Euchre 7pm
17	18 Euchre 6:30 pm	19 House & BOD meeting 7 pm	20 Euchre 6:30 pm	21	22 HH—5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	23 HH—5-7
24 / 31	25 Memorial Day	26 Lodge Meeting 7 pm	27 Euchre 6:30 pm	28	29 HH—5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	30 HH—5-7

JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR June, 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Euchre 6:30 pm	4	5 HH 5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	6 HH—5-7
7	8 Euchre 6:30 pm	9 Lodge Meeting 7 pm	10 Volunteer 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	11	12 TRIVIA Night Queen of Hearts 7:30	13 HH—5-7 FLAG DAY Ceremony 1 PM
14	15 Euchre 6:30 pm	16 House Com & BOD meeting 7 pm	17 Euchre 6:30 pm	18	19 HH—5-7 Karaoke! 7:33 Queen of Hearts 7:30	20 HH—5-7 Bid Euchre 7pm
21	22 Euchre 6:30 pm	23 Lodge Meeting 7 pm	24 Euchre 6:30 pm	25	26 HH—5-7 Karaoke! 7:33 Queen of Hearts 7:30	27 HH—5-7
28	29 Euchre 6:30 pm	30	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue; margin: 0;">Happy Hour</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue; margin: 0;">every Fri/Sat</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; color: blue; margin: 0;">5-7pm</p>			