



Volume 64, No 4

TELEPHONE 815-744-3355

July, 2025

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 July! What an exciting Convention in Kansas City Missouri! A big congratulations to Bryan (Sue) Klatt, our new GER, and Mark Bump, our new DDGER. Both were sworn in at the Convention. It was truly an amazing event and it was such an honor to be there and be a part of it. The GER's motto this year is "Be the Difference" and it couldn't be better, because WE DO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!!

As your Exalted Ruler, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who has volunteered your time, energy, and spirit over the past year. Whether you helped prepare meals, served during events, supported our veterans programs, or simply showed up to lend a hand — your efforts are the heartbeat of this Lodge. You are what makes our Elks family strong.

Our recent Flag Day was a resounding success thanks to your dedication and teamwork. It's moments like these that remind us why "Elks Care — Elks Share" isn't just a motto, it's a way of life.

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events coming up, please check our calendar for dates and times.

Don't forget our regular Lodge meetings are only the 4th Tuesday during July and August at 7:00PM — your voice and presence matter!

I encourage all members — new and seasoned — to get involved. Whether it's volunteering, attending events, or simply connecting with fellow Elks, your participation helps us grow in strength and service.

Thank you once again for everything you do. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference — in our Lodge, our community, and beyond.

GOD BLESS!

*Debra Bruno-Navin, PLR*



Give thanks. Give life.



**FRIDAY JULY 11TH 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.

Last month's winners were far better than everyone else.

**LODGE HAPPY HOUR:** Remember the nights when the lodge room was full and excitement contagious? Lets bring back that spirt!!

**Starting on Friday August 1st from 5-7 pm and every Friday and Saturday from 5-7 pm. 1/2 price drinks and snacks.**



[www.elks.org/register](http://www.elks.org/register)



**QUEEN OF HEARTS:**

- 5-23-25. David Goodale, # 34 (10 of spades)
- 5-30-25: Mark Bump, PDDGER, # 13 (6 of diamonds)
- 6-6-25. Katie Popplewell, #4 (**QUEEN OF HEARTS**)
- 6-13-25: Joe Petroski, # 33( 8 of spades)
- 6-20-25: Julie Bonk, # 8 (joker)

## We wELKome New Members

wELKome New Member: Sandra Wallace.

The Lodge encourages you to get out and use the facilities we have to offer. We have many events going on throughout the year; watch the newsletter. Enjoy the Lodge with your fellow Elks, invite your friends and family. Better yet, sponsor them, ask them to join and help make our Lodge grow.

Fraternally, The Members of your Lodge, Joliet #296

## 2025-2026 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.....Annie Won  
 Esquire.....Slim Pickens  
 Chaplain.....Lori Bump  
 Inner Guard.....Jennifer Bellot

Trustee (2026).....Larry Burns PER, PDDGER  
 Trustee (2027).....Penny Burns PER, PDDGER  
 Trustee (2028).....Andy Lopez  
 Trustee (2029).....Clint Flint PER  
 Trustee (2030).....Chris Marry  
 Board of Directors Chair..... Penny Burns, PER, PDDGER  
 P.E.R. President.....Debra Bruno-Nevin PER  
 Editor.....Jeff Sterr PER PDDGER  
 Casting Director.....Lori Bump  
 Very Temporary Assistant Editor.....Dee Zaster

### Lodge Information

Office Hours: M-F 9am-12pm

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

**Tuesday , Thursday & Sunday -CLOSED**

**Friday & Saturday 4-11**

Phone # : 815-744-3355

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

Email: [elks296@att.net](mailto:elks296@att.net)

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Joliet-ElksLodge-296](http://www.facebook.com/Joliet-ElksLodge-296)

Mark Bump– District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler

Elks Website: [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org)

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

Illinois Elks Children's Care: [www.illinoiselksccc.org](http://www.illinoiselksccc.org)

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



Our distinguished Lodge members representing Joliet #296 at the Grand Lodge Convention.  
 Congratulations on our "newest" District Deputy, Mark Bump.

### MEMBERSHIP-MONTHLY REPORT

#### JOLIET ELKS LODGE #296

Membership as of 4/1/2025: 192

Membership as of 6-24-25:192

DELINQUENT AS OF 6-24-25: 40

Mark Bump, PER, PDDGER, Lodge Secretary

### LODGE MEETING NIGHT JACKPOT:

Jackpot drawings occur on Lodge meeting nights.  
 Winning holder of 50/50 ticket eligible to draw. Winner must be present at the meeting. Last month Larry Burns wasn't even close to winning over \$400!!

Stop blaming yourself and others.  
 Learn Feng Shui and blame the furniture.

## OLD (?) TIMERS REPORT

### ELKS CELEBRATING 35+ YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP:

Larry Burns, PDDGER, Joe Baltz, Phil Braham,  
 Keith Radenmacher, Mike Ruth, Ray Stefanski, Jerry Galick,  
 Richard Snow, John Kelly, and Gene Piekarski.



Our newest District Deputy completing his DEI training!

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





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## July Birthdays



4	Richard Snow	17	Sandra Wallace
5	Lucianna Herrera	18	Don Klepec
8	Robert Ruchala		Jim Lopez
11	Diego Guzman	20	Susan Hawkins
	Patrick J Sterr	26	James Hogan
14	Steve Yates	29	Ralph Carrillo
16	Bob Bambic	30	Dan Ward



The Cubs completed a three-game sweep of the White Sox from May 16-18 in the Wrigley Field portion of this year's Crosstown Classic, running the North Siders' winning streak over the South Siders to a franchise-record eight games, going back to their final meeting of 2023.

With their lengthy winning streak, the Cubs will take a 75-74 all-time Crosstown Classic

lead into the weekend of July 25-27, when the teams meet on the South Side for another three-game set. Plan on coming out to the Lodge to enjoy the games on Friday July 26 and Saturday July 27. Good seats are still available on a first come— first served basis!

**Please bring a dish to pass**  
**First pitch Friday—25th @ 6:40**  
**Saturday— 26th @ 6:10**

People may hear your words,  
 but they feel your attitude. ~John C. Maxwell

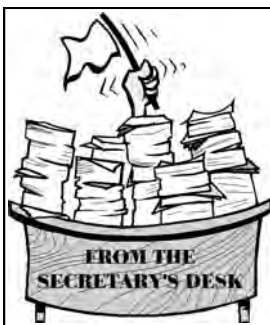
**WEAR YOUR BEST HAWAIIAN SHIRTS**  
**AND COME JOIN US FOR**  
**TROPICAL FUN**

**AT THE**  
**LODGE LUAU**  
**SAT. JULY 19TH**  
**5 PM/ DJ AT 7**



**WOMEN IN BIKINI'S,**  
**MEN IN GRASS SKIRTS ????**

Please bring a dish to pass



**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:** By the time you read this, me, my sister, and a few other of our members will be in and out of Kansas City, Mo. attending the Grand Lodge Convention. This convention is special to me for a few reasons: 1) Kansas City was the first GL Convention I ever attended when I was Leading Knight for the lodge. 2) My sister's friend Bryan Klatt will be installed as the new Grand Exalted Ruler. 3) For the 2nd time, I will be installed as DDGER for the IEA East

District. I am thankful for the opportunity once again and am proud to be part of our new G.E.R.'s team.

As summer begins join us at the lodge for laughter, friendship. Your presence makes our lodge welcoming. Bring a friend and introduce them to our community, who knows they might just enjoy everything we are about and want to become a member.

As I plan to "depart" for KC remember: Not everyone will walk your path. But that doesn't mean you're going the wrong way. Keep moving forward— your journey is yours alone. AND did you know if you garden naked, your neighbors will build a privacy fence at no cost to you.

Follow me for more tips through out the remainder of the year.

Sincerely and Fraternally submitted,

Mark Bump, PDDGER Lodge Secretary

## In Memoriam

*The faults of our members  
 we write upon the sand,  
 their virtues  
 upon the tablets of  
Love and Memory.*



Louis J. Lakota  
 Date of birth: July 15, 1941  
 Initiated: June 24, 1997  
 Deceased: May 28, 2025

*You are not forgotten, loved one. Nor will you  
 ever be. As long as life and memory last we will  
 remember thee. We miss you now, our hearts  
 are sore. As time goes by, we'll miss you more.  
 Your loving smile, your gentile face, No one can  
 fill your vacant place.*

## ELK CALL IN CHRONIC NEED for New Editor

If you have an interest in volunteering to help publish the Lodge newsletter, call the office or contact Exalted Ruler Bruno-Nevin. Other than being able to handle temporary frustration, no experience necessary.

**My girlfriend is always stealing my t-shirts and  
 sweaters... But if I take one of her dresses,  
 suddenly "we need to talk".**



**FINALLY!!**  
**The Contract has been received by our lawyers, who made a few changes and are awaiting an updated version to be voted on by the members.**  
**More to follow....**

## Offer on Lodge Property

Negotiations are still ongoing and a purchase agreement will be soon finalized. The terms of the sale will be put forth in a resolution to the floor of the Lodge for a vote by all of the members in good standing. Joliet Elks Lodge #296 would seek to retain the income from the cell towers and the billboards by means of a permanent easement.

Joliet Elks Lodge #296 will retain the proceeds to pay regular expenses while seeking a **temporary** lease location prior to locating a permanent facility.

**Any sale agreement by Joliet Lodge #296 is contingent upon final approval and authorization by the Board of Grand Trustees of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.**

Watch the August issue of the *EC* for all details.

## 852 STUDENTS EARN ENF SCHOLARSHIPS

By PATRICK ROELOFS, ENF Communications Coordinator

The Elks National Foundation has added to the Elks family, awarding more than \$3.9 million in scholarships to 852 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 program ming facilitated by current and former Elks scholars, team-building activities, and a service opportunity.

"The weekend was one of the most impactful experiences of my life," said Hannah Cross, sponsored by Ponca City, OK 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," said MiKayla Klinger, sponsored by Tucumcari, NM 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 scholarship winners and to learn more about the Elks National Foundation's scholarships, visit [elks.org/scholars](https://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](https://elks.org/enf)*

## SAVE THE DATE!! AUGUST 30TH LODGE FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY

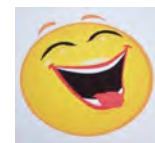


**1-4 PM**

**BRING A DISH TO PASS**

**FOOD AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

Special appearance by the comedy team of Bruno & Nevin



Special Musical Guest  
 The Bumpkin



**Games**

**Music**

**Friends**

*I have never regretted being too generous,  
 but often regret not being generous enough.*



Our Illinois State Association Brain Trust. From left, 3rd VP Chris Ord, Secretary Joe Ray, President Dave Neel, Treasurer and Grand Esquire Jeff Rodier, 2nd VP Jeff Sterr, 1st VP Jeff Johnson, and Immediate Past President Roger Quinn.





Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live.

## Bryan Klatt For GER Bryan Klatt Bobblehead



There will be a limited supply available at the Lodge.  
See Lori Bump for Details. Cost \$25 each.



*Illinois Elks  
State Golf Tournament  
Hosted by Elks #158  
Lincoln Greens Golf Course*



**2025 Illinois Elks Association  
State Golf Tournament**

The members of Springfield Elks Lodge #158 welcome Golf Tournament participants and families from across the state to the 2025 Elks State Tournament.

**Thursday July 17th – PRACTICE ROUND**

- Play at your pace and enjoy and practice round. Call Lincoln Greens Course Pro Shop to book your tee time.
- Tee times can be made 7 days in advance. (217) 786-4111
- Dinner at the Elks 4 – 9 PM. 50/50 Drawing and prizes. Not included with golf registration fees.

**Friday July 18th – STROKE PLAY**

- Breakfast Goodies, Coffee, Juice (donation) and \$5 Premium Bloody Mary Bar at Lincoln Greens.
- Shotgun Starts at 7:30 AM and 1:30 PM.
- Dinner 5 – 8 PM. Not included with golf registration fees.
- 50/50 and Drawings 8:00 PM.
- Category Trophies. • Entertainment at 7:30 PM.

**Saturday July 19th – SCRAMBLE**

- Breakfast Goodies, Coffee, Juice (donation) and \$5 Premium Bloody Mary Bar at Lincoln Greens.
- Shotgun Starts at 7:30 AM and 1:30 PM. •
- Dinner 5 – 8 PM. Not included with golf registration fees. •
- 50/50 and Drawings 8:00 PM. Scramble Results

While in Springfield there are many things to do during your visit to the Capital City.

Experience the Abraham Lincoln sites and history at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, the Old State Capital Historic Site, the Lincoln Tomb & War Memorials, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.



**ELKS**  
*Join us at the Lodge!*  
**HAPPY  
4TH OF  
JULY!**

Community • Friendship • Charity  
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## Community Investment Program Turns 20

All great programs start the same way: with a dream.

In 1928, the delegates at the Grand Lodge Convention established the Elks National Foundation with an initial grant of \$100,000 because of a dream. Then-National President John F. Malley envisioned that the ENF would “unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind.”

Malley’s dream inspired decades of charitable work through the ENF, but it wasn’t until more than 70 years later when his dream of a charitable army started to come into fruition. The very first seeds of the Community Investments Program were sewn at an ENF Board of Trustees meeting in July 2001.

“The Foundation supports all of the national programs, and we give money back to the states, so indirectly, we are helping out locally,” said ENF Director Jim O’Kelley in his initial pitch to the board. “But, unless a Lodge has a scholarship recipient, they don’t really see ENF money at work locally. We need to get money back to the Lodges.”

Jim O’Kelley is a dreamer. The CIP was his dream, and it was a dream embraced by the then-Board of Trustees, who were eager to brainstorm, posit suggestions, and continue refining the idea.

“If we’re going to impact the community and let them know what Elks are really about,” suggested Past National President Robert Sabin, “it should be a project in the community itself where the Elks can visibly participate.”

The board voted unanimously to direct the staff to devise a program for review. Two months later, however, a national tragedy relegated the Lodge grant program to the backburner.

“9-11 changed everyone’s focus,” O’Kelley reflects.

Move forward to the December 2004 board meeting in Chicago. O’Kelley presented the task force’s plan for the new Community Investments Program. The Community Investments Program launched in July at the Convention in Reno with two components worth \$200 each: the Promise Grant, which the ENF had been funding through the Drug Awareness Program since 1999, and the Gratitude Grant, which would be available to Lodges that achieved the National President’s per-member-giving goal for the ENF.

“The very first day the program opened, we received 29 applications,” O’Kelley says. “In the first year, we approved applications from 695 Lodges.”

“The board was tentative at first,” O’Kelley says, “but the trustees saw what Lodges were able to do with those \$200 grants, and they’ve been expanding the program ever since.”

For 2025-26, when the CIP will mark its 20th anniversary, the program’s budget is nearly \$18 million, meaning the board has increased funding by more than 5,000 percent since that first year.

This year, in celebration of the anniversary, the board increased the base Gratitude Grant to \$3,000 from \$2,000.

“John F. Malley’s foresight is unfathomable,” O’Kelley says. “Especially in the context of that time. The stock market crashed a year after he founded the Elks National Foundation. He kept his focus through the Depression, investing money that was needed then so that the Elks could do much more in the future.

This year, the ENF allocated nearly \$18 million to the CIP so all the Elks who dream of bettering their community can make that a reality, too. Learn more at [enf.elks.org/CIP](http://enf.elks.org/CIP).

**STEP UP. TAKE ACTION. GET INVOLVED!**

## CHILDREN'S SCIENCE EXAM ANSWERS

**Q: Name the four seasons.**

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

**Q: Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.**

A: Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.

**Q: How is dew formed?**

A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

**Q: How can you delay milk turning sour?**

A: Keep it in the cow.

**Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?**

A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

**Q: What are steroids?**

A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.

**Q: What happens to your body as you age?**

A: When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

**Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?**

A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

**Q: Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.**

A: Premature death.

**Q: How are the main parts of the body categorized? (e.g., abdomen)**

A: The body is consisted into three parts -- the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax contains the heart and lungs, and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels A, E, I, O, and U.

**Q: What is the fibula?**

A: A small lie.

**Q: What does 'varicose' mean? (I do love this one...)**

A: Nearby.

**Q: Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarian Section.'**

A: The Caesarian Section is a district in Rome.

**Q: What does the word 'benign' mean?**

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.



Did you hear about the cannibal who passed his neighbor in the jungle?









Elks  
National  
Foundation, Inc.

**PULSE**



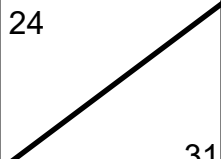

Elks National Foundation Monthly News



# JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR July, 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Did Noah keep the bees in archives?</p>		1	2	3	4 Queen of Hearts 7:30	5
6	7 Euchre 6:30 pm	8	9 Volunteer 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	10	11  Queen of Hearts 7:30	12
13	14 Euchre 6:30 pm	15 House & BOD meeting 7 pm	16 Euchre 6:30 pm	17	18 Queen of Hearts 7:30	19 <b>Luau 5pm</b> Bid Euchre 7pm
20	21 Euchre 6:30 pm	22  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	23 Euchre 6:30 pm	24	25 <b>Xtown Classic 6:40</b> Queen of Hearts 7:30	26 <b>Xtown Classic 6:10</b>  
27	28 Euchre 6:30 pm	29	30 Euchre 6:30 pm	31	 <p>Incontinence hotline....can you hold?</p>	

# JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR August, 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
We have mileage, yardage and footage. Why don't we have inchage?		FYI—In the course of an average lifetime you will, while sleeping, eat 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders.			1 Queen of Hearts 7:30	2
3	4 Euchre 6:30 pm	5	6 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	7	8  Queen of Hearts 7:30	9
10	11 Euchre 6:30 pm	12 House Com & BOD meeting 7 pm	13 Euchre 6:30 pm	14	15 Queen of Hearts 7:30	16 Bid Euchre 7pm
17	18 Euchre 6:30 pm	19	20 Euchre 6:30 pm	21	22 Queen of Hearts 7:30	23 Wii Bowling 7pm 
24 	25 Euchre 6:30 pm	26  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	27 Euchre 6:30 pm	28	29 Queen of Hearts 7:30	30 <b>Family Appreciation Day 1-4</b>
31						

I've often wanted to drown my troubles,  
but I can't get my husband to go  
swimming.



Who was the first person to say "See that  
chicken there....I'm gonna eat the next  
thing that comes outta it's butt."?



"When I'm driving sometimes I  
see a sign that says,  
**CAUTION: SMALL CHILDREN  
PLAYING.**  
I slow down, and then it occurs  
to me,  
I'm not afraid of small children."



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For more information call Debra (708) 990-1766

# This is where a really good article would go, if we had one!



A wife and her husband are attending  
a very important business party her  
boss throws.

On the way home from the party, the  
woman said to her husband, "Have I  
ever told you how handsome and sexy  
and irresistible to women you are?"

"Why no," said the husband, flattered.

"Then what the hell gave you that idea at the party?!" she yelled.

Morris, an 82 year-old Elk, went to the doctor to get a physical.  
A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street  
with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.  
Later, the doctor spoke to Morris  
and said, 'You're really doing  
great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what  
you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma  
and be cheerful.'

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.  
I said, 'You've got a heart  
murmur; be careful.'



## Fred C. Dames

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# JULIE

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CAUTION  
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GAS PIPELINE