



Volume 65, No 3

TELEPHONE 815-744-3355

June, 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 June! I hope you are enjoying your summer and taking time to relax with family and friends.

Our May IEA Convention was very exciting. Those who attended had the opportunity to see our very own Jeff Sterr receive the well-deserved honor of being installed as the Illinois Elks Association President. What a proud moment for our Lodge and District! Congratulations to Jeff and First Lady Julie, and thank you both for your dedication and leadership to Elkdom.

At the awards banquet, our Lodge received First Place for All-American Lodge from the IEA, and Edward Forneris received IEA Elk of the Year — what an exciting surprise! Congratulations to our Lodge and to Edward on these outstanding accomplishments. We are truly proud of all that has been achieved through the dedication and hard work of our members.

June is always a busy month at the Lodge, and we encourage everyone to come out and join us for our upcoming events and

activities. Your participation and support help keep our Lodge strong and successful. Whether you volunteer, attend an event, or simply stop in to visit, you are helping continue the spirit of our organization.

As summer begins and many members travel, please remember to carry your current membership card with you. Visiting other Lodges while traveling is a wonderful way to experience the fellowship of Elkdom across the country.

Thank you to all of our Officers, volunteers, employees, and members who continue to dedicate their time and energy to making our Lodge a welcoming place for everyone.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and enjoyable June!

GOD BLESS!



*Debra Bruno-Norman, PER*

### NEWS FROM THE CCC

Final report of our donations for 2025-26 to the CCC.

Donations \$ 3,027.60

Rank in state: 26/63

Per Capita/member: \$17.11

Rank in District: 3rd out of 7

Thank you to all our lodge members who donated last year. Remember 100% of all donations go to help children in need in the state of Illinois.

### 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.

### MEMBERS WITH 45

**YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP**

John Harvish and Don Reger

AND—To all those men and women who have remained active for over 25+ years. You are a living legacy and our history; a testament to dedication, hard work and perseverance to continue the traditions and principles of our Order. Thank you, your dedication is appreciated.

### Editor Wanted



Looking for anyone to fill the position of editor. No experience necessary; some spelling competence helpful but obviously not essential. Must be able to type with tongue in cheek without biting same. Knowledge of what bulls do after eating helpful; ability to completely stretch the truth useful; capacity to make up articles on the fly imperative. No need to apply in person, but some signs of life required.

### WELKOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Wesr, transfer from Elmhurst Lodge #1531.  
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant reinstatement.

**Happy Hour  
every Fri/Sat  
5-7pm**



### QUEEN OF HEARTS:

4-24-26: Julie Bonk, #6 (Queen of Hearts)

5-14-26: Julie Bonk, #13 (Ace of Spades)

## 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](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.



**FRIDAY JUNE 12TH 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.

#### HERE’S IRONY FOR YOU...

Oddly enough, did you know that June is both  
 Celibacy Awareness Month and  
 International Men’s Month?



- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Susan West         | 13 Landovitz, Keith   |
| 9 Baker, Laura       | 16 Elizondo, Gil      |
| 10 Bonds, Alexander  | 17 Campbell, Morris E |
| Witkowski, Leon      | 24 Vanderbaan, Dean   |
| 13 Kovarik, Warren J | 25 Justin Pollack     |



#### SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

The B.P.O.E. was the first fraternal organization to observe Flag Day. Grand Exalted Ruler Henry A. Melvin in his report to the Grand Lodge in 1907, recommended the observance of Flag Day by the B.P.O.E. The Grand Lodge adopted his suggestion at this meeting and urged all lodges to take part in ceremonies honoring our flag and its history.

Heading into 3 months of our new lodge year and A LOT still owe for their membership dues. Any questions, contact me.

Happy Fathers Day to the men of our lodge.

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

Why are married women heavier than single women?  
 Single women come home, see what's in the fridge and go to bed. Married women come home, see what's in bed and go to the fridge.

Start off every day with a smile...  
 and get it over with.



**DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP**  
**Disappear**  
**Contact your Lodge Secretary**

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



**MEMBERSHIP-MONTHLY REPORT**

**JOLIET ELKS LODGE #296**

Membership as of 4-1-2026: 178  
Membership as of 5-20-2026: 178  
Delinquent as of 5-20-2026: 72



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**YOUR AD HERE**

Call the Lodge for more information

**Children's Science Exam Answers.....**

**Q: Name the four seasons.**

A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

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

A: Premature death.

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

A: The Caesarian Section is a district in Rome

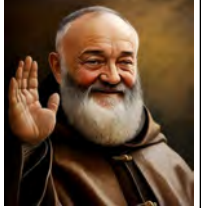
**Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?**

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



Did you hear about the two men from the monastery who opened a fast-food seafood restaurant?

One was the fish friar, the other was the chip monk



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