



# Elk Call

Volume 64, No 2

TELEPHONE 815-744-3355

May, 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,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits.

As we continue through our new Lodge year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work our Lodge has accomplished. Just to mention a few— our work at the food pantry, scholarships, donations of food to churches and food pantries, donations to our veterans, and various other charities are just a few for this new year! Your dedication and generosity truly embody the spirit of Elkdom and strengthen our bonds of brotherhood and service.

I encourage each of you to contribute however you can; participate, lend a helping hand, and invite others to join us in making a difference.

Our Lodge thrives because of your commitment, compassion, and enthusiasm. Together, we continue to honor our motto: "Elks Care — Elks Share."

Thank you for all you do to make our Lodge a shining light in our community.

I hope to see you all soon.



GOD BLESS!

*Debra Bruno-Nevin, P.L.R.*



Give thanks. Give life.



### QUEEN OF HEARTS:

- 3-28-25: Celeste Minarich, # 8 (Ace of Diamonds)
- 4-4-25: Steve Yates, # 14 ( King of Diamonds)
- 4-11-25: Ricky Gray, # 29 (8 of Clubs)
- 4-20-25: David Barry Jr. #6 (5 of Spades)

**Adam & Eve were the first ones to ignore the Apple terms and Conditions!**

### We wELKome New Member

Russel (Connie) Head via Initiation 4-8-2025

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

### MEMBERSHIP



Share the Pride!



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

## TRIVIA Night

**FRIDAY MAY 9TH 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 won by a large margin. They were smart.



Elks National Foundation, Inc.

LEARN MORE



# JOIN THE CLUB

## 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)

Bob Eckhoff- 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.

### OLD (?) TIMERS REPORT

#### ELKS CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Jerrard Cashmer, Michael Fazio, Robert Lausch, Frank Mlyniec, Jay Starner, and John Wilson.



Losing a wife can be hard.  
 In my case it was almost impossible.

### No wonder we spell so well...

If GH can stand for P as in Hiccough,  
 If OUGH stands for O as in Dough,  
 If PHTH stands for T as in Phthisis,  
 If EIGH stands for A as in Neighbor,  
 If TTE stands for T as in Gazette,  
 If EAU stands for O as in Plateau,

The right way to spell POTATO should be:  
 GHOUGHPTHTEIGHTTEAU



### MEMBERSHIP-MONTHLY REPORT

#### JOLIET ELKS LODGE #296

Number of Members on April 1, 2024—192

Membership as of 4/15/2025: 192

Delinquent as of 4-15-2025: 95

Propositions for Membership: Sandra Wallace proposed by Member Julie Bonk. We will be voting on this application at the May 13th lodge meeting.

Applicants and sponsors please note: applications for membership must be filled out in their entirety, including the correct information, i.e. birth date, email address, sponsor, contact info. etc or they will not be read on the floor of the lodge.

Mark Bump, PER, PDDGER, Lodge Secretary

### JUST A REMINDER...

According to Section 14.160, Members who are delinquent in their dues and/or are dropped for non-payment of dues are not entitled to the privileges of Membership (i.e. use of the Club or Lodge facilities) until they are properly reinstated in the manner provided by the of the Order.

Speaking of membership, if you have not paid your dues or know of someone who dues are remiss You (and/or they) are considered a delinquent. No one like a delinquent—please help us retain our current members. We liked you before, we still like you now. You can mail your check or drop it off at the Lodge. As a reminder, our dues remain at \$103 for the year; if you would like to get your spouse their own card, please add \$5.00. Make your check payable to Joliet Elks Lodge #296.

**The adjective for metal is metallic, but not so for iron, which is ironic.**

One more reason why there are no Elk Lodges in Canada.....[click](#)



Top Stories   Local   Climate   World   Canada   Politics   Indigenous

Calgary

### New provincial rules permit hunters to kill problem elk

Those that eat livestock feed or damage property are now fair game

CBC News - Posted: Apr 29, 2025 6:00 AM CDT | Last Updated: 12 hours ago

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

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May Birthdays

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Fichter, Michael   | 14 Kurtz, Kenneth T    |
| 2 Forneris, Edward L | 18 Kasprisin, Bryan J  |
| 5 Cole, Thomas       | 20 Galick, Jerry M     |
| Eisenhammer, Robert  | 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    |

## WHAT I GET FOR MY DUES

**I am fortunate to belong to the greatest Fraternal Order in the world.**

**I have the privilege of associating with exceptional American men and women.**

**I enjoy the comforts of my Lodge and Club, both socially and fraternally.**

**I have the chance to participate in all the charitable work undertaken by my Lodge.**

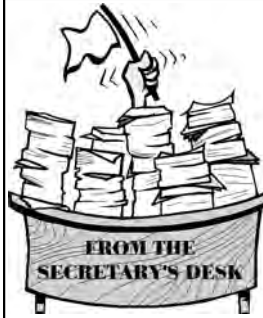
**I can actively engage in all the programs; sponsored by my Lodge.**

**I have the opportunity to elect the officers who lead my Lodge through a democratic process.**

**I get to visit other Elks Lodges and experience their warm hospitality.**

**I have the pride of wearing my Elk insignia, proudly displaying my membership as an Elk.**

Remember to celebrate Flag Day on the 14th



**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:** Just a reminder, according to section 14.160 of the Grand Lodge Statutes: Members who are delinquent on their dues and/or are 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 properly reinstated in the manner provided by the Order. So if your membership card is still sitting at my desk you can still come in and pay and once again enjoy are fine facility.

Membership Renewal Forms were sent with the March, April and May Elk Calls

If you, or if you know of a member not receiving the Elk Call via Email please send your email address request to the lodge. Copies can be sent through the post office upon request.

In closing, Happy Mothers Day to the ladies of our lodge. I end my message with some advice my mother gave me as a child: "Worrying won't stop the bad stuff from happening, It just stops you from enjoying the good."

The three C's of life: Choices, Chances, Changes. " You must make a choice to take a chance or your life will never change.

Sincerely and Fraternaly submitted,

Mark Bump, PDDGER Lodge Secretary

## Euchre Players Wanted

First, welcome back all you snowbirds. Please join us on Mondays and Wednesdays for euchre. Play starts at 6:30 pm.

We have been building attendance and do play year round, but we still have ample room. We look forward to seeing you and your friends. All are invited.



## Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!

"I tried to make a bet on a horse named 'Maythehorsebewithyou,' but they said it was a Jedi Mind Trick."



**Elks Disaster Relief Fund**

**Donate today!**



**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....**



**2024-25 Elk of the Year  
 Thomas Cole**



**2024-25 Officer of the Year  
 Rickey Gray**

**FYI:** News from the ENF. Three years ago, the Order gave more than \$7 million in donations. Last year donations were an astonishing \$8.8 million - a new all time high. Thank you for your donations and for helping the ENF build stronger communities.

An elderly looking Elk, (mid nineties) very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel, smelling slightly of a good after shave, presenting a well-looked-after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. Seated at the bar is an elderly looking lady, (mid eighties). The gentleman walks over, sits along side of her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"

**Mother's Dictionary of Meanings**

**Feedback:** The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

**Hearsay:** What toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

**Sterilize:** What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it, and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it and wiping it with saliva.

**Top Bunk:** Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

**Two-Minute Warning:** When the baby's face turns red and she begins to make those familiar-grunting noises.

**Whodunit:** None of the kids that live in your house.

**Remember when...** The advice your son rejected is now being given BY him TO your grandson.



Voluntary Service Representatives Have Big Plans  
for a Fantastic Elks Year

With the Voluntary Service program, Elks are supporting veteran needs by hosting activities and providing supplies throughout the year. Our volunteers are planning new events for veterans to anticipate and continuing their successful programs from previous years.

The Elks Voluntary Service program is the cornerstone of the ENVSC Our own VAVS Representatives, Larry and Penny Burns, take an active part in our community and are the reason so many veterans, VA employees, nonprofit partners and others know about the Elks' commitment to serving veterans.

This facility-based volunteer program is aimed at assisting hospitalized and recovering veterans, as well as any veterans seeking care at veterans' facilities. We have Elks stationed in hundreds of facilities, ensuring these veterans have the ongoing support they need. Volunteers are required to be certified by the national ENVSC office and undergo training and registration at the local level.

The Elks Voluntary Service program has the flexibility to adapt to the changing needs of veterans. VA Medical Centers and State Veterans Homes are a primary focus for this program, but we also have Representatives at other facilities such as rehabilitation clinics, housing facilities, and Vets Centers. Wherever veterans and military members need help, Elks serve.

The VAVS is always in need of Deputy Representatives to assist our Representatives. [Contact us](#) and we'll put you in touch with Voluntary Service volunteers in your area to help get the process started.

How it Works: Once you contact the facility, fill out the volunteer application. Be prepared to discuss the capacity in which you'd like to serve. After a quick TB test, you'll attend orientation and learn about safety and procedures. Then, you're off!

For more information and how you can help, contact either Larry or Penny, or call the Lodge office.



**EASTER 2025**



**Support ENF**

Help Elks build stronger communities with a tax-deductible donation to the Elks National Foundation, a public, non

-profit, tax-exempt corporation as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Tax Reform Act of 1959. Donations are payable by check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card or American Express. You can also make a pledge to donate to the ENF on an annual basis. Donate [online here](#), leave a donation at the Lodge, or mail a check to the Lodge. Any amount will help us continue to help others!



The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. 'Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, he's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, 'And there's the teacher; she's dead.'

**NO ONE  
TOLD  
HIM  
NOT  
TO  
PUT  
ALL  
HIS  
EGGS  
IN ONE  
BASKET**









Gravity is one of the most fundamental forces in the universe, but if you remove it, you get gravy.



**Learn how you can get involved.  
Watch the Elks Orientation Video.**

# JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
“At a cocktail party, one woman said to another, “Aren’t you wearing your wedding ring on the wrong finger?” The other replied, “Yes, I am. I married the wrong man.”				1	2 Queen of Hearts 7:30	3  4—??
4	5 Euchre 6:30 pm	6	7 Euchre 6:30 pm	8	9  Queen of Hearts 7:30	10
	12 Euchre 6:30 pm	13  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	14 Volunteer 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	15	16 Queen of Hearts 7:30	17 Special District MTG—Joliet 1pm Bid Euchre 7pm
18 <i>IEA Annual Meeting, Springfield 1 pm</i>	19 Euchre 6:30 pm	20 House & BOD meeting 7 pm	21 Euchre 6:30 pm	22	23 Queen of Hearts 7:30	24 Wii Bowling 7pm 
25	26  <i>Memorial Day</i>	27  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	28 Euchre 6:30 pm	29	30 Queen of Hearts 7:30	31

# JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR June, 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Euchre 6:30 pm	3	4 Euchre 6:30 pm	5	6 Dinner 4-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30	7
8	9 Euchre 6:30 pm	10  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	11 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	12	13  Dinner 4-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30	14 Remember, Jesus loves you; it's everybody else that thinks you're an ass.
15	16 Euchre 6:30 pm	17 House Com & BOD meeting 7 pm	18 Euchre 6:30 pm	19	20 Dinner 4-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30	21 Bid Euchre 7pm
22 Lodge Flag Day Ceremony	23 Euchre 6:30 pm	24  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	25 Euchre 6:30 pm	26	27 Queen of Hearts 7:30	28 Wii Bowling 7pm 
29 Grand Lodge Convention, Kansas City	30 Euchre 6:30 pm	July 1	July 2	Research has been being conducted on the world's first contraceptive patch for women. The patch is approximately three inches in diameter and reads: "Get Away From Me."		

So what is Relay for Life at Joliet all about? Well, Relay For Life is the premier peer to peer fundraising event for the American Cancer Society! We raise money all year long to raise awareness and fund ACS research and programs to help cancer patients and their families.

Our event always includes:  
Celebrating Survivors during things like our Opening Ceremony and Survivor Lap

Remembering those we have lost during our Luminaria Ceremony  
Fighting Back all night long so that no other person has to hear the words "you have cancer"

We Relay Rain or Shine!

We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary!!

Event parking: Parking is FREE and is on-site  
Strollers are welcome and our event is family-friendly.

Upon arrival, either head to your teams campsite or stop by our information tent if you have questions about where to begin!



### BANQUET FACILITIES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

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- \* Dinner Parties
- \* Dinner Meetings
- \* Birthdays
- \* Fundraiser Outings

Catering Available from 176 West—  
from appetizers to sit down dinners

For more information call Debra (708) 990-1766

**Relay for Life of  
JOLIET**  
Sponsored by  
WMC, Inc. & Duly Health and Care

**JUNE 7th 2 pm-10 pm**  
**Busy Bank Field at  
Joliet Memorial Stadium**



An Englishman, strolling through the Australian countryside on a hot afternoon, came upon a Sisters of Mercy Convent. He asked to come in and requested a cup of tea. The abbess gladly greeted and explained that the convent was famous for its special blend of tea, which it made by boiling the juice of the Koala bear.



The Englishman took on sip of the tea and spat it out, sputtering that the hair of the Koala bear was floating around on the surface of his drink. "Of course," explained the abbess, "The Koala tea of Mercy is not strained."

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**SPRING  
REALTY**

Ricky 815.955.2705  
Donna 815.955.2706

thegrayteamsells@gmail.com  
www.thegrayteamsells.com



Ricky & Donna Gray  
Brokers/Realtors

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Greg R. Olin - Dan Merriman - Steven Olin

greg@olininsurance.com

**YOUR AD HERE**

Call the Lodge for more information



Call  
Before  
You Dig

