



# Elk Call

Volume 64, No 1

TELEPHONE 815-744-3355

April, 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,

Happy New Year! As we welcome April, we also begin a new year for our Lodge. A heartfelt thank you to all who have already submitted their dues—please remember that as of April 1st, you will need your new membership card for entry.

With this new year, I'd like to take a moment to emphasize the importance of membership. Our Lodge thrives because of its dedicated members, and as we move forward, I encourage everyone to not only participate more but also to invite and propose new members. Family and friends are always welcome, and it would be wonderful to see the next generation join us.

Throughout the year, we celebrate many special occasions together—whether it's the Easter Bunny visit, breakfast with Santa, or other

cherished traditions. These gatherings bring us closer, and what better way to strengthen our Lodge than by encouraging those same family and friends to become members themselves?

Growing our membership ensures that we can continue our good work within the community and sustain the legacy of our Lodge for years to come. Let's make this year one of growth and unity!

I hope to see you all soon.

GOD BLESS!



*Debora Bruno-Nevin, PLR*



Give thanks. Give life.

## TRIVIA Night

**FRIDAY APRIL 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.

I don't know last month's winners, I wasn't there.



LEARN MORE



# JOIN THE CLUB

## Lodge Sale News

Holy crap, its finally here. See page 4 for details!

This of course brings up the question of where to go next? All members are encouraged to attend future Lodge meetings to stay up-to-date on any discussions.



QUEEN OF HEARTS:

3-7-25: Andy Lopez, #28 (Ace of spades)

3-14-25: Tony Ragusa, #24 ( 10 of hearts)

3-21-25: Penny Burns, # 21 (King of Spades.)

## We wELKome New Members

David Barry Jr. (via reinstatement), William Nussbaum (via initiation), and Kayle Flint (via reinstatement)

**MEMBERSHIP**



Share the Pride!

**Elks ONLINE**

Get your password at [www.elks.org/register](http://www.elks.org/register)

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



## 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 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

John Metrick, Richard Siegel, Alan Zobel, Alexander Bonds, John Prescott, PER, Dan Ward, Joe Wedic, Ray McShane, Mike English, James Hearn

#### POLICE WERE CALLED TO A DAY CARE WHERE A THREE-YEAR-OLD WAS RESISTING A REST!



During the Kids Easter Party, we will also be holding an ADULT Easter Egg hunt. Also, Lori is still looking for donations of candy and plastic eggs.

### MEMBERSHIP-MONTHLY REPORT

#### JOLIET ELKS LODGE #296

Number of Members on April 1, 2024—190

Membership as of 3/18/2025: 199

Delinquent as of 3/18/24: 9

As of March 18, 2025 the lodge still has 9 members unpaid for the 2024-25 lodge year. Section 14.160 of the Laws of the Order requires the lodge to suspend for the non-payment of dues of all members who are as much as one year arrears in dues. The following are those members:

Barney, Thomas	Narug, Leonard	Switzer, Maureen
Eaton, Dan	Pearce, Reble	Talaga, William
Mitchell, Peggy	Smith, Michael	Willson, Camille

Any questions please contact

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.

Jan Flint says the average woman would rather have beauty than brains because the average man can see better than he can think.

### Kids Easter

### Egg Party

Noon to 3

**APRIL 13TH**

**KIDS & ADULT EASTER EGG HUNT**

**VISIT FROM THE EASTER BUNNY !!**



Please use the sign up sheet in the Lounge.

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



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

*April Birthdays*



- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 14 Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant | 21 Tony Christos    |
| 15 Michael Bertnik          | 22 Daniel Loughran  |
| 16 Tom Manos                | David Schultz, PER  |
| Nick Minarich               | 24 Colleen Miller   |
| 19 Robert Kobe              | 26 John Pearson PER |
| 20 Katherine Popplewell     | 30 John Roche       |
| 21 Richard Chapman          |                     |



Is your membership card still in my drawer? Dues payments were due April 1st for this lodge year and membership renewal forms were included with March's & April's Elk Call. Please keep in mind that we are ready for a new generation of membership. Ask friends to join and especially those who want to follow the traditions of the BPOE.

Every year when the time comes to renew your Elks membership, a thought may creep in: Does my membership really matter? Maybe - just maybe- you've felt that moment of hesitation. But let me tell you this, leave your doubt at the door We've added many new members to our lodge this past year as well as some returning one's and it is nice to see how some of them are eager to help. Remember, every task you take on, is a step closer towards a better lodge.

Congratulations to our elected officers for the 2025-26 lodge year and thank you to those who served in 2024-25. Everyone who volunteers to take on the responsibilities of a lodge officer deserves a lot of credit as they are expected to make time in their schedules to attend meetings, plan on ways to improve the lodge, etc. Our lodge could not exist without their dedication in doing the best possible job for everyone's benefit. They may not always receive the praise they deserve but many know that self satisfaction of a job well done and they know they have done something for the betterment of the lodge and its members. Our lodge has made great strides over recent years and it's all due to you!

In closing: Sometimes life will test you, but remember this: When you walk up a mountain, your legs get stronger. AND why do people say "Tuna Fish Sandwich" Yet nobody says " Chicken Bird Sandwich?"

Sincerely and Fraternally submitted,

Mark Bump, PDDGER Lodge Secretary

P.S. Condolences to my friend Kevin Kennedy, PSP, PGLC and the passing of his wife Janet. May she rest in peace. To all the fun times we had, whether it be at state meetings of Grand Lodge Conventions, we have walked through our last fountains and had our last bicycle races and our last card games together.



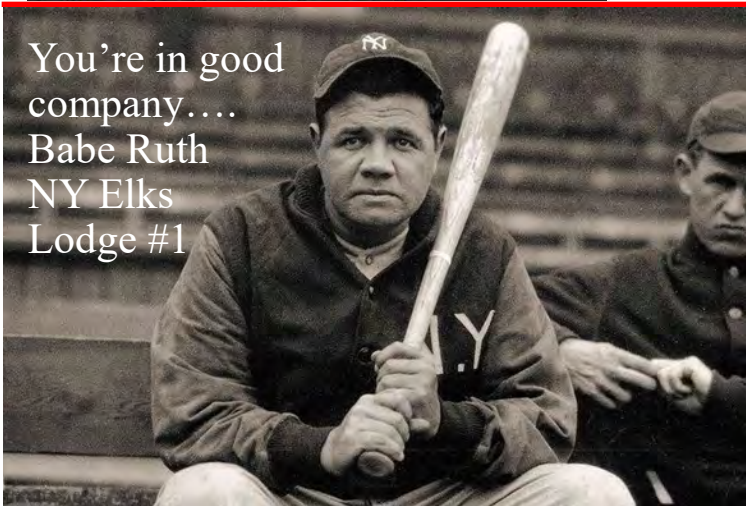
CLICK to PLAY



## The Jolly Corks

On the occasion of the Elks 150th Anniversary, Members of the "Jolly Corks" relate highlights from the organization's long history.

You're in good company....  
Babe Ruth  
NY Elks  
Lodge #1



## ELKS DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Click for more info



# R U the APRIL FOOL???



**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!

# REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENT



**FINALLY!!**  
**We will be hearing & voting**  
**on several proposals**  
**concerning our property in the**  
**next 3 meetings.**

**First**—Vertical Bridge, LLC, which is one of the lessee's of a cell tower on our property, wishes to extend the lease agreement with our lodge. We will be discussing this information at the **March 25th** lodge meeting and voting on this potential agreement at the **April 8th** lodge meeting.

**Second**—The proposed sale of the building. We will be reading the following proposal on the lodge floor at the regular **March 25th** Lodge meeting beginning at 7 pm, and vote at the regular **April 8th** Lodge meeting, beginning at 7 pm:

**Joliet Elks Lodge #296** (the “Seller”) proposes to enter into an agreement to sell its building and land located at 250 SE Frontage Road, Joliet, IL 60431, Property Index Number (PIN): 05-06-15-200-022-0000. Legal Description: THAT PRT OF THE E1/2 OF THE NW1/4 OF SEC 15, T35N-R9E, DAF: BEG AT PT ON THE E'LY ROW LN OF FAI 34 AND 64.24 FT E OF THE SW COR OF E1/2 OF THE NW1/4 SD SEC; THC NE'LY ALG SD ROW, 790 FT; THC SE'LY AT RIGHT ANGLES, 284 FT; THC NE'LY AT RIGHT ANGLES, 754 FT; THC NW'LY AT RIGHT ANGLES, 235.58 FT TO THE E'LY ROW LN OF SD RTE 34; THC SW'LY ALG SD ROW TO THE POB TOGETHER WITH THAT PART DAF: THAT PRT OF THE E1/2 OF THE NW1/4 OF SEC 15, T35N-R9E, DESC AS COMM AT A PT ON THE E'LY ROW LN OF HWY RTE 34 (I-55) AND 64.24 FT E OF THE SW COR OF THE E1/2 OF THE NW1/4 OF SD SEC 15; THC NE'LY ALG SD ROW, 790 FT; THC SE'LY 284 FT ALG A LN FORMING A RIGHT ANGLE TO THE RIGHT OF PROLONGATION OF THE LAST DESC COURSE TO A POB; THC CONT SE'LY ALG SD LN, 45 FT; THC NE'LY 450 FT ALG A LN FORMING A RIGHT ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE; THC NW'LY 45 FT FORMING A RIGHT ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE; THC SW'LY 450 FT FORMING A RIGHT ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE LAST DESC COURSE TO THE POB PER R88-003113 & R88-003314 AND TOGETHER WITH THAT PRT DAF: THAT PRT OF THE E1/2 OF THE NW1/4 OF SEC 15, T35N-R9E. DESC AS COMM AT A PT ON THE E'LY ROW LN OF FEDERAL AID HWY RTE 34 (I-55) AND 64.24 E OF THE SW COR OF THE E1/2 OF THE NW1/4 OF SD SEC 15; THC NE'LY ALG SD ROW, 790 FT; THC SE'LY 318.5 FT ALG A LN FORMING A RIGHT ANGLE TO THE RIGHT OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE LAST DESC COURSE; THC NE'LY 754 FT ALG A LN FORMING A RIGHT ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE LAST DESC COURSE TO A POB; THC NW'LY 270.08 FT ALG A LN FORMING A RIGHT ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE LAST DESC COURSE TO A PT ON THE E'LY ROW OF SD FEDERAL RTE 34; THC NE'LY 70.93 FT ALG SD ROW CURVE LN WITH A RADIUS OF 544.85 FT TO THE RIGHT; THC SE'LY A DIST OF 244.84 FT TO THE POB, to HOLLADAY PROPERTY SERVICES MIDWEST, INC., (the “Purchaser”) located at 3454 Douglas Road, South Bend, IN, 44635. Joliet Elks Lodge #296 would retain the income from the cell towers and the billboards by means of a permanent easement.

The proposed purchase price is **One Million Five Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand and no DOLLARS (\$1,535,000.00)**, subject to proration of real estate taxes, transfer stamps and other customary closing costs. Lodge Lecturing Knight Rick Gray of Joliet Elks Lodge #296 is authorized to act for the Lodge.

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

**The complete contract agreement and 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 as per GL Statutes 16.050 prior to execution.** 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.

If said contract sale agreement is successfully accepted by the Lodge members, the agreement will be submitted to the Board of Grand Trustees for final approval and authorization in accord with Section 16.050 of the current Grand Lodge Statutes.

Questions on any of the above will be answered at the Lodge meetings.

An advertisement for the 2025 Hoop Shoot National Finals. It features a young man on the left and a young woman on the right, both holding basketballs. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators. In the center, there is a logo for the Elks Hoop Shoot, which consists of a red and white silhouette of an elk's head with the words "ELKS HOOP SHOOT" below it. The text "REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025 HOOP SHOOT NATIONAL FINALS IS OPEN UNTIL APRIL 7" is prominently displayed in white, bold letters across the middle. Below the logo, there is a line of text: "The 2025 Hoop Shoot National Finals will take place at Wintrust Arena, home of the WNBA's Chicago Sky and DePaul's Blue Demons. [Click here for a full contest schedule.](#)"



# Elks Disaster Relief Fund

Donate today!



## BRYAN KLATT FUNDRAISER PINS ON SALE

Get you Endorsed Candidate Bryan Klatt pins and/or pendants for sale while they last.

We are excited to have the next GER come from Illinois and want to help Bryan raise the funds needed as the incoming GER at the 2025 Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas

City. Limited edition pins and pendants are for sale at \$100 per person or \$150 a couple. Purchasers will also get an invitation to Bryan's reception in Kansas City. See Jeff Sterr to obtain one (or 2) or for more information.



*Overheard at the bar...  
"I was going to give him a  
nasty look  
but he already had one!"*

# 176 West Banquets & Catering

Friday Night Dinner Menu  
Serving from 4 pm to 7 pm

1 pc. Fried Cod Dinner	\$12.00
2 pc. Fried Cod Dinner	\$15.00
3 pc. Fried Cod Dinner	\$18.00
1 pc. Fried Walleye Dinner	\$15.00
2 pc. Fried Walleye Dinner	\$18.00
3 pc. Fried Walleye Dinner	\$20.00
6 pc. Shrimp Dinner	\$18.00
Combo Dinner —	
1 pc Fried Cod & 3 Shrimp	\$15.00
Hamburger/Cheeseburger	\$12.00
Chicken Fingers	\$12.00

All dinners include salad; bread & butter; and choice of French Fries or Baked Potato.

## Continuing to Give to the Community... REVERSE LENTEN (Easter) CALENDAR

Similar to our Reverse Advent Calendar Project that we usually run, this year we would like to try a Reverse Lenten Calendar. Each day from March 21st to April 13th we will be asking our members to contribute the following items for the lodge project This year's donations will be going to St. John's Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

21-Mar	Box of cereal	2-Apr	Canned beans
22-Mar	Peanut butter	3-Apr	Box of crackers
23-Mar	Stuffing mix	4-Apr	Package of rice
24-Mar	Boxed potatoes	5-Apr	Package of oatmeal
25-Mar	Macaroni and cheese	6-Apr	Package pasta
26-Mar	Canned fruit	7-Apr	Spaghetti sauce
27-Mar	Canned tomatoes	8-Jan	Chicken noodle soup
28-Mar	Canned tuna	9-Apr	Tomato soup
29-Mar	Dessert mix	10-Apr	Can corn
30-Mar	Jar of applesauce	11-Apr	Can mixed vegetables
31-Mar	Canned sweet potatoes	12-Apr	Can carrots
1-Apr	Cranberry sauce	13-Apr	Can green beans

## Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation

The primary purpose of the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation is to manage, finance, and administer programs of medical aid, research and education for the benefit of handicapped and indigent persons under the age of 21 residing within the jurisdiction of the Illinois Elks Association. This includes the thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded to students in physical therapy programs. The CCC needs your support. How? - Remember to get your HODO Pins, they are only \$10; every contribution helps. For more information, call the office.

## TOP Spring Cleaning Tip

For a really great wall cleaner, mix 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/4 cup white vinegar and 1/4 cup baking soda to 1 gallon of wash water in a bucket. Set this aside to 'breathe'. In another container mix a 1/2 ounce red vermouth, 1/2 cup scotch whiskey, and 1 dash of Angostura. Pour equal portions into two glasses. After the second glass, the urge to clean will go away. As a bonus your bucket will be sparkling clean!







Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.







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

## JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR April, 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm. (Winston Churchill)		1	2 Euchre 6:30 pm	3	4 Dinner 4-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30	5
6 <b>East District MTG</b> Pontiac #1019 10 am	7 Euchre 6:30 pm	8  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	9 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	10	11  Dinner 4-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30	12
13 Kids Easter Party Noon- 3 pm	14 Euchre 6:30 pm	15 House Com & BOD meeting 7 pm	16 Euchre 6:30 pm	17	18 Dinner 4-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30	19 Bid Euchre 7pm
20 	21 Euchre 6:30 pm	22  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	23 Euchre 6:30 pm	24	25 Queen of Hearts 7:30	26 Wii Bowling 7pm 
27	28 Euchre 6:30 pm	29 	30 Euchre 6:30 pm	Why can't you hear a pterodactyl going to the bathroom? Because the "P" is silent.		

## JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Intelligence is like an underwear. It is important that you have it, but not necessary that you show it off.			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 <b>IEA Annual Meeting, Springfield</b>	16 Queen of Hearts 7:30	17 Bid Euchre 7pm 
18 <b>IEA Annual Meeting, Springfield</b>	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  <b>Memorial Day</b>	27  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	28 Euchre 6:30 pm	29	30 Queen of Hearts 7:30	31 <b>CAUTION!</b> Life is sexually transmitted!

**Members**

Just a reminder that we enjoy the company of your guests\* at our Lodge. But as the saying goes, "membership has its privileges." Remember certain things at our Lodge are for "members only." Naturally, we would encourage you to urge your guests to join our Lodge as members. If you have any questions as to what a guest can or cannot do, please stop into the office or speak with one of the chair officers.

\*guest- someone who is not a member of the BPOE, such as a neighbor, parent, or sibling, friend, etc.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE**

I would like to say "Thank You" to all who have helped me with the kid's parties this past year. I am looking forward to working with all of you again in the upcoming year.

Lori Bump  
Kids Party Chairman



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All things being equal, fat people use more soap.



**OLD PEOPLE AT WEDDINGS ALWAYS POKE ME AND SAY "YOU'RE NEXT."**



**SO, I STARTED DOING THE SAME THING TO THEM AT FUNERALS.**



**BE A PROPOSER**

PROPOSE A FRIEND FOR MEMBERSHIP

**WE LIKE YOU  
WE'LL LIKE YOUR FRIEND**

*Fred C. Dames*

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Ask for Bob Sacamano



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