



Volume 63, No 9

TELEPHONE 815-744-3355

December, 2024

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 December! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We certainly did here at the Lodge! Thank you to all who brought delicious food and took the time to make this Thanksgiving special and a holiday to remember!

We had a great turnout of volunteers at the HEAL Riverwalk Food Pantry last month. A huge thank you to Lecturing Knight Ricky Gray, Safety Officer/Trustee Chris Marry and his wife Diane, Trustee Andy Lopez, members Matt Forneris, Sandra Rivett, Jeff Sterr and his wife Julie, and Sam Kayuha and Jack Lorenz from ENF, Chicago. We accomplished so much in a short period of time. It was a great experience, working hard and seeing results! We worked so well together and got to see each other in a different light. The staff at the food pantry were so grateful and thanked us so much, it truly is a great opportunity to do good for our community! We have a standing date of every 2nd Wednesday of the month to volunteer at the food pantry from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please consider volunteering, your help is greatly appreciated and needed, you can call me at 708-990-1766 for more information.

There are so many reasons to join the Elks, and as we always have family and friends joining us for Lodge events and activities, consider signing them up to become members! We always need new members with fresh ideas for us to continue to grow and be successful in our

mission! Let's Soar With Four! The first to get four new members by December 31st gets a \$100.00 bonus!

It is wonderful to see so much participation from our members, we are making things happen and enjoying every minute! Thank you!

Don't forget to reserve your spot for the Veterans Christmas Luncheon Dec 11; Breakfast with Santa Dec 15; and New Years Eve Party Dec 28! There are sign-up sheets in the bar, or you can give us a call. It is important to let us know how many people are attending these events so we can accommodate everyone.

We have a new raffle! Tickets will be sent to every member to buy or sell, and will include a self-addressed stamped envelope to return your check for purchased and any unsold tickets. The tickets are \$20.00 per ticket. First prize is \$500.00; second \$250.00; third \$150.00; and fourth \$100.00. Drawing is March 1, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the Lodge. I look forward to seeing you!

GOD BLESS!

Debra Bruno-Nerin, PLR



When I was little my grandfather made me stand in the closet for 5 minutes without moving. He said it was elevator practice. My grandfather is hard of hearing. He needs to read lips. I don't mind him reading lips, but he uses one of those yellow highlighters.

Now serving



Ask your bartender



2025 CCC Calendars Now Available.

Cost \$20, and gets you a chance at :
245 drawings of \$50
12 monthly drawings of \$100
3 Special drawings of \$1,000
1 Grand Drawing of \$5,000

Winners are randomly drawn from all registered participants, and all winners are eligible for future drawings throughout the year. Calendars are available from Chair Mark Bump, PDDGER.

COATS FOR KIDS

COATS FOR KIDS. ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT THE LODGE AT 815-744-3355.

Our Lodge is collecting new or gently used coats, hats, and gloves to be given to those in need. Donations can be left at the Lodge. Monetary donations are also accepted for us to purchase coats. You can drop off your donation or mail it to Joliet Elks #296, 250 SE Frontage Road, Joliet IL 60431, marked COATS FOR KIDS.

QUEEN OF HEARTS:

11-1-24: Mark Bump, #49 (2 of clubs)
 11-8-24: Carol Voigts, #18 (Joker)
 11-15-24: Larry Burns, #12 (Q of Diamonds)
 11-22-24: Heliodoro Guzman Jr. #23 (Q of Spades)



What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."
 Albert Pine

2024-2025 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.....Wyenot Hugh

Trustee (2025).....Chris Marry
 Trustee (2026).....Larry Burns PER, PDDGER
 Trustee (2027).....Penny Burns PER, PDDGER
 Trustee (2028).....Andy Lopez
 Trustee (2029).....Clint Flint PER
 Board of Directors Chair..... Penny Burns, PER, PDDGER
 P.E.R. President.....Debra Bruno-Nevin PER
 Editor.....Jeff Sterr PER PDDGER
 Innies-Outies Counter.....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

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

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

Bob Eckhoff- 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.

OLD TIMERS REPORT

MEMBERS WITH 15 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP:

Michael Darcy, Shirley Jolley, Bob Kobe, David Schultz, PER.



FREE FOOD
FREE BOOZE
 (Sorry, Tom & Jerry's only, no substitutions)
Christmas Eve—Noon to 5 pm
 Food Serving at 1 pm
 Wear your favorite Ugly Christmas Sweater
 and receive a free drink.

I walked into the bedroom and tripped
 on my wife's bra.

It was a boob trap.



MEMBERSHIP-MONTHLY REPORT

JOLIET ELKS LODGE #296

Number of Members on April 1, 2024—190

Membership as of 11-19-24: 196

Delinquent as of 11-19-24: 12

Lets hope that all our delinquents' New Years Resolutions are to
 pay their dues in January!!

Mark Bump, PER, PDDGER, Lodge Secretary

Q—What nationality is Santa Claus? A—North Polish



**Someday, the proposed sale
 of the building will come to
 the floor for a vote .**



Guys, having trouble doing anything
 right during the holidays? Don't fret;
 men have been getting nagged every
 Christmas season since the very
 beginning. In fact it's recorded for all
 posterity - The Bible said even Mary
 rode Joseph's ass all the way to
 Jerusalem.

New Year's Eve Party

JOLIET ELKS CLUB LOUNGE

DECEMBER 28TH

6:30—??

**BRING A
 DISH
 TO PASS**



FYI—The [IEA Directory](#) may be found online along with all of
 the District Directories. They can all be found on the "Member's
 Only" tab, then found on the District Information Tab.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December Birthdays

2 Ray McShane	17 Ray Stefanski
5 Jerrold Cashmer	Dwayne Wilkerson
7 Mark Burnett	20 Bill Benoit
John Harvish	Patricia Vinsel
8 David Rubis DDS	22 Bill Talaga
10 George Geil	23 Mike English
13 Ron Rosinski	24 Jay Caswell
15 Jay Starner	25 John Metrick
Janette Steel	31 Victoria Allen
16 Abel Herrera	Kimberly Feeny Mitchell
Camille Wilson	John Prescott PER
17 John Jun	



There was a cowboy dressed completely in brown paper. He was arrested for rustling.



**WISHING YOU A
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW
YEAR**



California vintners in the Napa Valley area that primarily produce Pinot Blanc and Pinot Grigio have developed a new hybrid grape that acts as an anti-diuretic and will reduce the number of trips an older person has to make to the bathroom during the night. They will be marketing the new wine as Pinot More.

FYI: 1) Cumulatively, the Dictionary Project has been able to reach an estimated 36,907,377 students since its adoption by the BPOE. Of these, 2,304 students were sponsored by Joliet Elks Lodge No. 296.

2) You'll need to change your idiom. —There is a town in Norway called Hell and during the winter it freezes over.

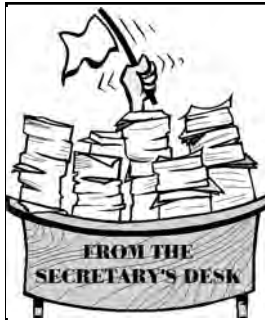


IN CCC NEWS—

Once again it is that time of year when the Illinois Elks Children's Care Program starts to prepare for the 2025-26 PT/OT Therapy Scholarship and two-year PT/OT Assistant Scholarship programs.

The application will become available online December 1, 2024 at <http://www.illinoiselksccc.org> and will remain online through March 1, 2025. The students will have until March 7, 2025 to submit their scholarship application to the lodge.

Questions, contact the lodge or the CCC office at 1-800-272-0074.



I hope this Christmas brings you joy, warmth, and cherished moments with your loved ones. May your celebration be filled with laughter, love. Whether you celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Solstice or Festivus I hope you have a happy holiday season!

Don't forget to join us for our annual Christmas traditions of Breakfast with Santa; join your fellow Elks in a glass (or two) at our Tom & Jerry Party; and come to the lodge to celebrate an early New Years with your fellow Elks on the 28th of December (and bring a snack to share.)

As we get ready to enter a new year some thoughts: Be like a tree, stay grounded. Connect with your roots. Turn a new leaf. Bend before you break. Keep growing.

Thank you for being a part of our Elk family.

Mark Bump, PDDGER Lodge Secretary

Years ago, I worked in a natural, organic health food store in Seattle, Washington. One day a man walked in and asked, "If I can melt dry ice, can I swim without getting wet?" They were going to fire me anyway, because I told them I thought they should put the wrapper on the inside of the straw since that's the part you don't want to get dirty.



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.

TRIVIA Night

FRIDAY DECEMBER 13TH. 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 had a higher score than everybody else.

Attention readers—

Using our new technology and in an effort to simplify your *Elk Call* enjoyment, your issues of the *EC* have embedded links to important information. Anytime you see a "go to <http://>", or "www.", or "click here", or text highlighted in blue such as www.elks.org, it means that if you click on it, you will be taken to the particular web page or information we are referencing. For some of the information on the elks.org or IEA website, you will need to log in with your username and password. If you're an Elk but don't yet have an Elks.org password, you can [click here to register](http://elks.org) for online access. Its simple and free. Try it out and let us know.

Our Impact

Since inception, the ENF has contributed more than \$500 million toward Elks charitable projects nationwide. Our programs continue to grow each year, allowing Elks to do even more to build stronger communities. Click here for details on all ENF programs.

This year, the ENF allocated more than \$16.3 million to fund the Community Investments Program, investing in Elks communities through grants for Elks Lodges. Community Investments Program grants offer your Lodge an opportunity to serve your community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things.

Your Secure Donation Will Help Build Stronger Communities!

Donating to the ENF online is quick, easy and secure. Your online donation will be put to work immediately supporting Elks programs. If you're an Elk, your Lodge will also be credited for your donation.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE!](#)

Winners of the Benefit Raffle

1st place	Jackie Tyler	\$500 (she wasn't present)
2nd place	Enzio Mannaioni	\$200
3rd place	Jennifer Scharf	\$100
4th place	Tom Cole	\$50
4th place	Chris Marry	\$50



ARE YOU MOVING...even if it is just temporary? Please don't forget to include the lodge on your list of people to notify, as we use non-profit bulk mail rates. If you move and do not notify us, we are charged a fee for returned mail. Please help us save money and just give the lodge a call or send us an email to let us know your new address.



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- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
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In Memoriam

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



*We shall meet,
but we shall miss them...*



Steve Rande, PER

Born: August 22, 1946

Initiated: January 22, 1985

Deceased: November 23, 2024



With the eyes of faith may we see those whom we have loved and lost awhile, and who are waiting the day when the chain of fraternal love shall be reunited forever.



*Elks Memorial
Service
December 1st
1 PM*

This service is held by every Elks Lodge in the nation on the first Sunday in December. Once a member of our Order, you are never forgotten and never forsaken.

We use this day to honor and cherish the memories of those Elks who have passed to realms on high during the past year. This is one of the most moving ceremonies in all of Elksdom.

All members are cordially invited to attend this day of fraternal tribute.

THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST MEMORIAL SERVICE

Brother Sheppard was one of the fifteen original "Jolly Corks," and was in charge of the details of the first memorial service, then called Lodge of Sorrow, given at Clarendon (Masonic) Hall in New York on March 20, 1870. This was the first public appearance of the Elks. The members were out in full force, and uniformly arrayed in dark clothing, silk hats, white aprons and gloves with a sprig of amaranth on the lapel of their coats, made a striking appearance.



Breakfast with Santa

December 15th

- ⇒ Pictures with Santa and other surprises
Sign up sheet in the Lounge
Children up to 11 years old free
Adults (12 and over) \$12.00
9 AM to 12 PM

Menu

Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Muffins,
French Toast Sticks, Danish, Cookies, Juice, Milk and Coffee



ADULT HALLOWEEN PARTY



"I stopped making a list. Nothing is considered naughty anymore!"

A couple is lying in bed. The man says, "I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world."

The woman replies, "I'll miss you..."

Joliet #296 Gives to the Community

Our Lodge recently presented the HEAL Food Pantry with an ENF Grant check in the amount of \$6,000. A number of volunteers also worked at the pantry unloading supply trucks and stocking shelves. (pics on the following page). The staff at the food pantry, which serves over 300 people weekly, were most thankful for our time and generosity. Pictured in the check presentation are Chris Mano, Martha Barrios, Debra Bruno-Nevin and Dr. Liz Protich. Also pictured throughout the montage are most of our volunteers.











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







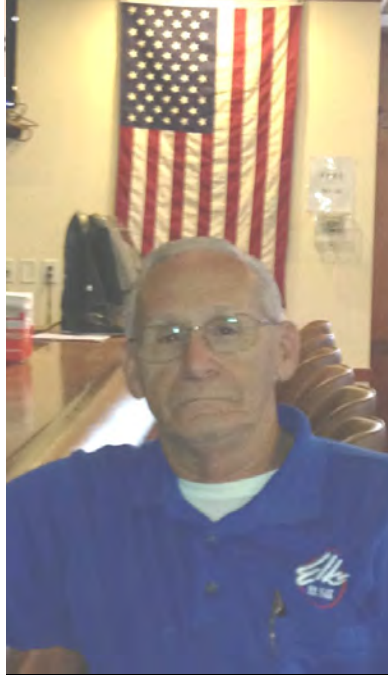
Our members and our ENF Grants at work.

JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  ELKS MEMORIAL SERVICE 1 PM	2 Euchre 6:30 pm	3	4 Euchre 6:30 pm	5	6 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	7
8	9 Euchre 6:30 pm	10  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	11 10 AM Food Pantry Vets Lunch noon Euchre 6:30 pm	12	13  Dinner 5-8 Q of Hearts 7:30	14
15  Breakfast w/ Santa 9-noon	16 Euchre 6:30 pm	17 House Com & BOD meeting 7 pm	18 Euchre 6:30 pm	19	20 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	21 Bid Euchre 7pm Mystery Sandwich Dinner 5-8
22	23 Euchre 6:30 pm	24  Noon – 5		26	27 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	28 New Year's Eve Party 6:30
29 DUH—Half the people in the world are below average.	30 Euchre 6:30 pm	31  Santa Claus had a dwarf fetish!	<div> <p>Good King Wenceslas phoned Domino's for a pizza. The salesgirl asked him:- 'Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?'</p>  </div>			

JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR January, 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>I know a guy who can't hold his liquor during the winter months. It's probably the mittens.</div>			1 Don't blame the holidays, you were fat in August	2	3 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	4
5	6 Euchre 6:30 pm	7	8 Volunteer 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	9	10  Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	11
12 IEA EAST DISTRICT MTG Joliet—10:00 am	13 Euchre 6:30 pm	14  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	15 Euchre 6:30 pm	16	17 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	18 Bid Euchre 7pm Something for Dinner 5-8
19	20 Euchre 6:30 pm	21 House & BOD meeting 7 pm	22 Euchre 6:30 pm	23 IEA MID-WINTER MEETING	24 No Dinner! Queen of Hearts 7:30	25
26 IEA MID-WINTER MEETING	27 Euchre 6:30 pm	28  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	29 Euchre 6:30 pm	30	31 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	



We will miss you, my Friend
Requiescat in Pace

Fred C. Dames
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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

Olin Insurance

OLIN AGENCY

INSURANCE OF ALL KINDS
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

