



Volume 65, No 1

TELEPHONE 815-744-3355

April, 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 a new year for our Lodge!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our Officers, employees, members, and volunteers who have truly made a difference and supported our Lodge throughout the past year—and to those who have committed to another year of service. Your dedication is what keeps our Lodge strong.

We are currently working on reestablishing our Women's Auxiliary. Any spouse, widow, member, or family member is welcome to join. In the past, the Women's Auxiliary played a vital role in supporting our Lodge through dinners, fundraisers, bake sales, and countless efforts benefiting our Veterans, CCC, and many other charities. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact our District Lady of the Year, Laura Lopez, at (815) 280-9083.

As we begin this new year, one of our main goals is membership growth. We are asking each member to bring in just one new member. It's not as difficult as it may seem—simply invite a friend, significant other, or family member to join. Membership is essential to continuing the charitable work we are so proud of. Let's all make a strong effort to grow our Lodge this year—I know we can do it!



It has been an honor to serve as your Exalted Ruler. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to continue in this role and thank you for your unrelenting support. I am confident that together, we will have a fantastic year ahead.

Hope to see you on Friday! GOD BLESS

Debra Bruno-Nerun, PER

CELEBRATING NEW MEMBERS

2025-2026 LODGE YEAR:

Russel Head, Sandra Wallace and Teena Mackey.
Reinstatements: David Goodale, Wayne Gregory PER, and Justin Pollack.



QUEEN OF HEARTS:

- 2-27-26: Deborah Kilhafner, #19 (5 of clubs)
- 3-6-26: Joe Petroski, #2 (Joker)
- 3-13-26: Jan Flint, # 18 (9 of spades)
- 3-20-26: Jan Flint, #9 (jack of spades)

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.

LODGE MEETING NIGHT JACKPOT



Oddly enough, the Jackpot drawings occur on Lodge meeting nights.

Winning holder of 50/50 ticket eligible to draw for the Jackpot. Winner must be present

at the meeting.

3-24, Jeff Sterr not a winner of \$709

KENTUCKY DERBY



Saturday, May 2nd 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!

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.....Penny Burns, PER, PDDGER
 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

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

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

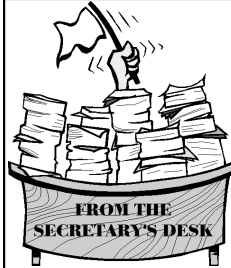
Mark Bump– District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler

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.



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

After the March 24th lodge meeting we held our Installation of Officers for the 2026-27 lodge year. Our current slate of officers will continue for another year. Congratulations to all our officers for their diligent work to keep the lodge running. There is still a couple of positions that we would like to fill. If you are interested, see any of the lodge officers. As we end one fraternal year and begin another the work of the lodge is never truly finished. Each new year brings new opportunities to serve, strengthen our communities, and to carry forward the values that define Elkdom in the community.

It's the members who volunteer without recognition, who quietly lend a hand when something needs to be done or who take the time to welcome someone new. These small, consistent acts of service and kindness are what create the sense of belonging that keeps our lodge moving forward. Remember, when you come to the lodge come with an open mind and have a great time!

Something to think about as the new lodge year begins: I don't think we get smarter with age. I think we run out of stupid things to do.

Thank you for your continued support of the lodge!!

Sincerely and Fraternally submitted,

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

I misplaced my dictionary. Now I'm at a loss for words.



FRIDAY APRIL 10TH 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.



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

MEMBERSHIP-MONTHLY REPORT

JOLIET ELKS LODGE #296

Membership as of 4-1-2025: 192

Membership as of 3-17-2026: 190

Delinquent as of 3-17-2026: 13

Questions, contact the lodge secretary.

Mark Bump, PER, DDGER, Lodge Secretary







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.

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

JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR APRIL, 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CAUTION! Life is sexually transmitted!			1 Euchre 6:30 pm	2	3 Dinner 5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	4 Happy—5-7
5 	6 Euchre 6:30 pm	7	8 Volunteer 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	9	10 TRIVIA Night Queen of Hearts 7:30	11 Happy—5-7
12 District MTG Pontiac #1019 9:30 am	13 Euchre 6:30 pm	14  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	15 Euchre 6:30 pm	16	17 Happy—5-7 Karaoke! 7:33 Queen of Hearts 7:30	18 Happy—5-7 Bid Euchre 7pm
19	20 Euchre 6:30 pm	21 House Com & BOD meeting 7 pm	22 Euchre 6:30 pm	23	24 Happy—5-7 Karaoke! 7:33 Queen of Hearts 7:30	25 Happy—5-7
26	27 Euchre 6:30 pm	28  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	29 Euchre 6:30 pm	30 	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: blue; font-weight: bold;">Happy Hour</div> <div style="font-size: 2em; color: blue; font-weight: bold;">every Fri/Sat</div> <div style="font-size: 2em; color: blue; font-weight: bold;">5-7pm</div>	

JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR May, 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
My friend got the Amish flu. First she got a little hoarse... then she got a little buggy.					1 Happy—5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	2 Happy—5-7 DERBY/Cinco De Mayo 4-?
3	4 Euchre 6:30 pm	5  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	6 Volunteer 10 AM Food Pantry Euchre 6:30 pm	7 IEA Annual Meeting - Springfield	8 TRIVIA Night Queen of Hearts 7:30	9 Happy—5-7
	11 Euchre 6:30 pm	12 House & BOD meeting 7 pm	13 Euchre 6:30 pm	14	15 Happy—5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	16 Happy—5-7 Bid Euchre 7pm
17	18 Euchre 6:30 pm	19  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	20 Euchre 6:30 pm	21	22 Happy—5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	23 Happy—5-7
24 31	 Memorial Day	26	27 Euchre 6:30 pm	28	29 Happy—5-7 Queen of Hearts 7:30 Karaoke! 7:33	30 Happy—5-7

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LODGE BY-LAWS AND HOUSE RULES:

Amendments/general revisions of the lodges By-Laws and House Rules shall be read/discussed at the April 14th lodge meeting and voted on at the April 28th lodge meeting.

The committee met on March 18, 2026 and propose the following changes:

HOUSE RULES: ADD - The over service and consumption of alcohol as defined by local law or ordinance is strictly prohibited; this rule shall be applicable to all Members, Officers and Employees of the lodge pursuant to Grand Lodge Statute 17.053

BY-LAWS:

Article X Fees and Dues:

- Sect 1 paragraph 1: **Change** the fee for initiation from \$25. The proposed change would be to change to \$0
- Sect. 1 paragraph 2: **Delete** this paragraph concerning the initiation fee for applicants less than 26 years of age.
- Section 1 paragraph 3: **Delete** this paragraph concerning reduced initiation fee.
- Section 4, paragraph 1: **Delete** the phrase: "a reinstatement fee of \$25.00, and in addition thereto," .
- Section 4, paragraph 2: **Delete** this paragraph concerning reduced reinstatement fee of \$1.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Larry Burns, PDDGER, Chairman.

There are three religious truths: A. Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. B. Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian faith. C. Baptists do not recognize each other in the liquor store or at Hooters.



April is Our Official
Start to Golf Month!!
Celebrate by playing around.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The IEA has completed its judging of the MVS Scholarships and Joliet Lodge has sponsored the following winners:

- 1) National Finalist (Male) Nathaniel Martikai - he will receive at least \$1000/year for 4 years;
- 2) District Winners (Male) John Capalbo - he will receive \$600 a year for four years from the IEA;
- 3) District winner (female) Georgia Buza - she will receive \$600 a year for four years from the IEA.

Congrats to all and good luck to Nathaniel. Here's hoping for a top twenty finish!

The only really decent thing to do behind a person's back is pat it.

Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.



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YOUR AD HERE

Call the Lodge for more information