

STATE

Funds for topping per capita

Let me start by saying thank you to Tom Deien from Mt. Vernon Lodge and to Keith (Moe) Gibson for my nomination and second. And thank you to the Illinois Elks Association for allowing me to be your state secretary. As I say, I am here for you. Whatever you want or need, I am just a phone call or an e-mail away. Thank you.

The lodges that did meet Darrell's State President's goal need

to mail or e-mail me as to how you want the \$1,000 to be sent. Remember, you have two choices – scholarship or community service.

For scholarship, I need all the information on the student, plus all the information for the school and the student's ID number. For community service, you can break down into four \$250 items, for example. Please, I need this before August. You must let me know at the latest by the end of the year.

IEA Secretary

Marvin Leathers PSP



The majority is sent out by the end of September.

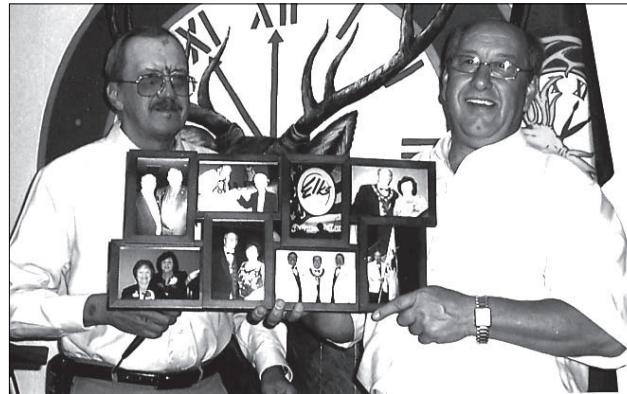
The first round of the \$500 per year for four years have been sent to the students. They will send me the form back and then I will get with the treasurer and see that these are sent out the last of August. There are 176 students in this program.

State dues are coming in and we thank you for that. There are a few still outstanding. I know I will have those dues by August. Thank you again for sending in.

Let's all work hard for Elkdome this year. John has some good programs and some good chairmen to work with this year. It takes all of us working together to have a great year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the National Convention. (I will buy you a drink in the hospitality room.)

Illinois Elks do lead the way!



Pana Lodge held a roast for Darrell Swisher, who concluded his year as 2008-09 IEA president in May. A plethora of past state presidents, state committee chairmen, lodge members and state officers were in attendance. First Vice President Kirk Wallace emceed the roast, replacing Terry Swisher who was sick. Terry had made a great outfit for Brother Darrell. There were many speeches made complimenting Darrell on a great job done, plus a few jokes at his expense. Dave Culbertson of DeKalb Lodge gave Darrell a collage of photos in remembrance of his year in office.

Roast punctuates Darrell's year as IEA president



Projects more critical than ever

Members all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for affording me the chance to serve as your Treasurer for the Illinois Elks Association. Now my task is at hand and with the help of former State Treasurer Brother Charles Campbell, I will do my best to provide a smooth

transition. I'm looking forward to working with the state officers as well as the general membership.

As we all know the economy currently has been, to say the least, a challenge! As a charitable entity, we rely heavily on contributions

from the lodges for the vital support of the good works that we do in the form of scholarships and helping people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

With that said, it's even more critical that your hearts and wallets will allow us to make these wonderful projects and to continue your great track record.

I have already received several dues for the upcoming year, which is a real positive for the association. Again thank you for this great opportunity to serve the Best People on Earth in Illinois.

IEA treasurer

George Hornung



ILLINOIS ELKS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTE

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LouGER from Page 1

rating on our State publication, The Newsette. This is the highest award given by Grand Lodge for excellence and quality and it is well deserved. If you see Joe, be sure to congratulate him on a job well done.

This year has been a challenging one for all of our lodges, especially for our secretaries. The implementation of the Chicago Lodge Membership System has been a task most of you have mastered. I thank and congratulate you for your hard work and dedication. To all of you who volunteered to help other lodges in your district with the new program, you have my deepest appreciation. Also, I would like to

thank Mike Thonn of Rock Island Lodge No. 980 for his help as State Coordinator and special thanks to the staff of the Grand Secretary's Office.

We all know that we are living in extremely tough economic times and it has affected most of our lodge operations. Make sure that your lodge has made the appropriate adjustments in activities, schedules and cost-cutting procedures to ensure that we all survive until better times are here again.

When I made my visits last year, my main priority was to remind folks of the three basic areas that we as Elks hold close to our hearts – commitment to our communities, our Youth and our Veterans. I urge all of you to pick one, two

or all three of these to dedicate your lodge's year to improve the lives of those who are a bit less fortunate than others. I ask you to continue to support the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation and the Elks National Foundation. These entities provide tremendous care and assistance for so many, and when giving do as they say in Cook County, "Give early and give often."

In closing, continue to work hard on our biggest problem in Elkdome, which is membership. Why not revisit your membership records to try to reinstate those ex-members who have been dropped for one reason or another?

Beth and I look forward to visiting with every one of you in September. Until then, God bless.

Web site from Page 1

■ A link to the Grand Lodge's individual Lodge Locator database

Williams said the email system is being utilized well, although mostly in reference to deaths and sickness. Illinois Elks are encouraged to post their state, lodge and district events and to have their local lodge members sign up for the mailing list, which currently stands at 350 members.

A simple email to iea-support@illinois-elks.org

illinois-elks.org including member's name, email address and lodge number is all that is needed to sign up for the distribution list.

Williams is also encouraging lodges to keep their Grand Lodge Web sites up to date.

"There are direct links for each lodge to their Grand Lodge site," he said. "These activities can be placed on the splash page scrolling marquee, and a link will be provided to the Grand Lodge site for further details."

In addition, district webmasters

who do not now have an external Web site and state chairpersons are encouraged to submit their activities and schedules of events to the Web site for publication. Photos and video are highly encouraged.

Lodges and districts that do not have an individual Web site but wish to have one, can get one for less than \$100 a year. Williams said the IEA does not endorse any particular Web site provider, but he could offer suggestions.