

STATE

Lodges recognized for veterans remembrance



Lodge winners for 2008-09 Veterans Remembrance were recognized at the IEA Annual Meeting in May. In the 0-300 membership category were Dolton 2335, first; Chicago South 1596, second; and Cicero-Berwyn 1510, third. For 301-500 member lodges, were Harrisburg 1058, first, Rock Island 980, second; and Bloomington 281, third. For 501-700 member lodges, Macomb 1009, first; Herrin 1146, second; and Oaklawn 2254, third. For 701-1100 members, were Mt. Vernon 819, first; Beardstown 1009, second; and Jerseyville 954, third. For 1101-1500 members, were Mendota 1212, first; Dixon 779, second; and Quincy 100, third. For more than 1501 members, was Des Plaines 1526, first. Representing the lodges, front from left, are: Sheree Morrison of Mt. Vernon 819; Mike Lafferty of Cicero Berwyn 1510; Bill Francis of Macomb 1006, Dolores Dean of Des Plaines 1526 and Larry O'Bryan of Dolton 2335. Back: Dennis Zedalis, chairman of the IEA National Veteran Service, Steve Hill of Mendota 1212, Gerry King of Dixon 779, Lance Burghoffer or Rock Island 980, Jerry Leininger of Bloomington 281, and Rich Mearns and Michael Daukus, both of Oak Lawn 2254.

2009-10 IEA Directory updates

Page 6, 61 – Ray Summers, East Central District Senior Trustee and District Ritual Chairman. His correct phone number is 217-722-4135 and preferred email, col.ray@gmail.com

Pages 8, 19 – Bryan Klatt's fax number is (773)755-4790
Page 9 – Joe Grage, North DDGER — His correct home telephone number is (630) 620-4798.

Page 20 – Past State President Darrell Swisher's email address is now D.Swisher@Illinois-Elks.Org
Pages 9, 42 – Dave Culbertson, Northwest District DDGER and IEA Easter Bunny chairman. His fax number is (815) 562-6540.

Pages 12, 13 – IEA North District meeting should be 1 p.m. Sunday, June 28, 2009, at

Waukegan Lodge 702.
Pages 12, 13 – East Central District meetings Sunday, Aug. 9, 2009, now at Robinson Lodge; Sunday, April 18, 2010, now at Danville Lodge.

Page 32 – Newsette editor Joe Baker's email address is deejayeditor@yahoo.com
Pages 35 and 46 – Michael Metzger's e-mail address is mmetz1933@gmail.com

Page 36 – Americanism, East Central (Area 1), Stan Ridgway, 6670 E. 1625th Ave., Robinson, IL. 62454, phone 618-562-0952, replacing Ed Matson.

Page 42 – Don Mowers, Easter Bunny, East Central, Area 1). His correct email address is Yosam1216@yahoo.com

Secretaries credited for cuts in Newsette postage returns

Mailings of the Illinois Elks Newsette are resulting in fewer postage returns, which are translating into a savings to the Publication Corporation.

The 2009-10 corporation budget approved at the Mid-Winter meeting in January shows a \$500 decline in mail returns, nearly a 30 percent reduction from 2008-09, corporation Chairman Tony Dardano said.

"A special thank you to the Children's Care Corporation staff for helping us decrease the expenses for our mail returns," Dardano said, while cautioning lodge secretaries that the changeover to the Chicago

Lodge Membership System does not relieve their lodges' responsibility for sending in address corrections to the CCC, which maintains the mailing list.

"The CCC cannot access your lists through CLMS, and your continued diligence in this matter is greatly appreciated by the CCC and Publication Corp.," Dardano said.

The 2009-2010 budget approved at the Mid-Winter meeting is based on a projected statewide membership of 35,000, from whom the corporation receives \$1 per capita, along with \$12,000 from the Charitable Trust.

The budget also projects \$400 in advertising revenue, \$800 in interest on savings and \$555 from corporation reserves for total revenue of \$48,755.

The projected balanced budget calls for slight increases in postage and printing, in addition to the reduction in mail returns.

The corporation board also retained both its certified public accountant, Crowder CPA of Danville and current slate of officers for 2009-10. Those officers include Dardano, chairman; Brian Macy, vice chairman; Vicki Williams, treasurer; and Joe Baker, secretary.

Membership decline continues

The IEA suffered a loss of 688 members and counting, State Membership Chairman Bill Durst said in his 2008-09 year-end report.

With four lodges not yet reporting as of May 13, the IEA reported rolls of 34,651, down from last year's 35,339.

"When the remaining lodges report, I am sure it will raise the loss number," Durst said, acknowledging, "A lot of the lodges made a great push at the end of the year. Thank you."

A total of 24 lodges had a gain in membership, while 47 posted losses.

Bugles Across America founder receives national award

Tom Day, founder of Bugles Across America and member of Cicero-Berwyn Lodge, has been named a 2009 recipient of the highest award of the Military Officers Association of America, the Distinguished Service Award.

Day was recognized for his support of veterans by organizing thousands of volunteer buglers at military funerals. The 9-year-old Bugles Across America program receives some support from the Illinois Elks Association.

Day received his award in a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on April 21, along with fellow recipients, U.S. Sen. Jim Webb, U.S. Reps. Susan Davis and John McHugh and singer/song writer Toby Keith.

Bugles Across America has contributed more than 60,000 volunteer hours for veterans since its inception, averaging 1,000 military funerals and other memorials

each month.

The program recently launched its Stolen Dignity Campaign aimed at ensuring that veterans who die are properly honored with a live rendition of Taps instead of a recorded version. Day says the law requires the military to seek out a live player before resorting to a recording.

"Not doing so is dignity stolen," Day says.

In March, Day performed for the West Point Academy reunion at Medinah Country Club, where he met the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki. That performance followed the last reunion of Medal of Honor recipients in September 2008 at Soldier Field, Chicago, and a memorial dedication for the Loyal Order of the Purple Heart in East Peoria in June 2008.

Information about Bugles Across America is available online at buglesacrossamerica.org.



Tom Day, meeting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Shinseki and his wife in March at the West Point Academy reunion at Medinah Country Club.