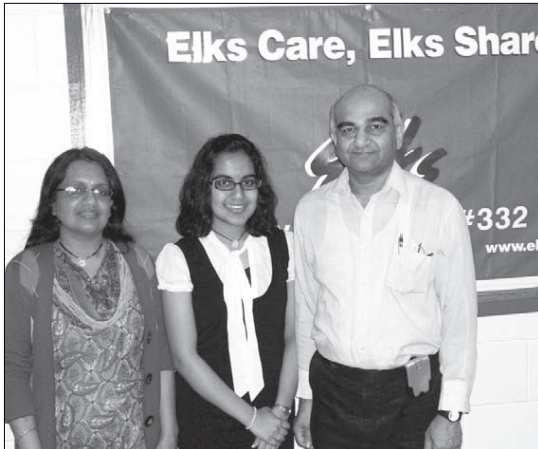


DISTRICT

EAST CENTRAL**Only IEA district to host Ritual Contest wishes Robinson well at National**

Danville Elks Lodge 332 has announced that Madhavi B. Bhavsar of Danville has been awarded a \$4,000 scholarship from the Elks National Foundation 2009 Most Valuable Student Program. Danville Elks honored Madhavi at their Youth Week program in May. Madhavi is accompanied by her family.

East Central District sends its best wishes to Robinson Lodge 1188 in representing the IEA at the Grand Lodge Ritual Competition in July.

East Central is the only IEA district to host a ritual convention, thanks to District Ritual Chairman Ray Summers, according to 2008-09 District Vice President Jim Beebe in his year-end report.

Pana Lodge's net increase of 19 members, along with Robinson's gain, was not enough to offset the district's net loss of 78 members. The district's other five lodges posted losses.

Beebe said he was glad to hear that a new drug trailer has been brought to the area.

"This will help greatly as many times the request for trailer use has fallen on the same date," he said.

All district lodges are actively making donations to the Danville Veterans Administration Hospital, including gifts of clothing, televisions, travel money and reading

material. The lodges also take turns to help Danville Lodge with its monthly bingo parties for veterans.

District-wide lodge support was also evident at the Wreaths Across America program in December in which 67 wreaths were placed on graves of veterans in an effort to "remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom."

Not to be forgotten is the district's commitment to youth activities.

"From an all-night post-prom party for 259 kids from Paris High School, to the We Can Do Anything Club for special needs students at Danville High School, each lodge in our district is deeply involved in youth activities that meet the needs of the kids in their respective communities," Beebe said.

Here are some of the lodge highlights for 2008-09:

■ Champaign-Urbana has constructed a new patio-beer garden in the wake of Illinois' new smoking

ban.

■ Charleston Lodge, which previously showed signs of dissolving, now has a full slate of officers and has been host to two recent district meetings.

■ Danville Lodge is the home of 2008-09 Lady Elk of the Year Sue Dines, the driving force of lodge's annual Going Nuts fundraising campaign.

■ Effingham, with its inventive Baby Knight fundraiser utilizing television and the internet, is home of DD-in-waiting Dean Walden.

■ Pana Lodge, besides its membership gain, is now home of a junior trustee who is not a Swisher – Tom Funk.

■ Paris Lodge is the top ENF donor in the district and sponsored an after-prom for 259 Paris High School students.

■ Robinson Lodge, the aforementioned state ritual champion, will host the district golf outing in August.

WEST**District rekindles lodge support**

After a rough start to the year, things got progressively better for the West District in 2008-09, culminating with what Vice President Michael Frame described as an "eye-popping" 75 percent of required attendance at the last of four district meetings.

"I can't remember the last time the West District had a number like that," he said, adding that 18 of 26 chairmen attended all four district meetings.

In ENF contributions, six of nine lodges exceeded the IEA president's \$5.25 goal – Galesburg, Kewanee, Princeton, Peoria, Pekin and Bloomington lodges.

Donations to the Children's Care Program also proved the district "could hang with any district." In addition, calendar sales were up.

Here are some of the lodge highlights for the year:

■ Bloomington raised \$12,000 for food baskets.

■ Canton held its annual poker run with proceeds going to a veterans home.

■ Kewanee. "What can I say about them. They are kind of the crown jewel of the district, always near the top of everything," Frame said.

■ Galesburg raised \$4,000 for scholarships.

■ Ogelsby has a tremendous Drug Awareness Program.

■ Pekin is active in the deer hide program.

■ Peoria does tremendously in recognizing veterans.

■ Princeton has possibly the best youth activities in the state, Frame said, "with a doozy of a banquet to go with it." Its Christmas basket program also is noteworthy.

■ Frame said he is most proud of leading one of the two IEA districts to be 100 percent in the Drug Awareness Report, admitting, "Of course my opinion is jaded since I am that chairman."

■ The district was one short of 100 percent participation in Hoop Shoot, while two lodges competed in the Soccer Shoot.

to the district's support.

The district also is making greater use of the Drug Awareness trailers and achieved 100 percent participation in the Easter Bunny program.

Northwest District Elks also met a \$1,000 goal to furnish a room at the LaSalle Veterans Home.

"We also were there to help the National Home by purchasing a brick to help their needs," Daley said. "I am proud of the accomplishments of the Northwest District and all of what we represent."



Chicago Northshore Lodge 1316 did more than talk the talk in support of the annual Walk to End Homelessness in Fort Sheridan. The lodge chipped in with a \$1,000 donation. In addition members, from left, Nick Ronzani, Willie Williams, Sandy Thurm and Joe Baker walked the nearly four-mile walk in the nearly 90-degree heat that ushered in the summer on June 20. The walk was sponsored by the United Way-supported Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter Crisis Services organization.

NORTH**All lodges surpass ENF per capita goal**

The North District continued its emphasis on charitable giving during 2008-09. All lodges surpassed the per capita goal for Elks National Foundation donations, and \$27,871 was collected on behalf of the Children's Care program, District Vice President Ed Lundmark said in his year-end report.

In a survey of other district happenings:

The lodge count now stands at seven after the merger of Schaumburg-Elk Grove with Elmhurst Lodge.

Lodges got 200 students to submit entries in the Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest, although none of the three submitted for national judging advanced in the competition.

In the IEA Patriotism Essay Contest, two district lodges participated.

Several lodges used a Drug Awareness trailer in parades and other community functions.

In remembering the veterans, lodges pitched in to host Thanksgiving dinner, pizza parties, hospital and nursing home visits, and donations including a new washer and dryer to Hines VA Hospital.

All district lodges participated in visiting nursing homes during Easter, enabling 1,244 people to welcome the Easter Bunny. They all also submitted a total of 121 applications for various national and state Elks scholarships.

NORTHWEST

Northwest District turned in what Vice President Drake Daley said was a very solid 2008-09.

"With love in our hearts, we were able to help thousands of children and veterans," he said, adding that the district's large Hoop Shoot turnout yielded a national finalist.

The district ENF per capita of \$4.65 topped the GER's goal by 15 cents, and eight students were awarded \$24,000 in scholarships. The Children's Care Program also was \$25,852 richer, thanks