

## President's Message



**Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**

59<sup>th</sup> President Illinois JCI Senate  
618-974-9599

*What a flaming time I am having serving as your 59th president. I tease that I have a village, some older- some younger, but my village is amazing. The outstanding people in the state of Illinois that I have met are the cream of the crop. I am proud of all of you.*

*While in Florida for the winter, we went to Melbourne, FL for US JCI Senate Winter Board. There was a flamboyance of Flamingos there, looking for warmth...we found none!*

*We came home early from our winter in Florida to attend Region 7 Mini National in Pigeon Forge. It was a wonderful time; 15 of our flock was there.*

*An exciting time will be had by all at Spring Fling, our very own Chef Monty's celebration, hosted by Illinois and chaired by Rod Hollenstine #46073 and committee. Best of luck to NVP candidate Lori Tomlin #62797.*

*I hope to see you at the Illinois TOYP and HOF Awards Banquet in Peoria at Embassy Suites, April 10 – 12, 2026.*

*I will be traveling to the following locations, please join me.*

- Topeka, KS for Kansas Region VIII meeting, May 1-3
- Missouri JCI Senate 50th Anniversary, St. Charles, MO, May 15 - 16 Spring Meeting and Election
- US JCI Senate National Meeting - San Antonio June 14 – 19.
- IL JCI Senate Picnic July 24 – 25 – “Let's Flamingle at the Lake”

**Let's Flamingle, Be Social, Have Fun**



## Administrative Vice President



**Maureen K. Niedenthal #67669**  
**Administrative Vice President**  
niedmoe22@gmail.com  
217-274-9858

I'm so excited that winter is behind us and all of the Senate fun of Spring and Summer are in front of us!

Our next meeting with the IL Jaycees is April 10-12 in East Peoria for TOYP and our Senate Elections/Meeting. During TOYP, **Dean Paulcheck #50582** will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. We both got our start with the Woodstock Jaycees.

Thank you to the Admin Team for all of your time and dedication this year.

- **Marsha DeVore #67330, Camp New Hope** - Thank you for attending our Illinois meeting as well as traveling outside of the state! We appreciate the updates on the camp AND the information on how to support CNH throughout the year.
- **Melodie Ainslie #69200/Ray Ainslie #44136, IL/MO Wine Tour** - You make the wine tour look easy, but I know there is so much work done behind the scenes! Thank you for making the event fun for everyone. I loved the flamazing touches you added this year.
- **Greg Hilleary #43305, JCI Liaison - IL Jaycee President Lanna Bartko #83072** knew what she was doing when she asked you to be the connection between our two groups. Congrats on being recognized at the Winter GA by the Jaycees for your dedication!
- **Robbie Johnston #51099, Onto** - I really appreciate you keeping up with the busy Region V schedule so our members know how to get involved!
- **Rod Hollenstine #46073, Spring Fling** - I am so glad **Region V NVP Monty Schroeder #62203** asked you to run his meeting in Springfield, March 27-29. With you at the helm, we are sure to have a top-notch event! Your attention to detail and interest in working with the Jaycees makes each event you run a huge success.
- **Vanessa Birchler #74430, Summer Picnic 2026** - I just know our time in **Carlyle, June 23-26** will be flamazing! I can't wait to celebrate the year with **President Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**.
- **Karen Kopp-Voshel #62305, Wreaths Across America/Flags for Fallen Veterans** - Thank you for your service to our country, Karen. I think that it is so special that you led this charge for Illinois.

Special thanks to **Rod Hollenstine #46073** for accepting the nomination for 2026-2027 Administrative Vice President! You have my vote and my support.



**Illinois JCI Senate President Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**  
**& US JCI Senate President Bruce Sostak #52655**

## Secretary



**Christopher Rick #78649**  
**Secretary**  
crick10101@aol.com  
847-533-0204

Spring has sprung Illinois JCI Senators!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your communications team if you need anything. My contact information is above.

- E-Blast publisher **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615** [maryann-h63@yahoo.com](mailto:maryann-h63@yahoo.com)
- Social media moderator **Kathy Crick #71017** [kcrick-er14@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcrick-er14@sbcglobal.net)
- Forum editor **Joanne Rinaldo #71700** [joanne1232@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1232@gmail.com)
- Webmaster and historian **Ray Ainslie #44136** [rayainslie@frontiernet.net](mailto:rayainslie@frontiernet.net)

Minutes from the Winter Meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Illinois JCI Senate hosts four poker fundraisers each year and they are an important funding source for our organization. All help is definitely appreciated. Our next two events are scheduled:

- Friday, March 27, 2026 at King's Hall Banquets at 1000 IL-53 Suite 40, Lombard, IL 60148 (near I-355 and IL Rt. 64).
- Friday, May 29, 2026 at the Bridgeview Community Center at 7900 S Oketo Avenue, Bridgeview, IL 60455 (near Midway Airport).

Additional details on Poker is located on Page 4 of this newsletter

## Management Vice President



**Rod Hollenstine #46073**  
**Management Vice President**  
rjhollen@comcast.net  
217-741-8372

Please feel free to reach out to any of the Management Team below for any assistance that you might need from their respective area.

- Chaplain: **Bev Olson #42473**
- Constitution and Bylaws: **Chris Curtis #35440**
- Future Directions: **Melodie Ainslie #69200**
- Hospitality: **Bill Patterson #47979 and team**
- Return the Favor: **Karen Helms #57838**
- Senatorship Assistance: **Greg Hilleary #43305**
- SOAR/Freshman Senators: **Mike Birchler #79421**

**Just a few updates for our next meeting-** We will have some Bylaw changes and updates at our meeting in East Peoria April 11, 2026. Your continued support of our Hospitality Crew is appreciated. Additional helping hands are always needed to make hospitality experience more relaxing and enjoyable for all.

Let's all continue to have great year and finish strong. I want to thank the Management TEAM for their time and effort this year.

# Senate Liaison to IL Jaycees

**Greg Hilleary #43305**

Senate Liaison to the Illinois Jaycees  
greg.hilleary@gmail.com

My job as the Senate's Liaison to the Illinois Jaycees will be to continue to maintain the best communications possible between our two organizations. I look forward to the opportunity to attend their monthly Board Meetings and other JCI gatherings. This year's Illinois Jaycees Theme is: Dream Big, Empower Leaders, Inspire Impact. Let's take a moment to introduce you to the 2026 JCI Illinois Leadership Team:

95th Illinois Jaycee State President: Megan O'Brien

Administrative Vice President: Amber Calvert

Programing Vice President: Jason Dick

Membership Vice President: Jon Meadows

North Region Director: Cassie Kolle

Central Region Director: Rianna Hollenstine

Region 5 Regional Director: Caitlin Anderson

Chairman of the Board: **Lanna Bartko #83072**

Chaplain: Rachel Simonis

Parliamentarian: Zach Kulig

State Events Program Manager: Taylor Thulon

PMG Program Manager: **Sarah McKillop #81188**

Individual Awards Program Manager: Casey Siani

United to Beat Malaria Program Manager: Paige Cooper

Presidential Assistants: Austin Harris and Emily Meadows

Advisors: **Mike Birchler #79421** and **Jessie Neighbors #82669**

Administrative Director: **Cheryl Knoche #57395**

Please let me know if there is any information you would like from the Illinois Jaycees or if there is any information you would like me to share with them. Please check our bi-monthly E-Blast. I try to bring you the most current information on upcoming Jaycee projects and events for your benefit. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks!

## Chaplain's Report

**Bev Olson #42473**

IL Senate Chaplain  
jdobev@gmail.com  
708-373-3710

Please take a moment in the next few days to do an act of kindness. A smile, a "good morning," a door held open, a person allowed to go in front of you in line, a "how are you today," all can make another person feel good and in turn inspire that person to do the same to another. We all know the ripple effect, so let's start one every so often. It only takes a moment, but can give many good feelings as it's passed forward.

# Constitution and Bylaws Committee

**Chris Curtis #35440**

Constitution & Bylaws  
clc35440@gmail.com

Below are two proposed By-Law changes that will be brought to the membership for approval at the Illinois Senate meeting April 11, 2026, in East Peoria. Both are housekeeping changes. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or to Committee Members Brian Ziegler #42479 or Kay DeGroot #73333.

## ARTICLE VI - AUDITING

~~Section 5. At the Summer business meeting in 2013 held at the beginning of their fiscal year, the 2013-2014 President will appoint three members to the audit committee. One member will be appointed for a one-year term, one for a two-year term and one for a three-year term. This section will become void after August 1, 2013.~~

## ARTICLE XVI – FINANCES

Section 1. At the end of each fiscal year, any outstanding balances in the General Fund up to ~~\$5~~ ~~\$7~~ times the dues paid membership number as of June 30, not less than ~~\$3,500~~ **\$5,000**, will remain in the General Fund as a transfer of funds from that fiscal year to the next fiscal year. Any outstanding balances, greater than the above calculated amount, will be transferred to the Contingency Reserve Fund. If the total amount of the Contingency Reserve Fund has been satisfied, the remaining amount will be transferred to the Life Account Fund.

## Note from Maureen Niedenthal

During the Winter IL JCI Senate meeting, I had the honor of accepting the nomination for 2026 - 2027 IL JCI Senate President from **Monty Schroeder #62203** and **Wayne Kiefer #36498**. Many years ago, I was asked if I wanted to "move up" and I didn't. At the time, I was working and had very few vacation days to use on Senate events. Well, retirement has changed my world! **Mark Niedenthal #39701** and I have been traveling up a storm! We love going to Region V events and beyond.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in East Peoria for our Spring Senate Meeting/Elections/TOYP April 10-12. If you have any questions for me or would like to get involved in the fun, please don't hesitate to reach out and we can chat! Someone has already shown interest in the Management VP position, but we're actively getting our ducks in a row, looking for a Secretary, many RD spots, and a whole slue of positions on the committees. I wanted to thank and congratulate people who accepted nominations for the 2026-2027 board:

**Rod Hollenstine #46073** – Administrative Vice President

**MaryAnn Hilleary #46605** – Treasurer

**Tony Symoniak #66367** – Northeast RD

**Monty Schroeder #62203** & **Chris Stierwalt #52938** – SERVE RD

**Robbie Johnston #51099** – South Central RD

Thank you for your help and support!

# Poker Fundraisers

**Christopher Rick #78649**

**Secretary**

crick10101@aol.com

847-533-0204

The Illinois JCI Senate hosts four of these fundraisers each year and they are an important funding source for our organization.

These events run from 2:00 PM until approximately 1:00 AM. Volunteers for the Opening Shift and Middle Shift will be selling tournament entries during your shift while the Closing Shift will mostly be waiting for the tournaments to finish. We do not exchange chips for cash. If you would like more details on what volunteering entails, please contact me.

Please review the available shifts on SignUpGenius and sign up for your favorite.

**Friday, March 27, 2026:** Lombard, IL

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449A4A622A6F94-62523996-poker#/>

**Friday, May 29, 2026:** Bridgeview, IL

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449A4A622A6F94-62524045-poker#/>

All help is definitely appreciated. Thank you!

## IJCF

**Kathy Crick #71017**

President, IJCF

kcricker14@sbcglobal.net

Wow and Thank You! During the Winter GA, the IL JCI Senate made a remarkable \$20,000 donation to the IJCF Scholarship (Olson) Fund. This scholarship supports Illinois high school seniors, with recipients advancing to the US JCI Senate Foundation for national consideration. Your generosity ensures our commitment to this important program for an additional 10 years — a lasting investment in students and in the future of our communities.

We are proud to announce the 2026 IJCF Scholarship (Olson) winners:

- **Emma Johnson – Belleville, Illinois** Emma plans to study Elementary Education at Murray State University.
- **Carter Bohm – Galesburg, Illinois** Carter plans to study Biology at St. Ambrose University, with the goal of becoming a Physician's Assistant.

In addition, the East Region Scholarship Winner is

- **Ella Acton – Rossville, Illinois** Ella plans to attend Danville Area Community College to study Speech and Language Pathology.

The Illinois Jaycees Charitable Foundation's Annual Meeting will be held April 10–12 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria, Illinois. The Hall of Fame Committee has announced the 2026 inductee: **Dean Paulcheck #50582**, former member of the Woodstock Jaycees and now residing in Florida. Congratulations to Dean on this well-deserved recognition.

# Tony's Fundraising Fun

**Tony Symoniak #66367**

Mr. Fundraiser

jaycees69@msn.com

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's IL Basketball Squares fundraiser! Your continued support makes these events a success and helps us reach our fundraising goals.

Here is a recap on the winner's from the 10 games:

**Dec 22 – Missouri** Halftime (\$40) - Chuck McFarlin; Reverse (\$15) - Donna Ward; Final (\$75) - David Hussung; Reverse (\$15) - Bill Patterson

**Dec 29 - Southern U** Halftime (\$40) - Ron Kimmet; Reverse (\$15) - Bev Olson; Final (\$75) - Donna Ward; Reverse (\$15) - Mark Niedenthal

**Jan 8 – Rutgers** Halftime (\$40) - Lori Tomlin; Reverse (\$15) - Jenny Burner; Final (\$75) - Diane Rakers; Reverse (\$15) - Norm Hoffman

**Jan 14 – Northwestern** Halftime (\$40) - Donna Ward; Reverse (\$15) - Jenny Burner; Final (\$75) - Kay DeGroot; Reverse (\$15) - Jan Birt

**Jan 21 – Maryland** Halftime (\$40) - Chuck McFarlin; Reverse (\$15) - Tricia Buehne; Final (\$75) - Herman Schwantz; Reverse (\$15) - Christina Hintze-Symoniak

**Jan 29 – Washington** Halftime (\$40) - Allison Geddes; Reverse (\$15) - Kay DeGroot #2; Final (\$75) - Chris Stierwalt; Reverse (\$15) - Brian Ziegler

**Feb 1 – Nebraska** Halftime (\$40) - Chris Stierwalt; Reverse (\$15) - Chris Curtis; Final (\$75) - Chuck McFarlin; Reverse (\$15) - Maureen Niedenthal

**Feb 7 - Michigan St** Halftime (\$40) - Jan Birt; Reverse (\$15) - Darcia DeGroot; Final (\$75) - Sara Schwantz; Reverse (\$15) - Ron Kimmet

**Feb 15 – Indiana** Halftime (\$40) - Rodney Smith; Reverse (\$15) - Zac Wysoglad; Final (\$75) - Mark Niedenthal; Reverse (\$15) - Mark Niedenthal

**Feb 21 – UCLA** Halftime (\$40) - Vanessa Birchler; Reverse (\$15) - Diane Rakers; Final (\$75) - Chris Curtis; Reverse (\$15) - Rodney Smit

## Lotto Fundraiser Results

The Lotto Fundraiser will officially conclude once this newsletter is published, with all winners to be announced in the next edition. As of February 21, we have had a winner each day. This year's fundraiser was especially successful — the largest in the five years it has been running — with 844 tickets sold and a total income of \$4,220. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and helped make this year's fundraiser such a tremendous success.

## March Madness Squares

March Madness begins Thursday, March 19. Squares are \$20 each, and participants have until March 17 to purchase any remaining squares. As of February 22, 30 squares remain available. New numbers will be drawn each round, and winners will be posted on Facebook after every round of play.

I continue working closely with Treasurer MaryAnne to ensure all prize money from current fundraisers is distributed within two weeks or less.

Thank you again for your continued support — and good luck in March Madness!

**Next Senate Meeting - April 11, 2026**

Embassy Suites --- East Peoria, IL

[Spring GA and TOYP | IL Jaycees](#)

# IL Jaycee President

# US JCI Senate Foundation Auction

## Megan O'Brien

95th Illinois Jaycees State President  
megan.obrien@iljaycees.org

The 2025 Year-End GA is in the books, and it was an absolute blast!

We had GREAT socials on both Friday and Saturday. Our training sessions were enlightening and gave us a lot to think about and bring back to our chapters and personal lives. We celebrated our third trimester and 2025 year all weekend!

Jesica Dick of the Menard County Jaycees was awarded a Senatorship at the luncheon to kick things off. Congratulations Jesica!

To close out the weekend, several attendees headed south to help out at the New Baden Jaycees Wings Extravaganza, which made a triumphant return this year.

## Roxy Hollenstine #78247

US JCI Senate Foundation Auction  
hollenstine@comcast.net

The annual Spring Fling US JCI Senate Foundation Auction will be held at the upcoming Spring Fling, March 27<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup>. Please be thinking about any items you could donate to the auction. Remember, the funds raised go directly to the Foundation's Scholarship program.

This program helps outstanding students to further their education. If you know will be able to make a donation of an auction item(s), I would appreciate if you would drop me a quick email at hollenstine@comcast.net.

Specifics of the donation are not needed, but I do want to be sure there are enough tables available and set up. All your efforts are very appreciated.



Upper Left Photo: **Jesica Dick #84681** receiving her Senatorship during the Year End GA. Left to Right: Jessica's parents-Kieth and Ann Judy, **Jesica Dick #84681**, Jason Dick, **Eric Hiatt #81434** and **Lanna Bartko #83072**

Upper Right Photo: IL JCI Senate President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** with IL Jaycee President Megan O'Brien

Bottom Photo: Senators Return the Favor at the New Baden Jaycees Wings Extravaganza . Front Row: **Wayne Huelsmann #30592**, **Sandi Harpstrite #65882**, **Josh Buck #79419**, **Cindy Ogden #73418**, **Vanessa Birchler #74430**; Back Row: **George Lyons #84285**, **Wayne Kiefer #36498**, **Karen Thoele #84284**, **Brad Dulle #79420**, **Terry Neiman #79418**, **Dave Rudy #46183**, **Michael Birchler #79421**



# ILLINOIS JCI SENATE

## February 7, 2026

### Minutes



MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:32 AM by President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**

INVOCATION: **Rod Hollenstine #46073**

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE: Veterans and First Responders

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: **Denny Birt #37116**

**Wayne Kiefer #36498**

**Wayne Huelsmann #30592**

**Denny Birt #37116**

**Norm Hoffman #25676**

**Jack Ward #53585**

**Greg Hilleary #43305**

**Monty Schroder #62203**

**Marilyn Burton #55106**

**Bill Patterson #47979**

**Robbie Johnston #51099**

**Lynne McGill #70364**

**MaryAnn Hilleary #64615**

**Judson DeVore #65005**

**Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**

**Bethanie Miller #82286** JCI USA IPP

**Lanna Bartko #83072** Illinois Jaycees IPP

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED:

**Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** would like to add **Wayne Kiefer #36498** under New Business.

**Motion to approve Agenda as amended by Christopher Stierwalt #52938, Second by Wayne Huelsmann #30592. Motion passed.**

2026 95<sup>TH</sup> IL JCI STATE PRESIDENT: Megan O'Brian

I am really excited to work with all of you this year. State President Megan presented President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** with a small gift. President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** presented State President Megan with a small gift.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - **Chris Rick #78649**:

1) Approval of Meeting Minutes October 4, 2025

**Motion to approve Minutes from the 2025-2026 Fall Meeting by Wayne Kiefer #36498, Second by Monty Schroder #62203. Motion passed.**

2) E-Blast – **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615**: Issues come out the 1st and 15th of every month. Please email me your submissions by NOON on the 14th and 30th.

3) FORUM – **Joanne Rinaldo #71700** (Absent, **Chris Rick #78649** reporting): FORUM is delivered 30 days prior to the next meeting. Submission deadline for the next issue is February 22, 2026.

4) Social Media – **Kathy Crick #71017**: Please remember to like your posts.

5) Website – **Ray Ainslie #44136**: Please contact me if you have anything.

6) Historian – **Ray Ainslie #44136**: Please contact me if you have anything.

**Motion to accept report by Lynne McGill #70364, Second by Christopher Stierwalt #52938. Motion passed.**

TREASURER'S REPORT – **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615**:

1) Approval of Treasurer report

**Motion to approve the Treasurer Report by Christopher Stierwalt #52938, Second by Wayne Huelsmann #30592. Motion passed.**

2) Audit committee – **Marilyn Burton #55106**: Audit committee met last night. Please grab a new report since the numbers have been updated since the Forum.

3) Finance committee – **Wayne Kiefer #36498**: We got money

4) Membership Info Exchange – **Kathy Crick #71017**:

This is a Directory year. Please send me your updates. Please reach out if you have an hour of time to search for updated contact info or obituaries on missing life members.

5) Fundraising...

- a) Birdies for Charity - Final Report – **Wayne Huelsmann #30592**: Check for \$1597 is in the mail. 2026 Birdies for Charity starts in April.
- b) LOTTO – **Tony Symoniak #66367**: Thank you to those who have bought tickets. We sold a new record 844 tickets this year.
- c) Illinois Basketball Pool – **Tony Symoniak #66367**: Pool has been going well.
- d) March Madness Pool – **Tony Symoniak #66367**: Tickets are \$20 with the Senate keeping half. 24 squares have been sold so far with 76 squares remaining.
- e) Poker – **Chris Rick #78649**: No report.
- f) Products – **Heather Ulrich #72836**: Reach out if you need to order anything.
- g) Raise Right (Gift Cards) – **Vanessa Birchler #74430** (Absent, President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** reporting): Year to date profit is \$1035. Raise Right has a new “local eats” feature that allows you to buy food gift certificates.
- h) Silent Auction - Final Report – **Kay DeGroot #73333**: We made over \$1200 dollars. A detailed report was in the last FORUM.

**Motion to accept report by Tony Symoniak #66367, Second by Donna Ward #53588. Motion passed.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE VP REPORT – Maureen Niedenthal #67669:**

- 1) Camp New Hope – **Marsha DeVore #67330**: Camp cleanup day is May 9, 2026. Please let me know if you are planning on going.
- 2) IL/MO Wine Tour - Final Report – **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**: Wine tour was one of the best. The Vulture Fest was interesting. 37 people attended. Profit was \$78.20 to Camp New Hope. Missouri JCI Senate will be hosting in 2026.
- 3) JCI Liaison – **Greg Hilleary #43305**: Illinois Jaycees Programming VP Jason Dick wants to run an ID project called Speak Up and Tell at the April Meeting. They are looking for three Ambassadors or Senators to help with judging.
- 4) **Onto – Robbie Johnston #51099**:  
February 19-22, 2026 US JCI Senate Region VII Mini National in Pigeon Forge, TN.  
March 27-29, 2026 US JCI Senate Region V Spring Fling in Springfield, IL.  
May 1-3, 2026 President Susie will be attending US JCI Senate Region VIII in Topeka KS.  
June 14-18, 2026 San Antonio US JCI Senate National Meeting.
- 5) **Spring Fling – Rod Hollenstine #46073**:  
Held March 27-29, 2026 at Northfield Inn in Springfield, Illinois. Please book your rooms: the room block for Spring Fling will be released on March 1st. Rod is working on getting some good food to impress Chef Monty. **Donna Baker #67041** and **Robbie Johnston #51099** are handling hospitality: they are looking for assistance with snacks and desserts.
- 6) **Summer Picnic 2026 – Vanessa Birchler #74430** (Absent, President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** reporting): Summer Picnic 2026 will be held in Carlyle, Illinois. Get your room early. The block is filling up. Cabins have all been reserved, but there are still rooms left in the block. The Army Corps of Engineers will be hosting a tour of the dam.
- 7) **Wreaths Across America/Flags for Fallen Veterans – Karen Kopp Voshel #62305** (Absent, **Maureen Niedenthal #67669** reporting): The national organization keeps track of performance. Illinois did really well, but did not place at the national level. Make sure to purchase your wreaths through official channels so we get credit.

**Motion to accept report by MaryAnn Hilleary #64615, Second by Kay DeGroot #73333. Motion passed.**

**MANAGEMENT VP REPORT – Rod Hollenstine #46073:**

- 1) **Chaplain's Report – Bev Olson #42473** (Absent, **Rod Hollenstine #46073** reporting): Please reach out if you need anything.
- 2) **Constitution and Bylaws – Chris Curtis #35440** (Absent, **Rod Hollenstine #46073** reporting): Constitution and Bylaw changes need to be finished prior to the February 22, 2026 FORUM deadline due to the Spring meeting being early this year.
- 3) **Future Directions – Melodie Ainslie #69200**: No report.
- 4) **Hospitality – Bill Patterson #47979**: I apologize for not knowing where the paper products went.
- 5) **Return the Favor – Karen Helms #57838** (absent, **Rod Hollenstine #46073** reporting): Thank you for donating to the Menard County Jaycees Menard County Micro Pantry project.
- 6) **Senatorship Assistance – Greg Hilleary #43305**: We received an application for Senatorship Assistance.
- 7) **SOAR / Freshman Senators – Mike Birchler #79421**: No report.

**Motion to accept report by Wayne Huelsmann #30592, Second by Donna Baker #67041. Motion passed.**

**REGION DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

South Central RD **Donna Baker #67041** reported her region is providing Monical's pizza for lunch today at 11:30 AM.

NEW BUSINESS

1) 2026-2027 NOMINATIONS – Judson DeVore #65005:

Motion to open nominations by Greg Hilleary #43305, Second by Christopher Stierwalt #52938. Motion Passed.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>
Fox Valley Region	Open		
North Region	Open		
Northeast Region	<b>Tony Symoniak #66367</b>	<b>Donna Ward #53588</b>	<b>Jack Ward #53585</b>
Northwest Region	<b>Norm Hoffman #25676</b>	<b>Terry Barker #40979</b>	<b>Bill Patterson #47979</b>
Prairieland Region	Open		
SxSW Region	Open		
South Central Region	<b>Robbie Johnston #51099</b>	<b>Kay DeGroot #73333</b>	<b>Donna Baker #67041</b>
Serve Region	<b>Monty Schroder #62203</b>	<b>Denny Birt #37116</b>	<b>Greg Hilleary #43305</b>
Serve Region	<b>Chris Stierwalt #52938</b>	<b>Denny Birt #37116</b>	<b>Greg Hilleary #43305</b>
Secretary	Open		
Treasurer	<b>MaryAnn Hilleary #64615</b>	<b>Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137</b>	<b>Maureen Niedenthal #67669</b>
Administrative VP	<b>Rod Hollenstine #46073</b>	<b>Wayne Kiefer #36498</b>	<b>Robbie Johnston #51099</b>
Management VP	Open		
President	<b>Maureen Niedenthal #67669</b>	<b>Monty Schroder #62203</b>	<b>Wayne Kiefer #36498</b>

Motion to postpone to the next meeting by Greg Hilleary #43305, Second by Christopher Stierwalt #52938. Motion adopted.

2) Illinois Jaycee Charitable Foundation Donation – Wayne Kiefer #36498:

Finance committee met yesterday. Our Life Account investment funds have grown by over \$30,000 in the last year and now we have too much money.

Motion to donate \$20,000 from investment growth in our Life Account during 2025 to the Illinois Jaycee Charitable Foundation. Donation is to be restricted to the Olsen Scholarship program to sustain its important existence. Scholarships awarded to not exceed the current number of scholarships awarded: two scholarships for academics, and one scholarship for trade schools, not to exceed \$1000 per scholarship. This is a one-time donation from the Life Account of the Illinois JCI Senate.

First by Monty Schroder #62203, Second by Wayne Huelsmann #30592. Motion passed

ILLINOIS JAYCEES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION – Kathy Crick #71017:

Bubba scholarship deadline is coming up on March 1, 2026.

\$2500 to Chatham Jaycees for installing a wheelchair ramp at the stage in the park.

\$2500 to Addieville Jaycees to retrofit their building for ADA accessibility.

50/50 RAFFLE – Robbie Johnston #51099:

Jack Ward #53585 received \$63.00.

PRESIDENTIAL SWEEPSTAKES RAFFLE – Greg Hilleary #43305:

Tickets are \$10 each or 6/\$50

Winners were Tony Symoniak #66367, Bill Patterson #47979, and Kay DeGroot #73333.

HIGH/LOW SENATE NUMBER AWARDS – Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137:

Highest Senate Number was Dawn Stangle #81506

Lowest Senate Number was Wayne Huelsmann #30592

President Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137 presented each of them with a small gift, including a lotto ticket.

SPECIAL GUESTS COMMENTS:

- 1) US JCI Senate National Vice President - Region V – Monty Schroeder #62203: Sherrie and I have logged over 6700 miles so far this year. I am looking forward to seeing everybody at Spring Fling in Springfield next month. Kentucky purchased \$130 of raffle tickets last week.
- 2) JCI USA IPP – Bethanie Miller #82286: I am incredibly fortunate to have gotten to know all of you. Thank you for all of your support. Illinois Jaycees ended 2025 at plus 46 members and JCI USA at plus 286 members.
- 3) Illinois Jaycees IPP – Lanna Bartko #83072: Thank you for showing up to support the Illinois Jaycees. The new Senate Liaison position has been a great success. Growth was at 8% and retention was at 80% in 2025. Lanna Bartko #83072 presented a challenge coin to Denny Birt #37116.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD – Judson DeVore #65005: No report.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- 1) **Marsha DeVore #67330** says there are three wish lists on the website for Camp New Hope.
- 2) **Norm Hoffman #25676** just finished his book "A Family of Soldiers."
- 3) **Maureen Niedenthal #67669** thanked everyone for their support.

**PRESIDENTS COMMENTS – Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137:**

Illinois Jaycees will be presenting a Senatorship at their lunch program immediately after this meeting. It would be nice to see as many of you as possible at the presentation.

Thank you to the Northeast Region who provided Friday dinner, Serve Region who provided snacks, Northwest Region who provided Saturday breakfast, and South Central Region who provided Saturday lunch.

**Motion to Adjourn at 11:18 AM by Wayne Huelsmann #30592, Second by Denny Birt #37116. Motion passed.**  
**ADJOURN WITH JAYCEE CREED: Secretary Chris Rick #78649.**

Respectfully submitted by **Chris Rick #78649**, Illinois JCI Senate Secretary.



*Top Photo: US JCI Mini National in Pigeon Forge: From Left to Right: **Roxy Hollenstine #78247, Marilyn Burton #55106, Wayne Huelsmann #30592, Monty Schroeder #62203, Sherrie Schroeder Senate Friendship #52, Chris Curtis #35440, Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, Wayne Kiefer #36498, Joan Travis #76201, Karen Kopp-Voshel #63205, Donna Baker #67041, Rod Hollenstine #46073, Terry Kolaz #68698, Lena Thom, Jasmine Thom, Chris Travis #55435, Lara Thom #83098, Robbie Johnston #51099, Phyllis Bowers. #51430.***

*Bottom Left Photo: **Greg Hilleary #43305** serving as emcee at IL Jaycee year end Banquet.*

*Bottom Right Photo: **Monty Schroeder #62203, Bruce Sostak #52655 & Sherrie Schroeder Senate Friendship #52** all dress up for the 3 Ring Circus in Pigeon Forge.*



2025-2026 Budget  
Approved on 07/26/2025

as of  
02-23-2026

Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, President  
MaryAnn Hilleary #64615, Treasurer

INCOME							
	July - Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June			
	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total	Budget	Variance
Balance Forward	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$5,130.00	\$ 5,130.00
<b>Dues</b>							
IL JCI Membership Dues - Annual (55 x 30)	\$275.00	\$640.00	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,040.00	\$1,650.00	\$ 610.00
IL JCI Membership Dues - Life (3 x 250)	\$300.00	\$1,040.00	\$490.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,830.00	\$750.00	\$ (1,080.00)
<b>Fundraisers</b>							
50/50 Drawings	\$419.00	\$134.00	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$ 678.00	\$360.00	\$ (318.00)
Birdies for Charity	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$1,579.50	\$0.00	\$ 1,679.50	\$1,500.00	\$ (179.50)
Illinois Basketball Squares	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$ -
Lotto Raffle	\$0.00	\$1,645.00	\$2,485.00	\$0.00	\$ 4,130.00	\$3,000.00	\$ (1,130.00)
March Madness Pool	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$420.00	\$0.00	\$ 420.00	\$2,000.00	\$ 1,580.00
Poker	\$2,495.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,495.00	\$15,000.00	\$ 12,505.00
Raise Right	\$926.92	\$932.76	\$156.64	\$0.00	\$ 2,016.32	\$2,000.00	\$ (16.32)
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$1,233.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,233.00	\$1,500.00	\$ 267.00
<b>Non-Fundraisers</b>							
Camp New Hope	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 110.00	\$640.00	\$ 530.00
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$935.00	\$610.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,545.00	\$2,000.00	\$ 455.00
IL/MO Wine Tour	\$1,275.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,425.00	\$2,400.00	\$ 975.00
Misc. Income	\$0.56	\$1,898.72	\$1.44	\$0.00	\$ 1,900.72	\$0.00	\$ (1,900.72)
Newsletter Support - Forum	\$63.00	\$38.00	\$27.00	\$0.00	\$ 128.00	\$200.00	\$ 72.00
Products	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$400.00	\$ 400.00
Spring Fling 2026	\$0.00	\$1,260.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$ 5,760.00	\$2,500.00	\$ (3,260.00)
<b>US JCI</b>							
Newsletter Support - Mentors	\$148.00	\$148.00	\$54.00	\$0.00	\$ 350.00	\$280.00	\$ (70.00)
US JCI Presidential Sweepstakes	\$310.00	\$105.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$ 515.00	\$700.00	\$ 185.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$6,312.48</b>	<b>\$12,769.48</b>	<b>\$10,673.58</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,755.54</b>	<b>\$44,510.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,754.46</b>

## Forum Patrons

Thanks to all the Senators that make a donation to the Forum at the Senate meetings by contributing a \$1. It helps offset the printing and mailing costs for Senators who have not signed up for email versions.

Donna Baker #67041  
Terry Barker #40979  
Denny Birt #37116  
Marilyn Burton #55106  
Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137  
Kay DeGroot #73333  
Judson DeVore #65005  
Marsha DeVore #67330  
Greg Hilleary #43305  
MaryAnn Hilleary #64615  
Norm Hoffman #25676  
Rod Hollenstine #46073  
Roxanna Hollenstine #78247  
Wayne Huelsmann #30592  
Robbie Johnston #51099  
Wayne Kiefer #36498



Top Photo: Left to Right -Mark Niedenthal #39701, Maureen Niedenthal #67669, Barb Paulcheck & Dean Paulcheck #50582



Left Photo: Left to Right -Sandi Harpstrite #65882 and Tony Symoniak #66367



2025-2026 Budget  
Approved on 07/26/2025



as of  
02-23-2026



Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, President  
MaryAnn Hilleary #64615, Treasurer

**EXPENSES**

	July - Sept.	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - Mar.	Apr. - June			
	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total	Budget	Variance
<b>Dues</b>							
Lifetime Membership	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
US JCI Membership Dues (733 x 7)	\$742.00	\$1,582.00	\$1,309.00	\$0.00	\$ 3,633.00	\$ 5,130.00	\$ 1,497.00
<b>Fundraisers</b>							
50-50 Drawings	\$210.00	\$67.00	\$63.00	\$0.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 200.00	\$ (140.00)
Birdies for Charity	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Illinois Basketball Squares	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Lotto Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
March Madness Pool	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Poker	\$1,469.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,469.75	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,530.25
Raise Right	\$828.10	\$250.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,078.39	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (78.39)
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Non-Fundraisers</b>							
Camp New Hope	\$0.00	\$188.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 188.20	\$ 640.00	\$ 451.80
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$376.63	\$570.34	\$0.00	\$ 946.97	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,053.03
IL/MO Wine Tour	\$0.00	\$2,696.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 2,696.80	\$ 2,400.00	\$ (296.80)
Products	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Spring Fling 2026	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Operating</b>							
Forum Expenses	\$232.39	\$0.00	\$218.00	\$0.00	\$ 450.39	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 549.61
Misc. Expenses	\$2.79	\$29.79	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$ 132.58	\$ -	\$ (132.58)
Name Tags - New Life Members/New Members	\$48.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 48.79	\$ 55.00	\$ 6.21
Name Tags - Officers	\$73.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 73.25	\$ 75.00	\$ 1.75
Paper	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Postage	\$78.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 78.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 172.00
Senate Directory	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Website	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
<b>Presidential</b>							
Presidential Awards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Presidential Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,217.18	\$0.00	\$ 2,217.18	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,782.82
<b>Sponsorships</b>							
Illinois Members Officer Support	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ (250.00)
Misc. Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Region V	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 100.00	\$ 87.50
Regions Party	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
US JCI Foundation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
US JCI Presidential Sweepstakes Prize	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
<b>US JCI</b>							
National Guest Expense	\$1,106.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ 1,106.72	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 393.28
Newsletter Support - Mentors	\$148.00	\$148.00	\$54.00	\$0.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 280.00	\$ (70.00)
US JCI Presidential Sweepstakes Tickets	\$310.00	\$105.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$ 515.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 185.00
Balance to 2026-2027	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 5,130.00	\$ 5,130.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,612.29</b>	<b>\$5,543.71</b>	<b>\$4,631.52</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$15,787.52</b>	<b>\$44,510.00</b>	<b>\$28,722.48</b>

Other Funds	Designee	Amount	Balance as of
Contingency	Wayne Kiefer	\$7,500.00	12-31-2025
Convention	Wayne Kiefer	\$10,000.00	12-31-2025
Illinois JCI Convention 2025	Brian Zeigle	\$0.00	01-02-2026
Life Funds	Wayne Kiefer	\$169,378.35	12-31-2025
Lost Senators (Savings) - US Bank	MaryAnn Hilleary	\$4,441.71	02-22-2026
General Funds Checkbook - IFSL	MaryAnn Hilleary	\$13,462.58	02-23-2026
General Funds Checkbook - US Bank	MaryAnn Hilleary	\$14,343.70	02-22-2026



**Kay DeGroot #73333 and Sherrie Schroeder Senate Friendship #52**



# Flamingle at the Lake

Mariner's Village - 1 Resort Drive, Carlyle, Illinois

July 23-26, 2026

Hosted by South by Southwest Region

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Senate #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Senate #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration	# _____	@ \$75 =	_____
Full Child Registration	# _____	@ \$25 =	_____
Thursday Early Hospitality	# _____	@ \$20 =	_____
Friday Only	# _____	@ \$35 =	_____
Saturday Only	# _____	@ \$55 =	_____
Bar Burgers	# _____	@ \$20 =	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>			_____

Saturday Dinner: Pork Steak # \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken # \_\_\_\_\_

Golf \*\*\*TO BE ANNOUNCED AND PAID DIRECTLY TO GOLF COURSE\*\*\*

Room Accommodations: All room reservations made directly through hotel – (618) 594-7666

Room Rates: 1 Queen \$114 +tax/night – 2 Queen \$134 + tax/night

Cabins \$272 + tax/night

**GROUP CODE: JCI**

Good through June 12, 2026

Mail registration to:  
 Vanessa Birchler #74430  
 106 N. Hanover  
 Okawville, IL 62271  
 618-698-6907  
[Vbirchler09@gmail.com](mailto:Vbirchler09@gmail.com)

**Make Check payable to:  
 Gateway Region Senate**

Stay up to date by joining the Facebook  
 Event: Illinois JCI Senate Picnic 2026

# Let's Flamingle, Be Social and Have Fun.

## The Jaycee Creed

WE BELIEVE:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;

That government should be of laws rather than of men;

That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;

And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

-C. William Brownfield #19



Photos by number:

1. Terry Kolaz #68698, Daniel Ranachowski #78103 & Maureen Niedenthal #67669
2. Maxine Wallish #68012 & Russ Cooper #4638
3. Sherrie Schroeder Senate Friendship #52 & Monty Schroeder #62203
4. Mark Niedenthal #39701, Stephanie Pittenger #59999 & Maureen Niedenthal #67669

5. Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137 & Ruby Weymouth #67303
6. Lanna Bartko #83072 & Denny Birt #37116
7. Chris Curtis #35440, Susan Hatcher #58143 & Wayne Kiefer #36498
8. Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137 & Brian Wiite #68535