

[View this email in your browser](#)



Illinois JCI Senate

E-Blast

August 1, 2026

Hello Senators & Friends!

I am still trying to catch my breath after all the fun we had in Carlyle, IL, at the Summer Picnic last weekend. Special thanks to **Vanessa Birchler #74431** and her incredible team. Congrats to **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** on having such a flamazing year! My dad and sister had a great time! Thank you for making them feel welcome.

IL JCI Senate Summer Picnic in Numbers

- * 109 people registered, but lots more attended
- * 14 Senators golfed on Friday - Thank you, **Bill Patterson #47979!**
- * At least 20 more Senators stopped by throughout the weekend who haven't been to a meeting in years!
- * 61 people experienced **The Blue Room**, which included 4 generations of Olsons
- * 2 Buses and at least 5 carloads full of people bar-hopped Friday - Thank you, **Ray Ainslie #44136** & **Melodie Ainslie #69200!**
- * **66 Sweepstakes tickets were sold!** - Thank you, **Mark Niedenthal #39701** & **Sherrie Schroeder FR #52**
- * More than 109 people at Bar Burgers raised **\$625 for scholarships** - Thank you, **Bev Olson #42473**, **JDO #35308**, & **Travis Barker**
- * 70 Ducks were sold for Wheelchairs 4 Kids - **\$500 was raised** and **Tom Hendrix**

Robbie Johnston #51099!

- * 20 balloons were popped for Camp New Hope and raised **\$150**
- * 3 boat rides taken - Thank you, **Doug Jansen #52466!**
- * Memorial Service honored 10 Senators we lost from July 2025 - June 2026 and 8 more Senators who were lost prior - Thank you, **Bev Olson #42473!**
- * 10 friends of the late **Gary "Hongsie" Hongsermeier #39708** went to his grave to do a shot of Jack with him
- * More than 25 people made beautiful jewelry Saturday morning
- * IN Pres **John Pflug #83097**, KY Pres **Daryle Karnes #60611**, & OH Pres **Mitch Schoonover #59758** attended!
- * **Senators and friends from 13 other states: AZ, IA, IN, FL, KS, KY, MI, MO, OH, PA, TN, TX, VA**
- * **14 "green shirt" national guests in attendance**
- * 10 Past IL Jaycee Presidents in attendance + 1 current President - **#48 Norm Hoffman 25676, #54 Jeff O'Kane #38617, #57 Mike Casteel #36500, #59 Butch Price #44445, #60 Rod Hollenstine #46073, #62 Sid LeGrand #46004, #79 Kathy Crick #71017, #87 Vanessa Birchler #74430, #90 Dawn Stangle # 81504, #94 Lanna Bartko #83072, & #95 Megan O'Brien** (Picture following article.)
- * 25 Past IL JCI Senate Presidents in attendance + 1 current President (Picture following article.)
- * **George Lyons #84285** attended his 1st Summer Picnic, cooked the pork steaks/chicken, AND won the High Senate #. **Russ Cooper #4638** won the Low Senate #.
- * 1 Finance meeting, 1 Joint Board Meeting, & 2 General Meetings were held.
- * **US JCI Senate President Gary Duell #48384** swore in **60th Pres Maureen Niedenthal #67669**
- * **US JCI Senate Region V NVP Lori Tomlin #62797** swore in the 2026-2027 Board - Admin VP **Rod Hollenstine #46073**, Mgmt VP **Donna Ward #53588**, Secy **Marsha DeVore #67330**, Treasurer **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615**, COB **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**
- * Countless flamingos and ducks were seen throughout the weekend!

Maureen K. Niedenthal #67669

2026-2027 IL JCI Senate President

niedmoe22@gmail.com

217-274-9858





Upcoming JCI Illinois meetings/projects

- 08/12 Palatine Jaycees ~ Community CPR Training
- 08/15 New Baden Jaycees ~ Side by Side Poker Run
- 08/23 to 25 Highland Jaycees ~ Cooking at Kirkenfest
- 08/27 Menard County ~ Quarterly Quarter Auction
- 08/28 Collinsville Jaycees ~ Theater Night
- 08/29 Steeleville Jaycees ~ BBQ Fundraiser
- 08/29 Central Region Regional
- 09/03 to 07

09/01 to 07

Naperville Jaycees ~ Last Fling

09/09 to 13

JCI USA Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia

09/18 to 19

Collinsville Jaycees at Italian Fest

09/19 Chatham Jaycees ~ Oktoberfest

Upcoming JCI Illinois GA's

10/16 to 10/18/2026 ~ Fall GA & Annual Meeting ~ Springfield

[Click here for information about the Fall GA!](#)

01/22 to 01/24/2027 ~ Winter GA ~ Champaign-Urbana

01/28 to 01/30/2028 ~ Winter GA ~ Champaign-Urbana

[Click here for the
Monthly JCI Illinois Newsletter](#)



As I reflect on my year as President of the Illinois Jaycees, one of the accomplishments I am most proud of is the partnership we strengthened with the Illinois JCI Senate. That partnership has now been recognized nationally with the 2025 JCI USA Outstanding Inter-Organization Collaboration Project Award.

state to invest in the future of the Jaycee movement.

From attending chapter meetings and state events to mentoring members, volunteering, and sharing your knowledge, you demonstrated what it means to continue serving long after your active Jaycee years. Your support created stronger relationships between our organizations and reminded our members that they have a lifetime network of leaders behind them.

Because of that collaboration, the Illinois Jaycees finished the year with +46 membership growth and a 78% retention rate, proof that when experienced leaders encourage and support the next generation, organizations thrive.

On behalf of the Illinois Jaycees, thank you to every Illinois Senator who embraced this vision and supported the Senate Liaison initiative. This award belongs to all of you, and I hope it serves as a reminder of what we can accomplish when Jaycees and Senators work together. I look forward to seeing this partnership continue to grow and inspire leaders for years to come.

Lanna Bartko
94th State President
Illinois Jaycees
#83072

Administrative Update

It was great to see everyone at the picnic. Thanks to Vanessa and her crew for ensuring we all had a great time.

Our next meeting will be October 16-18 and held in Springfield at the North Field Inn and Suites. The contact telephone number for the North Field is 217.523.7900. Please don't forget to make your room reservation.

Listed below are the chairman for the Admin area. Please reach out to the chairperson or myself if you have any interest in helping out in these areas.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Camp New Hope | Judson DeVore #65005 |
| Onto | Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137 |
| Wheelchairs 4 Kids | Robbie Johnston #51099 |
| Wreaths Across America/FFV | Karen Voshel #62305 |
| Jaycee Liaison | Greg Hilleary #43305 |

'Maureen's Lucky Ducks'.

Rod Hollenstine #46073

As this year's Management VP, I am honored to have been elected to be a part of the Lucky Duck team! The Management area has a group of individuals who are ready to support the members of the ILJCI Senate. Please welcome with me -

Chaplain **Chris Stierwalt #52938**

Constitution and Bylaws Chairman **Roxy Hollenstine #78247**

Hospitality Chairman **Bill Patterson #47979**

Return the Favor Chairman **Sandi Harpstrite #65882**

Senatorship Assistance Chairman **Denny Birt #37116**

SOAR/Freshman Senator Chairman **Monty Schroeder #62203**

Each of us in the Management area is ready to offer assistance to you, that will make your Senate experience exciting and memorable! To highlight more specifically some of the responsibilities, our Chaplain stands ready to hear about and share the news to celebrate your triumphs or offer your Senate family to stand with you in your time of need. Please be sure to contact Chris, when you have good news to share whether it is a milestone birthday, anniversary or something special in your life. Likewise, we all would like to be there for strength and encouragement when dark clouds of illness or loss cover the days.

The Jaycee Chapters can never be forgotten. That is where each of us planted our roots and gained the privilege of being awarded a Senatorship. It is OUR time to give back! Everyone is encouraged to review the list of events that local Jaycee chapters are conducting - reach out and offer some assistance. Attend an meeting or a social - summer is a great time with so many festivals and gatherings and an extra hand us usually welcomed! When you do participate, share that information with Sandi. She will record the activity and track how the ILJCI Senate members are giving back.

We will continue to highlight the remaining team members throughout the year. I am grateful for their stepping forward to share their knowledge and talents to help make this the LUCKIEST Year ahead!

Sincerely,

The Illinois JCI Senate will be hosting a poker fundraiser on Friday, August 7, 2026. The Illinois JCI Senate hosts four of these fundraisers each year and they are an important funding source for our organization. All help is definitely appreciated.

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 Chris Rick by email to crick10101@aol.com or via phone at 847-533-0204.

The event will be held at Crowne Plaza Chicago SW - Burr Ridge by IHG at 300 S Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (near I-55 and I-294) from 2:00 PM until approximately 1:00 AM with an extra half hour before and after for setup/teardown.

Please review the available shifts and sign up for your favorite.
Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0449A4A622A6F94-64702354-poker>

LUCKY DUCK!
ILLINOIS JCI SENATE

IL SENATE LOTTO TICKETS!

DONATION OF \$5.00 FOR ONE OR \$50.00 FOR 10

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING THE SUMMER TOUR FOR REGION 5.

venmo Venmo applies* @IllinoisJCISenate *Fees will apply for Venmo and PayPal	PayPal PayPal applies* ILJCISenateTreasurer@gmail.com *Fees will apply for Venmo and PayPal	zelle Send money with Zelle® NO FEES for sending by Zelle! ILLINOIS JCI SENATE iljcisenate treasurer@gmail.com zelle	MAIL A CHECK Make checks payable to IL JCI Senate Lynne McGill 1209 W. 83rd Ct., Merrillville, IN 46410 708-691-0934 or lynnemcgill1@gmail.com
---	---	---	---

Thank you for supporting the ILLINOIS JCI SENATE!

Please remember to include the fee in your payments.

(See schedule in Treasurer's article)

Happy August Illinois Senators,

It was great to meet and see so many senators at the Summer Picnic.

Congratulations to President Susie on a spectacular year.

President Maureen has asked me to be your Return the Favor girl this year. I can't wait to see everything that you're doing to help our Jaycee chapters around the state.

email: ilsenatertf@gmail.com

I'm looking forward to a great year!!!

Thanks

Sandi Harpstrite

#65882

enjoyed your time at the lake. Congratulations to President Susie on a great year and it was a wonderful way to kick off the 26-27 year with President Maureen!

Special Shout Outs are needed to those who made the weekend wonderful!

The Wayne's - They helped coordinate the hotel, contacted members to ensure they were registered and had rooms and helped out any time I asked! Wonderful friends and mentors they are!

Ray & Melodie - Thank you for the wonderful meal on Thursday evening! Even when I asked a bit late in the game they made it happen! Also, thank you for volunteering to coordinate the buses and handle all the details!

Amy & Rodney Smith - Thank you for allowing us to invade your cabin and being willing to help with drinks and storage at your place!

Sandi Harpstrite - Thank you for your help throughout the weekend with getting food ready and making your legendary pasta salad!

Doug Jansen - Captain Doug! Thanks for lending your evenings and boat to showcase to our guests the lake on your boat!

Dawn Stangle & Kathy Crick - Thanks for all your help in doing the small things from helping set up, clean up, wash dishes and put out fires!

Mike Birchler - Per usual he is the guy who makes things happen that I can't. He made sure all the supplies we needed were there, got stuff set up, got stuff put away. And on top of that he made the little flamingos and ducks on the tables at the meeting on his 3-D printer!

Nemo, George & Mike - Thanks for grilling our wonderful pork steaks and chicken breasts! Excellent as usual and a wonderful showcase of the Southern Illinois icon that is a pork steak!

Thank you to all who welcomed Sasha and her sometimes over bearing neediness! She may become the Senate official mascot. She is still wore out and now thinks Mike or I need to pet her non stop!

MO/IL Wine Tour October 23-25, 2026

As you know Missouri is hosting and at this point in time all we know is that it will be October 23 - 25 in Jefferson City Missouri.

Transportation and hotel details are forthcoming.

Let us get our ducks in a row and toddle ourselves to these meetings and social events.

2026 events

August 14-16

Indiana Summer Meeting, Clarksville, IN

[Click here for Registration Form.](#)

September 17-20

US JCI Senate Fall Board Meeting, Topeka, KS

[Click here for Registration Form.](#)

October 2-4

Fall Frenzy, Bardstown, KY

[Click here for Registration Form.](#)

October 16-18 ~ Fall GA & Annual Meeting ~ Springfield

[Click here for information about the Fall GA!](#)

Chaplain Christopher Stierwalt #52938

I hope this finds everyone well. It has been a busy week since the picnic. I would like to remind everyone to let me know if you need prayer. I would also note that I can not mention anything here if we do not have permission. Some folks keep their prayer life to themselves, I respect that. In the meantime keep on Duckin'!

Most Awesome God,

We have a lot of our people who are going through some storms right now. We ask that You please help calm the storms that we are aware of, and please help calm the storms and situations that we are not aware of. Please Lord help everyone of us. All these things we ask in Your name.

Amen.

Extended Family Update

None

Prayer Request

We have received information from fellow IL JCI Senator **Jeff Hadley, #54675**, asking for prayers, special thoughts, and support for his 20-year-old granddaughter Ava, who was born with a Portwine stain birthmark covering a majority of her face, scalp, and neck. She was diagnosed with Sturge-Weber Syndrome when she was two months old. Since she was six weeks old, Ava has undergone more than 50 laser treatment surgeries, most of them under anesthesia. These procedures are necessary to keep her skin smooth and prevent painful tissue overgrowth. Over the years, Ava has had part of her lip and gum tissue removed and relies on multiple allergy medicines because the tissue in her nose and upper airway is also overgrown. At this time, the family has hope as a surgeon in Milan, Italy has the potential to assist Ava through a life-changing surgery. At this time, if you would like to show your support to the family, cards and notes can be sent to the attention of:

Jeff Hadley
120 Newport Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60490

In addition, a go-fund me page has been established to raise the necessary monies for this procedure. For more information, contact Jeff directly at jci54675@aol.com.

In the last month, **Aaron Brown #74468** has been dealing with infections, 3 surgeries, MRSA, Norovirus, and ultimately, part of his foot being amputated. The family is praying for:

Complete healing in Aaron's body
Strength and good health (physically, mentally, and emotionally) for the entire family

Wisdom for their decision-making in upcoming months
Financial Assistance with funds for ADA accessibility and bills.

Cards of support can be sent to

Aaron Brown #74468
802 Main St.
Colona, IL 61241

New Senator

None

New Lifetime Member

None

Address Change

Email Change

Phone Change

Treasurer Notes

MaryAnn Hilleary #64615

The Illinois JCI Senate will accept cash and good checks, but will also accept payments through Zelle, Venmo and PayPal.

Send money with Zelle®

Scan in your banking app to pay.

ILLINOIS JCI SENATE

ijcisenatetreasurer@gmail.com



The code for Zelle

zelle

The code for Venmo



Scan to open Venmo and pay



The code for PayPal

The following is the fee table, which will be charged to process payments through these codes **\$10.00 to \$20.00 = \$1.00;** **\$20.01 to \$35.00 = \$2.00;** **\$35.01 to \$95.00 = \$3.00;** **\$95.01 to \$200.00 = \$5.00.** Make sure you write in the memo line what you are paying for and email me at maryannh63@yahoo.com that you sent a payment, so I know to be looking for it. The above fee will be charged for **payments for Hospitality, Membership, purchasing chances in Lotto/Illinois Basketball Squares/March Madness, and purchasing Gift Cards.** If you are making a donation for Birdies for Charity or to the Illinois JCI Senate, there will be no fee charged to

The spammers are going full force and using the board members information on the website. If you get an email asking for funds or help with gift cards, please look at the email address you are receiving it from. Please DON'T reply to those emails or text messages. Contact that person directly in a different email or text and just ask them.

[Illinois JCI Senate webpage](#)

E-Blast Reminder

Deadline is Noon on the last day of the month & 14th.

Please send the information in Word.



Copyright © 2026 Illinois JCI Senate, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



