



Illinois JCI Senate

E-Blast

September 15, 2026

Welcome
TO THE IL JCI SENATE



BRETT RUSH
#85186

Thank you for your commitment to the
Hoopeston Jaycees throughout the years!

Maureen K. Niedenthal #67669
IL JCI Senate President
Illinois Lucky Ducks





GOOD NEWS!

We have so much good news to share! I'd like to start by welcoming our newest IL JCI Senator, **Brett Rush #85186** from Hoopeston, IL! Thank you to the Hoopeston Jaycees for nominating Brett. I had the privilege of being at Hoopeston's Sweetcorn Festival for the presentation. So well deserved!



Our most recent good news comes all the way from the 2026 JCI Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach on Saturday. Illinois Jaycee and Senator **Eric Hiatt #81434** was elected as the **2027 JCI Deputy National President!** Eric is a past IL Jaycee President, has served in multiple roles, including NVP on the National Board, and is currently the US JCI Treasurer. If you follow Eric online, you've noticed that he has been everywhere, helping the Jaycees. Congrats, Eric! That night, **IL Jaycee President, Megan O'Brien**, ran and won her race for **2027 JCI USA National Vice President!** Megan has been dedicated to the Illinois Jaycees, and now she'll bring her talents to a national level. We are so happy for you both and look forward to seeing what you'll do to help Jaycees across the nation. Please let us know what we can do to help you!



Senators to the Rescue!

Our dedicated IL JCI Senators go above and beyond for the IL Jaycees! Last week, we got the call that vital supplies were needed for the JCI National Convention. Senators [Wayne Huelsmann](#) #30592 and [Wayne Kiefer](#) #36498 picked up the loot

down in New Baden and headed for Effingham, IL. Meanwhile, Senator [Denny Birt](#) #37116 left Champaign. If both vehicles left at 7 am and nobody stopped for trains or Snoot Shooters, what time did the transfer occur? Thank you for stepping up to help!

Hello Senators & Friends!

I've been busy eating corn, fielding phone calls, writing articles, and packing for Topeka! September 2-6, Mark and I spent lots of time traveling to and from Hoopeston to show our support for the **Hoopeston Jaycees National Sweetcorn Festival**. We saw **Stephen Eyrich #39280**, **Dean Grimes #63610**, **Don Kaeb #49437**, **Bob Porth #53587**, and our newest Hoopeston Senator, **Brett Rush #85186**! We saw the newly installed mural that the Jaycees fundraised for, with the help of the **Illinois Jaycee Charitable Foundation** and grant money provided by the family of **Tom Greathouse #60003**. Thank you to **Rod Hollenstine #46073**, **Monty Schroeder #62203**, and **Chris Stierwalt #52937** for traveling and showing your support!

Our own **Donna Ward #53588** ventured out to the **Naperville Jaycees Last Fling** and helped serve beer! Looked like a great event. Thank you for traveling!!!

Today I sat at the Hyundai dealership getting a much-needed oil change in preparation for our drive to Topeka, KS, for the US JCI Senate Fall Board Meeting later this week. I'm excited to see our Illinois Senators there. Wishing you safe travels.

For those who can't attend the board meeting, please consider coming to our **Fall GA in Springfield on October 17**. We'd love to see you! The **room block is up on October 1**, so you still have time to make a reservation.

Maureen K. Niedenthal #67669

60th President Illinois JCI Senate

Illinois Lucky Ducks: Supporting Jaycees & Enjoying Senate Life

niedmoe22@gmail.com

[217-274-9858](tel:217-274-9858)



On-To...
Time to pack your Crackers and Quackers because we are on the
ROAD
Hope you will join us at the following meeting and social events

September 2026

17 - 20 **US JCI Senate Fall Board 2026** - Topeka, KS
Fall Board in Topeka, KS

Contact Rob Wiley at rocknrob76@hotmail.com or
 text 785-331-7615.

Looking for shuttle transportation? Let them know if you are
 flying and send them your arrival and departure. Contact

Ron Stair at riatsnor@yahoo.com or

Rob Wiley rocknrob76@hotmail.com.

The cost for the roundtrip is \$60.

Start planning your Friday night Petticoat Junction Theme
 costume party.

Check out VisitTopeka.com for more information.

Charity Golf Event September 17, 2026, in Topeka

The Vino Bellas and Fellas along with the Silver Foxes and Vixens
 are hosting a Charity Golf/Putt-Putt event 9/17/26 at the Fall
 Board Meeting in Topeka. Everyone is welcome.

Registration form is now available.

October 2026

2 - 4 **Kentucky Fall Frenzy** - Bardstown, KY

9-11 MICHIGAN JCI SENATE FALL SOCIAL

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

16 - 18 **Illinois Fall GA with the Jaycees**

Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL

23 - 25 **MO/IL WINE TOUR (hosted by Missouri)** What we
 know so far...we are staying at Best Western in Jefferson City.

Stay tuned for more details and registration form.

	FALL BOD MEETING SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2026 <i>Topeka, KS</i>	
	WINTER BOD MEETING JANUARY 14-17, 2027 <i>Greensboro, NC</i>	
	EOY MEETING JUNE 20-25TH, 2027 <i>Lancaster, PA</i>	

Fall Senate Meeting update:

The Senate meeting is October 17, 2026. The Northfield Inn and Suites is the location. If you need a room reservation, please call 217-523-7900 and ask for the Springfield Jaycee's room block by October 1, 2026. If you would like to attend the Saturday banquet/meal that requires a separate registration. Here is a link: <https://www.illinoisjaycees.com/fallga2026>

The Senate business meeting on the October 17, 2026 (Saturday) will start at 9:30 am.

Upcoming JCI Illinois meetings/projects

09/18 to 19

Collinsville Jaycees at Italian Fest

09/19 Chatham Jaycees ~ Oktoberfest

09/19 South Mascoutah Jaycees Bicycle Pub Crawl

09/26 Camp New Hope Annual Fall Fest

09/27 Mental Health First Aid Virtual Training

10/03 JCI Illinois Charity Poker

10/03 New Baden Jaycees Foodie Tour

10/09 to 10

Steeleville Jaycees Oktoberfest

10/16 to 18

JCI Illinois Fall GA

10/17 Menard County Jaycees Oakford Children's Halloween Party

10/22 Menard County Jaycees Quarter Auction

10/23 Collinsville Jaycees Haunted House Night

10/24 Menard County Jaycees Safe Trick or Treat

10/24 New Baden Jaycees Chili Cookoff

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 JCI Illinois Newsletter for Mid-August newsletter](#)

Wreath Across America - IL Chairman Report

This National JCI Senate project is for Senators to donate to the purchase of live balsam wreaths and help put the wreaths on Veterans' graves for remembrance at Christmas.

Useful information on the purchase and location of National Cemeteries can be found on the WWA website www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org . Wreaths cost \$17 and will be placed on Saturday, 19 December. The deadline for the purchase of wreaths is November 27.

The US JCI Senate has a Group ID of FL1122. For every wreath sponsored, our organization will receive \$5 credit towards additional wreaths (their \$5 Pay it Forward Program). Please note "IL JCI Senate" with your name if you purchase wreaths on the WWA website.

The Senate WWA Program is about MORE than just the wreaths. We encourage folks to wear RED on Fridays to "Remember Everyone Deployed." On the US JCI Senate Facebook page, Fridays is WWA Day. In the Senate post under comments, you can post pictures of you in your red shirt (please note names, Senate numbers, and state).

Below the article is the QR code for the US JCI Senate. Donations default to the Arlington National Cemetery but you can click on the arrow to the right to "Choose Another Cemetery" to select another one.

REMEMBER the fallen.

HONOR those who serve.

TEACH the next generation the value of freedom.

Karen Kopp-Voshel

IL WWA Chairman

Phone 270-305-2348

Email kykopp@apex.net





**GET YOUR LUCKY
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 iljcisenateTreasurer@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)

Chaplain Christopher Stierwalt #52938

Please pray with me:

Great God in Heaven we ask for Your protection for everyone traveling to and from the various events that are taking place and that are going to take place. There are concerns that You know about, that we do not, we ask that you continue to help those affected. Please God watch over our organization and help us to conduct our business. Thank You for everything that You do in our lives. Amen.

Extended Family Update

~~~~~

## Family Update

~~~~~

Prayer Request

Pray for **Lynne McGill #70364** as she has two surgeries coming up this week.

Send her a card:
1209 W. 83rd Court
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

Celebrations

A Happy 70th Birthday, on September 16th 2026:

Sherrie Schroeder FR# 52

Send her a card:
1305 Knox Drive
Danville, Illinois 61832

A Happy 75th Birthday, on
September 30th 2026 to:

Blaine Mendenhall #48145

Send a card to:
417 Harpole Street
Williamsville, Illinois 62693

A Happy Birthday on September 30th to:

Wayne Huelsmann #30592

Send him a card to:
411 Thouvenot Lane
New Baden, Illinois 62265

Again, if you have a milestone Birthday or Anniversary coming up, please let me know. Also if you are having a surgery or just need prayers, please let me know.

retiredaglasman@icloud.com

(217)304-4530

See You All In Springfield!

Keep on Duckin'

-Christopher

Directory Update:

New Senator

Brett Rush #85186
2012 East 100 North Road
Hoopeston, IL 60942
tabrush02@hotmail.com
217-260-5619

New Lifetime Member

Brett Rush #85186 Life #888

Address Change

None

Email Change

Renee Rheinecker-Anderson #78250

drhrheineckerdc@yahoo.com

Phone Change

None

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.

The code for Zelle

Send money with Zelle®

Scan in your banking app to pay.

ILLINOIS JCI SENATE

iljcisenatetreasurer@gmail.com



The code for Venmo



Illinois JCI Senate

@IllinoisJCISenate



venmo

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 you, but you may increase your donation amount to help cover the fees the Illinois JCI Senate will be charged.

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

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](#).

