

The Official Publication of the Illinois JCI Senate

Volume 60 • Issue 39 • Fall 2025 • www.illinoisjcisenate.org

President's Message

Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137

59th President Illinois JCI Senate
618-974-9599



I am honored to serve as the 59th President of the Illinois JCI Senate. My theme for this year is “**LET’S FLAMINGLE, BE SOCIAL, HAVE FUN!**”—a reminder that our time together should be filled with connection, laughter, and camaraderie.

The Region 5 Summer Tour is already well underway. In July, we traveled to Kent, OH (7/17–7/20) for the annual Ohio Pig Roast—yes, we kissed the pig! As always, it was hot, but the fun and fellowship made every moment worthwhile.

Next, we gathered in Springfield (7/24–7/27) for the Illinois JCI Senate Picnic. From crafts and great food to celebrating Judson’s year and beginning mine, it was truly “Flamazing.” A heartfelt thank-you goes to **Rod Hollenstine #46073** and his outstanding committee for putting together such a wonderful event.

What a great time we had with the Illinois Jaycees social and awards at Camp New Hope. The celebration, recognition, and fellowship made it a truly memorable occasion.

After a short break, Chris (your First Gentleman) and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary with an Alaskan cruise and land tour—an unforgettable trip. We returned on August 13, did laundry on the 14th, and were back on the road to Clarksville, IN for their Summer Picnic on the 15th. Welcome to the life of a Senate President! No complaints here—we are having the time of our lives, especially when so many Illinois senators join in.

In early September, I stepped into another role close to my heart, managing the kitchen at our church’s Labor Day Picnic. Together, our team served over 2,000 fried chicken dinners. The fellowship and teamwork reminded me of what I love most about service.

Looking ahead, the calendar is full of opportunities to “flamingle”:

September 11–14 – US JCI Fall Board Meeting in Columbus, OH. I look forward to reconnecting with friends from across the nation and strengthening the bonds that make this organization so special.

October 3–5 – The Illinois Jaycees will host the **TOYP and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** at the Embassy Suites in Peoria, IL.

October 16–19 – Our much-anticipated **Illinois-Missouri Wine Weekend** in southern Illinois. This year, three buses will keep us rolling (and laughing)—and of course, what happens on the bus stays on the bus!

October 30–November 2 – We wrap up October with the **Kentucky Fall Frenzy** in Bardstown, KY.

I encourage you to join us at any of these events—you’ll find friendship, energy, and fun waiting for you. And if there’s something happening in your area—a concert, a play, an outing, or a picnic—please let me know. I would love to bring a group of senators to support and celebrate with you.

Together, let’s Flamingle, Be Social, and Have Fun!



F
O
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M

Administrative Vice President



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

I wanted to thank the team for stepping up to serve:

Camp New Hope: **Marsha DeVore**
#67330devore.marsha64@gmail.com

IL/MO Wine Tour: **Melodie Ainslie #69200**
melodia@frontier.com

JCI Liaison: **Greg Hilleary #43305**
greg.hilleary@gmail.com

On-To: **Robbie Johnston #51099**
robbie581@sbcglobal.net

Spring Fling 2026: **Rod Hollenstine #46073**
rjhollen@comcast.net

Summer Picnic 2026: **Vanessa Birchler #74430**
vbirchler09@gmail.com

Wreaths Across America/Flags for Fallen Veterans:
Karen Kopp-Voshel #62305 kykopp@apex.net

Thank you to those of you who attended the Illinois Jaycees Social at Camp New Hope. We're looking forward to getting together again with the Jaycees at the Fall GA/TOYP in East Peoria, October 3-5.

If you're able, please join our Senate flock in Columbus, OH, on September 11-14 for the US JCI Senate Fall Board Meeting.

Management Vice President



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

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the Management team for this year:

Chaplain: **Beverly Olson #42473**

Constitution and By Laws : **Chris Curtis #35440**

Future Direction: **Melody Ainslee #69200**

Hospitality: **Bill Patterson #47979** and team.

Return the Favor: **Karen Helms #57838**

Senatorship Assistance Program: **Greg Hilleary #43305**

SOAR/Freshman Senators: **Mike Birchler #79421**

The Management Team looks forward to serving each of you this next year. Please reach out to any of us if we can be of assistance. In the words of President Susie, Let's Be Social and Have fun.

Secretary



Christopher Rick #78649
Management VP
crick10101@aol.com
847-533-0204

Greetings Illinois JCI Senators!

My name is **Christopher Rick #78649**. I am excited to be serving as your Secretary once again in 2025-2026. I can be reached by email to crick10101@aol.com or via phone 847-533-0204. The 2024-2025 Year-End and 2025-2026 Summer Picnic Minutes can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please allow me to introduce your 2025-2026 communications team...

MaryAnn Hilleary #64615 is once again sending out E-Blast. You can reach her by email to maryannh63@yahoo.com or via phone 217-497-2947. E-Blast is typically sent out on the 1st and 15th of each month or as needed. Sign up for E-Blast can be found at the top right of every page on the illinoisjcisenate.org website.

Kathy Crick #71017 will be moderating the Illinois JCI Senate discussion on Facebook. You can reach her by email to kcricke14@sbcglobal.net or via phone 708-254-1892. Please continue to post events, photos, likes, and comments as you always have. That activity increases our engagement in the Facebook algorithm which gets our content in front of more people.

Joanne Rinaldo #71700 will be editing the Forum newsletter again this year. You can reach her by email to joanne1232@gmail.com or via phone 847-561-2556. Forum is published four times per year: in the Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. It is typically sent about a month before upcoming meetings. The email address for Forum submissions is iljiciforum@yahoo.com and anyone is welcome to submit articles, pictures, or gossip. Please include any Senators full names and numbers in bold.

Ray Ainslie # 44136 is serving double duty as Historian and as the Webmaster for the illinoisjcisenate.org website. He can be reached at rayainslie@frontiernet.net or via phone 618-495-2673. He is always interested in historic pictures, artifacts, or stories to share with the Illinois JCI Senate. Ray is also the person to reach out to with content for the website.

Treasurer



MaryAnn Hilleary #64615
Treasurer
maryannh63@yahoo.com
217-497-2947

To all dues paying members, you should have received or will be receiving a bill for your dues. Please let me know if you have any questions.

The budget that was approved at the picnic for the 2025-2026 year is included in the FORUM. There will be an updated one at the meeting on October 4th.

Next Senate Meeting - October 4, 2025 - Embassy Suites - East Peoria, IL

Chaplain's Report

Bev Olson #42473

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

Please send me news about our Senate family. The areas we would like to honor are: Congratulations and good news, celebrating the lives of our Senators and Friendship members, celebrating the lives of our Senators' families, and prayer concerns. Please let me know if we have permission from our Senators or their families to publish the news, including addresses to send notes. We will have the information in our E-Blasts as we receive the information. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Celebrating the Lives of our Senators:

Kenneth V. Lindberg #27011 peacefully passed away July 18, 2025, at the age of 82. Ken was a Homewood/Flossmoor/Glenwood Jaycee. Notes of sympathy can be mailed to his wife Glenda at 4163 Lanier Ridge Walk, Cummings, GA 30041.

Celebrating the Lives of our Senators' Families:

Mina L. Fridy, mother of **Deb Fridy #62204**, passed away July 18, 2025, at the age of 93. Notes of sympathy can be mailed to Deb at 131 Sportsman Club Road, Danville, IL 61832.
James Graham Bell, father of **Sue Bell #57894**, passed away July 20, 2025, at the age of 95. Notes of sympathy can be sent to Sue at 4112 Clearwater Lane, Springfield, IL 62703.

Congratulations:

President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** and First Gentleman **Chris Curtis #35440** celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on August 27.

2026 Summer Picnic

Vanessa Birchler #74430

Summer Picnic 2026 Chair
vbirchler09@gmail.com

Let's Flamingle at the Lake!

The South by Southwest Region is excited to welcome you to Carlyle Lake from July 24-26, 2026! We will once again be staying at the Mariner's Village Resort. Rooms range from \$114 - \$135 + tax and you can call the hotel at 618-594-7666 to reserve your room. We have 2 cabins available. Please contact me directly if you wish to reserve a cabin.

While we are early in the planning stage here is what you can expect while we Flamingle at the Lake!

Thursday: Early hospitality

Friday: Lunch at the legendary Blue Room and stops at local watering holes. Golf will also take place in Breese. In the evening we will have boat rides (stay tuned for more info on sign ups!) and hospitality.

Saturday: Early morning golf and I am working on organizing an outing to local attractions in the morning. Bar Burgers, meeting and dinner followed by hospitality and one last flamingle celebration. Be sure to join the Facebook event to stay up to date on the event details! - <https://www.facebook.com/share/1FttSSJEx/> Link to registration form on [website](#).

Fundraising Fun

Tony Symoniak #66367

Mr. Fundraiser
jaycees69@msn.com

Hello everyone—it's me again, your friendly Mr. Fundraiser! We've got three exciting fundraisers lined up, and I'm counting on your support to make this our best year yet. Here's what's coming:

Illinois Basketball Squares

\$25 per square
Covers 10 games (instead of 16)
Prizes per game:
Halftime: \$40 | Reverse: \$15
Final: \$75 | Reverse: \$15

We're aiming to kick this off mid-to-late November, so grab your squares early!

March Madness Squares

No changes from last year—still \$20 per square, with numbers shuffled each round and shared on Facebook. The fun starts 2nd week of March 2026.

Payouts:

1st Round – \$5 (32 games)
2nd Round – \$10 (16 games)
Sweet 16 – \$15 / Reverse \$10
Elite 8 – \$25 / Reverse \$10
Final 4 – \$50 / Reverse \$20
Championship – \$100 | Halftime \$50 | Reverse Final \$25

Lotto Fundraiser

Back for year 5—let's make it our biggest yet! Last year we sold 770 tickets; this year the goal is 810+. If sales are strong, we'll add 5 extra drawings.

\$5 per ticket | \$50 for an envelope of 10
Runs Feb 1 – Feb 29

How to Get Involved

Email: jaycees69@msn.com

Tickets can be purchased via Venmo, Zelle, or PayPal (fast & easy).

Text: 630-710-1065 (for square numbers or ticket envelopes)

I'll also be at the October meeting to collect money in person.

Updates posted regularly on Facebook.

Let's Flamingle, Be Social, and—most importantly—Have Fun while supporting these great fundraisers!

Return the Favor

Karen Helms #57838

24-25 Secretary / Return the Favor
senate57838@gmail.com

Hello, I would like to thank Judson for allowing me to be his secretary this past year and thank incoming President Susie for the opportunity to work on 2 committees. I will be working with Bill Patterson on hospitality, and I will be doing Return the Favor. The Jaycees are a great organization and can use our help. Please email information on project, date visited, who was there, how long it was. I am still working on finding out about Return the Favor myself. I am looking forward to a great year.

Senatorship Assistance Committee

Greg Hilleary #43305

Chairman of the Senatorship Assistance Committee
greg.hilleary@gmail.com

Over the years there has been a member of the Jaycees that made a difference in their local, state and national organizations plus their community. This individual has since roostered out of the organization but was never recognized for their involvement and accomplishments with a JCI Senatorship. The Illinois Senate has established a program that can assist with recognizing those individuals.

As Committee chairperson, I shall accept applications for Senatorship consideration any time during the current administration with a deadline of March 1, so approval can be made of the Senatorship and it is completed by June 1. Nominations may be submitted by any member of the Illinois JCI Senate who shall present such nomination to the committee. All applicants must meet the USA JCI criteria for membership and applications must be completed and signed by the appropriate individuals. Nominees must have been out of the Jaycees for a minimum of five (5) years for consideration. Should the nominee's chapter still be active within the guidelines of the JCI/USA, they are not eligible for consideration under this program.

The cost of the application may be funded by:

- Region Jaycee Contributions
- Spouse of Nominee
- Illinois Senate Friends
- Illinois JCI Senate Funds

The review committee is made up of five past presidents; myself, **Mark Niedenthal #39701**, **Marilyn Burton #55106**, **Robert "Digger" McGraugh #36156**, and **Denny Birt #37116**. Upon review, Recommendations outlining the breakdown for funding shall be by the majority of the committee and then will be forwarded to the Illinois JCI Senate Executive Committee for approval through a majority vote. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact any member of the committee for assistance. Additional information is located on the Senate's website.

Camp New Hope

Marsha DeVore, #67330

Camp New Hope Chair
Devore.marsha64@gmail.com

Hello, I am Marsha DeVore, #67330, and the Camp New Hope Chair for 2025-2026. The Camp has an Amazon wish list, which you can reach by going to their website. Remember that you can get Amazon gift cards through RaiseRight to make your Amazon purchases for the Camp. Thanks for all you do to support Camp New Hope. [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Chris Curtis #35440

Constitution & Bylaws
clc35440@gmail.com

Greeting Illinois Senators,

This year we are attempting to take a good look at our constitution, bylaws and policy. Some items may be outdated or no longer necessary. Our committee would appreciate thoughts and proposals from our membership and future directions committee. If you have not reviewed this document in a while, it is available on our website at illinoisjcisenate.org under governance. Please take a look and forward your feedback to: **Chris Curtis #35440** at clc35440@gmail.com or **Kay DeGroot #73333** at kaydsix@yahoo.com or **Brian Ziegler #42479** at brianziegler8167@comcast.net

Senate Liaison to IL Jaycees

Greg Hilleary #43305

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

It has been a pleasure to serve our 2025, 94th Illinois Jaycee State President Lanna Bartko #83072 as the Senate's Liaison to the Illinois Jaycees. I have had the opportunity to attend their monthly Board Meetings and other JCI gatherings. My job is to maintain the best communications possible between our two organizations.

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 get to 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.

Wine Tour 2025!!!

Melodie Ainslie #69200

Wine Trip Chairperson
melodiea@frontier.com

Continuing a 40-year tradition of mutual social activity between Illinois and Missouri JCI Senates. We have 38 registered with THREE buses ready to sip, taste, and savor various wines and beers in Southern Illinois.

There is room for a few more! Call (Melodie 618-495-2673) or send form (in Forum and on website)

Itinerary (subject to group whims):

- Thursday Oct 16 - Dinner as a group (optional) for early arrivals
- Friday Oct 17 - Board bus 9:45 for adventure to lunch and wineries and brewery and dinner – OH MY
- Saturday Oct 18 – Board bus 10:00 for MORE adventure to lunch and wineries and dinner – MORE OH MY
- Sunday Oct 19 – Rest your liver, safe travels home

Wreath Across America

Karen Kopp-Voshel #62305

IL WWA Chairman

Email kykopp@apex.net

Thanks to Mark Niendenthal, #39701 for chairing Wreaths Across America for the last few years. As this year's Chairman, my goal is for Illinois Senators to donate to the purchase of live balsam wreaths and help put the wreaths out all across the state of Illinois!

Saturday, 13 December is the National Wreaths Across America Day. Great information on the purchase and location of National Cemeteries can be found at the WWA website www.wreathscrossamerica.org. They also extend the wreath service to local and private cemeteries if they sign up. **Deadline to order wreath is 28 November!**

The US JCI Senate has a Group ID of FL1122. For every \$17 wreath sponsored, our organization will receive \$5 credit towards additional wreaths (their \$5 Pay It Forward Program). If you do not pick a cemetery for the wreath to be placed, the default is Arlington National Cemetery. If you pick a cemetery, your \$5 Pay It Forward goes to the same cemetery. Depending on the cemetery, you may also designate a specific grave. Or you may make your donation in the memory of a family member or friend.

National Chairman Angie Taylor, #71600, as of 30 July, reports the Senate has sponsored/donated 127.1 free wreaths. The goal is 1000 wreaths which we can get with 773 sponsored wreaths and 227 earned wreaths.

Here is a list of the National Cemeteries in Illinois:

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood
Alton National Cemetery, Alton
Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield
Confederate Mound, Chicago
Danville National Cemetery, Danville
Fort Sheridan National Cemetery, Fort Sheridan
Mount City National Cemetery, Mound City
North Alton Confederate Cemetery, Alton
Quincy National Cemetery, Quincy
Rock Island National Cemetery, Rock Island
Rock Island Confederate Cemetery, Rock Island

In addition, Illinois has a VA Grant-Funded Veterans Cemetery: Sunset Veterans Cemetery, Quincy

If these cemeteries are not close to you, closer National and VA cemeteries in nearby states can also be found on the WWA website.

Many cemeteries will have a ceremony so check before you go. My local cemetery also allows family members to go in early to place the wreath on loved one's graves. This is before the other volunteers distribute the rest of the wreaths.

This is also a great project to involve your local Jaycees!

This project supports their Leadership Opportunities and Community Impacts areas.

The Senate WWA Program is about MORE than just the wreaths. We encourage folks to wear RED on Fridays to "Remember Everyone Deployed". The WWA website has great education resources for grades K-12. The lesson plans focus on three areas of Lessons Learned, Live with Purpose, and Remember-Honor-Teach. The WWA website also has items for sale such as clothing, coins (it's a thing in the military), and other collectable items.

You may also want to sponsor a wreath with an honor card. It is the same \$17 but a card will be emailed or mailed to a loved one to share this important gift of remembrance. A great time to donate would be "Giving Tuesday" on December 2nd (mark your calendar!).

Below 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.

You may also sponsor a wreath at many local cemeteries across the state. Use the WWA website to find a cemetery where you may have a veteran family member or friend you wish to honor. Use the map to zoom in to find the cemetery. "Donate" a wreath to find more information such as whether your wreath can be grave specific, date and time of wreath placement, and the percentage of the cemetery's wreath goal which has been reached.

Lastly, please send pictures to me so I can share them in the Forum and on the US JCI Senate Facebook pages.



REMEMBER the fallen.
HONOR those who serve.
TEACH the next generation the value of freedom.

ILLINOIS JCI SENATE 2024 – 2025

July 26, 2025
Meeting Minutes
Springfield, IL



MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 2:45 PM, President Judson DeVore #65005

INVOCATION: Chuck McFarlin #47910 – A prayer was said for all in attendances and the senators we have lost and those who could not be with us this weekend.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Lead by all Veterans

PICNIC GREETINGS– Rod Hollenstine #46073 Please pray for no more rain this weekend. We are looking for an alternative site for tonight’s music. Thank you all for coming, I hope you are having a great time.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Denny Birt #37116

Past Illinois JCI Senate Presidents:

1989-90 1st Lady Kay DeGroot	2007-08 Chuck McFarlin #47910	2018-19 Bill Patterson #47979
1990-91 Ted Kuenzli #32166	2008-09 Stephanie Pittenger #59999	2019-20 Wayne Huelsmann #30592
1992-93 Wayne Kiefer #36498	2020-11 Greg Hilleary #43305	2020-21 Robbie Johnston #51099
1993-94 John D Olsen #35308	2012-14 Monty Schroeder #62203	2021-22 Lynn McGill #70364
1996-97 Beverly Olsen #42473	2014-15 Robert (Digger) McGraugh #36156	2022-23 Bill Patterson #47979
1999-00 Ray Ainslie #44136	2015-16 Chris Curtis 35440	2023-24 Mary Ann Hilleary #64615
2002-02 Denny Birt #37116	2016-17 Melodie Ainslie #69200	2024-25 Judson DeVore #65005
2003-04 Mark Niedenthal #39701	2017-18 Marilyn Burton #55106	2025-26 Suzy Colbert-Curtis #73137

Approval Of Agenda: Motion by **Pat Eimer #56785**, second by **John D Olsen #35308**. Motion passed.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Karen Helms #57838

Approval of minutes as published in Forum. Motion to approve by, Maureen Niedenthal #67669, 2nd by Phyllis Bowers #51430, Motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Roxy Hollenstine #78247

1. Approval of Financial Reports. Ending the year well, with more funds than last year.
2. Audit Committee – **JDO #35308**, Made money in all fund raising projects turning over \$12,000. After 12 years on the audit committee, I am stepping down. Thank you to everyone on the committee.
3. Finance Committee – **Wayne Kiefer #36498**, Met Friday night at the picnic all is well. The year is ending with \$60,000+. The contingency fund is raised to \$10,000. The convention did not lose money, thank you to everyone who helped and Region V for their assistance.
4. Fundraising
 - a. Raise Right (gift Cards) – **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**, this is free money! We made a profit of \$935.40, for no hard work. Keep purchasing the gift cards.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report by **Monty Schroeder #62203**, 2nd by **Mary Ann Hilleary #64615**. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE VP REPORT: Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137

1. National Meeting 2025 – **Mark Niedenthal #39701** & **Maureen Niedenthal #67669**, Mark stood up like he was going to make a big presentation, which he did, introducing Maureen. He gave her the credit for such a great convention. Maureen thanked him and said it was a join effort. There were lots of people helping to make it a success. Brian Ziegler # 42479 could not be here this weekend. Bills are still being paid, 60 checks were ordered and 20 were sent. As soon as the other 40 checks arrive and Brian is back the rest of the checks will be sent out. Thanks again for all your help.
2. Summer Picnic 2025 – Rod Hollenstine #46703, Thank you all for attending. The committee hope you all had a wonderful time.

Motion to approve Administrative Report by **Chuck McFarlin #47910**, 2nd by **Lynn McGill #70364**.

Motion passed.

MANAGEMENT VP REPORT – Chris Rick #78649

1. Constitution and Bylaws – **Kay DeGroot #73333**, There is a copy of the “Proposed By-Law Change” on the table as you walk in. It was easier to type it up for you. There was discussion started by **Kathy Crick #71017**. She thought that we did not have enough time for discussion before the meeting. And wondered how the hospitality would be divided at coming meetings. It was explained that the regions in question came to Brian and requested this change. The regions are not set up just for hospitality. In the future if other regions what to consolidate, they can bring it up to the board for discussion. The 3 RD’s for these regions will have to resign and 1 RD will need to be voted in.

Motion to approve change in the Bylaws by **Ray Ainslie #44136**, 2nd by **Melodie Ainslie #69200**. Motion passed.

The new region will be called South by South west or SxSW.

Motion to approve Management VP Report by **Wayne Huelsmann #30592**, 2nd by **Rod Hollenstine #46073**. Motion passed.

Region Director Reports – None

Old Business - Ray Ainslie #44136, the 3 RD’s have resigned and like to nominate **Mike Birchler #79421** as the new RD for the South by SouthWest. All those in favor say yes all apposed same sign. Mike is the new RD of the new region.

Ray Ainslie #44136, pointed out at this time that we have a new candle for the memorial services that will be passed to each Chaplain.

Awards: National:

Outstanding Senator presented to **Wayne Huelsmann #30592**

Return the Favor: **Illinois**

New national award, the **Jim O’Connell #5045** award presented for the first time to: **Ray Ainslie #44136**

Illinois was the top Sweep Stake winner

Awards: Illinois

Sandra K Sam Barker Award presented to **Sherrie Schroeder Friendship #52**

Larry Wayne Ferguson #45060 Award presented to **Roxy Hollenstine #78247**

New award in honor of **Gary Pittenger #24804** presented to **Norm Hoffman #25676**

President **Judson DeVore #65005** wrote up the criteria for this award as follows:

“Gary was someone who never quit. He always cared about others and was willing to share his knowledge and experiences with anyone. He became an active leader in the Jaycees, achieving many recognitions. He ran for Illinois Jacee State President twice, lost both times. But he did not let that stop him. He continued to care and help build new Jaycee leaders. He brought his dedication and determination to the Senate. Where he finally achieved his dream! He became the 53rd United States JCI Senate President. Unfortunately, he passed away two months into his term as President. He continued through his last day to dispense advice and encouragement. We honor an individual today who has shown this ability to create a legacy of new leaders in the Senate.”

Chairman of the Board – Maryann Hilleary #64615, last job to present **President Judson DeVore #65005** with a thank you gift from the board.

President’s Comments - Judson DeVore #65005 Thank you it was a great year. I learned many things, met many great people, and had a wonderful time. I look forward to the coming year.

Installation of 2025-2026 President Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, by the National President **Bruce Sostak #52655**

Motion to Adjourn by **Ted Kuenzli #32166**, 2nd by **Steve Kesegi #53934**, Motion passed



ILLINOIS JCI SENATE
July 26, 2025
Minutes part 2



MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 4:02 PM by President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**

INVOCATION: **Bev Olson #42473**

INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT: **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**
 Inducted by National President **Bruce Sostak #52655**

EXCHANGE OF PRESIDENTIAL CHAIN & PIN:

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

51430 Phyllis Bowers	FR29 Margie Kieffer	62797 Lori Tomlin
64688 Jenny Bruner	43520 Ron Kimmet	65613 Amanda Turner
58932 John Bruner	77909 Sara Kimmet	62305 Karen Voshel
68012 Maxine Cooper	62260 Deb Mogdis	69653 Paul Weymouth
4638 Russ Cooper	72173 Paul Meyers	67303 Ruby Weymouth
77656 Kami Harsell	66222 Tanya Meyers	49250 Jane Wiley
75944 Chris Harsell	61999 Dawna Norfleet	68535 Brian Witte
58143 Susan Hatcher	60771 Larry Norfleet	72882 Trisha O'Cheltree
37317 FR7 Tom Hendricks	44003 Cheryl Sauerbrei	83072 Lanna Bartko
81434 Eric Hiatt	FR111 Woody Sauerbrei	FR52 Sherrie Schroeder
78247 Roxy Hollenstine	22131 Larry Stierwalt	62203 Monty Schroeder
68729 Kim Hubbel	55876 Lynn Stoffregen	52655 Bruce Sostak
36498 Wayne Kieffer	FR119 James Kirchhoff Stoffregen	

ELECTED OFFICER'S INTRODUCTIONS: President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**

Admin VP **Maureen Niedenthal #67669**
 Management VP **Rod Hollenstine #46073**
 Secretary **Chris Rick #78649**
 Treasurer **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615**
 COB **Judson DeVore #65005**
 Fox Valley RD **Kevin Ankenbrand #63771**
 North RD **Bruce Widenhoefer # 63672**
 Northeast RD **Tony Symoniak #66367**
 Northwest RD **Terry Barker #40979**
 Prairieland RD **Sara Schwantz #65361**
 South Central RD **Donna Baker #67041**
 Serve RD **Monty Schroeder #62203**
 SxSW RD **Mike Birchler #79421**

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: US JCI Senate National President **Bruce Sostak #52655**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Add US JCI Senate Region V NVP after Illinois Jaycees 94th President

Motion to approve agenda as amended by Wayne Kieffer #36498; Second by Wayne Huelsman #30592.
Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND STANDING COMMITTEES:

Motion to approve presidential appointments by John Olson #35308; Second by Chuck McFarland #47910.
Motion passed.

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

- 1) E-Blast – **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615:** E-Blast goes out on the 1st and 15th of every month.
- 2) FORUM – **Joanne Rinaldo #71700:** FORUM deadline is 8/15 to ship 30 days before the Fall Meeting.
- 3) Historian – **Ray Ainslie #44136:** Please send any historic information.
- 4) Social Media – **Kathy Crick #71017:** Be social. Have fun.
- 5) Website – **Ray Ainslie #44136:** Website has been updated.

**Motion to approve Secretary's report by Phyllis Bowers #51430; Second by Sherrie Schroeder FR52.
Motion passed.**

TREASURER'S REPORT – MaryAnn Hilleary #64615:

- 1) Finance committee – **Wayne Kiefer #36498:**
Approval of 2025-2026 Budget

**Motion to approve 2025-2026 Budget by Bruce Widenhoefer #63672; Second by Wayne Huelsman #30592.
Motion passed.**

- 2) Membership Info Exchange – **Kathy Crick #71017:** Please send me any updates.
- 3) Fundraising

- a) Birdies for Charity – **Wayne Huelsmann #30592:** 44 participants \$1710 pledged. 2102 birdies this year. Phyllis was closest by 4 birdies.
- b) LOTTO – **Tony Symoniak #66367** Absent, **Bev Olson #42473** reporting: Tickets are available for \$5.00 each or ten tickets for \$50.00
- c) Poker – **Chris Rick #78649:** Date will be in the fall. More information at the Fall Meeting.
- d) Products – **Heather Ulrich #72836** Absent, **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615** reporting: Order forms are available at the back tables.
- e) Raise Right (Gift Cards) – **Vanessa Birchler #74430:** Gift cards are available for purchase.
- f) Silent Auction – **Kay DeGroot #73333:** Will be held at the Fall Meeting on October 4th, 2025. We are soliciting donations for the auction.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Monty Schroeder #62203; Second by Marilyn Burton #55106. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE VP REPORT – Maureen Niedenthal #67669:

- 1) Camp New Hope – **Marsha DeVore #67330:** Illinois Jaycees are going to CNH on August 23rd from 10-2.
- 2) IL/MO Wine Tour – **Melodie Ainslie #69200:** Oct 16-18. 37 signed up so far. Only a few spots remain.
- 3) **Onto – Robbie Johnston #51099:**
August 15-17 Indiana JCI Senate Summer Meeting in Clarksville, IN
September 11-14 US JCI Senate Fall Board Meeting in Columbus, OH
October 31-November 2 Kentucky Fall Frenzy, Bardstown, KY
- 4) JCI Liaison – **Greg Hilleary #43305:**
- 5) Spring Fling 2026 – **Rod Hollenstine #46073:** Held at Northfield Inn, Springfield 3/27/2026–3/28/2026.
- 6) Wreaths Across America / Flags for Fallen Veterans – **Karen Voshel #62305:** Group Code is FL1122

**Motion to approve Administrative VP report by Karen Helms #57838; Second by Mark Niedenthal #39701.
Motion passed.**

MANAGEMENT VP REPORT – Rod Hollenstine #46073:

- 1) Chaplain's Report – **Bev Olson #42473:** Please contact me with news.
- 2) Constitution and Bylaws – **Chris Curtis #35440:** Committee is myself, **Kay DeGroot #73333**, and **Brian Ziegel #42479.** We are seeking feedback directly from members and from the Future Directions committee.
- 3) Future Directions – **Melodie Ainslie #69200:** Myself, **Gabby Cress #78691**, **Eric Hiatt #81434**, **Kathy Crick #71017**, and **Tony Symoniak #66367**, plus two openings.
- 4) Hospitality – **Bill Patterson #47979** and team: Goal is to maintain the same structure as years past.
- 5) Return the Favor – **Karen Helms #57838:** Send me information when you are helping Jaycee chapters
- 6) Senatorship Assistance – **Greg Hilleary #43305:** Committee is myself plus **Marilyn Burton #55106**, **Robert "Digger" McGraugh #36156**, **Mark Niedenthal #39701**, and **Denny Birt #37116.**
- 7) SOAR / Freshman Senators – **Mike Birchler #79421:** No report

**Motion to approve Management VP report by Amy Olson Smith #83300; Second by Butch Price #44445.
Motion passed.**

REGION DIRECTOR REPORTS: No report.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Summer Picnic 2026 – **Vanessa Birchler # 74430:** Happy birthday **Kathy Crick #71017!** Flamingo at Carlyle Lake July 23-26 2026. Registration will be \$75. Boat rides on Friday Night. Registration forms are on your tables.

Motion to approve Summer Picnic 2026 by Wayne Huelsman #30592; Second by Scott "Scooter" Rayho #67912. Motion passed.

ILLINOIS JAYCEES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION – Kathy Crick #71017: Thank you for your support of Bar Burgers which raises money for our scholarship fund. We welcomed five new Founder's Club members this year plus have seven members working on their payments.

50/50 RAFFLE – **Robbie Johnston #51099** Yields to, **Lynne McGill #70364** reporting: \$205 dollars to the winner, **Kami Harsell #77656**.

PRESIDENTIAL SWEEPSTAKES RAFFLE – **Greg Hilleary #43305**: Tickets are \$10.00 each, or \$50.00 for six.
HIGH/LOW SENATE NUMBER AWARDS – **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**: Low Senate Number **#4368 Russ Cooper**, High Senate Number **#83300 Amy Olson Smith**

ILLINOIS JAYCEES 94TH STATE PRESIDENT – **Lanna Bartko #83072**: Summer Social 8/23 at Camp New Hope. Fall GA 10/3-10/5 in East Peoria. Year-End GA will be 1/30-2/1/2026. Illinois Jaycees are back above 600 members!

JCI USA DEPUTY NATIONAL PRESIDENT CANDIDATE – **Eric Hiatt #81434**: My theme will be Fuel the Future. Please like my candidate page on Facebook. I greatly appreciate your support.

US JCI SENATE REGION V VP – **Monty Schroeder #62203**: I would like to recognize **Stephanie Pittenger #59999**, **Rod Hollenstine #46073**, **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**, **Lanna Bartko #83072**, and **Dawna Norfleet #61999** with a small gift. I would also like to present a set of Chef's Knives to US JCI National President **Bruce Sostack #52655**.

US JCI SENATE PRESIDENT – **Bruce Sostack #52655**: I would like to recognize **Rod Hollenstine #46073**, **Riannah Hollenstine**, **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**, and **Lanna Bartko #83072** with a small gift.

SPECIAL GUESTS COMMENTS:

Patty Butler #65322: We cataloged and digitized 50 totes of information about the history of Camp New Hope over the last 7.5 years. We compiled this into a new book on the history of Camp New Hope which is now available for \$20. Patty presented a copy of the book to **Bruce Sostack #52655**, **Lanna Bartko #83072**, **Judson DeVore #65005**, and **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**.

Cheryl Sauerbrei #44003: Wreaths Across America. QR codes on your tables and our website have details.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Please consider attending the US JCI Senate Fall Board of Directors meeting in Ohio.

Region V Chaplain **Deb Mogdis #62260** welcomes **Bev Olson #42473** to the Chaplain role.

Sweepstakes Winners 62797, 47979, 59999, 62203, 70364, 63672, 74430, 67041, 64615, 64688, 67669, & 47979.

Melodie Ainslee #69200 handed out some can koozies to President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**.

Ray Ainslee #44136 made a name tag for the flamingo by the podium.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS – **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**: I am honored to be your president. My Theme is Let's Flamingle. Be social, and have fun.

Motion to Adjourn at 5:35 PM by Larry Stierwaldt #22131; Second by Monty Schroeder #62203.

Motion passed.

ADJOURN WITH JAYCEE CREED – HIGHEST SENATOR **Amy Olson Smith #83300**:

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



Maxine Wallish #68012 created a collage of past National Senate Presidents who have passed including Jim Mammen #37122, Gary Pittenger #24804, Denny DeGroot #40222, Chuck Fries #18344, Jim O'Connell #5046 and Fred Fischer #21307.

INCOME							
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total	Budget	Variance
Balance Forward	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,130.00	\$5,130.00
Dues							
IL JCI Membership Dues - Annual (55 x 30)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
IL JCI Membership Dues - Life (3 x 250)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Fundraisers							
50-50 Drawings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$360.00	\$360.00
Birdies for Charity	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Illinois Basketball Squares	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Lotto Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
March Madness Pool	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Poker	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Raise Right	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Non-Fundraisers							
Camp New Hope	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$640.00	\$640.00
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
IL/MO Wine Tour	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
Misc. Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Newsletter Support - Forum	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Products	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Spring Fling 2026	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
US JCI							
Newsletter Support - Mentor	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$280.00	\$280.00
US JCI Presidential Sweepstakes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,510.00	\$44,510.00



2025-2026 Illinois JCI Senate Board: From Left to Right: Treasurer **MaryAnn Hilleary #64615**, Management VP **Rod Hollenstine #46073**, Administrative VP **Maureen K. Niedenthal #67669**, Secretary **Christopher Rick #78649**, Illinois JCI President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** and Illinois JCI Senate COB **Judson DeVore #65005**.

2025 ILLINOIS – MISSOURI WINE & BREWERY TOUR



Hosted by the Illinois JCI Senate

October 16-19, 2025

Cost per person \$75.00 (for bus and fuel)

Thursday Oct 16 - Dinner as a group (optional)

Oct 17 -Board bus 9:45 for adventure to lunch and wineries and brewery and distillery and dinner – OH MY

Saturday Oct 18 – Board bus 10:00 for MORE adventure to lunch and wineries and dinner – MORE OH MY

Sunday Oct 19 – Rest your liver, safe travels home

Continuing a 40-year tradition of mutual social activity between Illinois JCI and Missouri JCI Senate. You will be bussed from hotel to several planned stops at wineries (all have beer), breweries and distillery.

Meals are not included in cost. Picnicking is allowed at some points.
We are limited to 30 seats

Name: _____		Senate/Friendship #: _____	
Spouse/Guest: _____		Senate/Friendship #: _____	
State Affiliation (IL OR MO) _____			
Address: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
Phone: _____		E-Mail: _____	

	Qty				Total
Full Registration 75.00					

Includes: **Transportation** on Friday and Saturday

Make Checks Payable to: IL JCI Senate

Mail check and registration to Melodie Ainslie #69200

8911 Huey Rd. Centralia, IL 62801

Questions Melodie 618-495-2673

BOOK ROOM DIRECTLY WITH HOTEL

Country Inn & Suites

1306 Halfway Road Marion, IL 62959 P: (618) 997-2444

ROOM BLOCK CODE IS – JCI Senate

Cut-off for room block is September 19

\$133+tax for rooms with King bed or rooms 2 Queens at \$137+tax.

\$10 additional for each 3rd and 4th adult in each room

Breakfast is included in your stay.



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 =	_____

TOTAL: _____

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

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

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

Summer Picnic 2025



Top Left: Passing of the JCI Senate President chain from **Judson DeVore #65005** to **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** surrounded by past presidents **Denny Birt #37116**, **Bev Olson #42473**, **Lynne McGill #70364** and **Melodie Ainslie #69200**.
Top Right: **Ray Ainslie #44136**. speaking at podium.
Middle: **Judson DeVore #65005** presented **Larry Wayne Ferguson #45060** Award to **Roxy Hollenstine #78247** with other past honorees. Bottom Left to Right: IL Jaycee President **Lanna Bartko #83072** with IL JCI President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**
Bottom Middle: **Rod Hollenstine #46073** raises a point.
Bottom Right: **Chuck McFarlin #47910** looks on in amusement.

Summer Picnic 2025



From Top Left: Karen Voshel #62305, Jenny Bruner #64688, Cheryl Davis-Sauerbrei #44003, Monty Schroeder #62230, Paul Meyers #72173, Phyllis Bower #51430, Susan Hatcher #58143, Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, Bruce Sostak #52655, Donna Norfleet #61999. Top Middle: Russ Cooper #4638 with to Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137 and Amy Olson # 83300. Middle: Sandra K Sam Barker Award presented to Sherrie Schroeder Friendship #52 pictured with past honorees. Bottom: Traditional IL JCI Past President photo with those present at summer picnic.

Summer Picnic 2025



*Top Left: IL JCI Senate President **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** and US JCI Secretary **Dawna Norfleet #61999***

*Top Right: **Larry Stierwalt #22131** wins a cutting board*

*Middle: **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137**, **Lanna Bartko #83072**, **Bruce Sostak #52655**, **Judson DeVore #65005** and **Brian Witte #68535**.*

*Bottom Left: **Chris Curtis #35440**, **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** with **Katie Cobert**.*



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



Top: Photos from Ohio Pig Roast: **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** cant watch **Monty Schroeder #62203** kiss the pig. **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137** surrounded by flamingos.

Above: **Susie Colbert-Curtis #73137, Janice Carino #72307** and **Shelley Bates #78813**.



Left: Fellowship and fun while helping at the Palatine Jaycees Hometown Fest on July 3-Fireworks night. From L to R: **Bill Pohlman Will Hinshaw#76510, Traci Hinshaw #76511, Joanne Rinaldo #71700, Jaxon Foltyn #77749, Sheila HLava #66150, Chris Rick #78649, Maureen Niedenthal #67669, Mark Niedenthal #39701, Debbie Lee #70215, Kathy Crick #71017, Janet Leigh #71528, Andy Lee #69596, Sarah McKillop #81188 and Hannah Meadows #82585.**