

September 2022

WoodmenLife[®]

MAGAZINE



Planning Now Helps Protect Family Later

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

WoodmenLife Names Fraternalist and Project of the Year
Region Works Together to Make a Difference



WoodmenLife[®]
woodmenlife.org



On behalf of Chapter 31 in Rayne, LA, President Eurella Cahanin presented an American flag to Marietta Sikat of St. Leo IV Roman Catholic Church in Roberts Cove, LA.

Collaborating to Make a Difference

Hello, members of the WoodmenLife family. I hope you are well and enjoying the cooler autumn weather after those hot summer months.

As you spend time with your family and friends in the community, remember that our organization's foundation is based on working together to help others, while making lasting memories along the way.



Patrick L. Dees

I'm pleased to share that WoodmenLife continues to maintain its financial stability. Through the most trying times, our organization remains strong to support you and your family, who depend on us to help protect your financial future.

We've also been working hard to make sure you and your communities reap the benefits of our WoodmenLife Extras and outreach efforts. I'd like to share with you some impressive national numbers compiled from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2022:

- Through our WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® program, we've awarded 460 scholarships worth \$288,500
- To help those who experienced a natural disaster, we've processed 322 natural disaster applications and paid out a total of \$244,400.63 to members

- A total of 4,821 flags have been ordered
- Through our Common Bond Reward Program, 1,492 service projects were held through chapters; these events involved 7,339 of our members as volunteers
- Members have saved an estimated \$137,165 through our Life's Perks® discount program

These extras are in place to benefit you, and the outreach programs are carried out through the collaboration and volunteerism of members like you.

In this issue, you'll read about how one chapter decided on a unique gift for their local nurses, how our "America Is ..." Video Contest winners donated their winnings to a community project, and how one region stepped up through the Giving Together program to make a difference in their communities — and so much more.

Thank you for being a member of the WoodmenLife family and for the trust you place in our organization. I look forward to the great things we'll accomplish together in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Dees
President & CEO



Our Mission: Uniting hardworking Americans to secure their financial future while strengthening our communities and country.





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Photo by J.W. Photography



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We've been helping to protect the financial future of families like yours, making a difference in hometowns across America and honoring our country since 1890. As a not-for-profit life insurance company, we put money back into the community. We're here when you need us most.

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All products may not be available in all states.

Not all Representatives are licensed to sell all products.

Purchase insurance and annuity products that meet your financial situation, needs and objectives. Never purchase insurance and annuity products for the sole purpose of qualifying for non-guaranteed membership extras.

Equal Access Policy

WoodmenLife is an Equal Access membership organization that promotes a culture of inclusion. It is the policy of WoodmenLife to seek qualified members on a nondiscriminatory basis and to provide all members with equal access to and allow their participation in WoodmenLife's chapter system, chapter events, fraternal benefits, and all other fraternal activities on a nondiscriminatory basis. Membership is open to all individuals who share the values of family, community and country regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, military or Veteran status, and/or any other classification or factor protected by federal, state or local law.

It is also WoodmenLife's policy that any form of harassment of any member for any reason, not just on the basis of any factor or protected status listed above, will not be tolerated.

Proud member of:



Proud partner of:



Cover photo by J.W. Photography

On the Cover

Life insurance helps Reanna Olive protect her daughters' financial futures should the unexpected happen.

Member Highlights

- Reanna Olive 
- Mayfield, KY 
- Chapter 741 
- Member Since 2010 



Photo by J.W. Photography

For Millennials, Planning Now Helps Protect Family Later

Numbers can tell a story. When it comes to life insurance, the numbers say that there are 73 million Americans who are uninsured¹. And 43%, or 31 million, of them are millennials¹.

This is a generation that's building families and careers – meaning they're in need of life insurance to replace lost income, cover debts and pay final expenses should a death occur. So why don't they have life insurance?

"I think when millennials hear 'life insurance,' they think funeral," said Sales Representative Sarah Cope of Mayfield, KY. "Very few come into an appointment with an understanding of the financial benefits of beginning an insurance policy at a younger age."

Planning for the Future

What can be done to change that kind of thinking? Well, there are the numbers again:

- Life insurance is generally less expensive when purchased by younger individuals, who tend to be in better health than older individuals
- Nearly 40% of insured consumers wish they'd purchased policies at a younger age¹

And there are real-life experiences like Reanna Olive's.

The 27-year-old mother of two from Mayfield, KY, knows what life insurance means. In fact, she had a head start because her dad purchased a product for her when she was a child.

Reanna Olive has had a life insurance product since she was a child. When she had her daughters, Londyn and Lyric, she wanted to provide them with the same protection her father had provided for her.



Photo by J.W. Photography

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →

“I wasn’t initially aware that my father had taken a policy on me until I was an adult,” Olive said. “I believe he saw the importance of planning for the future, and now, as a parent myself, I see the value.”

Just like Dad, Olive has already started her daughters on their life insurance journey. It’s all about looking toward tomorrow — which is also why she bought additional coverage for herself. Olive wants a future for Londyn, 5, and Lyric, 4, that isn’t darkened because of financial worry if she should die while they’re young.

“It is important to me that I plan for the unexpected,” Olive said. “In the event the unthinkable happens, I want to ensure that there are plans in place to provide for my daughters’ future.”

With that in mind, WoodmenLife and our Representatives stand ready to help members² protect their families’ financial futures.

“Starting conversations with members and others to find out what’s important to them is essential to everything we do,” said Senior Vice President & National Sales Manager Chuck Driffill. “When we listen and build relationships, we’re better able to provide the solutions people need.”

Working Together

That’s how it worked for Cope and Olive. Olive appreciated Cope’s ability to break down the features of different products, as well as her ongoing availability



Photo by J.W. Photography

to work with Olive as changes or questions came up.

“Sarah and I are both involved in a number of community organizations, so we see each other very often,” Olive said. “Anytime there has ever been a change that needed to be made, or something she would recommend, she always lets me know.

“It is comforting to know that she is always working with my family’s best interest at heart.”

Cope echoed Olive’s thought, saying their relationship is what makes things click.

“Reanna has been so fun to work with,” she said. “I believe she sees me as a friend and trusted resource, in addition to her Representative.

“She quickly saw the value of how we can protect her family. And since our initial meeting, she has been a consistent source of

referrals, allowing me to expand our membership and help more American families.”

Connecting With Millennials

When Cope first met with Olive, she evaluated her family’s situation and talked about future plans and aspirations.

“I find that when working with younger adults, it is important to fully explain to them how early planning can make a huge difference in their future,” Cope said.

Fittingly, a significant portion of her meetings with millennials focuses on education. This includes working through attitudes like, “I have insurance through work.”

“It’s been my experience that once they understand how insurance products work, their posture toward insurance completely changes,” she said.

Cope believes young adults want to know how the solutions we offer will help them now. After all, they likely have time before they need retirement income or incur funeral expenses.

“I make it a priority to stress the value of life insurance when it comes to paying a mortgage, for example, so that a young widow isn’t forced to relocate her grieving family,” Cope said.

She added that helping a young member understand that life insurance is so much more than “funeral coverage” makes all the difference in the world. Cope also assures her members that she’s committed to meeting and evaluating their need for coverage in the future to make sure their financial situation is properly addressed.

Olive said she feels “10 times better,” knowing she’s addressed her life insurance needs at an early age. And it’s something she’d advise her peers to do, too.

“I’ve talked to several friends, and I’ve been surprised by the number of them who haven’t taken steps to plan for their future,” Olive said. “I’m so glad Sarah showed me how important it was.”

If you’d like to help the young adults in your life with life insurance, contact your Representative. They are ready to work with your referrals to provide the solution they need.

1. 2021 Life Insurance Barometer Study by LIMRA and Life Happens
 2. An individual becomes a member by joining our shared commitment to family, community and country, and by purchasing a WoodmenLife product.
 3. WoodmenLife Extras are available to members. An individual becomes a member by joining our shared commitment to family, community and country, and by purchasing a WoodmenLife product. These extras are not contractual, are subject to change and have specific eligibility requirements, such as length of membership, number of qualifying members in household and/or qualifying event.
 4. WoodmenLife has entered into a sponsored marketing relationship with Epoq, Inc. (Epoq) to offer document preparation services to WoodmenLife members. Epoq is an independent service provider. WoodmenLife is not affiliated with Epoq and does not administer these document preparation services. WoodmenLife does not provide, is not responsible for, does not assume liability for and does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy or results of any service or documents provided by Epoq. WoodmenLife, its employees and representatives are not authorized to give legal advice. Not all services are available in all states.
 5. WoodmenLife has entered into sponsored marketing relationships with companies that agree to offer discounts to WoodmenLife members. WoodmenLife is not affiliated with these companies and does not administer these discounts for products or services.



Photo by J.W. Photography

WoodmenLife Extras³ Perfect for Young Adults

Repaying Student Loans

We can help you get closer to financial security through the WoodmenLife Student Loan Relief Program, which gives eligible members the opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 award to reduce the burden of student loan debt.

Legal Documentation

Advance planning makes change easier to cope with. With LawAssure™, WoodmenLife members can create customized wills, powers of attorney and healthcare directives with free, easy-to-use online templates⁴.

Saving Money

Our discount program — Life’s Perks® — gives you everyday savings⁵ at more than 30,000 local and national retailers on items like travel, monthly cellphone expenses, club store memberships, rental cars, and more.

Visit [WoodmenLife.org/Extras](https://www.woodmenlife.org/extras) to learn more about the extras available for you.

Tiffany G. Myers Elected to National Board of Directors

Tiffany G. Myers of Kevil, KY, was recently elected to the WoodmenLife National Board of Directors. She has been a WoodmenLife member of Chapter 57, located in LaCenter, KY, for more than 20 years. Myers' extensive accounting background as a certified public accountant makes her a perfect fit for the Board, as she serves on the Audit and Compensation Committee.

"We are fortunate to have Tiffany as our newest National Director and look forward to the many attributes she brings to the organization and its members."

— Pat Dees
Chairman, President & CEO

She is active in her community, serving as the former treasurer and current Stewardship Committee member for Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Myers is also the Luminaria Chair for the Ballard County Relay for Life. Her passion for WoodmenLife members and helping others shows through the work she does in her community.

When asked what her primary motivation was to apply for a position on the Board, Myers said, "My goal is to always leave something better than I found it. I am anxious to do so with my local, regional and

national WoodmenLife chapters."

Myers' enthusiasm for volunteering and leading volunteers directly supports WoodmenLife's mission and values. She lives out those values every day, using her leadership skills to help others become involved in the many projects WoodmenLife helps support in LaCenter.



Tiffany G. Myers

"We are fortunate to have Tiffany as our newest National Director and look forward to the many attributes she brings to the organization and its members," said Pat Dees, Chairman, President & CEO.

Myers is the Chief Financial Officer for West Kentucky and Tennessee Telecommunications, where she oversees the finance, accounting, resources, and financial assets of the company and its subsidiaries. She also provides leadership for the continuous evaluation of short- and long-term strategic financial objectives.

Myers and her husband, Keith, own a working farm in western Kentucky where they grow soybeans, corn and other crops. They have two adult children and enjoy spending time on Kentucky Lake.

Please join us in welcoming Tiffany G. Myers to the WoodmenLife National Board of Directors.

To learn more, visit [WoodmenLife.org/About/Leadership](https://www.woodmenlife.org/About/Leadership)

Bengtson to Lead Expanded Risk Management Effort

Risk Management is a business function that has expanded rapidly, and it's one that's predicted to become even more important in the insurance industry. To help WoodmenLife meet this challenge, Shawn Bengtson was promoted to the new position of Executive Vice President & Chief Risk Officer in July.

Bengtson had served as Vice President, Investment since 2013.

Chairman, President & CEO Pat Dees asked the WoodmenLife Board of Directors to approve the new position during their May meetings. He credited Bengtson's "vast business acumen and technical training" for his confidence in her.

Bengtson said managing risk as an organization is an assurance to members that we are here and they can rely on us.

"We need to anticipate what each member wants to talk about and encourage them to embrace the changes they are seeing in their communities," Bengtson said. "The primary way we can manage their risk concerns is to demonstrate that WoodmenLife is going to be here every day, acting as stewards of every member's future."

Outside of work, Bengtson loves walking on beaches and fixing up her home.

To learn more, visit [WoodmenLife.org/About/Leadership](https://www.woodmenlife.org/About/Leadership)



Shawn Bengtson

New VP Looks to Continue Strong History of Asset Management

Jacob Day was appointed Vice President & Chief Investment Officer in July. He knows WoodmenLife's history of financial strength and the organization's commitment to keep members in mind when making financial decisions. Both factors will be his guide as Day leads the Investment Division team and oversees the management of WoodmenLife's \$10.5 billion of invested assets.

"Being a lifelong member, I cannot think of a better way to support an organization that has meant so much to me than to lead the Investment Division," Day said. "The Investment team has high-performing members who are focused on being stewards of our

members' money and are always looking to do what is right for the organization."

Day began his WoodmenLife career in 2008 as a Mortgage Loan/Real Estate Analyst in the Investment Division. Most recently, he had been Director, Securities since 2016.

In his spare time, Day enjoys golf, music and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Kelly, have two children.

To learn more, visit [Newsroom.WoodmenLife.org](https://www.woodmenlife.org/Newsroom)



Jacob Day

Bryan Carroll Retires After 34 Years

Bryan Carroll served WoodmenLife for 34 years before his retirement in July. A native of Conway, SC, Carroll began his career with WoodmenLife as a Representative in 1988. During his tenure as a Representative, he qualified as a member of the President's Club for three years.



Bryan Carroll

Carroll was promoted to Recruiting Sales Manager in 1993 and to Regional Director in 2000. During his more than 22 years as a Regional Director, Carroll served five different

regions. He has been a qualifying member of the President's Club and Cabinet for 30 years. Over his years with WoodmenLife, he earned numerous honors, including the WoodmenLife National Quality Management and the Top Recruiting Sales Manager Award.

Carroll, who is also a retired Army Captain, is ready for the change of pace that retirement is sure to bring.

"I want to try to learn to live without having every day planned, more impulse-type living," he said. "I want to enjoy a quiet and peaceful lifestyle on our rural country property."

Help Us Welcome New Leadership in Regions

Houlahan Returns 'Home' to SC

South Carolina is where Tim Houlahan began his WoodmenLife career, and in July he returned to the state as Regional Director. He had been the Tennessee West RD since 2019.

"Coming home to South Carolina feels bittersweet," Houlahan said. "I'm grateful for having had the opportunity to meet so many great folks in Tennessee West. That being said, I've been relocating my whole life since joining the Navy at age 18, but we have made South Carolina our permanent home."



Tim Houlahan

One of his first goals after becoming South Carolina RD was to visit a different WoodmenLife chapter

every week until he's met with each of the 60-plus chapters in the state.

Giving Together is one of Houlahan's favorite WoodmenLife programs. It's designed to help Representatives build teams of volunteers to conduct community service projects.

"Working side by side with someone with a common purpose is a great way to connect and make a difference in the community," he said.

Houlahan started his WoodmenLife career as a Sales Representative in 1991. He was promoted to Recruiting Sales Manager in 1997.

Houlahan and his wife, Angela, have four grown children and nine grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys do-it-yourself projects and golfing.

Anderson Looks to Build Relationships as RD

Stacy Anderson was promoted to Texas Southeast Regional Director in July, helping him seize a new opportunity to serve members.

"It's been a dream of mine," Anderson said. "I'm extremely passionate about developing talent, and there is a lot of talent in this region."

Anderson is a firm believer that the more knowledgeable and caring Sales Representatives are, the more they can help members with their unique needs. He's equally convinced that interacting with members makes any Representative's job more rewarding.

He makes it a point to attend member appreciation events and Shared Commitment events to build relationships.

"I'm most proud of WoodmenLife's involvement when disaster strikes, and when we make an impact by donating food, volunteering and making monetary donations," Anderson said. "But the activity that I say is my favorite is our patriotic activities. I always try to include my children in those events."

Anderson started with WoodmenLife as a Sales Representative in 2000 and was promoted to Recruiting Sales Manager in 2002.

Anderson has daughter and a son. In his spare time, he enjoys water sports, fishing and camping.



Stacy Anderson

Help Us Tell the WoodmenLife Story With Testimonials

Do you love WoodmenLife?
Well, of course you do.

But do you REALLY love what we do
- and have the glowing words to go
with it? Let us know!

WoodmenLife is always looking for great stories that show how much our members value our organization. Testimonials from current members are a firsthand way we can show future members what they can gain by joining the WoodmenLife family.

Here are some possible scenarios to get you thinking:

- A death benefit came in promptly and prevented a financial worst-case scenario for your family
- A Customer Service Representative answered the phone on the first ring and helped you in a tough situation
- You were surprised and delighted to learn that you were eligible for a WoodmenLife Extra — like the WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® or Student Loan Relief

Please send those stellar stories and rave reviews to Editor@WoodmenLife.org. Be sure to include your name and the best way to contact you.

Here's What it Means to Convert From Term to Permanent Coverage

When you purchased a term life certificate from WoodmenLife, you made a good decision to help ensure your family's financial future is protected. However, we understand that as your life changes, your life insurance needs can, too. We're here for you every step of the way.

With your term life certificate, you have the option to convert some or all of it to a permanent certificate. When you convert your certificate, you won't need to undergo another medical exam, as long as you complete it by your final conversion date. And if you want to keep some of your current term insurance, you can partially convert it without losing the remainder of your coverage.



Here are some of the benefits of converting your term life insurance:

Converting to permanent coverage may be right if you ...



- Want peace of mind knowing your family will always be financially protected



- Want the potential to build cash value that you can access when you need it most¹



- Want premiums that will never increase, regardless of age or health²

Contact your WoodmenLife Representative to help you determine what is best for your family's financial future. To learn more about converting your coverage, visit WoodmenLife.org/Convert

1. Loans against the cash value of your certificate will accrue interest, reduce the death benefit and reduce available cash value. A loan, withdrawal or surrender may be a taxable event. For tax advice, consult with your professional tax advisor. Excessive loans or withdrawals may cause the policy to lapse. If you are under age 59½ at the time of any withdrawal a 10% IRS penalty tax may apply. The No Lapse Universal Life product generally does not build cash value, but offers lower premium rates and guarantees an individual's life insurance coverage through a certain age.
2. This does not apply to the indexed universal life product. These certificates have exceptions, limitations and restrictions. For cost and complete details in coverage, contact your WoodmenLife Representative. Forms: ICC10 8205 3-10, 8205 3-10 (XX), O-8205 3-10 (XX), ICC17 8678 1-17; 8678 1-17 (XX), ICC17 8679 1-17; 8679 1-17 (XX), ICC18 8730 4-18, 8730 4-18 (XX). All products may not be available in all states.



If you're a fan of WoodmenLife's discount program¹, life is about to get a lot more convenient with the new Life's Perks mobile app. The PerkSpot Mobile App lets you take your Life's Perks discounts anywhere you go. You can now redeem local coupons and online deals right from your mobile device.

Here's what you can expect when you download the PerkSpot Mobile App:

- Weekly deals personalized just for you
- Thousands of exclusive offers from the biggest brands
- Big deals from local businesses
- Seasonal savings you can only find on the mobile app

How to Download to Your Mobile Device

The PerkSpot Mobile App is available in both the Apple App and Google Play Stores. Search for PerkSpot Mobile App and tap the "Get" or "Install" button to begin downloading your free app.



You can also scan the QR code with a smartphone to access the PerkSpot Mobile App.



If this is your first time using Life's Perks, use the WoodmenLife access code to create an account.

Download the PerkSpot Mobile App to start saving on the go today!

1. WoodmenLife has entered into sponsored marketing relationships with companies that agree to offer discounts to WoodmenLife members. WoodmenLife is not affiliated with these companies and does not administer these discounts for products or services.



WoodmenLife is the exclusive provider of U.S. flags in the Remembrance Garden.

Volunteers Help Make Gary Sinise Foundation Event a Success

More than 20 WoodmenLife volunteers answered the call to assist with a Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express event held in Nashville, TN, in July.

Like all Snowball Express events, this one offered activities and resources for the children and surviving spouse of fallen military heroes. This event, however, centered specifically on high school graduates who'd lost their parents.



Volunteers served as hosts, helped with setup and assisted in the Remembrance Garden, where WoodmenLife is the exclusive provider of U.S. flags that honor our fallen heroes.

“The Snowball Express families were so excited to visit Nashville and very appreciative of the volunteers assisting in giving them a wonderful experience,” said Tennessee West Community Outreach Advisor Scott Murray.

The volunteers’ involvement was a natural outgrowth of WoodmenLife’s partnership with the Gary Sinise



Representative Brad Jones, Paula Jones, Representative Phalon Diggs, and Chase Diggs were among the WoodmenLife volunteers to help at the Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express event.

Foundation. Both organizations are committed to honoring our Defenders, Veterans, First Responders, their families, and those in need.

Visit WoodmenLife.org/Patriotism to find out more about WoodmenLife’s partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation.

‘America Is ...’ Winner Donates Prize, WoodmenLife Matches

The students in Alyssa Schuetze’s class at West Point (NE) Elementary were eager to donate most of their first-place prize from the 2022 “America Is ...” Video Contest to their town’s Neligh Park Inclusive Playground project

“The kids were excited about the fact that thanks to their efforts in the WoodmenLife contest, everyone will now benefit from our town's park experience,” Schuetze said.

“The kids were excited about the fact that thanks to their efforts in the WoodmenLife contest, everyone will now benefit from our town's park experience.”

— Alyssa Schuetze

The class’s generosity wasn’t lost on WoodmenLife. The organization decided to match the \$2,000 donation to the playground.

“WoodmenLife was moved by the generosity and inclusive spirit shown by the West Point Elementary fourth graders,” said Robby Molony, Vice President, Fraternal. “They could have voted to use the funds on themselves, but instead they wanted to help make the local park accessible for all the youth in the community and surrounding areas.”

When WoodmenLife Representative Cathy Roeber called Schuetze about the matching donation, the teacher was ecstatic.

“Throughout the donation, the word I heard most was, ‘Wow,’” Roeber said. “The teachers were already proud of the students for winning the ‘America Is ...’ Video Contest and their choice for where the prize money would go. Finding out that WoodmenLife was equally impressed with these students and wanted to match their donation sent them over the moon.”

To see West Point Elementary’s video, as well as those of the other participants, visit [Facebook.com/WoodmenLife](https://www.facebook.com/WoodmenLife)



West Point Elementary used its video entry to celebrate how America is made better by all its unique parts — similar to a tossed salad. The school donated most of its prize money to the community's Inclusive Playground project.

Mississippi South Makes an Impact

There isn't an instrument that measures a community's spirit of service. However, if such a device existed, the gauge's needle would be pointing to maximum output when examining the Mississippi South region.

Cemetery Cleanup

Take the region's Giving Together projects last year. Volunteers in Mississippi South gathered to clean up several different cemeteries across the region. The cleanups were conducted all on the same day and included teams across the region working together as part of one large project.

The Giving Together program — designed to help WoodmenLife Representatives organize and conduct community beautification or painting projects — led to a total of 343 Giving Together projects across the country worth \$161,893.

Roadside Food Pantries

At a recent Mississippi South Regional Conference, attendees came up with another gem.

Each of the region's areas took time to construct a roadside food pantry. The three pantries, branded with "WoodmenLife Proudly Serves Our Community," were placed at key locations in the region. They'll be continuously stocked by chapters in each of the areas.

What Makes It All Work

When asked what makes such projects so popular and successful, Mississippi South Regional Director Lisa Davis could've been speaking for any region where community service brings people together.



Mississippi South has made community service a priority. For last year's Giving Together program, teams worked to clean up cemeteries throughout the region, and at a recent Regional Conference, attendees constructed roadside food pantries.

"The camaraderie is off the charts," she said. "Everyone is so excited to be out in our communities together. It's so much fun to put hands and feet to our words of who we are and how important our communities are to us."

When Davis talked about the cemetery cleanups, she said the chance to pay respects and share WoodmenLife's ideals were what made the project so popular.

"First, we were taking care of those who have gone before us, many forgotten by time," she said. "And many of the cemeteries that we worked at had W.O.W. monuments in them."

Davis said the latter fact was a great opportunity to share the WoodmenLife history that makes us "who we are" with newer Representatives and community volunteers.

"Second," she added, "it was the sheer fact that we were all focused on the same projects at the same time. It also allowed us to partner with other like-minded groups in our communities, such as 4-H, garden clubs and Boy/Girl Scouts.

"It created a tremendous sense of community."

Getting people together also resulted in more positive results for WoodmenLife, as 18 new members were added from the cemetery cleanup day's activities. And the good deeds were noticed by others.

"We have been highlighted in local papers in our region showcasing the event," Davis said. "We have received letters from folks in our communities thanking us for what we did.

"Not to mention, we have people calling, ready to volunteer to do it again this year!"



Lisa Davis
Regional Director
Mississippi South

Find Your Place to Volunteer

As a member of the WoodmenLife family, you have an open invitation to support the community through volunteer opportunities. Chapters plan and carry out thousands of service projects each year, like:

- Helping families and communities recover from natural disasters
- Organizing food drives
- Presenting flags to schools, nonprofit organizations, and fire and police stations
- Partnering with organizations like the Gary Sinise Foundation, Toys for Tots® and Shop with a Cop to help families in need
- Holding appreciation events for teachers, First Responders, Veterans, and service members

Visit WoodmenLife.org/Find/Chapter to find the volunteer activities being planned in your area.



WoodmenLife members have plenty of opportunities to volunteer in their communities. One such opportunity is through Giving Together community beautification projects.





Fraternalist of the Year's Service a Constant in His Louisiana Community



National Fraternalist of the Year
Danny Comeaux Sr.
 Houma, LA

When Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana in August 2021, it caused devastation the likes of which had been seen just once before. It was the second-most damaging hurricane in the state's history — behind only Katrina. When it passed, help was needed immediately. In the Houma, LA, area, that help arrived like it usually does — in the form of Danny Comeaux Sr., the 2022 WoodmenLife Fraternalist of the Year.

Member Highlights

- Danny Comeaux Sr. 
- Houma, LA 
- Chapter 308 
- Member Since 1974 

“Danny was hands-on after Hurricane Ida devastated our area,” said Barbara Elliott, past president of Chapter 308 in Houma.

In addition to tarping roofs and cleaning up damage, she said, Comeaux “helped rebuild many neighbors’ homes and fed those in need.”

Though many saw him as a godsend, Comeaux sees himself as just doing what needed to be done.

“People needed help, so I helped,” the 74-year-old said. “It’s just me, I guess. It’s the way I was brought up.”

Elliott, in nominating Comeaux as Fraternalist of the Year, has a different view.

“Danny is a visible role model, exemplifying the values, commitment and community involvement of WoodmenLife,” she said. “This draws the attention and interest of people in the community.”

Comeaux was afraid he’d drawn a different kind of attention when he received a message to call WoodmenLife President & CEO Pat Dees.

“I thought I’d done something wrong,” he chuckled. “Why would the head of the whole organization be calling?”

So what was his reaction when he found out why the president and CEO was calling?

“I was shocked,” Comeaux said. “I had tears in my eyes. But to me, it’s a group thing. I’m just part of the system.”

He’s been part of the system for a long time. Comeaux has been a WoodmenLife member for more than 50 years, and he’s served Chapter 308 in many capacities, including as president. He’s currently the chapter vice president.

His is a life of giving and serving. Every day, he is ready to do whatever he can to help.

“If someone calls and needs something,” Comeaux said. “I’m going to do it.”

South Carolina Chapter Joined Police Department for Project of the Year

What started as an idea of the Kingstree, SC, police chief to build relationships with local youth became a partnership with WoodmenLife to make a difference in the community last holiday season. It ended up being the 2022 WoodmenLife Project of the Year.

“Our police chief has always been supportive of our youth,” said Chapter 27 President Brenda Woods. “For this project, he wanted to give gifts to our young people.”

Chapter 27 gladly joined in — not only as a sponsor by donating \$2,500, but also as an active participant. Chapter members participated in ride-alongs, during which random people were stopped to receive gifts.

During one stop in a grocery parking lot, a father with two young children initially reacted defensively when approached by officers.

“He said, ‘What’s wrong, what have I done wrong?’” Woods said. That defensiveness soon melted away when police handed gifts to the children. “Then, the little girl reached out and hugged the chief.”

Another phase of the project involved traffic stops, where officers would hand motorists \$100.

“It was just heartwarming to see their faces,” Woods said.

During one of these stops, a woman was pulled over after a long day and was upset by the

encounter. When she found out the real reason for her stop, she was relieved. During the conversation, she mentioned that she hadn’t been able to buy her teenage daughter a gift for Christmas.

The officer went to his cruiser and brought back a laptop for the woman to give to her daughter.

“She just sat down and cried,” Woods said. “She said, ‘You don’t know what this means to me.’”

Despite seeing the impact of the project firsthand, Woods was still surprised when she learned it was Project of the Year. Nevertheless, she said, the chapter was “thrilled” with the honor.

Chapter Highlights

- Chapter 27 
- Kingstree, SC 
- 429 Members 
- Founded in 1897 



National Project of the Year
Chapter 27
 Kingstree, SC

Fraternalist of the Year Honorees

Alabama North Carol Wilhite Chapter 1881 Vinemont, AL	Georgia North Edward and Teri Jackson Chapter 1395 Statham, GA	Mississippi North Peggie House Chapter 147 Hamilton, MS	Oklahoma Sherri Elmore Chapter 558 Mead, OK	Texas Northeast Janice Derting Chapter 4 Cleburne, TX
Alabama South Roger and Kathryn Skipper Chapter 1 Mobile, AL	Georgia South Norman "Ned" Davis and Evelyn Davis Chapter 1770 Rincon, GA	Mississippi South Janice E. Stroh Chapter 1446 Saucier, MS	Pacific Region Jose Rosado and Cheryl Johnston-Carr Chapters 84 and 35 Lakewood, WA	Texas Southeast Barbara Frazier Chapter 6177 Silsbee, TX
Arkansas Pamela Wynn Chapter 86 Nashville, AR	Kentucky East Charlene and Ronnie Pelfrey Chapter 722 West Liberty, KY	Nebraska/Iowa Cathy Roeber Chapter 710 West Point, NE	South Carolina Jane Ringer Chapter 1054 Newberry, SC	Texas West Milton Sherwood Chapter 2126 Corpus Christi, TX
Florida Elizabeth Rafford Chapter 78 Lakewood, FL	Kentucky West Mary Nell Chew Chapter 50 Carbondale, IL	North Carolina East Joyce Leary Chapter 328 Ahoskie, NC	Tennessee East Doris Denise Burgess Chapter 879 Baxter, TN	Virginia Deborah "Debbie" Spangler Chapter 66 Buchanan, VA
Georgia Central Dale Bradford Chapter 1571 Wrens, GA	Louisiana* Danny Comeaux Sr. Chapter 308 Houma, LA	North Carolina West Dorothy Shoemaker Chapter 606 Statesville, NC	Tennessee West Phyllis Phaner Chapter 1149 Dresden, TN	West Virginia Loretta Baldwin Chapter 254 Charleston, WV

*National Fraternalist of the Year Winner

Project of the Year Honorees

Alabama North Chapter 8 Florence, AL	Georgia South Chapter 172 Sylvester, GA	Nebraska/Iowa Chapter 16 Omaha, NE	South Carolina* Chapter 27 Kingstree, SC	Virginia Chapter 179 Wylliesburg, VA
Alabama South Chapter 338 Phenix City, AL	Kentucky East Chapter 14 Louisville, KY	North Carolina East Chapter 1004 Pinetops, NC	Tennessee East Chapter 879 Cookeville, TN	West Virginia Chapter 1 Parkersburg, WV
Arkansas Chapter 86 Nashville, AR	Kentucky West Chapter 202 Mount Vernon, IL	North Carolina West Chapter 111 Landis, NC	Tennessee West Chapter 179 Jackson, TN	
Florida Chapter 78 Lakeland, FL	Louisiana Chapter 1154 New Roads, LA	Northeast Region Chapter 8 Butler, PA	Texas Northeast Chapter 72 Tyler, TX	
Georgia Central Chapter 199 Barnesville, GA	Mississippi North Chapter 423 Ecru, MS	Oklahoma Chapter 3887 El Paso, TX	Texas Southeast Chapter 4450 Angleton, TX	
Georgia North Chapter 1395 Winder, GA	Mississippi South Chapter 40 Hazlehurst, MS	Pacific Region Chapter 341 Gilroy, CA	Texas West Chapter 2449 Maxwell, TX	



*National Project of the Year Winner

Scholarship Application Period Opens Nov. 1



Do you know a recent high school graduate who's a member and wants to continue their education at a trade school or college?

If the graduate hasn't already, encourage them to apply for the WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship®. They can get financial help through this great WoodmenLife Extra¹.

Since 2017, WoodmenLife has awarded 4,053 scholarships worth nearly \$2.4 million to high school graduates pursuing higher education opportunities at accredited trade schools or two- or four-year colleges.

Scholarships are available in the following amounts:

10,000	2,500	500
3 scholarships	15 scholarships	up to 865 scholarships

This is an opportunity that eligible members shouldn't miss. Go to WoodmenLife.org/Scholarships to find out more about eligibility requirements and how to apply.

1. WoodmenLife Extras are available to members. An individual becomes a member by joining our shared commitment to family, community and country, and by purchasing a WoodmenLife product. These extras are not contractual, are subject to change and have specific eligibility requirements, such as length of membership, number of qualifying members in household and/or qualifying event.

New COAs Eager to Help Make a Difference



Randi Barthelemy



Jody Owens Lowery

Two new Community Outreach Advisors (COAs) hit the ground running when they joined WoodmenLife this summer. They brought experience in event planning, community service and building relationships. And both aim to help their chapters succeed in making a difference in their communities.

Randi Barthelemy *Georgia South*

Barthelemy lives in Leesburg, GA, with her husband, Colby, and their two children.

She came to WoodmenLife after six years in business management and event planning. She also was involved in community service through chamber of commerce and Rotary activities. She plans to leverage her skills to help her chapters and area Sales Representatives give back.

“I want to make sure every chapter has what they need to be successful, to give back to our community and bring involvement from all members,” she said. “I hope to be a key player in helping the Recruiting Sales Managers and Sales Representatives get involved in the communities they serve.”

Community Outreach Advisors are here for you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding community outreach, contact your region's Community Outreach Advisor. Contact information is on the back of your magazine.

Jody Owens Lowery *Tennessee East*

Lowery lives in Norris, TN, with her husband, Mitch, and their son.

Before joining WoodmenLife, Lowery worked in nonprofit development organizing large-scale fundraising initiatives, working with board members, managing annual funds, and building relationships with donors and staff. She also was involved in recruiting volunteers and volunteer training.

This experience positions her well when it comes to interacting with chapters and community organizations.

“I look forward to helping each chapter develop and build upon their already successful tradition of making a difference in their members' lives and in the communities they love,” Lowery said. “I am also very excited to work with our Sales Force in coordinating events and service projects to grow our WoodmenLife membership!”

North Carolina East COA Joins Advisory Committee



Eric Pilson

WoodmenLife's Community Outreach Advisor (COA) Advisory Committee recently welcomed Eric Pilson from North Carolina East. Pilson is replacing Russ Fox of West Virginia, whose term has ended.

This advisory committee is made up of four WoodmenLife COAs: Kaysi Bell of Texas Southeast, Billie Floyd of Oklahoma, Amanda McNew of Kentucky East, and Pilson, each of whom serves for four years.

Through their work with chapters across the country, they gain valuable insights about our member volunteers, the work they do and the benefits they receive. The COA Advisory Committee reviews and provides recommendations on new and

current community outreach programs, procedures and projects.

Pilson says he is excited to be part of the COA Advisory Committee.

“As a Community Outreach Advisor, my job is to make sure the decisions being made reflect what is in the best interest of our members, chapters and the community,” he said. “We are on the ground level every day, and I'm looking forward to giving my input to make positive changes happen for our members and Representatives.”

To learn more about WoodmenLife's COA Advisory Committee and its role, contact your COA.

WoodmenLife Associates Happy to Help Fight Hunger

WoodmenLife associates embrace the opportunity to help our community. And it doesn't hurt if tasty food is involved.

On June 9, three food trucks parked outside WoodmenLife Tower in Omaha, NE. Associates were able to purchase tickets for lunch, which they could eat with their colleagues at tables set up outside.

Thanks to the generosity of Nebraska Chapters 16 and 704 and Iowa Chapter 6011, all proceeds from the lunch ticket sales went to Food Bank for the Heartland, which serves 93 counties in Nebraska and western Iowa

This, along with other Home Office efforts during June's Strike Out Hunger campaign, raised \$46,385 and collected 1,121 pounds of food to donate to the Food Bank to fight hunger.

To learn more about how WoodmenLife is working to fight hunger, visit WoodmenLife.org/NCF



Proceeds from a WoodmenLife food truck lunch event went to Food Bank for the Heartland to help fight hunger in Nebraska and western Iowa.

welcome

Chapter Donates \$10K to Domestic Violence Shelter

Thanks to a \$10,000 donation from Chapter 1094 in Bandera, TX, the Hill Country Crisis Council will be able to expand its support programs for child and adult victims of family violence and sexual assault.

WoodmenLife Recruiting Sales Manager Amy Adams said the chapter was looking for some nonprofit organizations to donate funds to and was impressed with the Hill Country Crisis Council's mission.

"The Crisis Council met with the chapter and presented the work they do in the community. It was emotional the way they talked about how they helped women and children in abusive situations and getting them back on their feet," Adams said. "After the meeting, chapter members made the motion and were supported by a unanimous vote to donate to the Crisis Council. It was a really special moment."




Members of Chapter 1094 voted unanimously to donate \$10,000 to the Hill Country Crisis Council. The funds will help expand the organization's advocacy services for children and adults who are experiencing trauma.

Thankful for Community

Brent Ives, executive director of the Hill Country Crisis Council, says the generosity could not have come at a better time. The funds will help to expand their advocacy services for children and adults who are experiencing trauma.

"We offer a victim services program, which includes a children's advocacy center. Any time a child discloses sexual abuse, sexual assault or physical assault — we are available to provide a service to those children. We also provide a safe place in the form of an emergency shelter for any adult experiencing violence or sexual assault. When they can leave their violent partner, we have a shelter for them," Ives said.

Chapter Highlights

- Chapter 1094 
- Bandera, TX 
- 367 Members 
- Founded in 1903 

Currently, the Crisis Council has a part-time mental healthcare provider who offers confidential support services to help those victims heal from violence and cope with trauma. "Our vision is to use the funds to elevate our mental health provider to a full-time position so that she can provide more services to help people in Bandera County," Ives said.

Chapter 1094 "remains committed to helping the community," Adams said, and will continue to look for opportunities to support nonprofits and make contributions to improve their community.

WoodmenLife Chapter, Medical Center Team Up to Help Nurses De-Stress

Not all heroes wear capes, but they all need breaks.





North Carolina West Sales Representative Teresa Gamble knows how tirelessly the nurses at Frye Regional Medical Center work to save lives every day and provide much-needed care to their patients.

"My sister is a nurse on the front lines, so I've seen through her eyes some of the situations that the healthcare industry is facing right now," Gamble said. "It doesn't matter what part of healthcare you are in or how many years you've been practicing, being a nurse is a very stressful job."

Gamble asked her sister what WoodmenLife could do to help out her and her co-workers that could take some stress off them.

"That's when my sister came up with the idea of the massage chair for the nurses' lounge," Gamble said.

Chapter Highlights

- Chapter 80 
- Hickory, NC 
- 284 Members 
- Founded in 1903 



WoodmenLife Sales Representative Teresa Gamble, left, was inspired by her sister, Wendi, a nurse, when trying to decide how to thank the front-line medical workers in their community. Gamble worked with Chapter 80 to purchase a massage chair for Frye Regional Medical Center — a place where nurses can step away and relax during the day.

"Someplace quiet where they could step away from patient care or whatever they're doing and just take 15 minutes, or even 5 minutes, for themselves."

With the help of her local Chapter 80 in Hickory, NC, they talked to the Frye Regional Medical Center staff and purchased a massage chair for the nurses working in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Center.

"With all they've been through the past few years, we wanted a way to not only give back but also give a gift that keeps on giving. We wanted to do something to take care of our front-line healthcare nurses and show them just how much they are appreciated. We hope the massage chair will give the nurses a moment to breathe and take care of themselves," Gamble said.



Members of Chapter 26 presented a new U.S. flag for display at the Brooks County Courthouse 50 years after the chapter donated the flagpole on which the flag would fly.

50 Years After Donating Flagpole, Chapter 26 Spruces Up Courthouse With New Flag

Chapter Highlights

- Chapter 26
- Quitman, GA
- 228 Members
- Founded in 1895

In April, members of Chapter 26 in Quitman, GA, gathered to present and install a new American flag for the Brooks County Courthouse. Making the occasion more special was the fact that 50 years ago, Chapter 26 donated the flagpole on which the flag was to fly.

Chapter President Jerry Bass joked about being “only 27” when the flagpole was donated and how time flies. Mostly, though, he was pleased to be part of an occasion that was a crowning jewel of sorts for the recent renovation of the courthouse.

The previous flag, in Bass' estimation, was too small to do the courthouse and the flagpole justice.

“It was just time,” he said. “It needed a bigger flag. It just made sense to do it right. And we’ve had comments from the community about how good the flag looks.”

The county commission chairman, along with a representative from the local VFW, joined chapter members in dedicating the new 5-foot-by-8-foot flag.

Bass said the occasion was a fitting addition to the “great job” the county did in renovating the courthouse, which dates to 1859.

“I’m so proud of our members,” he said. “We had a great time.”

Hueco Elementary Fifth Graders Recognized for Achievements

WoodmenLife honors those who do the right thing because it’s the right thing to do. The Heart & Heritage Awards honor men, women, youth, and organizations who directly impact their communities.

That’s why when WoodmenLife member Esther Mata, a retired teacher at Hueco Elementary, saw her students making a positive impact, she worked with the fifth-grade teachers to recognize their efforts and contributions. With the help of Oklahoma Community Outreach Advisor Billie Floyd, they nominated students for the Caring for Others, Environmental, Community Leadership, and American History Awards.

Chapter Highlights

- Chapter 3887
- El Paso, TX
- 576 Members
- Founded in 1937

During the school’s year-end awards ceremony, members of Chapter 3887 in El Paso, TX, presented the Heart & Heritage Awards to the deserving fifth graders.

“The program was exciting, and the students were so thrilled to be getting the special awards at the end of the program,” Mata said.

Floyd also praised the students for their thoughtful contributions and leadership.

“We want to encourage our children, the future leaders of our nation, to be the best they can be and make positive changes in their community,” she said.

To learn how to honor members of your community, visit WoodmenLife.org/Awards



Kenya C. — Community Leadership Award



Kal'el H. — Environmental Award



Evan H. — American History Award



Azeneth S. — Caring for Others Award



Issa L. — Caring for Others Award

In Retirement, Poetry Shifts From Pastime to Priority

Elvis “Raz” Stephens has worn many hats in his lifetime: WoodmenLife Sales Representative, firefighter, pastor, and funeral home employee.

But there’s always room for one more, right?

“I’ve retired four times, and now I just sit and write poems,” he said.

What started as a hobby has now turned into something more: To date, he’s published 11 books — the most recent of which was released in July.

Stephens has been interested in writing since he was young, but it wasn’t until a few years ago that he started focusing on putting pen to paper. He wrote song lyrics and worked with a local musician to create an album composed of 12 songs. Though he was proud of his work, the CDs didn’t sell as well as he would have liked, so he transitioned to writing poetry.

Stephens’ biggest sources of inspiration are his church and his childhood. But really, anything around him can spark an idea for a poem.

“I hear a funny story, and it stays with me. I read something in the newspaper in the morning, and that stays with me.”



He has so many ideas throughout the day that he keeps a notebook with him to write things down, so he doesn’t forget. Sometimes, Stephens says, “I get it in my head, and I cannot rest until I get it on paper.”

All of his poems follow a six-verse format. He finds that is the easiest to write and read.

To say Stephens has been prolific with his writing would be an understatement. “Every day, I write two or three poems.”





His longest book of poetry sits at nearly 300 pages.

One of his favorite funny poems is about cutting his wife’s hair when she didn’t want to make an appointment at the salon. Spoiler: The poem ends with “I can still hear her screaming.”

At the end of the day, writing is something that Stephens enjoys doing — but it’s more than just a hobby. Poetry improves his day and how he interacts with the world.

“My day goes better if I take a few minutes to sit down with a cup of coffee and write,” he said. “Writing helps me treat my wife better, it helps me treat people better.”

Member Highlights

Elvis “Raz” Stephens 
Hopewell, VA 
Chapter 1 
Member Since 1974 

Family Legacy Is New Name of WoodmenLife Extra

In 2015, WoodmenLife’s Fraternal Working Committee was created to ensure that our extras remained relevant for our members. The committee recently recommended renaming the Orphan’s Care Extra.

The new name of this benefit is Family Legacy Extra.

The name is the only part of this extra that is changing. This extra still allows you to leave a legacy to help ensure that your children are protected in the event you can’t be there for them. The benefit is still a valued and relevant part of the WoodmenLife story — it will just have a fresh new name.

Last year, our organization paid out \$258,000 to members for the Family Legacy Extra. Currently, WoodmenLife has 22 members receiving the monthly benefit.



You can find out more about the Family Legacy or any other WoodmenLife Extra you may be eligible for by visiting [WoodmenLife.org/Extras](https://www.woodmenlife.org/extras)

Get Closer to Financial Security With the Student Loan Relief Extra

For many people, achieving a college degree or finishing vocational training is one of life’s biggest accomplishments.

Unfortunately, that accomplishment can come with a big price tag. And some have worries about paying off the loans that helped finance their education.

That’s why we created the WoodmenLife Student Loan Relief program. Through this extra¹, you can apply for a \$1,000 award to help lighten the load of your student loans.

In 2022, WoodmenLife awarded 85 Student Loan Relief awards worth a total of \$85,000 to members to help pay down their student loan debt.

Visit [WoodmenLife.org/Student-Loan-Relief](https://www.woodmenlife.org/student-loan-relief) to learn more about eligibility requirements and how to apply.

1. WoodmenLife Extras are available to members. An individual becomes a member by joining our shared commitment to family, community and country, and by purchasing a WoodmenLife product. These extras are not contractual, are subject to change and have specific eligibility requirements, such as length of membership, number of qualifying members in household and/or qualifying event. WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® recipients are not eligible to apply.

Community Spirit

Take a photo at your next chapter event and upload it at WoodmenLife.org/Photos



Chapter 25
Montgomery, AL

Representative Corsica Wade and Alabama Chapter 25 hosted a First Responders appreciation event for the Eclectic Police Department. They presented the mayor and police chief with a new U.S. flag that will be flown at the town hall.



Chapter 6246
Maryville, TN

Chapter members donated school supplies and a \$300 check to Porter Elementary School in Maryville, TN. Pictured are Harriett Irwin, Kenneth Irwin, school Principal Judy Pearson, and Laurie Weiland.



Chapter 3887
El Paso, TX

Members of Texas Chapter 3887 spent time cleaning up a mile stretch of highway. Pictured are Karina Martinez, Yasmine Martinez, Melissa Martinez, and Jose Sanchez.



Chapter 320
Brunswick, GA

Chapter volunteers delivered 13 dozen doughnuts and 200 doughnut holes to the local hospital in Brunswick, GA. The sweet treats were their way of saying “thank you” to the nurses for their hard work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Chapter 20
Fairmont, WV

Chapter 20 presented a flag to VFW Post 7048 to fly at the Fairmont, WV, Vietnam Memorial. Pictured are Post Commander Jeff Green, WoodmenLife member Richard Boore, Vice Commander Harry Myers, and Financial Representative Scott Crouch.



Chapter 6004
Castle Rock, CO

Representatives Evans Agagah, left, and Darren Olson, right, presented a new U.S. flag to Chris Stairs, principal of Pine Lane Elementary School in Parker, CO.



Chapter 3
Selma, AL

Chapter 3 in Selma, AL, hosted a First Responders appreciation event for the Dallas County Sheriff's Office.



Chapter 303
Jacksonville, TX

First Responders carried the flag during the opening ceremony for the Tops in Texas Rodeo in Jacksonville, TX. The presentation was part of the Celebrating Red, White & Blue® program.



Chapter 4
Jonesboro, AR

Chapter 4 members hosted a First Responders appreciation event for the Southridge Fire Department in Jonesboro, AR.



Chapter 60
Booneville, MS

Sales Representative Melissa Kinard presented a U.S. flag to Leon Hays, executive director of the Prentiss County Development Association.



Chapter 753
Roxboro, NC

On behalf of Chapter 753, Sales Representative Tonia Allen presented South Elementary School Principal Patrick Holmes with school supplies. The supplies were collected as part of the chapter's first-quarter Shared Commitment project.



Chapter 25
Springfield, MO

Student and WoodmenLife member Jacob Cones joined Chapter 25 members to present trays of cookies to the teachers and faculty members at Willard Middle School.



Chapter 558
Durant, OK

Chapter 558 Secretary Pat Metheny presented a Lifesaver Award to school bus driver Anita Gobert. After Gobert was alerted that there was a child choking on the bus, she was able to safely pull over, put on the bus's flashers and dislodge the apple core from the child's throat.



Chapter 1228
Allen, OK

WoodmenLife member Atlee Richards delivered bottled water, Gatorade and snacks to Chase Gregory, Lt. Jeremy White and the other firefighters at the Jollyville Fire Department.



Chapter 1456
New Albany, MS

Jake Russell, a WoodmenLife member and student at the New Haven School for Special Needs Adults, presented school and cleaning supplies to school administrator Ruby Johnson.



Chapter 154
Mesa, AZ

On behalf of Chapter 154, members Romeo Zavala, Elvira Sodari and Chapter President Julian Sodari presented school supplies to Faith North Early Childhood Learning Center in Phoenix, AZ.



Chapter 2441
Kingsville, TX

As part of a Flag of Heroes presentation ceremony, Chapter 2441 officers presented a U.S. flag to the Kleberg County Airport in Kingsville, TX.



Chapter 68
Shawnee, OK

Members of Chapter 68 in Shawnee, OK, held a nurses appreciation event for Health Department nurses in Pottawatomie, Seminole and Hughes Counties. Each nurse received a goodie bag and catered lunch during their regional training.



Chapter 1850
Cullman, AL

Sales Representative Ken Bates presents a U.S. flag to Lt. John Ryan with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

Answer key from word search on Page 40

A P I E U X O O W E C V B I H R X M Y D
 G S H O P P I N G M A I L C Y C I T Y M
 M N R G V E L Y M O D I H P X Z P P G Z
 M G R R R O U A R Z L Q A Z U Y O X F G
 C N M H B A K E R Y P Z T G W P C L P V
 U E H F S C H O O I P T S B E L T D J S
 Z E I F I D L F M J E K G L K A D T N F
 S T A D I U M H W I V O B O E Y H Z O R
 X X J M M M I H O S P I T A I G Z N W E
 Q S Y B K F U N V T B R J A G R H L B S
 L T H E A T E R U E A U H K F O V I P T
 G R O C E R Y S T O R E D I I U W B J A
 D E K P O I C E S T A T I O N O R L U
 T K R G I P T T Z N E T H C O O K A G R
 S G S O I P S I B Y V V A R H A H R G A
 X E I R F E D E P A R T M E N T U X Y Q N
 F S I H L K A W Y H C Z C Y T S R A H T
 T Z D O Z B Q V F U B O T G B G F C Z J
 Q B D M C T J N V A H A F P I Q A P H K
 L L V A S O K X H U D Y C U U R I C S Z
 N A M I K W M T C Z I K I B B Z R J D R
 G L F N A N R U W B F I L Q I K C I J A
 X E S S T X C T S M L P N X C M Z Y Z C
 X M U T I T B E Z E U W A H I F K Q L E
 U K B R N P S B J Z U J R R X R S P R T
 I V U E G L A O D L P M C Y K S S T F R
 Y Z R E R X L R E X L F S K U I F G A A
 A Z B T I G W F A A Y X P C S C I P P C
 W X W I N A Y O T D E R A Z T A R W Q K
 X Z O O K C R M X Z E M R P S F E G A A



Chapter 687
Kittanning, PA

Members went shopping for the HAVIN (Helping All Victims In Need) domestic violence shelter. They purchased household items necessary for setting up a new home, such as bedding, kitchen utensils, sleepwear, and personal hygiene items.



Chapter 130
Tupelo, MS

As part of its first-quarter Shared Commitment project, Chapter 130 donated school and cleaning supplies to three schools in Lee County, including Parkway Elementary in Tupelo, MS. Pictured are Chapter Secretary Missy Hudspeth, Parkway Principal Carmen Gary and Parkway Community Liaison Tammie Coggins.



Chapter 518
Dennis, MS

Chapter 518 officers Bruce Coats, Wynoka Bostick and Patsy Coats replaced the U.S. flag flown in the Dennis, MS, park.

Answer key from Sudoku on Page 41

2	3	4	5	7	8	6	9	1
7	9	5	6	1	2	4	8	3
1	8	6	9	4	3	5	2	7
4	2	3	1	5	7	8	6	9
8	5	7	3	9	6	1	4	2
6	1	9	8	2	4	7	3	5
3	7	2	4	6	1	9	5	8
9	6	1	2	8	5	3	7	4
5	4	8	7	3	9	2	1	6



Chapter 444
Church Point, LA

Members from Chapter 444 in Church Point, LA, donated \$1,000 to the St. Landry Parish Veterans Memorial in Opelousas, LA.

See Yourself Here!
 Submit photos of your chapter events at WoodmenLife.org/photos
 You could make the pages of *WoodmenLife Magazine*.



Chapter 47
Opelousas, LA

Louisiana Chapter 47 held a Veterans appreciation event at the St. Landry Parish Veterans Memorial. Members thanked Veterans for their service and presented a \$1,000 donation for the memorial's new Welcome Center.

WoodmenLife Gets Associates Out of the Office and Into the Community



Associates Blake Warneke, Leslie VanderVeen and Caleb Krejci volunteered to serve lunch and give back to the community at the Open Door Mission.

WoodmenLife loves to spread the word about its efforts to improve communities across the country. But we don't just talk the talk — we walk the walk.

Each year, WoodmenLife offers its associates two days of paid time off to volunteer in the community. One of those days is encouraged to be used to volunteer with any of WoodmenLife's eight partner charities, and the other can be used to support a charity that is meaningful to the individual.

In addition to giving back to the community, the WoodmenLife volunteer hours give associates the opportunity to work alongside colleagues with whom they might not normally interact.

Associates join the WoodmenLife team already having a spirit of volunteerism, and WoodmenLife wants to give them the opportunity to act on that and serve their community.



Chapter 35
Conway, AR

On behalf of Chapter 35, WoodmenLife Sales Representatives delivered dessert trays to seven fire stations to show their appreciation for all they do in the community.



Chapter 11
Oakland, MD

Maryland Chapter 11 hosted a First Responders appreciation event for the Deep Creek Volunteer Fire Company.



Chapter 566
Greer, SC

South Carolina Chapter 566 provided the Lake Cunningham Fire Department with a meal to show their appreciation for First Responders.



A team of 10 WoodmenLife volunteers spent an afternoon picking up trash in downtown Omaha, NE, in support of Keep Omaha Beautiful — one of WoodmenLife's eight partner charities.



To learn more about what WoodmenLife does for First Responders, visit WoodmenLife.org/First-Responders

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

At WoodmenLife, we love your community almost as much as you do. (Almost!) That's why we've been working to make a difference in hometowns across the country since our founding in 1890. Join your chapter to see what we're all about — sign up for the next volunteer opportunity, and work to make your community the best that it can be.

WORD SEARCH

A P I E U X O Q W E C V B I H R X M Y D
 G S H O P P I N G M A L L C Y C I T Y M
 M N R G V E L Y M O D I H P X Z P P G Z
 M G R R R O U A R Z L Q A Z U Y O X F G
 C N M H B A K E R Y P Z T G W P C L P V
 U E H F S C H O O L P T S B E L T D J S
 Z F I E L D L F M J E K G L K A D T N F
 S T A D I U M H W J V O B Q E Y H Z O R
 X X J M M M I H O S P I T A L G Z N W E
 Q S Y B K F U N V T B R J A G R H L B S
 L T H E A T E R U E A U H K F O V I P T
 G R O C E R Y S T O R E D J I U W B J A
 D E K P O L I C E S T A T I O N O R L U
 T K R G I P T T Z N E T H C Q D K A G R
 S G S Q I P S I B Y Y V A R H A H R G A
 X F I R E D E P A R T M E N T U X Y Q N
 F S I H L K A W Y H C Z C Y T S R A H T
 T Z D O Z B Q V F U B O T G B G F C Z J
 Q B D M C T J N V A H A F P I Q A P H K
 L L V A S O K X H U D Y C U U R I C S Z
 N A M I K W M T C Z I K I B B Z R J D R
 G L F N A N R U W B F I L Q I K C I J A
 X E S S T X C T S M L P N X C M Z Y Z C
 X M U T I T B E Z E U W A H I F K Q L E
 U K B R N P S B J Z U J R R X R S P R T
 I V U E G L A O D L P M C Y K S S T F R
 Y Z R E R X L R E X L F S K U I F G A A
 A Z B T I G W F A A Y X P C S C I P P C
 W X W J N A Y O T D E R A Z T A R W Q K
 X Z O O K C R M X Z E M R P S F E G A A

(Find answers on Page 37.)

- Bakery
- Church
- City
- Fair
- Field
- Fire department
- Grocery store
- Hospital
- Library
- Main Street
- Museum
- Parade
- Park
- Playground
- Police station
- Racetrack
- Restaurant
- School
- Shopping mall
- Skating rink
- Stadium
- Suburb
- Theater
- Town
- Zoo

COMMUNITY WORD SCRAMBLE

(Find answers below.)

1. Umcnoyimt

2. Thenoowm

3. Cllao

4. Odoihrbnhego



Q: What building in your town has the most stories?

A: The library.

Q: Why did the chicken cross the playground?

A: To get to the other slide.

Q: How do you contact the fire department about a fire?

A: Call a hotline.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

	3	4		7			9	
	9		6	1		4		
1		6						7
					7		6	
8	5						4	2
	1		8					
3						9		8
		1		8	5		7	
	4			3		2	1	

(Find answers on Page 37.)

(1) Community; (2) Hometown;
 (3) Local; (4) Neighborhood



In Memoriam



Joe Bertolone
Age 79
Chapter 1571
Martinez, GA



Ardith Y. Cox
Age 81
Chapter 635
Missouri Valley, IA
Iowa Jurisdictional Officer



Patricia Damesworth
Age 78
Chapter 117
Benton, KY



Osa Decker
Age 72
Chapter 658
Park City, KY



Joe Doss
Age 95
Chapter 203
Altavista, VA



Glen W. Dozier
Age 73
Chapter 63
Carbon Hill, AL



James Gilbert
Age 81
Chapter 1150
Abingdon, VA



Kenneth Gore
Age 79
Chapter 165
Houston, MS



Linda Ruth Harper
Age 78
Chapter 254
Charleston, WV



Jonathan D. Karisny
Age 68
Chapter 1180
Pineville, LA



Chris Pate
Age 48
Chapter 72
Tyler, TX



Frank Proctor
Age 68
Chapter 2197
Texas City, TX



Arnold Eustace Riddle
Age 94
Chapter 254
Charleston, WV



RoxAnne Seabern
Age 66
Chapter 3887
El Paso, TX



Carolyn Shelton
Age 55
Chapter 1498
Ozark, AL



Herbert K. Spencer
Age 79
Chapter 722
Campton, KY



Mary L. Stephens
Age 94
Chapter 37
Tampa, FL



Eugene "Dale" Thomas
Age 87
Chapter 880
Columbia, MO



Joe Henry Thomas
Age 84
Chapter 3
Selma, AL



Robert "Bob" Paul Weaver
Age 89
Chapter 247
Ray City, GA



Dolores Fay Wessels
Age 87
Chapter 7
Columbus, TX



Clem "Frankie" Wetherington
Age 87
Chapter 1353
Cove City, NC



Doris M. White
Age 79
Chapter 580
Cairo, GA

In Memoriam Submission Guidelines:

If you would like your departed loved one included here, please upload a photo of the highest possible quality with his or her full name, age, chapter number, and hometown at [WoodmenLife.org/Photos](https://www.woodmenlife.org/photos). If it applies, include if they were a Jurisdictional Officer, a National Committee member, a Regional Director, or a National Representative. Thank you.

Help Us Tell the WoodmenLife Story



Life Insurance | Retirement | Financial Security | Community

Thank you for joining the WoodmenLife family. Together, we have connected with others, given back locally and honored those who make an impact.



Now you can help the next generation do the same.

Do you know someone who could use our help protecting their family's financial future and would enjoy being part of the WoodmenLife family? Your Representative would be happy to start a conversation with them.

Contact your Representative today, and help us tell the WoodmenLife story.

September 2022

PERIODICALS



Please note: If members in your household belong to different chapters, the magazine will be sent to the oldest member and will feature events for his/her chapter of record. You can access other chapters' events on WoodmenLife.org. Information concerning events and activities is subject to change. Visit your chapter's website for the most current information.

