Whether you last met with your WoodmenLife Representative a few months ago or many years ago, it’s possible your life and your family have changed since then. Have you gotten married or added more children to the family? Have you changed careers or are you rethinking retirement goals as you get closer to the end of your career?

If your life has changed over time (as most of ours do), it’s always a good idea to sit down with your WoodmenLife Representative. He or she can make sure you still have enough coverage to meet your needs. Together, you can take an overall look at your future goals and make sure you’re still on track.

Meeting with your Representative is also a way to learn about getting more involved in your local community. September is Hunger Action Month; I encourage you to speak with your Representative about how you can make an impact on the hunger problem in your local community.

Thank you for continuing to choose WoodmenLife and sharing our commitment to family, community and country.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Dees
President & CEO
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WoodmenLife’s Community Outreach Managers are the bridge between our members and the Home Office. Through their work with chapters across the country, they provide valuable insight about our member volunteers, the work they do and the benefits they receive.

That’s why we created a new Community Outreach Manager (COM) Advisory Committee, comprised of four COMs appointed by President & CEO Patrick L. Dees. “This committee will benefit our members because our COMs work directly with our member volunteers,” Dees said. “And any changes in programs and strategy will directly affect these volunteers, therefore making their insight valuable to the decisions we make.”

Focus on Feedback
This new committee will review and provide feedback on new and current Fraternal programs, procedures, processes, and projects that impact their fellow COMs, chapter members and the Sales Force.

“By sharing what they’ve learned and observed in their roles, this committee will provide useful information to help us better address our members’ needs,” said Vice President, Fraternal Don Molineu.

Members of the inaugural COM Advisory Committee and their terms of service are:

- Russ Fox (VA) 4 years
- Karen Hebert (LA) 3 years
- Steve Kowalski (MS) 2 years
- Melissa Godfrey (AR) 1 year

“We know our COMs are the connectors in their communities and they can provide valuable information,” added Molineu. “Creating this committee is an effective and streamlined way to get feedback from this group.”

If you have additional questions about the COM Advisory Committee, contact your Regional Office.

First-Time Offer for WoodmenLife Members

We care for our member families in countless ways, including offering scholarships and following through on our financial promises. Now, we’re offering something special for our members who own Youth Term certificates.

For the first time ever, you can convert your child’s Youth Term life insurance for up to five times the current coverage (up to $50,000) instead of waiting until the child turns 25.

Why convert now?
- No medical exam – Convert your coverage without a medical exam; if you purchase additional permanent life insurance later that requires a medical exam, it could raise rates and impact eligibility.
- Start building cash value now – Whole Life insurance builds cash value, or money that grows inside your insurance that isn’t taxed until you access it.
- Fixed rates – Once you lock in the new life insurance, your premium rates for Whole Life will not increase, guaranteed.

This is the first time we are offering conversion to more coverage before your child turns 25.

The Home Office must receive your application by Oct. 31 to qualify. To get started, contact your Representative today.

For more information on all your options for your Youth Term certificate(s), visit WoodmenLife.org/youthterm.
Morgan and Curt Mascherino of Man, WV, are hardworking, active in the community, patriotic, and have aspirations for a healthy, happy and financially sound future. Married for four years, Morgan works as a probation officer, and Curt is a school teacher.

Soon after their wedding, they started planning for the future by meeting with Chris Bohach, a good friend and their local WoodmenLife Sales Representative. He worked with the Mascherinos and had them fill out a short needs analysis to see what products would make the most sense for their current stage in life.

The Mascherinos look forward to the arrival of their second child in November.
1. Term Life Certificate [Form ICC16 8648 1-16 & 8648 1-16 (xx)] Premiums are applicable during the initial policy term only. Once the initial policy term ends, your premium will increase on an annual basis until age 95. Any increase in premium will not increase the certificate benefits.

2. Whole Life Certificate [Form ICC17 8678 1-17 & 8678 1-17 (xx), ICC17 8679 1-17 & 8679 1-17 (xx)] There may be tax implications for policies recognized as modified endowment contracts (MECs). Distributions, including loans, from a MEC are taxable to the extent of the gain in a policy, and may also be subject to a 10% additional tax if the owner is under age 59½.

3. Loans against the cash value of your certificate will accrue interest, reduce the death benefit and may be a distribution taxable to the extent of the gain.

Coverage Changes With Life Changes

According to Sales Representative Chris Bohach, on average, most families experience six to eight major changes in a lifetime. That is even more reason the Mascherinos appreciate having a Representative like Bohach to guide them through their journey. He recommends reviewing your coverage on a yearly basis and making adjustments, if needed.

“I tell members to establish coverage early and weigh things out every year. There is an option to convert a portion of your Term Life into a permanent Whole Life product. Consider converting from Term to Whole Life in chunks as you go along,” said Bohach.

Often just one product is not the right fit for a member’s needs; a mix of term and whole, or other products, can help provide the coverage needed.

Quick Tip: Purchase enough life insurance to ensure that any surviving family members would be able to live comfortably for at least 5-7 years, or the equivalent of 10 times your individual or combined annual salary.

The Mascherinos have made smart decisions for their future, including protecting their family with a mix of Term and Whole Life products to meet each specific stage of their lives. A new house, a job change, kids – these are all changes families face as they grow. As your family’s life changes, your life insurance needs will also change. To make sure your family is prepared for all of life’s changes, contact your local WoodmenLife Representative.

Bohach recommended the Mascherinos purchase 30-Year Term Life insurance, based on their income levels, age, health, and plans to have children. Morgan and Curt were amazed at how WoodmenLife made the underwriting process seamless and convenient, as Man has a population of 750 and is fairly isolated from larger cities in the state. An underwriting representative drove to the Mascherinos’ home and completed the process in less than an hour.

“‘It’s nice to have someone guide you through the whole process, someone you trust who explains everything to you.’”

— Morgan Mascherino

With 20-Pay Whole Life, Sarah would be covered for life at an early age with premium payments guaranteed not to increase. She also would have access to cash value built up within the certificate to help her pay for later costs, like college or any unforeseen expenses. And, Sarah would have the opportunity to convert to additional insurance during her lifetime, without a medical examination.

Within two weeks of her birth in 2016, the Mascherinos purchased a certificate for Sarah, knowing that she would be protected for life. They realized the sooner they purchased the certificate, the less expensive it would be and they would be locked into a premium that is guaranteed not to increase.

“We feel so much better knowing that Sarah will be taken care of, and that we did it at such an early age, which saved us in premium costs. It was a gift that will last a lifetime,” said Morgan.

There will be another major life change happening this fall for the Mascherinos, as Morgan and Curt are expecting their second child in November.

A Gift for Sarah

The Mascherinos met with Bohach, and he recommended a Whole Life certificate for Sarah, as they already had an adequate amount of Term Life insurance. The Mascherinos never considered, nor wanted to think about adding a new certificate for their daughter. “It’s just not something you think about every day,” said Morgan.

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What started as a simple food drive in southern Georgia mushroomed into such a success that it provided a six-month food supply for Effingham County’s largest food bank and will spread to neighboring Bulloch County this year.

Bill Ross, a Financial Representative in Rincon, GA, coordinated the week-long drive last October for Chapter 1770 in Georgia South. The Manna House Ministries’ food bank had been stripped nearly bare by handing out food following hurricanes in the area. He and other chapter members explained the need to administrators and the school board at Effingham County Schools, hoping three or four schools in the districts would sign on. Instead, all 14 schools and the board office agreed to help.

“We were overwhelmed,” Ross said. “We felt like we had very much been blessed by the Lord.”

Fighting hunger is WoodmenLife’s National Community Focus – a way for local chapters to get involved and fight a national problem. An estimated one in seven Americans don’t know where their next meal is coming from.

Manna House Director Lisa Bush said the pantry serves 800 - 900 families a month. Each family gets 100 to 150 pounds of food. The WoodmenLife-led drive increased both the amount and the variety of the food Manna House was able to give to each family.

“It gives them some hope at the end of the day,” Bush said.

Manna House also shared some of the wealth with other pantries in the area.

How successful was Chapter 1770? The drive collected more than 15 tons of food. Ross had originally told schools that members would have all the food cleared out by 6 p.m. Friday, but they were overwhelmed by the donations. “By 6:30 p.m. Friday, we had only cleared out two schools,” he said. Using a Manna House truck, members finally got all the food moved to the pantry by the end of the day Tuesday.

“We’re excited,” Ross said. “Serving the community is really what it’s all about. WoodmenLife is really well known in the county. We were looking for a way to get the WoodmenLife name out there plus meet a need.”

To spur donations, the chapter donated money for a friendly competition between the schools. The school with the most per capita donations—Blanford Elementary with 6.68 items per student—won $1,000 for any project of its choice. Ebenezer Elementary came in second with 4.33 items per student and won $500.

Chapter member Ned Davis helped pick up the food at the schools and haul it to Manna House. Some schools had so much food that it was spread all the way across the stage.

“When you pick up that much food, it’s a very good feeling,” Davis said.

Chapter 1770 will repeat a food drive this year, but is still deciding on the schedule and which food banks to support. Chapter 158 in neighboring Bulloch County picked up on the idea and will also run a food drive this year, donating to a conglomerate of pantries.

Davis said the project helped open the eyes of students and adults to the need around them.

“You’ve got a mission field all around you,” he said. “You never know who’s in need. It’s very rewarding when you feel like you’ve helped somebody.”

Friendly Competition, Remarkable Success

Georgia Chapters Work With Schools to Motivate Students, Feed Their Neighbors

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Members of Nine Chapters Have ‘Amazing Experience’ Fighting Hunger

Members from nine WoodmenLife chapters in Mississippi North worked with The Outreach Program and the United Way in March to pack 20,000 nutritionally complete meals that require only hot water to prepare.

Chapter members and others in the community filled eight assembly lines, packaged six meals per bag, and then helped distribute them to food pantries in seven counties.

“I thought it was a great opportunity for members to give back to their counties,” said Cynthia Baird, Community Outreach Manager. “You got to see the beginning and the end … the whole circle.”

She called it “one of our best projects in the five years I’ve been here.”

Participating chapters were 165 - Houston, 1456 - New Albany, 130 - Tupelo, 423 - Ecru, 1457 - Saltillo, 60 - Booneville, 1190 - Fulton, 508 - Burnsville, and 518 - Belmont.

WoodmenLife chapters donated money to help purchase the food, and then partnered with the United Way and The Outreach Program, a Union, Iowa-based program, to package and distribute the food.

It was all part of WoodmenLife’s National Community Focus of fighting hunger, a way for local chapters to help tackle a national problem.

“Bass fishing is huge here. Guys are constantly looking for tournaments to participate in,” said Ashley Pruitt, WoodmenLife Community Outreach Manager based in Montgomery.

She said the three chapters – 672 in Linden, 3 in Selma and 1916 in Camden – have sponsored the tournament for two years, and plan to continue in the future. It’s all part of WoodmenLife’s National Community Focus of fighting hunger, a way for local chapters to help tackle a national problem.

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Fraternal Spirit

Chapter 7
Columbus, TX

WoodmenLife members and the public attended a Memorial Day Celebration, where Tracy Rodriguez, fourth from left, spoke. Rodriguez talked about her son, Christopher Kilpatrick, who was killed in action in the Iraq war.

Chapter 6035
Wichita, KS

Representative Lanier Burden presented Julian Dyer of Ila Elementary School in Madison County with an American History Award. Julian’s dad, Patrick Dyer, is at right.

Chapter 1415
Comer, GA

For a Flag Day celebration, members presented flags and flag code books to Sandcastle Children’s Library in Summertown, TN.

Chapter 210
Nacogdoches, TX

Members, including Zykeira Chancey, helped show teachers at Brooks-Quinn-Jones Elementary School they were appreciated earlier this year.

Chapter 1115
Gallatin, TN

Members, including treasurer Elizabeth King, third from left, passed out flags and other items at the Andover Senior Center on Flag Day. King is pictured with the center’s board of directors.

Chapter 19
Somerset, PA

Representative Kevin Mathias and his 11-year-old daughter, Ruthie, teamed up with other members to clean up trash on Earth Day. They cleaned 1.2 miles of road, collecting 64 pounds of aluminum cans.
Representative Riley Webb presented the Crockett County Dixie Youth League with an American flag for the 2018 season.

Edith Swinson has been a WoodmenLife member for well over 50 years. She has held many offices on the local and state level and has many WoodmenLife experiences to share. At left, she presented a flag to Pinelawn Presbyterian Church in 1977 with her late husband. In May 2018, she presented another flag there.

Members of WoodmenLife’s Sales Force, including Regional Director Pat Carter, second from left, presented a Community Partnership Award to the Barboursville Police Department.

Members donated $500 to For the Sake of One, a local nonprofit that supports foster families and case workers. From left are Treasurer Pat Tiffin, Bill Tiffin, President Brenda Moon, Leon Hall, Angela Coston of the nonprofit, and Ronald Moon.

Representative Robert Clowdis presented an American flag to a faculty member at Central Middle School.

Members donated $300 to the Hartford Rescue Squad to pay for remodeling their training facility.

Members held a flag retirement ceremony with former members of the armed forces at Siloam Springs Community Church.

Representative Riley Webb presented the Crockett County Dixie Youth League with an American flag for the 2018 season.

Members donated $350 to For the Sake of One, a local nonprofit that supports foster families and case workers. From left are Treasurer Pat Tiffin, Bill Tiffin, President Brenda Moon, Leon Hall, Angela Coston of the nonprofit, and Ronald Moon.

Chapter 328
Texarkana, AR

Chapter 179
Wylliesburg, VA

Chapter 310
Hartford, AL

Chapter 115
Jonesboro, LA

Chapter 488
Mamou, LA

Chapter 935
Beulaville, NC

Answer key from Sudoku on page 41
Members presented an American flag for the veterans' memorial at Green Springs Cemetery in Green Springs, OH.

Members sponsored a team for the Walk of Hope fundraiser, which collected about $90,000.

Members Janice and Larry Strohm helped remove more than 22,000 flags from Biloxi National Cemetery after Memorial Day weekend.

Members presented Davis Cumbia of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff’s Office with a Deputy of the Year Award. He is pictured with his wife, Kristen, and daughter, Scarlett.

Chapter 6092
Fremont, OH

Chapter 6
Roswell, NM

Chapter 1446
Gulfport, MS

Chapter 124
South Hill, VA

Chapter 3, 4, 16, and 70
Monroe, Wadesboro, Concord, and Marshville, NC

Members came together to welcome veterans home from the Queen City Honor Flight.

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Members presented an American flag on behalf of the chapter to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 172. Accepting it for the veterans group are Susan Mallozzi and Barbara Smith.

Chapter 6
Fremont, OH

Chapter 6
Roswell, NM

Chapter 1446
Gulfport, MS

Chapter 124
South Hill, VA

Chapter 38
Bardwell, KY

Chapter 6
Cumberland, MD

Chapter 6
Fremont, OH

Chapter 1446
Gulfport, MS

Chapter 38
Bardwell, KY

Chapter 6
Cumberland, MD

Chapter 6
Fremont, OH

Chapter 1446
Gulfport, MS
Members presented 20 fans to the Salvation Army in Kerrville, TX, to help families fight the summer heat.

Members donated $1,000 to Lives Under Construction, an organization that helps at-risk boys find purpose, get an education and learn trade skills.

Chapter 58
Kerrville, TX

Chapter 10
Freeport, FL

Chapter 25
Springfield, MO

Chapter 635
Fairfield, IL

Members hosted a First Responder appreciation event.

Fighting Hunger

Members donated more than 750 pounds of food and water to Feed My Sheep, a Christian ministry that provides free meals to anyone in need. From left are Philip Cooper, cofounder of the ministry, and Connie Smith, chapter secretary.

Area Relief Ministries in Jackson, TN, accepted a check for $5,000 from the region’s chapters to support its efforts to feed those in poverty and help the homeless. From left are Mike Roby, Area Relief Ministries Executive Director and WoodmenLife member; Nicole Ellis, Area Relief Ministries Director of Emergency Services; Mary Barnes, WoodmenLife Senior Admin; and Roger Anderson, WoodmenLife Regional Director.

Members presented a check for $500 to the Kentucky River Foothills Developmental Council for its senior food program.

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2018 WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® Recipients

Calvin Nester (Waynesboro, VA)

Brooke Thompson (Summerville, SC)

Taylor Denson (Booneville, MS)

Will Dagenhart and Hannah Williams (Wadesboro, NC)

Parker Lamb (Dyersburg, TN)

Dauson Ward (Pell City, AL)

Brooklyn Snider and Denver Snider (Gleason, TN)
Top Scholarship Recipient Inspires Through the Arts

With 993 WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarships® awarded and $555,000 paid out this year, WoodmenLife is still in awe of the wonderful things young members are doing. Take a moment to read about motivated teens doing exceptional things.

$25,000 Recipient
When Sarah Freese, a senior from Fair Oaks, CA, learned the arts program she loved as a small child was struggling, she didn’t hesitate to take charge. As director, she savored the opportunity to help children build confidence and become more enthusiastic about their education. Freese helped the children foster confidence through positive engagement and mentorship.

“Transforming children in my community from timid students to Broadway stars … my version of volunteerism,” Freese says.

Freese, a Del Campo High School graduate, is the Director of Advancement at Kids Helping Kids in Sacramento, CA, and helps raise thousands of dollars for the nonprofit from corporate donors. She’ll use the business skills she’s learned and her passion to serve others while pursuing a political science degree at the University of California, Los Angeles this fall.

“Receiving this scholarship is an absolute honor, and I can’t think of a better way to kick off my college experience,” Freese says. “This will make it so much easier on my family throughout my first year at UCLA, as this process is entirely new to us. I would like to thank WoodmenLife for helping me continue my education at my dream university.”

$20,000 Recipient
Amy Edwards is a 2018 graduate of Arendell Parrott Academy in Kinston, NC. Edwards was involved in National Honor Society, Dance and Varsity Cheerleading. She was also heavily involved in her community volunteering with the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program and Mary’s Soup Kitchen. She will be attending Campbell University in the fall.

Sarah Freese, center, will pursue a political science degree at the University of California, Los Angeles this fall.

Amy Edwards, third from right, will attend Campbell University this fall.

$10,000 Recipient
Luke Fox is a 2018 graduate of Sullivan Central High School in Blountville, TN. Fox was involved in Marching Band and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He also stayed busy volunteering in his community as a middle school football coach and in his church. He will be attending East Tennessee State University in the fall.

$1,000 Recipients
- Daniel Jarman, Snow Hill, NC
- Kimberlin Arnold, Lufkin, TX
- Brooke Thompson, Summerville, SC
- Christian Colson, Locust Grove, VA
- Britney Decoux, Claremore, OK
- Kary Dinkins, San Antonio, TX
- Rachael Klueppel, Eddyville, VA
- Calvin Nester, Waynesboro, VA
- Daniel Park, Anaheim, CA
- Alexandra Walker, Fredericksburg, VA

The WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship program is one of WoodmenLife’s member benefits. The program awards up to $1 million annually to members furthering their education at a 2-year or 4-year college, university or technical school. See all the recipients at WoodmenLife.org/congrats.

Applications for the 2019 scholarships will be accepted Nov. 1, 2018–Feb. 15, 2019. For more information, visit WoodmenLife.org/scholarships. The scholarships are available for 2017, 2018 and 2019 high school graduates.
If we see something needs to be done, we try to do it,” he said. “We help so many organizations. It is a way of life.”

He added, “The Lord’s blessed me that I can have the opportunity and the means to help people. That’s what it’s all about.”

Becker and his family have deep roots in the community, so he seems to know everybody, Robertson said. “People know who to contact,” he said. “They say ‘Joe Becker can take care of you.’ And he does.”

Looking back on three decades of chapter activities, Becker said it’s difficult to call out favorites. But the Army veteran and American Legion historian takes special pride in flag presentations. “People are very appreciative of it, and it’s a good feeling to do that,” he said.

Becker and his wife, Ann, have a daughter and three grandsons, so Becker also has a soft spot for chapter activities that serve youth, like providing back-to-school supplies, holiday gifts and grocery donations to the St. Clair County Boys Ranch. “Some of those kids have never had a birthday present, never had a Christmas present, never had anything,” he said.

Becker finds humor there, too. “They say, ‘Thank you, Mr. Woodmen!’” he said with a chuckle. “And when you pull up there with a carload of cakes and pies, you get all the help you need to get it unloaded.”

“I love seeing Mr. Joe’s name appear on my caller ID because it usually means he has found another group in the community that could use our help,” Bedran said. It’s just one of the reasons she nominated Becker for Fraternalist of the Year. “I think Mr. Joe has formed our chapter into what it is today. Our chapter is more like a family,” she explained. “He is the ideal ambassador for WoodmenLife and all the organization stands for.”
“America Is ...” Video Contest Winners
Use Prize Money to Help Peers

THANKS TO SOME INITIATIVE, CREATIVITY and patriotic spirit, two schools are going to be safer.

Pink Hill Elementary’s fourth-grade class took first place in WoodmenLife’s “America Is ...” video contest this spring. They shared what America means to them in less than 60 seconds and used the $2,500 prize to improve their school.

They bought an automated external defibrillator (AED) and other first-aid equipment for the school, and this money is a great addition to their current campaign to make the rural school safer.

The creative spark to create and submit a video came from Brenda Griffin, a language arts teacher at Pink Hill. She is a WoodmenLife member and saw her Sales Representative’s Facebook post about the patriotic contest. Griffin and another language arts teacher worked with the students to write an acrostic-style poem to red, white and blue. The students coordinated what everyone wore, helped pick locations to film the video, and consistently reminded their families, the school faculty and the community to vote!

“The kids are thrilled,” says Griffin. “They’ve been so involved in reminding their parents to vote and really getting behind it, trying to reach this goal.”

The contest runner-up, the Connally Primary Elementary third-grade class in Texas, will use the $1,500 to add shade around the school’s playground. The students wanted to find a project that would benefit the entire student body.

“Because of the heat and sun, we want to make sure that recess is a safe time for students to play together and release some energy,” says Kathleen Sheldon, Connally Primary Elementary third-grade teacher. “We’ve applied for grants in the past and have not been able to get any, so this is a perfect opportunity to invest in playground shade.”

Pictured with the students who helped make the video are, from left, Brenda Griffin, fourth-grade teacher; Sales Representative Rod Howard; Recruiting Sales Manager Rob Jimigan; Community Outreach Manager Eric Pilson; Sales Representative Lynn Hill; Sales Representative Jared Edwards; Sales Representative Amanda Nelson; and Principal LeAnne Hardy.

Watch the Winning Entries
See what these kids have to say at https://bit.ly/2tIQ2pmz. We couldn’t help but smile.

The third-place winner, Knights Elementary School in Florida, was awarded a Patriotic prize pack, which includes one large U.S. flag, 500 hand-held flags, 500 flag code and guidelines booklets, 500 U.S. flag lapel pins, 50 U.S. flag code posters for classrooms, and 500 presidential rulers. The prizes will most likely be incorporated into the school’s annual Veterans Day Appreciation Ceremony and throughout the 2019 school year.

“We are delighted that students from all over the nation demonstrated their creativity and enthusiasm for what America means to them,” said Patrick L. Drees, WoodmenLife President & CEO. “The video entries did a great job of expressing patriotism and the many reasons why we celebrate, love and support our country.”

Pictured, from left, are Sales Representative Jermy Sunday, Connally third-grade teachers Kelley Gipson and Kathleen Sheldon; and Community Outreach Manager Kaysi Bell.

Pictured with the students from the winning video are, from left, Recruiting Sales Manager Neal Roberts, Sales Representative John Johnson, Sales Representative Chris Hamlin, Principal Janine Hall, School Media Specialist Donna Von Glahn, and Community Outreach Manager Mickey Pennington.
There has been a movement in some cities and states to ban plastic shopping bags, the billowing conveyances often seen blowing across yards. However, WoodmenLife member Sherri Wilkes of Lancaster, SC, has a better idea. Much, much better.

A few years ago, she started Making Mats for the Homeless, a group that turns plastic bags into yarn – also known as “plarn” – and then turns the plarn into sleeping mats with carrying straps and pillows. As of July, Making Mats had produced 178 mats and 48 pillows, using around 96,000 plastic bags.

Making Mats delivers its pieces to homeless folks, homeless shelters and people living in houses without heat. Individuals in five different states have benefitted from Making Mats. Bag donations from across the country, along with volunteer labor from 13 states and Canada, made it possible.

That is significant growth for a project begun to engage church youth in service projects and social responsibility.

Wilkes said Making Mats has been a fulfilling endeavor for people from all walks of life and of all abilities.

“We have men, women and children at our events for making plarn,” she said. “We once had a blind man come and he flattened bags to where they almost looked brand new. It was amazing. Two of our participants are deaf, and together we came up with a hand sign for plarn.”

Email makingplasticmats@gmail.com if you’re interested in participating.

A commemorative marker shines inside Evergreen Cemetery in Elba, AL, thanks to WoodmenLife member Nell Gilmer’s love of local history. When Gilmer, secretary of Elba Chapter 1932, learned of the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, she knew the 160-year-old Evergreen was deserving of inclusion.

Gilmer and a friend worked on the application for the historic register. Such an activity is old hat to her, as she has championed the restoration of other local landmarks and serves on the state bicentennial committee for the city.

“(Evergreen) is indeed a special place since Elba is a small town and everybody knows everybody,” Gilmer said, "and we all have someone buried there.”

Members of Gilmer’s family buried in Evergreen include aunts, uncles, cousins, a nephew and great-grandparents. Meanwhile, WoodmenLife Sales Representative Linda Westbrook counts aunts, uncles and cousins among those resting in the cemetery.

Gilmer and Westbrook believed a RedBasket.org project was the best way to raise enough money to place the marker. Between RedBasket.org and direct donations, the effort gained the necessary $1,610 for the marker and two bronze plaques with the name of the cemetery near the street.

During the marker’s unveiling, retired teacher Jean Helms offered a history of Elba and the cemetery, effectively tying the present to the past.

Westbrook called the ceremony emotional, helping fuel pride over being involved.

“It is always a special feeling when our chapter is a helping hand in our community projects,” she said. “There was a good turnout for the unveiling and a very appreciative group. I am proud to be a Rep with WoodmenLife.”

Trash-to-Treasure Project an All-Around Win

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Portable ID Kits Save Precious Time

Parents often lose precious time looking for current photographs and identifying information in the paralyzing emotional aftermath of a child’s disappearance, said Robin Sundquist, administrative assistant to the Bedford County (VA) Sheriff.

The Safe Surfin’ Foundation works to save that time with EZ ID Kits. These kits include machines sold to law enforcement for creating digital profiles. The manufacturer of the kits offers them at a discount through Safe Surfin’. Still, at $2,300 each, the price is steep.

In stepped Chapter 71 of Appomattox, VA. Beth Jones, a WoodmenLife Sales Representative, said members approached other chapters to raise enough money to buy an EZ ID Kit after a presentation by Safe Surfin’.

Sundquist, who is also the deputy director of Safe Surfin’, said involving WoodmenLife was a way to extend the reach of this foundation, which takes its information about WoodmenLife’s activities and services.

With the EZ ID Kit – a laptop with preloaded software – digital photos and fingerprints are taken, and information, such as height, weight and allergies, is entered. The resulting profile can be downloaded onto a thumb drive or disc, or to an app and sent to law enforcement because it’s created with the same system used by authorities.

Parents are thrilled to get a disc loaded with their children’s profiles, Jones said. And smaller area sheriff’s departments are equally thrilled when Chapter 71 shows up at events because they cannot afford an EZ ID Kit of their own, she said.

“I hope and pray they never need it,” Jones said of the parents and sheriff’s departments benefitting from Chapter 71’s outreach, “but it they do, we have it.”

Blueberries are Back and Better Than Ever

After a 12-year hiatus, the Bridgeton Blueberry Festival was revived in 2016. Seeking the same sense of community and recognition that the festival used to bring to Bridgeton, NC, WoodmenLife member Sherri LeFever embarked on the journey to bring it back.

It became clear to LeFever that Bridgeton was missing out after she spoke with members of the community who’d been around long enough to witness the old festival. With the help of other community members, the revived festival was planned in three months and reintroduced in June 2016.

The new festival involves a blueberry bake-off, a silent auction, live music, and good old family fun. It requires constant planning with various committees in charge of its many moving parts.

But it is all worth it. “I think [the festival] means giving the town some notoriety, and giving back to Bridgeton,” LeFever said. And at a population of only 400, the Blueberry Festival gives the residents of Bridgeton an opportunity to put themselves on the map.

The festival boasts 5,000 visitors and 60 vendors every year. Along with the people it brings to town, it also has brought a newfound sense of recognition to Bridgeton. The sense of family and community has never been higher.

The improvements that the Blueberry Festival has brought to Bridgeton span beyond blueberry season though. The Bridgeton Improvement Committee, which plans the festival, has set its sights on the beautification and improvement of the community. This includes a freshly painted town hall, redone police station and new signs.

Blueberries are changing Bridgeton for the better. The Bridgeton Improvement Committee, which plans the festival, has set its sights on the beautification and improvement of the community. This includes a freshly painted town hall, redone police station and new signs. Blueberries are changing Bridgeton for the better.

Member Highlights

Sherri LeFever
Ernul, NC
Chapter 652
Member since 1960

Bake-off Winning Recipe

Blueberry Yum-Yum

- ½ cup self-rising flour
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ½ cup crushed pecans
- ½ stick margarine, melted
- 3 cups blueberries (some fresh, some thawed)
- 1½ sticks margarine
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup water, divided into ½ cup and ½ cup

Spray the inside of the mason jars with cooking spray and set them on a cookie sheet. Combine flour, brown sugar, pecans, and melted margarine in a small bowl. Divide the mixture among the 6 jars and press into the bottoms. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes and then cool completely. In a large pot, bring blueberries and 2/3 cup water to a simmer for 3 minutes. Combine 1/3 cup water, sugar and corn starch, and then add it to the blueberry mixture. Cook until boiling. When at a full boil, boil for exactly 1 minute. Remove from the heat and cool completely. In a large bowl, beat the softened cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Fold in the Cool Whip. Add cream cheese mixture to the mason jars and then top with the blueberry mixture. Refrigerate for 1 hour and then enjoy.

Chapter 71
Appomattox, VA
1,880 members
Founded 1907

Member Highlights

Sherri LeFever
Ernul, NC
Chapter 652
Member since 1960

WoodmenLife Magazine
Chapter 232 in Akron has been a five-star chapter for several years. They do so many things: donations, volunteering, events,” said Community Outreach Manager Russ Fox (West Virginia/Ohio).

However, providing $30,000 toward upgrading the aging heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system at the OPEN M Ministry is possibly the chapter’s most unique activity to date, and it all began when a chapter member overheard a conversation while volunteering.

“There was a discussion that the HVAC system was going bad and that they really needed to find the funding to make this happen,” Fox said. “It was being in the right place at the right time, and recognizing a unique need in the community.”

Chapter 232 has a long association with OPEN M; one member, Dolores Kolb, has volunteered there weekly for 18 years. Helping to make OPEN M’s 20,000-square-foot Neighborhood Center more physically sound has a tremendous ripple effect.

The facility is an essential resource for the community, providing a wide spectrum of services, including food programs, a medical clinic, financial literacy training, and employment readiness education. OPEN M also collaborates with other organizations or provides them facility space in an effort to comprehensively serve some of the most vulnerable people in the community.

“...We are so blessed, and we are touched by the generosity of WoodmenLife. It’s great to know there are organizations out there like yours that really want to invest in the inner-city where the real struggle for individuals is going on. That says a lot about the character of the organization and the character of the people associated with it,” said OPEN M Ministry CEO Bob Titus. “Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

WoodmenLife members are very patriotic, so it’s fitting that the peregrine falcons who’ve fledged from atop Woodmen Tower in 2018 will carry with them the names Liberty, Justice and Freedom.

The 28th floor of the Tower has sheltered these fearsome hunters for three decades, and this year was no exception. Falcon followers from around the world tuned in to find out if Mintaka and his new mate, Chayton, would hatch any eggs. The eggs started appearing in late April and hatched around Memorial Day.

After the chicks were banded and given a medical check-up by wildlife experts, our Facebook followers submitted names for the three healthy — almost always hungry — girls. Voting wrapped up before Independence Day, and the spirit of the red, white and blue prevailed.

Now, when these once endangered birds depart our Tower, they’ll take some of WoodmenLife’s sense of patriotism with them.

For more information, visit Falcons.WoodmenLife.org.

FALCON FACTS

- Males and females may mate for life
- Females lay 3–4 eggs a year and incubate them for 32–35 days
- Age of first flight is less than 50 days
- When power-diving to strike prey, these predators can reach 200 mph
- Their diet is mostly birds
- The species is now considered stable after being endangered for a number of years

Sources: Audubon.org, NationalGeographic.com
Blocher Believes in Giving Back

In the almost three years she’s been a Community Outreach Manager (COM), Kristin Blocher has been part of so many good fraternal projects, she says it’s hard to choose a favorite.

“I have 16 chapters in Pennsylvania and six in Maryland, each with their own unique niche of activities,” Blocher said. “I have one chapter that is very focused on patriotic activities and presents more than 50 flags per year, and another that raises money for the American Cancer Society.”

For Blocher, the enthusiasm and commitment of her members inspires her. “Our members put in so much time and effort on behalf of WoodmenLife,” she said. “From fighting hunger to supporting local schools, I love seeing the fruits of our labor come together for the betterment of so many communities.”

Helping in Hershey
When Blocher came on board, Chapter 364 in Hershey, PA, was making quarterly donations to various organizations, with no real focus on the best projects to support. She suggested they form a committee to evaluate the requests, and then present their findings to the chapter.

“The committee developed an application that they send out to partner organizations,” Blocher said. “These organizations then write proposals and submit them. It’s been a great success for the chapter. In 2017 they funded more than $100,000 in projects in the community.”

Another important project Chapter 364 supports is First Fruits Farms, a nonprofit organization that raises and harvests more than 1.5 million pounds of fresh produce every year.

“The chapter spearheaded a project to buy their corn seed this year, and we participated in a harvest day in August,” Blocher said. “This is one of the most exciting projects we are part of.”

Focus on Family
Other successful activities for Blocher have been the region’s family events. “Our biggest event ever was our first one at the Pittsburgh Zoo,” she said. “We didn’t think we’d get a big turnout and we had more than 750 people!” She said their family events at Hershey Park are also a big draw. “We get at least 500 people there, so that’s one activity we’ll have every year.”

COM Kristin Blocher, Regional Director Michaele Geibel, Recruiting Sales Manager Jessica Wilhelm, and members of Chapter 11 (Oakland, MD) presented a flag at the Oakland Jubilee Days Festival.

Fun Zone
Let’s Go Apple Picking
Summer is fun, but fall is just around the corner. And autumn means apples! There is something delicious about walking into an orchard and knowing that you’re a few hours away from having a slice of apple pie. If you get a hayrack ride, bob for apples, or sip a cup of cider, too – all the better! Try out this word search, get a few chuckles from our apple jokes, and then plan to visit an orchard near you. (Find answers on page 22.)

Word Search

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Answers: Apples Basket Bobbing Bushel Caramel Cider Cinnamon Cobbler Crisp Gala Granny Smith Harvest Jelly Jonathon Juicy Market Nutritious Orchard Pastries Seeds Strudel Tart Trees Turnover
**Apple facts**

The first American orchard was planted around 1625 by William Blackstone on Boston’s Beacon Hill.

Apples are a member of the rose family.

It takes about 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.

Apple trees take 4 to 5 years to produce their first fruits.

More than 2,500 varieties of apples are grown in the U.S., but only the crab apple is native to North America.

*Source: usapple.org

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**Time for some outdoor fun-nies!**

Q: What kind of apple has a short temper?
A: A crab apple.

Q: If an apple a day keeps the doctor away, what does an onion do?
A: It keeps everyone away.

Q: How do you make an apple turnover?
A: Push it down a hill.

Q: Why did the apple cry?
A: Its peelings were hurt!

Q: What can a whole apple do that half an apple can’t do?
A: It can look round.

Q: What was the mother ghost telling the baby ghost when he ate his apple pie too fast?
A: Stop goblin your dessert.

Q: What kind of apple throws the best parties?
A: Gala apples.

Q: What’s worse than finding a worm in your apple?
A: Finding half a worm in your apple.

Q: Why did the apple stop running?
A: He ran out of juice.

Q: Why were the apple and the orange all alone?
A: Because the banana split.

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**Sudoku Puzzle**

See if you can solve this Sudoku puzzle. Good luck!
(Find answers on page 19.)

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Generated by http://www.opensky.ca/sudoku

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**Have a good joke?**

Make your fellow members laugh.
Please send contributions to WLEditor@woodmen.org.
Ensure your coverage meets your changing needs

When life changes, your life insurance* needs change, too. Rely on your WoodmenLife Representative® to make sure your family has the right coverage at the right time.

Schedule a conversation with your local Representative today.

1. Life insurance and annuity products are issued by Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society (WoodmenLife), Home Office: Omaha, NE. 2. Not all Representatives are licensed to sell all products. Not all products are available in all states. D1488 6/18 Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society, Omaha, NE
Fall 2018

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.
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Jonathon
Juicy
Market
Nutritious
Orchard
Pastries
Seeds
Strudel
Tart
Trees
Turnover