Fighting Hunger, Thanking Heroes

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
Project and Fraternalist of the Year
Find a Fulfilling Career
Chapter Secretary Janice Strohm shows off an original 48-star U.S. flag during a Flag Day Scavenger Hunt that Mississippi South hosted. Members submitted photos of different flags as part of the contest, which helped demonstrate their patriotism while staying safely apart.

Safety and Security

Remain Our Focus

Events in our nation have continued to be unpredictable over the past few months. More than ever, I have been blown away by everyone in the WoodmenLife family: our Sales teams, who quickly adapted to continue to serve families; our National Board of Directors, whose members have stepped up to back our evolving efforts and offerings; and our Home Office Associates, who have not missed a beat in serving WoodmenLife members. Most of all, YOU, our members, have made such a big difference, especially through the $1 million you quickly helped us raise for Feeding America®. Please see all the chapters who helped with this effort on pages 14-21.

Your safety is of the greatest concern to us. That’s why, unfortunately, we canceled Family and Senior Events this year. You will see photos that took place before the pandemic in this publication, but rest assured, we’re following all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and monitoring the situation closely. We’re reassessing our operations to ensure our Associates, Sales Representatives and members are safe and sound.

We also want to make sure we never falter in being there when you need us. We were founded to help plan for the financial security of families like yours, and that is still our mission today. Virtual appointments are the perfect solution to continuing this mission, while ensuring your safety. If you need anything, don’t hesitate to set up a video call with your local Representative.

Thank you for being part of the WoodmenLife family. It’s an honor to be able to serve you.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Dees
President & CEO
Explore a Career With WoodmenLife

Many Representatives Have Found Their Calling Helping Others

WoodmenLife Recruiting Sales Manager Eric Kendall had been working in sales for eight years before coming to WoodmenLife. Six years later, he’s found that a WoodmenLife career is more than just another sales career.

“It’s a dream career,” Kendall said. “Sometimes you have to remind yourself that it’s real. Where else can you make a difference in the community, have a flexible schedule and make a great living? It’s very hard to find. WoodmenLife treats you like royalty.”

What exactly does a WoodmenLife Representative do? Each day is different, but it starts with helping families determine what they need financially and how to get there. There’s much more to it than that though: checking in with families throughout the years as their lives and goals change; helping families during the hardest times, including death and natural disaster; organizing food drives and other community service events; and supporting local schools, First Responders and Veterans. This is just the start – WoodmenLife Representatives have countless opportunities to help their communities and the families who live near them.

“We do much in the community to honor our First Responders, teachers and nonprofits,” Kendall said. “We are the life insurance company that gives back.”

No Sales Experience Needed

Though a background in sales is helpful, it’s not needed to build a successful WoodmenLife career. Life insurance and selling can be learned, while the desire to make a difference is part of who you are.

“Anyone can succeed at WoodmenLife,” said Representative Paul Brooks, Laurinburg, NC. “You just have to keep looking for the next person to help. As a Representative with WoodmenLife, you have great ways to assist the family, either with insurance coverage or retirement products. You always have to ask yourself: ‘Who can I help today?’”

Cami Dixon, a WoodmenLife Financial Representative in La Grange, TX, agrees that service-focused values play a big role in success.

“Without a doubt, I believe the most important quality needed for this career is integrity and always doing what is right, even when others do not,” she said. “As a former teacher, this was a natural fit for me. You need to be able to hold yourself accountable, be self-motivated, be comfortable teaching people, and work well with others.”

The Support You Need to Succeed

WoodmenLife Representatives receive training and support from day one, both from their local team and the Home Office in Omaha, NE. This continues...
“What has surprised me the most about this career is how quickly you can build a business.”

— Paul Brooks, Recruiting Sales Manager

“I love getting to know and spending time with our members,” Brooks said. “You become part of their family, and they become part of yours.”

Through WoodmenLife, Brooks has had opportunities to help provide essentials following back-to-back hurricanes; thank local teachers, firefighters and police officers; and present scholarships. “All are important and rewarding,” he said.

Dixon has also found great fulfillment helping locally, while having the flexibility to make her family a priority. “My favorite thing about working with WoodmenLife is the freedom of my schedule.”

— Cami Dixon, WoodmenLife Financial Representative

Dixon has also found great fulfillment helping locally, while having the flexibility to make her family a priority. “My favorite thing about working with WoodmenLife is the freedom of my schedule,” she said. “I have been able to attend all of my son’s activities and have been available to be his personal ‘Uber’ driver and spend quality time with him. Having two older children, I know how fast these years go by.”

A Time for Change

In this unpredictable time, many are uncertain about the future of their jobs. WoodmenLife, however, has remained a strong organization since our founding in 1890. We adapt and change to support our Sales Force, empowering them to continue to succeed.

“This career allows you to help people even during a crisis. Having alternate ways of meeting, we can assist our clients or future clients in the most comfortable way for them,” Kendall said.

How far you advance and the income you can earn is based on how hard you work. More importantly, you’ll find both fulfillment and flexibility in this career.

Life is uncertain, protecting your loved ones isn’t

In these times of change, know that you can protect your family’s financial security when you’re gone. With Family Term life insurance, you can protect all of your family members, young and old, under one certificate1, with one monthly premium.

Contact your local Representative to find out how and set up a virtual appointment today.

1. Certain eligibility and age restrictions apply. Products are not available in New York and all products may not be available in all states. ICC16 8063 R-1-16, 8063 R-1-16(XX), D1577 8/20 Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society: Omaha, NE

Representatives are independent contractors and are not employees of WoodmenLife. However, certain full-time Life insurance sales agents may be treated as statutory employees for employment tax purposes (See: IRS Publication 15-A).
WoodmenLife members are bonded by the desire to make a difference where we live. Our families are better for it, as are our communities and country. Whenever and wherever we see a need, our shared commitment inspires us to lend a hand. Sometimes that means going above and beyond what we've been doing. That's what we've done in 2020, stepping up our fight against hunger and adding to our ability to honor our nation's Defenders. Now, we fight hunger as a Leadership Partner with Feeding America®, and we celebrate America as a partner of the Gary Sinise Foundation. Already this year, our efforts raised more than $1 million in support of the Feeding America COVID-19 Response Fund. We've also made donations to the Gary Sinise Foundation, whose mission is to serve our nation by honoring our Defenders, Veterans, First Responders, their families, and those in need.

Because we're always looking for a way to better serve our hometowns, we saw a great opportunity in joining Feeding America as a Leadership Partner. The partnership expands our efforts to battle food insecurity nationwide. Plus, our partnership comes as hunger affects nearly 11.5% of Americans, including 11 million children and more than 5 million seniors. On top of that, the COVID-19 pandemic’s economic impact has made things worse.

As like-minded organizations, partnering with Feeding America just makes sense. In addition to our National Community Focus activities, Feeding America brings a nationwide network of 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs throughout the U.S., many of which serve WoodmenLife communities. They serve more than 40 million people each year, and they are the largest domestic hunger-relief organization and the third-largest nonprofit in the U.S.

Working with Feeding America increases our ability to help shape the future of hunger relief in America. It also provides additional opportunities to spread the message about hunger and furs our mission of making sure our fellow Americans have enough to eat.

To learn more about WoodmenLife’s National Community Focus to fight hunger visit WoodmenLife.org/NCF
Our Patriotism Flies Higher With the Gary Sinise Foundation

We hold dear our commitment to supporting and honoring our nation’s protectors. For 130 years, we’ve shown our appreciation and celebrated our American freedoms with activities like:

• **Flags Across America**, which includes projects that place flags on the graves of Veterans
• **In Honor and Remembrance ceremonies** that honor the heroes and victims of the 9/11 attacks, as well as local community heroes and volunteers
• **Flag retirement ceremonies**

We also have donated more than 3.5 million flags to communities, schools and nonprofits nationwide and frequently participate in parades and other events that mark Memorial Day, Independence Day and other patriotic occasions.

This year, we took our celebration of patriotism even further with a partnership with the Gary Sinise Foundation. To kick off the partnership, we made a donation to the Foundation on behalf of our chapters that participated in the recent Feeding America® COVID-19 Response Fund campaign. This donation helps support the Foundation’s mission to serve our nation by honoring our Defenders, Veterans, First Responders, their families, and those in need.

Our relationship with the Foundation expands upon our support of its annual Snowball Express event the past two years and will help us support other key programs and initiatives.

Our commitment to family, community and country fits perfectly with the Foundation’s mission, a sentiment voiced by General (Ret.) Robin Rand, Chief Executive Officer of the Gary Sinise Foundation, in a video you can view at WoodmenLife.org/lead-and-give/patriotism

WoodmenLife President & CEO Patrick L. Dees shared similar thoughts when the partnership was announced.

“"Our patriotic activities, especially those that honor our military, are some of the most memorable experiences for our members."”

— Patrick L. Dees, WoodmenLife President & CEO

provide even more opportunities for our members to make a difference and provide well-deserved support for our nation’s Defenders.”

WoodmenLife Proudly Supports Gary Sinise Foundation

Partnering with the Gary Sinise Foundation helps strengthen our ability to celebrate our nation’s best and serve their needs.

**Programs & Purposes**

**Relief & Resiliency**

Relief & Resiliency programs aim to ensure our nation’s heroes and their families stay strong through hardships by offering complete support before, during, and after battle. Through these programmatic initiatives, the Gary Sinise Foundation helps our nation’s heroes and their families find the strength to persevere and heal.

**Community Outreach & Education**

Community Outreach & Education programs bridge the gap between our defender and civilian communities. Through these initiatives, the Gary Sinise Foundation honors America’s heroes both past and present, and inspires the next generation to do the same.

**First Responders Outreach**

The First Responders Outreach program honors the heroes right down the block—our firefighters, police, and EMTs—who sacrifice every day to ensure our safety. Through this program, the Gary Sinise Foundation provides critical funding for emergency relief efforts, essential equipment, PPE, and training to ensure our First Responders have what they need to perform to the best of their abilities.
Thank you to everyone for showing the generosity of the WoodmenLife family.

85% of WoodmenLife chapters participated in total
Humble, Supportive Leader Gets a Much-Deserved Honor

In a country that sometimes feels like it’s shifted toward self-centered ways of living, countless people continue to devote their time and resources to helping others in their community. While volunteering in any capacity is always commendable, there are some individuals who don’t just do it for a pat on the back. These are people like Bill Morrison of Florence, AL — the winner of the WoodmenLife 2020 Fraternalist of the Year Award.

“Bill’s got a humble spirit about him. He’s always talking about helping others and doesn’t boast about it whatsoever,” said Sales Representative Rocky Beck. “It’s just part of his normal daily routine — to be a volunteer. He always wants to know if there’s anything he can help with.”

The Fraternalist of the Year award is given to individuals who demonstrate a strong, continued commitment to helping others in their community through volunteerism. Morrison has been volunteering with WoodmenLife for over 20 years, and his dedication has earned him this prestigious honor.

A Lengthy List of Volunteer Efforts

Since becoming the president of Chapter 8 around 10 years ago, Morrison has hosted monthly meetings for members and taken the lead in many WoodmenLife community efforts. He turns 84 in December and Morrison remains an active volunteer in many activities throughout Florence.

He helped organize an initiative to fight hunger that raised over $4,000 for the local school district and spearheaded a variety of teacher and Veteran appreciation events in 2019. He also collected and distributed goods like furniture, food and water to the local children’s home. As president, he’s often the first point of contact for outreach events and group hall rentals.

On top of his service to WoodmenLife, Morrison has been volunteering with the Salvation Army for 15 years, delivering food for Meals on Wheels for 20 years, and building bicycles to give to children each holiday season. He recently helped form and construct a local food bank, and he even takes care of the yard work for several individuals who are elderly, widowed or pregnant.

“I just enjoy volunteering,” he said. “How About Giving Me a Hand?”

Morrison’s leadership doesn’t revolve around leading the pack. Instead, he works by delegating tasks and finding ways to get everyone involved. “He’s a genuine person you can count on; he’s supportive,” said Philip Robertson, the region’s Community Outreach Advisor. “Although he is not a take-charge-kind-of-guy, he is a leader.”

Morrison never misses an opportunity to share what the organization does and the many fulfilling opportunities members can explore. “I tell them what enjoyment I get out of it, asking them, ‘Hey, how about giving me a hand here?’ or ‘Would you volunteer for something like that?’” he said. It’s how he helps create a community where everyone puts a little something in.

If the award is meant for individuals who display unmatched devotion to helping others, there are few more deserving than Morrison. “It was just a matter of time for him to get it, but his time finally came,” said Beck.

WoodmenLife Honors

Did you know that WoodmenLife gives out other awards to deserving members and non-members? Visit WoodmenLife.org/Awards to learn more.

Congratulations to Our Fraternalist of the Year Honorees

Overall Winner
Bill Morrison
AL N

Other Winners by Region
Mecheil Smith Phillips
AL S
Vernell Middleton
AR
Jonathon Bowman
FL
Virginia Tyre
GA N
Mary Lou Grimmett
GA C
Sherry Waldrop
GA S
James Montgomery
KY E
Jean Bailey
KY W
James Cart
LA
Ruby Stewart
MS N
J.A. and Rena Hooker
MS S
Jerry Eubanks
NC E
Chris and Alice Ammons
NC W
Lorna Hart
NR
Julia Woods
NE IA
Celia and Sidra Acosta
OK
Carol Anderson
PR
Pauline Bryant
SC
Tracy Nelson
TN E
Adrian Reynolds
TN W
Helen Clothety
TX NE
Tina Guillotte
TX SE
Gayle Brim
TX W
Rebecca Baker
VA
Mary Lou Mullins
WV/OH

Bill Morrison, WoodmenLife’s Fraternalist of the Year, is known as a leader in his community for sharing what WoodmenLife is about and getting others involved. With him at a past WoodmenLife event is his wife, Geraldine.
Chapter 918 Receives an “Eggstra-special” Honor

Movie nights, parades, Thanksgiving feasts and activity-filled celebrations are just a few ways that Chapter 918 brings family-friendly fun to Alexandria, KY. Perhaps one of the chapter’s most popular events is the annual Easter Egg Hunt — a day that gathers hundreds of families together for the shared thrill of scavenging for thousands of prizes.

However, the popularity of the event means things can easily become a bit loud, crowded and competitive. For some children, it can be overwhelming. “Kids are running everywhere, and if they can’t do that, it’s hard for them to get the eggs or feel included,” said Amanda McNew, the region’s Community Outreach Advisor.

The members of Chapter 918 are always looking for ways to be more inclusive and provide memorable experiences for all. Unfortunately, some children still felt left out of the Easter egg hunt — particularly children with disabilities. “A lot of kids have sensory issues and different limitations. They don’t always get to go out and do things like that,” said Chapter Secretary Kara Barone.

Making the Day More Fun for All

Kara and her husband, Marc, a WoodmenLife Sales Representative, understand how children with disabilities can be affected at large gatherings. Their daughter, 18-year-old Ariana, has Down syndrome, and she’s gone through the disappointment that goes with not getting any eggs.

With the goal of making the event more inclusive, Kara Barone hatched a plan that would allow everyone to experience the same egg-hunting fun in a slightly different way. On April 20, 2019, she led Chapter 918’s first annual “Eggstra-special Easter Egg Hunt” in Alexandria Community Park.

It was two hours after the main egg hunt and included several accommodations to better suit children with special needs. Around 20 children attended the hunt that was quieter, which allowed each child to enjoy the activities at their own pace. Additionally, all the kids received Easter baskets with toys, candy, prizes, and more.

“The parents were all super appreciative,” she said. “There were a few kids who had never sat on the Easter Bunny’s lap because they were too scared, but they got the opportunity to do that in what I guess felt like a safer environment for them.”

An Award-Winning Idea

The impactful work of Chapter 918 has not gone unnoticed. In July 2020, the Eggstra-special Easter Egg Hunt won the national WoodmenLife Project of the Year Award. Though Kara Barone spearheaded the event, the news of the project’s win still came as a surprise.

“She was pretty excited,” her husband said, and “kind of shocked.”

Whether Chapter 918 won or not, its members would still be as devoted to their community and inclusivity. “It’s an incredibly rewarding experience to get to do something like that,” said Kara Barone. “We’re very involved in our community, and we do our best to do things that would make WoodmenLife proud.”

Step Up to Help

Visit WoodmenLife.org/Lead-and-give to see what’s possible when members like you unite to help others.

Projects of the Year

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Overall Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KY E Chapter 918 in Alexandria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hosted an Egg hunt for children with special needs</td>
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<tr>
<th>Other Winners by Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AL N Chapter 101 in Jasper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hosted a “Star Wars”-themed event with refreshments, decorations, bingo and prizes</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS S Chapter 40 in Hazlehurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hosted a meal and donated money for work on a camp for handicapped and disadvantaged children</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC W Chapter 1483 in Hampstead</td>
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<tr>
<td>Filled and distributed backpacks of food for students in need</td>
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<tr>
<td>TN W Chapter 49 in Lexington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presented 50- by-5-foot flags to the Tennessee State Cemetery and participated in a patriotic ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>TX SE Chapter 6177 in Beaumont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collected laundry detergent, toilet paper and more, and made a donation to a local food bank</td>
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GA N Chapter 87 in Toccoa
Hosted a meal and antique car cruise to help raise $10,000 for a local woman who was ill

GA C Chapter 739 in Milledgeville
Raised $5,000 to help provide suicide intervention training to local First Responders

KY W Chapter 20 in Cadiz
Hosted an event for CAST Kids

MS N Chapter 15 in Grenada
Hosted a Veterans appreciation event with refreshments, decorations, and more

NE/IA Chapter 6011 in Council Bluffs
Presented a 30-by-50-foot flag before a playoff football game while the national anthem was played

OK Chapter 1228 in Allen
Hosted a meal and donated money for work on a camp for handicapped and disadvantaged children

VA Chapter 468 in Mechanicsville
Hosted an In Honor and Remembrance event, donating more than 2 dozen flags and honoring a beloved former WoodmenLife member
Chapter Officers Encourage Others to Try This Rewarding Experience

Becoming a WoodmenLife chapter officer is the perfect way to positively impact local communities. Just ask chapter members Betty Hinson and Debbie Johnson.

Johnson has served in several board positions during her nearly 40 years as a WoodmenLife member, including president and vice president. She currently holds the auditor position for Chapter 1483 in Hampstead, NC.

“I am very, very active with the chapter,” Johnson said, “I am a people person. I love being in the middle of it all, where the action is.”

Chapter 1483 is very active and takes on many different projects throughout the year.

“Get involved,” Johnson said. “That’s how you really know what’s going on. I love being a part of WoodmenLife and what it stands for.”

A Can’t-Miss Opportunity
Serving as a chapter officer offers the opportunity to get to know more people, become more involved with the community and get to know others involved in WoodmenLife, she said.

Hinson has been a secretary for Chapter 130 in Cerro Gordo, NC, for more than 15 years. It’s an important role to play in every chapter, according to Hinson and Robby Molony, Director of Community Partnerships for WoodmenLife.

“It’s a challenging job to be a secretary, but I enjoy everything I do for WoodmenLife,” she said. “I would definitely encourage others to become a chapter officer.”

There are several options to choose from, Molony said. Positions include:

• President – Entails organizing and presiding over meetings and events
• Vice President – Helps the president and assists in other ways
• Treasurer – Responsible for keeping the books and writing the checks
• Secretary – Responsible for keeping good meeting minutes and serves as a main point of contact for all communication with the Home Office
• Auditor – Reviews the books to make sure chapters are being good stewards of membership money

There are other smaller roles, such as escort, greeter and musician.

“A good secretary is the backbone of a good chapter,” Molony said. “We are fortunate to have many incredible chapter secretaries.”

Learn and Have Fun
Hinson enjoys promoting WoodmenLife, too.

“Everyone says, ‘Miss Betty is WoodmenLife,’” she said with a laugh.

Both Hinson and Johnson have been recognized as Fraternalist of the Year for their regions and have spoken at Fraternal Summits. The summits include training so officers know how to carry out their duties. For both new and experienced officers, it’s an opportunity to gather ideas and learn about maximizing events, Molony said.

“Volunteering is good for the soul, and I encourage all members to be as involved as they can be.”

— Robby Molony, Director of Community Partnerships

“We held 61 summits this year before COVID-19 got in the way,” he said. “We hope we can complete the rest later this year. This will be the last year for summits as Regional Annual Events will begin in 2022. An education piece will be part of those events and will replace summits.”

Molony became a WoodmenLife member in 1993 and served South Carolina as a Fraternal Coordinator for nearly five and a half years. He then moved to Florida in late 1998 and joined Chapter 78 in Lakeland.

“I served several times as chapter president and past president and am currently the escort for my chapter in Omaha (Nebraska). In my current role, as Director of Community Partnerships, I get to work directly with our Community Outreach Advisors and their managers. These very talented people are directly responsible for planning and executing each Fraternal Summit.”

Learn How You Can Help
Being a chapter officer is very rewarding, all three said. To become a chapter officer, notify a current officer or Sales Representative.

“Volunteering is good for the soul, and I encourage all members to be as involved as they can be,” Molony said. “Volunteering is when opportunity meets good intentions. Being a chapter officer is a great way to impact your community in a positive way.”
You’ve trusted us to protect your family’s financial future with insurance and retirement products. It’s a responsibility we hold dear, and we’re pleased your trust also means you’ve joined the WoodmenLife family.

So, keep in mind that as a member1 of our family, you have access to a wide range of valuable extras2. One extra is help with paying for education. Another is financial assistance following a natural disaster. All of these extras are designed to help your family right now. There’s no extra cost or obligation to use them. It’s just one way our family is committed to helping yours at every stage in life.

To help you remember what your membership brings, here’s a rundown of the extras being part of the family brings:

Help Paying for College
Since 2017, we have awarded 3,906 scholarships to high school graduates for continuing educational opportunities through the WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship®. (Application for 2020-2021 scholarships opens Nov. 1.)

Rebuilding After a Natural Disaster
We can’t stop natural disasters, but we can help you if you experience one by providing financial assistance of up to $1,0002.

Honoring Heroes
Our protectors deserve more. That’s why we pay an additional $25,0003 to the family of every First Responder member who dies in the line of duty.

Loss of a Newborn
If the unimaginable happens, you would need the time to focus on healing and recovery. To help, we give $10,000 to family after the loss of a newborn4.

Caring for Orphans
Should your children be orphaned, each child can receive $1,000 a month to pay for his or her care5 until each reaches the age of 19. If your child is a full-time post-secondary student, the payments will continue until age 22.

Saving Money
Our discount program — Life’s Perks® — gives you everyday savings6 at more than 30,000 local and national retailers.

Be sure to take advantage of being a member of the WoodmenLife family and learn more at WoodmenLife.org/Extras

1. An individual becomes a member by joining our shared commitment to family, community and country, and by purchasing a WoodmenLife product.
2. Member benefits are not contractual, are subject to change and have specific eligibility requirements. 3. $25,000 benefit applies to officially registered non-military First Responders. 4. WoodmenLife will pay a one-time member benefit of $10,000, subject to conditions and limitations, to the parents of an infant who dies between the age of 48 hours and 6 months. 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. 6. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2020). https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/, DOI: 10.25921/stkw-7w73
With Family’s Support, Elite Fisherman Reels in Another Win

For more than 40 years, WoodmenLife member Buddy Gross has been casting and reeling in his fishing line. Merely a hobby before he was even 10 years old, fishing has turned into a career. “I was very fortunate to have a dad who took me outdoors my whole life,” Gross said. “I ran across a picture of the first big fish I remember catching when I was seven or eight. I’ve been hooked ever since.”

In 2015, the Chickamauga, GA, resident qualified to fish professionally after finishing in the top 10 in three qualifier tournaments. “At the time, I was working for a family business in Chattanooga and I had to decide to stay or give fishing a try.”

After earning Fishing League Worldwide wins in 2016, 2017 and 2019, Gross pulled off a first-place win this June as part of the Bassmaster Elite Series. “Everything I do is a team effort,” Gross said. “It’s important that my family is there with me.”

That same family-first value is what led the Gross family to become WoodmenLife members earlier this year. “I wanted to make sure I have my family taken care of if something happens to me. They’re my number-one priority.”

Buddy Gross said it’s taken his family’s support to achieve all that he has. Wife, LeAnn, and daughter, Bella, as well as his stepson, travel together and get to say grace together every night.

Texas Chapter Takes Pride in Long-Running Cleanup Project

The four children of Jose and Esther Sanchez know better than to litter. They grew up picking up trash along a two-mile stretch of road in El Paso, TX, as part of Chapter 3887’s highway clean-up project.

The Sanchez family has spent nearly 20 years taking part in the project to keep a section of U.S. Highway 54 in El Paso clean. “Our kids don’t throw anything out the window,” said Jose Sanchez, president of Chapter 3887. “They have seen the ugliness of it.”

Luiz Mata has been involved in the Texas Department of Transportation’s Adopt-A-Highway project for the same amount of time as the Sanchez family.

“It is clearly gratifying to know that this Texas right-of-way is being cleaned at least four times a year by dedicated members of Chapter 3887,” Mata said. “This activity gives me pleasure to know that we are doing our part to help keep Texas and El Paso clean. It gives you a sense of identity and pride to your chapter and the community. Community leaders also take notice as they drive through the city or county. It feels great to know that people read the Texas highway sign that reads ‘WoodmenLife Chapter #3887 Adopt-A-Highway – next two miles.’”

Since the members have been taking part in the project for so many years, they are now “very efficient,” Jose Sanchez said. It only takes eight members about one hour to clean the two-mile stretch. The Texas Department of Transportation provides the trash bags and orange safety vests for members.

“That road is very well traveled,” Jose Sanchez said. “I use it to go to work. It’s really rewarding to see the side of the road clean. It’s instant gratification.”

Other drivers notice, too, and acknowledge the hard work of the chapter members, Sanchez said. Mata said the sense of pride members feel after the clean-up makes the whole project worthwhile.

“Chapter members feel good about themselves after a good cleaning,” he said. “Not only do we clean the entire stretch, but we clean it as a team – members helping members. We also encourage members to invite family, friends, school organizations, and other nonprofit organizations.”
With Team Effort and Generosity, Sleeping Bag Donations Top 4,000

A lot can happen when members pool their expertise and effort to harness the giving spirit of others. Take Richard Akins and Charles Cloud, who’ve worked together with their chapter and others to help donate more than 4,000 sleeping bags to the homeless in their community.

In 2008, Akins and his wife, Ann, were driving across the Burnside Bridge in Portland, OR, and were dismayed to see several homeless people dragging their blankets across the bridge. So they purchased 14 sleeping bags to donate to the Portland Downtown Chapel to give to those in need.

Afterward, Akins told his good friend and fellow WoodmenLife member Cloud what had transpired, and they decided that together they could do much more with this idea. They approached local organizations for donations to buy more sleeping bags the next year.

“When we do things collectively, working together, we can be much more efficient and have greater impact than anyone doing something on their own.” — Richard Akins

Naturally, the two approached their Chapter 1946, too. Not only did they receive financial assistance, but members helped them network contacts for donations and organizations that could use the support. Akins said they aim for a minimum of 300 sleeping bags annually, while Cloud added that they will accept whatever support is offered.

“What we do goes to help the homeless and hungry,” Cloud said, “but also those who have homes but can’t afford heating bills, women at domestic violence shelters, underprivileged children, anyone in need, really.”

Cloud and Akins, who are both retired from careers in business management and executive positions, donate the administrative costs for their work so that 100% of monetary donations goes to those in need. In any given year, the two men, who refer to their work under the name Missionaries for the Homeless, facilitate their efforts through more than a dozen different groups of donors and distribution charities.

Akins stressed, “When we do things collectively, working together, we can be much more efficient and have greater impact than anyone doing something on their own.”

Chapter Works With Legion to Wipe Out School Lunch Debt

When Marvin Moore had lunch with his two daughters last fall, he got more than he bargained for — but in a good way, a way that helped a whole lot of children.

Moore is a member of Chapter 66 in Roanoke, VA, and the proud parent of a woman who works for the school meal program of Bedford County, VA, and Marla Baker, the WoodmenLife Community Outreach Manager in Virginia. That day their conversation turned to the “angel funds” of Bedford County, which pay students’ private meal account debts so they’re still able to eat.

Moore, who is also a Veteran and member of the Daleville American Legion and VFW, saw an opportunity to give to the schools in his own Botetourt County and had just the right idea about who might be able to help.

Last year Moore led his WoodmenLife chapter to donate a flagpole and American flag to the Legion, so the Legion members were eager to return the favor. Dennis Craft, commander of the local Legion, said the chapter was happy to contribute.

With Baker’s assistance, Moore presented a check in February for $500 to the Botetourt County Schools for their meal accounts. The WoodmenLife and Legion chapters split the donation, with Moore coordinating the efforts. The WoodmenLife superintendent sent a letter to every family who previously owed money, sharing gratitude for the help and naming WoodmenLife and the Legion chapters as heroes.

Moore also coordinated a similar donation to another nearby county for the same purpose. He had plans to continue the project for the rest of the school year, but unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic put the work on hold. Moore does, however, plan to restart the efforts once schools reopen.

“All kids should have hot meals when they’re at school,” Moore said. “They shouldn’t have to worry about eating.”

Craft agreed, adding that many of the kids are children or grandchildren of Veterans.

“Both organizations are lucky to have Marvin,” Craft said. “WoodmenLife doesn’t just talk the talk, they walk the walk, and Moore is an example of that.”
Chalk Challenge Celebrates America

During the week of July 4, we invited WoodmenLife families and the public to connect from afar and compete for cash prizes in the WoodmenLife Patriotic Chalk Challenge. We received entries from around the country, displaying love of America in unique and creative ways.

After narrowing down the finalists, we invited our Facebook Fans to vote on their favorites. More than 3,000 voters chimed in on their favorites. The top three winners of the WoodmenLife Patriotic Chalk Challenge each received $250, plus $250 for the charity of their choice.

Chalk Challenge Winners Support Causes Close to Them

As part of their prizes, the top three winners of the WoodmenLife Patriotic Chalk Challenge had the chance to donate to a charity of their choice. One of these winners, Lizzi Elliott, wanted her artwork to include her baby girl. “We waited a long time to adopt her and we are making as many memories with her as possible, and this seemed like it would be a unique one! We never expected to win, so that is just an added bonus to the experience!” she said.

Elliott worked with her mom and brother over FaceTime to complete her piece. “We decided together to make everything look like balloons that my little girl was holding,” she said. “This was a fun experience and such an easy way to get family (even though we live 90 minutes away) working together on a project!”

For her charity, Elliott chose Judd’s Legacy, an organization raising awareness about Intrahepatic Cholestasis of Pregnancy. “I wanted to choose a charity that may not have as much publicity as others to help get its mission out to more people,” Elliott said. “I hope that people will look up Judd’s Legacy, read their story and help spread awareness!”

Donation in Honor of Her Father

A second winner, Karlee Kates, entered the contest because “it was a great opportunity to get outside, enjoy the sun and do something that I love.” She spent about an hour a day over the course of four days creating her masterpiece. She chose the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as her designated charity. “It has a special place in my heart,” she said. “My dad (who is now cancer free) was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia when he was 18. He is a major inspiration in my life, and I hope to help not

Lizzi Elliott
Lancaster, SC

1st

“Floating for Freedom” celebrates Elliott’s baby daughter’s first Independence Day. “She loves America and all it has to offer!” Elliott shared.

Karlee Kates
Riverside, CA

2nd

“Independence” pays homage to the American bald eagle. “My chalk image represents the beauty, strength and independence of the United States,” Kates shared.

Brittany Rees
Brooksville, KY

3rd

“God Bless America and Freedom!” blends the American flag and a map of the United States.

Chalk Challenge Celebrates America

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only improve the quality of life for patients like him but also help to find a cure.”

Sharing What They Love With Others

The final winner, Brittany Rees, learned about the contest through Facebook and from several family members. “My 7-year-old, Ashby, loves to draw with chalk; we have done several drawings since they’ve been out of school,” she said.

Rees and her daughter were inspired by the 4th of July when creating their entry together. “I wanted to use all the states; Ashby wanted to add the eagle and fireworks,” she said. The pair enjoyed getting the chance to do what they love and share their creation with others.

For the charity donation portion of her prize, Rees chose Sprinkles of Hope Inc. “It’s a local nonprofit that gives kids with disabilities an opportunity to join the workforce and they are very good at what they do,” she said.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all who participated! You can see more creativity and patriotism on display at blog.woodmenlife.org

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Finalists
The following winners rounded out the top 15 finalists in the WoodmenLife Patriotic Chalk Challenge:

- Crystal Bartelt, Chesterfield, VA
  “Celebrate America”
- Amanda McGovern, Omaha, NE
  “Uncle Sam’s New Message”
- Cozad Family, Omaha, NE
  “Beauty of America”
- Shannon Mechels-Struby, La Vista, NE
  “Liberty and Justice”
- Kayla Goodfellow, New Bern, NC
  “Eagle and Flag”
- Brad McNew, Mt. Vernon, KY
  “Let Freedom Ring”
- Kristen Goodfellow, New Bern, NC
  “We the People”
- Angelica Rivas, Murphy, TX
  “2020 Independence Day”
- Elizabeth Hodges, Julian, NE
  “Home of the Free Because of the Brave”
- Mallory Smithson, Northport, AL
  “God Bless America”
- Ria Huckebey, Ada, OK
  “Land of the Free”
- Valerie Williams, Sophia, NC
  “Salute of Liberty”
- Amanda McGovern, Omaha, NE
  “Uncle Sam’s New Message”
- Shannon Mechels-Struby, La Vista, NE
  “Liberty and Justice”
- Kayla Goodfellow, New Bern, NC
  “Eagle and Flag”
- Brad McNew, Mt. Vernon, KY
  “Let Freedom Ring”
- Angelica Rivas, Murphy, TX
  “2020 Independence Day”
- Mallory Smithson, Northport, AL
  “God Bless America”
- Valerie Williams, Sophia, NC
  “Salute of Liberty”

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WoodmenLife Extra: Student Loan Relief Program

WoodmenLife recently had the honor of awarding 200 members with $1,000 in the first year of the Student Loan Relief program. Awards were given based on community service and commitment to patriotism, to members who met eligibility requirements.

Thank you to everyone who applied, and please look for more information about this program in upcoming issues of WoodmenLife Magazine. You can also visit WoodmenLife.org/Student-loan-relief now for information on the next application period.

Home Office Donates ATVs to the Omaha Fire Department

As part of our continuing commitment to supporting First Responders, the WoodmenLife Home Office was proud to donate two all-terrain vehicles to the Omaha Fire Department earlier this year. This donation follows two other donations to First Responders in Omaha and Nashville.

As part of the 2017 National Convention, WoodmenLife donated $12,000 to the City of Nashville to purchase three horses for their mounted patrol unit. Several other jurisdictional projects have benefited First Responders as well, including donating money for shoeing horses and purchasing police dogs.

Then, in 2018, the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee in the Home Office donated $15,000 to the Omaha Police Department to buy horses for the mounted patrol unit. In 2019, the OPD used this money to purchase two horses, who were named Blue and Valor by WoodmenLife Facebook followers.

Projects like these show WoodmenLife’s support for First Responders and gratitude for everything they do for us.

Learn more about how we care for First Responders at WoodmenLife.org/First-Responders
Floyd Joins COA Advisory Board, Excited to Help Chapters Grow

WoodmenLife’s Community Outreach Advisor (COA) Advisory Board recently welcomed a new face. Oklahoma/Kansas COA Billie Floyd replaced Steve Kowalski from Mississippi South, whose four-year term ended.

The COA Advisory Board is made up of four WoodmenLife Community Outreach Advisors: Kaysi Bell of southeast Texas, Floyd, Russ Fox of West Virginia and Karen Hebert of Louisiana, each who will serve for four years. The board works directly with the Community Partnerships Department and others in the Home Office to increase participation and engagement within chapters, grow chapter capabilities and expand WoodmenLife’s community outreach efforts.

Floyd said the COA Advisory Board is especially important because board members are able to meet one on one with chapter members, chapter officers and Sales Representatives.

“We listen to and talk with our members when we participate in chapter activities,” she said. “The committee gives members another way to relay and address concerns directly with the Home Office.”

Members of the COA Advisory Board also work directly with other COAs to communicate their needs to the Home Office.

Floyd said that being a board member has opened her eyes to other COAs to communicate their needs to the Home Office. “We listen to and talk with our members when we participate chapter members, chapter officers and Sales Representatives.”

“Seeing more of how those decisions are made helps me appreciate what has to be done to help our chapters succeed,” she said. “I love this opportunity to work closely with the Home Office on the future of our community outreach efforts. There’s great collaboration between the Home Office and advisory committee, and we’re able to have a voice in things that will drive change for chapters.”

WoodmenLife Updates Correspondence With You in Mind

WoodmenLife has given the materials we mail, such as billing statements, notifications and payments, a new look. Please don’t be concerned. It’s part of our effort to make the information easier to understand, so you know right away if you need to take action.

If you have questions, please contact your local Sales Representative.

Help Us Help Your Loved Ones

You’ve trusted WoodmenLife to protect your family’s financial future with insurance and retirement products.

Why not invite more family and friends to join the WoodmenLife family? They can enjoy the same protections and the same member benefits3, like help paying for college, help to lighten the load of student loan debt, financial assistance after a disaster, and discounts1.

We’re here when you need us, and could be for your loved ones, too!

Show the Red, White & Blue in Your Heart

The Military Mama Network is looking for helpers! The nonprofit dedicated to showing American troops that they’re loved with cards, letters, packages, and more could use a hand or two, especially with the hectic holiday season coming up. Learn more about the mission to send “a little mama love” to our military personnel at militarymamanetwork.org
Members hosted a Nurse Appreciation Day at Greer Family Medicine before activities were suspended due to the pandemic.

Members hosted a school supply drive, collecting pens, tissues, paper, tape, laminator, and a shredder for the local middle school before such activities were put on hold for the safety of all involved.

Members partnered with Packages from Home before the pandemic to create packages to send to military personnel overseas before chapter activities were suspended.

Member Ronnie Middleton, who survived COVID-19, donates plasma to help others who are fighting the virus.

Members hosted a Nurse Appreciation Day at Greer Family Medicine before activities were suspended due to the pandemic.
Mask Makers in Action

When masks became essential to stop the spread of COVID-19, members answered the call by opening up their fabric closets and pushing the pedal on their sewing machines. Thank you to all who’ve stepped up to take care of your communities in such trying times!

Queens Forysthel helped make masks for those in need and accepted donations for them. She ended up collecting $260 and donated it all to a local backpack food program for children in need.

Chelsea Merket with the co-workers she made masks for, with the help of her grandmother, Janet.

The Murray family of Jackson, TN, has been doing their part to make masks. At left is Emma Murray; at right is Olivia Murray; and in the center are Olivia and Rhonda Murray.

From left, Recruiting Sales Manager Christopher Nguyen, Representative Xuan Nguyen, Community Outreach Advisor Rosio Caraveo and Regional Director Tyler Lawrence donated coffee and creamer to the River of Life Mission before activities were suspended due to the pandemic.

A New Look Up Top for the Tower

WoodmenLife changed the Omaha skyline this summer when the Home Office undertook the huge project of updating the lettering at the top of the tower from “Woodmen” to “WoodmenLife.” Local media were hooked on the painstaking process, and it was great to share their excitement. It was no small feat to remove 28 12-foot letters 500 feet up and then scrub and patch the stone before putting up new ones that light up. They will appear black during the day and white at night.

Visit newsroom.woodmenlife.org to see drone and time-lapse video along with close-up pictures of the process and stay updated on project specifics.
Fun Zone
Fishing for Fun!

Word Bank

Anglers  Lure
Bait  Ocean
Boat  Pole
Bobber  Pond
Cast  Reel
Catch  River
Catfish  Scales
Fins  Sinker
Fishing  Splash
Fly  Swimming
Gills  Trout
Hook  Worm
Lake

(The answers are on Page 38.)

Jokes

Q: What do you call a fish that won't stop talking?
A: A big-mouthed bass

Q: Why is it so easy to weigh fish?
A: Because they have their own scales!

Q: Where do fishermen get their hair cut?
A: The bobber shop!

Word Unscramble
(The answers are below.)

1. sasb  ____________________________
2. aprc  ____________________________
3. ftahisc  ____________________________
4. kerlmace  ____________________________
5. nolsma  ____________________________
6. urontsge  ____________________________
7. urtto  ____________________________

Sudoku Puzzle  (Find answers on Page 39.)

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(The answers are on Page 38.)

(1) Bass; (2) Carp; (3) Catfish; (4) Mackerel; (5) Salmon; (6) Sturgeon; (7) Trout
In Memoriam

Emily Cunningham
Age 80
Chapter 36
Bowling Green, KY

Robert “Bob” Gillespie
Age 70
Chapter 704
Bellevue, NE

Jimmie Godfrey
Age 92
Chapter 20
Rome, GA

Betty Hammer
Age 86
Chapter 316
Waynesboro, VA

William Grouby
Age 92
Chapter 298
Prattville, AL

James “Jimmy” Morse
Age 81
Chapter 49
Poquoson, VA

Denzil Patrick “DP” Ready
Age 91
Chapter 273
West Columbia, SC

Merle Stewart
Age 81
Chapter 538
Phenix City, AL

John Wilson
Age 75
Chapter 919
Mountville, KY

Jessie Scott Jr.
Age 75
Chapter 4450
Angleton, TX

In Memoriam Submission Guidelines:
The editors of WoodmenLife Magazine want to give your departed loved ones the most respectful and complete recognition possible. To aid us in doing this, please upload the information at WoodmenLife.org/Photos. Include your loved one’s full name as you would like it printed, age, chapter number, and hometown. Also let us know if he or she served as a Jurisdictional Officer, a National Committee member, a Regional Director, or a National Representative. Please submit photos of the highest possible quality to assure adequate printing. Thank you.

Helping your hometown is easier than ever

We’re all looking for ways to help more. With WoodmenLife Impact®, you can organize or donate to online fundraisers helping First Responders, Veterans, schools, and families in your area. Plus, WoodmenLife covers all the fees and starts most fundraisers off with $50*.

Go to WoodmenLife.org/Impact to learn more.

*Seed funds are granted as available on a first-come, first-served basis and are not guaranteed to all campaigns. Approval of campaign proposals is dependent upon certain conditions and requirements as determined by WoodmenLife. D1579 8/20 Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society: Omaha, NE
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.