2016 Fraternalist of the Year
Pick Your CANdidate

Easing the Burden
North Little Rock, AR, Chapter 5 Secretary Elaine Simmons presented 330 handheld flags to American Legion Post 74 Commander R.D. Kinsey. The flags were used in their 11th Annual Tribute to Fallen Heroes Ceremony.
You Play a Role in Our Success

We’re busy planning next year’s Jurisdictional Conventions and our National Convention, and those efforts remind me of the ways WoodmenLife is different from so many other insurance companies.

Through taking the time to attend these conventions and participating in outreach activities in your local communities, you have a voice in what we do.

As a longtime member of WoodmenLife myself, I have never doubted the power of our chapters and the commitment of our members. I’m always impressed by stories of members rolling up their sleeves to help those in need, or coming together to promote patriotism (see Fraternal Spirit on page 14).

This involvement has a positive impact on our organization, and your hard work continues to contribute to making WoodmenLife and your communities a better place for everyone.

As our organization continues to grow, I believe it’s important that we strive to make sure the products and services we offer will always be relevant to American families.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to WoodmenLife. It’s your support and involvement that will continue to play a role in our success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Larry R. King
President & CEO

Our Mission: WoodmenLife provides members with financial security while making a difference in your community.
WoodmenLife, founded in 1890, is a not-for-profit life insurance company that also offers customer benefits.

Our more than 700,000 members, who hold nearly one million insurance and annuity certificates, belong to nearly 1,000 chapters throughout the United States. Local chapters sponsor family activities and conduct community projects. These projects include: presenting U.S. flags to civic and community organizations; donating equipment to police, fire and rescue units; providing assistance to senior citizens, the physically impaired and orphans; and providing monetary assistance.

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On the Cover
Representative Reggie Stringer and his family know the value of life insurance and having a plan for the future.

Cover Photo by Kyra Rookard Photography
Anderson Retires

Senior Vice President of Sales Elvis Anderson retired, effective Aug. 1, 2016, having served in his current position since 2012. He began his WoodmenLife career as a Representative in Lyons, GA, in 1984. He was promoted to Recruiting Sales Manager in Savannah, GA, in 1987.

In 1996, Anderson became Regional Director of Tennessee West. He then became Assistant Sales Manager in Omaha, NE, from 1998-2001. He was appointed Regional Director of Alabama North in 2002. Anderson joined the Home Office as Director, Sales Management in January 2009 and was appointed Vice President, Sales in November 2009.

He has been a member of the WoodmenLife President’s Club for 21 years, of which 16 years were in the Cabinet and three years were at the Super Star level.

In his free time, Anderson enjoys woodworking, fishing and anything outdoors, including continued efforts to improve his golf game. He and his wife, Linda, have two daughters: Courtney Spurlock and husband, Chris; and Cadie Cook and husband, Steven. They also have five grandchildren: Easton, Eli, Jayce, Mason, and Sarah.

Owen Appointed Senior VP, Sales

With Anderson’s retirement, Spencer Owen has been named Senior Vice President, Sales, effective Aug. 1, 2016. Owen previously served WoodmenLife as Vice President, Sales, having previously served as Director, Sales Management. Prior to that, Owen served as Nebraska/Iowa Regional Director from April 2011 until October 2012.

Owen began his WoodmenLife career as a Representative in 1995 and was promoted to Recruiting Sales Manager in 2000. He was named Rookie Recruiting Sales Manager for Texas Southwest in 2000, Recruiting Sales Manager of the Year for Texas Southwest in 2005 and Recruiting Sales Manager of the Year for Texas in 2006. In 2009, Owen became Texas Southeast Regional Director, and was named Rising Star Regional Director for 2010.

Owen is a member of Alpha Chapter 16 in Omaha, NE, and Chapter 6011 in Council Bluffs, IA. In his free time, he enjoys golf, spending time with his family and traveling. He and his wife, Shelly, have three girls: Tiffanie, Deborah and Alaney.

WoodmenLife thanks Anderson for his more than 32 years of dedicated and successful service, and congratulates Owen on his new role.
Gossum Appointed Regional Director of Kentucky East

Kevin Gossum has been named Kentucky East Regional Director, effective Sept. 1, 2016. Prior to that, he served as Texas Northeast Regional Director since 2012 and as Mississippi South Regional Director since 2010.

Gossum began his WoodmenLife career as a Representative in 1994. In 2000, he was promoted to Recruiting Sales Manager of WoodmenLife’s Kentucky West marketing area. His professional accomplishments include being named the number one Recruiting Sales Manager in Kentucky West in 2006, 2008 and 2009. Gossum has not missed a single Incentive Trip since beginning his career with WoodmenLife, and was the recipient of the Rising Star Award in 2011.

In his free time, Gossum enjoys playing golf, watching the Arizona Cardinals play football, and spending time with his wife, Wendy, and family. He has two children: a daughter, Layla; and son, Coy.

Sharpe Promoted to Texas Northeast Regional Director

With Gossum’s move to Kentucky East, Bill Sharpe has become the new Regional Director of Northeast Texas, effective Sept. 1, 2016.

Sharpe began his WoodmenLife career as a Sales Representative in Waxahachie, TX, in February 1993. He has served as Recruiting Sales Manager in Texas and Georgia, and as Regional Director of West Virginia, Oklahoma and Georgia South.

Sharpe has earned his Fraternal Insurance Counselor Fellow (FICF) designation, is a member of General Agents and Managers Association (GAMA) and is a Financial Advisor with Woodmen Financial Services.

Sharpe became a WoodmenLife member in 1993, when he joined Chapter 46 in Waxahachie, TX.

In his free time, Sharpe enjoys playing competitive golf and has been a board member at his local club. He and his wife, Kim, have a son, Bill Sharpe II, who is a collegiate golf athlete at Lee University in Cleveland, TN.
Member Highlights
Reggie Stringer
Chapter 969
Somerset, KY
Representative since 2008

Planning
Family Experience Leads to Belief in Life Insurance
It costs money to die.

Reggie Stringer, a WoodmenLife Representative in eastern Kentucky, tells people that all the time. “When you die, there’s more to it than people realize,” he said. “From the cost of the casket and burial plot to outstanding medical bills, it adds up. So I ask people, how do they want to leave their family?”
Firsthand Knowledge
That difficult topic came up for Stringer while sitting at the kitchen table with his dad. “I’d been with WoodmenLife for six years at that point and I’d never really talked to my dad about insurance,” he said. Then one day his father said he didn’t have any insurance for his own funeral, so

Stringer wrote a life insurance certificate “right then and there.”

Unfortunately, 16 short months later, Stringer’s dad suddenly passed away. And because of that life insurance, his family didn’t have the financial burden of wondering how they were going to pay for his funeral. “Dad’s certificate covered all but $200 of the cost of everything,” Stringer said. “After this experience, my mom (who has been a WoodmenLife member since 2009) is very adamant about the need to have your own life insurance.”

“An Absolute Blessing”
Another personal experience that illustrates the importance of life insurance involves a close friend of Stringer’s.

“My friend was only 44 years old the day we met to go over his insurance needs,” he said. “And tragically, after he only had that certificate for nine months, he died suddenly.”

Fortunately, because Stringer’s friend had planned ahead, his family didn’t have to face the financial strain of final expenses.

“My friend’s wife said having that WoodmenLife certificate was an absolute blessing,” he said. “And because of that experience, she made sure to purchase a certificate to protect their children in case something should happen to her.”
Final expenses like funeral arrangements and burial fees are the most immediate costs that must be paid when you die. But they’re not the only expenses. The national average price of a funeral can easily exceed $10,000.*

You don’t want your loved ones to worry about how they’re going to pay for your final expenses. Purchasing life insurance now is the best way to help have an affordable way to pay for these expenses and ease your family’s concerns during an already-difficult time.

Insurance Through Work May Not Be Enough
If you currently receive life insurance coverage through your workplace, it may end when your employment does. So, it’s important to purchase individual life insurance to help secure your family’s future, even after you leave your job.

WoodmenLife’s Whole Life Insurance can provide financial protection and comfort for your family when you die. Some other benefits it offers include:

» Financial security for yourself and loved ones.

» A death benefit that helps reduce the financial stress of loved ones paying for your funeral.

» Income tax-free proceeds for your beneficiary without the hassle of probate.

For more information, contact your local Representative today or visit woodmen.org.

Certificate numbers: 250-XX-0409; 252-XX-0409; 251-XX-0409; 253-XX-0409; 01-XX-0409; 09-XX-0409; 03-XX-0409; 04-XX-0409
When Recruiting Sales Manager Stuart Stephenson heard about WoodmenLife’s Pick Your CANdidate event idea at a managers’ conference in February, he couldn’t wait to get started.

He took the idea back to Chapter 46 in Waxahachie, TX, and members were also excited about a food drive that allows elementary students to “vote” for presidential candidates by donating canned goods.

Together, Stephenson and chapter members quickly planned an event in coordination with the March 1 Texas presidential primaries.

“I went by the school administration office and got their take on the plan. They loved it, sent out an email to the 11 school campuses and eight responded that they would participate,” Stephenson said.

Branching Out
Stephenson also contacted a local Chick-fil-A, and the franchise agreed to offer a “nugget tray party” to the class on each campus that donated the most items.

A local department store
donated boxes to set up at the schools for food item collection. Stephenson and the chapter members also worked with a local food bank to let them know about the event, and to find out which items were most needed.

The next step was promotion. Stephenson, along with chapter secretary Jim Jordan, created fliers and arranged for them to be distributed to students at all eight schools. They also visited the local newspaper, which decided to publish information about the event.

The team set up nine boxes at each school, representing the seven Republican and two Democratic nominees in the primaries. The children could use each food item donated as a “vote” for a candidate. The schools had just two days to vote, but turnout was overwhelming, with donations totaling 5,030 items and weighing 4,402 pounds.

“It blew us away,” Stephenson said. Dunaway Elementary, the most economically challenged school in the district, brought in the most items. “They always taught the kids to give from the heart and to pass on help when they can, much the same way as they have been helped. We walked in the cafeteria where there was a stage full of almost 2,800 cans and products. Our mouths dropped and tears came to our eyes from the incredible outpouring of giving.”

In the end, the students “predicted” the outcome of the primaries. Cruz and Trump got most of the Republican votes and Clinton beat Sanders overall on the Democrat side.

The team will hold another event for the general election in November. “We look forward to having all the materials that [the Fraternal Outreach Department] has already prepared and planning well in advance … and getting a big truck and enlisting high schoolers to help us load and deliver!”

**Plan Your Own**

If you are considering planning an event with your chapter, Stephenson suggests finding out who within the school system has the most passion and excitement to make it a success.

“**Our mouths dropped and tears came to our eyes from the incredible outpouring of giving.**”

— Stuart Stephenson, Recruiting Sales Manager

“The opportunity for the school to participate in both the mock election process and helping collect food right before the holidays is a win-win,” he said, “and it can be a lot of fun and a meaningful learning experience.”
Fraternal Spirit

Representative Mark Hollingsworth presented a donation to Big Bend Hospice Bereavement Services Manager Pam Mezzina (left) and Grief Support Counselor Pam Mason.

Member James Coppedge presented scholarship awards to Maria Bennett and Sally James.

Representative Frankie Lamb presented a flag to the American Cancer Society.
Representative Laura Sharp and President Richard Lominack delivered Valentine’s Day cards to local nursing home residents, including Past President David Long.

Member Roger Skipper presented an American flag to Mobile YMCA Director Elicia Lynch.

Members held a celebration for the chapter’s centennial.

Members presented a donation to Emmanuel United Methodist Church for their backpack program.

Some of these gentlemen have been members since 1948!
Thirty-one children were fingerprinted at the chapter’s event at Tennessee Street Park.

Representative Melanie Rhodes presented an American History Award to Madison Phillips, a student at Stuarts Draft High School.

Members presented a 10 feet by 15 feet flag to the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department, which will be used to hang from the fire truck ladder during patriotic events, and to honor fallen firefighters at funerals.

Community Outreach Manager Angie Hatton and member Zane Cunningham strike a pose at the “silly photos” booth sponsored by the chapter at the annual Chocolate Festival benefiting Hospice of Southern Kentucky.

Everyone who attended also was treated to free ice cream provided by the chapter!

Take a photo at your next chapter event and submit it to: photos@woodmenmag.com
About 30 kids (plus their families and friends) attended the chapter’s annual Kids Fishing Rodeo.

“We are so glad to be part of a great organization that sponsors and conducts such quality family events as this.”

Connect with WoodmenLife! Follow us on Twitter @WoodmenLife Search: @WoodmenLife to ‘like’ our page.
Representative Kristin Greeson presented an American History Award to Avari Patterson.

Members organized a family night complete with hot dogs, a bounce house and playground games.

Chapter 491
Oneonta, AL

Chapter 491
Oneonta, AL

Member Claudia Trosclair hugs her grandchildren, who are also members. Their mother Disia Danos, who has been a member since 1966, submitted this photo to celebrate her 100% WoodmenLife family.

Chapter 664
Raceland, LA

Chapter 3668
Orange Grove, TX

Members partnered with Alice High School ROTC to present 15 American Patriot’s Handbooks to the school’s library.
Members dedicated a new flagpole at the Oglethorpe County EMS office in Crawford. About 35 people attended, including many local veterans. The event was held on Veterans Day last year.

President Bill Cavender (right), along with Principal Missy Lovejoy and History Teacher Clyde Breeding, presented an American History Award to Marc Radcliff, a student at Elkview Middle School.
Five-year-old Gavin Simpkins celebrates Flag Day with his siblings, 20-month-old twins Graham and Gabrielle. All are from a 100% WoodmenLife family!

Members presented Appreciation Service Awards and desk flags at a special recognition dinner to members of the La Marque Fire Department for their dedication and service to the community.

Representative Karen Patton presented a check to Mitch Smith, who accepted it on behalf of the National Wild Turkey Federation.
Members presented a flagpole and flag to Moulton Middle School.

Vice President Carlos Evers and member Linda Hines (right) presented 12 boxed fans to Area Agency on Aging of Southwest Arkansas Executive Director Ruthie Langston, RN.

Representative Jane Phillips presented an American flag to Delmer Cockerham, who accepted it on behalf of the City of Jena. The flag will be flown at Jena Town Park.

Members organized an outreach booth at the Kinston Barbeque Festival, including giving away a gas grill.

Member Cheryl Taylor presented the Youth Fraternal Spirit Award to Madison Lane.

“We are so thankful for this beautiful new flag and flagpole. Our community is a better place because of organizations like WoodmenLife.”

– Stacie Givens
Moulton Middle School Principal

Chapter 341
Magnolia, AR

Chapter 1145
Jena, LA

Chapter 46
Kinston, NC

Chapter 1075
Loris, SC

Chapter 43
Decatur, AL

Chapter 1145
Jena, LA
Member Ralph Jordan (left) presented an American flag to Chief Robert Tomlin at the annual USS Pawcatuck 108 reunion, which was held in New Orleans.

Nearly $5,000 was raised for Jacobs Creek Job Corp. at a golf tournament and barbeque dinner organized by members of the chapter.

Chief Tomlin was recognized as the shipmate who served the longest tenure (eight years) on the ship before it was decommissioned.
Representative Ernie Craven presented an American History Award to Cooper Smith, a student at Fairview Elementary School.

Members spent the day visiting with residents of Englewood Health Care Center. Everyone enjoyed games and fellowship, and residents left with new back scratchers, markers, coloring books, lotions, blankets, word search books, gloves, socks, and more.

It was a day filled with laughter and enjoyment.

Denise is also a WoodmenLife member!

Representative Kenny Barnhill presented a flag to Denise Lewis, who accepted it on behalf of West Pender Middle School.

Members presented a 10 feet by 13 feet flag to the Murray Fire Department, to hang from the ladder of a fire truck for special events.

Chapter 553
Cornelia, GA

Chapter 1057
Monroeville, AL

Chapter 170
Kirksey, KY

Chapter 244
Atkinson, NC
WoodmenLife’s National Community Focus of fighting hunger keeps gaining momentum. Across the country, members like you are stopping hunger in their local communities. From food drives to community gardens, to helping infants and the elderly, our combined efforts are truly making a difference. Find out more at ncf.woodmen.org!

Members presented metal watering cans and garden tools to their local community garden’s children’s program.

Members presented a $500 check to Bethlehem Baptist Church in support of their backpack program. The donation was made at a packing event.

Members organized a food drive and donated the collection to Duplin County Blessing House Food Pantry.
Members collected food and toiletry items for NeedLine of Calloway County.

Members presented a $300 donation to staff from Ronda-Clingman Elementary School for their backpack program.

More than $15,000 was raised!

Members donated $1,000 to sponsor the Hunger Run. All proceeds benefited the Hummelstown Food Pantry.
Members hosted a food drive at their annual cookout. Almost 100 people attended and enjoyed grilled food and bluegrass music!
Members participated in a Stop Hunger Now event.

Secretary Margaret Butler presented a case of canned vegetables to Lambs Basket Board member Roy Elliot.

Members Rhonda Poole (left), Elaine Willingham, Barbara Chambers (second from right), and Nadine Eggers presented a check to Nola Love (center) from Helping in His Name Ministries Food Bank.

Community Outreach Manager Ashley Pruitt and members Buddy Wiltzie (second from right) and Joe Thomas presented a $500 check to Selma Food Bank Director Jeff Harrison.

“It makes me feel good. It’s great to be able to give back to the community in this region, which is one of the highest impoverished areas in the state.”

– Buddy Wiltzie
Member
Helping others is something Patricia Griffin has always strived to do.

From collecting food for those in need, to organizing blood drives and purchasing Christmas gifts for patients at the mental health institution where she used to work, Griffin always tries to help when she sees someone in need.

“I give from the heart. I have faith and I love people,” she said. “I guess it’s just in my blood.”

This giving spirit led to Griffin being named WoodmenLife’s 2016 Fraternalist of the Year.

“Mrs. Pat has a special heart for helping others and for supporting our National Community Focus,” said Representative Kristi Armstrong. “She’s also Chapter 78’s Secretary and Reporter, so she always has the local newspaper present at our community events.”

A Variety of Projects
A sampling of those events that Griffin has either organized or
Starting this year, either individuals or projects could be nominated for WoodmenLife’s Fraternalist of the Year award. This change corresponds with the American Fraternal Alliance’s new contest rules for its National Fraternalist of the Year to encourage more participation and nominations from each member fraternal benefit society.

“Another project I love is working with the special needs children in the area,” she said. “We present them with trophies for their sports involvement and it overwhelms them to receive that gesture from us.”

Thanks in part to Griffin and her fellow chapter members, Chapter 78 achieved Five-Star status in the Fraternal Challenge for the first time in 2015.

“I like to make out the calendar and take it to meetings,” Griffin said. “I suggest things we could do, and then the chapter works together to plan our activities.”

In addition to her many community activities, Griffin is also known for her ability to share the WoodmenLife story. “She calls our office three or four times a month with referrals,” said Armstrong. “We’ve added many members thanks to her.”
Never underestimate the power of a patriotic high school student.

In Wiggins, MS, one student’s actions inspired a local WoodmenLife chapter to donate U.S. and state flags to an entire school district.

Ian McCarthy is a student at Stone County High School, and last Sept. 11, he noticed that the flag flying in front of the school was not in good condition, said Janice Strohm, Secretary of Chapter 1446 in Gulfport, MS. “So he called his father to get the American flag out of his room and bring it to school.”

McCarthy then took down the tattered flag at his school and replaced it with his personal flag. “Each day, he would bring his flag from home to fly at the school, and then he would take it home every night,” Strohm said. “It was impressive that this young man

Chapter 1446 member Larry Strohm and student Ian McCarthy raised a new American flag and Mississippi state flag outside Stone County High School in Feb. 2016.
Every year since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, WoodmenLife members have organized In Honor and Remembrance ceremonies across America. Held on Sept. 11, these ceremonies honor the heroes and victims of those attacks, as well as local community heroes and volunteers.

Each ceremony is tailored to the specific community where it is held. Past ceremonies have included:

» Presenting an American flag to the town, a civic organization or to a family affected by the terrorist attacks;

» Dedicating a flagpole in a public park;

» Planting a garden or tree in honor of a local hero; and

» Commissioning a piece of public art that symbolizes the sorrow and hope associated with the day.

Contact your local chapter to find out how you can be part of the 15th Anniversary In Honor and Remembrance ceremony in your community.
Barbara Hebert has lived in the town of Plattsburgh, NY, for more than 30 years. She’s developed a passion for the area, and in the last two years, she’s found significant ways to put it to work. Hebert serves her community as Town Councilor, as well as a WoodmenLife Representative.

“There’s a period in your life where you want to give back in another way,” she said. With both her career and her civic service, Hebert says the timing was just right. She became a Representative in early 2015, when she reconnected with Recruiting Sales Manager Dale Gonyo.

**Taking on a New Role**
Timing proved itself crucial again when local Town Councilor Michael Cashman was elected to Town Supervisor, and he approached Hebert about filling the vacant position on the Town Council. “I’ve always been interested in politics at a local level,” she said.

Since beginning her term in January 2016, Hebert says she has focused on becoming competent and fluent with the operations of the town. “There’s a lot to learn, and I’ve been able to transfer a lot of my previous skills from my work in human resources with both public and private companies. In addition, I believe that being able to demonstrate effective collaboration, leadership and public service skills are other qualifications that the Town Board were seeking to fill the vacancy,” she said.

**Making a Difference Locally**
Hebert found that her WoodmenLife career and civic service go hand in hand. “I saw that synergy pretty easily,” she said. “I was building strong relationships, and now I’m building them with constituents, too. Both positions have allowed me to become a resource person.”

December will mark the end of Hebert’s appointed term, but she plans on running for re-election. Many have asked her about running for higher-level government, but she says, “I am trying to restore faith and trust on a local level, with such a volatile national political climate currently. I’d rather be the most effective locally.”
David Grist has seen a lot of change in his nearly five decades as a WoodmenLife member. “I still remember when chapters were called camps,” he said. Grist joined WoodmenLife at just 19 years old in 1969. However, for Grist, change doesn’t mean forgetting the past. He’s always had an interest in history, and he took action when he noticed WoodmenLife memorabilia was being discarded.

In around a decade, he’s built a collection of about 1,500 historical WoodmenLife items, some dating back to the 1890s.

It Takes A Village
Grist had help building his collection. He presented to chapters all over Georgia, asking for donations. Chapters, members and Sales associates have contributed. The items are currently housed at WoodmenLife’s northern Georgia Regional office. “It’s grown by leaps and bounds over the last 10 years,” Grist said.

Collecting the items was only the beginning. Grist creates displays for his local Jurisdictional Convention and continues to present to chapters throughout Georgia. Members get to see the items they contributed, and newer members get to learn more about WoodmenLife history. “If I know I am going to see someone who gave something, I try to include their item,” he said. “People enjoy seeing the things they’ve donated.”

Unique Finds
Grist has come across some unique memorabilia, including a 1915 chapter charter donated by a Sales associate. A contractor was remodeling a home and found the charter, in its original mailing tube, inside a wall. “Wouldn’t it be interesting to find out how the charter ended up there?” Grist said.

Grist looks forward to growing the collection and sharing WoodmenLife history for years to come.
At an age when many people are looking to slow down and take things a little easier, Robert White of Hampton, VA, decided to take on a new hobby.

“I started running when I was 59,” he said. “The first race I ran was in the 60+ group, and I’ve been running ever since.”

Now 92 years young, White has nine marathons and numerous shorter runs under his belt. He holds a long list of race records for his age group, and was inducted into the Virginia Peninsula Road Racing Hall of Fame in 2009. Most recently, he ran an 8K and a 5K in July.

“Robert told me the reason he started running was to inspire younger people to live a healthier life,” said Wayne Anderson, White’s WoodmenLife Representative. “And believe me, many people have been and are inspired by him.”

Service to His Country
An Army veteran, White served with the 17th Airborne division in World War II and earned a Purple Heart after being wounded during the infamous Battle of the Bulge.

“After D-Day, they asked for volunteers to be paratroopers because of all the lives lost in that battle, so I volunteered,” he said. “They trained us in England and then sent us over to France.” It was in France where White had a chance encounter with his brother.
“He was with the 101st and they were traveling one way, and our unit was traveling the other way along the same route,” White said. “And when both units happened to stop as they passed each other, there was my brother almost right across from me on the road.”

A Special Relationship
A WoodmenLife member for 19 years, another way White and his late wife, Marie, inspired people was through their 72-year marriage. “Many of us in the chapter admired how they showed each other such love and respect,” Anderson said. “They had a relationship that exemplifies what marriage is all about.”

Although he lost Marie in 2015 and knee surgery has slowed him down a bit, running is still in White’s blood. “I run three miles every other day, and on the off days I go to the gym,” he said. “If I don’t run, I’m not satisfied and I feel like I’ve lost something.”
It’s hard not to notice the negativity on television today, from violence to bickering candidates and much more. It makes me proud that WoodmenLife members set an example, making a positive impact every day.

In this issue, you’ll find stories about:

- fraternalists recognized for their efforts in each of our 27 regions
- a teen whose patriotism can inspire us all
- a chapter that celebrated American democracy while also helping the hungry in conjunction with the upcoming election.

Being a WoodmenLife member means actively helping your community. This month marks both Hunger Action Month and the 15th anniversary of 9/11. Please take time to look at the back of this issue for information on the activities taking place in your local area. If you’re too busy to get involved, you can also help by liking your local chapter’s Facebook page and sharing its events.

Thank you for your compassion, your involvement and your trust in WoodmenLife.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Patrick L. Dees
Executive Vice President, Fraternal

Chapter Centennials

Chapter 753
Roxboro, NC
Oct. 12, 1916

Chapter 808
St. Matthews, SC
Nov. 27, 1916

Chapter 111
Greeneville, TN
Nov. 27, 1916
Brown is Committed to Communication

“If you show someone you care, they’ll be there for you because they know you’re there for them.”

This belief served David Brown well during his 18-year teaching and coaching career in north Georgia, and it’s working for him now as a Community Outreach Manager (COM) in eastern Tennessee.

“My chapters are all eager to do outreach, but I’ve discovered many of them don’t know how to ask for assistance,” he said. “Once they realize I’m there to help, we’re able to work together and create successful events.”

A native of Ringgold, GA, Brown is approaching his one-year anniversary with WoodmenLife.

“When I interviewed with Regional Director Kyle McMahan, I knew immediately that this was something I wanted to pursue,” he said. “Having the opportunity to help others on a daily basis … it was a great match.”

In his short time as a COM, Brown has been part of many successful outreach events. “WoodmenLife was part of a couple golf tournaments in the area that each raised thousands of dollars for worthy causes,” he said. “And we recently had a family day at Dollywood with more than 1,200 people attending. It was a great outing for everyone.”

Brown and McMahan also created a new avenue to connect with members from their region. “It’s called the President’s Round Table and we try to do it once a quarter in each of my four areas,” Brown said. “We meet with the chapter officers over lunch and go over updates and answer questions. It’s all for their benefit, and it’s really helped create an open relationship between myself and the members.”

COM David Brown enjoyed meeting many new members and guests during WoodmenLife’s family day at the Dollywood theme park.
Every day in America, one in seven people don’t know where they will get their next meal. September is Hunger Action Month, and it’s the perfect time to start – or continue – making a difference.

Since launching the National Community Focus of fighting hunger in 2015, WoodmenLife has raised more than $360,000 and collected nearly 200,000 pounds of food. Members have rallied with their chapters and WoodmenLife Sales associates to fight hunger in their local communities.

This month, challenge yourself to make a difference. From serving meals at a shelter to organizing a food drive, every effort helps the hungry where you live. See the calendar on the back of this issue for upcoming events in your area or visit ncf.woodmen.org for more ideas.

RedBasket.org is a crowdfunding website where individuals ("Fundraisers") share their stories, recruit volunteers and raise money for personal emergencies and community projects. RedBasket.org is 100% FREE for both Fundraisers and Donors, thanks to sponsorship from WoodmenLife. But being free isn’t even the best part – Donors receive a $50 boost through the Good Start fund. To learn more, go to RedBasket.org/85.
Back to Our Roots

Chapter Matching Funds Changes to Reflect Original Mission

When Joseph Cullen Root founded WoodmenLife more than 125 years ago, he intended to help those around him meet the most basic of needs. This tradition continues today, both through our insurance and retirement products, as well as our fraternal offerings and outreach activities.

Occasionally, as an organization, we must make changes to ensure we are best serving our members and their communities. As a result, beginning in 2017, matching funds may no longer be used for improvements to chapter halls or camp facilities.

Chapters earn matching funds by acquiring new members and meeting certain goals to earn 5-Star Fraternal Challenge Points.

“We feel we can make a much greater impact and help many more people by investing these funds in community activities,” said Bruce Moritz, Director, Fraternal Outreach. “It will also provide our members with opportunities that are more personally rewarding than property maintenance, like presenting flags and serving food to those in need.”

Root called us to “engage in the happiest and noblest of all kinds of fun – “The fun of doing good.” This change is another way of enabling us to do so.

Fourth quarter events, which are due to Regional Offices Nov. 1, are the last opportunity for chapters to apply for matching funds toward facility improvements.

It hasn’t taken WoodmenLife members long to access the more than 30,000 discounts offered by Life’s Perks, our expanded discount program for members. Life’s Perks was launched in early June, and members have been saving on everything from movie tickets to cars.

The program is free for WoodmenLife members; register for Life’s Perks today through the member website on woodmen.org.

Members have SAVED $11,881 during Life’s Perks first full month.
Presidential Pursuit

Election Day is right around the corner, and whatever choice you make, remember that voting is a right to be cherished. In that spirit, please enjoy the word search below and find the 27 election-themed phrases hidden within – one for each Amendment in the U.S. Constitution. (Answers can be found on page 19.)

Word Bank

Bill of Rights
Constitution
Independence
Vote
Oval Office
Liberty Bell
Washington
Jefferson
Rushmore
Ballot Box
Home of the Brave
Elephant
Donkey
Bald Eagle
White House
Electoral College
Delegates
Susan B. Anthony
Lincoln
Presidential Amendments
Hiram Revels
Freedom
Congress
Star–Spangled Banner
Patriotism
United States
Ballot Belly Laughs

The politician was sitting in campaign headquarters when he got the call that he won the election. He immediately picked up the phone and called his mother.

“Ma” he shouted, “I won the election!”

“Honestly?” she replied.

His smile faded. “Of course not, but why bring that up at a time like this?!”

“NASA said this week it has received a record-high number of 18,000 applications for their astronaut training program. NASA said it shows a growing interest in space exploration. Then people said, ‘Nah, we just want to get off the planet before this election.’”

– Jimmy Fallon

Late one night in Washington, D.C., a mugger jumped a well-dressed man and held a gun to his ribs.

“Give me your money!” he demanded.

The man cringed, but said indignantly, “You can’t do this to me – I’m a U. S. Congressman!”

“In that case,” replied the robber, “give me MY money!”

Have a good joke?

Make your fellow fraternalists laugh. Please send contributions to WLEditor@woodmen.org.
In Memoriam

Fay Walker Akin
Age: 83
Chapter 82
Milan, TN

Jose R. Alaniz
Age: 79
Chapter 4525
Charlotte, TX

Arnold Allred
Age: 91
Chapter 851
Aberdeen, NC

Gretchen Alford
Age: 91
Chapter 22
Sulphur Springs, TX

O. O. “Bill” Bailey Jr.
Age: 86
Chapter 423
Ecru, MS

Joe Pete Barnes
Age: 80
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

Randolph “Ray” Barnett Jr.
Age: 64
Chapters 67, 344 and 3
Taylors, SC
Former National Representative

Mary Noel Cross
Age: 80
Chapter 5
Hopkinsville, KY

David Fisk
Age: 56
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

Flora Parker Goynes
Age: 87
Chapter 1145
Jena, LA

Dona C. Hall
Age: 84
Chapter 252
Flint, MI
Past Jurisdictional President

Lillian Regina Hannas-Heavener
Age: 91
Chapter 6
Cumberland, MD
Former Jurisdictional Delegate

Charles Boone Hendrickson
Age: 90
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

Cecil W. Hutchinson Sr.
Age: 85
Chapter 172
Tifton, GA
Former National Representative & Jurisdictional Officer

Lola Marie Joseph
Age: 91
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

Charles Lofton
Age: 94
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

Mildred Lofton
Age: 88
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

Connie McElwain
Age: 65
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

Connie L. McMillen
Age: 66
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

E. Wayne Price
Age: 69
Chapter 1483
Hampstead, NC

Ramona Taylor
Age: 82
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

John B. Williams Jr.
Age: 94
Chapter 117
Benton, KY

Lester Craft
Age: 86
Chapter 1228
Ada, OK

Willie Paul Gilley
Age: 85
Chapter 65
Dellwood, FL

Charles Messer
Age: 60
Chapter 65
Cotondale, FL

Walter R. Stephens
Age: 87
Chapter 65
Bascom, FL

Rosene Watford
Age: 75
Chapter 65
Greenwood, FL

Stanley Watford
Age: 80
Chapter 65
Greenwood, FL

Waltraud “Wally” Miller
Age: 75
Chapter 728
Murray, KY
Death can be expensive. A casket, burial fees and other costs associated with a funeral can easily add up to more than $10,000.* Life insurance from WoodmenLife can help remove this burden at an already-difficult time.

Contact your Representative today or go to woodmen.org for more information.


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 woodmen.org. Information concerning events and activities is subject to change. Visit your chapter’s website for the most current information.
Presidential Pursuit

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