June 2025

WoodmenLife® MAGAZINE

Protection, From Our Family to Yours

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE A Look Inside the 2025 Jurisdictional Conventions WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® Recipients





Chapter 635 members donated food and volunteered at the Fairfield First Baptist Church Food Pantry. Pictured are Food Pantry Director Jerry Houser and chapter members Mark Noble and Connie Smith.

President's Message

I am delighted to share this latest issue of WoodmenLife Magazine with you. In this edition,

we celebrate the spirit of summer, the achievements of our members, and the enduring values that unite us as a community. Within these pages, you will find stories that reflect our unwavering commitment to you, our community, and the values we hold dear.



Jurisdictional Convention Highlights

WoodmenLife members gathered in person to conduct our 2025 jurisdictional conventions. These conventions are a part of WoodmenLife's democratic process, where delegates conduct business required by our organization's bylaws, including electing officers for the next four years and electing delegates to our 50th National Convention, which will be held in July in National Harbor, MD.

Our members' dedication to community service was evident in the various convention projects. From donating to Backpack Buddies of Metro Atlanta to supporting the Focus Marines Foundation and Catholic Charities of Acadiana, our members have shown incredible generosity and commitment to making a positive impact. Find out more about these gatherings beginning on **Page 6**.

Warm regards,

WoodmenLife



Highlighting Members

On Page 20, you will find the story of Marvin Hilliard from Oak City, NC, who purchased life insurance to secure his family's financial future. Additionally, on Page 24, the article features Eurella Cahanin from Rayne, LA, whose family has been associated with WoodmenLife for nearly a century. These stories highlight the profound impact that our organization has on the lives of our members.

WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® Recipients Since it began, our scholarship program has recognized more than 5,000 young members across the United States and awarded more than \$3 million. This year, 626 scholarships were awarded, showcasing the incredible commitment of young members to create positive change in their communities and beyond. Find out more about our 2025 top scholarship recipients on Page 22.

Reflecting on these experiences and our shared journey, I am grateful for your trust in us. Our commitment to you, your families, and your communities remains steadfast. We look forward to continuing to serve you with diligence and care in the years ahead.

Thank you for being a part of our family.

Denise m. m. Caulur

Denise M. McCauley President & CEO













In This Issue

- **03** President's Message
- 18 National Board Member Retirement
- General Counsel Readies For Retirement 19
- **22** Celebrate Our Scholarship Recipients
- 30 Your Chapter News
- 31 Family Recipe
- 32 Fun Zone
- **34** In Memoriam

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Happy Birthday! This year, WoodmenLife is celebrating 135 years. WoodmenLife mantanata

Equal Access Policy WoodmenLife is an Equal Access membership organization that promotes a culture where all people are welcomed. It is the policy of WoodmenLife to seek qualified members on a nondiscriminatory basis and to provide all members with equal access to and allow their participation in WoodmenLife's chapter system, chapter events, fraternal benefits, and all other fraternal activities on a nondiscriminatory basis. Membership is open to all individuals who share the values of family, community and country regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, military or Veteran status, and/or any other classification or factor protected by federal, state or local law. It is also WoodmenLife's policy that any form of harassment of any member for any reason, not just on the basis of any factor or protected status listed above, will not be tolerated.

AMERICAN FRATERNAL

On the Cover

WoodmenLife

Volume 157 Number 3

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

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

Proud member of Honored to be recognized on:



Forbes 2024 Forbes 2025 AMERICA'S BEST INSURANC COMPANIES WORLD'S BEST INSURANCE COMPANIES

Cover photo by Thomas Grimes Photography

WoodmenLife member Marvin Hilliard wears many hats, but his most important role is being a dad. He purchased Family Term life insurance to help protect his children should something happen to him

2025 Jurisdictional Conventions

For the first time in six years, WoodmenLife members gathered in person to conduct our 23 iurisdictional conventions. From March to May. attendees connected with members of other chapters, celebrated successes, planned for the coming years, and helped build momentum toward the National Convention in July.

These conventions are an important part of our democratic process. Delegates conduct business required in our bylaws, including electing their officers for the next four years and, if eligible, electing delegates to the National Convention.

At least one WoodmenLife Executive Officer or National Director attended each of the conventions. That means participants heard directly from our top leaders, gaining insight about WoodmenLife's current position and our future direction.

Thousands of people attended the jurisdictional conventions, which highlighted WoodmenLife's spirit and celebrated our system of governance. All 23 events left lasting memories.



Alabama

Convention Project:

Held a flag retirement ceremony, then cut out the stars of the flag and put them in cellophane bags with a poem.

Presiding President: Miles Brown Host Regional Director: Drew Robertson 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Miles Brown President: T. L. Shaw Vice President: Kawanna Pledger Secretary: Carol A. Estes Treasurer: Erica Lovell Auditors: Nancy Childers (chair), Mary L. Woodson, Michael Randall

Fraternal Committee: Courtney Rabon, Fred Sullins, Mary A. Stevenson

Includes the MO counties of



Arkansas

Convention Project:

Purchased wish list items for Jackson House, an interfaith community crisis intervention center that provides emergency assistance for basic needs.

Presiding President: Rebecca Ross

Host Regional Director: TJ Sherer 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Rebecca Ross **President**: Judith Triplett Vice President: Robert Bland Secretary: Nancy Garner **Treasurer**: Tammy Lufkin Auditors: Virginia Jones (chair), Bethany Beeson, Tamera Arnold

Fraternal Committee: Diana Rhea, Cheryl Keaton, Penny McCullah, Deloise Mowdy

2025 JURISDICTIONAL CONVENTON REPORTS



Florida

Convention Project:

Purchased and dedicated a flagpole, and presented a flag to the First Presbyterian Church of Apopka, FL; packed 20,488 meals for school children in partnership with Hunger Fight.

Presiding President: Terri L. Dubois

Host Regional Director: Lance Mayers

- Immediate Past President: Terri L. Dubois
- **President**: Joelle E. Roberts
- Vice President: Cynthia S. Goodson
- Secretary: Christina M. Grainger
- Treasurer: Kim K. Enfinger
- Auditors: John K. Martin (chair), Brian R. Grainger, Grace D. Brown, Michael R. Alsup, Lola M. Johnston
- Fraternal Committee: Jonathon G. Bowman, Edwin P. Lopez, Peggy E. Mayers, Wendla D. Oldaker. Barbara J. Pomnitz



Georgia

Convention Project: Donated \$14,300 and packed bags for Backpack Buddies of Metro Atlanta.

Presiding President: James "Eddie" Cook Host Regional Director: Dennis Powers 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: James "Eddie" Cook President: Andrea White Vice President: E. Chris Smarr Secretary: Donna M. Jarrett Treasurer: Sherry Waldrop

Auditors: William Frank Jones (chair), Curtis Waters, Patricia Cook



Great Lakes

Convention Project:

Donated 72 pillows, protectors, and pillowcases to the Focus Marines Foundation for Veterans and volunteers; donated \$1,600 and presented an American and a Marines flag to the foundation.

Presiding President: Travis M. Coomer Host Regional Director: Greg Robertson 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Travis M. Coomer President: Shelly L. Lust Vice President: Grace E. Ruse

Optional Vice Presidents: Caitlyn L. Carey (publicity), Annamaria R. Farris (community outreach), Martha K. Burns (youth outreach), Colin J. Overstreet (membership)

Secretary: Carla J. Crawford

Treasurer: Lauren A. Coomer

Auditors: Kevin J. Popkey (chair), Nicholas D. Lippard, Fisher P. Overstreet, Rhonda L. Howard Fraternal Committee: Michael P. Walsh, Abigail S. Popkey, Robert A. Lippard



lowa

Convention Project:

Partnered with the United Way of Central Iowa to assemble 160 hygiene kits for men and women in need; the kits were donated to the Johnston Partnership Food Pantry, along with 250 pounds of food and \$525.

Presiding President: Barbara J. Keysor Host Regional Director: Tyler Lawrence 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Barbara J. Keysor President: Jack L. Kenkel Vice President: Gina L. McDaniel Secretary: Doug A. Cozad Treasurer: Pamela J. Kenkel

Auditors: Amy Andrews (chair), Deanna D. Kuhl, Jeffrey J. Pithan, John T. Slaby

Fraternal Committee: Sheri L. Fox, Sandra L. Hoch, Mona K. Pithan

2025 JURISDICTIONAL



Kentucky

Convention Project:

Donated \$8,050 to Trooper Island for camping equipment and supplies.

Presiding President: Michael E. Faihst

- Host Regional Director: Greg Robertson
- 2025 Officers:

Immediate Past President: Michael E. Faihst

- President: Kara E. Barone
- Vice President: Steven C. Darnall
- Secretary: Karlie M. Sudlow
- Treasurer: Patricia A. Latimer
- **Auditors**: Richard L. Newsom (chair), Brandon F. Adams, Sherry J. Whitmon
- **Fraternal Committee**: David R. Vance, Leslie A. Frank, Connie A. Lewis



Louisiana

Convention Project:

Donated \$4,327 and about \$800 worth of laundry detergent to Catholic Charities of Acadiana to support its laundry services for those experiencing homelessness.

Presiding President: Robert J. Olivier Jr. Host Regional Director: Travis Lowe 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Robert J. Olivier Jr. President: Billy C. Colvin Vice President: Lynda P. Leonard Secretary: Evelyn M. Stringer Treasurer: Judy C. Gaudet Auditors: Patsy O. Babin (chair), Lou A. Comeaux, Janice F. Blanchard Fraternal Committee: Raymond C. Richard, Lorraine G. Landry, Phyllis Stagg



Mid-Atlantic

Convention Project:

Donated \$5,000 to the Grantsville (MD) Community Recreation Center; the city purchased the property and is working to renovate it to include a gym, weight room, game room, and child care center.

Presiding President: Lucy E. Stein Host Regional Director: Michaele Geibel 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Lucy E. Stein President: Bonnie G. Lawson Vice President: Chari R. Michaels

Secretary: Jessica M. Wilhelm

Treasurer: Pamela I. Gooch

Auditors: Janet E. Freeland (chair), Katharine B. Lantz, George W. Zimmerman, William D. Buckel, Linda M. Buckel

Fraternal Committee: Thomas L. Michaels, Carol A. Kirchner, Kimberly A. Collins, Christopher C. Lawson

Mississippi

Convention Project:

Sponsored an Honor Flight for 25 Veterans and their guardians to Washington, D.C.; convention attendees wrote thank you notes to be presented to the Veterans during the trip.

Presiding President: James H. Kirkland

Host Regional Director: Lisa Davis 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: James H. Kirkland President: Connie Kidd Vice President: Toby C. Embrey

Secretary: Martha L. Alford

Treasurer: Nelda R. Degraw

Auditors: Dianna M. Ainsworth (chair), Taylor McLemore, Delton M. Clanton, Heather L. Jones, Donald J. Lambert

Fraternal Committee: Rebeca J. Jenkins, Cyrra McGee, Natalie McGregor, Patsy Kirkland



2025 JURISDICTIONAL

Nebraska

Convention Project:

Donated \$2,500 to the American Heart Association and participated in the 2025 Omaha Heart & Stroke Walk.

Presiding President: Charles Richardson

Host Regional Director: Tyler Lawrence

2025 Officers:

Immediate Past President: Charles Richardson

- President: C. Shawn Bengtson
- Vice President: Samuel J. Griffin
- Secretary: Andrew S. Blocher
- Treasurer: Heather Morrow
- **Auditors**: Sara A. Clapham (chair), Cathy C. Roeber, Sylvia L. Newsome
- **Fraternal Committee**: Michael F. Bednarz, Darren J. Olson, Angela R. Hatton, Cassie Weston



New Mexico

Convention Project:

Donated toiletries, clothing, and \$1,000 to Locker #505, a student clothing bank, and presented a Community Partner Award to the nonprofit organization.

Presiding President: Shirley V. Lockyer Host Regional Director: Trae Gonzalez 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Shirley V. Lockyer President: Luis C. Mata Vice President: Mary T. Chavez Secretary: Carla P. Jaramillo Treasurer: Norman R. Smith Auditors: Arline T. Quintana-Thomas (chair), Erin F. Quintana, Apolonio J. Jaramillo Fraternal Committee: John P. Regal, Jerry T.

Fraternal Committee: John P. Regal, Jerry T. Perry, Teresa D. Alvarado



North Carolina

Convention Project:

Donated \$30,000 to support the All Veteran Group's annual holiday toy drop, which benefits children of Veterans and those serving in the military.

Presiding President: David Dupree Host Regional Director: Spencer Owen 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: David Dupree President: Karen Carter Vice President: Shirley Peele

Optional Vice President: : Gary Deese (publicity), Woodrow D. Glaze (community outreach), JoAnn Nelson (youth outreach), Lowell Keel (membership)

Secretary: Luther Phillip Carter

Treasurer: Deborah Johnson

Auditors: Sue Marvene Surratt (chair), Joyce Snider, Marsha Stirton, Teresa Auvil, Bruce Watt

Fraternal Committee: Barbara Forrest, Linda Wright, Leland Brown, Phyllis York, Alice Ammons



Northeast

Convention Project: Donated \$3,250 to the Tupper Lake Community Food Pantry in Tupper Lake, NY.

Presiding President: John T. Ellis

Host Regional Director: Michaele Geibel

2025 Officers:

Immediate Past President: John T. Ellis

President: Russell L. Blaise

Vice President: Ella J. Blixt

Secretary: Elaine A. Roman

Treasurer: John Lacy

Auditors: Jacqueline H. Fayette (chair), Margaret G. Davis, Joan P. Edwards, Carol P. Norton, David A. Marsh

Fraternal Committee: Glenn R. McEntee, David W. Blixt, Yvonne Bezio, Stephanie M. Boswell-Davies, Stacey Meunier

2025 JURISDICTIONAL



Ohio

Convention Project:

Donated \$2,000 to Wooster Hope Center, a food pantry that helps fight hunger in Wayne County, OH.

Presiding President: Brenda Serrano Host Regional Director: Pat Carter

- Immediate Past President: Dwight Jones
- President: Cindy L. Wetzel
- Vice President: Richard Serrano
- Secretary: Brenda Serrano
- Treasurer: Julie M. Mullins
- **Auditors**: Kelsey L. Mullins (chair), Marjory A. Joseph, Sonia L. Laboy
- **Fraternal Committee**: Kara W. Wamack, Peggy D. Barker, Ramon A. Reynoso





Oklahoma/Kansas

Convention Project: Donated 1,124 pounds of food and \$2,500 to Mid-Del Food Pantry.

Presiding President: Christopher R. Roessler Host Regional Director: James Gilbert 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Christopher R. Roessler President: Brent W. Hoskison Vice President: Jeremy Kopisch Secretary: Hannah C. Kopisch Treasurer: Lori L. Factor Auditors: Phillip D. Pitt (chair), Ethel M. Schiller, Johnny M. Manners, Peggy Harris Fraternal Committee: Mechelle M. Roessler, Ronald T. Sullivan, James E. Norton, Gary J. Taylor, Robert E. Matheny



Pacific

Convention Project: Donated a "buddy bench," school supplies, and \$200 to Rose Warren Elementary School in Las Vegas, NV.

Presiding President: Stephen G. Ensey Host Regional Director: Tyler Lawrence 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Stephen G. Ensey President: Robert Pena Vice President: Karen L. Forbes Secretary: Megan N. Ensey Treasurer: Kathleen A. Nelson Auditors: Theresa Jeffers (chair), Ronald C. Anderson Fraternal Committee: Melissa M. Butcher, Samantha Dennis



Pennsylvania

Convention Project: Donated \$5,000 to Meals on Wheels of Lancaster.

Presiding President: Christine A. Frazier Host Regional Director: Michaele Geibel 2025 Officers:

President: Desiree Geibel

Vice President: Clarence E. Halterman

Secretary: Christine A. Frazier

Treasurer: Melodie K. Paul

Auditors: Mary L. Beckey (chair), Nancy A. Markey, Karen E. Harring, Eleanor M. Clark, Rhonda K. Frederick

Fraternal Committee: Anna P. Johnson, Steven J. Zellers, Susan T. Irwin, Lori J. Henninger, Beth A. Wetzel

2025 JURISDICTIONAL



South Carolina

Convention Project:

Assembled "Precious Cargo" bags for children who are removed from their home and placed in foster care; the bags, which included a blanket, teddy bear, and other items the children might need, were presented to South Carolina Youth Advocate Program.

Presiding President: Iris "Libby" Bedenbaugh

Host Regional Director: Tim Houlahan

- Immediate Past President: Iris "Libby" Bedenbaugh
- President: Cathy Meetze
- Vice President: John W. Martin
- **Optional Vice Presidents**: Rita Gainey (publicity), Macy Hucks (community outreach), Jamie Haltiwanger (youth outreach), Johnnie Bolt (membership)
- Secretary: Leila Balliet
- Treasurer: Donna Haltiwanger
- **Auditors**: James R. West II (chair), Allen Rene Lee, Mary Christmas, Clifton Rogers, Luther Eargle
- **Fraternal Committee**: Matthew Senn, Alton (Tripp) Bishop, Verna Newman, Brenda Woods



Tennessee

Convention Project:

Held a food drive for GraceWorks Ministries Inc.; delegates brought monetary or food donations, and the jurisdiction board purchased 992 cans to create a flag display.

Presiding President: Steve Weiand Host Regional Director: Brad Lowe 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Steve Weiand **President**: Gary R. Thompson Vice President: Chris B. Smith Secretary: Tracy Nelson **Treasurer**: Deborah Collins Auditors: Shirley Orr (chair), Elisa Barr, Lowell D. Gable Fraternal Committee: Barbara Gore. Theresa Smith, Belinda H. Young



Texas

Convention Project:

Donated \$19,225 and assembled 13,000 wound care kits, hygiene kits, and snack packs for Corazón Ministries of San Antonio, which supports those experiencing homelessness.

Presiding President: Juan B. Cordova Host Regional Director: James Gilbert 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Juan B. Cordova President: Leonardo V. Bryant Vice President: Sandra L. Revland Secretary: Gloria I. Hollifield Treasurer: Jessica Clark Auditors: Michelle Henrichson (chair), Marsha N. Pyle, Thomas A. Knapp, Raetta Polk Fraternal Committee: Dusti N. Rhodes, Curtis

W. Birchfield, Mary R. Cangiamilla



Virginia

Convention Project: Donated 170 boxes of cereal and \$2,273 to Oasis Social Ministry.

Presiding President: Ginger W. Shotwell Host Regional Director: Ryan Blake 2025 Officers: Immediate Past President: Ginger W. Shotwell **President**: Garland L. Moody Vice President: John R. Mink Secretary: Naomi R. Simpson Treasurer: Thomas A. Gilliam Auditors: Rachael A. Patchett (chair), Arlene W. Gunter, Douglas M. Wheeling, Kenneth D. Moody

Fraternal Committee: Geraldine L. Wallace, Shiela A. Brown, Traci C. Lenhart

16 WoodmenLife Magazine | WoodmenLife.org

2025 JURISDICTIONAL CONVENTON REPORTS



West Virginia

Convention Project:

Donated \$4,000 to Facing Hunger Foodbank in recognition of their 10-year partnership and our shared commitment to fighting hunger.

Presiding President: James T. Workman Host Regional Director: Pat Carter

- Immediate Past President: James T. Workman
- President: Anthony S. Lunsford
- Vice President: Amy A. Jarvis
- Secretary: Rebecca J. Lego
- Treasurer: Donna L. Mick
- Auditors: Rox Ann Workman (chair), Le Anne Lowe, Loretta M. Baldwin
- Fraternal Committee: Sherry L. Tucker, Barbara A. Forrest, David F. Plum

Dr. James W. Bosler **III Retires from** WoodmenLife Board

r. James W. Bosler III, a long-standing member of the WoodmenLife Board of Directors, elected to retire as a National Director at the end of May 2025. Dr. Bosler has been a WoodmenLife member since birth and was elected to the Board at the 2005 National Convention in Omaha, NE.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Bosler held various leadership roles both fraternally and as a National Director, serving in various capacities including President of Chapter 14 in Louisville, KY, Past President of the Kentucky Jurisdiction, Chair of the Compensation Committee, and Lead Independent Director of the National Board of Directors. In addition, Dr. Bosler was awarded the National Fraternalist of the Year award in 2004 and the Top 10 National Youth Leadership Award in 1979.



Dr. Bosler has a family legacy with WoodmenLife. His mother, the late Mary Etta Bosler, was the organization's first female Jurisdictional President in 1965 and his father, the late James W. Bosler, was a WoodmenLife National Director who retired from the Board in 1999. Dr. Bosler has two daughters, Lauren and Caroline, who have been WoodmenLife members since infancy.

Contributions Beyond WoodmenLife

Dr. Bosler's service extends beyond WoodmenLife. He has been a Lifetime Member of the National Ski Patrol and Eastern High School's Team Physician. In addition, as an Eagle Scout and a licensed pilot, he has also contributed to the community through his roles with the Boy Scouts of America, the Professional Golf Association, and the Civil Air Patrol. His medical expertise has been invaluable in areas such as Aviation Accident Scene Resources and Medical Bioterrorism Response.

Given Dr. Bosler's departure, his seat will remain vacant for the foreseeable future. This decision was made after a thorough review of our board members' skill sets.

As Dr. Bosler retires from his role on the Board, we extend our appreciation for his years of service to WoodmenLife and the broader community.

SVP, General Counsel Lynn Espeland Will **Retire in August**

ith her retirement coming on Aug. 1, Lynn L. Espeland, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, found it hard to single out one experience or moment from a **V** 40-year career with WoodmenLife.

"I appreciate the opportunities I've had to grow and learn," she said. "I've appreciated the opportunity to gain the trust of the organization and our members. I've never taken that for granted."

WoodmenLife President & CEO Denise M. McCauley credited Espeland for fostering a positive culture in the Legal division, where associates are motivated to make a difference. McCauley also said Espeland was instrumental in growing WoodmenLife's presence through membership in insurance trade associations and insurance industry groups.

Now, Espeland, who said she'll miss having daily challenges to solve, will turn her attention to an after-work checklist that's wide open.

"I'm really looking forward to a flexible schedule with time for family and opportunities to learn something new and to explore new interests - things I've set aside during my career," she said.

Reading books for pleasure is something she hasn't had time to do, and her curiosity was recently piqued by a co-worker who's a longtime book club member. A list of her co-worker's favorite books and authors is waiting for Espeland on Aug. 2.

We thank Espeland for her decades of service with WoodmenLife and wish her the best in retirement.



Holiday Closures

The Home Office will be closed the following days:









Joining Our Family Helped **Protect His**

Losing your mom while you're just a teen leaves a mark forever. But WoodmenLife member¹ Marvin Hilliard of Oak City, NC, is grateful that his mother had one last lesson to teach him.

"My mother had several life insurance policies," he said. "Those policies helped me and my family in the years after her passing. This is one of the reasons I purchased life insurance. Our mortality is inevitable, and I understand the importance of having policies to ensure my family's financial stability after my passing."

The 37-year-old is a self-confessed "guy that wears many hats" — he's a police captain, a volunteer firefighter, a criminal justice instructor, and a substitute school bus driver. His most important hat, though, is being a single dad.

Purchasing a Family Term life insurance certificate from WoodmenLife checked the necessary boxes for Hilliard: He was providing a financial safety net for his children, he could cover himself and his kids with one certificate², and his premium would stay the same for the length of the certificate's initial term.

Why WoodmenLife?

"Marvin was looking for an affordable option to cover his entire family under one certificate," said WoodmenLife Sales Representative Steven Cannon of Oak City, NC.



Photo by Thomas Grimes Photoaraph

"Marvin's goal is to leave his children a legacy and to cover the final expenses of his children in the event of an untimely passing.

"Marvin wants his children to have a bright future and wants to ensure his children have a good financial foundation to build their lives on."

Hilliard owns policies from other life insurance providers, but purchasing one from WoodmenLife felt different.

"I love that WoodmenLife provides more benefits you can receive while living," he said. "They are highly involved in the community, donating their time and finances to help various organizations within our community. They felt like family."

That's the reaction Cannon hoped for when he shared all the positives of Family Term and WoodmenLife.

"Family Term is a great way to make the entire family WoodmenLife members so they can access all the WoodmenLife Extras³ we offer," he said, "and it's at a price that is suitable for

Member Highlights Marvin Hilliard Oak City, NC 🛛 茾 Chapter 1343 Member Since 2019

their family's income. It also makes managing their insurance coverage easy to understand and to keep up with."

Building on Connections

Cannon was in a good position to help guide Hilliard's decision-making. They're both firefighters in the same department, and they've known each other for years.

"I've had the privilege of knowing Steven and his family for a long time," Hilliard said. "I remember when his parents built their home down the street from mine when I was a child. He and his family have always welcomed me and my family with open arms."

Their relationship created trust when Cannon talked about life insurance. Hilliard appreciated Cannon explaining his options and giving him time to make his decision.

It's all part of the family feeling Hilliard gets when he thinks about WoodmenLife.

"WoodmenLife embodies more than just a life insurance organization — it's a family that genuinely cares for you and your loved ones," he said.

Visit WoodmenLife.org/Family-Term to find out more about Family Term life insurance. Talk with your Representative to see if it's the right product for you.

Certificate Numbers ICC16 8063 R-1-16 & 8063 R-1-16 (xx)

All products may not be available in all states



How WoodmenLife's **Family Term Life Insurance Works**

- ✓ It offers 10- or 20-year level term life insurance to a single-parent or two-parent family, issue ages 18-50.
- ✓ After the initial level term, the adult coverage is renewable annually until age 95*.
- ✓ Amounts available for adults are \$50,000, \$100.000, \$250.000, or \$500.000[†]
- ✓ Coverage is available to eligible children ages 15 days through 17 years.
- ✓ It provides \$10,000 of term life insurance for each eligible child until age 25.
- ✓ As additional children are born or adopted, they are covered by the insurance at no additional cost[‡].

*Once the initial policy term ends, your premiums will increase on an annual basis until age 95. Any increase in premium will not increase the certificate benefits.

The face amount of the Other Insured can never be more than the Primary Insured. ‡ Certain eligibility requirements and age restrictions apply.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Family Term life insurance.

^{1.}An individual becomes a member by joining our shared commitment to family, community and country, and by purchasing a WoodmenLife product. 2.Coverage extends to any child born to the primary insured or other insured, any child less than 18 years of age legally adopted by the primary insured or other insured, or any child less than 18 years of age for which the other insured or the primary insured has been appointed permanent legal guardian. No child is insured before attaining the age of 15 days. Certain eligibility requirements apply.

^{3.}WoodmenLife Extras are available to members. An individual becomes a member by joining our shared commitment to family, community and country, and by purchasing a product. These extras are not contractual, are subject to change and have specific eligibility requirements, such as length of membership, number of qualifying members in household and/or qualifying event.

Congratulations **2025 Scholarship Recipients**

626 incredible young people demonstrated a commitment to create a positive change in their communities and beyond

Since its start in 2017, the WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® program has recognized more than 5,000 young members across the United States and awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships¹. This year, WoodmenLife awarded 626 scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$10,000.

Meet This Year's **\$10,000** Scholarship Recipients

MEMBER

NEWS



Bella B. | Talking Rock, GA

Bella plans to study neuroscience at Augusta University before medical school. Her interest in becoming a doctor who works with newborns started in 2020 when her aunt had premature twins who spent more than 100 days in the hospital.

"I saw how their medical team helped through many scary times when we weren't sure if the babies would make it," Bella said. "What they did for the twins and my family during those months truly inspired me to

become a neonatologist and help other babies and their families."

In high school, Bella led the chorus department and

performed at community events, including the annual Veterans parade in her town. She also participated in theater productions to push herself out of her comfort zone and belonged to several honor



societies for math, science, English, and art. In her spare time, she served with her family on their church meal team at Ellijay Church of Christ.

She plans to use her scholarship for housing, meal plans, textbooks, lab fees, and travel expenses, as Augusta is four hours from her hometown.

Her advice: "Apply for the scholarship. Be vulnerable in your application, and show who you are as a person. Show how you've grown from life experiences and how you help your community."



Madelyn F. | Longs, SC

Madelyn just finished her third year at the University of South Carolina in a special program that combines undergraduate and medical degrees in seven years, allowing her to skip the MCAT exam.

"I've always wanted to pursue medicine," Madelyn said. "I had heart surgery when I was little, and both my parents worked in healthcare. My experiences volunteering in hospitals and working as a medical assistant at an orthopedic urgent care confirmed this was the right path for me."

Madelyn graduated from the Scholars Academy, with Loris High School as her base school. At college, she serves as Vice President of Philanthropy in her sorority, Tri Delta, and works as a research assistant at the Institute for Mind and Brain. She's also a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

"I've been a WoodmenLife member since I was little," Madelyn shared. "When I heard about the scholarship, I knew this organization would be part of my entire life. The application questions were easy to answer because I truly believe in what they stand for."

Member Highlight Madelyn F. Longs, SC 📥 Chapter 1075 Member Since 2004



Her advice: "Be genuine about your goals and ambitions. Talk about what you're passionate about, and your writing will flow more naturally."

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





Susanna S. | Hopkinsville, KY

Susanna is heading to the University of Kentucky after graduating from University Heights Academy. She plans to study public health on a pre-dental track.

In high school, Susanna stayed busy with theater, cheerleading, and as National Honor Society President. She was also active in Beta Club, Key Club, Interact Club, Poetry Club, and both the



Kentucky Cattlemen's Association and the Christian County Cattlemen's Association.

"I knew WoodmenLife offered financial support to college students," Susanna said. "I really needed that help to attend the University of Kentucky."

Her advice: "Start building your resume early. Try new things outside your comfort zone. That's when you learn and build character. Keep your grades up every year, and never give up."

Learn more about how to qualify for a WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship at WoodmenLife.org/Scholarships and see all this year's winners at WoodmenLife.org/Congrats



A Multigenerational Legacy With WoodmenLife

n the Acadiana region of South Louisiana, one family's story shows how WoodmenLife can touch lives for generations. Meet Eurella DeRouen Cahanin, whose family has been part of WoodmenLife for nearly a century, living out WoodmenLife's values of helping others and loving their country.

Starting in Tough Times

The family's legacy with WoodmenLife started with Cahanin's dad, Howard DeRouen Jr., born in 1931 when times were hard for many Americans.

"It was during the Great Depression," Cahanin said. "My grandpa was an electrician in Rayne. My grandma didn't have much schooling, so she had to go to work after his death in 1935. The grandparents looked after my dad and his sister while his mother worked."

A Lifelong Member

Howard loved WoodmenLife his whole life. He bought his policy in 1949 and kept going to meetings until he passed away in July 2023.

Member Highlight Eurella Cahanin 💄 Rayne, LA 📥 Chapter 31 🦏 100% WoodmenLife family

"He went to a meeting just a month before he died," Cahanin said proudly. "He never stopped being active."

Howard's love for WoodmenLife spread to the rest of the family. His stepfather bought a policy after he married Howard's mother and became an active member. Cahanin's husband, Keith, joined in 1979. Later, all their kids and grandkids became members, too, some right after they were born.

"It's not just about life insurance. It's about community, service, and family values. We wanted to pass that on to our children and grandchildren."

> - Eurella Cahanin WoodmenLife member

Changes and Family Traditions

The family saw WoodmenLife grow over the years. In the 1980s, Cahanin's mom was one of the first women to join, which was a big deal back then.

Cahanin and her husband, both retired teachers, used WoodmenLife to teach their family important values.

"We wanted our kids and grandkids to care about their community, love their country, and know what matters in their town and state," Cahanin explained.

Fun Times and Helping Others

Being part of WoodmenLife has given the family many good memories and chances to help their community. In the 1980s, they enjoyed community barbecues and fishing contests. More recently, they've done even more to help others.

Cahanin became President of her chapter in 2021, when the pandemic was making things tough for everyone. She didn't let that stop her. Since then, her chapter helped throw a big crawfish boil for the Annual Regional Event and had a special Flag Day event in 2023.

"We even won an award for the best activity of the year," Cahanin said. "We worked with other local groups to have a beautiful flag-raising ceremony. It was really special."



we can."

Every chapter of your family's story matters. Make sure it's protected. Review your life insurance needs analysis today.





The Next Generation

Cahanin and her husband have two daughters, one son, and seven grandchildren, all of them involved with WoodmenLife.

"We believe in what WoodmenLife stands for," Cahanin said. "It's not just about life insurance. It's about community, service, and family values. We wanted to pass that on to our children and grandchildren."

The younger family members are getting involved, too. Cahanin's 17-year-old grandson, Garret, who was recently elected Vice President of his chapter, helps give out flags, volunteers at the food bank, and works to make his community better.

"We think it's important to get the kids involved," Cahanin said. "We try to include them whenever

Looking Ahead

Cahanin believes her family will stick with WoodmenLife for years to come.

"I'm sure future generations will be part of it," she said. "All our grandkids are already members."

By staying involved and helping others, they're making sure the good values they believe in will keep getting passed down.

"It feels so good to help out," she said. "My advice is to do what you can while you're healthy and able."



Community Spirit

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



On behalf of Chapter 717, Sales Representatives Mike and Kara Medley led a park cleanup alongside members of the Milton Rotary Club.



Members with Chapter 1571 in Martinez, GA, presented the Salvation Army's Center of Hope with a \$400 donation. In addition, they volunteered at the shelter, helping in the clothing closet.



Chapter 1229 collected donations for a shelter in Okmulgee, OK. Pictured are member Seth Zito, Sales Representative Susan Sullivan, and shelter Director Rosie Lynch.



Chapter 2126 donated supplies to several elementary schools in the Corpus Christi Independent School District. Members Isabel Torres and Primo Torres presented donations to Priscilla Sanchez and Mariah Ruiz at Rose Shaw Elementary.









Chapter 233 members decorated boxes and filled them with snacks for local teachers. Pictured are Camino Real Middle School teachers Chris Love, Arturo Campos, Victoria Kelley, and Jane Falco.



Members with Chapter 226 delivered games, cleaning supplies, bottled water, and other donated items to a local school.

Showing their appreciation for local First Responders, members of Alabama Chapter 1918 presented new U.S. flags to the Brindlee Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. They also treated the firefighters to a meal





North Carolina Chapter 105 donated 263 pounds of food to the Tri County Christian Crisis Ministry.



Chapter 1770 members provided a pizza lunch for the Rincon, GA, Fire Department. In addition, members assembled gift bags with candy, a flag, and a note of appreciation for each of the firefighters.



Iowa Chapter 6204 provided cinnamon rolls and breakfast pizzas for the teachers at Ar-We-Va Community School. Pictured are Chapter Secretary Diane Vonnahme, teacher Craig Ragaller, and Chapter Secretary Sharon Bierl.



Chapter 1 officers delivered care packages and other supplies to the Hope Center women's homeless shelter.



On behalf of Chapter 1446, WoodmenLife Representative Brandy Lizana and her son, Dylan, treated employees of the Harrison County Child Development Center to lunch in appreciation for all they do for the children in the community.



Answer key from word search on Page 32



← See Yourself Here

Submit photos of your chapter events at **WoodmenLife.org/Photos** You could make the pages of *WoodmenLife Magazine*.

Answer k	key f	rom	Sud	oku	on	Page	33
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3	4	5	7	2	1	9	6	8
8	9	2	3	4	6	1	7	5
7	6	1	5	8	9	2	3	4
2	7	9	1	5	4	3	8	6
6	5	3	2	9	8	7	4	1
1	8	4	6	3	7	5	9	2
5	2	8	4	7	3	6	1	9
4	1	7	9	6	5	8	2	3
9	3	6	8	1	2	4	5	7

Get Ready for a News News School Year

Now is the time to enjoy summer barbecues and family game nights. But it's not too early to start thinking about the new school year. Here are some ways your chapter can help navigate the upcoming academic year and support local schools.

1. Celebrating Red, White & Blue®

CHAPTER

The Celebrating Red, White & Blue program allows chapters to borrow a 30-foot-by-60-foot American flag to display during the national anthem at local athletic, patriotic, and other community events. These displays are great opportunities for your chapter to recruit students and school staff to help carry the flag during its presentation and share more about WoodmenLife.

You can request a flag at WoodmenLife.org/Flag-Form

2. WoodmenLife Heart & Heritage Awards®

WoodmenLife honors those who do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. The WoodmenLife Heart & Heritage Awards recognize outstanding acts by men, women, youth, and local organizations.

Chapters can help promote the Heart & Heritage Awards by showcasing the incredible individuals and organizations in their community who consistently make a positive impact.

Be sure to look at our award banquet marketing materials. These materials are designed to make it easier for you to add information about your event while ensuring a professional and polished look. Contact your chapter officers to learn more.

3. 'America Is ...' Video Contest

Each year, schools across the country get the opportunity to showcase their American pride through the "America Is …" Video Contest. Chapters can encourage local schools to enter the contest, giving those schools an opportunity to win cash prizes and giving chapters an opportunity to share the WoodmenLife story.

Submissions will be accepted this fall, followed by online voting to determine the winners.

4. Teacher and Staff Appreciation Events

Teacher and staff appreciation events are a great way for your chapter to support local schools. Your chapter can organize simple activities that make teachers and staff feel valued, such as hosting a breakfast or lunch for school staff or writing thankyou cards.

Deadline Reminders

June 30:	Deadline for chapters to submit fall quarterly events to Community Outreach Advisors
July 31:	Common Bond Reward Program applications for April, May, and June are due to the Home Office
Aug. 1:	Chapters can begin holding officer elections

Sept. 30: Deadline to submit newly elected chapter presidents and secretaries so they will be printed in the December edition of *WoodmenLife Magazine*.



From the Kitchen of SVP & General Counsel Lynn Espeland

y mother was a nutritionist and a Home Economics professor. She used Meta Given's *Modern Encyclopedia of Cooking* as her textbook. The publication is an amazing text with detailed preparation instructions for everything from squirrel and possum to mashed potatoes and French dressing.



One of my most cherished recipes is a classic minestrone soup. It's a versatile go-to that, for me, celebrates the importance of shared family mealtime on holidays and weeknights alike.

I'm honored to share this recipe and hope that it brings as much warmth to your table as it has to mine — in every season.



Recipe | Minestrone

✓ Ingredients:

½ cup kidney or red beans
1½ lbs. beef soup bone
½ lb. lean beef
½ ds. water
½ tsp. salt
2 slices bacon, chopped
¼ lb. ham, chopped
½ cup celery, finely chopped
1 cup onion, chopped
¾ cup leek, sliced
1 medium clove garlic, crushed

1 zucchini, 4 x 1½ inches No. 2 can tomatoes *(about 2½ cups)* 2 cups cabbage, shredded ½ cup broken spaghetti, macaroni, or rice 1⁄8 to 1⁄4 tsp. pepper 1⁄2 tsp. dried basil 1⁄4 tsp. allspice Grated fresh Parmesan cheese

Directions:

Wash beans, cover with plenty of water, and soak overnight. Have soup bone cracked. Wipe both bone and beef with damp cloth. Cut beef into small pieces. Place in soup kettle with bone, add water and salt. Cover tightly, heat to boiling, reduce heat, and simmer 1½ hours.

Add drained beans. Put bacon and ham in skillet with celery, onion, leek, garlic, and zucchini. Sauté slowly, stirring almost constantly until fat fries out and vegetables are soft. Turn into soup kettle and simmer for another 1½ hours or until beans are about tender. Now add tomatoes, cabbage, spaghetti, and pepper. Cook 20 minutes or until spaghetti is tender.

Add basil and allspice the last 5 minutes of cooking. Remove soup bone; strip off clinging meat and add to soup.

Ladle into hot bowls; sprinkle Parmesan cheese over the top. Serve with crisp crackers, Italian or French bread. 4 to 5 servings.





TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Baseball is America's favorite pastime. Whether you're in it for the peanuts and Cracker Jack or you're rooting for the home team, there's nothing like a beautiful day at the ballpark.

Got some free time during the seventh-inning stretch? Try your hand at these puzzles.

Ballpark

Bases

Batter

Bunt

Bullpen

Catcher

Dugout

Error

Infield

Inning

WORD SEARCH

F R A O S D D | E R R O R G R W Z X B G W B S S I B U L L P E N C U K G O V L P TDBYNPLJAPMODJAHCGOH XGANFIKJPNXJYHRDXALR LESIINYSTBCSTEALWGKM NYEUENBMTGKBEMEOBKZY G P S I L I Z Q W R U I A O W P Q E C O DCXIDNEFZDIPOUHHLAHO V Y S B R G D O E G I K Y X Y J C T O T P O C W K R A V Z E I A E W A N U P Z T PUONKAUEFCXLMMVVIILA P U L Y Q | T X S B U N T O O D B U Z O INCMWPHMXDNBMDNPMRDQ TBGRANDSLAMPLWIDVYQB C | Z L M P X R G E F Y Y R A I U W M D HQBCCEAYFIXBATTERVMI EHEKARX | MDEGWSCOXLGM R N S S T T T S S E | O C W P Q F I T T QWOOGBCIH | L X B N Z I E Y Q L LIESHKHHMOUVDHSLIDER CULWYSYLELRBHFOQZCGG R X L Y | X V E A R H T A Y K M L K X G AOOQEMCQVJNRSLVYEQKO V U M P I R E X V K I X G T L O Z R L E MWEIYCODDUGOUTOPTOUO BAAFFFWLSMVCCFLPAUNN C L R T K O M E F D I | V Y P U B R R S ZKNZVUEBHROTVKQKBFKL ROUTFIELDPDHTFPHLPZR QAAIEMETTEHHPHLRLDQW

(Find answers on Page 29.)

TEAMS WORD SCRAMBLE

(Find answers below.)

1. Sucb	3. Yesk
2. Tasosr	4. Rdds





ane

soeg

FUN FACTS

The bases of a baseball diamond are 90 feet apart.

A baseball is made of cork or rubber, wrapped in yarn, and covered in leather.

The first professional baseball team was the Cincinnati Red Stockings in 1869.

The longest professional baseball game in history took place in 1981 between the Pawtucket Red Sox and the Rochester Red Wings. The game lasted 33 innings and took place over 8 hours and 25 minutes. Pawtucket ended up winning 3-2.

In Memoriam

Age 77

Chapter 117

Clayton James Grout

Age 21

Chapter 1180

Blairsville, GA

Robert E. Johnson

Chattanooga, TN

Vicky McKenty

Chapter 117

Benton, KY

Shirley Stallings

Chapter 382

Gastonia, NC

Cleo White

Chapter 456

Age 107

Age 77

Age 74

Age 93

Chapter 6

Benton, KY



Robert Babin Age 79 Chapter 664 Raceland, LA

Martha Jo Donaldson

Jackson Owen Ivester

Age 80

Ecru, MS

Age 76

Chapter 1219

Muskogee, OK

Arlis McCullah

Age 89

Chapter 5

Sheridan AR

Loretta Reeger

Chapter 1945

Blairsville PA

Margaret Watts

Chapter 382

Gastonia NC

Age 88

Age 68

Chapter 423



Janice Cash Age 84 Chapter 117 Benton KY



Hope Toya Hammock

Age 59

Chapter 924

Scottsville, KY



Jimmie Cash Age 85 Chapter 117 Benton, KY

Linus Hare

Chapter 60

James R.

Age 69

Age 84

Chapter 18

Kitchens Jr.

Chapter 982

Warrenton, GA

Booneville, MS

Age 81





Belen, NM

Rose Hartley

Chapter 739

Milledgeville, GA

Shirley J. Lanier

Age 88

Chapter 935

Beulaville, NC

Age 80

Joyce Clark Age 84 Chapter 78

Lakeland FI

LeRoy Hergesheimer

Age 85

Age 97

Chapter 117

Benton, KY



Age 84 Chapter 308 Houma, LA



Ruth Hickman Age 100 Chapter 4 Wadesboro, NC



Clara Lathram Chapter 117 Benton, KY





John Forrest Reeger Age 68 Chapter 1945 Blairsville, PA





Age 83 Chapter 999



Wallace, SC In Memoriam Submission Guidelines If you would like your departed loved one included here, please upload a photo of the highest possible quality with his or her full name, age, chapter number, and hometown

at WoodmenLife.org/Photos. If it applies, include if they were a Jurisdictional Officer, a National Committee member, a Regional Director, or a National Representative. Thank you.





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Driggers Terry Chapter 966

Saundra W. Tindall Age 77 Chapter 122 Marion, SC

Elena O. Quiroga Chapter 111



Age 71 Chapter 371





Kaye Wohlers

Chapter 6011

Age 69



Randall L. Jones

Chapter 1436

Louisville, GA

Age 77

Age 86 Chapter 389 Canton, GA





Billy Ray Tanner Age 69 Chapter 4

Natchez MS

Glenn T. Previtte Chapter 966 Wallace, SC



Age 91

Tucson, AZ



PERIODICALS



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

June 2025

WoodmenLife®

Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society (WoodmenLife) is an Equal Access fraternal benefit society. It is the policy of WoodmenLife to seek qualified members on a nondiscriminatory basis and to provide all members with equal access to and allow their participation in WoodmenLife's chapter system, chapter events, fraternal benefits, and all other fraternal activities on a nondiscriminatory basis. If you would like an additional calendar printed, please contact your Community Outreach Advisor.