

May 2026

# WoodmenLife<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE



# Where Family Values Meet Financial Security

***ALSO IN THIS ISSUE***

WoodmenLife Annual Report: 2025 by the Numbers

Congratulations to Our Scholarship Recipients



**WoodmenLife<sup>®</sup>**

woodmenlife.org



WoodmenLife is a longtime supporter of the Gary Sinise Foundation. In December, WoodmenLife members and associates traveled to Orlando, FL, to help with the Snowball Express annual event. The event brings together the families of fallen military and First Responder heroes for five days at Walt Disney World®.

# President's Message

Dear WoodmenLife members,

Each issue of *WoodmenLife Magazine* tells a story about who we are and, more importantly, who you are. The May 2026 edition reflects the values that bring our members together: protecting families, strengthening communities, and honoring our country.



Denise M. McCauley

This issue gives you a sneak peek at WoodmenLife's final expense life insurance offering. The special feature on **Pages 6-7** explains how thoughtful planning can ease the financial burden families face during times of loss. It is another way we are working to meet our members' needs with simple, accessible solutions designed to provide peace of mind.

Transparency and financial strength remain priorities for our organization. Our 2025 Annual Report overview begins on **Page 8** and highlights how WoodmenLife continues to operate from a position of stability and responsibility.

On **Pages 12-13**, we recognize our 2026 WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® recipients. Supporting the next generation is an important part of leaving a

lasting legacy, and these students represent the future of our organization and our communities.

We invite our members to have fun and connect at WoodmenLife Family and Senior Days. On **Pages 14**, you will learn how these local events are opportunities to create lasting memories for you and your family.

We're proud to share a powerful member story that reminds us why planning ahead matters. On **Pages 18-19**, you will meet the Coomer family, a multigenerational WoodmenLife family whose commitment to life insurance and community involvement spans decades. Their story illustrates how protection, when put in place early, can bring comfort and stability at every stage of life.

Thank you for choosing WoodmenLife and for placing your trust in us to help protect what matters most. Your membership allows us to continue serving families, strengthening communities, and making a meaningful difference nationwide. We are honored to serve you.

Sincerely,

Denise M. McCauley  
President & CEO



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





08 Annual Report

Photo by Color-Vision Studio



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Photo by Kientzy Media

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26 Community Spirit



Volume 160 Number 2

Since 1890, WoodmenLife has been dedicated to helping hardworking Americans secure their families' financial futures and leave a lasting legacy. As a purpose-driven life insurance company, our commitment is to our members and the communities they call home.

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All products may not be available in all states.

Not all Representatives are licensed to sell all products.

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

### Equal Access Policy

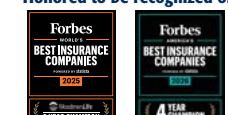
WoodmenLife is an Equal Access membership organization that promotes a culture where all people are welcomed. It is the policy of WoodmenLife to seek qualified members on a nondiscriminatory basis and to provide all members with equal access to and allow their participation in WoodmenLife's chapter system, 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.

### Proud member of:



### Honored to be recognized on:



Cover photo by Kientzy Media

### On the Cover

*WoodmenLife is a Coomer family tradition. Travis is a third-generation member, and he introduced the organization to his wife, Lauren. Now their children make up a fourth generation of WoodmenLife members.*



COMING SOON

# Final Expense Insurance Can Help Your Family While They Grieve

It's not easy to talk about the end of life, especially your own. Still, having those conversations and planning for that moment can be the best gift you can give your loved ones. Making sure they're not dealing with finances during their grief can help provide you with some peace of mind.

With WoodmenLife's final expense whole life insurance<sup>1</sup>, you can help protect them from end-of-life costs, like funeral and cremation<sup>2</sup> expenses.

Funerals can get expensive. According to funeralocity.com — a consumer advocate website for families planning a loved one's funeral or cremation — the national average cost for a full-service funeral is more than \$8,500. The national average cost of a full-service cremation is more than \$6,200<sup>3</sup>.

In addition, according to the Consumer Price Index, funeral costs increased 2.9% between 2024 and 2025<sup>4</sup>. On top of that, a poll from debt.com found that almost 70% of respondents would be willing to take on debt for a family member's funeral<sup>5</sup>.

Final expense insurance can be a way to leave your family financially prepared for your passing.

This type of life insurance can ease financial pressure on your loved ones, making it a key part of the legacy you leave your family. It's a simple gesture that can have a lasting impact. WoodmenLife's final expense life insurance is accessible, easy to apply for, and can be a relief to your family. They can mourn in peace, and they'll know you thought of everything.

## Is Final Expense Life Insurance Right for You?

If you're between the ages of 50 and 85, a final expense insurance policy could be a good way to offer financial support to your family or dependents when you pass away. Having funds in place to help honor your wishes and lay you to rest in a way that celebrates your legacy could be a huge comfort.

WoodmenLife's final expense life insurance is designed with our members in mind. It's simple, quick to apply for, and affordable because we want you to be able to plan ahead with confidence.

It has several highlights that could make it attractive to you:

- **Fast application:** You can apply in as little as 10 minutes.
- **Stress-free process:** Answer a series of questions. No invasive medical exams are required<sup>6</sup> — no needles or swabs.
- **Meaningful coverage:** Depending on the type of plan, up to \$50,000<sup>7</sup> is available, starting after your first payment is received.
- **Level rate:** Your premium will never increase.
- **Accelerated Death Benefit Rider<sup>8</sup>:** You can access a portion of your benefit while living if you're diagnosed with a qualifying terminal illness.



## Types of Coverage

There are two types of final expense coverage from WoodmenLife:

1

### WoodmenLife Level Death Benefit FE

This coverage pays the full death benefit when you pass away<sup>9</sup>.

2

### WoodmenLife Graded Death Benefit FE

If you pass away within the first two policy years under this coverage, and if your death wasn't accidental, the death benefit will be limited to premiums paid, plus 10% compound interest on those premiums, when due and paid, to the date of death, minus any loan balance<sup>9</sup>.

The death benefit after the first two policy years will be based on the face amount at the time of policy issue, regardless of how you pass away.

If final expense insurance is a solution you'd like to explore, contact your WoodmenLife Representative. They will be happy to help you through the decision-making process.

1. Available for ages 50-85. May not be available in all states. Certain restrictions and variations apply.  
 2. This life insurance does not specifically cover funeral goods or services and may not cover the entire cost of your funeral at the time of your death. The beneficiary of this life insurance may use the proceeds for any purpose, unless otherwise directed.  
 3. "Average Funeral Cost in the US." funeralocity.com. funeralocity.com/average-funeral-price. December 2025.  
 4. "Consumer Price Index – August 2025." Consumer Price Index. August 2025. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cpi.pdf>  
 5. "Funeral Debt Survey: More Than 1 in 3 Americans Took on Debt After a Loved One's Death" Debt.com. December 4, 2024. <https://www.debt.com/research/funeral-debt/>  
 6. Insurance eligibility and premiums are subject to underwriting.  
 7. Up to \$50,000 coverage amount for persons 50-80 years old. Maximum coverage amount for persons 81-85 years old is \$25,000. Maximum coverage for Graded is \$25,000.  
 8. Accelerated Death Benefit Rider: Forms ICC25 9020 5-25, 9020 5-25 (XX) All contractual provisions apply and may vary by state. Benefit payments may affect eligibility for public assistance programs. Maximum benefit is the lesser of \$25,000 or 70% of the death benefit amount available and will be paid in one lump sum. Generally, benefits received are income tax free. Consult your tax professional to assess the impact of this benefit. This rider will terminate upon payment of an accelerated death benefit. Terminal illness diagnosis must include a life expectancy of 12 months or less. This rider is only available on the Level Plan.  
 9. Death benefit is not guaranteed during contestability and suicide exclusion periods.

Learn more at  
[WoodmenLife.org/Final-Expense](https://WoodmenLife.org/Final-Expense)



# Leaving a Lasting Legacy 2025 Annual Report



WoodmenLife is committed to leaving a lasting legacy. That means providing financial protection for families across the country. That means creating an impact that endures. And it starts by being there when our members and their communities need us most.

In those communities, we partner with our members to offer opportunities for volunteering and outreach that strengthen bonds and build futures. Each year, thousands of hours are spent fighting hunger, honoring Veterans and First Responders, supporting teachers and schools, and much more. These efforts aren't just acts of service — they're the building blocks on which legacies are built.

These are the kinds of legacies that can be seen in the scholarships we provide to help young members pursue their higher education goals. They can be seen in how we lend a hand to children who have lost a parent. And they can be seen in how we celebrate our American freedoms by presenting U.S. flags to local nonprofit organizations and participating in patriotic activities.

As rewarding as it is to lay those building blocks, leaving a lasting legacy isn't about one moment — it's about showing up again and again for the people who count on us. It's about building trust, creating impact, and making sure we're shaping a better tomorrow for WoodmenLife and for you.

### National Community Focus

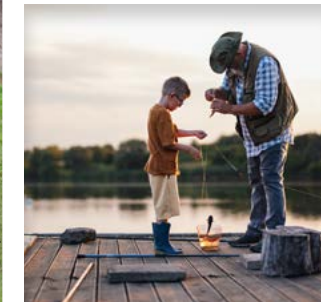
We made fighting hunger across America our National Community Focus in 2015. In 2025, together with our members, we donated more than \$219,581 and more than 865,000 pounds of food to help fight food insecurity.

### Giving Together Program

Volunteers conducted more than 450 community service projects, including cleanups, beautification, and painting, across the country during 2025. More than \$230,000 was spent supporting these projects, and more than 14,200 volunteer hours were spent completing them.

### U.S. Flag Donations

We provided flags for 1,798 activities in 2025, including Celebrating Red, White & Blue® events. We also presented 2,536 U.S. flags, valued at \$84,415, and we donated 2,202 specialty flags, valued at \$64,248, during the year.



WoodmenLife Extras <sup>1</sup>	Quantity	Benefit Amount
First Responders Benefit	2	\$50,000
Natural Disaster Benefit	125	\$82,474
Family Legacy Benefit	25	\$283,000
WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® Awards	626	\$371,500
LawAssure™	862 new users	2,051 documents created
Life's Perks®	26,368 users have saved with our discount program	

Shared Commitment	Number of Events	Chapter Spend	Volunteer Hours	Number of Volunteers
Family	661	\$505,714	41,884	4,994
Community	719	\$343,776	23,417	4,101
Country	673	\$306,277	24,407	4,993
Fighting Hunger	688	\$384,700	34,179	4,848
<b>Total Shared Commitment Projects</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>\$1,540,467</b>	<b>123,887</b>	<b>18,936</b>

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.

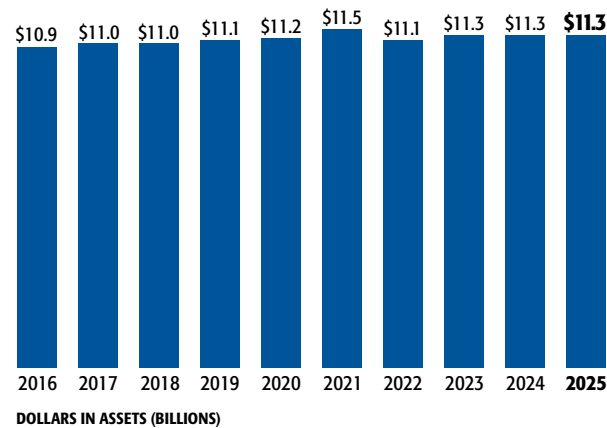
# Financial Highlights

WoodmenLife's financial performance in 2025 included income of more than \$1 billion. Life insurance in force stayed steady at \$39.4 billion. At year's end, WoodmenLife had total assets of \$11.3<sup>2</sup> billion and \$119 of assets for every \$100 of liabilities, further indication of our strong financial position. Benefit payments to beneficiaries totaled more than \$886 million, while refunds to members were \$16.8 million.

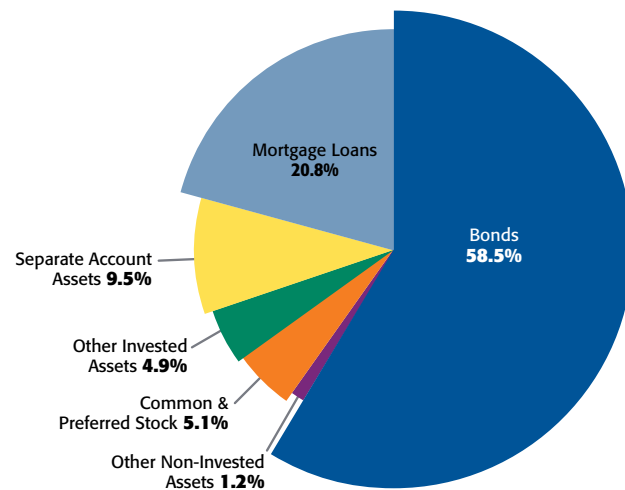
Assets	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2025
Bonds	\$6,453,322,626	\$6,622,299,177
Common & Preferred Stocks	596,682,392	580,944,680
Mortgage Loans	2,405,453,593	2,358,106,628
Real Estate	74,125,672	72,394,745
Certificate Loans	122,105,557	122,332,121
Short Term Investments & Cash	269,712,724	104,331,969
Securities Lending Assets	118,312,084	89,341,376
Other Invested Assets	142,913,736	162,676,857
Other Non-Invested Assets	75,500,306	64,032,298
Due & Accrued Investment Income	64,197,341	68,117,934
Separate Account — Pension Plan	404,583,747	417,345,404
Separate Account — Variable Annuity	573,325,824	651,361,844
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$11,300,235,602</b>	<b>\$11,313,285,032</b>

Liabilities & Surplus	Dec. 31, 2024	Dec. 31, 2025
Reserves	\$7,846,145,112	\$7,699,965,549
Contract Claims	58,352,309	57,348,687
Certificate Refunds	217,153,686	208,437,795
Advance Premiums & Premium Deposit Fund	6,836,773	5,972,734
Asset Valuation Reserve	154,372,150	155,118,504
Interest Maintenance Reserve	0	0
Post Retirement Benefits	46,534,776	45,525,085
Payable for Securities Lending	118,318,246	89,330,538
Other Liabilities	85,059,564	106,616,519
Separate Account Liabilities	977,909,570	1,068,707,248
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$9,510,682,186</b>	<b>\$9,437,022,658</b>
Surplus Before Net Income	1,659,255,228	1,788,395,514
Current Year Net Income (Loss)	130,298,188	87,866,860
<b>Total Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,789,553,416</b>	<b>\$1,876,262,374</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Surplus</b>	<b>\$11,300,235,602</b>	<b>\$11,313,285,032</b>
<b>Surplus Ratio (Surplus/Liabilities)</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>

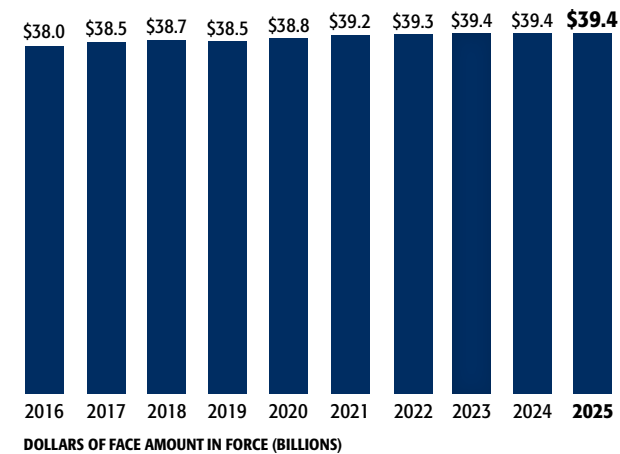
Assets 10-Year History



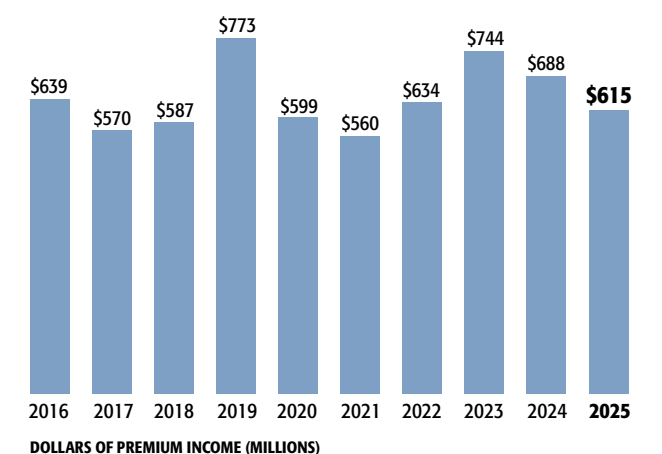
Distribution of Assets



Insurance in Force 10-Year History



Premium Income 10-Year History



2. Liabilities of \$9.4 billion; as of Dec. 31, 2025.

# Congratulations

## TO OUR 2026

# Scholarship Recipients

Each year, WoodmenLife recognizes young members<sup>1</sup> who work hard in school, support their communities, and plan for bright futures. Through the WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship®, we are proud to help these students achieve their higher education goals. **Meet this year's \$10,000 scholarship recipients:**



**Emma B.** | Lyon County High School | Eddyville, KY

**School Extracurricular Activities:** Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Technology Student Association (TSA), PEP Club, National Beta Club, yearbook staff, Young Republicans, Mt. Zion Youth Group, Walnut Grove Baptist Church member, Hurricane Youth Church Camp, varsity softball, junior varsity basketball

**Community Activities:** Hurricane Youth Church Camp mentor and counselor, youth softball and basketball coach, Piney Campground community restoration, Founders Day basketball

tournament worker, Feeding America food distribution, tornado disaster relief, Vacation Bible School volunteer, Children's Church leader, school business worker (The Den), animal shelter and pet fundraiser events, concession stand volunteer, homecoming and prom event setup, math tutoring, Prison Meal Preparation Ministry, animal shelter volunteer/donations, Founders Day pet show worker, Crittenden Community Hospital volunteer, National Bird Dog Trials volunteer worker

**Education Plans:** Attending Murray State University to study animal science on the pre-vet track, with plans to become a veterinarian

*"My dad has always been a big role model for me. From a young age, he helped shape who I am. We both love science, and since he's a chemist, he's been the one guiding me toward the path I want to take as a veterinarian. His support has had a huge impact on me."*



**Luke W.** | Jena High School | Jena, LA

**School Extracurricular Activities:** Beta Club, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Project 7, Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), 4-H, National Honor Society (NHS), FFA

**Community Activities:** Lasalle Baptist Mission House volunteer, Fellowship Baptist Church Vacation Bible School volunteer and worship team drummer, Louisiana Baptist Children's Home volunteer, Lasalle Parish Special Olympics volunteer worker and participant, Beta Club and National Honor Society events, WoodmenLife's Lasalle Parish back-to-school drive

**Education Plans:** Attending Louisiana Tech University, majoring in accounting; future plans include completing a master's degree and becoming a Certified Public Accountant

*"My 5th to 8th grade math teacher, Mrs. Jones, taught me so much in math and as a student. She helped shape who I am as a high schooler, and now going into college, her influence still means a lot to me."*



**Alazay M.** | Weimar High School | Weimar, TX

**School Extracurricular Activities:** Horizon FFA District Office, Weimar FFA, Weimar High School Student Council, Weimar High School class officer, UIL News Writing, varsity cross county, softball, and track

**Community Activities:** Area XI Community Service Committee, Colorado County Junior Fair Board, St. Michael's Catholic Church Youth Ministry, and WildClover 4-H

**Education Plans:** Attending Sam Houston State University, majoring in agricultural education with a minor in animal reproduction

*"I have to thank my older sister. As the oldest with two younger siblings, all the attention was on her, and we looked up to everything she did. She's always been a positive, impactful role model, and I wouldn't be the person I am today without her."*

Learn more about the WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship and how to qualify at [WoodmenLife.org/Scholarships](https://WoodmenLife.org/Scholarships). See all this year's winners at [WoodmenLife.org/Congrats](https://WoodmenLife.org/Congrats).

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

## Congratulations to This Year's \$5,000 Scholarship Recipients

Haley J., Savannah, TN  
Zane B., Burleson, TX  
Mary Ida B., Waverly, TN  
Olivia M., Bristow, OK



## Don't Miss Out on WoodmenLife Family Days

WoodmenLife Family Days are a chance for members to get together, have fun, and enjoy time with the people they care about. These events offer a relaxed, family-friendly setting for members of all ages. Family Days are all about spending time with fellow members, celebrating what makes WoodmenLife special, and creating moments you will remember forever.

### What to Expect

Family Days offer a mix of activities you can enjoy with family and friends. Depending on your area, you might find:

- Live music and entertainment
- Community festivals and picnics
- Local baseball games
- Amusement parks

Every event gives members a chance to connect and have fun. Whether you're cheering at a game, sharing a meal, or spending the afternoon at a local festival, you'll be part of what makes WoodmenLife feel like a community.

## WoodmenLife Senior Days Bring People Together

WoodmenLife Senior Days give members age 55 and older and their guests a chance to have fun, meaningful experiences with others in their community. These events invite our senior members to explore something new and get to know each other in a relaxed, welcoming environment. And they help show what WoodmenLife is all about: being there for our members at every stage of life.

### What to Expect

WoodmenLife Senior Days offer a variety of activities, depending on your area. Members can enjoy:

- Dinner and entertainment events
- Museum trips
- Bus tours
- Theater attractions
- Sporting events

Senior Days are all about enjoying time together in a fun, accessible setting. We want members to walk into an event feeling welcome and walk out feeling proud to be part of WoodmenLife.



Scan the QR code to find events near you, or talk to your Community Outreach Advisor (who's listed on the back of this magazine) to learn more.

# Arkansas Chapter Hosts Fresh Cuts For First Responders



First Responders around the Jonesboro, AR, area were able to relax, have a bite to eat, and receive a free haircut as a thank-you for all they do in their community.

The event, Fresh Cuts For First Responders, was hosted by Arkansas Chapter 4 in celebration of National First Responders Day.

### Laying the Groundwork

Melissa Godfrey, Community Outreach Advisor in Arkansas, said Jonesboro has several First Responder groups, and the chapter wanted to do something fun, yet meaningful, for them.

“We just wanted to do something that was kind of different,” she said. “We wanted to do a fun service, something the First Responders might not have time to do themselves — like getting a haircut.”

Godfrey said she wanted to find the right partner in a convenient location to provide the haircuts. She began searching for highly rated barbers in the area and found Black Rose Barber Co.

“They were remarkable,” she said. “I told the owner what we wanted to do, and he immediately said yes.”

Though the barbershop is closed on Mondays, employees agreed to come in on their day off to provide the free service to First Responders.

### 'Everybody Loved It'

Godfrey said the day of the four-hour event, the First Responders arrived, ate, and enjoyed their free cuts and shaves.

“All the First Responders we spoke to, everybody loved it,” she said.

Godfrey said the event was so successful, they hope to do it again, but next time with more participation and more convenience — maybe have the barbers go directly to the First Responders.

“I just loved the enthusiasm from the chapter members,” she said. “They loved the idea and were excited about it. The barbershop got excited.”

Being able to celebrate National First Responders Day was a special moment for Godfrey and Chapter 4.

“When people need them, it's usually a pretty dire situation,” she said. “I've seen many First Responders be fatherly to children, to be a hug to someone who's wrapped in a blanket watching their house burn down. They just deserve so much appreciation.”

### Chapter Highlight

Chapter 4

Jonesboro, AR

438 Members

Founded in 1892

Visit [WoodmenLife.org/First-Responders](https://www.woodmenlife.org/first-responders) to see how WoodmenLife supports these local heroes.



In addition to haircuts, Chapter 4 volunteers also served food to First Responders in Jonesboro, AR. The event was in celebration of National First Responders Day.

# 'America Is ...' Video Contest

Schools across the country showcased their American pride through the "America Is ..." Video Contest last fall.

Students were asked to create original videos interpreting the theme "Celebrating Red, White & Blue®." In total, 74 videos were submitted. The top three winners in each division were selected through online voting.

Help us congratulate the winning schools.

Prize	K-8 Division	9-12 Division
 <p><b>\$2,500</b> Grand Prize</p>	<p><b>Lavonia Elementary School</b> <i>Lavonia, GA</i></p> <p>The school is using its prize money to enhance its popular Egg Drop Challenge and Volcano Day, as well as putting funds toward new 3D printer filament and components.</p>	<p><b>Sullivan East High School</b> <i>Bluff City, TN</i></p> <p>The school is using its prize money to strengthen its Student Incentive Program, which recognizes outstanding behavior, classroom effort, peer support, and attendance. The program also provides personal care items and clothing to students in need.</p>
 <p><b>\$1,500</b> Second Place</p>	<p><b>Tompkinsville Elementary School</b> <i>Tompkinsville, KY</i></p> <p>The elementary school is using the winnings to purchase supplemental resources for its new High Quality Instructional Resources (HQIR) in reading and math.</p>	<p><b>Cabot High School</b> <i>Cabot, AR</i></p> <p>The winnings are going toward a Military Tribute Wall in the school's lobby. The permanent display will honor alumni and staff members who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces.</p>
 <p><b>\$1,000</b> Third Place</p>	<p><b>Stanton-Smith Elementary School</b> <i>Whitehouse, TX</i></p> <p>The winnings are going toward purchasing a 3D printer and other materials for the school's library, giving students a new interactive, engaging way to learn.</p>	<p><b>Thomas County Central High School</b> <i>Thomasville, GA</i></p>

Stay tuned: The "America Is ..." Video Contest will be back this fall, with the theme "America Is ... 250."

## New Extra Helps You Step in After the Storm

Volunteering after natural disasters is who we are. It's who you are. Now, through our newest WoodmenLife Extra<sup>1</sup>, you can be there whenever you're able to lend a hand following nature's worst.

We've partnered with Team Rubicon, a humanitarian organization that has been helping people and communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters since 2010.



This is a true boots-on-the-ground, roll-up-your-sleeves opportunity. Through Team Rubicon, you can participate in service projects and disaster response efforts across the country — wherever your help is needed. You don't need prior disaster or construction experience, either.

### How To Serve

Through Team Rubicon's Roll Call platform, you can browse volunteer opportunities; filter by location, date, and type of service; sign up for

projects; track participation; and connect with other volunteers. Check it out at [TRUSA.co/WoodmenLifeJoins](http://TRUSA.co/WoodmenLifeJoins)

As part of our partnership, WoodmenLife also contributes to Team Rubicon's Ready Reserve Fund, helping it to rapidly deploy resources no matter the crisis.

Members who would like to learn more about Team Rubicon can attend a webinar on June 17 at noon ET. Contact the WoodmenLife Member Benefits team at (402) 271-7233 or [MemberExtrasCommunication@WoodmenLife.org](mailto:MemberExtrasCommunication@WoodmenLife.org) to sign up.

We are two organizations that share the same passion for giving back. This extra reinforces our commitment to help you, our members, live your values through action.

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.

## WoodmenLife Partners with First Responders Foundation

WoodmenLife has been named the Exclusive National Life Insurance Partner of the First Responders Foundation. The nonprofit organization based in Omaha, NE, works to support the mental and physical health of First Responders and Veterans.

In April, WoodmenLife President & CEO Denise M. McCauley visited the foundation to meet the team, tour the facility, and learn about the programs offered. The foundation is home to a Brazilian jiu jitsu gym, mental health services, and the JAVELAN Service Dog program, which provides funding and training for service dogs for First Responders and Veterans.



Todd Sears, President of the First Responders Foundation, is grateful for the collaboration and support of WoodmenLife.



"WoodmenLife's been an incredible partner for a long time, and the mission of WoodmenLife matches up well with ours," he said. "We're really excited about this partnership."

# Passing Down Protection, From One Generation to the Next

WoodmenLife is baked into the Coomer family's DNA.

"WoodmenLife has been a big part of my life for my whole life," said Travis Coomer, 35, of St. Charles, MO.

When the paramedic says his "whole life," he means his whole life. Coomer's grandparents bought him a policy when he was born on June 6, 1990, because it was the 100th anniversary of WoodmenLife's founding. That's how much WoodmenLife means to the Coomers.

## Firsthand Experience

Travis is a third-generation member. When he and his wife, Lauren, 36, started dating, they attended WoodmenLife activities and meetings together. The experience showed them how WoodmenLife helps in their community and how life insurance can be an important part of a family's financial plan.

Lauren's brother passed away at 16 years old — she was just 18 at the time.

"My family didn't have life insurance, so seeing that and then dating Travis, I knew we should have life

### Member Highlight

Travis and Lauren Coomer  
St. Charles, MO  
Chapter 912  
100% WoodmenLife Family



Travis and Lauren Coomer have carried on the family tradition with WoodmenLife. They value the peace of mind that comes with life insurance protection, and they enjoy participating in WoodmenLife social activities.

insurance," said Lauren, an elementary school nurse. "And I didn't see the need to shop around because I knew about WoodmenLife and what it did."

More recently, the Coomers lost a close friend who didn't have much in the way of life insurance. The friend's family has to face costs without ample resources. It's a situation everyone should try to prevent, no matter their age, Lauren said.

"Unfortunately, young people think this can't happen to them," she said. "But it can. Hopefully, nothing happens to us — but if it does, it won't be a burden on our children."

## All in the Family

The Coomers have three kids, who make up a fourth generation of WoodmenLife members.

Travis' grandparents bought life insurance from WoodmenLife; then they bought life insurance for his mom and aunt when they were young.

"When his mom and aunt grew up, they said, 'That's what we're going to do,'" Lauren said. "And then we followed in their footsteps."

Those footsteps include actively participating in WoodmenLife activities. Both Travis and Lauren have held officer positions with Chapter 912 in St. Charles, and Travis was a Jurisdictional President last year. His mother and grandmother are also past Jurisdictional Presidents.

Lauren will be the Treasurer during the next jurisdictional meeting, and Travis is on the National Fraternal Committee.

The Coomers also enjoy chapter activities and are looking forward to the WoodmenLife Family Days event in their region, when they'll head to Holiday World in southern Indiana.

**"Unfortunately, young people think this can't happen to them. But it can. Hopefully, nothing happens to us — but if it does, it won't be a burden on our children."**

— Lauren Coomer  
WoodmenLife member

## Comfort and Security

Being so involved in WoodmenLife came from believing in the organization.

The Coomers' Sales Representative, Van Watkins of Puxico, MO, said everything WoodmenLife offers made the family's decision-making easy.

"It was the financial support and peace of mind, knowing they and their family would be protected should something happen," Watkins said. "They understood the importance of life insurance. Plus, there are the extras<sup>1</sup> we offer and our community involvement."

Lauren said Travis' line of duty also played a role in their thought process. Life insurance helps ease concerns

about how to afford things should something terrible happen on the job, and WoodmenLife's support for First Responders — including the First Responder's Extra<sup>2</sup> — makes them feel like a priority.

The relationship between WoodmenLife and the Coomers is more than that of a company and client — it's family. That's not surprising, given how far back the connection reaches and how far into the future they hope it extends.

As Travis said, WoodmenLife will be a big part of their lives for their whole lives.



To explore how you can make WoodmenLife a larger part of your life, visit [WoodmenLife.org](http://WoodmenLife.org)

1. WoodmenLife Extras are available to members. An individual becomes a member by joining our shared commitment to family, community and country, and by purchasing a WoodmenLife product. These extras are not contractual, are subject to change and have specific eligibility requirements, such as length of membership, number of qualifying members in the household and/or qualifying event. 2. \$25,000 benefit applies to officially registered non-military First Responders. WoodmenLife Extras are not contractual, are subject to change, and have specific eligibility requirements.  
10726 05/26

# Connecting With People Was Always Key for Retiring Robertson



Greg Robertson

Three decades with an organization will give you plenty of perspective. According to Greg Robertson, who retired from WoodmenLife after a 30-plus-year career, what has long been true about our organization remains true today.

“The personal attention our Sales Force and management teams give to members and potential clients separates us from the competition,” he said. He added that the connection Sales Representatives make with members is what ensures success.

“If you help enough people get what they want in life, you will have more than you ever imagined,” Robertson said.

Robertson joined WoodmenLife in 1994 and had been the Regional Director of Kentucky West since 2007. Prior to that, he served as a Recruiting Sales Manager and later as Regional Director of Pennsylvania and North Carolina West.

Throughout his career, Robertson enjoyed working with chapters to help make a difference in their communities. In fact, he called community outreach events “the most productive and fun activities to do on the fraternal side of the business.”

He’s also thankful for the connections he built within the Sales Force, noting that relationships are always what matter most.

“I’m most proud of all the Representatives I’ve supported over the years and helping them achieve their career goals,” he said. “The support and encouragement given to Regional Directors, Recruiting Sales Managers, and Sales Representatives has enabled me to develop friendships for life.”

In retirement, he added, those friends can expect to see a lot of him in the coming years. Robertson plans to travel throughout the United States, play plenty of golf, and spend more time with his wife, Candace, and his son.

## Stay Connected With WoodmenLife

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay caught up on all the latest news and see how we’re helping in communities across the country.

 [Facebook.com/WoodmenLife](https://www.facebook.com/WoodmenLife)  [Instagram.com/WoodmenLife](https://www.instagram.com/WoodmenLife)

You can also stay up-to-date with our President & CEO Denise M. McCauley on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/DeniseMcCauleyWoodmenLife](https://www.facebook.com/DeniseMcCauleyWoodmenLife) 



# 50 Years of Financial Strength You Can Count On



This year, WoodmenLife is celebrating an important milestone: 50 consecutive years of an A+ Superior rating<sup>1</sup> from AM Best.

The rating — the second highest out of 13 — reflects its independent opinion of our financial strength and ability to meet ongoing insurance and contract obligations. The agency bases its rating on a comprehensive evaluation of WoodmenLife’s balance sheet strength, operating performance, business profile, and enterprise risk management capabilities.

Reaching 50 years is a testament to the stability, integrity, and long-term commitment that define our work. It is the result of our efforts to operate efficiently, manage risks responsibly, and deliver on our promises to you, our members.

Your trust matters, and this rating shows that you can depend on us. We are ready to support you and your family, now and in the future.

To see the latest AM Best credit ratings, visit [AMBEST.com](https://www.ambest.com).

1. WoodmenLife is rated A+ Superior by AM Best for our financial strength and operating performance. For the latest Best’s Credit Rating, access [www.ambest.com](https://www.ambest.com)

## Nate Smith Assumes New AI Leadership Post

Artificial intelligence is a tool that can improve WoodmenLife’s operational efficiency, enhance our members’ experience with us, and help our associates make better decisions faster. At the same time, it must be used in the most responsible way.

“As AI becomes more embedded in how we work, it’s critical that we approach it with strong governance, transparency, and respect for our members’ data,” said Nate Smith, Vice President & Chief AI Officer. “A key priority for me is ensuring AI is used ethically and securely, in a way that reinforces the trust our members place in WoodmenLife.”

Smith, who has been with WoodmenLife for more than 13 years, was promoted to this newly created position in February. He guides WoodmenLife’s organization-wide AI strategy, and his responsibilities include:

- Identifying and prioritizing uses for AI
- Leading the development and implementation of AI capabilities
- Establishing AI oversight

Smith is a member of Chapter 16 in Omaha, NE, and he and his wife, Heather, have four children and three grandchildren.



Nate Smith

# Sales Force Changes Designed to Drive Success

Several organizational changes made recently will strengthen WoodmenLife's Sales Force alignment, support growth, and position our organization for continued success, said President & CEO Denise M. McCauley.

Help up congratulate these leaders on their new roles.



Jeremy Carroll

## Jeremy Carroll, Director, Sales

After serving as Vice President, Sales, Carroll is now excited to focus his efforts on the East Coast, supporting our regions there. His office will be in the area to allow more frequent travel to work with Regional Directors and their teams.

He sees the connection between growing the Sales Force and growing our membership as essential for WoodmenLife's future.

"With more Representatives sharing the WoodmenLife story, we grow our membership, and with that, comes greater chapter involvement and stronger community impact,"

Carroll said. "More members ultimately lead to more fraternal work in the communities we serve."

To make it all happen, he'll encourage area leaders and Representatives to be present, involved, and intentional in connecting with chapters and members every day.



Brad Lowe

## Brad Lowe, Director, Sales

Lowe transitioned from his role as Tennessee West Regional Director to this newly created position. The Director, Sales role was created to support regions more closely and strengthen collaboration across the Sales Force. Lowe will be based in Kentucky.

One of Lowe's highest priorities is fostering deeper engagement between Sales teams and the chapters they serve. He sees these relationships not as optional extras, but as pillars of WoodmenLife's identity.

"Our chapters are the heartbeat of our mission," he said. "Helping our teams stay connected keeps our work grounded in what truly matters — serving people. Fraternalism isn't a program. It's who we are."

"Community outreach shows people that WoodmenLife stands with them in everyday life."

## Holiday Closures

The Home Office will be closed the following days:

Monday, May 25 • Friday, June 19 • Friday, July 3 • Monday, Sept. 7 • Thursday, Nov. 26 • Friday, Nov. 27



Craig Smiley

## Craig Smiley, Kentucky West Regional Director

Smiley, a longtime Recruiting Sales Manager in Kentucky West, was promoted to Regional Director to succeed Greg Robertson.

He plans to engage with members by attending more chapter meetings and getting together with chapter officers to gauge new ideas for membership and recruitment. Smiley also plans to encourage his team to get involved in their chapters and to encourage their clients to get involved, too.

"Our chapters are the lifeline of WoodmenLife," he said. "WoodmenLife's fraternal activities, community service, patriotism, and giving back to the community are what set our organization apart."



Travis Lowe

## Travis Lowe, Tennessee West Regional Director

This is a homecoming for Lowe, who began his career as a Sales Representative in Sparta, TN, more than two decades ago. He's eager to reconnect with members in his home state and work with his team on projects that can be impactful in the community and drive membership growth. Most recently, he served as Regional Director in Louisiana.

"I was born into WoodmenLife," he said. "I'm a third-generation member, and I was blessed to be part of the Tennessee Jurisdiction that taught me about fraternalism and the value of giving back."

Lowe said the importance of making a difference in local communities can't be overstated. It helps build lasting relationships and gives his team opportunities to protect members' financial futures.

"I'm a huge fraternalist," Lowe said. "I look at it as a vital part of what we do."



Michaele Geibel

## Michaele Geibel, Louisiana/Northeast Regional Director

When Geibel assumed leadership of the Louisiana Region, she continued her willingness to accept expanding responsibilities. She was appointed Pennsylvania Regional Director in 2018 and later took oversight of the New York/Northeast Region before directing Louisiana/Northeast.

She plans to follow in the footsteps of her predecessors to engage members by being present and listening to their ideas.

"Our members are the core of our organization," she said. "We will continue to lead with fraternal, which has been a huge part of my career. I believe it is crucial for all Representatives and the leadership team to be involved in community events. It's what sets WoodmenLife apart from other financial organizations."

# WoodmenLife Seeks National Director

WoodmenLife, one of the nation's largest fraternal benefit societies, seeks independent director candidates to join our National Board of Directors and help us lead the organization. We believe our business and industry will face new issues that are complex and challenging. We believe a Board consisting of qualified independent and experienced directors to be an invaluable resource to aid us in providing the best leadership for the organization. The following describes our organization and the roles and purpose we envision for our National Board of Directors.

## The Company

WoodmenLife is dedicated to helping hardworking Americans secure their families' financial futures and leave a lasting legacy. As a purpose-driven life insurance company, our commitment is to our members and the communities they call home. WoodmenLife is a leading provider of life insurance and retirement financial products. As of Dec. 31, 2025, we have approximately \$11.3 billion in

assets and have been awarded a rating of A+ Superior, the second-highest ranking out of 13, for our financial strength and operating performance by AM Best\*, one of the nation's leading independent rating agencies.

WoodmenLife embraces a culture of inclusivity and of people who work together in a quality, team-oriented environment. We strive to attract, invest in, and develop the talents of people who reflect the communities in which we live and do business. A core element of our strategy is promoting a professional and inclusive environment where our people are engaged and performing at high levels, where differences in outlook, perspective, and background are seen as adding value, and with the goal of enhanced innovation, increased productivity, and success.

Founded in 1890 in Omaha, NE, WoodmenLife continues to build on its century-old tradition of enriching lives, strengthening communities, and providing financial security for its members across the United States. Planning for tomorrow is the key to WoodmenLife's success.

## The Immediate Needs of the National Board of Directors

WoodmenLife is focused on responsible growth. The changing needs of our members require openminded and forward-thinking Board members who are prepared to take WoodmenLife into the future. WoodmenLife is investing in new ways to deliver our products and service to our members while preserving the culture that has made WoodmenLife strong for more than 135 years.

As a result, WoodmenLife's National Board of Directors is seeking a director who has the following qualifications, preferably at an executive level:

- Relevant financial services experience with a preference for the insurance industry
- Human resources/human capital strategy experience
- Strategic planning experience
- Business operations and planning experience
- Technology experience

Other preferable background for suitable candidates includes:

- Previous experience serving on a board
- Experience with a highly regulated industry
- Excellent reputation within the business community
- Strong communication and influencing skills

WoodmenLife seeks an independent Board member, which means no applicants who have worked for WoodmenLife within the last three years will be considered. This opening is being advertised on LinkedIn and in *WoodmenLife Magazine*. Please read the qualifications listed above carefully as we are seeking very specific skills.

## The Nature of the National Board of Directors

The WoodmenLife Board of Directors is currently composed of 12 members. A majority of the Board must consist of directors who are independent of the organization, meaning they have not been actively employed by WoodmenLife in at least the past three years. This position is seeking candidates who qualify as an independent Board member. The Board formally meets in person three to four times per year. The meetings are located in Omaha, NE, and other locations, and can last two to four days. Other virtual Board meetings are scheduled throughout the year. Each independent

director is required to serve on two Board committees: audit, compensation, fraternal, and governance. Committees meet an average of four times per year.

At the time of acceptance to the Board, it is preferred that the new member be willing and eligible to serve for the complete term of the open position. As the Board retirement age is 75 years old, candidates should not reach the age of 75 before August 2029. Board members are also encouraged to participate in various community outreach activities throughout the nation to become fully engaged with our membership.

## The Purpose of the National Board of Directors

The primary purpose of the Board is to provide oversight and help management accomplish the organization's strategic plan. The Board will help management evaluate the key issues and decisions facing our business. The Board will offer a forum to discuss important and strategic decisions, while bringing a fresh perspective that will encourage corporate management to consider additional alternatives in a confidential environment.

## Questions

If you have questions about this opportunity, please contact Dr. James Shaver, Governance Committee Chair, WoodmenLife National Board of Directors, via email at [drjamesshaver@gmail.com](mailto:drjamesshaver@gmail.com).

## How to Apply and Deadline

Interested candidates should apply via the WoodmenLife website no later than **June 30, 2026**.

1. Visit the WoodmenLife Careers webpage
  - a. Open your internet browser and go to [WoodmenLife.org/Careers/Home-Office](https://WoodmenLife.org/Careers/Home-Office)
2. View open positions
  - a. Select "View Current Job Openings."
  - b. This will take you to WoodmenLife's official job posting site.
3. Locate Home Office opportunities
  - a. Use the available filters or search bar.
  - b. Look for positions listed as **Home Office**.
  - c. Select the posting titled **National Director**.
4. Review the job posting
  - a. Click on the job title to review the full position description, qualifications, and expectations.
5. Apply for the position
  - a. Select the "Apply" button.
  - b. You will be prompted to create an applicant profile or to sign in if you have applied previously.
6. Complete and submit your application
  - a. Follow the on-screen instructions to enter your information and upload required documents.
  - b. Submit your application once all steps are complete.
7. Application confirmation
  - a. After submitting, you will receive confirmation that your application has been received by WoodmenLife's Human Resources team.

To view this information online, go to [WoodmenLife.org/About/Board-Prospectus](https://WoodmenLife.org/About/Board-Prospectus)

\*WoodmenLife is rated A+ Superior by AM Best for our financial strength and operating performance. For the latest Best's Credit Rating, access [www.ambest.com](http://www.ambest.com)  
WoodmenLife® is a registered service mark of Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society, 1700 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68102, 877-664-3332.

# Community Spirit

Take a photo at your next chapter event and upload it at [WoodmenLife.org/Photos](http://WoodmenLife.org/Photos)



**Chapter 18**  
Columbia, TN

Chapter 18 members hosted a breakfast to show their appreciation for the First Responders of Maury County, TN.



**Chapter 561**  
Effingham, IL

Members of Chapter 561 shopped for and delivered toys to FISH, an organization that distributed the toys to families in need in the region. Pictured are Molly Bushue with members Doris Probst, Doris Verdeyen, and Joe Verdeyen.



**Chapter 252**  
Conyers, GA

Chapter 252 delivered games and toys to the American Legion Hall in Conyers, GA. Pictured are members Sharon Barts, Bobby Barts, and Mary Beth Corbin with American Legion Hall Commander Susan Griffin.



**Chapter 92**  
Princeton, KY

WoodmenLife Representatives Dana Dyer, Kassie Green, and Josh Ray delivered canned food to a local food bank.



**Chapter 1054**  
Pomaria, SC

Chapter 1054 donated \$400 worth of school supplies to Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School. The chapter also donated \$250 to a school campaign to raise money for a sensory room for special needs students. Pictured are Assistant Principal Casey Willingham, Chapter Secretary Beverly Hollowell, Principal Lindsey Folk, and Chapter President Libby Bedenbaugh.



**Chapter 330**  
Philadelphia, MS

The Mississippi South region hosted a county fair-themed WoodmenLife Senior Day event. Participants brought homemade items to compete for blue ribbons. Among the winners was Celester Hall, right, who received her ribbon from Regional Director Lisa Davis.



**Chapter 4155**  
San Juan, TX

Chapter 4155 members joined the San Juan Police Department in distributing toys to children at the annual Blue Santa Toy Giveaway.



**Chapter 179**  
Jackson, TN

For the fourth year, Chapter 179 partnered with Jackson Fire Department Station 5 for Shopping With a Firefighter. The chapter donated funds to the effort, and chapter volunteers helped each child shop for Christmas gifts. Pictured are WoodmenLife member Mary Barnes and Walter.



**Chapter 1513**  
Morehead City, NC

Chapter 1513 presented American flags to the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce. The flags will be awarded to the recipients of the Military Affairs Committee Service Person of the Quarter.



**Chapter 2197**  
Texas City, TX

Chapter members joined police officers at Walmart to shop for the Police Department's annual Blue Santa community giveaway.



**Chapter 116**  
Carrollton, AL

Chapter 116 members purchased, assembled, and delivered care packages to the Baptist Center in Reform, AL. In addition, they also presented gift cards to the Baptist Center staff. Pictured are Sandra Shirley, Pat Pugh, and Randy Simpson.



**Chapter 1026**  
Rome, NY

Chapter President Larry Daniello presented a \$10,000 donation to Gary Mann, Division Director of Housing for the Rescue Mission Alliance of Auburn, NY.



**Chapter 3**  
Jacksonville, FL

**Chapter 3, Jacksonville FL**

On behalf of Chapter 3, members Margie Wright and Dona Stewart presented a \$5,000 donation to Undersheriff Jon Hooper of the Nassau County Sheriff's Office ahead of the Shop With a Cop event. Both members also later helped at the shopping event.

Answer key from word search on Page 32

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

Answer key from Sudoku on Page 33

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

See Yourself Here

Submit photos of your chapter events at [WoodmenLife.org/photos](http://WoodmenLife.org/photos). You could make the pages of *WoodmenLife Magazine*.

# Honoring Our Traditions Together

WoodmenLife chapters proudly support their communities in many ways, and patriotism is a big part of that work. This year offers several opportunities to come together to celebrate our American pride.

## Patriotism in Action

Here are some ways your chapter can show its commitment to our country:

### 250 Flags for 250 Years

In celebration of America's 250th birthday, WoodmenLife is proud to present 250 Betsy Ross-style commemorative American flags to communities nationwide for Flag Day. This initiative reflects our deep-rooted commitment to patriotism and service. Contact your Community Outreach Advisor to learn more.

### Sept. 11 Remembrance

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on our country. Chapters can hold events to honor First Responders, support local service projects, or host moments of reflection in their communities.

### Celebrating Red, White & Blue®

Chapters can take part in Celebrating Red, White & Blue by displaying an oversized American flag at local events. It is a powerful way to bring people together and show community pride. Request a flag at [WoodmenLife.org/Flag-Form](http://WoodmenLife.org/Flag-Form).

### "America Is ..." Video Contest

Encourage local schools to join the "America Is ..." video contest. It gives students a chance to share what America means to them and helps chapters build strong local connections. Look for more information this fall.

## Flag Presentations

Chapters continue to offer American flags and flagpole dedications to schools and community groups. These presentations promote patriotism and help chapters stay active in their local areas.

Visit [WoodmenLife.org/Patriotism](http://WoodmenLife.org/Patriotism) to learn more.

## Chapter Resource Page

The Chapter Resource Page is your go-to spot for forms and applications for our various chapter programs. Among the things you can find there are: Common Bond forms, chapter supply forms, flag and flagpole orders, and WoodmenLife Heart & Heritage Awards® orders. Explore more at [WoodmenLife.org/Chapter-Resources](http://WoodmenLife.org/Chapter-Resources).

DATES TO REMEMBER	
June 12	National winners of Chapter of the Year, Fraternalist of the Year, and Outstanding Project are announced.
Aug. 1	Chapters can begin holding officer elections and submitting rosters to Community Outreach Advisors.
Sept. 11	In Honor and Remembrance and Patriot Day of Service, marking the 25th anniversary of the attacks on our country.
Oct. 31	Applications for the WoodmenLife Focus Forward Scholarship® open.



Scan the QR code on the back of your magazine to see what your chapter has going on.

# From the Kitchen of SVP & National Sales Manager Chuck Driffill

This is a family favorite that we make throughout the year. It starts with a classic herb stuffing mix, and we add cooked pork sausage to give it extra flavor. It's a simple recipe that's always a hit with family and friends.



## Recipe | Sausage Herb Stuffing

### Ingredients

- 4 Tbsp butter
- 1 cup diced onion (about 1 large)
- 1 cup diced celery (about 2 stalks)
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 package Pepperidge Farm Herb Seasoned Cubed Stuffing
- 1 lb Jimmy Dean Regular Pork Sausage

### Directions

1. In a skillet, cook the Jimmy Dean pork sausage over medium heat until fully browned. Drain excess grease and set aside.
2. In a 4-quart saucepan, melt the butter over medium-high heat.
3. Add the diced onion and celery and cook until vegetables are tender-crisp.
4. Add the chicken broth and bring to a boil.
5. Remove from heat and stir in the stuffing mix.
6. Add the cooked sausage and mix lightly until combined.
7. Spoon the stuffing mixture into a greased 2-quart casserole dish.
8. Cover and bake at 350° F for about 35 minutes, or until hot.



# HAPPY CAMPER

Get ready for a camping adventure! Fresh air, a crackling fire, and ooey-gooley s'mores await. Or, if you'd prefer a bug-free activity, try these camping-themed puzzles instead. The only gear you'll need is a pen.

## WORD SEARCH

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

- Backpack
- Binoculars
- Bug spray
- Camping stove
- Compass
- Cookware
- Cooler
- Firewood
- First aid kit
- Fishing rod
- Flashlight
- Hammock
- Headlamp
- Kayak
- Lantern
- Lighter
- Map
- Pocket knife
- Sleeping bag
- Sunscreen
- Tarp
- Tent

(Find answers on Page 29.)

## WORD SCRAMBLE

(Find answers below.)

1. Hniigk

2. Gsfihni

3. Akkgainy

4. Dtgwhbriinac

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

(Find answers on Page 29.)

- (1) Hiking
- (2) Fishing
- (3) Kayaking
- (4) Birdwatching

## JOKES

**Q: What did one marshmallow say to the other at the campfire?**

A: Time to get toasty!

**Q: What did the tent say to the sleeping bag?**

A: I've got you covered.

**Q: How do you communicate with a fish?**

A: Drop it a line.

**Q: Why did the compass lose its job?**

A: It had no sense of direction.

# In Memoriam



**Mary Aitson**  
Age 94  
Chapter 1  
Oklahoma City, OK



**Warren James Berger**  
Age 94  
Chapter 308  
Houma, LA



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Chapter 117  
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**Ray Grainger**  
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WoodmenLife Sales Representative



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**Mary "Virginia" Hale**  
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Murray, KY



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**Mary Ann Ogles**  
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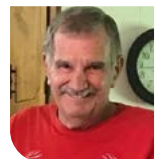
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Chapter 624  
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Age 96  
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**SCAN  
HERE**

to find out what your  
chapter has planned and  
how you can get involved.



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