

# YELL! Newsletter

Spring 2015 Volume 3, Issue 1

## Volunteer · Serve · Connect · Contribute

### List of Outstanding Leadership Award Winners

- Lodge 7: Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Lodge 38: Austin, Minnesota
- Lodge 44: Hayward, Minnesota
- Lodge 108: Denmark, Wisconsin
- Lodge 127: Owatonna, Minnesota
- Lodge 141: Cadott, Wisconsin
- Lodge 219: Strathcona, Minnesota
- Lodge 225: Bannister, Michigan
- Lodge 426: Lincoln, Nebraska
- Lodge 446: Dorchester, Texas

### Picture This!



YELL! group 389 helped at a Blood Drive at their Saline Center Lodge Hall.

YELL! group 108 did a 30 hour famine activity through World Vision. More about this activity in the March *Fraternal Herald*.



YELL! group members in Lodge 141 helped out at the International Folk Fair.



### Great Job YELL! Groups

Many thanks to those who worked to earn the Outstanding Leadership Award this year. It is a great undertaking to accomplish all the requirements and it's wonderful that we have strong leaders in our lodges willing to do so. Thanks also to those who had a YELL! group and accomplished most of the requirements for the Award but were not able to achieve it completely. Do not give up, and keep working towards that award. Regardless of earning an award, the YELL! groups are a great accomplishment. If you need any help reaching the award levels, please contact me as soon as possible so we can develop a plan or strategy. Thank you for all you do in your communities and for Western. We appreciate it!

### YELL! Activities

The YELL! groups did many great activities and projects this year. If you would like to get in contact with the YELL! group or Youth Liaison who oversaw the project, please email me and I will get you in touch with one another.

Lodge 426: Wrote letters to businesses asking for in-kind donations for a Veterans' home.

Lodge 44: Played Bingo and served snacks at senior center.

### Date Reminders:

4/15/2015: Delegate/alternate forms from each lodge due to Home Office

5/01/2015: Delegate fees/travel forms due to Home Office

7/21/2015: Pre-Convention Committee meets in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to finalize bylaw changes

7/23-7/24/2015: National Convention in Iowa

### Reminder

Send in articles to the *Fraternal Herald*! Make sure to note when the YELL! group does a project with the lodge as well so we can give proper credit when judging awards.

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### Recruitment in the Summertime

I haven't lost my mind - I know it's still March, but this is the best time to start planning your YELL! groups summer activities. If you plan and get the word out early, your much more likely to have a good turn out. It's true that it's hard to get people of all ages to events, but if the project or activity is important to them, they will make it a priority.

Summer is by far my favorite time of year, and it should be yours too...at least in terms of activities. Each summer children get out of school ready for a summer jam-packed with fun activities. I can tell you from experience that this excitement doesn't last too long. The kids get quickly bored. This is especially true in the small towns that do not host summer programs or camps to keep children occupied.

Take this opportunity to reach out to new members or non-members by planning a service event once a month during the summer months. You can use your lodge roster (sent to the lodge secretaries) to find out who is a member. You can also get an age specific list if you are interested in contacting a certain age group.

I have said many times and it continues to be true: the number one reason youth do not volunteer is that no one asked! So plan a yard clean up for a shut-in, a volunteer day at the local library, or work the concession stands at a baseball game.

### The Jared Box Project

Who was Jared? He was a child diagnosed with cancer at just 5 years old. Jared demonstrated faith, wisdom, and compassion for others, according to the website, [www.thejaredbox.com](http://www.thejaredbox.com).

Jared maintained his sense of humor and the joys of childhood through play. He carried a backpack full of toys and games to all appointments, and questioned why the other children didn't bring toys to their exam rooms. In 2001, the children at Our Lady of Victory School in State College, PA started the Jared Box Project to honor their classmate and friend who lost his battle. It is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible.

The goal of the Jared Box Project is to lift the spirits of chronically ill children. A "Jared box" is a shoebox sized plastic storage box filled with small gifts, toys, cards, and games. Each box contains items selected for a specific age and gender. The boxes can be delivered to hospitals and given to chronically ill children. The Jared boxes provide a special diversion for young patients as they receive chemotherapy and other medical treatments.

You may call (814) 353-9343 for information.

Contact me: Kelsey Logan  
[klogan@wflains.org](mailto:klogan@wflains.org)  
toll free: 1.877.935.2467

### Graduate Drawing

If you are a member of Western and graduating from high school, college, or technical school, or know somebody who is, we would like to acknowledge you or them in the June issue of the *Fraternal Herald*. We will also enter the name in a drawing for three prizes of \$100 each. Please send in the completed form by May 15. Mail to: Fraternal Department, Western Fraternal Life Association, 1900 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

I would like to enter my name in the Graduate Drawing.

*Please Print*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: Fraternal Department, Western Fraternal Life Association, 1900 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
Must be received by May 15. For more information, call 1-877-wflains.