



JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

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New Executive Director

Katherine Gerontes has accepted the position of Executive Director at the Central Illinois Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired. Katherine is the mother to a 10-month-old Golden Retriever puppy. Katherine has been working in the ocular world for about four years, her experience being at The Illinois Eye Center, Peoria Eye Professionals, and Stanton Optical. She is currently studying Biology at Bradley University. When Katherine isn't working or studying, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. When she has free time, she can often be found reading a book or outdoors with her puppy. Katherine also enjoys traveling and has been around the world to Greece, Turkey, France, Germany, Great Britain, Honduras, Luxembourg, and the Bahamas. Katherine is very involved in her church community and helps with the All Saints Greek Orthodox Church biannual fundraisers by cooking in the kitchen for their Ethnic Food Festival. She also serves food on the line and helps with food suggestions to those who are unsure about what Greek food to try!

Center's 11th Annual Golf Outing Report

We had a beautiful day for the Center's 11th Annual Golf Outing. It was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at WeaverRidge Golf Course. With a shotgun start, the 23 teams with 92 players headed out to their assigned tees. While out on the golf course, they had the opportunity to win money if they landed in a circle after they teed off. They also could pay a pro golfer to tee off for them on one hole. A new event that

we had at the golf outing this year was the “Putting Patron” Hole. Lance Barke graciously donated his time and talents to this hole. After a beautiful day of golfing, the participants enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner, which included roast chicken. During dinner, a slide show was shown of how the money raised at the outing was spent throughout the year. Lance Barke shared with the players about how the Center has helped him and his family. While the net proceeds have not been totaled, the games and silent auction totals are as follows: Putting Patron which was Lance Barke - \$100; Silent Auction - \$155; Skins Game - \$180; Betting Hole - \$285; Driving Pro - \$350; and Mulligans - \$620.

Thank you to our Golf Outing Committee members: Prasad Parupalli, Ericka Arreola, Dan Ekstrand, Rich Frow, and Michelle Shute. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped on the day of the event with registration, hole-in-one prize, betting hole, pro golfer hole, selling mulligans, and the skins game.

A big thank you to all of our sponsors: Gold Sponsors - CGN and Randstad Technologies; Bronze Sponsors – Flinchbaugh, Uftring Auto Group; and Mike Leali of Merrill Lynch; Team Sponsors – Morey Corporation, ACC Electronix, Inc., Epitec, Aerotek, Illinois Eye Center, Cat Electronics, LORD, L&T Technology Services, and Sanjeev Arora; Hole Sponsors – Betty Ekstrand of Hediger & Myers, Mari Halliday of Jim Maloof Realtor, Scott Communication Services, Inc., Ken and Melody Gray, Hy-Vee, WeaverRidge, and Eastside Wellness Chiropractic; and Hole-In-One Sponsors – WeaverRidge Golf Club and Prasad Parupalli.

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who donated monetary or in-kind gifts: peanuts and a silent auction gift from Texas Roadhouse; eight dugout seats from the Peoria Chiefs; Golfing

cooler/basket for the silent auction from CEFCU; golf club from Illini Golf; \$400 worth of Caterpillar logo items and golf balls for the outing from Prasad Parupalli; a 90-minute massage for the silent auction from Eastside Wellness Chiropractic; a one night stay and buffet for two for the silent auction from Par-A-Dice Hotel; and four Cubs tickets from Hydac.

Riverboat Cruise

While you're cruising down the Mississippi, just sit back and reminisce to the songs that bring back all the memories of the Jukebox era. The magical songs that made the 50's and 60's the era to remember. Enjoy a show with the Oldies coming to life once again. Imagine Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, and a whole cast of others, oh and of course a little Elvis. This is a must go Classic Oldies show cruise!! This will be taking place on September 20th from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. This event is free for patrons of C.I.C.B.V.I. If interested, please contact the Center by July 19th at noon. Seating is limited.

The Bridges of Madison County Musical

On July 19th, the Center will go to the Corn Stock Theatre for a performance of The Bridges of Madison County Musical. This play starts at 7:30 p.m. There will be a limited number of tickets purchased, so please call and get your reservations in to the Center as soon as possible.

Historic Trolley Ride

We will be going on the Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War Tour on July 28th at 1:30 p.m. Learn about Lincoln's many visits to Peoria and the Civil War troops that trained here, and see the first resting place for many brave veterans in Springdale Cemetery. View the GAR Hall, built in 1909 to provide a place for Union veterans to meet. This tour

will depart from the CAT Visitor Center Peoria Riverfront. There will be no meal provided with this event, so please make sure you eat prior to the tour. If interested in participating in this event, please call the Center by noon on July 21st. Tickets are limited.

Illinois Social Club Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Illinois Social Club will be held Saturday, August 4th, 2018 at the Central Illinois Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Members and non-members are invited to come join in a fun-filled day. Prior to the beginning time of 10 a.m., a breakfast of doughnuts, breakfast casserole, coffee, and juice will be served at 9 a.m. The program includes a short business meeting, Bingo, an auction, lunch, supper, and plenty of time for visiting. We gratefully accept donations for Bingo prizes and the auction. We also need volunteers to help with various tasks during the day. Those attending, please be prepared to pay at the door for the following: dues - \$15; round-trip transportation \$5; and bingo - \$1, and extra money for auction items if you choose to participate. To make reservations, please call the Center's office at 637-3693 by Tuesday, August 1st by noon.

Paint Nite Fundraiser

Our first ever Paint Nite Fundraiser will be held on September 22nd at the Country Club of Peoria on Grandview Drive. Participants will be taught step-by-step by an art instructor on how to paint a fall-themed picture. This activity will be at no charge to C.I.C.B.V.I. patrons. The cost for participants will be \$45 each, of which \$15 will be donated to the Center. There will also be a silent auction held during the event. A preview of our prizes being auctioned are a Five Senses Spa basket, including Aveda products and a \$100 gift card and a limo night out in Peoria to dinner at The Edge by Chef Dustin Allen and a movie after.

We are still looking for more donations and sponsors. If interested, please contact the Center at (309)637-3693.

Peoria Chiefs Baseball Game

We will be attending a Peoria Chiefs Baseball game on July 16th at 11 a.m. We will have our own luxury suite that is air conditioned. We will also have access to 10 stadium seats if you wish to enjoy the game in the traditional way. There will be some food and drinks provided. If you wish to purchase additional food, drinks or souvenirs, you will need to pay for these items. The game will be broadcasted on the radio that will be hooked up to wireless speakers in the suite. If you would like to attend this game, please contact the office by noon on June 21st.

Innovative Vision Products

We are delighted to welcome Sloan Morris, founder of Innovative Vision Products of Naperville, IL, to the Center on July 12th. Sloan will be demonstrating enhanced vision's Jordy wearable device to anybody who is interested from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. This is part of our ongoing effort to educate our patrons, and anybody else interested, about technologies that may help solve some of the problems faced in their daily lives. While our recent experience at the Center with eSight was terrific, there are other options that may help some of our patrons. If this is of interest to you, please contact the Center by email at info@cicbvi.org or call us at (309) 637-3696. You can learn more about Innovative Vision Products and Jordy at www.illinoislowvision.com.

Upcoming Events, Meetings, Fundraisers, And Holidays

Wednesday, July 4th – Center closed for the holiday

Tuesday, July 10th – Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 11th – Open House – 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 12th – Innovative Vision Products – 9:00–9:45 a.m.
Monday, July 16th – Peoria Chiefs Game – 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, July 18th – Open House – Noon
Thursday, July 19th – The Bridges of Madison County Musical – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 21st – Jam Session – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Wednesday, July 25th – Open House – 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 28th – Historical Trolley Ride – 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 20th – Riverboat Cruise – 11 a.m.
Saturday, September 22nd – Paint Nite – 7 p.m.

July Birthdays

July 8 – Connie Phillips
July 13 – Phil McAlearney
July 15 – Bob Smith
July 16 – Jean Sanger and Sue Schoenbein
July 22 – Alice Dooley
July 24 – Dr. Keith Kowalske
July 27 – JT Taylor
July 28 – Margie Toniny
July 31 – Pam Vogel

Meal Menus For July

July 4th – No Open House. Center is closed for the holiday.
July 11th – 5:30 p.m. – Tuna noodle casserole, salad, cake, and ice cream.
July 18th – Noon – Ham, Au gratin potatoes, green beans, roll, and dessert.
July 21st – Jam Session – 1 p.m. – Pizza, tossed salad, and dessert.

July 25th – 5:30 p.m. – Pork chops, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, roll, and brownies.

Bingo will be played at all Open Houses unless otherwise noted. Reservations need to be called in no later than noon on the day before the Open House.

Donations – Monetary And In-Kind

Thanks to the following for their monetary donation: Bob Coney.

Thanks to the following for their in-kind donations: Dave and Michele Williams – Band for Jam Session; Geier Florists donated flowers for the front landscaping; Good Earth Landscaping donated shrubs for the front landscaping; and Gayle Workman – Bingo prizes.

Interesting Dates Throughout The Month Of July

July 4 – Independence Day. The fourth of July is the birthday of our nation. Today, we celebrate and enjoy the freedom that comes with the event that made this day so special. Thomas Jefferson is the author of the Declaration of Independence. He led a committee that crafted the declaration between June 11-28, 1776. Jefferson and other discontented representatives from the thirteen colonies voted and approved it on July 4, 1776.

July 7 – Chocolate Day. Chocolate Day is the perfect opportunity to eat your favorite chocolates in ample portions. Do you really need another excuse to over indulge with your favorite food treat? Chocolate is America's favorite flavor. Did you know that chocolate is a vegetable? It comes from the cacao tree found in tropical rain forests. We don't need to tell you what to do to celebrate this day, do we? Eat chocolate!



Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Quote Of The Month – “May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.” By: Peter Marshall