



Elk Call

Volume 63, No 5

TELEPHONE 815-744-3355

August 2024

The Joliet Elks Lodge #296 Newsletter is a monthly newsletter distributed electronically and in limited print to its membership, district lodges, and state association officers. This publication brings invaluable articles of interest to and for our lodge members and families. Throughout the year, features include news and events, information from Grand Lodge and information on social gatherings.

A WORD FROM YOUR EXALTED RULER

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

July was certainly an awesome month for me and over 6,000 Elks. What an exciting Convention in Austin Texas, nobody does it like the Elks!

I was most impressed by the GER's Theme—"ELKDOM'S HEART FOR AMERICA.". Elks live the American way of life, and Elks give of their time, talent, and treasure to support our country and our communities and to build a better world for us all.

Says quite a lot in a few words. Let's get our own words and deeds moving and exemplify this theme.

One important message that was stressed by the new GER was the importance of involving our members in the activities and good deeds of the Lodge and community. For instance, I was shocked to learn that only 1 out of 10 members are a sustaining member of the Foundation. The ENF is the major force responsible for Elks to do their great works for others. We ALL need to contribute to further the objective of ELKS CARE—ELKS SHARE. By all of us doing our fair share we can multiply the 26 plus million dollars that we award last year. It was very inspirational to see the many ways that the ENF has touched the lives of so many; I hope to spread that message and see our contributions to the "Great Heart of Elkdom" rise exponentially.

I was also very motivated by the many Lodges that had substantial gains in membership. Some Lodges had a gain of over 50+ Members! I would be extremely happy to at least reach an overall gain of 1. To do this we need to RETAIN OUR MEMBERS. As Lapsation Chairman, I am working on programs but can use some assistance. If

you would like to help maintain and grow our Lodge, please contact me.

Our Picnic Committee Chair is putting together a fantastic affair to be enjoyed by the whole family. The September event kicks off around 1 pm and food will be served around 2:30. We are in need of volunteers, any help is greatly appreciated!

Speaking of being appreciated, a HUGE thank you to Jim Domanus for taking down the metal handrail and welding it, and Mike Hogan for bolting it back into position on our front steps. Our members and guests certainly appreciated it being fixed and back in place in a timely manner.

The GER's goal for per-member-giving to the ENF has increased to \$5.00 this year. Our State President goal is \$5.50 per member. If we reach both goals, we are eligible for \$10,500 in Community Investments Grants and another \$1,500 in state grants. for more information or to donate contact Jeff Sterr PDDGER or go to <https://www.elks.org/ENF/supportENF.cfm>

Finally, the House Committee will be soon distributing our Lodge survey. We really need your input on the workings of our Lodge and the types of activities that would interest you. Look for your survey soon— we're trying to have it prepared for distribution by the end of August.

God Bless,

Debra Bruno-Nevin, PLR



 [Click here to learn more](#) 

Member Benefits and Discounts



**Lodge negotiating for possible sale
Vote on 9-10?
See page 4 for details**

PICNIC MEETING FOR ALL WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP. MEET AT THE LODGE August 20th 6:30 P.M.

WELCOME !

We w**ELK**ome new members Johnathan Medley and Mercedes Valentina Bruno who were initiated at June 25th Lodge meeting.

LODGE MEETING NIGHT JACKPOT:

Jackpot drawings occur on Lodge meeting nights. Winning holder of 50/50 ticket eligible to draw. Winner must be present at the meeting. Last month [new member Jonathan Medley](#) wasn't even close to winning over \$300!!

2024-2025 LODGE #296 OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler.....Debra Bruno-Nevin PER
 Est. Leading Knight.....Karen Johnson PER
 Est. Loyal Knight.....Dan Ward
 Est. Lecturing Knight.....Ricky Gray
 Secretary.....Mark Bump PER, PDDGER
 Treasurer.....Barb Schoppe
 Tiler.....Annie Won
 Esquire.....
 Chaplain.....Lori Bump
 Inner Guard.....Wyenot Hugh

Trustee (2025).....Chris Marry
 Trustee (2026).....Larry Burns PER, PDDGER
 Trustee (2027).....Penny Burns PER, PDDGER
 Trustee (2028)..... Andy Lopez
 Trustee (2029)..... Clint Flint PER
 Board of Directors Chair..... Penny Burns, PER, PDDGER
 P.E.R. President.....Debra Bruno-Nevin PER
 Editor.....Jeff Sterr PER PDDGER
 Innie-Outie Counter.....Lori Bump
 Very Temporary Assistant Editor.....Dee Zaster

Lodge Information

Office Hours: M-F 9am-12pm

Lounge Hours: Mon, Wed. 4pm to 10pm

Tuesday , Thursday & Sunday -CLOSED

Friday & Saturday 4-11

Phone # : 815-744-3355

Address: 250 SE Frontage Rd., Joliet, IL 60431

Email: elks296@att.net

Website: <http://www.jolietelks.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Joliet-ElksLodge-296

Bob Eckhoff- District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler

Elks Website: www.elks.org

Illinois Elks Association: <http://www.illinoiselks.org>

Illinois Elks Children's Care: www.illinoiselksccc.org

For lodge updates as it relates to lodge functions, check out the lodge website and/or Facebook page.

As we begin another Elk year, we are looking for additional businesses to advertise in our monthly newsletter, the *Elk Call*. The price is only \$75 per year, and we can use your business card for your ad or help you design something. Call the office, if interested.

THANK YOU, AND PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS.

OLD TIMERS REPORT

MEMBERS WITH 35 YEARS OF ELKDOM:

Joseph Baltz, Phillip Braham, Raymond Stefanski, Ron Wells.



ARE YOU MOVING...even if it is just temporary? Please don't forget to include the lodge on your list of people to notify, as we use non-profit bulk mail rates. If you move and do not notify us, we are charged a fee for returned mail. Please help us save money and just give the lodge a call or send us an email to let us know your new address.

MEMBERSHIP-MONTHLY REPORT

JOLIET ELKS LODGE #296

Number of Members on April 1, 2024—190

Number of Members on July 17, 2024—193

Delinquent as of July 17, 2024—18

Mark Bump, PER, PDDGER, Lodge Secretary

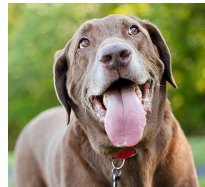


ELKS BENEFIT RAFFLE

We will be selling 200 Lodge Benefit Raffle tickets to raise needed money to help pay for increasing expenses at the Lodge. Anyone can purchase one or more numbered tickets for \$10 each. You will have five chances to win. The First place ticket will win \$500, the Second place ticket will win \$200, the Third place ticket will win \$100 and the Fourth and Fifth place tickets will each win \$50. If you win the First place prize and you are present at the drawing you will win an extra \$100 bonus.

Winners will be drawn on the Wednesday after the last ticket is sold. Tickets will be available starting Wednesday, July 31st. If you have any questions contact Larry or Penny Burns or Debra Bruno-Nevin. If this goes well, we may do the drawings on a monthly basis.

Penny Burns, PDDGER.



**What is the difference between a well dressed man and a dog?
 Well, the man wears a suit, the dog just pants.**

QUEEN OF HEARTS:

- 6-28-24: Penny Burns, PDDGER, #10 (4 of clubs)
- 7-5-24: Nancy Fitzgerald, #40 (5 of diamonds)
- 7-12-24: Nancy Fitzgerald, #44 (5 of hearts)
- 7-19-24



Editor reserves the right to edit the submissions for Grammar, Punctuation, and Content as space allows.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 Mark Bellot | 15 William Davis |
| 2 Tom Orlando | 17 Shirley Jolley |
| 3 John Koerner | 19 Matt Forneris |
| 6 Joyce Ebben | 20 Rachel Doyle |
| 8 Bill Spratt | Barb Schoppe |
| 10 Joyce Devito | 21 Jonathan Medley |
| John Wilson | 22 Steve Rande PER |
| 13 Tom Roedel | 24 Enzo Mannaioni |

LAPSATION

At this time we still have quite a few members who are delinquent in their dues payment. We miss "you guys 'n gals," and would really like to have you join us for the fun and purposeful journey this year has in store for us. Send in your dues today and help in supporting YOUR LODGE. Members please reach out to any member that you know is delinquent and encourage them to renew their membership and restore their active participation in the Lodge functions. Please remember this is your Lodge and it thrives on participation.

Attention readers—

Using our new technology and in an effort to simplify your *Elk Call* enjoyment, your issues of the *EC* have embedded links to important information. Anytime you see a "go to <http://>", or "www.", or "click here", or text highlighted in blue such as www.elks.org, it means that if you click on it, you will be taken to the particular web page or information we are referencing. For some of the information on the elks.org or IEA website, you will need to log in with your username and password. If you're an Elk but don't yet have an Elks.org password, you can [click here to register](#) for online access. Its simple and free. Try it out and let us know.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.



In ancient Rome, deli workers were told that they could eat anything they wanted during the lunch hour.

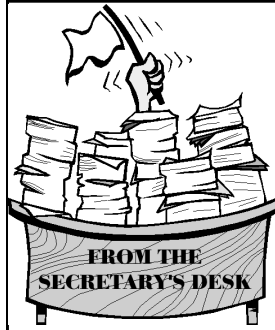
Anything that is, except the smoked salmon.

Thus were created the world's first anti-lox breaks.

TRIVIA Night

FRIDAY AUGUST 9TH 7:00 PM

Please arrive by 6:30 to get your table and something to drink. We have a good selection of both in the Lounge. Come with your own team or feel free to join one of the teams that are already here, except the Blue W's— they're already too smart! All members and their guests are welcome.



Everyone knows that summer is often a hectic time with vacations, ballgames, cookouts, weddings, reunions and other events. Some days all you want to do is get out of the heat, take a load off, have someone else do the cooking and have a cold one. If this is how you are feeling, stop out at the Lodge and enjoy some peaceful times and camaraderie with your fellow members.

Also don't forget the three R's in Elkdom, Recruiting, Retention, and Reinstatement.

Sincerely and Fraternaly submitted,

Mark Bump, PDDGER Lodge Secretary



GET YOUR FLU SHOT

you don't want to catch the Swine Flu...

STILL SEARCHING TO FILL TREASURER POSITION

Our current Treasurer extraordinaire has announced her upcoming retirement. Barb's duties would include overseeing all financial transactions and fundraising efforts. Their primary duties include budget planning, financial reporting, record-keeping, and managing incoming and outgoing funds. The new treasurer would work closely with our Lodge Secretary, ER, and Chair of the Board of Directors. For more information, please contact Treas. Barb Schoppe, Secty. Mark Bump, or ER Debra Bruno-Nevin.



Wii Bowling Night

See you on August 24th at 7pm

No experience necessary.

Shoe rental available.

Come join the fun!!

NOTICE

Our Lodge is in negotiations with **HOLLADAY PROPERTY SERVICES MIDWEST, INC.**, 3454 Douglas Road, South Bend, IN, 44635. to sell our property. It is anticipated that at one of the Regular Lodge meetings in September, a purchase agreement will be brought to the floor of the Lodge. The terms of the sale will be put forth in a resolution to the floor of the Lodge for a vote by all of the members in good standing as per GL Statutes 16.050.

The written proposal will be read on the Lodge floor at least two but not more than eight weeks prior to the scheduled date for a vote of the Lodge on the proposal setting forth the following applicable information:

1. Purpose of project.
2. Any amount to be expended.
3. Any amount of indebtedness to be created.
4. The Person(s) to be authorized to act for the Lodge.
5. Amount to be received by the Lodge.

AND— The proposal read on the floor of the Lodge, together with a Notice setting forth the date, time and location of the regular or special meeting at which the proposal will be voted upon, will be provided to each Member of the Lodge in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.115 at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the scheduled meeting. Note that Section 1.115 provides that any notice required to be sent or mailed to all Members of a Lodge may be included in the Lodge Bulletin or sent electronically to any Member who has given written authorization to receive notices electronically.

Joliet Elks Lodge #296 would seek to retain the income from the cell towers and the billboards by means of a permanent easement.

Joliet Elks Lodge #296 will retain the proceeds to pay regular expenses while seeking a **temporary** lease location prior to locating a permanent facility. Please attend all Lodge meetings to learn the latest in the negotiations. Also note that the completion of the sale, if approved by all parties would not occur in the immediate future. Discussions will also be ongoing as to where our Lodge should temporarily reside, and what next steps should be undertaken to secure a location.

IF YOU CAN'T BE KIND. AT LEAST HAVE THE DECENCY TO BE VAGUE!

Elk Lodges celebrate 100-Year Anniversaries

The following Elk Lodges have stood the test of time as they celebrate their 100-Year Anniversary this 2024-2025 fraternal year. Here's to 100 more years in service to humanity, community, our nation, and our Order's noble principles.

<u>LODGE NAME & NO.</u>	<u>INSTITUTED</u>
Beacon, NY #1493	July 17, 1924
Wellsville, NY #1495	September 23, 1924
Burbank, CA #1497	December 2, 2024
Watervliet-Colonie, NY #1500	January 5, 2024
Brattleboro, VT #1499	January 6, 2025
Saranac Lake, NY #1508	May 22, 2025
Hood River, OR #1507	May 29, 2025
Lyndhurst, NJ #1505	June 3, 2025
Ridgefield Park, NJ #1506	June 20, 2025
<u>Brookfield, IL #1510</u>	<u>June 24, 2025</u>

ENF SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



The 2025 application for Most Valuable Student Scholarships will be available on August 1, 2024. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need. The ENF awards of \$2,500,000 in MVS scholarships; and every top 20 MVS scholar will receive \$30,000!

Eligibility:

- Current high school seniors, or the equivalent, who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply.
- Applicants **do not** need to be related to a member of the Elks.
- High school graduates are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be citizens of the United States on the date their applications are submitted; permanent legal resident status does not qualify.

Awards:

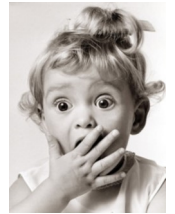
- The Elks National Foundation will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2025 competition.
- Male and female students compete separately.
- Ranging from \$1,000 per year to \$7,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are for students pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university.
- NOTE: The Chicago office of the Elks National Foundation announced the 500 national winners of the 2024 contest in April 2024.

Please contact the office if you have questions or Email scholarship@elks.org or call 773/755-4732.

Elks.org users can click here <https://www.elks.org/scholarweb/resources/MVSFAQ.cfm>

AUGUST IS NATIONAL GOLF MONTH!

FEEL FREE TO GET OUT AND PLAY AROUND



Helping Elks Build Stronger Communities

GER Sets Goal for Elks National Foundation Giving

Grand Exalted Ruler Schiefer has announced this year's per-capita goal is \$5.00. Lodge Chairman Jeff Sterr, PDDGER is feverishly working at meeting and then surpassing this goal. Consider making a pledge today. Jeff has plenty of pledge cards available. To help facilitate your giving, you can donate online now at—

<http://www.elks.org/ENF/OnlineGiving.cfm>



I asked my mom if I was a gifted child....
She said they certainly wouldn't have paid for me.

REMEMBER

THE LODGE HAS VIDEO GAMING.



COME ON OUT AND TRY YOUR LUCK.



You can only get out of YOUR LODGE what you put in.
Enjoy your Lodge and make it your meeting place for family gatherings, friendly get-togethers or just your chance to participate in our charities for the good of others.

GREAT TIME IN AUSTIN

Delegates from across the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the Panama Canal met in Austin, Texas, from June 30 to July 3, 2024, for the 159th annual National Convention of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America. Hosted at the Austin Convention Center and headquartered at the Hilton Austin, this convention marked a significant gathering of over 6,600 Elks members nationwide.

The Elks National Convention highlighted the organization's commitment to charitable giving and community service. Founded 157 years ago, the Elks have donated over \$12 billion to charitable causes, including \$504 million in the past year alone. Recognized as one of America's leading patriotic and charitable organizations, the Elks play a crucial role in enhancing communities across the nation.

At the convention, the Elks honored the top recipients of the Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship Program, awarding each top boy and girl with a \$50,000 college scholarship. Additionally, the Elks annually grant \$4.5 million in college scholarships nationwide through various programs and invest \$16.3 million through the Elks Community Investment Program to enrich local communities.

In support of veterans, the Elks have allocated \$5.7 million to their Veterans Service Program, providing vital aid and comfort to veterans in need.

To further their impact, the Elks National Foundation has granted \$11.2 million to state Elks associations, funding charitable activities and initiatives across the country.

"With 1,865 lodges nationwide, the Elks organization continues to grow, welcoming members who are American citizens aged 21 and above and share a belief in God," said Rick Gathen, convention spokesperson.

For more information about the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and its initiatives, please visit www.elks.org. For membership inquiries, visit Join.Elks.Org.

**SEPTEMBER 28TH
LODGE FAMILY PICNIC**



FOOD AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Special appearance by the comedy team of Schoppe & Bump



Music



Games for Kids & Adults

Hot Dogs & Brats WILL BE PROVIDED
Admission is free with a dish to pass—

If your last name begins with:

- A—G Bring a delicious Hot Dish
- H—R Bring an appetizing Salad
- S—Z Bring a tasty Dessert

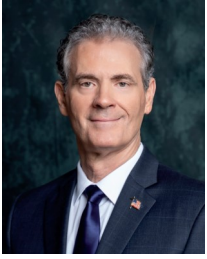
**A limerick packs laughs anatomical,
Into space that is quite economical.**

**But the good ones I've seen
So seldom are clean**

And the clean ones so seldom are comical!

A Message from GER Schiefer

Community projects show Elkdom's Heart for America



What an unbelievable opportunity to serve our great Order! I need to first thank my wonderful wife, Julia. Without her love, support, and commitment this experience would not be possible. We both are so grateful to have been chosen to take this amazing journey. We have been so blessed by the support of our family, friends, and our Elks family. We are so thankful for everything you do.

My theme this year is "Elkdom's Heart for America." It means recognizing all the honorable and charitable things Elks strive for and want to accomplish in their quest to make their communities and America a better place. I chose this theme because it exemplifies what our founding Members learned when they came to the aid of a fellow Elk's widow 156 years ago. It was that spirit that changed the local social club into the amazing organization it is today by demonstrating charity and brotherly love.

As we travel the country, Julia and I will be promoting our Elks programs administered by our Grand Lodge Committees to make our Lodges stronger and improve our image throughout our great Order.

These programs can build stronger communities while stimulating a response that motivates worthy members of the public to seek Elks membership. In this way, our community service builds the foundation for our future.

Successful Lodges create and develop local projects that can become signature accomplishments in the eyes of their community. In turn, members of the community will see these projects mature over time and want to become involved.

If we work together toward our charitable pursuits and remain faithful to our programs, I'm confident we will see an increase in membership. It will not be just temporary gains, but a new time of growth where participation becomes commonplace.

Remember "Elks Care – Elks Share" by showing "Elkdom's Heart for America." God bless you all, God bless our troops, and God bless America!



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East District Has New Deputy

There's a new sheriff in town as GER Schiefer installed Bob Eckhoff of Pontiac #1019 as our new DD. Bob was also DD in 2002-2003! We look forward to his "official" visit later this year.

JOLIET ELKS, OUR FIRST 129 YEARS

With the swearing in of Nathaniel Duke as Exalted Ruler, and installation of Officers on February 19, 1895, Joliet Elks Lodge 296 began its journey into the "mysteries of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks."

That's how J. W. White, Past Exalted Ruler of Chicago Lodge 34, recorded the historic moment as secretary for the institution and installation of officers to organize the Lodge in Allen's Hall in downtown Joliet

District Deputy Lester Stevens presided over the institution and installation of officers and induction of 56 members to the new Lodge. Following incorporation of the Lodge on March 16, 1895, the Lodge held its first election of officers by its members on March 29, 1895. The first election was an active affair with six brothers seeking the Exalted Ruler's position.

Dedication of the Lodge Hall on the third floor of Allen's Hall was held June 5, 1895. According to the minutes, "After the building of the Altar, the Rev. Henry Perry was introduced as the Grand Orator. He delivered an eloquent address, explaining the fundamental principals of the Order, extolling all members to keep in view the obligations they have taken on themselves to bring honor and credit to themselves and the Order."

Some of the original members of the Lodge were Jacob C. Adler, Jr., Moses Duso, and John McFadden, Jr., all relatives of the current editor. (Fancy that!, *ed.*)



Once my dog ate all the Scrabble tiles. For days he kept leaving little messages around the house.

Community Investment Program






The Elks National Foundation allocated nearly \$16.3 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through grants that offer Elks opportunities to serve their community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit elks.org/CIP.

the **Elks** magazine








Click here for more information

Now online for Members!

JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	LODGE MEETING NIGHT JACKPOT: Jackpot drawings occur on Lodge meeting nights. Winning holder of 50/50 ticket eligible to draw. Winner must be present.			1	2 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	3 Have a beer with Lori Day 
4 District MTG Watseka	5 Euchre 6:30 pm	6	7 Euchre 6:30 pm	8	9  Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	10
11	12 Euchre 6:30 pm	13	14 Euchre 6:30 pm	15	16 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	17 Bid Euchre 7pm Steak Sandwich Dinner 5-8
18	19 Euchre 6:30 pm	20 Picnic mtg 6:30 House Com & BOD meeting 7 pm	21 Euchre 6:30 pm	22 Barb Schoppe Appreciation Day. <u>Don't come out, we're closed!</u>	23 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	24 Wii Bowling  7pm
25	26 Euchre 6:30 pm	27  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	28 Euchre 6:30 pm	29	30 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	31

JOLIET ELKS CALENDAR FOR September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  Labor Day Euchre 6:30 pm	3	4 Euchre 6:30 pm	5	6 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	7
8	9 Euchre 6:30 pm	10  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	11 Euchre 6:30 pm	12	13  Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	14
15	16 Euchre 6:30 pm	17 House Committee & Brd of Directors 7 pm	18 Euchre 6:30 pm	19 <i>IEA Fall Meeting</i> 	20 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	21 Bid Euchre 7pm Steak Sandwich Dinner 5-8
22 <i>IEA Fall Meeting</i>	23 Euchre 6:30 pm	24  Lodge Meeting 7 pm	25 Euchre 6:30 pm	26	27 Dinner 5-8 Queen of Hearts 7:30	28 LODGE PICNIC
29	30 Euchre 6:30 pm	 If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?				



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DO NOT DELAY**



**IT'S YOUR LODGE.
BE INVOLVED IN IT!**

POSTMASTER: This Publication is of vital interest



Middle age is when broadness of the mind
and narrowness of the waist change places.



Recent studies have shown that the *Elk Call*
has better circulation than most of our
members.

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