

ILLINOIS INDIANS NEWS

State Club by Chris Crabtree

The Illinois Indians Fall Outing was held September 20th-23rd at Iroquois County Fairgrounds, Crescent City, IL. We only had 10 coaches in attendance but a fun filled weekend was enjoyed by all. Some of our members arrived on Wednesday, with the weather feeling like the middle of July instead the starting of fall. After everyone arrived on Thursday, our group went out to eat at several different restaurants in the area. At our June Rally, we usually enjoy a work day at the Watseka Food Pantry but due to a funeral at the church where the pantry is located we reschedule to the Fall Meeting. On Friday, several of our members loaded up and headed to Watseka for our work day. At all of our outings, our service project is for everyone attending to bring non-perishable items for the pantry. Even though we were few in number the donations filled a trunk. Once at the pantry, the director was ready to put us to work. From rebagging larger quantities into smaller ones, dating can goods and stocking the shelves. In two hours, we had finished everything that was set out for us to do. In the spring, they have a large rummage sale, so our plans are to return during our summer rally for another work day. I think our Spring plans may include a trip to their sale. Lunch was on our own. Later in the afternoon, we had a visit from Mahlah, a Comfort Dog. Mahlah is just one of over 100 Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs, currently stationed in 22 different states. These dogs are highly-trained (over 2000 hours) Golden Retrievers who along with their trained handlers, interact with people at churches, school, libraries, nursing homes, hospitals, special events and in disaster response situations. Their goal is simple: to bring the compassion, mercy, presence, and proclamation Jesus to those who are in need. This is a free service to any individual or group. Mahlah is "triple vested", this means not only is she Comfort Dog (blue vest), but she also wears a camouflage vest when she is ministering to active and/or former military members and their families. Her third vest is with the Police Ministry where she serves the law enforcement community and family in their time of need, by providing comfort following injuries, deaths, and other major incidents. This was a very interesting program and

was enjoyed by all of our members. That evening, we visited a local business called Inside-Out in Gilman, IL. They just celebrated their first full year as a Wine Bar & Event Venue. It is located in a 100 plus year-old building with lots of character and great ambiance from the original tin ceiling to the original hardwood floors. It was originally a saloon. They offer 80 or more wines from Illinois Wineries, USA and Imports, as well as domestic and craft beers and mixed drinks. At our visit, we enjoyed wine testing plus they set up hors d'oeuvres. A very nice evening of friendship and tasting local wines.

On Saturday morning, we woke up to cooler temperatures which did give us a feeling of fall. Breakfast of scramble eggs, sausage and potatoes patties prepared by Windy City was just what we needed for this cool morning. The ladies outing included lunch at "The Copper Pot Coffeehouse" in Watseka. Their menu included homemade soups, sandwiches, coffees, teas, and delicious desserts. A very welcome fine by Linda Burlison. Afterwards, we visited one of the venues on the Junk in Your Trunk Route 24 Sale" that goes on the last Saturday of every month from May to September from Watseka to Eureka IL. Most of us found something we just couldn't live without. As for the men, I hear there was a visit to BIG R, Walmart and a stop at the food truck in Crescent City for a BBQ pork chop sandwich. That afternoon, Deanne Trumble from Hometown Family Foods, gave us a lesson on decorating a cake and cupcakes for Halloween. It had a spooky sky with pumpkins sitting on fence post. Between laughter's from our icing ordeals and storytelling, the men began to wonder what all was going on in the kitchen. We will never tell! Thank you to Deanne for a wonderful time. That evening we enjoyed our catered meal, also by Hometown Family Foods of meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, carrots, lettuce and rolls. We shall never forget the dessert of apple and peach pie with ice cream. We ended our evening with Card Bingo. Sunday morning, we enjoyed donuts and coffee while saying our good-byes until next Spring. Illinois Indians wishes everyone Blessed Holidays and safe travels.