

Illinois Branch 2019 Conference Report



Greetings from Illinois Kings Daughters and Sons! We are the home of two City Unions and one County Union, with a total of 11 Circles. We are proud to represent 178 members, of which 2 are in their final year of being members of the juniors.

Even though we are spread out in the state, we enjoy getting together at least twice a year to connect and keep our lines of communication open.

Our State project is Friendship Manor in Rock Island Illinois. Friendship Manor is a Continuing Care Retirement Community. With seven service levels at Friendship Manor, they KNOW they provide each resident with the services they need to thrive in their later years. Should the situation arise (and it often does) that a resident outlives their resources, they are NEVER asked to leave based on their inability to pay! You see, our state project had the genius foresight to start an endowment fund for just this reason. And from the very start of this fund residents, staff, vendors and the Community alike have seen it in their heart to contribute. We have provided 1 Million dollars of charity/benevolent care each year for the last decade!

We are very proud of our State project, and just this year we are able to celebrate 40 years of success and look forward to many more.

Friendship Manor operates on it's own without the need for our monetary assistance, but because we enjoy watching our project continue to develop and spread its wings, we elect to give to certain projects for improvement and expansion of the facility. We continue to have a heavy presence there and enjoy having some of our Moline City Union Circles meet in the Emerald Room, which is a newer addition to our dining area.

Friendship Manor even has its own Friendship Circle with more than 33 members and growing! This makes it the largest International Order of King's Daughters and Sons Circle in the state. This project is cheerfully supported by all three of our Unions but that's not all...

Will County, which consists of two Senior Circles and one Junior Circle, stays very busy in their neck of the woods. They have adopted the Dialysis Unit at the Silver Cross Hospital and continue to raise copious amounts to contribute to the unit and allow those in need of the services to receive them in a comfortable manner. If you have ever known anyone going through dialysis, you understand just how long and uncomfortable it can be. With the nearly half a million dollars they have contributed over the years, I think they have earned the right to call that project their own. Through the years the

hospital may have changed, but their undying dedication to it has not. Way to go Will County, you make us proud!

And then there was one. Peoria City Union is small but mighty! Although much of their population is aging beyond their ability to get out and do manual labor, they continue to contribute in both fundraising and services. This may seem tedious to some, but is second nature to these service members. They send scarves and hats and contribute food to the local pantry. With only five active members, they continue to have a presence at all levels of our Organization. Now that is something worth recognizing!! Members pushing past their eighties are still contributing more to the good of mankind than the average teenager. How about that?

There is much more I could say, but as the good Lord tells us, it is not what I tell you they have done that matters, it is those whom have been touched by their spiritual kindness and generosity and because of that one moment might one day turn to God and follow.

In this I pray. Amen.