

ENTERTAINMENT/SPEAKERS

Illinois Day Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Luncheon Entertainment — After lunch join us in the hotel parking lot for a “Get Your Kicks on Rt. 66” Show and Shine Car Show. Step back in time to view the vintage cars of yesteryear! Dress up if you like or come as you are! Enjoy a cool and refreshing Kona Ice which is nutritious and delicious as you walk around viewing the vintage cars!



Dinner Entertainment — **Mary Todd Lincoln** played by Ms. Pam Brown of Springfield, IL . “Taking Leave” May 22, 1865, Mary is preparing to leave the White House for the last time. Her heart is heavy, and her memories are great.

Wednesday, July 9

Luncheon Speaker —Cheri Burcham, University of Illinois Extension Educator and IAHCE Liaison – **Weathering the Storm**



Cheri Burcham is responsible for family life programming in the counties of Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Moultrie, Shelby and other parts of east central Illinois as needed. Cheri’s emphasis is on healthy lifestyles throughout the life span which include family relationships, communication, caregiving, stress management and human development including early childhood and healthy aging. Her passion is to help people to be their best selves and to promote a healthier, independent older population.

Evening Speaker —Dawn Morris, Red Cross Executive Director – **The Heart of Volunteering: Planting Seeds of Hope**



Dawn Morris is the Executive Director of the South and West-Central Illinois Red Cross Chapter, serving 33 counties in both Illinois and Missouri.

Before coming to the Red Cross almost 6 years ago, Dawn was the Executive Director of a much smaller organization. Her focus was on serving poverty-stricken women and children in crisis. Dawn was a domestic violence professional, trainer and facilitator for Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World. Gaining substantial experience working with the houseless population.

Nothing has been more fulfilling in her life than the role of being a mother. She is the proud mother of three young men and the Jamma of 10 beautiful grandbabies. However, this motherly love goes beyond her immediate family- she continues to lead the Red Cross Organization just as she has led her children- with love, empathy, and an open mind. Dawn is nothing more than an ordinary person, who believes our world is a better place when compassion can travel where it is needed the most. Which is why Dawn is always one of the first to raise her hand and deploy. She has deployed to the Oregon Wildfires, Hurricane IDA, Kentucky Tornadoes, Hurricane IAN, with her most recent being the Lahaina Wildfires.

Dawn has completed three full marathons, several half marathons, a triathlon and a 9/11 memorial run which included 110 flights of stairs.

Thursday, July 10

Luncheon Speaker — Sue Busler, Pastor and Retired USAFR Colonel

Pearls of Wisdom

Sue typically uses humor to convey her message to the audience in such a way that each of you will walk away with a smile and feeling positive!

Mrs. Busler is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Class of 1980, the first class with women. In addition to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Humanities from USAFA, Sue also holds a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is a former Colonel at USAFR Retired.



Sue works at Certified Lay Speaker United Methodist Church and served as a volunteer with various organizations. Most importantly, she is a wife, mother, and grandmother who instills humor into everyday life sometimes with the help of her family!

Evening Speaker — Lauren Gleason, Volunteer Coordinator IDNR – OLM

State Historic Sites at Springfield – Lincoln's Legends and Lore

Lauren is the volunteer coordinator for the State Historic Sites of Springfield. She has been with the sites in various roles for 7 years. Lauren began as an historical interpreter, giving tours of our sites to visitors. Then was on the building and grounds team helping with site beautification, maintenance, and restoration projects. Currently, she oversees volunteer recruitment, training, and scheduling for the various sites and coordinates with the support organizations to implement special event and holiday programming.



She is originally from Taylorville, IL and went to college at LLCC, ISU and UIS studying Anthropology and Sociology with a minor in Philosophy. Lauren is aiming to go back to UIS next fall to pursue a master's degree in public administration. She lives in Jerome with her husband Ryan, who also is a State of Illinois employee.