



Maryland, Delaware AND District of Columbia

Elks Association News

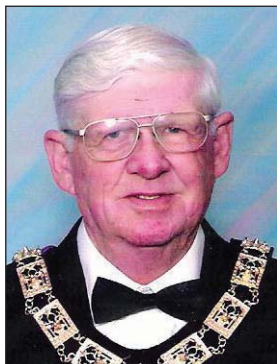
A Fraternal Organization

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
United States of America



Official Publication

JAN • FEB • MAR 2010



Stu Kerr

President 2009-2010

Message from the State President

By the time you read this, the Holidays will be over and the New Year is here. I hope every one had a good time and we all have a healthy new year.

First lets talk about membership. Without members we cannot do the good work that Elks do. Without members our lodges stagnate. Without members we have no order. So lets make a last minute effort to work on our lapsation. The lodge year is ending soon. Have you met

your goals? Have you started a kid's night at your lodge and put kids meals on your menu? Have you started a new youth program? You should look into all of the above.

The Lodges are going to elect new officers soon. There are three "Cs" of a good lodge officer. During my visits, some lodges have heard me talk on this, but here they are for everyone to see.

COMMITMENT:

1. All officers must be firmly committed to fulfilling their obligation as an officer, including the commitment of the time required to function effectively.
2. All officers should attend every lodge meeting. Absences will occur, but they should be infrequent.
3. Commitment also includes memorizing your ritual.

COOPERATION:

1. The officers must cooperate with each other, with committees, with members of the Lodge, and with your Ladies' organization, if your Lodge has one.
2. Cooperation is a "give and take" function, you can't always have your own way.

COMMUNICATION:

1. Communicate with each other and with members of the Lodge.
2. Meet together at least monthly to review programs and plans.
3. Be open in your communication. Give others the benefit of your thoughts and ideas, your likes and dislikes.
4. Communication solves problems -- or keeps problems from arising.
5. Listening is a communication skill also. Sometimes you can learn more by listening than by talking.

You are all important -- part of a team. Teamwork is vital. No one officer can run the Lodge. Every officer is equally important, as are the members.

Last but not least is indoctrination. I think most Lodges need

to work on this. Use your PERs to help. Have your standing committee people there to talk on their programs. The short DVD from Grand Lodge does not cover all of our committees. It does not cover our youth programs and our major state project, Elks Camp Barrett. At our October meeting in Ocean City we started a 5-year strategic plan for our camp. We will need major improvements and this means money. To make this happen you will soon be getting tickets in the mail for our Elks Camp Barrett Improvement Fund. There will be 5 tickets in each member's envelope, but you don't have to buy all 5, even though we hope you do. But I ask you please to buy at least one \$10.00 ticket. We have 23,000 plus members in our association and if everyone buys at least one ticket, we can raise \$230,000. So again, please help. Buy one or more tickets or sell one or more tickets to your friends. They do not have to be a member to be a winner.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our January meeting.

Fraternally,
Stu Kerr
President

COMING EVENTS

January 15-17, 2010

Winter Workshop
Havre de Grace Lodge #1564

February 20, 2010

State Hoop Shoot Finals • Frederick, MD

March 7, 2010

State Ritual Clinic • Milford Lodge

March 20, 2010

Regional Hoop Shoot Finals • Middletown, MD

March 19-21, 2010

GER Visit/Spring Conference • Annapolis Lodge #622

April 2010 ~ DDGER Clinics

May 30, 2010 • ECB Annual Bull Roast

June 11-13, 2010

90th State Convention
Clarion Hotel • Hagerstown, MD

June 14, 2010 • Flag Day

July 4-8, 2010

Grand Lodge Convention • Orlando, FL

Maryland, Delaware and
District of Columbia
Elks Association News
Official Publication

2009 - 2010

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

George W. Hamilton, PSP
Hagerstown Lodge #378
14172 Shelby Circle
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 301-739-2040
E-mail: gwh507@aol.com
Office: gwh@jamisondoor.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

STATE CHAIRPERSON

Connie J. deYoung (Brian)
Dover Lodge #1903
1 Patriot Drive
Dover, DE 19904
Phone: 302-674-5833
E-mail: cdeyoung@schmittrod.com

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:

NORTH CENTRAL

Richard Hasson (Julie)
Bowie Lodge #2309
1048 Springhill Way
Gambrills, MD 21054
Cell: 410-718-1513
E-mail: rhasson12@comcast.net

NORTHEAST

Gloria Smeltzer, PER
Havre de Grace Lodge #1564
25 Seminary Lane
Elkton, MD 21921-4643
Phone: 401-459-4243
E-mail: gsmeltzer13@yahoo.com

SOUTHWEST

Kenneth W. Largent, PSP (Georgial)
1157 Severnview Drive
Crownsville, MD 21032
Phone: 410-923-2529

WEST

Scott McKnight
Frederick Lodge #684
1197 Avondale Ct.
Frederick, MD 21702
Phone: 301-695-8958
E-mail: scott97017@comcast.net

SOUTHEAST

Joan Thompson
Ocean City Lodge #2645
816 Yacht Club Drive
Ocean Pines, MD 21811
Home: 410-208-6414
Cell: 443-725-0161
E-mail: jltrnt@aol.com

**Next Newsletter
Deadline:
Sunday,
Feb. 21, 2010**

President-Elect Message

Since my last report, I have been very busy with my work schedule and have not had the opportunity to visit as many of the lodges as I had hoped to by this time. As a matter of fact, as I write this I am going to be out-of-town again. I want to thank those lodges who have added me to their bulletin mailing list, both e-bulletins and hard copy. It is encouraging to see so much activity in the lodges around the Association.

The above notwithstanding, my wife and I attended the Bull and Oyster roast at Ocean City lodge on October 4th. We had a great time and brought home some suggestions for our lodge to consider when they had theirs in November.

As I work through my agenda for my term as President, I will be contacting some of you to get your input on many of the different aspects of our great Association. But if any of you have suggestions or recommendations, please do not hesitate to drop me a note by e-mail or by snail-mail. This is OUR Association and ALL of you have a vested interest in the way it is operated and managed. I only ask that if you have a complaint that you not only bring it to my attention, but

also include your recommendation on how to correct or improve it. I certainly don't have all the answers nor do I claim to "know it all". But I have a great support network to draw on and will certainly engage it as required.

I sent out my introduction letter in early November. To date, I have only heard back from two lodges who have expressed an interest in hosting the spring workshop. While some lodges may feel that their facilities are too small to host a workshop meeting, which is fine. But there are medium to large size lodges that do have the capacity to host a workshop meeting. I am still hoping a couple of lodges will step up and offer to host the winter workshop in January 2011. Please consider the wonderful opportunity this would be to showcase your lodge at the State level.

Finally, my wife and I hope all of you and your families had a Merry Christmas and wonderful Holiday Season.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Carl Robinson
President-Elect

Did You Know?

- For many years members have worked to accomplish projects at Elks Camp Barrett. Some of these dedicated members have passed on, it is very important for those of us who are still around to give the Camp Administrators information of what was done, where things are located such as sewer lines, etc..... It could be a real time and money saver for future ECB projects.
- Stop in and see your camp when you are in the area. It is being well taken care of.

Plan a lodge activity at Elks Camp Barrett, let our members see what an asset we have.

- It is not too early to start publishing our camp opportunities to the community. Lodges need to increase the number of children that they are sending.

"Remember to sponsor a child"

Submitted by PSP Kenny Largent

ELKS CAMP BARRETT 50/50 RAFFLE

The winner of the E.C.B. 50/50 Raffle in Ocean City on Sunday, October 4, 2009 was Bill Wert from Prince Georges County Lodge No. 1778. Thanks to everyone that bought and/or sold tickets.

Please buy your tickets from the ladies at the E.C.B. Raffle Table.

H. Lee Davis, PSP

**Next Meeting:
Spring Workshop
March 19-21, 2010
GER Visit -
Annapolis Lodge #622**

South East District VP Report

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and safe New Year's.

Following the workshop in Ocean City on October 10th I attended the South East District Soccer Shoot which was well attended by the Lodges who participated. Two weeks later I was back in Ocean City for the State Soccer Shoot where the South East had three winners. The following day I traveled to Bowie Lodge for Drug Awareness Training held for District Chairman's, which was very enlightening and informative. The following weekend I traveled to Camp Barrett for the Scouts Camporee which was a great event; all involved did a good job and fun was had by all. A special thanks to Doris and Wayne for their hospitality.

November 1st on my way home from the Camp I was able to stop and attend Kent Island's "Drug and Safety Day" held at the airport. What a fantastic event, hats off to Terry Ober and Kent Island Lodge. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the November Camp Barrett meeting due to family obligations.

On November 12th South East District drug awareness training was held at the Salisbury Lodge. This was a very nasty, rainy, windy, just right down yucky night for traveling, but seven devoted drug awareness chairman's along with ten other dedicated Elks weathered the storm to attend the training. Through this training we were able to share ideas with one another and learn more about our Drug Awareness Programs. We all left that night with new ideas and more knowledge on our programs along with agreeing to host "Red Ribbon - Hands Across the Border" next year. Terry Ober will chair this event with the assistance of all drug awareness chairmen's in the South East. A special thank you to all who traveled in the weather that night and to Salisbury Lodge for having us and providing dinner your dedication and devotion to Elks is truly appreciated.

November 19th took me to Cambridge Lodge for my first official visitation. I would like to congratulate the members of Cambridge Lodge as they are members of the ENF "Corner Stone Club" giving \$50,000, what an accomplishment. The officers and members of Cambridge Lodge have a lot to be proud of with involvement in many programs such as Hoop Shoot, Scholarships, Drug Awareness, ENF, Veterans, Scouts, Camp Barrett, Jernick Fund, etc... Along with these programs they also are very involved in the local community supporting programs to help the youth and those in need. My evening with the members and officers was wonderful and I thank them for their warm hospitality and friendship.

December 1st took me to Kent Island for my visit and a great evening with friends. Kent Island Lodge is very involved in youth activities that include Scouts, Drug Awareness, Fishing Derby, Scholarships, Camp Barrett, Holiday parties, etc... they are doing a awesome job with our presidents motto "Supporting our Youth". I was very impressed that evening as I became the doorman while twelve to fifteen boxes of books were taken in the Lodge to go to the Veterans Hospital for their library. What a great thing to do with the books I'm sure we all

have at home that we have read, I know I have about three boxes that I will take to Kent Island in the future. The officers, members and committee chairman's are working hard to bring members into the lounge with many new activities and three members donated four new 42" HD flat panel TV's to the lounge, what a wonderful way to help the lodge and show their support. Kent Island is first in the South East with ENF donations and has initiated 27 new members, reinstated 4, and have 7 waiting initiation; keep up the good work. Thank you for a great visit, wonderful dinner, and hospitality shown to myself and Bonnie.

My last official business as your vice president in 2009 was attending the Camp Barrett meeting on December 5th. When leaving this meeting I was very excited about the plans for the camp and confident that our camp will be here for many years to serve our youth with your help and support.

By the time you read this I will have attended the South East District Deputy clinic and traveled to four lodges within our district with President Kerr. I look forward to visiting and working with each of you and never hesitate to call if you need by help. "God Bless You All"

Fraternally,
Cindy Taylor

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Page 7 Myron E. Morgan, Trustee

Change e-mail to:

myremorg@aol.com

Change phone to:

302-242-6959 (cell)

Changes also apply to listings on 27, 32 & 37

Page 27 Elks Grand Lodge Training

James Stewart

Change phone number to:

301-334-1880

Change e-mail address to:

jimstewart11@verizon.net

Page 43 Essex Lodge -

Change meeting time to 7PM

VP West District Report

Since my last report, I attended the Fall Conference which was held in October at Ocean City. During that weekend I attended the Camp Barrett meeting in which the topic of a Strategic Plan for the Camp was discussed. Camp Barrett is truly a wonderful State Project and should be kept alive. Also it is a pleasure to attend the conferences and workshops because at those meetings is when you learn of new ideas that could be used within your lodge and also the different activities of each lodge within the State Association.

My next excursion was the State Soccer Shoot which was held at Ocean City on October 24th. What a wonderful experience this was for all who were involved. I am very proud to say that the West District was represented by 8 children for the competition. All of the competitors for the West District were from the Oakland Lodge. In observing all of the children that were competing that day, the look of concentration and determination on each of their faces was truly unforgettable. One little girl, from the smallest age group, started off by kicking the ball with both of her hands in the air and when she finally decided to put her arms down by her side, she didn't miss a goal. I think that she learned the trick that day. I am extremely honored to say that the West District has two girls that won first place that day and will continue on for the Regional Competition in March at Carlisle, PA.

On October 28th I had the privilege of accompanying President Kerr on his official visit to Westminster Lodge. The night of the visit President Kerr and I had the honor of observing an initiation of seven new members. Westminster did a wonderful job during the ritual. After the ritual each new member had the opportunity to stand up and introduce themselves. I have to say that each of them spoke very highly of Elksdom and were excited about becoming a member.

Next, I attended the Camp Barrett meeting which was held on November 7th. During that meeting it was reported that 193 scouts attended the Scout Camporee that was held during the weekend of Halloween. The Scout Camporee is a wonderful opportunity for the boy scouts and it is truly disappointing that more groups did not attend.

On November 21st I had the honor and privilege of attending Frederick Lodge's Charity Ball. What a wonderful time. Frederick Lodge truly showed just how much they get involved within the community. Their donations that they made to the different recipients that they chose were wonderful and I am sure that each donation will be used wisely. When I was looking through the program for each guest that night I would like to state the mission that Frederick Lodge included in their program, it is as follows: "To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization; and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Make a Difference." It is wonderful that they included this mission within their program and maybe it sparked some inter-

est in a non-member that was in attendance that evening.

Thus far, I feel that the West District has been successful this year, and may each lodge within the district continue on and prove that the "West is the Best".

Fraternally Yours,
Tracy Harvey
Vice President West District

VP North Central Report

Wow! Here we are at our winter workshop at my home lodge Havre de Grace #1564.

Since our last workshop in ocean city, I have been busy with my visits to the lodges in the northeast district. I am very happy to report that all of the lodges are doing well in the northeast. GO NORTHEAST! I am also happy to report that all of my visits are done with the exception of my home lodge.

I have also been busy attending functions at the different lodges within the northeast. On October 16th, I attended a crab feast at the Newark Lodge to benefit the veterans. I had the pleasure of presenting gift cards to the veterans with ER Michelle Rhoades and PER Robert McIntyre. Everyone had a good time.

On October 24th, I attended a charity function at Abingdon Lodge. They had a spaghetti dinner and a quarter auction. The dinner was very good and everyone has fun.

In November, I attended the charity function at Havre de Grace. DDGER Bonnie Bussard and Les came and had dinner also. Thanks Bonnie and Les for your support. I also attended a shrimp feast at Newark Lodge with veterans in attendance. All had fun and it was nice to see the veterans get a standing ovation when they were introduced.

In December, I made my final visit with our state president Stu Kerr to Newark Lodge. We had the honor of witnessing their initiation. Great Job Newark!

I also attended all Camp Barrett meetings. In Ocean City we adopted a strategic plan, If you are interested in helping implement the plan, please let a state officer know. Everyone is needed to help, lets make this happen.

Finally, I have to tell you a story. When Micki and I went to Wilmington Lodge for my visit, we bought raffle tickets for their TV raffle. On December 11th, we got a phone call telling us that Micki had won the TV. Thank You so much Wilmington!

I hope everyone has a good time at the workshop. My lodge is very happy to host the workshop.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael C. Todd, SVPNE

SOUTH WEST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings from the Southwest District. Since our October Fall Conference, I attended the District Soccer Shoot at Waldorf Lodge and was pleased to have contestants from three of the seven lodges compete. I was proud to have three of my grandchildren represent Calvert Lodge. Two of them advanced to the State Finals but were unable to compete at the State Finals in Ocean City due to prior commitments.

On October 27th, I made my official visit to Deale Lodge where I was warmly welcomed by Exalted Ruler Scott Bates, his officers and members. The meeting was very informative and the lodge does an excellent job supporting the community, especially the veterans. I am looking forward to attending their quarter auction for ENF in December. The lodge is planning their first Hoop Shoot and will be participating in the Americanism contests this year.

On December 3rd I made my official visit to Prince George's County Lodge and was again warmly welcomed by Exalted Ruler Renick Myers, the officers and members.

The lodge is very busy doing a great job of supporting the veterans at the Milford House, the youth and the community. I would like to commend them for quickly serving Thanksgiving dinners; they set a record, as served 150 people in 17 minutes.

I'm scheduled to visit Waldorf Lodge on December 10th and my home lodge, Calvert on January 12th.

The South West District is "Making A Difference" amongst our lodges and the community this year. Keep up the good work.....GO SOUTHWEST!!

Fraternally
Mary E. Cardinal -Vogt

2010 Tournament of Champions

(Rates same as 2009)

CHAPERONE RATES

- \$316 per Chaperone, Single Occupancy**
- \$294 per Chaperone, Double Occupancy**
- \$280 per Chaperone, Triple/Quad Occupancy**

CONTESTANT RATES

- \$279 per Contestant, Single Occupancy**
- \$257 per Contestant, Double Occupancy**
- \$248 per Contestant, Triple/Quad Occupancy**

- \$150 Commuter Package**
- \$ 50 Entrance Fee (Commuter)**

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Cape Henlopen Lodge #2540



Elizabeth with her father Paul, and her mother Christine, presenting the checks are Past State President Reese Hickman representing the Jernick Fund, as well as, Exalted Ruler David Ramsey and Past Exalted Ruler John Loftus.

The Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge recently presented the family of Elizabeth Moler, four years old, with a grant check from the William J. Jernick Fund, as well as companion checks from the Lodge and its Past Exalted Ruler's Association, totaling \$2,500. Elizabeth was born with congenital health issues that continue to require medical intervention.

The William J. Jernick Fund is a charitable fund of the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association. The fund is focused on assisting children experiencing medical issues or suffering from debilitating conditions. The fund is available to our community and can be accessed through the Cape Hnlopen Elks Lodge.

Northeast District VP Report

Wow! Here we are at our winter workshop at my home lodge Havre de Grace #1564.

Since our last workshop in ocean city, I have been busy with my visits to the lodges in the northeast district. I am very happy to report that all of the lodges are doing well in the northeast. GO NORTHEAST! I am also happy to report that all of my visits are done with the exception of my home lodge.

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Thank You so much Wilmington!

I hope everyone has a good time at the workshop. My lodge is very happy to host the workshop.

Fraternally yours,
Michael C. Tood
SVPNE District

CRAB FEAST



Newark Lodge #2281 recently held a crab feast and some of the Vets from the Elsmere VA Nursing Home were invited. The proclamation from Grand Lodge designating November as Veteran's National Remembrance Month was read and the Lodge also presented them with \$600.00 worth of ACME gift cards (\$20.00 each card) to be distributed to their families for holiday turkeys.

Shown in the photo are from left: Michelle Rhoads, Exalted Ruler; Bob McIntyre, PER, VAVS Representative; Pat Caldwell, Chief Voluntary Service Director Elsmere VA Hospital; Don Whitaker, Elk & VA Hospital Volunteer; and Mike Todd, VP, Northeast District MD/DE/DC State Association.

Submitted by Rhoads, ER, Newark Lodge

From your State Secretary Happy New Year to all.

A Reminder,

State Chairman: Now is the time to get your info for any event you put on for the State, such as Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Scholarship, anything. I need # of Elks and non-Elks, total # of participants, miles, monies. This is for the State Charity Report that I have to do.

Incoming Exalted Rulers: Please remember that I get a copy off your Officer Information due by Mar. 15, 2010.

Jim

WINTER WORKSHOP OF THE MARYLAND, DELAWARE
AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ELKS ASSOCIATION
HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND

AGENDA
JANUARY 15-17, 2010

Friday, January 15

- 1 - 6PMRegistration
- 2PMAdvisory Meeting
- 1- 4PMCommittee Meetings as Requested by Chairman

Saturday, January 16

- 7 - 9AMBuffet Breakfast
- 8AMElks Camp Barrett Meeting
- 8AM - NoonRegistration
- 9AM - NoonPresentations & Committee Reports
 Hon. Priscilla A. Schwab ~ Grand Lodge Statutes
 Dave Wolcott ~ Government Relations Report
 Richard F. Gathen ~ Public Relations Area 2 Chairman
- 11:45AMAnnouncements & Recess at Noon Until 9:30 A.M., Sunday
- NoonLunch
- 1 - 3PMJim Stewart ~ Officer's Training
- 1 - 3PMHon. Paul D. Helsel, P.G.E.R. Meeting with the District Deputies
- 1 - 3PMTrustees Meeting - Gordon Alexander, Chairman
- 6 - 7PMCocktail Reception
- 7 - 8PMDinner (Business Suits / Coat & Tie)
- 8PMSpecial Awards

Sunday, January 17

- 7 - 9:30AMBuffet Breakfast
- 8 - 10AMRegistration
- 9:30AMMeeting Called to Order
 Officer's Reports
 Finish committee Reports
 Unfinished Business
 New Business
 Good of the Order
- 12 NoonClosing

Next Meeting - Spring Workshop
March 19-21, 2010
GER Visit - Annapolis Lodge #622





Winfred "Bike" Simms and Rick Konrad at the Company Deployment Ceremony in July in Harrington, DE.

Salisbury Elks #817 Adopt-a-Veteran – Active Duty Program

12/3/2009

Dear Friends,

We will be shipping our care packages to Winfred "Bike" Simms of Army National Guard Unit 262 Component Repair Company by the end of the week. There was \$55 donated in cash to offset postage costs. Any extra monies will be used to offset the costs of the Elks Holiday Card and Phone Cards to the Troops Program in which we will send personalized holiday cards and phone cards to a group of Airmen deployed in Afghanistan.

We ended up with three large boxes of items which included shampoo, deodorant, powders, food snacks, razors, canned goods, Chap Stick, among many other items. I am sure Bike and his Company will appreciate these thoughts from home as they work to serve our great country.

The following people/groups deserve special thanks; Wicomico County Recreation, Parks and Civic Center Staff, Tourism Staff, Happy Timers Seniors Group, Georgia Scrivo, Elizabeth Smith, and Tammy Taylor.

On Monday, December 7 the Salisbury Elks Veterans Committee will be delivering other care packages to local veterans who are in hospitals or nursing homes.

Programs like these are the reason that the Salisbury Elks are the top Lodge in their membership division in the country. Please join me in feeling proud that we never forget our veterans at home or abroad.

Thank you,

Rick D. Konrad

Salisbury #817 PER

Grand Lodge and Maryland, Delaware & District of Columbia Elks Association Americanism Contests 2009 - 2010

ESSAY CONTEST

The American Dream: "What is it?"



POSTER CONTEST

My Favorite American Symbol

DEADLINES -

TO DISTRICT CHAIRMAN BY JANUARY 25, 2010

- SE Michael O. Dietz
207 S. Main Street
Bridgeville, DE 19923 302-337-0337
- NC Pat Larkins
8098 Savage Guilford Rd.
Jessup, MD 20794 301-725-3121
- NE Jeffery Spatz
11089 Dover Dr.
Lincoln, DE 19960 302-242-3299
- W Tracy D. Harvey
24 Laurel Brook Dr.
Oakland, MD 21550 301-387-2038
- SW Morgan Brown
9504 Victoria Dr.
Upper Marlboro, MD 301-785-7451



TO STATE CHAIRMAN BY FEBRUARY 5, 2010

The State Americanism Awards Program will be held in February at Frederick Lodge 684 in conjunction with the State Hoop Shoot Program.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States when men were free." President Ronald Reagan once said these words. Our military heroes are the keepers of this freedom. It is our job as members to teach the people of this land how important it is to support them. We can meet this challenge by educating our youth to have pride in their country, to teach them respect for the Flag. We must also promote patriotism by presenting flags to schools, the community, and youth groups. Your participation in the Americanism contests and programs will assure that this goal is carried forward.

MARY CARDINAL-VOGT
STATE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN

Government Relations

While the presentation topics at the Grand Lodge Seminar were not entirely gloom and doom, the information provided was a sobering wake-up of the evolving role of the Government Relations Committee. Monitoring legislation and establishing rapport with our legislators are still primary functions of this committee, but it is becoming very evident that there is a need to place a much stronger emphasis on Public Relations and proper Lodge management practices in our efforts. Constant reminders to our legislators of our good works, community involvement and volunteer programs not only increase our positive image but also provide excellent credibility when we need to go to them and ask for support. Our Annual Report is a very useful tool in talking with our legislators and it contains a lot of impressive numbers, but what is more impressive is when we can accompany that report with a handful of press clippings showing that legislator the good works our Lodges are doing in his/her district. I urge our Lodges to recognize the need to explore every avenue and use every opportunity to constantly get the good works of Elksdom out to the public; we are proud of what we do and getting recognition for our charity is not polishing our egos, it's good business. To maintain our image and our credibility it is also important for our Lodges to be constantly aware of our responsibility to function as a private, fraternal organization. While we strive to increase our visibility in our communities, we cannot afford the damage negative publicity will do to our efforts. We cannot be considered just another public accommodation and must constantly review our guest policies. I know this sounds like a broken record but once again remember the 11th Commandment - **Thou Shall Not Sell To A Non-Elk!**

Internal Revenue Service Audits and the steps a Lodge can take to make it at least as painless as possible was the major presentation at the seminar. The information provided on the reasons, procedures and outcome of an audit is too extensive to even think of including in this report, but too important not to present to the Lodges. An overview of this presentation will be provided at this workshop and plans are being made to provide a more detailed presentation to the Lodges. It is strongly suggested that in the meantime the Lodges review their accounting practices with their accountant for compliance with IRS requirements for 501 (c) (8) entities, the information on IRS Examinations previously sent to the Lodges, and the Subordinate Lodge Auditing and Accounting manual. It is painfully evident that the possibility of an audit is not a matter of "if" but "when", and the best way to lessen the impact of an audit is, once again, to be zealous of protecting our private, fraternal status.

I would also like to remind everyone of the absolute necessity of staying current in entering Charitable Records information. This can now be done electronically in CLMS but this option is of no benefit if the information does not get to the Lodge Secretary. Again, we have done the work now let's do our jobs and take the time to accurately describe it so we can take credit for it. Accurate compilations of our charitable efforts are vital to the Government Relations/Public Relations collaboration and should not be considered an option, but a responsibility.

I look forward to providing further detail on these and other topics at our Saturday session.

One more time, let's do our jobs and KIP - Keep It Private.

Dave Wolcott, Chairman
Government Relations Committee

RITUAL REPORT - January, 2010

We had a Ritual Clinic at Annapolis on November 8. It was well attended and several judges got recertified. We are planning more of these clinics, but dates and locations were not settled when this was written. I hope to have dates at the meeting.

Instead of having a Word Checker Clinic at this meeting as we have in the past, we are now doing them at a lodge on different days. This gives us more time to do the training properly. Our first one was at Frederick on November 7.

We had 4 new people pass the test for certification. The next one will be held at Salisbury on Saturday February 13. It will start at 1 pm and last 2 to 3 hours. Anyone interested should plan to attend.

The state contest will be on March 7 at Milford. We will draw for starting times at this conference. The District winners were

not available at press time, but will be announced during my report. The same is true for the District Top Officers.

The Committee thanks all of the lodges that were judged in this year's contest. The Southeast, as always, led the way with all 10 lodges participating. We recommend that all lodges, even if they have one or more readers, submit to judging. Keep in mind that participation in the District Ritual Contest is worth points in the All American Lodge Contest as well as for Grand Lodge certificates for Exalted Rulers and Lodges.

And in conclusion, remember that we are, and will always be, "One Nation under God!"

Dick Fleck, State Chairman

Abingdon Elks Lodge 2354 awarded \$1000 Grant from Walmart



Pictured above: Gail Baxendell, of Walmart #1968 presents A check for \$1,000 payable To the Elks National Fund through Abingdon Elks #2354. Elks Officers left to right include: Rae Vasold, Ron Vasold, Bob Baxendell, Kathy La Martina, Doug Kadolph and Bob Noel.

The Elks Lodge #2354 of Abingdon Maryland was recently awarded a \$1000 grant from Walmart in Aberdeen Maryland. Exalted Ruler Bob Baxendell reported that these funds will be channeled to the Elks National Foundation through this local Elks Lodge. Said Baxendell: "Our Lodge and specifically the Elk's National Foundation met the criteria for Walmart's grant. Walmart selectively accepts application for such grants from organizations meeting its standards. In this case the Elks National Foundation is among the largest single providers of college scholarships to deserving students in the country."

He continued; "Any high school senior who is a citizen of the United States is eligible to apply. Applicants do not need to be related to a member of the Elks. Males and females compete separately, and are judged on scholarship, leadership and financial need."

Tens of thousands of outstanding high school seniors will compete for this year's scholarships through the Elks National Foundation's MVS scholarship contest. The 500 national winners will be announced mid-May 2010.

Grand Lodge Activities State Association Committee 2009–2010 Programs

To All Exalted Rulers and Committee Chairman:

The Holidays are over and I hope you and your lodge have celebrated and enjoyed them.

A short time remains on your term and the challenge of meeting the deadlines for the various GL contests is drawing near. Please recheck the GL Programs Brochure, which was provided to you in our State Association Bulletin at the Fall Conference in Ocean City, MD for the remaining contests and awards. Most of these contests have a March 15th deadline for participation.

Now is a good time to put forth that extra burst of energy to insure that you, your Committee and Lodge will have experienced a fantastic year.

All this should culminate in your Lodge participating in the **ALL-AMERICAN LODGE CONTEST -CONTEST “A”**; by being the best Lodge statewide out of all the contenders in your membership division. This is no small accomplishment and I look forward and hope that your lodge will participate in this program.

The ALL STATE ALL AMERICAN LODGE AWARDS will be presented at the State Convention in June at Hagerstown. I encourage you to complete and get Contest “A” Certification to your District Deputy by March 15th.

All District Deputies must get their lodge winning inputs to me No Later Than April 1, 2010.

I am certain that with your support and encouragement, your Lodge and our State Association will achieve our Grand Exalted Rule James L. Nicholson’s slogan, **“Elks Make A Difference”** and our common goal of insuring **that “Elks Care...Elks Share”**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any assistance that you may need. Further, I encourage you to actively seek advice from your District State Vice Presidents, who are there to help you in these programs.

In closing I wish each of you success in your remaining months in office and I look forward to seeing you all at Winter Workshop at Havre de Grace Lodge No. 1564 Lodge.

Lastly, let me you remind you that we all can accomplish, "Success Through Teamwork".

Sincerely and fraternally,

Carl F. Vogt

State Lodge Activities Chairman