



Maryland, Delaware AND District of Columbia Elks Association News

A Fraternal Organization

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
United States of America



Official Publication



JUNE 2015



Dave Wolcott
State President

Message from the State President

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone to Solomons for the 95th State Convention of the MD, DE and DC Elks Association. It is indeed an honor to have as our guests this weekend the President of the New Jersey State Elks Association Richard Tabachuk and his wife Linda, from Rutherford Lodge #547, and the President of the Pennsylvania State Elks Association Stanley Welsh and his wife Mary Ellen from Monongahela Lodge #455. They have all traveled some distance to be with us this weekend so please take a moment to greet them and

introduce yourself. We are also honored to welcome our Sponsor, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Hesel and his delightful wife Jane from Newark, Delaware Lodge #2281.

It is apparent that this past year was somewhat disjointed for me for a couple of reasons that I will discuss further in this message. I will say that everywhere that I traveled I was awed and impressed by the enthusiasm and creativity that our Lodges employ to implement our programs and present them in their communities. I must extend a huge thank you and my sincere appreciation to our Association officers and our State and District committee chairs for their diligence promoting these programs. While our Membership numbers were down again this year, the brakes seem to be put on that downhill train. That decline was minimized by the efforts and hard work of the Membership committee and, coupled with the hard work and efforts of our Lodges, it is apparent that we can, indeed, achieve Growth Through Service.

For the second year in a row 35 of our 38 Lodges surpassed the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal for ENF and 19 of our Lodges surpassed my goal of \$8.00 per Member. Our Youth Activities programs are robust as evident by the successes of the Hoop Shoot and the Soccer Shoot as well as the increased activity with our Scouting program and the outstanding work with the Camporee. There has been a revitalization with our major project Elks Camp Barrett thanks to the dedicated efforts of all of the volunteers who exemplify what can be accomplished through teamwork. Our Scholarship, Americanism and Drug Awareness committees continue to excel in service to our youth thanks to the tireless efforts of the chairmen.

One of my goals this year was to increase our service to our veterans through implementation of the Army of Hope program and I am pleased to say that we have laid the groundwork for this effort. I am confident that our Membership will embrace this additional service to those who have served us as we continue to enforce our mantra that "As Long As there Are Veterans, The Elks Will Never forget Them.". I am also proud that we have associated with the Donate Life program and I encourage everyone to consider involvement with this potentially life-saving effort.

As I finish my term I want to extend best wishes to Jay Strong and his lovely wife Karen Olivia. I am sure that under his leadership and with his work ethics our Association will continue to prosper and

grow. Jay and Karen will be excellent representatives for our Association and I offer them all the best in their travels and visits, our leadership is in extremely capable hands.

As I close my final message I want to sincerely thank everyone for their concern and encouragement as I deal with my illness. I will continue to fight the good fight and we will see where it takes me. I also am simply overwhelmed by the display of concern and continued support as I grapple with the sudden, untimely passing of my forever sweetheart Connie. She was not only the absolute love of my life and an extremely caring and giving person but her dedication to everything we embrace as Elks should be a model for all of us. If we follow her example we will all be the better. I will always love you Connie and may you rest in peace until we meet again.

Fraternally,
Dave Wolcott

COMING EVENTS

June 14, 2015
Flag Day

July 5-9, 2015
Grand Lodge Convention
Indianapolis, IN

September 7-13, 2015
National Patriotism Week

October 2-4, 2015
Fall Conference
Ocean City, MD

October 23-31, 2015
Red Ribbon Week

November 2015
Elks Veterans Remembrance Month

December 6, 2015
Elks Memorial Service

January 15-17, 2016
Winter Workshop
Frederick Lodge #684
Frederick, MD

March 18-20, 2016
Spring Conference
Dover Lodge #1903
Dover, DE

NOTE: Lodges should refrain from scheduling conflicting events in order that their key Officers and members may attend all of these meetings.

**Maryland, Delaware and
District of Columbia
Elks Association News**
Official Publication
2015 - 2016

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95TH CONVENTION
of the
MD, DE & DC ELKS ASSOCIATION

HOLIDAY INN, SOLOMONS, MD

AGENDA ~ JUNE 12 - 14, 2015

Friday, June 12, 2014

Noon - 5 PM Registration
1:00 PM Advisory Meeting
5:30 PM State Trustees Meeting
5:00 PM ECB Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 13, 2015

7:00 - 9:00 AM. Breakfast Buffet
8:00 AM - Noon Registration
8:00 - 8:30 AM. Elks Camp Barrett Meeting
8:45 AM. Meeting Called to Order
• Welcome of our visiting guests
• Business Session
(Committee Chairs to summarize their year)
11:50 AM. Announcements
Noon Lunch
1:00 PM. 11th Hour Toast Contest
1:30-2:30 PM. State President-Elect Jay Strong meeting
with incoming Officers and State Chairs
(Open to Membership)
2:45 PM. Membership & Public Relations Seminar
7:00 PM. Dinner (Business Suit)

Sunday, June 14, 2015

7:00 - 9:30 AM. Breakfast Buffet
8:00 - 9:00 AM. Registration
9:30 AM Memorial Service
(Summer Tux for all participants)
10:15 AM. Installation of Officers for 2015 - 2016
(Summer Tux for all participants)
11:00 AM. Closing

Next Meeting:

FALL CONFERENCE
PRINCESS ROYALE - OCEAN CITY, MD
OCTOBER 2 - 4, 2015

Next Newsletter Deadline: Sept. 12, 2015

GRAND LODGE

Message from Grand Exalted Ruler: Elks take big strides in boosting membership



Grand Exalted Ruler
John D. Amen

I have some very good news to report! Through our combined efforts on the three prongs of membership - Initiations, Delinquency and Reinstatements

- we have achieved a very large reduction in our Membership decline.

Since the CLMS Membership reporting system has been operative, we have not (until now) had an annual membership loss of less than 2 percent. Our national decline in 2013-14 was 2.8 percent. Well, we almost cut that in half - to 1.6 percent - this most recent year of 2014-15.

Congratulations to all Elks who brought in one or more new Members, those who helped collect delinquent dues and those who convinced a past and unaffiliated Member to re-instate. If we continue at this rate of decline in losses, we are well on our way to a Plus-One nationally.

Thanks also go to our Grand Lodge Public Relations/Membership Guru, Brother Rick Gathen. These positive results prove that we can reduce the losses and soon have our first plus year nationally in more than 30 years.

On another matter, as I travel our nation I see more than half of the State Associations encourage the practice of wearing the color red on Fridays to show support of our

nation's military and veterans. As Elks, we can show our patriotism on any Friday by simply wearing red. It has been said that wearing red on Fridays means "Remember Everyone Deployed," but in addition to showing support for our active duty, it also means remembering our veterans.

The red on Marcia's First Lady pin and my GER pin is intended to remind us of the sacrifices of our troops and our veterans.

Thank you for your great support and hospitality on our state visits.

See you on the road!

John D. Amen
Grand Exalted Ruler



Paul D. Helsel
PGER & Sponsor

Welcome to the 95th Annual Convention of the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association here in Solomon's Island, Maryland.

As usual at our annual convention, we are again pleased to have

with us the President of the New Jersey State Elks Association, Rich Tabachuk and his wife Linda, and the President of the Pennsylvania Elks State Association, Stanley Welsh and his wife Mary Ellen. Please join me in extending them a warm welcome, as well as showing them our traditional and outstanding Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elk hospitality.

While this past year was marked with a number of unusual and tragic situations, the report card for the year will show that the dedicated Elks of Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia pulled together to make it another outstanding year for our Association. Thank you to all the dedicated Elks, spouses and family members that exhibited dedication, love, and compassion for our Association, as well as one another and worked tirelessly to achieve the many accomplishments we can now celebrate. A special thanks to our State President Dave Wolcott who has persevered through the many adversities presented to him, showing us all true dedication and love for our Order

and each other. A job well done Dave and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you!!

The past year we made strides to improve our declining membership - we reduced our losses but haven't turned the corner to the plus side just yet. A special thanks to the lodges that have turned the corner and are showing a gain in their membership numbers. Membership will continue to be #1 priority in 2015/2016 - if you are not already doing so, start working on membership growth and retention today! The tools and know-how to make your lodge and this Association successful in this effort are available to you - use them and let's get membership on a continuous upward trend in every lodge. An upward trend in membership will yield other positive results in your lodge, the

Association, and our Order as well.

The 2015/2016 year has all the makings of being another great year for our Association, but it will take all of us working together with increased dedication and a coordinated goal to improve and grow ourselves, our lodges, our Association, and our Order.

Best wishes to all for a most enjoyable Convention weekend, best wishes to incoming State President Jay Strong and his officers and committee personnel, and best wishes to all of our 38 lodges for a most successful 2015/2016 year.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Paul D. Helsel
PGER & Sponsor

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT VP REPORT



Julie Hasson
NC District VP

elected Michael Greaver as our new 2 Year Trustee, Rich Hasson as our new 2

As this year closes it amazes me how fast it has gone. It has been a great pleasure to visit each and every lodge. I had the pleasure of attending the April DD Clinic and having my Caucus afterwards. We

year ECB Executive Committee Member and Stu Burgoon as our new Vice President for the upcoming year. I am looking forward to this Workshop and watching all of the incoming Officers be Installed. It has been a great year for me and I wish all the best to the new Vice President. I am sure that he will have as good a year as I did. Thank you all for the support and knowledge that you have passed on to me. It made my year so much easier.

Fraternally,
Julie Hasson

Message from the President-Elect:



Jay V. Strong, Jr.
President-Elect

You may not realize it yet, but this is an exciting time to be an Elk in the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association.

The Association Leaders are more aware than ever of the vital role they can play as mentors

to Association Officers and other volunteers. At the same time, the Officers and other volunteers are more aware of the mentoring resources available to them, and more open to that very constructive and positive process. It was Past State President Carl Vogt who brought mentoring into high profile for us, showing us how to do it, and why. Thank you Carl, for this very important contribution.

You'll be hearing about "Donate Life" from Dana Gourlay, who will be chairing that new Committee for us. This is a new initiative aimed at making more organ donations available to save more lives, and improving the lives of some who have lost the use of part of their "original equipment." What better way to practice Brotherly Love?

The Army of Hope is coming to our Association. This is a new and very much needed way to assist the families of deceased service persons, or service persons who have sustained crippling injuries. When you learn more about this wonderful program from TP

Simons, our newly minted Army of Hope Chairman, and Robert "Bobby" McIntyre, our Elks National Veterans Service Commission Chairman, I think you'll be eager to support the Army of Hope, if not join and become a part of it!

A new, comprehensive leadership training program is under construction, that has the potential to help Lodge Officers and Association Officers become more effective in their roles, and confident in the actions they take and decisions they make. This training will incorporate concepts and ideas that have had proven results in other Associations, and we'll all be better because of it. You'll be hearing more about this from Trent Manson, our new Elks Training Chairman.

We have President Dave Wolcott to thank for all three of these initiatives; he saw the need, and he took the necessary actions to make them happen. We are deeply in debt to Dave for what he has given us here. Be sure to thank him the next time you see him.

Our Vice Presidents, Stu Burgoon from Serverna Park Lodge No. 2482 in the North Central, Bobby McIntyre from Newark Lodge No. 2281 in the North East, George Tunncliff from Kent Island Lodge No. 2576 in the South East, Ted Keen from Deale Lodge No. 2528 in the South West, and Scott McKnight from Frederick Lodge No. 684 in the West will be conducting a comprehensive survey of all Lodges between now and 31 December. This is the opportunity to have the voices of our Lodges, all of them, heard. What are the most effective techniques for attracting new mem-

bers, and minimizing lapsation? What do the Lodges want, what do they expect, what do they need from our Association? How can the Association be improved, so that it is more relevant, more useful to the Lodges? How can the State Association be oriented toward providing the best possible service to our "customers," the Lodges? These are some of the things the Association needs to know.

The survey will take time, and it may not be easy. If it were quick and easy, it would be superficial and likely not very helpful. We want to hear not just from those who are already "on board" with what the Association is trying to do, but also those who have not yet perceived genuine value in the Association. As the saying goes: "If you're happy with us, tell your friends; if you're not happy with us, tell us!" So give the survey the time it will take, and help make the case for the changes you would like to see.

Finally, now and always, remember that we have been charged to "...always practice brotherly love..." Think of a tree as the metaphor for Elkdom. Think about the branches of that tree as "Charity," "Fidelity," and "Justice." Think about the roots as "Brotherly Love." Think about how important the roots are to the tree, and all that the roots do for the tree. Now you have an idea why the motto for this year is: "Brotherly Love - the Roots of Elkdom"

Fraternally
Jay V. Strong, Jr.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT VP REPORT

The saying is that time flies when you are having fun, and I have found that to be true. It is hard to believe that my year as the North East District Vice President has come to an end. Words are not really adequate to express my thanks for the confidence placed in me when I was elected, and for the hospitality shown me as I visited the Lodges in our District.

The North East District caucus was conducted in April, and members elected Robert McIntyre (Newark Lodge #2281) as Vice President, David Reihl (Chestertown Lodge #2474) to the Trustees, and re-elected Gerald Emerick (Chestertown Lodge #2474) to the Camp Barrett Executive Committee. These three very capable

people are assets to the State Association, and will work in and represent our District well. Congratulations to all!

Since the last report, I have visited Milford Lodge #2401 and Wilmington Lodge #307. The Milford Lodge visit coincided with their election of Officers. They were also working on a fund-raising event that would assist a local family with their quest for a handicapped equipped van. At Wilmington Lodge, fourteen new members were initiated. The members of Wilmington are working on a second annual Jamison Heart Raiser. This family friendly event raises money for "heart disease" causes, and last year they raised approximately \$15,000.00. Wow.

Over the past year, I have travelled more than 2,600 miles; attending fundraisers, veterans' events, the North East District soccer shoot, the State Ritual competition, Camp Barrett meetings, workshops and Lodge meetings, learning something new at each stop. I have found that in their own way each Lodge in our Great North East District exemplifies President Wolcott's Motto for this year - Growth through Service!

Thank you again and I look forward to working with all our Lodges and their hard working members again next year.

Fraternally,
Patti Gray

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT VP REPORT



Wayne Becraft
SE District VP

It has been a fast paced year with many exciting moments and a few sad moments.

Since my last report I have attended the Spring Conference at Easton Lodge #1622 which was attended by our Grand Exalted Ruler John D. Amen and

the First Lady Marcia Amen.

I completed my scheduled visits in March 2015 with Ocean City, Salisbury and Pocomoke City Lodges.

I also was honored to participate in the Installation of Officers at Cambridge Lodge #1272 and wish to congratulate the 2015-2016 Officers, lead by Exalted Ruler Dan Kane.

I held my Vice President's Caucus at our District Deputies April 12th clinic at Ocean City Lodge. I congratulate those who will help direct this Association, South East Vice President, George Tunnicliff from Kent Island Lodge #2576, South East Trustee, John Mackenzie from Crisfield Lodge #1044 and Camp Barrett Executive Committee for the South East, Wayne Becraft, Cape Henlopen Lodge #2540.

I attended the first Sneak a Peak Luncheon at Elks Camp Barrett on April 11th for new Exalted Rulers, Esteemed Leading Knights

and Camp Representatives. Over 70 turned out for this event. Congratulations to Angela Meyer, Interim Chairperson of the Executive Committee and her helpers in making this happen..

I wish to thank each of the 10 Lodges in the South East District for a great year and for your warm welcomes each time I visited.

I also wish to thank our President David Wolcott for his guidance during this past year.

I like to take this opportunity to also thank the South East District Leaders for their direction.

I have logged 780 miles and 32 hours of travel and Lodge visit time.

Fraternally,
Wayne Becraft

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT VP REPORT



Charles Spadone
SW District VP

Greetings from the Southwest District. I have completed all of my visitations, the last 2 being Calvert and Washington Rockville. Calvert lodge is to be commended for their participation in the Americanism Essay and Poster Contest.

This year they had a first place winner in poster contest. They have raised money for the Jernick Fund, participate in ELKS Camp Barrett, conduct once a month dinners for Veterans at Charlotte Hall as well as making weekly visitations and supporting the computer lab. They provide support for a local boy scout troop and support an annual

Blue and Gold Dinner for Boxcar derby (small cars) participants. They reported a recent trend in younger members joining the lodge which is something we are all striving for. They continue to conduct annual Christmas parties for youth, have an active motorcycle club within the lodge and they have Initiated several social events including electronic bowling, game night on Friday, cornhole tournament and card games with intent to increase participation and to provide opportunities for bringing guests/potential members to the lodge. They also have an active ENF program and are to be commended for exceeding the GER goal and applying for grants to support their programs. I challenged them to consider participation in the All American lodge contest A this year as well as Hoop Shoot.

Washington Rockville lodge continues to exceed the GER and State Association goals

for ENF and are the leading lodge in the Southwest District for per capita contributions. They are also taking advantage of grants available to lodges who exceed the GER per capita goal. They continue to participate in Hoop Shoot, Veterans programs, scholarship program, and perform a variety of programs geared towards youth in their community including participation in ELKS Camp Barrett. I encouraged them to participate in the All American lodge contest A this year and for both lodges I encouraged them to seek opportunities to partner with other civic and fraternal organizations to gain a larger footprint in their communities and to create more potential for membership growth.

Respectfully,
Charles A. Spadone



The winner of the E.C.B. 50/50 Raffle held at Easton on March 22, 2015 was Tom Coyle from Waldorf Lodge No. 2421. Total intake was \$785.00. The winner received \$393.00 and the Camp received \$392.00.

Thanks to everyone that purchased tickets and please buy some more for this weekend's Raffle.

Sincerely,
E.C.B. & The Table Ladies

WEST DISTRICT VP REPORT

Wow, what a year this has been for me. By the time we gather at Solomons Island for our state convention, I will have traveled over 11,000 miles this past year representing the West District.

I would like to thank the West District for allowing me to represent you all this past year as your Vice President. It has been a confidence booster and growing experience for me and I have gotten pretty good about navigating my way around not only the West District but getting around Maryland. I have really enjoyed my year as your vice president and getting to know you. If you have any events in the future, please keep me in mind and I will try to attend.

All of the Lodges in the West followed all of the Grand Lodge programs: meeting the Grand's ENF goal; conducting a Hoop Shoot and some of the Lodges participated in the Soccer Shoot; and awarding scholarships. I know the Lodges are planning events for the upcoming year and I will try to attend what I can. I am not sure how the West finished with membership but I think that Westminster, Frostburg and maybe Oakland were close to plus numbers.

Thank you again for giving me such a great opportunity.

Fraternally,
Dana Gourlay

MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ELKS ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS



PRINCESS ROYALE HOTEL
9100 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842
OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 4, 2015

RESERVATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST - UNFORTUNATELY NO EXCEPTIONS

1. Weekend Package

Includes two nights Ocean/Pool View Suite on October 2 and October 3, Saturday Evening's "USO - The Early Years" Americana Dinner Buffet and Entertainment. Also included are Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Double Occupancy: \$384.00 Ocean Front - Add \$66.00
Single Occupancy: \$314.00

2. Individual Room Rates

One Night \$122.00 Ocean Front - Add \$33.00 per night
Two Nights \$244.00

3. Dinner Only - (Advanced reservations only - no tickets will be sold at the door)

One person \$38.00
Two persons \$76.00

4. Registration Fee: \$5.00 per person (List names for credentials below)

Total amount due this reservation based upon above selections: \$_____



KING BED

TWO QUEENS

(BASED UPON AVAILABILITY)

Enclose payment with reservation and check payable to MD, DE and DC Elks Association:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State Zip: _____
Telephone : _____ Email: _____
Lodge: _____
Badge #1 Name _____ Badge #2 Name: _____

MAIL TO:
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STATE RITUAL COMPETITION

1st PLACE



DOVER LODGE #1903

Pictured left to right: Doug King - Candidate, Kathy King - Lecturing Knight, Connie deYoung - Chaplain, Marv Solomon - Leading Knight, Linda Velez - Exalted Ruler, Nancy Wallace - Inner Guard, Steve White - Esquire and Doris Solomon - Loyal Knight

2nd PLACE



NEWARK LODGE #2281

Back row L to R: Dan Monte Carlo - Candidate, Anita Viola - Lecturing Knight, Bob Harrity - Loyal Knight, Dahl Landers - Inner Guard, Kathleen Bradley - Leading Knight; Front row L to R.. Serge Yow - Esquire, Margie McIntyre - Exalted Ruler, Valerie Huot - Chaplain

RITUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Congratulations to Dover Lodge 1903 for their hard work and for an excellent rendition of the Ritual.

This years' team consisted of:

- EXALTED RULER LINDA VELEZ, 91.273
- LEADING KNIGHT MARV SOLOMON, 92.998
- LOYAL KNIGHT DORIS SOLOMON, 92.176
- LECTURING KNIGHT KATHY KING, 92.428
- ESQUIRE STEVE WHITE, 90.055
- CHAPLAIN CONNIE DE YOUNG, 95.108
- INNER GUARD NANCY WALLACE, 86.783
- CANDIDATE DOUGLAS KING
- COACH JEFF CARLSON
- ASSISTANT COACH SUSAN CONLOGUE

Dover Lodge 1903 will represent the MD, DE, & DC Elks Association in Indianapolis, IN on Saturday, July 4th at 1:00 PM.

Those who may be going out early, please support them.

Larry Mathers, PDD
State Chairman



TERRI LYNN NUT CAMPAIGN

It's time to get started thinking about Christmas baking, gifts and just enjoying a good bag of nuts. I am taking orders now and will have them delivered to our October Workshop held in Ocean City.

For those who do not know, the nuts can be frozen and are just as fresh when taken out of the freezer as when they went in.

Please pick up a brochure and order form at the Camp Barrett 50/50 table and place an order or, even better, take the form back to your Lodge and get orders. The money and orders are due to me by August 1st. The reason the money is due up front is I have to pay for them up front unlike the candy bars that are paid after.

I ask that if you take a brochure please leave me your email address or phone number so I can send out a reminder in July since it is a long selling time.

Let's make money for Elks Camp Barrett. Thank you in advance for your support.

Hilda Davis

Camp Barrett's 2015 Elks Family Picnic

The MD, DE, DC Elks Association State Major Project, Elks Camp Barrett got to show off her spiffy new pavilion and face lift at the 2015 Elks Family Picnic. Elk's members from all over the Association with their families, came to enjoy a day of Good Food, Great Fun and Warm Fellowship at the Camp. A wonderful time was had by all. In addition to the new pavilion and widespread remodeling projects, picnic goers got to enjoy some new picnic activities too. This year, Picnic Committee Chairman, Mike Greene and his team, added pony rides, a petting zoo, ice cream sundaes, a cake auction and a corn hole tournament to our already fun-filled schedule of events. The new pavilion stood proudly over the crowd during its re-dedication in memory of Bob Hearn. Mrs. Hearn and fellow Severna Park Lodge members were there to witness the unveiling of the new sign.

The food was once again exceptional with the pit beef and corn on the cob stealing the show. The hamburgers and hot dogs as always, were first rate and plentiful. We thank the good Lord for the undeniably wonderful weather and the amazing attendance of over 740 adults and their children (approximately 950 people total).

There are so many people who helped this year with our seemingly endless list of picnic preparations, projects and activities - far too many to recognize individually. ECB wishes to thank each and every one of you. Great things don't happen by chance and our picnic could not have happened without everyone who helped out. From our State Association leadership, ECB Executive committee members, Camp representatives, and Camp staff, to our Local lodges, Elk members, Friends and Family. Thank you all for making this year's picnic a great one.

Special recognition was given to Don Kirk, Windsor Electric for his generous donations to camp remodeling projects, and Mike Greaver, Gem Construction for his exceptional work on the pavilion.

Pavilion project co-chairs, Stu Kerr and Stu Burgoon were also recognized for their efforts on behalf of our camp. Picnic Chairman, Mike Greene, recognized Judi Mcknight for a great job in the organization of the kitchen, food and volunteers for this year's picnic. The ECB Executive committee and picnic chairman sought to find a special way to thank every volunteer as we believe selflessness deserves special recognition. No plaque or certificate seemed appropriate, so this year to recognize and honor our volunteers and supporters, the 2014-2015 Gratitude Garden was created. This year the Campers will be having some new and special activities included in their camp program. One of the classes is healthy outdoor cooking with herbs. The children will not only plant a perennial herb garden but will use some of the herbs in the meals they will be learning to prepare. The Gratitude garden will be centerpiece to this project and reflects the deep felt gratitude we feel for all of our volunteers.

The picnic closed with joy and song and a solemn remembrance of just what Memorial Day is all about. Thank you to all who attended and Elks Camp Barrett is looking forward to seeing everyone next year at the picnic.

Angela Meyer



DRUG AWARENESS

Welcome to the State Convention! I would like to thank all lodges for their dedication in educating our parents and youth on the dangers of drug use this past year.

According to the report I received as of March 15th many lodges are still not reporting their activities. I am asking Exalted Rulers to please work closely with their chairman and secretary to make sure your events are reported to Grand Lodge this year.

At our dinner this weekend we are fortunate to have with us Deputy First Class Jennifer Hall, our Enrique S. Camarena Award winner. Please take the time to thank her for her dedication.

There will be a General Drug Awareness Training Session at the Grand Lodge Convention again this year. The National Drug Awareness Program will be hosting a two hour program available to all Elks which will feature Marvel Comic, Henry Lozano, Enrique Camarena winner, and

many others. The training session will be on Monday July 6th. It will be held in the Wabash Ballroom 1.

It will cover everything you wanted and need to know about the Elks DAP. Please plan on attending this important session, if you will be at the Grand Lodge Convention.

We will again this year be providing a Drug Awareness program at Camp Barrett each week of the camping season. I would love some help on Wednesday evenings; as the program has been changed so the campers will be more involved with experiencing the effects of alcohol use and I am asking for your help. If interested in coming one week please see me this weekend.

Once again, Thank You, it is because of each of you that our Drug Awareness program is growing and information is getting out to our youth.

Sincerely,
Cindy Taylor
State Chair



DOVER ELKS DRUG DROP BOX EFFORTS WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Drug Awareness is one of the cornerstones of Elks Nationwide. Recently, Dover Elks Lodge #1903, through a grant from the National Elks Association and the drug box manufacturers, purchased secure drug drop boxes for Dover, Camden and Smyrna Police Departments.

In the first week Dover P.D.'s Drop Box netted 60 pounds of prescription drugs. The three locations are open 24 hours and convenient for the public. To promote awareness and collect the drugs the Lodge has placed pamphlets regarding the collection sites in local funeral homes and nursing homes. With this exposure we should cover all of Kent County.

Prescription drugs are the No. 1 Killer of Kids.



Pictured from L-R: John Ramsey, Lodge Drug Awareness Chair, Dick Cook, Committee Member; Chief Paul Bernat, Dover; Cpl. Marcus Whitney, Camden P.D.; and Cpl. Brandon Dunning, Smyrna P.D.



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

HOW IS THE ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION HELPING MARYLAND, DELAWARE & DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA?

When you give to the Elks National Foundation, you're doing more than funding the Elks National Drug Awareness and Hoop Shoot programs. You're doing more than supporting the Community Investments Program and providing Emergency Educational Grants to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks. You're doing more than maintaining the Elks Veterans Memorial.

You're doing all that, *and* you're supporting Elkdom in *your* state.

During the 2014-15 Lodge year, the Elks of Maryland, Delaware & District of Columbia donated \$174,990.76 to the Elks National Foundation. This year, the Foundation will give back the following:



These grants help fund your state's major charitable project, as well as other philanthropic projects. Portions of these grants will also support your state's Drug Awareness Program, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot and educational programs.

State Charities Grant: \$120,890.00

Special Projects Grant: \$98,930.00

Bonus Grant: \$27,370.00



We will award a total of **fifteen** Most Valuable Student scholarships to high school seniors from your state. In addition, we will award up to **six** Legacy Awards scholarships to children, grandchildren or stepchildren of Elks.

Most Valuable Student: \$60,000.00

Legacy Award: \$24,000.00



These funds will help Veterans Service volunteers provide care and comfort to hospitalized and homeless veterans.

**National Veterans Service
Commission: \$14,400.00**

Grand Total: \$345,590.00

That's a ratio of **\$1.97** for every dollar the Foundation received from your state last year. And that doesn't even include the money Lodges in your state will get back through our **Community Investments Program**. For the 2014-15 fiscal year, for example, we awarded a total of **\$105,500.00** to **thirty** Maryland, Delaware & District of Columbia Lodges.

**Mary E. Cardinal-Vogt
ENF State Chairman**

On behalf of the ENVSC Representatives and myself, I would like to welcome our honored guests from New Jersey and Pennsylvania and all our members to the MD, DE & DC Elks Association State Convention being held in Solomons Island with the beautiful background of the Chesapeake Bay and Southern Maryland. I would like to extend my congratulations to our incoming State President, Jay Strong, President-elect, Connie deYoung and our new District Vice Presidents, together with the newly appointed State Officers for the year 2015-2016. I would like to congratulate our soon-to-be Past State President, Dave Wolcott, for a job well done and express my deepest sympathy for the passing of our First Lady, Connie. It was a privilege to work with Dave and the State Association, and I am pleased to continue as the Chairman of ENVSC for another year. I have enjoyed working with our VAVS Representatives and being involved with our Veterans.

The accomplishments of the past year were many. Our Lodges and Representa-

tatives sponsored Veteran Appreciation and Remembrance Dinners, hosted Pizza Parties, Bingo, Welcome Home Events, Carnivals and a Day at the Races for our

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS
SERVICE COMMISSION



SERVING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Veterans at our VA Facilities.

This spring our VA Representatives Mike Ford and H. Lee Davis invited 30 Veterans from the Perry Point and Lock Raven VAMC to attend a Veterans Appreciation Dinner at Essex Lodge. The Veterans from Perry Point arrived at Essex Lodge by bus, escorted by Mike Ford and 10 Elk Motorcycle Riders and 20 non-Elk Riders. Abingdon Lodge also invited Veterans to

their Lodge for a picnic with fun and games. Newark Lodge manned a booth at the Wilmington VAMC Carnival and provided refreshments and toiletry items to all Veterans in attendance. Newark's Booth won a 1st Place Blue Ribbon Prize for best decorated.

I am very excited about the soon-to-be added sub-committee under the umbrella of ENVSC, "The Army of Hope", which will be Chaired by T.P. Simons. The Army of Hope will be reaching out to assist and aid the families of our fallen heroes and our wounded warriors. It is the hope of the Committee to present the Mission Statement at our Fall Conference in Ocean City.

I would like to thank all the ENVSC Reps and District Chairmen for the great job they all did this past year. As we begin a new year, it is my hope that we can increase our good works for the veterans and continue to increase the awareness of all that we, as Lodges and members, do on their behalf

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Bob McIntyre, Chairman



Bob Baxendell
STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

FROM YOUR STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Membership:

**"HAPPY MEMBERSHIP
NEW YEAR!"**



It's hard to believe that another fraternal year has passed by. It's appropriate that I share some highlights of our Membership results for the past year. We have continued to be challenged with all aspects of what could grow membership. The good news is that, collectively, we have done much better in certain areas. These gains served to reduce losses in what was still a negative result in total. The total Association results show a net loss of 393 Members or 1.97% of our total at the beginning of the year. However; between the lines; this year's result, weighed against the five year average shows that we have indeed performed much better! So how did it

happen? Well; 13 Lodges (1/3 of the Association) had actual positive growth for the year. Many of these Lodges did it with a super effort in the final weeks of the year. Kent Island lead the way gaining 42 Members for the year. It came through aggressive recruiting, effective orientation, and significant lapsation recovery. Certainly there are other success stories among us which deserve recognition; and I will have all the appropriate awards to present in our Saturday session.

So as we assemble this weekend with a fresh group of attending ER's; it's time to look in the mirror again. From our Exalted Rulers, through all the Chairs, and even through all the committee chairs: Will you do all you can to recruit and retain membership? Will you have an active Public

Relations effort to increase visibility and attract Members? Will you screen applicants carefully so that this year's recruits are not next year's Lapsation? Will you conduct an effective orientation with every incoming candidate to give them a true picture of Elkdom? Will you make every effort possible to: seek out reinstatements, to recover Lapsations, and moreover overcome the root issues that lead to Lapsation? Will you have an active Membership committee; and lastly a Standing Relief Committee?

Your results will show your commitment. Along with your District Chairs; I stand ready to help.

Bob Baxendell
State Membership Chair

State Scholarship Committee

This year the Elks National Foundation launched new programs. During the 2015 Most Valuable Student contest, Lodges claimed 19,257 MVS applications, Five hundred were selected and competed for a chance to attend the MVS Leadership week-end in Chicago April 24-26, 2015. Twenty students were selected out of the five hundred and automatically received a \$20,000 scholarship. Their trip to Chicago gave them the opportunity to compete for \$30,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000. This trip offered Elk scholars the chance to get to know other scholars and serve a local community in the

name of the Elk family. .

Congratulations to Megan McCully for being one of the twenty scholars selected to receive a \$20,000 MVS scholarship and a trip to Chicago. She was sponsored by Easton Lodge #1622.

Emergency Education Grants are offered to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks members to help with the cost of a college education. Starting with the 2015-2016 year, there are a few important updates to the Emergency Education Grant application, which is available May 1, 2015. New this year, applicants will submit their applications

directly to the Elks National Foundation Scholarship Office in Chicago. Upon receipt of the application, their office will contact the sponsoring Elks Lodge to verify parent membership and death/disability information.

For complete details about the Emergency Educational Grants, visit www.elks.org/ENF/scholars/eefgrants.cfm.

If you know of a college aged student who could benefit from this program, please email scholarship@elks.org or call 773-755-4732 to request an application.

Our State Vocational Scholarship program only had six male and nine female applications that could be judged. Some applications were incomplete and could not be judged. More publicity needs to be done to increase participation.

Edward "Pete" Peterson
State Scholarship Chairman

WORLD'S FINEST CANDY BAR CAMPAIGN

Our Worlds Finest Candy Bar Campaign is now complete thanks to all of the Lodges that participated and also anyone who purchased the candy bars. If anyone has any suggestions on how to make this campaign more of a success please contact me.

We had orders for 100 boxes. The company gave me 4 free boxes. They do this to cover the \$30.00 shipping fee and the rest to help promote the program. We had no problem selling all 104 boxes. A special thank you to John Wontrop and the Towson Lodge, they purchased three boxes of candy bars and asked that I resell them and make more money for the camp. Thank You again John and Towson Lodge.

Another special "Thank You" to Heidi Garlick from Easton Lodge for her help in making the arrangements for the candy throughout the entire weekend. Heidi was always there to lend a hand and help out in any way possible.

Our profit this year on the 104 boxes is \$ 3,390. A special "Thank You" to the following chair people.

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Annapolis Lodge #622	Mark Walp
Calvert Lodge #2620	John Curran, Mary Cardinal Vogt
Camp Springs #2332	Charles Spadone
Cape Henlopen #2540	Doris Becraft, Gary Eckenrode
Chestertown Lodge #2474	Robert Raleigh
Dover Lodge #1903	Francis Clauser, Linda Velez
Easton Lodge #1622	Dave & Connie Wolcott
Essex Lodge #1866	Marie Cavey, Lee & Hilda Davis
Frederick Lodge # 684	Della Alexander, Jack Boehmer,
	Judi McKight, Curtis Kendall
	Larry & Pat Mathers
	Patti Gray
	Darleen Bedard
	George & Pat Larkins
	Ed Pettit
	Jane Helsel, Margie McIntyre
	Carroll & Toni Wagner
	Ronald Lamont
	Bob Hurley
	Pat James
	John Wontrop
	Barbara Higgs, Diana Patton
Glen Burnie Lodge #2266	
Havre de Grace Lodge #1564	
Kent Island # 2576	
Laurel Lodge #2283	
Milford Lodge #2401	
Newark Lodge #2281	
Ocean City Lodge #2645	
Prince Georges Lodge #1778	
Salisbury Lodge # 814	
Seaford Lodge #2458	
Towson Lodge #469	
Washington/Rockville #15	

Once again this donation would not be possible without the help of those who bought, sold or helped in any way. Kudos to those who participated. See you for our next campaign which starts in January 2016

Hilda Davis

A Note from Megan

My trip to Chicago as a member of the Most Valuable Student Scholars Program was one of the most rewarding experiences I have been apart of. There, I got to meet 19 other amazing scholars equally driven and committed as me to not only improving themselves but their communities as well. Despite the short amount of time we had together, our weekend was full of amazing activities and was a once in a lifetime experience. I had the opportunity to compete in an Elks-themed scavenger hunt where I learned more about the creation of the National Elks Foundation. I also had the honor of visiting the Chicago Veterans Affairs Hospital where I was able to play trivial with and get to know the patients there. I had the opportunity to go on a dinner boat cruise with all the other scholars where I know I made some life long friends that I will continue to stay in contact with long after our trip together. My weekend with the Most Valuable Student Scholars Program was one of the most incredible trips I have been on and was a fantastic experience. Thank you so much for all you have given me. The monetary scholarship is nothing to the connections I have made through the Elks and I know they will greatly benefit me later in life as I look forward to bettering my community even more than I already have.

Megan McCulley

Americanism Report

The banquet was held on Sunday, March 29th at Westminster Elks Lodge #2277 with 73 in attendance. I want to thank Westminster Elks Lodge for hosting such a great event! I especially thank Marion Davidson, West District Chair and Mary Cardinal-Vogt, South West District Chair, and President-Elect, Jay Strong for assisting me with the presentations of awards. Each child received a certificate of appreciation from our State Association, a Wal-Mart gift card, a goodie bag and the essay winners also received a Grand Lodge Certificate and a flag. Sam Buckel and Faith Mindy Burton's essays were forwarded to Grand Lodge for judging.

I also want to thank the other district chairs, Joyce Bailey, North East District, Erin Muscarella, North Central District and Tim Corbin, South East District. Without their dedication to our State Association program and Americanism, this would not have happened.

Thank you to all of the lodges who participated, and whether you had a State winner or not, please try again next year! Let's get 100% participation next year! God Bless our children, our country and our veterans!

Sandra Brantner, PDDGER
State Americanism Chair



Pictured in the photo are in the front row: Poster winners, Sadie Chalmers, 1st, Westminster Lodge, 6-7 year olds, Bo Otto Shorter, 2nd, Abingdon Lodge, 0-3 year olds. Second row: Poster winners, Madison Hunley, 3rd, 10-13 year olds, Ethan Baker, 3rd, Calvert Lodge, 6-7 year olds, Branden Widdowson, 2nd, 10-13 year olds, Seaford Lodge, Essay Winner, Sam Buckel, 1st, Div I, Chestertown Lodge, and poster winner, Keagan Gorski, 3rd, 8-9 year olds, Severna Park Lodge. Third row: Sandra Brantner, Americanism State Chair, Poster winner, Seth Baker, 1st, 10-13 year olds, Calvert Lodge, Essay winners, Mandy Smith, 4th, Div I, Cambridge Lodge, Chassidy Redhead, 2nd, Div I, Frostburg Lodge, Faith Mindy Burton, 1st, Div II, Washington-Rockville Lodge, Kenyatta Davis, 3rd, Div I, Camp Springs Lodge, Hannah Beegle, 4th, Div I, Abingdon Lodge, Poster winner, Thomas Rickloff, 1st

Special Needs, 10-13 year olds, Chestertown Lodge, and President-Elect, Jay Strong.

Not present for photo: Div I, Essay winners, Joi Fleming, 5th, Severna Park Lodge, Div II, Kirsten Blades, 3rd, Cambridge Lodge and Lillian Cuozzo, 2nd, Div II, Oakland Lodge. Poster winners, 0-3 year olds, Chloe Muscarella, 4th, Laurel Lodge, Alex Rinta, 3rd, Frederick Lodge, Zoe Reamy, 1st, Calvert Lodge. 4-5 year olds, Lucy George, 3rd, Calvert Lodge, Mia Anderson, 2nd, Havre de Grace Lodge and Ariana Healey, 1st, Oakland Lodge. 6-7 year olds, Anthony Wright, 4th, Cambridge Lodge, and Sophia Colgan, 2nd, Abingdon Lodge. 8-9 year olds, Talan Bennett, 4th, Cambridge Lodge, Alyssa Golombeck, 2nd, Westminster Lodge and Sabriya Rigano-Cruz, 1st, Newark Lodge. Special Needs, 14-17 year olds, Nymaine Moore, Chestertown Lodge.



“What the Pledge of Allegiance Means to Me”

When I recite the Pledge in the morning, I think of all the things our nation has done for us. We are free to speak our minds and have the right to follow our dreams. You can feel the pride in the back of your throat when you say the Pledge. When I look at the stars and stripes I imagine the wars we've won, and the sacrifices our troops have made.

It makes me proud to think that I am a Boy Scout and help our nation grow.

Allegiance means loyalty, trust, and respect. As a Boy Scout and an American, I respect the freedom that I have been given. The Pledge of Allegiance makes us united as a country. It's an oath that we take at lots of places such as at schools, town meetings and even sports. It gives us the strength and pride to achieve our goals of the day.

It shows how much we love our country when we stand up and put our hand on our heart and recite the Pledge. Our nation has the strength and pride to do anything and so do you.

*Sam Buckel
Grade 5
Rock Hall Elementary School
Chestertown Elks Lodge*

Elks Camp Barrett Camper Schedule

BOYS

Week #1 June 21 – June 26
Week #2 June 28 – July 3
Week #3 July 5 – July 10

GIRLS

Week #1 July 12 – July 17
Week #2 July 19 – July 24
Week #3 July 26 – July 31

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Carl F. Vogt

This is my final report as your GR Chairman and I wish to thank those that diligently reported their Charitable Activities this past year. Please continue doing so with the newly appointed Committee Co-Chairs Tom Ohlendorf and Darleen Beddard.

As you all should be aware most politics is local, it is therefore important that your Lodge GR Chairman reports any info affecting us as a 501(c) to your State Chairman. The GL is another source for keeping up to date on what is happening and what we all need to know with regard to Government Relations. I direct you to several recent articles written by the members of the Government Relations Committee that are very informative, they are listed below and their full text may be found on the GL Website under the Government Relations Committee

Importance of government relations to our Lodges

By BRUCE A. HIDLEY, GL Government Relations Committee Member

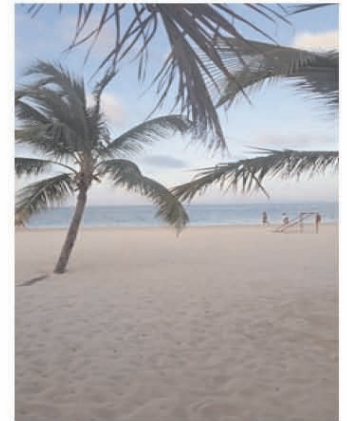
How can we use government relations in our Lodges?

By JOANN ALDRIDGE, Committee Member

Charitable Report accounts for what we do as Order

By ROBERT A. GUILLEN, Committee Member

Submitted by
Carl F. Vogt, PSP
Interim Government Relations Chairman



Elks Camp Barrett Caribbean Trip 2015

This year's Caribbean Trip by over 50 faithful Elks was another fun time for all while raising funds for Camp Barrett. It was a real pleasure to leave BWI in 40 degree weather and land in sunny Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Shown above are just a few of the happy travelers who attended along with a view of the incredible beach. This year's trip raised over \$7,000 for the Camp taking the 9 year total to nearly \$50,000. Many are already looking forward to next year's "10th Anniversary" trip which will definitely be a Special Occasion. Look for an announcement at the October Conference! The Count down begins!

QUARTERLY AUDIT REPORT

This report covers from May 1, 2014 through April 30, 2015

- 1) **State Association Ordinary Income:** Overall Income: \$77,109.27, last quarter \$44,880.47; Budgeted \$62,465 Or a remaining balance of -\$14,644.27 last quarter -\$17,584.53
- 2) **Association Other Income:** \$15,412.49, last quarter \$5,339.57; Budgeted \$7,800.00 Or a remaining balance of: +\$7,612.49 last quarter -\$2,460.43
- 3) **Camp Barrett Donation Income:** Income \$147,675.34, last quarter \$141,910.36; Budgeted \$156,040.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$3,624.30 last quarter -\$14,129.64
- 4) **Camp Barrett Fund-raises Income:** \$121,869.82 last quarter \$112,879.13 Budgeted \$122,500.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$630.18 last quarter -\$9,620.87
- 5) **Elks Camp Barrett Ordinary Income:** \$78,366.77, last quarter \$63,292.85; Budgeted \$102,500 Or a remaining balance of -\$24,133.23 last quarter -\$39,207.15
- 6) **Convention/Conference Income:** \$142,852.72, last quarter \$141,767.72; Budgeted \$148,150.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$5,297.26 last quarter -\$6,382.28
- 7) **Elks National Foundation Income:** \$248,176.36, last quarter \$248,147.55; Budgeted \$248,090.00 Or a PLUS balance of \$86.36 last quarter \$57.55

***OVERALL TOTAL INCOME:** \$831,462.77, last quarter \$758,147.65; Budgeted \$847,545.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$16,082.23 last quarter -\$89,327.35

- 1) **State Association Ordinary Expenses:** \$41,165.39, last quarter \$26,258.95; Budgeted \$63,567.53, last quarter \$62,465.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$22,402.14 last quarter -\$36,206.05
- 2) **Association Other Expense:** \$7,386.04, last quarter \$2,206.04; Budgeted \$7,800.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$413.96 last quarter -\$5,593.96
- 3) **Camp Barrett Donation Expenses:** \$0.0, last quarter \$320.00; Budgeted \$0.0. Or a remaining plus balance of \$0.0 last quarter 320.00
- 4) **Camp Barrett Fund-raises Expense:** \$91,723.02, last quarter \$90,918.02; Budgeted \$93,250.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$1,526.98 last quarter -\$2,331.98
- 5) **Camp Barrett Ordinary Expense:** \$297,298.52, last quarter \$252,935.34; Budgeted \$293,090.03, last quarter \$288,810.00 Or a remaining balance of +\$4,208.49 last quarter -\$35,874.66
- 6) **Convention/Conference Expense:** \$133,901.23, last quarter \$131,564.85; Budgeted \$141,830.00 Or a remaining balance of \$7,928.77 last quarter -\$10,265.15
- 7) **Elks National Foundation Expense:** \$225,854.22, last quarter \$196,110.62; Budgeted \$248,090.00, last quarter \$248,640.00 Or a remaining balance of -22,235.78 last quarter -\$51,979.38

OVERALL TOTAL EXPENSE: \$797,327.93, last quarter \$700,313.33; Budgeted \$827,627.56, last quarter \$842,245.00 Or a remaining balance of -50,299.53, last quarter -\$141,931.67

NOTE: Overall total Income: \$831,462.77, last quarter \$758,147.65 and, Overall total Expense: \$797,327.84, last quarter \$700,313.33 or a NET PROFIT of \$34,134.84, last quarter \$57,834.31

State Association Balance Sheet: Checking/Savings assets of \$688,276.40, last quarter \$722,161.89. Overall total assets of \$1,230,998.76, last quarter \$731,661.89. Not Included within this figure, the Edward Jones Investments of \$41,085.69, last quarter \$40,658.02. Total Liabilities & Equity \$1,230,998.75. What does this mean? We are still holding our own, but we must continue to watch our spending, for there is always more work to do, just like owning a house, your work is never done.

Hope all lodges are within budget and making money, hand over fist? If not, please try to attend one of my seminars, you may pick up something that will help you and your lodge? Cost -> YOU'RE TIME and the Benefits -> FREE KNOWLEDGE!

Remember, any State Committee or Lodge having questions or needing assistance from the State Auditing Committee may contact their District Chair and, if he or she is not available, please call or e-mail yours truly. We are only a phone call or e-mail away!

Fraternally yours,
Maurice DiPoli, PDDGER
State Chair, Auditing & Business Practices

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

JULY 2015 GRAND LODGE NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

RE-CREATION USA

^Terrific! Fantastic! Awesome! These are just a few of the words used to describe the outstanding members of the performance group known as Re-Creation. The performers are between the ages of 18 and 30, and they are all volunteers, giving up an entire year of their lives to honor our Veterans. If you were ever fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to see and hear the group performing at one of the VA medical centers scattered throughout the United States, you know what a heartwarming experience it is.

Re-Creation was founded by Hugh Brooks to offer live entertainment at nursing homes, hospitals and other institutions. It was such a huge success, that the group was asked to perform for the USO and VA medical centers. However, in 1983 the group had to take on the task of funding the myriad costs involved in touring and presenting their shows. In 1986, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission partnered with the group to help them continue to bring their wonderful entertainment to our Veterans.

As part of that partnership, the Commission and some State ENVSC committees provided direct, ongoing financial assistance, as well as replacement vehicles for their transportation needs. In addition, the Commission, State and local Lodge committees provided local housing and meals as the troupe travels and performs at the various Veteran facilities throughout the United States each year.

To date, most of the funding has come from the State and local committees. However, effective with the Re-Creation tours beginning August 1, 2015 and beyond, all housing costs will be funded directly by the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. This should help ease the financial pressures on local Lodges that are involved in the Re-Creation effort, thereby freeing up their funding for continued support with meals for the troupe, as well as for other Veteran Service efforts.

To learn more about this program, as well as the Re-Creation tour itinerary, please visit www.Elks.org/veteransprograms and www.re-creationusa.com.

Your support of this outstanding program is truly appreciated as you demonstrate once again *"So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them"*.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
David R. Carr, PGER
Secretary/Treasurer, ENVSC

NEWSLETTER

I am excited to announce that Linda Velez of Dover Lodge #1903 has accepted the position as Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia State Newsletter Editor. Linda's contact information is listed on Page 2 of this Newsletter and on Page 31 of the 2015-2016 Directory.

As your Editor, it has been a pleasure working with everyone over the last 5 years. This has been a most rewarding and enlightening experience. I want to sincerely thank my Advisor, George Hamilton, for all of his support and guidance, and a special thank you to the behind the scenes design and layout person of the newslwtter, kathleen williams. Thank you "ALL" again.

Fraternaly,
Connie deYoung