



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



A new Elks year means a new donation goal

I am gratified and humbled to have been chosen as the National President of an organization that does so much for communities all across this great land. The hard work of every Local Lodge Member is what makes our charitable work possible, which is why I chose the theme “Working Together to Make a Difference” for this exciting new Elks year.

As Elks, we are all working toward a common goal, whether it be Lodge Members giving back to their communities, strengthening a charitable organization through a State Association’s Major Project, or enriching a life because of a Grand Lodge Program. These are the ways we truly make a difference in people’s lives.

This year, I have set the ENF



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MICHAEL T. LUHR

donation goal at \$4.75 per Member. I encourage everyone to donate. When you give back to the ENF, Lodges throughout the country are able to take advantage of the numerous charitable opportunities it provides. The difference your Lodge can make in your community is more than doubled by taking advantage of these incredible opportunities.

I also encourage you to take a hard look at the programs and contributions your Local Lodge makes to your community. Is your community aware of the impact your Lodge makes on the lives of people living in your town? Are your contributions meeting your goals? Are you making the most of the ENF grants offered through Grand Lodge?

The Elks provide the perfect opportunity to get involved in projects that benefit the community while enjoying the personal rewards that come from unselfishly giving back. Best of all, we reap the rewards of benevolence while enjoying the camaraderie of our families and closest friends. Make sure that both current and prospective Members are aware of the good work

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Record for donations could be even higher

The 2017-2018 Membership Report was filed online via CLMS2. As of March 31, the Order ended the year with a total membership of 770,937 for a loss of 4,155 (-0.5%). It is the smallest one-year decline in more than three decades. With more attention to our membership, the Order can show a gain in the next couple of years.

Totals from the Annual Charity Reports show the Order donated an all-time high of \$675,985,245 in time, mileage and in-kind gifts. This dollar amount would have been greater but 30 Lodges did not file a charity report. Again, this year, with everyone’s help, we will strive to reach that elusive 100 percent reported.

The San Antonio Grand Lodge Convention and 150th Anniversary celebration has come and gone. Thanks to the Texas Host Committee, the volunteers, and Past Grand Exalted Rulers Charles F. Williams and John D. Amen for providing the manpower for another successful convention.

Now, it is onward to St. Louis, Missouri and the 2019 convention.

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Contest, award info can be found online

By **JAMES R. ARNOLD**
Committee Member

Members will be best served to become more familiar with the Grand Lodge and its web site, elks.org. You can find information and ideas that will be of tremendous benefit to every Elk.

All State Elks Associations and Local Lodges should have web sites which should provide your Members with the opportunity to learn what is happening in your state and the Lodges. The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee administers numerous programs of the Grand Lodge and awards are given for the following:

- All American Lodge Contest “A”
- Americanism Essay Contest—Divisions 1 and 2
- State Association Bulletin Contest “I”
- State Association Web site Award
- Local Lodge Web site Award
- State Association Major Project Display Award
- Certificate of Honor for Properly Flying the United States Flag (New)

States and Lodges can find necessary information regarding these contests on the Grand Lodge web site by signing into

elks.org and selecting Grand Lodge, then select Grand Lodge Committees. Once there, select Fraternal Committee and you will see programs and downloads.

In addition to the programs listed above, the Fraternal Committee Members also distribute to our Lodges Grand Exalted Ruler “Outstanding Service Commendations” as chosen by your Lodge Exalted Ruler or designate, and “Making A Difference Special Citations” for ERs and Lodges who have participated in six of the programs listed on the Fraternal Committee Website. The Committee was pleased to see a better showing nationally in Local Lodges that requested the GER

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DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Drug Take Back Day numbers continue to rise

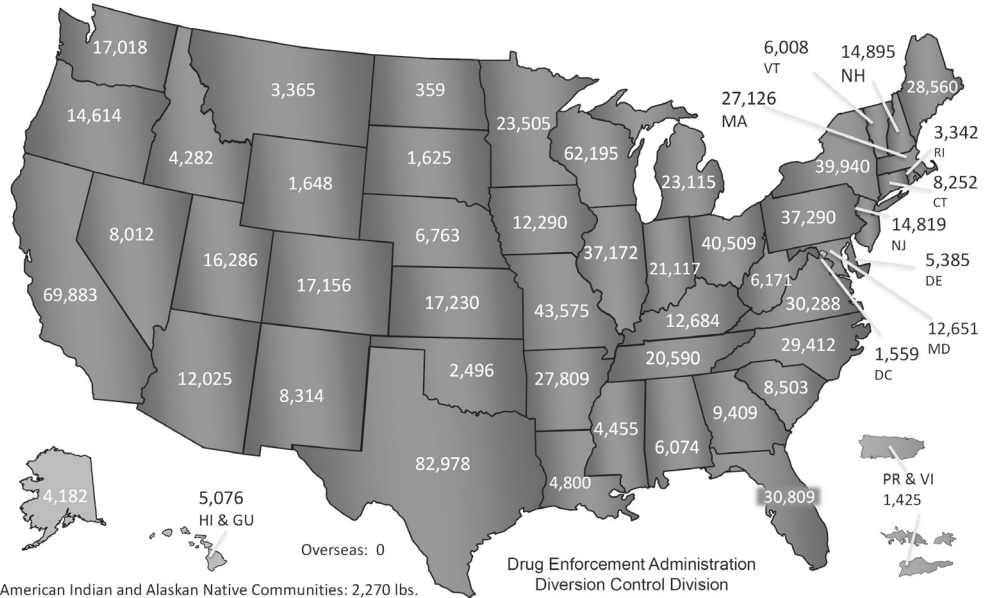
By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day addresses a crucial public safety and public health issue. According to the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.4 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet. Unused prescription drugs frequently find their way into the wrong hands. It's dangerous and often tragic. That's why it was great to see thousands of folks from across the country clean out their medicine cabinets and turn in, safely and anonymously, a record amount of prescription drugs.

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has held fifteen National Take Back days since September 2010. The totals for each are listed to the right. The numbers continue to increase as the message of prescription drug abuse spreads.

Did you miss the last Take Back Day? Prescription drugs can be disposed of at any time. Visit DEA.gov to find a disposal site in your area, or check with your local pharmacist. The next DEA Take Back Day is October 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

15th National Take Back Day: April 28, 2018
Total Weight Collected: 949,046 lbs. (474.5 Tons)



	9/2010	4/2011	10/2011	4/2012	9/2012	4/2013	10/2013	4/2014
Pounds	245,506	376,593	377,086	552,161	488,395	742,497	647,211	780,158
Tons	123	188	189	276	244	371	324	390
Participants	2,992	3,856	3,946	4,268	3,899	4,312	4,114	6,072
Sites	4,086	5,361	5,315	5,659	5,263	5,829	5,683	4,423
	9/2014	9/2015	4/2016	10/2016	4/2017	10/2017	4/2018	TOTAL
Pounds	617,150	742,771	893,498	731,269	900,386	912,305	949,046	4,209,607
Tons	309	371	447	366	450	456	475	2,105
Participants	4,076	3,892	4,200	4,018	4,223	4,201	4,683	
Sites	5,495	5,202	5,400	5,178	5,498	5,315	5,842	

A brief tribute to the majestic elk

By **MIKE CHAMERNIK**
Publications Coordinator

An Elk has a reputation for toughness, endurance, loyalty, and... a four-chambered stomach.

This of course refers to elk, the largest subspecies of red deer in North America, and not necessarily the Members of this benevolent order.

While some people who live out west could easily distinguish a Manitoban elk from a Rocky Mountain elk, many other Members may have never seen one.

The Order's namesake is a fascinating creature. Here's what you may not know about elk.

- Elk are endurance runners. They form large groups, known as "gangs," to protect against predators, which include coyotes and bears. Cows (female elk), calves and yearlings live in loose herds, while bulls (male elk) form their own groups or live alone.

- An Elk's antlers can grow an inch a day and become four feet long and 40 lbs. heavy. Elk lose their antlers in March but

grow them back in May in advance of the fall breeding season.

- Some cultures regard the elk's antler velvet as an aphrodisiac.

- The North American elk has four living and two extinct subspecies. Other members of the elk family can also be found in Eastern Asia, Argentina, and New Zealand.

- Elk have four-chambered stomachs and can eat 20 lbs. of vegetation a day.

- Elk vary in size, from the Roosevelt elk that can weigh upwards of 1,100 lbs., to the Tule elk, which only can get to around 550 lbs.

- Much like humans, bulls compete and fight with each other for cows. Unlike humans, male elk are known to roll their bodies in their own urine to attract mates.

- Elk attack by charging with their antlers and punching with their front hooves.

- The elk's primary intimidation strategy is bugling, a high-pitch bellow that escalates to a squealing whistle and ends with a grunt.

GER From Page 1

you're doing in your community. Provide them with a well-maintained, inviting, and fun place to socialize. Not only will your Lodge grow, but you'll also find more people eager to volunteer.

Barb and I are looking forward to our travels across the United States to see the great work you're doing in your Local Lodges and State Associations. Most of all, we are looking forward to meeting all of the amazing Elks who are so dedicated to our grand organization. Hope to see you soon.

Fraternal From Page 1

certificates. There were undoubtedly many more Members who made significant contributions to their Lodges and communities that were not recognized. All Lodges should make every effort to reward their Members who do make a difference in their Lodges and communities.

Don't be afraid to research all the downloads available. Remember, "Elks Care - Elks Share."

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Do you know your state alcohol management laws?

By **STANLEY J. WELSH**
Committee Member

Laws regarding business operations, legal gambling, and alcohol sales vary by state. Knowing the laws and regulations in your city and state are important to your operation.

Because of continuing problems regarding alcohol sales and service, Lodges need to know about responsible alcohol management and the law regarding not serving **Visibly Intoxicated Persons**, also known by bartenders and servers as VIPs.

Every Lodge should have a written policy instructing servers and managers how to handle most situations that may come up regarding the serving of alcohol. Rules regarding Visibly Intoxicated Persons could help reduce your risk of liability.

First and foremost, servers and managers need to know that it is against

the law to serve people who are visibly intoxicated. If a Visibly Intoxicated Person gets into or causes an accident, the server and the Lodge could be held accountable.

Recognizing a person who is visibly intoxicated is not difficult when servers and managers know what to look for. Some signs to notice if someone is intoxicated:

- Acting loud and boastful
- Drinking alone and fast
- Ordering doubles
- Buying round after round for friends
- Crude behavior
- Slurred speech
- Stumbling and bumping into things
- Falling asleep at the bar

These are some of the signs of visible intoxication. As soon as any of these are noticed the service of alcohol should be stopped **immediately**.

By knowing your customers and talking with them you may be able to find out that

they are having a bad day. If so, a server might try to slow down their drinking by putting a glass of water in front of them between rounds, getting busy with some task to slow down service, or inviting them to have something to eat.

You should make your policy part of new and continuing employee training. Also, your policy should include filling out Incident Reports for fighting, intoxication, falls, anything your employee did to get the intoxicated person home safely (accepted or not), and anything else that could cause your Lodge a problem in the future. All reports should have a date, time, witnesses, and signature. They should be kept on file for two years.

We are all paying more for insurance coverage because of various problems caused by irresponsible alcohol service. This is a problem we can control through education and responsible alcohol management programs.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

How can we assist your Lodge?

By **DAVID B. LAKE**
Committee Chairman

The Activities Committee is here to assist you in your Lodge's Youth Activities Programs and your Community Projects. Please feel free to contact us when you have a question or need assistance.

There are eight members serving on the Activities Committee, each representing a Grand Lodge Area. The contact information for each Area Member can be found on elks.org. Just log in and click on Grand Lodge, and then Committees. Then click on the Activities Committee. There you will find a tab for the Committee Roster. The roster contains the name, address, and contact information for each committee member and his area of responsibility.

There is a tab for Committee Programs,

which will provide you with detailed information on all our programs. The Printable Certificates tab provides all the printable and fillable certificates that are available for your Lodge. The Manuals tab contains manuals for Planning a Special Event, Soccer Shoot, Youth Activities Programs, and Youth Supervision Guide.

We hope that your Lodge is active in your community promoting some of our Youth Programs, which include Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Junior Golf, Antlers, Scouting, Dictionary Project, National Youth Week, Teenager/Student of the Month and Year, and a new program called JROTC Recognition.

An active Lodge is a successful Lodge, and a successful Lodge is one that makes a difference in its community showing that "*Elks Care – Elks Share.*"

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

MVS Scholarship opens this month

By **TAYLOR ODISHO**
ENF Communications Assistant

Every year, the Elks National Foundation awards the Most Valuable Student scholarship to 500 of the most intelligent, service-minded leaders who are embarking on their college career.

The application opens online on August 15. All high school seniors who are U.S. citizens are welcome to apply. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need. The top 20 finalists will participate in an all-expenses paid Leadership Weekend in Chicago April 11–14, 2019.

Throughout the weekend, the finalists will engage, serve, and interview with national judges for the top prizes. Two first-place awards of \$50,000, two second-place awards of \$40,000, and two third-place awards of \$30,000 will be given to the top scholars. The remaining 14 finalists will receive \$20,000. The 480 runners-up will receive fifth-place scholarships of \$4,000.

The deadline to apply for the MVS scholarship is November 15. This is a great opportunity for students to join the #ElksFamily and be part of a lifelong network. If you know someone who is eligible to apply, visit enf.elks.org/MVS for more information.

Veterans From Page 4

going back to school. Activities at the Lodge are a great time to welcome them into the Elks family and distribute these supplies. To begin, get acquainted with the military families in your area to find out what kind of supplies are needed. Contact local service organizations, and if you live near a military base, contact the Family Readiness Group to ask about what type of support Elks can provide.

If there are families with children in

your Lodge, host a field day or an art project where they can interact with military kids in the community. If you're providing school supplies or meals, try to gather a list from families before shopping so that you can personalize your selections.

Partnerships are important for all of these projects, so be sure to talk to other veterans and social service organizations to make the most of resources. To learn more, visit elks.org/cip.

Local veterans will not take the Elks for granted

By **HANNAH GRABER**
ENVSC Programs Assistant

Freedom Grants may be going fast, but don't forget about all the other Lodge grants available! If your Lodge would like to use a grant to serve veterans and military members in need this year, here are a few ideas to get you started.

Consider getting involved with a local Stand Down for veterans. A Stand Down event provides a central location to distribute supplies and services to veterans experiencing homelessness. Veterans come to Stand Downs to receive food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, haircuts, and dental exams. At some events, providers also offer referrals to additional assistance such as health care,

housing, employment, and counseling.

To get started, contact your nearest VA and other community veteran organizations to find out if a Stand Down is planned in your area. If an event is not already planned, look for a location where your Lodge can establish one. Determine what supplies or services your Lodge could provide. To offer continued support, include invitations to meals or other events that your Lodge will give to veterans in need.

Your Lodge could focus on assisting veterans and transitioning service members with their employment search by holding a job fair. Find partner

organizations and service providers that can offer a variety of resources that relate to veterans who are seeking employment. Search for companies that have made a commitment to hiring veterans. In addition to offering information about job openings, make the most of the event by providing concrete resources such as clothing appropriate for employment, assistance with transportation, and job interview practice sessions.

Don't forget about supporting military families. Many families could use a hand collecting supplies for new babies or kids



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BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
**Benevolent and Protective
ORDER OF ELKS**
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August 2018

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GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

75,000 new Elks push membership rates to 38-year high

By **RICK GATHEN**
Membership and Marketing Manager

The BPOE has made its strongest progress in membership since 1980. We were down just 4,155 Members, or 0.5 percent. We added 75,709 new Members and reinstatements.

This marks four consecutive years of improvement. We again set a new national record for the fewest membership cancellations.

We began this new fraternal year with 7,072 fewer delinquents than the previous year, and 26,028 fewer delinquents than three years ago.

Initiatives such as the All-American Lodge — Contest “A” are great for driving Membership and promoting Elkdom. Osage Community, MO Lodge No. 2705, the second-place winner in Division IV, held fundraisers to provide groceries and toiletries for 100 families and toys for 378

children at Christmas. The Lodge also used a Gratitude Grant to fund Project Prom/Graduation for three high schools and an Anniversary Grant to send two teens to flight camp. Osage Community welcomed 100 new Members over the past year for a net gain of 33 new Members.

We've made a three-year improvement of \$2.6 million while reducing delinquency in our Lodges. Thank you for all you have done to help make that happen.

