



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



## Enjoy holiday festivities but beware ‘vacuum effect’

December is here and it's time to enjoy our carefully planned holiday celebrations. What's your favorite holiday event? Is it a special dinner with family and close friends? Is it an office celebration? Is it rooting for your favorite college football team during bowl season? Or is it a special holiday function at your Local Lodge? Maybe it's all of the above.

Like any important holiday event, a successful Elks Memorial Service program requires careful preparation. This solemn event, held on Sunday Dec. 2, is an opportunity to invite non-Members to honor the lives and contributions of our dearly departed Brothers and Sisters. This is our chance to show the public that "Elks are never



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**MICHAEL T. LUHR**

*forgotten, never forsaken."*

With so many Lodge activities in December, it's important to maintain focus on January to avoid the "vacuum effect" we sometimes experience after the busy holiday season. Start planning your January events and make sure they're posted in your Lodge Bulletin in order to maintain the high levels of excitement you established

during December.

Now is also the perfect time to update entries for All-American Lodge Contest "A." Go to [elks.org](http://elks.org) and locate these forms under the "Fraternal Committee" section. When you fill in the entries, you will likely discover that your Lodge is doing even more than you thought. Keep updating this form each month, and be sure to send it to your DDGER postmarked no later than March 15. Save a copy so you can compare it to next year's contest entry to see how your Lodge is progressing. This contest is your opportunity to proudly track what your Lodge does for your community, so use it to increase your visibility in a positive way.

Please see GER, Page 2

## Membership rises but delinquency remains an issue

As of this writing, the November Membership Report has been tentatively closed with the Order showing a gain of 3.6% (27,431) for a mid-year total of 798,370 Members with 9,925 candidates.

### GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

The downside is that we have 9.9% (75,957) delinquent Members. Continued emphasis must be given towards retaining those lapsed Members.

The Memorial Building is closed until April 15, 2019. If you or someone you know are planning on being in Chicago over the winter, give a call and staff can give you your own personal tour of the National Headquarters.

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays from your Grand Lodge staff.

## ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

# Grants give kids warm holiday

By TAYLOR ODISHO  
ENF Communications Assistant

Did you know that approximately 15 million children in the United States live in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold? Most of these children's parents work, but low wages and unstable employment leave families struggling to make ends meet. As temperatures drop, the need for warm winter clothes spikes for children in need.

It has never been easier to meet this vital need in our community. This year, the Community Investments Program is thrilled to announce a new project opportunity. If your Lodge has not applied for grants yet, consider using an Anniversary, Beacon, or Gratitude Grant to partner with Operation Warm, a national non-profit dedicated to providing hope, happiness, and warmth for children in need through the gift of new winter coats. Remember, 2018-19 grant applications close December 31 at 11:59 p.m. CT.

Using a CIP grant, Lodges can purchase winter coats and host parties to personally fit children with a new coat. Each fitting

ends with the child writing his or her name on the interior tag which reads, "Made Just for You."

This program has the potential to strengthen your community in many ways. Beyond protection from harsh winter weather, a new coat positively impacts a child's school attendance, self-esteem, and overall health and well-being. The gift will also provide a much-needed financial blessing to children's families.

Visit [elks.org/CIP](http://elks.org/CIP) and [operationwarm.org](http://operationwarm.org) to learn more about this opportunity.



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## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Christmas is prime time for giving

By **DANNY E. TABOR**  
Committee Member

Now that Thanksgiving is over, we can look forward to Christmas and the beginning of a new year. This is when our Members and our Lodges really pick up on our charitable giving.

We help those less fortunate by donating food baskets and gift certificates, visiting nursing homes, assisting veterans and the families of deployed military personnel, and just being there to help in any way we can. It feels good to help others. We do this because that's just what Elks do, "*Elks Care – Elks Share.*" Please take time to report all of our volunteer hours and monetary donations. You will be surprised how much this will increase your charitable statistics.

This is the time to start a program where we honor and thank our first responders. These people are there for us whenever we need them. Just think of all the natural disasters we have had to deal with across the nation: fires, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and droughts. Now think of all the times our police, firefighters, paramedics, and the National Guard have been called for help. Pick out some of these great people and show them just how much we appreciate their service. There are a few places in the Charity Records

Workbook where you can record this. Hopefully you can get some new Members and some good publicity as well.

This is also a good occasion to interact with elected officials. Send them an invitation to your Lodge for a Christmas party, let them know you appreciate their service, and remind them of all the good things we do as Elks. Try to work together throughout the rest of the year: Invite them to your youth banquets, scholarship awards programs, Flag Day ceremony, and events where we are honoring our veterans and military personnel. Staying in touch with our elected officials is crucial to our Order. We need their help with certain legislation that may come up. The more they know about what all the Elks do, the more they will be able to assist us.

Charitable reporting is one of the keys to the survival of our great Order. The job of this committee is to assist you with knowing what you can report, where to report it, and how to report it. Please regularly review your Government Relations Manual and your Charity Records Workbook. They are both filled with good ideas and are very informative.

We have a lot of people who depend on what we do, and we do a good job helping those less fortunate. Let's keep up the good work and let's remember to report it.

## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# Start planning for Contest "A"

By **RICHARD C. CONWAY**  
Committee Member

The All-American Lodge Contest "A" entries from the Lodges are to be completed by the Exalted Rulers and mailed to their District Deputies no later than March 15, 2019.

Now is the time to get the facts together. The entry form lists all the activities that earn points. The Lodge's Secretary, Treasurer, and committee chairpersons should provide the required information and documentation.

Some of the programs worth the most points are Americanism, veterans, membership, and youth activities. Competition is among Lodges of similar membership sizes ranging from less than 300 (Division I) to more than 1,500 (Division VI). Therefore, participation by all Lodges regardless of size is encouraged.

It is important that the Lodges, DDGERs, and State Grand Lodge Committees forward the entry form no later than the specified dates on the form to ensure that the Lodge is entered in the contest.

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

# Impacts of marijuana legalization in Colorado

By **FRANK SCARPINO**  
Special Contributor

The Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) has published annual reports tracking the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana in Colorado every year since 2013.

The report is a great resource to educate citizens, community stakeholders, and lawmakers about the dangers that marijuana legalization pose to public health and safety. Findings from the fifth report are summarized below.

### Impact on traffic fatalities and impaired driving

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized in January 2014, marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 151% while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 35%.

- Since recreational marijuana was legalized, traffic deaths involving drivers

who tested positive for marijuana more than doubled from 55 in 2013 to 138 people killed in 2017.

### Impact on marijuana use

- Colorado marijuana use shows a 45% increase in comparing the three-year average prior to recreational marijuana being legalized to the three years after legalization.

- Colorado marijuana use for ages 12 and older is ranked third in the nation and is 85% higher than the national average.

### Impact on public health

- The yearly rate of emergency room visits related to marijuana increased 52% after the legalization of recreational marijuana. (2012 compared to 2016)

- The yearly rate of marijuana-related hospitalizations increased 148% after the legalization of recreational marijuana. (2012 compared to 2016)
- Marijuana-only exposures more

than tripled in the five-year average (2013-2017) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the five-year average (2008-2012) prior to legalization.

### Impact on the black market

- RMHIDTA Colorado Task Forces conducted 144 investigations of black market marijuana in Colorado resulting in 239 felony arrests, 7.3 tons of marijuana seized, and 43,949 marijuana plants seized. The marijuana was headed to 24 different states.

- The number of highway seizures of Colorado marijuana increased 39% during the time recreational marijuana has been legal.

- Seizures of Colorado marijuana in the U.S. mail system have increased 1,042% during this same period.

The full report can be found in the "Reports" section of the RMHIDTA web site, [rmhidta.org](http://rmhidta.org).

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# JROTC Awards Program recognizes future leaders

By **DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER**  
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee is proud to bring you our new JROTC Awards Program.

First, locate your JROTC schools by state at the national level through the following websites:

- **US Army**

[www.usarmyjrotc.com/JROTC\\_Schools.html](http://www.usarmyjrotc.com/JROTC_Schools.html)

- **US Navy**

[www.njrotc.navy.mil/host\\_schools.html](http://www.njrotc.navy.mil/host_schools.html)

- **US Marine Corps**

[www.mcjrotc.marines.mil/Schools/JROTC-Schools-by-State/](http://www.mcjrotc.marines.mil/Schools/JROTC-Schools-by-State/)

- **US Air Force**

[www.airuniversity.af.mil/Holm-Center/AFJROTC/Display/Article/950637/](http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/Holm-Center/AFJROTC/Display/Article/950637/)

- **US Coast Guard**

[www.gocoastguard.com/faq/does-the-uscg-have-a-jrotc-program](http://www.gocoastguard.com/faq/does-the-uscg-have-a-jrotc-program)

Next, follow the suggested procedure for setting up a JROTC Awards Program for your Lodge:

1. Contact the schools in your area that have a JROTC program and ask to speak to the Senior Instructor to see if they would participate in the new Elks program. If so, request that the Instructor selects a cadet who has proven him or herself to be a true leader in academic achievement, and community service projects, and one who maintains the highest standards of performance in all fields. Be sure to coordinate your efforts with other Lodges in your district that may be close to the same school(s) that your Lodge wants to contact. You may want to consider making it a district program with all Lodges in your district participating.

2. Inform the Instructor that your Lodge will provide him or her with a certificate and a medal to present to the selected cadet. Your Lodge may want to have a Lodge Officer or Member attend the ceremony to make the presentation to the cadet, if permissible.

3. If your Lodge holds a banquet or dinner to recognize outstanding youth

in your community, you should consider inviting the cadet and his or her family.

4. A printable and fillable JROTC certificate is available on the Grand Lodge website under the Activities Committee at: [elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/JROTC Awards Program.pdf](http://elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/JROTC Awards Program.pdf). The JROTC Medal can be ordered from the Grand Lodge Supplies/Shipping Department by using CLMS. The item number is 575300 and the cost is \$10 each plus shipping and handling. The JROTC medal makes a terrific companion gift to the JROTC certificate. Any cadet will be proud to receive both awards.

The Activities Committee encourages your Lodge to be an active community partner, promoting our Youth Programs: Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Junior Golf, Antlers, Scouting, Dictionary Project, National Youth Week, Student/Teenager of the Month and Year, and our new JROTC Awards Program.

Let's increase our efforts to promote and recognize America's outstanding youth in our communities by "*Working Together to Make a Difference*" and truly demonstrate "*Elks Care – Elks Share.*"

## Baseball legend found Elks a hit

By **MIKE CHAMERNIK**  
Publications Coordinator

Babe Ruth, the most famous and perhaps most talented baseball player who ever lived, had another extraordinary season in 1928. He swatted 54 home runs with 146 RBI and led his New York Yankees to an upset over the St. Louis Cardinals for his fifth World Series title.

Ruth might have said that joining the Elks was his highlight of the year, though.

Thousands of Members gathered in New York, NY Lodge No. 1 on Feb. 12, 1928 to witness Ruth's initiation ceremony. He was proposed by Murray Hulbert, who would be installed as GER during that summer's convention.

"I'm glad I went through," Ruth said that evening, "and I think I met a lot of fine fellows."

Notable Elks over the years include entertainers Lawrence Welk, Will Rogers, and Jack Benny, and five U.S. Presidents (Warren Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, and Gerald Ford). Current celebrity Members include actor/director Clint Eastwood and two-time Super Bowl MVP quarterback Eli Manning.

## GRAND LODGE AUDITING &amp; ACCOUNTING

## Proper accounting of holiday parties

By **MICHAEL L. PETTIGREW**  
Committee Chairman

With the holiday season upon us, many Lodges are hosting and catering holiday parties. Proper accounting of these events is very important to ensure correct reporting to the appropriate taxing agencies.

Any event hosted and paid for by a Lodge Member would be a non-taxable event if the Member pays for 100% of the cost of the event. The area of concern is when non-Members book events in Lodges. The probability of Unrelated Business Income (UBI) becomes a very real factor.

The importance of accurately accounting for each event cannot be over-emphasized. If the event is deemed taxable, complete records to determine the net income is important—that is the total income on which the taxes will be based.

If questions arise as to whether the income needs to be recorded as UBI, the first step would be to review Chapter 10-103 in the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting manual which covers UBI. Another very good option should be to

contact your local CPA as they would be aware of any possible local statutes concerning a non-Member function in your facility. Your primary concern as always is to keep and maintain accurate records and properly report all UBI to the appropriate tax authorities.

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December 31 is also this year's ENF grant deadline, so you should already have plans in place to use these grants to help your community and improve the image of your Lodge. Your Auditing & Accounting Committee should also be preparing for its January report. The end of another Elks' year fast approaches, and it's important that this committee maintain a high level of focus.

Barb and I sincerely hope you have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Blessed New Year. We also hope that you enter the new year with resolutions in place that will make your Lodge stronger than ever before. The time we spend "*Working Together To Make A Difference*" will undoubtedly reap major rewards.

# Remember the veterans in need through Adopt-A-Vet

By **STEWART G. ISRAEL**  
National Veterans Programs Chairman

Patrick Gleason, Voluntary Service Chief at the Jesse Brown VA in Chicago, often says, “Every veteran at some point was willing to give everything for our freedom. So, I think everyone should at some point in their lives be willing to give something to those veterans.” It’s an excellent way to explain the reason that Elks’ veterans programs exist.

What we owe those veterans is our time and action, as Elks and as Americans. One of the best ways to do that is through the Adopt-A-Vet program. It’s a very simple program, with a focus on one-on-one, face-to-face interactions with veterans.



Think of the homebound WWII veteran in his 90s, struggling with decreased mobility, loneliness, and the loss of peers.

Think of those wounded or recovering

in VAs and local nursing homes. Think of the veterans experiencing homelessness, fighting addiction, and learning to survive a winter on the streets.

Think of those suffering from PTSD, doing their best to adjust to a life back home. Offer them your support, with an open heart and mind.

We all talk patriotism, but now is the time to take action and expand our programs. You have the tools with guidance and funding from the ENF and the ENVSC, your Lodges, and your states.

In the Elks Ritual we learn that our kind feelings may vanish, and the best resolve may be forgotten, but the influence of a good deed will continue forever.

**BRYAN R. KLATT**, Grand Secretary  
Benevolent and Protective  
**ORDER OF ELKS**  
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## GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

# Orientation inspires new Members to get active

By **RICK GATHEN**  
Membership and Marketing Manager

Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing continues to strengthen the new Member experience.

We launched the Orientation video and companion recruitment video “*Why We Join*,” all accessible on DVD, Membership Toolkit, and YouTube.

We also launched the new Orientation

survey accessible on Membership Toolkit via a printable PDF. The Grand Exalted Ruler’s personalized interactive “E-Greeting” is e-mailed to all new Members. Take the virtual Orientation experience called “*My Journey Begins*” on the Membership Toolkit. You can also invite your friends and family to join with online invitations and membership application.

Our orientation enhancements are in

place to help create a new generation of Members that will likely be more active in their Lodges, more educated on the great work we do, and more inspired to recruit friends, family, and co-workers into the Order.

Together we can make our Lodges stronger through the new Orientation program. Find it all on [elks.org/grandlodge/membership/orientation.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/membership/orientation.cfm)

