



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



New Members can give your Lodge a spark

The Lodge year is nearly half over, so I hope that Lodges are taking action and making plans that will result in overall success. The best events are the ones that are properly planned and executed, with forethought as to what will be needed in terms of promotion and execution. New ideas should be discussed with open minds to provide more opportunities for Members to enjoy their membership and meet new people. Our new Members bring fresh energy and ideas that should be heard and considered. We need to make them feel like they are an important part of the Lodge, because they are.

In planning events, it often seems that a small group of reliable Members are the ones who do the work, while newer Members feel left out and have no place in the life of their Lodge. Hmm...maybe there's an opportunity here. Consider bringing more Members into your helper network, including



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

ROBERT L. DUITSMAN

new Members, so that everyone can feel invested in the life of their Lodge. One of the biggest reasons we lose Members is because nobody takes an interest in them. If they are invited to be a part of events, they will likely take a stronger interest in their Lodge.

Also, one of the hallmarks of our Order is our service to our communities by getting out and making our communities better places while promoting the Elks brand. I have often said, "If they know you, and they like you, they'll want to be a part of you." By getting involved in community events and

undertaking programs and activities that will resonate with your community, everyone wins. A great opportunity is an activity celebrating National Patriotism Week, September 9-15. It is only one of many suggested opportunities included in the Grand Lodge calendar that has been distributed.

Exalted Rulers, you were there for our national convention in St. Louis. You were able to see Elkdom on full display. For too many, "Elkdom" is their Lodge building and whatever is contained within. While that is an important part of the Elks experience, there are other opportunities outside the Lodge, such as district, state, and national events that can enrich Members' understanding of what we are all about. Please share your experiences with Members who were unable to attend so they can better understand what Elkdom encompasses and instill in them greater pride in being part of our fraternity.

Permanent records must stay that way

Each year, many of our Local Lodges have new and inexperienced Lodge Secretaries. As such, there is a learning curve every new and continuing Secretary must navigate in order to manage this important responsibility, as well as the continuing education of our Constitution, Statutes, plus our CLMS2Web and PC membership programs.

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

A word to the wise: NEVER destroy or discard paper membership applications and records. Those documents are the only records available. It is the responsibility of the Local Lodge to maintain the records indefinitely.

Sure, there is CLMS2, but the majority of the pre-2008 membership records were never entered into the program. Those records need to be maintained in case a former Member requests a Reinstatement, a Certificate of Release, or other membership information.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

DAP names student contest winners

By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

The Drug Awareness Program was very active at the National Convention held in St. Louis in July. In addition to the rigorous two-day training for the state chairs just prior to the convention, a two hour seminar was held during the convention with more than 600 people in attendance.

Several new tools were introduced or revisited:

- A new tool chest for the state chairs (with access to all current DAP forms)
- Elks Kid Zone (elkskidzone.org)
- The new Elks Teen Zone (includes a tab for teachers to create lesson plans for their students that meet curriculum guidelines and student privacy). elksteenzonzone.org

The DAP National spokesman, Ray Lozano, gave a stirring presentation on

"E-cigs, Juuls, and Vaping," explaining the hazards of these products.

Consider bringing Ray to speak at your area schools. Learn more about Ray at raylozano.com.

The national contest winners were announced:

- **Poster Contest:** Sarah Irene Gangl, sponsored by Wickenburg, AZ Lodge No. 2160. The posters are used to produce future coloring books.

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GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

How to meet requirements for 501(c) designations

By **VERNON R. SAUNDERS**
Committee Chairman

I am sure that many of you have read the Government Relations Manual, which contains our mission statement. The following is an excerpt from that manual.

“The work being done by your Government Relations Committee, although not glamorous, is essential to maintaining our status as a nonprofit, tax exempt, charitable organization, and is vital to the very survival of our Great Order.”

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee is to guide the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, its State Associations, and its Local Lodges, in protecting and preserving the right to exist as a private, nonprofit, charitable organization.

All Elks Lodges, if incorporated, are designated by the I.R.S. as 501(c)(8) corporations. A great many of our Lodges and State Associations also have a 501(c)(3) designation, which is a highly restricted charitable account status. 501(c)(3) is one of many types of nonprofit organizations exempt from some federal income taxes.

Listed below are some the 501 (c) designations and the requirements to receive them.

What is a 501(c)(3)?

The exempt purpose set forth in section 501(c)(3) is charitable,

religious, educational, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering national or international amateur sports competition, and preventing cruelty to children or animals. This is the most common type of nonprofit. This type of nonprofit applies for its status using IRS form 1023 and files annually Forms 990, 990EZ, or 990-PF. Contributions are usually tax-exempt.

All 501(c)(3) organizations are considered either:

- A private foundation that doesn't qualify as a public charity. Foundations may be sub-classified as private operating foundations or private non-operating foundations and receive some of the advantages of public charities.

- A public charity. These are organizations we typically donate to, earnings of which are devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes.

What is a 501(c)(5)?

Section 501(c)(5) provides for exemption of labor, agriculture, or horticultural organizations. To be exempt, an organization must meet the following requirements: The net earnings of the organization may not inure to the benefit of any member and; the objectives of the organization must be the betterment of conditions of those engaged in the pursuits of labor, agriculture, or horticulture, the improvement of the grade of their products, and the development of a higher degree of efficiency in their prospective occupations.

What is a 501(c)(6)?

Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code provides for the exemption of business leagues, chambers of commerce, and real estate boards of trade and professional football leagues, which are not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. An organization that otherwise qualifies for exemption under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(6) will not be disqualified merely because it engages in some political activity.

What is a 501(c)(7)?

Social clubs re-exempt from federal income tax under IRC 501(a) as organizations described in IRC 501(c)(7) if they are “organized for pleasure, recreational, and other non-profitable purposes.” They were originally granted exemption from federal income tax in the Revenue Act of 1916.

What is 501(c)(8)?

To be exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 501(c)(8), a fraternal beneficiary society, order, or association must have a fraternal purpose. An organization has a fraternal purpose if membership is based on a common tie to the pursuit of a common object.

These examples are meant to be a guide only. If your Lodge or State Association desires to have a 501(c)(3) designation, be sure to contact your CPA's office. They can assist you with the filings it takes with the IRS and Secretary of State to achieve this goal.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Your Lodge's website is strong first impression

By **MERYL ARNS**
Committee Member

According to recent data from Internet World Stats, 56.8% of the 7.7 billion people on this planet use the internet. In the USA, with more than 366 million people, 89.4% use the internet.

There is no better way than the internet for your Lodge and Elksdom to gain exposure. On the internet, your website is your first impression. Are you showing the world what you and your Lodge do? Your website is the best communicator of the charity, youth, veterans, and patriotic programs available. Show off your Local Lodge with the best website possible. Keep your Members, neighbors, and visitors informed of your programs,

activities, parties, and dinners.

To show off your website, enter the Local Lodge Website Contest. The administrator for this contest is:

Meryl Arns

marns1946@hotmail.com

(435) 691-5667

1635 West 546 South

Cedar City, UT 84720-2866

When people are informed, they want to be part of the action. Remember, mature (older) adults need a simple website to navigate. Keep it up to date and informative. You would be surprised that when the 89.4% of your Members find out what is happening, they just might join in and bring a friend.

Your State Association should also have a website to keep the Elks informed on what is happening on the state level. It needs to include all registration forms for the state meeting and all Lodge activities, and their major functions.

There is also a State Association Website Contest. The administrator for this contest is:

Duncan P. Thompson, Jr.

d.thompsonjr@mchsi.com

(229) 883-2167

804 Beechwood Dr.

Albany, GA 31721-9005

Deadline for each contest is October 1. Application and contest instructions can be found at elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Elks HELP during rough year for natural disasters

By JAMES S. MASON
Disaster Relief Program

Natural disasters continue to occur across our nation. The middle of the country experienced a series of tornadoes followed by severe rain storms, resulting in floods that could be seen by all who flew into St. Louis to attend the Grand Lodge Convention. Elsewhere, wildfires burned in the southwest, a 7.1 magnitude hit California, and Hurricane Barry reached Louisiana.

At the first business session of the convention, Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt reviewed the disaster relief fund. He explained what had been received from Members and Lodges during the year

and what had been sent to areas which required recovery assistance. The term **HELP** best stands for **“Have Elks Lodges Participate.”** We should all feel great for what we have accomplished through our generosity.

At another session, Jim Saxton, Exalted Ruler of Paradise, CA Lodge No. 2026 addressed the assembly and told them about what his Lodge is doing to overcome the destruction of its building in Northern California’s Camp Fire last November. He thanked everyone on behalf of the Lodge for all the support that they had received, including the almost 400 Members who lost their homes during the fire. The Lodge is

currently set up in a temporary facility until a new building is constructed.

Two Lodges in California suffered fire damage in the last few years, losing valuable items such as their charters, citations, and pictures of the Past Exalted Rulers. It is recommended that all Lodges prepare copies of these items and store them in a safe location should the Lodge experience any kind of disaster.

To meet our future funding needs for natural disaster, we encourage all Elks to donate to the Grand Secretary’s office in Chicago. Please consider holding a special dinner or other event to meet future needs as they occur. Thank you to all who have made donations.



ENF at Convention

The Elks National Foundation took hundreds of photos of visitors and Elks scholars at Convention. Check them out on ENF’s Flickr page:

[flickr.com/photos/123356758@N03/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/123356758@N03/albums)

DAP From Page 1

- **Essay Contest** (co-winners): Jenna LaBranche, sponsored by Derby, CT Lodge No. 571 and Jane Daniel, sponsored by Affton, MO Lodge No. 2635.

- **Video Contest:**

- Pre-High School: Addison Snyder, Kylea Smith, Abbey Darcy, and Macey Falkner, sponsored by Fayetteville-Springdale, AR Lodge No. 1987.
- High School: Ivory Beach & Emalee Coolbaugh, sponsored by Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475. This amazing video can be viewed and shared at facebook.com/elkskidsdap
- Post-High School: Tony Tripp, also sponsored by Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475.

The winning videos and essay will be featured on the new Elks Teen Zone website. The theme for this year’s poster, essay, and video contests will be **“Life does not rewind, choose life not drugs.”** Contest rules can be found on elkskidzone.org or elksteenzone.org (Contests tab).

Sean Fearn, the DEA’s Chief of Community Outreach, discussed the DEA’s long partnership with the Elks with programs such as DEA 360 and the popular videos featuring the cast of the hit YouTube group, SMOSH. Sean also distributed copies of the 2018 National Drug Threat Assessment. This publication can be viewed at justice.gov/usao-ndok/pr/dea-announces-2018-national-drug-threat-assessment.

For information on all of these programs, contact your state Drug Awareness Chair.

Fathers know best

By MIKE CHAMERNIK
Publications Coordinator

Many Members can proudly say that their grandfather was an Elk. How many can say the same for their grandfather’s grandfather?

Kelly McQueen, of Shenandoah, IA Lodge No. 1122, is a rare fifth-generation Elk. Her paternal grandmother’s uncle, Len Oviatt, was a Charter Member of the Shenandoah Lodge in 1908. Oviatt got his brother, William (McQueen’s great-great-grandfather) to join, and membership has been passed down through the generations of her family ever since.

Given her family’s history, it was fitting that in 2015 McQueen was the first female Elk to join the Shenandoah Lodge. The ceremony was presided over by Roger McQueen, Kelly’s father and President of the Iowa Elks Association at the time.

“Because of this long line of Elks, I feel that the Elks play a vital role in my family,” said Kelly McQueen, who is now a Leading Knight. “My parents raised my brother and I with ideals of supporting veterans, giving back to the community, and being an important Member of an organization. I grew up realizing what this meant and knew that Elks was exactly where all of that could be done.”

MEMBERSHIP From Page 4

of a committee chairperson depends on how well he or she communicates with the people serving on that committee.

We must ask ourselves, Are we communicating with our Members? Why not follow our Grand Exalted Ruler’s example. Be out-and-about among your Members. Send a personal welcome letter to every new Member. Place positive messages in newsletters and e-mail distributions. Be a communicator.

Are we communicating with the people on our committees? Phone a new member to invite him or her to participate in your upcoming committee event, or just to say thanks again for having helped on a completed project. How about communicating with our communities? Have a presence in your community by participating in civic events and by sending a Lodge representative to city council meetings. Broadcast the news of your Lodge’s wonderful charitable programs on your building’s signage. Communicate the good news of your Lodge on social media and in local newspapers.

Communication in the cyber world is easier and more effective than ever. Whatever your role in Elkdom, remember that good communication is essential in all that we do.

For veteran help, stay informed to stay relevant

By **MARY K. MORGAN**
Commission Director

Who do you think of when you think of a veteran? A senior citizen in a “Vietnam Veteran” hat? A woman with young children? A young man in need of housing? There are an estimated 22 million veterans in the United States and they all have different needs. As Elks, we need to stay informed of those needs to ensure our programs stay relevant.

The post-9/11 veteran population is expected to increase 22% between 2016 and 2021. Today’s military is 14% female, and that’s expected to increase to 20% in the next 10-20 years. About 55% of veterans are aged 65 or younger. More than

half of veterans don’t use any VA services. Many traditional veterans organizations are losing members. That means we have to work smarter to connect with veterans.

Here are some tips on how to do that. Start by thinking locally. For example, it’s estimated that one-fifth of homeless veterans live in California, making the Welcome Home program especially effective in that state. Alaska has the highest percentage of veterans aged 20-34 at 17 percent, so active, outdoor activities could be more popular. And in many rural areas, the biggest issue facing veterans may be

transportation and access to medical care.

Once you’ve identified a need in your community, find partners. Build relationships with veterans, facility staff, and volunteers directly in your community. You may be familiar with the adage, “if you’ve been to one VA, you’ve been to one VA.” That’s true of many veterans programs. You will likely need to adapt project ideas and processes to work best in your community.

Finally, when in doubt, listen. Every generation, every community and every person has different challenges.



BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING

A reminder of the importance of communicating

By **ANDY COSTELLO**
Committee Member

Our Grand Exalted Ruler is among the first to communicate with our new Members, sending out a personalized welcome letter to every person who joins the Order. He also dedicates an entire year to touring the nation, visiting Associations, and communicating personally with Members.

Our Association Presidents, DDs, and

VPs follow that fine example visiting Districts and Lodges and communicating with officers and Members. Accomplishing the vital task of disseminating essential information and establishing important personal connections with the officers and Members of our Order is crucial to these dedicated ambassadors. The key to success lies in the awesome power of good communication.

It is equally important for us as Lodge

officers and committee chairpersons to communicate with our chairpeople and Lodge Members. Although we are challenged to view the big picture, we must not forget that with Elks, the key figures in that picture are our Members. The success of a Lodge depends on the frequent and positive communication between its officers and Members, and the success

Please see **MEMBERSHIP**, Page 3



CHOOSE WINNERS
ELKS FOOTBALL PICK'EM IS BACK
elks.org/football

