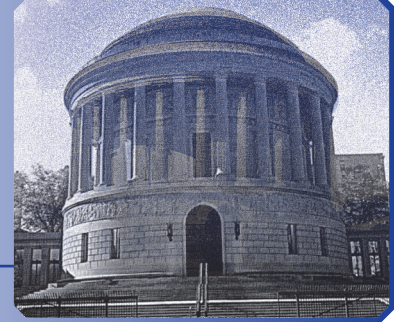




Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Lodges grow under Members' collective effort

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The global COVID-19 pandemic will delay many Lodge functions. GER Duitsman and Grand Lodge hope you, your families, and your Lodges are keeping safe.*

Our Members decide whether their Lodge is a place where they will want to invest their time, talent, and treasure. Many opportunities for good times and good works can be undertaken during the coming summer and fall months.

For May, if conditions allow, please consider having a program for any or all of the special days that fall during the month. They can stimulate interest among the Members and bring something different and refreshing into the Lodge.

Consider a Mother's Day program to honor the wonderful women who



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**ROBERT L.
DUITSMAN**

have dedicated themselves to raising their children. It is an opportunity for Lodges to shine, often with a brunch followed by a program. Don't forget the flowers. There is a ritual provided in the Rituals of Special Services available on the Grand Lodge website.

Given our history of support for our military and veterans, consider doing something for Armed Forces Day and

Memorial Day. They are good occasions to pay respect to those who served and to reach into our communities to develop relationships.

I hope the new Financial Reporting System has been implemented in your Lodge. Grand Lodge wants Elksdom to prosper in our communities. The system has been developed and approved by the membership to help identify Lodges having problems and provide opportunities to bring in needed resources.

Looking ahead, in June you might want to start thinking about Father's Day, Flag Day (a mandatory service), and the submission of your audit report. Planning for these events well in advance can make them more enjoyable and better supported by the Members.

How to register for Baltimore

As of this writing, online pre-registration for the Baltimore Grand Lodge Convention is **CURRENTLY ON HOLD**. Check Elks.org for updates on availability.

Once opened, you can pre-register through June 30. The online pre-registration fee is \$50.00 for all Members. The on-site registration fee will be \$60.00.

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

There is not a fee for a non-Elks spouse or guest. Those interested will need access to the Members Only

section of Elks.org to access the pre-registration link: <https://www.elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm>. A current credit card for PayPal will be needed. When you arrive at the Baltimore Convention Center, proceed to the Registration area then into the designated pre-registration line. You will need your e-mail confirmation and current membership card to receive your credentials for you and your spouse/guest and, if qualified, voting credentials.

Please see **CONVENTION**, Page 3

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Staying connected during global crisis

The Elks have been around for 152 years because of the human need for community and connection. But what can Lodges do to meet those needs when public gatherings are limited, like what's been seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic?

Zoom in

Zoom is a remote video conferencing tool that can be used for more than just teleworking. It can help Lodges continue traditions and installation ceremonies, plus foster connection among Members beyond the Lodge walls. Take Boonton, NJ Lodge No. 1405. It installed its new class of officers through a virtual meeting and installation ceremony. And Fremont, CA Lodge No. 2121 hosted a virtual trivia night for a dose of Elks fellowship.

Reach out

In 2016, Sharon Goochey, of Ballard, WA Lodge No. 827 started the Share'n is Care'n Committee, an outreach effort to support Members who couldn't participate in the Lodge's booming social activities. The committee ran errands, did chores,

and offered rides to homebound Members. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Share'n is Care'n Committee called or e-mailed every Member of the Lodge to ask if they needed help. Plus, the Committee mailed birthday cards and delivered homemade soup. Only a few Members needed assistance, but the committee met a less tangible need—the need to connect.

Get social

Keep up with Lodge activity—like community service opportunities and projects, and virtual events and meetings—and the Elks causes you care about on social media! Share your posts with fellow Elks using the hashtag #ElksAlwaysCare.

Follow the Elks National Foundation's social channels at enf.elks.org/social.

We're in this together. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. For more information on the ENF, visit elks.org/enf.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Congratulations, welcome... now let's get busy!

By W.J. "BILLY" BRYAN
Committee Member

I am amazed at the wealth of information in the monthly newsletter. Our committee itself has covered everything from tax exemption and audits to political affairs, charitable reporting, and publicity.

And so, as the new year of Elkdom has begun, we welcome all the hundreds of new Exalted Rulers as they take their place at the helm of their Lodge. We wish you the best, pledge our support, and hope you make use of the newsletter.

Supporting those new ERs is a cast of thousands of new officers. We thank you for stepping up and serving.

One of your first missions should be to introduce yourself to your community. As with new leadership in the Lodge there are

new leaders each year in the communities we serve. As the new face of the Lodge it is an opportunity to meet with other local leaders, share what we do, and exchange information on how to work together.

In the statement above, I used the word community. This is not just the town your Lodge is located in. In most areas, a Lodge may cover many cities and towns across multiple counties. I also use the words local leaders to make sure the target audience is not only mayors and council members, but also such groups as chambers of commerce and political subdivisions such as the local school boards.

These groups can provide important information for your programs throughout the year, for everything from Scouts for Flag Day, to first responder events.

Charitable reporting provides you with a perfect way to introduce yourself. By being able to point out your financial impact to the community, you will gain instant recognition for your Lodge. (Please contact your state chair or any GR committee member to learn how to compute this important total.)

Let those school districts know about Drug Awareness programs, Hoop Shoot, and all the millions of dollars awarded for scholarships. ENF grants are available to promote the Lodge in the community in many other areas, including veterans and first responders. This demonstrated charitable history and this visibility will lead to membership growth.

Using your government relations to support Grand Lodge programs will make your year and your Lodge great!

60 days to send reinstatement notice letters

By RICK GATHEN
PR and Membership Marketing Manager

All Lodge Secretaries are required by Statute 14.180 to send a 60-day reinstatement notice letter to Members dropped in March.

An unaffiliated Member whose name has been stricken from the rolls of membership for nonpayment of dues may on his application, if made within

sixty (60) days thereafter, be reinstated as a Member in good standing in the Lodge upon majority vote thereof at the next regular meeting and payment of the delinquent and current dues.

The Secretary shall advise the unaffiliated Member in writing of the date of his being dropped from the rolls and of his right to re-affiliate within 60 days. The reinstatement shall not result in the loss of continuous and consecutive membership standing.

The 60-day reinstatement letter and mail merge option can be found on CLMS2 PC.

**GRAND LODGE
PUBLIC
RELATIONS
AND
MEMBERSHIP
MARKETING**

Grow
Elkdom

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Virus won't stop DAP's mission

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Assistant Director, Elks DAP

People who smoke, vape, or have a history of substance use disorders may be at higher risk of COVID-19 infection and complications, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

"As people across the U.S. and the rest of the world contend with coronavirus disease, our friends at the DEA advised us that we should be alert to the possibility that it could hit some populations with substance use disorders particularly hard," said Kent Gade, National Director of the Drug Awareness Program.

"This virus has certainly changed the way we need to deliver our message, but it hasn't changed that message or our mission. Since this virus attacks the lungs, people (especially young individuals) who smoke or vape tobacco or marijuana are at a high risk from COVID-19, which is the respiratory disease caused by the virus," he added.

While we have heard from the very beginning that the virus attacks an older population with underlying health issues, it only makes sense that smokers and vapors compromise their lungs, too. Thus, the work of the Drug Awareness Program cannot relax during this crisis. We need to find ways to get the message out to the families and children we serve that we still need to make smart choices. Our messages before the virus ring truer now.

The DAP Directors are constantly in



contact with state chairmen, who have been charged with keeping in touch with Lodge chairs. Our Lodges may be shuttered for the time being and our children may be home from school, but the message still needs to be reinforced.

Lodge ERs are reminded to encourage Members' families to seek out information at our various websites: elkskidszone.org and elks.org for up-to-date information. The DAP is also designing in-home and on-line programs for kids while they are out of school. More information will be provided as this program is rolled out.

"In the meantime, we need to heed the recommendations from the CDC," said Director Gade. "Practicing social distancing does not mean we abandon good social practices. When the opportunity presents itself, thank a police officer, a fireman, a first responder, a grocer, a nurse, a doctor, or any essential worker in your community. We will come through this together and when we do, we will be stronger and better and more informed than ever before."

Gade added that hopefully by the time you read this, we will be headed back to normal; However, we must remain vigilant and our mission will not change or waiver.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Don't just tell them about the BPOE—show them

By WAYNE D. COTTERLY
Committee Member

When talking with a non-Member, the question may come up: Who are the Elks and what do they do?

This is often a difficult question to answer on the spot, as the Elks do so many great things. Instead of trying to describe what Elks do, why not bring them to the Lodge and show them?

You might start your tour with the Lodge Room and explain that this is where the important decisions are made for your Lodge. While there, you could point out the American Flag and explain that the Elks are a patriotic organization that promotes Americanism and the love of our country. You can also talk about the many support programs for our veterans including those who are homeless and hospitalized. Include information about your Local Lodge's work on their behalf, and that the Elks have pledged that "so long as there are Veterans, the Elks will

never forget them."

You could show them your Lodge's necrology, and let them know that as a fraternal organization, we believe in the principle of Brotherly Love. We are there to support each other, and we remember our departed Members as "Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken."

Stop by your Elks National Foundation recognition board. Let them know that your Lodge supports its community through charitable giving and through many programs that support our youth. Point out programs such as the Elks Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness program, scholarships, Dictionary Project, Antlers, essay contests, Junior Golf, Youth Recognition, and the Community Investment Grant program.

Visit your Lodge's function room and tell them about your Lodge's social activities that raise funds for these programs. Your last stop should of course be the lounge, where you can introduce

them to other Members and have them answer any questions they may have. If you don't know the answer, you could try asking an officer or another longtime Member. If none are available, you can always go online and find many answers to questions about our Order on Elks.org.

By this time, you may have piqued their interest in our Order. You could perhaps invite them to be your guest to attend one of the Lodge's functions. Or, if you know them well enough, you could offer them a membership application and propose them for membership.

In any case, by taking the time to show who the Elks are and what we do, your Lodge might just gain a Member. Even if they don't join, there will be one more person in the community who will know more about who we are, and can spread a positive message that the Elks support our country, our youth, our veterans, our communities, and charitable causes.

Be a lifesaver on EMS Week

By MARGARET O'POLKA
Committee Member

EMS Week honors emergency medical service practitioners and the important work they do in our communities. Held this year between May 17-23, the week brings together communities and EMS personnel to recognize the dedication of those who provide daily lifesaving services, and to comfort those who mourn the loss of a fallen hero.

This is a great opportunity for your Lodge to hold an event honoring these men and women. Ideas for this include hosting a cookout, an open house, or an awards ceremony.

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee has Medals of Honor and Medals of Valor available for purchase through the Grand Lodge Secretary's office for \$9.00 each, and they can be engraved on the back. Also, you can present certificates to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency service providers. These certificates can be accessed at elks.org on the Activities page, and they can be personalized as well.

If you do present medals or certificates, I would appreciate it if you could e-mail me photos and a short description of your presentation so we may share these at the National Convention. My e-mail address is pegopolka@gmail.com.

Dictionary project defines Elks

By JOHN MORFORD
Committee Member

The Dictionary Project was founded in 1995 with the goal to promote literacy to children in third grade as they transition from learning how to read to identify and use information. Since the Elks joined this project in 2004, we have donated millions of dictionaries across America.

In today's internet world, school administrators say that they teach children to use a computer and the internet to look-up words and definitions. However, the Lodges who continue to participate in the Dictionary Project observed that children still appreciate receiving their own book, which still has a lot of value.

To obtain more information, the supplier is the Dictionary Project and the website is www.dictionaryproject.org.

There you can see all the different types of dictionaries available, and their prices. You can also order sample kits, which have five types of dictionaries.

As Lodges begin to prepare for the new fiscal year, now is a good time to open the discussion of budgeting for the Dictionary Project and other youth programs. Of course, if Lodges had plenty of charitable funds, we would participate in all Grand Lodge Programs like the Dictionary Project. That is not the case for most Lodges. However, Elks across America are fantastic at raising charitable funds or using grants from the ENF.

Take the time to look into the Dictionary Project. Placing an actual book, like a dictionary, into a child's hands is very powerful—even in today's electronic world.

CONVENTION From Page 1

All non-Elks guests, including widows and widowers of Elks, **must** register at the Guest Registration Station at the convention center to obtain registration badges. An official badge is necessary for a guest to enter the exhibit hall and/or attend the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers.

Grand Lodge Registration and its fee are **not** included in any State Association's "package" arrangement. A Grand Lodge Registration badge will be required to enter the exhibit hall and all business sessions.

VETERANS From Page 4

4. Not enough of a plan.

- **Don't** simply tell us you'll find out what local veterans need and provide it for them.

- **Do** make phone calls to veterans' facilities and other local partners. Find out what the needs are and plan an event around meeting those needs. Your budget should directly address those needs.

You can call or e-mail us anytime with questions. We'd love to help make your project a success!

How to perfect your Freedom Grant application

By **HANNAH GRABER**
ENVSC Programs Coordinator

It's grant season and this year Freedom Grants are even bigger! The Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award 325 grants of \$2,500 each.

Now is the time to finish planning and prepare to submit your application. We encourage Lodges to take the time to craft detailed and complete Freedom Grant applications. Before you submit, review this checklist to make sure you've included all the necessary information.

Here are four common reasons we follow up with Lodges for more information about their Freedom Grant applications.

1. Too many ideas.

• **Don't** list every single thing your Lodge will do for veterans and military members this year.

• **Do** focus the activity. Select one or two projects that have definite plans and costs. Only include information about what Elks actions will be funded by the grant. Focus the budget on what the \$2,500 Freedom Grant will fund.

2. Budget is too general.

• **Don't** just write that you'll buy supplies, rent a venue somewhere and have an event for veterans.

• **Do** explain what types of supplies you'll buy, how many veterans will come, what the venue will cost, and what need the project is meeting.

3. Project doesn't address identified needs.

• **Don't** say you'll honor all veterans in the community without a specific focus.

• **Do** explain how the project will serve veterans in need. Tell us you'll invite veterans from a State Veterans Home or from a local shelter. List what types of supplies they could use, and how much you'll spend on supplies.



Please see **VETERANS**, Page 3

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
**Benevolent and Protective
ORDER OF ELKS**
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889

May 2020

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
Permit No. 5244

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Stop the presses: 19 SAs win bulletin awards

By **LARRY W. SMITH**
Committee Member

Nineteen states entered the Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest "I" for 2019-2020. Arizona and Florida were new to the Contest this year.

The results are as follows:

Five ★★★★★ Stars

Georgia: Lynda Lewis, Editor
Michigan: Karen J. Cary, Editor
Florida: Rachael King, Editor
Missouri: Bud Clarkson, Editor
North Dakota: Daniel J. Mimnaugh, Editor
Connecticut: Robert Magowan, Editor
North Carolina: Ashley Buckwell, Editor
New Jersey: Nancy Rochford, Editor

Kentucky: Raymond Pauly, Jr. Editor
West Virginia: Roger Monger, Editor
MD, DE and DC: Jane L. Swigert, Editor
Kansas: Carl E. Lindsey, Jr., Editor
Arizona: Shawnee Carlile, Editor
Louisiana: Buddy Hartle, Jr., Editor
Wisconsin: Kenneth Johnson, Editor
Virginia: Roger Monger, Editor
New York: Timothy R. Welpel, Editor

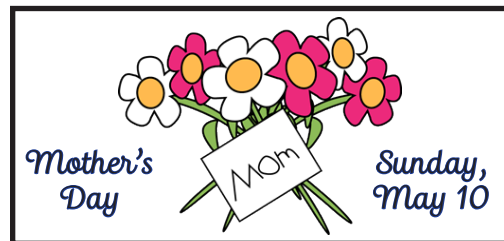
Four ★★★★★ Stars

Iowa: Darlene Olson, Editor
Massachusetts: Peter Plecinoga, Editor

There were no Three Star states this year. Iowa and Massachusetts moved up from Three Stars last year to Four Stars. Virginia, Kansas and Missouri moved up from Four Stars last year to Five Stars.

North Carolina moved up from Three Stars last year to Five Stars.

Congratulations to all of the State Associations that participated. The content and quality were impressive. It is important that all State Association bulletins provide timely information to Lodges and Members. We hope that even more State Associations participate in 2020-2021.



Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10