



5 Star Grand Lodge Publication



Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia

ELKS ASSOCIATION News

A Fraternal Organization - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

www.mddedcelks.org

JANUARY 2022



State President
Robert H. Raleigh, Jr.
MD-DE-DC Elks Association



Inside this issue:

GER MESSAGE ST SPONSOR	2
STATE SPONSOR CONTINUED	3
OFFICERS & COMMITTEES VP ELECT MESSAGE MARCH STATE CONFERENCE	4
PUBLIC RELATIONS/WEB NEWS	5
SE VP MESSAGE WEST VP MESSAGE	6
NE VP MESSAGE	7
NC VP & NW VP MESSAGES	8
NW CONTINUED	9
ECB AND DAP	10 & 11
PILLS FACT SHEET	12
TRAINING ENVS ARMY OF HOPE	13
AMERICANISM SCHOLARSHIPS	14
ACCIDENT PREVENTION	15
PHOTOS DISASTER RELIEF	16

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Robert H. Raleigh, Jr.

A belated Merry Christmas to ALL! I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas with family and friends.

It is 2022 and Lodges are preparing for nominations and elections along with planning for outside summer events.

Since our October meeting, the Vice Presidents and I have been busy making our official visits, finding out all the great things the Lodges have been doing. It seems evident everyone has been tired of being cooped up. Activities are increasing along with membership. Keep up the good work.

February 19th will be officer's training at Annapolis Lodge. This is important for incoming officers to learn the ins and outs of being an officer in the Lodge and preparation to move up in the State Association.

February 27th is our State Hoop Shoot in Oxon Hill. Again, thanks to all who participated in the Lodge and district shoots.

March brings the election of officers. There will be an officers training at Dover Lodge on March 6th.

Our State Association Spring conference will be at Fredrick Lodge on March 18th, 19th, and 20th. Please make plans to attend this conference and meet our Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills. Fredrick promises to have a first-class weekend.

I hope we get to meet as I travel around

the State. Thank you all for what you do for Elkdom.

God Bless America, and God Bless the Elks.

Robert H. Raleigh, Jr.

Chestertown Lodge #2474
410-708-5098 | robertraleigh7@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 7—Legacy Scholarship National deadline
- February 16—Elks Birthday
- February 19—Officer's Training, Annapolis
- February 27—State Hoop Shoot, Oxon Hill
- March 5—Deadline for Spring Conference meal selections
- March 6—Officer Training @ Dover Lodge
- March 18, 19, 20—Spring Conference Frederick Lodge #684 with GER Keith Mills
- March 31—Deadline for State Veteran Volunteer of the Year nomination
- April 30—Hoop Shoot Finals

NOTE: Lodges, please refrain from scheduling conflicting events so key officers and members may attend all meetings.

NEXT
Newsletter
DEADLINE
February 18, 2022

Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

T. KEITH MILLS



NEW CALENDAR YEAR ARRIVES, BUT ELKS YEAR ENDS SOON HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

As I write this letter, I think back to January 2000. The big scare about the electronic world coming to an end at the onset of the new century, and the tricks about turning your computer clock back a few years to ensure you would not lose all your data.

Now look at us 22 years later. I was not even thinking this far ahead, or about what I would be doing. I am not a big resolutions guy. I used to try to stick to a few things, but I found out resolutions just caused me more stress. I decided long ago to work on the things that I can control and do my best to adjust to the things that I cannot control.

Now is the time to start working on your next year's officer corps. Officer nominations begin in your Lodge meetings this month. I hope most Lodges have individuals stepping up and moving forward to the next chair. If not, now is a good time to start looking for people who want the opportunity to serve. Do your best not to just fill a chair. Be open and honest with the person you are asking. Let them know just what the expectations are for the position they are committing to.

At this time, your Lodge also decides the Citizen, Elk, and Officer of the Year. I am going out on a limb here, but you probably have multiple individuals who deserve these honors. It is now time to start observing the final choices.

Lodges should have these names submitted to Grand Lodge by the end of February so certificates can be printed and sent back to the Lodges for Officer Installations.

Membership and Lapsation Committee members also need to look over the lapsation list. We all do a great job initiating new Members, but sometimes we forget about our delinquent Members. Your delinquent Members had a reason for joining and sometimes they just need a reminder. If they do not want to return, find out why. If everyone is saying the same thing, you might want to change some things in your Lodge.

The end of year will be here before you know it. With the new Financial Reporting System, your Lodge just needs to ensure all entries are current. The nice thing about the

FRS system is your Lodge no longer needs to have the annual audit completed. However, you still must submit your 990 and 990T for each corporation in your Lodge. Have them completed by a qualified individual (e.g., CPA) and filed with the IRS and uploaded on Elks.org.

I have said it before and I will say it again, thank you for everything you do.

Well, Christmas is only a week away, and the 2021/2022 Elks year is in its 9th month, with the finish line just a little over three months away. This 2021/2022 year has been exceedingly better than the 2020/2021 year, and while COVID continues to lurk in the shadows, our Lodges across the Association are, for the most part, back in business from an Elk and social standpoint. Hopefully, your Lodge is one of the many that are once again experiencing good things with revived activities and business.

Message From Our State Sponsor

PAUL D. HELSEL
PGER & Sponsor

P.O. Box 8173 | Newark, DE 19714
 (302) 737-4460 pdhelsel@verizon.net



I hope all had a most joyous and wonderful holiday season. Christmas and the New Year celebrations are behind us and, while this is a new 2022 calendar year, we are now in the 10th month of our 2021/2022 Lodge year, with the finish line just a little over 2 months away. This 2021/2022 year has been exceedingly better than the 2020/2021 year, and while COVID continues to restrain us more than we would like, our Lodges across the Association are, for the most part, back in business from an Elk and social standpoint. Hopefully, your Lodge is one of the many that are once again experiencing good things with revived activities and business.

I am excited and encouraged with what our Membership Team and the majority of the Lodges are doing with membership this year. With a bit over 2 months to go, we are much better membership-wise than we were at the end of the 2020/2021 year. Our Association and many of our Lodges are in a position that there is a very high probability that they will regain the losses of last year and show a gain in membership. If we are able to do that at the Association level, it would be 5th year of achieving a gain in membership out of the last 7 years. The last 2

Continued on page 3

HELSEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

months of the year usually sees our membership numbers increase, so we have a realistic opportunity to get on the plus side once again this year.

The key to our getting over the hump is Retention, Recruitment, and Initiate, Initiate, Imitate!! At this point in time, we have initiated 1436 new members and have 424 candidates in waiting to be imitated. INITIATE, INITIATE, INITIATE!!! With those already initiated, reinstated, and candidates in waiting, we will have added 1744 (9.1%) to our roles – great job! We currently have 1553 (8.1%) delinquents across our 37 Lodges – not a bad number but still needs work. If we can initiate those 424 candidates in waiting and our potential losses don't increase, we will end the year at a plus 139 – it will be a fantastic accomplishment. Each of our 37 Lodges must mount a full-scale effort to get each of those individual delinquent members to pay their dues and INITIATE, INITIATE, INITIATE. A growth in membership is well within our grasp, perhaps a certainty for our Association and many of our Lodges. However, to make it a certainty, for the next 2 months, the focus must be Retention (get those delinquents back on board), Recruitment (continue to sign up new members), and Initiate, Initiate, Initiate!!!!

Our success in bringing down the delinquency numbers can be attributed in part to the Member Billing Program offered by Grand Lodge, where delinquent members routinely receive a billing notice with the ability to pay their dues and assessments via a credit card. When routinely billed, members seem to be paying their dues quicker, and our delinquency rates continue to go down. We only have about 8 Lodges not using the billing program, and a few of those have our highest delinquency rates. If your Lodge is one of them, I will encourage you to get your Lodge on the program and enjoy an improvement in your delinquency rate – help yourself, help your Association, help your Order.

We experienced another successful Fall Conference at the Princess Royale in October. Hopefully, you were there with us to enjoy the festivities and learning experience. Things were a bit different due to the effects dictated by the COVID experience. The Hospitality Industry in most all areas is still dealing with worker issues, and services are a bit lacking. However, the situation continues to improve, and despite some changes, we had a great time, conducted the business we needed to get done, and returned home inspired to work harder for Elksdom in our Lodges. Our next conference will be March 17 – 20, 2022, at Frederick Lodge 684. As usual, we will be hosting our

Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Miles and First Lady Amy at this conference. Also, at this conference, we will be electing our next President-Elect from the Southwest District. Please be sure your Lodge delegation is present for the weekend to share in the festivities, learn a bit more about Elksdom, meet and greet the GER and Amy, as well as cast your vote for the next President-Elect – it promises to be another great weekend.

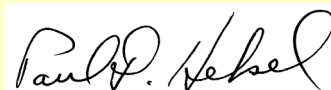
Through these past couple of years, a lot of emphases has been put on getting our individual Lodges up and running on the Grand Lodge Financial Reporting System (FRS). I'm happy to report that most of our Lodges have completed the task and are routinely submitting monthly financial data. At this point in time, no Lodges have been fined or disciplined in any way for being tardy with getting on the system or late filing of information. While no fines have been levied, a small number of Lodges are still having some issues but are steadily improving. Thank you to all Lodges and individuals who took this effort seriously and made sure their Lodge was and is compliant – thank you, thank you!!

The holiday season just behind us is typically a busy time in Elksdom for helping others and socializing and a slow time for getting many other routine tasks done – the festivities, including that which goes along with helping others tends to overshadow things we do routinely throughout the year. Well, hopefully, the holiday season was a joyous and happy time for you with friends and family and you were able to recharge a bit and are now ready to get back to the task at hand and complete this 2021/2022 Elk year with a bang. This 2021/2022 year has all the makings of a great year for most of our Lodges and our Association as well, but what we accomplish now in January, February, and March will make all the difference and tell the final story for 2021/2022.

Jane and I extend our best wishes to each and every MD, DE & DC Elk and their families for continued good health, prosperity, and joy during this new 2022 year, as well as continued success and prosperity for the 37 Lodges of our great Association.

And finally, THANK YOU for your unwavering and dedicated support and efforts on behalf of your Lodge, our Association, our Order, and all those we serve. MD, DE & DC Elks are the greatest!

Sincerely and fraternally,



Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor

**MD, DE & DC ELKS
ASSOCIATION NEWS
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
2020-2021**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS STATE
CHAIRPERSON**

Joseph E. McGeeney, II, PDDGER
Essex Lodge #1866
Cell: 443-610-0935
Email: joemcgeeney58@gmail.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISOR
George W. Hamilton, PGLC (Janice)
Hagerstown Lodge #378

Phone: 301-739-3778
Email: gwh507@myactv.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Janie Swigert-Kent Island Lodge #2576
Cell: 410-703-1796
Email: statenewsletter@outlook.com

NEWSLETTER ADVISOR
Connie J. deYoung (Brian), GLC
Dover Lodge #1903
Cell: 302-270-5431
Home: 302 -678-5486
Email: conniedeyoung@gmail.com
and cdeyoung@schmittrod.com

**DISTRICT
CHAIRPERSONS:**

NORTH CENTRAL

Carolyn M. Riggins (Robert)
Annapolis Lodge #622
Home:410-269-1888 Cell:443-604-1341
Email: rmriggins@verizon.net

NORTH EAST

Allison Buettner
Abingdon Lodge #2354
Cell: 410-417-5228
Email: allisonopitz@gmail.com

SOUTH WEST

Kelley Randolph (Charles Spadone)
Camp Springs Lodge #2332
Home: 301-449-3449
Cell: 202-439-0399
Email: kelley22c@aol.com

SOUTH EAST

Vacant

WEST

Jill Johnson (David)
Hagerstown Lodge #378
Phone: 240-329-7643
Email: jcheezy2@yahoo.com

Message from out President-Elect

**MARION
DAVIDSON**

Chestertown Lodge #2474 | Cell) 410-708-5098
madavidsonjr@gmail.com



I hope everyone enjoyed a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

It is the start of a new calendar year, but most importantly, it is time to start preparing for the beginning of a new Lodge year on April 1st. This is the time for your future Officers to begin preparing their goals and selecting their Chair-people for Committees for the upcoming Lodge year. It should also be a busy time for the Membership Committee to recruit new members, retain delinquent members, and put our State President motto, "Bring Them Back," into action.

I had the pleasure to volunteer at Camp Barrett for the Scout Camporee. It was a pleasure to see all those Scouts using and enjoying our State Major Project.

Kudos to the State Scouting Committee, Camp Executive Committee, and all the Volunteers who made it a success.

It is time for the Lodges to be working on their budgets for the next Lodge year. Please remember to include Camp Barrett in your budget and sponsor some campers. The Camp is preparing to have an "in-person" camping season this year, so please have your Lodge Camp Representative supply them with campers.

Hopefully, all the Lodges have held their Hoop Shoots & Americanism Contests and sent their winners to the State Association Committee Chairperson.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the March Meeting in Frederick, and I will see some of you at our State Committee Contest.

Have a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year.

Faternally,

Marion Davidson, Jr.

**MD, DE, AND DC ELKS STATE MEETING MARCH 18-20, 2022
FREDERICK LODGE #684 FREDERICK, MD 21702**

To the members of the Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia State Association:

The officers and members of Frederick Lodge #684 look forward to hosting the March workshop at our Lodge Home.

We will be hosting our GER T. Keith Mills and his wife, Amy. Visit www.mddedcelks.org for detailed information, the meeting schedule, registration form, and meals for the weekend. We

included hotel listings, and other useful information too.

We hope you can assist us with planning for the meeting by providing your meal requests by our **March 5 deadline**.

We will see you in Frederick in March.

Faternally yours,

Judi McKnight, ER
Frederick Lodge #684
Warren Johnson, PSP
Karen McNitt, PER

PUBLIC RELATIONS | WEBSITE INFORMATION

Joe McGeeny

Essex Lodge #1866 | www.MDDEDCElks.org
MDDEDCElks@gmail.com | 443-610-0935



Today's internet is a necessary information-gathering encyclopedia section that is virtually endless. Millions and billions of pages, documents, books, manuals, videos, etc., are downloaded & uploaded every day. These items are readily available by the "Click & Order" (basically replacing the old brick & mortar stores).

Millions of people (including thousands of Elk Members) are accessing the internet, as a way of life, to communicate and share photos, videos, and various documents. Many may be found on our State Website: www.MDDEDCElks.org — click on the Main Menu (located on the left side of every page) - then click on the "Committee" Page - click on the Committee of choice Button.

Our State Association also has a Facebook Page which allows

for real-time information and pictures from our Lodges. Our State Chair, Danniele McKnight (Frederick #684), may help anyone with questions or concerns regarding social media.

Fraternally,

Joe McG., Webmaster

STATE WEBSITES:

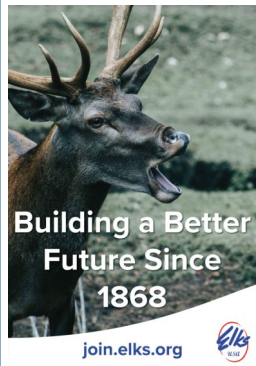
<https://www.mddedcelks.org/>
<http://www.elkscampbarrett.org/>

GRAND LODGE WEBSITES:

<https://www.elks.org/>, <http://join.elks.org/>
<https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/>
<https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/social-shareables/>

STATE WEBMASTER — CONTACT INFO:

Joseph E. McGeeny—Essex 1866
Cell: 443-610-0935 / Email: joemcgeeny58@gmail.com
State Email: MDDEDCElks@gmail.com



BPO of ELKS of USA

February 16, 2022 is the 154th Birthday of our Order and they continue to serve communities across America. Let us celebrate by clearing the names from our Lodge delinquent list. Reach out to each Member on this list. Ask them Why they haven't paid their dues this year and make efforts to correct the issue and "BRING THEM BACK"!! Get them

involved in the many activities that **Elks Do**!! Our communities deserve our continued support, especially during these very trying times to stay healthy and keep food on the table.

Elks Leading the Way!!

Support the food banks, churches, and other organizations that are helping to thwart Hunger for so many.

Elks History: <https://www.elks.org/history/>
www.MDDEDCElks.org



The current our State President, Robert Raleigh's pandemic is slogan. This will get additional volunteers beginning to help **RECOVER**. slow down somewhat, We must **RECOVER** by continuing to move forward and increase our community-based programs, as well as reaching out (much more often than in the past) to your local media outlets such as local newspapers, social media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok), Email Distributions, e-Flyers, e-Postcards, Magazines, Radio, TV, and others. Let the community know that the "ELKS DO CARE," and we are still here to help **RENEW**; that's what **ELKS DO**.

RESPOND – RECOVER – RENEW

We must **RESPOND** by clearing our delinquent list and "BRING THEM BACK,"

<https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/marketing-guide/>

We will **RENEW** by bringing many new interested persons to our Lodges to help our community to **RENEW**.

Learn what the proposed members' interests are and get them involved in your in your Lodge programs. Let your District PR Chairperson know when announcements are being placed in the media. We must rebound from this pandemic, our communities are depending on us.

Elks Care - Elks Share



South East District VP Carrie Kane

Easton Lodge #1622
carie_cane@outlook.com

My year so far, as Vice President for the Southeast District, has been wonderful thanks to all of the love and support from my fabulous 10 Lodges. My visits to Crisfield and Easton were a huge success. They are working hard to better their Lodges, and I commend them for all of their hard work.

My next stops are Pocomoke, Selbyville, and Kent Island, so if you are reading this and are a part of those three Lodges, I can't wait to see you and spend time with you!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy New Year. God bless you, God Bless America, and God Bless the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Fraternally,
Carrie Kane,



Kent Island Lodge #2576 hosted SE DD Susan Caldwell at their December Lodge meeting. Pictured above: George Tunnclif (PER), John Meyer, Rick Frere (ER), Susan Caldwell, and Mike Benson (PER)



West District VP Michael Collins

Hagerstown Lodge #378
Cell: 301-667-3176
diamondsrump99@gmail.com

I hope everyone had a great Christmas Holiday and hope your New Year will be full of cheer! I have visited three of our Lodges recently. I certainly love where I am from, my home Lodge. However, I always look forward to going to other Lodges and meeting my brothers and sisters in Elkdom. We learn from sharing our experiences, and it motivates me to see the devotion and dedication to our cause and obligation when I talk with Elks everywhere I go. It is also nice to have some good food and drink and meet and socialize with awesome people.

This time of year is a time of giving and goodwill, and our Elks from the West District have been very busy at it. Some examples of caring and sharing that West District Lodges have been involved in are: allowing Cumberland Valley Breast Cancer Awareness to create a field of pink by placing thousands of pink flags on an Elks property at a very busy intersection. The flags represent the 1 in 8 women in Washington County that will experience

breast cancer this year.

The Lodge also made a generous donation for Breast Cancer Awareness. Lodges have made multiple donations to local communities to help citizens in need of healthcare, clothing, and food. We support scouting, little league sports teams and sponsor families in need during Christmas by providing food, gifts, clothing, and much more. We continue to promote Drug Awareness.

Our Veterans in nursing homes, medical centers, and assisted living homes were provided with food, gifts, and essential items to help them during difficult times in their lives. I recently had the privilege to present a check from the West District Lodges to the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Martinsburg. I brought with me two children who occasionally volunteer at an Elks Lodge. They told me how good they felt to see where our donations go and how donations help the Veterans. Sharing how we help our Veterans and communities is an important way to get new members, keep members, and get members involved. Keep sharing our stories!

I look forward to the rest of the year!

Michael Collins, VP



NORTH EAST VP

Betty Hardin
Havre de Grace #1564
410-960-5492
bettwedg@comcast.net

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. I want to thank all the Lodges in the North East District for their hospitality during my visits and while accompanying our State President on his visits.

We promoted the motto "Bring Them Back" and stressed that our State Association exists to help and assist all Lodges in any way possible. I was so proud to hear of all the charitable works each Lodge is doing.

North East District Lodges are to be commended for promoting our Grand Lodge programs, publicizing the good works they do, and increasing membership. Of our seven Lodges, six recently held Hoop Shoots, and the seventh was scheduled, but the school system canceled because of a recent Covid outbreak. I enjoyed attending the Hoop Shoot held jointly by Abingdon and Havre de Grace Lodges at Harford Community College. All North East District Lodges sponsored families and generously donated food and gifts for Christmas. That's what Elkdom is about - Caring and Sharing.

As we start 2022, it is time to plan for the election of next year's Lodge officers, and our Exalted Rulers should be finalizing their awards for Elk, Officer, and Citizen of the Year. An expression of recognition and gratitude is always appreciated. And most importantly, please submit your form for the All American Lodge Contest. Your Lodge deserves to be recognized for the good works that you do.

As I concluded my visits to the North East District Lodges, I learned that caring about our veterans, our youth, and our community is what makes us all love being an Elk. As we begin this new year 2022, let's continue to help and assist each other in any way possible. I wish everyone a happy and healthy year and look forward to seeing you at our March Spring Conference at the Frederick Lodge.



The Milford Elks #2401 recently presented a check for \$5,500 to the Sussex Consortium, a school for children with intellectual and physical learning disabilities ages 2 to 21, for their garden shed project! We combined the Spotlight Grant and our Beacon Grant for this project.

They were grateful for our help in providing their students with opportunities and resources to learn about plants, soil, and growing processes.

Pictured from left to right from the Consortium are Linda Cororan overseeing the project; Vivian Bush, Principal / Phycologist for the Consortium; and Elks Cyndee Sammons, Grant Writer and Secretary.

CHEERS TO 50 YEARS
Save the Date: March 11-12, 2022
Chestertown Lodge 50th Anniversary Celebration
Come Celebrate With Us!
Friday, March 11th
 Hamburger Dinner & Ice Cream Kart
 Live Music by Justin Singleton

Saturday, March 12th
 Dinner / Dance
 Cocktail Hour - Appetizers & Open Bar (5:00-6:00)
 Buffet Dinner, Catered by Fish Whistle (6:00)
 Pan Seared Canadian Salmon
 Herb Crusted Top Round of Beef
 Baked Penne Pasta
 Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
 Green Beans
 Caesar Salad
 Rolls
 Dessert
 Live Music by Great Train Robbery
 Cost: \$20 per person (tickets required)
 Contact Trey Blackiston for tickets
 must purchase by February 28, 2022
 410-708-5859 or treyblackiston@yahoo.com



NORTH CENTRAL VP Frank Kane

Laurel Lodge #2283
240-593-3529 | fjkane@comcast.net

Greetings to all. As I write this, the Christmas Holiday and the New Year has closed out on us. My first thoughts are to send out warm holiday wishes, but the holidays will only be memories when this gets published.

I've been enjoying my visits to the Lodges in North Central. State President Rob Raleigh and I only have a few meetings left in North Central. They will be done in early January. After that, it should be smooth sailing until March 18-20, when we have our next State Meeting hosted by the Frederick Lodge #684. Our Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills and his wife will be joining our State Association for this meeting. All Lodge Officers should plan on being there. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Elkdom, who we are, and the many things we do as a nationwide organization. Exalted Rulers,

Secretaries, and Leading Knights must attend the meetings that weekend. I encourage and welcome all members to attend Saturday's meeting. You will get tons of information from the many committees that give their reports that day.

While I'm talking about attending meetings, let me remind everyone in North Central that on April 23rd at 10:00 am, our DD Matt Briggs will be hosting the District Deputy Workshop at Glen Burnie Lodge. This is a must-attend for the Exalted Rulers, Secretaries, Leading Knights, and Chairpersons of the Board of Trustees; all members are welcome to attend. When we attend these meetings, we get a lot of information and input about our State Association and Grand Lodge that we don't get at our home Lodges.

I hope that everyone is looking forward to the new year 2022. Remember to keep your ENF donations up and take care of your Lodges.

Fraternally yours in Elkdom,



South West District VP Renee Rivituso

Waldorf Lodge #2421
rrivituso@hotmail.com | 240-508-8636

My official visits have been completed. I'm honored to have accompanied Robert Raleigh, State President, on his official visits to the Southwest District Lodges. All Lodges are doing exceptionally well, actively participating in their communities and holding various activities for their Lodge members. Thank You to each one of you for the dinners and hospitality extended to Jeff and me.

Thank You, Exalted Ruler Judy McKnight, for inviting Jeff and me to attend your Charity Ball at Frederick Lodge #684. It was wonderful to see \$80,000 donated to so many deserving charities.

I very much enjoyed volunteering at this year's Elks Camp

Barrett Scout Camporee. All participants were very grateful for everything the volunteers did.

In addition to my official visits, Jeff and I were invited to join the festivities at some of our SW Lodges.

Washington-Rockville Lodge #15 hosted an Octoberfest with the Rockville German Band. All had fun, and the band was wonderful.

Calvert Elks Lodge held a delicious Thanksgiving feast with the best corn pudding I ever had.

Jeff and I also dropped by one of Deal's Lodge Horseshoe Tournaments, which was lots of fun and well attended.

The Lodges in the SW have been busy giving donations to veterans and those less fortunate in their communities this holiday season.

Below and on the following page are some of the highlights of several of the Lodge's activities in the SW District.



Deale Lodge # 2528 hosted a two-day pickleball tournament November 20-21, 2021, as a charity fundraiser for the William J. Jernick Memorial Fund and Annapolis Veterans Center, which assisted two veteran families this

holiday season. Pictured: are Cara Miller, Leading Knight, Donna Sheldrake, Dolly Broom, DDGER, Linda Kilpatrick, Per and Larry Sheldrake, PDDGER



Prince George's County #1778 delivered food Baskets to 53 needy families. Also, coats, shoes and gifts were given to deserving preschoolers and kindergarten children in two area schools.

Pictured with the gifts is Lodge Secretary, Masiel Guevara.

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT CONTINUED

Calvert Elks #2620 held their first annual Golf Outing, led by Leading Knight Tom Roston. A hectic day with 16 golf teams, 26 sponsors, a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, and giveaways.

They raised \$6,250.00 for Barstow Acres Children Center. The Children's Center provides a full continuum of evidence-based programs and services designed to promote the health and well-being of children, adults, and families.



Camp Springs Lodge 2332 partnered with their local Lions Clubs to provide food and supplies for those in their community needing assistance. With the help of the ENF Beacon Grant they were able to provide food; a Holiday dinner with all the fixings. They also provide a \$50 Target Gift card for every child so Santa could brighten their Christmas!



St. Mary's Elks Lodge #2092 picked up toys from Toys for Tots. The Chopticon National Honor Society (NHS), along with Ashley Bothel Gallo sorted and wrapped all the presents for the veterans and their children. A total of 11 NHS students did a fantastic job. A great undertaking of networking with several great local organizations.

St. Mary's County Lodge also received a grant from the William J. Jernick Memorial fund and presented it to the Dexter family and their daughter, Willow who is battling cancer. Pictured below are Bob Scheider and the Willow family.



Drive by Birthday party for Willow

Waldorf Lodge #2421 joined with Our Place Waldorf to sponsor, cook, and serve meals at the Soup Kitchen located at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. It is a locally run soup kitchen that's vision is to improve the quality of life and restore the dignity of Charles County, MD residents in need.

They served 62 men, 49 women, 19 children, and an estimated 24 homeless. They were also given a bag of groceries.

216 bags of nonperishable food were bagged by Boy Scout Troop #2421 and delivered to Eva Turner & Indian Head Elementary Schools for their backpack program. All donations were made possible through grants from the Elks National Foundation.



Scout Troop #2421



Waldorf Leading Knight Carrie Holloway



Above: An unknown volunteer, PSP Mary Cardinal Voigt and Dolly DiPoli at Waldorf Lodge

Washington Rockville #15 held an Oktoberfest with the Rockville German Band, raising \$2,000 for Veterans. Good times with good friends. Zicke, zacke, zicke, zacke, hoi, hoi, hoi!"

Photo below: Bob Ennis, Judy Black, Renee' Rivituso, Diana Patton, Todd Misura. Front - Mary, Joe Beattie



GREETINGS FROM ELKS CAMP BARRETT MASCOT, E.C. THE BEE



It was a busy Fall at ECB, and as we go into January, we are grateful for the mild winter weather we've been enjoying. We know that cold temps are on their way, but we won't have a worry in the world since Cape Henlopen Lodge and ER Sam Leshner donated and installed new heat units in the Directors and Staff offices. The Exec. Comm Secretary and Director of Operations can now come into work and not have to wear their coats and gloves! Thank you so much! The Cape is Grrr8!

We are also grateful for the new flooring in cabins 1 and 5. Thank you to Calvert members Diane, and Rodger Murphy of Floor Systems, for donating the labor and materials for Cabin 1 and discounting the materials and labor for cabin 5. Thank you to Cabin 1 sponsor Lodges for seeing the work was funded and scheduled. Thank you to Kent Island Lodge and Seaford Lodge for donating the funds for the new floor in Cabin 5.

Scout Camporee 2021 went off without a hitch! We hosted 565 excellently behaved and mannerly scouts (less than our average 900+ but huge for any event during COVID). The food was fantastic, and everything went very smoothly. Thank you to Ben Stone, ECB Exec Committee Chairman/ECB Camporee Coordinator, and Tanner Bilbrough, Scouting Chairman/Scout Camporee Chairman, for the excellent planning and leadership of this great event. A huge thank you to the 20 plus Elks members who proved their metal as they worked hard the entire weekend to make everything run smoothly. This event can't happen without wonderful volunteers like these; Ben Stone, Tanner and Cassandra Bilbrough, Robert Raleigh, Mary Cardinal-Vogt, Renee Rivituso, Trent and Waverly Manson, Joe McGeeney, Greg Settle, Robert Comer, Dave Langenfelder, John and Eileen Loftus, Betty Hardin, Jackie Phillips, Patti Gray, Mary Ann Wegman, Mike Kunkel, John Meyer, Marion Davidson, Frank Kane, Matt Briggs and anyone we may have missed. Thank you, thank you, thank you, one and all!

The Summer Camp Brochure will be out by the first of February. The schedule has changed. Here is the tentative schedule that will be voted upon at the January ECB meeting after the printing/distribution of this newsletter. Please remember to include camper fees and donations to Elks Camp Barrett in your 2022 Budget. Remember that ECB is a 501C3, so your charity funds can also be used toward the camp. As always, Your State Major Project leadership and staff appreciate the support and funding that the local Lodges give so generously. You are all indeed the Bee's Knees!

2022 ECB Camp Schedule

June 13 -17`	Camp Counselor/Staff Training
June 19 24	Week One - Boys
June 26 - 7/1	Week Two - Girls
July 3 - 8	Week Three - Girls
July 10-14	Week Four - Co-Ed
July 16 - 19	Week Five - Co-Ed

2022 Partner Camps

July 20- 29	Sea Cadets
July 30 - 8/5	Camp Sunrise
Aug 7 - 12	Tomahawk - Scouts Day Camp
Aug 15 - 19	AACS Band Camp
Aug 22 - 27	ZOTUNG Christian Family Camp

U + ME Drug Free = A GR8 Place 2B!

Angela M. Meyer, State Chairperson

MD, DE, DC Elks Association

Drug Awareness Programs

ecbsecretary@outlook.com 410-739-5575 (cell)



**DAP- DEA Public Safety
Alert - One Pill Can Kill**

To: All MD,DE,DC Elks Association Members,

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a public safety alert to warn the American public of the alarming increase in fake prescription pills containing fentanyl and meth. These counterfeit pills are easy to purchase, widely available, and often contain deadly doses of fentanyl. DEA warns that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially lethal. This alert does not apply to legitimate pharmaceutical medications prescribed by physicians dispensed by pharmacists. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last year, more than 93,000 people died of overdoses in the United States, marking the largest number of drug-related deaths ever recorded in a year. Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in counterfeit pills, is the primary driver of this alarming increase in overdose deaths.

DEA agents, in partnership with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, have seized record amounts

Continued on page 11

DAP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

of counterfeit pills containing deadly doses of fentanyl. Officials also report that increasingly, methamphetamine is being pressed into counterfeit pills. Drug traffickers use fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse in the United States. More than 5 million counterfeit pills have been seized this year. At this unprecedented rate, more counterfeit pills will be seized in 2021 than in the previous three years

combined. Please access the One Pill Can Kill Press Release and the DEA Fact Sheet on Counterfeit Pills by visiting www.DEA.gov.

Please share this press release and the flyer and information contained in them with your members and colleagues. The Elks Drug Prevention Program stands ready to answer any questions and assist any Lodge with distributing information on this deadly and urgent drug abuse threat. Contact your District DAP Chairperson or Angela Meyer,

DAP State Chairperson, if you need any assistance. We will continue to keep you updated on this significant public safety threat as we are notified by DEA and local authorities.

Thank you for helping to get this important information out to your local communities.



THANKS TO THE ECB SCOUT CAMPOREE VOLUNTEERS



Front: Marion Davidson, Tanner Bilbrough, Ben Stone, Robert Raleigh, Patti Gray **Middle Row:** Rene Rivituso, Angela Meyer, Mary Cardinal-Voyt, Eileen Loftus, Cassandra Bilbrough **Rear:** Joe McGeeney, John Meyer, Jackie Phillips, Waverly Manson, John Loftus, Robert Comer, Mike Kunkel

ELKS CAMP BARRETT IMPROVEMENT FUND RAFFLE

Louis B. Schmeltzer, Jr.
Annapolis Lodge #622
410-627-5179 | louschmeltzer@gmail.com



I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season and is joining me to say goodbye to 2021 and welcome 2022.

Initial preparations are being made to get the raffle for 2022 underway. The tickets will, as usual, be mailed out in March, and they will be the same as in previous years, \$10 each or six for \$50.

We will draw the winners at the Family Picnic in May. I am hoping for another great year for collections, even better than last year, which was a record for collections.

I look forward to opening a lot of envelopes and depositing large amounts of donations.



Department of Justice • Drug Enforcement Administration

COUNTERFEIT PILLS FACT SHEET

FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS • WIDELY AVAILABLE • INCREASINGLY LETHAL

CRIMINAL DRUG NETWORKS ARE FLOODING THE U.S. WITH DEADLY FAKE PILLS

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Counterfeit pills are easy to purchase, widely available, often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine, and can be deadly.
- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms—making them available to anyone with a smartphone, including teens and young adults.
- Many counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Percocet®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), and alprazolam (Xanax®); or stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall®).



Authentic oxycodone M30 tablets



*Counterfeit oxycodone M30 tablets containing fentanyl

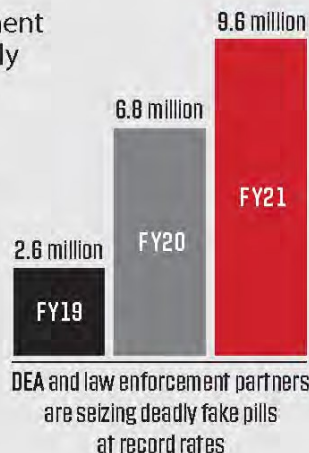
COUNTERFEIT PILLS OFTEN CONTAIN FENTANYL AND ARE MORE LETHAL THAN EVER BEFORE

- The number of DEA-seized counterfeit pills with fentanyl has jumped nearly 430 percent since 2019.
- Officials report a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least 2 mg of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose.
- Drug traffickers are using fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse. CDC reports more than 93,000 people died last year of an overdose in the U.S., the highest ever recorded.
- Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in counterfeit pills, is the primary driver in this alarming increase in overdose deaths.



COUNTERFEIT PILLS ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE ACROSS EVERY STATE IN THE COUNTRY

- DEA and its law enforcement partners are seizing deadly fake pills at record rates.
- More than 9.5 million counterfeit pills were seized so far this year, which is more than the last two years combined.
- Counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



- Drug trafficking is also inextricably linked with violence.
- This year alone, DEA seized more than 2,700 firearms in connection with drug trafficking investigations—a 30 percent increase since 2019.

THE ONLY SAFE MEDICATIONS ARE ONES THAT COME FROM LICENSED AND ACCREDITED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

- DEA warns that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially lethal.



For more information about counterfeit pills, go to www.DEA.gov/onepill

Data as of September 2021

The Drug Enforcement Administration ensures the safety and health of the American public by fighting against violent criminal drug networks and foreign cartels trafficking in illicit drugs. To accomplish that mission, the Drug Enforcement Administration employs approximately 10,000 men and women throughout the world—Special Agents, diversion investigators, intelligence analysts, and chemists—across 239 domestic offices in 23 U.S. divisions and 91 foreign offices in 68 countries.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

Renee' Rivituso, PDD

Elks Training Chair Waldorf #2421
240-508-8636 | ituso@hotmail.com



The Elks Training Committee has planned Leadership Training Clinics to assist the upcoming Officers in local Lodges.

All Elks members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Training will be focused on helping the current, and incoming Lodge officers of the MD, DE & DC Elks Association be successful in the business of their Lodge, bring awareness to committees, rules of the order, and outline information available to them.

Breakout sessions will be held for Exalted Rulers, Secretaries, Treasurers, Trustees/ Board of Directors, Knights, and House Committee.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Reservations are needed by February 5, 2022. Please RSVP RRivituso@Homail.com or call 240-508-8636. The times and locations are as follows:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022 @ 9:30 AM

**Annapolis Lodge No. 622, 2 Pythian Drive
Edgewater, MD 21037**

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022 @ 9:30 AM

**Dover Lodge No. 1903, 200 Saulsbury Road
Dover, DE 19904**

On another note, there is an ongoing Training Contest that will bring awareness to your Lodge and your district. Officers in attendance at the Leadership Training Clinic will earn 5 points. Bring a member/nonofficer with you and earn 10 points towards the contest. Log into Elks.Org to take any of the 4 training courses offered, and earn 2 points for each completed course (Login to Elks.Org, hover over "Members Only," and click on Manuals then on training).

Our committee looks forward to working with your Lodge leadership team. At any time you have a question, please reach out to your District Chairperson or me.

Grow With the Elks,

Renee' Rivituso

Elks Training Chairman

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION & ARMY OF HOPE

Louis B. Schmeltzer, Jr.

Annapolis Lodge #622

410-627-5179 | louschmeltzer@gmail.com



STATE VETERAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

I am accepting nominations for Veteran Volunteer of the year for the State Association. Please submit any qualified nominee's name to me by March 31st of this year. The award will be presented at the June convention. My contact information is above and in the Directory.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE

By Bill Buttrill, PSP Seaford Lodge #2458
bestplumber@verizon.net



If you attended the October Workshop in Ocean City this past year, you know I received a really nice award to document the amount of financial giving that I have done. You would think that I am a rich man to hear the amount. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I have been an Elk for over 44 years. This award represents the consistent giving of small amounts over the years. And now that they have a program where you can have a specified amount withdrawn from your checking account at specified times, it makes it even easier. I call it the "payroll deduction plan." I'm sure they have a very official term for the same thing. (*Online giving*)

Check with your Lodge ENF chairman or visit <https://www.elks.org/enf/onlinegiving.cfm> and get on board. There is no other savings plan that you can invest in that pays the dividends that the ENF does. For every dollar you invest, ENF gives back over \$3.50. You can't beat that with a stick.

Online Giving

Donate Online Now

Personal Giving History

ENF Donor Bill of Rights

Designate Your Gift

A designated gift directly supports the ENF program you select, helping build stronger Elks communities today. You can choose to designate your gift to one program or select all programs and make an immediate difference in the lives of youth, veterans and Elks communities.

Selecting the ENF Endowment Fund means your donation will be invested in a permanent fund where its interest will be distributed over time, ensuring the ongoing success of the ENF.

Donating to the Elks National Foundation is quick, easy, and secure. Your online donation will be put to work immediately, and with your Online Giving Account ID and password, you can track your account status 24-hours a day!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Lynn Evans

State Scholarship Chair
Kent Island #2576 (C) 410-598-1225
lynnevans@atlanticbb.net

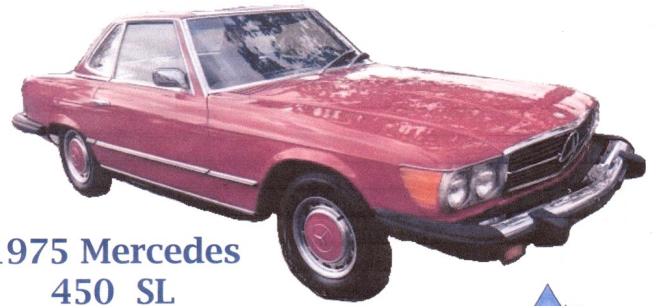


The Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest is underway. The Lodge judging is now complete, and the District judging will be from December 27 – January 10. The state judging will begin on January 28 and end on February 14. The Scholarship Office will notify the MVS winners in late March 2022.

The Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks State Association Skilled Trades Scholarship is now available on the state website. The application is now fillable and is due on April 15, 2022.

For high school seniors, the Legacy Scholarship is open to children and grandchildren of Elks members in good standing. The applications are judged on knowledge, charity, community service, and integrity. **The national deadline is February 7, 2022.**

CAR RAFFLE



**1975 Mercedes
450 SL**



Proceeds to Benefit
MD, DE & DC Elks Association

**Elks National Veterans Service Commission
Army of Hope & Welcome Home Project**

Drawing: March 12, 2022

Need not be present to win

1 ticket \$20.00 or 6 tickets for \$100.00

Please make checks payable to

Newark Elks Lodge 2281

42 Elks Trail New Castle, DE. 19720

Contact: Roseanne Cinclair at Newark Elks 302-328-2281

Bob McIntyre 302-540-2880

AMERICANISM

Charles A. Spadone

State Chair Americanism
Camp Springs Lodge #2332
Cell: 240-475-0684 | spadonecharles@aol.com

As state chair, I spoke to the meaning of this program and that I see it as another word for patriotism and the opportunity to instill a sense of our nation's values in our youth.

I have visited 5 of 7 Lodges in the Southwest District to promote participation in the Americanism program.

We also promoted the program to all Lodges at the DD Clinics in August and September. This included handing out the fliers with details on the program guidelines and deadlines for participation in the poster and essay contests.

I also spoke to Patriotism week and encouraged Lodges to prepare to participate next September.

During my presentations, I also highlighted the Americanism manual and particularly the page that



listed the many things that a Lodge could do to promote patriotism in their communities.

I encouraged Lodges to look for opportunities to present flags to local businesses to display prominently and to use that as an opportunity to obtain local media coverage of the event.

The initial deadline for the poster and essay contests has passed. It will be interesting to see how many participated.

I thank Donna Sheldrake for her efforts and guidance before turning over the program to complete the Lodge year.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles A. Spadone



ACCIDENT PREVENTION REPORT

Distribution and Consumption of Alcohol "Time to take responsibility for ourselves"

Mike Ford, NE State Chair Abington Lodge #2354 | 410-977-8230
prinklrgod26@yahoo.com



Unfortunately, it is my responsibility as your State Accident Prevention Chair to sometimes be the bad guy. This is one of those times. I can not stress enough the importance of protecting your Lodges. I don't have to tell you about a recent lawsuit brought down on the Elks, which every single member in Elkdom will be paying for.

With that being said, we must all have our bartenders, paid or volunteer, take an alcohol course before they get behind a bar. All their information must be kept on site for access to the Liquor Board. I will again post the signs of impaired patrons. Your bartender is your first line of defense against a lawsuit and the House Committee/Board of Directors are the second. The third and fourth are your

Officers and each and every member. I hear things and get calls. So let me be perfectly clear. If there is an incident at your Lodge, you must fill out an accident report, be very detailed and take pictures. The more information the better. Especially if the member or quest refuses an ambulance. You should also have a log behind the bar to record incidences about rowdy behavior, drunkenness, and foul language. We have to police ourselves to protect against lawsuits. Please don't hesitate to call me for help. We should rather have a member cut off from drinking than have them kill themselves or someone else. I am also willing to travel to your Lodge meeting or House Committee meeting to answer any questions.

SERVICE OF ALCOHOL TO MEMBERS AND GUESTS

- The service of alcohol is a privilege the Lodge extends to Members and their guests, not a means of revenue for the Lodge. Cutting off a Member or guest who is approaching intoxication is better than defending a multi-million dollar lawsuit.
- Know all State and Local Liquor laws
- Never serve anyone approaching intoxication
- Do not let others buy drinks for anyone who might be close to intoxication
- Stop service to anyone else if they will give drinks to someone approaching intoxication
- No beer kegs, no pitchers and no coolers
- Remind Members/guests not to drink and drive
- Be observant while serving alcohol
- Encourage designated drivers
- Never permit BYOB
- Do not allow games/contests involving alcohol consumption
- An outdoor tent/bar must have a server
- Do not hold a "Happy Hour"
- Never discount prices to promote liquor sales
- "Last call" should be well before closing

Insist on a taxi or a ride for someone who has too much to drink; and members who have a problem need our help, now!

ICE AND SNOW REMOVAL

- Ice and snow removal Plan for keeping walkways, steps and parking lots safe for the coming months:
- Determine whether a contractor or Lodge employees or volunteers remove the snow
- Obtain a written contract if a contractor plows and shovels
- The contractor should provide an insurance certificate confirming insurance coverage
- Request that the Lodge be named as an additional insured on the insurance certificate
- Lodges that use employees/volunteers to remove snow will need salt and shovels
- Salt applied at the right time and location helps with footing
- Clean and dry mats inside the Lodge reduce tracked in snow and water
- Update Members and guests when the weather changes during Lodge events





Frederick Elks Lodge #684 used a ENF grant to host a holiday party for our local Boys and Girls Club. Pizza, gifts, DJ and Santa made for a wonderful afternoon. Thanks to Karen McNitt and all of the volunteers.



St. Mary's County Elks Lodge #2092 has placed a total of 14 local veterans into housing and helped them completely furnish their homes. For Christmas, they provided them needed items, worked with Toys for Tots, and purchased additional items for the children in need.



MEMBERSHIP/MARKETING

Rick Gathen
Manager

A Fraternal Organization

PHONE: (862) 324-2412
Email: RickG@elks.org

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

MEDIA ALERT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELKS DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM HELPING KENTUCKY VICTIMS

Chicago, IL –National Elks President T. Keith Mills recently announced Local Elks Lodges from every state, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Panama Canal Zone will be raising donations to assist the thousands impacted by the tornados in Kentucky.

National Elks President T. Keith Mills also authorized a donation of \$25,000 from the Elks Disaster Relief Program, Inc. Additional donations can be sent to the Kentucky Elks State Secretary, Ken Hooper at 302 Salem Chapel Rd S Benton, KY 42025-8247.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has made more than 12 Billion in donations since they first started 154 years ago. Last year alone, the Elks donated approximately \$351 million in cash, gifts, and time to make our communities better places to live. The Elks are one of the premier patriotic and charitable organizations in the United States of America.

There are nearly 1,800 Elks Lodges across the country with a total membership of around 800,000. Elk's members must be American citizens who are at least 21 years of age and must believe in God. To learn more and to join us in service, visit www.elks.org. For membership information visit Join.Elks.Org.