



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



Flag Day events can involve veterans, youth groups

We are two months into our Lodge year and time is moving fast. June 14 is Flag Day—a mandatory service the Elks are asked to perform.

Try to get one of your local service youth groups to participate in your ceremony. This will not only serve as your observance of Flag Day, but it will also help educate our youth about our history associated with “Old Glory.” Reach out to your local veterans facilities or Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and invite them to the ceremony. Offer them a chance to participate, or just perform our ceremony for them.

Later in the month is Father’s Day. My father was the one who sponsored me into this great Order. I can honestly say there were times we did not see eye



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

T. KEITH MILLS

to eye. Now that I am older, I understand what he was teaching me and how those conversations helped shape me into who I am today. Since my father’s passing over 14 years ago, I still stop and reflect on what his advice and wisdom would be now as I continue on my daily path. Whether your father is still with you or not, use this day to honor fathers everywhere.

Our Order does not have a ceremony for this day, but I would suggest you hold an event to honor them.

Let this serve as your last reminder that if any Members have sponsored or reinstated three Members, send in the request for them to receive the Grand Exalted Ruler Award pin. The deadline for this is June 15.

I hope to see you at the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta, Georgia from July 3–6. If this is your first convention, congratulations. The information and the experience you will receive will be second to none.

Use your time wisely. Take time to visit the Exhibit Hall and examine the Grand Lodge Committee and State

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Lodge Bulletins: USPS vs. E-mail, private vs. public

Grand Lodge often receives inquiries about **Section 16.150, Opinions 1-4**, of the Laws of the Order, pertaining to Lodge Bulletins/Newsletters being E-mailed or posted on publicly accessed Elks’ websites.

Opinion 02 states: “To preserve the privacy of the Members and applicants for membership in the Order, Lodges may not publish their bulletins or newsletters on a website open to the public, including by use of the Grand Lodge or State Association websites.”

Opinion 03 states: “If a Lodge publishes any magazine, newspaper, bulletin or other periodical devoted to the interests of the Order, every Member of that Lodge is entitled to receive a copy of each such publication, whether by electronic delivery or by regular mail.”

According to **Opinion 04**, “The Lodge Bulletin may be sent electronically to any

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GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Time, money, miles count for reporting

By **GLENN E. FOSTER**
Committee Member

Exalted Rulers, you have been the leader of your Lodge for about three months. Talk with the person you have chosen to be the Chairperson of your Lodge Government Relations Committee. Stress that he or she hit the ground running with the duties charged to that position. Please ask him or her to contact the District Chairperson or the State Chairperson for more information.

The most important item is charity records reporting. Ask for a list of reportable events, including hours spent, money donated, etc., which will help when filling out these reports. Have these reports done soon after the event while everything is still fresh in the minds of the committee working each event.

Our charity reporting will ensure our continued not-for-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service. Here are some examples of things to report:

If a Lodge donated its banquet room for a charity Bingo, the normal room

rental rate is reportable charity. If you have Lodge Members working the Bingo games, their donated time is reportable, too. If Lodge Members go around town collecting donated items for Bingo prizes, the time spent and miles driven are also reportable. If your Lodge holds a dinner for veterans, the meal costs and hours spent preparing the food, if done by volunteers, may be reported, as well as any volunteer time spent setting up before and during, and cleaning up after the dinner.

There are many more examples so please, ask the district or state leaders for more information to give to your Government Relations Chairpersons.

To be a good Elks Member, surround yourself with good Elks Members. Volunteer. It is not only fun, but you will get to know your fellow Members much better. Remember, you only get out of your Membership as much as you put into it.

Elks Care—Elks Share. Report what your Lodge has done.

GER From Page 1

Association booths. Attend the Grand Lodge Sessions. Attend the seminars that are offered every afternoon.

Spend some time with your own state delegates. Use this opportunity to visit other state gatherings and meet Elks from across the nation. Some of the best ideas have come from the interaction between Elks from different states. Let them know what is working for you and let them tell you what is working for them. By exchanging ideas and taking them back to your Lodge, you will be successful in *"Meeting the Challenge."*

For returning attendees, I can assure you the Grand Lodge Convention Commission will put a fantastic convention together for all of us to enjoy.

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Member without written authorization from that Member, unless otherwise requested by the Member."

To clarify the main point, do not publish or post Lodge Bulletins/Newsletters or Notices meant for Members only, on any websites or other social media platforms, that are open to the public.

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a child on the way may need some baby supplies included in their kit.

Recently, volunteers from El Paso, TX Lodge No. 2636 accompanied a veteran on his journey from homelessness to housing. When they met Justin, he was living on the street. The Lodge helped him get the necessary paperwork so he could bring his service dog with him to the shelter. When Justin finally entered permanent housing, the Lodge provided a Welcome Home Kit to ensure he and his dog had everything they needed.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**Every Lodge has tools for a project**

By **DUANE HELDENBRAND**
Committee Member

Prior to the start of the Grand Lodge Convention in Tampa last summer, I attended a meeting and listened to our Committee Chairman Wayne Cotterly speak about our purpose as a committee and our direction for the ensuing year. As he spoke, a comment he made really struck a chord with me and has remained since. He said, "Think of the Lodge as a box, and it's the job of Activities to think outside that box."

Just think of what is outside that box. Consider the people who make their homes and lives around our Lodges. Think of the schools and churches, the parks and community centers. Look around, outside that box, is there a need your Lodge can fill? If so, go fill it. By doing so, let our neighbors see the great and charitable works that Elks do on a regular basis. Think outside the box, but take it a step farther. Think of the box as a toolbox.

Your Lodge is a toolbox containing proven programs and tools. Your membership only has to get them out and use them. I'm referring to student recognition or the Dictionary Program at your local schools. How about starting a Junior Golf Program or hosting a Soccer Shoot? You have an opportunity to add an Antlers membership to your Lodge. These are all Grand Lodge Programs that are thinking outside the box.

Perhaps, like the following Lodges, your Members will participate in the Community Project Contest. These Lodges all found a need in their respective communities. On behalf of

Program Coordinator Michael Bryant and the rest of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee, congratulations to the winners for 2021-2022 Community Project Contest.

Division I

Oakland Park, FL Lodge No. 2407

Division II

Roxboro, NC Lodge No. 2005

Division III

Goldsboro, NC Lodge No. 139
Seaside, OR Lodge No. 1748
Toccoa, GA Lodge No. 1820

Division IV

Putnam, CT Lodge No. 574
Casas Adobes, AZ Lodge No. 2663
Lyndon, KY Lodge No. 2052

Division V

Houlton, ME Lodge No. 835
Hickory, NC Lodge No. 1654
Winter Garden, FL Lodge No. 2165

Division VI

Middletown, CT Lodge No. 771
Augusta, ME Lodge No. 964
Lacey, NJ Lodge No. 2518

Again, the programs are in place. Just like any good tool, however, if you leave it in the box, it's not doing anyone any good and may be getting rusty and unusable. Go ahead and get those tools out and go to work. Don't be afraid to learn a new skill. If your Lodge has something that works very well, find a way to share it. Our committee is always open to suggestions and by all means, if you want to borrow any tools, I'm just a call or e-mail away.

Students, parents, Lodges all benefit from Antlers

By **RICHARD BARD**
Committee Member

Here's a question. What do Broken Arrow Lodge No. 2673 in Oklahoma, Bergenfield Lodge No. 1477 in New Jersey, and Viera Lodge No. 2817 in Florida all have in common? The answer here is they have all recently started an Antlers program.

They are all up and running, and enjoying all the benefits of a successful Antlers group. As you might have heard me say before, starting a program might take some work, but the benefits are worth it. I have talked at length with the

advisors of those three Lodges and many more across our great Order. Everyone I have spoken with is extremely happy they made the effort to get the ball rolling.

Why, you may ask? Kids need positive outlets. Community service is an important part of a college application or a job resume. Being that positive force is what we do as Elks.

It is also a great recruitment tool. Parents of Antlers, who are not already Elks, see the good work we are doing and can't help but to want to be involved. In addition, Antlers often do become Elks. Don't take my word for it; reach out to Antler advisors of other Lodges in your

State or Area, they will tell you first hand.

One of the beauties of an Antlers Lodge is that it is our program. We as Elks run it, we control it. The Activities Committee is currently working hard at expanding and enhancing our youth protection guidelines, and our hope is to have it ready and approved in the coming year. This will be one more tool in your toolkit.

Should you have any questions or concerns, reach out to me, or your Area Committeeperson. Information can also be found on the Grand Lodge website. Now is the perfect time. Let's *Meet the Challenge*.

Hoop Shoot Hall celebrates top competitors, contributors

By **CATHLEEN DRAPER**
ENF Communications Coordinator

Much has changed since the Hoop Shoot began, but one thing has stayed the same—the people who come through the program. Participants continue to take the lessons they learned while competing and go on to succeed. Volunteers continue to dedicate their time to the kids, their families, the Elks, and the program.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary as a national program in April, the Elks Hoop Shoot established the Elks Hoop Shoot Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame recognizes the most outstanding competitors and

contributors: National Finalists who stood out or have gone on to do great things, and volunteers who worked to make the program the best it can be.

The Elks Hoop Shoot is proud to announce the inaugural class of Hall of Fame inductees:

Competitors

Bonnie Samuelson, Brian Gibbs, Chris Mullin, C.J. Cowgill, Jennifer Howard, Karlie Samuelson, Melissa Arrowood, Sean Flohr, Taylor Robertson, Taylor Worman, Alyson (Johnson) Ellison, Bill Brandsma, Jackie Stiles, Joseph Girard III, Steve Alford, Bryan Thoemke, Doris Carie, Kelly Hughes, Seimone Augustus, and Zeb Alford.

Contributors

Bill Cook, Cam Cronk, Emile Brady, Frank Bonner, Frank Hise, Getty Powell, James Roche, Joyce Roche, Keith Mills, Linda Cronk, Raymond (Buddy) Avezzie Jr., Vern Larson, Walter Kettelle, William Critchfield, Bill Gerken, Jerry Grafton, Jim “JD” Dorris, Jim Fuller, Randy Gragg, Richard Blinn, Richard Harris, Robert Bartolameolli, Ron Shogren, and Larry Torres.

The Elks National Foundation allocated more than \$1.4 million to fund the Hoop Shoot program in 2022-23. For videos, news, and more information, visit elks.org/hoopshoot.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Essay contest explains love of USA

By **DAVID P. CIOE**
Committee Member

Americanism Essay Contest Administrator

Final judging of the Americanism Essay Contest for 2021-22 has been completed. The theme was *“What Does It Mean To Love Your Country?”* Huge rounds of applause and thanks to all the students, parents, guardians, teachers, Lodges, and State Associations who reached the submittal and judging stages of this contest. Great job, everyone!

The submissions were excellent, so judging was quite difficult. We did not have the challenge from last year when the pandemic forced us to judge everything via the internet. With restrictions eased, our team of 20 judges was able to meet in person, which was great for everyone. A total of 84 submissions were received, as compared to 71 from last year. The results are as follows:

DIVISION I

Fifth and Sixth Grades (42 submissions)

1st Place: Addison Smith, fifth grade, Tatum Elementary School, Tatum, TX, sponsored by Marshall, TX Lodge No. 683.

2nd Place: AJ Mondano, fifth grade, James A. McDivitt Elementary School, Old Bridge, NJ, sponsored by Old Bridge, NJ Lodge No. 2229.

3rd Place: Maxim Byon Rogoff, sixth grade, Horizon Middle School, Kearney, NE, sponsored by Kearney, NE Lodge No. 984.

DIVISION II

Seventh and Eighth Grades (42 submissions)

1st Place: Yiorgos Kozak, seventh grade, Township of Ocean Intermediate School, Ocean, NJ, sponsored by Asbury Park-Wall, NJ Lodge No. 128.

2nd Place: Leon Jacob, eighth grade, Desert Hills Middle School, Kennewick, WA, sponsored by Tri-Cities, WA Lodge No. 2755.

3rd Place: Samiyah Slaughter, eighth grade, Merry Acres Middle School, Albany, GA, sponsored by Albany, GA Lodge No. 713.

Congratulations to all the winners! Your plaques will be on display at the Americanism Essay Contest Seminars during the upcoming Elks National Convention in Atlanta in July. State Association presidents or their designees may pick up the plaques for presentation. We enjoyed reading all the students' essays on demonstrating patriotism. All of us in Elkdom are extremely proud of every contestant!

The Americanism Essay Contest Theme for 2022-2023 is *“What Is Your American Dream?”* Be on the lookout for new and exciting changes to the contest, implemented by our Fraternal Committee, with more divisions and more awards.

It has been an honor and a privilege to chair this great contest over the past four years and I wish my successor all the best!

G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

Don't miss out!

By **RICK GATHEN**

Membership Marketing Manager

Reserve your seats now for our Membership & Marketing Seminars at the Atlanta Grand Lodge Convention.

Sunday, July 3

10:00-11:30 a.m. Membership & Marketing Seminar, **“What's New in 2022?”** New programs to enhance the Member experience. Ideas to drive Member enthusiasm, activity, and revenue. Ideas to attract new Members through favorable publicity.

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Membership & Marketing Seminar, **“What's New Part Two!”** A panel-led discussion of successful Lodge leaders focused on ideas they are using which enhance the Member experience, increase enthusiasm and activity, drive revenue, get favorable publicity in the community, and grow membership.

Monday, July 4

2:00-3:15 p.m. Membership & Marketing Seminar, **“Leadership Opportunities.”** A new program to help address the nationwide problem with attracting talented Members to become Lodge Officers. Members will be encouraged to become Lodge Officers as part of this new program, as well as benefit from the sense of making a difference and contributing to a bigger cause. Giving is at the core of serving as a Lodge Officer, but much can be gained from it, too.

ENVSC sets another high mark with Welcome Home Kit

By **NADEZH MULHOLLAND**
ENVSC Programs Associate

Every veteran should have a safe and comfortable home, but too many people who have served our country have no place to call their own. The ENVSC is fighting to change that. Committed Elks volunteers make our fight possible.

The Welcome Home Kit program is a popular and accessible way to help. We reimburse volunteers up to \$300 for buying a kit of household supplies for a newly housed veteran, and up to \$500 for a kit that includes a bed. Common items include kitchenware, dishes, bedding, cleaning supplies, and furniture.

During the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Welcome Home Kit program hit another milestone. Together, Elks across the nation provided household supplies for more than 1,900 veterans—our highest number ever! The Welcome Home Kit program reaches more veterans each year, and we're excited to continue the trend in the new year.

Welcome Home Kits mean a lot to the veterans who receive them, but they also touch the hearts of Elks who provide them. After helping a mom and her 3-year-old child, Ron Weigel from West Shore, PA Lodge No. 2257 wrote,

“It is an honor to be able to so quickly meet this urgent need. Thank you.”

If you're ready to help homeless veterans in your area, Welcome Home Kits are a great place to start. Because many veterans enter housing with few or no belongings, the program is a straightforward way to meet a tangible need. Kits can even be personalized to meet each veteran's unique needs and preferences. For example, a veteran who is focused on eating healthy meals might ask for a crockpot, while a veteran with



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BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

DAP training to provide resources for State Chairs

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**
Assistant National Director

The Elks DAP will be holding its annual training for State Chairs on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the opening of the Grand Lodge Session in Atlanta. In addition to the training session, the DAP will hold an open house for the membership, and although seating capacity will be limited, all are welcome to attend.

This will be an opportunity to hear and see what is new in the program and to discuss issues with directors and State Chairs. It will also be the first time the



DAP will be manning a booth at the convention since COVID-19. All are urged and welcome to stop by the booth and pick up the latest materials.

The DAP training will focus on getting back to the basics of the program, with emphasis being placed on the simple things we do to help make the program such a success. Each State Chairperson will be provided with the tools necessary to return to their respective states to train

Lodge Chairs, who are the backbone of the DAP. We have created an electronic tool chest, only available to State Chairs, and from this they will be able to select what works best for them in their states.

Guest speakers will include our National Spokesperson, Ray Lozano; our elementary school professional, Heather DiBlasi; DEA representative, Sean Fearn; and others.

We look forward to meeting all Elks. More information regarding the open house will be made available, so please look for posters in your individual hospitality rooms.