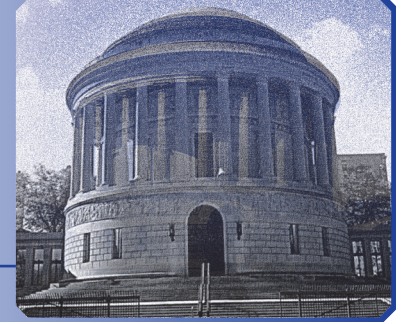




Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



January means a greater commitment to Elkdom

Helen and I want to wish each of you and your families a very Happy New Year as we welcome in 2023. New Year's Eve is a time when we reflect upon the events of 2022 with our family and friends. It's a time when new resolutions are made regarding yourself, your family, your friends, and Elkdom. The most common resolutions made include exercising more, improving diet habits, saving money, and pursuing career ambitions.

For us, as Elks, I'm hoping that *"Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm"* is also added to the list. Why not add becoming more active in your Lodge by working on a committee that will assist with your community image and charitable endeavors? Get your membership retention and arrears program into full stride.



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler
BRUCE A.
HIDLEY**

Have your membership retention committee reach out to delinquent Members and speak with them personally. There is a chance this personal touch will bring those Members back into our folds. These Members must not be forgotten. They joined our great Order for a reason. Bring that burning spirit back into their thoughts by reminding them why they joined and how much they mean to your Lodge operations.

Wouldn't it be great for your Lodge to boast a +1 membership gain in 2023? With these thoughts in mind, I hope each of you will have a very prosperous new year in Elkdom in 2023.

Let's now take a moment to reflect upon what January means to us in the Elks. January means a greater commitment to your Grand Lodge, state association, and Lodge programs. It's a time when you and your Lodge Officers should be reviewing how you stand with your Lodge per capita. If you see that your Lodge is falling short with the per capita goal, make January, February, and March your one last push over the goal line and score that touchdown. Use your Past Exalted Rulers Association and Board

Please see GER, Page 2

Maintain balance with Transfer Dimits

Secretaries: Transfer Dimits must be processed in a timely manner. Currently, there are more than 2,300 incomplete Transfer Dimits.

The CLMS2Web program automatically transfers the Member's information from the outgoing Lodge computer to the incoming Lodge computer, with no typing required.

Keep in mind, a Transfer Dimit started during the current Lodge year must be approved by the accepting Lodge before March 31. If not, that Member remains on your membership roll. Any variance from this procedure will cause your membership total to become out of balance.

Reminder: Year-end membership information must be updated and completed in CLMS2Web by 11:59 p.m. *Central time* on March 31.

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

DAP contest deadlines are approaching

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Assistant National Director

Well, Exalted Rulers, your year is slowly winding down. But, because the Elks DAP is a 24/7 program, your Lodge Chairperson has been fairly busy and has some deadlines to meet in the next few months.

Entries for our contests for kids—the Essay Contest, the Video Contest, and the Poster Contest—need to be in your Chair's hands by the end of March and the first of April. Details for each contest can be found on our websites. These are easy and fun contests that only enhance your Lodge's image.

If you're looking for something to put in your own newsletter, encourage your Members to go to the DAP's YouTube page and check out our podcasts that have been running for some time now. These podcasts are well produced and contain an enormous amount of information

for parents, grandparents, and schools. They are well worth the time to watch, wherever you watch or listen to podcasts.

If you are interested in having one of our speakers (Dr. Heather DeBlasi or Ray Lozano) come to speak to your schools or communities, contact your State Chair to see how this possibility can become a reality. If you'd rather our speakers make a virtual visit, that can be arranged as well. Your State Chair has all the information.

As you wind down your Lodge Year, the directors of the DAP wish to thank you for all you do in your community to help make your children and schools safe.



GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Certificates celebrate special talents in your Lodge

By WILLIAM J. LINDSEY
Committee Chairman

Pretty much everyone is aware of the awards and certificates available from Grand Lodge for their Lodge, including Elk, Officer, and Citizen of the Year who have been selected by their Lodges. Requests for these certificates must be sent to the Grand Secretary's Office prior to March 31 of your Lodge year.

As an Exalted Ruler, you have a way to recognize an additional two of those special unsung heroes in your Lodge. You know, the ones that just seem to always be there doing things without really being asked but making the Lodge and its activities better.

These recognitions are Grand Exalted Ruler's Awards allowing for each Exalted Ruler to issue up to **two** "Grand Exalted Ruler's Outstanding Service

Commendation" certificates for persons performing outstanding service to their Lodge. Order forms and instructions may be downloaded from elks.org or from the thumb drive distributed to Exalted Rulers at the Grand Lodge session. Requests are sent to the Area Fraternal Committee Member postmarked in time to process the certificates, beginning January 1 and no later than March 31 of the Lodge year.

We also have two additional "Grand Exalted Ruler's Special Citation" awards that your Exalted Ruler and Lodge (one each) may obtain for their year. These may be awarded to Exalted Rulers who participate in **six** of the nine required programs during the year and to each Local Lodge that participates in **six** of 11 required programs during the year. The required programs are listed on the application forms available online on the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee

website or on the thumb drive distributed to Exalted Rulers at the Grand Lodge session.

The "Grand Exalted Ruler's Special Citation" for ER and Lodge requests are available through the Area Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member upon receipt of a formal written request from the Exalted Ruler, supported with dated copies of cover letters, programs, news releases, bulletin notices, etc. attesting to participation by the Lodge family in the appropriate activities. Requests begin January 1 and must be postmarked by March 31.

Your Area Committee members are available for you to contact them should you have any questions or make suggestions regarding our GL Fraternal Committee Awards or processes. We are here to assist you and your Lodge as you **"Promote Elkdom With Enthusiasm!"**

GER From Page 1

of Directors meetings to focus on how your Lodge is doing with all of the Lodge committees programs.

By reviewing your Lodge programs you may also begin to decide on who would deserve an award for the great work they have done for your Lodge. Some of the awards you can proudly present to Members and officers who have done so much to promote the cardinal principles of our Order are: Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Citizen of the Year.

There is no better way to say **thank you** for the hard work and dedication they have demonstrated. Maybe you might just get another Member of your Lodge to get involved and promote the good work your Lodge does in your community.

Another way that the Elks can be **"Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm"** is by participating in National Blood Donor Month, which has been observed since January 1970. Organizations such as the American Red Cross and the America's Blood Centers work together during the month to encourage people to donate blood. Perhaps your Lodge can be used as a location. You can save a life by donating blood. This is just another way we as Elks can prove that **"Elks Care - Elks Share."**

God bless all of you, God bless our troops past and present, and most of all, God bless America.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Setting a plan helps incoming officers

By ANTHONY MARKARIAN
Committee Chairman

A new year beginning is the perfect time to reflect on the goals you set for your Lodge, in addition to establishing new goals for 2023.

Setting goals can help us move forward as officers and build bonds that will carry on forever. Create a road map for your team to follow by introducing new ideas while setting goals for your officers to follow. The next corps of officers will continue your ideas as an Exalted Ruler and as a team of officers. You might have three months left as a leader, so the incoming officers need to be included in the goal setting. Working together to achieve these goals helps us define what we can be in Elkdom.

We have determined that, on average, most Lodges have only been reporting a fraction of their charitable data. Using the calendar from your monthly newsletter should always be the guide to completing your report. We established a new monthly Government Relations report that asks specific questions reminding Lodge Chairs there is more work that needs to be done, like improving your relationship with your local government.

It's a lot of work—this Lodge Committee cannot be run by one person. Every Lodge Chairperson should enter

your monthly contributions into CLMS themselves; your Lodge Secretary has the discretion to make this available to you. This will save your Lodge Secretary valuable time and energy and the Chairperson will have a better idea of his or her job. Every Lodge Chairperson should be sending the last three-year totals (easily found on elks.org) to their local government. Every mayor, council member, and county supervisor needs to know how much your Lodge has contributed. Your report should include all the grant and scholarship opportunities that ENF has to offer.



Elks share their thoughts

Want to discuss the Elks? Check out the Membership Forum (elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm). Members use the message board to share constructive information every day.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Service Scorecard gives kids a challenge each month

By MICHELÉ STRACHOTA
ENF Communications Associate

The Hoop Shoot may be known for its free throw contest, but the program is much more than a competition. When the pandemic made it difficult to participate in the Hoop Shoot—and all in-person activities—the Hoop Shoot team designed the Service Scorecard, a virtual opportunity for kids across the country to serve in their communities and connect with others doing the same.

Even now, as the world and the Hoop Shoot return to in-person events, the Service Scorecard represents the heart of the program: the spirit of volunteerism, grit, and fun.

The Service Scorecard is an opportunity for Hoop Shoot participants and fans alike to give back to their communities and earn a chance to win prizes. From October to March, a new Service Scorecard is released each month with different service projects kids can

complete. Although the Hoop Shoot tournament only runs for half the year, the Hoop Shoot is year-round, and the Service Scorecard is one way the program teaches kids the importance of what it means to give back.

“The Service Scorecard is a service opportunity for everyone,” said ENF Youth Programs Manager Makenna Cannon. “All for a chance to win a \$100 donation to the charity of your choice and some great Hoop Shoot swag!”

Anyone who completes at least one service project and submits a brief scorecard survey before the end of each month will be entered for the \$100 donation. Share your progress on social media, and use #HoopShootServes for the opportunity to be featured on our social media and win Hoop Shoot swag.

Service helps community members stay engaged with one another, no matter their age. Encourage local kids and participants to give the Service Scorecard a try!

The Elks have been developing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for 50 years. For 2022-23, the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hoop Shoot as a national program, the Elks National Foundation allocated more than \$1.4 million to fund the program.

For videos, news from the court, and more information about the Hoop Shoot, visit elks.org/hoopshoot.



GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Antlers program provides structure for young leaders

By RONALD A. MANGONE
Committee Member

As Elks, we value the four cardinal virtues of **Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity**. In addition, we promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of our Members, foster the spirit of American patriotism, and cultivate good fellowship. We are invested in our veterans, our communities, and our children.

Everyone knows today’s youth are the leaders of tomorrow. As Elks, we invest in our youth through our many youth activities, scholarships, and, perhaps most importantly, our Antlers program. Antlers across America have a chance to invest in service-related projects—projects that are modeled by our Elks Members. Antlers Lodges first appeared in the late 1930’s. Interest dropped in the 1960’s but has since returned, as young people have launched community projects and shared a curiosity in what their Elks relatives and friends are involved in. New Antlers charters are once again being issued.

Through the Antlers program, our youth are being offered an opportunity to participate in leadership roles,



develop skills in communication and critical thinking, and build relationships. All these experiences are beneficial to young people’s academic, personal, and social well-being. In addition, it makes our communities and society stronger.

As we work to keep our chartered Antlers Lodges active, I am happy to report six Antlers Lodges have been instituted this year. Congratulations to:

Antlers Lodge No. 35 in Meriden, Connecticut;

Antlers Lodge No. 2817 in Viera, Florida;

Antlers Lodge No. 2010 in Naples, Florida;

Antlers Lodge No. 572 in Murphysboro, Illinois;

Antlers Lodge No. 2243 in Encinitas, California; and

Antlers Lodge No. 2757 in Clark Fork Valley, Montana.

Finally, the Activities Committee is currently working to update pictures used in our booth display at Grand Lodge. Please feel free to submit recent photos to be considered for use.

Remember, the future holds promises and dreams for our youth that can be achieved through planning and dedication. Our involvement in our Antlers Program is just another example of *“Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm.”*

VETERANS From Page 4

the spirits and mental attitudes of everyone.”

Nominations for Veteran Volunteer of the Year are due to State Chairs by January 31.

To view the past award winners and to access the nomination form, please visit elks.org/vets/volunteerawards.cfm.

Top ENVSC volunteers can earn state, national awards

By **HANNAH GRABER**
ENVSC Programs Coordinator

“So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

The Elks have stayed true to this pledge throughout an impressive history of service to veterans. From programs that offer emergency assistance for housing needs, to transportation, meals, companionship, and recreation, the Elks are there for veterans.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission could not accomplish what we do without the hard work of all our volunteers. That’s why each year, two

volunteers from each state are selected as ENVSC’s Veteran Volunteer of the Year, in recognition of outstanding service to veterans and military members in need.

Volunteers may be nominated for this award by their Lodge, fellow volunteers, or other Elks Members. Each state ENVSC Chair collects the nominations and selects two people as winners for their state, and submits these to the ENVSC office. Awards are usually presented at state conventions, and winners are recognized at the Grand Lodge Convention.

In addition to the two winners from each state, one person is recognized as the National Veteran Volunteer of the Year, and is invited to attend the Grand Lodge Convention.

Bob Maraio, who was a New York Veteran Volunteer of the Year in 2009, described his voluntary service at the Syracuse VA Medical Center this way: “The results of these programs are to create and maintain close relationships between hospital staff, Elks, and veterans. Programs like this enlighten and magnify



Please see **VETERANS**, Page 3

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

Elks membership drive pushes pedal to the metal

By **RICK GATHEN**
Membership Marketing Manager

Momentum is building for a gain in Membership.

Last year we achieved a 25,926 net gain in membership. This has generated remarkable momentum for this fraternal year. We are now in the homestretch of the year—the final numbers for the 2022–2023 Lodge year will be recorded on March 31. We are projecting 90,000 new Members will be added to the rolls this fraternal year. We are also trending towards lower than average cancellations.



Membership retention is the key to sustainable membership growth. If this all pans out, we will be in a strong position for another robust gain in membership.

This success is owed to Elks around the country, who have been louder and prouder in their service to their communities than ever before. The Membership and Marketing Department is helped by recruitment resources such as the join.elks.org website, which gives prospective Members information on how to apply to join the Elks and provides inspirational messages explaining why it is great to be an Elk. Make sure you initiate all your candidates before March 31, 2023.

All Gas. No Brakes!