



Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia

ELKS ASSOCIATION *News*

A Fraternal Organization - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

www.mddedcelks.org



JANUARY 2023



State President
Marion A. Davidson, Jr.
MD-DE-DC Elks Association

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STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marion A. "Jr." Davidson

Happy New Year, and I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday.

Thanks to the Lodges for their hospitality and the warm welcome Diane and I received while doing my Official Visits. I would also like to thank the Lodges for their hospitable and warm welcome extended to my Vice Presidents as they made their visits on my behalf. I will make an unofficial visit to some of those Lodges in the new year.

With the start of the New Year, Lodge elections are only a month away. Exalted Rulers, it is time to make your year an even bigger success. Meet with your Officers and Committees and evaluate how your plans and goals are being met. You still have time to meet your goals and increase your membership, ENF Goals, and State Association charity giving goals.

Potential incoming Exalted Rulers need to start planning and setting goals for your upcoming year. Don't wait until you're sworn in as the new Exalted Ruler to hit the ground running. Evaluate Lodge committees, and remember my motto for this year **"Strength in Numbers."** Appoint Chairpersons and have them build large committees that meet regularly and keep you and your Officers informed of their progress in serving your community's needs. Be loud and proud, and visible in the community you serve.

Please remember that the State Committee and District Chairs are available to help in any way they can to help your Lodge Committees be successful.

Please take note of upcoming events for the next couple of months. The State Committees will finish their events and report the results to Grand Lodge.

Officer Training will be held again this year for new Officers and Lodge members. Please take note of the dates and times, and please plan on attending. The Training Committee will present much valuable information to help you have a successful Lodge Year.

Exalted Rulers, Officers, and Lodge members, the March Spring Conference will be held at the Milford Lodge #2401. Please make plans to attend and welcome our special guests, our own State Sponsor Paul Hesel and his wife Jane, and the Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley and his wife, Helen.

Let's finish this Lodge Year with **"ENTHUSIASM."**

Fraternally,

Marion Davidson, Jr.
State President
MD-DE-DC State Elks Association



See ya at the Elks



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

BRUCE A. HIDLEY

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 am 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.

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 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.



Message From Our State Sponsor

PAUL D. HESSEL, PGER

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MD DE & DC Elk Family and Friends:

The Holiday Season is officially upon us; with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year behind us, it's a time to be thankful for the many blessings we individually and collectively enjoy in our personal, professional, and Elk lives. We enjoyed being together with family and friends to celebrate all the good things we have and are experiencing in our lives. It's a time to set the stage and commit to keeping the good things coming, to reach a little higher, to do a little better, to grow in our efforts and abilities to make a difference and improve our relationships and the lives of those around us in our families, our employment, and Elkdom.

This New Year finds us in the 10th month of the 2022/2023 Lodge year, and only three months remain - 3 months to make that final push to achieve our annual goals and objectives. While there will be a variety of distractions and reasons to focus on other things, over the next couple of weeks, we all must try to keep our eye on the ball, on our goals and objectives for our Elk year. If we can do that successfully and keep all our endeavors moving in a positive direction, this 2022/2023 year will be another outstanding year for the MD DE & DC Elks at all levels, with the likelihood that we will set some new records and enjoy accomplishments not encountered in many years.

Membership continues to be our number one priority, and while we dwell a lot on the statistics and numbers, there is much more to it than that. A growth in membership at the Lodge level means more financial income from dues and participation in Lodge activities. It means a larger pool of members from which to draw officers, committee personnel, and workers. Growing Lodges are usually more successful than Lodges that are stagnate and/or lose members.

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**MD, DE & DC ELKS
ASSOCIATION NEWS
OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION 2022-2023**

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STATE SPONSOR MESSAGE CONTINUED

Make sure your Lodge has an active Membership Committee and is doing everything necessary to increase the membership.

The 2021/2022 year was an outstanding year for the MD DE & DC Elks in membership growth and will be hard to beat – 13th in the nation and the highest annual membership growth in 37 years – a plus 483 members with 28 of our 37 Lodges showing a gain. Through 11/21, we were looking pretty good – gains are up by about 1%, +1,202 this year versus a +1,191 last year. While delinquency is at about 8.5% overall against an 8.3% national average, it is up about 2% over our numbers last year– **Needs Work!!** Candidates waiting for initiation stand at 376 this year versus 432 last year at this time – better but need to continue to **INITIATE, INITIATE, INITIATE!!!** All in all, we are about where we were last year at this time and improving! Continue to attract new applications, get them initiated, and work on getting the delinquency number down – we are on the threshold of showing a gain this year for the second year in a row. Keep up the excellent work, and let's get that gain in membership again this year - help to make achieving a gain the new norm for MD DE & DC and each of our individual 37 Lodges – I know we can do it!!!

The Membership Program is self-serving for the individual Lodges, the Association, and our Order. However, as you know, the MD DE & DC Elks have a long-standing tradition of supporting our youth and Veterans across our two States and the District. Notably, our Major Project Elks Camp Barrett, where we serve youth from across our Association in a camping and outdoor country environment, and our Drug Awareness Program, where we provide educational materials and information to our youth and their families on the dangers of drugs and poor life choices, our Army of Hope and Welcome Home Programs where we serve Veterans in the communities of our Association, and our William J. Jernick Memorial Fund where we provide financial assistance to youths with special needs ages 21

and younger. Each of these programs requires financial support to be successful. We receive support for our Major Project, the Drug Awareness Program, and the Veterans Programs from the ENF. However, Lodge individual support, and some investment earnings make up most of our funding.

The monies received annually from the ENF are predicated on the individual and Lodge donations made to the ENF over the years and in recent years. In 21/22 we received 1,771 times what MD DE & DC Elks and Lodges donated to ENF. To receive more monies from ENF, we must donate more money to ENF. Our donations to ENF stand at a per capita of \$8,808, with 27 Lodges at or above the GER's per capita goal of \$4.80. That puts the MD DE & DC Elks in 11th place out of 48 Associations with \$173,328.79 donated through November 30. **GREAT JOB SO FAR!!** By comparison, last year as of 11/30/21, we had donated \$131,694.57 for a per capita of \$6.861 and were in 23rd place with 23 of our 37 Lodges at or above the GER's \$4.80 per capita goal. Our efforts this year to support ENF are tracking way ahead of last year. With about four months remaining, we are in a position to have a banner year in ENF donations and national placement, ultimately resulting in more money returning to the Association and individual Lodges for our critical programs.

In today's environment, costs continue to increase, and the need for the services our Programs provide continues to rise as well. It is extremely important that all 37 MD, DE, & DC Lodges are on board and doing their level best to grow and thereby grow their support for these extremely important programs. Like membership, we must continue to grow the financial support for the programs, or down the road, the programs and Lodges will ultimately suffer the consequences. Please make sure your Lodge is doing its very best in supporting our Major Project, the Drug Awareness Program,

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PRESIDENT-ELECT

RENEE RIVITUSO

Waldorf Lodge #2421
240-508-8696
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I hope everyone had the best Christmas ever. Seeing all the amazing holiday events held at the 37 Lodges in the MD, DEL & DC Elks Association was wonderful. The outpouring of charity to our veterans and those in need truly shows that Elks Care Elks Share.

Jeff and I have attended several events since we were in Ocean City. The first stop was at the Elks Association Horseshoe Tournament at Laurel Lodge #2283. Six Lodges and 20 teams participated, and ER Loren Evans from Selbyville Lodge #2173 had the Drug Awareness Car on display. Congratulations to Deale Elks Lodge for winning the tournament. Congratulations also go out to Severna Park #2482 for celebrating 50 years. Their Anniversary Celebration was beautiful. Thanks go out to Terry Hicks and everyone who made the evening special. We enjoyed listening to the stories and seeing all the pictures from the last 50 years.

I was pleased to assist Angela, Ben, and all the volunteers at Camp Barrett for the Scout Camporee on Friday. The weather angels were on their side this year. Jeff and I enjoyed the hospitality of all the Lodges and the camp. Let us know if you would like us to visit your

next event. Please continue to send me your newsletters and email blasts. My year as State-President Elect and the current Lodge year is going by ever so quickly.

Officers for the upcoming state year have been selected. Work continues developing a pin and filling the committee chairs. Now is the time for all the Lodges to think of doing the same. February will be here in the blink of an eye. As you look for leadership in your Lodges, remember our State President's message, "Strength in Numbers." Growing your Lodge membership and increasing the number of members on committees will make for a successful Lodge active in its community. Appoint a minimum of 3 members to each committee. Grow your membership, initiate-initiate-initiate those proposed members before April 1st. I encourage each Lodge to send their leadership to one of the two Elks Training sessions planned, Washington-Rockville Lodge #15 on February 25th or Seaford Lodge #2458 on March 4th.

Thank You to the Advisory for all their suggestions and those members and who have stepped up for an Officer Position or Committee. Jeff and I look forward to seeing you all at the State Spring Conference on March 24-26 at Milford Lodge #2401. We wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Grow With the Elks,

Renee Rivituso

STATE SPONSOR MESSAGE CONTINUED

the Army of Hope, the Welcome Home Program, the William J. Jernick Memorial Fund, and ENF with ongoing financial support.

We experienced another very successful Fall Conference in Ocean City in October. Hopefully, you were there with us to enjoy the festivities and learning experience. While the weekend had many opportunities to enjoy good food, drink, and fellowship, it likewise provided many opportunities to learn about Elkdom - what's going on and how to do things relative to Elk Programs and the Elk way to operate a Lodge. We expect to continue to make our Spring Conventions, Fall Conferences, and March Conference with the GER a learning and fun-filled experience. This experience will attract more of our membership across all Lodges to participate in what we enjoy doing. If you or others in your Elk circle have not attended the Convention/Conferences, consider attending the upcoming March Conference in Milford

and see firsthand how much fun it can be and how much you can learn about Elkdom. **TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT!!**

Jane and I extend our best wishes to each and every MD DE & DC Elks and their families for continued good health, prosperity, and joy into the new 2023 year. **Happy New Year to all!**

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 continue to be the greatest!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Paul D. Hebel

happy new year **2023**



John Opitz

Abingdon Lodge #2354
410-591-6123
mtlian@comcast.net

Greetings, fellow Elks, we aren't meeting in person, so I will entertain you with an article alone.

As I write this in early December, we are on track toward another successful membership year. We are recruiting new members and getting our delinquents back into the fold. Our delinquent percentage is about 8.4%; nationally, it is 8.4%, so we are average here. This is a bit close for comfort; let's keep working on those delinquents. We had been ahead of this curve most of the year and well below the national average.

Here are some numbers to consider. We started the year with 19,679 members, and we currently have 20,828. Our delinquents are at 1,652. Keep after them. We also have 396 candidates awaiting initiation. We need to move on these. Let's not keep people waiting. Initiate, Initiate, Initiate!!!

Grand Lodge has a goal for each State to add 10% of its starting number as new members. For MD, DE, & DC, that would mean adding 1,968 new members this year. Here, as we near nine months complete, we have added 1,599. We are at 81% of that goal. We need a good push to close out the year to make this goal.

At this point in the year, our delinquents exceed our additions. I recommend that any Lodge which desires to improve its delinquent issue refer to Grand Lodge membership and marketing pages, specifically member retention. Complacency is easy to fall into this time of the year. Let us resolve to close out the year strong.

We have had some nice responses from the GER pictures with new member classes. Remember, if you send a digital photo of an initiation class to Rick Gathen at Grand Lodge (rickg@elks.org), you will get your photo returned with our GER Bruce Hidley digitally added in the edge of your photo giving the group a big "thumbs up."

Congratulations are in order for our leaders in recruitment and initiations. Our current leaders are Ocean City, Cape Henlopen, Salisbury, and Frederick. All four of these Lodges have added more than 100 members thus far. Many Lodges are getting reinstatements and transfers, easy additions; these folks are already Elks.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance, and my contact information is in the directory.

John Opitz

TRAINING

RENEE' RIVITUSO, PDD

Elks Training Chair
Waldorf #2421 | 240-508-8636
ElkRRivituso@gmail.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 State Association succeed in their Lodge business, bring awareness to committees and 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 at 9:30 am and lunch will be provided.

Reservations are needed by February 17, 2023

Please RSVP ElkRRivituso@gmail.com or call 240-508-8636.

The times and locations are as follows:

Saturday, February 25, 2023 from 10 am – 3:00 pm
Washington-Rockville Lodge No. 15
5 Taft Court, Rockville, MD 20850

Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 10 am – 3:00 pm
Seaford Lodge No. 2458, 8846 Elks Road
Seaford, DE 19973

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/non-officer with you and earn 10 points toward the contest. Log into Elks.Org and take any of the four training courses offered and earn 2 points for each completed course (Log into Elks.Org, hover over "Members Only" and click on Manuals, then on training).

Our committee looks forward to working with your Lodge leadership team. Feel free to reach out to your District Chairperson or me.

Grow With the Elks,
Training Committee



Elks Care - Elks Share



ACCIDENT PREVENTION REPORT FALL 2022

Mike Ford, NE State Chair Abington Lodge #2354 | 410-977-8230 | prinklergod26@yahoo.com

“Tis the Season for Accidents”



CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION

Here we are again, holidays are past and now it is Winter. It is the time of year when the Elks shine. We are working extra hard to use all our grant money to spread charity and brotherly love throughout our communities. When all the grants are gone and the ones in need have been taken care of, it is time for the Elks to celebrate their accomplishments. It is a time to relax, reflect and remember our absent members. While we celebrate, it is also a very dangerous time of year.

Hopefully, Lodge and home safety is a top priority during the Holiday Seasons. How well did you do on this Christmas Safety Checklist:

- Are you using GFI's (Ground Fault Interrupter) cords for all your lights? Inside and especially outside. Also, use connection covers if you use more than one extension cord. These devices are used to prevent shock and fires.
- Are you keeping any combustible materials at least 5 feet away directly in front of and 3 feet laterally from the fireplace or space heater?
- Are you enjoying a live tree this year? It should be watered daily; remember, live pine makes for great tinder.

- Are you prepared for snow? Your Lodge snow shovels and ice melt should be easily accessible by the exit doors. When the shoveling is done, the ice melt should be generously used on sidewalks and any access into the building.
- Are you not a spring chicken anymore? Now is the time to have someone come over and shovel for you. It's not worth the risk of a slip, trip, fall, or heart attack on the ice. Heavy lifting and prolonged exposure to the elements is not good for the Heart!!!
- Are you enjoying the Holidays? Are you enjoying them too much with beverages? Remember the alcohol awareness presentation I showed you? We must know our limits and keep ourselves, our friends, and our family safe this season and all year long. No one wants to be on the Lodge Memory Board before their time.

If you have any clue or even know what I'm talking about, then you have a good safety start on the Holidays and the Winter.

Colleen and I wish you a very happy very SAFE, Christmas and New Year. As always, don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or even safety ideas.

Catch ya' in 2023!!!!

MWF



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

COREY BRADLEY

Government Relations State Chair
Broadneck Lodge #2608
240-643-0100 | corey.bradley@verizon.net

CHARITABLE REPORTING IS MORE THAN CASH DONATIONS

Charitable reporting is one of the keys to the very survival of our great Order. The Government Relations charity statistics, once compiled, represent the only tangible, documented proof of the total dollar value of all charitable work of Elks nationwide. This gives us leverage with our elected officials. The sad part is only half the work performed gets reported.

All meetings should be reported — Grand Lodge, state conferences, Local Lodge meetings, District Deputy meetings, and committee meetings! That would include time and mileage to and from the meeting. Please give this information to all your Members, so they become familiar with

the importance of reporting their charitable activities and let them know how much your Lodge does for charity.

Go to elks.org to find some of the activities your Lodge should be reporting. You will be surprised at the list and what can be reported: Your golf outing, spaghetti dinner, and all the events you have to raise money for charity.

Charitable reporting is more than cash donations and cash donations are easy to figure out. If your Lodge rents out the facility for private parties, like weddings or other outside events, you can use that same dollar value as a donation when you donate the room for an event that is used for youth activities, veterans, and any other charitable event held at the Lodge. For example, if you normally rent out the area for \$500, you should use that same value as a contribution when lending the room to other groups, or charitable organizations.

Additional information on who is required to report and how to report is in the Grand Lodge Charity Records Workbook, which is mailed annually to Lodges and available online at www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION & ARMY OF HOPE

Louis B. Schmeltzer, Jr.

Annapolis Lodge #622

410-627-5179 | louschmeltzer@gmail.com



The Army of Hope has been very active in assisting Veterans who are suffering setbacks. Just mid-September of last year until the time of this report, we have helped Veterans to the tune of \$23,550.00. We have given many folks peace of mind in return for their sacrifices to keep us safe. Please remember this vital committee when you prepare your budgets for the upcoming Lodge year. As you may or may not know, the Army of Hope is supported solely by donations from the Lodges.

The E.N.V.S.C. has been busy lifting the spirits of our Veterans in the VA hospitals and the USO facilities. These efforts are still being restricted by the residual effects of the Covid virus, but the restrictions continue to lessen and hopefully be fully opened for volunteers soon. Charlotte Hall is furthest along in the effort to re-open. The dedicated Elk representatives continue to do what they can in the form of gifts, toiletries, gift cards, etc.

I will have a more detailed report for you in Milford in March.

Lou Schmeltzer



REMEMBER OUR VETERANS AT CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME

By John Curran

As I reported last month, I am back from a beautiful vacation spot in Maine. The first thing that I did was volunteer for an extra day at the CHVH Gift Shop. It was good timing to fill in on the empty volunteer roster slots due to vacations & sickness. I was happy to oblige. This is precisely why I returned a little earlier than planned.

Have you ever found your niche in life? No, I do not mean a "recess in a wall" ... for a statue, but a place or activity, in-your-life that has true meaning in the life that you support because it helps someone. Someone, somewhere that you may never know, but you know it helps assist them in some form or another. I found it in the "Benevolent & Protective Order of the Elks" (BPOE). I serve the veterans in their (BPOE) motto: "So long as there are veterans, they shall never be forgotten."

The BPO Elks is one of the premier patriotic and charitable organizations in the United States of America and is committed to making its communities better places to live. Each year, the Order donates more than \$50 million in cash and \$208 million in goods and services to the needy, students, people with special needs, active-duty members of the US Armed Forces and their families, veterans and their families, and charitable organizations. Note: This statement is derived from the Annual Report of the Grand Lodge Secretary, 2020-2021.

As part of the Elks' ongoing commitment to helping students achieve their goals and help local Lodges make positive changes in their communities, the Elks National Foundation awards annual college scholarships worth a total of more than \$6 million, and the Elks National Foundation's Community Investments Program provides local Elks lodges with more than \$13 million to help them enrich their communities.

As part of the BPO Elks' commitment to our nation's veterans, I have just touched the tip of the 'iceberg.' I know it, and you know it, but I want to remind you that the "Best People On Earth" are BPOE, and I represent you serving our veterans and military families. For that, I am grateful.

Thank You,

John Curran, a veteran serving veterans



Lou Schmeltzer was presented a donation of \$1,000 by the Glen Burnie Elk Riders.



CARRIE KANE State Chair Americanism

Easton Lodge #1622
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It is hard to believe that we are already into the new year. We are also coming to the first deadline for the Poster Contest and the Grand Lodge Essay Contest. Submissions to the local Lodges were us due December 15.

The District Chairwomen are hard at work spreading the great message of Americanism into our local community. For example, in the North Central District, boxes with all of the Americanism supplies were handed out to the Exalted Rulers for easy distribution to their Lodge. What a fantastic idea! It is so important that we get creative and get the children involved in our great program.

The awards ceremony will be held in conjunction with Drug Awareness this year. Angela and I will send out the

information once we have determined a date and a location. This is a new change starting this year, and I look forward to working with Angela and making the awards ceremony a fantastic event.

Please get in touch with your District Chairperson if you have further questions about the Essay Contest or the Poster Contest. The Essay Contest information can be found on Elks.org. The Poster Contest information can be found on the MDDEDC website and has been distributed to all of the District Chairwomen. I am also glad to assist in any way I can.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Workshop! Have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Fraternally,

Carrie Kane, State Chair



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Mary Underwood

State ENF Chair PER
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Greetings from ENF! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday with your family and friends. Winter season is now upon us, which means lots of cold weather and more indoor activities are being scheduled. With more events scheduled at your Lodge, please remember to keep ENF in play.

As of the writing of this report, the following ENF numbers are in. As a State Association, we have donated \$173,329 to ENF with all Districts reporting. 24 out of our 37 Lodges have met Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley's goal of \$4.80 per member. I know some Lodges need help with ENF donations, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your District ENF Chair or me. We are here to assist in any way to ensure you meet the Grand's goal. Our donations to date have us in 11th place overall in the nation. Let's see what we can do to get those donations in and move up to the top!

REMINDER: Donations for the current year **MUST** be received at the Chicago office by March 31, 2023. If you need assistance in submitting funds, please let me know. Any funds received after

this date will be counted towards the 2023-2024 Lodge year - no exceptions. With that date in mind, please remember that the March conference (to be held at Milford Lodge) scheduled for March 24-26 only leaves us a few days to mail donations. I am asking any Lodge planning on providing donations to ENF at the March conference to please forward your donations directly to ENF before the conference. You can still provide your donation totals to me during the meeting (the Grand will love to hear about your donations!); however, the mail system has me a little worried about sending mail on 3/27 with the hopes of delivery by 3/31. If you need to hand over a check for your ENF donations, I will make sure to have them overnighted, but again, there's no guarantee that it will be received and entered by March 31, 2023.

I am currently holding a special competition between the Districts regarding meeting the Grand's goal. The numbers continue to climb, and I see Lodges that struggled last year with ENF step up to the plate and

have met the goal already! As of this report compilation, **SOUTHEAST** is in first place in this competition with an average of \$10.96 per member; North Central is "rolling" in at 2nd place with \$8.63 per member; the "beasts" from North East are at 3rd with \$7.67 per member and all of their Lodges meeting the goal; South West is "flying" in 4th place with \$5.41 per member, and the best in the West is not far behind with \$5.15 per member. A special WOW and kudos to Selbyville Lodge, with an average of \$46.50 per member at the time of this writing! Let's see if your Lodge can meet or exceed Selbyville's donations. Thank you for all that you do, and I ask that you continue your ENF support. Let's finish out this year with huge numbers!

Again, as another reminder, March 31st is the deadline for ENF donations to be counted towards this year. We are almost at the end of our Lodge year, so let's finish this year on a positive note and with higher ENF numbers than last year! Keep up the great work; I can't wait to see which Lodge(s) shine this year.

Fraternally yours,

Mary Underwood - State ENF Chair
Elks Care, Elks Share, Elks Do
In the words of GER Bruce Hidley -
"With Enthusiasm!"



ANGELA M. MEYER

Director of Operations Elks Camp Barrett
ecbsecretary@outlook.com
410-224-2945 (camp) | 410-739-5575 (cell)

Camp Barrett is all a glow. Not from Christmas lights that we forgot to take down, or the new snow, but from gratitude. Our hearts are full, and we are grateful that we start 2023 having completed a very successful camp year. We are so thankful that we are surviving and thriving as we continue our mission to support our youth and communities. We are grateful the entire State Association membership supports the great things that are accomplished on the 187 acres known as ECB through Lodge Donations, Camper Sponsorships, and members volunteering countless hours at camp. Our State Major Project extends its reach into our communities more and more every year. Here are just a few highlights from 2022 and some new activities and goals for the New Year.

Scouting: An average of 3 scout troops a month used our grounds for camping, training, and service projects from March through December. 8 Eagle Scout projects were completed at ECB in 2022. Navy/Scout Camporee Weekend had over 500 scouts on the grounds. 2 Pine Wood Derby competitions were held in our pavilions.

Veterans: ECB provided food and lodging for an annual leadership training with Team River Runners. An organization for wounded recovering and retired military. Navy Chief Petty Officers Association orientation weekend, Voices of Veterans free summer concert for veterans. Picking for Troops Fundraiser.

First Responders: Anne Arundel County Police tactical team training, AA Co. Dare Camp, Chesapeake Search Dogs trainings and trials, AA County and Secret Service K9 training.

Our Partner Camps included Camp Sunrise, AACS Band Camp, and Anne Arundel Police 1st Annual Summer Dare Camp.

Community: Natural Leaders Program weekly classes, Best Buddies Training for developmentally challenged youth, United Methodist Church Women’s ministry meetings, Sea Cadet training, AA Co. Youth Soccer League. Family reunions, company, and church picnics.

We are most grateful for the wonderful and successful camp season we had this year after the Covid shutdowns. We are thrilled to have a dedicated and committed person filling the Caretaker position, our staff was excellent this year, and we’ve been able to repair or replace any damages from the severe weather issues we faced this season. Look for the summer camp packets by the end of January.

Our future looks bright. We have a promise from Camp Sunrise supporters to improve the handicapped shower stalls in the bathhouses and install new playground

equipment. All our partner camps will return to us next year, and we may also pick up two additional camps. Our Senior Staff will be returning, and we have a few members who have expressed interest in the camp cook position. Our Executive Committee is committed and dedicated, and our Lodges are sending new camp representatives. We continue our coveted ACA accreditation.

Above all else, we are grateful for the Lodges and members of the MD, DE, DC Elks Association. Without the support of all of you, ECB would be just a memory. Thank you for keeping ECB and the mission alive and well.



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 in saying goodbye to 2022 and welcoming 2023.

Initial preparations are underway for the 2023 raffle. 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 near record for collections.

I look forward to opening a lot of envelopes and depositing large amounts of donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Fraternally,
Lou Schmeltzer, PDD



The March Advisory Meeting will be on Friday, March 24th at 1:00 PM at the Milford Lodge #2401. ALL State Chairs are reminded that in accordance with ART VII, Sec 27 (page 88), they are to submit a written report to the State President, State President-Elect, State Secretary, Advisory Chair, Advisory Secretary, Advisory Liaison to the committee, and the Grand Lodge Sponsor at LEAST 20 days before the Advisory meeting. You can use that report if you have written an article for the state newsletter.

I look forward to receiving your reports and providing them to the Advisory committee.

Carl Robinson: carl_robinson@msn.com | 301-741-9979



South West District VP
LINDA KILPATRICK
 Deale Lodge #2528 | Cell: 443-871-3314
 coachkil@yahoo.com

During the past couple of months, I've visited several Lodges in the SW District. I have been graciously greeted by many Elks members. Great things are happening in our Lodges.

The Calvert Lodge hosted a successful Gun Bash in October. Camp Springs impressed me with their Shrimp Feast on Fridays.

I attended an awesome Dueling Pianos event at St. Mary's Lodge that benefited Veterans.

Deale Lodge had an amazing Crab Feast in October and is rocking the new member list with 28 new members in November.

Prince George's Lodge prepared a Thanksgiving meal for the seniors in their neighborhood. They could either dine at the Lodge or take their meal home with them.

The list of functions and events being hosted by Elks in our Lodges is endless." Elks Care, Elks Share" is certainly evident. To those Lodges that I haven't had the chance to visit yet, I look forward to seeing you in 2023.

I wish all Elks, their friends, and families a safe and Happy Holiday and a Great New Year!

SOUTHWEST FLIES!




Quarters From Heaven was at the Deale Elks Lodge #2528. Pictured above: Our QA Consultants Tina Herdman (Scentsy) and Lisa Lee (*2 Friends with Chocolate*) were delivered items purchased from the December 4th QA Charity to the Lodges Angel Tree Program.



The Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant made it possible for **Waldorf Elks Lodge #2421** to donate \$1,500 to **Charles County Shop With A Cop 2022** during their annual event that started at the Lodge.

Police and Correctional Officers from the Charles County Sheriff's Office, along with our partners from the Police Department, State Police, DNR Police, and the MD Transportation Authority Police, and many family members gathered for a special Christmas shopping trip for 60 children from across Charles County. The kids were chauffeured in

patrol vehicles with lights and sirens to Walmart where they EACH got to spend \$200.

After they were finished, they returned the Elks Lodge for lunch and gift wrapping by our volunteers. They met Santa and had their faces painted all before being picked up by the bus to head back to school for the day.

Officers delivered each child's wrapped presents to their homes the following evening.

SW continued on next page

SOUTH WEST CONTINUED

On November 10th, **Camp Springs Elks Lodge #2332** members participated in the 40th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The Memorial is a black granite wall, dedicated on November 13, 1982, upon which the names of 58,281 service men and women killed in action in the Vietnam War are engraved. It is also meant to honor those who served and is a tangible symbol of recognition from the American people for their service.

One of the events in the commemoration was The Reading of the Names aloud of every fallen hero. Camp Springs Elks Lodge was one of many organizations participating in the readings that began at 4 pm on Monday, November 7th, and ended at midnight on November 10th. Each reader was allotted two minutes to read a list of 30 names in sequential time slots.

Photo below: Camp Springs members participating were Pat McInnis, Rich Barg, Lois Barg, Frances Cole, Jackie Stanfield, Lacy Arrington, Stephanie Colbert, Shirley Smith, and DeWayne Wilcher



Washington Rockville Lodge #15 ended their food deliveries to food-insecure veterans for Fields4Valor, a veteran-run non-profit farm, the weekend before Thanksgiving with fresh produce, organic eggs, turkeys, and a box of canned goods.

This is our third season teaming up with Fields4Valor, totaling over 5 tons of food delivered to veterans and their families in our community.



Our State Grant was awarded to Homes For Our Troops to help purchase landscaping for Sargent Brandon Huff and his wife Netta Huff's new 100% accessible mortgage-free home in our community. Lodge members joined other volunteers to help lay sod.



Kneeling in the photo to the left, is member Joe Mornini and volunteers.



Pictured above are PER Diana Patton, Judy Black, and Netta Huff.

Submitted by Judith Black, Washington-Rockville Lodge



North Central VP

Mary Underwood

Laurel Lodge #2283 | Phone 301-399-5857
maryhuj1223@gmail.com

Greetings from North Central District! I hope this finds you all well and that you were able to enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. Winter is here, and our District has been doing some wonderful Elks events and fundraisers since we met in Ocean City in October.

Thank Severna Park and Laurel Lodges for hosting their local Soccer Shoot. We have a few kids moving on to the State shoot in January. I would also like to thank Broadneck (first-time hosting) and Laurel for hosting their local Hoop Shoot. These events are great for community involvement, and it gets our Elks name and what we do in the community. Good luck to the kids that are moving on to the State competitions.

I have completed my Vice President visits, and I would like to thank you again for your hospitality. I learned some great things during my visits, caught up with friends, and met some new ones along the way. We are still striving to move forward, and your Elkdom shows with the pride you carry at your Lodges. The bull roasts, bingos, dueling pianos, horseshoe tournaments, birthday parties, cornhole tournaments, lunches/dinners, and entertainment have been fantastic!

I would also like to send a special thank you to Cheryl Miller, Betsy McBee, and Angela Najarian-Collier from Bowie Lodge, who put together a fun competition – Holiday Decorating at the Lodges. Seven Lodges participated, and the decorations were awesome! Congrats to Jolinda Murray and her team from Broadneck on traveling to Laurel and acquiring the Traveling Gavel. Laurel held on to the gavel for several years, and Broadneck snuck in and took it! Here's your chance to get to Broadneck (after the next six months) and obtain it from Broadneck.

Towson held their annual Veterans Day parade, Annapolis has been hosting dinners and recently held a charity dance, and Essex has been hosting dinners. Glen Burnie always hosts great Karaoke nights with some impressive food and hospitality. These are great events to get out and see everyone, meet up with friends, and make new ones. Some other events our Lodges held over the past several months were Blood Drives (great turnout), Toys for Tots collections, craft/vendor shows, Bags4Heroes tournaments, Veterans lunches/dinners, monthly breakfasts (oh so good!), and community support.

At the next DD Clinic (date/location to be scheduled soon), I will be hosting the VP Caucus, including nominating/voting on a Vice President, State Trustee, and Camp Barrett Executive Representative. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let me know and forward your intent to your Lodge Secretary so it can be forwarded.

We have just a few short months left in this Lodge year, and I want to remind everyone to keep membership at the forefront of our business. Without members, we don't exist. Keep getting those candidates in, and remember that our Lodge year ends March 31.

Let's not forget our State project – Camp Barrett. Even though the cold season is here, the Camp could always use some help getting things cleaned up and ready for the upcoming camp season. Camp is planning several weeks of campers this year, so start preparing your camp budget.

In closing, remember to submit your donations for ENF, Jernick Fund, Welcome Home, and Army of Hope. These donations and your volunteer hours are greatly appreciated; a little goes a long way.

See you in Milford, Delaware at the March Conference with special guest, Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley!

Faternally Yours in Elkdom,

Mary Underwood

NC Vice President

TOWSON LODGE #469 NEWS

Submitted by James Burlington, PR Chair

In November, Towson Elks Lodge #469 had Veterans Day ceremonies in Towson at The Wayside Cross and The Vietnam and Enduring Freedom Monuments, wreathes were placed, and various members of the Elks and each group paid tribute to our Veterans with proclamations and prayers. Despite the bad weather, a large crowd was on hand to honor our Veterans.

We also provided a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for 50 Veterans and staff from McVets, DAV in Baltimore. They played Bingo and were presented with \$1,033 of toiletries and other various articles of clothing donated by our members. Hats off to our Veteran Chairman, Brendan Harthausen, for organizing the event. Also, thanks to Elks members, our resident Chef Bob Stambaugh, and The Point Restaurant's Hiran Perera for getting various chefs from other establishments in the area to help out. Finally, thanks to our Baltimore County Police Department for providing our guests with an escort back to Baltimore.

Pictured right: Elks trustee Dick Hurd presenting a wreath at Wayside Cross Monument



MORE NORTH CENTRAL NEWS

Towson Elks Lodge #469 had its annual Golf outing at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Baltimore County. They raised \$21,607.00. As a bonus to our charitable giving to the community, we donated extra pans of food which the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Dept. delivered to those in need. Hats off to Elks Golf Chairman Bob Cwalina and the volunteers.

Our Craft Fair raised \$750 for the Elks Charitable Giving Foundation.

Through donations from our members, we raised \$565 for our October Giving board to donate to The Defenders of Animal Rights group.

During the last few months, Towson Elks Lodge #469 collected clothing and other apparel to be donated to Paul's Place, an outreach center in Baltimore serving meals, handing out clothing, and offers over 20 programs such as housing, computer classes, job training, and more.

Esquire Andrew Rowan, pictured left, organized and delivered over 20 boxes of clothes, shoes, and other items to help out Paul's Place. Thank you to Andrew and to all who donated.

The Lodge also donated \$250 to The American

Legion for the Victor Brice Memorial Golf Outing. Victor was not only a member of the Towson American Legion, but was a PER of Towson Elks Lodge.

Last fall, we donated a pallet of pumpkins for the Riverview Community Fall Festival. Pictured below are Sara Carr, Riverview Community School Facilitator and Tony Mussatto, Towson Elks.



DAP Renews Focus in 2023

The Elks Drug Awareness Program volunteers are beginning the new year with renewed strength and focus. While the past few years have been challenging, and the future seems to be following suit, DAP continues its mission to help prevent our children from falling into a world of addiction. The best defense against drug abuse is for children, and adults, for that matter, to never start. We all want our children to be safe and our communities and country to be successful. DAP is hard work for our volunteers, and the prize of drug-free children seems elusive. Knowing that our efforts could save a child from a lifetime of addiction is their only reward. Failure is never an option for our DAP volunteers; the risks are too high.

Every DAP volunteer has access to a vast tool chest of materials, lesson plans, videos, contests, and events to help spread the word and boost the DAP cause. Your DAP District Chairperson can provide the Lodge DAP and youth activities chairs with these items and are available for assistance when needed. When planning your Lodge youth activities, or any activities for that matter, please involve your DAP volunteers.

Our 2023 DAP Poster, Essay, and Video contest entries are due to the Lodge chairs

Angela M. Meyer

State Chair Drug Awareness Programs
ecbsecretary@outlook.com
410-739-5575 (cell)

by February 1st. Winning Lodge entries should be in the hands of the DAP District Chairs by February 15th. Prizes for the State winners include a \$100.00 Amazon gift card. Additionally, the State poster contest winner may have their poster compete at the national level. The winning poster on the national level will have their poster published as the cover of the next DAP Coloring book.

Please encourage your Lodge to get entries for these terrific DAP contests.

Below are links to the contest forms for submission and a contact email for our District Chairpersons. *(Click on them and it will take you to the document.)*

Video Contest Entry Form and Parental Release:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AiOtu5A3ROD-WnnwZmOZmwdeFHmMm?e=erNUBv>

Essay, Poster and Video Contest Hold Harmless Waver:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AiOtu5A3ROD-WkzYbMY7CfRzr08IS?e=fmqS7n>





South East District VP

Rick Frere

Kent Island Lodge #2576
Phone: 301-580-0739 | rfrere@gmail.com

I have now conducted all but one of my scheduled visits, with my visit to Ocean City Lodge #2645 scheduled for mid-January. I am honored to have such incredible hospitality from all of the Lodges in our District. This travel reinforces the need for Elks to roam and visit Lodges outside of their own and get to know the good people across our Order.

I am incredibly proud of our Lodges' efforts in contributing to ENF. We have three of our Lodges holding the top three spots in the Association and four in the top ten. So far this year, we have raised a combined \$77,005.25 for ENF, which is \$10.96 per SE District Member. Way to go, Southeast!

Our Lodges have been incredibly active, as usual, with events throughout the fall season. Of these many events, Easton's record-breaking Waterfowl Festival deserves commendation. Pulling off their largest event ever stretched their property, building, volunteers, and other resources to

the absolute limit. Still, it made an incredible impact on their community, their charities, and on the Lodge itself.

It was quite impressive to see the myriad activities our Lodges hosted or sponsored this November to impact our local veterans positively. The breakfasts, dinners, public celebrations, VA health clinics, school presentations, and donations from all across the Eastern Shore ensured that our local veterans know that the Elks are here to honor and support them.

In December, the Lodges of our District transformed into winter wonderlands to ensure that our children were full of holiday cheer. Trains, reindeer, sleighs, and of course, Santa ensured that our kids were entertained during the holiday season. Furthermore, our donations to Toys for Tots, Christmas Angels, and other charitable funds helped to give Christmas presents to those in need across our region.

With these events now behind us, I again ask that we all take the time to thank our volunteers, as, without their help, none of our Lodge activities would be possible.

Fraternally,

Rick Frere



The photo above was taken during a recent visit to the Crisfield Lodge #1044. ER Christopher's energy and hard work is paying off at the Lodge.

Pictured are: Rick Frere SE Vice President, Marion Davidson, Jr. State President, Christopher Owens Crisfield Lodge #1044 ER, John Loftus PSP, and Bill Buttrill, Jr. PSP, PGLC.

Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540 held its second Golf Outing to Benefit Veterans. The day started with the players meeting and greeting two service dogs (Cash and Kilo) from CASH (Canines Assisting Service Heroes). CASH was presented with a \$1,000 check from the Veterans Committee to support their training of service dogs for PTSD veterans.

There were bagpipes played by Lani Spahr and introductory remarks by Bob Trafton, Chairman of the Veterans Committee, highlighting the appreciation of sponsors and players and the event's purpose to support veterans. Betty Ann Kortlang, Elks

Lodge Chaplain lead us in prayer and after we sang "The Star Spangled Banner".

Dinner was served at the Elks Lodge in Lewes. The mission for the day was to generate funds for the Veterans Committee to support local veterans. This outing netted over \$5,000 to be distributed to various local veterans' charitable needs. Some organizations receiving Elks' support in the recent past have been: Delaware Veterans Home, DelTech for a veteran scholarship, Frets4Vets for a music scholarship for a PTSD veteran, CASH (Canine Assisting Service Heroes) for a service dog for a PTSD veteran, and Home of the Brave.

The Veterans Committee of the Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge presented a \$1,000 check as a donation to CASH (Canines Assisting Service Heroes). This nonprofit organization trains service dogs for veterans suffering from PTSD.



Pictured, above are Bob Trafton, Chairman of the Elks Veterans Committee; Ray Harris of CASH, Kilo, service dog in training, Mary DiGennaro, Elks Esquire, Elizabeth Short, the first recipient of a service dog, and Cash, service dog.

Continued on page 15

Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540 continued



Photo above: Robert Trafton, Chairman of the Veterans Committee; Joanne Mayer, Exalted Ruler; Dan Celia, House Committee; George Evancho, Veterans Golf Committee; and Ralph Patterson, Past Exalted Ruler.

Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540 Thanks Its Veterans on November 9, 2022. Lodge members held a free banquet dinner for its veterans in recognition of Veterans Day. Hosted by the Lodge's Veterans Committee, the program included welcoming remarks by Bob Trafton, Chair of the Elks' Veterans Committee; the Presentation of Colors by Dan Celia; the Pledge of Allegiance; and Blessing by Chaplain Betty Anne Kortlang. Past Exalted Ruler Ralph Patterson and Exalted Ruler Joanne Mayer made welcoming remarks. Attendees were brought to their feet by "Proud to be an American" and "God Bless America" sung by Leading Knight Joy Lynn Schreck. Before closing, a moment of silence was observed for recently passing Elk—Lt. Cmdr. Tom Volatile, Ret., U.S. Navy—a long-time supporter of veterans and previous Chair of the Elks' Veterans Committee.

After the formal program, the Veterans Committee honored those veterans "in training," as represented by the Cape Henlopen Junior ROTC and the student-veterans studying at Delaware Technical Community College.

A \$500 check was presented to Cadet Isaac League in support of the Junior ROTC Program at Cape Henlopen Senior High School.



Photo to the right are Chair of the Elks Veterans Committee Bob Trafton and Cadet Isaac League.



Photo above: JROTC guests from Cape Henlopen High School are enjoying the buffet. From left to right are Cadets Bryan Ramirez-Montana (partially hidden), Cadet Isaac League, Sgt. Philip Webb, Sgt. Richard Hurt, Cadet Linda Guterrez, and Cadet Ninfa Cantu. Serving is Elk volunteer Kathy Newton. Throughout the evening, music was provided by local DJ Sherman "The Sherminator" Newton, concluding with a resounding medley of the theme songs from five branches of the U.S. military.



Representing Delaware Technical Community College are student-veteran recipients of a previous Elks' scholarship donation. Photo to the left are student Pedro Morales Lopez, Veterans Counselor Eric Eldridge, student Tyneshia White, and Elk Dan Celia.

Article and photos submitted by Cynthia Butler.

DELAWARE AUTO PLATES

If you are interested in obtaining Elks Organizational auto plates and reside in Delaware, please email Bonnie Howell at bhowell48@verizon.net or call 302-422-6410. Cost is \$10.00.

This does not replace your tag on the vehicle. Your new tag may be displayed on the front of the vehicle or over your current tag. (Your current tag must remain within the vehicle).

This is great way to promote ELKS





West District VP Barrett F. Fitzwater

Oakland Lodge #2481
Cell: 304-839-3512 | zaters@hotmail.com

I hope everyone enjoyed the Fall season. We are halfway through the year, and I hope all is going well with your Lodge.

Remember to get your grant application in early to ensure they are processed on time. Grants are great ways to assist Lodges in supporting our communities. I hope everyone has taken advantage of the special MD, DE, DC State grant for \$1,000.00.

Keep up the good work recruiting new members in Elkdom. The West District is doing quite well in initiating new members. Assist the membership committee in contacting delinquent and dropped members to reinstate and keep them in our great organization. It would be wonderful to have a significant increase in our association again this year!

Contact schools to keep up with programs. The deadlines will be coming up fast, and we need to keep our programs going in our schools to help the children. Remember to support Camp Barrett; it supports the children and various organizations that make our cities and towns thrive.

I hope the holidays went well for everyone and their families, loved ones, and friends. With the start of the new year, I hope you all stay healthy and safe. Prayers and thoughts go out to our members in sickness and distress.

We were looking forward to meeting our GER Hidley and his wife Helen in Milford in March. Remember his slogan, *"Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm,"* and put it to work in your Lodge!

Everyone take care and continue the great works of the Elks!

Barrett Fitzwater

Frederick Lodge #684 donated more than \$3,500 to Marine Toys for Tots. Pictured below are Staff Sergeant Hamilton, Mary Onley, Sergeant Roger, and Staff Sergeant Riley.



In other news, the **Frederick Lodge** served lunch at the second internal Veteran's celebration and provided our veterans with approximately \$600 in gift cards.

They donated \$2,500 each to Tunnels to Towers, Wounded Warriors, and Platoon 22, for a total of \$7,500, from a Jeep raffle charity event.

And for the Military, the Lodge's Operation Happy Holidays generated \$1,285 in gift cards for military and civilian families to assist during the holidays.

The Lodge held a Toiletry Drive for the homeless and collected approximately \$500 in donations.

Pictured below is Mary Onley

(Frederick Lodge's article submitted by Vicki George)



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Lynn Evans, State Scholarship Chair

Kent Island #2576 (C) 410-598-1225

lynnevans6303@gmail.com



The MVS (Most Valuable Student) Scholarship Contest is in full swing. Lodge judging is complete, and District judging will be held from December 28, 2022 - January 11, 2023. The state judging will be held from February 2 - 21, 2023. The National Finalists will be announced in late March 2023.

The Legacy Scholarship, open to children and grandchildren of dues-paying Elks, is available until February 6, 2023. The web address is enf.elks.org/leg for more information.

The MD/DE/DC State Elks Skilled Trades Scholarship deadline is March 15, 2023, and the application may be found on the state website at mddedcelks.org.

Lynn Evans
Scholarship Chairperson



North East VP James Biddison

Newark Lodge #2281
Phone 760-583-8948 | jrbiddison@gmail.com

What an honor to represent the northeast district as your Vice President. Thank you all for this opportunity.

The state convention was a real treat. Traveling with the 1st Lady and our Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks State Association's State President Marion Davidson, Jr, was a great pleasure.

My wife and I visited all the Lodges within the North East district; our visits were enjoyable. We learned that each Lodge was like a family within the state association. I can't wait for the Spring conference in March to be held at the North East's Milford Lodge and to meet our Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley and his 1st Lady.

I hope that our great state association has helped your Lodge become better. Remember our State President's motto, strength in numbers.

Thank you again for all allowing me to serve you as your North East State President of our great State association.

Fraternally yours in Elkdom,

J.R. Biddison

"The Beast from the Northeast"

DEWAYNE WILCHER



Hoop Shoot State Chair
Camp Springs Lodge #2332
240-882-8785 | dewaynewilcher@yahoo.com

This year's Hoop Shoot is well underway, with the District Shoots occurring between Jan 14 and February 5. The State had one participant advance to the Nationals in the '21-'22 competition. Therefore, we hope we have even greater competition from our local Lodges. If you are a Lodge that will NOT be hosting a competition, we ask that you coordinate your few interested shooters and invite them to participate at another neighboring Lodge. This way, no one will be left out of the competition.

Here are the locations of the upcoming shoots, and best of luck to your participants:

1. West District, January 29th, Lincoln Elementary School Rec Frederick, MD
2. SE District, Rehoboth, DE YMCA Feb 5th, 9:30 am
3. NC District, Feb 4, Towson, MD
4. NE District, Jan 14th, Saint Edmunds School, Wilmington, DE
5. SW District, Feb 5th, 9 am Southern HS Harwood, MD

State Finals Sunday, February 26th, Oxon Hill HS, Fort Washington, MD, 9 am

OCEAN CITY CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2022

MD, DE, DC Elks Association has been awarded 5 Star Recognition for Excellence in State Association Major Display 2021-2022



Pictured above are John Meyer, Angela Meyer, Sandy Brantner, and Robert Raleigh, Jr. PSP



Patti Gray was awarded State Association Elk of the Year 2022. She is pictured below with Robert Raleigh, Jr. PSP

OCEAN CITY CONFERENCE CONTINUED

Our State Association was again awarded 5-Star Recognition for Excellence in Publication for our State Newsletters. Janie Swigert, Editor/Publisher is pictured center below with Marion Davidson, Jr. SP and Advisor, Connie DeYoung, PSP, PGLC at her side.



Our Association was awarded 15th in the Nation for membership growth. Accepting the award below, are Marion Davidson, Jr. SP, Robert Raleigh, Jr. PSP, and John Opitz, NE State Membership Chair.



Photos by Janie Swigert, Association Photographer

A prestigious 3-Star Recognition for Excellence was awarded to Rick Frere for his design of Kent Island Lodge #2576 Website Design and Layout 2021-2022.



Pictured above are Mary Underwood, NC-VP, Mary Cardinal-Vogt, PSP, Rick Frere, PER Kent Island Lodge #2576 and Ray Wilson, current ER, also from Kent Island Lodge.

Upcoming Events

- **January 14** - Advisory Committee 11 AM at Bowie Lodge #2309
- **February 1** - Video Contest Deadline for entries to be in the hands of Lodge Chairs
- **February 6** - Deadline for Legacy Scholarship Applications
- **February 14** - Valentine's Day
- **February 15** - **Deadline for next Newsletter**
- **February 15** - Video Contest Deadline for entries to be in the hands of District Chairs
- **February 25** - Leadership Training 10 am – 3:00 pm @Washington-Rockville Lodge #15
- **March 4** - Leadership Training 10 am – 3:00 pm @Seaford Lodge #2458
- **March 15** - Skilled Trades Scholarship Application deadline
- **March 24–26 Spring Conference GER Visit Milford, DE Lodge #2401**
- **April 1** - Deadline for State Association and Local Lodge Website Contest

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