



Maryland, Delaware AND District of Columbia Elks Association News

A Fraternal Organization

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
United States of America



Official Publication



MARCH 2015



Dave Wolcott
State President

Message from the State President

I sincerely hope that the weather is nicer as this is being read than when it was being written but, regardless, welcome to Easton Lodge #1622 and the Spring Conference of the MD, DE and DC Elks Association. It is our honor and pleasure this weekend to have as our guests our Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen and First Lady Marcia Amen from Denver, Colorado Lodge #17. We are doubly honored to also welcome our Sponsor, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Helsel and his charming wife Jane from Newark,

Delaware Lodge #2281. Please use this opportunity to greet and speak to our guests and impress upon them what outstanding Elks will be found in our great Association.

This weekend our State committee chairs will update us on the progress of our Elk programs (and the work that still needs to be done) and we will also hear about the plans and achievements of our State projects the William J. Jernick Memorial Fund and Elks Camp Barrett. I hope that everyone absorbs this information and that you take it back to your Lodges where it will do the most good. It is that time of year where the Lodges are in transition to a new set of officers and the information you receive at this session will be extremely helpful to the new (and returning) Exalted Rulers as you develop your programs and goals. Our committee chairs and volunteers have worked very hard to develop successful programs so take advantage of the fruits of their labors; it will also be of benefit as we return to our communities and go about our primary business of service to others and helping those in need.

Saturday morning, PSP Priscilla Schwab will present her unique take on the do's and don'ts and can's and cant's of being an Exalted Ruler as well as more serious information on the role of the Lodge Board of Directors and the difference between being a private business CEO and a volunteer organization CEO. PSP Warren Johnson will update us on Auditing and Accounting and timely filing of the annual audit as well as what might be coming at us from our friends at the IRS. We will also hear from Drug Awareness, get updates on our upcoming Improvement Fund Raffle and Family Picnic at Camp Barrett and also arrangements for the Association and National Conventions. There will also be information provided on a new initiative for our Association, participation in the Donate Life program. Please pay attention as the benefit of all this information will strengthen our Association, our Lodges and, ultimately, our communities.

This admittedly has been a disjointed year for me, and I will speak more to that at our meeting, and my illness limited my ability recently to visit some of our Lodges and attend their events. There is progress however and Connie and I were able to attend the State Hoop Shoot in Frederick and by the time of our Spring meeting we hope to have attended the Award Ceremony in

Salisbury #817, the Regional Soccer and Hoop Shoot in Frederick and the State Ritual contest at Newark #2281. As my energy level continues to increase I hope to get to more of our Lodge's either officially or socially. Everyone is doing great work utilizing not just our programs but also their own creativity to make the lives of those in their community just a little bit better. I hope to see you soon at your lodge to thank you for all of those efforts.

As we enjoy this weekend we owe a sincere thank you to Easton Lodge #1622 for hosting this meeting. I hope everyone has a fruitful, informative and energizing workshop. I hope we all are able to take advantage of the knowledge presented to us this weekend and that we return home prepared to achieve "Growth Through Service" in our communities and through these efforts proving that we are, indeed, "Elks: Elevating America".

COMING EVENTS

March 29, 2015

State Association Americanism Awards Banquet
Westminster Lodge @ 1:00 pm

April 16-19, 2015

National Hoop Shoot Finals
Springfield, MA

May 24, 2015

Camp Barrett Family Picnic

June 12-14, 2015

State Convention
Holiday Inn, Solomans Island, MD

June 14, 2015

Flag Day

July 5-8, 2015

Grand Lodge Convention
Indianapolis, IN

October 2015

Fall Conference
Ocean City, MD

January 15-17, 2016

Winter Workshop
Frederick Lodge #684
Frederick, MD

March 18-20, 2016

Spring Conference
Dover Lodge #1903 • Dover, DE

NOTE: Lodges should refrain from scheduling conflicting events in order that their key Officers and members may attend all of these meetings.

**Maryland, Delaware and
District of Columbia
Elks Association News**
Official Publication
2015 - 2016

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SPRING CONFERENCE

MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ELKS ASSOCIATION
Easton Lodge #1622 • Easton, MD

WELCOME GRAND EXALTED RULER JOHN AMEN

AGENDA --- March 20-22, 2015**Friday, March 20, 2015**

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. Lunch in Lounge - Regular Lodge Menu and Daily special
Noon - 5 P.M. Registration
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Committee Meetings as Requested by Chairs
5:00 P.M. State Trustees Meeting
5:30 P.M. ECB Executive Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. Friday Dinner Buffet - \$19.95 Reservation Requested
Chicken Marsala, Eastern Shore Crab Cakes, Salad Bar, Sides
Entertainment (No Charge) in Rathskellar 8:00 P.M. - 12 Midnight

Saturday, March 21, 2015

7:00 A.M. - 9:00 AM Breakfast Buffet - \$7.00 Reservation Requested
8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M. Elks Camp Barrett Meeting
8:00 A.M. - Noon Registration
9:00 A.M. Meeting Called to Order
• Introduction of Guests
9:30 A.M. - 11:15 A.M. Presentations and Committee Reports
• Elks Camp Barrett Improvement Fund Raffle - Lou Schmeltzer
• Drug Awareness - Cindy Taylor
• Elks National Foundation - Mary Cardinal-Vogt
• Grand Lodge Convention - PSP Greg Wilkes
• Auditing & Accounting - PSP Warren Johnson, GL Committeeman

****Begin Committee Reports If Time Allows****

11:15 A.M. Comments - Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen
Association Sponsor Paul D. Hesel, PGER
11:45 A.M. Announcements & Recess until 8:30 AM. Sun., March 22
11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. Lunch - \$8.00 Reservation Requested
1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Paul D. Hesel, PGER Meeting with DDGERS
1:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Committee Meetings (as requested by State Chairs)
1:30 P.M. - 2:30 PM. State President Meeting with VPs and State Committee Chairs
6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Social Hour
7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Dinner (Business Attire) - \$23.95 Reservation Required
Entertainment (No Charge) in Rathskellar 8:30 P.M. - 11:30 P.M.

Sunday, March 22, 2015

7:00 A.M. - 9:30 AM. Breakfast Buffet - \$7:00 Reservation Requested
8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Registration
8:30 A.M. Meeting Called to Order
• Officers' Reports
• Resume State Committee Reports
• Communications - Secretary Eckenrode
• Unfinished Business
• New Business
• Good of the Association
Noon Closing and Adjournment
11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. Lunch - Reservation Requested

Next Meeting:

**JUNE CONVENTION
SOLOMONS ISLAND, MD
JUNE 12-14, 2015**

Next Newsletter Deadline: May 20, 2015

GRAND LODGE

Message from Grand Exalted Ruler: March transition to new Officers a busy time



Grand Exalted Ruler
John D. Amen

March brings with it an ending and a new beginning. It is a time of transition. Nature brings the beginning of spring and a re-birth of plant and

animal life.

We also see the end of a Lodge year and the installation of a new array of Lodge Officers. It is a time to reflect upon the goals achieved and those goals that continue to challenge for the new Lodge year ahead. This is a time when we take stock of our membership accomplishments and resolve to first match and then exceed the past year's results. We trust your Lodge has been among the nationwide links in this great chain of brotherhood that has Elevated America to new heights with your community service.

Congratulations are in order to the new Lodge Officers. I challenge you to

set worthy goals for your Lodge and the Order of Elks. As thousands who have gone before, you will enthusiastically go about meeting the challenges of leading and operating your Lodge and engaging in visible Elks volunteerism in your community.

I trust that your Trustees, Board of Directors and Governing Body of the Club have been working on a budget to present to the Membership in April. This is one of the most important tasks of the entire Lodge year.

It is also time to plan the Lodge volunteerism and community service. We will naturally attract a large group of good new Members who seek to join our ranks in this great crusade of elevating the human condition in America.

Throughout this new Lodge year let us always remain mindful of our mission as set forth in the Preamble to our Constitution. As leaders of our Local Lodge we must inculcate the four great principles that are the foundation of our

Order: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. We vow to remain steadfast in our belief in God in the face of distractions from many quarters.

Our benevolence must start by promoting the welfare and happiness of our Members. American patriotism will be paramount in our thoughts and deeds. Good fellowship flows from our principle of Brotherly Love. We must always seek to perpetuate ourselves as a great fraternal organization of American men and women. We must govern ourselves with an eye on preserving and enhancing the beautiful ideas set forth in our mission statement, which is derived from this Preamble.

Let us pray for the safety of our troops overseas and at home in this small world in which we live. May God help us and bless our beloved Order.

John D. Amen
Grand Exalted Ruler



Paul D. Helsel
PGER & Sponsor

Welcome to Easton Lodge No. 1622 and the Spring Conference of the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association. Jane and I are both looking forward to the weekend and the opportunity

to visit and enjoy good fellowship with each of you. This weekend we will also be recapping and celebrating the accomplishments of the 2014/2015 year, as well as setting the tone for a very successful 2015/2016 lodge year that will start on April 1.

Also this weekend we are honored to have our Grand Exalted Ruler John D. Amen and his lovely wife Marcia with us. They hail from the great State of Colorado. I know they look forward to meeting each of you, please take a few minutes to greet them personally and explain to them how your lodge and our Association are prime examples of "Elks:

Elevating America"!!!

During this conference we will learn about and reflect on the accomplishments of our 38 lodges over this past year. As we have come to expect, the combined accomplishments of our lodges will again show that our Association ranks among the best in all of Elksdom. My congratulation and thanks to all those Elks and their spouses who have worked so very hard to make this year a success for their individual lodge and our Association.

While we are all very proud of our continuing accomplishments, there is definitely much more we can do both individually and collectively. Membership management (both retention and attracting new members) will continue to be priority number "one". We now have in place a Grand Lodge Membership Manger who is promoting initiatives to help lodges work our membership issues. However, to reverse our 30 year negative trend in membership requires more than a Membership Manager at Grand Lodge, it requires dedicated and committed Elks at the lodge level to put these initiatives and

ideas into play in every local lodge. Every Elk needs to be involved in this effort - from sponsoring new members, and even more importantly, working on committees that promote our local and national programs of service to our communities, helping to make the local lodge a valued pillar of the community. A "Caring and Sharing" community oriented lodge will attract new members, as well as giving current members sound reasons to be a part of our efforts and continue their membership. If your lodge is not already working in your community, step up and help it be a positive, productive, and valued part of your community.

Best wishes to all for a most enjoyable Spring Conference weekend and best wishes to all the new Lodge officers for a most prosperous and successful 2015/2016 lodge year. Working together I am sure that 2015/2016 will be another great year for the 38 lodges of our Association!!

Sincerely and fraternally,
Paul D. Helsel
PGER & Sponsor

Message from the President-Elect:



Jay V. Strong, Jr/
President-Elect

Well, we finished our Winter Conference on 18 January, and the deadline for our Spring Newsletter was 20 February. This hasn't left a lot of time for many activities on which to report, has it?

Karen and I attended the State Hoop

Shoot competition in Frederick on 7 February. Jack Boehmer did his usual excellent work; it was a joy to watch the entire event progress smoothly and efficiently from start to finish. All contestants were made to feel like champions, regardless of where they finished. Until you see one of these competitions, you can't fully appreciate how the kids can benefit from the program. Thanks, Jack, for your hard work and dedication!

Afterwards, Karen and I went to the Frederick Lodge No. 684 ENF Fundraiser, organized by Danniele McKnight. She had two talented performers there, for non-stop entertainment. One gave us a Roy Orbison tribute - he even looked spot-on for the part. The other,

"The Big Bopper," covered a wide variety of classic tunes from the 50's and 60's. Not only was money raised for ENF, but "...a good time was had by all..." Well done, Danniele!

Your State Association is on a talent search for a Government Relations Chair Person. The Chair Person has two main responsibilities: 1) aggregate and report the hours, miles and dollars Members working on the State Association level contribute to our good works on behalf of Elkdom; and 2) monitor proposed and pending legislation in the State Legislature, and alert the Lodges of opportunities to try to influence pertinent legislation in a way that is favorable to them. PSP Carl Vogt is serving as interim Chair Person, and is willing to mentor the new Chair Person as he or she becomes familiar with the role. This is a rare opportunity to truly make a difference for the better, for Elkdom, for the State Association, and most importantly, for our Lodges. If this appeals to you, please come and see either myself or PSP Carl Vogt during this Spring Conference.

Candidates for Vice President of the North East and South East Districts have made themselves known to me. So far as I am aware, however, the Members who plan to run for Vice President of the North Central, South

West and West Districts are keeping their plans secret. I do need to have a conversation with the Members who want to run for Vice President in these three Districts, though. If you want to stay under the radar until the caucus, I promise I won't tell a soul. But, you will want to know about the expanded duties of the Vice Presidents in 2015 - 16. So, come talk to me. The greater challenge should make the job more rewarding, so there is that.

Meanwhile, remember always our principle of Brotherly Love. If we can practice that every day, disagreements will not have to be disagreeable; we can substitute harmony for hard feelings. If our Lodges are harmonious, we'll be able to accomplish so much more. More Members will want to invite more citizens to become Members. More new Members will feel welcomed, and will want to become involved in our good works. Both Membership retention and volunteerism will be more likely to grow. Now, who wouldn't want these things to happen in our Lodges? As Michael Jackson has suggested in "Man in the Mirror," this all starts with the Member you see in your mirror every day....

Fraternally
Jay V. Strong, Jr.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT VP REPORT

Happy Spring!

I write this during one of the coldest nights of the year. The groundhog saw his shadow, which is supposed to mean that we should expect six more weeks of winter and, weather-wise that has proved to be correct. However, the Lodges in the Northeast District are heating things up with their various projects and programs.

Abingdon Lodge has scheduled a member appreciation night and a Mardi Gras Party. Newark Lodge is conducting a food drive and is hosting Carnival du Orleans. Chestertown Lodge is having a bull and oyster roast. Dover had a Chili cook-off and has scheduled a volunteer appreciation and installation event. Notice the re-occurring "warmth" theme?

Chestertown, Dover and Newark have hosted hoop shoots for the youth in their community, and Dover, Chestertown and Havre de Grace have judged Scholarship applications locally and submitted them to the district Chairman. The majority of the Lodges in the Northeast District have

reached the ENF per capita goal with more than half of our Lodges reaching or surpassing the goal set by State President Wolcott. The leaders, chairpersons, and members of each of these Lodges should be proud of their accomplishments.

Since the last publication, I have visited Dover Lodge, attended the Winter Workshop in Havre de Grace (which was not too difficult since that is "home"), and attended a meeting at Elkton Lodge with DDGER Dave Reihl. If I can dodge the snowflakes, I will visit Milford Lodge before the Spring Conference. The last visit on the horizon is with the Officers and Members of Wilmington Lodge. Thanks to everyone for their kindness and hospitality.

By the time of the Spring Conference, Lodge elections will have taken place. To those elected, be proud of your place, vow to lead your Lodge to achieve positive results both within the Lodge and your Community. Good Luck to all.

Fraternally,
Patti Gray



Last year in Ocean City, I took orders for Terri Lynn Nuts. It was only a trial campaign but with the response I would like to make it an annual campaign with the profit going to Elks Camp Barrett.

I am trying to set it up that I will give you the books and order forms at our June Convention and give you about one month to get orders and money to me. Then the nuts will come in at our Ocean City Workshop for pickup. That way the bakers will have them for Christmas baking and gift giving.

As the program gets more formalized, I will pass out information to you. Once again, thank you for your support.

Hilda Davis

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT VP REPORT



Wayne Becraft
SE District VP

By the time you are reading this it will be Spring!!! Although we did not get a lot of snow this year as predicted it was below average in temperature most of the winter.

I made what I thought were to be my last two visits of the year to Easton

Lodge #1622 and to Selbyville Lodge #2173 and wish to thank each of them for the warm welcome and hospitality shown at each Lodge. Great things in the Southeast District continue to happen in Easton and Selbyville

Lodges as by the reports given by each Lodge during their Lodge Meeting I attended.

After completing my visits to Easton and Selbyville Lodges, I discovered that I needed to make additional visits to Lodges that our State President could not make due to illness.

I have scheduled those three remaining visits in March 2015 with Ocean City, Salisbury and Pocomoke City Lodges.

I attended the Members Christmas Party at Seaford Lodge, thank you one and all Doris and I had a great time.

I wish to extend my congratulations to Pocomoke City Lodge #1624 as they celebrated their 75th Anniversary in January. Although I could not make it, the Southeast District was well represented by Stu Kerr, PSP and his lovely wife Millie.

On January 24th, I attended the Southeast District Hoop Shoot where I assisted in score keeping duties. It was a great time had by all. Thanks to Gil Dunn, Salisbury Lodge for organizing and putting on this great event.

Congratulations to Ocean City Lodge #2645 as they had a boy and girl in the 8 - 9 year old division win at the State Hoop Shoot in Frederick, Md. and will be going on to the Regional's on March 14th.

Since my last report I have attended all Camp Barrett Executive Committee meetings, as well as the winter workshop in Havre de Grace in January.

I have logged 450 miles and 32 hours of travel and Lodge visit time.

Fraternally,
Wayne Becraft

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT VP REPORT



Charles Spadone
SW District VP

Greetings from the Southwest

Since the last newsletter I have visited St. Mary's and Waldorf Lodges. My visitation with St. Mary's was well attended. The officers conducted their ritual in an impressive manner and I am happy to report that

they have demonstrated strong participation in virtually all Grand Lodge programs. Additionally, they have met our Grand Exalted Ruler ENF Goal and are applying for Grand Lodge grants.

My visitation with Waldorf consisted of a meeting with their Board of Trustees to discuss significant business issues that the lodge is

working. They presented a well thought out plan of action and milestones which they are working. Following the board of trustees meeting where I encouraged them to work towards meeting our Grand Exalted Rulers ENF per capital goal and to apply for grants available from Grand Lodge to support their Grand Lodge programs. They advised me that they were working to meet this goal. They participated in the Southwest District Hoop Shoot along with 3 other lodges from the District. They also participate in the Scholarship program, Drug Awareness and Americanism.

I will complete my final 2 visitations to Calvert and Washington Rockville lodges subject to scheduling with State President Wolcott.

Respectfully,
Charles A. Spadone

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT VP REPORT



Julie Hasson
NC District VP

Since my last report I have completed all of official visits to my district's lodges with our President Dave Wolcott as well as on my own. It has been a great pleasure to visit each and every lodge. I had the pleasure of attending several

Initiations, which is always a good thing. The more members we have join us the more lasting we will be as an organization. It's also been nice to be able to go to my lodges, both for their meetings and just for visiting. On another note isn't it great to finally be in Spring. It has been a long and very cold winter, so I know I'm definitely looking forward to warmer weather as I am sure all of you are. I am looking forward to this Workshop with the Visitation of the GER and First Lady. It is also nice to have this Workshop hosted at the home lodge of our President. I am sure that especially now he is excited about that. With all of the official visits completed, I'm looking forward to being able to devote more time to volunteering. Thank you all for the support and knowledge that you have passed on to me. It has made my year so far much easier.

Fraternally,
Julie Hasson

WEST DISTRICT VP REPORT

Boy, I can't wait for winter to be over! I hope that everyone survived and managed to keep warm.

My official Vice President visits had been completed by the time we gathered at Havre De Grace so I have the fun visits now. Since we met in January I have assisted Frederick with their Hoop Shoot and then helped with the District and State Hoop Shoots. The West District has two contestants going on to the Regional Hoop Shoot on March 14, and I wish them both the best of luck as they represent the MD, DE and DC Elks Association. When I was in Frederick for the State Hoop Shoot I assisted Danniele McKnight with an ENF fund raiser at the Frederick Lodge. A good time was had by

all that attended and the dance floor was crowded all night.

By the time we all get together at Easton to welcome GER John Amen and his wife I will have also helped Gerald Morrow with the Regional Soccer Shoot, Jim McNitt with the Regional Hoop Shoot and helped with the Hoop Shoot registration the evening before the event for the contestants and their families at the hotel. I also promised Judi that I would assist her with preparing, serving and cleaning up for the GER luncheon at Elk's Camp Barrett.

Fraternally,
Dana Gourlay

JERNICK FUND REPORT

I am writing this message on February 20, 2015, it is three degrees outdoors and snow covers the ground! The weatherman says more snow may be on the way! Here's hoping that when you read these words this intemperate weather will have returned to our neighbor from the north and is less than a distant memory.

The Fund is doing well, but as with any human endeavor we can do better! To begin any effort it is best to establish two basic points, where you are and where you would like to be. In years past we worked to raise our profile in the State Association and encourage our member Lodges to locate, document, and submit applications for aid from qualified applicants. You may remember that last year we were so successful we actually ran out of available funds! In my mind that is

success! As you know, while we collect donations, they are deposited in the William J. Jernick Memorial Investment Fund and only the Interest and Dividends are used to fund our grants to those in need.

At this writing we have raised about eighty percent (80%) of our total for last year. Sadly there are many Lodges that have not yet contributed to the Fund. Traditionally, our March Session has generated significant income as Lodges make their contributions and I am optimistic that this statistic will be greatly improved as I tally this information. Please remember the Fund going forward on both sides of the equation, we need funds to generate funds on one side, and we stand ready to help you help your community on the other.

The good news is that we have made

ten grants originating from Lodges in each of our five Districts and made a contribution to Elks Camp Barrett. We have available funds and hope to receive additional applications going forward. As you know, at the beginning of the year the funds are divided equally but the Board has the authority to redistribute unused funds as the year comes to a close. If your Lodge has a qualified applicant in mind, contact your District Chair to determine if funding is available now in your District.

As always, I am honored to serve as Chairman of this wonderful committee, and I am grateful for your support and participation!

Fraternally,
John Loftus
State Chairman

JERNICK RECIPIENT

Hagerstown Lodge #378 sponsored Angela Winck, who has cerebral palsy, as a recipient of a grant from the William J. Jernick Memorial Fund, for \$2000. The grant will be used to help cover the overall cost for a special van for transporting Angela.

A \$2000 check was presented by John "Jack" Stush, West District Chairman of the William J. Jernick Memorial Fund, State Elks Association for Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia, to Nellie Winck, Angela's grandmother.



In the above paragraph from left to right are: John "Jack" Stush, West District Chairman, William J. Jernick Memorial Fund, State Elks Association for Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia; Nellie Winck (Angela's grandmother); Angela Winck (seated in the wheelchair); and Dave Kauffman, Exalted Ruler, Hagerstown Lodge #378.

Government Relations Report

MAKE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS A PRIORITY IN YOUR LODGE

By RODNEY D. BELLMAN, Committee Member

Recognizing the important activities we do in our Lodges cannot be overemphasized. The information contained in the Annual Report allows the Government Relations Committee and every Elks Member to bring to the attention of government agencies and legislators the impact we have on youth and veterans in our communities.

For the 2013-14 Lodge year, cash contributions by Members and volunteers totaled nearly \$57.1 million. Noncash contributions were over an amazing \$273.4 million. That is an astounding grand total \$330.5 million.

A detailed report of activities can be found in the December/January issue of The Elks Magazine. Please publish it in your Lodge and State Newsletters.'

For 2014-15, the Elks National Foundation has pledged a record \$26.5 million in grants and appropriations, including \$8.68 million to invest

directly into our Lodge communities.

The information from your annual reports, combined with the ENF programs, gives every Elks Member unequaled knowledge to supply community leaders and legislators with factual results of our Order's works.

We urge every Exalted Ruler, Officer and Member to make Government Relations a priority. Our responsibility as Members of our Order is to keep a constant vigil on all legislation at all levels of government, to see there is no indifference to unfair legislation that would prevent us from having the rights and privileges we enjoy as a private organization.

We must remember that each and every one of us is really a Member of the Government Relations Committee. Your eyes, ears and individual help are invaluable.

Submitted by
Carl F. Vogt, PSP
Interim Chairman

**MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ELKS ASSOCIATION
JUNE CONVENTION, MEMORIAL SERVICE AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

**REGISTRATION FORM
JUNE 12 - 14, 2015**



**HOLIDAY INN
155 HOLIDAY DRIVE
SOLOMONS, MD 20688**

HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MAY 12TH, MEALS ONLY RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MAY 29TH

1. WEEKEND ACCOMMODATIONS PACKAGE:

Includes hotel room for two nights on June 12 and 13. Saturday Evening Association Dinner and Awards in honor of Paul D. Helsel, PGER. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday.

Double Occupancy: \$428.00 Roasted Prime Rib (med rare) # _____
 Single Occupancy: \$345.00 Stuffed Rockfish w/Crab Imp # _____

KING **DOUBLE QUEEN**

(OUR BLOCK OF ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED AFTER MAY 12TH)

2. INDIVIDUAL ROOM RATES: (CALL FOR ADDITIONAL NIGHTS ADD ON)

One Night \$ 131.00
 Two Nights \$262.00

3. DINNER ONLY: (ADVANCED RESERVATIONS ONLY - NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR)

One person \$42.00 Roasted Prime Rib (med rare) # _____
 Two persons \$84.00 Stuffed Rockfish w/Crab Imp # _____

4. REGISTRATION FEE: \$5.00 PER ATTENDEE IN ADVANCE OR AT THE DOOR

OF ATTENDEES @ \$5.00 \$ _____

AMOUNT DUE BASED UPON OPTIONS ABOVE - INCLUDING REGISTRATION FEES \$ _____

Enclose payment with reservation form and check payable to MD, DE and DC Elks Assn

Name: _____
 Spouse/Roommate: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ Email: _____
 Lodge: _____
 Badge #1 Name & Title _____
 Badge #2 Name & Title _____

MAIL TO:

Gregory W. Adams
 712 Meadow Brook Lane
 Milford, DE 19963-3008
 302-422-7274 (home)
 302-270-2464 (cell)
 gw.adams1@verizon.net

Elks Camp Barrett Patron Program

This ECB Program was established in 2010 to recognize individuals, lodges and organizations who are committed to helping the State Association meet its goals to provide opportunities for character development and self-improvement for children of all backgrounds.

As non-camper fee revenue sources face decline or do not keep up with inflation and operating costs increase, Patron Donations are sincerely appreciated and more important than ever. Pictured are some of the lodges and individuals who were recognized at the Fall Workshop last October.

Since then the following lodges and individuals have stepped up and donated or added to their previous dona-

tions:

Bronze Level:
Frostburg Lodge #470,
Toni and Carroll Wagner

Silver Level:
PSP Priscilla Schwab,
PSP Vince Pingitore, Jr.
(two donations)

Platinum Level:
St. Mary's County Lodge #2092,
Roger Wilbrandt.

The Patron Program committee is currently working on revamping this program. If you have any suggestions, please forward them to me.

Joyce Bailey
2015 ECB Patron Program Chair



Pictured in front row: Angela Meyer, ECB Exec Committee; Joyce Bailey; George Tunicliff- Kent Island Lodge

Second row: Charles Spadone, Patron Program; Pete Peterson; Jerry Miles-Pocomoke City Lodge; Bob Hurley-Salisbury Lodge; and, Vince Pingitore, Jr.

Camp Barrett Report

Thank you to all the representatives and executive committee members who have volunteered to chair projects. We are making great strides at camp and look forward to a great camp season again this year.

Elks Camp Barrett Pavilion Project is Leaping Forward. The ECB Executive Committee is happy to report that the pavilion project is making great progress. Contracts were signed, funding granted, permits pulled and the old pavilion has come down. As soon as the weather clears up a bit the old concrete will be removed and new will be poured. Pavilion Project Co-Chairmen Stu Burgoon and Stu Kerr are pushing this project forward and expect completion well in advance of the Memorial Day Family Picnic. Wonderful things are happening at the Camp. Please check out our Facebook page to share in the excitement.

We are happy to announce that a longtime friend of the camp and a camp volunteer, Mike Green, PER, PG Lodge, has agreed to take leadership

of the family picnic to be held May 24th. Thank you Mike, for helping us with our most important fundraising effort of the year. Mike will need lots of volunteers to help with the event. Please contact Mike if you can lend a hand.

Another great way to help Camp Barrett, when buying online, go to Amazon Smiles and purchase through the portal for Elks Camp Barrett. Amazon will donate a portion to the camp. Its a win-win! Flyers will be distributed with how-to instructions at the Spring workshop.

With our camp operations budget being very tight this year we send a plea out to the State, District, and Local Leadership to encourage the Exalted Rulers and Local Lodges to send campers, advertise and attend the Family Picnic, participate in clean up days, Sneak a Peek Lunch, and fundraisers for the camp. We appreciate all the help you can give.

Angela M. Meyer
Interim - Chair
Elks Camp Barrett



Pictured above: Signing of contract - Claudia Finley-Bowalick, Trustee; Stu Burgoon, Co- Chair pavilion project; Stu Kerr Co-Chair pavilion project; and, Mike Greaver, Contractor.

Pictured below: Old Pavilion coming down.



Inter-Lodge Activity Committee

Ever wonder why there is an "Inter-Lodge Activities" Committee?

I have to admit that that same question has crossed my mind on many occasions. It seems that over the past 5-8 years the only activity that would qualify is the horse shoe tournament which is held twice a year.

I have agreed to chair this committee again this year and will do my best, with the help of the District chairs, to try to make it a more viable committee.

At recent workshops, I have thrown around ideas for an "Elks Olympics" and a motorcycle rally. The "Olympics" could be a fun filled day with events like a greased water balloon relay, bean bag toss and balloon pop. The motorcycle rally would entail riders from all parts of our Association riding to Camp Barrett for a picnic with music filled afternoon. I don't think those ideas ever left the meeting rooms in Ocean City or Havre De Grace as the response has been minimal at best.

Another idea I had was a bus trip to Chicago

which would include a tour of the Elks National Veterans Memorial. This is going to happen as you will see in the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter. I am excited about this, as I have already received deposits from across the Association. The cutoff date for a \$25 deposit per person is June 3rd, but I would highly recommend that you consider getting yours in ASAP as there is limited seating on the bus. The details are on the flyer, along with my phone number, if you have any questions. I have received confirmation from Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt that we will be able to tour the Memorial. I also have been informed that our overnight stays both going and coming will be in South Bend, IN which is the home of Notre Dame. I hope we can include a quick tour of that beautiful campus also.

There has been a great deal of emphasis placed on membership within our organization in recent years. I think the membership people have done a wonderful job of bringing in new members, but we have done a horrible job of

making them welcome and providing activities that want to make them remain members. That, in my mind, is the job of a committee like this one.

I am always open to new ideas from anyone as to what we can do on a State level and my District chairs are ready and willing to help at that level. In so many of our programs, success can only be achieved by strong commitment at the Local Lodge level. It all starts at home.

Let's all work to make the Elks an organization that others want to join because of not only the great things we do for our youth, our veterans and those in need, but also because of the things that we do to make them want to come to the Lodge and have fun with other members and their families.

We claim to be the Best People On Earth, lets prove it.

Jack Boehmer
Inter-Lodge Activity Chair

AUDITING & BUSINESS PRACTICES from May 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015

- 1) **State Association Ordinary Income:** Overall Income: \$44,880.47; Budgeted \$62,465. Or a remaining balance of -\$17,584.53
 - 2) **Association Other Income:** \$5,339.57; Budgeted \$7,800.00; Or a remaining balance of: -\$2,460.43
 - 3) **Camp Barrett Donation Income:** Income \$141,910.36; Budgeted \$156,040.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$14,129.64
 - 4) **Camp Barrett Fund-raises Income:** \$112,879.13 Budgeted \$122,500.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$9,620.87
 - 5) ***Elks Camp Barrett Ordinary Income:** \$63,292.85; Budgeted \$102,500 Or a remaining balance of -\$39,207.15
 - 6) **Convention/Conference Income:** \$141,767.72; Budgeted \$148,150.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$6,382.28
 - 7) **Elks National Foundation Income:** \$248,147.55; Budgeted \$248,090.00 Or a PLUS balance of \$57.55
- *OVERALL TOTAL INCOME: \$758,147.65; Budgeted \$847,545.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$89,327.35**

- 1) **State Association Ordinary Expenses:** \$26,258.95; Budgeted \$62,465.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$36,206.05
 - 2) **Association Other Expense:** \$2,206.04; Budgeted \$7,800.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$5,593.96
Why Budgeted Expense \$4,000 more than Association Other Income?
QUESTION: Why would you budget to spend \$4,000 more than your income?
 - 3) **Camp Barrett Donation Expenses:** \$320.00; Budgeted \$0.0. Or a remaining plus balance of \$320.00
 - 4) **Camp Barrett Fund-raises Expense:** \$90,918.02; Budgeted \$93,250.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$2,331.98
 - 5) **Camp Barrett Ordinary Expense:** \$252,935.34; Budgeted \$288,810.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$35,874.66
 - 6) **Convention/Conference Expense:** \$131,564.85; Budgeted \$141,830.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$10,265.15
 - 7) **Elks National Foundation Expense:** \$196,110.62; Budgeted \$248,640.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$51,979.38
- OVERALL TOTAL EXPENSE: \$700,313.33; Budgeted \$842,245.00 Or a remaining balance of -\$141,931.67**

NOTE: Overall total Income: \$758,147.65 and, Overall total Expense: \$700,313.33 or a NET PROFIT of \$57,834.31

State Association Balance Sheet: Last report March 2014: Checking/Savings assets of \$772,425.96, now \$722,161.89. Total assets of \$731,661.89. Not Included within this figure, the Edward Jones Investments of \$40,658.02. What does this mean? We are still holding our own, but we must continue to watch our spending, for there is always more work to do, just like owning a house, your work is never done.

Hope all lodges are within budget and making money, hand over fist? If not, please try to attend one of my seminars, you may pick up something that will help you and your lodge? Cost -> YOU'RE TIME and the Benefits -> FREE KNOWLEDGE!

Remember, any State Committee or Lodge having questions or needing assistance from the State Auditing Committee may contact their District Chair and, if he or she is not available, please call or e-mail yours truly. We are only a phone call or e-mail away!

Fraternally yours, Maurice DiPoli, PDDGER
State Chair, Auditing & Business Practices

HOOP SHOOT REPORT

Well another year has come and gone at the State Level in the Hoop Shoot and it has been a bittersweet one for me. Once again, I have watched many wonderful shooters at all levels and had the pleasure of meeting them and their families. I have been involved with many different aspects of Elkdome, but none has brought me more pleasure or satisfaction than this program.

Having said that, as many of you know this is my last year as State Director. I feel that 5 years is a long enough period for one person to chair any program and if we want to get new people involved we must step aside. The new Director will be announced by President-Elect Jay Strong as we move closer to his year and I can assure you that I will do everything to make the transition a smooth one.

Enough about me. Lets get down to the meat and potatoes of this year. Participation at the Lodge level was not good, and with the new on-line reporting system for Local

Lodges, I know that there are several Lodges that held contests that have not received credit. Even if a Lodge did not hold a shoot, they still should report it. If any Lodge has a question as to how to do this, they can contact me or their District Chair.

We did have another great shoot in Frederick on February 7th and the winners are as follows:

- 8-9 Year Old Girl - Eleni O'Brien**
(Ocean City 2645)
- 8-9 Year Old Boy - Riley Calloway**
(Ocean City 2645)
- 10-11 Year Old Girl - Kaitlin Marioni**
(Washington-Rockville 15)
- 10-11 Year Old Boy - Christopher Hose**
(Hagerstown 378)
- 12-13 Year Old Girl - Heather Barnes**
(Hagerstown 378)
- 12-13 Year Old Boy - Josh Popielski**
(Westminster 2277)

All of these Champions represented our State Association last weekend in Middletown MD at the Regional Contest, and I hope to be the bearer of good news this weekend and be able to announce that we will have at least one representative next month at the National Finals in Springfield MA.

Once again, I want to thank everyone who has made these last 5 years some of the best of my life. I truly have memories, some fond some sad, of the many great things that have transpired.

Once again this year, if we do have National finalists, you will meet them at the Convention in Solomon's. I would really like to cap this part of my life by introducing a National Champion to you that weekend.

Remember, with proper planning, every shot is a layup.

Jack Boehmer
State Director

Girls 8-9 Winners



Boys 8-9 Winners



Girls 10-11 Winners



Boys 10-11 Winners



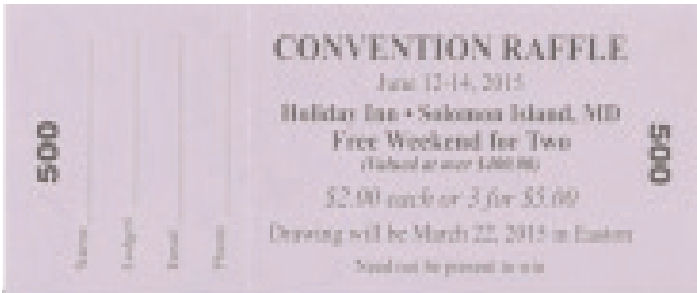
Girls 12-13 Winners



Boys 12-13 Winners



Is this your Lucky Ticket?



Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets for a free weekend for two at our State Convention. Only 500 tickets will be sold and the drawing will take place on Sunday, March 22nd. Cost is \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The value of the weekend package including registration fees is \$438.00.

This year's State Convention, Memorial Service and Installation of Officers will be held at the Holiday Inn, Solomon's Island, MD from June 12th - June 14th. This is a popular waterfront community, located at the southern most point of Calvert County, offering lots of dining, attractions and shopping opportunities. Room cost including all taxes is \$131 per night for King or Double Queen rooms. The hotel is hold-

ing our block of rooms until May 12th after which they will be released. We have been informed that there will be NO EXCEPTIONS to the cutoff date. So please be sure to get your room registration to Greg Adams by that date. See registration form for additional information.

The Convention/Conference will be holding an informational meeting in Easton on Saturday, March 21st at 1:30 for anyone planning on attending the 151st Grand Lodge Convention in Indianapolis, IN this July.

If you have any questions or will have any special needs, please plan to attend. All Convention Committee members should attend as well.

SCHOLARSHIPS

This year the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia State Association received 461 Most Valuable Student Scholarship applications. There were 312 female and 149 male applications. Our quota of application to be forwarded to Grand Lodge was fifteen. This was one less than last year and the drop had to do with less donations to Elks National Foundation. Eight females and seven males were forwarded. All judging throughout the state association was completed by the required scheduled dates.

This year there were 1,953 eligible ENF Legacy Awards applications submitted online

and the judging is now under way. The entire class of 2015 Elks scholars - both MVS scholars and Legacy Awards recipients - will be announced at the end of April.

The State Association Vocational Scholarship has been distributed and are to be returned to the state Scholarship Chairman by Marsh 31, 2015

I want to thank the five District Chairperson's for their help in the transition of the scholarship program.

Respectively
Edward "Pete" Peterson
State Scholarship Chairman

STATE ASSOCIATION AMERICANISM AWARDS BANQUET



Westminster Elks Lodge #2277
March 29, 2015 @ 1PM

Please come and show your support to our youth and celebrate true patriotism with your fellow members! This is one of the most important programs of our Order and State Association!!

Winners of the Essay and Poster Contests from each District will be represented!!

Any questions, contact me,
Sandy Brantner, State Chair
301-334-1880 or 301-501-7533



BOYS

Week #1 June 21 – June 26
Week #2 June 28 – July 3
Week #3 July 5 – July 10

GIRLS

Week #1 July 12 – July 17
Week #2 July 19 – July 24
Week #3 July 26 – July 31

CAMP BARRETT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 11 Sneak a Peek Luncheon,
training and tour for Lodge ERs,
Leading Knights, and Camp Representatives. 11AM -
1PM at the Camp.

May 9-10 Clean up weekend
(prepare for campers)

May 24 Family Picnic

CHICAGO Illinois

"...your kinda' town!"



4 DAYS - 3 NIGHTS SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2015

\$395 per person (double occupancy)

Package includes:

- Overnight lodging to and from Chicago
- 1 night's lodging in Chicago area
- 3 breakfasts
- Guided tour of Chicago
- Navy Pier

- Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows
- Visit to Elks National Veterans Museum
- Souvenir gift
- Luggage handling in Chicago
- All taxes and meal gratuities
- Motor coach transportation

Day 1: A morning departure from Maryland has you heading to your overnight stop where lodging has been arranged for you this evening (pack an overnight bag); dinner is on your own this evening

Day 2: Following breakfast, check out and continue traveling to Chicago...known as the "Windy City" and one of the most exciting cities in the USA. Upon arrival in Chicago you will visit the Elks National Veterans Museum, one of the most magnificent war memorial in the world. The museum is a tribute to the bravery, loyalty and dedication of the thousands of Elks who have fought and died for our country. After your visit, check into your hotel and freshen up before enjoying dinner on your own.

Day 3: Enjoy breakfast, then check out and meet your guide for a tour of Chicago's highlights. After the tour, stop at the historic Navy Pier, which features shopping, eateries and the Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows, featuring over 150 stained-glass windows housed in the lower level of Festival Hall. This afternoon you will depart for your last night of lodging where you will check in upon arrival; dinner is on your own this evening.

Day 4: After a continental breakfast, check out and prepare for your departure home with lasting memories of your trip to the "Windy City".

Cancellation insurance available upon request

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

FREDERICK ELKS LODGE

Jack Boehmer

5813 Box Elder Ct.

Frederick, MD 21703

(301) 639-7573



On behalf of myself and all the District VAVS Chairmen and Representatives, I would like to welcome our Grand Exalted Ruler, John D. Amen and First Lady Marcia to the MD, DE and DC Elks Association Spring Workshop.

For the eight-month period from June 2014 to January 2015, our Reps received \$8700.00 from ENVSC and \$4500.00 from our State Association, for a total of \$13,200.00, to use in programs that support our Veterans, Armed Forces and their families. I am pleased to inform you of some of the outstanding work that is being done.

At the Washington, DC VAMC, financial assistance to a Homeless Veterans' Event provided clothing, dental care, toiletries and employment opportunities. Our Reps have donated gift cards, clothing, playing cards, lottery tickets, Christmas presents and funded entertainment for the enjoyment of Veterans in Nursing Homes at several facilities. We also sponsored Welcome Home Events at several VA facilities for soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. During the month of November, Veteran's Remembrance Month, many Lodges host-

ed Veteran's Appreciation Dinners and brought Veterans to events such as Thanksgiving Dinners and Crab Feasts. They also sponsored "A Day at the Races"

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION



SERVING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

for the enjoyment of the Vets at the Milford, DE Veterans Home. I am proud to report that the ENVSC representatives have spent a total of \$13,361.00 on behalf of our Veterans and our VA Homes, USOs and Hospitals.

Along with the good works we are doing at our 9 facilities, let's not forget what our Lodges are doing. Two Lodges received Freedom Grants; one was used at the Dover AF Base USO Fisher House Home of

the Fallen and the other at the Wilmington, DE VAMC, for a total of \$4000.00. I would like to mention Deale and Calvert Lodges' contribution to Charlotte Hall and recognize Deale's \$3500.00 donation to "Truckin' 4 Troops", a non-profit organization committed to helping military families, wounded servicemen and women and veterans. Special mention to Abingdon, Frederick, Wilmington and Dover for hosting dinners and outings for our veterans. Recognition to Cambridge and Newark for hosting fundraisers to benefit our Veterans and the USO. Special thanks to the West District VAVS Chairman, Tim Eaton, along with Westminster, Frostburg, Frederick and Oakland for their involvement with the Veterans at the Martinsburg, West Virginia VAMC. I would also like to recognize Westminster Lodge for donating \$500.00 to the Junior ROTC program at Century High School.

Congratulations and thank you for all the great work that is being done!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Bob McIntyre, Chairman

FROM YOUR STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Membership: "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE LATELY?"



Bob Baxendell
STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

As the month of March comes to a close; there is likely one more round of initiations that will seal your Lodge's final Membership results for the year. The reinstatements that your Lodge has pursued have either returned, or

cants carefully so that this year's recruits are not next year's Lapsation? Did we conduct an effective orientation with every incoming candidate to give them a true picture of Elksdom? Did we make every effort possible to: seek out reinstatements, to recover Lapsations, and moreover overcome the root issues that lead to Lapsation? Did we have an active Membership committee; and lastly, a Standing Relief Committee? If we can answer YES to every one of these questions; then chances are your Lodge has a favorable Membership result. As is always the case; the results that WE generate start with YOU. In a few weeks, when your Lodge's final Membership results are real; will you take pride in them? Some people make it happen, others wonder what happened. So; while you still have that mirror out: Ask yourself:

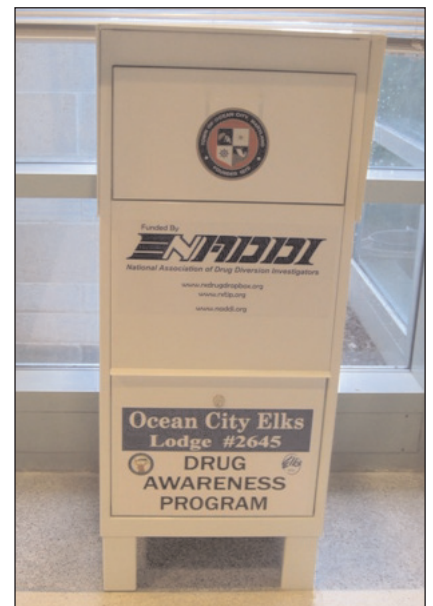
What have I done lately to support and grow Membership?

Bob Baxendell
State Membership Chair

not. The Lapsations, to whom your Lodge has probably sent numerous overtures to; have either paid up, or not. Has your Lodge shown a net gain; or not? Only your final Membership result will tell. The fact is that at this point in the Lodge Year; we have a pretty good idea of where our final numbers will be.


It's time to look in the mirror. From our Exalted Rulers, through all the Chairs, through all the committee chairs, and even that growing list of PER's: Did we do all we could to recruit and retain membership? Did we have an active Public Relations effort to increase visibility and attract Members? Did we screen appli-

DRUG DROPBOX




Ocean City Elks Lodge #2645 has donated two Drug Dropboxes. One is located at the Ocean City Police Dept. and the other is at Ocean Pines Police Dept. In 2014, 734 pounds of unused and unwanted medications, including controlled pain medications, depressants and stimulants were turned in for a street value over \$45,000.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has joined forces with **Donate Life America** to increase donations of organs, eyes and life-saving tissue




Is your Lodge promoting the program? We Elks Members can help close the gap!

Spread the Word



Inspire others!

"Elks Give From The Heart"



Stories of HOPE: Meet Priscilla

Stories of HOPE: Meet Priscilla and other donor recipients at www.donatelife.net

You Have the Power to Donate Life. Register as an Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Today.

State Association Training

Every Lodge has just completed the most important event of the Lodge year, the annual Lodge elections. How should the Annual Election of Lodge Officers be conducted? We were holding the Annual election versus an election to fill a vacant officer position. This makes a difference. During the Annual election are members permitted to enter and leave the meeting? This is different than voting into membership a proposed candidate when no one is permitted to enter or leave the meeting. How does your Lodge know the correct answer to these and many other important questions about the running of your Lodge? One tool to use to help answer many questions is taking advantage of Elks Training.

No one is expected to have every answer to every question or problem. What is expected is that the correct answer is found. Elks Training will assist you to accomplish this task in two ways. First, every year different topics are used in the training and this will make you familiar with some Statutes of our Order. Secondly, the process used in Elks Training in which you found the correct answers to problems and questions can be used later in any situation.

The ER's in the North East have been contacted to sponsor an Elks Training session in your Lodge. The State Chairman and District representatives are willing to help your Lodge anytime.

Earl Briel
NE District Elks Training

MD-DE-DC Elks Association Punta Cana Trip NOW Larimar Punta Cana - Air from Baltimore April 24-May 1, 2015 from \$1,449.00* per person



The MD, DE and DC Elks Assn. has supported Elks Camp Barrett using funds raised from group travel for the past eight years. The ninth annual trip will go to Punta Cana, which is located at the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic. Punta Cana is known for its 40 miles of spectacular sugar white beaches, modern and luxurious resorts and spas, golf courses, water sports and warm climate. The average year-round temperature is 82 degrees.

This **all-inclusive**, deluxe vacation is available from **Apple Vacations** starting at the group rate of **\$1,449, including non-stop roundtrip airfare**. The rates below are per person, based on double occupancy and include taxes, government fees, gratuities and non-stop transfers.

Deluxe Tropical View*	Deluxe Pool View*	Preferred Club Tropical View*	Preferred Club Pool View*	Preferred Club Partial Ocean View*
\$1,449.00	\$1,489.00	\$1,579.00	\$1,619.00	\$1,649.00

For full details see the link at www.antietamtravel.com or Google "NOW LARIMAR"

REGIONAL SOCCER SHOOT

(Frederick MD) (03/07/15)---Today the Regional Mid-Atlantic Invitational Soccer Shoot was held in Frederick MD. Competitors from 6 State Associations (KY,

WV, PA, NJ, OH and MD-DE-DC) decked out in their State Colors and Soccer Uniforms lined up and kicked some balls. After about 2 hours it was all over some champions did

great while others did their best. In the end all 48 of these champions are still champions.

The results you may ask are as follows for our Champions:

LEVEL	GIRLS Position	NAME	LEVEL	BOYS Position	NAME
U-8	6 th	Carly Wilt	U-8	5 th	A.J. Applegate
U-10	3 rd	Caitlin Thompson	U-10	2 nd	Will French
U-12	6 th	Hannah Parkinson	U-12	5 th	Evan Riggin
U-14	5 th	Alicia Strack	U-14	6 th	Chris Morgan



Overall MD-DE-DC finished up with 250 cumulative points and placed 6th among the states. Each state was separated by only 3-5 points overall from the state in front of them. The overall winner was PA with a 283 cumulative points.

Thanks to all our lodges for supporting our shooters at the Regional Soccer Shoot. Elroy was there Friday night for pizza with the shooters and then Saturday came back and help hand out all the trophies, thanks Cindy and Gordon-great job. We had lots of helpers from all over MD-DE-DC this year and I would recognize each one but I am afraid I would forget someone since I was wearing 3 hats and going in 50 directions and forgot to get a list. But thank you all for coming and supporting our shooters.

The Ad Journal was a super success this year with your help and our local lodges. The many boosters that signed up and sent money in raised over \$9000 to offset our expenses. I have Ad Journals and will bring

them to the June Convention since I am enroute to Florida for another year of baseball. Each Lodge that submitted an advertisement will get a copy along with those who submitted a personal ad also, and those who had boosters will get a copy. Next year we are going to have ads of Full Page, Half Page and 1/3 page; the 1/4 page ads are too small so the committee has done away with them. Also our shooters' families may place an ad and everyone can do a booster sheet with up to 32 characters.

There will be a few minor changes to the soccer program which once we finalize them and get them in writing I will pass along to all District Directors and Lodges.

Now we need to get more lodges involved with our Soccer Program and here is why: we have been doing very well across the nation and our numbers have caught the eye of Grand Lodge who is investigating the possibility of re-instituting Soccer at the National Level. Wow it has been a long time coming

and now more than ever we at MD-DE-DC need to boost up our Soccer Program get more lodges, more Districts involved. It is easy to set up and run, cheap to accomplish and you get lots of points in your Charity Records for doing a shoot. Not only that you are soliciting potential new members. This is a win-win program overall. Jump on the wagon now before it picks up speed and get involved at the local level.

Finally I thank you for letting me be you State Chairperson for Soccer and next year we will do better (I hope).

Photos of the whole shoot will be online in about 2 weeks at <http://www.njelks.org/>. I will send out a notice once they are up. We also took some of our own (thanks Daniele) which we will get on our website soon.

G. Gerald Morrow, PER, PDDGER
State Soccer Chair



ELKS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Last Chance Don't Let Time Pass you By the Clock is Ticking Tick Tick Tick

We have 2 weeks left in this ENF year and all Donations must be in by March 31, 2015.

Beacon Grants - Offer Lodges an opportunity to develop an ongoing, charitable, Elks-led community project. Beacon Grants have 5 requirements: New- Ideally, Lodges will use their Beacon Grant for the same successful, ongoing project each year. It must be something the Lodge is committed to continuing on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. It must be something Elk-led and have Elk hands on involvement. It must be Charitable and geared toward helping those in need, such as underprivileged youth,

homeless veterans or the hungry. The Project must be an activity, and cannot be split between two causes. It may not be a donation of supplies or funds. This \$2,000.00 Grant is available to all Lodges (does not require meeting any donation goal) Deadline for application is March 31, 2015.

Gratitude Grants - are ENF's way of saying thank you to every lodge that meets the Grand Exalted Ruler's Goal of Giving which is \$4.60 per member. You may use the \$2,000.00 gratitude grant for things like partnering with D.A.R.E. to hold a drug awareness program in schools, hold recreational events for people with disabilities, or partner

with students to hold a community clean-up day. You may even present 4 checks for \$500.00 each to charitable organizations in your local community like your Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Girls and Boys Club, and Boy and Girl Scouts. Remember goal must be met by March 31, 2015. Once you meet the goal the grant is available for use until July 31, 2015

Donations to Elks National Foundation are an important part of being an ELK. Lodges please solicit your members.

Mary E Cardinal-Vogt
ENF State Chairman

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

“Army of Hope”

For the past 11 years, our “Army of Hope” has provided a wide variety of assistance, support, and relief for those who are serving in the Military and their families. This Elk program of service was a natural and formal addition to our other Elks National Veterans Service Commission programs at the time and officially expanded our Commission's efforts to include currently serving Military personnel as well as Veterans.

Our “Army of Hope” was established and organized as a program, enabling and encouraging Lodges and State associations to provide support and assistance for the families of their local Military Reserves and National Guard Units who were deployed in “harm's way”, to defend our National Interests during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Well, the “Army of Hope” of today has evolved into much, much, more, providing direct support for all deployed troops, as well as their families. Lodges and State Associations have and continue to provide all sorts of personal hygiene, clothing and comfort items, food items, phone cards, etc. to these troops. In addition an even greater effort is being made to make their return home as easy and pleasant as possible for both the trooper and the family. Elk Lodges and

individual Elk members continue to participate in “Welcome Home” events at airports, military bases, and the like for these returning Heroes. Lodges and “Army of Hope” Committees are holding “Welcome Home” celebrations, as well as providing financial and other individual forms of assistance, all to help each returning Hero in their individual and personal effort to pick up and continue a normal life with their family.

Many of our Heroes return with injuries, both physically and psychologically - the Wounded Warriors. Others, tragically, are even less fortunate and return as Fallen Heroes. Once again, our “Army of Hope” has stepped into the breach by providing assistance and relief to the individual Hero Warrior, as well as the families of those Fallen Heroes. Through a wide range of fund raising activities Our “Army of Hope” is providing funds for rehabilitation activities, services and facilities. Funding is also being provided to purchase rehabilitation equipment and aids. In the case of the Fallen Heroes, our “Army of Hope” organizes groups of Elk members to show proper honor and respect to the Fallen Hero, and comfort to the family when they are returned home, as well as continuing events to honor their service and memo-

ry. Elks all across our Order make up our “Army of Hope” and are bringing comfort and relief to our troops and their families, day in and day out.

The question is - is your Lodge involved and are you personally involved in this most worthy effort? If not, why not? The troops, these Heroes and their families certainly deserve the support and assistance of all Americans. They serve and give up so very much that we might be free and able to pursue our lives as we wish.

If you and your Lodge are not currently involved in our “Army of Hope” effort, please contact the following for information on how to get started. Every Lodge and every Elk should be involved in this effort!!

Elks National Veterans
Service Commission
2750 North Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

If you are currently involved - Thank you, and please forward any information about your program and efforts, letters, pictures, reports to the same address listed above.

Fraternally,
Paul D. Hesel, PGER - Chairman
ENVSC Commission