



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



Get your house in order now to avoid future stress

We avoid unwelcome future surprises by getting our affairs in order now. Set a goal to accomplish the following tasks before July 1 by spreading the workload out between your Board of Directors (BOD) members. This ensures that nobody becomes overwhelmed.

First, review your Lodge Bylaws to learn whether any items are in need of attention. Next, review your House Rules to ensure that they are written to protect your Lodge from a business perspective and clearly define the rules that Members are required to follow.

While keeping in mind that all states have their own unique corporate laws, ask the following questions:



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MICHAEL T. LUHR

- Is your corporation BOD required to be listed on all Lodge licenses?
- Have you renewed your corporation license and updated BOD member information?
- Is your “Registered Agent” listed

correctly?

You should also ask the following questions in regard to Lodge property insurance:

- Have Lodge Trustees reviewed your coverage or is it a perfunctory exercise?
- When was the last time your Lodge conducted a local appraisal to determine the value of your property?
- Is the BOD in agreement with the amount of coverage? Is there a savings for less? Do not let others make your coverage decisions for your Lodge.

Answering these questions effectively will ensure that you have adequate

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Lodges will get monthly invoice starting in April

Per Sections 14.150 and 16.010, Opinion 03 of the 2018 Statutes Annotated, beginning in April 2019, the Grand Lodge will be invoicing each Lodge, on a monthly basis, the pro-rated Grand Lodge per capita dues and assessments, plus State Association dues for new and reinstated Members.

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

To facilitate this action, the Chicago Lodge Membership System (CLMS2) will be updated to calculate the pro-rated payment amounts for each new or reinstated Member. Collections will be submitted to Grand Lodge on a monthly basis.

The State Association portion will be collected by Grand Lodge, then forwarded to the respective State Association on a monthly basis.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Take-Back Day starts activity season

By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

Congratulations to all newly elected Lodge Officers! It is a new Elks year—time to plan and budget for your Lodge’s upcoming activities. Be sure to include Drug Awareness in your plan, appoint a Drug Awareness Chairman, and meet with your state’s Drug Awareness Chairman, who is the liaison to the Elks National Drug Awareness Program (DAP) leaders.

The DAP teaches children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevents the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs. As the largest volunteer drug awareness program in the United States, the program relies on state, district, and Lodge volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle by their attendance at all Elks youth events such as Youth Week, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, or Kids Fishing Derby.

A drug awareness activity should always be included to illustrate the Elks’ commitment to combat youth drug use through education and inspiration, as well as to create stronger activities and greater communication with your local schools.

One of the first events of the new

Elks year is the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Unused prescription drugs find their way into the wrong hands too often. It’s dangerous and frequently tragic. It’s great to see thousands of people from across the country cleaning out their medicine cabinets and turning in a record amount of prescription drugs, safely and anonymously.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispose of prescription drugs and to educate the public about the potential for drug abuse. The last Take-Back Day brought in more than 900,000 pounds of unused or expired

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GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Winning the internet: Top Elks web sites of 2018-2019

Submitted by William J. Schran and Robert R. Hinkle, Committee Members

Results of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee's two 2018-2019 web site contests have been announced.

State Association Website Contest

Five ★★★★★

Arizona: arizonaelksassociation.org

Florida: floridaelks.org

Kentucky: kselks.org

New Jersey: njelks.org

Ohio: ohioelks.com

Wisconsin: wielks.com

Four ★★★★★

Arkansas: arelks.homestead.com

Georgia: gaelks.org

Illinois: illinoiselks.org

Kansas: kselks.org

Louisiana: laelks.org

Maryland-Delaware-DC: mddedcelks.org

Michigan: mielks.org

Minnesota: mnelks.org

Mississippi: mselks.com

Virginia: virginiaelks.org

West Virginia: wvelks.org

Local Lodge Website Contest

Five ★★★★★

Kenton, OH No. 157: kentonelks157.com

Morgantown, WV No. 411:

bpoelks411.org

Connellsville, PA No. 503:

paelks.com/elks503.html

Frankfort, KY No. 530: frankfortelks.org

Murphysboro, IL No. 572: elks572.org

Annapolis, MD No. 622: elks622.com

Ballard, WA No. 827: ballardelks.org

Dalton, GA No. 1267: daltonelks.org

Mojave, CA No. 2059: mojaveelks.com

Clifton Park, NY No. 2466: elks.org/
lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2466

Jupiter, FL No. 2469: jupiterelks.org

Calabash, NC No. 2679: calabashelks.org

Four ★★★★★

Danbury, CT No. 120: danburyelks.org

Fredericksburg, VA No. 875:

elkslodge875.org

Sierra Vista, AZ No. 2065: elks.org/
lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2065

Mountain Home, ID No. 2276: elks.org/
lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2276

Broken Arrow, OK No. 2673: elks.org/
lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2673

Three ★★★

South Haven, MI No. 1509: elks.org/
lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=1509

Hamilton, NJ No. 2262:

facebook.com/hamiltonelks2262

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Do you know who's on your team?

By **TONY MARKARIAN**
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee is always looking for legislation. Each state may have separate legislation, but federal issues like taxation affect us all.

Advocating for these issues needs to be a well-collaborated joint function, carried out by our Elks Government Relations State and District Chairmen, to promote and maintain the interests of our Order. Our State Government Relations Chairmen continue to monitor proposed legislation and regulations to evaluate their impact on Members. District Chairmen train and prepare Lodge Chairmen to manage the local city and county activity, ensuring Lodges comply with applicable laws. A good Lodge Chairman will be prepared to manage a political action committee and design an advocacy program, then engage Members so they can assist in communicating our message to policymakers.

Are you inviting your local government dignitaries to your Lodge to build and strengthen relationships? These individuals become your allies when you need their support to ballot against legislation which could impact your Lodge. Never invite a debate into your Lodge or take political sides, but nourish the relationships you might need to call on when the rights of your Lodge are infringed upon. Meet off-site if necessary or even become part of the

small city group which meets monthly, but most importantly, stay informed and in contact with your local city and county government representatives.

Become part of a nonprofit group. If you don't have one in your area, start one. When all the nonprofits get together with your "political action team" to advocate against state and local legislation, your Kung Fu will be strong.

The increase in social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest or LinkedIn has become a major topic in our Order. It can hurt or help, or sometimes both, and it leaves us wondering if we should embrace it or leave it. Understand this, our membership demographics are constantly changing, and every year we have more Members fluent in social media. Countries have been overthrown and liberated with the aid of communication and networking through the channels of social media.

My opinion is to embrace it. If we do, we can set guidelines and control the type of information being shared across the web. I run my Lodge's Facebook page. I have controls in place to ensure that no one can share unwanted photos, comments, or misinformation. Do you have the proper security protocol in place on your page?

Good luck in your new positions. Take the time to document your money, hours, time, and travel in your Lodge Charity Records Workbook. Document everything you do that helps keep your Lodge running, including meetings, dinners, activities, and social events.

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prescription drugs. This brings the total amount of prescription drugs collected by DEA to 10,878,950 pounds since the fall of 2010. For more information and to find year-round collection sites, go to takebackday.dea.gov

The Elks National Youth Week, held every year during the first week of May, is right on the tail of the Take-Back Day. What a great opportunity to raise awareness about drugs. Lodges could use an Elks Drug Awareness Trailer as an information center by distributing brochures, coloring books, and bookmarks.

If you hold a Youth Day event, include a visit from Elroy the Elk and distribute drug awareness items such as pencils, balsa airplanes, or yo-yos. If your Lodge has access to a pair of fatal vision goggles, this is a great activity for older children: Try to walk a straight line, bounce a tennis ball, or pick up a set of keys.

Have you started planning your Youth Week drug awareness event? For more DAP information go to elks.org/dap or Elks Kids Zone at elkskidszone.org.

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caroling visit, Elks also gave gifts and supplies to veterans living at the Montrose VA Hospital.

Guidelines for Freedom Grant applications can be found at enf.elks.org/FreedomGrant. Thank you for your support of our nation's veterans and active duty military personnel!

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Disaster Relief Fund helps areas hit by catastrophes

By JAMES MASON
Committee Member

I would like to thank the Members and Lodges who contributed to the Disaster Relief Fund at the Grand Secretary's office in Chicago. The funds are distributed to areas where they are needed.

Last year was similar to past years. Tornadoes destroyed homes and businesses throughout the country. A magnitude 7.0 earthquake rattled Anchorage, AK. Hurricanes hit Florida and the East Coast. A typhoon passed through Hawaii on its way to the Philippines.

Wild fires burned nearly two million acres in California. The Camp Fire swept through the community of Paradise before many residents could be evacuated. The fire killed 86 people and destroyed 18,804 buildings, including Paradise, CA Lodge No. 2026 and all its property.

The need for assistance continues to grow. We encourage all Elks and Lodges to contribute to the Disaster Relief Fund extend help wherever the need arises. Please remember the Elks motto, "*Elks Care – Elks Share*" and make our organization well-known in our communities.

How to earn recognition for your Lodge's best community projects

By DAVID B. LAKE
Committee Chairman

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee encourages Lodges to enter the Grand Lodge Community Project Contest, designed to recognize Lodges for their projects that meet needs in their community.

These projects enhance the awareness of the good work we do as Elks and help the community better understand who we are and what we do as a fraternal organization. They can also help us find others in our area who would like to join our organization because of what we are doing in the community.

The contest will have winners for first, second, and third place. Points will be determined by a formula that includes factors such as the number of Members involved, the total man hours spent, and amount of media exposure.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Lodge feeds hungry students

By TAYLOR ODISHO
ENF Communications Assistant

The lunch bell is the signal for kids to get up, grab their lunchboxes, and run to the cafeteria. For 22 million kids in America, it means it's time to stand in line for a free or reduced lunch—possibly their only meal of the day. One in six of those children doesn't know if another meal is guaranteed.

Members of Hickory, NC Lodge No. 1654 don't want to see kids from their community go hungry after school or on the weekend. The Lodge used a Gratitude Grant to team up with Catawba County Backpack Program, which distributes backpacks filled with nutritious food to students who are at risk of hunger during weekends and holidays.

The program relies on nonprofits, volunteers, and private donors to help restock backpacks each week. As the largest supporter to the program, the Lodge has helped shorten the program's waiting list, serving 1,382 students at two schools in Catawba County. The program distributed more than 422,000 meals in the 2017-18 school year but the need continues to grow.

"We were so fortunate to receive the Gratitude Grant," said Valerie Arbogast, the project manager at the Lodge. "We were able to raise community awareness about the need to fight hunger for our



Volunteers prepare backpacks filled with food for kids to eat during weekends and holidays

local children."

The Lodge's support goes beyond the grant: 325 members held a silent auction at the Lodge. It raised an additional \$31,000 to address food insecurity in Hickory.

The community showed the Elks how much it appreciates their hard work and dedication to the project. The project led to major community outreach for the Lodge and five new Members joined.

"As well as doing a world of good for our local children, this program garners positive recognition for Hickory Elks Lodge," Arbogast said. "Everyone is very proud of what our backpack event provides for our community."

The Elks National Foundation helps Lodges serve their communities by offering Gratitude Grants of up to \$2,500. To find out more about Gratitude Grants and the Community Investments Program, visit enf.elks.org/GratitudeGrants.

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insurance coverage if a loss were to occur.

Take time to update your list of fixed assets, enter the information into your accounting program, and check it against your accountant-supplied depreciation schedule. This should always be a priority. Review all job descriptions for every employee, whether they be in your office, dining room, club, or any other entity that falls under the Lodge umbrella.

While this list may seem lengthy, if every BOD member does their part, it won't be difficult to complete. Diligence in these matters will also ensure that you're on sound footing for the new Lodge year while preventing problems that could take far more time to overcome.

Work hard, pay attention to details, and follow through. By "*Working Together to Make a Difference*," BOD members reinforce your community's trust and Member confidence in your Lodge. Barb and I wish you the best of fortune for the 2019-2020 Lodge year.

How your Lodge can win, and use, a Freedom Grant

By **DAVID R. CARR, PGER**
NVS Commission Chairman

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award \$2,000 Freedom Grants to Lodges providing programs that meet the needs of veterans and active military personnel in their communities.

The first 300 Lodges submitting qualifying applications will receive these grants. Grants usually go fast, so here are a few tips to help your Lodge's chances.

• **First, please note that the Freedom Grant calendar has changed.** Freedom Grants are available online on April 1. Applications will be assessed on their expected impact on veterans and the quality of support provided by the Lodge.

The Lodge Secretary or ENF grants coordinator can process, complete, and submit the online application starting April 1.

• **Be prepared!** Lodges are encouraged to plan projects that serve veterans and/or active duty military personnel and involve Elks as much as possible. Before submitting an application, be ready to describe your program, its expected impact (the need or needs you hope to meet), and a projected budget. Be as detailed as possible on how the funds are spent and how the project meets a local need. Donations do not qualify and meaningful involvement is required.

• **Know your project's goal.** Remember that projects must focus on one of these five areas: employment, homelessness and housing, military families, health, and education.

• **Looking for inspiration?** Middletown, NY Lodge No. 1097 split its Freedom Grant between two projects. Members distributed backpacks full of personal supplies, outdoor gear, food, and sleeping bags to homeless veterans. Middletown Elks joined the Hudson Valley Veterans Task Force to determine which supplies would be most useful. During their annual Christmas



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BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Skilled members are needed to aid Elkdom

By **RICK GATHEN**
Membership and Marketing Manager

The Membership Chairperson needs committee members with various skills.

Sales: Working recruitment tables, working reinstatements, and greeting guests and inviting them to join.

Public Relations/Marketing: Promoting membership on social media and the Lodge web site. Making sure

everyone is aware of the positive impact the Lodge has made on the community. When Elkdom shines, Elkdom grows!

Orientation: Educating, involving, and inspiring the new Members to recruit and keep active. Matching their interests and time with a Lodge committee or activity.

Collection Department: Assisting the Lodge Secretary with billing, collection

letters, phone calls, e-mails and personal visits to delinquents. Remaining patient and staying persistent.

Elks share their thoughts
Discuss the Elks on the Membership Forum. Members use the board to share constructive information every day.
elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm

