



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care – Elks Share*



## Review your Lodge programs before the year ends

It's hard to believe that on February 16, 2023, our great Order will celebrate its 155th year of existence. **Happy birthday to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks!**

February is an extremely busy month for us as Elks. There are only two months left in your Lodge year. I respectfully request that you review the progress of your Lodge programs. It's not too late to achieve the goals you haven't yet reached. Your Lodge certainly can get a lot done in the remaining two months. I can't think of any better way of *"Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm"* than to proudly tell all your Members you have successfully achieved your per capita for the Elks National Foundation, reached a +1 in membership, and accomplished the goals of the programs



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

that are so important to the Elks and your community.

The month of February is also a time when new officers are nominated and elected for the new Lodge year. I encourage all the Lodges in our great Order to elect someone who is going to be dedicated to the affairs of your Lodge and your community. The success of your Lodge programs will depend upon their leadership. A fine way of *"Promoting*

*Elkdom With Enthusiasm"* is for your Exalted Ruler to demonstrate dedicated leadership to all the Members of the Lodge. It truly shows your community that *"Elks Care – Elks Share"* when we have a great group of officers.

Lodge Secretaries should note that February is the time when you must file the Statutory Lodge Committee Chairpersons report and the Local Lodge Directory information report in the respective CLMS2 online forms. This information is extremely important so that updates are done in a timely manner.

February is also when our Past Exalted Rulers perform the ritual during your Lodge's Past Exalted Rulers Night. To our PERs: This is your time

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## Chairperson report due via CLMS2Web

After the election of Lodge Officers this February and before April 15, the Secretary must complete the **2023-2024 Lodge Committee Chairperson Report** in CLMS2Web and confirm acceptance.

The WORKSHEET was mailed to all Lodge Secretaries in January to assist in compiling the needed information.

**GRAND SECRETARY**  
Bryan R. Klatt

**Remember:** This information is to be filed via CLMS2Web. Please, do not mail to Grand Lodge or your District Deputy.

With the pending automatic submission of the Annual Membership Report, all membership activity must be entered in CLMS2Web by 11:59 p.m. Central on **March 31.**

What does that mean? All membership records (additions, drops, and deaths) must be finalized. If not, the Lodge membership total will be out of balance.

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

### Have you visited DAP's YouTube channel?

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

If you have not visited the Elks Drug Awareness YouTube channel, you're really missing out on some great information.

The DAP and our partners at DEA have produced high-quality podcasts, featuring the second season of *Awkward Conversations*. Hosted by Jodie Sweetin, (best known for her role as Stephanie Tanner in the ABC series *Full House* and the Netflix sequel series *Fuller House*) these 20-minute podcasts cover a variety of topics that range from "Helping Kids De-Stress" to "Building Family Relationships." In addition, you can watch the original *Awkward Conversations*, a three-part series released in 2021. And while you're there, please consider subscribing. The DAP YouTube channel can be found at: [youtube.com/@elksdap/videos](https://youtube.com/@elksdap/videos).

Did you also know we're on TikTok? Because that's where the kids are at. Find us at [tiktok.com/@elksdap](https://tiktok.com/@elksdap).

Want to be involved in the Drug Awareness Program but don't have the time to commit 24/7? Think about becoming a DAP Ambassador. If you need more information about this innovative way of giving back to your community, contact your State Chairman. This program allows for volunteers to become involved, but not overly so.

Exalted Rulers, as your year winds down, remember that drug and substance use and abuse by our youth does not wind down unless they are informed and made aware of their dangers. A wonderful resource available to you is the 2022 edition of DEA's *Drugs of Abuse*, currently available in digital form here: [dea.gov/documents/2022/2022-12/2022-12-02/drugs-abuse-2022](https://dea.gov/documents/2022/2022-12/2022-12-02/drugs-abuse-2022).

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## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# Clock is ticking for All American Lodge contest entries

By **MARK E. EATON**  
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee would like to remind you that the Lodge year is quickly coming to an end. There is still time to enter the Contest 'A' - All American Lodge Contest for the 2022-2023 year.

We all know that the All American Lodge is the most prestigious award that Grand Lodge issues, so I hope your Lodge is busy preparing your entry.

To get started on the application, go to: [elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/contestALodgeCertification.pdf](https://elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/files/contestALodgeCertification.pdf). You will find everything you need. Just print it out to begin.

It is very important that you read

the entire form carefully, including the requirements and descriptions. Make sure you have strong supporting documentation, which is very critical for point value. If you are not sure you qualify for something, check with your District Deputy. Every point is extremely important!

You can use a separate sheet or the back side of the form to list all your different activities. The Lodge Secretary must verify Lodge membership as of March 31, 2022. This will determine the division in which you will be judged. Also, make sure your entry is signed by the Exalted Ruler and Lodge Secretary, and postmarked to your District Deputy by March 15, 2023. This will ensure your Deputy has time to review it before sending it on to your State

Lodge Activities Chairman by April 15, then on to Grand Lodge with a postmark no later than April 30.

This award shows that your Lodge is working as a team. Officers and Members working together is how Lodges thrive and strengthen community relationships. Building stronger ties shows cities and towns how Elks working together can accomplish amazing things.

If you don't think you qualify this year, it is not too early to start planning for next year. Start a committee, go over the form, and start recording your entry. You will be surprised at how many things you can improve and build on.

I'd say good luck, but that's not necessary—hard work and effort have nothing to do with luck.

## GER From Page 1

to shine by performing an excellent rendition of the initiatory ritual for the incoming Members.

On February 2, Punxsutawney Phil emerges from his burrow on Groundhog Day. This day is important to me since I live in the Northeast. If Phil sees his shadow that day, it means six more weeks of cold and snow. *Brrrrr*.

During February, we recognize American Heart Month. This is when we get our Local Lodges and communities together to raise awareness to prevent heart disease. Proudly wear red during this month to show Elks care about addressing heart disease.

Let's not forget Valentine's Day on February 14. Cupid catches each of us so we express our love and affection for each other. To my wife, Helen: Happy Valentine's Day. You are the love of my life.

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

## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Roles and structure of Gov. Relations

By **ANTHONY ALFONSO**  
Committee Member

The undertaking of your Government Relations Committee is necessary to maintain our status as a nonprofit, tax-exempt, and charitable organization.

The structure of the committee is as follows.

**Lodge Chairperson:** Establishes relationships with local legislators and provides them charitable statistics concerning various Elks activities.

**District Chairperson:** Tracks legislative activity of the local government and encourages involvement of the Lodges in their districts.

**State Chairperson:** Shares information they receive with their district and Lodge chairs and with their Grand Lodge Area Members.

**Grand Lodge Committee Members:** This group has eight members, one for each of the designated Grand Lodge Areas throughout the country.

There are seven main functions of the Government Relations Committee.

**1. Charitable reporting.** Ensure the charitable work being done by our Members, Local Lodges, and State Associations is reported as part of the Grand Lodge Annual Report.

**2. Monitor legislation.** Report any proposed legislation or governmental action that might in any way affect our Order.

**3. Advocate for or against legislation when necessary to protect our organization.** Work to change existing laws when necessary for the benefit of the Order.

**4. Promote programs between Lodges and their elected officials.** Develop interactions with federal, state, and local officials and agencies.

**5. Educate Members on public accommodations and other laws.** Educate our State Associations and Lodges about existing laws that affect their day-to-day operations and how to comply with these laws and regulations.

**6. Assist Lodges with IRS audits.** What to do in case of an IRS audit?

**7. Social networking/media.** Assist Lodges to protect themselves when using social networking and all types of media.

Lodge Secretaries have access to shareable forms to track hours, mileage, and activities listed for Members to fill out when they volunteer for an event.

The Lodge Chairperson should let the Members know there is a volunteer sheet, and explain to them the importance of logging their volunteer hours.

We do this to keep our 501(c)(8) tax exempt classification status. Make sure to log information of non-Members who also volunteer.

I hope this information gives some insight into what Government Relations is all about.



## Elks share their thoughts

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

**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

# Washington Lodge makes Impact in childhood literacy

By **ABBEY KNUPP**  
ENF Communications Coordinator

The Community Investments Program offers Elks an opportunity to address the most pressing needs in their community. Last year, more than 80% of Elks Lodges used at least one CIP grant as the ENF awarded more than \$11 million.

But CIP grants are worth more than their dollar value. These grants can turn Lodges into a community force. Every \$1,000 granted last year put nearly five Elks in the field, volunteering more than 26 hours on community service projects.

“When we pair our resources with passionate and dedicated volunteers,” said ENF Assistant Director Debbie Doles at the 2022 Elks National Convention Opening Ceremony, “the result is powerful.”

The ENF reignited its Impact Grant program after a brief COVID-induced hiatus, and 56 Lodges were given up to \$10,000 to implement large charitable projects in their communities. Bremerton, WA Lodge No. 1181 used its Impact Grant to be a force in its community.

Bremerton Lodge’s Impact Grant project, Reading for Readiness, helps kids develop reading comprehension, disaster preparedness, and social-emotional skills like anger management, making friends, and handling worries. So far, they have already given 4,000 books to kids living in households below the poverty line.

Bremerton Lodge’s Grants Coordinator and Exalted Ruler, Heather Beal, and another Lodge Member, Gus Holstein, sat down with the ENF to talk about the grant project in a video that premiered at the convention’s Opening Ceremony.

“We’re so proud of the work the Lodges are doing with our grants, and there are a lot,” Doles said in her speech. “For those who aren’t taking advantage of all the available grants, I urge you to take heed of what Gus and Heather said at the end of that video: Find a need in your community that’s not already being met and use our grants to do something about it.”

To view the film and hear all that Heather and Gus have to say, visit [enf.elks.org/BremWA](http://enf.elks.org/BremWA).

*The Elks National Foundation allocated nearly \$16 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through grants that offer Elks opportunities to serve their community in ways that will raise the Lodge’s profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that’s doing great things. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit [elks.org/CIP](http://elks.org/CIP).*

**MAKE GIVING EASY & JOIN THE CLUB!**

**Sign up for our monthly, sustaining giving program—the ENF Fidelity Club!**

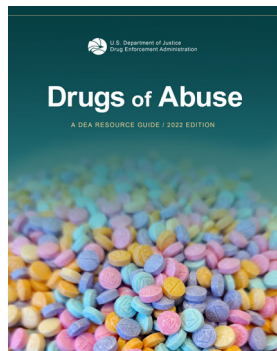
- Give automatic, regularly scheduled donations each month from your credit card or bank account.
- Receive special membership benefits and recognition pieces.
- Update, adjust or modify your gift any time online or by calling us.
- Sign up by scanning the QR code and make a sustaining difference in Elks communities today!



 Elks National Foundation, Inc. **Use the QR code to sign up today.**

**DAP** From Page 1

Used as the flagship outreach publication by the DEA for decades, *Drugs of Abuse* is updated biennially with the latest statistics, trends, and information. Please share this publication with adults in your community outreach efforts. The 2020 edition is now out of date and should no longer be distributed. It is available in both English and Spanish. If you would like a hard copy of this informative publication, please feel free to contact the DEA’s outreach office at community.outreach@dea.gov for a free copy.



Produced by the DEA, *Drugs of Abuse* is a comprehensive guide that provides science-based information about the harms of drug use. The 2022 edition contains sections on fentanyl, marijuana and marijuana concentrates, vaping, stimulant drugs, and fake pills.

**GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

## First responders embody ‘service’

By **DUANE D. HELDENBRAND**  
Committee Member

We as Elks try to exemplify the word *service* in our local communities every day. Two of our cardinal principles, Charity and Brotherly Love, reflect this and are part of the very foundation on which our Order is built. The Grand Lodge also promotes, in our Local Lodges, many programs to recognize service, including the Medal of Service and the Medal of Valor programs.

For a small fee, your Lodge Secretary can order both Medals of Service and Valor. The Service medals are to be awarded to local EMS, fire fighting, and law enforcement representatives deemed worthy by your membership, for exemplary service in the performance of their work. While I pray your Lodge never has the need to award a Medal of Valor, it is intended to be given to the families of those same first responders who have lost their lives in the performance of



their duties.

If your Lodge is not currently participating in this program, I strongly encourage you to begin as soon as possible. It is a simple, low-cost program that provides a high impact appreciation for your membership and our entire Order.

You can find additional information for this or any Activities program on [Elks.org](http://Elks.org). Navigate to the Activities tab under Grand Lodge committees. You may always contact your Activities Area committeeperson directly as well.

# Army of Hope eases life's stresses for military members

By **STEWART G. ISRAEL**  
National Veterans Programs Chair

In February 2003, the Elks announced the Army of Hope program to assist military members, including active duty military personnel, deployed units, military reservists, the Coast Guard, the National Guard, and their families.

The Army of Hope allows the military member to safely concentrate on his or her duties without worrying about the family at home.

It has many facets and can be easily adapted to the needs of local families. Lodges partner with local and state organizations, VFWs, churches, and

scout groups to adopt units and families to help them through these trying times.

The first step, like with many projects, is to gather some volunteers. After you have established your Army of Hope volunteers, contact local groups like Reserve and National Guard units, Blue Star Family groups, and other groups for military members. Ask what their biggest struggles are, and offer examples of things your Lodge can do to help. Military families may contact the Lodge or volunteers directly, depending on how you set up the program.

Examples of aid assistance include:

- School lunches
- Medical and dental emergencies not covered by insurance
- Minor home repairs (plumbing, electrical, painting, etc.)
- Auto repairs or transportation when needed
- Full-time or back-up babysitting
- Lawn mowing, snow shoveling, landscaping, sprinkler repairs
- Clothing and shoes



Please see **VETERANS**, below

**BRYAN R. KLATT**, Grand Secretary  
**Benevolent and Protective ORDER OF ELKS**  
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889

**February 2023**

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## G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

# Initiations can get Elks to 100K

By **RICK GATHEN**  
Membership Marketing Manager

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is one of the premier charitable organizations in the United States. We are a nationwide organization whose membership over 15 decades has consisted of tens of millions of America's finest citizens.

We will hit our January goal of 75,000 new Members added. We have more than 13,000 candidates waiting to be initiated! Lodges have been working hard to add new Members and retain the Members we already have.

Our Order has not added 100,000 new Members in one year since 1992. Help us get there by encouraging your Lodges to hold initiations, sharing content that helps the public understand what we do, and inviting your friends and family to join.

### **VETERANS** From above

- Dinners at the Lodge
- Children's books and school supplies

These may seem like small things, but for struggling families, their impact could be much larger. And, you may even gain some future Members.

## Elks Lodges celebrate 100 years of service

The following Lodges honor their 100-Year Anniversary this 2022-2023 fraternal year during GER Bruce A. Hidley's term.

<u>LODGE NAME &amp; NO.</u>	<u>INSTITUTED</u>
Weehawken, NJ No. 1456	August 9, 1922
Princeton, WV No. 1459	September 30, 1922
Mamaroneck, NY No. 1457	October 13, 1922
Platteville, WI No. 1460	April 2, 1923
Deland, FL No. 1463	April 18, 1923
Madison, NJ No. 1465	May 9, 1923
Las Vegas, NV No. 1468	June 28, 1923
Sanford, ME No. 1470	June 28, 1923
Ely, NV No. 1469	July 2, 1923