



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Honoring our Flag, remembering our fathers

The Esteemed Leading Knight's charge to our new Members opens with: *"The Emblem of this station is the Flag of our country; and its motto is Charity, the cornerstone of every Elk structure, the highest virtue of every Elk creed."* New Members listening to this charge may gain an understanding of what the Flag means to us as Elks.

Across our great country, Flag Day is observed on the 14th day of June each year to honor and commemorate the adoption of the American Flag. The Second Continental Congress adopted this date in 1777, and President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation in 1916 establishing June 14 as national Flag Day.

In our great Order of Elks, the Grand Lodge, by Resolution, designated June 14 as Flag Day. In 1911, the Grand



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
BRUCE A. HIDLEY

Lodge adopted a mandatory observance of Flag Day in all of our Lodges.

Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the red, white, and blue in front of homes and businesses. Flag Day events are held by Lodges all across our great country with ceremonies, parades, essay contests, and, most importantly, our Elks Flag Day Ceremony. The American Flag is the emblem of the "land that I love." Our Flag symbolizes the land of

the free and home of the brave for all Americans.

June also has another special day for all of us as we honor and celebrate Father's Day. This year the holiday falls on Sunday, June 18. No matter how far away you may be, take the time to reach out and say happy Father's Day. This is not only a special day for your father but it is also special for your grandfather, your great-grandfather, your brother, and your special uncle.

Happy Father's Day.

June is the beginning of our summer months. Children are home from school, graduation ceremonies are held, and families begin summer vacations. Celebrating our Flag and participating in June activities in our homes and at

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Lodge Bulletins: USPS vs. E-mail, private vs. public

Grand Lodge often receives inquiries about **Section 16.150, Opinions 1-4**, of the Laws of the Order, pertaining to Lodge Bulletins/Newsletters being E-mailed or posted on publicly accessed Elks' websites.

Opinion 02 states: "To preserve the privacy of the Members and applicants for membership in the Order, Lodges may not publish their bulletins or newsletters on a website open to the public, including by use of the Grand Lodge or State Association websites."

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

Opinion 03 states: "If a Lodge publishes any magazine, newspaper, bulletin or other periodical devoted to the interests of the Order, every Member of that Lodge is entitled to receive a copy of each such publication, whether by electronic delivery

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GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Gov. Relations Manual revised for '23

By **WALTER S. ICE**
Committee Member

Your Government Relations Committee strives to determine ways to help our Lodges achieve greater success in their government relations endeavors. For the past year, the Committee has undertaken the task of updating the pillar of the program—the Government Relations Manual.

Some of the main highlights of the updates are:

- 1) Helping to identify where specific types of contributions are to be documented within the charitable records book.
- 2) Clarification as to which level District and State Chairpersons' charitable work is to be reported.
- 3) More detailed descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the State, District, and Local Lodge Chairpersons.

4) Documenting that the Local Lodge Secretaries have the right and ability to add an assistant within their Lodge to help with the entering of their Lodge's charitable reporting into CLMS.

5) The introduction of Government Relations' newest Local Lodge Government Relations Form.

These revisions will be discussed in greater detail with all the State Government Relations Chairpersons at the annual Government Relations Seminar that will take place at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis next month.

The Government Relations Committee is always looking for opportunities on how to make our charitable reporting easier and more enjoyable. Any suggestions are always welcomed. Stop by our booth at the convention and get to meet your Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee members. We would love to meet and hear from you.

G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

A playbook for adding new Members

By RICK GATHEN

Membership Marketing Manager

1. Ask every Member to submit three prospects to the membership chair and receive the GER Award Pin.
2. Assign every Chair Officer to a five-person recruitment team, and each team brings in at least five new Members.
3. Pass out M&M candy to remind Members that "Membership Matters" and that we need "More Members."
4. Distribute extra copies of *The Elks Magazine* to waiting rooms, etc.
5. Hold wine and cheese receptions for prospective Members.
6. Build a Lodge website and social media page.
7. Create more fun at your Lodge.
8. Lead by example. How many Members have **you** recruited?
9. Hold recruiting events with the entire district.
10. Place an invitation card in the hand of every Member to remind them to bring a guest.
11. Produce Lodge flyers and have available in the Lodge. Hand to non-members during community events.
12. In your Exalted Ruler message, encourage Members to bring guests every month.
13. Ask your Lodge Secretary to run a list of all former Members dropped for non-payment over the past five years.
14. Give guests Lodge pins and make them feel welcome.

15. Approach corporations and businesses. Some businesses look for community involvement opportunities.

16. Place pamphlets in doctors' offices, hospitals, cafeterias, libraries, etc.

17. Send letters to people in the news with an invitation to visit the Lodge.

18. Have a special guest day. Free food always works!

19. Write letters to the newspaper about the campaigns your Lodge is working on.

20. Honor outstanding community members with awards.

21. Wear your Lodge's pin in public, and people will ask you questions.

22. Send the Lodge newsletter to guests.

23. Contact your chamber of commerce to help you advertise your events.

24. Rent out your Lodge to civic, benevolent and fraternal groups such as Rotary International, Lions Club, and Knights of Columbus.

25. Open your Lodge to community organizations that need a place to meet.

26. Encourage your Members to "just ask" friends, family, neighbors, business associates, etc. to join the Order.

27. Sponsor a community work day.

28. Ask to be invited into a local school. Parents and teachers are the prospects. Sponsor a presentation.

29. Arrange to speak at homeowners association meetings and give a presentation about the Elks.

30. Use the reinstatement letter from the Membership Manual.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Judging done for Americanism Contest

By GWENDOLYN B. PARKER

Committee Member

Final judging for the 2022-23 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest has now been completed. The contest theme was "What is Your American Dream?" A total of 41 State Associations submitted essays for various divisions (fifth through eighth grades).

I think our participation is up this year because of the new incentives implemented by Grand Lodge. This is the first year ever that the winners in each division will receive a monetary prize:

First Place: \$1,000

Second Place: \$500

Third Place: \$250

A big thank you to all the Lodges and State Associations that participated via communications with their local students, teachers, and administrators. Division winners, first through third place, will be announced at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota in July.

Each of the following states had a winner in at least one division: Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming.

State Association Presidents or designees will receive their student's awards at convention.

The Theme for the 2023-24 Americanism Essay is "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me."

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

DAP schedules guest speakers for convention

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN

National Director

Elks Drug Awareness Commission

We're looking forward to seeing everyone in Minneapolis next month!

Prior to the Grand Lodge Opening, we will be training State Chairmen on Saturday and Sunday. Guest speakers will include Sean Fearn, Chief of DEA's Community Outreach, who will speak on current drug trends and the positive impact the Elks Drug Awareness Program has been having across the nation. Also appearing will be Bob Sabouni, Sunny Day Entertainment CEO, who will speak about the impact our 2022 video campaign has had and will provide information on the project for 2023. This is a joint effort between the Elks and the DEA.

On Tuesday, the DAP will be holding an open session for all Elks Members and guests. This will be an opportunity for the general membership to learn more about the DAP and to meet this year's recipient of the Enrique S. Camarena Award, Deputy Kyle Mason from Wisconsin. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet and hear the dynamic speakers who are currently on tour for the DAP, Dr. Heather DiBlasi and Ray Lozano.

In other news, the Drug Awareness Program is currently transitioning into the Drug Awareness Commission. Please do not be confused. Only the name is changing. We still remain the hardest working program in all of Elksdom. Our mission remains the same, our leadership remains the same, and our determination to educate our youth remains the same.

See you all in Minneapolis!



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our Lodges truly show "Elks Care — Elks Share." I encourage each of you to continue "Promoting Elksdom With Enthusiasm" by bringing joy, happiness, love and lots of sunshine to one another.

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

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Antlers provides teens an outlet for community service

By **RONALD A. MANGONE**

Committee Member

As Elks Members, we need to stand with the members of all of our youth programs and provide guidance and encouragement. April brought with it the start of a new Elks year and new leadership in your Lodge. Encourage your Members to check out our Lodge Activities website elks.org/grandlodge/activities/. Here, you will find the necessary groundwork to apply for an Antlers charter, as well as manuals and information for all of our Grand Lodge Activities. The information on this website is very useful and can be shared with newly initiated Members.

Interest to start an Antlers Lodge is at an all-time high. I have spoken to many different Elks Lodges in a variety of states wishing to bring an Antlers Program to their Lodge. I am happy to report five more Antlers Lodges have been issued charters as of this writing. Congratulations to the following new Antlers Programs: Watertown, NY No.

496; Old Bridge, NJ No. 2229; Rensselaer, NY No. 2073; Red Oak, IA No. 1304; and Lubbock, TX No. 1348. Across America, we have also seen an increase in membership to existing Antlers Lodges. Your enthusiasm to share the values instilled in our youth is outstanding.

To keep updating our booth at Grand Lodge, I have asked for pictures to be sent to me. To date, I have received a few pictures showing an institution of a new Antlers Lodge as well as pictures showing the installation of officers and projects. Please keep them coming.

Remember that Antlers' work can be used to show community service. Students can share their work with their guidance counselors and share it when applying to a college or trade school. Antlers are also providing additional support to their local communities through their fundraising efforts. Setting

up a table during a community event is a wonderful way to show what our youth are involved in and how they support their community. In addition, information about your Lodge and events is a way to show possible new Members that we work to involve the whole family. Involving the family is an important link to the future of our Order.

Just as we as Elks Members wear shirts with our Lodge name on them, so should your Antlers. The Antlers emblem is perfect to add to any shirt you may be ordering for your Antlers to wear. Simply add the name of the Antlers Lodge and its number and they will be easily recognized when they are assisting at Lodge, district, or community events.

Finally, encourage your Antlers to reach out to other Antlers Lodges in your district or neighboring district. Sharing their beliefs and accomplishments will enable them to form new friendships.



Community Project Contest winners

By **DUANE D. HELDENBRAND**

Committee Member

It's the start of summer, so our Local Lodges should be well into planning and implementing the Grand Lodge programs promoted by the Activities Committee.

Does your Lodge have a Junior Golf program, or have you considered the creation an Antlers Lodge? Perhaps participating in the Public Service Medal program is the right move for your Members?

Summer is a wonderful time to promote at the local level. It is also a suitable time to plan for the upcoming school year. Please familiarize your membership with the Grand Lodge Youth Recognition and JROTC program information before students return to the classrooms. Know whom to contact at school to make the program successful. You may always locate all the Grand Lodge Activities programs at elks.org. Simply navigate to the Grand Lodge Activities page where you can find the program manuals, forms, and certificates, as well as contact information for specific programs.

On behalf of the entire Activities Committee, it is my pleasure to announce the Community Project Contest Winners for 2022-23.

Division I

- Winner, SD No. 2084
- Mid Westchester, NY No. 535
- Florence, SC No. 1020

Division II

- Palmdale, CA No. 2027
- Roxboro, NC No. 2005
- El Paso TX, NM No. 187

Division III

- Goldsboro, NC No. 139
- Tifton, GA No. 1114
- South Orange, NJ No. 1154

Division IV

- Putnam, CT No. 574
- Presque Isle, ME No. 1954
- Tampa, FL No. 708

Division V

- Charlevoix, MI No. 2856
- Dover, DE No. 1903
- Hornell, NY No. 364

Division VI

- Manasquan, NJ No. 2534
- Ashland, KY No. 350
- Milwaukie-Portland, OR No. 142



Elks share their thoughts

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

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or by regular mail.”

According to *Opinion 04*, “The Lodge Bulletin may be sent electronically to any Member without written authorization from that Member, unless otherwise requested by the Member.”

To clarify the main point, do not publish or post Lodge Bulletins/Newsletters or Notices meant for Members only, on any websites or other social media platforms that are open to the public.



Even in the digital age, Lodge bulletins can still be sent through USPS mail.

Reps and Deps embark on busy, rewarding summer

By **HANNAH GRABER**
ENVSC Programs Coordinator

In the ENVSC office, we often talk about our “Reps and Deps”—shorthand for some of our most dedicated volunteers.

These Elks Voluntary Service Representatives and Deputy Representatives are the ones who support our veterans in VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, and shelters every month, come rain, shine, or pandemic. Over the past year, Elks Representatives visited with these veterans an average of twice a month to provide entertainment, support, and essential supplies. For veterans

who are struggling with health issues, living far from family, or seeking a safe place to live, these Elks aren’t just friends—they are a lifeline.

Now that summer is here, these Reps and Deps are planning barbecues, fishing trips, and more to keep veterans healthy and engaged. Read about a few of our Representatives’ plans for spending the summer with veterans.

George Yusko, Representative at the Lyons, New Jersey, VA Medical Center, is planning to take veterans out for a day at the ballpark to see a Somerset Patriots baseball game. After

spending extended time indoors, a game and picnic will be a welcome relief for Lyons veterans. They’ll get to enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers while they spend time together.

In Michigan, veterans from the Yale Community Health Center will be able to attend a pancake breakfast where they’ll learn about the PACT Act and other benefits available to them. This event will be hosted by Port Huron, MI Lodge No. 343 and Representative Scott Harris. Harris hopes to connect veterans and their

Continued below

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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June 2023

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Dictionary Project defines success

By **TRACY LEOPOLD**
Activities Committee Member

This past year, 193 Elks Lodges in 39 states have participated in the Dictionary Project, providing 88,930 dictionaries. Since 2003, 1,244 Elks Lodges have participated in the Dictionary Project, providing a total of 4,337,970 dictionaries to date.

This is a great opportunity for our Members to get out into our communities and provide kids with a learning resource that they can call their own. If your Lodge has not yet participated in this program, I encourage you to reach out to your local schools to see if they

would like to participate.

The kids enjoy receiving these dictionaries and are excited to have Elks Members deliver them to their classrooms. Showing them how to look up a fun word such as *supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* will excite them and leave a lasting impression on them while teaching them how to use their dictionary.

If you find out that your local school is already participating in the program through another group, use this opportunity to mention some of the other things the Elks do, such as the Americanism Essay Contest, student recognition program, Hoop Shoot, and Soccer Shoot.

From Above

families with the services they need in a fun community environment.

Veterans at the Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center in Florence, Colorado will be planting a raised vegetable and flower garden this year. Representative Trudy Gagas has plans to provide new raised garden boxes and repair the current ones. She reports that gardening is a popular activity at the Veterans Home because it provides outdoor time all summer and for many summers in the future.

Want to join in the fun? Connect with your local Voluntary Service Representative and offer to help out with their plans. Visit elks.org/vets/vavs for details.