

MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ELKS ASSOCIATION NEWS

A Fraternal Organization

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

United States of America



JUNE CONVENTION, 2008 ISSUE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

Members and Guests



Warren Johnson
President 2007-2008

I welcome all of you to the 88th Annual Convention of the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association. Once again we return to the mountains of Western Maryland to enjoy the fellowship of our members and celebrate in the results of this past year, and welcome our officers for the coming year. I congratulate the Lodges and individuals who will be recognized this weekend for their accomplishments.

It is said that time flies. I find it difficult to believe that 51 weeks has passed since we were last here and I began the journey as your State President. It has been a great experience and I wish to thank all of you for allowing me this honor.

There have been many great events this past year, starting with the honor of carrying in the flag in Charlotte, followed by the news we have waited so long to hear; that we will soon have a Grand Exalted Ruler from our Association.

Debbie and I have been privileged to attend veteran functions at Laurel and Abingdon, Flag Day at Easton, the Charity Balls at Bowie and Prince Georges County, helping celebrate the 100th anniversary of Crisfield Lodge, the 35th anniversary of Severna Park Lodge, the Christmas decoration lighting at the National Home, the Spring Ball in Frederick, the Americanism Awards hosted by Calvert Lodge, the Ritual Competition at Annapolis Lodge, installation of Officers at Hagerstown, and the Hands across the Border program. To those who offered invitations, which we could not fulfill, I thank you for thinking of us.

We have attended the State and Regional Soccer Shoots, State, Regional and National Hoop Shoots. All of these are great examples of what we as Elks do. Through these programs we show that "Elks Care-Elks Share" and we are truly "Committed to the Community".

In my travels to your Lodges, and reading your newsletters my pride in being an Elk was strengthened. There is so much work done in individual Lodges that benefits their communities, you should all be extremely proud. Many of you have stepped forward and added 1 new program this year. There has been an increase the number of Lodges participating in Hoop Shoot, as well as Lodges like Newark and Selbyville starting the Dictionary Project.

My thanks to Easton and Frederick Lodges for hosting our 2 on site meetings this year, both did and outstanding job.

Again, thanks to all of you and continue to sell "Elkdom".

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Warren



Coming Events

May 30 - June 1, 2008
88th State Convention
The Wisp Resort, McHenry, MD

June 14, 2008
Flag Day

July 6-10, 2008
Grand Lodge Convention
Anaheim, CA

August, 2008
DD Clinics

October 3-5, 2008
Fall Conference
The Grand Hotel
Ocean City, MD

*Mark
your
calendar*

January, 2009
DD Clinics

January 9-11, 2009
Winter Workshop
Calvert Lodge

March 20-22, 2009
GER Visit/Spring Conference
Prince George's County Lodge

June 12-14, 2009
89th State Convention
Dover Sheraton Hotel

ASSOCIATION FLAG DAY CEREMONIES

WHEN:
SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2008
IMMEDIATELY AFTER LUNCH
(about 1:30 PM)

WHERE:
ASSOCIATION STATE
CONVENTION WISP
MOUNTAIN RESORT AND
CONFERENCE CENTER
McHENRY, MARYLAND
WATCH IN THE LOBBY
FOR POSTED DETAILS



DON'T MISS IT!

MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ELKS ASSOCIATION NEWS
Official Publication

2007-2008

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**Next Newsletter
 Deadline...
 September 3, 2008**

**Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia
 Elks Association**

88th Annual Convention

May 30-June 1, 2008

Wisp Mountain Resort and Convention Center

AGENDA

Friday, May 30, 2008

12:00-5:00Registration
 2:00 P.M.Advisory Meeting
 4:00 P.M.Trustee Meeting
 5:00 P.M.Elks Camp Barrett

Saturday, May 31, 2008

7:00-9:30 A.M.Breakfast
 8:00 A.M.-12:00 NoonRegistration
 8:30 A.M.General Meeting Committees have
 3 minutes to summarize their year.
 11:30A.M.-1:00 P.M.Lunch
 12:15 P.M.Incoming State President Meeting with VP's
 and Chairmen
 1:30Flag Day Presentation
 6:00 P.M.-6:45Cocktail Reception
 6:45 P.M.-8:00 P.M.Dinner (Business Suite/Coat and Tie)
 8:00 P.M.Scholarship Presentation and Awards

Sunday, June 1st, 2008

7:00 -9:30 A.M.Breakfast
 8:00-9:00 A.M.Registration
 9:30 A.M.Memorial Service
 (Summer Tux for all participants)
 10:15 A.M.Installation of Officers
 (Summer Tux for all participants)

2008 GRAND LODGE SESSION

ANAHEIM, CA

JULY 6-10, 2008

PAUL D. HELSEL, PSP, NEWARK LODGE NO. 2281

FOR GRAND EXALTED RULER 2008-2009

MAKE PLANS NOW

TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION

**NEXT MEETING -FALL CONFERENCE
 THE GRAND HOTEL, OCEAN CITY, OCTOBER 3-5, 2008**

GER Sulsberger Visits MD, DE, DC Spring Conference

GER Louis Sulsberger and his lovely wife, Beth, visited the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Spring Conference held at Frederick Lodge #684, March 28-30, 2008. In addition to the GER and his wife, the traveling party consisted of Honorable Carlton M. O'Malley, PGER and sponsor; SDDGER (and endorsed candidate for GER for 2008-2009 year) Paul Helsel and his wife, Jane; State President Warren Johnson and his wife, Debbie. A tour of Elks Camp Barrett (State Project) was conducted on Thursday, March 27.



*GER Sulsberger
addresses audience following
Saturday Dinner.*



*PER Ray Gafney (Right) presents a basket to
GER Sulsberger from Frederick Lodge No. 684,
PER Association*



*GER Sulsberger shares a laugh with
State President Warren Johnson*



*From Left: SDGER Paul Helsel, Jane Helsel, Beth
Sulsberger and GER Sulsberger*

National Scholarship Winners

*Robert T. Barthelmes, Fourth Place, \$4,000 Year
Representing St. Mary's County Lodge No. 2092*

*Andrew Rohland, Seventh Place, \$2,000 Year
Representing St. Mary's County Lodge No. 2092*

*Danielle N. Japhet, Fifth Place, \$3,000 Year
Representing Wilmington Lodge No. 307*

MD, DE, DC ELKS RESIDENTS OF ELKS NATIONAL HOME

Name	Lodge
Maxine Besosa	Cape Henlopen, DE #2540
Sheridan Besosa	Cape Henlopen, DE #2540
Charles Blumenauer	Frederick, MD #684
Virginia Davidson	Kent Island #2576

Wolfgang Candy Campaign

Our Wolfgang candy sales are now over and the last of the candy bar money is still coming in.

I am sorry to report that the Easter and Christmas book sales were down substantially from previous years. The Easter book sales were down to the point where it is no longer profitable to continue that campaign. We will still sell the Christmas Book sales and the candy bars at Easter time.

The profit from the 2007 Wolfgang Christmas sales was \$2,352 and the profit from the 2008 Easter book sales was \$895. The Wolfgang 2008 candy bar campaign profit was \$2484. This year the total profit to Elks Camp Barrett General Fund is \$5,731.

Below is a list of the chair people that helped make the Easter book sales and Candy Bar sales possible.

Abingdon Lodge #2354
Annapolis Lodge #622
Bowie Lodge #2309
Calvert Lodge #2620
Camp Springs #2332

Cape Henlopen #2540
Cumberland # 63
Dover Lodge #1903
Easton Lodge #1622
Essex Lodge #1866

Frederick Lodge # 684
Glen Burnie Lodge #2266
Hagerstown Lodge # 378
Laurel Lodge #2283

Milford Lodge #2401

Newark Lodge #2281
Oakland Lodge #2481
Ocean City Lodge # 2645
Prince Georges Lodge #1778
St. Mary's Lodge #2092
Salisbury Lodge # 814
Seaford Lodge # 2458
Severna Park Lodge #2482
Waldorf Lodge #2421
Washington/Rockville #15

Bonnie Bussard
John McMickle, Pat Ericson
Doris Nowottnick
John Curran
Charlie Spadone,
Kelly Randolph
Joseph & Dorothy Vicere
Dana Gourlay
Nancy Willis
Dave & Connie Wolcott
Hilda Davis,
Pat Schroeder
Sharon Rinta
Larry & Pat Mathers
Barbara Burroughs
Carl Robinson,
George Larkins
Ed Pettit,
Greg Adams,
Myron Morgan
The Ladies of the Elks
Sheila Burg
Tracy Harvey
Toni and Carroll Wagner
Nancy Wert
Marilyn Leatherman
Rich Konrad
Art & Joan League
Earl Christan
Claudia Bryant
Priscilla Schwab



Once again this donation would not be possible without the help of those who bought, sold or helped in any way. Thank you for your time and remember it is never too late to help. Our Christmas sales will start sometime in September. If you are interested, please contact Lee or Hilda Davis at 410-256-9691.

Thank You

VP North Central Report

Since our last meeting I have attended Camp Barrett meeting. Also, the Spring Conference and the GER visit at Frederick Lodge.

The North Central District Caucus was held at Bowie Lodge 2309 and the following members were elected: George Larkins, V. P. NC; Carl Robinson to the Elks Camp Barrett Executive Committee; and Louis Schmeltzer for two year term as State Trustee.

I have enjoyed working with everyone within the District and the State Association over the last year and want to thank everyone for the Great Hospitality they have shown. I have travel 450 miles with about 16 hours of travel time.

Good Luck to all new Officers and may your year be as rewarding as mine.

Fraternally yours,
Richard L. Hasson V.P.N.C.

Elks-Care Elks-Share

ELKS CAMP BARRETT IMPROVEMENT FUND RAFFLE

Members:

Due to newsletter deadline restraints, I did not have a final figure for print but I will have figures this weekend when I give the Elks Camp Barrett Improvement Fund report. I truly want to thank everyone that bought and/or sold the E.C.B.I.F. tickets. There has been a lot going on in our state association with fundraising this year and as usual, the membership has stepped up and come through once again.

Please keep in mind that we must continue our fund raising activities for Paul as well as our camp and our state association.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Hilda and Lee

Northeast District VP Report

March – June 2008

Since the Spring Workshop in Frederick, I attended the District Deputy clinic on April 13, 2008 at Milford Lodge held by Ed Pettit, DDGER. My husband, Brian, and I went on the Elks Mexico Trip with 58 other Elks from our State Association. Abingdon Lodge and Dover Lodge represented the Northeast District with a total of 14 Elks. Thank you to Fat Jack for organizing this trip. We had a great time.

In the Northeast, all eight lodges exceeded the GER ENF goal of \$4.25, six lodges exceeded our State President's ENF goal of \$9.00 and we had a gain in membership. Congratulations to all the new officers for this Lodge year and I encourage you to keep up the good work in the Northeast District.

I would like to express my sincere Congratulations and Best Wishes to the incoming Northeast Vice President, Susan Conlogue, of Dover Lodge 1903. I know she will do a wonderful job!

I have enjoyed serving as Vice President for the Northeast and appreciate the support from all the members in our district. It has been a great year! Thank you.

Fraternally yours,
Connie J. deYoung, SVP NE District

THANK YOU FOR FILLING IN

Hilda and I want to thank everyone that stepped up and filled in for us with the different committees that we normally do at the workshops. We had a lot of things that needed to be addressed in our absence. As usual, the members and our friends took the bull by the horns and got the job done. We really missed not being there but family does take priority.

We hope every member is as proud of our Association and the accomplishments of the MD, DE, and D.C. Elks Association as we are. We want to thank everyone one more time.

Elks National Foundation Final Report June 2008

Lodge Year April 1, 2007-March 31, 2008

I am very pleased to announce that our State Association came in 9th in the nation at \$7.890 per capita with total donations of \$198,217.61. Unfortunately this is a decrease of \$0.848 per capita and a decrease of \$20,286.56 in total contributions from last year. Though contributions are down we should be very proud of our accomplishments and our continued support to ENF. Below are the results of our lodges' donations. 16 of our lodges exceeded the State President's goal of \$9.00 per member. A total of 31 lodges exceeded the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal of \$4.25 per member. I would like to congratulate Washington-Rockville No. 15 for being our top per capita winner at \$29.62 per capita. I would also like to congratulate Washington-Rockville No. 15 for winning the Chairman's Challenge with a score of 52.52 and Annapolis Lodge No. 622 for having the highest amount of money contributed with a total amount of \$22,667.40. I would like to congratulate the following lodges for being first in their District: NC: Laurel Lodge No. 2283; NE: Elkton Lodge No. 2618; SE: Seaford Lodge No. 2458; SW: Washington-Rockville #15; and W: Cumberland Lodge No. 63.

Lodge Name and Number	Membership	District	Total Amount	Per Capita
Washington-Rockville #15	593	SW	\$17,565.00	29.62
Laurel #2283	288	NC	\$6,770.00	23.51
Elkton #2618	105	NE	\$2,000.00	19.05
Seaford #2458	237	SE	\$4,192.00	17.69
Prince Georges County #1778	408	SW	\$6,781.12	16.62
Annapolis #622	1477	NC	\$22,667.40	15.35
Essex #1866	639	NC	\$4,289.26	15.34
Salisbury #817	1132	SE	\$16,203.00	14.31
Milford #2401	473	NE	\$6,682.00	14.13
Waldorf #2421	513	SW	\$6,156.70	12.00
Chestertown #2474	300	NE	\$3,516.25	11.72
Cumberland #63	210	W	\$2,379.31	11.33
Newark #2281	305	NE	\$3,383.00	11.09
Crisfield #1044	471	SE	\$4,958.00	10.53
Abingdon #2354	210	NE	\$2,158.00	10.28
Dover #1903	895	NE	\$8,588.75	9.60
Calvert #2620	619	SW	\$5,482.66	8.86
Easton #1622	989	SE	\$7,989.00	8.08
St. Mary's County #2092	369	SW	\$2,766.00	7.50
Oakland #2481	837	W	\$6,249.77	7.47
Ocean City #2645	1307	SE	\$9,669.00	7.40
Cape Henlopen #2540	681	SE	\$4,488.50	6.59
Selbyville #2173	359	SE	\$2,214.00	6.17
Cambridge #1272	426	SE	\$2,599.00	6.10
Frederick #684	2060	W	\$11,020.40	5.35
Pocomoke City #1624	380	SE	1,951.75	5.14
Wilmington #307	620	NE	\$3,130.00	5.05
Broadneck #2608	244	NC	\$1,220.00	5.00
Camp Springs #2332	402	SW	\$1,955.45	4.86
Havre De Grace #1564	329	NE	\$1,579.70	4.80
Glen Burnie #2266	830	NC	\$3,293.00	3.97
Westminster #2277	613	W	\$2,240.34	3.65
Severna Park #2482	432	NC	\$1,401.25	3.24
Bowie #2309	577	NC	\$1,735.00	3.01
Frostburg #470	330	W	\$625.00	1.89
Hagerstown #378	1981	W	\$3,391.00	1.71
Burtonsville #2465	90	NC	\$100.00	1.11
Kent Island #2576	641	SE	\$3,150.00	.91
Towson #469	1200	NC	\$1,093.00	.91
Deale #2528	532	SW	\$40.00	.07

Grand Lodge Activities/State Association Committee

2007 – 2008 Program

All American Lodge Contest "A" Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the All American Lodge Contest from the MD DE DC Elks Association. Your entries have also been submitted to the Grand Lodge for further competition at that level. The State Awards will be presented at the June Convention Banquet Dinner at the WISP.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Lodge Name</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
1	No entries	
2	Waldorf, MD Lodge No. 2421	301 – 500
3	Calvert Lodge, MD Lodge No. 2620	501 - 700
4	Oakland, MD Lodge No. 2481	701 - 1100
5	Ocean City Lodge, MD Lodge No. 2645	1101 - 1500
6	Frederick, MD Lodge No 684	over 1500

The following Lodges also submitted entries: Camp Springs, MD Lodge No. 2332, Havre de Grace, MD Lodge No 1564, Prince George's County Lodge No. 1778 and Washington – Rockville Lodge No. 15

This year, nine out of forty lodges participated in the contest, which was a decrease of three lodges from last year's participants.

Congratulations to Waldorf Lodge No. 2421 for winning 1st place nationally in Division 2 for the Lodge Bulletin Contest "D" and our State Association for earning a four star rating for the State Webpage.

At this time I whole-heartedly thank all the Lodges that did participate and also commend the District Deputies that gave their support and insured continued success in this program.

In closing I thank all of you for your dedication to these programs and wish you success in the year ahead. I look forward to increasing the participation for next year and encourage every lodge to take pride in participating in the various GL Programs and associated contests. The time to start your programs is now, so that you will be prepared to make your submission for this year.

It should be every Exalted Ruler's Goal to make their lodge an "ALL AMERICAN LODGE".

Sincerely and fraternally, Carl F. Vogt

Carl F. Vogt, PDD, PSVP, PER,
State Lodge Activities Chairman

Year-end Southeast District Report

I have finally completed all of my official visits by visiting Pocomoke City Lodge. ER Wade Taylor and all of the members made me feel very welcome. Although they may not be as strong within the State Association as we may like, Elkdom is alive and thriving in Pocomoke City! During my travels, I have accumulated 3473 miles, with 106 hours and a whopping \$15.00 in tolls, plus 950 miles driving to Charlotte for the Grand Lodge Convention. In addition to my visits and accompanying President Johnson, I attended all of the State Workshops, all of the Southeast District Deputy Clinics, five of the District Deputy Visits for ritual judging, and many of the Camp Barrett Meetings. I have met some of the finest Elks in not only the state, but the country, and am proud to call them friends.

Southeast Lodges had 100% participation for meeting the GER's goal for ENF, and three lodges met President Johnson's Goal. The Southeast was well represented in both the Hoop Shoot and the Soccer Shoot and even had a Regional Soccer Shoot winner from Easton Lodge in Avery Zuber. On a sadder side, the Southeast will have a loss in membership this year, as only two of the ten lodges will show a gain.

It has been an eye opening, but rewarding experience to serve the State Association as Southeast Vice President. I wish the best of luck to David Wolcott, as I know that he will do a great job with his new position. If I learned nothing else this year, I at least know how to get to each lodge for my upcoming position as District Deputy. I will also be able to assist Priscilla if she happens to get misdirected on the Eastern Shore. SOUTH-EAST!!

William Redmond, SE VP

Maryland, Delaware and D.C. State "Hoop Shoot" Competition For the 2007-2008 Year

On Saturday February 16 Frederick Elks Lodge # 684 hosted the State Association competition in the annual "Elks Hoop Shoot". The contestants represented the district winners from the 5 districts with participation by 31 of the 40 lodges in our state association. Many thanks go to the local lodge directors and the district directors to help this program run smoothly: Jim Hanker, South West; Gil Dunn, South East; Bill Milburn, North Central; Dave Reihl, North East and Walt Miller, West.

The three boys and three girls in the 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13 age categories who scored the best in this contest continued on to the regional competition in Frederick on March 15, where they competed against the winners from Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

The winners who represented Maryland, Delaware and DC at the Regional contest were:

- Taquan Rodriguez, 08-09 BOYS, Milford
- Danielle Eubanks, 08-09 GIRLS, Abingdon
- Jalen Houchins, 10-11 BOYS, Waldorf
- Kiara Gholson, 10-11 GIRLS, Laurel
- Greg Bozman Jr., 12-13 BOYS, Crisfield
- Maggie Payne, 12-13 GIRLS, Westminster

Other trophy winners (2nd and 3rd place) were:

- Brian Flatter, 08-09 BOYS, Frederick
- Michael Livingston, 10-11 BOYS, Frostburg
- Amanda Woodburn, 10-11 GIRLS, Waldorf
- Jo'wan Liuers, 12-13 BOYS, Waldorf
- BriKeisha Whittington, 12-13 GIRLS, Crisfield
- Colleen Maher, 8-9 GIRLS, Severna Park
- Myron Young, 08-09 BOYS, Calvert
- Ashley Nicholson, 08-09 GIRLS, Westminster
- Tyler Davison, 10-11 BOYS, Bowie
- Maiya Dotson, 10-11 GIRLS, Abingdon
- Paul McLister, 12-13 BOYS, Frederick

All contestants received either a trophy or a plaque indicating their finish and acknowledging their accomplishments in the "Hoop Shoot" program. President Warren Johnson, as well as the district directors in attendance presented the contestants their trophies, certificates and other prizes which included a Drug Awareness/"Hoop Shoot" basketball, thanks to the cooperation of the state Drug Awareness committee.

The Region 10 contest was held on March 15 also in Frederick, with the contest being held at Middletown High School. The competition was tight, as always, with excellent scores – the shooting percentage of these contestants was overall for all levels of competition was 72.8%.

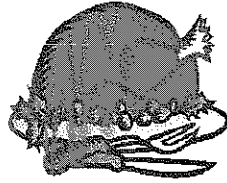
MD, DE and DC hosted one contestant at the National level – Maggie Payne from Mt. Airy, representing the Westminster Lodge. Maggie shot 24/25 at both the state and regional contest. At the national finals State President Johnson, PSP Bruce Howell, and Special Deputy Paul Hesel and their wives as well as group of 28 of her friends and family supported her. It was a wonderful weekend with Maggie finishing tied for 6th place with a score of 21/25.

I'd like to thank all the MD, DE and DC Elks for their support of both the state and regional competition – the help was wonderful for both. A special mention should be made about Walt and Dottie Miller's many years of service to the "Hoop Shoot" program as Walt retires from being West District director. He has done an admirable job over these past 20+ years and he deserves our congratulations and thanks.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the "Hoop Shoot" program.

Jim McNitt
State "Hoop Shoot" director

THANKSGIVING IN ST. THOMAS



Spend Thanksgiving week in the famous **Bluebeard's Castle*** located in the beautiful Virgin Islands. St. Thomas is a world-renowned vacation destination and **Bluebeard's Castle is a 3-Star rated hotel.** **Your week includes your choice of either a Hotel Unit in the Castle during Thanksgiving Week (Saturday to Saturday)**

—OR—

A One-Bedroom Condominium Unit two weeks later.
Both at Bluebeard's Castle* on St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands.

This prize** includes:

- Round-trip air fare for two.
- \$ 1,000 spending money.
- Unlimited use of the hotel facilities for the week.
- Can be used in either 2008 or 2009

* www.bluebeards-castle.com

** Retail value of this prize estimated at \$4,500. Need not be present to win. Not a taxable donation. Proceeds to benefit Paul D. Helsel G.E.R. Campaign Fund. All taxes are the responsibility of the winner or winners. Either option can sleep 4 people. Drawing to be held July 9, 2008.

Did You Know Brainteaser Answers

South West District Lodges in addition to other District Lodges have supported Elks Camp Barrett through the years. Many of the South West District Lodges have merged with other lodges.

Who are they now?

<u>Original Lodge Name</u>	<u>Merged With</u>
District Heights Lodge	Forestville Lodge
Marlow Heights Lodge	Camp Springs Lodge
Silver Spring Lodge	Rockville Lodge
Washington DC Lodge	Washington Rockville Lodge
Forestville Lodge	Marlborough Lodge
Marlborough Lodge	Prince Georges County Lodge
Bethesda/Chevy Chase Lodge	Rockville Lodge

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY LODGE incorporates members from Prince Georges County, District Heights, Forestville and Marlborough Lodges.

WASHINGTON ROCKVILLE LODGE incorporates members from Silver Spring, Rockville, Bethesda Chevy Chase and Washington D.C. lodges.

To be continued.....Kenny Largent, PSP

"Remember to sponsor a child"

**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE
COMMISSION
JUNE 2008 GRAND LODGE NEWSLETTER
MESSAGE
PLAYING CARDS FOR VETERANS**

The Fourth of July, the date we celebrate our nation's independence, will soon be here.

The Armed Forces of a fledgling country achieved that independence, and for more than two hundred years, that independence has been maintained by the heroic and selfless efforts of our nation's veterans. What better way to show how much the Elks appreciate all they have done than to include them in our celebrations? If your Lodge plans to host a Fourth of July event, be it a picnic, party, or excursion, invite local veterans and make them the guests of honor. Show them how much their service and sacrifice means to all of us, and that "Elks Care-Elks Share."

Throughout the year, volunteers provide hospitalized veterans with services not rendered by the hospitals or centers to which they are confined. The *Adopt-A-Veteran* program brings outside contact directly to the veterans. The *Leather* program provides craft kits and gloves for wheelchair bound veterans. The Elks sponsorship of the singing group Re-Creation provides entertainment, and there are parties, bingo, and other events hosted and sponsored by volunteers and their Lodges.

These are all wonderful programs, but for the veteran who spends 24 hours a day in a facility, there is often little to do but watch television or read. While there is nothing wrong with these distractions, they do little to improve their lives.

The *Playing Cards for Veterans* program provides playing cards, at no cost, to veterans. Card games are a great method of providing social interaction, mental stimulation and improved dexterity. Tom Jamison, of Beardstown IL Lodge No. 1007, began this program 10 years ago. To date, over 250,000 decks of cards have been distributed to veterans. Tom gathers nearly new decks of cards from riverboats and casinos, which generously donate them to our cause. Elk volunteers make sure that each deck is in immaculate condition and sealed. They also place a sticker with the Elks National Veterans Service Commission logo on each pack.

The *Playing Cards for Veterans* program is an easy way to get your Lodge involved in helping our nation's heroes. If your Lodge is planning an event for veterans, you could make a deck of cards part of

a gift package. If your Lodge has taken advantage of this program in the past, do so again, as playing cards in continuous use have a short lifespan.

To get free playing cards for our veterans, send your request to:

Tom Jamison, Chairman Playing Cards for Veterans Program
12102 Chandlerville Road Beardstown IL 62618-7679
or contact the Elks National Veterans Service Commission at the Elks National Headquarters in Chicago.

Fraternally,
Robert M. Hennings Director

VP West Report

Greetings from the West! Since my last published report I had the pleasure of attending Oakland Lodges community appreciation dinner where presentations were made to the Citizen of the Year, Emergency Medical Technician of the Year and three presentations for Law Enforcement officer of the Year where officers from the Oakland police department, Garrett County Sheriff's office and the Garrett County detachment of the Maryland State Police. A fine job was done by Tracy Harvey and her officers.

I also attended the Mid Atlantic Regional Soccer shoot. I am pleased to announce we have representatives from the West District progressing to the next level. The Grand Lodge Area Committee did a great job with the shoot and Gerald Morrow did his usual fine job of taking care of the local coordination. James Burroughs, ER of Hagerstown Lodge worked hard with Gerald and the Soccer Shoot committee to see that everything went out without a hitch.

I have traveled a total of 2643 miles during the past year, met many great elks and had a very enjoyable time. It has been an honor serving as the West District Vice President. I will continue on next year as the Web Site chairman and look forward to working with the new officers.

Fraternally,

Scott A. Wishard
VP West

Government Relations Report

Legislative Overview

When the Maryland legislature concluded its business on April 7th, it was like they had been dealing with a political "hangover." The Special Session in November was indeed "taxing" - to the tune of \$1.3 billion. Although some cuts were made in the Special Session, the budget was still the main focus for the regular session.

Among the highlights of the regular session was the debate over the "tech tax," the tax on computer services. Although the leadership stood fast and said it would not repeal the tax because of the \$200 million hole it would leave in the budget, the tax did finally get repealed and the hole was filled by "robbing Peter to pay Paul," i.e. from the Transportation Fund and Public Works. The other major issues dealt with environmental matters (Chesapeake Bay) and energy consumption concerns. There were no further tax issues that would affect our lodges (employee and medical) as I expected and only one major gaming issue. Frankly, the legislature did not want to be associated with any more tax matters.

Numerous gaming bills were introduced, although nearly all of them were county-specific and sponsored by that county's legislative delegation. Some passed, some failed. Lodge Government Relations Officers should check with their county authorities to see if there are any changes in their counties. The one major gaming issue that did come up was the legislature's concern over electronic tip jar/bingo machines. The issue arose over the machines used in southern Maryland, but similar machines are used statewide in different forms. It was the different types of machines that became the issue. The Senate bill (SB-959), which would ban the use of the machines passed after many, many amendments. The House of Delegates passed the bill after changing the definition of what is a slot machine. NOTE: The issue here was that these electronic tip jar machines were thought to be slot machines because of their function and Mike Miller (in particular) thought that their continued operation would jeopardize the passage of the slots referendum in November. The end result is that the electronic tip jar machines must be removed from lodges and other facilities by July 1, 2008. Now, one of the last minute amendments to the bill was that commercial bingo establishments could keep the machines until July 2009. Some of our lodges are upset by that action.

Further, we (CONPOR) have been fighting for several years now the establishment of a Task Force to examine gaming statewide. This year's version of that issue (HB-94) failed, but in the final language of SB-959, the State Lottery Board was given tasks similar to what HB-94 would have done. The Lottery Board is to

report to the legislature December 15, 2008, i.e. just before next year's legislative session. So here is the bottom line: The slots issue will be decided (for the most part) in the November referendum. The State Lottery Board, which answers to the legislature and will address the slots issue as well as tip jars, bingo, etc, will submit its report in December. In the meantime, the legislature has postponed the state debt into future years. So, by year's end, there could be some key financial and gaming issues on the table. Stay tuned!

Charity Reporting

As of this date (May 6th), I have to report that we are making a very poor showing along charity reporting guidelines. The State Secretary told me last week that he had not received any data for a State Association Charity Report. He had some information from previous committee reports, which had been submitted over the year, but I do not know at this time whether a State Association Charity Report has been sent to Grand Lodge.

To digress on this subject: Since I have been the State Chairman for Government Relations, I have been very disappointed with the reporting of State Association charity activities. I have never received a report from Elks Camp Barrett - our state project and an effort that we put hundreds of thousands of dollars into as well as accommodating hundreds of kids each year. I have never received a report from Americanism, even though that effort receives awards from Grand Lodge. I have never received a report from Drug Awareness and only an occasional report from Youth Activities, Soccer Shoot, and Hoop Shoot or from any veteran's activities. These are all major activities within our State Association. The State Association reports that we have sent to Grand Lodge in the past represent a far cry of what we actually do in the MD, DE and DC Elks Association.

Another area that bothers me is the p. 2 reports. It clearly states on the top of p.2 of the Annual Report that a copy of p2 should be sent to the State Association Government Relations Chairman. Over the years, I usually got between 20 to 30 reports from the lodges. This year I got nine! I don't doubt that the lodges are sending their reports to Grand Lodge, which I think is the reason for not sending a copy to the State Chairman, but it would be nice if the lodges fulfilled their full obligation to reporting. Maybe the new on-line system Grand Lodge is developing will improve the reporting system. I am convinced, however, that the BPOE is being short-suited by poor reporting.

Final thoughts and Recommendations

Since this is my last report, there are a couple of issues that need to be addressed. The first is our relationship to

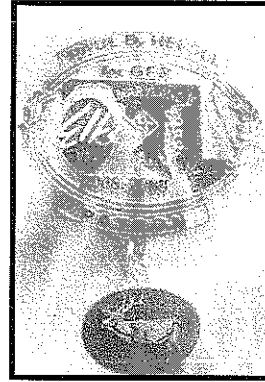
(Government Relations Report Continued)

CONPOR. Since the lodges have not responded and only a handful of dedicated individuals have helped sustain it (thank you Carroll, Earl and #622), I would recommend that we abandon CONPOR. There are several options for handling this action and there are a couple of things we need to be concerned with, but I will work with Dave Wolcott if that is your decision. For example, we need to be concerned with the legal ramifications of disbanding the corporation and the dispersion of the funds in its account. As the President of CONPOR, I want to handle it right. The second thing is charity reporting. I would recommend that Advisory not reappoint committee chairpersons who do not report on their activities. And, a final thought: The lodges should take a more active role in dealing with their local legislators. Most of the time we are reacting to initiatives that come up in the legislature rather than being pro-active about our Elks programs. We need to tell them about the Elks, the good things we do and impress upon them that we are voters. Local politicians will understand this situation better than my testifying to a committee in Annapolis. It is important that Government Relations and Public Relations work together to make legislators, local officials and the general public aware of our programs. We seem to hide behind the secrecy of a private organization - a concept that really doesn't exist any more.

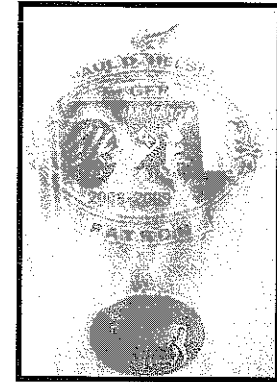
Thank you - one and all - for allowing me to serve as your chairman for these past six or seven years. As frustrated as I got, I still enjoyed it. Thanks again and best wishes for the future.

Les Bishop, Chairman,
Government Relations Committee

Paul D. Helsel for Grand Exalted Ruler 2008-2009 Fundraising Pins



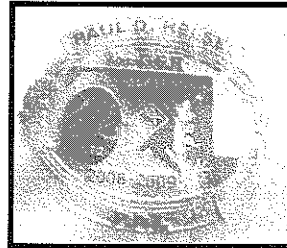
1 1/4" Lapel Pin:
\$100.00



1 1/4" Pendant:
\$100.00

Both "Patron Lapel Pin and Pendant", can be purchased together if a couple would like, at a combined cost of \$150.00. With the purchase of a "Patron" lapel pin or the combination you are eligible for an invitation to the "Monday Night GER-Elect Reception" in Anaheim. Make sure to completely fill out the "Pin Reservation Form" so that we can send you your invitation for the Reception, that is, assuming you will be attending the 2008 Anaheim Grand Lodge Convention.

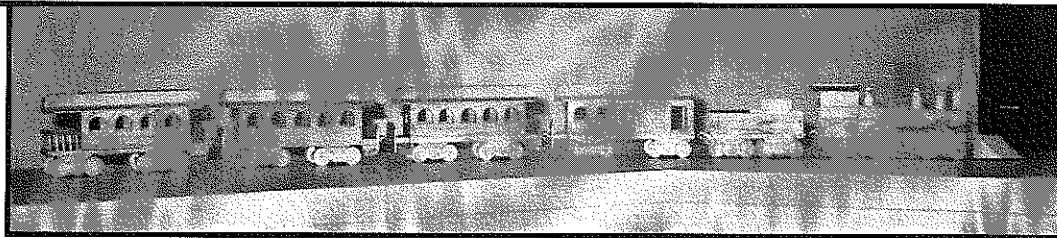
If the cost of the "Patron" pin is not in your price range, below is Paul's "Pal" lapel pin that is also available.



1 1/8" Lapel Pin: \$20.00

To purchase these pins or pendant see your Lodge pin salesperson, your District Pin Sale Coordinator, or contact Richard J. Burg (302) 368-4754 or (302) 438-4874 or rjburg1@verizon.net

Make checks payable to; Paul D. Helsel GER Campaign Fund.



HELSEL EXPRESS TO ANAHEIM

Climb aboard the "Helsel Express" and help raise the funds needed for Paul Helsel (the endorsed candidate for GER for 2008-2009) and his lovely wife, Jane, as they travel to Anaheim this July. Shown above is one of two trains that were handcrafted by Brother Victor Johns, Past State President (1996-1997) of the Alaska State Elks Association. Victor donated the trains to our Association to support the fund raising efforts for Paul. At this time, we plan to draw the winning ticket during the Fall Conference Meeting in Ocean City, MD, October 3-5, 2008. So get your tickets now. Just contact Priscilla Schwab, phone 301-871-1758 or office 202-693-6372. Good Luck.

AMERICANISM

Dave Smith
State Americanism Chairman

It is hard to believe that another Americanism year has come to a close. I wonder if your Lodge has taken advantage of all of the Americanism related programs we have promoted this year.

Starting a new Americanism Year begins right now! Attend the Association Flag Day Ceremonies on Saturday right after lunch. The Hospitality Rooms will be closed anyway, so take advantage of what we have to share with you by attending. Bring your cameras and take some pictures, to begin your Lodge Brochure Book for 2008-2009. You can say, as an example, "Our Lodge begins the year by participating in our Association Flag Day Ceremonies for Maryland at our State Convention". Remember, a brochure book is really just a glorified scrapbook, and these pictures, a copy of the written Flag Day Program which will be given to you when you arrive, and some notes would be a great start! Later, attend the Flag Day Ceremonies at Dover Lodge, to include Delaware as one of the Flag Day events your Lodge participated in. Remember, if you are there, and if you stand, salute, sing, and recite at the proper times, YOU ARE A PARTICIPANT.

As of this writing, the new Theme for the Grand Lodge 2008-2009 Essay contest has not been announced. Hopefully, it will be in time to get the information into everyone's hands by our State Convention at the Wisp.

It has been my extreme pleasure to be the State Chairman of Americanism over the past many years. I have poured my heart and soul into this job and I hope you have all been satisfied with the results. But, all good things must come to an end, and Maggie and I have discussed it and I have decided that I will now "retire". I will certainly lend my support to my successor, and I know Mary Cardinal Vogt will do a great job for our Association.

I want to wish Warren great luck at Grand Lodge this year and I am sure that he will receive loads of accolades. I want to wish Priscilla and Paul the best of everything in the New Year. I am sure that the coming year will be a whirlwind for them both.

Finally, I want to thank George Hamilton and Frank Clopper for their help through the years in getting Americanism information out to our members through this bulletin, and to thank everyone who has served as a District Chairman for the job they all did. None of the successes this Association has enjoyed in Americanism would have been possible without them.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

ELKS CAMP BARRETT 50/50 RAFFLE

The winner of the E.C.B. 50/50 Raffle in Frederick on Sunday, March 30, 2008 was Nancy McPherson from Milford Lodge No. 2401.

Thanks to everyone that bought tickets and supported the raffle.

Hilda and I want to thank the people that stepped up and filled in for us during our absence. Don't forget to buy your tickets for this Sunday's drawing.

Sincerely, Lee & Hilda

Elks Care - Elks Share

From Secretary Jim Harbour

I want to Thank the Association for electing me for a second term as your Secretary. I will continue to serve you as I have.

If anyone would like to receive the minutes from the meetings, please let me know via e-mail, phone or personal contact. Again, I thank you.

Jim

**Fund Raising Activities
For the Paul D. Helsel GER Campaign Fund**

General Fund Raising Committee

General Co-Chairmen	Thomas Rabickow, PSP (302)537-9164 Rabickow@cs.com		Reginald Maguire, PSP (410)673-7405 rmaguire01@comcast.net
Secretary	Richard Burg, PDDGER (302)368-4754 rjburg@verizon.net	Treasurer	Terry LaGier, PSP (302)697-3592 talagier@aol.com
District Coordinators			
Northeast	Butch Morgan, PDDGER (302)422-7614 Myremorg@aol.com	Southeast	Dave Wolcott, PER (410)479-4877 davewolcott_21629@yahoo.com
North Central	Carl Robinson, PDDGER (301)604-4153 carl.robinson@msn.com	West	Sandy Brantner, PDDGER (301)334-1263 sbrantner@iceweb.net
Southwest	Darwin Leatherman, PDDGER (301)862-4857 fltengdarwin@verizon.net		

Pin & Coin Sales Committee

Co-Chairmen	Richard Burg, PDDGER (302)368-4754 rjburg@verizon.net		Terry LaGier, PSP (302)697-3592 talagier@aol.com
District Coordinators			
Northeast	Greg Adams, PDDGER (302)442-7274 gw.adams1@verizon.net	Southeast	Mae Fleck, PDDGER (302)436-5315 fleckcpt@hotmail.com
North Central	Larry Mathers, PDDGER (410)760-2634 lmathers@bobbell.com	West	Henry Rinta, PDDGER (301)845-6705 beaglebebe@comcast.net
Southwest	Mike Greene, PDDGER (410)551-9696 daniel.m.greene@jci.com		

Thanksgiving in St. Thomas Raffle Committee

Chairman	Bill Buttrill, PSP (410)968-2455 bestplumber@verizon.net		
District Coordinators			
Northeast	Bonnie Bussard (410)538-4497 lesbon50@hotmail.com	Southeast	Gordon Taylor (410)623-3613 cindycynt@aol.com
North Central	Pat Larkins (301) 725-3121 plarkins2283@netscape.net	West	Tracy Harvey (301)387-2038 tharvey9@verizon.net
Southwest	Marilyn Leatherman (301) 862-4857	Florida	Judy Spurgin (321)725-9777 jhspurgin@msn.com

Fund Raising Activities

Pin & Coin Sales – see committee listing above
Basket Bingos – Carl & Beth Robinson (301)604-4153
April 13, 2008 Annapolis #622
April 21, 2008 Hagerstown #378
Spring Golf Tournament – Dave Wolcott (410)479-4877 (Lodge)
Thanksgiving St. Thomas Vacation Raffle – see committee listing above
Alaskan Carved Wooden Train Set Raffle – Priscilla Schwab (301) 871-1758

**MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ELKS ASSOCIATION
October Conference Reservations**



**Grand Hotel
2100 Baltimore Avenue
Ocean City, MD 21842
October 3 - 5, 2008**

Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, September 2nd

1. Weekend Package

Includes two nights accommodations on October 3 and October 4; Saturday Evening's State Association Dinner and Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings

Double Occupancy: \$345.00

Single Occupancy: \$292.50

2. Individual Room Rates

One Night \$120.00

Two Nights \$240.00

3. Dinner Only (Advanced Reservations Only - No tickets will be sold at the door)

One person \$30.50

Two persons \$61.00

Total amount due this reservation based upon above selections: \$ _____

Non-Smoking

Smoking



All Rooms are Double Queen Beds

Enclose payment with reservation and check payable to MD, DE and DC Elks Association:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Lodge: _____

MAIL TO:

**Gregory A. Wilkes, PSP
6134 W. Denney's RD
Dover, DE 19901
302-674-4157**

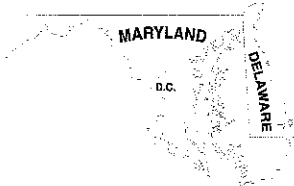
HAPPY TIME IN EASTON



PSP Vince Pingitore Jr., and his "Bevy of Beauties" pause during the January State Association Meeting held in Easton, MD. Shown from left: Connie DeYoung, Dover Lodge #1903 (VP Northeast District); Vince, Waldorf Lodge #2421; Martha Scully, Washington-Rockville Lodge #15; Susan Conlogue, Dover Lodge #1903 (State Tiler); and, President-Elect (and soon to be President) Priscilla Schwab, Washington-Rockville Lodge #15.

**MARYLAND, DELAWARE and
DISTRICT of COLUMBIA
ELKS ASSOCIATION**

A Fraternal Organization



George W. Hamilton, PSP
14172 Shelby Circle
Hagerstown, MD 21740
