



Maryland, Delaware AND District of Columbia

Elks Association News

A Fraternal Organization

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS
United States of America



Official Publication



JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH 2012



Richard Burg

President 2011-2012

Message from the State President

I welcome you to the Winter Workshop of the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association. Our Holiday season is once again history until next year. Sheila and I honestly hope all of you had the opportunity to share the joys of the season with family and friends.

Since our last Association Meeting, held in Ocean City, at the Princess Royale Hotel, I have visited fifteen of our Lodges as State President, plus three others as a Ritual Judge. In addition, I attend-

ed the New Jersey State Elks Association Fall Conference in Long Branch, NJ as their Guest for three days. In between my visits to our Lodges, I attended our State Soccer Shoot finals in Ocean City and worked as a score keeper. It was also my pleasure to address the contestants and their families during the award ceremonies held after the contest was completed.

As State President, I was invited to visit The Elks National Home for their Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony that included a reception by the Home Director, Dr. Ronald Plamondon and then a buffet dinner after the residents had finished their meal. While at the Home, I had the opportunity to have brief conversation with a member of Cape Henlopen Lodge No. 2540 who is a resident in the home. He has been there for a few years and is very content with the surroundings and the comforts of his apartment. I am sure though that he would appreciate an occasional note from any of his Lodge members that he knows.

I still have three Lodges to visit to complete my schedule. Because of the Holidays I have had to change visit dates a number of times to keep my commitments. I just hope that the weather will cooperate during these winter months. In all of the travelling I've done to date, only one Lodge visit had good weather each way! To date, I have traveled 4,509 miles, spent 103.5 hours on the roads and 73 hours actually in our Lodges. The time spent in New Jersey and at the Home is not included. The mileage to visit the Home is included but was not entered as an expense nor was the motel cost. I accepted an invitation to ride with another couple and did not drive to the Home.

This Winter Meeting will be conducted as a Workshop following the agenda printed elsewhere in this Newsletter. This agenda was presented for review to our Advisory Committee Chairman and our Grand Lodge Sponsor before being finalized.

As I traveled to different Lodges a number of things became apparent to me. I realized that there was a lack of

uniformity and knowledge of the procedures prescribed by our Constitution, Statutes, Manuals, Rituals and Protocols being used and followed in the Lodge meetings that I attended. This statement does not apply in its entirety to each Lodge but segments do. That is the reason for having my session on Statutes, Rules and Protocol on Saturday Jan. 14, 2012 at 11:00am. PSP Carl Robinson had as his motto: "Back to Basics". I am borrowing this phrase, without his permission, to emphasize the NEED for our Lodges, large and small, to review and use proper procedures during Lodge meetings. Also, I suggest the Obligation that was sworn to during initiation be reviewed to refresh its true meaning. The Oath of Office sworn to by each officer that was elected and installed should also be re-visited. As I said before, these statements do not apply to all of you officers but it does to enough of you to make it worth while to make it a blanket statement.

Fraternally,
Richard J. Burg

COMING EVENTS

January 13 - 15, 2012
Winter Workshop
Milford Lodge #2401

February 18, 2012
State Hoop Shoot
Whittier Rec. Center
Frederick, Maryland

March 11, 2012
State Ritual Contest
Annapolis, Maryland

March 23-25, 2012
GER Visit/Spring Conference
Camp Springs Lodge #2332

June 15-17, 2012
92nd State Convention
Turf Valley Resort • Ellicott City, MD

July 1 - 5, 2012
Grand Lodge Convention
Austin, Texas

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WINTER WORKSHOP OF THE MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ELKS ASSOCIATION MILFORD, DE

AGENDA - JANUARY 13, 14 & 15, 2012

Friday, January 13, 2012

Noon – 5:00 P.M. -----	Registration
1:00 P.M. -----	Advisory Meeting
1:00 – 4:00 P.M. -----	Committee Meetings as Requested by chairs
5:00 P.M. -----	State Trustees Meeting
5:30 P.M. -----	ECB Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2012

7:00 A. M. -9:00 A.M. -----	Buffet Breakfast
8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M. -----	Elks Camp Barrett Meeting
8:00 A.M. - Noon -----	Registration
9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. -----	All District DD Clinic - Hon. Paul D. Helsel, PGER
11:00 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. -----	Statutes, Rules, Protocol – Richard J. Burg, Pres.
11:45 A.M. -----	Announcements & Recess until 9:00 A.M. Sun.
Noon -----	Lunch
1:00 P.M. -----	Seminar on “WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SURVIVE IN HARD Times”, Maurice DiPoli, Chr., Audit and Business Practices
1:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. -----	Committee Chairs meeting with State President
1:30 P.M. –2:00 P.M. -----	Jernick Fund Comm. Meeting, Chr. John Loftus
2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. -----	Word Judge Clinic, Ritual Chair, Larry Mathers
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. -----	DDGERS meet with Hon. Paul D. Helsel, PGER
2:00 P.M. –4:00 P.M. -----	CLMS2 Meeting, Richard R. Reynolds
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. -----	Convention/Conference Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2012

7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. -----	Buffet Breakfast
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. -----	Registration
9:00 A.M. -----	Meeting Called to Order, Officer's Reports Reports by State Committee Chairs* Unfinished Business New Business Good of Association
12:00 Noon	Closing

*Notice to ALL: Reports are to be given by Committee Chairs. Information is to be forwarded to your **DISTRICT Chair** who will then forward all Lodge information to your **STATE COMMITTEE CHAIR** for consolidation and presentation to the Meeting Attendees.

Next Meeting Spring Conference, March 23-25, 2012, Camp Springs Lodge No.2332

Next Newsletter
Deadline:
March 1, 2012

GRAND LODGE

Much accomplished with strength in numbers



Grand Exalted Ruler
Hon. David R. Carr

No organization, no matter how large or small, can survive without members. This is why membership has often been referred to as the "Lifeblood of our Order."

The Order of Elks experienced tremendous membership gains during its first 110 years, resulting in Lodges being chartered in towns and cities nationwide. This gain was the result of "word of mouth" as there was little news media in those early days. Our membership grew until March 1980, when we had 1,649,267 Members. Ever since that date, however, membership has steadily declined. With fewer Members and rising

costs, many Lodges have faced serious financial difficulties. Some Lodges have ceased to exist or have had to merge with other Lodges.

In a majority of Lodges, the average member age is in the low to upper 60s. These Members once enjoyed the camaraderie at the Lodge and participating in Elks golf and bowling leagues. Today, many of these Members who were once very active seldom leave their homes except to go to the doctor or drug store. They no longer pay golf or bowling league fees because they are no longer able to play golf or bowl. Why should they pay Lodge dues when they can no longer frequent the Lodge? And many of our newer and younger Members have work and family commitments that prohibit their frequenting their Lodge.

The Lodge bulletin is the primary link

between Member and Lodge. Unfortunately, too many bulletins are focused on the Member who can frequent the Lodge. Since we all know that "A photo speaks a thousand words", I urge every bulletin editor to ensure that there is a photo of a child holding up a dictionary or Elks Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shoot trophy he or she just received, or a photo of a veteran, victim of disaster, or person with a disability who is being assisted by the Elks Lodge. By doing so, you will help to make those Members who are unable to frequent the Lodge proud to be Elks.

As I have said on many occasions, "Elkdom is in the Hearts and Souls of our Members." Reach out to those Members who cannot frequent the Lodge and share with them the good works that your Lodge is doing.

David R. Carr



Paul D. Hesel
PGER & SPONSOR

There is still time to end year on positive note

Welcome to the Milford Winter Conference in this new calendar year of 2012. Hopefully 2011 was a good year for each of you and your families. 2011 was an interesting year to say

the least, fraught with many challenges perhaps in our personal lives, as well as in our Elk lives with the many changes being adopted across our Order.

We still have a little over two months in the 2011/2012 lodge year, still time to address the challenges, make your goals, and end the year on a positive note. Where will your lodge be on March 31st related to membership, financial condition, community involvement, program participation, and adherence to operational requirements??

As we all should recognize, membership is our most daunting challenge. Losses continue to plague many of our lodges and then entire Order, making it very difficult to continue without making significant changes. Membership begins and ends with the individual lodge. Members don't join the National Organization; they join a lodge in a local community. What is your lodge in a local community doing to attract new members, and more importantly, what is your lodge doing to keep your current members?? Membership retention is a function of

what your lodge is doing to build a meaningful relationship with each and every member, making them feel welcomed, wanted and needed - as well as making the membership experience in your Elks Lodge rewarding and enjoyable. Success with membership retention and growth will yield success in the other areas that are most important to the operation of a successful **Elks** Lodge.

Financial stability is the next area that needs constant attention. Every lodge, both large and small, is a business and they must function as a business with a proper accounting system, proper checks and balances, and reliable and controlled revenue streams. Success with membership retention and growth will greatly enhance the financial stability of a lodge.

"Follow the Rules"!! As a chartered **Elks** Lodge, as a non-profit organization, as a local business there are a variety of rules and regulations that must be followed. Lodges in their daily and ongoing operation are expected and required to "follow the rules" and comply with State, Local, and Elk laws and regulations. Adherence to these requirements is but another key to success. "Follow the Rules"!!

Programs and Community Service rounds out an active Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, a lodge hopefully just like yours. The major programs of our Order serve the Veterans and Youth of our communities. They not only provide service to these two groups of our Society, but they also help to build and strengthen the relationship between

the lodge and the community and the lodge and its membership. Meaningful participation in our programs and individual lodge community involvement is again, a key to lodge success. If your lodge is not already participating, get involved in the Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Scholarship Program, Veterans Service Activity, Youth Golf, Tennis & Bowling, Elks Camp Barrett, as well as any other community service efforts your lodge chooses to pursue. The greater your efforts in our programs and community service, the more successful your lodge will be.

I have touched on four areas that make lodges truly **Elks** Lodges and on top of that "Successful Elks Lodges"!! Where does your lodge stand in this mix?? Is your lodge a "Successful **Elks** Lodge"??

As I started this message I noted it is a new calendar year and about to become (in a little over two months) a new lodge year. There is still over two months to make your lodge a "Successful **Elks** Lodge" and over fourteen months to make the 2012/2013 lodge year the very best your lodge has ever experienced!!

Best wishes to all for a successful and enjoyable Winter Conference and a successful and rewarding 2012/2013 lodge year. Please remember Successful **Elks** Lodges will survive, Social Clubs will not!!!

Sincerely and fraternally,
Paul D. Hesel
PGER & Sponsor

Message from the President-Elect:



Jim Stewart
PGER & SPONSOR

Once again, I must thank everyone for the cards, calls and emails sent me during my recovery.

Since I was recovering from bypass surgery, my duties were very limited. November 19th Sandy and I attended the Annual Charity Ball at Frederick Lodge #684. Representatives from local charities were in attendance to receive checks from the lodge. Congratulations to Frederick for a wonderful evening of charity at work.

I have attended the Elks Camp Barrett meetings in November and December, along with the State Trustees meetings, ECB Executive Committee meetings and the Convention and Conference Committee meetings.

I want to thank the Vice Presidents for forwarding their reports to me along with the lodges who are sending the newsletter. These help keep me informed on what is happening in the lodges within the Association.

I am looking forward to visiting with each of you in Milford.

Fraternally,
Jim



Bonnie Brussard
NE District VP

NORTHEAST VP REPORT

Since my last report, I attended the Fall Conference in Ocean City. I was honored when I was presented a jacket for the Hall of Fame for Elks Camp Barrett. I have attended 3 more Executive Board Committee Meetings and I am urging each Lodge in our District to please send at least one Member to the Representatives Meeting. Elks Camp Barrett is our State Major Project. I volunteered at the Scout Camporee in November where I helped serve over 900 scouts and

leaders. It is a lot of hard work, but it is fun and rewarding.

I have completed 3 Official Visits, Havre De Grace #1564, Chestertown #2474 and Milford #2401. I traveled with our State President to Abingdon #2354, Elkton #2618 and Dover #1903 and we will both finish our visits for the Northeast in mid-January. It has been a rewarding experience to listen to the good works the Northeast District has been involved in so far. Thank you for the hospitality you have shown me and my chauffeur, Les.

I had a great time at the Havre De Grace Bull and Oyster Roast this past fall, and had a chance to meet other Members from our District there. I was invited by the Junior Elks from Abingdon to attend a Halloween trick or treat party held at the Perry Point VA Medical Center. The Junior Elks dressed in costume and handed out 45 goody bags to the veterans. I hope to attend many more events held by the Northeast Lodges before the end of my term.

I am proud to report Veterans Remembrance month was a busy time for all 8 Lodges. Nice to see and hear that our slogan, "As long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them", is alive and well. At this time I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Havre De Grace Elks and all who volunteered for a last minute request from Perry Point to host a Christmas party for 130 veterans and care givers. Volunteers were from, Havre De Grace, Essex and Abingdon Lodges. Elkdom is alive and well in the Northeast District.

Fraternally,
Bonnie Bussard



Kelley Randolph
SW District VP

SOUTHWEST VP REPORT

Greetings from the GREAT SOUTH WEST! It has been a very busy fall, but I am happy to report a very enjoyable one. I visited Prince George's Lodge #1778 and was there when they received an award for 1st Place for their Veteran's Remembrance report. They have also started a Teenager of the Month program. I then went to St. Mary's Lodge #2092 with State President Richard Burg.

The officers did a commendable Initiation, all from memory!

Next in my travels was a visit to Deale Lodge #2528. They continue to do a fine job with both Grand Lodge and State Association programs; the Americanism Essays are out to their schools and they partnered with the Fire Department to raise money for the Jernick Fund. They also sponsor a 40 Wheel for Elks National Foundation at their Saturday Pizza Nights.

I next accompanied State President Burg to Waldorf Lodge #2421. They have started having Committee Chair meetings on Tuesday nights to brainstorm new ideas and ways to encourage

member participation and to bring in new members. They also held a very successful fund raiser for the son of one of their members who is battling leukemia.

My last stop was at Washington-Rockville Lodge #15, where their Ritual Team did an outstanding job with the Initiation Ritual, all from memory. They are also to be recognized for their recent activities detailed in the current issue of the Elks Magazine which highlighted their nine days of participation at the Montgomery County Fair.

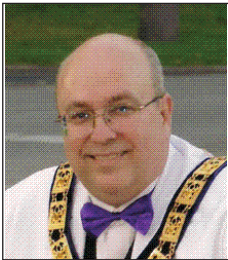
I look forward to visiting Calvert Lodge #2620, home of our DDGER Mary Cardinal-Vogt, and hearing more about the great work that they do with our Veterans at Charlotte Hall.

State President Burg will be visiting my Lodge, Camp Springs #2332 in January. Camp Springs currently holds first place in the ENF Chairman's Challenge and ranks 6th in the state for its overall contributions.

The SW District is truly striving to exemplify our President's motto: "Be Proud of Elkdom!"

Fraternally,
Kelley Randolph

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT VP REPORT



Rick Konrad
SE District VP

Happy New Year and greetings to all from the Southeast District! My travels since the October Workshop have taken me to the Kent Island Safety Day and Red Ribbon week kick off. This is a great event which the Kent Island Elks should be proud to

have helped get established and continue to support. Also congratulations to ER George Tunnicliff and his Lodge for presenting a check for \$4,000 to Scott King of Oregon for his "Ride for the Wounded" and to Annapolis Lodge for acting as host for a banquet in honor of Mr. King.

I have made the rest of my Official Lodge visits including Ocean City, Pocomoke, Kent Island and Crisfield. At all these visits I was treated with respect and was honored to be welcomed as a brother. It is evident from my visits that all of the Lodges are working hard at living up to the values of our order and are working to improve their Lodge homes and facilities.

Two themes that have become evident in almost all of my visits are the difficulty in recruiting volunteers and in recruiting new young members. I have mentioned in my remarks to those Lodges the need to really work to engage new members and to draw quality new Elks into our order utilizing technology and outreach.

Though quantity is important in membership recruiting please don't forget quality as you do your investigations and voting. People who truly believe in the values of our organization are more likely to be engaged in our work in the community and to volunteer in the Lodge and less likely to be on the delinquent list next year or cause trouble in the meeting or social room.

Our future lies with our younger members and we have to be willing to mentor them to be future leaders in our organization. The reins need to be handed over at some point and we all have to understand and work toward that goal.

I like to call the State Vice President's job a "shakin' hands and kissin' babies" position, and in that I mean that I get to not only visit Lodges at meetings but also to enjoy some of the social activities and fraternalism that makes the Elks so great.

Beside the Safety Day event in Kent Island I have also had the opportunity to join the Ocean City Elks at their hugely successful inaugural Cash Extravaganza Event on November 12th and the Cape Henlopen Lodge for breakfast the

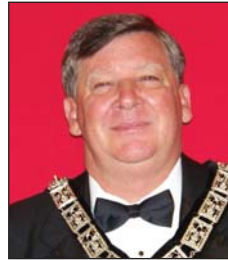
next morning. Both were fun times with my fellow Elks and thanks to all the wonderful volunteers that worked so hard to make those events a success.

During my almost 90 hours of work and over 1600 miles of travel this year as the Southeast District Vice President I have had the opportunity to stop by every Southeast Lodge and there

is one thing that has struck me about all of the Elks and Elks Lodges that I have visited and that is a sense of dedication to our order and a belief that although many of us are dealing with difficult times the basic values of brotherhood, justice, charity and fidelity does continue to shine above our members and light the way to better future.

Rick Konrad

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT VP REPORT



John Wald
NC District VP

Greetings from North Central!

I have been busy with visits to the North Central Lodges as the NC VP and NC Esquire to the NC DD.

Lodges in the NC are doing a good job and I would like to thank them for

the hospitality that was shown to me during my visits.

*Striving to preserve their current membership

*Attracting new members

*Very proud of the Charitable works that have been done within NC District!

I attended the Wounded Warrior affair held at the Annapolis Lodge and the Annapolis Lodge would like to personally thank the Kent Island Lodge for their generous donation to the Wounded Warriors Program.

Happy New Year to one and all!

John T. Wald, Sr.

FROM YOUR STATE SECRETARY:

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

If you wish to get on my mailing for the Minutes, send me an e-mail at jhwalrus@verizon.net (this is correct).

State Chairman, please start keeping your information for events, number of people, number of Elks and non-Elks, Elk and non-Elk miles, non cash donations, etc. Both Dave Wolcott and myself need this information for the State Charity

Report. This is for any State wide event such as Hands Across the border, Scout Camporee, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot.

Any one needing reimbursement for expenses must include a Request for Payment which can be found on the State Website under Reports and Forms.

Jim Harbour

UPCOMING SW DISTRICT CAUCUS

On January 21st, there will be a SW District caucus to determine the candidates for the upcoming election of State President-Elect for the MD-DE-DC Elks Association. There are three extremely qualified members seeking this most important position: Gary Eckenrode from Washington - Rockville Lodge #15, Maurice Di Poli from Waldorf Lodge #2421 and Carl Vogt from Calvert Lodge #2620. The caucus will be held at Camp Springs Lodge #2332 and will begin promptly at 10 am. All members of the South West District should plan to be at this very important meeting. The number of votes allotted to each Lodge is based on the total number of members as of April 1, 2011. All Lodges will receive ballots for the ER plus 6, for a total of seven. If a Lodge has more than 500 members, they are allotted 1 additional ballot for every 250 members over the 500.

The numbers are as follows:

Calvert Lodge #2620 513 members = ER + 6 + 1 = 8 ballots

Camp Springs Lodge #2332 330 members = ER + 6 = 7 ballots

Deale Lodge # 2528 361 members = ER + 6 = 7 ballots

Prince George's Lodge #1778 326 members = ER + 6 = 7 ballots

St. Mary's Lodge #2092 309 members = ER + 6 = 7 ballots

Waldorf Lodge # 2421 407 members = ER + 6 = 7 ballots

Washington-Rockville Lodge # 15 545 members = ER + 6 + 1 = 8 ballots

Please note that one ballot is specifically for the Exalted Ruler. If he or she is not present, that ballot will not be issued.

Fraternally, Kelley Randolph

William J. Jernick Fund Report

I would like to begin by thanking our President, Dick Burg, for the opportunity to serve as State Chair. Prior to this appointment I served as the Southeast District Chair and consider working with the William J. Jernick Fund a tremendous honor.

Recently I solicited suggestions from the District Chairs for topics that should be addressed in this report, as well as ideas to improve the process. Communication was identified as a critical component of our strategy going forward. This will allow us to get our program out to the member Lodges, "standardize" the application process, and fulfill our obligation to be a positive force in our communities. To accomplish this, I have compiled a package of relevant facts and forms that will be distributed to the District Chairs this weekend and they in turn will be charged with communicating this information to their respective Lodges.

As I am sure that you are aware; monies raised by the State Association and our member Lodges are invested, and the earned proceeds are divided annually six ways. Each State Association District, and Elks Camp Barrett, is allotted an equal portion of the available funds. While the actual earnings may vary from year to

year, each entity is normally allotted between Five and Eight Thousand Dollars per year. Unused funds from one District can be re-allocated to meet the needs of another District, on a case by case basis. Monies remaining unspent from the current year roll into the next. The Fund has distributed Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars in grants YTD. These distributions, which do not include the annual grant to Elks Camp Barrett, have gone out to in response to applications from each of our five Districts. As of December 4, 2011, the Fund has granted Fourteen Requests Averaging approximately One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars. As you can see there are many families who need our help.

Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Five Dollars have been contributed to the Fund YTD and added to the principal. Unfortunately, it is difficult to find investments that return sufficient dividends to provide adequate growth with dividends alone. As a result, we must continue to build and grow the principal to achieve sufficient earnings to fund our grants. Many of our member Lodges have included the Fund as a line item in their annual charity budgets. If this is not the case at your Lodge, please consider the Jernick Fund as you prepare you 2012-13 budget.

This is our Fund, maintained and managed by our Association, and works for us. If I, or your District Jernick Fund Chair, can be of assistance to your Lodge, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank you,
John Loftus, Chairman

HOOP SHOOT

If it is Winter Workshop time again, we must be right in the heart of Hoop Shot season and we are. Hopefully, all the Local shoots have either been conducted, or will be in the very near future, and we are ready to qualify our District Champions for the State Shoot in Frederick on Feb 18th.

The North Central District champs were crowned last Saturday in Towson and I am sure that they are practicing hard.

The Schedule for the other 4 Districts is as follows:

Northeast - Jan.28 at Dover HS at 9 AM

Southwest - Jan.29 at Broome Middle School in Rockville at 9 AM

Southeast - Feb.4 at the Salvation Army in Salisbury at 9 AM

West - Feb.4 at Whittier Rec Center in Frederick at 2 PM

All of the Local Lodge and District Directors have worked hard this year to make the Hoop Shoot a success and I am anxiously awaiting the final numbers to see if we attained our goals.

The Hoop Shoot is the one event in our order, that gets us out into the communities and lets people see the good we do. I know that there are always plenty of basketballs and people at all of our Shoots and I would encourage the Elks in charge of each shoot to have a poster of some sort present showing how the parents could become members. Make sure you have some membership applications available also. Strike while the iron is hot!

Our State contest will be held at Whittier Rec Center also. That date is Feb. 18th at Noon. As always, I will need plenty of help that day and encourage anyone who is interested to contact me. My information in the Directory is correct.

Our State Association will once again play host to the Regional Contest this year. It will be held at Middletown High School on March 17th.

This is my second year as State Director and it has been a little easier this go round, but we would not have the success we do without the hard work and devotion of the District Directors and those at the Local level. I can not express how thankful I am to all of you.

Remember, this contest isn't for us, it is for the kids.

I hope to see many of you in Frederick for the State Shoot.

Jack Boehmer
State Hoop Shoot Director



The Youth Tennis, Golf and Bowling 27th Tournament of Champions will again be held at Seven Springs Resort PA on July 22-24, 2012. This is the only athletic program for ages 14 to 18 to participate in Area II. Competition includes participants from Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky. Now is the time to contact your local high school athletic director for tennis and golfers. Check with your local bowling alley to see if they have a junior program. All you have to do is explain where the participants are coming from and I assure you they will be interested.

The following 2012 rates will help with upcoming lodge budgets:

Contestants	Chaperones
288.00 per person single occupancy	329.00 per person single occupancy
266.00 per person double occupancy	306.00 per person double occupancy
257.00 per person triple occupancy	292.00 per person triple occupancy

Rates include lodging and dinner on Sunday night, breakfast, lunch, dinner and lodging on Monday, and breakfast and lunch on Tuesday.

Our State Association, through ENF, helps each lodge financially by reimbursing a portion of the participant's fees. Last year each lodge that requested reimbursement received fifty percent return.

Application forms are available on www.mddedcelksassn.org and www.paelks.org

Edward "Pete" Peterson
Chairman

LODGE ACTIVITIES

All American Lodge Contest A

It is never too late to take stock of the accomplishments of your lodge. One of the ways in which you can be recognized for them is participation in the All American Lodge Contest A Certification program. State Vice Presidents are district chairs for the lodge activities program and they assist me by bringing attention to the opportunity to participate in this program during their visits to each lodge.

Throughout your lodge year you engage in efforts to respond to the requirements of the Grand Lodge associated with lodge administration as well as participation in Grand Lodge programs. Since you are already doing these things, I am asking you to help me in my efforts to bring you recognition for the work that you are doing.

If Exalted Rulers have not already done so, I am requesting that they assign someone in each lodge the responsibility of completing the All American Lodge Contest A form. It is best to do that now rather than wait until the last minute. It is available on the Grand Lodge web site. District chairs (State VPs) can help you get a copy or I can provide you with the form. You

can contact me at spadonecharles@aol.com or call me at 240-475-0684.

Entries must be postmarked to District Deputies no later than 15 March 2012. The entry requires signature by the lodge secretary attesting to membership as of 31 March 2011 and review of the scoring with signature by the Exalted Ruler. District Deputies must complete and verify the points earned column, sign the form and forward to me no later than 01 April 2012. I will forward entries to the Grand Lodge for consideration. I will provide the names of the winning lodges in each membership category at the Summer Conference. Each lodge that submits an entry will be recognized.

Last year, 9 lodges participated. I am asking all of you to help me increase that number when the current year comes to a close.

Thank you,

Charles A. Spadone
Chairman
Lodge Activities
MD, DE and DC ELKS
Association

DRUG AWARENESS

I attended the drug awareness and safety day at the Bay Bridge Airport the end of October and we had the Hands Across The Border celebration. It was a beautiful day and about 1000 people were in attendance for the day.

Since the beginning of the year we have sent out over 5000 pieces of literature and gave out over 2000 give away items.

Dover Lodge has been the first to order a literature stand to place in the community to help get the word out about our great program. Remember if your Lodge would like to put one in a hospital or a library at a cost of \$100, the drug awareness program will pay the rest and the shipping.

Fraternally,
Ben Stone
State Chairman

Grand Lodge Public Relations Contests

The Best Image of Elkdom

(a photo which tells a story about an Elk Community Activity without words)

& Focus on the Community

send in 2 copies of an Elk-related activity newspaper or magazine article which contains photo(s) of the sponsored event. The Elk causing the article to be published should be identified, along with Lodge Name/Number and State.

Winning entries from each of the Grand Lodge Areas selected 3 times a year (Oct., Feb. & March) will receive plaques and be eligible for national contest award at the Grand Lodge convention.

AREA 2: (DE, DC, MD, NJ and PA) should submit entries to: Richard F. Gathen, 123 Brendona Ave., Stanhope, NJ 07874-2027; e-mail: gathen@optonline.net; 973-398-2097 (H); 201-217-2593 (W).

Grand Lodge Contest Due Dates:

- Bulletin Contest - Contest D - January 15, 2012
- State Association Bulletin Contest - Contest I - January 15, 2012
- Elks Memorial Service Contest - Contest C - February 15, 2012
- All American Lodge - Contest A - March 15, 2012
- Community Service and Image Contest - Contest B - March 15, 2012
- Best Single Event - March 15, 2012
- Elks National Foundation Contest - Contests E, F, G, H and J -
- All Lodges must have submitted contributions by March 31, 2012
- Citizen of the Year - March 31, 2012
- Elk of the Year - March 31, 2012
- Officer of the Year - March 31, 2012
- GER's Outstanding Service Certificates to Members - March 31, 2012
- GER's Awards for Exalted Rulers and Subordinate Lodges - March 31, 2012
- GER's Award Pins for Outstanding Members - June 30, 2012

AMERICANISM PROJECT

Present Classroom Flags to every school



The goal of the classroom Flag Program is to ensure that every class displays an American flag in good condition.

To make it easy for all the lodges to implement this important program, a two by three foot cotton United States Classroom Flag with bracket and spear staff, code No. 540500, can be purchased from office of the Grand Secretary.

Write an article with a Photograph of the presentation, and take it to the editor of your local newspaper for publishing.

Remember your Lodge is the connection to the community.

Mary Cardinal-Vogt
Americanism Chairman



Now's Your Chance

The Elks National Home Has Vacancies

Now is your chance. For the first time in quite awhile there are several vacancies in the apartments at the Elks National Home. So, if you are interested in residency or even in getting more information for the future, please call or e-mail the Home. It doesn't cost you a thing to check it out. Just call 1-800-552-4140 or e-mail enhome@elkshome.org. They will be glad to talk with you and answer your questions.

MD, DE, DC State Assn. Elks Residents of Elks National Home:
Sheridan Besossa from Cape Henlopen Lodge #2540 and
Charles Blumenour from Frederick Lodge #684

SOCCER REPORT

It is hard to believe that 2011 has come and gone and we are beginning a new year! I am happy to report that all of the Local, District and State Soccer contests have been completed and things went well. But...our season is not over! We will be taking a break for a couple of months but the competition will spring back to life in March.

The State Soccer Shoot was held in Ocean City, MD on October 22, 2011. Once again the contest was well attended and offered close and exciting competition. After the contest all contestants received a trophy and a soccer ball and they beamed with pride as they individually accepted their prize. The soccer balls that we present to all participants are provided by our Drug Awareness Committee and I want to thank Ben Stone for providing them and personally delivering them to me one rainy afternoon.

The winners in each category at the Ocean City contest are now our State Champions and they are: Girls first; Emily Hinman(U-8 Girl-Crisfield), Grace Fetterman(U-10 Girl-Milford), Wendy Lara(U-12 Girl-Milford), Danielle Dixon(U-14 Girl-Milford) and the boys are; Zachery Kidd(U-8 Boy-Hagerstown), Evan Riggin(U-10 Boy-Crisfield), Kyle Strassle(U-12 Boy-Milford) and Jonathan Taylor(U-14 Boy-Crisfield). I must report that little Emily Hinson the U-8 girl from Crisfield kicked a perfect score of 45! That is quite an accomplishment for such a young contestant. Congratulations Emily!

These eight State Champions will now advance to the next level and travel to Carlisle, PA to proudly represent our association in the Region II, Mid-Atlantic contest on the weekend of March 9-11, 2012. There they will compete against their counterparts from West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and possibly Michigan. I know they will do us proud and perhaps they will perform well enough for us to bring home top trophy. With another stellar performance from little Emily they just may be inspired to do that.

As I reported, the State contest was exciting and as always a great event and I must say that a big part of it's success is due to the tremendous support of Ocean City Lodge 2645. They handle most of the logistics including arranging for us to use the Northside Park indoor soccer arena and for the past two years they have hosted the awards ceremony and trophy presentations at their lodge. Their newly renovated facilities and good food has added a lot of "class" to our act. I will now personally thank Lowell(Rocky) Rockwell PER, TP Simons PER, Carroll Wagner PER/PSP and his wife Tony, Roger Wilbrandt PER, Jim Harbour PER, Pete Peterson as well as the officers and members, Thanks Ocean City!

Now for some information about the next event, the Region II, Mid-Atlantic contest. Once again the date is March 9-11, 2012 and it will be held in Carlisle, PA. This is a fun filled weekend of competition and camaraderie for the kids and their families. The contestants will all

receive trophies, awards and even uniforms and warm up jackets personalized with their name and State Association, all of this at no cost to them or their family.

With that said I will now issue a plea for support. The Region II Soccer committee publishes an Ad journal and sells Booster name sign up sheets to help fund the contest. This fundraiser drives the Regional program. This contest, unlike others, is funded primarily by the Ad journal and with your help we can continue to provide a first class competition. Any and all ads are most welcomed and they can be from State Associations, Lodges, individuals, businesses, or even Moms and Dads wishing their kids well. Ads are (\$50/1/2 pg), (\$100/full pg) and Booster names can be listed in the journal for \$3 each. I know that these are financially trying times but please reach in your pockets, dig deep and donate what you can. The contest is not until March so put a little aside to buy an ad or support a Booster sheet. I would especially like to encourage those lodges who had winners at the State level and are sending contestants to Carlisle to support this fundraiser. If you are interested and need an ad form or booster sheet see me or your District Chairperson. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated and are used solely to defray costs of the contest.

Thank you and please wish our kids good luck in Carlisle!

Myron (Butch) Morgan, PDDGER
State Soccer Chairman

State Soccer Shoot Winners



Pictured from left to right on the first row are Evan Riggin; Grace Fetterman; Zachery Kidd and Emily Hinman. Second Row: Ron Lamot, PSP; Jonathan Taylor; Danielle Dixon; Kyle Strassle; Wendy Lara and Myron Morgan, PDDGER.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Remember, lodge services are a privilege, not a right. This is a quote from the State Accident Prevention Newsletter to remind us that every lodge must be strict with their service policy of cutting the patron off early before intoxication. In many states, claims can be made against the person who served the alcohol no matter how culpable the Lodge is. Inform your staff and let them know that they are in charge at the bar and may cut off a member when they see fit to do so.

Does your lodge have Directors and

Officers Insurance?? If you don't, and you know who you are, you are leaving your lodge and its officers wide open for claims. Many items are covered under D&O Insurance and your policy will explain these. AON Affinity Services gives the broadest coverage and also provides a discount for Elks Lodges.

Remember, your lodge should establish a strictly enforced policy that children of members and guests are to be properly supervised while on Lodge premises. They should not be allowed

to run freely and be kept out of areas where alcohol is being served.

Does your lodge have safety devices such as fire, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in place? If you rent your facility, some states require these devices be provided. Entrances and exits must be properly constructed, easily accessible and clearly marked. All codes must be complied with. As always, make sure your chairs, stools, handrails, etc are sturdy and safe.

Jim Stewart

RITUAL REPORT

The annual District judging is complete. The winning district teams are:

- NE - Dover Lodge No. 1903**
- SE - Pocomoke Lodge Np. 1624**
- NC - Anapolis Lodge No. 622**
- W - Frederick Lodge No. 68**

We had a Floor Judges Clinic at the Frederick Lodge on October 16th. It was very well attended and I want to thank Frederick

Lodge for hosting the event. I am trying to set up a Floor Judges Clinic in February in the North East District, but there several State Events already set for February, check your calendar for a Saturday or a Sunday and let me know at this session. As usual the lodge hosting will have coffee and donuts at 9:30 am and the Clinic starts at 10:00. After a lunch break, the Lodge Officers will perform. This is a great opportunity for all

officers to attend this clinic and pick up something to do a better job. Also, any PER or current ER wishing to re-certify or to become a Ritual Judge can do so.

This years State Ritual Contest will be held at the Annapolis Lodge on Sunday March 11th.

Larry Mathers
State Chairperson

2012 MD-DC-DE Elks Association "Caribbean Escape"

BOOK
NOW!



There's
Still
Time!

DREAMS Resort - Punta Cana / Dominican Republic

See for yourself at: <http://www.dreamsresorts.com/drepc/>

Contact: LINDA CLEVELAND at Antietam Travel to book your reservation:

800-722-3489 or linda@ats.travel

Seats are still available! Join over 100 other ELKS in a Tropical Paradise to benefit Camp Barrett

Book by Thursday February 2, 2012

Auditing & Business Practices Quarterly Report 01/14/12

Our **State Association Finances** for 2010-2011 are within budget, from May 1st through November 30, 2011. The State Association has earned \$360,460.00 up \$5,568.93 from the August 31st income of \$354,891.07 of the \$412,630.00 Budget or 87.36% up 1.35% from the August report 86.01% of Income. Expenses for the same time period are: \$304,518.88 up \$99,665.62 from the August report of \$204,853.26 or 73.8% up from 49.65% of Budgeted Expenses. Or a Net Ordinary Income of \$66,871.03 down \$68,480.76, from August 31st of \$135,350.79. What does this mean? Our budget shows income of \$52,169.16 still needed and our expenses are \$108,111.12 below budget. The new budget will show additional cuts within our budget and they are needed if we are to recover and remain solvent in the future. This trend must continue so we may bill up our reserves for rainy days are still ahead. Our Camp will need more repairs as it gets

older and more reserve will be needed in the coming years.

Elks Camp Barrett Finances from May 1, through November 30, 2011 are within budget. The Camp has earned \$342,730.18 up \$42,241.95 since August 31st of \$300,488.23 or 94.8% up 11.68% of its budgeted income of \$361,520. Expenses for the same time period were \$312,024.56 up \$270,187.54 or 74.74% of Budgeted Expenses. Or a Net Ordinary Gain of \$30,705.62.

State Association Balance Sheet through September 7, 2011: Checking/Savings assets of \$557,995.07 down \$79,518.22 from August of \$637,513.29. Total Fixed Assets (Building & Equipment) of \$866,171.16 less accumulated depreciation of \$377,452.00, for a total fixed assets of \$488,719.16, these figures remain unchanged. Other assets: Cash in Escrow, Edward Jones ECB Invest Account of \$27,211.47 up \$106.90 from August \$27,104.57. For Total Assets of \$1,079,525.82 down

\$80,107.87 from August \$1,159,633.69. What does this mean? We are still holding our own, and we must continue to watch spending.

The State Trustees have been working on the budget and should present it at the January workshop.

I will be giving a new training session at Milford Lodge, on Sat. Jan. 14th, @ 1:00PM, Title: "What does it Take to Survive in Hard Times." Handouts will be available, along with a question and answer period. If lodges would like me to look over their financial data, I'll be happy to give an opinion, but I need two

years of data. If your lodge is in financial trouble and many are, don't be afraid to ask for help! Maybe this new seminar will help your lodge?

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

Fraternally yours,
Maurice B Di Poli, PDDGER
State Chairman Auditing &
Business Practices

Reprinted from GL Newsletter, December 2011 Membership Committee Message:

Monitoring progress toward membership gain

by James A. Coggins
Committee Member

Any successful endeavor requires constantly monitoring its progress. Nowhere is this more important than in meeting our Membership goal for growing our Order with new dedicated Elks while retaining existing Members

None of us would leave on a trip without checking maps for the best route. During the trip, we would monitor our progress just as we must monitor our Membership Progress to ensure we are going to arrive at a MEMBERSHIP GAIN at the end of our trip (end of the Lodge year).

We must constantly check the CURRENT STATUS of membership in each Lodge. CURRENT STATUS is determined by: Start of Year Membership total plus Gains minus Losses minus Delinquents equal CURRENT STATUS.

All of us - Grand Lodge Committeemen, State Chairmen, District Chairmen, Lodge Chairmen, Exalted Rulers, Lodge Secretaries and Members - must constantly monitor our progress. One of the best ways to keep Members informed is to post the CURRENT STATUS in the Lodge room.

At Elks.Org you will find many tools to assist with growing membership, but these tools will be of little or no value unless they are used.

For Local Lodges, the major benefit of monitoring your progress is that all Members can see where the Lodge stands. On the State and District levels, the major benefit of monitoring progress is that our leaders can see where the Lodges are and assist them in obtaining gains.

Work your plan, monitor your plan and make any necessary adjustments, and you will have a gain in membership for your Lodge!

Carl F. Vogt, PDD
State Membership Chairman

ENF Happenings within the MDDEDC Elks Association

As of November 30, 2011, our association of 21,672 has donated \$107,755.28 and we are at \$4.972 per member. Our Association has made the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal of \$4.50 per member!! A current update will be given at our meeting in Milford. The following lodges have made the Grand Exalted Ruler's goal of \$4.50: Annapolis #622, Essex #1866, Laurel #2283, Newark #2281, Abingdon #2354, Milford # 2401, Salisbury #817, Easton #1622, Pocomoke City #1624, Seaford #2458, Cape Henlopen #2540, Kent Island #2576, Ocean City #2645, Washington-Rockville #15, Camp Springs #2332, Calvert #2620 and Westminster #2277 for a total of 17 lodges. Kent Island #2576, Laurel #2283, Abingdon #2354, Seaford #2458, and Washington-Rockville #15 have also made the State President goal of \$9.00 for a total of 5 lodges. We are well on our

way to surpassing our contributions of \$192,112.94 which were given during 2010-2011.

I hope that all of the lodges that have made the GER goal are applying for their Community Grant. Thank you to all of these lodges for their contributions thus far. We have along way to go to make our yearly goal. Please let me know of any ideas that you have for making your lodge's goal. I would like to share them with all of the association. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail, cfinley@ccboe.com, with any questions or concerns. Your district chairmen will also be able to help you. In the North Central District, contact Jackie Barnes; Northeast District, contact Ed Pettit; Southeast District, contact Roberta Maycrantz; Southwest District, contact Catherine Simanek and in the West District, contact Sandy Brantner.

Claudia Finley-Bowalick

Kent Island Elks Safety Day Huge Success!!

The weather was perfect and the crowd was large as the Kent Island Elks, Lodge #2576, hosted their 8th Annual Drug Awareness/Safety Day Event, Sunday, October 23rd at the Bay Bridge Airport.

Special thanks to Trident Aircraft for use of their hanger and to the United Communities Volunteer Fire Department who provided the bicycle helmets to our youth. Twenty-six vendors provided their displays inside the hanger and thirty-four police, fire, EMS, Military, tow trucks, race cars and safety vehicles from many local, county and state agencies as well as local businesses were on display along with the performances of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, Queen Anne's Sheriff's K-9, Department of Natural

Resources Police K-9.

The ceremony to honor our Veterans was presented by the Sudlersville Middle School "Thunderbird" Band under the direction of Mr. Ron Demby along with the presentation of Colors by the Freestate Challenge Academy Color Guard from Aberdeen, Md.

The event concluded with the RED RIBBON "Kick Off" for the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks Association in honor of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena, who gave his life combating the War on Drugs and to honor our law enforcement agencies that continue combating the drug problems that affect our communities throughout the nation.

The Kent Island Elks "Thank you" for supporting this event.

