



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



This month is a time of action for your Lodge

September is the month to get your Lodge in order. Officers and committee members should arrange a meeting to ascertain what Grand Lodge, state, and local programs are on the horizon, and then work out details concerning Lodge participation. Encourage new ideas that could blossom into an original program and fully support the effort. Seeds of inspiration that are well-nurtured often grow and blossom into something truly extraordinary. Don't be afraid to think outside the box.

Success begins with teamwork, and this is especially true of your Membership Committee. Work as a team to contact lapsed Members and find out why they haven't paid their dues. Many times, the Member simply forgot, and a



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MICHAEL T. LUHR

friendly reminder solves the problem. On occasion a Member may be upset about something, or have some other issue that prevented him or her from staying up to date. Check in with the Member and give an opportunity to express any concerns. Do your best to make sure that lapsed Members feel as though they are an essential part of your Lodge, and remind them of all

of the amazing work you're doing for your community.

Now is also the time to assess your community involvement thus far in the year and consider ways to expand that contribution. There is no greater Elks virtue than Charity, so make sure your Lodge is doing its part and take great pride in your accomplishments. One of the best ways to show your Elks Pride is by making sure your community knows all about your hard work. Invite the media to one of your events and promote your good deeds.

It's also important to record your good deeds with your Lodge Secretary and make sure your charitable works are being continually reported to the Grand

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Permanent records must stay that way

Each year, many of our Local Lodges have new and inexperienced Lodge Secretaries. As such, there is a learning curve every new and continuing Secretary must navigate in order to manage this important responsibility, as well as the continuing education of our Constitution, Statutes, plus our CLMS2Web and PC membership programs.

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

A word to the wise: *NEVER* destroy or discard paper membership applications and records. Those documents are the only records available. It is the responsibility of the Local Lodge to maintain the records indefinitely.

Sure, there is CLMS2, which launched 10 years ago this fall, but a vast majority of the pre-2008 membership records were never entered into the program. Those records need to be maintained in case a former Member requests a Reinstatement, a Certificate of Release, or other membership information.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

State Drug Awareness Chairs gather at Grand Lodge Session

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Public Relations Director

State Chairs from across the nation gathered in San Antonio two days prior to the opening of the 150th Grand Lodge Session. Beginning at 7 a.m. Saturday, the Chairs had two full days of training.

Highlights of the training included presentations from DEA Agent Sean Fearn, Chief of DEA Community Outreach, who spoke about the Opioid Initiative (DEA 360) in which the Elks have played a significant role; Ray Lozano, the Nation's Leading Speaker regarding Drug Awareness and the National Spokesperson for the Elks DAP, who spoke about effects and trends; and Bob Sabouni, who spoke about how the Elks' video with SMOSH, a sketch comedy YouTube channel, has been viewed more than one million times.

State Chairs were trained on the many aspects of the DAP, including items included in "War Chests" used to help educate children, parents, schools, and communities.

On the Tuesday of convention, the DAP conducted a two-hour open house where nearly 600 participants were treated to "Everything You Want to Know About the Elks Drug Awareness Program, But Are Afraid to Ask!" Attendees received a 150th Commemorative DAP Challenge Coin and a T-shirt. Many State Chairs participated in the afternoon program.

Kent D. Gade, the National Director of the Elks DAP, summed it all up by saying "It truly was a busy week for some of the hardest working individuals in all of Elkdom!"

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GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Unity is goal of Soccer Shoot

By **WAYNE D. COTTERLY**
Committee Member

Soccer is one of the fastest growing sports in the country, so it's no wonder why the Elks created the Soccer Shoot program.

For more than 20 years, the Elks Soccer Shoot has provided youngsters with a safe activity that challenges them to improve their skills and gives them an alternative to drugs. The competition also gets kids active, turning them away from ever-present technological distractions such as smartphones and video games.

The program is easy to run and doesn't cost a lot of money. It's simply a matter of organizing a group of Lodge Members and volunteers to run the two events in the program, the 5-Goal Contest and the Grid Goal Contest. Information on these contests are available in the Soccer Shoot Manual on elks.org on the Grand Lodge Activities Committee web page under "Manuals."

Every Lodge is encouraged to hold at least one Soccer Shoot each year. If your Lodge is having difficulty getting participants, it is recommended that you organize and publicize your event well in advance. In addition, there are many youth organizations in your communities with which you can partner. Try contacting or inviting your local schools, recreation

departments, soccer clubs, summer camps, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCA, YWCA, Scouts, and other local youth organizations to participate.

Once you hold your event, make sure that your Lodge enters the event information in the Elks Charity Records on line 1103—Athletic Programs—Soccer Shoot. It is *very important* that this information is entered on this line. The Grand Lodge Activities Committee will use this information to bring the Soccer Shoot program back to the national level again.

To see if your Lodge's information has been entered for this year, visit elks.org and look under Reports > Charitable Reports > Pending Charitable Reports and select your Lodge. If you don't see the Soccer Shoot listed, please contact your Lodge Chairman or Exalted Ruler to assure that this information is entered.

Community involvement is the future of Elkdom, and by making your Lodge visible in the community, your Lodge will benefit by allowing others to see what the Elks do. This can help attract younger members into the Order. There are many Grand Lodge program opportunities that serve our young people, of which the Soccer Shoot is only one. Give it a try: You'll soon discover that the Elks Soccer Shoot Program—It's a Kick!

Lodges spearhead relief efforts in Texas and Florida

By **JAMES S. MASON**
Committee Member

At the Grand Lodge Convention in San Antonio, Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt informed us that almost \$300,000 had been given to the Disaster Relief Program. The money has been used to assist those in need from the hurricanes that struck Texas and Florida in 2017. Thank you to all the Elks and the Lodges that made this possible.

Now we are in a new year and more national disasters are coming. Wildfires have swept across a number of states. The south and southeast areas are preparing for hurricane season. Hawaii has already experienced destruction from the erupting volcano on the Big Island. Once again, we are requesting that all Elks and Lodges consider making contributions through the Grand Secretary's Office in Chicago. We are all part of a big family and what affects one affects all.

Many Lodges have contacted their local government offices to see how the Elks can help their communities. How about your Lodge?

Thank you to all who have been so faithful to responding to the needs of others.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Last year's donations well surpass \$1 million a day

By **ROBERT A. GUILLEN**
Committee Chairman

At the convention in San Antonio in July, I reported \$675,985,245 as the final total for our fraternal year 2017-2018 on our Survey of Volunteer, Youth, Charitable and Community Service Programs. This is up from the 2016-2017 year end of \$334,292,982.

We had set a goal of \$365 million so that we would report more than \$1 million a day in donations. Well, that total is \$1,852,014 a day and worth sharing. Post this in your Lodge bulletin and web site.

Reporting the figures is crucial. We must continue to maintain our statistics to remain a non-profit organization.

Our goal in the Government Relations Committee is to assist the Lodges with matters regarding government entities. When we are able to explain to members of the different Government Agencies, Senators, Representatives, Congress, and

licensing and regulating departments, we can show them statistics of our charitable donations and work.

Our representative in Washington, D.C. can use all of this information to continue our attempts to change and improve the UBIT (Unrelated Business Income Tax), which would benefit all Lodges. We will continue to take our issue to the IRS and others to eventually make the changes necessary.

Our committee's goals and objectives are in our Grand Lodge manual, which can be downloaded from the Grand Lodge web site. Print a copy and follow the suggestions in it in dealing with government entities, with sample letters to legislators and public officials.

The section about using the internet to find and monitor legislation that may affect our Order is essential. Every state government has different rules to guide you through that process, but once you deal with the entity that produces the

documents for the legislators, monitoring is simple. Excel spreadsheets are also available for Lodge and State Association Secretaries to make their reporting easier and more effective.

Other issues involving our Lodges and membership is responsible service of alcohol at our Lodges and to guests. Adhering to all state laws and regulations keeps us safe and maintains the integrity of our membership.

IRS audits of some of our Lodges and other non-profit organizations are still occurring. If your Lodge is contacted for an audit, contact your District Deputy, your State Sponsor, and the office of the Grand Secretary. There are procedures in place to assist you in these matters.

In the manual, there is also a section in educating members on Public Accommodations and other laws that directly affect day-to-day operations and how to comply with these laws.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Leaving a Legacy for college kids

By TAYLOR ODISHO
ENF Communications Assistant

More than a third of the 150 Elks scholars who attended the National Convention in July were Legacy Award recipients.

Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships available only to dues-paying Elks' children and grandchildren who are seniors in high school. To be eligible, the Elks sponsor had to have joined the Order on or before April 1, 2016, or be a charter member of a Lodge instituted on or after April 1, 2016. Sponsor dues must be paid through March 31, 2019.

This year, 300 Legacy Awards will be given to help these students—possible future Elks—set out to change the world. It's also opening the door to Elkdom to recipients like Corynn Lewis, 2018 Legacy Award winner sponsored by Princeton, NJ Lodge No. 2129.

"Becoming an Elks Legacy scholar is incredibly humbling, as it makes my journey in higher education financially possible as well as invites me into the Elks



Hannah Morley, sponsored by Bath, ME Lodge No. 934, received the Legacy Award in 2016 and participated in the 150 for 150 Service and Celebration Trip in San Antonio in July.

community," Lewis said. "Additionally, it is incredibly meaningful because it honors the connection between me and my grandparents."

Eligible students can apply at enf.elks.org/leg. Applications are open until 11:59 a.m. Central Time on February 1, 2019.

Start your legacy by encouraging eligible family members to apply, passing along the opportunity to other Elks, and donating to the Scholarships Fund at the ENF. Today's scholars could be tomorrow's Elks.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Web site contests spread Elks' message

By WILLIAM J. SCHRAN
Committee Member

The need to keep our Members informed about the activities in our Lodges and throughout our states is very important to our organization. By using our local web sites, Facebook pages and our State Association web sites, we can pass this important information through the internet to our Members, non-Members, other Lodges, and states. These tools will increase membership and spread the word of who the Elks are and what good the Elks do for our communities.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is encouraging your participation in our two annual web site contests, Local Lodge Website and State Association Website. Work on those sites and keep them current for the people who look at them. This information is important for everyone concerned.

Local Lodges who wish to participate should compete in their state contest to have a state winner. If that contest does not exist, they then send their applications to their Area Representative on the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee, where judging for the Local Lodge representing

that state will be selected.

Local Lodge Website Contest Administrator is William J. Schran and the State Association Website Administrator is Robert R. Hinkle.

Both contests are due October 1 and the applications and contest rules can be found at elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm.

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Lodge via the web site. It's much easier to keep up with reporting as it occurs rather than trying to play catch-up. This is also true of the All-American Lodge Contest, so be sure to track your Lodge's accomplishments throughout the year.

September also marks the end of the second financial quarter, so it's time to review Lodge budgets and make adjustments as necessary. Patriotism Week is October 10-16, Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31, and the GER class runs the whole month of October, which means now is the time to start making plans. ENF Month is also in October, so this month is the perfect time to plan a fundraiser that helps your Lodge meet the \$4.75 per Member goal.

GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Follow the leader by reaching out

By ANDREW COSTELLO
Committee Member

Our Grand Exalted Ruler is among the first to communicate with our new Members, sending out a personalized welcome letter to every person who joins the Order. He also spends an entire year touring the nation, visiting Associations, and communicating personally with Members. Our Association Presidents, DDs, and VPs follow that example when visiting Districts and Lodges and communicating with officers and Members.

Disseminating information and establishing personal connections with the officers and Members are crucial to these dedicated ambassadors of our Order. The key to success lays in the power of good communication.

It is equally important for us as Lodge officers and committee chairpersons to communicate with our chairpeople and Lodge Members. Although we are challenged to keep an eye on the big picture, we must not forget that the key figures are our Members.

The success of a Lodge depends on the frequent communication between its officers and Members. The success of a committee chairperson depends on how well he or she communicates with the people serving on that committee.

So we must ask ourselves how well are we communicating. Why not follow our Grand Exalted Ruler's example? Be out-and-about among your Members. Send a personal welcome letter to every new Member. Place positive messages in newsletters and e-mail distributions. Be a communicator.

Are we communicating with the people on our committees? Phone a new Member to invite him or her to participate in your upcoming committee event, or just to say thanks again for having helped on a completed committee project. How about communicating with our communities? Have a presence in your area by participating in civic events and by sending a Lodge representative to city council meetings. Broadcast the news of your Lodge's wonderful charitable programs on your building's signage. Communicate the good news of your Lodge on social media and in community newspapers.

Whatever your role in Elkdom, remember that good communication is essential in all that we do.

Nearly 16,000 hides produce 3,336 gloves for vets

By DENNIS McALEESE
Leather Program Chair



The Elks National Veterans Service Commission reports that the Leather Program this year has topped the million dollar mark in value. We had 15,983 hides donated by 16 states. With the donated hides, we were able to distribute 3,336 fingerless gloves to our most deserving veterans.

Full-fingered gloves are available for purchase through the Leather Program Chair. Craft kits are available to order by your Lodge Veterans Chair for helping veterans in your community. Voluntary service representatives can order gloves for the veterans at the facilities they serve.

Congratulations to the top three states in donating deer and elk hides in 2017-18. Missouri donated 6,665 hides; Iowa donated 3,472 hides; and Arkansas donated 2,458 hides.

Full program statistics are to the right and below!

Total hides donated: 15,983.
Veterans wheelchair gloves distributed: 3,336. At \$25 each, sales earned \$83,400.
Crafting leather distributed, hospitals and clinics: 4,854 square feet. At \$4.50 per square foot for \$21,843.
Crafting leather donated to help hospitalized veterans: 104,160 square feet. At \$4.50 per square foot for \$468,720.
Crafting kits manufactured / distributed by (HHV): 44,964. Exact value unknown.
Crafting kits distributed by Elks: 3,074. Valued at \$102,473.13.

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

September 2018

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
Permit No. 5244

16 states donated salted hides

Missouri	6,665
Iowa	3,472
Arkansas	2,458
South Carolina.....	910
Nebraska.....	900
Colorado	610
West Virginia	165
Tennessee.....	145
Minnesota	132
Wisconsin	123
Michigan	110
New Jersey	100
New Mexico.....	62
Illinois	50
North Carolina	40
Connecticut	16

96 glove orders from 27 states

Illinois	12	New Jersey	3
Colorado	8	New Mexico.....	3
Arizona	7	Nevada	3
Minnesota	7	New York.....	3
Washington	6	Arkansas	2
Florida.....	5	Louisiana.....	2
Texas	5	Kansas.....	2
Wyoming.....	5	Oklahoma	2
Kentucky.....	4	Iowa	1
Missouri.....	4	Idaho	1
Oregon.....	4	Massachusetts ..	1
Wisconsin	4	Maine	1
West Virginia ...	4	Mississippi	1
California	3	Montana.....	1
Georgia	3	Ohio	1
Hawaii	3	S. Carolina.....	1
Nebraska.....	3		

Eight crafting leather orders from seven states

Wyoming.....	2
Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin.....	1

IN TOTAL

Gloves:	\$83,400.00
Leather:	\$21,843.00
Crafting kits:.....	\$102,473.13
Donated leather:.....	\$380,000.00
(HHV) leather:.....	\$468,720.00
TOTAL VALUE:.....	\$1,056,436.13

FOOTBALL PICK 'EM IS COMING

"You play to win the game."
— Former N.Y. Jets head coach Herm Edwards

More info at elks.org/football