



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



## Teamwork will reverse membership trend

*Working Together To Make A Difference* was what we were hanging our hat on when this year began. A huge difference has been made thanks to everyone who pitched in.

It has been a fantastic voyage these past 12 months. Barb and I have toured the country and have seen the tremendous efforts put forth by our Local Lodge and state leaders.

Together, while making the difference, you have reversed the membership trend and led us down a path that needs to be followed. The books have been locked for 2018-2019, and it's official: The Elks have added a net total of 94 Members, our first gain in 39 years.



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**MICHAEL T. LUHR**

We need to ensure that we don't rest on our laurels. Membership needs to be a focus every day, so keep working and keep the most recent trend intact.

As your Grand Exalted Ruler, I have seen the many programs that you are employing

across our country to aid our youth, military personnel, and veterans. The Elks run camps and schools for those with special needs and have worked to assist those in VA homes and hospitals. Together, you did make a difference.

As this year comes to an end for Barb and I, we can only hope that your efforts continue to keep improving communities across our country. Your hard work and dedication have inspired us. The memories of this year will never leave us and the appreciation we have for those we have met shall not wane. You have inspired us and you have made the Order better and stronger for years to come.

## Make the most of online tools

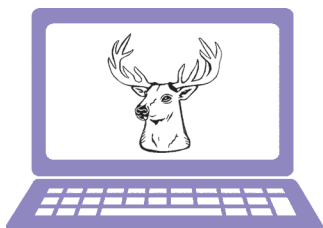
Has your Lodge promoted the online Membership application for signing up new Members? Through [elks.org](http://elks.org), a current paid-up Member of the Order can

### GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

forward a membership invitation to family members and friends. Invitees can complete the application and submit their membership application online.

Lodge Secretaries will be notified of these applications via the "Alerts" screen of CLMS2. They then can process the electronic version the same as a paper application. All data provided by the applicant will be imported into the Lodge's CLMS2 database with the simple click of a button. What better way to gain a Member than by using technology to its fullest?



## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

### Pot's side effects will harsh your mellow

By **JACKI SCARPINO**  
Special Contributor

The number of states with medicinal and, now, recreational marijuana laws is growing (no pun intended). Much has been written about the positive impacts of medical marijuana, but now information is being published regarding the negative effects.

It's not surprising that with greater availability to pot, the number of people using it has spiked. Enough research has been done on the effects of marijuana use to raise some red flags about possible harms. Experts know that marijuana use is not totally consequence-free as it relates to people's physical health and wellbeing.

What are the Side Effects of Using Marijuana?

- Addiction
- Memory loss
- Social anxiety disorders
- Heart damage
- Lung problems
- Birth issues, including low birth weight babies and pregnancy complications
- Nausea

- Low appetite
- Decrease in motor responses
- Poor decisions

While marijuana is widely recognized as being much safer than alcohol and other drugs, it can still cause many of the health issues described above. Most marijuana users will agree that they have experienced some, if not many, of these negative side effects at any given time. Now that marijuana is recently legal in many parts of the country, time will tell

Please see **SIDE EFFECTS**, Page 3

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## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# How to honor brilliant students

By **DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER**  
Committee Member

This marks the seventh year that your Grand Lodge Activities Committee has been relying solely on [elks.org](http://elks.org) as the source of all the material needed to implement a successful Youth Recognition Program. All the certificates, guidelines, nomination forms, posters, and news releases are available to all Lodges, Districts, and State Youth Activities Chairs to download at [elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm). The certificates are made “fillable” for you to type in the recipients’ names to create a more professional-looking product.

Also at our web page is the “Recognize America’s Outstanding Youth” pamphlet, which contains an important message from our Grand Exalted Ruler on the value and direction of our youth programs. It includes the contact information for all Grand Lodge Activities Committee Members and their areas of responsibility, plus the states they are assisting during the fraternal year.

Now is an excellent opportunity to contact your local schools to review or start a youth recognition program such as the Student of the Month/Year and/or Teenager of the Month/Year. The Lodge Activities Committee works with school officials to administer the youth recognition program so it’s ready to

## Lodges should help Scouts achieve

By **MICHAEL T. OHREN**  
Committee Member, Scouting Coordinator

For more than a century, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America have helped shape our youth by combining leadership skills and educational activities, setting them up for a lifetime of success.

Each year, hundreds of our future leaders are honored with either the Boy Scouting Eagle Scout Award or Girl Scout Gold Award. These are the most distinguished awards in Scouting and are the most difficult to earn.

The Scouts Law states “A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.” As Elks, we should be ready to assist troop members in obtaining their goals. Your Lodge can do this by working with your local scouting councils, which can provide you with many ideas to support the troops in your community. This support could be financial assistance or just providing

kick-off with the new school year. The point of this program is to seek students and teenagers whose accomplishments deserve public recognition and praise!

The Activities Committee was proud to bring you the new JROTC Awards Program at the 2018 convention in San Antonio. Go to our [elks.org](http://elks.org) web page for suggested procedures on setting up a JROTC Awards Program for your Lodge. You may also reference the online December 2018 GL Newsletter (pg.3) article, “JROTC Awards Program recognizes future leaders.”

Your Activities Committee encourages each Lodge to develop a stellar Youth Activities Program and be a valued community partner. Promote numerous youth programs, that include: Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Junior Golf, Antlers, Boys and Girls Scouting, Dictionary Project, National Youth Week, Scholarships, Community Projects, Student/Teenager of the Month/Year, Sponsorship of Youth Camps and programs for special needs youth, the new JROTC Awards Program, and the Public Safety Medal of Valor/Service.

Your GL Activities Committee looks forward to helping you and your Lodge promote and perform all of the GL Activities Committee Programs in your community. Remember to always be positive and enthusiastic as you share your time and talents promoting and living our motto of “*Elks Care – Elks Share.*”

a safe meeting place.

Lodges can help their local Scouts by donating their facilities for special events such as hosting the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby, Father/Daughter dance, Mother/Daughter brunch, Arrow of Light Ceremony, Eagle Scout Court of Honor, or Girl Scouts Gold and Silver Award Ceremony.

The Grand Lodge provides many Scouting Awards which can be obtained by visiting [elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm). Grand Lodge also provides a special Eagle Scout Award and Gold Award certificate, which is available by contacting Terry Hennings at Grand Lodge at [TerryH@elks.org](mailto:TerryH@elks.org). You will need to provide her with the full name of the Scout, troop number, date the ceremony will be held, and address where the award should be mailed. Each award will be accompanied with a signed letter of congratulations from the Grand Exalted Ruler.

# Rethink what can be done this year

By **RICK GATHEN**  
Membership and Marketing Manager

“It is what it is” — Ever hear this saying? These are the words of those who have surrendered themselves to losing membership and written off the possibility of changing it. Instead, leaders replace this with “What if?”

- *What if* you appoint the right size Membership Committee to get the job done?

- *What if* you emphasize a business approach when selecting your Lodge Membership Committee, and implement an effective meeting agenda?

- *What if* you implement an effective Orientation agenda?

- *What if* you implement an effective Lodge Relief committee meeting agenda?

- *What if* you implement effective campaigns for recruitment, reinstatement, and billing and collection?

- *What if* you begin with Membership Drive and ask every Member every month to sponsor friends and family into your Lodge?

- *What if* you set dates to initiate new Members every month on a weekend and make it a celebration instead of a task?

- *What if* you implement the Membership Checklist on day one?

### Strategies for productive membership committee meetings

- Must meet regularly. Suggest weekly April through June, then monthly.

- Set goals to initiate 10% more members at the beginning of the Lodge year.

- The collection goal is to not drop more than 2% of the Members for non-payment of dues.

- Review and study the membership manual.

- Discuss initiatives to publicize membership efforts.

- Discuss Lodge bulletin, social media, and web site messages to encourage Members to bring guests and prospective candidates to the Lodge.

- Publicize membership classes.

- Discuss incentives and contests.

- Discuss reinstatement opportunities and strategies.

- Review Stray Elks.

- Review delinquents and discuss collection strategies.

- Review and evaluate the Orientation program.

- Review Membership numbers and compare to goals.

**GRAND LODGE  
MEMBERSHIP  
AND  
MARKETING**

## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# All American Lodge winners named

By **WILLIAM J. SCHRAN**  
Committee Member

Winners have been announced for the All American Lodge — Contest “A”, which recognizes Lodges that have best administered Elks Programs throughout 2018-2019. The contest had 187 final Grand Lodge entries.

The Exalted Rulers of first-place Lodges should pick-up their awards at the Tuesday session of the Grand Lodge session during the Fraternal Committee presentation at the convention in St. Louis. Second- and third-place winners' certificates will be on display and available for pick-up Tuesday after the Session at the Fraternal Committee booth.

### Division I (300 Members or fewer)

**1st Place:** Raceway, AZ No. 2852  
**2nd Place:** Cedar Grove, NJ No. 2237  
**3rd Place:** East Stroudsburg, PA No. 319

### Division II (301-500 Members)

**1st Place:** Walnut Creek, CA No. 1811  
**2nd Place:** Sierra Vista, AZ No. 2065  
**3rd Place:** Mena, AR No. 781

### Division III (501-700 Members)

**1st Place:** Manahawkin, NJ No. 2340  
**2nd Place:** Calabash, NC No. 2679  
**3rd Place:** Columbia, MO No. 594

### Division IV (701-1100 Members)

**1st Place:** Phoenix, AZ No. 335  
**1st Place:** Kelso-Longview, WA No. 1482 } tie  
**3rd Place:** Apache Junction, AZ No. 2349

### Division V (1101-1500 Members)

**1st Place:** St. Petersburg, FL No. 1224  
**2nd Place:** Manasquan, NJ No. 2534  
**3rd Place:** Toms River, NJ No. 1875

### Division VI (1501 Members or more)

**1st Place:** Sun City, AZ No. 2559  
**2nd Place:** Yuma, AZ No. 476  
**3rd Place:** Santa Maria, CA No. 1538

Winners of the contest are determined by a score that counts participation in 40 activities. Each activity has a designated value between 5 and 100 points.

Activities include observing Flag Day services, sponsoring a new Lodge, increasing membership, and participating in Elks programs such as Antlers, Hoop Shoot, and the Americanism Essay Contest.

I would like to thank all of the District Deputies and State Lodge Activities Chairpersons for their drive to make this Contest work.

Thank you to all the Lodges that participated!

## SIDE EFFECTS From Page 1

if the most debated of these side effects – addiction – will become more serious than anyone expected.

I found some excellent sources while researching this topic. Two are listed below. I encourage you to watch the video and read the article listed for more insight on this issue.

- *Marijuana: Negative Medical Effects:* this video deals exclusively with the documented negative health consequences of recreational cannabis use.

[cannabisexaminers.com/  
marijuana-negative-health-effects/](http://cannabisexaminers.com/marijuana-negative-health-effects/)

- *Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence* by Alex Berenson.

[imprimis.hillsdale.edu/  
marijuana-mental-illness-violence/](http://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/)

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## Grand Lodge Convention Update

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, July 2 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. to attend the National Drug Awareness Program Seminar at the St. Louis America's Center Convention Complex in the Ferrara Theatre.

This is a call to action! We want you! Please join us for an opportunity to learn how the Elks Drug Awareness Program can boost your membership and strengthen your community.

## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Good deeds require extra work for Elks to benefit

By **KENNETH N. BRUCKNER**  
Committee Member

As we engage in outdoor activities this summer, we need to take the time to reflect on the charitable work which we, as Elks, accomplish in our Lodges and our communities across the country.

Far too often we do not even consider all the activities we are involved in as charitable community work. An example of that is providing a positive, memorable evening for a group of youth such as an Honors Night, including a banquet for those who have recently graduated from high school and awarding scholarships to those in need of financial assistance.

Hosting an event for the veterans in our communities, sponsoring programs for the boy and girl scouts in your community, providing monetary support for people in the community who are less fortunate — These are examples of the utilization of the grant money available to enable a Lodge to perform these types of charitable events.

After hosting an event or program,

the second step is to create a report of these activities. List the number of people involved, the total mileage, time, and money spent, and the value of scholarships presented.

The third step is to submit the finished report to your Lodge Secretary. He or she will complete the reporting in CLMS to Grand Lodge to make them aware of the charitable work we are performing at the local level. It is their responsibility to pass this information to the United States government to make them aware of our charitable performance within our Lodges. Also, the reports will provide positive information to hopefully improve our 501(c) (8) tax status by increasing the dollar amount not required to be reported as income by a nonprofit, charitable organization.

The mission of the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee is to guide our Members, our State Associations and our Lodges, and to protect and preserve the right to exist as a private, nonprofit charitable organization.

As we go about all these activities within our Lodges, please take the time to thank everyone involved on a committee or an event that may be an ongoing project, an annual project, or event that has just been completed. The recognition will provide a great deal of satisfaction to that individual, making them feel appreciated as a Member of a great organization.

## SCHOLARS From Page 4

The week ended with a night at the Milwaukie-Portland, OR Lodge No. 142. They shared a meal, danced the night away, and toured the massive Lodge while making friends with dozens of Elks.

The Spring Service Trip was another week spent improving Elks communities, strengthening the Elks family, and showing Elks scholars and alumni the importance of altruism.

Read more about the Spring Elks Scholar Service Trip at [enf.elks.org/2019SpringServiceTrip](http://enf.elks.org/2019SpringServiceTrip).

# NVSC to host seminar, booth visits at Convention

By **MARY K. MORGAN**  
Commission Director

Will you be in St. Louis for the Elks Convention? Make sure to put these Elks National Veterans Service Commission events on your calendar.

**Monday, July 1: 2:00–3:00 p.m.** The Elks National Veterans Service Commission will hold the “Serving Local Veterans in Need” seminar in room 130 at the America’s Center Convention Complex. Learn how your Lodge can identify the needs of veterans in your community and use Elks resources to meet those needs. This session will focus on new and expanded programs as well as existing opportunities.

**Tuesday, July 2: 10:55 a.m.** If you want to hear more about how the Elks are already making a difference in veterans’ lives, be sure to attend the Grand Lodge Business Session in Hall 4 at America’s Center to hear the ENVSC Report for 2018-19. We’ll debut a video about one Lodge’s Freedom Grant project and recap successful years for the Voluntary Service and Welcome Home programs.

**During the Convention**, stop by and see us at the ENVSC booth! Visit with our Veterans Program experts, talk with

State Veterans Chairs, learn about your state’s Veterans Volunteers of the Year, and more.

**Before you travel to Convention** pack a pair of new socks for veterans experiencing homelessness or a new or gently used children’s book to promote literacy. If you do, your Lodge will be entered into a raffle to double the value of its Spotlight Grant to \$4,000. To enter the raffle, drop your item at the ENF booth during Convention. Socks and books will be donated to organizations in the St. Louis area.



BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary  
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# Scholars assist green nonprofits on service trip

By **TAYLOR ODISHO**  
ENF Communications Assistant

Each Elks Scholar Service Trip is a chance for scholars and alumni to travel to cities across the nation and learn, serve, and connect in the name of the Elks.

In March, the Spring Service Trip took the scholars and alumni to one of the “greenest” cities in the world—Portland, OR—so it’s not a surprise that their green thumbs were tested.

The group worked with environmental organizations like Growing Gardens, a

nonprofit that uses the experience of growing food in schools, backyards, and correctional facilities to cultivate healthy, equitable communities. The scholars landscaped a garden that will be used to teach hundreds of middle school students about the biology of plants and the importance of growing sustainable food.

“With these projects especially,” said John Kavula, the Elks Scholar Fellow tasked with coordinating each service trip, “it was easy to take a step back at the end of the day and see how just a few hours

of work made a huge difference in helping organizations continue their mission of caring for the world they live in.”

The group collaborated with nonprofits that help the city combat growing issues such as poverty, hunger, and homelessness. With Community of Hope, the group cleaned and painted a building that houses single-parent families experiencing homelessness. They left it feeling like a true home.

Please see **SCHOLARS**, Page 3

*Happy  
4th!*

