



**MARYLAND, DELAWARE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ELKS ASSOCIATION**

A Fraternal Organization

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

United States of America

Greetings fellow Elks!

As I sit down to write this message, it is Monday afternoon, March 30, 2020. It occurs to me that with virtually all our Elk activities cancelled, or on hold, it is important that we try to keep everyone "in the loop" as to what is going on.

With all the closures and cancellations, there have been many questions about how we will get our State Association Elections for the new year accomplished. Let me begin with District Elections. Shortly, the District Vice Presidents will be implementing an election process which I have developed with the support and approval of our Sponsor and the Advisory. That will take care of next year's District Vice President, Elks Camp Barrett Executive Committee and State Trustee. On Saturday, at our State Convention, we will conduct an election for the offices of State President-Elect, State Treasurer and State Secretary. The officers will then be installed on Sunday. The State Trustees, the Camp Barrett Executive Committee, and the Convention and Conference Committee have all prepared Budget proposals which have been submitted to the Advisory for preliminary approval. The final budgets will subsequently be presented at the annual convention for the approval of the membership.

In the Lodges, steps are being taken during closures to conduct appropriate activities such as inventory, deep cleanings, remodeling projects, clerical work, completion of year end charity and financial reporting, and other activities that can be accomplished in compliance with current laws.

On a more somber note, I must close by acknowledging the stark facts related to the COVID-19 Pandemic that give rise to our situation. Here in the United States we have 144,672 confirmed cases and 2,575 deaths known to have resulted from COVID-19.

Clearly this is a serious issue! We must take it seriously and do whatever we can to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities! As a result a variety of inconvenient and disruptive public policies have been put in place to "flatten the curve," control the rate of spread and allow our medical professionals to treat those infected while our researchers and scientists develop a vaccine with which to prevent further infections.

But let's keep this in perspective. The population of the United States is reported to be 320 million. I have heard estimates that this pandemic could be responsible for as many as 200 thousand deaths before it is all said and done. That works out to be less than one percent of our population! Make no mistake, I don't take this lightly! Those numbers represent our mothers, fathers, siblings, relatives, friends and without a doubt, our fellow Elks. The thought of losing even one person should give us pause.

But like any dangerous situation, it is important that we try to maintain a positive attitude. One of the recognized dangers of "Social Distancing" or extended lack of interaction with other human beings, is depression and feelings of isolation. Cape Henlopen Lodge #2645 has instituted a program in which volunteers make phone calls to members of the Lodge periodically to check on their welfare and engage them in social contact. What a wonderful gift to give a friend during these times!

Rest assured, the best minds in the world; Doctors, Scientists, Researchers, and more, are hard at work to minimize the impact and develop preventive measures to counteract this virus.

In my opinion, the important thing is that we constantly remind ourselves that "This too will Pass" and life will go on! Decide to be positive, share this deliberate upbeat frame of mind with others and we will be back together without undue delay!

I assure you that Eileen and I are keeping you, as well as our First Responders, Medical Personnel and all those who labor on our behalf in our thoughts and prayers and we ask that you do the same us.

Follow the advice of our health professionals, maintain a positive attitude, and stay safe!

Fraternally yours,



John C. Loftus
President