



Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia

ELKS ASSOCIATION *News*

A Fraternal Organization - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

www.mddedcelks.org

JUNE 2020



State President John Loftus
MD-DE-DC Elks Association

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Loftus

It is a rainy day here in Delaware as I sit down to write this message. It brings to mind the old axiom "In every life, a little rain must fall." So it has been this year for each of us. The Coronavirus descended upon us with a vengeance and brought the vast majority of our Elk activity to a screeching halt. Our Lodges have been closed, forcing drastic changes in policies and procedures that have been developed over the past One Hundred Fifty years.

From a State Association perspective, our Regional Hoop Shoot was canceled, followed quickly by the cancellation of our Spring Workshop. This deprived us of the opportunity to host the Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Duitsman and his lovely wife, Beth. Our June Annual Convention was canceled, forcing us to plan and implement alternative measures to ensure the continuity of State Leadership. Even our Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore, where we were scheduled to serve as "Host," and witness the installation of the Grand Exalted Ruler and his Officers, fell victim to this scourge!

Despite all this, we were able to accomplish a lot of our work in a non-traditional fashion. Like the rest of the country, we have learned a great deal about telephone conferencing, "virtual" meetings, such as ZOOM, Google Meets, live streaming, and much more. There has been and will continue to be issues to overcome as we continue to confront this Pandemic. But as I have said before, we have weathered a lot of storms in our history, and we will weather this storm as well.

From a personal perspective, I have had some wonderful experiences during my tenure as your President. I visited nineteen Lodges, from Crisfield, MD to Newark, DE to

Oakland and Frostburg MD in the furthest reaches of our great Association.

I presided over the Fall Workshop in Ocean City in October 2019, hosting New Jersey Elks Association President Anthony Alfonso and First Lady Diane Bellavia. Later I was able to attend a similar event in New Jersey. While there, I witnessed the performance (competition) of various Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers as they displayed their prowess in the "Flag Ceremony" performed during our Initiation and the "Eleventh Hour Toast." I would love to see this celebration of our Ritual adopted by our Association. I had the pleasure of representing you at the gatherings of other organizations and witnessed our members testify before legislative bodies as we pursued our Maryland Charitable Gaming Initiative. I have been blessed with gifted and industrious Officers and Committees that have carried on the activities of our Association to the greatest degree possible considering the circumstances. In short, while the Coronavirus Pandemic has adversely impacted us all, without regard for the position we hold, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to have served as your President this year.

I trust that you will continue to be active in our Association and its programs in the coming year and support our incoming President Stu Burgoon, and his administration, just as you have supported me.

Eileen and I would like to express our gratitude once again for your permitting us the honor of serving you this year!

May God bless you and keep you strong and healthy!

Fraternally, John & Eileen Loftus

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MESSAGE FROM OUR GRAND EXALTED RULER

By Robert L. Duitsman

ELKS STAY STRONG, CONNECTED DURING PANDEMIC

The past few months have been a chaotic time in the life of our Order and our nation. There has been an unprecedented amount of suffering, deprivation, hardship, fear, and for some even the loss of life as we collectively deal with the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But through this and other trials we as a nation have faced over the years, we as Elks and as Americans have always stood strong. It is times like these that we should be all the more mindful of the cardinal principles on which our Order was founded. Our Lodges have been closed and activities have been suspended, but we would do well to focus our thoughts and look for ways to help others get through these times.

While the typical focus of newsletter messages is to address business and operational matters within our Lodges, it bears repeating that under our cardinal principle of Brotherly Love we should be looking after our fellow Members and those in our communities who are disadvantaged. Some likely don't have family or support and may need our help. Consider setting up a

phone tree so that your officers can make personal contact with Members, especially those who are alone or may need some help with even routine tasks like shopping. A little attention may go a very long way.

It has been fully recognized that we can't do the work of our Lodges in traditional ways, and flexibility and creativity have been encouraged to take care of Lodge matters the best we can. Hopefully you are finding ways to keep moving until things can return to normal, or at least improve.

This is a time for Elks to do what Elks have always done better than anyone else: Help others, as best we can.

On a more mundane note, remember to submit your Lodge Audit Report by the end of June. It is important information, and timely submission will avoid a \$100.00 fine. If there are problems, talk with your Sponsor to see how they can be addressed. Also, for Members who are eligible for GER membership pins, you need to get your request in by June 15.

May God bless you all as together we move forward to better times.



MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE SPONSOR

By Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor

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MD DE & DC Elk Family and Friends:

I sincerely hope this message finds you and your families all well and successfully coping with the many restrictions and circumstances imposed on our daily lives by this dreadful COVID-19 Pandemic.

In past years, I would be writing this message for the Newsletter to be distributed at our 100th Convention on June 5, 6, and 7 in Annapolis. As you are well aware, because of this unprecedented Pandemic that we are experiencing across the country and the world, our 100th June Convention had to be canceled, along with

our Spring Conference and GER visit in March - and pretty much everything else scheduled in our Association and its 37 Lodges since the middle of March. Business "as usual" across all of Elkdom, as in our individual Elk and personal lives, has essentially come to a halt and, in many respects, turned upside down or at least sideways - "normal" simply doesn't exist in how we must do things today.

Also, as you are aware, our National Convention coming to Baltimore in early July has also been canceled.

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MD, DE & DC ELKS ASSOCIATION
NEWS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
2020—2021

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STATE SPONSOR MESSAGE CONTINUED

This has been a massive disappointment to all MD DE & DC Elks and particularly our Baltimore 2020 Host Committee. They have been working feverishly to ensure that it would be the best Convention ever. We've been waiting for over 100 years to host a National Convention, and wouldn't you know, it has to be the first one in our history to be canceled!! Please join me in extending our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Host Committee, led by Chairman Warren Johnson, and all the volunteers who signed on to help throughout the Convention. They were organized, prepared and ready to perform and make us all very proud!! Hopefully, many of these volunteers will still be able to help with the 2028 Convention when Grand Lodge says they will bring it back to Baltimore again.

This Pandemic shut-down and the restrictions imposed because of it, couldn't have come at a worst time – at the end of one Lodge year and the beginning of the next with all the year-end/year-beginning work necessary to transition from one year to the next, one administration to the next. While it has undoubtedly been a challenge, leadership and members at all levels (volunteers) have risen to the occasion, thinking out of the box and generally doing whatever is necessary to navigate these troubled waters to take care of business and get the job done. We've all learned new ways to communicate, congregate, and conduct our business with our Lodges closed and while maintaining social safety and distancing requirements. I'm sure many of these "lessons learned" will find their way into the new "normal" when this Pandemic subsides. Thank you to all who have stepped up to help their Lodge, this Association, and our Order weather this storm! I am confident we will emerge from this stronger and with new ideas, new tools, and a better appreciation of the value of working together in our efforts to perform the important work of Elkdom at all levels.

It is encouraging to see many Lodges, during these difficult times, continue to support their communities and those in need. Their dedicated efforts for those in need are a true testament to what Elks and Elkdom is all about. Thank you to those Elks and Lodges that are making it happen and truly making a difference under difficult circumstances!

Under the dedicated and capable leadership of President John Loftus and his fine cadre of Officers and Committee personnel, our Association has enjoyed, despite these recent difficulties, an outstanding year. While the numbers won't be final for a couple of weeks, we are in line to have another overall Association membership gain – we stand at about a +50 right now. That will give us a gain for four years in a row – an outstanding accomplishment!!! Again, this past year we came in at 19th in the Order for ENF per capita donations with 60% of the 48 Associations below us. We typically rank

in this area, which represents another outstanding effort and accomplishment – thanks to all who donate and make our high standings possible year after year!!

For Charitable Giving, the Association totals (without individual Lodge numbers, which are not finalized yet) increased by 44% over last year. We on track for another record year in Charitable Giving!!! Great job by all for the charitable work and for reporting it!!

Our Lodges were faced with implementing a new Financial Reporting System (FRS) over the past nine months with a deadline of being on the system by May 29. With the help and guidance of our Auditing & Accounting Committee, at least 80% of our Lodges should be on the system by that date. Only a couple of Associations will have a higher percentage of Lodges on the system – again, another great accomplishment and completed under less than ideal conditions and circumstances. As you can see, our Association and its 37 Lodges continue to shine in pretty much everything we do – a great job by all!!!

Thank you to President John Loftus and his Officers and Committee personnel for another excellent year for our Association and thanks to John and Eileen for the fine and distinguished manner in which they represented our Association in all they have done and everywhere they traveled on our behalf – an outstanding and dedicated Elk couple!!

The 2020/2021 year is underway, but not under the best of circumstances, and with a lot of uncertainties. I am confident we will weather these uncertain times, and, under the capable leadership of incoming President Stu Burgoon and his Officers and Committees, our Association will continue to grow, prosper, shine, and have another outstanding year.

Best wishes to each MD DE & DC Elks for continued good health and prosperity, best wishes to our 37 Lodge in their efforts to get through these troubled times and take the work of Elkdom into their communities, and best wishes to incoming President Stu Burgoon for smooth sailing during his year at the helm of our great Association.

Hopefully, we will see you all at the Fall Conference in Ocean City in October.

Sincerely and fraternally,



Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor



PRESIDENT-ELECT MESSAGE

By Stu Burgoon

Members, Family and Friends of Maryland, Delaware, DC State Elks Association,

This certainly has been a topsy-turvy adventure in the world we live. The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected us all. At work, our homes and our Elk Lodges have all had to adjust the daily way we do business. I know we will be "Elk Strong" and when we get the green light. Our Lodges will be up and running doing what we do best. Helping our communities and working our Grand Lodge Charitable Programs.

The last live Elks event Julie and I attended was the Regional Soccer Shoot in York, Pennsylvania. It was very organized and well-run. I congratulate our very own Dolly Broom for the "Elkstanding" job she did for our Association. The kids were awesome. Their sportsmanship and fellowship made me proud to be there. They are our future.

Unfortunately, our State Association Convention has been canceled and also hosting our Grand Lodge Convention. I want to personally thank all the teams and committees that helped to try to make these happen. I know we will all work harder for our Lodges and Association. We will all be together soon.

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." C. S. Lewis

Although we did not order our

Grand Lodge merchandise, we did order the official Grand Lodge pins. Julie has been busy selling them by mail. We have had requests from as far away as Hawaii. A lot of our Lodges have purchased them. We still have a few, just contact Julie or me. That is all for the unsolicited advertisement.

I have been keeping myself busy readying my year to proudly serve as Your State Association President. All of our officers and committee persons are standing -by to start their duties. I feel we have assembled a tremendous team. Our State Secretary has ordered the individual badges that will be distributed at Official Installation. I want to thank those who stepped up and congratulate those elected as Vice Presidents, Trustees, and serving on our Camp Barrett Executive Board.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for the help and guidance this year. The friendship of our Elk family means so much to Julie and me. I especially want to mention President John Loftus and his 1st Lady Eileen, Thank you, John, for your leadership this year. I hope I can continue to keep our Association strong and proud of the work we do. Let's all go achieve great things.

Here's to an "Elkstanding" year,

Capt. Stu

"Shake a Veteran's Hand, Keep a Smile on Your Face and a Song in Your Heart"



AUDITING AND BUSINESS PRACTICES COMMITTEE



Bill Simonds

State Chair Auditing & Business Practices Committee
State FRS Coordinator | wjslambs@gmail.com

Per the State By-Laws, the Auditing and Business Practices Committee will provide advice, counsel, and guidance in financial matters of the Association and to the member Lodges upon their request. This year, there have been no requests for assistance from the Lodges other than FRS concerns.

This year the Committee has been almost exclusively involved with the rollout of the new Financial Reporting System. Many hours have been spent working with Lodges, both in person and over phone and email, to help them get their data submitted. As of the March 31 deadline, 19 Lodges were compliant, nine Lodges were close, and the final nine still need a lot of work. The A&BP committee continues to provide assistance to the Lodges moving towards compliance.

As the State Chair, I would like to thank the District Chairs who have helped with their Lodges throughout this year.

Steve Rose in the Northeast, Bob Coleman in the South East, Renee Rivituso in the South West, and two who joined the Committee during the year: Tammy Mathena in North Central and Tammy Guttry in the West. Thank you all for your efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 14—Flag Day
- June 21—Father's Day
- July 4—Independence Day
- August 1—TBA-New Elk DDGER Clinics
- **September 4—Newsletter Deadline Day**
- **October 2-4—State Fall Conference at the Princess Royale Hotel & Conference Center in Ocean City**
- October 23-31—National Celebration of Red Ribbon

NOTE: Lodges, please refrain from scheduling conflicting events so key officers and members may attend all meetings.



Angela M. Meyer, Director of Operations Elks Camp Barrett
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E.C. The Bee, the Staff, and the ECB Executive Committee hope you and your family are safe and healthy. These extraordinary times forced all of us to put so much on pause and constrained us in ways we could not have imagined before this crisis began.

It was announced earlier that the ECB Executive Committee made the difficult decision that we will cancel our Elks Camp Barrett Summer Camp this year. The decision was not made lightly, as we have great concern that the populations most affected by this decision are children in need. That very thing will break any Elk's heart, so when I say my heart is broken at not having camp this year, I am sure I speak for every Elk in our association.

In the end, it is what it is, and we must continue working and planning for fall and next summer. Camp must remain in good physical and financial shape, so we can give deserving children a safe place for a respite from a not always, pleasant world. Give them an opportunity to experience nature and learn sound life principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. To accomplish our mission, we must support the camp. Even though we have closed summer camp this year, you can still help keep the mission alive by volunteering on the campus, donating monetary and in-kind donations, and spreading the word about our great camp



Stu Kerr, PSP looks at new stream restoration at Camp Barrett

and next year's summer season. As restrictions loosen, we are planning some Elks and guests' programs to keep us busy through the summer months. Keep checking the ECB website, Facebook page, and state website for upcoming programs.

Great things are still happening at the camp, thanks to some great donors and volunteers. Below I have listed a few with pictures. There is also a list of some things that you can come by and work on at the campus. Please consider volunteering. Mostly we ask that you remember your State Association major project, Elks Camp Barrett. Give us a call, stop by, or send an email. It is pretty lonely up here when it is just me and E.C. the Bee.

Please disperse the following info. To Lodges - All members are welcome to volunteer at the camp or in your cabins. Just because we do not have summer camp does not mean we do not need to take care of our annual housekeeping duties. This can be done at any time if we follow CDC guidelines. Give us a call if you are coming by.

Angela Meyer

SOME THINGS WE NEED HELP DOING:

- Cabins need cleaning and minor repairs.
- Raking gumballs
- Cleaning gutters
- Cleaning our storage sheds, and closets
- Inventory
- Organize records room
- Organize yearly records
- Clean grounds
- Painting nurses' cabin
- Organizing directors' and Nurses cabin
- Trail grooming
- Mulch laying
- Gardens - flowers
- Pothole repair walkway cracks
- Seeding
- Power washing
- Picnic table moving
- Dusting blinds in hall



Raising Tadpoles
for Virtual Camp



ACCIDENT PREVENTION REPORT

By Stu Burgoon

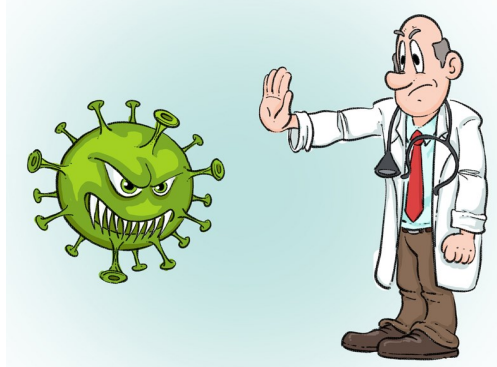
"MAKE OUR CORONA GO AWAY"

Greetings all Elk members families and friends of our Great Elks Association, I know these words have been spoken by many of us, probably every day. We are definitely living in unprecedented times. I will not take up space in this newsletter to talk about the "Dos," and Don'ts of this "COVID-19" Pandemic. It is repeated hourly and by the minute in our daily lives, common sense, and good hygiene. I want to chat about our Elks Lodges and continuing to do our best with day-to-day operations.

In these crazy times, there appear to be many scams, fake calls, and emails. I know some of my family members and Elk members have been scammed. So be

aware of who is at the end of the line and check those email addresses before you open an attachment or act. Below are some good tips. Those that came to mind recently that are not mentioned below are utility bills or computer security. So "BEWARE."

I know our Local Lodges have been closed since March 16th, 2020. Many Lodges have been taking the extra time to do some extra Spring cleaning and remodeling. We should also take the time to establish Inspections and a checklist for your Accident Prevention Plan. Has your Lodge Trustees named a member to take care of this task? It should be done monthly and kept in a



file for reference. At closing time, most Lodges have a closing procedure and checklist. I suggest it could be incorporated into that as well. Please make sure your Grand Lodge Insurance is up to date and check your policy to see if any changes are needed.

Hopefully, we can all be together in person and go about our Lodge business doing what we do best, helping our community, and supporting our Grand Lodge Programs.

Stay Safe and Healthy. *Capt. Stu*

LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM: The Liability Insurance Program will provide \$6,500,000 coverage per occurrence for general liability, contractual liability and liquor liability coverage. The coverage commences on April 1, 2020 and continues through March 31, 2021. Lodges have online access to the updated Liability Insurance Program booklets on the Elks website.

LODGE ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM: Section 12.070 of the Laws Of The Order requires all Lodges to establish an Accident Prevention Program. An Accident Prevention Policy should be implemented, consistent with Grand Lodge and State Association programs.

LODGE ACCIDENT PREVENTION MANAGERS: Section 12.070 of the Laws Of The Order requires all Lodges to designate a Trustee as Accident Prevention Manager. The Accident Prevention Manager will continually review and implement a policy, in concert with Grand Lodge and State Association programs, to protect the Lodge from claims for accidents and injuries.

ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT CLAIMS alleging harassment, discrimination and wrongful termination are not covered under the Liability Insurance Program. A Lodge will need to purchase a separate Directors and Officers Policy (D&O). Please contact Aon for a quote for this additional coverage for the Lodge.

AUTOMOBILES/TRUCKS/BUSES A Lodge should never own a motor vehicle. There is no coverage for a Lodge owned motor vehicle under the Liability Insurance Program.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Scam artists always follow the money, so look out for the following:



- ◆ Deposit cash in the bank promptly, do not wait until the next day
- ◆ Government agencies/Law Enforcement never ask anyone for cash
- ◆ Do not provide anyone with bank account information
- ◆ IRS always makes its first contact by U.S. Mail, not by

telephone or e-mail

- ◆ The IRS never requests Not For Profits to make special payments
- ◆ Someone "in need" asks for plane fare and cash since they heard that the Elks do good deeds
- ◆ An unsolicited "free" inspection of the roof or crawlspace will result in an unnecessary repair bill
- ◆ Make sure that you know the sender of an e-mail before you open it to avoid cyber scams



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Lynn Evans, State Scholarship Chairperson

2020 has been the most unusual ending of the school year in our country. Luckily, the deadline for submitting applications for the Most Valuable Student Contest was November. Lodge, district, and state-level judging was

complete before the COVID-19 shutdown. There were 82 student applications from our state association that reached the state level. The number of scholarships given by ENF is determined by the membership of each state association. There were 14 national semi-finalists, and one student, Madison Johnson of Selbyville, achieved finalist status. There were 15 state winners and 10 district winners, two from each district.

NORTH CENTRAL

Annapolis:

MVS National Semi-Finalists:	Lachlan Barber	\$4,000
	William Nolan	\$4,000
	Reyna Vrbesky	\$4,000
District Winner:	Deven Bowman	\$1,500

Broadneck

State Winner:	Amelia Ferrell	\$2,000
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Essex

State Winner:	Thinzar Htwe	\$1,500
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Glen Burnie

State Winners:	Ian Dinsmore	\$2,000
	Claire Doll	\$1,500

Laurel

MVS National Semi-Finalist:	Co-Tu Doan	\$4,000
District Winner:	Stephanie Estrella	\$1,500

Towson

MVS National Semi-Finalists:	Gabriella Chalker	\$4,000
	Ligia Mardari	\$4,000
Legacy Winner:	Alexandra Ozazewski	\$4,000

NORTH EAST

Dover

Legacy Winner:	Peyton Easton	\$4,000
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Milford

State Winner:	Stephen Venable	\$3,000
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Newark

MVS National Semi-Finalist:	Ryan Crowl	\$4,000
State Winner:	Taiwo Olatunji	\$1,500

Wilmington

State Winner:	Claudia Offutt	\$1,500
District Winners:	Anthony Lee	\$1,500
	Sara Stroupe	\$1,500

SOUTH WEST

Washington-Rockville

MVS National Semi-Finalist:	Henry Addison	\$4,000
Legacy Winner:	Andrew Misura	\$4,000
State Winners:	Gina Kahn	\$1,500
	Ayesha Khawaja	\$1,500
District Winners:	Austin Mao	\$1,500
	Hannah Zozobrado	\$1,500

SOUTH EAST

Easton

MVS National Semi-Finalist:	Kyla Mullaney	\$4,000
District Winner:	Corey Wazniak	\$1,500

Kent Island

Legacy Winner:	Nicholas Obert	\$4,000
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Ocean City

State Winner:	Madison Birckell	\$3,000
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Pocomoke City

District Winner:	Jada Bailey	\$1,500
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Salisbury

State Winner:	Morgan Fletcher	\$1,500
Legacy Winner:	Ashley Guy	\$4,000

Seaford

State Winner:	Alastornia Swift	\$1,500
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Selbyville

MVS National Finalist:	Madison Johnson	\$30,000
Legacy Winner:	Chloe Cullen	\$4,000
State Winner:	Madison Vogel	\$1,500

WEST

Frederick

MVS National Semi-Finalist:	Anna Plank	\$4,000
State Winner:	Faris Prasetiawan	\$1,500
District Winner:	Lindsey Lightcap	\$1,500

Hagerstown

MVS National Semi-Finalists:	Tracy Kinzer	\$4,000
	Abigail Kittel	\$4,000

Westminster

MVS National Semi-Finalists:	Stephen Johnson	\$4,000
	Alexander Schmidt	\$4,000
State Winner:	Payton Steele	\$1,500
District Winner:	Brendan Cave	\$1,500



The Skilled Trades Scholarship deadline had to be extended to June 15, 2020. Applications may be downloaded at www.mddedcelks.org.

If you know anyone who may be planning a career in the trades and graduated high school from 2016 -2020, please encourage them to apply.



SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

By Dolly Broom, VP
St. Mary's Co. Lodge #2092

It has been an honor to serve as the Vice President of the South West District. I have enjoyed visiting each Lodge and getting to know their members. Thank you all for your warm welcome. I did not expect to wind down my year, serving you in this way.

I look forward to a time when our State Association can meet in person again. I am proud of how each Lodge in our district has pushed forward despite COVID-19 and has continued to support their community. Welcome to the new Exalted Rulers and Officers of each Lodge.

Caucus was held in April. Congratulations to incoming Vice President Stephen Bradley from Prince George's County #1778, 2yr State Trustee Linda Kilpatrick from Deale Lodge # 2528, and Camp Barrett Executive Committee member Chalita Dudley from Prince George's #1778. I am sure you will do a great job serving the South West District.

Welcome to new Exalted Rulers, Masiel Guevara from Prince George's County #1778, David Marchyshyn from Calvert Lodge #2620. Returning Exalted Rulers include Renee' Rivituso from Waldorf Lodge # 2421, Linda Kilpatrick from Deale Lodge #2528, and Walter Benson from Camp Springs Lodge #2332.

Lyle Waldron, the new Exalted Ruler from Washington Rockville #15, took advantage of the downtime by working with members in getting some cleaning and painting done. Their curbside pick-up for lunches Monday through Friday and Friday night dinners have proven successful and have allowed them to keep their kitchen staff employed.

Even in these struggling times of COVID-19, Waldorf Lodge #2421 is still reaching out to help those in need. Exalted Ruler, Renee' Rivituso, shopped for the groceries, and Officers Tammy Gibson, Karen Brown, and Robert Morgan Kelley (right) bagged the groceries for the Backpack Program.



The groceries provided by their ENF Beacon Grant 2019-



20 were then picked up by Ms. Blandford, Principle of Indian Head Elementary School (right), and Jeannie Hayes-Warren, Parent Liaison (middle). These two ladies delivered 150 bags with meals for the weekend with snacks and drinks to each child on the list at Indian Head Elementary, a Title 1 School. Recently ENF awarded them a 2020-21 Gratitude Grant for \$2,000.00.

Checks were equally dispersed to St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Peter's Church Food Pantry and Senior Services of Charles County.

Rick Mills, newly installed Exalted Ruler from St. Mary's County #2092 has continued to have virtual meetings on their regular schedule. Board of Trustees and ER are trying to limit expenses as income is very limited. Dues collections are ahead of past trends as they are making extra efforts to reach out to every member and talk to them about their situation. Their charity involvement is still strong with man hours and over \$1,200 dollars donated to the SMART company supporting efforts to supply masks and other protective gear for their community. Two ENF Grant distributions have also kept them in touch with their community. They have received the Gratitude Grant for \$2,500 and the Focus Grant for \$10,000. In the Exalted Ruler's words, they are "staying safe, healthy, strong and bored 😊"



CAMP SPRINGS ELKS LODGE #2332 PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC:

Camp Springs Elks Lodge #2332 is comprised of members of the community who are our family members, neighbors, and friends. For that reason, we wanted to let you know we are here with you and in support of you, during this health crisis that has upset the normalcy of our lives.

At the beginning of this pandemic, Elks Lodge #2332, reached out to Prince Georges County, County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks. We offered our facility and volunteer resources to the County's effort to eradicate the Coronavirus in our community. While we have been closed for Lodge activities, we have had our frontline heroes who have been thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing our Lodge. Ty Parks, Denise Kesterson, and William Hines have cleaned and disinfected (while social



NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

By Mark A. Walp, VP
Annapolis Lodge #622 | ma38rk@comcast.net

As this pandemic is upon us, it overwhelms me to think of the outstanding work our Lodges have done in North Central. We donated food to local food banks, continued to help our Veterans, made protective masks, and donated them to V.A. hospitals. We continue to serve our communities while our Lodges are shut down and waiting for the day we may reopen and join our Brothers

and Sisters. In the meantime, many of our Lodges have been busy revitalizing their Lodge by painting, waxing floors, disinfecting, and cleaning the Lodge thoroughly before reopening.

In my Lodge on a Saturday after closing, I got on the phone and started calling our members explaining we need to help our paid staff who have been with us for over ten years. I was starting an Employee Relief Fund. Well, as you have for more than 150 decades, Elks Care Elks Share, and within four days, we raised thousands of dollars to help them through all of this. Those same employees stepped up to the plate for us and painted our ballroom. They also waxed all the flooring beautifying our Lodge all "while social

distancing."

So as this is my final newsletter, I want to welcome our new Vice President of North Central Matt Briggs of Bowie Lodge and District Deputy Corey Bradley, Severna Park Lodge. Both are awesome Elks and North Central will be in good hands next year.

My many thanks to State President John Loftus for his guidance and knowledge this year, the good times we had on our visits to Lodges, and for a well-run State Association. Welcome our new State President Stu Burgoon Sr. from the Great North Central.

As I await my next venture within our State Association, everyone B.E.S.A.F.E.

CAMP SPRINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

distancing) every inch of the building and its contents. Dressed in gloves, masks, and other protective gear, they have worked diligently to ensure our return to Lodge activities will be healthy and virus free.

ER, Walter Benson, and his officers have continued to handle Lodge business as mandated by the Grand Lodge. We have been fortunate to have applied for and received a Gratitude Grant for \$2,500. The Gratitude Grant is the ENF's (Elks National Foundation) way of saying thank you to every Lodge that meets the National President's per-member goal for giving to the ENF.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our Lodge has decided to split our grant between two organizations that we have supported in the past. We will support the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center, which is a safe place for domestic abuse and sexual assault victims of all ages. Many of their services are free of charge, including victim advocacy, community education presentations, and sexual assault forensic exams. They support victims in Prince George's County, MD (where our Lodge is located), and all victims and patients who come to the center. The number seeking assistance has tripled since the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are also working in conjunction with the Washington DC VA Medical Center. Their Homeless Veteran outreach coordinator is Kevin Morton.

The Gratitude Grant will be used to purchase gift cards from Walmart and Target. They will be distributed equally to the Prince George's County Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center and the Washington DC VA Medical Center.

We would like you to keep in mind that while we are more visible as we provide assistance in a crisis, we have been here all the time. All year long, every year for the past 50 years, we provide this community with public events, health fairs, community outreach, food drives, youth programs and camps, Drug Awareness Programs, Veterans programs, Lunch for Seniors, events for the Special Needs population in the Prince Georges County School System and partnership with other community organizations.

By Shelva Redd, Board Chair/Public Relations Chair

WILLIAM J. JERNICK MEMORIAL FUND

Susan B Caldwell, State Chairman

This year was not as busy as previous years with Jernick "assistance" requests, but they're very varied requests from throughout the State Association.

From the West District, we had a request to assist a young boy with bone cancer and was facing major surgery after aggressive chemo treatments.

From the South West District, a request for assistance with accessories for an ear implant for a deaf girl and help with school expenses as she enters college.

From the North Central, the Jernick fund assisted a young child with a speech disorder after evaluations from Kennedy Krieger Institute and Md. State Dept of Education/Early Intervention Services.

From the North East, District Jernick helped a child who received extensive burns and in Johns Hopkins for an extended time and developed Sepsis while in the burn unit. She will undergo skin grafting.

Another request was for help with a child that had vision problems as a result of an accident during his mother's pregnancy.

From the South East, a sad situation of a seven-year-old girl with two brain tumors, and an operation would shorten her life. She was partially blind and loss of hearing due to tumor locations. She desired to live long enough to graduate from the first grade. I learned in early May that she passed away.

All of the families mentioned were genuinely thankful for the help and care of the MD., DE. & DC Elks Association, and the Wm. J. Jernick Fund. All of us should reach out to families who might need our "caring and sharing."



WEST DISTRICT

By Jim Mills, VP Hagerstown
Lodge #378
james22@yahoo.com

I am very honored to have served as Western Vice President, under President John Lotus who did an amazing job. It was tough at the end due to the COVID-19.

Our Western District #3840 consists of 5 great Lodges, Frostburg, Frederick, Westminster, Oakland, and Hagerstown. I want to thank the Exalted Rulers and their team of Officers in supporting me, and the MD-DC-DE Elks Association.

Thank you to each of the Western District Elks Lodges for a good 2019/2020 year; you all have done well.

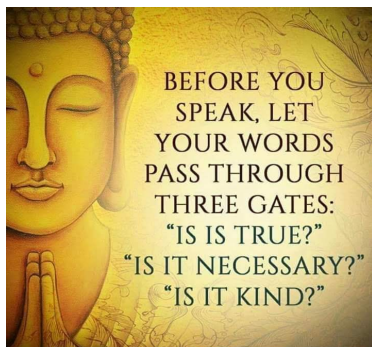
Remember, start looking at future leaders within your own Elks Lodges as we need future leaders.

To all new Exalted Rulers, your focus needs to be on lapse members, COVID-19 did not make it easy and getting them back into your Lodge may be challenging. As always keep good financial records, train your paid and volunteer staff in great customer relations, have fun, treat all Elks, and their guests, with the utmost respect (key to retention). Your Lodge should be a place everyone wants to visit and be part of.

Thank you to all the incoming officers for 2020/2021 year. Serve with pride.

I want to wish the new West District VP Marion Davidson, Jr. an extraordinarily successful year as he comes with a lot of experience.

Remember donating your time is true Elk Valor but comes with Sacrifice as your time is valuable and I know that. I thank you all.



STATE SOCCER SHOOT

By Dolly Broom, VP SW District



Great job to all the Lodges that participated in the Soccer Shoot program this year. We had participants from Milford, Crisfield, Oakland, Calvert, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Lodges. A big thank you is extended to District chairs, Dave Tyler, CP King, Mike Palmer, and Barrett Fitzwater for holding District shoots to advance participants to the state level.

The State shoot took place in Jessup, MD, with a total of 90 participants and volunteers, which included 24 shooters. Congratulations to the South West for winning the District Trophy for most points scored! 10 shooters advanced to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Soccer Shoot held in York, PA, on March 13-15. Luckily, we were able to get this in before Covid-19 shut everything down.

Our State Association finished 5th at the Mid-Atlantic shoot. We had three out of ten shooters finish in the top 3, including Ryan Byrd Jr from Crisfield Lodge, who finished 1st in the U16 division. New to the Soccer Shoot was the National "Virtual" shoot, including shooters from 23 Regional Shoots across the country. Our State Association had 3 shooters finish in the top 10 at this level.



Pictured left: Colton Pavis U12 boys 2nd place

Below: Ryan Byrd Jr. U16 boys 1st place at Mid-Atlantic Shoot



The Soccer Shoot program continues to grow. We had more participants this year at the local, district, state, and regional shoots. I am looking into a larger venue for the State Shoot next year as we have outgrown the facility in

Jessup. We also purchased a new full-size goal and grid to be used at the State Shoot and by any Lodge or District shoot in need. I am happy to say it is easily transported, without taking up too much space, and takes less than 5 minutes to set up. Next year we will add another goal to make it more accessible to all Lodges as the program continues to grow.



SOUTH EAST DISTRICT

By Susan Caldwell, VP,
Ocean City Lodge #2645
susu610@comcast.net

Greetings from the South East District. It has been over ten weeks since most of us have seen many of our Elk friends, but that doesn't mean that we care or share any less, only differently. With missing our Spring and Summer Conferences and the cancellation of Grand Lodge, life, as we have known it, has certainly changed. The South East District is happy to announce the new district reps—since there was only one nomination for each opening, the new officers are as follows: Dan Kane, SE Vice-President; Stu Kerr, Camp Barrett Exec. Committee; and George Tunnicliff SE Trustee. They will do an excellent job and feel free to contact them for any information or assistance you may

need.

On a happy and light note, many Elks gathered in north Ocean City to do a drive-by celebration of Past State First Lady Toni Wagner's 90th birthday. Toni and PSP Carroll Wagner were on the steps of their home, surprised and excited at the turn out for what might have been a quiet celebration. This was covered by the local television station, as well as newspapers. They are well-loved and appreciated throughout our Association, and I'm sure each of you wishes them the best.

As an example of how Elk Lodges in the South East are helping during this pandemic, Cape Henlopen Elks #2540 along with Villa Sorrento Restaurant, provided curbside delivery to the support staff at Beebe Healthcare in Lewes, DE.

Meanwhile on Kent Island, Elks #2576 was closed but still managed to utilize our charitable donation account. In ad-

dition, they provided 1,500 gallons of milk, loaves of bread, and thousands of dollars to local food banks.

Kent Island also reports two of its members contacted COVID-19. One member recovered and another sadly passed.

A special thank you goes to outgoing State President John Loftus and First Lady Eileen for all their tiresome work and love of Elkdom during the past year. The South East District is the proud Elk home of John and Eileen. John's first Chair was in Cape Henlopen as Chaplain, and he diligently went to the top leader in MD, DE, & DC Elks Association. As John's term comes to an end as President, he has accepted the position of Chaplain in Ocean City Lodge #2645, to replace their Chaplain who passed away last month. We have enjoyed you as our leader and return to Chaplain. What will four years from now bring from the South East!!

5 STAR AWARD ★★★★★

Nineteen states entered the Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest for 2019-2020. Arizona and Florida were new to the Contest this year. Content and quality were impressive. The results are as follows:

Five Stars:

Georgia: Lynda Lewis, Editor
Michigan: Karen J. Cary, Editor
Florida: Rachael King, Editor
Missouri: Bud Clarkson, Editor
North Dakota: Daniel J. Mimnaugh, Editor
Connecticut: Robert Magowan, Editor
North Carolina: Ashley Buckwell, Editor
New Jersey: Nancy Rochford, Editor
Kentucky: Raymond Pauly, Jr. Editor
West Virginia: Roger Monger, Editor
MD, DE, DC: Jane L. Swigert, Editor
Kansas: Carl E. Lindsey, Jr., Editor
Arizona: Shawnee Carlile, Editor
Louisiana: Buddy Hartle, Jr., Editor
Wisconsin: Kenneth Johnson, Editor
Virginia: Roger Monger, Editor
New York: Timothy R. Welpel, Editor
Four Stars Iowa: Darlene Olson, Editor
Massachusetts: Peter Plecinoga, Editor

There were no Three Star states this year.

GRATITUDE GRANTS



Elks Lodge 15's Gratitude Grant recipients, Montgomery County Association for Hearing Impaired Children, MCAHIC, surprised the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Seniors in their community with a gratitude bag of goodies and a sign to congratulate them.

Judy Black, the grant coordinator, helped put together the gift bags and helped with deliveries to the students' homes.

The Gratitude Grant helps MCAHIC sponsor a monthly teen club at the Lodge for deaf and hard of hearing high schoolers. The monthly club was canceled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, so funds were used for the goody bags. Some of the teens have earned Student Service Learning Hours at the Lodge by helping with fundraising activities for our veterans' projects.



By Linda Vibbert, State Chair Americanism



Due to the COVID-19 circumstances, we had to cancel our annual Americanism Banquet and find an alternative to show our support to the winning contestants. This year I have put together a Patriotism Pack for each of the categories in both our State poster and Essay contests. Each Patriotism Pack includes a certificate for participation (including placement), a Walmart gift card starting at \$50.00 for all 1st place winner's and decreasing by \$10.00 each place to \$10.00 for all 5th place winner's, an American flag pin, a red, white and blue light up ribbon, and Pledge Pamphlets among other items. All Lodges that had Winner's will be given the individualized packs to give to their Lodge Chairman or Exalted Ruler for distribution to their Lodge winners individually.

As this year's Americanism Essay and Poster Contests parameters are released, they will be sent to all District Chairman. The District Chairman will be asked to distribute this information to all the Lodge's Americanism Chairman and Exalted Rulers of the Lodges in their District.

We are looking for another great year of participation and Patriotism for this great program. We can always reach more of our Country's young Americans to encourage more participation. All the information for the 2020-2021 Americanism Essay and Poster contests will be posted on the State website as it is made available. My contact information is also available on the State website Americanism page.

Remember, now more than ever, our youth needs to be taught the importance of Americanism!!

God Bless America!

And the B.P.O.E Organization!

ELKS CAMP BARRETT IMPROVEMENT FUND RAFFLE

By Lou Schmeltzer, PDD, Chairman

The raffle was held at the Camp on Sunday the 24th of May, as scheduled, even though the annual picnic was cancelled. There were a few invited folks that attended as participants & witnesses. The live feed that had been planned did not take place for a few reasons that I will not go into now.



MD, DE, DC ASSOCIATION HOOP SHOOT REPORT

Basil Wadkovsky, Director, Elks Hoop Shoot
MD DE DC Elks Association

The State Hoop Shoot, held in Chestertown on February 9, 2020, produced three winners from North Central, two from South West and one from North East. Two of the State winners, Saige Oliver (8-9), from Camp Spring lodge and Samuel Yetman, (10-11) from Chestertown Lodge, were at the Nationals in Chicago last year. Hopefully, we will see both at the States competition again next year.

With respect to participants, we had 22 lodges participate in the Hoop Shoot program, an increase of two (2) Lodges from last year. There were 695 contestants at the local level, an increase of 107 contestants from the previous year, and 254 volunteers who participated in holding the local shoots.

What started as a promising Hoop Shoot season, unfortunately, as a result of COVID-19 ended, in disappointment to all of us involved in this program, especially those contestants who were scheduled to compete at the Regional Hoop Shoot in March. The regional Hoop Shoot, scheduled for March 14, 2020, was canceled due to the virus, as was the National Hoop Shoot set for April 24 in Chicago.

I would like to give a giant thank you to not only all of the volunteers who assisted at their local shoots but also to the District Directors, namely Bill Leonard, of Wilmington Lodge, (North East), Marty Vandegrift, of Seaford Lodge (South East), Peter Cline of Towson Lodge, (North Central), Dewayne Wilcher of Camp Springs Lodge (South West) and Phil Popielski, of the Westminster Lodge (West) for the dedication and hard work they all put in it to make this 2020 Hoop Shoot Year a success.



On behalf of the Camp, I would like to thank all who participated, in the raffle/fundraiser. You are the ones who make this event so successful every year. As of this writing, the net will be: \$32,500.00. This figure will increase but will still fall short of previous years. This, I am sure, is a result of the trying times that we are experiencing.

By the time that you read this, all the winners will have been notified and some, if not all, will have received their prizes. I will have a more complete report for you in the October newsletter.



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

By Margie McIntyre, State ENF Chair

The ENF Fidelity Club

The Foundation's Monthly Giving Program

The easiest way to support the ENF all year round!

Do you contribute to the Elks National Foundation often? What if you could donate without having to think about it? Well, you can! Enroll today and become a member of the Fidelity Club—the ENF's monthly giving program.

Why Join the Fidelity Club?

- **Ease:** The ENF Fidelity Club recognizes automatic, regularly scheduled donations through your bank account or credit card. These donations can occur monthly (minimum \$5) or quarterly (minimum \$15).
- **Eco-Friendly:** Save a tree and save time with paperless donations!
- **Convenience:** No need to purchase stamps or mail a check. It takes just five minutes to sign up, and you're good to go!
- **Flexibility:** You can increase, modify, or cancel your gift at any time.
- **Security:** It's safe, reliable and allows the ENF to spend less time on administration and more time on our charitable mission.

What are the Benefits?

The longer you are a member of the Fidelity Club, the more benefits you'll receive!

- **Fidelity Club Sticker:** Following your first recurring gift, you'll receive a special Fidelity Club sticker for your membership card, and your name will appear in the online **Fidelity Club Honor Roll**. At the end of each calendar year, you'll receive a new sticker with your annual statement.
- **Fidelity Club Pin:** Once you've made 12 recurring gifts, you'll receive the ENF Fidelity Pin!
- **Pin Attachments:** Each time you reach an additional benchmark—starting at 25 recurring gifts—you'll receive a pin attachment to wear with your Fidelity pin.

Ready to Join?

Becoming a member of the Fidelity Club is simple! Enroll online at enf.elks.org/recurring and start your gift today! Questions? Contact enf@elks.org or 773/755-4728 for additional information about starting a recurring gift and joining the ENF Fidelity Club.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERAN SERVICE MISSION

By Bob McIntyre, Chairman, ENVSC



I hope everyone is safe and well, and you are following the pandemic guidelines set forth by our State Governments. It is disappointing that the MD, DE & DC State Convention scheduled for June has been canceled along with the National Convention in July. This was done for our protection.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all VA Hospitals and State Veterans Homes were placed on lockdown prohibiting volunteers and family members from entering the facilities to visit our veterans. The lockdown was implemented to protect our elderly and vulnerable veterans living in these facilities from the virus.

Due to the high demand for Personal Protective Equipment, the VAs and State Homes experienced shortages of facemasks and sanitary supplies. The VAs and State Veterans Homes called upon all Volunteer Organizations throughout the Maryland and Delaware area, asking for facemasks and supplies. Answering the call from the VA and State Veterans Homes, our VAVS Representatives, Elk members, and non-members manufactured and delivered over a thousand facemasks and supplies to our VAs and State Homes. Special thanks to all the volunteers, remembering our mantra "As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Each year at the State Convention, we award the Male and Female Elk Veteran Volunteer of the Year Awards. This year's recipients of the award are Mr. Thomas Volatile from Cape Henlopen Lodge #2540, and Ms. Mary Onley from Frederick Lodge #624. Congratulations! Thank you for your service to our veterans and your Lodge's veterans program.

This year, as your Lodge prepares to apply for a Freedom Grant, you may be wondering how restrictions on gatherings and events due to COVID-19 will affect your project, especially if you were planning fishing trips, picnics, or taking veterans to ballgames. ENVSC has implemented Phase 2, updating and relaxing some requirements for the Grant. Please refer to Elks.org to see Freedom Grant projects that you may want to consider. Freedom Grant applications open on June 11, 2020. There are 325 Grants available in the amount of \$2,500.00, a \$500.00 increase over last year. Last year nine MD, DE & DC Lodges were recipients of the Grant. Hopefully, we can grab a few more as Lodge involvement is not a requirement.

The Army of Hope/Welcome Home Project assisted our veterans throughout Maryland, Delaware, and DC. The Army of Hope assisted veterans with rent, furniture, Welcome Home Kits, utility bills, home renovations, and partnered with the VA to replace a blind veteran's home air conditioning unit. Last year, the Army of Hope expenditures assisting our veterans totaled \$21,082.28. The Welcome Home Project assisted our Homeless Veterans with rent, furniture, and most recently helped a veteran family with funeral expenses. Total expenditures last year were \$17,789.80.

On behalf of the Army of Hope, I want to thank all the Lodges and individuals who donated \$12,042.52 last year. The Army of Hope Car Raffle fundraiser has been placed on hold and will continue when conditions improve.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer! I hope to see everyone in Ocean City at the Fall Conference.

MEMBERSHIP

George Tunnicliff, State Membership Chairperson
Cell: 301-643-3597 tunnicliff69@hotmail.com

End of Year Membership Report

Ahoy, all Members, I hope all of you are making through this awful pandemic.

Social distancing is keeping us apart like ships on the ocean, but that does not mean we have to stop socializing. Just do not do it in large groups. We all have phones, Facebook, email, Face time, and other ways to reach out the each other.

Remember, even thou the Lodges are closed, we still need to pay our dues. If you see or hear of members struggling financially, just have them contact the Exalted Ruler to see how he and the membership committee may be able to help.

I have heard that some members are saying, "Why pay my dues when I can't even go to the Lodge." Well, the Lodge

uses your dues for some of the bills that are still coming in even thou the Lodge can not open and has no income. Besides, who wants to be a member not in good standing. Not Me!

Membership growth and retention continue to be the number one (#1) priority of our order. As such, you are tasked (along with others) to keep this program/challenge at the forefront and active in every Lodge of your District.

Each Lodge must have in place an active Membership Committee made up as follows:

Exalted Ruler, Lodge Secretary, Leading Knight, Membership Chairperson, and one additional member for every 100 members in the Lodge

This Membership Committee should be meeting weekly April through June then monthly thereafter. Minutes of these meetings are to be maintained much like those of the House Committee and Trustees/Board of Directors and available for review by the District Deputy.

Work with your Lodges to be sure they each have this committee in place and

are actively working - suggest you touch base with them for an update on a routine basis, no less than once a month with at least a quarterly visit to review the records/status of their progress. All committees can still function during this pandemic, this might be the best time for your Lodge and you to Shine. By reaching out to the membership and the community, they will see that the Lodge is still active even thou the Lodge itself is closed.

We began 2019/2020 with 19,843 members and ended with 19,891 members.

So, at this time, we have a plus in membership of 48 members with 1,351 delinquents.

I am sure the Lodges not being open is what is affecting the membership. Do not be afraid to ask a neighbor, friend, or family member to become an ELK member. **ELKS CARE and ELKS SHARE! And now is our time to SHINE.**



Right | PER Cyndee Sammons from Milford Lodge made and donated over 400 facemasks to the Wilmington and Delaware Veterans Homes. Left | Facemasks and a welcome home kit being delivered to the Wilmington VA.



Grants Coordinator Brenda King, BGCSM CEO Joy Hill Whitaker, & ER David Marchyshyn of Calvert Elks Lodge #2620 presented the 2021 Gratitude Grant to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland. The \$2,500 grant will be used to help feed children during the COVID-19 crisis.



By Corey Bradley, PER, VP, State Government Relations Co-Chairman, Maryland

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS 2019-2020 RECAP

Another successful year completed for our Elks Association. So far, entered into CLMS, we show we had over 51K volunteers who volunteered more than 118K hours at 318,920 programs across Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. It also shows members and volunteers have traveled over 310K miles between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020. The moon is only 238,900 miles away from earth to put things in perspective. Lodges in our Association have given back more than \$701K to their communities. All this work that we as Elks do, has allowed us to give \$4,098,992 back to children, veterans, those less fortunate, and our communities. This is why the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the most recognizable American fraternal in the United States of America. Continue to put in your hours, mileage, and donated funds for last year. I am sure our final report will be much higher when presented in October.

While the year was a great success, we have a few setbacks. First, I want to say the Government Relations Committee was saddened to hear about the passing of Carl Vogt. Carl has been an intracule part of the Government Relations team and over the past four

years has led the charge to allow slot machines in fraternal organizations on the Western Shore for the last 4 years. Carl Vogt will be missed.

The Government Relations Committee continued to push the Maryland legislature to allow fraternal organizations, like the Elks, to have Instant Ticket Lottery Machines (ITLM). While this push wasn't successful, we don't view it as a failure either. Different strategies were tried this year, such as (1) postcard campaign (2) individually meeting with Senators and Delegates and (3) an aggressive communication strategy involving members and Lodges impacted. Many long hours and days were put into attempting to get a slots bill passed. The bill was not voted on, which leaves the Government Relations committee hopeful that we can breathe new life and new ideas to having the bill be successful in the upcoming year.

MOVING FORWARD IN 2020-2021

Bonnie Howell and I (Corey Bradley) are working extremely hard on our end to promote the positive works that Elks within the Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Association do, but we need you all to do your part. This can be accomplished by following these simple and easy steps:

District Chairs, State Chairs, and State

Officers all should be submitting a charitable report to Government Relations committee monthly. It has been requested that they are submitted by the 10th day of the following month. We understand that people have busy lives, but the only way we can accurately capture all the necessary information on time is by submitting monthly reports. If you need a copy of the template, please don't be afraid to ask. The template can also found on page 18 of the Government Relations manual located at www.elks.org.

Exalted Rules and Lodges Secretaries should ensure that the Lodge is capturing all activities, volunteer hours, mileage, and funds at the very most monthly. Lodges that report charitable giving weekly or biweekly, often have more information reported because nothing slips through the cracks. Grand Lodge has provided Lodges with a survey of volunteer, youth and charitable giving form that is on page 19 of the Government Relations manual located at www.elks.org.

We can only be successful if we are reporting what we do day-in and day-out as Elks. The Government Relations Committee looks forward to having a fantastic Elk year and reporting positive activities and accomplishments to the State Association.



Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540, as part of its continuing program of community outreach, provided lunch for staff at Beebe Medical Center in Lewes, DE. Lunch was purchased from "Via Sorrento", a local Italian restaurant and featured lasagna, meatballs, salad, bread and cannoli for dessert. The lunch was coordinated by Lynn Clougher, PER and Phyllis Patterson, an Emergency Department employee and member

of the Lodge. Lunch was served to the ED staff, security personnel, lab staff and guest relations staff. WIN – WIN! Lodge #2540 provided support, not only for the hospital staff, but also for a local restaurant going thru a difficult time.

Photo: (L to R) Sam Leshner, ER, Kelly Barber, Leading Knight, Phyllis Patterson, Tom Clougher, Doug Barber, Ralph Patterson, PER and Lynn Clougher, PER

CONVENTION/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

By Merrilyn & John Ramsey

Year-End Report 2019-2020

Annual Budget: A budget has been presented to Advisory and awaits Membership approval at the earliest possible time. This year Con-Con assumed financial responsibility for the March, June, GL, and Fall events for VIPs (defined as GL Sponsor, GL Officers from MD/DE/DC, invited guests/speakers, President-Elect, and the State President).

June and GL Conventions: It is sad for all of us that these two conventions couldn't happen due to the emergency created by COVID-19. We were pleased that the hotels understood and are all ready to have us return. We were sorry not to have seen you all.

Fall Conference 2020: We have confirmed with the Princess Royale Hotel that they will be ready for us if a gathering will be allowed at that time. We will sell tickets that weekend for the complimentary Weekend Package, and for those of you who purchased tickets previously, if you win the drawing, we will refund your payment.

Merchandise: We added new merchandise and will continue to take the customized GL shirt orders and get them done as soon as the State allows our Printer/Embroiderer to reopen. We presented our merchandise to 4 DD Clinics and received an excellent response and, in all cases, showed to a new audience of Lodge members who don't always attend State functions. They were able to see firsthand what is available and the quality we offer. We are actively looking at options to get merchandise to you under the current national situation.

Credit Card Reservations & Purchases: We have elements of a system and were hoping for a presentation in March. Keep your fingers crossed for October.



THANK YOU!

We are honored to have served the State Association as Convention/Conference Chair and have passed the baton to Rob Broom (and Dolly), who are in transition and will be handling the October Conference in Ocean City.

We are planning to travel and spend more time with family. We will still be part of the Elk family, just on a different and less frequent basis.

We wanted to thank you, the Members of the State Association, our GL Sponsor Paul, and Advisory for your support. So many of you offered to do whatever we asked. You were always willing to do even the smallest things.

We want to thank Con-Con Committee members who, over the years, have been supportive and willing to help make the Conventions and Conferences enjoyable and special events for all Members. You spent many behind-the-scenes hours, and it is appreciated.

We are proud of what we have accomplished during the last 5 years and are excited to turn over the reins to Rob (and Dolly) for new and exciting ideas and are supportive as they take on this new challenge.

Merrilyn and John Ramsey



Photo above: Ocean City Elks Lodge is proud to have one of their own on the Boardwalk, Hometown Heroes summer tribute. Congratulations to our Treasurer, Jim Flaig. You can find Specialist Third Class Flaig standing guard over Tony's Pizza at Caroline Street and the Boardwalk.



By Renee' Rivituso, PDDGER, State Chairman Elks Training

The past few months, it has been just "WOW"; most of our Lodges are in financial despair and still closed down with little to no income. You're Lodge may be looking for ways to save money by not mailing out the monthly Lodge bulletin or perhaps applying for one of the loans now being offered. Both options should lead you to the Laws of the Order, Statues Annotated 2019.

Following the statues and opinions, a Lodge may send out their bulletin electronically, but members also have the right to receive it by mail if they so desire. This information can be found in Section 16.150 Opinions 03 & 04.

Opinion 03: If a Lodge publishes any magazine, newspaper, bulletin, or other periodical devoted to the interests of the Order, every Member of that Lodge is entitled to receive a copy of each such publication, whether by electronic delivery or by regular mail.

Opinion 04: The Lodge Bulletin may be sent electronically to any Member without written authorization from that Member unless otherwise requested by the Member.

When applying for a loan, your Lodge must follow Statues Annotated 16.050, which has several lengthy requirements. Some of these requirements can be relaxed in emergency situations or during a crisis. In Statues Annotated 16.050 you can find this sentence.

"Permission to borrow money for a period of less than one (1) year, and not collateralized by a mortgage, may be approved by the Sponsor of the State in which the Lodge is located".

Our State Sponsor Paul Helsel, PGER gave this guidance, "Because most Lodges are not conducting Regular Lodge Meetings during this crisis and the need for quick action, a Lodge may pursue the loan under "relaxed" requirements of Section 16.050, without notice to the Membership and Lodge vote, and with only approval of the Chair Officers, Secretary, Treasurer, and Lodge Trustees, completion of the loan application, and the further approval of the State Sponsor."

I hope you have found this Training helpful and informative. After this Pandemic and restrictions are lifted, an Elks Training Clinic will be scheduled and available for all those in Lodge leadership positions. If I can be of any assistance in the future, please feel free to reach out to me at RRivituso@Hotmail.Com or 240-508-8636.

Grow With the Elks.

Renee' Rivituso

ALL AMERICAN LODGE CONTEST



By Michael Todd, Lodge Activities

We had 12 Lodges participate this year, 5 down from last year. Being positive, I will always hope for 37 one year.

DIV. 1

- 1ST WALDORF #2421
- 2ND HAVRE de GRACE #1564
- 3RD ABINGDON #2354

DIV. 2

- 1ST CALVERT #2620
- 2ND DEALE #2528
- 3RD ST. MARY'S #2092
- 4TH CHESTERTOWN 2474

DIV. 3

- 1ST DOVER #1903

DIV.4

- 1ST WESTMINSTER #2277
- 2ND KENT ISLAND #2576
- 3RD WILMINGTON #307

DIV. 5

- 1ST FREDERICK #684

It would be wonderful to have more participation and I will continue efforts to gain interest. If any of you have any suggestions, please feel free to talk to me. Perhaps sharing ideas will help find ways to get more Lodges involved in the future.

Everyone, stay safe and well! Until we meet again.





Maryland, Delaware & District of Columbia
Elks Association

2020 FALL CONFERENCE RESERVATION


Princess Royale Hotel
91st Street Oceanfront
Ocean City, MD 21842



OCTOBER 2-4, 2020

Hotel Reservation Deadline: September 15th

Meals Only Deadline: September 15th

Our theme is **"2020 Pandemic Survivors - We Succeed Together"** for this weekend with Mask Contests (*Funniest, Most Original, Most Patriotic, Most ELKDOM*) at dinner and games in Hospitality following dinner. Be there, be safe, and part of the fun! 

1. ROOM OPTIONS:



King Bed

Two Queen Beds

(based on availability)

Ocean or Pool view Single or Double Occupancy:

Room Dates: _____ \$136.00 X _____ = \$ _____

Oceanfront Single or Double Occupancy:

Room Dates: _____ \$171.00 X _____ = \$ _____

2. FOOD CHOICES:

Breakfast: Saturday # _____ Sunday # _____ X \$17.00 per meal = \$ _____

(Breakfast is full buffet in Schooner's Restaurant)

Saturday Night Dinner: *(Your Choice of:)*

Chicken Cordon Bleu # _____ OR X \$30.00 per person \$ _____

Beef Bourguignonne # _____ X \$35.00 per person \$ _____

3. REGISTRATION FEE: # _____ EACH X \$ 5.00 per person \$ _____

4. TOTAL AMOUNT DUE BASED UPON SELECTIONS ABOVE: \$ _____

FOR EXTENDED DAYS (before 10/2 & after 10/4 ONLY) - Call Alexandra 410.524.2544 at the hotel.

ⓘ NOTE: Information subject to change in compliance with current government guidelines. ⓘ

Enclose payments with registration and make your check payable to MD, DE & DC Elks Association.

Send to: Robert Broom, 20565 Piney Point Road, Callaway, MD 20620

Name: _____ Lodge: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

⇒ For Special Accommodations and/or Questions: ⇐

Call Robert – 240-434-8129 or Email: Robert.broom72@gmail.com