



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Upcoming events allow Elks to retain, recruit

This is the time of year to move the momentum for the future of Elkdom. Prepare your Members for what is coming next and create new ideas for the future. There are so many things just around the corner: GER Membership Class, ENF Month, Red Ribbon Week, Patriotism Week, Veterans Day... so many more.

Membership: Are you in line with your goals for the year? What? You didn't set goals!? Then start now and make sure that you are on top of **recruiting** and **retaining** membership.

This is a superb time to send invoices to your Members who have not paid their dues. The Membership Committee should contact those delinquent Members to ask them to become current. Let them know that the funds continue to help the Lodge do great things in the community. Then, ask them if there is anyone they know who would benefit from



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

PAUL R. RYAN

becoming a Member of the Lodge and also would enjoy helping with community events and charitable get-togethers.

However, don't just **retain**; ramp up and get **new** Members in other ways. Hold an event and have each Member bring someone they know who is not a Member. Take a box of goodies to the police departments, fire departments, and sheriff's departments and tell them about our closed-door policies. Tell them how their job and their privacy is important to us.

As fall comes in, are you working out details for Lodge participation? It is a good time to organize and gather new ideas. Plant a seed for something new to be done each year, month, or week. It is a good time to organize old and implant new ideas to make sure that something is always happening at the Lodge.

This is a great time to make sure that the Lodge Secretary is keeping up with the charitable reports. If this is done on a regular basis then it is not a situation where you will need to try and remember what has happened. Send a notice out to all the Members and the Activities chairs so that you make sure to receive all the charitable hours recorded.

Coming right around the corner is Patriotism Week from September 7-13 and Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31. The GER Class runs for the month of

Please see GER, Page 3

Permanent records must stay permanent

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

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

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

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

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Monthly gift goes a long way

We can all agree 2020 is not a normal year. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses have been shuttered for months. People are out of work. Your financial situation may be much different this year than it was last year.

We get it. If you can't support us right now, we understand. Please know that we are thinking of you and we are doing what we can to provide some relief to communities struggling from the economic impact of the pandemic.

If you are able to give, consider joining the Fidelity Club, the ENF's monthly giving program. In five minutes, you can establish an automatic, regularly scheduled donation that occurs monthly or quarterly. Monthly gifts can be as little as \$5; quarterly gifts can be as little as \$15.

Joining the Fidelity Club helps ensure the Elks are there during times like these.

Not only is joining the Fidelity Club a

safe and reliable way to give, it's simple and flexible—donations can be adjusted at any time.

Through the monthly giving program, you'll have opportunities to earn exclusive pins and membership card stickers, too. Members of the Fidelity Club earn their first pin after just 12 gifts.

We are in this together; any support adds up to make a difference in our communities. To learn more and join, go to enf.elks.org/FidelityClub



Join the ENF for lunch! Listen to our monthly podcast, **MIDDAY with the ENF**, hosted by Director Jim O'Kelley.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Top student, teen awards bolster Youth Programs

By **DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER**
Committee Member

This Elks year marks the eighth year that your Grand Lodge Activities Committee has been relying solely on the Elks.org website 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/. The certificates are made “fillable” for you to type in the recipients’ names to create a more professional-looking product.

Also at our webpage 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 those states they are assisting during

the fraternal year.

With a new school year soon to begin, 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 Teenager of the Month/Year. The Lodge Activities Committee would be responsible to plan and work with your local school officials to administer this youth recognition program so it’s ready to start with the new school year. The point of this program is to recognize outstanding students and teenagers whose accomplishments deserve public recognition and praise!

The GL Activities Committee was proud to bring you the JROTC Awards Program at the 2018 GL Convention in San Antonio. Go to our Elks.org page for suggested procedures on setting up a JROTC Awards Program for your Lodge. You may also reference the online December 2019 GL Newsletter (pg.2) article – “JROTC Awards Program recognizes future leaders.”

Your GL Activities Committee is ready

to assist you and encourages each Lodge to develop a stellar Youth Activities Program. Make your Lodge a valued community partner by promoting and supporting our 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 JROTC Awards Program and the Public Safety Medal of Valor/Service.

Thank you Elks Family for making a difference in the communities you love to serve! At a time such as this, continue being that shining Elks beacon of hope in your community. As we promote and support these programs intended to recognize excellence in America’s outstanding youth, we will surely demonstrate Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Ryan’s theme “**Creating Momentum for the Future of Elkdom**” and show “*Elks Care – Elks Share*”.

GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING

Care to share Elks’ new social media campaign

By **RICK GATHEN**
PR and Membership Marketing Manager

Phase one of the new shareable recruitment campaign is now available at join.elks.org.

Also, follow and share our social media platforms, BPOE TV and BPOE News.

A shareable social media campaign pursues a younger target audience, namely Millennials and Generation X.

Messaging is centered around mantras including “The Elks of a New Generation,” “Join the Herd,” and “Community. Charity. Love.”

Go to join.elks.org and visit the Elks Shareables Page and the Elks Social Media Network Facebook Page. More info can also be found in two comprehensive virtual resources, the Membership Guide and the Marketing Guide.

Grow
Elkdom

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Scouts can earn Red Ribbon patch

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**
Assistant National Director

Did you know that the DEA has a patch program for those Lodges who sponsor a Boy or Girl Scout Troop?

The DEA Red Ribbon Patch Program is designed to provide Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts the opportunity to earn a patch from the Drug Enforcement Administration by engaging in anti-drug activities in celebration of Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31). The purpose of the Patch Program is to empower young people to engage with their community through drug-free activities and strengthen their anti-drug beliefs.

DEA will award a Red Ribbon Patch and Certificate of Participation to qualifying Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts (while supplies last)! For more information on this program, go to getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/get-involved/red-ribbon-week-patch-program.

This program runs through November 30, so you will want to act fast.

What are the patch requirements?

- Each Scout/Troop or unit must coordinate a Red Ribbon Week activity within your local community or school.

- Activities and events must be coordinated during the program dates (July 1 – November 30) of the current year.

- Each Scout must attend or participate in a drug prevention education session.

- Each Scout must take the DEA Drug Free Pledge.

- The Scout leader must complete and submit the online “Activity Report” upon completion of all program requirements.

Scouts may even earn their patch virtually and while social distancing. Scout Leaders are encouraged to check out the “Tool Kit” for Scout leaders on the DEA’s website.

The DEA has been a great partner of the Elks DAP and now have made this opportunity for Scouts to earn a very special badge. Exalted Rulers, this is a fantastic opportunity to enhance your Lodge’s image.



GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE**Charitable reporting especially crucial in 2020**

By **VERNON R. SAUNDERS**
Committee Chairman

As COVID-19 continues to put a damper on meetings, social events, public gatherings, etc., it is important to remember that most of our Lodges are now open and doing business.

The closing of our Lodges for several months has, without a doubt, created a financial burden for many Lodges due to lack of income. So, we realized that the amount of charity giving this year may be quite different than for 2019. But the good work we do continues to go on even in times of disasters such as this.

September will be a great time to again start sharing with our Members and our city, county, and state officials so they will see just how much we can do even in times such as these.

In 2019, our Lodges reported a total contribution of \$460,704,156.70. This year, as of March 31, 2020, we reported total contributions of \$372,667,146.33. This includes, \$62,780,120.00 in cash donations, \$38,316,258.00 in non-cash (gifts), \$19,038,312.70 miles driven @ \$.55/per mile and \$252,532,455.63 in hours worked per IRS.

Because of financial restraints and COVID-19, the Government Relations Committee has been unable to meet face-to-face. However, we have met a couple times via teleconferencing. It is our hope that we will be able to meet again before our next annual convention in Tampa in 2021.

Reporting charitable activities is one of the most important things we can do as an organization to continue to qualify for our federal tax exemption status. We

encourage all Lodges to contact any of your state or Grand Lodge committee members if you have any questions regarding charity reporting.

Each year the Secretary of the local Lodges is sent a charity reporting booklet. This booklet lists almost everything you can report. We encourage all Lodge Secretaries to open it, read through it, and most importantly, use it. It is the best tool in your charity reporting toolbox. As an example: Did you know you can report mileage to and from meetings and hours spent during the meeting? Well, you can. This is just one of the items you may report as a contribution on your charitable reporting booklet.

Let us continue our efforts together in protecting the right to exist as a private, nonprofit, charitable organization.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE**Effective Lodge, State websites tell our Order's story**

By **ROBERT R. HINKLE**
Committee Chairman
and **MERYL ARNS**
Committee Member

The 21st century is an age of evolving digital technology offering new forms of personal interaction, workplace opportunity, and organization communication. During this season of COVID-19, digital venues are a blessing. Virtual meetings, social media, traditional e-mail, and websites are a welcome daily resource. Imagine what life was like a century ago during the 1918 flu!

Elks are especially social people. We enjoy sharing a handshake, a meal, and a hug. We regularly gather to conduct our rituals and business. We frequently gather to raise money and then gather again to spend it and volunteer our time. Our charity efforts improve our communities, define us and form the essential fabric of our organization.

COVID-19 has deprived us of meeting and sharing in traditional ways. However, as Elks, we do what Elks Do!

We have learned to conduct virtual meetings. We continue to share and care for home-bound Members and veterans. We continue to participate in numerous community projects and applaud the leadership of our Elks National Foundation for promptly revising the criteria for the Gratitude Grant. We also express appreciation for the ENF staff

expeditiously approving Lodge grant proposals designed for community needs associated with the COVID-19.

Across America these community grants aid health professionals and first responders in continuing to serve their communities and for local food banks to continue to meet their expanded challenges. Our efforts will expand in the months ahead as Lodges use other ENF supported community grant opportunities.

As always it is vital that we stay connected, and social media provides ever-expanding opportunities for announcing "what's happening now" and "issues of immediate need." Traditional websites have been and will continue to be the best method to tell a more in-depth detailed story and to serve as a depository for important organization information.

The "Elks Story" is an opportunity for your Lodge or your State Association to receive national recognition for your website. This can be done by entering the Lodge Website Contest or the State Website Contest. Websites should be informative, up to date, and easy to search and navigate. They should provide a history of past events and work in conjunction with other forms of social media. Your website should announce future social and charitable activities inviting Members to participate. Construct and maintain a website that

tells a positive and inspirational story—the "Elks Story!"

October 1, 2020, is the deadline for the contests. Entry forms and detailed instructions are available at elks.org/fraternalcommittee section (elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm).

Local Lodge Website Contest Administrator**MERYL ARNS**

1635 West 546 South
Cedar City, UT 84720-2866
marns1946@hotmail.com

State Website Contest Administrator**ANTHONY J. DARDANO**

134 Oak Hill Drive
Wood Dale, IL 60191-2081
dardanot@aol.com

GER From Page 1

October, so start making plans now and make this the largest GER Class ever.

ENF Month is also in October, so make as many events as possible to increase the ENF funds to meet the \$4.80 goal. Create another event to sign people up for the Fidelity Club—Wouldn't it be awesome to increase the amount of giving we can do by getting all Members to give just \$5 per month? Wow, now that is a number!

ENVSC helps veterans make their home a home

By **BRIANNA BUELTMANN**
ENVSC Fellow

For the last two years, I've had the privilege of working for the Elks National Veterans Service Commission to serve veterans through the Welcome Home program. My name is Brianna Buelmann, and I am an Elks Scholar Fellow. I was drawn to work for the ENVSC specifically because of the Elks' commitment to help end veteran homelessness.

Since I started with the Elks in June 2018, we've helped fulfill over 1,600 requests for emergency assistance in eight cities across the country, and 175 Lodges have provided kits of home supplies for more than 3,185 newly housed veterans.

It's been incredible to see the passion of our volunteers as they get involved in the Welcome Home program.

Elks build relationships with veterans as they shop for basic household supplies to help newly housed veterans turn an empty apartment into a home. For many, the experience is eye-opening and transformative.

Since I began my fellowship, participation in the Welcome Home Kit program has increased more than 100%! Even through the COVID-19 pandemic, our volunteers have adapted and found ways to make sure veterans are

still receiving home supplies so they don't have to quarantine in an empty house.

Whether that's shopping online to deliver supplies to the veteran's door or FaceTiming a veteran to watch them unpack their new gifts with excitement, Elks find a way to get the job done. The hardest part of my job is convincing Elks when they have to say "no."

One of the exciting additions to our program this past year has been being able to reimburse additional funds to buy beds for veterans! We've seen too many photos from veterans' homes



Continued below

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

September 2020

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

VETERANS From above

of coffee tables pushed together to form a makeshift bed. Every veteran deserves a place to lay their head.

For millions of Americans, especially those on a fixed income or living paycheck to paycheck, it only takes one unexpected life event for a family to find themselves on the brink of homelessness. But it often takes only a small amount of assistance to make a huge difference.

Through the Emergency Assistance Program, eligible veterans can apply for up to \$2,500 in funds. In reality, the average amount requested to secure housing is only \$1,570. In the last two years, I've helped hundreds of veterans prevent homelessness by assisting with crucial needs like security deposits and overdue utility bills.

Having read hundreds of applications for assistance, I can tell you that the

majority of our veterans at greatest risk of homelessness are elderly and/or disabled. An extremely limited, fixed income doesn't leave a lot of room for things to go wrong. And for veterans already dealing with health conditions, the stress of a looming eviction can trigger both psychological and physical symptoms, from PTSD to Crohn's disease.

"It wasn't just a load off my mind," said Thomas, a former Marine, explaining how he felt when he received Elks assistance. "It actually made a physical difference in how I felt. It was a very big deal."

This program has also helped people like Daniel, a Marine Corps veteran and single father of six, who works 60 hours a week to provide for his family. And Rose, another former Marine and single parent, raising twin 11-year-old girls, coping with PTSD and fibromyalgia while working as an entrepreneur to empower other women to overcome obstacles and build

careers that are right for their families and their lives.

Now, through the COVID-19 pandemic, we've been able to help veterans keep their homes and keep the lights turned on in spite of widespread job loss and financial insecurity.

I know our Members don't get to meet all the veterans we help or hear how their donations affect veterans' lives, but as someone who does get to see behind the scenes, I can tell you that the impact is huge. Even though my fellowship has come to an end, I'll be donating, participating, and rooting for the success of the Welcome Home program. After seeing how the Elks have been able to address a seemingly insurmountable problem like veteran homelessness, I can't wait to see what the Elks take on next!

Elks Care - Elks Share