



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



## Start the new Lodge year with a proactive mindset

Stacey and I can't believe that it has been nine months since this journey began for us. We feel that it has been an experience that has fulfilled us as Elks! Although our travels have been very limited, meeting all the wonderful Elks throughout this country during the trips that we have been able to make has been an absolute joy of our life.

So as we enter into the Elks New Year, this is a time to reflect on making sure you get your Lodge in order. Being able to be proactive rather than reactive will only help you and your Lodge in the long run. How is this possible? Start with making sure to have some of the following things in effect:



**Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler**

**PAUL R. RYAN**

1. Review your bylaws and ensure that they are up to date and pertain to your Lodge's rules and regulations.
2. Check your house rules and make sure they are up to date and approved by your Judiciary member of your area.
3. Do a physical inventory of all your personal property and make sure that

you have enough insurance to cover it. These are just a few items that need to be done in the beginning of the Lodge year. That being said, it is not just **your** responsibility. Involve your officers and your Board of Directors, too.

Lean on your best friend (Secretary) to make sure that you plan and cover everything. A good thing to also do now is to create a list for monthly "activities" — not just your charitable ones, but also your social ones. You should have a monthly event at your Lodge to keep Members involved, to raise funds to pay bills, and to help in the community.

We are so excited that the National Hoop Shoot competition will be

Please see GER, Page 4

## Pre-registration for Convention opens in April

Online pre-registration opens April 1 with new distribution procedures being implemented in Tampa. Pre-registration will be the best way to avoid lines and safely receive your credentials and other critical attendee information.

**GRAND SECRETARY**  
Bryan R. Klatt

Pre-registration is available at [elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm](http://elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm) and runs through June 21.

The Elks National Convention Commission is working closely with the Tampa Convention Center and Visit Tampa Bay to plan for a safe and healthy Elks National Convention. Safety measures and plans are evolving, but are likely to include social distancing, attendee occupancy management, and personal mask use that is currently required in Tampa ([tampa.gov/emergency-management/covid-19/face-covering](http://tampa.gov/emergency-management/covid-19/face-covering)).

### GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## Charitable reporting is still needed

By **VERNON R. SAUNDERS**  
Committee Chairman

2020! What a year to remember, in so many (mostly negative) regards. And by the way, who would have ever thought you would be able to walk into a bank or courthouse or corner store with a mask on and not be stopped.

I think it will forever be etched in our minds just what COVID-19 has done, not only to this country, but the world. Let us not forget the first responders, 9-1-1, police, fire fighters, doctors, nurses, EMTs, and everyone else who unselfishly gave their time to help others in need.

For us, through the strength of Elkdom and its Members and Local Lodges, we were able to survive this pandemic.

There was a lot of charity work done that I'm sure was left unreported. Not because of neglect, but because we were all caught up in helping others in time of need. Because of federal, state, and local mandates some Lodges went defunct.

Some Lodges were able to survive because they had adequate bank accounts to get them through. Others were not quite as fortunate.

I encourage each Lodge to review what they did in terms of charitable giving in 2020. You might be surprised what you find. If your Lodge has the assets, reach out to other Lodges who may be teetering on the verge of going defunct. If you are one of those Lodges on the verge of going defunct, do not hesitate to ask for relief. **Elks Care—Elks Share.**

As we move forward into 2021, let us all try not to forget what the Elks are all about. The number one Cardinal principle of our Order is charity. Give as much as you can and above all, **report, report, report.**

We hope that once again we will be able to get together soon to renew old friendships and make new ones. See you in Tampa!

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## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# New year starts for community programs

By WAYNE D. COTTERLY  
Committee Chairman

Congratulations to the incoming Exalted Rulers and Officers on being selected by the Members of your Lodge to lead its affairs in the coming year. With each new year comes excitement and new ideas to help conduct programs that support our youth and our communities.

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee has several programs that will help you to accomplish this goal, and our committee members are available to help answer any questions you may have. In addition, there is an abundance of information available on the Activities Committee page of [elks.org](http://elks.org) to help get you started.

Programs such as the Soccer Shoot, Antlers, Scouting, Medals of Valor/Service, Junior Golf, Student Recognition, JROTC Recognition, Dictionary Project, Community Projects, and Youth Week are all available to help you reach out into your communities.

The programs listed above are only the

start. Each Lodge can also develop their own programs that can be customized to provide unique support of local youth and to fill charitable needs within your community.

Now is the time to assure that your Lodge's Activities Committee is active and that they are making plans to conduct youth and community programs in the coming year.

We encourage you to check out our programs, and to use them to engage with the people in your community. By doing so, you will be letting your community know that you are there to support them. In return, the people in the community will know more about who we are and what we do. We may pique their interest in possibly becoming Members of our Order.

Community involvement is the future of Elkdom, and the programs that you conduct to benefit the community will allow your Lodge to live up to our motto that *Elks Care—Elks Share*.

# Life of early PGER remains a mystery

By MIKE CHAMERNIK  
Publications Coordinator

The Memorial Room for Past Grand Exalted Rulers in the Elks National Memorial and Headquarters is adorned with the portraits of the Past Grand Exalted Rulers. It is a way to keep each man's legacy alive. Every PGER is there—except one.

James W. Powell, who served in 1874 as the fourth Exalted Grand Ruler (as it was known then), does not have a photograph on the wall. His picture frame in the Memorial Room is sans imagery, with a note saying that he was described as “a tall, slim man, with a thin face and wore a black moustache.” The note also says that, according to a distant relative of his, Powell had never been in a photograph in his life.

It's not just that Powell was camera shy. He was altogether cryptic.

Powell, a prominent businessman in Philadelphia, ended his career with the Elks soon after retiring from the EGR position. He stopped paying his dues and never reaffiliated with the Order, or gave any updates on his whereabouts. According to *An Account of the Origin and Early History of the BPOE*, which was published in 1897, it was even unclear if he was still alive at that time.



**PGER Powell's portrait contains only a vague description of what he might have looked like**

“It is to be regretted,” the authors of the book wrote, “that a brother who in his time manifested so much zeal for the Order, should not have maintained his position, and all that can be said of him is by reference to his past services and his present concealed identity.”

Authors of other books about the Elks history, including *An Authentic History of the BPOE* published in 1910, couldn't find any reliable information about Powell, including his birthday or whether he had a family.

According to *An Authentic History*, after Powell's stint with the Elks, it was rumored that he was a night watchman for museums and theaters in Philadelphia, but actors and stagehands who were asked about Powell said they had never heard of him.

# Lodge uses Zoom to hold meetings, fundraising events

The COVID-19 pandemic forced many Lodges to close their doors and postpone events. But the Elks are a creative community, and they are rising to the challenge of creating connections despite the social distance.

Over the summer, Redondo Beach, CA Lodge No. 1378 held its first Zoom fundraiser. In the past, the Lodge's fundraisers revolved around a central theme and included a meal and door prizes.

A fundraiser like that was not possible, so the Lodge got creative. With a small subcommittee of four other Members, Linda Williams, ENF Fundraising Chair of Lodge 1378, set up a Facebook event to send invitations, communicate with Members, and request donations for virtual door prizes.

“It created a change in our communication needs due to the lack of ability to post event flyers in the Lodge,” Williams said. “We sent out weekly updates on the Facebook event page in addition to articles in our newsletter, weekly e-mail blasts, and announcements in the Lodge's weekly Zoom meetings.”

Williams and her subcommittee set up a Venmo account for ticket donations, which greatly increased turn out.

Members of the Lodge stepped up to donate door prizes. After the prizes were collected, the committee took pictures, posted them on the Facebook event page, and showed them during the Zoom event.

The staff generated a raffle ticket for each ticket purchased and held a drawing during the Zoom event to award the door prizes.

Everyone who donated got an exclusive link to join the Zoom meeting. The Lodge sold a total of 102 virtual seats for the event, raising more than \$1,000 for the ENF.

“The feedback from many Members of the Lodge was very positive,” Williams said. “They liked the fact that a way was found to do an event and that there was no cost to the Lodge to hold the event. They also really liked that it was a great amount of donations to go to the ENF!”

A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. For more information on the ENF, visit [elks.org/enf](http://elks.org/enf).





**DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM**

**DAP offers free online lesson plans for middle schoolers**

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN  
Assistant National Director

Do you have middle school teachers in your Lodge? Do you host Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts? Are your local schools still holding classes virtually? Do your middle schools have health classes?

If you answered “yes” to one or more of these questions, you might want to go to our website for teens: elksteenzone.org. The DAP offers **free** online lesson plans for middle school aged children. We provide teens with facts and engage them in critical thinking about how drugs affect their lives, behaviors, and different parts of the body. In addition to the online lessons, there are articles,

videos, trivia games, contests, and a library of resources.

All our lesson plans are standard aligned and meet criteria set by the National Health Education Standards (NHES) and the National Science Education Standards (NSES). Encourage the educators in your Lodge to visit elksteenzone.org today. When you visit the website you can view a number of lesson plans. The website is easy to navigate, and as with all of the DAP websites, we encourage your feedback. For more information contact your State Association’s Drug Awareness Chairperson.

In other news, the Elks Drug Awareness Program is partnering with

the Young Marines. The Young Marines is a nonprofit 501c (3) education and service program for boys and girls, age 8 through completion of high school. Currently there are approximately 8,000 youth and 2,500 adult volunteers in approximately 40 states and the District of Columbia. The Young Marines have focused on an initiative, “Closing the Gate on Drugs,” which promotes healthy living and a drug-free lifestyle.

This initiative aligns very closely with that of the DAP and the Elks are proud to have the Young Marines as a partner. Continue to look for more information in this column as the partnership grows or contact your State Chairperson for more information.

**GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE**

**Reinstatement notice letters to be sent soon**

By RICK GATHEN  
Membership Marketing Manager

All Lodge Secretaries are required by Statute 14.180 to send a 60-day reinstatement notice letter to Members dropped in March. An unaffiliated Member whose name has been stricken from the rolls of membership for nonpayment of dues, may on his/her application, if made within sixty (60) days thereafter, be reinstated as a Member in good standing in the Lodge upon majority vote thereof at the next regular meeting and payment of the delinquent and current dues.

The Secretary shall advise the unaffiliated Member in writing of the date of him/her being dropped from the rolls and of his/her right to re-affiliate within 60 days. The reinstatement shall not result in the loss of continuous and consecutive membership standing. The 60-day reinstatement letter and mail merge option can be found on CLMS2 PC.

**Elks share their thoughts**

Want to discuss the Elks? Check out the Membership Forum ([elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm](http://elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm)). Members use the message board to share constructive information every day.

**GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE**

**Top sites inform, promote Elkdom**

By MERYL ARNS  
Committee Member

A Lodge with a good website is a Lodge growing in membership. Thank you to the many Lodge webmasters across the United States who keep our Members informed and congratulations to those who entered the Lodge Website Contest.

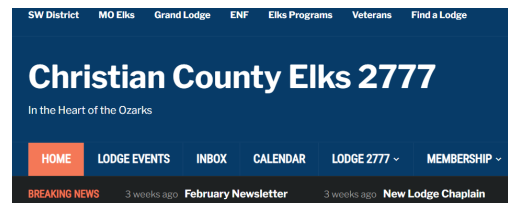
It is obvious that Lodge websites are getting information out to our

Members and telling the world what we do. Attractive photos welcome Members and Elks who may be traveling across the country to stop and enjoy the many activities offered by our Lodges. Through websites we are *“Creating Momentum for the Future of Elkdom.”*

The Lodge Website Contest is free to enter and the reward is knowing that you have let the world know what we do.

**5 Star ★★★★★ Awards**

- Annapolis, MD Lodge No. 622 elks622.com
- Christian County, MO Lodge No. 2777 ccelks2777.com



**4 Star ★★★★★ Awards**

- Sanford, NC Lodge No. 1679 sanfordelks1679.org
- Arvada, CO Lodge No. 2278 arvadaelks.org
- Jupiter, FL Lodge No. 2469 jupiterelks.org
- Louisville, KY Lodge No. 8 elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=8
- Ashland, OH Lodge No. 1360 ashlandelks.com
- Garden Grove, CA Lodge No. 1952 elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=1952
- Port Townsend, WA Lodge No. 317 elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=317

**3 Star ★★★ Awards**

- Covington, GA Lodge No. 1806 covingtonelkslodge1806.org
- Wallingford, CT Lodge No. 1365 wallingfordelks.org

# Some veterans need a helping hand—Yours!

By **DAVID R. CARR, PGER**  
ENVSC Past Chairman

Many veterans, despite a successful tour in the military, return to find that their war experiences make it difficult to adjust to civilian life. Drug abuse and social, marital, and psychological difficulties are more common among veterans than any other identifiable group in society. On any given night, thousands of homeless veterans are sleeping on the streets in the United States. It's estimated that 11% of the homeless population are veterans.

Because the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is recognized by the Veterans Administration as receiving

veterans support in their communities, the VA has asked us to expand our outreach to veterans in need.

The Elks Welcome Home Program is a terrific way to do just that! The program is aimed at ending veteran homelessness. Lodges everywhere work closely with veteran organizations, community leaders, and medical workers to combine efforts to serve this population.

And this year, we're expanding Welcome Home to give Lodges even more resources. Starting April 1, the Welcome Home Kit program will grow!

The ENVSC will reimburse the Lodge up to \$300.00 per kit and up to \$500.00 for kits that include a bed.

These kits include essential supplies for normal household use: bedding, cleaning supplies, pots and pans, etc. Lodges can work with the veteran to find out just what is needed to set up their new home.

We are also adding two new cities of focus to the program! Lodges in Las Vegas and San Francisco are now eligible to apply for Focus Grants



*Continued below*

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

**April 2021**

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## **GER** From Page 1

happening. It may be a little different as it will be held virtually. It is also for the 2019-2020 competition winners for regional competitors and national winners that advanced. That being said, keep an eye out for the future: The 50 year anniversary celebration will be held in Chicago next year for the 2021-2022 season of Hoop Shoot. We all hope that we will have a normal Hoop Shoot for that season.

As you know my theme for this year is *Creating Momentum for the Future of Elkdom*. Younger Members need to take this into consideration: You are the ones that are going to continue the tradition that this organization has to offer.

Stacey and I are looking forward to continuing seeing the great Elks throughout the country.

Please make a donation to our charities and we will be happy to share a pin with you.

## **VETERANS** From above

to address veteran homelessness. And, veterans receiving care at VA facilities in these cities can now apply for the Elks Emergency Assistance Program to help them prevent or exit homelessness.

Even if you're not in these cities, you can get involved. Lodges can use grant funds or organize clothing drives, supply drives and anything else needed to assist these veterans in your community. You can also invite veterans into your Lodge for a free meal at some point after you deliver the kit to the veteran. Above all, thank them for their service, make them feel welcome and always remember: "All gave some, some gave all."

Thank you for your support and demonstrating once again that *Elks Care—Elks Share*.

# Happy Easter 2021

