



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Spring has sprung; summer right around the corner

Hey, hey it is the first of May. I hope you were able to turn in your Community Project Contest form to get your Lodge some deserved recognition. Remember, the annual charity report is due May 1.

The first week of May is also Elks National Youth Week. I would encourage you to hold an event and honor all those who participated in your Lodge's youth programs over the past year. A variety of participation certificates available online. However, if you cannot find one, make one up. Show our youth that Elks are there for them.

Further, sponsor programs that encourage youth to become outstanding



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**T. KEITH
MILLS**

citizens. If so, we will help them with *"Meeting the Challenge."*

Three honorable events take place this month. While only one is mandatory for Elks, the other two need to be recognized as well.

Sunday, May 8 is Mother's Day. This is a mandatory service that needs to be

performed by your Lodge. This event is open to the public and extra attention should be taken to ensure this ceremony is well attended to show the respect all moms deserve. The Special Ritual Manual also requires the use of red and white carnations to honor these mothers. Please perform this service and show that *Elks Care — Elks Share* for moms everywhere.

The second event is Armed Services Day held on Saturday, May 21. In 1949, Defense Secretary Louis Johnson presented an idea to create one single day to celebrate the unification of the armed forces under the Department of Defense, instead of celebrating each

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Pre-register and acquire badges for Atlanta Convention

Pre-registration for the Atlanta Grand Lodge Convention is available at elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm through June 28.

The online pre-registration fee is \$50 for all Members, while the on-site registration fee will be \$60. A current credit card for PayPal will be needed. There is no fee for a non-Elk spouse or guest.

On-site registration will open Friday, July 1, from noon to 4 p.m. When you arrive at the convention center, go to

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

the designated pre-registration line in the registration area.

You will need your e-mail confirmation and current membership card to receive credentials (and voting credentials, if qualified) for you and your spouse or guest. A registration badge will be required to enter the exhibit hall and all business sessions.

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GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

New monthly report for Gov. Relations

By ANTHONY MARKARIAN
Committee Chairman

The new Government Relations Lodge Report, available this summer, has been designed to aid the chairpersons by providing suggestive insight for their committee position.

For example, the first question asks if you have updated your charity book records and entered all of the events. This should prompt the chairpersons to look through their monthly newsletters to ensure that every event that required volunteers or donations was properly documented.

We ask if any communications have been sent to their local government in the last month, because effective government relations require constant contact. A chairperson should always be providing updates to local officials on events the Lodge has been planning.

Don't forget to report on the grant and scholarship opportunities for the students in your town. The new report has incorporated the items necessary for a successful Government Relations team.

By this time in the year, your ER should have already appointed a chairperson. If not, it needs to be someone who will build a better relationship with your local government. The Grand Lodge Manual on Government Relations provides a sample letter for all ERs to use when sending announcements to your local officials. Please use this today if you have not already done so.

In your letter, introduce yourself and your Government Relations Chairperson for the year. Let your town and county officials know your chairperson will be making an appointment to go over the charity book records and upcoming events they should be involved in. **Caution:** we can not help them politically. We take no sides and are a nonpartisan Order.

We look forward to meeting with your state chairpersons at the Grand Lodge Convention this year. Rest assured, we will be working on the new reporting and how it will assist everyone involved. They will provide you with the opportunity to strengthen and build a better relationship with your local government.

ENF programs receive funding boost with 2022-23 budget

By **CATHLEEN DRAPER**

ENF Communications Coordinator

In February, the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees approved a total budget of \$42.5 million—including \$39.8 million for program services—for the 2022-23 fiscal year: a 7% increase from the 2021-22 budget.

The Foundation's largest program, the Community Investments Program, offers one of the most direct ways for Elks to build stronger communities. The CIP now offers \$15.7 million in grants. Beacon Grants, available to every Lodge, are now worth \$4,000, and a third bonus was added to the \$2,000 Gratitude Grant, which is available to Lodges that

reached the GER's per-Member-giving goal in the previous year. The \$500 bonus recognizes Lodges with broad-based fundraising programs. Lodges that earn all three bonuses could receive a \$3,500 Gratitude Grant.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission also got a boost in the budget. The Commission's Welcome Home program will expand into Orlando and Phoenix in 2022-23. The ENVSC will continue to help veterans exit or avoid homelessness with a \$4.6 million grant from the ENF.

Elks scholarships received a total of \$4.9 million, including \$2.8 million for MVS scholarships and \$1.6 million for

Legacy Awards. The ENF doubled the number of Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarships it awards to 20, and the scholarships are worth \$22,000. And, more than \$130,000 was allocated to Emergency Educational Grants for the children of deceased or disabled Elks.

The budget allocates \$1.4 million to the Hoop Shoot, an increase for the national program's 50th anniversary. The Drug Awareness Program received \$1 million, including a \$225,000 grant from the DEA. The ENF also granted \$10.4 million to Elks State Associations. Each year, the ENF strives to grant more money back to each state than it received from that state in donations.



The 2022 Grand Lodge Convention will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta. Photo courtesy of Georgia World Congress Center.

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All non-Elk guests, including widows and widowers of Elks, must register at the Guest Registration Station at the convention center to obtain registration badges. Guests need a badge to enter the exhibit hall, see the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, or attend any other events where they are permitted. Be advised exhibits and vendors will not open until 8:00 a.m. Saturday.

Grand Lodge registration and its required fee are not included in any State Association's "package" arrangement.

Please be aware that attendance at convention may pose a risk of exposure to and illness from infectious diseases, including but not limited to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19). Preventative measures aimed at reducing exposure to infectious diseases have been mandated for this event and may reduce the risk of exposure and infection.

Please refer to future issues of The Elks Magazine, as well as Elks.org, for updates concerning the 2022 Elks National Convention and the COVID-19 safety guidelines and precautions that will be in place to help ensure that everyone involved has a safe experience.

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separately. Schedule an event to honor all active armed services members. Invite them to the Lodge, provide them a meal, and show our support for all they do for us and our country.

Then comes Memorial Day, held on Monday, May 30. This day is for honoring the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country while in the United States military. In the years following the Civil War, it was originally known as Decoration Day. By the late 1860s, Americans in towns and cities started holding springtime tributes to the countless fallen soldiers from this conflict by decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. It became an official federal holiday in 1971.

We now not only honor our fallen United States service men and women, but also family members who have passed on. We hold family gatherings and parades to unofficially mark the beginning of summer.

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given so many reasons for hope and to look forward to the future, I am eternally grateful."

Recently, we assisted a veteran in San Diego. He was behind on rent and feared a budgeting mistake would lead to homelessness.

He explained, "I'm thankful that my life is content, but I recently made some errors in judgment, and you rescued me within a matter of days. Without your assistance I would have groveled and skimped for a couple of months to get back on track. I'll show my gratitude by not repeating myself. I can't give enough thanks for helping me."

G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

Send notice letters to dropped Members

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 or 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 their being dropped from the rolls and of their 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 sign on the exterior of Provo, UT Lodge No. 849. Photo: An Errant Knight/Wikimedia Commons.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Youth programs honor top students

By LANCE C. KNIGHT
Committee Member

Congratulations to all recently installed Exalted Rulers and Lodge Officers! You should be proud that the Members of your Lodge selected you to serve in a leadership role for the 2022-2023 Lodge year. All of you possess attributes which will help you to work as a team to make a difference in your community and your Lodge.

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee uses the Elks website as the source of all the materials needed to implement a successful Youth Recognition Program. All the certificates, guidelines, nomination forms, posters, and news releases are available to all Local Lodges, districts, and state Youth Activities chairs to download at elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm. The certificates are made "fillable" for you to type in the recipients' names to create a more professional looking product.

Also, at our web page under the Student Recognition program, 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.

The GL Activities Committee is proud to bring you the new multimedia videos covering each one of the programs offered within the Youth

Recognition Program. They are: The Activities Committee, Community Projects Committee, Antlers Program, Student Recognition Program, Junior Golf Program, JROTC Award Program, Public Safety Medals of Valor/Service, The Dictionary Project, Soccer Shoot Program, and Youth Activities Program Seminar. Promoting these programs will make your community more aware of what the Elks stand for.

As the school year is coming to an end, now is the time to contact your local schools to review or start a youth recognition program such as the Student of the Month/Year and/or Teenager of the Month/Year. The Lodge Activities Committee would work with your local school officials to administer the youth recognition program so it's ready to kick-off with the new school year.

The point of this program is to seek out students and teenagers whose accomplishments deserve public recognition and praise. If you have this program in place, honor those award winners in all categories with a special recognition activity at the Lodge.

Your GL Activities Committee looks forward to assisting you and your Lodge to promote and work all of the GL Activities Committee Programs in your community. Be sure to visit the Activities Committee booth at the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta. *Elks Care – Elks Share* the commitment to our youth and we will continue in "Meeting the Challenge."

ELKS *Do!*

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Training, open house slated for convention

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Assistant National Director

It sure will feel great to gather at the Grand Lodge Session this year in Atlanta. Plans are underway to return to our annual training for state chairmen, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, prior to the Opening Session on July 3. We hope most state chairs will be able to attend, but for those who feel COVID is still preventing them from traveling, we are also planning to videotape the entire training.

The Elks Drug Awareness Program also hopes we can host an open house to show Members and guests what is new and exciting in the world of the DAP. According to National Director, Kent Gade, "Drugs didn't take a holiday during COVID and neither did we. We have created new tools for state chairmen; re-designed websites for teens and younger kids and began new initiatives with the DEA. We're excited and hope that you will be too."

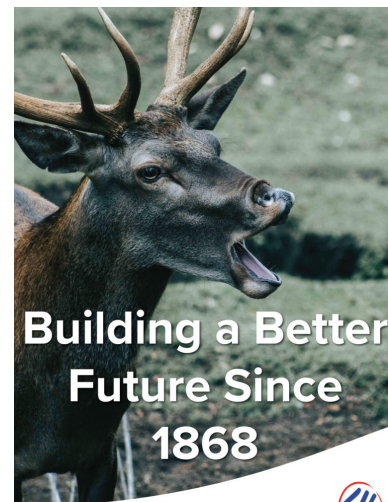
In other news, the 2021-2022 version of the DAP/DEA video, "Awkward Conversations," has been viewed 869,000 times in the first two months alone! If you haven't seen it, you owe it to yourself to spend some time on our YouTube channel—and while there, why not subscribe? This is not a short video, so you need to set some time aside to watch all three episodes. You will not be disappointed.

Lodge chairs are encouraged to contact your state chairs for all the latest and greatest news on the DAP front. Keep up the good work.



Support our Foundation by donating online. You could give through the Lodge, but the *only* difference when you donate online is how quickly your gift helps others.

Donate to the Elks National Foundation online at
enf.elks.org/MyLodge



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Veterans express their gratitude for Elks' assistance

By **NADEZH MULHOLLAND**
ENVSC Programs Associate

In 2015, the ENVSC pledged to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs to help end veteran homelessness. Our Emergency Assistance Fund offers a lifeline for veterans in need. The fund pays for essential housing expenses such as security deposit, rent, and utilities to help veterans exit or prevent homelessness.

We often receive notes of appreciation from veterans who benefit from our homelessness programs. Every veteran has a unique story, and we love having the chance to hear from veterans in their own words.

Now, we're excited to share some of those words with you!

After the Emergency Assistance Fund paid the security deposit for her new home, one Los Angeles-based veteran wrote, "I wish to express my overwhelming gratitude and thanks to you. I can't completely put into words how it feels to have a beautiful, secure place to live and to know that there are people in the world who are concerned about the rest of us and are taking action to ensure our well-being."

A veteran in Miami expressed similar sentiments. He wrote, "Thank you much!

I appreciate everything you have done for me. The past eight years have not been easy for me. After losing several jobs

as a result of my injuries from the military, I have been forced to survive with just over a thousand dollars a month. Some days seem impossible. But I know giving up is not an option as I have two sons, one who's still in high school.

Sometimes it's not easy to reach out for help. No one likes to be turned down. So, on behalf of all the veterans and service men and women you have



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BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

16 states earn awards for keeping Members informed

By **JOHN R. HOLBROOK**
Committee Member

The State Association bulletin is a traditional form of communication that Members have appreciated for decades. The Contest I — State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins in the country. Judging is based on four categories: Content, Layout & Typography, Pictorial, and General.

Thank you to the many editors who keep our Members informed. Congratulations to those who entered the contest and earned the coveted 4 Star and 5 Star ratings!

5 Star ★★★★★ Awards

State	Editor
Arizona	Shawnee A. Carlile
Florida	Rachael A. King
Georgia	Lynda Lewis
Kansas	Carl Lindsey
Louisiana	Buddy Hartle
MD, DE, DC	Janie Swigert
Missouri	Joy Clarkson
New Jersey	Nancy Rochford
New York	Timothy Welpé
North Carolina	Ashley Buckwell

4 Star ★★★★ Awards

State	Editor
California-Hawaii	Ted Olsen
Connecticut	John P. Simko
Illinois	Elizabeth Conaway
Michigan	Karen J. Cary
Oregon	C. Blake Whitson
Pennsylvania	Glen Klein

