



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Great job “Meeting the Challenge” in 2021-22

I have never found the following statement to be truer: “Time flies when you are having fun.” The year comes to a close for Amy and I. We were truly blessed. We will be eternally grateful for the opportunity you gave us to serve this great Order, and you can count on our continued dedication to the Elks for as long as we are able to serve.

Throughout our year’s travels, we were constantly surprised, thrilled, and astonished about all the fantastic individuals we met, as well as their support and dedication. Seeing all the many accomplishments the Lodges and state associations have achieved made both of us proud to be part of this organization.

We were very surprised at the number of friends we had made before this journey leading up to this year. It made



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**T. KEITH
MILLS**

our visits more comfortable to see old friends and, of course, we made many new friends as well. To witness first-hand the multiple State Major Projects, as well as the contributions that are being made in all Elks communities, is something neither one of us will ever forget.

This year has meant so much to Amy and me. The generosity and hospitality that was shown to us can never be repaid.

All the Members we met made us feel right at home and treated us like family.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family for helping us unselfishly through this entire year. We missed some important family events, but they all understood the importance of the obligation that Amy and I had taken. I would have to say the toughest part of this year was not seeing the grandkids as much as we would have liked. But, this experience helped us realize how important our family is. It will make our future gatherings more special.

Finally, I would like to once again thank the love of my life, Amy. Without her love and support, none of this would have been possible. I am truly

Please see GER, Page 3

Net new Members with online invites

Has your Lodge promoted the online Membership application for signing up new Members?

Using the Elks website, a current paid-up Member of the Order can forward a membership invitation to family and friends. Invitees can complete and submit the application online.

Lodge Secretaries will be notified of these applications via the “Alerts” screen of CLMS2, then can process the electronic version the same as a paper application. All data provided by the applicant will be imported into the Lodge’s CLMS2 database with the simple click of a button.

What better way to gain a Member than by using technology to its fullest?

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

ELKS Do!

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Project lets Lodges spread the word

By JOHN MORFORD
Committee Member

Since 2004, the Elks have partnered with the Dictionary Project to ensure every student will enjoy the benefits of owning their own dictionary—an essential tool for a quality education.

The Elks alone have delivered more than 4 million copies of dictionaries to third graders. However, in recent years some schools have dissuaded Lodges from distributing dictionaries, because most students use the internet to look up words and definitions. Most of you will agree that books still play an important role in the education process—they stimulate the imagination.

Lodges that continue to participate in the Dictionary Project observed that children still appreciate receiving their own dictionary. If schools are hesitant to distribute the dictionaries, your next question is, “why?” If the Dictionary Project needs to be approved by the

school board, then get on their schedule.

The summer months are a perfect time to communicate with school administration staff not only about the Dictionary Project but also the other great Elks programs your Lodge conducts: Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, Student of the Month/Year, Americanism Essay Contest, etc. If schools will not let your Lodge have a dictionary distribution, there are other ways. Consider having a distribution at your Lodge, at a public library, or at after-school programs in your area.

For those who have never participated in the Dictionary Program, visit their website at dictionaryproject.org. They offer a variety of dictionaries, and you can easily contact them by e-mail or phone to answer any of your questions.

Take the time to look into the Dictionary Project. Placing an influential book, like a dictionary, into a child’s hands is very powerful—even in today’s electronic world.

G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

Setting the agenda

By RICK GATHEN

Membership Marketing Manager

Follow these 12 steps to establish an effective Membership Committee meeting agenda.

1. Must meet regularly — we suggest weekly April through June, then monthly.
2. Set goals to initiate 10% more Members.
3. Set goal of 5% dropped for non-payment of dues.
4. Review and study the membership manual.
5. Discuss initiatives to publicize membership efforts.
6. Use bulletins, social media, and websites to encourage Members to bring potential candidates to the Lodge.
7. Publicize membership classes.
8. Discuss incentives and contests.
9. Discuss reinstatement opportunities and strategies.
10. Review stray Elks and delinquents.
11. Review and evaluate the Orientation program.
12. Review membership numbers and compare to goals.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Manage risk to keep our youth safe

By WILLIAM M. WISEMAN

Committee Member

Summer is here! School is out. Now is the time for all Lodges to promote all our youth programs.

Remember, it is never too early to start planning for the fall programs such as Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, and the Junior Golf Program. Now is the time for your Lodge to pursue the Drive, Chip & Putt program to ensure kids can have the opportunity to participate in the 2023 competition at Augusta National.

What better time, with the kids home from school, to promote the Antlers Program? With the economy being what it is, many young children can use our help with providing lunches and programs to keep them busy for the summer.

While all our programs are very important, remember the times have changed. Make sure all Members and volunteers working with children have received proper training in the procedures and practices needed to protect the children, the Lodge, and our Members from risk and/or liability issues. We must keep this in mind at all times.

Some basic steps to ensure the safety of the children, the Lodge, and its Members:

- Criminal background checks should be conducted in accordance with state law and should be as comprehensive as possible on all individuals working with children.
- All training provided should be documented.
- Ensure a safe environment for all youth who attend your programs.
- An understanding of risk management practices needs to be at the forefront of your programs to provide a safe environment.
- Ensure release/waivers are signed by all participants.
- Maintain emergency contact cards for all program leaders.
- Ensure emergency procedures are in place and fully understood by the staff.
- Maintain a good youth-to-adult ratio.
- Carry workers' compensation insurance. In some states, failure to do this can include severe fines and possible jail time.
- Be sure to document any situations that may arise.

With a good common sense risk management program in place, we can continue to have safe successful youth programs. Our children need the Elks more now than ever before.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Seeking feedback: What would make reporting easier?

By CARL R. LEDIG, SR.

Committee Member

In 1951, the Elks received its tax-exempt status under a very important provision of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(8).

Having tax-exempt status is a huge deal and very important to the Elks as a whole. It allows all Lodges to have more funding for charitable work, which is the cornerstone and foundation of the Elks' very existence.

So, how do we as an organization make sure that we continue to qualify for this treasured tax-exempt status?

The answer is simple: by recording and reporting each and every Elk and non-Elk volunteer hour, dollar, and mile.

It sounds simple, but it's not. It's difficult to get each Member to actually record their time and money in writing, and then turn the form in to each Lodge

Secretary. The current system is just not working like we need it to.

We need some fresh thinking and new ideas on how to solve the reporting problem. We are going to the source—you, our Members. We're asking for your input on developing new procedures that might make reporting easier.

At a recent brainstorming session, a group of Elks came up with the idea of creating an app for reporting. What do you think?

Would a friendly cell phone and computer app containing the Volunteer Tracking form increase your willingness to report?

What about a Volunteer Tracking form with a pre-set list of activities where filing becomes a quick click of pre-existing boxes, followed by another easy step, a digital signature, then a final click for easy delivery of the form to the Secretary's

inbox set up specifically to receive the reporting? Would that increase your willingness to report?

Let us know what you think about the cell phone and computer app idea by e-mailing your Government Relations Committee Area Member. See Committee Members at: elks.org/leadership/directory/grandLodge.cfm?GroupID=GLGovernment.

This app idea came from just one brainstorming session at one Lodge. Maybe you could have a brainstorming session at your Lodge and give us any additional suggestions you or your Lodge Members may have. Send them to us.

We need and want to make reporting as easy as possible. It is a critical requirement—without sufficient reporting, we could jeopardize our tax-exempt status. No one wants that, so let's put our heads together and solve this!

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

60 finalists named for All-American Lodge Contest

By WILLIAM J. LINDSEY
Committee Member

New this year in the Contest "A" All-American Lodge Contest is the reporting of the top ten Lodges in each Division. All Lodges that entered the contest are winners. Here are the top ten leaders for each Division, listed alphabetically.

Division I (1-150 Members)

Big Rapids, MI Lodge No. 974
Crestview, FL Lodge No. 2624
Gulfport, MS Lodge No. 978
Los Banos, CA Lodge No. 2510
Marietta, GA Lodge No. 1657
Midwest City, OK Lodge No. 1890
Mid Westchester, NY Lodge No. 535
Norfolk, NE Lodge No. 653
Norfolk, VA Lodge No. 38
Pendleton, SC Lodge No. 2861

Division II (151-225 Members)

Cedar Grove, NJ Lodge No. 2237
Gainesville, FL Lodge No. 990
Golden, CO Lodge No. 2740
Homer, AK Lodge No. 2127
Kearny, NJ Lodge No. 1050
Mena, AR Lodge No. 781
Roxboro, NC Lodge No. 2005
Santa Monica, CA Lodge No. 906
Tri-Cities, WA Lodge No. 2755
Wheeling, WV Lodge No. 28

Division III (226-300 Members)

Bridgeport, PA Lodge No. 714
Forks, WA Lodge No. 2524
Gouverneur, NY Lodge No. 2035
Howell, NJ Lodge No. 2515
Marlton, NJ Lodge No. 2514
Kansas City (Northland), MO Lodge No. 2376
Raceway, AZ Lodge No. 2852
Santa Ynez Valley, CA Lodge No. 2640
St. Marys, WV Lodge No. 1701
Westchester, CA Lodge No. 2050

Division IV (301-450 Members)

Beacon, NY Lodge No. 1493
Eagle River, AK Lodge No. 2682
Florida Keys, FL Lodge No. 1872
Frackville, PA Lodge No. 1533
Kearney, NE Lodge No. 984
Louisville, KY Lodge No. 8
Roseville, CA Lodge No. 2248
San Rafael, CA Lodge No. 1108
Sierra Vista, AZ Lodge No. 2065
Thousand Oaks, CA Lodge No. 2477

Division V (451-700 Members)

Casa Grande Valley, AZ Lodge No. 1957
Catalina Mountain, AZ Lodge No. 2815
Chandler, AZ Lodge No. 2429
Ferndale, MI Lodge No. 1588
Flat Rock, MI Lodge No. 1731

Hickory, NC Lodge No. 1654
Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge No. 782
Red Bank, NJ Lodge No. 233
Saratoga-Wilton, NY Lodge No. 161
St. Louis, MO Lodge No. 9

Division VI (701 Members and up)

Apache Junction, AZ Lodge No. 2349
Ballard (Seattle), WA Lodge No. 827
East Stroudsburg, PA Lodge No. 319
Fayetteville/Springdale, AR Lodge No. 1987
Garden Grove, CA Lodge No. 1952
Groton, CT Lodge No. 2163
Manasquan, NJ Lodge No. 2534
Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475
Santa Maria, CA Lodge No. 1538
St. George "Dixie," UT Lodge No. 1743

Congratulations to these 60 Lodges from 23 different states that made the top ten for this year! A special thanks to all the other Lodges that entered and used the contest as a roadmap for bringing Elkdom to your communities.

The announcement of the first, second, and third place winning Lodges in each Division will occur during the Tuesday morning Business Session at the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta. Come to convention and see which of the above winning Lodges make the final top three.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Elks double per-Member giving goal, donate \$7.8 mil. to ENF

By CATHLEEN DRAPER
ENF Communications Coordinator

The country was still in the throes of the pandemic when the 2021-22 fiscal year opened last April, so the Elks National Foundation started the year with caution.

The ENF maintained flexibility for grants, which allowed Lodges to continue responding to the most pressing needs in their communities. The Elks took those grants and ran with them just like they did in FY2021. They supported food pantries, shelters, health care clinics, schools, veterans' organizations and so much more. When neighbors needed help more than ever, the Elks were there. Elks showed that no matter what, they always care.

Elks have always found meaning in building stronger communities. But during the pandemic, the ENF helped them be there for their neighbors in unprecedented ways.

And in 2021-22, the Elks gave back to the ENF in an unprecedented way.

Elks donated \$7,770,038.70 to the ENF—the first time the ENF reached more than \$7 million in gifts. That's also \$1 million more than Elks gave in the previous record-setting year of 2019-20.

The incredible outpouring of support resulted in per-Member giving of more than \$10 for the first time. The Grand Exalted Ruler set the 2021-22 per-Member-giving goal at \$4.80, and the Elks more than doubled it, achieving \$10.66. That beats the previous record, also set in 2019-20, by \$1.97.

For the second time since the ENF started keeping track in FY1993, all 48 state associations achieved the per-Member-giving goal.

It was an unprecedented year in many ways, and one in which Elks gave like never before. Recently, we received a note from a donor from Michigan, scrawled on the back of our thank-you

letter for a gift he had given:

"I gave because I was informed that the ENF gave a sizable amount of money to our community during a time of the pandemic when it was truly needed. So, I will continue to give for this reason."

It is an honor for us to support Elks communities in good times and bad. It's an honor to have supporters like the Elks. And, it's an honor to continue building stronger communities alongside the Order.

GER From Page 1

blessed to have been able to not only serve the Elks, but to have Amy at my side through this wonderful journey.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Atlanta, and we hope and pray for safe travels to and from the annual Grand Lodge Convention. God bless you all, God bless the Elks, and God bless these United States of America.

Take time to learn about veterans service in Atlanta

By **MARY K. MORGAN**
Commission Director

Will you be in Atlanta for the Elks National Convention this July? If so, please join us at these veterans service events!

Saturday, July 2

State Veterans Chairs are invited to a full day of training.

Sunday, July 3

10–11 a.m.: Join us at the convention center for an Elks Idea Exchange centered on serving veterans in your community. We'll have volunteers and staff sharing ideas and leading discussions

about creating successful partnerships, raising community support, serving rural veterans, adding furniture to Welcome Home Kits, and more.

12–2 p.m.: Stay at the convention center and skip on over to the ENVSC Seminar, "Ending Veteran Homelessness." Elks staff and volunteers will share stories and lessons from the past seven years of serving veterans through the Welcome Home program.

4 p.m.: Don't miss the ENVSC Annual Report at the Opening Ceremony!

Tuesday, July 5

1–3 p.m.: We'll be screening the 2019 film *Oildale*, about a veteran and his family struggling to make ends meet while supporting veterans experiencing homelessness. Stay for a panel discussion about veterans issues with the film's directors.

All week, we'll have staff and volunteers at the ENVSC booth. Stop by to learn more about the Veterans Leather Program, chat with Help Heal Veterans staff, order playing cards for veterans, and share updates about your Lodge's projects.



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

July 2022

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

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Educational Foundation connects with youth programs

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

If your Lodge is looking to sponsor or support a youth dance program or a youth baseball program, the Directors of the Elks Drug Awareness Program encourage you to look into the DEA's Educational Foundation.

"Recently, we have been in discussion with the CEO of the DEA Foundation, Jill Roberts, and we have found them to be a perfect partner in our efforts to educate kids about the dangers of illicit and counterfeit drugs," said DAP Director Kent Gade. "We encourage Elks to go to

their website, deaeducationalfoundation.org, to learn all about what they have to offer."

In other news, the DEA and the DAP are creating a series of podcasts which will post sometime around Red Ribbon week in October. The 20 (or so) episodes will discuss a range of topics including signs of drug use, vaping, risk factors, helping kids de-stress, and many others. The producer of the podcasts is Sunny Day Entertainment, who have produced several of the award-winning videos the DEA and DAP have released the past few years.

Director Gade and Assistant Director Bryan have recently returned from Tempe, Arizona where they presented Detective Mike Leshar of the Peoria Police Department with the Enrique S. Camarena Award. Detective Leshar was chosen as the National Winner from what was described as the toughest group of nominees in years. Assisting in presenting the award was GER T. Keith Mills.

Lodges wishing to participate in the DAP's 2022-2023 essay, poster, and video contests are encouraged to contact their State Chairs or visit elksdap.org for rules and details.