



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



## The fall season and what it means to us

It's hard to believe that the summer months have come and gone and the beautiful fall season is now upon us. As our Lodge activities ramp up once again, let's take a look at what the fall season means to us as Elks in *"Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm!"*

September marks the beginning of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler/State Vice President Lodge visitations. These visitations provide great opportunities to examine your overall Lodge operations. Be sure to plan with your Lodge board of directors well in advance of the visitation day by completing the audit items, building a self-inspection checklist and all of the other information the DDGER/SVP travel teams will need. This will give you and your officers along with your committee chairs ample time to prepare



**Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler**  
**BRUCE A. HIDLEY**

your Lodge for successful visitation.

Since the end of September is the halfway point of the Lodge fiscal year, it is a good time to inspect where your Lodge stands with the Grand Lodge and State Association per capita. This is a perfect time to see what funds need to be raised during the balance of the Lodge year. By evaluating where you stand now, your Lodge will be prepared to meet per capita.

Fall also brings the reopening of schools in your communities and tremendous occasions for our Lodges to encourage our youth. Supporting local football, soccer, lacrosse and other sports programs and youth-related activities are wonderful ways to show your Lodge's support and personal community spirit! Look into and apply for the many Elks National Foundation grants. These grants are available to assist financially in your community partnerships with our youth, veterans, and community members. When possible, invite your local media to help publicize and promote your valuable activities.

This is also a time to concentrate on our Elks scholarship programs. Seek

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### 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.

A word to the wise: NEVER destroy or discard paper membership applications and records unless you have made a digital copy and have those records stored electronically. 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.

**GRAND SECRETARY**  
Bryan R. Klatt

### G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

## Elks have handle on social media

By RICK GATHEN  
Membership Marketing Manager

The Elks sponsor several social media channels across many platforms. We are utilizing the following official Grand Lodge social media channels to provide authoritative information:

#### Elks National Foundation

- Elks National Foundation Facebook page — [facebook.com/ElksNationalFoundation](https://facebook.com/ElksNationalFoundation)
- Elks National Foundation Twitter feed — [@ElksNtnlFndtn](https://twitter.com/ElksNtnlFndtn)
- Elks National Foundation Instagram page — [@elksinaction](https://instagram.com/elksinaction)
- Elks National Foundation YouTube channel — [youtube.com/ElksNationalFndn](https://youtube.com/ElksNationalFndn)
- Midday with the ENF podcast
- Elks National Foundation blog — [elksnationalfoundation.blog](https://elksnationalfoundation.blog)

#### Elks National Veterans Service Commission

- Elks National Veterans Service Commission Facebook page — [facebook.com/ENVSC/](https://facebook.com/ENVSC/)
- Elks National Veterans Service Commission Twitter feed — [@ElksVetsService](https://twitter.com/ElksVetsService)
- Elks National Veterans Service Commission blog — [elksveteransserviceblog.org](https://elksveteransserviceblog.org)
- Elks National Veterans Service Commission Instagram page — [@elksvets](https://instagram.com/elksvets)

#### Grand Lodge

- Grand Lodge Marketing and Membership Facebook Group
- BPO Elks USA Facebook Page — [facebook.com/bpoeusa/](https://facebook.com/bpoeusa/)
- BPOE TV Facebook page — [facebook.com/BPOETV/](https://facebook.com/BPOETV/)

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out your school guidance counselors and provide them with the needed student applications to apply for grants that can aid students with much-needed financial support. These scholarship grants include the \$4,000 Legacy Awards, \$5,000 Emergency Educational Grants, Most Valuable Student Scholarship for up to \$50,000, or a Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship. Please follow the Elks website for deadlines to apply for these grants. Don't wait; act quickly.

Can you think of any better way of **"Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm"** than by helping the youth of today grow into the responsible leaders of tomorrow? Many of the youth who have been inspired and aided by Elks programs have joined our great fraternal Order to become active Lodge Members.

Observed on the first Monday in September, Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. In honor of this national holiday, please accept my heartfelt thanks for all you do for Elkdom. Your selfless time and

dedication truly exemplifies that **"Elks Care — Elks Share."**

Elks Patriotism Week in September is a respectful reminder of the tragic events that occurred twenty one years ago on September 11, 2001.

Like so many of you, I remember that day. I was sitting at my desk at work when the radio broke the news that an airplane had flown into one of the towers of New York City's World Trade Center. This was quickly followed by an announcement that the plane crash was not an accident, but a deliberate attack on the building. Reports indicated that the attackers first flew intentionally into the North Tower, followed only minutes later by another intentional strike into the South Tower. Shortly after, there were broadcasts of a third plane that flew into the Pentagon building and a fourth plane that crashed in a Pennsylvania field. Many innocent lives were lost that day.

The Elks remember September 11 each year and honor all those who lost their lives during these horrific attacks, including the first responders and community members who sought to help the crash victims. In this regard,

the Elks have developed a Patriotism Week Proclamation that I encourage all Lodges across our great country to embrace. The proclamation PDF is located on the Elks website under the Fraternal Committee's programs page. Please take the time to download this very important proclamation. Have your local government officials place it on their agenda to recognize our freedom and to honor our nation.

September is also a time when we wish a very happy birthday to the United States Air Force. The Elks honor you for all of your years of service to our country — **thank you**. On the last Sunday in September each year, we take time to recognize our Gold Star Mothers. This day is intended to recognize and honor these brave mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of the United States Armed Forces. God bless each and every one of our Gold Star Mothers as they deserve this day of observance. What a great way of **"Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm"** during the month of September.

God bless all of you, God bless our troops past and present, and most of all, God bless America.

**DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM****DAP Essay Contest winner shares personal story**

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN  
Assistant National Director

At the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta, the Elks Drug Awareness Program announced many of their annual awards, including the 2021-2022 DAP Essay Contest. This contest is open to all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, and the theme last year was: **"The Best Me is Drug Free."** Here is the National Winning Essay:

**The Best Me is Drug Free**

*I never want to do drugs. I wish I could say for sure that I never will. I don't think the effects are worth it. That sounds naïve, but I've seen the repercussions. They ruin lives; they ruin relationships; they ruin families. Drugs like alcohol have taken so much from me. They've taken the picture-perfect family I always wanted. They've taken away the father-daughter relationship all my friends had growing up.*

*When I was a kid, all my friends' dads coached their sports teams and were there to congratulate them*

*when they had won a game. They played catch with their kids in the backyard. They helped them grow up and move forward. My dad only held me back. He was never there to do the fatherly things. He couldn't even pick me up from practice, let alone coach my team.*

*As I got older, things just got worse. Because I understood. I understood he wasn't there because he couldn't be; he wasn't allowed. They were right to do that, to create space. But it still hurt. It hurt that I would never experience the things my friends did. When I found out about the father-daughter dances I missed, it killed me.*

*All of this could've been prevented if he had just gotten the help he needed. Drug abuse is so dangerous and I've had first hand experience with the consequences. So don't do it. Don't over use them, don't ruin what you have or what you could have in the future.*

This was written by an eighth grade student, Kayleigh D. from the Fowler Middle School in Maynard,

Massachusetts, who was sponsored by the Maynard-Clinton, MA Lodge No. 1568. She will receive a \$300 Amazon gift card for her entry.

If you want to learn more about this year's Essay Contest, with the theme **"One Pill Can Kill"**, contact your State Association's DAP Chairperson.

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health support in your community. VA's Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) provides training for programs like Compassionate Contact Corps, which allows volunteers to connect directly with veterans. The CDCE office may also have other opportunities for Elks to get involved.

For tips and information about Suicide Prevention Month, please visit [bethelto.com](http://bethelto.com). To learn more about what VA is doing to prevent veteran suicide, please visit [mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention](http://mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention).

**Veterans Crisis Line**  
**Dial 988, then press 1**

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# Youth programs recognize America's top students

By **LANCE C. KNIGHT**  
Committee Member

Want to implement a successful youth recognition program? All the information on the Grand Lodge Activities programs are available online at [elks.org](http://elks.org). Go to the Members only tab and log in. On the left side, click on Grand Lodge, then Officers and Committees, then on Activities Committee. The Activities Committee section will have all related brochures, certificates, contest forms, manuals, and videos for each program.

The information is in an electronic format, downloadable and printable for your convenience. All the certificates, guidelines, nomination forms, posters and news releases are available to all Local Lodges, districts and state Youth Activities Chairs. The certificates are made "fillable" for you to type in the recipients' names to create a more professional looking product.

Also, at our webpage under the Grand Lodge Youth 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 beginning, now is the right 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 can kick off with the new school year. The purpose of this program is to focus the public's attention on outstanding boys and girls from your community in two separate brackets: high school and junior high school. Public recognition and praise should go out to those students who have multiple achievements such as character, leadership, community service, citizenship, scholarship, and any other factors which would contribute to an outstanding teenager or student. If you have this program in place, honor those award winners in all categories with a special recognition activity at the Lodge or at your Youth Week banquet.

Your Grand Lodge Activities Committee looks forward to assisting you and your Lodge to promote the programs in your community. The future of Elkdom is community service. The "*Elks Care and the Elks Share*" the commitment to our Youth by "*Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm.*"

## ELKS Do!

GRAND LODGE  
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

## Get early start on website contests

By **DENNIS J. GERLEMAN**  
Committee Member

I will be judging the entries for the 2022-23 State Association Website Contest and Local Lodge Website Contest. I encourage all states and Local Lodges to participate in the contests for this upcoming year.

If you decide to participate in the contest I'll need your:

1. Name
2. State or Lodge
3. An e-mail or contact information to view the webpage

You can e-mail me at [dgerlemanc@kewanee.com](mailto:dgerlemanc@kewanee.com) with the information requested. I will need this information by April 1, 2023. Thanks in advance and good luck to all.

## ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

## Planned gifts leave an ENF legacy

By **ABBEY KNUPP**  
ENF Communications Coordinator

Do you have a legal will? If you don't, you're not alone. According to AARP, 60% of Americans do not have legal wills, leaving their legacy and their family's future in the hands of the courts.

It is hard to make time for things, especially when their impact seems so far away. But, wills are the foundation of the future. When you create a will, you are protecting all that you love, gaining peace of mind, and ensuring a stronger, brighter tomorrow for all.

When you take the time to secure your legacy, you think about the things that are important to you. As an Elk, we know you value fidelity, justice, brotherly love, and charity, so consider leaving a gift to your favorite charity. Not only do charitable gifts offer tax benefits, but they can ensure your community is supported long into the future.

The John F. Malley Society recognizes individuals who plan gifts to the Elks National Foundation. A planned gift can be a bequest, gift of appreciated

stock, gift of life insurance, or other life income gifts.

Members of the Malley Society are visionaries who dream of the future where Elks continue to build stronger communities — much like Malley himself, the Grand Exalted Ruler who founded the ENF and envisioned a permanent endowment fund.

Malley Society members also receive special recognition benefits, including a Malley Society pin and medallion, a sticker for their membership card, their name listed in the ENF's donor newsletter, and an invitation to a special donor recognition event each year at the Elks National Convention.

*Leave your legacy. Build for your future. To discuss planning a gift to the Elks National Foundation, please contact Development Manager Kate Keating Edsey at [KateE@elks.org](mailto:KateE@elks.org) or (773) 755-4866.*



Elks  
National  
Foundation, Inc.

# Supporting veterans during Suicide Prevention Month

By **HANNAH GRABER**  
ENVSC Programs Coordinator

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide prevention is a particular concern for many friends and family members of veterans, and a top priority for VA. One way Elks can help prevent suicide is to be aware of and spread information about the Veterans Crisis Line.

When veterans and their loved ones contact the Crisis Line, a qualified responder will be available to listen, provide free support, and connect you with resources in your area.

In July, the Veterans Crisis Line began

transitioning to a new number. Now, veterans and military members can call **988, and press 1** to reach someone trained in crisis intervention and military culture. This new, shorter number was created to be easy to remember and share with veterans who need it.

The previous number, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, will still connect you to the Veterans Crisis Line. The line is also available by chat at [veteranscrisisline.net/chat](https://veteranscrisisline.net/chat) and by text at 838255.

What else can Elks do to support veterans' mental health? Make yourself

available as a friend and start a conversation. Resist offering judgment or asking invasive questions. Instead, let veterans know that you are there for them and educate yourself about the warning signs that a veteran may need help. Be prepared with knowledge about local resources so you can share phone numbers for support groups or services.

Consult with VA or other professionals for tips about how to address suicide prevention and mental



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

**September 2022**

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## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### Busy charitable season begins now

By **W.J. "BILL" BRYAN**  
Committee Member

I hope each and every one of you had a good summer. In front of us is the busiest charitable season for Elks Lodges.

Already, many Lodges have completed back to school backpacks and are getting ready for essays and Drug Awareness, followed by veterans in November... and Christmas giving already in sight.

This is the season we really shine! Every committee and project chairman should know how and who to report these activities to. There is a simple form and either your Secretary or your Government

Relations person will input those into CLMS. How many trips to the store (mileage, hours, and dollars) went into your project? Let's account for all the efforts to make these wonderful things happen.

Additionally, during this period are general elections. Government Relations Chairs should be aware of those that affect your Local Lodge. Plan to send a congratulatory letter with some number of what you contribute to the community. While you are at it, get that information to your local officials and invite them to come visit.

Have a great Giving Season!

