



Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia

ELKS ASSOCIATION *News*

A Fraternal Organization - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

www.mddedcelks.org



JUNE 2023



State President
Marion A. Davidson, Jr.
MD-DE-DC Elks Association

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marion A. "Jr." Davidson

"STRENGTH IN NUMBERS"

Welcome family, friends, and guests to our Association's June Convention in Oakland, Maryland. An incredibly special welcome to our honored guests, State Sponsor PGER Paul Helsel and 1st Lady Jane and Pennsylvania State President Carl "Smithy" Smith and his lovely wife, Debbie. Please take time to introduce yourselves and show our honored guests the great MD, DE, & DC Association hospitality and "Elkdom Enthusiasm."

Diane and I had the honor of attending the Pennsylvania 117th Annual Reunion and spent some time with the great Pennsylvania Elks. I attended the Lodge March for the Home Service Program, and what a moving experience to witness all the Lodges reporting their charitable giving at that program.

At the State Dinner, a few remarks from our State Sponsor, Paul, and Special Deputy Dennis Kanouff stood out to me. Dennis stated that if we could bring just one member of our Lodge to a State Convention, they would leave as an Elk, and Paul noted that all the charitable work we do in the community starts at the individual Lodges.

Diane and I would like to thank all the Lodges we visited for their dinners and hospitality, and for sharing with us the magnificent work you are doing in your communities. Our Association has had a momentous year spreading "Elkdom with Enthusiasm."

Congratulations, and thank you to all the State Officers, State Committees, and District Committees for an outstanding year. As you will read in the Newsletter, we had a fantastic year as an Association.

This year, a plus in membership again, two top Scholarship winners at Grand Lodge and a third in the top twenty, representation at the National Hoop shoot, and 5-star recognition for our newsletter and website, to mention a few. Our State Committee Chairperson will present their reports at the conventions, and their full reports are available throughout this newsletter. Thanks to all the Committees, and I thank our Lodges for your outstanding support of our State Projects, Camp Barrett, the Jernick Fund, and the Veterans Army of Hope and Welcome Home Projects.

Diane and I hope to see all of you at the June Convention and thank you again for all the warm welcomes and hospitality you have shown us throughout the year. Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your State President. It was a profound honor and privilege. I want to wish Renee' a successful year, and I know she will enjoy it as much as I have.

God Bless America, God Bless Our Troops, and God Bless the Elks.

Fraternally,

Marion

Marion Davidson, Jr.
State President

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**MD, DE & DC ELKS
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2022-2023 OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION**

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Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

BRUCE A. HIDLEY

Honoring our Flag, remembering our fathers

The Esteemed Leading Knight's charge to our new Members opens with: "The Emblem of this station is the Flag of our country; and its motto is Charity, the cornerstone of every Elk structure, the highest virtue of every Elk creed." New Members listening to this charge may gain an understanding of what the Flag means to us as Elks.

Across our great country, Flag Day is observed on the 14th day of June each year to honor and commemorate the adoption of the American Flag. The Second Continental Congress adopted this date in 1777, and President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation in 1916 establishing June 14 as national Flag Day. In our great Order of Elks, the Grand Lodge, by Resolution, designated June 14 as Flag Day. In 1911, the Grand Lodge adopted a mandatory observance of Flag Day in all of our Lodges.

Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the red, white, and blue in front of homes and businesses. Flag Day events are held by Lodges all across our great country with



**Message From Our State Sponsor
PAUL D. HESSEL, PGER**

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Well, spring has arrived, a most beautiful time of the year to enjoy the wonders of nature and the changing of seasons. With perhaps the exception of the higher elevations of the mountain areas of western Maryland, the grass is green again, and mowing is becoming the routine; trees are budding, and pollen is in the air (maybe not so nice to some of us), and flowers and shrubs are beginning to bloom. The Spring cycle in these mountain areas may be just a bit behind the rest of us, but they, too, will experience the same process and this natural phenomenon very shortly.

Just as Nature is waking up from its winter rest, setting the stage, and transforming our natural world into a growing and producing world, so should we do the same with our new Elk year. It's a brand new 2023/2024

ceremonies, parades, essay contests, and, most importantly, our Elks Flag Day Ceremony. The American Flag is the emblem of the "land that I love."

Our Flag symbolizes the land of the free and home of the brave for all Americans.

June also has another special day for all of us as we honor and celebrate Father's Day. This year the holiday falls on Sunday, June 18. No matter how far away you may be, take the time to reach out and say happy Father's Day. This is not only a special day for your father but it is also special for your grandfather, your great-grandfather, your brother, and your special uncle. Happy Father's Day.

June is the beginning of our summer months. Children are home from school, graduation ceremonies are held, and families begin summer vacations. Celebrating our Flag and participating in June activities in our homes and at our Lodges truly show "Elks Care — Elks Share." I encourage each of you to continue "Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm" by bringing joy, happiness, love and lots of sunshine to one another.

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

year and time to make sure our organization is strong and staffed with the right talent (both Lodge and Association). Be certain plans and programs are defined and ready to succeed (plant the seeds), and begin applying the necessary resources (begin to water and fertilize) for success. Suppose all those factors come together in nature as well as with the Elks. In that case, there will be growth and prosperity - the level or extent of accomplishment/growth/prosperity will be the result of the amount or level of resources applied.

We are well into the 2023/2024 year. Hopefully, the organization is firmly in place by now, and plans and programs have already begun to function. Now, it's only a matter of applying the proper recourses to ensure success - growth, and prosperity. If your Lodge is not there yet, it must be very soon. The quicker your Lodge can get into a producing mode, the greater your accomplishments will be. If you are having difficulties getting this

Continued on page 5

MD, DE & DC ELKS ASSOCIATION MEETING SPRING WISP RESORT, MCHENRY, MD AGENDA

Friday, June 2	
Noon - 5:00 PM	Registration
1:00 PM	Advisory Committee Meeting
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Hospitality Suite Open
5:00 PM	State Trustees Meeting
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Dinner on your own
	Hospitality Suite Open
Saturday, June 3	
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM - Noon	Registration
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Elks Camp Barrett Meeting
9:00 AM	Workshop Called to Order by State President Marion Davidson, Jr.
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM	Introductions, Invocation, Pledge, Roll Call, etc.
9:20 AM	Begin Presentations, Committee Reports
9:20 AM - 9:25 AM	Con-Con Report, Robert Broom
9:25 AM - 9:30 AM	Elks National Foundation, Mary Underwood (Donations Accepted)
9:30 AM - 9:35 AM	Elks Camp Barrett, Ben Stone (Donations Accepted)
9:35 AM - 9:40 AM	Drug Awareness Program
9:40 AM - 9:45 AM	Elks Veterans Service, Welcome Home, Lou Schmeltzer & Carl Robinson
9:45 AM - 9:50 AM	Government Relations
9:50 AM - 9:55 AM	William J. Jernick Memorial Fund (Donations Accepted)
9:55 AM - 10:00 AM	Accident Prevention, Mike Ford
10:00 AM - 10:05 AM	Americanism
10:05 AM - 10:10 AM	Directory, Betty Hardin
10:10 AM - 10:15 AM	Scholarships, Lynn Evans
10:15 AM - 10:20 AM	Membership Report, John Opitz
10:20 AM - 10:25 AM	Lodge Activities All American Award, Mary Villeneuve
10:25 AM - 10:30 AM	Soccer Shoot, Dolly Broom
10:30 AM - 10:35 AM	Hoop Shoot, Dewayne Wilcher
10:35 AM - 10:40 AM	Missed Committees
10:40 AM - 10:45 AM	Credentials Report State Officers Reports VPs
10:45 AM - 10:50 AM	Advisory Report, Sandy Brantner
10:50 AM - 10:55 AM	Trustee's Report, Kathy King
10:55 AM - 11:00 AM	Secretary / Treasurer Reports
11:00 AM - 11:10 AM	Unfinished Business / New Business
11:10 AM - 11:15 AM	Good of the Association
11:15 AM - 11:25 AM	Comments, GL Area 2 Mary Cardinal-Vogt, Public Relations & Membership Sandy Brantner, GL Area 2 Fraternal Committee
11:25 AM - 11:30 AM	Comments, President Elect Renee' Rivituso
11:30 AM - 11:35 AM	Comments, Pennsylvania President Carl Smith

Saturday Continued	
11:35 AM - 11:40 AM	Comments, State President Marion Davidson, Jr.
11:40 AM - 11:50 AM	Comments, Grand Lodge Sponsor Paul D. Helsel PGER
11:50 AM - 12:00 Noon	Members Sickness & Distress
12:00 Noon	Adjournment / Prayer
	Announcements Recess until Sunday 9:30 AM
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Con-Con Meeting, Minneapolis Attendees
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	State President-Elect Renee' Rivituso Meeting with ERs
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	State President-Elect Renee' Rivituso Meeting with VPs & Committee Chairs
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Hon. Paul D. Helsel, PGER Meeting with DDGERS
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Committee Meetings (as needed)
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Social Hour
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Dinner, Awards, Presentations
8:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open
Sunday, June 4	
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Memorial Service (White Summer Tux for participants)
10:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Installation of Officers 2023-2024 (White summer tux for participants)
11:30 AM	Closing
NEXT MEETING:	September 29 thru October 1
	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1ST

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 10 Pickin'4 Troops
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 18 Father's Day
- July 2-5 National Convention, Minneapolis, MN
- July 4 Independence Day
- Sept 4 Labor Day
- Sept 9 ECB Poker Run Fundraiser
- **Sept 1 Next State Newsletter deadline**
- **Sept 29-Oct 1 Fall Conference, Princess Royale, Ocean City**



PRESIDENT-ELECT

RENEE RIVITUSO

Waldorf Lodge #2421 | 240-508-8696
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Welcome to the Wisp Resort for the 103rd Annual Convention. The Wisp is in our West District by the shores of Deep Creek Lake. Take time to enjoy the Aerial, Mountain, or Water Adventures during your stay. Congratulations to Angela Meyer, incoming President-Elect, District Vice Presidents, Trustees, Camp Barrett Executive Committee, Secretary, Treasure, and all Lodge Officers.

All my appointments have been finalized. Thank You to Sgt of Arms Loren Evans, Chaplain Judi McKnight, Inner Guard Libby Dohm, and Tiler John W. Rafferty, Jr. for agreeing to be the incoming Chair Officers. Thank You to all the incoming Chairpersons and those who decided to remain on committees. I look forward to working with each one of you. Effective teamwork means communication, alliance, trust, and respect. Together we will accomplish great things as our team serves our local Lodges.

The year has gone by ever so quickly. Over the year, I have attended the SW, SE, and NC DDGER Meetings, multiple Trustee, Camp Barrett Executive Committee and Rep Meetings, District, State, and Regional Hoop Shoots, State Horseshoe Tournaments, and Local Lodge activities.

State President Marion Davidson and First Lady Diane, thank you for your contributions this past year to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. You both served our great State

Association with dignity and pride. Marion, thank you for your guidance and including me in the affairs of the Association. The advice from Advisory and our Grand Lodge Sponsor, Paul Helsel, has been unwavering; thank you. To PSP Mary Cardinal Vogt and PSP Vince Pingitore from the SW District, thank you for your mentorship this year and over the past years. The hospitality and friendships made this year will never be forgotten.

In closing, we have had a gain in membership over the past two years. Let's keep the momentum going to make tomorrow a better day. As we move into a new year, **Soar** charitable works, community involvement, membership, youth programs, and veterans' programs **to Greater Heights**. Orientate proposed members, initiate with an impressive ritual, and make new members a part of our family. Be proud that you are an Elk and enjoy all its rights and privileges. Jeff and I look forward to continuing to serve our great association with honor and dignity. I strive not to disappoint while serving as your President. Please keep us in mind if you are having an event, as we look forward to seeing our old friends and making new ones.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Renee Rivituso

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." — Oscar Wilde

Elks Camp Barrett Improvement Fund Raffle



Louis B. Schmeltzer, Jr.
Annapolis Lodge #622 | 410-627-5179 | louschmeltzer@gmail.com

As I write this article, there is still a month of collections left, and I have deposited \$64,500. This is thanks to your tremendous generosity.

This amount covers the expenses, including the prizes, and allows approximately \$40,000 to be put toward keeping our Camp the beautiful facility that it is.

Last year's fundraiser netted \$53,000, so with a month left to go, I hope to exceed that amount this year. I will have a full report for you in October in Ocean City.

I thank you on behalf of the Camp for participating in the fundraiser/raffle.

STATE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Betty Hardin, Chairman
Havre de Grace Lodge #1564
410-960-5492 | bettwedg@comcast.net



Your 2023-2024 State Association Directory will be available during this convention weekend. State Officers and State Committee Chairpersons will receive their directory at the meeting with President-Elect Rivituso Saturday afternoon.

Four directories for each Lodge and a copy for each District Committee Chairman from that Lodge will be in a bag marked with the Lodge name and number on a table in the meeting room on Saturday. Lodge Exalted Rulers or Secretaries, please make sure you pick up the bags and distribute them to those members of your Lodge whose names are printed on the front of the directory. In the past, many District Chairpersons have not received their directory. Hopefully, this will resolve the issue.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me during the weekend. Additional copies for those who are not officers or committee chairpersons will be available at the registration desk.

Make sure you notify me of any changes to the directory. My contact information is in the directory.



ACCIDENT PREVENTION REPORT SUMMER 2023

Mike Ford, NE State Chair
Abington Lodge #2354 410-977-8230
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"Think it through before you do."

Good morning fellow Elks, and welcome to the 2023 State Convention here in the Wild West! Summer is on top of us, and so is the season for accidents. Our Lodges will move more events beyond our four walls and onto the property—time to address our summer hazards.

- Plumbing drain cleanouts should be identified with fluorescent paint or reflective tape to prevent tripping hazards.
- Lawn furniture like wooden picnic tables should be repaired, sanded, and stained. Check them for damage. Fix or remove them from service.
- Paint and place cones over the top of drainage grates.

- If you have trees near power lines, don't hesitate to notify your local power company. They should be able to trim the trees at no cost.
- Fencing, ensure slats are secure and chain link stable.
- Driveways and parking lots should be swept and cleared of debris.
- Fire pits should be away from buildings and should never be used during a drought or State fire warnings.
- Smoking stations should be cleaned out regularly.

These are just a few things to keep an eye out for; you guessed it, most of these can be found in your Lodge Safety Reports.

As always, make sure you have your Lodge insurance updated, use your contracts and waivers for events, and make sure your members and guests are drinking responsibly.

I am here for you if you have any questions or would like me to stop by your Lodge for inspection. Feel free to call me, I'm in the directory.

STATE SPONSOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

new year into a productive mindset, reach out for some assistance. Our Association and perhaps even your Lodge has people capable and willing to assist and guide in areas where help may be needed. **DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR ASSISTANCE!!** We want every Lodge to succeed in all areas and are all in this effort together!

It is a pleasure seeing everyone here at the WISP in western Maryland attending our Annual Convention, celebrating the accomplishments of the 2022/2023 year, installing the new Officers and Committeepersons for the Association 2023/2024 year, and preparing for another outstanding Association year for our Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks Association. Again, there is much to celebrate from the recent 2022/2023 Lodge year. To name a few:

- The second year in a row for the Association-wide membership growth – an increase of about 500 members. 20 of our Lodges showed a gain. Another outstanding year of membership growth. Thank you to every Lodge and every Elk that made this possible.
- 14th in the Order in ENF per capita donations (\$13.323) and total donations at \$262,177.89 – as opposed to 19th place, \$11.534 per capita, and \$221,411.03 donations last year. A fantastic year, a great job, and thank you to all those Elks who contributed and made it all possible.
- An outstanding year for the Scholarship Program – we had 3 students reach the top 20 Nationally. Of those 3, one received \$5,000/yr. or a \$20,000 scholarship, and the other 2, a boy and a girl, each won the top scholarship of \$12,500/yr, or the \$50,000 scholarship. The first time in the history of the Elks Scholarship Program that the top two

National Winners come from the same Association!! This is a fantastic accomplishment and a first for our Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks Association.

At our upcoming Convention, we will host the President of the Pennsylvania State Elks Association, Carl Smith, and First Lady Debbie. Please join Jane and me in welcoming them to our Association and showing them what Elkdom and fine hospitality is all about in Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

Also, at the WISP, Renee' Rivituso and her Officers will be installed to lead our Association for the coming year. Best wishes to Renee', her Officers, and Committee personnel; I am sure our Association will be in capable hands. With the continuing support of our Lodges and Elks across the Association, we will experience another outstanding year.

Congratulations to outgoing President Marion A. Davidson, Jr. for serving our Association admirably this past year, and thank you for your continuing efforts to move our Association forward, be proud that under your capable leadership, our Association has enjoyed another great year of growth and prosperity. In all their travels throughout and outside the Association, he and our First Lady Diane have represented our Association with dedication and distinction throughout the year. Thank you both for your untiring service!!

Best wishes to each and every MD DE & DC Elk for continued good health and prosperity, and best wishes to our 37 Lodges in their efforts to grow Elkdom and service to their communities.

Safe travels to all, and Jane and I look forward to seeing you all at the WISP in just a few weeks.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor



MEMBERSHIP

John Opitz

Abingdon Lodge #2354
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Welcome all to the State Convention. It is always a pleasure to spend some time with our friends and Elk Family we see just a few times yearly.

For our year that just ended, we had another successful membership year. We are recruiting new members and getting our delinquents back into the fold.

Here are some numbers to consider. We started the year with 19,679 members; we ended our year with 20,208, a gain of 529. This is subject to change until the end of May when the 60-day reinstatement period ends.

Grand Lodge has a goal, for each State to add 10% of its starting number as new members. For MD, DE, & DC, that would mean adding 1,968 new members this year. We added 2,134 new members for the year, so we have exceeded that goal.

There is no substitute for an active membership committee. As mentioned in the Grand Lodge "Plus Membership" program, we need our committee to be a "team". Lodge Secretaries, you can give "read" access to CLMS to your Lodge membership chairs, making it easier for them to stay current on who needs to be contacted. Membership committee folks should become familiar with the Membership and Marketing guides, which are part of the "members only" part of Elks.org.

We have a valuable resource available now; it's Join.Elks.Org. Prospective members can learn about our Order and even apply online through this site. Another program available online is a photo opportunity. Get a group photo of the new members and email it to Rick Gathen (rickg@elks.org). He will send back a photo of the group digitally framed with a picture of our GER Bruce Hidley, giving them a warm welcome. This photo is printable, can be sent to each new member, and can be included in your Lodge communications.

I have made many references to Elks.org; all members may access this site. If it's your first visit, follow the instructions to register, and you'll be all set.

At the end of last year, we left 389 candidates waiting. We currently have 468 folks awaiting initiation. An initiation does not have to be part of a Lodge meeting, it can be held as a stand-alone event at any time. You can invite family members of the candidates to attend and witness the initiation. Have a social event afterward for the group, if possible. There are many ways to schedule the initiation as part of a fun day or evening.

Congratulations to our leaders in recruitment and initiations. Our current leaders are Cape Henlopen, Ocean City, Frederick, and Salisbury. I will report on who won when we meet. Many Lodges are also getting reinstatements and transfers, easy additions; these folks are already Elks.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance; my contact information is in the directory.

TRAINING

RENEE' RIVITUSO, PDD

Elks Training Chair
Waldorf #2421 | 240-508-8636 | ElkRRivituso@gmail.com



The Training Committee wishes the new State Officers congratulations and a wonderful year.

The Manual on Protocol is frequently overlooked. This manual can be found at Elks.Org. Covering all levels of Elkdom, this booklet can be used as a guideline for all occasions and events, formal and informal, business and social affairs. It also contains recommendations concerning publicity and photography along with examples of rules of order and conduct of Members. It is Guidelines for Officers in Local Lodges, District Meetings, and State Associations. The following paragraph has been taken directly from the Manual on Protocol regarding the dress code.

"Dress for any activity should be appropriate and compatible for the occasion, for example, at formal or semi-formal occasions such as the Installation of Officers, banquets to honor the Grand Exalted Ruler, business suits for the men, and afternoon or evening attire such as street-

length dresses or suitable slacks for the ladies. Jeans, sweatshirts, or Lodge jackets with multiple Lodge or State Pins are inappropriate. For casual events, remember to dress with dignity. Wear fitting, suitable, proper, and compatible with the occasion."

This is my last year serving on the Training Committee. I want to thank all the Training District Chairs Keri Albright, NC, Jessica Nielson, NE, Richard Frere, SE, Robert Ennis, SW, State President Marion Davidson, Jr, W, and Ralph Patterson for their contributions to the Training Committee over the past three years. My sincere gratitude goes to Euclid Coahoma for setting up the room with sound, projectors, and all the equipment the night before the training clinics and ensuring everything worked the day of the clinics. I couldn't have done it without you, Euclid. Working together allowed the committee to prosper and bring organized, informative knowledge to the MD, DE, and DC State Elks Association members, Team Effort!

Our committee looks forward to working with your Lodge leadership team. If you have a question, please feel free to reach out to your District Chairperson or me. Robert Ennis from Washington-Rockville Lodge No. 15 will be my successor in June.

Grow With the Elks, *Renee' Rivituso*



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Lynn Evans

State Scholarship Chairperson Kent Island #2576
(C) 410-598-1225 | lynnevans6303@gmail.com

2023 has proven to be an unforgettable year for our State Association Scholarship Program. The top male, Agam Igwe, representing Towson Lodge, and Diya Jha, the top female representing Frederick Lodge, are the top winners and will each receive \$50,000 over four years. Go to enf.org/enf to read all about them. Since at least 2004, the top two MVS winners have not been from the same State Association.

In addition, we have a fourth-place winner, Joseph Balto, representing Havre de Grace Lodge, who will receive \$20,000 over four years.

Nationally ENF will award over \$2.44 million in scholarships this year.

NORTH CENTRAL

Annapolis

District Winner – Anthony Thonnard \$1,500

Essex

State Winner – Christian Thomas \$1,500

Glen Burnie

State Winner – Allyyah Johnson \$1,500

Laurel

State Winner – Sulaiman Oyekunle \$1,500

District Winner – Emanuella Osei \$1,500

Severna Park

Legacy Winner – Julie Bridges \$4,000

Towson

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Linna Zhu \$4,000

State Winner – Oluwademilade Omolade \$3,000

District Winner – Alice Chen \$3,000

NORTH EAST

Abingdon

State Winner – Ian Doherty \$2,000

State Winner – Abby Ruth \$1,500

District Winner – Mackenzie Morrison \$1,500

Chestertown

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Brooke Fithian \$4,000

Dover

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Tyasia Cannon \$4,000

District Winner – Conor Craig \$1,500

Milford

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Madison Smith \$4,000

State Winner – Olivia Muir \$1,500

Newark

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Oluwaseum Ogundimu \$4,000

Wilmington

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Maya Levine \$4,000

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Kerry Xiao \$4,000

State Winner – Emily Malone \$1,500

SOUTHEAST

Easton

Legacy Winner – Isabella Anderson \$4,000

Legacy Winner – Julie Bridges \$4,000

Legacy Winner – James O'Connor \$4,000

State Winner – Macy Motovidlak \$2,000

State Winner – Sara Chapple \$1,500

Ocean City

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Kendahl Parsons \$4,000

State Winner – Saige Figgs \$1,500

Pocomoke City

Legacy Winner – Meredith Taylor \$4,000

Salisbury

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Noah Milad \$4,000

Legacy Winner – Megan Guy \$4,000

SOUTH WEST

Deale

Legacy Winner – Grace LeCroy \$4,000

Prince George's County

MVS National Semi-Finalist –

Malany Benites Alcantera \$4,000

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Japesh Patel \$4,000

State Winner – Emmanuel Makinde \$1,500

St. Mary's County

District Winner – Daniel Ulrich \$1,500

Washington - Rockville

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Dylan Safai \$4,000

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Charles Wang \$4,000

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Yacoub Kahkajian \$4,000

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Alyssa Richardson \$4,000

District Winner – Layla Dawit \$1,500

WEST

Frederick

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Sierra Scheneck \$4,000

State Winner – Rianna Chaney \$1,500

Frostburg

MVS National Semi-Finalist – Genievue Batman \$4,000

Hagerstown

Legacy Winner – Grace Kittel \$4,000

Oakland

District Winner – Sara Huelskamp \$1,500

Westminster

District Winner – Darius Tyler \$1,500

2023 SKILLED TRADES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The top female and top male winners will receive \$2,000 per year for two years. The other winners will receive \$1,000 per year for two years upon receipt of the Verification of Student Enrollment. This year's winners are:

- Grace Tressler, CCTE Cresaptown - \$4,000 - Nursing
- Thomas Roberts, Sparrows Point H.S. - \$4,000 -Marine Technology
- Kaylee Overby, Chopticon H.S. - \$2,000—Radiology
- Savannah Shriver, CCTE Cumberland – \$2,000 Multimedia Technology
- Hannah Zarakis, Leonardtown H.S. - \$2,000 Cosmetology

Protect Your Liquor License (And your Charter)

Respectfully submitted, Bill Buttrill, PSP, PGLC

Apparently, there needs to be some clarification about the purpose and use of the Guest Register found (by Grand Lodge Statute) in every Lodge. Simply put, if you are NOT a member of the Lodge you are entering; you MUST sign the guest register. And please – follow the column headings: Date, Host Member or Visiting Elk, Lodge Name and Number, City, and State (of the Lodge, not your home), Guest: If you are NOT a member in good standing in the Order of Elks, you MUST be signed in by a member who is. Notice I said, "signed in." A non-member does NOT sign the guest register. The host member must sign in a non-member. The behavior of the non-member is the responsibility of the host member. When the host member leaves the Lodge, the guest must also leave. Further, non-members are NOT allowed to pay for goods and services of the Lodge. Those goods and services are a privilege of being a private fraternal organization

Only a member in good standing can pay for those goods and services. (The guest can reimburse you for these costs later if desired.)

I am quite certain that reading your liquor license is not at the top of anyone's to-do list. But if you did, you would see, "This is to certify that (Lodge name and number) to keep for sale and sell beer, wine, and liquor at retail to bona fide members and their guests, when accompanied by said members at the place herein described" Let me repeat that so that there is no misunderstanding: "...to bona fide members and their guests, when accompanied by said members at the place herein described...." This refrain is repeated consistently throughout the Grand Lodge Statutes. Failure to abide by this simple rule can result in the loss of the above two items.

How would anyone know? Who would check on this? Well, your District Deputy, for one, your District Leaders, your Grand Lodge Sponsor, and, last but not least, the IRS. Yes, the IRS. Have you ever been audited by the IRS?

Continued on page 11



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. Mary Underwood

State ENF Chair PER Laurel Lodge #228
301-399-5857 | maryhuj1223@gmail.com

First off, let me

say Thank You to all the Lodges in our State Association. Without your help, we would not have been able to donate \$262,177.89 in the 2022-2023 Lodge Year! That's just over \$40,000 more than last year. And we finished 14th place in the nation! That's 5 more spots higher than where we were last year. What a fantastic year for the Elks! Congratulations to you and your Lodge's efforts in getting those donations in. Last year, Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley's ENF goal was \$4.80 per member. I am proud to say that 36 Lodges met that goal and then some! The goal for 2023-2024 will remain the same!

I want to remind you that if you are the Lodge or District Chair for ENF, please register on www.elks.org. Even if you registered last year, you need to do so again this year. This is the best time to order supplies as well for you and your District.

We have some TOP WINNERS AMONG US! I couldn't wait to help share this:

MVS SCHOLARS PUT IN THE WORK (posted from ENF news online at www.elks.org/ENF/FoundationNews (posted 04/18/2023))

know their #ElksFamily. We are proud to announce the top winners: Diya Jha, sponsored by Frederick, MD., Lodge #684, and Agam Igwe, sponsored by Towson, MD., Lodge #469.

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR MEMBER GOALS:

Here are some ideas to share with your Lodge members. As we are in the beginning months of the new Lodge year, this is the perfect time to tell your members about the Fidelity Club, and it raises your Chair Challenge points when you gain members in the Club.

Why Join the Fidelity Club? Posted in www.elks.org/ENF

- **Ease:** The ENF Fidelity Club recognizes automatic, regularly scheduled donations through your bank account or credit card. These donations occur monthly (minimum \$5).
- **Eco-Friendly:** Save a tree and save time with paperless donations!
- **Convenience:** No need to purchase stamps or mail a check. Signing up takes just five minutes, and you're good to go!
- **Flexibility:** You can increase, modify, or cancel your gift anytime.

For the first time since 2019, the Top 20 MVS scholars came to the Windy City for an in-person Leadership Weekend, where they interviewed for the top awards and got to

Security: It's safe, reliable and allows the ENF to spend less time on administration and more time on our charitable mission.

Ready to Join? Becoming a member of the Fidelity Club is simple! Enroll online at enf.elks.org/recurring and start your gift today! If you prefer to sign up through the mail, there is an enrollment form.

Questions? Contact enf@elks.org or 773-755-4728 for additional information about starting a monthly gift and joining the ENF Fidelity Club.

Have your Officers donate \$10-\$20 each month during your Board of Directors meetings. Host a special dinner every month and mark the proceeds go to ENF. Remember – every little bit adds up. So, get those donations in and let me know if you or your Lodge needs assistance or additional ideas to grow your ENF donations this year.

GOING TO MINNEAPOLIS?

For those of you attending the GL Convention in

Minneapolis, may I recommend a restaurant named Hell's Kitchen? This is the ORIGINAL Hell's Kitchen, not the one of TV fame. Located at 80 S. 9th Street, they feature all homemade organic foods. And they have everything from homemade peanut butter to a Mimosa and Bloody Mary bar. Start your day with some scones and porridge. (When was the last (only) time you had porridge? LOL Happy Trails.



Submitted by Bill Buttrill, PSP



Angela M. Meyer

State Chair Drug Awareness Programs
ecbsecretary@outlook.com
Cell 410-739-5575

The DAP program is going strong, and DAP volunteers are just as busy in the summer as they are when school is in session. Please keep up the hard work spreading the word and educating the public on the damages illicit drug use causes in our community. Every parent, every business, every teacher, and every citizen worries daily about the children and the drug abuse crisis they witness all too often.

We, as Elks, are committed, dedicated, and determined to improve it. We do this one event, one pamphlet, and one phone call at a time. Every year, at the June Convention, we give cool give-a-way bags filled with neat DAP give-a-way items for your Lodges. If you are your Lodge's DAP chairperson, don't forget to grab your bag and take it back to your Lodge. Please use it!!! These things do nothing if they sit in a closet or garage somewhere.

If you are a District DAP chairperson, please collect any remaining bags for Lodges from your district that were not taken and bring them back with you. All Lodge chairpersons, please remember to report on your DAP charity hours and mileage to your Lodge Secretary regularly.

Every DAP Chairperson in our association joins me in thanking the members who help us fight the battle. We can't do it alone. Together we are stronger than Drugs.



West District VP Barrett F. Fitzwater

Oakland Lodge #2481 | Cell: 304-839-3512
zaters@hotmail.com

I hope everyone is enjoying the Spring and has great plans for the Summer.

As the 2022-2023 term ends, I thank everyone for their support. I have enjoyed spending time with and meeting new fellow Elks throughout the year.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Scire, ER from Frederick, MD Lodge #684, for Vice President of the West District 2023-2024. I wish you a successful year!

The Lodge year has just started, and the West District Lodges will continue to do great events to support and grow our communities. I wish you all a safe and wonderful Memorial Day and look forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention in Garrett County, Maryland, at the Wisp Resort!

God Bless our troops, and God Bless America!

West District News on page 10

Please join us for
PICKIN'-4-TROOPS



June 10, 2023
12 noon - 6:00 pm

All proceeds will benefit
Elks Welcome Home Program & Fischer House

\$25.00 DONATION GETS YOU PICKIN' AND FIXIN'S, DRAFT BEER, ICED TEA & LEMONADE
BLUE GRASS MUSIC BY C60 EXPRESS, CORN HOLE, RAFFLES AND LIVE AUCTION
If you are unable to attend, please consider a donation.

AT ELKS CAMP BARRETT
1001 CHESTERFIELD RD - CROWNSVILLE, MD 21401
HOSTED BY NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT
RSVP: STU: (410) 608-4587 OR MARY: (716) 697-6412

STATE BULLETIN CONTEST



Thank you, VPs, members, and Committee Chairs, for submitting informed articles, photos, and information. **WE DID IT AGAIN!** Our Newsletter has been awarded five stars. If it weren't for your due diligence, our Association's bulletin would not be recognized.

There were eight 5-star publications and three 4-star publications recognized. Thank you, Connie deYoung, my advisor, my friend, for your constant support and helpful suggestions. I appreciate you for sharing your knowledge and guidance.

Janie Swigert



North East VP James Biddison

Newark Lodge #2281
Phone 760-583-8948 | jrbiddison@gmail.com

All my VP visits are completed. I would like to thank all of the North East District Lodge officers and members for their warm hospitality and kindness towards myself and my wife, Beth, during our visits to your Lodges; you all should be proud.

What a great time we had at the Spring conference at Milford Lodge this year. It was a real honor to meet with the Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley and his 1st lady Helen. They are such down-to-earth people.

Thank you to all the Lodges that had a gain in membership and best wishes to all of our outgoing and incoming Lodge officers. Keep publicizing all the good work you do in our community.

North East District News on page 10

West District News

Through a grant from the MD, DE & DC State Elks Association, Frederick Elks Lodge #0684 was able to donate \$1,000 worth of personal care items, coffee and gift cards to the Heartly House. The mission of Heartly House is to end domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and child abuse, and to provide victims with safety, shelter, and supportive services.



Pictured left: Warren Johnson, PGT; Karen McNitt, PER, Lodge Treasurer; Cindy Warfield of Heartly House, Kim McGee, Lodge project coordinator and Jeff Scire, ER.

The Elks Veteran Committee was honored to have five of the Veterans from Montevue Nursing Home to enjoy lunch with some the Elks Veteran Committee members at the Frederick Elks Lodge #0684. Each veteran received a hand-crocheted blanket. The crocheted blankets were donated by one of our Elks member's sister.

Pictured below: Vivian Bross; Dennis Helmstetter, ER; Mary Onley - Veteran Chair; Stacey, Montevue Activities Director; Judi McKnight, PER; and Kim, Montevue Activities Director.



Frederick Elks Lodge #0684 conducted a canned food drive for the Frederick Rescue Mission and donated approximately \$200 of goods. The Lodge's Blessings in a Backpack is ongoing and the latest donation was for approximately \$100 of goods.

One of the quarterly Veteran Events is Movie Night at Montevue. Residents requested to see Top Gun Maverick. Mary Onley dressed in 1950's era clothing which was a big hit. Popcorn and candy was donated.

Pictured: Veteran Committee members Mary Onley, Veteran Chair; Harlan Nathanson and Vivian Boss

The Lodge also held a canned food drive to benefit the need at the Middletown Food Bank, as well as collected food for Blessings in a Backpack.

Our Lodge sponsored Diya Jha in the 2023 Most Valuable Student Scholarship, and "Diya advanced through all levels of judging and is officially the top female winner. She will receive \$50,000 over a four year period.

Submitted by Vicky Chandor George, Lodge Secretary

North East District News



Dover Lodge #1903 used their State Grant of \$1,000.00 to adopt a Family. Photos are of our Adopt-a-Family presentation. We had a pizza party for the family and the Dover Police Department Liaison. The children were so happy and appreciative of the clothes, shoes, books, and craft items. A gift card for food was also presented. Thank you to members Joanne Zajac, Sharon Cook, Kathy King. (Unfortunately, Kathy was not available for pictures due to family obligations.)



Photo above: Chestertown MD Lodge 2474 donated space to the Kent County High School Future Farmers of America, their Alumni and Supporters for the Truck Sprints. 100 participants brought their trucks for competition and 300-400 additional followers attended. This Sprint has been an annual event since 2016.

"Future Farmers of America" was founded by a group of young farmers in 1928. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. They taught us that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting, it's a science, it's a business and it's an art.

Submitted by BJ Young,
Public Relations and Communications



ELKS CAMP BERRETT

Angela M. Meyer

Director of Operations Elks Camp Barrett
ecbsecretary@outlook.com

From the ashes, the phoenix rises. We had a difficult start to our Spring. Broken water pipes laid waste to our ceiling in the bathhouse while we were having the ADA showers installed. Fortunately, the tradesmen were on-site and could jump in and begin repairs. We expect that all will have been finished before the Elks family picnic.

We have a brand-new playground to replace the one that had been out of code for 14 years. The ADA shower stalls and the playground were donated in full by a benefactor for Camp Sunrise. This is a huge gift to Sunrise that we benefit from; we could never have accomplished this on our own. We estimate the total cost of the donation was approximately \$60,000. We are so grateful for the gift and our long-time relationship with Sunrise.

This brings me to remind everyone that our Elks Family picnic is a fundraising event for the camp and its summer programs. All proceeds from the big raffle go to the Elks Camp Barrett Improvement Fund to help us make necessary improvements at the camp. The camp does very few fund-raisers throughout the year. Camp Barrett is supported by funds from ENF, direct Lodge donations, and campers' fees, but the \$175.00 is insufficient to fully fund the camper for the week. Please remember that anything you give in time and money goes to the Camp. With the support from our Lodges and members, Elks Camp Barrett has continued to proudly serve youth, veterans, and the community for over 70 years!

Summer Camp Season is almost here. The registrations are coming in steadily. Please get your summer camp registration in as soon as you can. The first week of camp starts June 25th. All Applications should be to us by June 11th. We always need volunteers to teach a skill, help in the kitchen or help with chores and clean-up. We can use you for an hour or a day or even a week, if you can give that. We always need support for the programs, so gift cards for Michaels Craft Store, Amazon, and Sam's Club would help us greatly. We are staffing up for camp, so if any 18-year-olds out there wish to be counselors, please let us know. We also need lifeguards 16 or older. Camp clean-up for summer camp will be June 11th - 18th; if your Lodge is coming to fix up your cabin before the season, you are welcome any time. Just call us and let us know you are coming by.

We are hoping for another great ECB season. E.C. BEE and the ECB staff are sending a huge thank you and big warm summer camp hugs to all our great members.

Keep up the Buzz!



Elks Camp Barrett's beautiful new playground

SAVE THE DATE

★

≡ **ALL DISTRICT** ≡

POKER

Run

SEPT 9

2 - 3 - 4 or more wheels
 Begins in each District & ends at Elks Camp Barrett
 Start and Card Stop locations by Districts - TBA
 Games, Live band, and Food at end of run
 More information coming soon
 Contact Colleen Ford or Angela Meyer

ELKS CAMP BARRETT FALL FUNDRAISER

**PROTECT YOUR LIQUOR LICENSE CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 8**

The guest register is one of the first places they go to look for UBI (Unrelated Business Income). If they see that the guest register is not being used in the prescribed manner, they will do a much deeper dive into your finances. Proper use of the guest register indicates that you are at least trying to follow all the rules.

Living by the rules is much easier than suffering the consequences of failure to do so. And what do they tell you in court? "Ignorance of the Law is no excuse." In my profession, as in all walks of life, it is much easier to "do it right the first time" than do it all over again. And never "assume" that "this is how we have always done it" is the right way.



AMERICANISM

CARRIE KANE

State Chair Americanism
 Easton Lodge #1622
 443-225-8219 | carrie_kane@outlook.com

The MD DE DC Elks Association Americanism Banquet was a huge success. We had 80 attendees, including our winners, their families, fellow officers, and chairpersons. I want to thank State President Marion Davidson Jr. and his wife Diane, State President-Elect Renee Rivituso and her significant other Jeff, Past State President Sandy Branter and Past State President Jim Stewart, District Deputy Ken Chapman and his wife Danelle, District Deputy Dan Kane, Soccer Shoot Chairman Dolly Broom, State Trustee Larry Mathers, along with the Lodge chairman and district chairman for coming out on a rainy day to support our kids and our great program. I want to thank Past Exalted Ruler Kevin Rose and Exalted Ruler Delana Rose of Glen Burnie Elks Lodge for opening their hall to us, providing a delicious spread of food, and as always, wonderful hospitality.

All the entries for both the poster and essay contests were phenomenal. It was truly difficult to choose winners because they were all so great. The winners of the Poster Contest are as follows:

0-3 years of age:

- 1st Place - Delilah Nathan - Camp Springs
- 2nd Place - Austin Gramber - Laurel

6-7 years of age:

- 1st Place - Charlotte Merica - Calvert

8-9 years of age:

- 1st Place - Elliott Burkhardt - Laurel
- 2nd Place - Paola Russo - Deale

10-13 Years of age:

- 1st Place - Olivia Krause - Washington Rockville
- 2nd Place - Leah Campion - Abingdon
- 3rd Place - Alyssa Rumbaugh - Hagerstown



- 4th Place - Dorothy Green - Glen Burnie
- 5th Place - Luci Hageman - Cape Henlopen

14-17 Years of age:

- 1st Place - Tahar Aitelhabib - Waldorf

ON THE STATE LEVEL, THESE ESSAYS WERE RECOGNIZED AND AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

Division 1

- Alanna Lauer - Waldorf
- Ellis Cotrell - Glen Burnie

Division 2

- Coleen Hastings - Ocean City
- Kaeli Beyer - St. Marys
- Kaiden Roach - Laurel

Division 3

- Aila Ovais - Salisbury
- Sarah Williams - Ocean City
- Isabella Mills - Glen Burnie

Division 4

- Jenna Lee - Laurel
- Braylon Gladden - St. Marys
- Ashley Conway - Ocean City

I will announce and contact any winners from our Association once I receive notice from Grand Lodge, which should be very soon.

Currently serving as District Chair for the North Central District, Erin Muscarella will be taking on the role of State Chair for Americanism in the coming Lodge year. I do not doubt that she will do a fantastic job for our kiddos and Association.



South West District VP
LINDA KILPATRICK
 Deale Lodge #2528



What a fun year! It has been an exciting year visiting Lodges in the South West and seeing all the fun and innovative ideas put to work in our District. The common bond is all working toward the same goal, to share Elkdom throughout, and to practice and promote the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. Elkdom is not in what we say; it's what we project. It's what we believe in. I have seen this in every Lodge I have visited. Elks working hard to help others.

It's been my privilege to serve as your South West Vice President, and I look forward to serving in another capacity next year. SOUTH WEST FLIES!!!



Calvert Lodge #2620 was proud to present Deputy First Class James Flynt, Calvert County Sheriff's Office, with a check for \$6,197. The donation was made possible with proceeds from our Bull and Oyster Roast held in February 2023.

In March, our ER Clarke Rawlings and Trustee Kim Parrott presented Deputy Flynt with the donation to assist with rehab, shown in the photo to the left.

ELKS HELPING CHILDREN

WILLIAM J. JERNICK MEMORIAL FUND

Susan B Caldwell, State Chairman
Ocean City Lodge #2645 | 410-430-8808 | sbb10408@gmail.com



Has your Lodge taken advantage of the assistance from the William J. Jernick Memorial Foundation? If you have not, get familiar with how you can help deserving children (21 and under) eligible to receive a one-time monetary grant upon application and approval by the Board of Directors of the Memorial Fund.

If you have attended any State Conference/Workshop, you have heard me tell of the history of the beginning of this fund. If not, I'll reiterate some of the history. In 1982 when Paul Helsel was the State President of our Association, this trust

fund was established to honor our deceased Grand Lodge Sponsor, Bill Jernick from New Jersey, and his legacy of willingness to lend his time, talents, and generous spirit for the benefits of others. This is strictly for the MD-DD-DC Elk Lodges.

Applications are to be submitted by a Lodge in our State Association to help a child facing medical illness, injury, or disease. This is for a one-time grant of \$2,000 maximum, which is given freely and without obligation for repayment at any time. Special consideration is given to applicants without insurance or other means to help themselves financially.

For additional information, go to our State Website to "Jernick", where you can also get a printable form for our most recent literature. In the State Directory, you can also locate the Jernick Rep. in your area, or feel free to contact me at any time for assistance.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION AND ARMY OF HOPE

Louis B. Schmeltzer, Jr.

Annapolis Lodge #622 | 410-627-5179 louschmeltzer@gmail.com



Army of Hope

We continue to attempt to avoid homelessness in our Veterans by assisting them in retaining their homes. This is done by not only helping with past due rent but assisting with utility bills and even helping with auto insurance to allow the Veteran to continue going to work.

The total amount of this assistance since the last article is approximately: \$11,300.00. The problems these less fortunate Vets encounter is an ongoing problem, and we want to stand ready to assist them as much as we can. This can only be accomplished with your help. The Army of Hope is supported solely by contributions from Lodges. I hope each Lodge has allocated some money in their budgets to this necessary effort. Also, a portion of any fundraising money may be directed to this worthy effort. We want to continue supporting our veterans who have given so much.



VAVS

The very dedicated reps that service the various VA hospitals & the USO have been busy helping to make our Veterans more comfortable and entertained. They have volunteered 250-plus hours to this cause and have donated gift cards, toiletries, a projector & screen, bingo parties, barber shop visits, snacks & challenge coins. All these things amounted to about \$3,700 of items for our Vets. There are still facilities that are only open to volunteers on a limited basis but are starting to open more rapidly and ease restrictions. These volunteers deserve a huge thank you from us all. The things they do are genuinely appreciated by the Vets & the staff and are an excellent credit to the name of Elkdom.

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT CONTINUED

In December 2022, Deputy Flynt was critically shot during an attempted traffic stop and car chase and faced with a lengthy recuperation.

Calvert Lodge selected The Arc Southern Maryland to receive the MD, DE, DC State Association Grant. The Arc provided us with a list of items that were needed.

In March 2023, Mary Cardinal-Vogt, PSP, and Kathy Gioffre presented The Arc with \$1,000 worth of the requested items.

The Arc Southern Maryland is a non-profit organization and the leading advocate for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living and working in Southern Maryland. They provides various services, including housing, job placement, and behavioral support. Their mission is to create opportunities for independence and personal success for those with various abilities.



Pictured above are Elks Mary Cardinal-Vogt, PSP, Kathy Gioffre, and The Arc Southern Maryland staff with some of the items donated by the Lodge.

Calvert Elks #2620 chose Heart F.E.L.T. to receive the \$2,000 Spotlight Grant, plus member donations of \$185. Heart F.E.L.T. provided us with a list of needed items. Item were delivered on March 27th & 31st. Heart F.E.L.T. (Filling Empty Little Tum-mies) is a Christian-based Outreach Ministry designed to feed children on the weekends when they often go hungry. The program teams churches with elementary schools in the County to feed hungry children where free or reduced lunch programs cannot. They do this by providing food for students

SW News continued on page 16



North Central VP Mary Underwood

Laurel Lodge #2283 | Phone 301-399-5857
maryhuj1223@gmail.com

Greetings from North Central. Thank you to all the Lodges for their wonderful hospitality during visits from President Marion Davidson, Jr. and myself as his representative. Your accomplishments and future goals for your Lodge enlightened me.

I know that most of you met your own goals and exceeded them in growing through Elksdom. As we meet at the WISP Resort this weekend, we will install our State President, Renee Revituso, Kevin Rose as North Central VP, Ken Rousey, State Trustee and Danelle Chapman as Executive Camp Barrett Committee Member, and other State Officers from other Districts.

Thank you to State President Marion Davidson, Jr. and District Deputy Ken Chapman for their support, knowledge, and leadership this past year. Their guidance helped me grow more within the Elks, and I hope you all have the same sentiment.

Again, thank you for your support this past year. I was glad to see you at your Lodges and events throughout North Central. Congratulations on a great year! Several things remind me of why I became an Elk and why I am still an Elk. Each Lodge within our District holds a special place to me; no two Lodges are the same. Each location has a special knack for what you do whether it's an event, how you raise funds, or recruiting new members.

Congratulations to the new officers and those returning to a chair. You have a wealth of knowledge, with your past officers and our current and past State Officers, to contact when you need assistance or guidance. Our contact information may be found in the directory. Continue to do great work for Elks! Your volunteerism does not go unnoticed, and it is humbling to see how we help those in need in our community, within our own Lodge, with children, and our veterans. We would not be here without you and your generosity to help others

Towson Lodge # 469 has approved \$750 in donations for various charities around the area: BRIGHT MINDS FOUNDATION of Howard County, which provides community support for kids to learn in school, SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR BEAR PLUNGE, DOWN SYNDROME ASSOC OF MD, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL fundraiser Golf Tournament for school supplies and to upgrade the school's library.

Submitted by PR committee member, Jim Bullington

The Severna Park Lodge # 2482 donated \$2,000 to Hope for All, an organization that helps people in our community who are without the financial means to meet their basic needs. Through community donations, HOPE For All transforms an empty living space with furniture and household goods, shoes, clothing, and personal care items.



Pictured above: Exalted Ruler Terry Hicks, Executive Director of HOPE For ALL Connie Cooper, Operations Coordinator Stephene Zerhusen and Leading Knight Andre Denault.

The **Severna Park Lodge** also donated \$4,000 from their Beacon Grant to the Blue Ribbon Project which is dedicated to helping Foster Kids. The latest initiative of the project is to help Foster Care Families basic necessities. The Project has seen a rise in preemies who must go into Foster Care instead of being allowed to go home for various reasons.

Pictured right: Members Pat Messmore, Michele Besche, Blue Ribbon Coordinator Corie Jones, Members George Messmore, PER Rich O'Hara, Kathy Meyer, Jim and Linda McCormick and Blue Ribbon Volunteer Kara Murphy.



The Severna Park Elks Lodge #2482 donated \$2,000 to Bernie House. Their goal is to be part of the solution to those made homeless due to domestic violence. Bernie House provides survivors and their children with a longer-term transitional housing program.

Pictured below: Elk's member Kathy Meyer, Bernie House Director Patti Slaughter and ER Terry Hicks.



In other news, over this past Elk Year (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023) the **Severna Park Elks**, with the help of ENF and State grants, have donated \$63,423 back to our community.

Severna Park Lodge news submitted by ER Terry Hicks



South East District VP Rick Frere

Kent Island Lodge #2576
Phone: 301-580-0739 | rfrere@gmail.com

Greetings, fellow Elks from the Southeast District of the Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia State Association. I am proud to say that our District gained a total of 421 Members during the 2022-2023 Lodge year, and our recruiting efforts continue apace. In fact, we now have four Lodges with over 900 Members in the loud and proud Southeast!

Our District's continued growth, combined with the fundraising efforts of our individual Lodges, produced an impressive \$113,070.28 in donations to the Elks National Foundation in 2022-2023, with Selbyville Lodge #2173 leading our State Association with an incredible per-capita figure of \$86.146.

Our Lodges also embraced the mantra that "activity breeds activity" by hosting dozens of events through the spring, including dinners, community outreach events, cash bashes, musical performances, and so much more. These events, by having broad appeal, worked to keep all of our 7,446 Elks engaged with their Lodges and communities.

To all of the Officers and Members of the Southeast District, I thank you for your generous hospitality and support throughout the year. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your Vice President and to do what I could to support your continued success.

Finally, I am very proud to report that at our caucus on April 1st at Salisbury Lodge #817, Nikki Evans, PER from Selbyville Lodge #2173, was elected to serve our District as our next Vice President. I am certain that the thunderous support she received from all who were present will ensure that she has an incredibly successful year.



Cape Henlopen Elks #2540 recently gave \$2,000 to Race4Warriors, a local nonprofit supporting veterans. (\$1,000 was earmarked as a donation from committee funds and the Lodge voted to match that amount.)

Pictured above are, Elks Exalted Ruler Joy Schreck, Race4Warriors CEO Michael Bellerose, and Elks Veterans Committee Chairman Bob Trafton.

Cape Henlopen Elks #2540 Supports Cape Henlopen High School JROTC

In March, select members of the Cape High JROTC attended a special lunch-hour at Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge in Lewes, DE. After enjoying their choice of several lunch entrees, the Veterans Committee presented the cadets with a \$500 check to help cover costs associated with their off-campus projects. It is hoped that this donation to the Cape High JROTC will go a long way in supporting community service and patriotism—goals shared by the Elks as well.



Pictured above: Elks Lodge Veterans Committee Member Dan Celia, 2nd Lt. Montana Jones, 2nd Lt. Grace Wiggins, Major Bryan Ramirez, Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Joanne Mayer, Elks Lodge Veterans Committee Chairman Bob Trafton, Lt. Colonel Issac League (Battalion Commander), and Captain Linda Gutierrez. Not pictured are Colonel Ron Erale (JROTC Officer in Charge) and Sgt. 1st Class Richard T. Hurt (Staff Instructor).



Cape Henlopen Elks #2540 Donated \$4,000 to Wesley United Methodist Church Food Pantry Ministry and \$3,000 to Epworth United Methodist Church food and Love Ministry and their food bank in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Both organizations support families and seniors who are less fortunate.

Pictured above: Elks #2540 Exalted Ruler Joanne Mayer; Wesley's Rev. Tim Freidel; Lindsay Short, Wesley's Food Pantry Volunteer; and Past Exalted Ruler Ralph Patterson, Grants Coordinator.

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SOUTHEAST CONTINUED

The Cape Henlopen Elks #2540 of Lewes, Delaware, Veterans Committee responded to a request from the Delaware Veterans Home. Resident veterans were in need of a safe and easy way to unwind and destress, whether from PTSD or dementia, and waterless essential oil diffusers were a way to bring calm to the home. The Elks' Veterans Committee purchased two of these large area diffusers, along with various essential oil refills to last up to six months. Once these are gone, we will be replace them with various scents.

Proceeds from a Cancer Basket Raffle plus matching funds from Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge netted a \$2,000 donation to Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition.

Cape Henlopen Elks donated \$3,000 to Epworth United Methodist Church in Rehoboth Beach, DE, for its Food and Love Ministry and their Food Bank.

The Veterans Committee visited the Milford, DE chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing in April to present the charitable veterans organization with a donation check for \$1,000. Veterans Committee chairman Bob Trafton and committee member Brian Moyer made the presentation to the group's leader James DiDonato. This donation was made possible through a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

The Veterans Committee of the Cape Henlopen Elks support many of the local veterans organizations, one of which is Race4Warriors. \$1,000 was earmarked as a donation from committee funds. Soon thereafter, the Lodge voted to match that amount, resulting in a \$2,000 donation.

Prior to the start of its Lodge meeting in April, Cape Henlopen Elks presented that generous check to Race4Warriors CEO Michael Bellerose, who briefly described the mission of his organization.

Race4Warriors is a local nonprofit honoring veterans who have served in the Middle East, through competition, education, and celebration. Each May, they orchestrate a well-attended running event, and throughout the year, they provide support to Wounded Warriors, homeless veterans, the local JROTC, and more. The organization consists of retired military men and women who are all volunteers; none receive any compensation for their service. We are proud to support this organization and its upcoming race.

Cape Henlopen Elks news Submitted by Cindy Butler, Publicity



Selbyville Lodge #2173 hosted GER Bruce Hidley on March 24, 2023. He is shown above, left photo, with Loren Evans ER accepting the gift of a model replica of the Elks race car. Earlier this year Loren restored the former race car to be used to promote our DAP program.

In the above, right photo, GER Bruce Hidley presented Eleanor Ireland, House Committee Chairman for Selbyville the Outstanding Member Award.



Visiting Selbyville Elks Lodge #2173 Photo above: Nicole Evans (PER & Secretary), GER Bruce Hidley, 1st Lady Helen Hidley, PGER Paul Hesel, Loren Evans (ER), and State President Marion Davidson

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT CONTINUED

in backpacks, and the children pick it up just before the weekend.

Pictured to the right: Mary Cardinal-Vogt, PSP, Jo Ann King, Julie Gadway, and Sharon Roston from Calvert Lodge 2620 and Jack Woodford, Trinity United Methodist Church, displaying some of the food donated by our Lodge.

Submitted by Mary Cardinal-Vogt

