



Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia

ELKS ASSOCIATION *News*

A Fraternal Organization - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

www.mddedcelks.org

MARCH 2024



State President
Renee' Rivituso
Waldorf Elks #2421

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Renee' Rivituso

Welcome to Pocomoke City Lodge #1624 and the Spring Conference. This weekend, we are honored to have Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook and First Lady Wanda Shook from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, Lodge #2206. We also welcome our Sponsor, Paul D. Helsel, Past Grand Exalted Ruler, and his wife Jane from Newark Lodge #2281, Grand Inner Guard William Buttrill, Jr., and Joy from Seaford Lodge #2458.

Embracing my motto this year, "Soar to Greater Heights," ensured our Association's programs and our Order were promoted; we can celebrate their fantastic success throughout the Association. MD, DEL & DC Elks Association will once again have a membership gain. We are currently maintaining a delinquency rate of 5.9% and have 385 candidates waiting to join our Lodges. Initiate -Initiate—Initiate before March 31st.

This has admittedly been a challenging year for me. My illness has recently limited my ability to visit some of our Lodges and attend their events. Luckily, Zoom has kept me active with our Camp Executive Committee, Rep Meetings, and Association Trustee meetings. I attended our State Hoop Shoot. Congratulations to DeWayne Wilcher and all the volunteers; a job well done. Thank You, Dolly Broom, for a successful and well-planned State Soccer Shoot. We were represented in all age groups at the Mid-Atlantic Elks Invitational Soccer Shoot held in York, PA. I hear we have a 1st place winner.

Nicole Evans graciously stepped in as our State Government Relations Chair after the passing of our brother and dedicated Elk John Sammons. The monthly charitable report you submit is compiled and used before a Legislative Body, Regulatory Authority, or other Government entity and is usually needed to qualify for grants. State Association Officers and State & District Chairs, please send Nicole any reports that you may have sent to John. Nicole will also accept any charitable hours from April 1, 2023–March

31, 2024, that have not yet been sent. The end of Elk Year will be here before you know it; submit now to receive credit for your charitable works.

As we begin our new Lodge year, my gratitude and thanks go out to the retiring Lodge officers for their dedication and hard work. Please provide mentorship to the newly elected and appointed officers.

Congratulations to all the new and returning Lodge officers. I wish you a successful year. An Exalted Ruler (ER) must appoint strong Committees. It is the Committees that do the "Work of Elkdom." Without Committee work, the Lodge has no purpose or reason for existence. ERs, remember it is your job to maintain a harmonious environment at the Lodge. There is nothing more detrimental to the welfare of a Lodge than disputes among members. Officers, persevere and work together as a TEAM to achieve your goals and make your Lodge year successful. Jeff and I hope to see you at upcoming meetings and events.

The District Deputy of the Grand Exalted Ruler Clinics and the Vice President (VP) Caucus are quickly approaching in April. Contact your District Vice President if you want to run for VP, State Trustee, or Elks Camp Barrett Executive Committee. The next event will be our Elks Camp Barrett Family Day Picnic on Sunday, May 26, 2024. Take this opportunity to spend a great day with your family and fellow Elks while exploring all the camp has to offer.

The next State Convention will be held in Annapolis from June 7–9, 2024. Thank You, Pocomoke City Lodge #1624, for hosting an excellent Spring Conference.

May God Bless all of you with good health, your Lodges, those who have served, and those still serving to ensure our freedoms.

Fraternally,

Renee' J. Rivituso

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GRAND EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE

RANDY P. SHOOK, GER

Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

PREVIOUS OFFICERS CAN ASSIST THE NEXT GENERATION

We did it. We finished.

The retiring Officers deserve the thanks of all the Members for the successful way in which they have handled their duties in the past year. The work that was accomplished is a tribute to their leadership and effort. It is our hope they will continue to assist the incoming Officers with the work in which our Order is engaged. The fact that each one was a member of the leadership team marks each of them as one of the Lodge's most valuable Members. The experience and knowledge each of you possess has been, and will always be, invaluable to your Lodge.

Congratulations to the new Officers of every Lodge throughout our great Order. The Members of your Lodge placed their confidence and trust in you and your abilities; you

should be very proud. You should consider it an honor to be chosen to be a leader within your Lodge. As the new leader of your Lodge, it is extremely important to put together a dedicated group of people, to create a plan and set the necessary goals for each committee to achieve success. The committee members are the people who work to make your Lodge a success in your community.

Never be afraid to ask questions. Your best source of information is the former Officers whose knowledge and experience is at your disposal, just for the asking. They have been there, done that, and can give you excellent advice.

March is also a time when many Lodges participate in St. Patrick's Day celebrations such as parties or community parades. Please be safe during these celebrations.

Wanda and I want to wish everyone Happy Easter.

Finally, check your calendar for awards, citations, and contest deadlines.

Remember "Elks Care — Elks Share" and "We Are THE Elks."

God bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.



STATE SPONSOR'S MESSAGE

PAUL D. HESEL, PGER

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Dear Friends and Members of the MD, DE & DC Elks Association:

Well, here we are once again in the final weeks of the Lodge year. This is a hectic time for the Lodges, as well as Elk leadership and members at all levels, in our efforts to wrap up the year with positive gains in membership, program accomplishments, charitable giving, and financial performance.

In addition to closing out the year, Lodges are electing a new slate of officers for the coming 2024/2025 Lodge year and hopefully setting the stage for another successful year. For your Lodge and all our Lodges to succeed, prosper, and grow in 2024/2025 and future years, we need dedicated and capable leadership year after year. Hopefully, you have elected the best of the best into leadership positions.

Also, we are determining how many of our Hoop Shoot competitors will represent us in the National Finals in Chicago in April. Hoop Shoot Association Chair Dewayne Wilcher and his committee assure me that a number of the contestants in the upcoming Association Contest have the potential to make it to the Nationals—best wishes to all the competitors at all age levels. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Chicago in April.

Membership retention and growth for 2023/2024 is also in the

final "push" stage, with the deadline looming in just over a week. (March 31, 2024). Fortunately, the numbers as of 2/12/2024 already have our Association at a net gain of 44 members for the year without getting any of the 368 candidates waiting for initiation or recovering any of the 1,341 (6.6%) delinquents. That's excellent news and a "3 in a row" for our great Association. Evident as well is the potential "great" membership growth year. Our association can achieve this if we can initiate the 368 candidates in waiting and reduce the 1,341 delinquent number. We are on the plus side of the ledger, but don't let up now. Make this our greatest year for membership growth, and you all can do it!!!

ENF donations need a major push through this last week – we currently stand at 15th in the country with total donations of \$195,568 and a per capita of \$9,572. We ended last year in 14th place with \$262,178 in donations and a per capita of \$13,323 – we need about \$68,000 more donations to be close to where we were last year and ensure that our ENF returns are maintained and/or increased in years to come. Like all our endeavors, our ENF donation levels should continue to grow – we've done it in the past and can do it again!!

The \$5 increase in Grand Lodge Assessments this year and the fact that over the last three years, that increase totals \$15/member has caused financial stress within our membership, our Lodges, and the Order in general. In raw dollars, these three adjustments appear to be a substantial increase, but when examined closely, they equate to about a 1.4 cent increase per day or about a 4 cent a day increase over the three years. It is crucial that we consider these adjustments in a much broader context than just the immediate dollar impact they represent to every member.

MD-DE-DC ELKS ASSOCIATION SPRING CONFERENCE POCOMOKE CITY LODGE #1624 MARCH 22-24, 2024

MD, DE & DC ELKS ASSOCIATION NEWS

2023-2024 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

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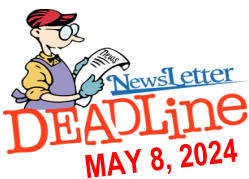
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Friday, March 22	
Noon - 5:00 PM	Registration
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Lunch – Lodge #1624 - Menu
1:00 PM	Advisory Committee Meeting Main Ballroom
3:30 PM	Elks Camp Barrett Executive Committee Mtg - Rear Ballroom
5:00 PM	State Trustees Meeting - Bingo Room
5:00 PM-9:00 PM	Dinner- Lodge #1624 - Pork BBQ, Brisket, BBQ Chicken & Sides (Casual Dress)
8:00 PM—?	Band in Hall - “ Johnny Mo ”
Saturday, March 23	
7:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast Buffet
8:00 AM - Noon	Registration
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Elks Camp Barrett (Meeting)
9:00 AM	Spring Conference Called to Order by State President Renee' Rivotuso
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Introductions God Bless America - Joy Schreck Invocation - Chaplain Judy McKnight Pledge - VP Nicole Evans, & Roll Call of Lodges- Betty Hardin, Secretary
9:30:00 AM	Presentations, Committee Reports
9:30 AM - 9:35AM	Americanism - Erin Muscarella
9:35 AM - 9:40 AM	Auditing and Business Practices & FRS - Robert Jordan
9:40 AM - 9:50 AM	Elks Veterans Service, Welcome Home, Louis Schmeltzer & Carl Robinson
9:50 AM - 10:00 AM	Elks National Foundation - Mary Frick (Donations Accepted)
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	Elks Camp Barrett - Ben Stone (Donations Accepted)
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	Drug Awareness Program - Angela Meyer
10:20 AM - 10:30 AM	By-Laws - William Buttrill, Jr.
10:30 AM - 10:40 AM	Government Relations - Nicole Evans & Corey Bradley
10:40 AM - 10:50 AM	Newsletter, Public Relations & Scholarships - Janie Swigert
10:50 AM - 10:55 AM	Accident Prevention - Mike Ford
10:55 AM - 11:00 AM	Membership Report - John Opitz, Jr.
11:00 AM - 11:05 AM	Soccer Shoot - Dolly Broom
11:05 AM - 11:10 AM	Hoop Shoot - Dewayne Wilcher
11:10 AM - 11:15 AM	William J. Jernick Memorial Fund Susan Caldwell (Donations Accepted)
11:15 AM - 11:20 AM	Lodge Activities - Ginger Johnson
11:20 AM - 11:25 AM	Youth Activities - Donna Curp
11:25 AM - 11:30 AM	Scouting - Tanner Bilbrough
11:30 AM - 11: 50 AM	2022-2023 Awards PSP Marion Davidson, Jr.
Announcements	Recess until Sunday 9:00 AM
12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM	Lunch Lodge #1624-Fried Chicken & Butter Poached Shrimp w/all the fixins'

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Hon. Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook meeting with DDGERS
1:30 PM	11 th Hour Toast & Flag Charge Ritual Competition - J. Gordon Alexander
1:30 PM - 2: 00 PM	State President & President Elect Meeting with Incoming ER's
2:00 PM - 3: 00 PM	State President Meeting with VPs & Committee Chairs
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Social Hour
6:30 PM - 8: 30 PM	Dinner – Presentations to Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook & Wanda (Coat & Tie)
8:30 PM till ?	Live Entertainment The Fab 2, 3, 4: A Tribute to the Beatles Band
Sunday , March 24	
7:00 AM - 9: 00 AM	Breakfast Lodge # 1624
8:00 AM - 9: 00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Meeting Called to Order by State President Renee' Rivotuso
9:00 AM	Presentations, Committee Reports
9:00 AM - 9: 10AM	Con Con Committee - Robert Broom
9:10 AM - 9: 20 AM	Elks Training
9:20 AM - 9: 30 AM	Website - Joseph McGeeney, II
9:30 AM - 9:40 AM	Donate Life - Joy Schreck
9:40 AM - 9:55 AM	Advisory Chairman - John Loftus
9:55 AM -10:10 AM	State Officers' Reports Treasure Jackie Phillips & Secretary Betty Hardin
10:10 AM-10:30 AM	Unfinished Business, New Business, & Trustee Budget - Kevin Frick
10:30 AM-10:40 AM	Good of the Association
10:40 AM-10:50 AM	Comments - State President Elect & State President
10:50 AM-11:00 AM	GL Area 2 Public Relations & Membership Marketing - Mary Cardinal-Vogt
11:00 AM-11:10 AM	Comments by Grand Lodge Inner Guard William Buttrill, Jr.
11:10 AM-11:30 AM	Comments by Hon. Paul D. Helsel, Past Grand Exalted Ruler
11:30 PM-11:50 PM	Comments by Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook
11:50 PM-12: 00 PM	Remembrance of Departed Members
12:00 PM	Adjournment God Bless the USA - Joy Schreck & Prayer Chaplain Judy McKnight
12:05 PM	Raffles / Drawings
NEXT MEETING:	June 7th—9th Annapolis
May 8	Next Newsletter Deadline





PRESIDENT-ELECT ANGELA MEYER

Kent Island Lodge #2576
ecbsecretary@outlook.com
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The few warm days that have crept up at the end of this winter have caused me to dream of warm sunshine and spring flowers. These wonderful thoughts also make me think of other things, like DDGER Clinics, Lodge Officer installations, and, of course, ECB camper registrations. The Elks' world doesn't stop for the seasons....

This quarter, I have had the joy of attending a few winter events at our local Lodges and continuing my preparations for the future. The January Advisory meeting was very interesting and left me with a few more duties to attend to. They tell me this is what I should expect in the future.

This past quarter found me working hard to be sure that I would be prepared to take on my duties in June. My pins are being processed and will be ready for distribution in June. I served as the assigned driver for Elroy T. Elk as he traveled to the State Soccer Shoot in Jessup. I developed talking points and presentations on ECB and Drug Awareness for the chairpersons who gave presentations at the Elks Trainings.

I've met regularly with State President Renee Rivituso and appreciate her direction and inclusion of me during her reign. I have been invited to join a meeting with President Rivituso, the Vice Presidents, and the State committee chairs at the March Conference.

Please know that my time and efforts have been centered on serving our Association and its members and helping our Association accomplish more than ever before.

Please remember why you were called to be an Elk. Take joy in the things that matter and be proud of your accomplishments. Every member is a valued part of our Association, and I appreciate each and every one of you.

I look forward to seeing everyone this weekend at Pocomoke Elks Lodge.

Angela

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 18—Hoop Shoot National Finals, Chicago
- May 11—State Youth Recognition Day
- May 26—ECB Family Picnic
- June 7—9—State Convention, location Annapolis
- **May 8—Deadline for Newsletter submissions**
- June 30—July 3, 2024 Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, TX

STATE SPONSOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The primary motivation behind these adjustments is our commitment to maintaining the group Liability Insurance, a critical component of almost every Lodge operation. The privilege of selling alcohol in our Lodges significantly contributes to our ability to attract, maintain, and even grow membership – probably the major operational entity that keeps our Lodges solvent and open to the membership. Losing this privilege would result in a significant decline in both membership and Lodges – an outcome we must avoid if our Order is to continue, let alone grow. The decision to spread these increases over three years was a deliberate effort to lessen the immediate impact on our membership.

Offering further perspective, let's compare the four-cent-a-day increase to the recent 3-year hikes in various essential commodities: Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs up 8% - Fruits and vegetables up 9.3% - Electricity up 14.1% - Unities (gas service) up 20% - Airfares up 42.9% - Rent of primary residence up 7.5%. Considering these and many other substantial increases in our cost of living, the 3-year adjustments to our assessments were a measured and responsible approach to solving a major financial issue within our Order, the Lodges, and membership. Your understanding and support during these times are invaluable. Thank you for your continued dedication to our Order, and if you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

At this Spring Conference weekend, we are honored to host our Grand Exalted Ruler, Randy P. Shook, and his lovely wife, Wanda. I know they look forward to seeing and visiting each of you over the weekend. They are genuinely a "down to earth" couple you will enjoy visiting. Please join Jane and me in welcoming and greeting them personally and taking the time to explain to them how your Lodge and our Association are promoting his theme "WE ARE THE ELKS"!!!

Please plan on attending, participating in the Business Sessions and planned activities, meet Grand Exalted Ruler Shook and First Lady Wands, and take what you learn back to your Lodge and apply it – hopefully helping to make your Lodge a more involved and stronger Lodge for the 2024/2025 year!!!

Thank you to all those Elks who continue to work so hard for their individual Lodge, our Association, and our Order – know that you have made a tremendous difference and are responsible for making our Association the best in the Order.

Best wishes to all attending our Pocomoke City Conference; hopefully, it will be an informative and fun-filled weekend. Best wishes to our 37 Lodges for a most prosperous and successful 2024/2025 Lodge year. Jane and I look forward to seeing you all in Pocomoke City.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor



MEMBERSHIP

John Opitz

Abingdon Lodge #2354
410-591-6123 |
mtlian@comcast.net

Greetings to all. Welcome to GER Randy Shook and First Lady Wanda. Here is a brief report on membership thus far this year.

We started this year with 20,222 members; we currently have 21,605. We still have 1,331 delinquents, down over 300 since my last report in late December. That would give us a gain of 52, as the numbers stand now. I am confident we can get more of our delinquent members back into the Lodges. We also have 387 candidates waiting. If we get them all in, we could again be well on the positive side for the year. We have one more month left in the Lodge year; let's get after this! Initiate, Initiate, Initiate!

In this week's membership update from Grand Lodge, Mr. Gathen reports that we are currently in 12th place nationally for growth. We can do better; if we get all our waiting candidates on board soon, we can crack the top 10!

Our Order added 78,382 new members last year, a new record for us. We have had positive growth for two years in a row; we are now going for three years in a row, which has not happened since 1977. Three in a row, let's go!

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 2,022 new members. For the year we have added 2,144 new members thus far, so we have exceeded that goal again.

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.

Keep in mind the availability of group photos of your new initiates. Please take a picture of the group of new members and email it to Rick Gathen at

rickg@elks.org or get to the Jolly Cork Facebook page and upload through there. You will receive an emailed digital photo of your group with the Grand Exalted Ruler added in, giving his enthusiastic cheer, "We are...The Elks".

Please be aware that an initiation does not have to be part of a Lodge meeting; it can be held as a standalone 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 are in order for our leaders in recruitment and initiations. Our current leaders are Cape Henlopen, Ocean City, Frederick, and Salisbury. I will report with up-to-date numbers when we meet. Many Lodges are also getting reinstatements and transfers, which are 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 and above this article.

John Opitz

WILLIAM J. JERNICK MEMORIAL FUND

SUSAN B CALDWELL, State Chairman

Ocean City Lodge #2645 | 410-430-8808 | sbb10408@gmail.com

I am happy to report that during the past six months, the Wm. J. Jernick Fund has received requests from all five Districts in our State Association for assistance to aid children ages 21 and under with special needs. We received twelve, twice the requests received during the previous year!

As many of you know, this Fund is special to our State Association and is available to all families that may need help to provide their children with items such as eyeglasses, specialized computers, hearing aids, medical treatment and

medications, wheelchairs, hospital beds, prosthetics, transportation expenses, remodeling cost to accommodate physical needs and various other medical needs. All of this information can be found on our State website, as well as a printable version of the latest brochure and an application.

All Lodges will, or have been contacted by the District Jernick Chairperson to help get the word out regarding this Memorial Fund and how to take advantage of same. Following are the District Chairs to contact: Julie Burgoon-NC; Lou Muller-NE; George Tunnicliff-SE; Judith Black-SW; and Rob Rephan-W. As State Chairperson, I am also available to assist in any way. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Susan Caldwell, 410-430-8808 | sbb10408@gmail.com



AMERICANISM

ERIN MUSCARELLA

State Chair Americanism | Laurel Lodge #2283
Cell: 301-922-5453 | elm.95@verizon.net

Thank you to all the District Chairs for getting the information to your Lodges so they may pass along to the communities. And thank you Lodges, for your participation.

The Annual Americanism Banquet will be held at 2:30 pm on

April 7, 2024, at Laurel Lodge #2283. Invitations have been sent to our winners and special guests.

Remember, from poster contests and thank you cards for our veterans, to get-out-the-vote banners and welcome home signs for our service men and women. Paper and crayons are all you need!

Fraternally,

Erin Muscarella

Audit Report AUDITING AND BUSINESS PRACTICES COMMITTEE

BOB JORDAN, CHAIRPERSON

Ocean City Lodge #2645 | C) 410-908-2434 | K9118@aol.com

Since my January article in the last newsletter, where I had some good news to report, things seem to have changed again.

Each month I send out a report to each District Deputy, State Audit & Business Practices District Chairs, State Advisors, and Officers of the State Association and our State Sponsor, and Area 2 Audit & Accounting member.

This report is also submitted with a spreadsheet showing each Lodge in the State Associations, submittals from April 2023 thru the month that was due.

At present, there is one Lodge that has not filed any FRS reports for FY 23/24, and three (3) others that are four months behind. Of those four Lodges, three are in the South West District, and one in the North East District.

There is presently only one Lodge behind for two months and also has not filed a budget for FY 23 / 24. This Lodge is in the North Central District.

So, with that said, I want to thank the other 32 Lodges in the

State Association, that have kept their reports up to date for the FY 23 / 24.

I am asking that the District Deputy's to look at my report that was sent out at the end of January and if any of the Lodges that are behind, are in your District to check with them as to why and if the State A & BP Committee be of any assistance, please let me know, or the District Chair from the State A & BP.

I also filed my report for the Audit and Business Practices Committee with the State Advisory Committee, as required, for their January meeting, giving an update on what has been going on.

On the business side, there has been many hacks of Lodges with false emails to Lodges and individual Lodge officers. There have also been text messages being sent out requesting money or information.

If you think it is a false email, please check the email address with the person's email listed in our State Directory. If you are not sure if it is a real text or just have doubt, check the number, with the directory also. And finally, call the person who has contacted you requesting the donation or information, by phone. Everyone ones phone number is in the State Directory.

As always, if anyone has a question, I can be reached at 410-908-2434 or at K9118@aol.com.

Fraternally, Bob Jordan

Feb. 10, 2023



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Mary Underwood

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

Welcome Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and members all to the March conference!

When writing this report, 32 Lodges have met the Grand's goal of \$4.80 per member for ENF! That's four more Lodges since January. Thank you for submitting your donations. I hope that by the time we meet, I can announce that all Lodges have met the goal. As an Association, we are currently 14th in the nation, and Selbyville is sitting at 1st place in our association, with Westminster and Essex not too far behind them.

I have challenged the Districts to an "All District" competition for the last few years. The North East is sitting first with an average of \$10.17 per member, and North Central and South West are close behind, only 1 penny separates the two Districts! Where will your District end up by March 31? Will we have a new winner this year?

Speaking of the end of March, I want to

remind you to submit those donations for ENF before **March 31, 2024**. Any donations received after the 31st will be counted towards the 2024-2025 Lodge year. I

will accept donations through March, but I highly recommend you submit them directly from your Lodge. You can always provide me with the amounts you have submitted since we last met in October. With Easter early this year, the ENF office will be closed on March 29, 2024, so that only gives me a few days to get your donations mailed off to Chicago. Again, please submit donations before our meeting in Pocomoke City. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me.

SPECIAL COMPETITION FOR MARCH CONFERENCE – show me a picture of your current, up-to-date ENF poster with your Lodge ENF chair in the photo for a drawing!!!

As the new Lodge year approaches, please ensure you have your ENF chairs signed up as the ENF chair on the elks.org website. Your Lodge receives Chair Challenge points, which is the best way for your Lodge to receive ENF updates throughout the year. If your

Lodge ENF chair remains the same in the new year, they will need to register again as the chair. All District Chairs will need to do the same. Your Lodge ENF chairs and District Chairs are your go-to members if you have any questions, need assistance, or need help ordering supplies. Information on the Chair Challenge and where your Lodge stands should be provided at your next DD Clinic. If you require the information before the DD Clinic, please contact your District Chair.

Remind your members, new and returning, of how they can donate towards ENF. Fidelity Club is the quickest and easiest way to donate. It takes about 5 minutes to enroll, and it's done!

Members can sign up for recurring donations or make a one-time donation. This is how you can raise your per-member donations throughout the year.

As always, continue your excellent work with new and inventive ways to raise ENF awareness and donations. I look forward to seeing how we as an Association finish the year and what we can do next year!

Fraternally,

Mary Underwood, State ENF Chair



ELKS CAMP BARRETT

ANGELA M. MEYER

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410-224-2945 (camp) | 410-739-5575 (cell)



BIG CHANGES MAKE FOR BIG FUN AND A GREAT SEASON AHEAD FOR ECB

Great ECB News! This season, we are showcasing a new and improved registration system for our Summer Camp. This new system was developed specifically for ECB. Registrations will now be going directly to the camp registrar. This will give ECB Lodge Representatives more time to devote to marketing the camp and helping with on-site camp projects. The camp will get the paperwork directly from the camper families, which will help eliminate errors and communication issues and streamline recordkeeping and check-in. The changes we are making are an effort to encourage more attendance and help us run more efficiently. Our numbers have been low for the past few seasons for a multitude of reasons, but we are not ready to call it quits. Our changes with this new system will greatly improve our camp program and camper safety.

The camp brochure has a QR code for access to the pre-registration form. The completed pre-registration form will automatically go directly to the camp. Once approved, complete registration packets will go out to the camper families, and once they are complete, they will go directly to the camp registrar. The camp will notify the Lodges of the names of campers registered from their Lodge or Lodge area. Brochures are available on the ECB website.

Hard-copy brochures will be distributed at the March meeting. All representatives should have already received them by email. All Lodge ECB Representatives or Exalted Rulers should inform the camp of the number of campers that their Lodge has budgeted to sponsor. If you have not already sent this information, please send it ASAP. Camper fees for this season will be \$200.00.

Our camp program will be improving as well. Some new staff members are joining us this season and additions to our activities program. In addition to our traditional program, some new projects and activities will include pickle ball, farm to table, improved embryology project, hydroponics, and robotics. The new streams and ponds have fish in them, but they are still small, so we are working on a possible road trip to go fishing (still in the planning stage). Volunteers to train the trainers are always needed, so if you have a skill that you can teach directly to our campers or counselors, we would love to have your help. As always, we are looking for Camp Counselors (must be 18 years or older), a Camp Cook, a Camp Nurse (RN), and a female Assistant Director. Please get in touch with Angela with information on any interested job takers.

As always, the ECB Executive Committee and staff appreciate the Lodge members for the continued and generous support that you give Camp Barrett all year. We are proud to be the State Major Project of the MD, DE, DC Elks Association. We will continue to efficiently and effectively provide for the communities that our Lodges serve.

Please add these events to your calendars.

Sneak a Peek and Camp Barrett Workday will be on Saturday, May 18th. Prospective campers and Elks members are welcome to tour the campus and have lunch with us. It is a workday for Camp Representatives and volunteers.

The Elks Family Picnic will be on Memorial Day, Sunday, May 26th. Please bring your Lodge mates and family friends with you. It's always a fun day. The ECB Improvement fund Raffle winners will be pulled that day. *Angela*

2024 Summer Camp Dates

STAFF WEEK	JUNE 16-21
GIRLS 5 NIGHT RESIDENTIAL CAMP (SUNDAY-FRIDAY)	JUNE 23-28
BOYS 5 NIGHT RESIDENTIAL CAMP (SUNDAY-FRIDAY)	JULY 7 - JULY 12
GIRLS 5 NIGHT RESIDENTIAL CAMP (SUNDAY-FRIDAY)	JULY 14 – JULY 19
CO-ED 4 NIGHT RESIDENTIAL CAMP (SUNDAY-THURSDAY)	JULY 21 - JULY 25

RITUALISTIC

J.GORDON ALEXANDER



State Chairman
Frederick Lodge #684 | 301-471-0269 | jga684@gmail.com

Welcome all to the Spring Conference honoring Grand Exalter Ruler Randy P. Shook and his wife, Wanda.

With the gracious help of Past State Ritual Chair Larry Mathers, I held both a flag and 11th-hour contest in Ocean City. There was five contestants. **On Saturday at 1:30**, I will hold another contest and hope for more participation from ER's, PERs and Leading Knights. I will need 3 or 4 PSST judges to help us with the judging.

The winners of the last 11th Hour contest were: 1st place PER Connie DeYoung, 2nd place Diana Patton, 3rd place Nicole Evans, and 4th place Loren Evans. ERs 1st place was Rich Loeffler. The Flag contest had only one contestant, PER Connie DeYoung.

In Saturday's contest, there is a strong possibility that the 1st place 11th Hour contest and 1st place Flag contestants will get funding to participate in the next GL Session in Austin, TX. On the same thought if we can get 2 teams from each District to perform the Ritual from memory and compete in a state contest, the winning team may get financial assistance to attend the GL Session in 2025. This gives you plenty of time to prepare.

Finally, after the contests, I would like to have anyone interested in becoming a ritual judge to attend. For many years the MD, DE, DC Elks Association had a strong presence in ritual at GL and there is no reason we can't achieve that again. I stand ready to help any Lodge to get a team up and running. We need to get back to the tradition that this Great Order was built. *J. Gordon Alexander*

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

ANGELA M. MEYER

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



DAP THE BEST VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Drug Abuse Prevention volunteers are some of the most driven volunteers, and the DAP volunteers of MD, DE, and DC Elks are no different.

Some may have stories and history of Drug abuse in their families; some may have had issues with their own past addiction that causes them to want to help change things for the future.

But oh, so many don't have any of that history. Still, they devote an impressive amount of time, energy, and emotion to fighting the battle for prevention and the war against addiction. I want to recognize the District Drug Awareness Chairpersons of MD, DE, and DC Elks. These ladies have been with our program for many years. As State Chairperson, I am so grateful for their efforts in our DAP program.

When you see any of these wonderful volunteers, please say thank you. They continue to give unselfishly to the cause of preventing drug abuse in our community and preparing our children for safe and drug-free futures.

For these ladies, I am GRATEFUL...

Keri Albright – North Central District. Keri is an exceptional researcher and orator. She is dedicated solidly to youth prevention programs and stops at nothing to keep herself updated on the latest news and tools for use in the protection of our children against substance abuse.

Linda Buchannan – South West District. Linda is a top-notch planner and a non-stop worker. She has developed and maintained a Drug Prevention Blog for over three years, hosting Drug Prevention speaker Ray Lozano in her county schools for three years. She regularly networks with county drug-free coalitions and private prevention groups in her District. She has encouraged entries for the Camarena Award for three years running, one that made it to the national winner. Creative and dedicated to the cause, Linda has her heart in all she does.

Melissa Carpenter - West District. We currently have no Chairperson in the West, but as I have said, that isn't a thing that would stop dedicated volunteers. Melissa Carpenter is the Lodge DAP chairperson at the Fredrick Elks Lodge. Melissa has stepped up and dedicated herself to her Lodge and the West's far-reaching communities by organizing a series of radio Public Service Announcements on drug prevention and addiction recovery. She is the go-to gal for helping distribute material and tools for our drug efforts in the district.

Paula Boyd – South East District. Paula is the newest District Chairperson, and with years of experience as a Past Lodge Secretary, she is the most organized of us. She keeps an excellent record of SE District accomplishments and activities and devotes

much of her time to spreading the word about our programs. Her caring heart and dedication to prevention are amazing.

Colleen Ford – North East District. Colleen has been with the Drug Awareness program since I started as State Chairperson over seven years ago. Her dedication to the cause is driven and boundless. Colleen devotes her time and energy to the broad array of areas in the program. She is the Red Ribbon Queen of the North East and distributes over a thousand ribbons yearly in the school system. She organizes Red Ribbon Week decorating contests as well. Her heart is in addiction recovery, and she has established a strong network between local Lodges and recovery homes. She is active with local recovery groups, fields a yearly team, and displays at the annual Rage Against Addiction event. Her strong dedication is inspiring.

WANTED

At the June Convention, I will announce the recipient of the Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Elks Association Elk-of-the-Year award. I need your help in finding this person. The criteria for this award are very much like your Lodge Elk-of-the-Year award. It is someone who has shown exemplary efforts in furthering the work of Elkdom but on the State Association level. This is someone who has gone "above and beyond" in performing their duties.

A couple of classes of our members are NOT eligible: any currently serving District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. Any presently serving State Association Vice President. And any Past State President. The thinking is that in the first two cases, they are basically doing their job and should not get special recognition. And in the case of the PSPs, this is a group of Elks who have "been there, done that" and have already been recognized for their efforts.

Your nomination for Elk-of-the-Year must be sent to me in writing. I prefer e-mail (elkrivituso@gmail.com) or Snail-mail (43410 Browns Lane; Leonardtown, MD 20650) but NOT by phone. It does not have to be elaborate. Not how long they have been an Elk or a list of all their past positions. Just a simple "who" and "why."

Thank you for helping me make this decision, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Renee Rivituso, President



WEST DISTRICT VP

JEFFREY T. SCIRE

Frederick Lodge #684 | Cell: 240-674-7920
|cfd0069@sol.vom

The West has been very busy pushing snow, having family events at the Lodges, and drinking hot chocolate and hot toddies. Christmas holiday and New Year's celebrations went off without a bang, and new goals and agendas were set for the Lodges for the upcoming year of 2024 in the West.

Frederick Lodge #684: In the past four months, we initiated 54, and 9 were affiliated or reinstated. They used a Gratitude Grant for veterans' activities, including a visit from the Martinsburg facility and Montevue assisted living facility for an afternoon of bingo and a crab feast. We gave them goody bags of personal care items.

Frederick also held holiday parties for the local Boys and Girls club and the school SUCCESS program. For the Boys and Girls club, we had a pizza party and partnered with the local Jack and Jill club chapter to provide gifts and goody bags to the elementary and middle school students.

The SUCCESS program is for developmentally disabled young adults. We supplied \$2,100 in grocery gift cards for them to use to work with students on budgeting and cooking skills. Both these events were funded by a Beacon grant.

Frostburg Elks Lodge #470 presented \$6,000 to the Frostburg Fire Department from a combination of two Elks National Foundation (ENF) Community Impact Grants (Beacon and Spotlight). Funds will be used to help offset the cost of purchasing a new ladder truck. Lodges and Individual Lodge members are asked to donate to the ENF and in turn, Lodges can apply for funding for Community Project Grants. Since 2020, Frostburg Lodge has received \$36,500 in funding to support local organizations.



Pictured Above: Elks Secretary, Joene Patterson; Trustee Joe Davis, Grant Chairman, Bill Devore; Frostburg Commissioner of Public Safety, Kevin Groves; Elks West District VP, Jeff Scire; Fire Department President, Todd Logsdon; Fire Dept. Apparatus Selection Committee Chair, Matt McMorran; Elks Exalted Ruler, Chief Nick Costello Elks Treasurer, Jim Meyers.

Frostburg Lodge #470 also invited our deserving Jernick Fund recipient to a Lodge meeting and presented them with funds from the Jernick Fund, plus \$500 from the Lodge. Cameron and his dad talked about how their lives had changed since Halloween while out trick-or-treating; Cameron suddenly tired out and had to sit down. His mom noticed a rash on his back. Blood work showed he has Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

The original rounds of chemo, which put 95% of children into remission, didn't work on him, so he went through a month of a more vigorous regimen. They learned in February that he is in complete remission but still requires treatment at the hospital in Morgantown for the next couple of months. His parents alternate nights sleeping in his hospital room while the other stays home with his 5-year-old brother.

One member wrote, *"This was one of the better things I have been part of since joining the Elks."*

Continued on page 10



Elks Camp Barrett 2023 Improvement Fund Raffle

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

This year's raffle is underway. If you have not received your tickets, you should soon. On behalf of the Camp, thank you for your generosity.

The Improvement Fund always needs your help due to a never-ending number of issues that need to be addressed, and this raffle is the primary source of income for that fund. All the expenditures are necessary to maintain the beauty and safety of the facility.

The raffle will take place at around 4 PM on the day of the annual Family Day Picnic on May 26th, which will kick off the summer at Camp Barrett. Please plan to attend a very enjoyable day of food, drink, games for kids & adults, and much interaction with other Elks and guests. I hope to see you there.

Lou Schmeltzer, PDD

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

The Army of Hope has been active in assisting Veterans who are suffering setbacks. Since mid-December of last year to the time of this report, thankfully, we have not had but three requests for assistance for \$1,300.00. Thankfully, both are because there have not been many needy veterans, and the amount in the account is dangerously low. If there is a "spurt" of requests, which is how they commonly come, our funds could run out.

We have given a lot of folks some peace of mind in return for their sacrifices to keep us safe, and I would not want to see that become a thing of the past. Please remember this vital committee when you prepare your budgets for the upcoming Lodge year and ask your House Committee to have some functions to raise funds for the Vets. As you may or may not know, the Army of Hope is supported solely by donations from the Lodges.



VAVS

The E.N.V.S.C. is still being limited in lifting the spirits of our Veterans in the V.A. hospitals and the U.S.O. facilities. The effects of the COVID-19 virus are done by restricting volunteers' access to the facilities. The dedicated Elk representatives continue to do what they do in the form of gifts, toiletries, gift cards, microwavable snacks, barber visits, games & puzzles, etc.

I will have a more detailed report for you at the meeting.

Lou Schmeltzer

! STATE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY !

Betty Hardin, Chairperson
Havre' de Grace Lodge #1564 | 410-9605492 bettwedg@comcast.net

Our March Spring Conference means it's time to start preparing the updated information for next year's State Association Directory.

Lodge Secretaries have received my request for the information for their 2024-2025 Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Please make sure this information is provided to me by the requested due date.

For any Association member who will be listed in the Directory, please inform me of any changes in your information throughout the year. Our Directory is a valuable tool for our leaders and Association members. Keeping your information up to date is essential.

Next year's Directory will be distributed at our State Convention in June 2024 in Annapolis, MD.

WEST CONTINUED

Hagerstown Lodge # 378—Last August, money tied to COVID-19 relief stopped. Many members of the Washington County Community were using this money to pay their rent, and many were evicted from their apartments and became homeless. Some were single moms with children sleeping in their cars. Hagerstown Elks Lodge #378, using two grants (Beacon and Spotlight), helped bridge the gap through the Children in Need program. It is estimated the number of children serviced by CIN will increase by 20% this year. Families below the poverty level also benefit from this program. Once a month, clients can pick up free bags of personal hygiene items, clothing, diapers, and baby wipes.

In addition, the Lodge supports the Washington County Community Action Council in supporting the Food Pantry of Washington County and providing items for people without housing. In all, Hagerstown Elks has used \$6,000.00 in Grant Money to support these two worthwhile programs that help residents in need.



Pictured above: Brian Bonnenberger (Lodge Tiler); Nicole Bonnenberger (Lodge Treasurer), Lou Chillemi, Exalted Ruler, and Kim and Nick Hill (Representing Children In Need)

Submitted by Lou Chillemi

ALL 18 ENTRANTS WIN TOP HONOR ★★★★★ IN STATE WEBSITE CONTEST

By Dennis J. Gerleman Committee Member

This is the first time there were no 3 or 4-Star winners as all applying states upped their game to receive the top award of 5 Stars. All states should be proud of their work for promoting Elkdom via their websites.

5-Star Awards: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, MD-DE-DC, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Pennsylvania

Congratulations Joe McGeeney, Webmaster



**SOUTH EAST DISTRICT
VP
NICOLE EVANS**

Selbyville Lodge #2173
Phone: 302-236-5093
n.ireland0326@gmail.com

Hello, fellow Elks of the Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia State Association! I recently conducted the final solo visitation of my year. I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all the Lodges I have visited so far, either with State President Rivituso or by myself. I have enjoyed spending time with the officers and members of your respective Lodges. I am so incredibly proud of the South East district and all the hard work our members put into the organization and our communities.

Our District has 8 out of 10 Lodges who have met the GER's ENF per member goal of \$4.80. What an easy and great way to get grants to support our local community. Our District had 6 Lodges that held a Hoop Shoot and sent winners to the District Hoop Shoot that was on February 3rd. Congratulations to Cape Henlopen, Kent Island, Ocean City, and Selbyville winners who will move on to the State Hoop Shoot. South East also has Soccer Shoot winners moving on to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Shoot. Congratulations to the winners moving on from Crisfield and Salisbury.

As we move into a new Lodge year, thank you to all those who served in an officer position this year. Serving as a Lodge officer is a commitment that helps continue our organization's good and charitable work. For those members who are stepping up for the first time or those moving through the chairs, remember the State Association is here to help. The possibilities are endless when we all work together.

The South East District Caucus will be held on April 13th at Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge. The caucus will begin at 10 am. We will be taking nominations for South East Vice President, Camp Barrett Executive Committee, and 2-year State Trustee. I look forward to seeing you there!

Fraternally,

Nicole Evans

Cape Henlopen Lodge #2540 Cape Henlopen Lodge #2540 donated about 250 pounds of food and other requested essentials to the Community Resource Center (CRC) in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The Lodge also received a \$2,000 grant from ENF. The money was presented to the CRC and will be used for their



Above: Selbyville Lodge #2173 started the year off right by initiating their largest group in many years. There were 16 new members!

The South East District Hoop Shoot was held on Saturday, February 3rd. We had shooters from Cape Henlopen, Crisfield, Kent Island, Ocean City, Salisbury, and Selbyville Lodges.



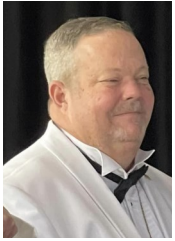
Food Rescue Program, which provides food to those who are hungry and helps clients make ends meet. More than 3,000 bags of food are distributed each month. The organization helps the homeless, disabled, elderly, and those struggling to work in our seasonal economy by collecting and offering a wide variety of essentials.

Cape Henlopen Elks donated \$2,000 to Draper Media's Bless Our Children Campaign. The money raised for Bless Our Children is distributed to charitable groups across the Delmarva peninsula that buy toys for children in need,

Cape Henlopen Elks #2540 joined the Gold Sponsorship Tier by donating a generous \$1,000 to support the 3rd Annual Rally for Our First Responders.



Pictured above: ER Joy Schreck, CRC's Jacqueline Ferris, Grant Coordinator Ralph Patterson



NORTH CENTRAL VP

KEVIN ROSE

Glen Burnie Lodge #2266|
Phone C) 410-984-0079
littlebratzdad@yahoo.com

Leadership- The action of leading a group or organization. A boss only manages employees. On the other hand, a leader is there to inspire, innovate, motivate, and help members reach their potential. Be a leader, not a boss. Remember, you have a membership behind you; you have officers and committees.

I want to highlight the 8 Lodges of North Central and their Leaders. It's important to remember that, yes, we have a social quarter, but we also are a business. We are viewed in our community by our members and potential members. When using your social media outlets, we quickly post what band is playing Friday, our Crab feasts, Bull roasts, etc. How about showcasing our community-based projects, the Jerrick Fund Kids, Food Drives, VETERANS, first responders, ENF, CIP Grants, participation in Camp Barret Events, and much more? Yes, the cold beer on a Friday night and a shot of green tea while listening to a great band is fun and fabulous for our membership, but we must genuinely remember what B.P.O.E stands for.

Disclaimer- I will refer to the members in the next paragraph as PER, even though some are not official at this point:



ER Delana Rose & Kevin Rose

Past Exalted Ruler - Delana Rose. She has led and improved **Glen Burnie Lodge** in many ways, increasing participation from members and major Lodge

improvements to modernize and attract new members. She has increased our donations to ENF, Army of Hope, Welcome Home, Jernick, and Camp Barrett by 75%. Total ENF is

\$15.68 per member, which is 5th in the state. This is the highest that we have been in many years. Glen Burnie Bingo has been the vast improvements to allow the Lodge to give back to charities, work in the community, and overall Lodge improvements.



ER Mark Walp and wife Sandy

Past Exalted Ruler- PSVP - Mark Walp of **Annapolis Lodge:**

Mark is an institution in Annapolis; his list of attributes is more than I could fit in this article.

Mark's passion is Veterans; this year, he held an event for Faces of Valor, Fishing with the Vets. Mark has organized and assisted on many Camp Barrett events, such as steak nights, Red Ribbon picnics, camp repairs, and maintenance. Under Marks's leadership, his Lodge has achieved a solid financial foundation, an increase in membership, and increased member involvement.

Past Exalted Ruler Steve Leith of **Laurel Lodge:** Under his leadership, the direction has changed in Laurel; last year.



ER Ruler Steve Leith & wife Tammy

His Lodge had a large drop in membership; he looked into some issues, made adjustments, regained membership, and brought in new members. Steve's Lodge does a lot for the Kids; they host kids' bingo, holiday parties, and different fun activities. They are entering into some major interior and exterior changes to his Lodge, making it updated and attractive for their membership and members to come.



ER John Cromwell & wife Patricia

Past Exalted Ruler John Cromwell of **Essex Lodge:**

John is a retired Fire Capt./ Paramedic, so he understands stress. During his first year as

Exalted Ruler, he had some ups and downs with some encouragement, and knowing he is a proven leader, he ran for a second term. He has done a fantastic job utilizing CIP Grants and State Grants. They have done great work in the community for local schools and tremendous work for Veterans, such as lunches, bingos, and other fun events. His Lodge is third place in the state for ENF at \$19.12 per member. This last fall, we had a group of Antlers coming in from the mid-west who needed gear, sleeping bags, pillows, and towels; Essex jumped and supplied 20 kids with all the supplies they needed for their stay. Amazing work.



ER Terry Hicks and wife Amy at the Rose Bowl Parade

Past Exalted Ruler Terry Hicks -Terry has done a tremendous job at **Severna Park Lodge.**

This year, under his leadership, they received four CIP Grants valued at \$12,000 to offer to Blue Ribbon, Veterans, Children, and special needs. They also gave back more than \$50K invested back into their community to many other charities. They provided donations to Chesapeake Chillers for the polar bear plunge. Terry and his team have logged over 20,000 volunteer hours this year. They did a lot of work with special needs people and held their annual Hoop Shoot. And Big News Severna Park paid off their mortgage;

I am sure that is a great feeling. This year, Terry also went to Pasadena, California, and assisted with the beautiful BPOE float featured in the Rose Bowl Parade.

Past Exalted Ruler Jolinda Murray- **Broadneck Lodge**

For the past two years, Jolinda has made the Lodge the apple of her community- the little Lodge with a big heart.



ER Jolinda Murray and husband Steve

NC CONTINUED

If you want a great breakfast, this is the place to go; under her leadership, they have completed many upgrades, including TVs, flooring, furniture, and security systems; they also upgraded their outside pavilion with a fresh coat of paint and newer picnic tables. They held many great community events, toy drives, family fun days, easter egg hunts, and trunks or treats. Also, they have donated \$1,200 to Fisher House, held a fundraiser for Welcome Home, and delivered 32 food baskets for families in need at Thanksgiving. Broadneck is known for their beautiful crab trap basket that they have donated to ECM and a benefit for Mary V. During the summer, they had the pleasure of hosting my daughter's wedding. It was a beautiful day with a venue that overlooks the water, and they did an excellent job having everything ready when we arrived. Soon after that, her husband became an Elk.



ER Boots Collier and wife Angela

Past Exalted Ruler-Charles (Boots) Collier-**Bowie Elks Lodge:** Boots fits him well because he makes tracks in Bowie. He led the charge in cleaning and beautifying their outside area, which looks great. Their membership is growing, and business has never been better. Bowie used their State Grant to help with Crofton High School Baseball upgrades. He also took charge and brought Bingo back to Bowie, and it's taken off like a rocket; money not only supports the Lodge but also supports their giving back to the community cause. This November, my wife and I were invited to a Veterans Day Dinner- in my years in the Elks, this was the most excellent and put-together event. Everything was wonderful and moving. We had the pleasure of sitting with Veterans Lou Smeltzer, Mike from Bowie, Kevin Frick, and our own DDGER Mary Underwood and Exalted Ruler Boots.

Past Exalted Ruler - Chris O'Connell, **Towson Lodge:** I enjoyed spending time with Chris, our youngest Exalted Ruler.



ER Chris O'Connell

Chris has done an excellent job at Towson, our oldest Lodge in the North Central. Under his leadership, Towson made the Elks.org main page to use a CIP grant for a reading center. They donated over \$1,600 to a local food bank, children's parties, and Hoop Shoot. Recently, they held a huge event called Wine and Dine for Warriors. It was so big that they had to use the famous Recher Theater to hold this event, and 100% of the profits benefited military veterans. At Towson, they also do exciting activities for their members, such as live music, delicious foods, and a fun shuffleboard league. They are in a unique location in the heart of York Road; they are involved in many community activities, and they are very active in partnering with the Towson Chamber of Commerce and working together to improve their community.

Again, thank you to all the leaders personally, for their work. Four are passing the reins off as they should, but every new Exalted Ruler will be left in good hands. Welcome to becoming a PER; wear your pin proudly. You deserve it. Without Great Leaders, we would not have Lodges; without Lodges, we would not be the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

In addition, North Central is leading the way in ENF contributions. This is special to all of us. It's been a while since we have been in the lead. This was done with focus and dedication. I am also very pleased to have increased participation in Camp Barrett meetings. We are not 100%, but we are getting closer every meeting.

Fraternally,
Kevin Rose PER, NCVP-2266

Team Chesapeake Chillers, members from Bowie Elks, Glen Burnie Elks, and Severna Park Elks, raised \$45,000.00 for the Special Olympics Super Plunge. This Plunge is one plunge every hour for 24 hours!!! They came in 7th out of 27 Super Plunge Teams for most funds raised. Each of the Lodges donated to the team, and the members raised the rest.

Pictured above are Bowie PER Marcus Flom and his daughter, Super Plunger Rebecca, Severna Park Elk Members, Super Plunger Jim Cropper, John Stokes, Kim Lamont, Future Elks Member, Super Plunger Andy Killen and CEO of the Polar Bear Plunge, Jim Schmutz. They promised to raise \$50,000 and still need about \$5,000.00. **If you want to donate, send it to the Severna Park Elks Lodge Attn: Elroy %Terry Hicks), make the checks out to the Special Olympics.**



Towson Elks Lodge #469 donated 67 toys worth \$1,050 to USMC Toys for Tots. Thank you, Charitable Contributions Chairman Bryan Mager. Our Loyal Knight Andrew Rowan collected over 50 bags of men's, women's, and children's clothing and other items to donate to Paul's Place, a clothing shelter for those in need located in Baltimore. We honored our members who passed in 2023 with a memorial service. We had over 90 people attend the Christmas party, where \$1,800 was donated to The Little Sisters of the Poor. The Lodge also donated \$6,500 worth of gifts from our giving tree to ACTC, a food and clothing shelter in Towson. The Elks Mitten Tree donated 300 pairs of gloves, hats, and accessories to elementary schools in Baltimore County.

Finally, our Elks Giving Board donated an additional \$213 to ACTC and \$254 to

Continued on page 14

ELKS Do!

STATE SOCCER SHOOT



By Dolly Broom, SW State Chair
 St. Mary's Lodge #2092
 240-298-7642 | dollypt@yahoo.com

The State Soccer Shoot was held on January 13, 2024, in Jessup, MD. A total of 25 children qualified for the State Shoot from the following districts: South West, South East and North East.

Lodges that sent participants include Crisfield, Prince Georges, St. Mary's, Deale, Chestertown, Salisbury, and Abingdon. We had a total of 116 attendees at the event!

Thank you to the Local and District soccer chairs for getting involved this year and putting in all the hard work toward the Soccer Shoot Program. Thank you to the Lodges and individuals who supported the Soccer Shoot by placing ads in the booklet for the Mid-Atlantic Shoot.

Those that made the trip to help at the State Shoot, whether it was with registration, scoring, shagging balls,

or just cheering on the kids, your help was greatly appreciated. North East District Soccer Chair, John Kozak, SW District Chair, Rob Schneider, State Treasure, Jackie Phillips, PSP Robert Raleigh, President-Elect Angela Meyer, Cody and Rebecca from Deale Lodge, Kathy, and Doug King from Dover Lodge, Rob Broom, PDDGER, and of course Elroy. You guys really stepped up and made it possible for the day to go smoothly. We finished the shoot itself in 2hrs because of all your help! Thank you, Steve Leith, ER from Laurel Lodge, for letting us use your Lodge for our awards and pizza party following the shoot.

We have ten children moving on to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Shoot March 1st-3rd in York, Pa. from Chestertown, Prince George's, Crisfield, Salisbury, and Abingdon Lodges. Wish them luck! Thank you to Soccer Advisor, PSP, Ron Lamont. I'm glad we got to celebrate your 80th birthday at the shoot.



NC CONTINUED

Continuing Towson Lodge news:

Pitties & Purrs, which is a foster-based animal rescue shelter in Baltimore.



Shown with the Mitten Tree Mittens:

Pictured left: Tiler Betsy Wittelsberger, Seventh District Elementary School Teacher Kelly Murphy, PER Stacey Peto)

Submitted by James Bullington, PR Committee Member



Elks Camp Barrett, the Bee, and "Sir Choc-o-late" wish to extend their deepest gratitude to all the outstanding citizens of the kingdom of ECB for the generous outpouring of support for the annual **Candy Bar Fundraising campaign**. There was 100% participation from the Lodges. Camp Springs Lodge and Milford Lodge tied for most boxes purchased at 12 boxes each.

We extend a special thanks to the Queen of Chocolates, Her Highness Hilda Davis, for guidance and mentoring, Lady Betsy McBee, for organizational support, and the Kingdom's finest artist, Noble Woman Janie Swigert, for her marketing prowess. The funds raised will go directly to Elks Summer Camp Programing.



NORTH EAST VP

KATHY KING

Dover Lodge #1903

Cell: 302-331-5986 | kking114@comcast.net

I have officially visited every Lodge in my district. Thank you to thank the officers of each Lodge for their hospitality to my husband, Doug, and myself. It is nice to see what each Lodge is doing and get some ideas to pass on to other Lodges. The Lodges have been busy hosting various events and using grant money for projects.

Abingdon Lodge #2354 held a Lifeline Screening at the Lodge in January. They took Perry Point patients out for a day using the state grant money. They also delivered food to Edgewood Elementary School using the Spotlight and Beacon Grants. They continue to host Flip Five twice a month and held the District Hoop Shoot on January 6th.



Photo left: Food delivery to Edgewood Elementary school using the Spotlight and Beacon Grants

The State Soccer Shoot followed the next weekend. I am proud to say four children from our District are moved forward to the Mid-Atlantic Shoot on March 3rd. They had a steak and shrimp dinner on February 23rd. They had a Medium

scheduled at the Lodge on March 8th, and Karaoke coming up soon.

Chestertown Lodge #2474 had had a Bull and Oyster Roast on February 24th. They hosted a blood drive for the Delmarva Blood Bank. They used the Beacon grant and provided 73 new coats for children in Kent County. Mary Fletcher and her committee donated another 50 coats to the Hope Alliance Community Center. With the State Grant, they are purchasing pocket dictionaries. They host Shotgun Bingo on Saturday nights.

Dover Lodge #1903 had a great Super Bowl party with food for everyone to enjoy. They continue to have Trivia every Wednesday night. Breakfast continues to be served on the second Sunday of each month. Dover participated in the Wreaths Across America on December 16th. On February 9th, Dover had a Valentine's Day dinner and music. We raffled off three baskets made for ENF and raised nearly \$1,000. Dover hosted a Quarter auction on February 17th and raised almost \$10,000 for local charities. There were a lot of great prizes given out. Members at Dover Lodge are happy to be notified that we are again receiving money for the Impact Grant. The Grant is used for weekly hot meals for those experiencing homelessness. use to feed people experiencing homelessness every Wednesday. They are also working with South Dover Elementary to fill vending libraries with books and headphones for the computer classroom testing.

Havre de Grace Lodge #1564 continues to have excellent breakfasts. They also continue to have Bingo. They will be having Karaoke night soon. Like most Lodges, Havre de Grace hosted Christmas and Super Bowl parties.

Milford Lodge #1589 has been busy with line dancing each month. They had a Mardi Gras party with Trivia on February 10th. They are hosting a Night of Comedy fundraiser on April 27th. Also a Paint Party was held on March 3rd and then a Craft Show on March 9th. They have a lot of live music and are having an 80's party night. On February 17th, they hosted a Chili Cookoff. They continue to have recycled bottles and can drive each month.



Milford Lodge's Chili Cookoff

Newark Lodge #2281 is busy with all types of live music, including a tribute to the Beatles. They participated in the Wreaths Across America program. On January 13th, they had a white elephant sale. They hosted children's Christmas and Valentine's Day parties. They used grant money to purchase coats, shoes, clothing, and backpacks for children who need them. On March 9th, they hosted a Paddle Auction. In March, they also had a St. Patrick's Day dinner. In April, they will have a Beer and Beer benefit dinner to raise money for the Delaware Children with special needs.

Wilmington Lodge #307 recently started having Karaoke and brought in 40 new members for that event. They will be hosting a Rare Whiskey auction on March 25th. They used State Grant money to support storage and equipment needed for Maggie & Friends. They are a nonprofit organization that makes dog treats and hires community members with intellectual disabilities.

The Northeast Lodges continue to inspire many with all the good they do. They continue to receive grant monies to support great charities. They support our youth, veterans, and people experiencing homelessness. I am very proud of their work and will continue to do. The Beasts of the East are awesome!!

Kathy King



SOUTH WEST DISTRICT VP

WALTER E. BENSON, SR.

Camp Springs Lodge #2332
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I want to thank all SW Lodges for allowing me to be your VP this year; meeting everyone was nice. I'm so glad to see our Lodges doing so well.

Our membership has increased by 305, and we have 2,236 members. ENF Donations and the total SW District ENF Community Investments Grants received \$68,000. Those that received State Grants are Washington Rockville #15, Prince George's #1778, Waldorf #2421, POIEMA Foundation, and Calvert #2620, Birthright of Prince Frederick. ENF SW Donations \$16,670.21.

POIEMA Foundation is a program providing transitional living and occupational assistance to women who have been battered, abused, recovering addicts, or have been sex trafficked. Waldorf Lodge began their involvement in 2022.

Again, I thank ALL SW Lodges for all your hard work.

SW FLIES "SOARING TO GREATER HEIGHTS!"

Walter



Calvert Lodge #2620: Scott Smith, Leading Knight with Melissa Carnes, the Database and Grants Manager of Calvert Health. They were presented with the funds raised from his project, the golf tournament on 11-11-23. These proceeds will be used to purchase the first surgical robot for Calvert Hospital. Submitted by Mary Cardinal-Vogt

Calvert Lodge received a \$ 3,000 Gratitude Grant from ENF and used half of the grant for the East John Youth Center in Lusby MD, to purchase therapeutic drums and the Lodge added to the grant monies for the musical training. The other half of the Grant was used to purchase equipment for the Connection in Prince Frederick which is a program for young adults with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities.

Camp Springs Lodge #2332 is pleased to report that we were able to use our Gratitude and Spotlight grants to provide 57 families with food baskets for the holidays. Included were 138 \$25 gift certificates for each child under eighteen. We partnered with the Silver Hill Lions Club to increase that number to 96! Many of the volunteers who took part were members of both organizations. We hope to continue this partnership and, in doing so, increase our membership.

This year, for the first time since COVID-19, **Camp Springs Lodge** is using our Beacon grant to hold our Teen Spring Flings. For over fifty years, our Lodge has supported the Special Needs students in our community. Every Special Needs student in Prince George's County Middle and High

Schools will come to our Lodge over three days to dance, have lunch, and have fun. This year, we will have over 800 students join us for what, for many, is their Prom. We have gained many new members who joined because they witnessed this event. We are hoping this will happen again this year!



Pictured left: Carolyn Rhone and the Team of One Step at a Tyme. 2 Christmas baskets were donated to the **Camp Springs Lodge #2332** with a request for the Lodge to find a family in need. The baskets were given to Bishop Ricky Felton and First Lady Patricia Felton of Life Builders Church located in District Heights, MD. They found deserving families

who were grateful for the gifts.

Photo right: Exalted Ruler Patricia McInnis and Esteemed Lecturing Knight Shirley Smith delivered toys to Teri Gordon Hernandez, Community School Coordinator, Allenwood Elementary School, Temple Hills, MD.



Members of **Camp Springs Lodge** partnered with the Silver Hill Lions Club and prepared 96 Christmas baskets for distribution to families in need. The baskets contained meats, vegetables, and produce as well as a \$25.00 gift card for each child under the age of 18.

St. Mary's County #2092 In February, 27 members donated about \$150.00, and food was served to 18 individuals who stayed the night to escape the cold. This is part of the WARM, "Wrapping Arms Round' Mary" program. WARM is a winter emergency shelter program for the community. These events are very last minute because of unpredictable weather. (*Grants were not used.*)



Front row: Jackie Johnston, Dawn Hillyard, Patti Milburn
Back row: Rob Schneider, Exalted Ruler, Jae Lee Pfeffer, Charles Milburn
Submitted by Dolly Bloom

Prince George's County Elks #1778, presented the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to Michael J. Maxwell, Jr, Foundation for Mental Awareness. Their mission is to assist individuals who are suffering from mental illness in obtaining treatment. This is an all year long problem for our community and our donation will hopefully help with the prevention of suicide.

SW CONTINUED

Prince George's County Elks 1778, presented the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to Michael J. Maxwell, Jr, Foundation for Mental Awareness. Their mission is to assist individuals who are suffering from mental illness in obtaining treatment. This is an all year long problem for our community and our donation will hopefully help with the prevention of suicide.

Prince George's County Lodge #1778 held the 33rd Annual PG County's Valentine Dance for special needs students from our county High Schools. The event was held February 2nd and 9th in our Lodge.

Our Chairperson, Vince Corrado, partnered with the Special Olympics Team to host 340 students at each event with 28 volunteers. The Special Olympics Team provided a DJ to announce each school as they arrived, then provided music for the students to get up and dance. Susie Corrado led the volunteer team in serving lunch provided by our Lodge. The students' smiles showed everyone they had a wonderful time.



Photo above: ER, Ray Manyette, Michael J. Maxwell, Jr Foundation Treasurer, Teresa Maxwell, Michael J Maxwell, Jr. Foundation President, Michael J. Maxwell, Sr., Michael J. Maxwell Jr. Foundation Board Member, Lisa Ealley

SE CONTINUED

A total of 33 competitors took part in the annual Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540 Hoop Shoot Jan. 14 at The Factory in Lewes. Elk Esquire and Hoop Shoot Director Mary DiGennaro can be seen standing in the back wearing white Elks shirt.

Submitted by Deb Davies Sprecher, Leading Knight



ACCIDENT PREVENTION REPORT

MIKE FORD

NE State Chair
Abington Lodge #2354
410-977-8230 | rinklergod26@yahoo.com

"WHAT'S NEXT?"

I wish everyone a Happy Spring and congratulations to all the new Officers for the upcoming Elk Year.

There are many things to consider as a new Officer of your Lodge. You should know your Lodge Bi-Laws, House Committee Rules, and State and Grand Lodge Bi-Laws. This will save you a lot of time and possible headaches in the future, so know the rules. You also need to plan for possibilities and probabilities. So "What's Next?" Well, I'll tell you.

I'm talking about ensuring your Lodge Safety Team or Person is on top of their game.

It's more than just doing a monthly checklist and signing off. We must be aware of potential issues around the Lodge. Such as trees dropping limbs, slight plumbing leaks, or even scorched outlets. All of these can turn into major problems. They usually happen at 3:30 am on a weekend morning when no one is around, thus turning it into a catastrophic situation. This is a reminder that our insurance deductibles are now at \$10,000.00.

So, if you have an accident or Lodge damage, you must pick and choose when to tap into that deductible.

Also, we need to go through the Lodge and make record of any new furniture, equipment, or property for your insurance coverage. I suggest scheduling an insurance adjuster to come out and ensure everything is accounted for. We don't need to pay for things we don't own anymore. The bottom line is that we need to stay on top of the insurance business so we don't get burned. Again, don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions, ideas, or accident reports.

Looking forward to seeing you again, Mike



Pictured above: Haven Ministries' Peter Grim accepts a check from Leo Sincavage, KI Lodge Treasurer and his wife Lorraine, a Ministry volunteer

Kent Island Lodge #2676 used its Gratitude Grant to donate \$3,000 to Haven Ministries.

The Ministry Operates two food pantry locations per month, a retail thrift store, a resource center, an emergency homeless shelter, a street outreach program, an art program, a retail warehouse with job training and employment opportunities in Queen Anne's County, MD.



DEWAYNE WILCHER

Hoop Shoot State Chair
Camp Springs Lodge #2332
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The Camp Springs Elks Lodge hosted the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Hoop Shoot State Championship on Saturday, February 24th, at Oxon Hill Senior High School. 29 youth and 25 volunteers from various Lodges were on hand for the competition alongside more than 80 friends and family members.

This year's State competition was heightened by the musical support of legendary DJ Ezzy and several rap selections by up-and-coming rapper JB; the parents even participated in a layup competition.

Congratulations to Gia Scott (8-9 girls) of Cape Henlopen Lodge; Knox Martus (8-9 boys) of Calvert Lodge; Annabelle Townsend (10-11 girls) of Washington-Rockville Lodge; Marquise Blake (10-11 boys) of Cape Henlopen Lodge; Nikayla See (12-13 girls) of Ocean City Lodge; and Reid Tasik (12-13 boys) of Hagerstown who came out victorious.

The contestants went on to compete at the Region 10 finals in Charlottesville, Virginia, on March 9th against winners from Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina to earn rights for the National Hoop Shoot Finals occurring in Chicago, Illinois, April 18-21. To learn more about the Elks Hoop Shoot and other programs, please visit www.Elks.org.

RESULTS OF THE STATE HOOP SHOOT

Category	Name	Lodge	Finish	Score	OT
8-9 Boys	Knox Martus	Calvert	1st	24	
	Ty Davis	Westminster	2nd	22	5
	Mason Moran	Severna Park	3rd	22	4
	Robert Davidson	Kent Island	4th	16	
	Louis Holbert	Wilmington	5th	14	
10-11 Boys	Marquise Blake	Selbyville	1st	19	
	Cody Jenkins	Calvert	2nd	18	
	Brodie Lucas	Hagerstown	3rd	16	
	Mark Baumgartner	Towson	4th	12	
	Cole Brown	Wilmington	5th	7	
12-13 Boys	Reid Tasik	Hagerstown	1st	21	
	Ayden Hickman	Waldorf	2nd	19	4
	Walker Carroll	Towson	3rd	19	3
	William Taylor	Chestertown	4th	17	
	Robbie Myers	Cape Henlopen	5th	15	
8=9 Girls	Gia Scott	Cape Henlopen	1st	18	5/5
	Ava Powell	Wilmington	2nd	18	5/3
	Mariana Statzer	Camp Springs	3rd	17	
	Kamryn Fleming	Hagerstown	4th	15	
	Melia Richardson	Towson	5th	12	
10-11 Girls	Annabelle Townsend	Wash-Rockville	1st	17	
	Ella Strong	Severna Park	2nd	16	
	Bria Powell	Wilmington	3rd	15	
	Mackenzie Bean	Cape Henlopen	4th	13	
	Delaney Slough	Hagerstown	5th	6	
12-13 Girls	Nickayla See	Ocean City	1st	17	
	Reese Koropecy	Towson	2nd	15	5
	Laylah Ortiz-Frazer	Calvert	3rd	15	3
	Kaelyn Clayton	Chestertown	4th	11	



Above: DeWayne Wilcher, Hoop Shoot State Chair, Lynn Snow of Waynesboro, VA Lodge #2332, Region 10 Hoop Shoot Director, Renee Rivituso, State President, Paul Helsel PGER, State Sponsor.

Below: Mary Cardinal-Vogt, PSP, Pat McGinnis ER, Lynn Snow, Student winner, Paul Helsel PGER, and State President Renee Rivituso



2024 MD,DE,DC STATE ELKS HOOP SHOOT CONTEST



PSP Mary Cardinal Vogt, Pat McGinnis, ER Camp Springs Lodge #2332, Lynn Snow, SE Central Region 10 Chair, State President Renee Rivituso with State Sponsor Paul Helsel PGER stand with one of the Winners, in front

DeWayne Wilcher, Hoop Shoot State Chair



PSP Mary Cardinal Vogt escorts the contestants onto the court.



2024 Elks Camp Barrett Annual Family Picnic

**Come Join Your Fellow Elks Family & Friends
For A Day of Fun, Food and Friendship**

Sunday, May 26, 2024



**Gates Open at Noon \$20.00 per person
Children under 12 Free**



Just For Fun

**Frozen Strawberry
Daiquiri Bar
Prize Wheels
Kids Games
Swimming Pool
Horseshoe Tournament
Moon Bounce and
Amusements
Music By
Local DJ
Inter-Lodge Fun and
Games
Cake Auction
Corn Hole Games**

**Help
Support
Camp
Barrett**



Menu Includes

**Pit Beef
Hamburgers
Hotdogs
Fried Chicken
Corn on the Cob
Pulled Pork
Salads
Draft Beer & Soda
Lot's of delicious
picnic food**

Elks Camp Barrett, 1001 Chesterfield Road, Annapolis, Maryland

Contact: Robert Raleigh 410-708-5098