



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



Let positive leadership permeate your Lodge

Exalted Rulers, as you begin the new Lodge Year, please remember that every Lodge, to some extent, reflects the personality of its Exalted Ruler. If you have a positive attitude, are enthusiastic and surround yourself with Members who want to make a difference, your Lodge will be successful. So, find a reason to be positive. Believe that your efforts can make a difference, and then be a spark that ignites a fire in your Lodge.

New Lodge Officers, be enthusiastic in all you do. Learn to share your pride and energy; listen and take time for others. Overlook faults, and don't dwell on the negative. Be quick to compliment, recognize and show your appreciation, and always look for the best in others. And, when



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

RONALD L. HICKS

communicating, be constructive and choose your words carefully, because your words have the power to put spring into Members' steps and give them confidence in all they do.

Remember, the Exalted Ruler and Lodge Officers cannot do it all alone. To be truly successful, you must have an active committee system. So, this is a good time to review the work of your

Lodge committees to make sure they also have positive leadership. I believe the two most important committees in any Lodge are Membership and Orientation. Put your most active, positive and enthusiastic Members on these committees.

Encourage your Membership Committee to meet regularly and develop plans for recruitment, reinstatement, delinquencies and retention. Then, let every Member of your Lodge know that they are an extension of the Membership Committee. And, your goal should not be to just bring in new Members, but to grow Elksdom, by bringing in more involved, engaged, inspired and

Please see GER, Page 2

Unaffiliated spouse defined by Statute

Questions have arisen about a spouse who chooses to take an Absolute Dimit or has been dropped for non-payment. The spouse may enter and stay in the Lodge based on Section 14.190 Opinion 03 of the 2015 Statutes Annotated, which states: "The exception permitting visitation of a Lodge by a non-

suspended spouse, or a delinquent Member spouse, means that the non-suspended or unaffiliated spouse is treated as if he or she

were never a Member."

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

Your annual Membership Report was filed on April 1, but has the Lodge submitted the Annual Charity Report, and paid the Grand Lodge per capita and assessments? April 30 is rapidly approaching.

To answer another question, when will the Grand Lodge-calculated membership total be lowered to coincide with the Local Lodge total? This will take place when the Lodge Secretary sends the proper paperwork to the Grand Secretary and the 2015-16 Grand Lodge year is closed after June 1.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEES

ER's, go to Elks.org to learn the ropes

By **RON OLSON**
Committee Chairman

Congratulations and best wishes to all new Exalted Rulers! You are embarking on a very exciting year in your life.

You are now at the helm of your Lodge and have become the focal point for the membership. You need to be familiar with the Statutes that govern our Order and be knowledgeable of the programs of Grand Lodge, all of which are designed to help guide you through the year.

You are urged to utilize the Grand Lodge website in order to help you carry out your responsibilities as the Exalted Ruler. Here you will be able to find many of the items that may not be included on the thumb drive you will receive at the Grand Lodge Convention. Take advantage of all the tools available to you.

You, as the Lodge leader, should be a pro-active force within the community to spread the news of Elksdom and

emphasizing our motto "*Elks Care – Elks Share.*"

An ingenious way to bring the Lodge into focus within the community is through an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant. All that is needed is to define a Community Project which will be something the Lodge is committed to — monthly dinners at a soup kitchen, for example, or an annual Veterans Stand Down. The Lodge Secretary or Grant Coordinator then applies to ENF through Elks.Org for the grant. When approved,

Please see **ACTIVITIES**, Page 2

INSIDE

- It's time to blow our horns! 2
- Statutes for reporting Restricted Funds. 3
- Website awards announced 3
- Beginning of new Lodge year 3
- Making Drug Awareness plans 4
- Invite military families into Elks family 4

Activities From Page 1

the Lodge receives funds to be used for that project. How much easier can it be?

Such a program helps to bring the Lodge into focus within the community. Keeping the Lodge in your community's forefront through good public relations is vital to the Lodge's image and should be utilized to display our good works. Use good "PR" to your advantage.

How about the Dictionary Project? This is a way for the Lodge to reach out to our youth and possibly open new ways to introduce them and their families to more of our youth programs: Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness and Soccer Shoot to name a few. They all can be used to spark parental interest in joining with us and becoming Members. The possibilities are endless.

Our Student/Teenager of the Month/Year Program provides the Lodge with another way of focusing the public's attention on what we do for high school and junior high school students. Who knows, these individuals may become recipients of Elk scholarships. Don't pass this opportunity by. Certificates, suitable for framing, recognizing the selected recipients are available at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm>.

Scouting is one of America's greatest programs. Does the Lodge sponsor a Troop or Pack? Do you have a Scout Troop that assists during Flag Day exercises, a spaghetti dinner or some other Lodge activities? If so, perhaps a certificate of participation could be used to encourage more mutually beneficial contributions for both organizations.

If you sponsor or have an Elks Antlers youth group, don't overlook the possibilities of recruiting those Scouts to also become part of the Antlers organization.

Take advantage of our Grand Lodge programs to foster our good deeds and enhance Elkdom's image in your community. Have a fantastic year.

Drug From Page 4

distribute drug awareness items such as pencils, balsa airplanes, yo-yos or other drug awareness giveaways. If your Lodge has access to a pair of fatal vision goggles, these make for a great activity for the older kids – try to walk a straight line, bounce a tennis ball, or even try to pick up a set of keys.

For further DAP information go to www.elks.org/dap.

GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Time to blow our horns for charitable giving!

By **KIRK WALLACE**
Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee

This time of year marks one of the best times to blow our horns. No, not because it is the end of the fiscal year, (John Q. Public couldn't care less about that.)

It's because we should have a good handle on what we've donated to our communities in time and money.

Check with your Lodge's Government Relations Chair for the figures. If the Chairman doesn't have them, go to the Secretary who should have them in CLMS2Web.

Regardless, informing the public about what your Lodge has done to help your community is one of the best PR tools we have. It can also help obtain new Members. (I've seen it happen!)

Don't just throw out a bunch of individual dollar amounts. Use the year-end total, and then elaborate. For example: "Of that total, we at Anytown Lodge helped all area youth sports programs, some under-funded school programs, provided scholarships, helped Scouting, our emergency services and Veterans.

Be sure to include any monies or services a local person received from your State Major Project, or the ENF. Sure, if your Lodge does a project you are particularly proud of, mention it. Just don't let it outshine everything else you've done.

Adjust accordingly to the Lodge's actual specs, but I think you get the idea. The main goal is to let your community know what your Lodge has done for it. We don't keep those figures to pat ourselves on the back. Share them. Just remember to *keep it local!* So tune up those horns and blow 'em, loud and proud!

Shifting gears, I know we've preached it 'til we're blue in the face, but here it comes again: Your Lodge's physical

Pick a great committee to boost membership

Incoming Exalted Rulers looking for a Membership Chairperson should look for someone with various areas of expertise. They include:

- **Sales** – Working recruitment tables and reinstatements; greeting guests and inviting them to join.

- **Public relations/marketing** – Promoting membership on the social media page and Lodge website; making sure everyone is aware of the positive impact the Lodge has contributed to the community.

- **Orientation** – Educating, involving and inspiring new Members to recruit and be active; matching their interests and time with a Lodge committee or activity.

- **Collections** – Assist the Lodge Secretary with billing, collection letters, phone calls, emails and personal visits to delinquents; possess patience and persistence.

– Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge
Membership and Public Relations
Manager

property does have an effect on public perception. I know it's difficult for some to perceive green grass and flowers when the snow is flying, but we'll be out there sweating soon enough. Now is a good time to make sure you have someone (local business or a Member) lined up to keep the property looking as good as possible. And I don't know what group of ladies wouldn't just love to pretty the place up with Lodge-provided plants, flowers and supplies! (Sorry, that was sexist. Probably some guys too!)

Have a great spring!

GER From Page 1

motivated Members. This is where the Orientation Committee plays such an important role in the long-term success of your Lodge.

Orientation is the most important Committee in your Lodge for the development of a long-term, active Member. Please begin thinking of Orientation as the "First Step in Member Retention" and make it a "process" that

begins with the application and does not end until you get the new Member back into the Lodge for his or her very first Lodge activity, program or event. Only then have you made the connection and created a real sense of belonging that causes the new Member to understand and appreciate what a gift we have in Elkdom.

Your Lodge committees can be the key to helping you have a successful year.

– Follow our travels at www.virginiaelks.org/GER_Ron_Hicks_Blog.htm

Statutes set terms for reporting Restricted Funds

BY JAMES SABIO
Committee Member

AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

To clarify how a Lodge must report Restricted Funds as defined by Grand Lodge Statutes Sections 1.165 and 16.011, I will address Temporary Restricted Funds in this article and Permanent Restricted Funds in my May article.

By definition Temporary Restricted Funds are received by a Lodge for a defined purpose *or* during a specified time, *or* both. These funds, when donated to or raised by or allocated by a Lodge, cannot be used for any other purpose. This means that *none* of the funds can be used for any other purpose.

Examples of Temporary Restricted Funds:

- Funds are collected by a Lodge from its Members through a voluntary payment with their annual dues for the

Elks National Foundation. All funds received are then forwarded to ENF in the Members' names.

- Lodge-approved event to raise money for the State Major Project. All funds received and all expenses paid would be recorded as a restricted fund.

- A Lodge by vote of the floor agrees to set aside \$10,000 for any major building repair of more than \$1,000. The Lodge would transfer funds to the restricted bank account and when there is an expenditure it would be paid from that account.

- The Lodge receives various ENF grants to be used for a specific purpose. These become temporary due to a specific purpose and time frame. Once again the funds are deposited into a restricted bank

account, and all expenditures are paid from that account.

The money received from each separate Temporary Restricted Funds needs to be reported using a separated Chart of Accounts number 90000 to 91000. All disbursements from each separate Temporary Restricted Fund needs to be reported as an expenditure using a separated Chart of Accounts number 92000 to 93000. The Lodge needs to have a restricted bank account where these funds would be deposited to and disbursed from. This could be one account with sub accounts, which would be preferred, instead of many bank accounts.

For additional or more specific information and/or explanation, contact your area member of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Website awards for Lodges, states

Results of the 2015-16 Grand Lodge State and Local Lodge Website Contests have been announced.

Contest Administrator Kevin L. Brouse announced the results on behalf of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee.

The State Associations winning the Five Star Award were: Alaska, Arizona, California/Hawaii, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

State Association Four Star Award winners were: Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland/Delaware/District of Columbia, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Virginia.

State Association Three Star Award winners were: Illinois and Pennsylvania.

Five Star Award winners of the Local Lodge Website Contest were: Anchorage, Alaska Lodge 2868; Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley, California Lodge 2444; Denver, Colorado Lodge 17; Henderson/Green Valley, Nevada Lodge 2802; and Fort Worth, Texas Lodge 124.

Four Star Award winners were: Punta Gorda, Florida Lodge 2606; Lake Oconee, Georgia Lodge 2849; Murphysboro, Illinois Lodge 572; Springfield, Illinois Lodge 158; Sioux City, Iowa Lodge 112; Middletown, NY Lodge 1097; Calabash, North Carolina Lodge 2679; St. George/Dixie, Utah Lodge 1743; and Arlington-Fairfax, Virginia Lodge 2188.

Three Star Award winners were: Rupert, Idaho Lodge 2106; Greensboro, North Carolina Lodge 602; Shelton, Washington Lodge 2467; Tacoma, Washington Lodge 174; and Morgantown, West Virginia Lodge 411.

Beginning of new Lodge year

By DARRELL SWISHER
Committee Member

Congratulations on your election as Exalted Ruler and for the opportunity to serve your Lodge for 2016-17. As you start your new year, I'm hopeful each Exalted Ruler is excited to show his or her Members the enthusiasm you have as their new leader. Our hope is that each Exalted Ruler has set some lofty goals for their year. The higher your goals, the more fun you will have, and the more the Members of your Lodge will get involved. Have a successful year!

Some great events will be happening and the largest event will be the National Hoop Shoot, which will be held in Chicago. I feel that is a good move. Why fly contestants from the great state of California to Massachusetts when there is plenty to see and do in Chicago?

Enjoy a tour of our Grand Lodge headquarters and the Elks Memorial Building.

You may be wondering what all this has to do with Government Relations? Well, we all have to remember that everything we do in Elksdom, in one way or another, relates to Government Relations. Hoop Shoot is one example of that. We are required to keep records of all time, mileage and cost related to every function.

The end of April marks that time again when all Lodge Annual Reports are due to Grand Lodge. The Charitable Records Survey is part of the Annual Report. Let's not forget about how important this is to our Lodges and Order. Keep an accurate account of everything you do in your Lodge.

Thank you all. Hope you have a great year!

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Suggested prayers for Elks occasions

Elks Lodge Chaplains never know when they may be called upon to say a prayer at any and all Lodge events.

Past Grand Chaplain, the Rev. Father Kevin Cassidy (now deceased), was the author of a two-volume prayer book set, which includes his first (or classic) edition of Father Cassidy's Elks Chaplain

Prayers and More Elks Chaplain Prayers, also known as the New and Improved Volume II.

The books can be bought as a set for \$16 or singly for \$8. Those amounts include shipping.

Send checks made out to PGER James C. Varenhorst, PO Box 141096, Grand Rapids, MI 49514-1096.

Invite military families into the Elks family

By Louis J. Grillo, PGER
Commission Member

It is not just our active military that is making sacrifices for our freedoms in far off lands and here on our home soil. We must never forget their families. They sacrifice as much and sometimes even more than those on active duty.

We live in a new world. Not just men go off to serve their country. The women of America are playing just as active of a role. We must remember the children who go to bed at night without their mothers or fathers – the empty holidays, the lonely nights, the homes



that are not cared for, and the sadness of missing the ones you love and knowing

that they may be in harm's way. We must remember the husband or the wife left at home to look after the family while their loved one serves.

My fellow Elks, we continue to remember the Veterans, but let us not forget those who stand watch here at home, worrying and praying for the safe return of their loved ones. They deserve support as well as the men and women who wear the uniform of our country.

God bless our Veterans and active military, and God bless their families.

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
Benevolent and Protective
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It's a new year: Time to plan for Drug Awareness

By FRANK SCARPINO
Special Contributor

Congratulations to all newly elected Lodge Officers! It is a new Elk year and time to plan and budget for your Lodge's activities for the year.

Be sure to include Drug Awareness in your plan. The Elks National Drug Awareness Program strives to teach all children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevent the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs. As the largest volunteer drug awareness program

in the United States, the program relies on state, district and Lodge volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle by their attendance at all Elk youth events such as Youth Week, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot or Kids Fishing Derby.

A drug awareness activity should always be included to illustrate the Elks' commitment to take action against youth drug use through education and inspiration as well as to create stronger activities and greater communication with your local schools.

In this new Elks year, one of the first events is the Elks National Youth Week held each year during the first week of May. What a great opportunity to promote drug awareness. Lodges could utilize an Elks Drug Awareness trailer not only as a billboard, but as an information center for distributing drug awareness brochures, coloring books and bookmarks.

If you hold a Youth Day event, include a visit from Elroy the Elk and perhaps
Please see **DRUG**, Page 2

