



**Sandra C. Brantner  
Oakland Lodge No. 2481  
President, Maryland, Delaware and District of  
Columbia Elks State Association**

State President's Message

Members of the Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia Elks State Association, I want to express my sincere appreciation for placing your trust in me to serve as your State President for the year 2017-2018. Jim and I are looking forward to visiting the lodges and representing our Association in every aspect, in the lodges, throughout the State Association and nationally.

As Elks, we are bound to our obligation to promote the programs of our Order, increase our membership and work to retain our current members, promote our youth programs and continue to honor our veterans. This we do well, and will continue to do so. Therefore, my motto this year is, **"Elks – serving proudly, promoting youth and honoring veterans"**.

With this in mind, I am asking that the lodges bring a youth program into your lodge that you are not currently doing. Americanism, with the essay and poster contests, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Scholarships and Drug Awareness. These programs are very important for educating our youth, teaching them about American pride and the overall excitement of competition. Most importantly our State Major Project, Elks Camp Barrett. Our lodges need to be more involved in our camp by sending children and having active lodge representatives who bring the message of our camp back to your lodges and promote the camp.

Also, our veterans. The “forgotten and unsung heroes” of our society. Our motto, “For as long as there are veterans, we will never forget them” stands strong within our Association. I would like to see each lodge step up to the realm of supporting and honoring a veteran and or a family of a veteran for this year. I encourage each member to learn and be informed about our “Army of Hope” and how it assists our veterans within our communities and get involved in this program.

Remember, our State Association is here to assist our lodges through the William J. Jernick Fund, assisting children under the age of 21, Elks National Foundation and our many Youth Activities, and Lodge Assistance Program. Our Association is here to assist your lodge in every aspect possible, you just need to ask.

We need to continue to let our communities know that we are “Loud and Proud Elks” by getting our accomplishments out there for them to see and hear. Use your local media to put your lodge out front and let them know who we are and what we do for our youth, our veterans and communities.

So, let’s be **Elks Serving Proudly, Promoting Youth and Honoring Veterans** in the way that only the MD, DE & DC Elks State Association can do!

I am looking forward to serving this year as your President and I stand ready to work with every officer, committee and member of this great Association of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and let's have fun while we do it!

*Sandra C. Brantner*

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