154th Session | *Happy 150th Anniversary Elks!* | San Antonio, Texas

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SERVICE 1868 Elks 2018 USA

GRAND LODGE
Convention News

SUNDAY • JULY 1, 2018

Don't Miss This: Anniversary Celebration Entertainment

By Mike Chamernik
Convention News Coordinator

Given the Elks' longstanding commitment to service for our nation's veterans, it's fitting that the headline band for the Opening Ceremony of the 2018 Elks National Convention was founded specifically to honor and help the men and women who serve the military.

Gary Sinise and The Lieutenant Dan Band will perform at the 150th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday afternoon at the Henry B. González Convention Center.

Sinise, who received an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor for his role of Lt. Dan Taylor in the 1994 film *Forrest Gump*, is the star electric bass player of his 12-member band.

The group covers almost all genres of music, from rock to pop, from country to Motown. They perform songs by musicians and bands such as Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, The Police, Bruno Mars, Beyoncé, and the Zac Brown Band, plus many more.

The band was formed in 2003 when Sinise, who had been playing informally in jam sessions while acting in Chicago, got permission to bring musicians on his USO tours. The Lt. Dan Band performs around 30 times per year at home and abroad, with the vast majority of the concerts held for USO, military charities, resiliency events, or other benefits.

Proceeds of the shows go toward the Gary Sinise Foundation, which serves and honors defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need. The foundation's initiatives include R.I.S.E. (Restoring Independence Supporting Empowerment), which provides adapted vehicles, mobility devices, and home modifications to injured, ill, and aging military heroes; Relief & Resiliency, which offers financial support to defenders and their families; and First Responders Outreach, which gives grants for essential equipment and training for community firefighters, police, and EMTs.

Gary Sinise and The Lieutenant Dan Band performs around 30 shows per year.

On the Lt. Dan Band web site, Sinise wrote in an open letter, "I have made it my mission to do what I can to draw attention to our military and first-responder communities, and to make sure they know they are remembered and appreciated. Whether through performing with the band, supporting a military charity or visiting the war zones and hospitals to shake some hands and take some pictures, all of it helps them know that there are people out there who are aware of, and appreciate, their sacrifices, and who understand the importance of keeping our military families strong in difficult times."

Sunday's performance is sponsored by the Elks National Foundation through a donation to the Gary Sinise Foundation. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase during the concert.

The Lt. Dan Band's opening act will be Re-Creation USA, a group dubbed "America's Ambassadors To Hospitalized Veterans." The traveling variety show has performed 11,000 shows across the nation since its inception in 1976. Performances include lavish costumes, expertly choreographed routines, and songs from every genre, including big band, broadway, country, Americana, and oldies.

Throughout the year Re-Creation tours the country to provide therapeutic entertainment to patients at VA Medical Centers and State Veterans Homes. The group also puts on Christmas shows, school shows, and sacred programs at churches. ★

STAY SEATED after the Opening Ceremony for the 150th Celebration.
Enjoy the show!

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~ GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE ~

Contest A – All American Lodge Winners for 2017-18

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has announced the winners of the All American Lodge Contest "A" for the 2017-18 fraternal year. The First Place Winners will receive their awards tomorrow during the first business session. Second and Third Place Winners can pick up their awards at the Fraternal Committee Booth in Exhibit Hall 3 for presentation at a State Association or Local Lodge event. ***Congratulations to them all!***

Division I — *[300 Members or less]*

1st Place	Raceway, AZ Lodge No. 2852
2nd Place	Cedar Grove, NJ Lodge No. 2237
3rd Place	East Stroudsburg, PA Lodge No. 319

Division II — *[301 to 500 Members]*

1st Place	Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge No. 782
2nd Place	Walnut Creek, CA Lodge No. 1811
3rd Place	Ferndale, MI Lodge No. 1588

Division III — *[501 to 700 Members]*

1st Place	Columbia, MO Lodge No. 594
2nd Place	Calabash, NC Lodge No. 2679
3rd Place	Manahawkin, NJ Lodge No. 2340

Division IV — *[701 to 1,100 Members]*

1st Place	Phoenix, AZ Lodge No. 335
2nd Place	Osage Community, MO Lodge No. 2705
TIE 3rd Place	Merced, CA Lodge No. 1240
TIE 3rd Place	Mountain Home, AR Lodge No. 1714

Division V — *[1,101 to 1,500 Members]*

1st Place	Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475
2nd Place	Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley, CA Lodge No. 2444
3rd Place	Oceano/Five Cities, CA Lodge No. 2504

Division VI — *[1,500 Members or more]*

1st Place	Sun City, AZ Lodge No. 2559
2nd Place	Lake Havasu City, AZ Lodge No. 2399
3rd Place	Santa Maria, CA Lodge No. 1538

PLEASE, SPEAK UP!

The Court Reporter needs to know who you are, and what Lodge you're from. If you are recognized for making or seconding a motion, please come forward at the end of the session to make sure she gets your information correctly into the permanent record which will be used to produce the annual Grand Lodge Proceedings book. We don't want you to be listed as an "Unidentified Member" in its pages.

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~ ALL AMERICAN LODGE — 1st Place Winner • DIVISION 4 ~

by Brenda Kayal
Lodge Treasurer

PHOENIX, AZ LODGE NO. 335

has striven to maintain the Brotherly Love, Justice, Charity and Fidelity that the organization stands for.

The incoming ER holds an "Organization Meeting" prior to taking office to plan the year. All Lodge past & current officers and committee members are requested to attend. New Officers choose a PER Advisor for the year.

The All American Lodge application and programs are reviewed, records are kept for charitable reporting, for publicity and documentation through media resources, our "Flash" *(weekly E-mail sent to Members)* and on our Lodge marquee at the entrance.

We help veterans in many ways, from clothing drives to purchasing furniture for those transitioning from homelessness, from backpack drives to Bingo games, from treating veterans to a steak dinner to hosting Honor Flight Reunion Luncheons. Each Memorial Day, the ER places a wreath at the Arizona National Cemetery to honor our fallen heroes. We also have a float in the Veterans Day Parade.

Other community services include our Annual Public Safety Appreciation Awards Dinner, Law and Order Night in November, Firefighters Night in September, Thanksgiving Basket Program, also serving breakfast to families in need on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving. Since 1953, our "Annual Children's Christmas Shopping Spree" lets 150-plus children shop for $125 worth of clothing, then to a party and dinner with Santa and his elves where each child gets a toy chosen just for him or her.

We donated and raised the 1st Flag at a new school and explained flag etiquette to students. At our Annual Youth Week Awards Dinner, winning students each receive $1,000 scholarships *(Lodge level)*, Americanism Essay Contest winners and youth volunteer awards are also presented. On National Readers Day and Read Across America Day *(Dr. Seuss' Birthday)* Members read to students at various schools, participate in Hoop Shoot, and sponsor Scouts. We hold children's holiday parties, teen dances and monthly summer drive-in movies, hoping to keep the children excited to come to the Elks.

We hold Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day picnics and display the 50 State Flags. We hold the Flag Day Ceremony, and a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

A "Polar Plunge" each January 1st raises funds for the State Association's Major Projects.

Phoenix #335 performs the Initiation Ritual by memory and the long version of Opening and Closing, which has a strong impact on new and current Members. This all adds up to increased membership and retention and success for our Lodge.

On January 24, 2018 we instituted Phoenix Antlers Lodge No. 335, initiated 18 young people and installed the Officers. The Antlers help wherever needed. They are a very active group.

Our Members perform all of the charitable work with pride and enthusiasm. We have a "Great" All American Lodge, four time winner. We owe this achievement to our officers, members and spouses. Thank You to all who had a part in earning the highest Lodge honor in Elkdom for the 2017–2018 Lodge year. ★

Exalted Ruler Larry Bodwell *(right)* and Veterans Committee Members with purchases for Veterans.

Exalted Ruler Larry Bodwell *(left)* and Veterans Committee Chairperson Lorie Smith *(right)* donating Lodge wreath at the Arizona National Cemetery.

Exalted Ruler Larry Bodwell *(2nd, from left)* and the Law and Order Night participants.

Exalted Ruler Larry Bodwell *(far right)* with the Phoenix Lodge Scholarship Winners.

Exalted Ruler Larry Bodwell *(far right)* and the Phoenix Antlers Lodge No. 335 Members.

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~ SUNDAY CONVENTION SCHEDULE ~

09:00	Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Seminar
09:00	Practice Sessions for Grand Lodge Officers
09:00	Workshops/Seminars (9 a.m. to 11 a.m.)
03:20	McPherson Video (optional) – continuous repeat
03:40	Re-Creation starts performance and continues till 03:58
03:50	**Side backdrops count down to Opening - take seats**
03:58	Lights dimmed – up and down five second intervals
04:00	Welcome..... PGER John D. Amen
04:05	Opening and Intro of PGERs..... PGER John D. Amen
04:20	Presentation of Flags.....Douglas A. Schiefer, Chairman GL Fraternal Committee
04:40	Elks National Foundation Trustees Report.....PGER F. Louis Sulsberger Chairman
04:45	ENF Hoop Shoot Report.....Jim O'Kelley, Director
	ENF Scholarship Awards.....Jim O'Kelley, Director
05:15	Grand Exalted Ruler Speech..... Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., GER
05:30	Closing..... PGER John D. Amen
05:30	**Side backdrops count down to 150th Celebration**
05:40	150th Celebration Details ..... PGER Michael F. Smith
06:00	150th Celebration
07:00	State Association Dinners (optional)

Anthony Thompson Boys Getty Powell Winner (left) and Bailey Finn Girls Getty Powell Winner (right)

Two shooting stars

Anthony Thompson and Bailey Finn won this year's Getty Powell Award for highest-scoring boy and girl at the Hoop Shoot Finals in Chicago in April.

Thompson, sponsored by Dayton, OH Lodge No. 58, made 24 of 25 baskets and 30-of-30 in a shootout for the 8- to 9-year-old boys title.

Bailey Finn, sponsored by Livingston, MT, Lodge No. 246, made 24 of 25 shots to win the 12- to 13-year-old girls championship. Finn won the 8- to 9-year-old division in 2014, and her brother Blake won the 8- to 9-year-old boys national title in 2010.

Thompson and Finn received their awards at the ENF donor event Saturday night and will be acknowledged during Sunday's Opening Ceremonies. ★

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~ GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE ~

COMMUNITY PROJECT CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

CONGRATULATIONS to all the Winners! Your Award Plaques may be picked up at the GL Activities Committee Booth in the Convention Center, Exhibit Hall 3. These are the Elks Lodges that ***"Strengthened Elkdom Through Community Awareness"*** this past fraternal year and we are so proud of them. ***And the Winners are:***

Division 1 • (0 – 300 Members)
1st Place El Paso, Texas Lodge No. 187
2nd Place Lordsburg, New Mexico Lodge No. 1813
3rd Place Lewiston, Maine Lodge No. 371

Division 2 • (301 – 500 Members)
1st Place Ishpeming, Michigan Lodge No. 447
2nd Place Lyndon, Kentucky Lodge No. 2052

Division 3 • (501 – 700 Members)
1st Place Staten Island, New York Lodge No. 841

Division 4 • (701 – 1,100 Members)
1st Place Upper Sandusky, Ohio Lodge No. 83
2nd Place Augusta, Maine Lodge No. 964
3rd Place Arvada, Colorado Lodge No. 2278

Division 5 • (1,101 – 1,500 Members)
1st Place Hagerstown, Maryland Lodge No. 378

The committee wants to thank all the Lodges that participated in this contest this year, and we want to encourage more Lodges to enter the contest for 2018-2019. Entry applications are available at the GL Activities Committee Booth in Exhibit Hall 3 and are also available on the elks.org website. Community Projects are making a difference in our communities showing that ***"Elks Care — Elks Share!"***

RITUALISTIC CONTEST FINALS

Will be held Monday, July 2, at the
Henry B. González Convention Center at 1:00 p.m.

Convention Assistants to help you!

The Assistants for the 2018-19 San Antonio Grand Lodge Convention have been announced as follows:

▶Clerks of Election
Jesse Shipp—Florence, KY Lodge #314
Dennis Darrow—Jonesboro, AR Lodge #498
Kandi P. Barks—Raton, NM Lodge #865
Ron Delzer—Morehead City-Beaufort, NC #1710
David P. Cioe—Bristol County, RI Lodge #1860
Tom Deien—Mount Vernon, IL Lodge #819

▶Assistant Clerks of Election
David G. Bass—Madison, TN Lodge #2473
Sam Demmin—Oshkosh, WI Lodge #292
William J. Lindsey—Columbia Basin, WA #1930
Keith Mills—Caldwell, ID Lodge #1448
William J. Berger—Jefferson, IA Lodge #2306
Bradley G. Norton—Hastings, NE Lodge #159

▶Inspectors of Election
Howard D. Boyd, Sr.—Martinsburg, WV #778
Mary R. Williams—Prineville, OR Lodge #1814
Deborah Betts—Atchison, KS Lodge #647
Dennis Dionne—Keene, NH Lodge #927
Beulah Rodrigue—Houma, LA Lodge #1193
Gary Lassiter—Reno, OK Lodge #743

▶Assistant Grand Esquires
Patrick J. Wright—Hopkins, MN Lodge #221
Fred L. Adams—New Braunfels, TX #2279
Gary Salberg—Leadville, CO Lodge #236
Jacob V. Whetsell, Jr.—Orangeburg, SC #897
Morris Putnam, Jr.—Bellows Falls, CT #1619
Neil Weatherly—Jamestown, ND Lodge #995

▶Assistant Grand Inner Guards
Darla Knuth—Riverton, WY Lodge #1693
David J. Acanfora—Bridgeport, CT #36
Roger Buck—Mt. Vernon, WA Lodge #1204
William DeLarber—Affton, MO Lodge #2635
Robert A. Strange, Jr.—Vicksburg, MS #95
Stephen D. Santosuosso—Arlington, MA #1435

▶Assistant Grand Tilers
Stuart Rishe—Ogdensburg, NY Lodge #772
Jeffrey P. Hallem—Pierre, SD Lodge #1953
Nevin L. Taylor—Marysville, OH Lodge #1130
Susan Piper—Ellsworth, ME Lodge #2743
Paul Shoemaker—Virginia Beach, VA #2268
Stephen Kempff—Bristol, PA Lodge #970

Thank You!

Elks DAP DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Henry G. Gonzalez—Convention Center—Room 221 C&D

Tuesday July 3, 2018

1:30pm to 3:30pm

LEARN HOW THE ELKS DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM CAN ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNITY

Souvenir postcards, one of a kind challenge coins plus free T-shirts and other valuable prizes!

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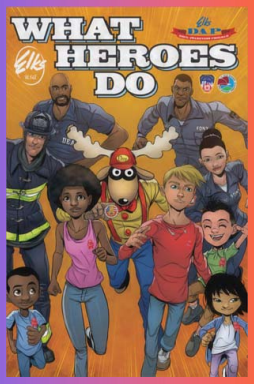
Ray Lozano

How to jumpstart your DAP program!

What programs work in other Lodges!



New programs announced! Teen Zone—Bigger and Better SMOSH VIDEO

Visit and play at the KETCH Booth

The Kansas Elks Major Project invites you to visit the Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped (KETCH) Booth. Learn how the Elks are transforming lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Your added attraction is to enter the raffles to win a car or airfare for two! You can also enter the 50/50 drawing or the Prize Drop game.

All proceeds directly benefit the programs and services at KETCH. Stop by and see us!

Since 1964, KETCH has served more than 30,000 individuals with disabilities. More information can be found at ketch.org. ★

1868 Elks 2018 USA CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

Anniversary Grants Extended

Anniversary Grants will be available for the 2018-19 fraternal year to continue *"Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness"!*

Apply for yours today at: www.enf/grants

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~ ALL AMERICAN LODGE — 1st Place Winner • DIVISION 5 ~

by Bill Neessen
Lodge Member

ORANGE, CA LODGE NO. 1475

counts programs like these for gaining new Members and retaining them: hosting a Memorial Day Ceremony, Honoring Our Flag, supporting the ENF, using grants to hold a Court of Honor for our Eagle Scouts, expanding our Drug Awareness Education Program, promoting Youth Activities such as Hoop Shoot, expanding our Veterans Programs, supporting the Orange Police Dept. and their Police Dog Program, and getting publicity for Orange Elks through our public relations people.

BBQ on the Beach

The Commanding Officer of the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Nash, is pictured with four of our Vietnam veterans. Jennifer stopped by to personally thank the group for supporting this event. *"You are a bunch of great folks in orange shirts doing what you love to do best! Serving the boss!"* she said.

Damon & Bosco

Member Mike Duff is the Chairman of the Police Dog Fund and since 2006, has raised over $26,000 to help purchase five police dogs. Amy Carr is the Chairman of the Police Dog Veterinarian Committee. When a police dog retires, the officer can keep his partner but assumes all the financial responsibility including veterinary bills. Orange Elks started and provide a fund to help cover these bills. Orange PD Officers Damon Allen and his K-9 partner Bosco, an eight-and-a-half year old German Shepherd, are credited with more than 500 searches and 60 arrest assists, ending many dramatic pursuits and recovering large amounts of illegal narcotics and currency, over five years of service together.

Soon after their last picture was taken, Bosco was diagnosed with a severe medical condition and was euthanized. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bosco's partner Officer Damon Allen.

K-9 Bosco, EOW April 4, 2018. RIP!

Dictionary Project

Our Dictionary Project used the **ENF's $2,000 Gratitude Grant** to purchase dictionaries. In 13 years, we have delivered over 28,000 dictionaries to third graders in Orange. The program is designed to provide a dictionary to every third grader in the Orange Unified School District.

DSA of OC Picnic

The **ENF Beacon Grant** helped fund the **Down Syndrome Association of Orange County** (DSA of OC) Picnic. A thousand smiles, a ton of "Thank-Yous," and an endless supply of hugs was the reward received from the families at the end of the picnic. Mike Cash, the Committee Chairman, said that the plan for the picnic was, *"Let's feed them, play games and make sure the families have a great time."* We can safely say that the mission was accomplished! Some 85 Elks and family members volunteered and over 350 DSA-OC families attended the picnic held at Irvine Park. A BBQ lunch was served and events included games, the OC Zoo, and pony rides.

This event was an example of the Orange Elks giving their time, talent and teamwork to put smiles on all those attending. What a great way to become tired! ***Elks Care — Elks Share!***

Eli Home Event

On a November Saturday afternoon, the Orange Elks Lodge #1475 used the ENF **Promise Grant** to host the **"Eli Home" Thanksgiving Party,** a shelter for Abused Children. Our kitchen crew

Please see **ORANGE** *Page 12*

BBQ ON THE BEACH
L-R: **Mike Jung, Army; Barbara Hallett, Air Force; Lt. Col. Jennifer Nash; Charlie Salas, Air Force; and Jack Ferraro, Air Force.**

Orange, California PD Officers Damon Allen and K-9 Bosco.
K-9 Bosco, EOW April 4, 2018. RIP!

Orange Elks Volunteers equals a successful Dictionary Project.

DSA of OC PICNIC
If a picture is worth a thousand words, these smiles are priceless!

Convention gavels for sale in online auction

by Taylor Odisho
ENF Communications Assistant

Do you need the perfect gavel to bring order to your Lodge? To celebrate the Elks 150th Anniversary, the Order commissioned custom-made, Elk-themed gavels. After they're used by Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., throughout the Convention, they can be yours!

Each of the gavels is currently up for grabs through a silent online auction.

There are just three easy steps to bid: First, register at BiddingForGood.com/Elks150. Then place a bid for your favorite gavel. Finally, check back to see if you won! Bidding closes July 13.

What are you waiting for? Make this "Bourbon" gavel yours! Head to BiddingForGood.com/Elks150. ★

Never Forgotten, Never Forsaken!

Honor your father, grandfather, brother, sister, or friend!

The ***Elks History Project*** is now honoring departed Members of the Order through a special new feature of the Grand Lodge website, www.elks.org. Stop by the **Elks Internet Booth** to learn more about the Elks History Project and how you can submit a tribute to departed family members or friends.

ERs: San Antonio Reports due in October!

Exalted Rulers (or alternate delegates) should be reminded that they are required to attend the Annual Session and submit a Report to their Lodge no later than the first regular meeting in October. [GLS §12.120]

A good suggestion would be to save each edition of the *Convention News*, along with a copy of the Resolutions. Also, record how you voted on each resolution and submit to the Lodge with a cover letter. That will complete the obligation of your report to your Lodge.

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~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. ~

ENF scholarships awarded to Most Valuable Students

by Taylor Odisho
ENF Communications Assistant

In April, the Elks National Foundation welcomed 19 new members to the Elks family during the Most Valuable Student Leadership Weekend in Chicago. In just three days, these strangers, who were vying for a chance at the top scholarship of $50,000, became friends.

The Finalists spent the weekend preparing for interviews for the top scholarships by engaging in exercises that helped them get to know one another—and themselves—through a series of leadership activities.

MAITLAND THULL

Before their final interviews, the scholars volunteered at the Jesse Brown V.A. Medical Center in Chicago. They distributed hygiene kits, spent time with veterans, and even sang "Happy Birthday" to a veteran who was turning 97.

"It was amazing that we got to be in that place with that man," said Maitland Thull, whose scholarship was sponsored by Mobile, Ala., Lodge No. 108.

Maitland received the female top scholarship of $50,000. Shiv Patel, sponsored by Roxboro, N.C., Lodge No. 2005, won the male $50,000 scholarship award, impressing the judges in his final interview with his story, resume, and dedication to service.

SHIV PATEL

"I want to pursue a career in medicine," Shiv said, "and the Elks are a great foundation for doing that because they're giving me the starting steps."

Shiv and Maitland will use their MVS Scholarships toward their college education at Northwestern University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, respectively. Shiv, Maitland, and three other 2018 Finalists, are attending Opening Ceremonies on Sunday as part of the 150 for 150 scholar delegation.

The top 20 MVS Scholarship finalists all received a scholarship toward their college dreams. In addition to Shiv and Maitland's $50,000 top prize, the second-place male and female winners received $40,000, and third place winners earned $30,000 each. The remaining finalists were awarded $20,000 apiece.

ENF scholarships would not be possible without your support. Thank you for helping us make dreams come true. ★

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~ ALL AMERICAN LODGE — 1st Place Winner • DIVISION 6 ~

by Val Bianchini
PDD/AAL Contest Coordinator

SUN CITY, AZ LODGE NO. 2559

asks and answers, *"What does it take to have a great Lodge?"*

LOVE! If you love your Lodge, pride will follow. To have pride, you need positive accomplishments. Sun City is a bustling, active, lucrative Lodge situated in a great location, warm weather year-round and near an adult community area.

Our Members have a deep work ethic, so when they join a committee, they give heart and soul to the Lodge programs. They have LOVE for the Lodge. Are committed to serving the community and because of that, have earned the trust of the community.

Although there are no schools in our area, that doesn't stop schools from reaching out to the Lodge for assistance. Several distant schools regularly call on the Lodge to help them by utilizing the programs that the Grand Lodge espouses. We hold Drug Awareness Coloring Book Contests, Essay Contests and "Student of the Month" Awards. "Elroy the Elk" is a regular visitor at school fairs or social events. At a recent Student Appreciation Awards Banquet, 25 high school seniors received a $1500 award, and 4 of them will receive additional awards from the Arizona Elks State Association.

The Lodge donates approximately 1,800 dictionaries per year, to 3rd graders, while explaining the usage of the dictionary.

Sun City supports a Boy and Girl Scout Troop, and a Cub Scout Den. The Scouts are utilized throughout the year as Color Guards and servers to our Veterans.

At Christmas time, 50 needy school kids are taken on a "shopping spree" and are presented with a $100 gift card. Afterward, it's back to the Lodge for a hot kid's meal, coloring books, crayons, and school supplies, until Santa arrives carrying his heavily laden bag of presents. Each child gets 2 to 3 gifts each, then sent on their way, with smiles and laughter.

In 2002, the Lodge adopted the Arizona Charter Academy, recently acknowledged as one of the best charter schools in America.

Also at Christmas time, Sun City Elks donate enough food items to last 25 indigent families a full week, including frozen turkeys, milk, bread, butter, and canned goods, all collected during the our "Red Wagon Program."

The crown jewel of the Sun City Lodge is its Veterans Program under the leadership of Arizona State Chairman, Gary Drumheller. To date, the Lodge has sent approximately 74 Veterans on that memorable "Honor Flight" trip to Washington, D.C.

Monthly Bingo games, luncheons, dinners, 2 Diamondback baseball games per year, Coyote hockey games, 3 bowling events a year, Disney on Ice shows, BBQs, magic shows, and frozen ice socials, are just a few activities of the Veterans Program.

A Christmas event features Santa and tables full of shoes, socks, underwear, and hygiene products to which the Vets can help themselves. Dozens of power chairs, canes, walkers, manual wheelchairs, and electric power scooters have been provided over the years by Sun City Elks.

One power wheelchair was specifically made for a paraplegic Vet. When he passed, his wife donated it to the Sun City Lodge's Veterans Program. Another paralyzed Vet was the recipient of that chair. The giving does not end with the Vets, more, it begins with them.

NOTE: Gary Sinise, who leads the guest band, "Lt. Dan Band," at this convention, was so impressed with the work Sun City Lodge does with our Vets, he invited 4 WWII Vets and 4 Lodge guardians to accompany him on a trip to New Orleans to visit the WWII Museum there. Gary is a true patriot.

This article highlights the major accomplishments of the Lodge, but these are just some of what it takes to have a Great Lodge! ★

Students receiving $1,500 Awards at Youth Awards Banquet. (*far left):* Sid Palmer, ER; (*far right):* Mike Kleving, Youth Committee Chairman.

***(Left)* Sid Palmer, ER; Lauren Malovic; Briana Muñoz; Justin Ferris; & Phillip Varney received Certificates of Achievement at the Youth Awards Banquet.**

***(Left)* Val Bianchini, District Vets Chair; Gary Sinise; Gary Drumheller, Vietnam Vet & State Vets Chair.**

Honor Flight Crew. *(Elks Guardians in blue shirts; Veterans in gold) (From left):* John McConnell, Navy/Vietnam; Gil Phelps, Navy/WWII & Army/Korean; Gary Drumheller, Lodge & State Vets Chair; Ben Grepin, USAF/Korean; Nick Christians, Army/ Korean; Don Tabacchi, Navy/WWII; Holly Bannon, USAF/Vietnam; & Hal Whitaker, Merchant Marine/WWII & Navy/Korean.

~ ALL AMERICAN LODGE — 2nd Place Winner • DIVISION 1 ~

CEDAR GROVE, NJ LODGE NO. 2237's

27th annual "LOBSTERFEST FUNDRAISER" usually exceeds over 400 people annually, and proceeds are shared among the Lodge's charities, such as Veterans, Scholarships, ENF, Peer Leadership, Youth Activities, NJ Elks Camp Moore Major Project donation, and more.

2 of the high school students sponsored by Cedar Grove, NJ Lodge #2237, attending the 30th annual NJ State "PEER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE" weekend, along with 600 other NJ high school students.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cedar Grove, NJ Lodge Member *(and DDGER)* Sue Dupas donated food to a local FOOD PANTRY, purchased with funds from the ENF's Beacon Grant.

Elks share an anniversary: San Antonio turns 300 in 2018

By Mike Chamernik
Convention News Coordinator

The stars are aligning in the Lone Star State.

San Antonio, the host of the Elks National Convention and 150th Anniversary celebration this Fourth of July weekend, is in the midst of a 300th birthday of its own.

Officially founded in May of 1718, San Antonio became a settlement formed around five missions, including the Mission San Antonio de Valero (also known as the Alamo). The city became a part of Mexico when the country gained independence in 1821.

In 1835, a rebellion started by United States colonists and Tejanos against the Mexican government led to the Texas Revolution. The turning point was the Battle of the Alamo, a 13-day siege where all of the mission's Texan defenders were killed. The loss spurred revenge, and Texas forces fought back to win the war and achieve independence in 1836.

San Antonio has a renown military presence

The United States annexed Texas in 1845.

Boosted by land expansion, Mexican immigration, and a bustling railroad system, San Antonio's population grew exponentially, from 3,488 in 1850 to 161,379 in 1920, to 1.5 million as of 2017. It is the nation's seventh-largest city.

Mexican Americans aren't the only ones who give San Antonio its flavor. The city also has strong German American and Southern Anglo American influences. The armed forces also has a significant presence. Nicknamed Military City, USA, San Antonio has several bases and forts and employs nearly 100,000 people in the defense industry.

San Antonio has several anniversary events scheduled for this weekend. Sunday and Monday are the last two days of the weekend's River Walk Artisan show. Artists sell their handmade pottery, textiles, jewelry, woodwork, and paintings along the River Walk. Stars, Stripes, and Lights will run through Wednesday. Two-thousand lights will glow in patriotic-themed bags along the downtown River Walk. Both events are free to attend.

Independence Day celebrations are being held on Wednesday, including an American Revolution reenactment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery (seven miles northeast of the convention center), and an all-day carnival at Woodlawn Lake Park (five miles northwest of the convention center). At night, the park will host the city's fireworks display.

More information about San Antonio's 300th anniversary can be found at sanantonio300.org. ★

ORANGE *from Page 8*

prepared turkeys, mashed potatoes, candied yams, corn, stuffing, gravy, dinner rolls and Jell-O. The dessert table was filled with donated pumpkin and apple pies and dozens of cookies and cupcakes baked by one of our volunteers. Each child received a gift bag of goodies and a $30 gift card.

Field of Honor

The Orange Lodge used the **ENF Anniversary Grant** for the **Orange Field of Valor**.

This is the third year of the patriotic tribute to our men and women who are serving and have served in the military. The Orange Elks are a "Silver Star Sponsor" and are honoring 50 of our Veterans from the Lodge at the Orange Field of Valor.

The Orange Lodge has three World War II veterans. One is Armand Cruz, who served in the Navy on the battleship Nevada and received three medals.

The Reading Promise

The Orange Elks used the $10,000 **ENF Impact Grant** to hold a **"Reading Promise,"** which promises to give a new book to at-risk/low-income children in our community. This bi-annual project is aimed at kindergarten through 12th graders at the dozen Title 1 Elementary Schools in the Orange Unified School District. At the core, the "Reading Promise" believes that providing a child with a book is like planting a seed that will blossom into a lifelong love of reading. ★

All Orange, CA Elks Lodge No. 1475 PHOTOGRAPHS Thanks to Mike Cash & Tom Ruff!

The Reading Promise Booth

~ ALL AMERICAN LODGE — 2nd Place Winner • DIVISION 3 ~

CALABASH ELKS DINING – The Lodge holds a monthly dinner dance. Picture *(below)* is of the dining room and includes the couple who were providing the music for the evening. ▼

CALABASH ELKS LOUNGE – Picture *(below)* of the Members' lounge. We offer a daily lunch menu and evening entertainment on Saturdays and Mondays. ▼

CALABASH, NC LODGE NO. 2679

Elks USA CONGRATULATIONS!