



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



## Absent Members commemorated in December

It's hard to believe the end of 2022 is here. There are so many ways to reflect upon the month of December.

On Sunday, December 4, we Elks pledge Fidelity to our Members who have entered into the realm of eternity. Lodges across our great country will pay a just tribute of affection and honor to all the Members who no longer answer when their names are called. The Elks Memorial Service is a very solemn day when we hear the chimes of eleven rings in honor of our deceased Members.

The Members who we honor on Memorial Sunday spent many hours of dedicated service to their Lodges. It is a fitting tribute to them to have their families with us at this memorial ceremony. Their names shall endure forever in our tablets of love and memory.



**Message from  
the Grand  
Exalted Ruler  
BRUCE A.  
HIDLEY**

We thank the Jolly Corks who found the need for a formal memorial service as fellow Members passed. Through their insight, a formal designation took place in 1889 at the Grand Lodge Convention proclaiming the first Sunday in December would be designated as Memorial Sunday. **“An Elk is never forgotten, never forsaken.”** May all our deceased Brothers and Sisters rest in peace and may they all be enjoying that great Elks

Lodge above.

Let us not forget Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on December 7. It is a day to remember and honor all who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I have personally toured Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. It is an absolutely solemn experience to visit the memorial above the USS *Arizona* and see the names of over 2,400 Americans who were killed that day. In addition to the lives lost, more than 1,100 troops were wounded during the attack. In a speech to congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was a date which will live in infamy. There were no truer words spoken. Please take the time at your Lodge to lower

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## Per capita and fees set for 2023-2024

For the 2023-2024 fraternal year, on April 1, 2023, the following per capita and fees will be due from each Member: Grand Lodge per capita—\$6.50; Insurance assessment—\$17.00\*; and the Elks Magazine assessment—\$5.50, for a total of \$29.00.

*\*This amount represents a \$5.00 per Member increase from last year.*

Attention must continue to be given to retaining our delinquent Members as well as attracting new or reinstated Members. Involvement in Lodge activities should be encouraged to help keep Members interested.

**GRAND SECRETARY**

Bryan R. Klatt

If you, or someone you know, plan to visit Chicago over the winter, call the Grand Secretary's office to set-up a time, and staff can give you your own personal tour of the National Headquarters.

*Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays from your Grand Lodge staff.*

**GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE**

## How to fly the United States flag

By RONALD A. BROOKS  
Committee Member

Our flag is the emblem of our identity as a sovereign nation, which the United States of America has been for nearly 250 years.

In 1942, Congress passed a joint resolution that encompassed what became the U.S. Flag Code, which involves how citizens should behave around the flag of the United States, and ways in which the flag should be shown proper respect.

The United States Flag Code—Chapter 5 of Title 4 of the United States Code (4 U.S.C. § 5 *et seq.*)—states:

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America. The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of distress or instances of extreme danger to life or property.

The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red should always be arranged with the blue above, white in the middle, and the red below.

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## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Giving back helps the community—and energizes Elks

By **MARY R. WILLIAMS**

Committee Member

It is the holiday season, but it's not festive for everyone. Many families are unable to afford essentials like food, clothing, water, and gas. Everything has gone up in price so much, so fast, that many people can't keep up. Mother Nature isn't helping, with fires, floods, hurricanes, and Covid. It's very scary. But, there is a bright spot, as Vickie Way, PER Sun City, AZ Lodge No. 2559 explains.

“Elks are a nationwide community service organization of nearly a million American citizens. We love our country and desire to preserve its cherished institutions, and values. We

respect our neighbors and constantly seek to promote their well-being. We love and enjoy life and believe this enjoyment is increased by sharing it with family and friends, and all with whom we encounter.

Elks Members guide their course in life by the cardinal principles of our Order: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.”

This is a good reminder of who we are and what we do. It should encourage you to renew your **enthusiasm for elkdom!** Reach out to your community and see where you might be able to make a difference. Hold blood drives, clothing and nonperishable food drives,

and fundraisers for first responders and medical personnel. Give gift cards to families for food, clothing, and other basics. Distribute gas cards to parents who need to get to work. All these things are easy to do and help those who are less fortunate.

Keep track of all you do: Planning, purchasing, setting up and taking down, hours, mileage, and donations—not just yours, but also family and friends who help you do those things. Ask elected officials to come down and help.

Advertise what you do and why you do it. **Toot your own horn!** Be loud, be proud and don't ever give up being the **Best People On Earth!**

## FLAG From Page 1



### When to display the American Flag

The flag may be displayed on any day of the year, but there are guidelines to follow.

It is customary to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on flagpoles in the open. It is also acceptable to display the flag at night if it is illuminated. The flag should not be displayed on days with inclement weather.

The flag should be flown on the major federal and cultural holidays, and days that honor our country, our military, and our veterans, such as Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May), Constitution Day (September 17), and Navy Day (October 27).

The flag should be displayed at every public institution, near every polling place on election days, and at schools during school days.

The Grand Lodge Fly the Flag Program allows Lodges to present a certificate to local businesses and merchants for properly flying the United States flag. The “fillable” PDF certificate is in the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee section of [elks.org](http://elks.org).

## GER From Page 1

the Flag to half-staff on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to honor all the military personnel who were killed in this attack. May they all rest in peace.

December is also a time when we celebrate the Christmas holiday with family and friends. Christmas is a very busy time of the year as we decorate our homes and Lodges, put up and decorate Christmas trees, and shop for our loved ones. Christmas is when we as Elks must practice one of the Cardinal Principles of our Order, **Charity**. What better way of **“Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm”** than to have your Lodge membership work together to collect food items for your local food pantry and host children's Christmas parties with Old Saint Nick himself, Santa Claus.

I encourage Lodges to participate in your local Adopt-A-Family Program to help a family who may not otherwise be able to enjoy the Christmas season. Let's also not forget our veterans who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. When you host your Lodge Christmas party, ask every Member to bring a gift for a veteran at your local VA Hospital. COVID-19 has changed our way of life and our interaction time with the veterans at the VA Hospitals. I encourage you to contact your VAVS Representative to coordinate the delivery of the gifts to our veterans.

Helen and I wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas. May the joy and happiness of the Christmas season be with each of you throughout the year. Have a very safe holiday season.

## Website contests open for entries

By **DENNIS J. GERLEMAN**

G/L Fraternal Committee Member

I will be judging the entries for the 2022-23 State Association Website Contest and Local Lodge Website Contest. I encourage all states and Local Lodges to participate in the contests for this upcoming year.

If you decide to participate in the contest I'll need your:

1. Name
2. State or Lodge
3. An e-mail or contact information to view the webpage

You can e-mail me at [dgerlemandc@kewanee.com](mailto:dgerlemandc@kewanee.com) with the information requested. I will need this information by April 1, 2023. Thanks in advance and good luck to all. I do ask that you relay this information at your State Association meetings to the Lodges in your state.

## VETERANS From Page 4

churches, or community centers to help collect essential supplies for veterans.

Remember to always talk with the Stand Down organizers first to find out what they need and what will help veterans the most.

Finally, volunteering at a Stand Down can be fun! Veterans look forward to these events and enjoy the camaraderie. It's also a nice way for volunteers to interact with local veterans and let them know they have the Elks' support.



## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

# Recent news reports show dangers of drugs and firearms

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**

Assistant National Director

Drugs and firearms seem to be going hand-in-hand these days, as these news reports from October can attest.

In Rutland, Vermont, a 31-year-old man and a 34-year-old man were arrested and charged by criminal complaint. Both men were charged with possessing with the intent to distribute cocaine, cocaine base, and fentanyl, and for carrying and using firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

In Rockland, Illinois, a 28-year-old man was sentenced to an aggregate 10 years in prison for possession with intent to distribute cocaine base (“crack”) and tetrahydrocannabinol (“THC”); possession of a firearm as a

felon; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crime. The sentence consists of concurrent 60-month terms of imprisonment for the drug trafficking and possession of a firearm as a felon convictions, to be followed by a consecutive 60 months for possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking crime conviction.

And in New Hampshire, a 36-year-old man was sentenced to 72 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute controlled substances, conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, and carrying a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking.

The list goes on. It is proof that drugs and violence are related.

Despite this disturbing trend, there is good news as we enter the Christmas

season. Evidence suggests that the Elks Drug Awareness Program’s efforts are having a positive effect on young people and that drug abuse among our targeted population is trending downwards. This is no time to rest or think that our work is over. Far from it! Our children need us now more than ever.

Have you seen our latest videos, *Awkward Conversations* season 2? These podcasts are setting records for viewership. If you haven’t seen any of them, please check them out on YouTube. While you’re there, subscribe to our channel.

On behalf of the entire Elks Drug Awareness Program, we wish all Elks, their families, and communities a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# ‘Old-fashioned’ dictionaries withstand test of time

By **TRACY LEOPOLD**

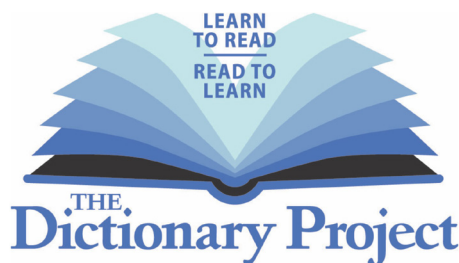
Committee Member

Why does your Lodge want to participate in the Dictionary Project when kids do everything online now? This is an argument I hear too often. It may seem “old-fashioned” to read a paper book or use a dictionary, but reading from paper still offers significant benefits.

Kids love to have something they can take home and call their own. So, when you bring the dictionaries to these schools, make sure you have the kids write their name in it as soon as they get it. Also, it’s important to remember not all families have internet access at home, so looking up something online isn’t always an option. Providing them a dictionary allows them to continue to learn wherever they go.

I was fortunate to meet some of the kids from the Elks Scholarship Program at the National Convention in Atlanta. They told me that as young kids they loved to just sit and read the dictionary, so they were very excited to learn about this program. Having that dictionary available to them was a great start on the road to their scholastic journey.

For those nay-sayers who don’t believe kids need a dictionary, let them know that constantly looking at the blue light from the screens can be hard on the eyes. According to WebMD, blue light from



electronics is linked to problems such as blurry vision, eye strain, dry eye, macular degeneration, and cataracts. Some people may even have sleep issues.

Research also found that physically holding a book helps the brain’s memory center be more active in what is considered “deep reading.” Using multiple senses such as touching, seeing, and even smelling makes the brain process information more effectively, which in turn increases retention and comprehension.

Another benefit of a physical dictionary is the lack of distractions that one may encounter online. For those who have trouble concentrating, things such as pop-up ads, links, social media, and e-mail notifications can easily keep a person from staying on task.

If you are interested in getting your Lodge involved in the Dictionary Program you can go to [elks.org/programs/dictionary.cfm](http://elks.org/programs/dictionary.cfm) for information. You will find steps to implement this program into your Lodge along with helpful tips

on presenting the dictionaries to the students.

If your school system is larger, I have found going through the school administration — such as the superintendent of schools or assistant superintendent — to be a better route than going through a teacher or the school principal. They will put you in contact with the appropriate person.

My Lodge had not participated in the program previously. This year, however, I am excited to say we are providing 1,100 dictionaries to our local third graders. My fellow Lodge officers and Members are excited to bring these to the schools and get involved with our youth. This is also an opportunity for us to get the Elks name out to 1,100 families and show them we care about our youth and community. To find additional information and to order the dictionaries you can go to [dictionaryproject.org](http://dictionaryproject.org).

Since 2003, more than 1,230 Elks Lodges have participated in the Dictionary Project and have given over four million dictionaries. This is a wonderful accomplishment—I encourage all our Lodges to continue with the program.

If you have any questions or need assistance implementing this program in your Lodge, please reach out to me at [tracyleopold73@gmail.com](mailto:tracyleopold73@gmail.com), and I will help you as best as I can.

# Stand Downs provide food, essentials for veterans

By **MARY K. MORGAN**  
Commission Director

Started in 1988 by two Vietnam veterans in San Diego, Stand Downs are community outreach events that provide food, support, and essentials for veterans in need of services. Originally intended to only serve veterans experiencing homelessness, Stand Downs are open to any veteran seeking assistance and connection.

Stand Downs unite community groups and are frequently held during the winter. The events are great opportunities for Elks to get involved, whether by volunteering or helping with planning.

You can visit [va.gov/homeless/events.asp](https://va.gov/homeless/events.asp) for a list of upcoming Stand Down events. Reach out to Stand Down organizers in your area to offer your Lodge's volunteer services. There are many ways for Elks to help make a Stand Down go smoothly.

Common items provided at Stand Downs are hot meals, bags of food to take home, clothing and underwear, winter hats and gloves, and information about available resources. Some larger events also provide free haircuts, boots, musical entertainment, dental services, flu shots, and vision screenings.



Your Lodge could consider providing transportation for veterans who need help getting to the event; greeting veterans arriving at the Stand Down and helping them navigate the event; serving veterans a meal; or passing out clothing and hygiene items to veterans.

You can even get your entire Lodge involved in the month leading up to the Stand Down by hosting a winter clothing drive or a food drive. Consider reaching out to other local institutions such as schools,

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**BRYAN R. KLATT**, Grand Secretary  
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**December 2022**

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# Gratitude Grant, bonuses available for proactive Lodges

By **ABBEY KNUPP**  
ENF Communications Manager

'Tis the season of gratitude, and the Elks National Foundation has so much to be grateful for! The generous donations Elks gave to the Foundation last fiscal year tops the list. By setting a new fundraising record, the giving hearts of the Elks allowed the ENF to allocate even more resources for Lodges to serve and strengthen their communities.

One of the ways the ENF expresses its gratitude is through the Gratitude Grant, which is available to any Lodge that met the Grand Exalted Ruler's per-Member-giving goal in the previous fiscal year. But the ENF is always looking for

ways to give back even more.

In addition to the \$2,000 standard Gratitude Grant, Lodges can earn three \$500 bonuses by achieving the following goals:

1. Have more than 15% of Lodge Members donate at least \$10 to the ENF. You can see your Lodge's progress at [enf.elks.org/membersupport](https://enf.elks.org/membersupport).
2. Have Fidelity Club membership equal 5% or more of overall Lodge donors last year. View your Lodge's progress at [enf.elks.org/FCgoal](https://enf.elks.org/FCgoal).
3. Reach 550 points in the Chair Challenge. See your Lodge's progress at [enf.elks.org/CCstanding](https://enf.elks.org/CCstanding).

Last year, the CIP team approved more than 1,200 Gratitude Grants. This year, they are on track to surpass that number in both initial grants approved and number of bonuses earned. The Elks National Foundation can't thank its donors enough, but the Gratitude Grant sure helps!

*The Elks National Foundation allocated nearly \$16 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through grants that offer Elks opportunities to serve their community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile and energize the membership. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit [elks.org/CIP](https://elks.org/CIP).*