



Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia

ELKS ASSOCIATION *News*

A Fraternal Organization - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

www.mddedcelks.org



MARCH 2023



State President
Marion A. Davidson, Jr.
MD-DE-DC Elks Association

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marion A. "Jr." Davidson



"Strength in Numbers"

Welcome Family, Friends, and Guests to our Association's Spring Conference at the Milford Lodge in Milford, Delaware! A special welcome to our honored guests, Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley and 1st Lady of Elkdom Helen, State Sponsor PGER Paul Hesel and 1st Lady Jane. Please take time to introduce yourself and show our honored guest the great MD, DE & DC Association hospitality and "Elkdom Enthusiasm." Thank You, Milford Lodge, for your hospitality and hosting this weekend's event.

Congratulations to all the new incoming and repeating Lodge Officers for the upcoming Lodge Year 2023-2024. I hope that all the new Lodge officers had the opportunity to attend one of the two training sessions held by the State Training Committee. If any Lodge would like future training, please get in touch with the training committee listed in the State Directory. I wish all the Lodges a successful Lodge year, and let us continue to grow our membership.

New Exalted Rulers, I hope you have your committees, plans, and goals for your Lodge Year in place and are ready to implement by April 1st. Remember to evaluate your committees and goals often. Are your committees meeting, planning, and putting their plans into action? Are they in need of help? Remember, the State Association is here to help. Listed in the

Directory are the District and State Chairpersons that can help your committees be successful. Be concerned about one-person committees and remember my motto, "Strength in Numbers."

Congratulations to last year's Lodge Officers, and Thank you for your service and dedication to Elkdom. Hopefully, you had a successful year and accomplished most of your goals for this Lodge Year. You still have time to complete any goals or plans for your Lodge Year especially growing your membership. If you have any candidates waiting for initiation, schedule an initiation before the end of March. The initiation can be held anytime. They do not have to be done at a Lodge Meeting. Contact Lodges around you and see if they are having one before the end of the Lode Year. Hold a special joint initiation (Initiate, Initiate, Initiate). Let's have another Plus in membership for MD, DE & DC State Association.

Diane and I are happy to see all of you at this Spring Meeting, and thank you for all the warm welcomes and hospitality at our Lodge visits. Please let me know if you are having a special event at your Lodge, and I will make every effort to attend. Be Loud and Proud.

Our next conference will be on June 1st-4th at WISP. Make plans now to attend.

God Bless America, Our Troops, and God Bless the Elks.

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Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

BRUCE A. HIDLEY

March brings new leadership to our Lodges

The month of March brings us to the close of our Lodge year. Wow, does the time fly!

I hope all the Officers in your Lodge had a successful year in Elkdom. The work that was accomplished this past year is a tribute to your leadership and effort. The torch of authority is now being passed to the new Officers in our Lodges.

Congratulations to all of you who have stepped up to continue the great work in your community and, most of all, your Lodge. I wish you all success in achieving any new goals and successes in the programs for the coming year. All may not be smooth sailing, but as the captain of the ship, I know you will guide its course to the best of your ability. Don't ever be afraid to ask a question. Utilize your Past Exalted Rulers in your Lodge to assist you. They have been there and can give you excellent advice. Ask them what worked for them—just maybe, this can also work for you. I encourage you to listen to your membership, as someone may have an idea for a fundraising event or Lodge function for all to enjoy. You can and will make a difference in your Lodges and communities by "Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm."

As the new leader of your Lodge, it is extremely important to put together a slate of dedicated committee people. Your committee members are the ones who work to make your Lodge great. They are the ones who will be promoting in each of your communities that "Elks Care — Elks Share." As the baseball season has started again, I'll use this analogy: Step up to the plate and hit a home run with all of your Lodge programs. Score that winning run as you run the base paths of Elkdom. Win, win, win.

The month of March is also a time when many Lodges participate in St. Patrick's Day. Lodge St. Patrick's Day parties or community parades are celebrated. Please be safe during these celebrations. I'd like to close with an Irish blessing: *"May your heart be warm and happy with the lilt of Irish laughter, every day in every way, and forever and ever after. May the luck of the Irish be always with you."*

Thank you for all you are doing to make our great Order of Elks the greatest Order in the nation. God bless all of you. God bless our troops, past and present, and most of all, God bless America.



Message From Our State Sponsor

PAUL D. HESSEL, PGER

P.O. Box 8173, Newark, DE 19714
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As I write this message, we are seven weeks from the conclusion of the 2022/2023 Lodges year. Throughout the year, things have progressed well, and I am pleased and proud of the many accomplishments already recorded. Hopefully, all our 37 Lodges are winding up the year with positive results in our membership retention and growth program, service accomplishments, financial stability, and growth. I am sure the list of accomplishments will have grown even longer by the meeting.

Membership retention and growth have continued to be our number one priority, as it is the lifeblood of every Lodge, our Association, and our entire Order. With 7 seven weeks to go, lifeblood numbers should indicate we will again have an Association-wide membership gain. Still, to do so, we need to get the 394 candidates awaiting initiation - INITIATE, INITIATE, INITIATE!!

Likewise, every Lodge needs to work on delinquency. Statewide we have 1,496 (7.5%) delinquents against a 6.7% national average - we are not doing so well in this area. Twelve (12) of our Lodges are below the national average of 6.7%. However, six have over 10% delinquency, and one is

18.8%. Our goal with delinquency should be in the 2% to 5% range. If we could get there, gains would be the norm year after year. We all need to get involved, and the individual Lodges need to pay more attention and work harder to reduce delinquency - again, this can only be done at the individual Lodge level!

In February Lodges were busy nominating and electing a new slate of officers for the upcoming 2023/2024 Lodge year. Hopefully, the best talent in the Lodge is stepping up and taking leadership positions in your Lodge. To succeed, prosper, and grow, your Lodge needs to be dedicated and have capable leadership; choose wisely and choose the best!!

Problems continue to pop up in many Lodges between individuals, both with officers and regular members. Charges are often filed with the House Committee or the Lodge (for a Local Forum) by one party or the other, sometimes both. The disagreements and ultimate charges are often unwarranted, frivolous, or based on personal issues between the parties, and most become a significant distraction from the real Elk business at hand. Increasingly the parties at odds are unwilling to talk and resolve issues in the best interest of the Lodge, causing divisions and turmoil among the officers, members, and Lodge activities. While we are all responsible for following and enforcing our Statutory requirements, rules, and regulations - actions to do so must be as

Continued on page 4

**MD, DE & DC ELKS ASSOCIATION MEETING SPRING
CONFERENCE MILFORD, DE LODGE #2401**

**MD, DE & DC ELKS
ASSOCIATION NEWS
OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION 2022-2023**

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Camp Springs Lodge #2332
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WEST
Jill Johnson (David)
Hagerstown Lodge #378
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Email: jcheezy2@yahoo.com

Friday, March 24, 2023	
Noon - 4:00 PM	Registration
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Lunch – Lodge #2401
1:00 PM	Advisory Committee Meeting - Milford Lodge #2401
3:30 PM	Elks Camp Barrett Executive Committee Meeting - TBA
5:00 PM	State Trustees Meeting - TBA
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Dinner, Lodge #2401 - (casual dress)
Saturday, March 25, 2023	
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Breakfast Buffet, Lodge #2401
7:30 AM - Noon	Registration
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Elks Camp Barrett (Meeting) -Lodge 2401
9:00 AM	Workshop Called to Order by State President Marion Davidson, jr.
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Introductions, Invocation, Pledge, Roll Call, etc.
9:30 AM	Presentations, Committee Reports
9:30 AM - 9:40 AM	Americanism, Carrie Kane
9:40 AM - 9:50 PM	Auditing and Business Practices / FRS, Debbie Price
9:50 AM - 10:05 AM	Elks Veterans Service, Welcome Home, Lou Schmeltzer & Carl Robinson
10:05 AM - 10:15 AM	Elks National Foundation, Mary Underwood (Donations Accepted)
10:15 AM - 10:25 AM	Elks Camp Barrett, Ben Stone (Donation Accepted)
10:25 AM - 10:35	Drug Awareness Program, Angela Meyer
10:35 AM - 10:45 AM	Government Relations, John Sammons & Tags Bonnie Howell
10:45 AM - 10:50 AM	Scholarships, Lynn Evans
10:50 AM - 10:55 AM	Accident Prevention, Mike Ford
10:55 AM - 11:00 AM	Membership Report, John Opitz
11:00 AM - 11:05 AM	Soccer Shoot, Dolly Broom
11:05 AM - 11:10 AM	Hoop Shoot, DeWayne Wilcher
11:10 AM - 11:20 AM	William J. Jernick Memorial Fund, Susan Caldwell (Donations Accepted)
11:20 AM - 11:25 AM	Lodge Activities, Mary Villeneuve
11:25 AM - 11: 50 AM	Missed Committees
Announcements	Recess until Sunday 9:00 AM
11:30 AM - 2: 00 PM	Lunch, Lodge #2481
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Hon. Paul D. Helsel, PGER Meeting with DDGERS / GER Bruce A. Hidley
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
3:00 PM - 4: 30 PM	Committee Meetings
6:00 PM - 8: 30 PM	Dinner – Presentations to GER Bruce A. Hidley (Coat & Tie)
7:30 PM - 11:30 PM	Entertainment in the Lounge, Lodge #2401
Sunday, March 26, 2023	
7:30 AM - 9: 30 AM	Breakfast Buffet, Lodge #2401
8:00 AM - 10: 00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Meeting Called to Order
9:00 AM - 9: 10 AM	Con-Con Committee, Robert Broom
9:10 AM - 9: 20 AM	State Officers' Reports
9:20 AM - 10: 50 AM	Unfinished Business, New Business, ELECTIONS , Trustee Budget
10:50 AM - 11: 00 AM	Good of the Association
11:00 AM - 11: 10 AM	Comments, Mary Cardinal-Vogt, GL Area 2 Public Relations & Membership Marketing / Sandy Brantner, GL Area 2 Fraternal Committee
11:10 AM - 11:20 AM	Comments, State President Elect, State President
11:20 AM - 11: 35 AM	Comments by GL Sponsor Paul D. Helsel
11:35 PM - 11: 50 PM	Comments by GER Bruce A. Hidley
11:50 PM - 12: 00 PM	Remembrance of Departed Members
12:00 PM	Adjournment / Prayer Chaplain Patti Stanley
12:05 PM	Raffles / Drawings
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Lunch, Lodge #2401
NEXT MEETING:	June 2 - 4, 2023 - State Convention in Oakland, Maryland



PRESIDENT-ELECT

RENEE' RIVITUSO

Waldorf Lodge #2421
240-508-8696 | ElkRivituso@gmail.com

Welcome to the Spring Workshop at Milford Lodge #2401. A special welcome to our First Lady Helen Hidley and Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley. We are lucky to have them visit us; take this wonderful opportunity to say hello. GER Hidley will depart our great association knowing all the Lodges in the MD, DE, & DC Elks Association are "Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm."

Most Lodges have elected new officers and are planning their installations. Thank you to those Lodges that have emailed me their list of officers for the 2023-2024 year. It was wonderful to see all the new and friendly faces at the recent Elks Leadership Training Clinics held at Washington-Rockville Lodge and Seaford Lodge. The outstanding attendance at both clinics shows that Elks want to succeed and grow their Lodges. Exalted Rulers, remember President Davidson's Motto, "Strength in Numbers," as you fill your committees. Appoint a minimum of 3 members to each committee, as it truly takes a village to run an Elks Lodge.

It's hard to believe it has been exactly one year since the elections at Frederick Lodge, time is flying by. I have attended the State Trustees, Elks Camp Barret Executive Committees, and Camp Representatives meetings in January and February. It's wonderful to return to five weeks of camp for the children. Waldorf Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot was impressive with over 50 shooters, and the bleachers were full of spectators. Unfortunately, the District Shoot was missed due to a bout of COVID. Thank you, DeWayne Wilcher, for another successful State Hoop Shoot at Oxon Hill High School. There was some fierce competition. The children amaze me with their shooting abilities. Lastly, preparing for the next State Association Year has kept me busy.

I'm happy to report that a fantastic group of Officers have been chosen, and all committees have been filled with enthusiastic chairpersons. A new motto has been selected and added to a lapel pin which is now in production. C. Sanders Emblems promises to have the lapel pins ready for distribution after the Installation of Officers at the WISP in June. Jeff and I look forward to greeting each one of you at the Spring Conference.

Grow with The Elks,

Renee Rivituso

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

STATE SPONSOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

simple as possible, take personalities and personal agendas out of the equation, and resolve the issue in a manner that is "best for the Lodge." Lodges have significant challenges to successfully conduct Elk business without the distractions of personalities, personal agendas, personal conduct, and doing things countercurrent to the rules and regulations. We all need to take heed and recognize that most of these situations/issues can be resolved by prompt and proper action, which should always start with serious discussion and only go to the Statutory processes when a resolution can't be reached through face-to-face conversation. Always consider what is best for your Lodge over the long haul and choose the simplest resolution.

Our Spring Conference is here, March 23-26, 2023, and welcome to Milford Lodge #2401. This Spring Conference is less than a week from the end of the 2002/2003 year, and you will learn what our accomplishments are expected to be for the year. Current statistics suggest this will be another great year of our Association and the majority of our Lodges.

Also, during this Spring Conference weekend, we are honored to host our Grand Exalted Ruler, Bruce A. Hidley, and his lovely wife, Helen. I know they look forward to seeing and visiting each of you over the weekend. They are truly a "down to earth" and enthusiastic couple you will enjoy visiting with. Please join Jane and me in welcoming and greeting them personally and explaining how your Lodge and our Association are "PROMOTING ELKDOM WITH ENTHUSIASM"!!!

At this Spring Conference, we will elect a Secretary, Treasurer, and President-Elect for the 2023/2024 Association year. This is an important annual process that ensures capable leadership is in place each Association year. Please be sure your Lodge has the proper and appropriate delegation present at the Conference to vote and help determine that the best-qualified Elks attain leadership positions in our Association.

Please plan on attending, vote for the officers up for election, meet Grand Exalted Ruler Hidley and First Lady Helen, participate in the activities planned,

learn, 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 2023/2024 year!!!

Thank you to all those Elks who have and are continuing 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 and continuing to get even better.

Best wishes to all attending our Milford Conference; hopefully, it will be an informative and fun-filled weekend for all. Best wishes as well to our 37 Lodges for a most prosperous and successful 2023/2024 Lodge year. Jane and I look forward to seeing you all in Milford.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Paul D. Helsel

Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor

Please join us for
PICKIN'-4-TROOPS



June 10, 2023
12 noon - 6:00 pm

All proceeds will benefit
Elks Welcome Home Program & Fischer House

\$25.00 DONATION GETS YOU PICKIN' AND FIXIN'S, DRAFT BEER, ICED TEA & LEMONADE

BLUE GRASS MUSIC BY C&O EXPRESS, CORN HOLE, RAFFLES AND LIVE AUCTION

If you are unable to attend, please consider a donation.

AT ELKS CAMP BARRETT
1001 CHESTERFIELD RD - CROWNSVILLE, MD 21401
HOSTED BY NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

RSVP: STU: (410) 608-4587 OR MARY: (716) 697-6412

OUR VETERAN'S AND THEIR FAMILY'S NEED YOUR HELP. Please support this wonderful event, "Pickin' 4 Troops" in support of Elks Welcome Home and Fisher House. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation. We are requesting Lodges to donate a raffle or auction item or basket. Trust me, there is a competition for the best. Let's make this year's event better than ever.

I hope to see you all there. It will be a Pig Pickin' Good Time. Stu Burgoon, PSP

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Apr 1** SE District Caucus & DD Clinic, Salisbury Lodge #817
- **April 1** CIP Grant Applications open
- **April 1** Deadline for State and Local Lodge Website Contest
- **April 8** West District Caucus & DD Clinic, Frederick, MD
- **April 9** Easter
- **April 15** North Central District Caucus & DD Clinic, Broadneck Lodge #2608
- **April 20-23** Hoop Shoot National Finals
- **April 21** Next Newsletter Deadline
- **April 22** SW District Caucus & DD Clinic, St. Mary's Lodge #2092
- **April 23** NE District Caucus & DD Clinic, Havre de Grace Lodge #1564
- **May 6** ECB Sneak Peek
- **May 14** Mother's Day
- **May 28** Camp Barrett Family Picnic
- **May 29** Memorial Day
- **June 2-4** MD-DE-DC Annual Convention in WISP, McHenry, MD (Oakland)
- **June 10** Pickin'4 Troops
- **June 14** Flag Day
- **June 18** Father's Day
- **July 2-5** National Convention, Minneapolis, MN
- **Sept 9** ECB Poker Run Fundraiser & Adult Camporee

ELKS CAMP
BARRETT

**SNEAK
PEEK**

**SATURDAY
MAY 6
11:00 AM**

Come for the Camp Representative's Meeting and stay for lunch and a Sneak Peek



E.C. the Bee happily invites all Exalted Rulers, Leading Knights, Lodge Officers and Camp Representatives to learn about ECB.

Start by joining us for the Camp Representative's Meeting at 11:00 AM, and then enjoy lunch while you learn about Summer Camp On-line Registration. Tour the campus, check out your Lodge's Cabin and enjoy time at camp. Stay and do a little work around the campus. Spread the word and bring with you Lodge members who have not seen the camp.

Sneak a peek at the Jewel that is The State Major Project of the MD, DE, DC Elks Association

<p>TOURING</p> <p>Tour the camp and see all we have to offer</p>	<p>REVIEWING</p> <p>One of our latest remodeling projects</p>	<p>INSPECTING</p> <p>Your Lodge's cabin for repairs</p>
<p>ENJOYING</p> <p>A camp lunch and fellowship with officers, representatives, and friends of Camp from all over our state association</p>	<p>LEARNING</p> <p>All about Camper registration for your Lodge</p>	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Your Lodge's participation in the Family Picnic</p>

Just so you know:
Prep for family picnic is May 20st—27th. Camp is open weekdays so your Lodge members can come and work on your cabin. Call ahead so we know you are coming.

U + ME @ ECB = A GR8 Place 2B!

**2023 Elks Camp Barrett
Annual Family Picnic**

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

Sunday, May 28, 2023 12 noon



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

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

Help
Support
Camp
Barrett



Elks Camp Barrett, 1001 Chesterfield Road, Annapolis, Maryland

Contact: Robert Raleigh 410-708-5098



ACCIDENT PREVENTION REPORT SPRING 2023

Mike Ford, NE State Chair Abington Lodge #2354
410-977-8230 | sprinklergod26@yahoo.com

"Gearing up for the New Elk Year"

Welcome to our 2023 Spring Conference in beautiful Milford, Delaware! This is the time of year when our State Association gets a chance to show our Grand Exalted Ruler all of the great things we do. That said, and I'm sure he would tell you too, with warmer weather approaching, it's time to clean up our Lodges and ensure everything is in working order.

Safety is always a top priority when working, cleaning, fixing, or replacing Lodge equipment. Here are some things to remember as we start the new Elk Year in April:

- Make sure our new Officers, House Committees, Trustees, and Board of Directors are familiar with Lodge insurance programs, Lodge Operating Procedures, and Maintenance Programs.
- Ensure all Officers read and sign our Sexual Harassment Rules and Regulations!
- As always, we need to reevaluate our insurance policies and make sure we update any new information on those policies, such as new kitchen equipment, furnaces, and air handler units. In other words, whatever is on your property and in your walls must be recorded.
- If any major work is to be done on your Lodge, you must use licensed and insured contractors. Make sure you note the warranty and for how long. Always keep records and files of all work for future reference.
- Any work with a price tag of \$25,000 or more needs to be reported to Grand Lodge prior to the start of said project.
- Always use the Buddy System when doing the light work around the Lodge, especially when ladders and overhead work are being performed.
- When you do hall rentals, be sure to have the renters provide supplementary insurance for their event. It is your Lodge's liability backup plan.
- Finally, which I know every Lodge does, make sure those Monthly Safety Reports are filled out in full and kept on file. Vigilance is Key!!!!

Again, if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for me, I'm open to suggestions. I can even stop by your Lodge to lend some advice on shoring things up to make your Lodge safer.

Welcome to Milford!



ELKS CAMP BARRETT 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, I want to thank you for your generosity.

The Improvement Fund is always in need of 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 28th, 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 a lot of interaction with other Elks and guests. I hope to see you there.



DEWAYNE WILCHER

Hoop Shoot State Chair
Camp Springs Lodge #2332
240-882-8785 | dewaynewilcher@yahoo.com

Hoop Shoot 2023 State Championship 26 Feb.

The 2022-2023 Local State Hoop Shoot occurred in Oxon Hill, MD, on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at Oxon Hill Senior HS. This festive event garnered many parents sharing that they were quite pleased with the event and hotel accommodations provided. The event ended with an awards ceremony at Camp Springs Lodge.

The winners of this year's MD, DE, DC State Hoop Shoot are:

Boys: 8-9: Joseph Stafford of Frostburg Lodge
10-11: Davis Balderston of Severna Park Lodge
12-13: Ayden Hickman of Waldorf Lodge

Girls: 8-9: Piper Lucas of Hagerstown Lodge
Reese Koropecy of Towson Lodge
Mia Scott of Cape Henlopen Lodge

The competitors in the State finals are all honor students demonstrating success in the classroom as well.

Twelve Lodges fielded competitions with over 130 volunteers and over 600 youth participating in this year's competition. Particularly noteworthy were the efforts of Hagerstown and Severna Park utilizing preliminary rounds throughout their community to boost participation and expand the Elks' brand.

The winners of the State championships will compete in the regional final against winners of NC, WV, and VA in Charlottesville, VA on March 11th. Best of luck to our finalists!

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ANGELA M. MEYER

Director of Operations Elks Camp Barrett
ecbsecretary@outlook.com | 410-224-2945 (camp)
410-739-5575 (cell)

We have often used the phrase, "Elks Camp Barrett means so much to so many." Sometimes we fail to notice how much ECB does for many diverse and essential groups. So, to our members who generously support and encourage the great works we do, and to those who volunteer time and finances to our State Major Project, we say Thank You.


It is time for the MD, DE, DC Elks Association members to stand with pride and pat yourselves on the back for all you have made possible at the camp over the many years. This year, as spring comes on, we are once again handling a full schedule of service to our communities and Elksdom. Our State Major Project continues to extend its reach into our communities more and more every year. Here is a glimpse of just a few of the highlights in store for this Spring and Summer. Please save the dates and plan to join us at the camp.

- May 20 Youth Recognition Day
- May 21 - 27 Elks Family Picnic prep week
- May 28 Elks Family Memorial Day Picnic
- June 4-10 Team River Runners Training for Wounded Warriors
- June 10 Picking 4 Troops
- June 12 - 18 Elks Summer Camp Prep Week
- June 18 - 23 Summer Camp Staff Training Week
- June 25-30 Summer Camp Boys Week #1
- July 5 - 8 CO-ED 3-night camp
- July 9 -14 Girls Week #1
- July 16 - 21 Boys Week #2
- July 23 - 28 Girls Week #2
- July 29 - Aug 5 Camp Sunrise

- August - 6 AACCS Band and Athletic Camp
- August 6 - 11 AA. CO. Camp with a Cop Day Camp
- August 20 - 31 Navy Sea Cadets Summer Training
- August 21-23 Nat'l Stream Restoration Conference
- August-23 Voices of Veterans Free Concert

All weekend scout troops use our grounds for camping, training, and service projects. Multiple Eagle scout projects are completed on campus and often supported by the local Lodges. We will host 600 to 900 scouts for the yearly Scout/Navy Camporee again this Fall. We have the Natural Leaders Program weekly classes, Best Buddies Training for developmentally challenged youth, and AA County Youth Soccer League.

We proudly host Anne Arundel County Police tactical team training, Chesapeake Search Dogs training and trials, and AA County and Secret Service K9 training. Gun Safety Training, United Methodist Church Women's ministry meetings, Family reunions, company and church picnics. We do all of this for free or at a reduced rate to our community.

EC the Bee, our camp mascot, is excited about our terrific and buzzy schedule this year. Come by and share in the fun. Help is always needed. 

Summer Camp Registration Packets are available at the Spring Conference and by contacting Angela Meyer, Director of Operations.

HELP NEEDED - ECB SUMMER CAMP NEEDS PAID/ VOLUNTEER STAFF

- Licensed Registered Nurses
- Camp Cooks and Kitchen help
- Counselors (must be 18 or older)
- Lifeguards certified in AA County

For information and salary offerings, call Angela Meyer at the camp at 410-224-2945.



North East VP James Biddison

Newark Lodge #2281 | Phone 760-583-8948
jrbiddison@gmail.com

Americanism is alive and well at the Chestertown Elks Lodge #2474 honoring First Responders in Kent County. Their team delivered baskets of goodies to the Queen Anne's Rescue Squad, Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company, and Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company. The Americanism Committee donated money to buy gifts and will be having a fundraiser to raise additional funds to prepare and provide baskets for all the Fire Departments in Kent County.

Just recently, Newark Lodge supported our local Bowlerama Youth League. They made a poster to hang during their tournaments promoting all the good things Elks can do for the community.

April 23rd I will be holding the VP Caucus during the DD Clinic for North East VP, State Trustee, and Camp Barrett Executive Board positions at Havre de Grace Lodge #1564.



Newark Lodge #2281 arranged haircuts for vets at the Community Living Center (CCL), Wilmington VA Hospital.

Photo right, the Lodge had a CLC Super Bowl/Pizza party with member Pat Clarke and Hospital recreation aide, Carol Allen.



Bottom photo: Also from Newark Lodge, congratulations Bobbie and Settamil "Tim" Perri who recently hit 7,500 volunteer hours at the Wilmington VA Medical Center.



Continued on page 8



John Opitz

Abingdon Lodge #2354
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Welcome, all, to the Spring Conference. Welcome, GER Hidley; we hope you enjoy your stay here with us. It is always a pleasure to spend some time with our friends and Elk Family we see just a few times per year.

As I write this in February, we are on track toward another successful membership year. We are recruiting new members and getting our delinquents back into the fold. Our delinquent percentage is about 7.3%, and nationally it is 6.7%, so we are falling behind here. We need better results, so let's keep working on those delinquents.

Here are some numbers to consider as of early February. We started the year with 19,679 members, and we currently have 21,032. Our delinquents are at 1,430; keep after them. We also have 420 candidates awaiting initiation. We need to move on these; let's not keep people waiting. Initiate, Initiate, Initiate!!!

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 1,968 new members this year. Here, just short of the end of the Lodge year, we have added 2,001. We have exceeded that goal. Let's keep our momentum going; with about six weeks left in the current year, we should be able to build on this number. My report at this conference will have up-to-date numbers.

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.

We have a valuable resource now available; visit www.Join.Elks.org. Prospective members can learn about our Order and apply online through this site. Another program available online is a photo opportunity. Get a group photo of the new members and email it to Rick Gathen (rickg@elks.org). He will send back a photo of the group digitally framed with a picture of our GER Bruce Hidley, giving them a warm welcome. This photo is printable, can be sent to each new member, and can be included in your Lodge communications.

I have made many references to Elks.org; all members can access this site, if it's your first visit, follow the instructions to register, and you'll be all set.

As we approach the end of the current Lodge year, let's get as many of our waiting candidates initiated as possible. I know it's impossible to get them all in, but if everyone makes an effort, we can get most of them. Initiation does not have to be part of a Lodge meeting; it can be held as a stand-alone 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 to our leaders in recruitment and initiations. Our current leaders are Cape Henlopen, Ocean City, Frederick, and Salisbury. I will report on who leads the pack when we meet. Many Lodges are also getting reinstatements and transfers, easy additions, and these folks are already Elks.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance. My contact information is in the directory.

John Opitz



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Lynn Evans

State Scholarship Chair | Kent Island #2576
(C) 410-598-1225 | lynnevans6303@gmail.com

The MVS Elks Scholarship Contest is in the final calculations. The National Finalists Application Judging will be held from March 9 -20. The announcement of winners will occur in late March.

Winners from Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia will be published in the state newsletter in June. There will be 15 National semi-finalists, as determined by ENF, who will receive \$1,000 per year for four years. There will be 15 state winners receiving between \$1,500 - \$3,000 as a one-time grant. Also, there will be two, one boy and one girl, from each district, who will receive a one-time \$1,500 grant.

The Elks Skilled Trade Scholarship deadline will be March 15, 2023. The application and more information may be downloaded from the state website. We offer ten scholarships to students seeking a career in Skilled Trades. The top boy and top girl will receive \$2,000 per year for two years, and the remaining winners will receive \$1,000 per year for two years if they continue their education.

NE LODGE NEWS CONTINUED

Newark Lodge #2281 Hoop Shoot Results: Sunday, February 26th was the State Level Hoop Shoot competition. Shown are some of Lodge contestants. While only 1st place winners advance to the regional contest, our players did extremely well. We are so proud of them!

Shown below: Ian Robinson-5th in 10-12 yr. boys, Julia Johnson-4th in 12-13 yr. girls, and Julian Hoffman-3rd for 12-13 yr. boys

Thank you to Lodge Hoop Chair Jason Johnson.



North East News submitted by Rich Mayes



Angela M. Meyer

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

The National Elks Drug Awareness Program and the MD, DE, DC Elks Drug Awareness Program made it possible for Ray Lozano, nationally renowned drug prevention speaker, to present to over 3,223 students from 5th – 12th grade, parents, adults, teachers, administration, community members and local Elks' members. Ray brought his knowledge and humor to the stage and educated the audience on the dangers of marijuana, vaping youth addiction, and its impact on our bodies, minds, and others during this 3-day event. There was a tremendous response from students and teachers after the event, with newspaper articles and TV spots.

"Ray Lozano presented at Southern High School on February 15th at 2 PM. As I observed his interaction on the stage, it amazed me that he could get 900 freshman and sophomore students excited and engaged with interactive questions and then, with just a whisper, get them to listen to the important information he was sharing. He did this with comedy and by sharing personal life experiences." said SW District DAP Chairperson Linda Buchannan.

Lozano's ability to interact with middle and high school youth is amazing. He brings an exciting attachment between speaker and audience with every age group and at every school he visited. His talents are not just visible in his dealings with the students. Ray presented two gatherings for parents and community members, and they were equally pleased with his ability to impart scientific knowledge, no matter the listener's age.



Angela Meyer, State drug Awareness Chair said, **"As always, Ray was exceptional. I have never been in his company when I didn't learn something new. But, as you are aware, his true talents are in his ability to capture and hold the attention of 989 plus middle school students in a gym for an hour and get his important message across to them"**.

Ray presented to a high school, an adult gathering in Anne Arundel County (Deale), and four middle schools in Queen Anne's County with 2,900 students total. He also presented to an adult gathering at Kent Island Elks Lodge. Ray said that they did a good job putting the Maryland tour together, and there was some excitement from the schools he had visited before COVID. The administration remembered him, and the Elks, and looked forward to the presentations.

These DAP speaker tours are open to any Elks Lodge willing to host. If you would like Ray or any of the great ELKS DAP speakers to come to your county schools, please get in touch with Angela Meyer, State DAP Chair, on how to reserve. The State DAP program may be able to help with some of the expenses.

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 14, 2023, in Jessup, MD, with 20 children competing! A BIG THANK YOU to Soccer advisor, PSP, Ron Lamont. He has been a great help in making this such a great success.

South West had 7 participants
South East had 4 participants
North Central had 3 participants
North East had 6 participants

Lodges that sent participants include Crisfield, Prince Georges, St. Mary's, Calvert, Deale, Chestertown, Laurel, and Severna Park. We had a total of 72 attendees at the event!

I want to thank the Local and District soccer chairs for taking the time to get involved this year and putting in all the hard work toward the Soccer Shoot this year. A special Thank you to all who came out to assist with registration, scoring, and shagging balls. NC District Soccer Chair, Kevin Rose, SW District Chair, Rob Schneider, NE District Chair, Allen Rust, Jackie Phillips, Linda Buchanan, Tammy and Steve Leith, Donna Curp, and Mary Villeneuve all made the trip to help at the State Shoot. You guys really stepped up and made it possible for the day to go smoothly.

We have 9 children from Chestertown, Prince George's, Crisfield, St. Mary's, and Calvert Lodges moving on to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Shoot on March 10-12 in York, PA. Wish them Luck!





ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Mary Underwood

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

Welcome, Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley, and members all to the March conference! At the time this report was written, we have a total of 33 Lodges that have met the Grand's goal of \$4.80 per member for ENF! That is an increase of 17 Lodges just since October. Thank you for submitting your donations. I'm hoping that by the time we meet, I can make the announcement that all Lodges have met the goal. As an Association, we are currently 12th in the nation, and Selbyville is currently 9th in the nation with a per-member rate of \$84.00!!! Way to go Selbyville!

Last year, I challenged the Districts to an "All District" competition. Currently, South East is sitting at first with an average of \$14.12 per member, and North East is not far behind at \$11.26 per member. The other Districts are working hard to come into first place. I'm sure the numbers will change by the end of March.

Speaking of the end of March, I would like to remind you to submit those donations for ENF before March 31, 2023. Any donations received after the 31st will be counted towards the 2023-2024 Lodge year. I will accept donations in March, but I highly recommend that you submit them directly from your Lodge, and you can always provide me with the amounts you have offered since we last met in October.

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 make sure that you have your ENF chairs signed up as the ENF chair on the elks.org website. Your Lodge receives Chair Challenge points; this is the best way 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.

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 awesome 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



CARRIE KANE State Chair Americanism

Easton Lodge #1622
443-225-8219 | carrie_kane@outlook.com



Friends and Fellow Elks,

I am starting to receive submissions for the essay and the poster contest, and I am very pleased! Our little ones have put much thought and work into their entries. Thank you to all of the district chairs for their help in advertising the contests and getting the materials out to their Lodges.

This year, Angela Meyer and I will be hosting a joint awards ceremony in conjunction with Drug Awareness. The banquet will be held on April 30, 2023, at Glen Burnie Lodge - more details are to follow.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Milford.

Fraternally,

Carrie Kane, State Chair



**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS
SERVICE COMMISSION
& ARMY OF HOPE**

Louis B. Schmeltzer, Jr.

Annapolis Lodge #622 | 410-627-5179 louschmeltzer@gmail.com

The Army of Hope has been very active in assisting veterans suffering setbacks. Since mid-December of last year to the time of this report, we have helped Veterans to the tune of \$20,352.00. We have given many folks some peace of mind in return for their sacrifices to keep us safe.

Please remember this important committee when you prepare your budgets for the upcoming Lodge year. As you may or may not know, the Army of Hope is supported solely by donations from the Lodges.

The E.N.V.S.C. is still being limited in lifting the spirits of our Veterans in the VA hospitals and the USO facilities. The lingering effects of the Covid virus continue to restrict the volunteers' access to the facilities. Charlotte Hall is furthest along in the effort to re-open. The dedicated Elk representatives continue to do what they can in the form of gifts, toiletries, gift cards, microwavable snacks, a barber, games & puzzles, etc.

I will have a more detailed report for you in Milford in person.

Lou Schmeltzer





South West District VP

LINDA KILPATRICK

Deale Lodge #2528 | Cell: 443-871-3314
coachkil@yahoo.com

Well, it's hard to believe that the end of another Elks year is here. Having finished my visits to the South West Lodges, I see why our motto is "South West Flies." It is so fitting!

Our Lodges are doing great things. I was very impressed to see that Grants are a high priority and are being used for good things. The fundraisers and activities are so impressive; Purse Bingo, Dueling Pianos, Trunk or Treat, Trivia Nights, Crab Feast, Oyster Roast, Shrimp Feast, Karaoke Nights, Naughty Bingo, Pickle Ball Tournaments, I could go on and on.

The Soccer Shoot was done, our District Hoop Shoot was completed in February, and both were very successful. Most of all, the things that our Lodges are doing to help veterans and people of our communities are remarkable. Our Charity, Justice and Brotherly Love motto is evident in South West Lodges.

Thank you all for your hospitality and warm welcomes.

SOUTHWEST FLIES!

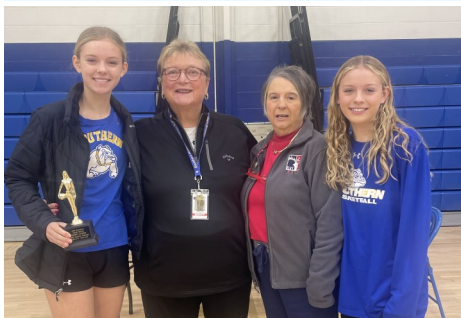


Photo left:
Hoop Shoot winners from Southern High School with Linda Kilpatrick and Mary Cardinal Vogt in the center .

Camp Springs Elks Lodge #2332 Donated to Benjamin Stoddert Middle School

By DeWayne Wilcher

As an Elk, seeing your charity acknowledged and used in the community's best interest is always great. The Camp Springs Elks Lodge donated \$400 to Benjamin Stoddert Middle School of Marlow Heights, MD, to support the need for additional student uniforms. Stoddert is a Title I school where many students are below or near the poverty line.

Stoddert's staff and faculty face many challenges, and the donation is working to improve at least one. Friday, 17 February, was an extremely rainy day, and students within a two-mile radius did not have a bus provided to attend school; therefore, most walked. That morning, the staff supported the students by trading wet clothing for dry ones on sight. With the challenging weather, the boys had no more spare dry pants. When DeWayne Wilcher presented the check on behalf of the Lodge, the principal, and Title 1 coordinator were ecstatic and shared that this

couldn't have come at a better time.

Upon further discussion with Principal Tisa Morgan and Title 1 coordinator Monica Miller, we are looking for additional ways we can support the school with our endeavors. Specifically, we will work with several families participating in the Camp Barrett Picnic and the Elks Camp Barrett Summer Camp.



Above: Pictured above: Principal Morgan on left and Monica Miller on right with Camp Springs Trustee DeWayne Wilcher in the middle.



Above: **Calvert Lodge #2620** presented a check to the representatives of the Calvert County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Memorial Fund. These funds were raised from our Golf Tournament! Many thanks to our Leading Knight, Ronald "Moe" Mattera, (center) for all your hard work on this event! Well done!



Members of the Youth Center with Mary Cardinal Vogt, PSP on the right



South East District VP

Rick Frere

Kent Island Lodge #2576
Phone: 301-580-0739 | rfrere@gmail.com

Greetings, fellow Elks from the South East district of the Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia Association. With my recent visit to the Ocean City Lodge #2645, I have now completed my visits to the ten Lodges of our district, and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of our Lodges.

While our ten Lodges include four of the six largest in the association, we also have two of the five smallest. Yet, as I have found in my travels, each is a warm and welcoming

place, held together by a core group of ten to twenty volunteers and the elected Officers. To that end, every leader of a Lodge should find a way to thank their volunteers for doing what they can to keep their Lodge active, inviting, and open.

As we transition into a new Lodge year, I want to personally thank every outgoing Officer for their service to our Order. No matter the length of time you served, your efforts helped to continue our great and noble traditions.

To our incoming Officer corps, please remember that the resources of the State Association are here to help you succeed. Together, we can accomplish great things.

Fraternally,

Rick Frere

Crisfield Lodge #1044 By Jan Mekovsky, Lodge Secretary

In the photo below, Exalted Ruler Chris Owens, Lodge Secretary & ENF Chair Jan Mekovsky, and Treasurer Mariah Price presented the executive director of Somerset Community Services, Inc.. Sandy Adkins with the ENF Beacon Grant.



Somerset Community Services operates 30 group homes in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties for clients with developmental disabilities. They were established in July 1970. These homes face the same problems we all have, rising utility costs, quarantines, rising food prices, and medical costs.

The mission of Somerset Community Services, Inc. is to provide individually tailored quality support. They act to empower the participant to make informed choices, foster personal growth, and become a productive member of their community. The goal is that people with developmental disabilities would

have a full, meaningful life that includes community inclusion and customized employment.

Cape Henlopen Lodge #2540 By Cindy Butler, Publicity

It is with great pride Cape Henlopen Elks recreated some of the magic of Christmas at its Polar Express Extravaganza. With the efforts of approximately 35 hard-working volunteers, this event was possible. Regardless of the hundreds of hours spent behind-the-scenes planning and preparing it was a heartwarming experience for all. It was gratifying to see the smiles and hear the laughter of the young "passengers."



Photo above: After getting their train tickets punched by Conductor Marty Schreck, the 'passengers' pose in front of the stunning canvas train painting created by Elk Tony Esposito's wife, Marcia. The 'passengers' in the middle are (left to right, Cameron Kennedy, Wyatt Wilkinson, Lincoln Wilkinson, Flora Esposito, and Amelia Kennedy. On the far right is Elf Terrie Bradley.

Continued on page 13



West District VP Barrett F. Fitzwater

Oakland Lodge #2481 | Cell: 304-839-3512
zaters@hotmail.com

Welcome to Milford for our Spring Conference as we host our Grand Exalted Ruler, Bruce Hidley, and the First Lady, Helen, our sponsor PGER Paul Hesel, and our First Lady, Jane.

The west has done well in membership, ENF, community activities, and support! Currently, the district stands at 284 delinquents, but I am sure that will change by the end of this Lodge year!

Oakland had a successful Cash Bash, Frostburg has done outstanding things in their community, with their ER being recognized in their community, Hagerstown continues to excel in veterans' services, Frederick excels in membership growth,

and another successful January drawing and Westminster continues to serve their community. 4 of 5 Lodges have met the GER goal. A total of \$43,500.00 in grants this year to the West District Lodges have been presented to various community organizations and projects.

Elldom is strong in the West and continues to grow at a fantastic speed! As membership is our lifeblood, we are doing what we can to keep it growing!

As our Lodge year comes to an end, I thank the West District Lodges, who once again have shown that the "West is the Best" and promoting our Grand Exalted Ruler's motto, "Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm."

Enjoy the conference this weekend, and I look forward to seeing everyone! God Bless our troops, and God Bless America!

Barrett Fitzwater

SE DISTRICT'S CAPE HENLOPEN CONTINUED

For the Stockley Center, the Lodge erected a special "Angel Tree" where members could identify and purchase specific and much-needed holiday gifts for the residents. The Stockley Center in Georgetown, DE, is a Medicaid-certified care facility for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We were later thrilled to have a personal visit by Stockley resident Marlene Floyd and staff to personally thank us for our contribution, in an effort to enhance the relationship between the members of both organizations.

They presented us with gifts of appreciation, in particular, a photo collage of the Elks' visit last December.



Pictured above: Elks Exalted Ruler Joanne Mayer, Elks Kathy Gillen, and Barb Gilsenan; Stockley resident Marlene Floyd, activity Aide Genese Reed, Activity Therapist Laurie Howell, Therapist Leanne Mireider and Elk Loyal Knight Buddy Hall-McBride.

Cape Henlopen Elks Lodge #2540 held its annual basketball Hoop Shoot on January 15 at the Sussex Family YMCA in Rehoboth Beach. The event was for children ages 8 through 13. Each participant was given prizes, with winners advancing to the

district, state, and regional competitions. The district competition was held on Feb 5, at the same location, followed by a luncheon for the winners and runners-up at the Lewes Lodge. These winners will move on to participate in the state-level competition in Oxon Hill, MD, which comprises Maryland Delaware, and the District of Columbia.



Shown above with their trophies in the back are Mia Scott, 12-13 year old winner; Ben Hill, 12-13 year old winner; Raelynn Irellan, 8-9 year old second place; Mascot Elroy Elk; Kate Bradshaw, 8-9 year old first place; Ellie Wells, 12-13 year old second place; and Chance Megee, 12-13 year old second place. In front are Marcus Blake Jr., 10-11 year old second place, and Karver Henson, 10-11 year old first place.

By Dan Cook (Cape Gazette)

This past quarter, our Veterans Committee gave \$1,000 to Stockings for Soldiers to send "stuffed" holiday stockings to our troops worldwide.

We also gave \$1,000 to Home of the Brave in the form of various gift cards to help with gas purchases for work and other needs. Currently, 16 men and two women reside at this facility that provides shelter, food, and safety to homeless veterans. Also sold 109 wreaths for Wreaths Across America.



North Central VP

Mary Underwood

Laurel Lodge #2283 | Phone 301-399-5857
maryhuj1223@gmail.com

Greetings from North Central! Welcome, Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley and First Lady Helen, to the Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia State Association.

At the time of this writing, I'm sure your Lodges are gearing toward nominations and elections for the upcoming Lodge year. Good luck to all, and thank you to the current officers for your assistance and wonderful hospitality. I have enjoyed visiting our Lodges, meeting up with old friends, and meeting new ones. The stories, events, and happenings shared were entertaining and full of enthusiasm!

This is a reminder to all officers (outgoing and incoming) of the upcoming District Deputy Clinic hosted by our DD, Ken Chapman. The Clinic is scheduled for April 15 at Broadneck Lodge and is a must-attend for all Exalted Rulers, Secretaries, Leading Knights, and Board of Directors Chairpersons. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. There is much invaluable information that you don't want to miss. I will be holding the VP Caucus during the DD Clinic for North Central Vice President, State Trustee, and Camp Barrett Executive Board positions.

Lots of great things have occurred over the past few months. Broadneck ER, Jolinda Murray and her team visited Laurel Lodge and acquired the Traveling Gavel. I hear some other Lodges are scheming and planning their move on coming to Broadneck to continue the fun of keeping the gavel moving along. The gavel was at Laurel for quite some time, and some of us thought it had adhered itself to our

mantel.

Towson Lodge recently held a fundraiser for Veterans with their Wine and Dine event. They had more than 300 guests support this great initiative.

Several Lodges hosted Valentine's Dinners and held fundraising events, including bands, dances, and fabulous monthly breakfasts. If you haven't stopped by Bowie, Broadneck, or Glen Burnie for their monthly breakfast, you are missing out. Check out the North Central District Facebook page for upcoming dates for upcoming events.

Annapolis hosted a "Steel Drum" event, among a few other gatherings.

Essex has extended/upgraded their delicious menu, and the food is great! They also have scheduled some bingo luncheons.

Severna Park recently held a Gala event and has scheduled breakfasts and regular karaoke nights.

State President "Junior" and I completed our visits to our Lodges, and we would like to remind everyone of his motto: Strength in Numbers. We still have a few days left to get those candidates in, follow up with delinquent members, and continue to support Camp Barrett. Some Lodges have actually seen an increase in membership and have been able to get their delinquent percentages decreased over these past few months. Please continue to bring in those members, retain them and get your members involved.

Thank you to all for a wonderful year, and I look forward to seeing how we finish out this Lodge year.

Fraternally yours,

Mary Underwood



TOWSON LODGE #469 NEWS

In December, Towson Elks held their memorial ceremony, remembering our members who passed away in 2022.

Pictured above: Secretary Steve Gabis, Chaplain Valarie Spangler, Lecturing Knight Andrew Rowan, ER Stacey Peto, Loyal



Knight Matt Hall, member Jim Bullington, PER Ron Zepp.

The service was well attended, and roses were handed to the families. ER Stacey Peto conducted the memorial service.

Towson Elks also held their annual adult Christmas dinner. Members and their spouses donated cash and gift cards totaling \$1,375 that went to The Little Sisters of The Poor. Hats off to

our trustees and to our phenomenal kitchen staff, led by members Bob Stambaugh and Vince Pullara, for putting this fine holiday event together.

Photo Above: Elks Trustee Mark Merrick and wife, Carla

Submitted by James Burlington, PR Chair



TRAINING

RENEE' RIVITUSO, PDD

Elks Training Chair
 Waldorf #2421 | 240-508-8636
 ElkRRivituso@gmail.com

Congratulations to all incoming Lodge officers. Your Elks Training Committee is here to assist you in making the 2023-2024 Lodge year successful. Hopefully, you had the opportunity to take advantage of one of the recent Leadership Training Clinics. Exalted Ruler Elect, your first step in having a successful year is appointing your committees. Knights must assist you in the duties of the Lodge. Knights can be tasked to oversee and/or be committee leaders. Each committee should have a minimum of 3 members (remember President Davidson, Jr's motto, "Strength in Numbers"). It takes a village to run a successful Lodge. Never turn down a member offering to volunteer.

Officers and volunteers should meet to plan out the Lodge year now. Decide on activities to be held during the year and

enter them in the Lodge calendar. There are some mandatory events you must have as an Elks Lodge, for example, Flag Day and the Elk's Memorial Service, to name just two. Be sure to inform the membership about planned events well in advance. An organized and well-planned year will ensure your Lodge's success.

On another note, there is an ongoing Training Contest that will bring awareness to your Lodge and your district. The deadline is March 31, 2023, to log into Elks.Org and take any of the four training courses offered. Each completed course will earn 2 points towards the contest. (Log into Elks.Org, hover over "Members Only" and click on Manuals, then on training).

We wish your Lodge a harmonious year. Our committee looks forward to working with your Lodge leadership team. At any time, feel free to reach out to your District Chairperson or me.

Grow with the Elks,

Renee'



FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Bill Buttrill, PGLC, Seaford Lodge #2458

Past State President Bill Spurgin (2000-2001) from Towson Lodge #469 was a salesman of office and computer equipment in the Baltimore, Towson area. He made a very good

living from his talents as a salesman. Part of his skill set was being able to show the client the features and benefits of the product he wanted to sell. During his tenure as State President he took his talents and applied them to the product he was currently "selling" - Elkdom. Herewith is his compilation of the Features and Benefits of Elkdom.

FEATURE	BENEFIT
LODGE ACTIVITIES	Gets the Elk parents involved with their children in classroom activities: Essay Contest and Poster Contests
INTER-LODGE ACTIVITIES	Elk families do many creative and fun things together. I.e., Softball, Horseshoes, Pool, Darts, and Card Games
VETERANS PROGRAMS	Elks adopts and befriends all the veterans in VA Hospitals by remembering those who cared for us in all our wars. Now we will not forget them. Our motto is, "So long as a veteran is in the VA Hospital, there will be an Elk to care for them."
HOOP SHOOT SOCCER SHOOT	Working with and teaching all non-Elks and Elks members' children teaches a sense of fair play and having fun together. The Hoop Shoots involve more than 3 million children.
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION	This temple of philanthropy supplies most of the dollars necessary to support most of our Elks programs
SCHOLARSHIP ACADEMIC & VOCATIONAL	Elks give more scholarship money to children than the federal government, thus allowing more children to attend the college of their choice or attend a vocational or trade school to pursue a trade of their choice.
ELKS CAMP BARRETT	Free to all children ages 9-13 is supported by all Elks Lodges, providing opportunities to develop worthwhile personal and hygienic habits. Also develops an awareness of one's self and fosters healthy attitudes through working, living and playing with others.
DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM	Teaches all kids just to "say no" from early elementary grades through high school - remember, the elks gave more drug awareness literature to our children than any other drug program except the US government.
THE ELKS ORGANIZATION	Since 1868 we have been serving our communities, our state, and our country. We believe in helping others, but we also believe in having fun. We often manage to combine the two. Some of our Lodges feature swimming pools, golf courses, playrooms, and ballrooms. Most have dining facilities. All offer family entertainment. We enjoy doing the good work we do and the people we do it with; our families and friends.
	NOW CLOSE THE SALE



STATE WEB MASTER & PUBLIC RELATIONS JOE MCGEENEY, PDD

Essex Lodge #1866 MDDEDCElks@gmail.com | 443-610-0935



WEBSITE:

The Internet of today is a necessary information-gathering encyclopaedia section that is virtually endless.

Make sure your Lodge has a website featuring "Your Lodge" so members and the public may see what your Lodge is doing to help your surrounding communities. Keep the information current and updated regularly. The Grand Lodge has a VHP (Virtual Home Page) that helps, but a Local Website for your Lodge and posting to social media (Facebook & Instagram, etc.) is also important. The Website, along with social media are vital links to your community and work together to help spread the word about your Lodge and Members. If any Lodge needs help in maintaining and constructing a Website, please get in touch with me, and I will help in any way I can to guide your Lodge onto the WEB presence.

Millions and billions of pages, documents, books, manuals, videos, etc., are downloaded & uploaded every day. These documents, books, manuals, pictures, and videos are readily available through "Click & Order" (replacing the old brick & mortar stores).

Millions of people (including thousands of Elk Members) are accessing the internet as a way of life to communicate and submit reports, manuals, documents, pics & videos, etc... and they are very easily shared. Many of these can be found on our State Website: www.MDDEDCElks.org. Click on the Main Menu (located on the left of every page). For Committees, scroll down to the Drop-Down Menu on the Home Page, and click on the Committee of choice button.

Our State Association website has recently been revised to make surfing more straightforward and user-friendly, including drop-down menus & other features. Check it out, and remember, each Pic & Graphic is hyperlinked to another Elks-related Website or Social Media app. Our GL & State has a Facebook page & Instagram account, which allows for real-time information and pictures from our Lodges.

MEMBERSHIP MARKETING NOTICE:

By the time this Newsletter is released, we are only eight days from March 31st—whereas time still allows for an hour (actually less than) for a Lodge Initiation to be completed for those last-minute candidates waiting!! INITIATE, INITIATE, INITIATE NOW!!!

Grand Lodge Statutes (15.070 - Paragraph 2) allows for a "Special Meeting may be called by the Exalted Ruler upon three days notice to all members of the Lodge. The notice shall state the special business to be considered", like initiating candidates. No other business shall be considered or transacted. The notice can be sent via email or placed on the bulletin board. Since there is no voting or other business, the Exalted Ruler has the authority to call the Special Meeting.

So, let's go ERs, schedule an evening for an hour, and get those candidates initiated. If you are attending the State Spring Conference, ER calls for the "Special Meeting"; however, you can have a PER conduct the Special Meeting for Initiation while you are away.

Joe McGeeney, PDD

STATE WEBSITES:

- <https://www.mddedcelks.org>
- <http://www.elkscampbarrett.org>
- <https://www.elkshelpingvets.com>

GRAND LODGE WEBSITES:

- <https://www.elks.org/> & <http://join.elks.org>
- <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org> & <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/social-shareables>



State Hoop Shoot winners pose with Elroy, State President, Marion "Jr." Davidson, and Hoop Shoot Chairperson, DeWayne Wilcher

