

## The State President's Message

2018-2019

Members of the MD-DE-DC Elks State Association, I am humbled and honored. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me to serve as your President to lead this great Association for the year 2018-2019. This honor, privilege and wonderful opportunity are not taken lightly. Carl and I both look forward to representing our Association with honor and dignity in all we do. As Elks, we have many challenges to maintain our lodges, increase our membership, involve the community, and continue the cardinal principle of our order, Charity. Thus, moving forward into our 151st year as Elks, this year I have chosen for my motto **“STEPPING FORWARD TOGETHER”**. I chose this since our efforts to increase membership are dependent upon the outreach into our communities, bringing them our programs and creating the publicity and awareness of all the great things we do as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. We need to serve and continue to be leaders of our communities.

We can do this by supporting and implementing all four Grand Lodge and Regional Programs: Americanism, Drug Awareness, Hoop Shoot, Public Relations, Scholarship, Soccer Shoot, Scouting, Youth and Veterans Service. I am asking all lodges to step forward and take a more active role in these programs, as well as our State Major Project, Elks Camp Barrett. The youth are OUR FUTURE. Step out in the community and find some deserving 9-13 year old that would enjoy experiencing a week of group living in outdoor surroundings, recreational oriented activities that emphasize physical, mental, social and emotional growth. Your lodge can be the sponsor of that worthy child or one that would not otherwise have such an opportunity for a camping experience. Also remember to continue your donations to the Jernick Memorial Fund; this is a fund of our State Association that your lodge may request a grant to help your lodge assist a child with special medical needs and equipment. Your generosity to “The Elks National Foundation”, the great heart of Elkdom, makes many of our programs possible, and we look forward to your continued support. As Elks, we all need to be **“STEPPING FORWARD TOGETHER”** to make the next 150 years as amazing as the last, and with that in mind, I am truly looking forward to serving you and our State Association this year. Be proud that you are an Elk, enjoy your participation and friendship in all you do, and bring smiles, laughter and enthusiasm to our Association.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Mary E. Cardinal-Vogt

State President