



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



## Don't be shy to publicize charitable efforts

The Lodge year is now more than half over, so it is a good time to review budget and financial matters. Budgets and financial practices can be revised at any time to reflect changes in circumstances. I want each Lodge to make every effort to maintain a sound financial footing in order to be able to sustain itself for years to come. We owe that to our Members and to our communities.

As a matter of fact, the Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee is required under our Statutes to conduct a review and make a report to the Lodge concerning its financial condition. Its purpose is to generate discussion as to how to plan for a Lodge's future, and should be taken seriously.

I urge you to make sure your charitable efforts are being properly recorded and reported. For too long



**Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler**

**ROBERT L. DUITSMAN**

there has been a philosophy in many quarters that Elks do good works but don't need the recognition. Well, we do. People take note of the charitable work fraternal organizations do. The Elks have long been recognized as a leader in charitable and benevolent efforts, but in order to keep that standing we need to document the time and treasure we are contributing. It is estimated that only a quarter to a third of reportable donations and time spent are

actually reported. It does a disservice to Elkdom to not provide the best information to allow us to promote our brand.

Recognition of those who are at the forefront of civic life is always something to consider. Special events and award ceremonies are wonderful ways to recognize first responders, elected leaders, and others who would likely welcome a pat on the back. Such events are also good ways to introduce our Lodges to the community, and generate interest in others to become Members.

Remember that October is now Red Ribbon Month, during which activities are held to promote the fight against drug abuse. It is a great opportunity for our Lodges to promote our commitment

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## Help is available

Needy Elks Members can qualify for up to \$1,000 of assistance from the Order under Section 5.070 of the Grand Lodge Statutes.

The assistance would be available to "worthy and needy Members of the Order who are suffering from diseases of an

**GRAND SECRETARY**

Bryan R. Klatt

incurable character or from total disability, and who are without funds or property or relatives able or

willing to care for them," the Statute states. The Statute also provides that the Lodge of the assisted Member "shall contribute toward the relief of the Member an amount not less than one-half of the sum that is contributed by the Order."

The assistance program is administered by the Board of Grand Trustees, which is authorized to appropriate up to \$10,000 annually for the program. The board by resolution may give the Grand Exalted Ruler up to \$1,000 so that authorized payments may be made regularly by him.

"The monies so appropriated shall be administered by the Grand Exalted Ruler with the consent of a majority of the Board of Grand Trustees," the Statute states.

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

## Get involved in Red Ribbon Month

By FRANK SCARPINO  
Special Contributor

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. However, this year the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has extended Red Ribbon Week to Red Ribbon Month.

Kent Gade, National Director of the Elks National Drug Awareness Program, as well as Assistant Directors Frank Burr and Bill Bryan, will travel to DEA headquarters in Washington, DC (along with Elroy) to help kick off the DEA's official recognition of the Red Ribbon celebration.

Several state DEA offices are also planning activities throughout the month. Contact them and offer Elks involvement.

The murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985 triggered a national outcry against the drug cartels that is still heard today. He was kidnapped, tortured, and killed while successfully

investigating one of the largest drug trafficking organizations in Mexico. Groups like the national Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks have kept Camarena's fight going strong by initiating the Red Ribbon campaign in schools and through the DAP, which strives to teach children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevent the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs.

It's the largest volunteer drug awareness program in the United States and the program relies on state, district, and

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## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# It's possible to both honor history and pass the torch

By **DANIEL J. CAPELLA**  
Committee Member

As many of us grow older, and as our minds create more and more memories, we find great pleasure in reminiscing to anyone within earshot.

Truth be told, many Elks like to play "Once upon a time," where we begin to tell our captive audience about how things used to be when we first joined our beloved Order. Sometimes, those who listen are shocked because they really believe we are older than dirt and shouldn't be able to remember anything, or they become confused because they can't fully comprehend what we are talking about.

This often happens when we tell our new Members about the Ritual and the many changes that have occurred over the years. Recently initiated Members typically ask questions such as, "Officers had to memorize what?" "Why?" "What is Thanatopsis?" (This might be a good one to look up) That same look of disbelief also occurs when they see pictures of Elks from decades ago when men always wore suits and ties and women wore long dresses to our official Elks functions and

social affairs, or even pictures from a short time ago in which there are no females in the Lodge officer portraits simply because there were no female Members.

Today's Elkdom is different than the Elkdom of years past, and there's an ongoing difference of opinion regarding whether today is the best of times or the worst. This is a debate that can't be won simply because there is merit on both sides, which means we need to find a common ground somewhere between yesterday and today. It is essential that we blend our traditions and customs with a more enlightened manner or forward-looking system of operation that appeals to our entire membership.

Undoubtedly, the past is deserving of respect. Our organization would not be in existence today if not for the "Jolly Corks" and the other architects who established our framework, beliefs, and sense of direction and dedication since the very beginning. Although we sometimes question those who represent the "this is the way we have always done it" group, we must certainly respect their time, work, and perseverance. Their efforts have kept

many Lodges afloat.

However, we must also realize that today's America has changed tremendously since 1868. Heck, it has changed greatly in the last thirty years. It is therefore necessary to accept that the education, ideas, technological abilities, understanding of media, and commitment of our younger Elks are valuable assets that should be tapped for the good and continuation of our Lodges.

Many of today's new Members have much to contribute, but this will not occur if they are not given the chance to participate and assume responsibility. When ignored, many individuals just give up and drop out. Consequently, common sense dictates that we should prepare our new Members for the future through the process of inclusion, not exclusion. Bringing them into our programs and operations and giving their suggestions a try is necessary. After all, like it or not, the reins of control will eventually be inherited by others. It's better to pass the torch to those with whom we have worked, mentored, encouraged, and made connections.

## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# All American contest scores Lodges' activities

By **ROBERT R. HINKLE**  
Committee Member

What do Elks do? How can my Lodge have a successful year? My Lodge does so much for the community, but it too often goes unrecognized. What can be done about this?

To answer these questions, participate in Contest 'A' — All American Lodge. The contest presents a concise guideline and a quick tabulation of what Elks do. Best of all, the application is only one page long.

The winner of the contest is determined by a score that counts participation in 40 activities. Each activity has a designated value between 5 and 100 points.

Does your Lodge participate in the Elks National Foundation, Hoop Shoot, Elks Memorial Day, the Americanism Contest, scholarships, veterans programs, Drug Awareness activities, CIP grants, or Flag Day, just to list a few? If so, your Lodge is already competitive. Enter the contest!

The contest groups Lodges into six membership divisions and recognizes first, second, and third place winners in each division. Award recipients are

announced annually at the Grand Lodge Convention. Many State Associations provide award recognition at the state level, and all Lodges that participate are winners because they collectively contribute to the success of the Order.

The contest is best approached as a year-long process rather than a year-end "form" to be completed. Letters are sent in July and August to each Exalted Ruler, District Deputy, and State Association Lodge Activities Chair introducing them to the contest and explaining the roles that they perform. Exalted Rulers and Lodge Secretaries must sign the completed application form and send it to their District Deputy postmarked no later than March 15, 2020. District Deputies score their district's entries and forward the six divisional winners to the State Lodge Activities Chair, who forwards the top three state winners in each membership division for national competition.

The All American Lodge Contest is designed to measure what Elks do. If your Lodge participates in the programs and activities listed on the application, it will have a successful year and it will be successful year after year, after year.

Your community will recognize your efforts. Your Lodge will have a steady and lasting positive impact in our area of the world.

**Every Lodge that enters the All American Lodge Contest is a winner!**

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to combating the scourge of illicit drug abuse.

The Great Heart of Elkdom, the Elks National Foundation, deserves the support of every Member. It is a tremendous vehicle that provides funding for so many programs of the Order, including Hoop Shoot, scholarships, grant programs, and other important undertakings. Some may not be aware, but there is a way for every Member to support the ENF in a fairly painless way: the ENF Fidelity Club. Through it, you can sign up at [elks.org](http://elks.org) to make automatic recurring donations of as little as \$5 per month, or \$15 per quarter. All of those donations, great or small, will add up to make the ENF even stronger and more capable for the years to come.

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# Soccer Shoot goes national with new tech initiative

By **WAYNE D. COTTERLY**  
Committee Member

The Activities Committee is pleased to announce plans to bring the Soccer Shoot program back to the national level through what is called the Elks “Virtual” National Soccer Shoot Competition.

This year, we will use the winning scores from the state contests to determine national champions in each of the age and gender groups. State contest directors are requested to submit a state contest report form upon completion of their event and submit it to the Soccer Shoot coordinator listed on the form. Copies of the form are in fillable PDF format and are available on the Activities Committee page of [elks.org](http://elks.org).

There are no changes to the contest at the Lodge or District levels. The only request is that the state contest winners shoot three 5-shot tiebreakers, regardless if they are needed in that contest. If the contestant needs to shoot tiebreakers in the state contest to break a tie locally, then please use those scores, adding only

additional 5-shot tiebreakers as needed to complete the three requested. This will help reduce the chance of a tie in the national competition. If there is still a tie; we will declare the winners as national co-champions.

Many states across the country are not currently affiliated with a Soccer Shoot region, so we encourage them to either form a new region with bordering states or to join an existing region. This is important, as the program moves toward using only regional scores starting in the 2021-2022 Fraternal Year. A map of the current Soccer Shoot regions has been posted on the Activities Committee page of [elks.org](http://elks.org) to assist with the formation process.

If states wish to form a region, change regions, or join an existing region, the state contest director is required to complete the “Region Change Form” currently available on the committee’s page of [elks.org](http://elks.org). This is necessary so that the map of Soccer Shoot regions can be kept up to date. A minimum of two states are required to form a region,

and all states involved must submit the form agreeing to its formation.

The competition runs from April 1 to March 31, and the deadline for submitting State Contest Reports for this year’s competition will be March 31, 2020. The National Champions will be announced and will be recognized starting in April 2020.

The Elks Soccer Shoot program is an excellent way for the Lodges to become visible in their communities. It is a great time to talk with parents about the many youth programs that our Order has to offer. By talking with them about our programs and the Order, we can help to increase participation and to potentially pique their interest in joining us in the work we do.

For more information on Elks Soccer Shoot, visit the Activities Committee page of [elks.org](http://elks.org). If you have any questions, please contact the Committee’s Soccer Shoot Coordinator, Wayne Cotterly, or your area representative of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee.

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Lodge volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle. By taking pride in America’s communities and youth, the Elks program takes action against youth drug use through education and inspiration.

Lodges are encouraged to hold activities throughout the month. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free lifestyle and pay tribute to Camarena.

The Elks are proud to be a part of such an important tradition. October is here so put a plan together to celebrate Red Ribbon Month. It would be a great time to plan a Red Ribbon activity in conjunction with Halloween. There are a lot of ways to celebrate Red Ribbon Month and every part of your community can get involved. Here are some ideas:

- Contact your elected officials about issuing a proclamation to declare October Red Ribbon Month in your community.
- Distribute red ribbons to schools in your community. Take Elroy along—the kids really love to start their day with a hug from Elroy.
- Encourage Lodge Members, friends, and family to wear red ribbons.
- Sponsor a Red Ribbon activity (e.g., fun run, bike-a-thon).
- Start the Elks DAP poster and essay

## GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING

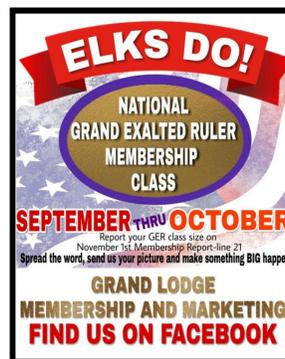
# Membership Class reports due

By **RICK GATHEN**  
PR and Membership Marketing Manager

GER Membership Class nationwide is **September and October**. Report your GER class size on November 1st Membership Report-line 21.

Spread the word, post your pictures and make something BIG happen! We have 11,200 candidates waiting to be initiated. All participating Lodges receive a GER Award Certificate.

Examples from last year:



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS on the  
GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING  
FACEBOOK PAGE

contest. This year’s theme is: **“Life does not rewind, choose life not drugs.”**

- Invite government officials to participate in Red Ribbon activities.
- Submit a public service announcement (PSA) about Red Ribbon activities to your local radio station.
- Post fact sheets, Red Ribbon event notices, and other materials on social media and on bulletin boards in libraries, hospitals, churches, grocery stores, parks, health clinics, and other public places.

• Promote the DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, held October 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ([takebackday.dea.gov](http://takebackday.dea.gov)). Encourage your Lodge Members to spread the word in your community to take this opportunity to dispose of old or unused medications.

For more information visit [elks.org/dap/RedRibbonWeek](http://elks.org/dap/RedRibbonWeek) OR [redribbon.org](http://redribbon.org). To order Red Ribbon materials, contact your State Drug Awareness Chair for vendor information.

# Elks and ENVSC welcome veterans into homes

By **PAUL D. HELSEL, PGER**  
ENVSC Member

As Elks we are rightfully proud of the long service record of our Elks National Veterans Service Commission and the many individual Elks who work every day to help our veterans and military personnel.

The Commission seeks opportunities to expand our veteran service efforts and find new ways to support and assist our nation's veterans. Each year we meet with the secretary of the VA and his staff to discuss our programs, their initiatives, and how we might expand to better serve veterans. Beginning in 2013, veteran homelessness became the No. 1 priority within the VA.

During our discussions, it became obvious that Elks could become a major player in the VA's efforts to eliminate veteran homelessness. While the VA provides actual housing for Veterans, they do not have the wherewithal and funding to help with things like moving a veteran into a home or buying the supplies needed to make it a functioning household.

In the fall of 2015, the Elks formally signed an agreement with the VA, partnering with them in their effort to eliminate Veteran homelessness – thus the beginning of our “Welcome Home Program.” Recognizing the

potential of this new service program, our Elks National Foundation graciously pledged \$4 million (\$1 million per year for four years) to help fund our efforts.

During the first four years of the Welcome Home Program, we have spent \$4 million to help more than 6,000 veterans with home supplies, beds, and assistance to exit or prevent homelessness. Elks have also used ENF grant funds, state funds and Lodge funds to help the cause. In many cases, Lodges and the individual Members maintain contact and continue



*Continued below*

**BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary**  
**Benevolent and Protective**  
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to help the veterans and their families work through other situations.

The impact of the program is undeniable! For example, read this thank you note sent to Vancouver, WA Lodge No. 823 from Dan Shea, a social worker with the VA Portland Healthcare System.

Dear Elks,

On 8/7/2019 the Elks Lodge provided a Welcome Home Kit to a veteran family of three. The family consisted of a 37-year-old Marine veteran who served multiple combat tours. The veteran's wife suffered from drug addiction and left shortly after his return. The veteran was left alone to raise his family while dealing with his combat PTSD. Shortly after

this, the veteran suffered from accelerated macular degeneration and lost his sight over a six-month period. Despite these challenges, the veteran always remained positive and upbeat with a great sense of humor.

When I delivered the Welcome Home Kit and bed, the kids and veteran kept saying “thank you” with every box I handed them and asked that I express their appreciation to the Elks Lodge. This was one of my best days as a social worker at the VA and it was because of Leonard Mills and the Elks Lodge. I can assist with finding houses for my veterans but the VA does not provide any funds to provide basic essentials. As a veteran myself I can state that it has been a privilege working with the Elks.

We've come a long way in four years and have helped thousands of veterans with housing issues — we stand to do even more over the next couple of years! The ENF has once again graciously funded our effort for the next two years at \$1,257,000 per year to help to grow the program, increase individual Lodge involvement and serve more veterans – a win-win-win situation.

Please get involved in our Welcome Home Program in your community! If you need guidance, please visit [elks.org/vets](http://elks.org/vets) or contact the ENVSC office at 773-755-4736 or [Vets@elks.org](mailto:Vets@elks.org).

