



# GRAND LODGE CONVENTION NEWS / Monday



Volume 25, No. 2

Indianapolis, Indiana

Monday • July 6, 2015

## Parade of Flags ushers in 151st Grand Lodge

### PGER Carr introduces the Amens, top leaders in welcoming to session

By **TOM SCUDDER**  
Convention New Reporter

Thousands of Elks and guests from all fifty states were welcomed to Indianapolis by PGER David Carr during the Opening Ceremonies of the 151st Grand Lodge Session. Carr introduced the Past Grand Exalted Rulers and Past First Ladies, followed by First Lady Marcia Amen and GER John Amen.

PGER Carr then yielded the podium to Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Chairman Joseph Basil, who oversaw the parade of flags. The flags of all fifty states were carried into the hall, across the podium, and to a resting place at the back of the stage by their states' presidents and other representatives. Following the state flags were the flags of the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines, and Panama; the flags of the five branches of the US Armed Forces; the POW-MIA flag; and the flag of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Finally, the members of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee escorted the world's greatest symbol of freedom, the flag of the United States of America, to the front of the stage and paused as the assembled Elks recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the national anthem.

With the flags placed in the positions of honor they will hold for the balance of the session, PGER Carr introduced PGER James Damon, chairman of the

Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees, who gave the first part of the foundation's report. He noted that the foundation's budget includes \$26.6 million in charitable giving in 2015-2016 through its scholarship program, its Community Investment Program, and grants to the state associations and other Grand Lodge programs. He also announced that PER Jeff Mitchell of the Bradenton, Florida, Lodge has been named the 2015

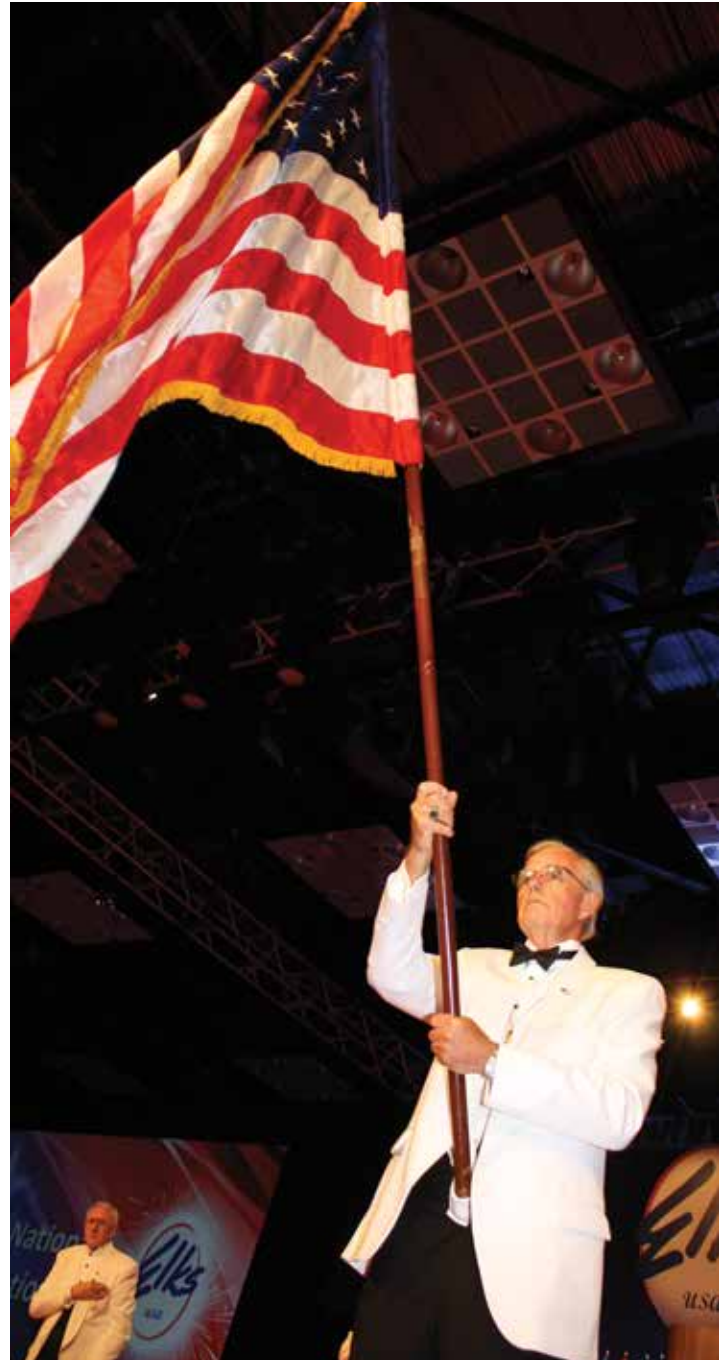
Community Investment Program Volunteer of the Year and showed a video introducing the Bradenton Lodge's Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies

program, which provides food on the weekends to about 600 children a week at thirteen different schools in the Bradenton area. After congratulating Mitchell on his outstanding leadership of the EFELT program, Damen passed the microphone to ENF Director James O'Kelley for the second portion of the foundation's report.

O'Kelley opened his part of the presentation by noting that the idea that Elks can either be focused on charity or have a lot of fun is a false distinction—that in fact, being part of a team doing good work is a lot of fun. To emphasize this, and to begin the Hoop Shoot portion of the report, he introduced a lighthearted video telling the story of Hoop Shoot West Regional Director Larry Torres's quest to dunk a basketball.

O'Kelley then invited Bart Powell, the son of past Hoop Shoot Please see **OPENING** Page 11

*Fraternal Committee escorts the world's greatest symbol of freedom – the flag of the United States*



Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee member Ashley Buckwell of Calabash, NC Lodge 2679 presents the nation's colors to highlight the Parade of Flags at the opening ceremony Sunday of the Grand Lodge Session in the Indiana Convention Center.

## ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

# ENF enables lodges to meet local projects

## Serve your community!

When members of your community think of the Elks, what comes to mind? When your Lodge uses Elks National Foundation Community Investments Program grants effectively, your community will look to the Elks as leaders in service.

The ENF Community Investments Program, the Foundation's largest program funded at \$9.77 million, invests in Elks communities through Lodge grants that help Elks meet local needs. Here is a breakdown of available grants.

■ **Beacon Grants.** \$2,000 grants available to all Elks Lodges for an ongoing, charitable, Elks-driven community project.

■ **Gratitude Grants.** \$2,000 grants available to Lodges that meet the National President's per-member goal for giving to the ENF (some Lodges are eligible for \$2,500). These grants can be used to serve a variety of community needs.

■ **Promise Grants.** \$2,500 grants available to the first 500 Lodges that apply to hold an eligible youth event.

■ **Impact Grants.** Competitive grants of up to \$10,000 designed to help Lodges change their communities in a meaningful and significant way.

■ **Freedom Grants.** In addition, the Veterans Service Commission offers \$2,000



**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS PROGRAM –** ENF staffers Anne Stretz, Mary Ann Slater, Sarah Louderman and Colleen Muszynski prepare to celebrate the Community Investments Program's 10th birthday! The festivities are scheduled 2:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Wabash Ballroom 2/3 in the Indiana Convention Center. We'll hear from Bradenton, FL Lodge No. 1511's Jeff Mitchell, CIP Volunteer of the Year; screen a birthday video; and of course enjoy birthday cake. There will even be a photo booth!

Freedom Grants to hold projects that serve veterans and active-duty military members in need.

Community Investments Program grants offer your Lodge an opportunity to serve your community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things.

There are many ways you can serve your community today. Stop by the ENF booth, attend the CIP office hours on Monday from

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Indiana Convention Center, celebrate the CIP's 10th birthday at the birthday party on Tuesday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., or visit [www.elks.org/enf/](http://www.elks.org/enf/) community to learn more about Community Investments Program grants.

*The Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. For more information on the ENF, visit [www.elks.org/enf/](http://www.elks.org/enf/).*

## Per capita, Chair Challenge winners announced for 2014-15

The Elks National Foundation has announced its 2014-15 Per-Capita Contest winners for State Associations and Local Lodges.

**The top five State Association winners,** their memberships, total donations and per-member donations were: Nevada, 4,780, \$90,305.42, \$18.892; Texas, 14,025, \$241,681.64, \$17.232; Utah, 3,760, \$52,518.93, \$13.968; Mississippi, 2,802, \$34,106.61, \$12.172; and Georgia, 4,195, \$50,235.84, \$11.975.

### Local Lodge winners were:

**Division 1 (300 Members or fewer) –** Reading, PA, Lodge 115, 153, \$17,057.54, \$111.487; Petersburg, VA Lodge 237, 31, \$2,923, \$94.290; North Las Vegas, NV Lodge 2353, 166, \$15,634.70, \$94.185

**Division 2 (301-500 Members) –** Raleigh, NC Lodge 735, 345, \$19,299.25, \$55.940; Grapevine, TX Lodge 2483, 380, \$16,275.68, \$42.831; Thousand Oaks, CA Lodge 2477, 399, \$16,602.62, \$41.611

### Division 3 (501-700 Members)

– Lancaster, PA Lodge 134, 517, \$102,866.06, \$198.967; Pasadena, CA Lodge 672, 697, \$58,040.45, \$83.272; Redondo Beach, CA Lodge 1378, 536, \$16,273.50, \$30.361

### Division 4 (701-1,100 Members)

– Owatonna, MN Lodge 1395, 723, \$25,845.79, \$35.748; Fullerton, CA Lodge 1993, 735, \$22,142.40, \$30.126; Arvada, CO Lodge 2278, 979, \$22,849.32, \$23.339

### Division 5 (1,101-1500 Members)

– Orange, CA Lodge 1475, 1,118, \$27,453.45, \$24.556; Bremerton, WA Lodge 1181, 1,206, \$27,573.22, \$22.863; Pompano Beach, FL Lodge 1898, 1,460, \$28,323, \$19.399

### Division 6 (More than 1,500 Members)

– Yuma, AZ Lodge 476, 1,562, \$28,544.50, \$18.274; Bristol County, RI Lodge 1860, 1,511, \$27,013.20, \$17.878; Winthrop, MA Lodge 1078, 1,503, \$15,429.70, \$10.266

### Chair Challenge winners

The Elks National Foundation has announced its 2014-15 Chair Challenge Contest winners for State Associations and Local Lodges.

### The top five State Association winners and scores were:

Rhode Island, 107.05; Washington, 71.08; New Hampshire, 70.80; Minnesota, 69.87; and Texas, 67.98

**Local Lodge winners,** their memberships and scores were:

**Division 1 (300 Members or fewer) –** Kerrville, TX Lodge 2081, 232, 147.750; Ajo, AZ Lodge 1576, 255, 136.337; Gig Harbor, WA Lodge 2560, 268, 132.269;

**Division 2 (301-500 Members) –** Kinderhook, NY Lodge 2530, 402, 156.994; New Braunfels, TX Lodge 2279, 495, 144.757; Melbourne, FL Lodge 1744, 441, 144.043

Please see **WINNERS**, Page 3

# Oregon Elks partner with med school to help kids see

Donations top \$30 million since 1949



The Oregon Elks Association uses billboards to draw attention to its State Major Project, The Elks Children's Eye Clinic.

By JOANNAH VAUGHAN  
Oregon Elks Liaison

The Elks Children's Eye Clinic is the major charitable project of the Oregon State Elks Association. The clinic would not be possible without the organization's commitment to providing eye care for babies and children.

The Oregon Elks became involved with the University of Oregon Medical School, now the OHSU School of Medicine, in 1949. That year, Kenneth Swan, M.D., needed a piece of equipment called an oximeter for a baby whose father was an Oregon Elk. The Oregon Elks promptly raised \$2,000 for the oximeter. Soon after, their continued generosity established the Elks Children's Eye Clinic.

Since then, the Elks have contributed enormously to the growth of the clinic, helping pay for the nation's first microscope for ocular surgery, the Northwest's first

ophthalmic excimer laser and Oregon's first photokeratoscope for children. Today, the visual program of the Oregon State Elks Association contributes more than \$2,000,000 annually to the Elks Children's Eye Clinic, helping 18,000 pediatric patients each year. Additionally, the Elks provide free vision screening and follow-up for 7,000 Oregon preschool children.

Financial assistance is not the only service the Elks provide. Elks volunteers donate thousands of hours at the Casey Eye Institute. They assist patients, work on projects for staff and provide information to the public. The Elks have also funded up-to-date equipment for the pediatric ophthalmology examination room at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital, staffed by faculty from the Elks Children's Eye Clinic.

Since 1949, the Oregon Elks have donated over \$30 million.

# CHEA is more than Strongest Elks sponsor

The California-Hawaii Elks Association has raised more than \$100.6 million since 1950 to address an ever increasing need for services. Members and friends meet needs of children with disabilities with support services to aid these children at no cost to their families. It has grown from humble beginnings to the widely recognized program it is today.

The program has four major components:

- Physical, Occupational or Speech/ Language therapy for children under 18 years old. This year, over 12,000 therapy visits were completed; traveling over 154,000 miles.

- Preschool Vision Screening identifies potential eye problems prior to attending kindergarten. More than 50,000 children were screened this year; traveling over 124,115 miles.

- Elks Eye Fund is designed to assist those identified in screenings that do not have adequate financial funds for follow-up exams, glasses or surgery.

- Undergraduate Scholarship for Students with Disabilities – Students are eligible for up to \$2,000/year, renewable for four years.

CHEA also sponsors the annual Strongest Elks Contest at Grand Lodge Sessions. As of 11 a.m. Saturday, Jennifer Tucker of Tewksbury-Wilmington (MA) Lodge 2070, was leading with 130 lbs. among the women, and Tim Egan of Glendale, CA Lodge 1289 was ahead with 125 lbs. among the men.

## Winners From Page 2

**Division 3 (501-700 Members)** – Bessemer, AL Lodge 721, 517, 153.000; Long Beach, WA Lodge 1937, 610, 151.500; Tulsa, OK Lodge 946, 544, 145.800

**Division 4 (701-1,100 Members)** – Owatonna, MN Lodge 1395, 723, 159.320; Quincy, MA Lodge 943, 1,084, 152.539; Ashland, OR Lodge 944, 860, 143.600

**Division 5 (1,101-15,00 Members)** – Orange, CA Lodge 1475, 1,118, 165.400; Oceano/Five Cities, CA Lodge 2504, 1,266, 149.017; Garden Grove, CA Lodge 1952, 1,147, 140.961

**Division 6 (More than 1,500 Members)** – Rotterdam, NY Lodge 2157, 2,051, 156.000; Bristol County, RI, Lodge 1860, 1,511, 153.238; Sun City, AZ Lodge 2559, 2,864, 137.071

### Don't leave items unattended!

Grand Lodge attendees are reminded that the Indiana Convention Center does not assume any responsibility for damaged to or loss of articles left unattended.

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**GRAND LODGE INSURANCE PROGRAM**

**D&O/employment practices coverage**

By Grand Lodge Insurance Department

The Lodges are again being reminded that the liability coverage available under the Master Liability Program does not provide D&O or Employment Practices coverage.

Under a D&O/Employment Practices policy, the D&O portion provides protection for allegations of wrongdoing that may include claims of discrimination with regards to the membership selection process; negligent acts; breach of duty; or errors and omissions related to the management of the Lodge. The Employment Practices portion provides personal injury coverage for employment related claims and includes coverage for sexual harassment, discrimination, and wrongful discharge.

While this coverage is available under many policy forms issued locally, we believe the plan offered by Aon Affinity Services gives the broadest coverage at a special discounted premium for Local Lodges.

This coverage provides all officers and directors (including trustees) with an immediate defense, not just a possible promise of later reimbursement of expenses, but it also provides coverage and defense to the Lodge entity (under many other policy forms, the carrier is only required to reimburse expenses after the fact, and many also only provide coverage on individual officers or directors leaving the Lodge to pay for its own defense if it is named as a defendant).

Without D&O/Employment Practice coverage, the individual assets of officers and/or members could be in jeopardy. For information/quote, call Aon Affinity Services at 1-800-421-3557.

*\*This letter is available for download at: [www.elks.org/resources/accident/](http://www.elks.org/resources/accident/).*


**Americanism essay contest winners**

Winners of the Americanism Essay Contest for 2014-15 have been announced.

In Division I, in the order they finished, are: Alexandra Kate Baker (sixth grade), Sullivan, IN Middle School, sponsored by Sullivan Lodge 911; Colton Sochus (sixth grade), Soldotna, AK Elementary School, sponsored by Soldotna Lodge 2706; and Andre' McCoy (fifth grade), Rudolph Matas Elementary School, New Orleans, LA, sponsored by New Orleans Lodge 30.

In Division II, winners are: Sandli Singh (seventh grade), East Brook Middle School, Paramus, NJ, sponsored by Paramus Lodge 2001; Madison Cavenas (eighth grade); Mahanoy City, PA Area Middle School, sponsored by Mahanoy City Lodge 695; and Sarah Holmes (eighth grade), St Paul Middle School, Valley Cottage, NY, sponsored by Pearl River Lodge 2014


– Submitted by Robert E. Drisko, Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee



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**Grand Lodge budget proposed for 2015-16**

**INCOME**

Per Capita and Assessment . . . . .	\$5,115,716
Interest/Dividends . . . . .	\$ 460,000
Royalties	
Net from Emblem Sales . . . . .	\$ 90,000
Affinity Card . . . . .	\$ 84,000
Member Benefits . . . . .	\$ 108,000
Management Fees . . . . .	\$ 52,800
Net Merchandise Sales . . . . .	\$ 17,407
Convention	
Registration Fees . . . . .	\$ 200,000
Hotel Rebates . . . . .	\$ 130,000
Booth Sales . . . . .	\$ 25,000
Advertising Income . . . . .	\$ 4,000
Miscellaneous . . . . .	\$ 56,400
Realized Investment Gain/(Loss) . . . . .	\$ 180,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME AVAILABLE FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$6,523,323</b>

**EXPENSES: G/L OFFICES & OPERATION**

Grand Secretary . . . . .	\$2,104,115
Grand Lodge . . . . .	\$1,778,128
Grand Lodge Session . . . . .	\$1,246,600
Grand Exalted Ruler . . . . .	\$ 409,954
Grand Trustees . . . . .	\$ 61,000
<b>TOTAL G/L OFFICES AND OPERATION</b>	<b>\$5,599,797</b>

**EXPENSES: G/L COMMITTEES**

Activities . . . . .	\$ 42,950
Audit & Accounting . . . . .	\$ 34,400
Fraternal . . . . .	\$ 75,625
Government Relations . . . . .	\$ 70,480
Grand Forum . . . . .	\$ 35,250
Judiciary . . . . .	\$ 20,250
Public Relations . . . . .	\$ 32,630
National Convention . . . . .	\$ 221,291
Ritualistic . . . . .	\$ 95,875
New Orientation Video . . . . .	\$ 25,000
<b>TOTAL G/L COMMITTEES</b>	<b>\$ 653,751</b>

**EXPENSES: OTHER**

Depreciation – Building & Furnishing . . . . .	\$ 8,268
Elks Memorial Building . . . . .	\$ 129,507
Investment Manager Fees . . . . .	\$ 132,000
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$269,775</b>

**TOTAL AVAILABLE INCOME . . . . . \$6,523,323**

**TOTAL EXPENSES . . . . . \$6,523,323**

**BALANCED BUDGET . . . . . \$ 0**

**Submit your by-laws revisions online**

Local lodge By-Laws revisions can now be submitted online using the elks.org website. If fact, starting this year, By-Laws revisions must be submitted in this manner. Luckily, the process is simple. Stop by the Elks.org/CLMS2 Convention Booth to pick a free manual describing the procedure. Grand Lodge Director of Internet Services Frederick Mensch will be available today and throughout the convention to answer your questions.

# 2015 Grand Lodge Ritualistic Contest, Indianapolis, IN

## EASTERN DIVISION

## WESTERN DIVISION

STATE	SCORE	TIME	STATE	SCORE		
<b>SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2015</b>						
1. PENNSYLVANIA	BRIDGEPORT #714	96.1629	8:00 AM	1. CALIFORNIA	SANTA CLARITA # 2379	96.7467
2. INDIANA	SOUTH BEND # 235	93.3849	9:00 AM	2. OPEN		
3. SOUTH CAROLINA	GREENVILLE #858	93.8801	10:00 AM	3. OKLAHOMA	OKMULGEE # 1822	96.3136
4. MAINE	SANFORD #1470	94.8879	11:00 AM	4. ILLINOIS	CHAMPAIGN-URBANA # 2497	94.9174
5. MD-DE-DC	DOVER # 1903	95.6387	1:00 PM	5. WASHINGTON	YAKIMA # 476	96.1867
6. GEORGIA	DALTON # 1267	96.3140	2:00 PM	6. MISSOURI	BLUE SPRINGS # 2509	96.9673

**SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2015**

7. MICHIGAN	TRAVERSE CITY # 323	94.9340	8:00 AM	6. TEXAS	HOUSTON #151	94.7044
8. MISSISSIPPI	OCEAN SPRINGS #2501	93.2573	9:00 AM	7. WYOMING	CASPER # 1353	96.0671
9. NEW JERSEY	LAKE HOPATCONG # 782	95.4244	10:00 AM	8. ARIZONA	YUMA # 476	95.7084
10. VERMONT	ST. JOHNSBURY #1343	93.7923	11:00 AM	9. OREGON	HILLSBORO # 1862	93.6621
11. VIRGINIA	ARLING/FAIRFAX #2188	93.9614	1:00 PM	10. NEBRASKA	LINCOLN # 80	97.6560

**MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015**

13. NEW YORK	BATH # 1547		8:00 AM	11. COLORADO	WESTMINSTER # 2227	
14. KENTUCKY	NEWPORT #273		9:00 AM	12. NEVADA	RENO #597	
15. FLORIDA	BRADENTON #1511		10:00 AM	13. NEW MEXICO	CARLSBAD # 1558	
16. OHIO	KENTON # 157		11:00 AM			

**FINALS - TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015**

1:00 PM  
2:00 PM  
3:00 PM

Practice Time  
8:00 PM Monday July 6,2015  
8:30 PM Monday July 6, 2015  
9:00 PM Monday July 6,2015

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**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Elks provided \$19 million in service to vets in 2014**

The Veterans Service Program has released its results for the Survey of Volunteers for the Fraternal Year 2014-2015.

The total participants in the programs was an 1,242,404, and the number of Elks and helpers was 194,612. Combined hours donated by Elks and helpers was 902,884. The cash value of donated hours was \$19,673,842.

Total combined miles traveled by Elks and Helpers was 4,079,382.

After the cash donations, non-cash donations, hours worked and miles traveled were calculated, there was a Total Contribution of \$32,372,824.

The Elks supported veterans last year through many different programs. We supported our hospitalized Vets in 341 facilities. The Leather Program provided 2,900 pairs of fingerless wheelchair gloves, 11,900 sq. ft. of crafting leather, 13,300 sq. ft. of leather used to produce kits and 10,450 kits distributed. The total value of the leather products distributed to Veterans was \$185,000. Twenty different states participated in the Hide program with the Missouri Elks Association donating 4,205 hides, Iowa Elks Association donating 2,654 hides.

To help entertain our Veterans, the Elks provided invaluable resources. We provided 32,000 decks of playing cards to veterans. Recreation USA traveled over 35,000 miles in 30 states doing 132 shows to entertain the 8,000 veterans, staff, volunteers and friends with direct funding from ENVSC to Recreation USA of \$22,000. Over the past four years, the Elks have contributed \$250,000 to the USO and have used nine Gratitude or Beacon Grants used for USO locations, valued at \$18,000.

Thirty-nine states participated with Freedom Grants directly affecting the veterans. Four hundred applications for Freedom Grants were received with 140 grants approved. The dollar amount of the Freedom Grants awarded was \$280,000.00. The 525 Gratitude, Promise and Beacon Grants awarded for Veteran and/or Military service were valued at \$1,050,000. A big Thank You goes to all the Elks and Lodges who made it a successful year by serving our Veterans.



Elks members and guests visit the Veterans Service Commission booth Monday to discuss the Hide Program.

**Elks program glad to accept hides**

The Leather Hide Program collected 15,271 hides during the 2014-15 Lodge year for veteran projects. The top states in elk and deer hides donations were Missouri with 4,205, Iowa with 2,654 and Wyoming with 1,995.

From these donations veterans donated 2,870 wheelchair gloves to our most deserving veterans. Visit the Veterans Service Commission booth to pick up a unique gift for your Lodge Officers and help our vets at the same time.

Learn how your Lodge can become a part of this very important veterans program. Material is available at the Veterans Commission booth in Exhibit Hall D.

The Leather Program statistics are:  
 ■ **States donating salted hides:** 20; AR 1,376, CO 1,236, IA 2654, IL 37, IN 37, KS 13, MI 151, MN 117, MO 4205, NE 800, NM 125, NV 22, PA 125, SC 176, TN 109, TX 486, VA 109, WV 1348. Total donated: 15,721

■ **Veterans Wheelchair gloves**

**distributed:** 2,870 @ \$25/Pair = \$71,750

■ **Crafting leather distributed:** 11,882 sq ft. @ \$4.5/sq ft = \$53,469

■ **Crafting leather donated to hospitalized veterans:** 13,269 sq ft @ \$4.50/sq ft = \$59,710.50

■ **Crafting kits manufactured and distributed by the HHospitalized Veterans):** 10,429

■ **Glove orders by state:** 31 states/99 orders – AR 1, AZ 14, CA 2, CO 15, DE 1, FL 6, HI 3, IA 3, IL 4, IN 1, KS 2, KY 3, LA 1, MD 1, MI 2, MN 3, MO 2, NC 3, NE 1, NJ 1, NM 1, NV 1, OH 1, SC 2, TN 1, TX 9, VA 1, WI 8, WV 1 WY 2

■ **Crafting leather orders by state:** 9 states/20 orders – AZ 4 CA 1, IA 7, KS 1, MI 1, TN 1, TX 1, WI 1, WY 3

■ **Recapitulation:**gloves \$71,750; leather \$53,469; HHV leather \$59,710.50;

■ **Total value of goods produced:**

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# Donating life hits home for one Elks family

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A year after undergoing a liver transplant, John Schleeter continues to do well in his recovery.

By **CARROLL L. SCHLEETER**  
Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member

"Why me?" my son, retired Army Lt. Col. John C. Schleeter, asked.

"All I wanted to do was to serve my country. They sent me to Iraq along with so many others," the Army veteran of 23 years said.

But sometime in those more than two decades, John contracted non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver, for which the Veterans Administration now is paying for his disability.

"At 51 years of age I can no longer work, and I have been on the waiting

list for a liver transplant for a number of years," he said.

As John's father, I am appealing on my son's and Elks' behalf for all good Elks Members to become an organ donor.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is now in its third year of joining forces with DONATE LIFE AMERICA to increase donations of organs, eyes and life-saving tissue.

The need is paramount. As of February 26, 2014, fully 121,381 people, including John, were awaiting transplants in the United States, with 77,403 listed on the active waiting list, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing ([unos.org](http://unos.org)).

From January to November 2013, 26,517

transplants had taken place with total donations of 12,994, the United Network reported.

We Elks Members can help close the gap! The effort of Lodges to promote the program through their bulletins and websites can gain them five points toward attaining All American Lodge status. More incentives will be announced in coming years as the program continues to take shape throughout Elkdom.

Meanwhile, John is left wondering what the future holds for his wife Kathy and their son

Jack, 13.

"What can I do next to save enough money to build a college fund? And,



**JOHN SCHLEETER**

Please see **LIFE**, Page 10

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# GRAND LODGE SESSION – 2015

## MONDAY, JULY 6

07:55	Opening Ceremony .....	Grand Lodge Officers
08:05	Procession of Grand Lodge Officers .....	William J. Schaab, Grand Esquire
08:10	Call to Order.....	John D. Amen, GER
	Invocation.....	Rev. Father Michael Martine
	Presentation of Colors.....	Kentucky Elks Color Guard
08:25	Recognition of Delegates .....	John D. Amen, GER
	from Distant Lodges	
	from New Lodges	
08:30	Reading of Minutes from Previous Session	
	Motion to dispense	
08:33	Appointments.....	John D. Amen, GER
08:35	Annual Report of the Grand Exalted Ruler.....	John D. Amen, GER
08:45	Board of Grand Trustees (preliminary report).....	Marvin L. Nelson, Chairman
08:55	ENVSC Report.....	Paul D. Hesel, PGER, Chairman of ENVSC
09:10	Announcements.....	William J. Schaab, Grand Esquire
09:20	Committee on Judiciary.....	Robert L. Duitsman, Chairman
09:30	Legislative Session discussion (5 Min per resolution)	
10:15	Registration .....	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
<b>10:20</b>	Non-Members Admitted	
10:25	Drug Awareness .....	Kent D. Gade, National Director
10:35	Nominations and Election of 2015-2016 Officers .....	John D. Amen, GER
11:00	Grand Exalted Ruler - Presentation of Grand Exalted Ruler-Elect	
11:05	Designating Escorts for Procession	
11:10	Celebration/Demonstration .....	Ronald Hicks, GER-Elect
11:20	Acceptance Speech.....	Ronald Hicks, GER-Elect
11:30	Announcements.....	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
11:35	Announcements.....	William J. Schaab, Grand Esquire
11:40	Benediction .....	Rev. Father Michael Martine
11:45	Grand Lodge Session Recessed	
1:30	SDGER Seminar	
5:00	Elected GER Reception	
5:00	Optional: State Dinners	

# 'How to say NO to addictive substances'

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Julia Sapeta, a seventh-grade student at Keene, NH Middle School, has earned national recognition for an essay she wrote about Drug Awareness. Her essay in the 2015 National Elks Essay Contest was first selected best in a statewide competition; she becomes the first New Hampshire student whose essay was voted best at the nationals, according to Jon LeClair, who directed the local contest through Keene Lodge 927. The lodge's program theme this year was "Refuse to use ... Never Alone." Sapeta's essay was titled "How to say NO to Addictive Substances."

By **JULIA SAPETA**  
Representing Keene, NH Lodge 927

Imagine yourself at a school dance goofing around and having a great time with your friends. After a while one of your friends asks the whole group to follow him. Your friend leads you and the group outside to an alley where a few other kids are standing around and smoking. Your friend then takes out a small pack and offers everyone in your group a joint of marijuana. You don't know what to do! Everyone else is accepting the offer. You definitely don't want your friends to think you are a wuss but you have also heard that "doing drugs" is bad for you and your body. First, think before you react. "What could

be the outcome of this situation if I gave into peer pressure?" An answer to this question might be: "I may become strongly addicted to the substance I was offered. As a result I may focus only on trying to find a dealer of the drug and how to use



**JULIA SAPETA**

it without being caught," or "my schoolwork, friends and family would not matter to me anymore, because I would be so focused on trying to hide my addiction," or "I may join the wrong group of people and ruin my own life." Then, think again. "What might occur if I resist peer pressure and refuse the drugs. Some answers could be: "I could make new friends with people whom I know will not offer me drugs and will be trustworthy," or "my school life and life at home may become stronger and I will become more careful of where I go and how I react in a difficult situation," or "I will spare myself a mistake where my whole life might change."

So, which choice has a better outcome?

Then, think again. "What might occur if I resist peer pressure and refuse the drugs. Some answers could be: "I could make new friends with people whom I know will not offer me drugs and will be trustworthy," or "my school life and life at home may become stronger and I will become more careful of where I go and how I react in a difficult situation," or "I will spare myself a mistake where my whole life might change."

The best way to get out of a situation like this is to not give into peer pressure, even if the person offering you drugs is your best friend. Peer pressure occurs most often when one is afraid of feeling different, despite not being pressured by another person or a group of people. When you have such a feeling, just say NO! Remember to give a firm to-the-point NO so that the person does not question you further. If you feel uncomfortable being in the group, walk away. You could also let an adult know about your situation but that is completely up to you.

Now that you have read this essay, know that a severe addiction to drugs or any other addictive substances can be life-changing and sometimes life-ending. So remember these three simple steps: Say NO!, walk away and never give into peer pressure.

— Reprinted from the Keene, NH Sentinel and posted on the newspaper's website on June 15, 2015

## Life From Page 8

Oh my God, who will raise my son? What will I do when my mind starts to go, before my body fails? How can I provide?" he asked.

Doctors tell John the next thing to go will be his driver's license.

"Who will take my son where he needs to go?" John asks.

Kathy asks herself, "Did I sign up for this? Apparently... for better or worse, and this isn't better. What can I do to support my family? And, while I work the hours necessary to bring in the income, who will raise my child?"

Son Jack is confused, bewildered, pressured and afraid.

"Why must I do so much and grow up so fast? Why couldn't I be a kid a little longer? I'm only 13. I'm not ready to be a man, but my Dad may die. What do I do?"

My son and his family's ordeal is not an isolated one.

Should you be facing a loss, and can see past your grief, please consider giving a gift of life. What nobler purpose could there ever be?

"My main concern is for Jack's education and Kathy's well being if I am no longer here," John said. "This disease was not something we caused, expected, or signed on for.

"But...since it's here, we will make the best we can of it, and hope and pray for a transplant."

For information, log onto [donatelife.net](http://donatelife.net).

— Updated from the April 2014 Grand Lodge Newsletter

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## Opening From Page 1

director Getty Powell, to present the Getty Powell Awards for the best overall male and female competitors at the National Hoop Shoot Finals to nine-year-old Bryce Bolio, who was sponsored by the Des Moines, Iowa, Lodge, and ten-year-old Brylee Lingen, who was sponsored by the Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Lodge. Each of the youngsters was introduced by a video showing them in action during the Hoop Shoot finals and was greeted onstage by his or her state sponsor, PGER Ted Callicott of Iowa and PGER Dwayne Rumney of Minnesota, respectively. The two young free throw champions exited the stage by passing out mini basketballs to the assembled Elks.

The ENF director then turned to the foundation's scholarship program. To begin with, he noted that in addition to the foundation's well-known Most Valuable Student scholarships, which more than 19,000 students applied for last year, and its Legacy Award program, which provides four-year, \$4,000 scholarships to 250 children and grandchildren of Elks each year, the foundation also provides Emergency Educational Grants to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks. O'Kelley noted that participation in this program had declined for four straight years and joked that "if participation is down because you guys are

exceptionally healthy, then that's awesome." He suggested that the Exalted Rulers and other Elks present could help remind their members of the scholarship's existence and especially keep it in mind as a way to help Elk family members who have suffered a tragic loss.

O'Kelley then introduced a video showing the top two Most Valuable Student scholarship winners from 2003, Bryce Caswell and Sean Loosli, who were part of the selection process for the 2015 scholarship winners and who spoke on the video about the difference the scholarship had made in their lives. O'Kelley also invited the assembled Elks to check out the feature-length version of the interview that is available on the Elks web site, [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org). He then introduced the top male scholarship winner, Mark Ansel, who was sponsored by the Sunland-Tujunga, California, Lodge. Ansel spoke about the financial stresses his family had faced, including a period when they moved between a total of fifteen homeless shelters, and thanked the Elks for giving him the opportunity to study engineering at the University of California at Berkeley with an eye towards creating sustainable energy technology. Ansel was congratulated on the stage by California's state sponsors, PGERs Tom Brazier, Jim Grillo, and Ken Moore.

To close the Elks National Foundation's report, O'Kelley introduced the top female Most Valuable Student scholarship winner,

Sarah Giudice, sponsored by the Southampton, NY, Lodge. In thanking the Elks for the scholarship, she noted, "I didn't just win the 2015 Most Valuable Student Scholarship. I won a family. I won a community of individuals that share the same goals as me. I won a gateway to continue helping others for the rest of my life." The keynote presentation was given by Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen, who spoke about his past year's experiences, the beauty of the country, and the terrific examples of Elksdom in action that he and his wife, Marica, had been privileged to witness. "It filled us with feelings of justifiable pride and great hope for our country and our Order," he said. He noted that Elks across the country had provided more than 280 million dollars' worth of their time, goods, and money to charitable causes, and that the per-capita giving average of \$7.72 and total giving of \$11.3 million to the Elks National Foundation had both set a new Elks record. He congratulated the assembled Elks on the magnificent work they and their fellows had accomplished for the previous year, but warned that much more was ahead of them. "We have a tremendous amount of work to accomplish to bring Elksdom into step with today's age, to make it attractive to young Americans. We can do it, and we will do it." He closed by thanking Elks across the country for giving himself and his wife the opportunity to meet "the finest people on the face of the earth—you, the Elks of America."

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## Indy facts

- In Indianapolis if you're under 14 years of age, you can be fined \$3 per swear word, with a maximum of \$10 worth of tines per days.
- Indianapolis has 33 monuments and memorials, 2nd only to Washington D. C.
- Elvis performed his last concert in downtown Indianapolis in 1977.
- Lucas Oil Stadium has the NFL's largest retractable roof...it only takes 8 minutes to open.
- Indianapolis is host to the two largest single day sporting events in the world, the Indianapolis and the Brickyard 400.
- Indiana has produced many famous Hoosiers including, James Dean, David Letterman, Gilbert Van Camp (think pork and beans), Richard Gatling (machine gun), Red Skelton, James Whitcomb Riley, Pulitzer Prize winners: Albert Beveridge (biography); Harold Urey (chemistry); Ernie Pyle (writing); Paul Samuelson (economics).
- Between 1900 and 1920 more than 200 different makes of cars were produced in the Hoosier State.

## First attendance report announced

The attendance report at the Grand Lodge Session as of noon Saturday has been announced. The number of individual Elks and their spouses or guests (in parenthesis) are:

Grand Exalted Ruler 1, (0); Past Grand Exalted Rulers 25, (12); Grand Lodge Officers 7, (2); Grand Trustees 8, (6); Grand Forum 5, (3); Grand Lodge Committeemen 52, (15); District Deputies - Designate 192, (37); Special Deputies 26, (13); Representatives to the Grand Lodge and Alternates 1058, (166); State Presidents 43, (5); State Secretaries 21, (4); Grand Lodge Members 1196, (237); Non-Voting Members 1032, (66); Guests 0, (749); Vendor 0, (45). Totals 3666 (1360); Combined Total 5026.

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