



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER



*Elks Care – Elks Share*

## Remarkable journey exceeded expectations

What a remarkable year of travel throughout the United States, witnessing the pride, dedication and commitment of Elkdom at every stop along the way. Words could never adequately express the emotions that Nancy and I have experienced, from tremendous joys and uncontrollable laughter to profound sadness, and every emotion in between. Nor could we ever sufficiently express our thanks for your service and for allowing us to play a small part in everything you do as Elks.

As your Grand Exalted Ruler, I have observed the expression of my theme “*Elks Pride and Community Focus*” in words and deeds. I have seen how “*Elks Care – Elks Share*” and the difference you are making with our youth, the military and our veterans. I



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

RONALD L. HICKS

have witnessed your tireless efforts in our VA homes and hospitals, the training centers for the physically and mentally challenged, the camps and schools for disadvantaged children and those with disabilities, and in so many other worthwhile causes. Indeed, the heartbeat of Elkdom beats throughout this nation, in every corner, along every corridor and in every city and community you serve.

It is incredibly exciting to be an Elk and to recognize the gift we have in Elkdom. Our Members are inspired and engaged, our membership is trending in the right direction and we are more relevant today than at any time in our history. Our best days are ahead of us, as we take all that is good about Elkdom and raise it to another level, bringing fun and pride back into our Lodges and focusing on the benefits we offer to our communities.

As Nancy and I end this magnificent journey, please know that you have met and exceeded our every expectation! We are bursting with pride and appreciation, and take with us amazing memories that will last a lifetime. It has been “Grand” and you are indeed the “*Best People on Earth.*”

## Online application makes joining Elks a lot easier to do

Has your Lodge promoted the online Membership application for signing up new Members? A current paid-up Member of the Order, using the Elks.Org website,

### GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

can forward a membership invitation to family members and friends. Invitees can complete

the application, and then submit their membership application online.

Lodge Secretaries will be notified of these applications via the “Alerts” screen of CLMS2, then process the electronic version the same as a paper application. All data provided by the applicant will be imported into the Lodge’s CLMS2 database with the simple click of a button.

What better way to gain a Member than by using technology to its fullest?

## GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

## We grow by change, not by chance

By RICK GATHEN  
Membership and Public Relations Manager

Our Membership numbers continue to show rapid improvement. Lodges nationwide have embraced and implemented the new Membership Committee structure and direction.

We thank you, Elks Members, for your courageous leadership and enthusiastic response.

The numbers are actually better for 2016-17. Fully 82 percent of all Members have already paid dues, and the results have been posted. We have already added 12,365 new Members/reinstatements as of June 1.

We’re rockin’!

In addition, we are currently within 1 percent of the smallest membership loss since our last membership gain 36 years ago in 1980! We added 72,405 new Members/reinstatements, the highest total in nine years.

More people are joining the Elks. Our

recruitment initiatives are producing more than 10,000 candidates a month! Higher numbers of new Members are joining, spurred by a vastly improved new Member orientation video and “My Journey Begins” program. Our Lodges are producing large classes of more active, more educated and more inspired new Elks.

We have set another new national record for fewest membership cancelations. Membership retention continues to improve significantly.

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# Our government and the Elks: Working together

By **BRUCE A. HIDLEY**  
Committee Member

As of the writing of this newsletter article our great Order of Elks will be convened for the 152nd Grand Lodge Convention in Houston. The Government Relations Committee will begin meeting on Saturday, July 2. We encourage convention attendees to join our meeting if they have any legislative-related issues or concerns that face the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks nationwide.

July is also very special for the citizens of our great country as we celebrate the 240th year that Congress voted to accept the Declaration of Independence, marking the 4th of July as Independence Day. Nearly 11 years later, the Continental Congress adopted the Constitution of the United States.

Why do I bring these very important days up in my Government Relations message? The answer is simple. It was

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

these special days that formulated our government into what we have today. Our government structure is broken into three branches of government, legislative, executive and judicial. Each of these branches has an important role in shaping the laws that all of us are governed by.

We as Elks are constantly monitoring legislative issues such as the unrelated business income tax, charitable gaming, property tax and energy issues, just to name a few. It is very important that our Local Lodges keep each state's Government Relations Committee informed of legislation that may affect the way we as Elks do business.

At the convention, the Grand Lodge Judiciary Committee will present resolutions to the delegates that propose to make changes to our statutes. I ask all of you to review these resolutions very

carefully before voting. It is important to research the impact these proposals would have on our great Order of Elks.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee, we would like to say "thank you" to our outgoing Grand Exalted Ruler Ronald L. Hicks and First Lady Nancy. Throughout the year you have inspired all of us in promoting your slogan "*Elks Pride – Community Focus.*"

The Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee looks forward to seeing many of our convention attendees at our booth in the Exhibit Hall located in the Convention Center. It is your commitment to your lodges and our Order that can and will continue to allow our great Order to thrive, prosper and grow. Together we will make a difference in spreading the motto, "*Elks Care – Elks Share.*"

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

### Drugs affecting job market

By **FRANK SCARPINO**  
Special Contributor

Some years ago an auto manufacturer was looking to build a new plant and began looking in areas that had higher unemployment rates because they thought the pool of potential employees would be fairly large.

When visiting different areas of the country, they would research employment statistics and even interviewed some human resource managers at various companies. The statistic that took a city out of the running was the rate of potential employees that could NOT pass a random drug test.

Companies looking to hire would hold job fairs that would draw large numbers of potential employees, but when the applicants learned they had to pass a random drug test, more than half would walk away. Imagine the economic impact on these communities when such a large employer took a pass on not only building a facility but employing hundreds or maybe thousands of employees because they couldn't pass a drug test.

Who would think in today's

economy, it would be hard to fill jobs? The problem has gotten worse. All over the country, employers are struggling to find workers who can pass a pre-employment drug test. The problem reflects a combination of growing drug use among adult Americans and companies doubling down on their efforts to maintain a safe and regulated workplace.

While part of the problem lies in finding qualified and reliable workers, drug use has become a growing factor in filling increasingly open jobs. The portion of workers testing positive for illicit drugs increased for the second consecutive year in 2014. These trends affect some sectors more than others like public safety, manufacturing, construction and transportation. Employers in these fields are not going to move away from pre-employment drug testing.

If illicit drug use continues to become more prevalent, the problem will only continue to get worse. This is why the Elks Drug Awareness Program strives to bring these issues to the public's awareness.

## Your All American Lodges

By **DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER**  
Committee Member

Winners of the 2015-2016 Grand Lodge All-American Lodge-Contest "A" have been announced. In the order of finish, they are:

■ **Division 1** – Virginia Beach, VA Lodge 2268; Raceway, AZ Lodge 2852; and Cedar Grove, NJ Lodge 2237.

■ **Division 2** – Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge 782; Salem, IL Lodge 1678; and Sweet Home, OR Lodge 1972.

■ **Division 3** – Columbia, MO Lodge 594; Roseville, CA Lodge 2248; and Arlington, TX Lodge 2114.

■ **Division 4** – Apache Junction, AZ Lodge 2349; Blue Springs, MO Lodge 2509; and Toms River, NJ Lodge 1875.

■ **Division 5** – Orange, CA Lodge 1475; Saint Petersburg, FL Lodge 1224; and Reno, NV Lodge 597.

■ **Division 6** – Sun City, AZ Lodge 2559; Lake Havasu City, AZ Lodge 2399; and Santa Maria, CA Lodge 1538.

Congratulations to every Lodge that competed. The results are encouraging as the committee is seeing continued growth in Lodge participation with many Lodges having point totals (with confirming data) that were outstanding.

We salute all the Lodge Officers, Members and spouses who labored in love during the year to impact your community and increase Lodge presence in the communities you serve. You are shining examples of what it means to showcase our "*Elks Pride – Community Focus.*"

Congratulations again to everyone who competed nationwide. Get started now to make 2016-17 a banner year!

**GRAND LODGE  
ACTIVITIES  
COMMITTEE**

## Change From Page 1

We began this new Fraternal year with 13,471 fewer delinquents. We have well over 11,000 more candidates in the pipeline – great start!

If your Lodge has not implemented the new Membership Committee approach, what are you waiting for? Remember: "We don't grow by chance, we grow by change."

**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

# ENF Per-Capita Contest winners

*April 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016*

## STATE ASSOCIATION WINNERS

State	Members	Donations	Per Member
1. Nevada	4,982	\$82,626.41	16.585
2. Texas	13,808	220,396.71	15.962
3. S. Carolina	5,669	82,431.28	14.541
4. Mississippi	2,702	34,373.90	12.722
5. Florida	55,851	681,851.38	12.208

## LODGE WINNERS

	Member	Donations	Per Capita
<b>Division 1 — 300 members or less</b>			
1. Seneca/Foothills, SC Lodge No. 2822	96	\$24,161.00	\$251.677
2. Pendleton, SC, Lodge No. 2861	39	\$7,690	\$197.180
3. Virginia Beach, VA, Lodge No. 2268	164	\$15,382.50	\$93.796
<b>Division 2 — 301 to 500 members</b>			
1. Walnut Creek, CA, Lodge No. 1811	317	\$14,995.00	\$47.303
2. Kissimmee, FL, Lodge No. 1873	332	\$15,026.52	\$45.261
3. Louisville, KY, Lodge No. 8	351	\$13,176.60	\$37.540
<b>Division 3 — 501 to 700 members</b>			
1. Harlingen, TX, Lodge No. 1889	515	\$19,956.94	\$38.751
2. Kent Island, MD, Lodge No. 2576	608	\$19,123.10	\$31.453
3. Zephyrhills, FL, Lodge No. 2731	668	\$17,973.12	\$26.906
<b>Division 4 — 701 to 1,100 members</b>			
1. Fullerton, CA, Lodge No. 1993	738	\$38,404.50	\$52.039
2. Owatonna, MN, Lodge No. 1395	737	\$22,213.70	\$30.141
3. Pasadena, CA, Lodge No. 672	706	\$20,197.81	\$28.609
<b>Division 5 — 1,101 to 1,500 members</b>			
1. Pompano Beach, FL, Lodge No. 1898	1,440	\$45,575.00	\$31.649
2. Orange, CA, Lodge No. 1475	1,224	\$29,738.83	\$24.296
3. Bremerton, WA, Lodge No. 1181	1,128	\$22,880.55	\$20.284
<b>Division 6 — More than 1,500 members</b>			
1. Bristol County, RI, Lodge No. 1860	1526	\$20,536.20	\$13.458
2. Sun City, AZ, Lodge No. 2559	2916	\$35,065.41	\$12.025
3. Honolulu, HI, Lodge No. 616	3,177	\$34,328.34	\$10.805

# Chair Challenge winners

The Elks National Foundation has announced its 2015-16 Chair Challenge Contest winners for State Associations and Local Lodges.

**The top five State Association winners** and scores were: Rhode Island, 104.40; New Hampshire, 77.01; Washington, 75.13; Minnesota, 68.14; and Kentucky, 67.54

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

**Division 1 (300 Members or fewer)** – Kerrville, TX Lodge 2081, 241, 168.500; Santa Ynez Valley, CA, Lodge 2640, 269, 145.950; Gig Harbor, WA Lodge 2560, 251, 138.462

**Division 2 (301-500 Members)** – Oak Harbor, WA Lodge 2362, 329, 156.550; Melbourne, FL Lodge 1744, 414, 153.661; Opelousas, LA Lodge 1048, 333, 149.355

**Division 3 (501-700 Members)** – Wilkins, PA, Lodge 577, 522, 146.000; Tri City, RI, Lodge 14, 658, 138.272; Millville, NJ, Lodge 580, 663, 137.545

**Division 4 (701-1,100 Members)** – Owatonna, MN Lodge 1395, 737, 152.850; Gallipolis, OH, Lodge 107, 721, 149.550; Upper Sandusky, OH, Lodge 83, 797, 141.616

**Division 5 (1,101-15,00 Members)** – Orange, CA Lodge 1475, 1,224, 163.500; Oceano/Five Cities, CA Lodge 2504, 1,216, 156.434; Portsmouth, NH, Lodge 97, 1,184, 145.775

**Division 6 (More than 1,500 Members)** – Sun City, AZ Lodge 2559, 2,916, 158.775; Bristol County, RI, Lodge 1860, 1,526, 154.500; Westbrook, CT, Lodge 1784, 1,982, 143.757

The Elks National Foundation issued **Special Recognition Awards** for 2015-16 to Manila, Phillipines Lodge 761 for Best Grand Lodge Area, and to Daytona Beach, FL, Lodge 1141 for Best New Lodge in Per-Member Giving.

## Assistance is available for worthy, needy Members

Needy Elks Members can qualify for up to \$1,000 in an emergency 50-50 matching grant from the Order under Statutes Section 5.070.

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

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# Heart of Elkdom: Alive and well

By **JAMES M. BAYLOR**  
Committee Member

The thought that the great heart of Elkdom is alive and well is proven by the devotion of many Elks Members who have spent countless hours working with their area Scouts.

There was a tremendous response by Lodges nationwide in nominating their outstanding person for the Marvin M. Lewis Award. There can be only one winner in each of the four regions. Congratulations to: Megan L. Liebhardt (Northwest Region) from Fairmont, WVA; James Lindsey (Central Region) from Big Rapids, MI; Lester F. “Rich” TerBorch Jr. (Western Region) from Arroyo Grand, CA; Elizabeth A. Haslage-Snyder (Southern Region) from Stuart, FL.

The recognition and awards presentation will be given at the Grand Lodge Convention in Houston on July 4. If you are active in your Lodge Scouting program please join us for this award ceremony. Refreshments will be served, and all Elks and their guests are welcome to attend.

# Summer is a busy time for serving veterans

By **MARY K. MORGAN**  
Commission Director

July 1 is just around the corner and everyone is busy making summer plans. Here at the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, we're just as busy.

Freedom Grant season is here! Make sure your summer plans include submitting an application. Applications for this competitive grant go online July 1, and are available through July 31.

Like last year, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award \$2,000 grants to the 180 Lodges whose projects are judged to best meet the needs of veterans and active-

duty military members. Meaningful Elk involvement is strongly encouraged.

Freedom Grants should focus on one of these five areas of increase for veterans and military members: employment; homelessness and housing; military families; health; or educational support.

For more information, visit the Freedom Grant webpage at [www.elks.org/enf/community/FreedomGrants.cfm](http://www.elks.org/enf/community/FreedomGrants.cfm).

It's also convention season. If you'll be attending the

Elks National Convention in Houston, stop by the ENVSC booth and say hello! Visit with program volunteers and pick up Veterans Leather and Playing Cards

order forms. Learn about our Veterans Volunteers of the Year, the 2015-16 Freedom Grant Lodges and Leather Program Winners. Bid on a painting commemorating the Vietnam War, and help raise funds for veterans in need. Add your name to our veterans volunteer wall, and tell us why you serve veterans.

Meet Sancy Childers, the Elks Scholar Fellow who will be heading up the Welcome Home program for the next two years. And don't forget to attend our seminar on how your Lodge can help homeless veterans through ENVSC programs!

The Ending Veteran Homelessness: How the Elks Can Help seminar is set for 2:30 p.m. Monday, July 4 in George R. Brown Convention Center, Room 361B.



**BRYAN R. KLATT**, Grand Secretary  
**Benevolent and Protective ORDER OF ELKS**  
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889

**July 2016**

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## History of Elks, Vol. 2 is available

The History of the Order of Elks, Volume 2, 1988-2008, is on sale at the Elks National Headquarters in Chicago.

The book is written by Past Grand Exalted Ruler Ted Callicott.

In addition, the History of the Order of Elks, Volume 1, 1968-1988, is back in stock and available at the National Headquarters.

Local Lodges may place orders for either book through their Exalted Ruler, Lodge Secretary or Chairperson of the Lodge Trustees. Orders for State Associations must be approved by and billed to the State Secretary.

Local Lodge Members may order through any of the Lodge Officials listed above to obtain a copy.

Order the books by the assigned code number – 511300 for History of the Order, Volume 1, \$25 each; or 511301 for History of the Order, Volume 2, also \$25.

Place orders at <http://www.elks.org/shopping/GrandLodge/AllProducts.cfm> (Secretaries only) or by calling 773-755-4710, emailing [shipping@elks.org](mailto:shipping@elks.org), faxing at 773-755-4711 or mailing Attn: Shipping Department, BPOE, 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889.

## Speeches tailor made for Elks

A collection of speeches tailor made for special Elks events is available in "Father Cassidy's Speech-O-Matic," a 91-page booklet of speeches on topics ranging from acknowledgment of awards to welcoming visiting Elks.

To obtain a copy of "Father Cassidy's Speech-O-Matic," send a check for \$8 and made out to PGER James C. Varenhorst, PO Box 141096, Grand Rapids, MI 49514-1096.

