

# INTERIM REPORT

## on Future of Elksdom Committee

The Future of Elksdom Committee received from Elks Members nationwide more than 6,000 responses to the committee's recent request for proposed changes to the Order. From those responses, the Advisory Committee has approved the following issues for the Judiciary Committee and Advisory Committee on Laws to prepare for legislation. The resulting legislation (*where required*) will be voted upon by delegates to the July 2011 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, with the effective dates as listed. Those proposed changes are:

### GRAND LODGE:

1. Change the name of the Grand Lodge to "National Lodge." [If passed, effective 2011]
2. Modernize titles of "National Lodge" Officers. [If passed, effective 2012]
  - \* National President from Grand Exalted Ruler.
  - \* National Vice President from Endorsed Candidate for GER. (*Elected "National Vice President" will be elected a year earlier and will automatically become National President the following GL year.*)
  - \* National Secretary from Grand Secretary.
  - \* Eliminate Grand Treasurer.
  - \* Sergeant-At-Arms replaces Grand Esquire, Grand Inner Guard and Grand Tiler.
  - \* National Chaplain from Grand Chaplain.
  - \* National Trustee(s) from GL Trustee(s).
3. Restructure Grand Lodge Committees as follows: (If passed, effective 2012.)

#### Activities Committee

- ✓ Community Project
- ✓ Public Relations
- ✓ Youth Activities

#### Fraternal Committee

- ✓ Americanism
- ✓ Elks National Foundation
- ✓ Flag Day
- ✓ Memorial Day
- ✓ Membership
- ✓ Lodge Activities

#### Auditing & Accounting Committee

#### Committee on Judiciary

#### Ritualistic

This eliminates virtually ALL current Committees with only Auditing & Accounting, Judiciary and Ritualistic remaining. However, the activities of the Americanism, Lodge Activities/State Associations, Membership, Public Relations and Youth Activities Committees will be the responsibility of the Activities or Fraternal Committees.

4. A uniform job description for Special Deputies' duties and responsibilities to be created in Grand Lodge. [If passed, effective 2011]
5. Amend Statutes to provide that Lodges may collect dues annually or semi-annually. [If passed, effective 2011]
6. Remove all references to Communist party. [If passed, effective 2011]
7. Allow Local Lodges (*optional*), by By-Law, to grant suitable rewards for members who recruit other members that remain "paid up" members for one full Lodge year. [If passed, effective 2011]
8. Place the Membership Application on the GL Web site. [If passed, effective 2011]
9. Without waiting for a meeting, the Lodge Secretary immediately turns over a membership application to the Interview Committee. Name of the applicant, sponsor and references are posted. At the next Lodge meeting, if the Interview Committee has completed its review, the application is reported to members and voted upon. If approved, the applicant is invited to the next initiation. [If passed, effective 2011]

### CHANGES AFFECTING THE DDGER:

1. No longer require the DDGER to witness and grade the Initiatory Ritual at the official Lodge visit, DDGER Report will continue to be filed. No GER response will be made. State Sponsor may still comment and make recommendations to the Lodge. [If passed, effective 2011]
2. Will no longer conduct a January DDGER Clinic. [If passed, effective 2011]
3. All DD Indoctrinations would be arranged by State Sponsor within the State. Budget funds for the State Sponsor's Indoctrination would be applicably made for DD-Designates. [If passed, effective 2012] DD would no longer attend Grand Lodge Session at Grand Lodge expense.
4. Lodge Officer memorization of the Initiatory Ritual would no longer be required. [If passed, effective 2011]

### SUBORDINATE LODGE CHANGES:

1. Change the name "Subordinate Lodge" to "Local Lodge." [If passed, effective 2011]
2. Lodge meeting may be held once per month, or more often at the Lodge's decision. [If passed, effective 2011]
3. Local Lodge may opt to shorten Lodge Opening & Closing Rituals by By-Law change. (*Lodge Altar already set up and remains set up as ER closes Lodge.*) [If passed, effective 2011]
4. Local Lodge change in Officer titles. [If passed, effective 2012]:
  - President . . . from Exalted Ruler
  - 1st Vice President . . . from Esteemed Leading Knight
  - 2nd Vice President . . . from Esteemed Loyal Knight
  - 3rd Vice President . . . from Esteemed Lecturing Knight
  - Sergeant-At-Arms . . . from Lodge Esquire, Inner Guard & Tiler
  - Secretary\* . . . from Lodge Secretary
  - Treasurer\* . . . from Lodge Treasurer

*\*These two offices may be combined by a By-Law, if Lodge so chooses.*

  - Chaplain . . . from Lodge Chaplain
  - Trustee(s) retain name of Trustee(s) & one of whom would be signatory on checks & provide for paper trail.
  - Inner Guard & Tiler would be eliminated. (*See Sergeant-At-Arms*)
5. Allow for one Community Program to be solely identified as the Elks-sponsored in each community. This would answer the question in the Community as to what the Elks are known for in that community. [If passed, effective 2011]
6. Restructure Subordinate Lodge Committees as follows: (If passed, effective 2012.)

#### Activities Committee

- Community Project
- Public Relations
- Youth Activities
- Hoop Shoot Program
- Drug Awareness

#### Fraternal Committee

- Americanism
- Elks National Foundation
- Flag Day
- Memorial Day
- Membership
- Lodge Activities
- Veterans

#### Auditing & Accounting

OVER

***The changes recommended would secure the following savings:***

**ELIMINATE OR MODIFY**

Government Relations Committee  
 Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee  
 Membership Committee  
 Public Relations Committee  
 Americanism Committee  
 Youth Activities Committee  
 District Deputy Indoctrination  
 Sunday dinner for Grand Lodge Officers and Committees,  
 Exalted Ruler, State President and Secretary Luncheon,  
 Ladies Entertainment, personalized stationery format for  
 meetings of PGER's and Officers  
 Reduce Convention 1 Day (estimate)

**SAVINGS**

\$ 66,775 [Comm. Seminar & Convention Costs]  
 \$ 21,700 [Convention Costs]  
 \$ 24,750 [Convention Costs]  
 \$ 26,200 [Convention Costs]  
 \$ 24,000 [Convention Costs]  
 \$ 24,000 [Convention Costs]  
 \$459,275 [at Convention]  
 \$187,400 [at Convention]  
 \$ 89,000

***Suggestions made by Future of Elkdom Committee where NO Legislation is required:***

1. Local Lodges encouraged to make facilities available for use by civic groups so long as all laws are obeyed. [Passed & effective 2011]
2. Local Lodges establish Mentoring Program for Lodge Officers. [Passed & effective 2011]
3. If not already existing, Local Lodges to establish an Activities/Entertainment Committee. [Passed & effective 2011]
4. A new "Member Welcoming Committee" for Local Lodges is seriously recommended. [Passed & effective 2011]
5. Installation and use of electronic games (*ie; Wi-Fi*) and other games in "Game Room" of Local Lodges (*for members and children*). [Passed & effective 2011]
6. Create a suggested format for State Association Meetings and Conventions with emphasis on less reporting and more training of Elks. [Passed & effective 2011]
7. Suggested dress code for GL Advisory Committee after Sunday be optional for business casual. [Passed & effective 2011]
8. National President appoint a Committee of five members knowledgeable and experienced in the Initiatory Ritual to study and make recommendations to the following Convention in Austin, Texas.
9. DDGER will no longer receive Business Cards and it is no longer an allowed expense. [Passed & effective 2011]
10. Eliminate Elks Training Program (*annual review of Statutes*). [Passed & effective 2011]
11. Eliminate Membership Benefits Program. [Effective when present contract expires]
12. Eliminate the printing of "GER Acceptance Speech" for audience Monday morning, and not in the daily Convention Newsletter. *The Elks Magazine* will keep it in a later issue. [Passed & effective 2011]
13. Eliminate the spouses' entertainment on Tuesday morning. [Passed & effective 2011]
14. Eliminate the "bull pen" roped off area for PGERs at the Exalted Rulers' Ball on Wednesday evening of the Convention. Attending PGERs will still be introduced. [Passed & effective 2011]
15. Eliminate all "Honorable" titles for all Grand Lodge Officers. [Passed & effective 2011]
16. Sunday OPENING SESSION to start at 4:00 p.m. until completion (*approximately 6-6:30 pm*) thus allowing for State Associations to conduct Sunday evening parties. [Passed & effective 2011]
17. Grand Secretary will develop a bank of "Elks Building Plans" for purpose & use of and by Local Lodges in rebuild actions. [Passed & effective 2011]
18. More meetings by Grand Lodge will be by electronic (*along this line, teleconferencing is being considered where it may be practical in costs*). [Passed & effective 2011]
19. After February 2012, the February GL Advisory meetings and Grand Trustees meetings will be held in Chicago, without spouses attending. [Passed & effective 2012]
20. Repeat Accident Prevention State Chairpersons attend their national seminar every other year. [Passed & effective 2011]
21. Standard Elks Stationery for all. Personalizing is okay. [Passed & effective 2011]
22. Create an "Elks Web Leadership School" on internet for access by Elks in Local Lodges. [Passed & effective – TBD]
23. Reduce the GL Convention by one full day. [Passed & effective dependent upon hotel contracts – TBD]
24. Eliminate all Grand Lodge Program Contests, except: Ritual, Web site, Convention State Exhibits, State Newsletters and All American Lodge. [Passed & effective 2012]
25. **For Phoenix:** For Committee Chairpersons to have their written reports to be published on the Web site. Chairperson introduces the Committee Members and thanks Lodges for their support and participation. All awards will be published in the Daily Convention Newsletter and received at the booth. On Tuesday morning, the majority of the Session will be devoted to the discussions of aspects, presented by the Future of Elkdom Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge Advisory, by the Lodges and their representatives. [Passed & approved for Phoenix Convention]

While the savings are needed, the Order is losing 100,000 members every 3 years (*by 2020 at this rate we will be down to about 500,000 members*) it is more important to change our focus, to stabilize and rebuild.

Since shortly after World War II, when our membership was growing 20 to 40 thousand members per year, more and more programs have been sent by Grand Lodge to the Local Lodges.

That was a change from traditional Elkdom when the Lodges focused on Community Activities. ***The Community is the Future of Elkdom!***

Thus our direction — reduce Grand Lodge, much more Community involvement, 21st Century appearance, retain our basics of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity and our gift to America — ***Elks Care—Elks Share.***

We will build a better Elkdom!