



# GRAND LODGE Convention News

MONDAY ✨ JULY 3, 2023

## Elks Promote Elkdom with Enthusiasm in 2022–23

By Tiffany Bakker

Convention News Reporter

Thousands of Elks and guests from all 50 states attended the Opening Ceremony of the 158th Grand Lodge Session, where they learned of the past year's successes by the Elks National Drug Awareness Program, the Elks National Foundation, and the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. The evening's highlight was a presentation by Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley, who congratulated the assembled Elks for "Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm" during the past year.

To open the ceremonies, the assembled Elks were welcomed to Minneapolis by PGER Robert L. Duitsman, who encouraged the attendees to take advantage of Minneapolis's many cultural attractions. Duitsman introduced the Past Grand Exalted Rulers and Past First Ladies, followed by GER Bruce A. Hidley and First Lady Helen Hidley. Duitsman then introduced Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Chairman William J. Lindsey, who oversaw the Parade of Flags, which included the flags of the emergency responders; all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and overseas possessions; the five branches of the US Armed Forces; the POW-MIA flag; and the flag of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. To close the parade, 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.

After the conclusion of the Parade of Flags, PGER Duitsman then welcomed Minnesota State Representative Dave Baker, who spoke about his efforts to bring opioid abuse-prevention



PGER Robert L. Duitsman served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Opening Ceremony on Sunday. Photo: Coppersmith Photography.

legislation to Minnesota in honor of his late son Dan, who passed away in 2011 from an accidental overdose. Baker congratulated the Elks on the successful work of the National Drug Awareness Program in promoting drug awareness issues on the national stage.

Next to the stage was PGER Millard Pickering, who spoke about the National Drug Awareness Program and the newly created Elks National Drug Awareness Commission, which has helped the Order escalate its efforts on the front lines of the nation's information war against substance abuse. Pickering then introduced a farewell video recognizing the accomplishments of Kent Gade, who is stepping down after serving eighteen years as director of the Drug Awareness Program.

Following Pickering's remarks, PGER Duitsman announced a \$10,000 donation from the Elks National Foundation to the charity My Very Own Bed, a charity located in Minneapolis that provides new beds to children transitioning to permanent housing.

PGER James M. McQuillan, chairman of the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees, next introduced the reports of the Elks National Foundation and the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. McQuillan began by noting that the foundation has tripled its spending on programs in only 19 years—increasing from \$13 million in 2004 to an impressive \$40 million in 2023–2024.

Next to the podium was ENF Youth Programs Manager Makenna Cannon, who gave a report on the fifty-first annual National Hoop Shoot Finals competition. The event was held at Wintrust Arena in Chicago in April and delivered a tight, suspenseful, sportsmanlike contest as always. Cannon introduced the two winners of the Getty Powell Award for best overall performances at the Finals. The female winner was Morgan Miehle, who was sponsored by Wheeling, WV Lodge No. 28 and competed in the girls' ages twelve and thirteen division.

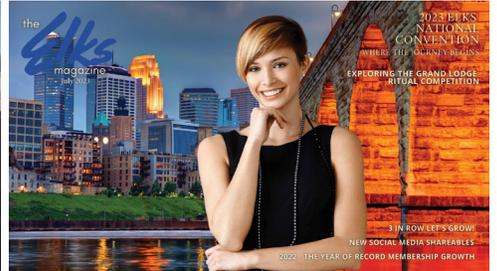
Please see **OPENING** Page 4

See Page 12 for Proposed Resolutions

~ GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING COMMITTEE ~

# Remember Minneapolis convention with fun photos

Visit Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing in the exhibit hall and take advantage of the new photo booth. The backdrop is the Elks Magazine cover, with green screen options including the Elks National Memorial and photos of Minneapolis. Come as often as you want — share the photos on social media and e-mail them to your friends.



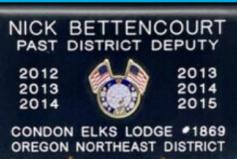
## Exalted Rulers: Minneapolis Reports due in October!

Exalted Rulers (or alternate delegates) should be reminded that they are required to attend the Annual Session and submit a Report to their Lodge no later than the first regular meeting in October. [GLS §12.120]

A good suggestion would be to save each edition of the *Convention News*, along with a copy of the Resolutions. Also, record how you voted on each resolution and submit to the Lodge with a cover letter. That will complete the obligation of your report to your Lodge.

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# How Many Conventioneers?

The Credentials Committee Director, Phil Claiborne, has announced that the Registration figures from Saturday and Sunday were completed just in time for Opening Ceremony:

Grand Exalted Ruler . . . . .	1
Past Grand Exalted Rulers . . . . .	20
Grand Lodge Officers . . . . .	8
Grand Trustees . . . . .	8
Grand Forum . . . . .	6
Grand Lodge Committeemen . . . . .	77
District Deputies-Designate . . . . .	212
Special Deputies . . . . .	27
Representatives to Grand Lodge & Alternates . . . . .	1,177
State Presidents . . . . .	44
State Secretaries . . . . .	30
Grand Lodge Members . . . . .	1,260
Non-Voting Members . . . . .	1,404
Guests . . . . .	764
Vendors . . . . .	34

**Combined Totals: 5,072**

# 1ST DAY BUSINESS SESSION

<b>08:00</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> . . . . .	Grand Lodge Officers
	Procession of Grand Lodge Officers . . . . .	John T. Jennings, Grand Esquire
	Call to Order . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Recognition of Delegates. . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	• From Distant Lodges • From New Lodges	
	Reading of Minutes from Previous Session — Motion to Dispense	
	Appointments . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Annual Report of the Grand Exalted Ruler . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Elks Nat'l. Convention Commission Report . . . . .	Arthur H. Frost III PGER, Chairman
	Nat'l. Memorial & Publication Comm. Report. . . . .	Ronald L. Hicks, PGER, Chairman
	Veterans Memorial Restoration Trust Report . . . . .	Ronald L. Hicks, PGER, Chairman
	Board of Grand Trustees ( <i>preliminary report</i> ) . . . . .	Allen H. Lenort, Chairman
	Committee on Judiciary. . . . .	Robert J. Van Campen, Chairman
	Legislative Session discussion ( <i>5 min/resolution</i> ) . . . . .	Robert J. Van Campen, Chairman
	Announcements . . . . .	John T. Jennings, Grand Esquire
	( <i>estimated</i> ) <b>Non-Members Admitted</b>	
<b>09:40</b>	Ritual Preliminary Report. . . . .	Michael W. Iddings, Chairman
	Nominations and Election of 2023-2024 Officers . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Designating Escorts for Procession of GER-Elect. . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Presentation of Grand Lodge Officers-Elect . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Celebration/Demonstration . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Acceptance Speech. . . . .	Randy P. Shook, GER-Elect
	Announcements . . . . .	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Announcements . . . . .	John T. Jennings, Grand Esquire
	Benediction . . . . .	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
<b>11:30</b>	Grand Lodge Session Recessed . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER

## ~ GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE ~

### AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS for 2022-2023

This is the first year that the Americanism Essay Contest has awarded winners in each age group, from fifth to eighth grade. In addition to the usual plaques, the committee has added a monetary award for each of the winners as well.

The theme this year was *“What is Your American Dream?”* Here are the winners, with name, school, and sponsoring Lodge:

#### FIFTH GRADE

**1st Place (\$1,000): CAMERYN BOOTS**, Joy Miller School, Egg Harbor Township, NJ. Sponsored by Egg Harbor Township, NJ Lodge No. 2563.

**2nd Place (\$500): MARCUS D’AMICO**, St. Monica-St. Michael School Barre, VT. Sponsored by Barre, VT Lodge No. 1535.

**3rd Place (\$250): RUBY LOPEZ**, Johnson Elementary, Richmond, VA. Sponsored by Richmond, VA Lodge No. 45.

#### SIXTH GRADE

**1st Place (\$1,000): KALEB HILL**, Cody Middle School, Cody, WY. Sponsored by Cody, WY Lodge No. 1611.

**2nd Place (\$500): JUSTIN JONES**, Anna S. Kuhl Elementary, Port Jervis, NY. Sponsored by Port Jervis, NY Lodge No. 645.

**3rd Place (\$250): DALTON PUCKETT**, CDA Charter School, Coeur d’Alene, ID. Sponsored by Coeur d’Alene, ID Lodge No. 1254.

#### SEVENTH GRADE

**1st Place (\$1,000): LILY STRODE**, Thomas Metcalf Laboratory School, Normal, IL. Sponsored by Bloomington, IL Lodge No. 281.

**2nd Place (\$500): JHANSI S. RAPETI**, West Middle School, Ponca City, OK. Sponsored by Ponca City, OK Lodge No. 2002.

**3rd Place (\$250): MARIA MIRCUTA**, St. John’s Catholic School, Hot Springs, AR. Sponsored by Hot Springs, AR Lodge No. 380.

#### EIGHTH GRADE

**1st Place (\$1,000): AMERICA VELAZQUEZ**, Comfort Middle School, Comfort, TX. Sponsored by Kerrville, TX Lodge No. 2081.

**2nd Place (\$500): JASI SHERIFF**, Norfolk Junior High School, Norfolk, NE. Sponsored by Norfolk, NE Lodge No. 653.

**3rd Place (\$250): ABBY SCHICKEDANZ**, Sandpoint Christian School, Ponderay, ID. Sponsored by Sandpoint, ID Lodge No. 1376.

Congratulations to all of our winners and their sponsoring Lodges! Plaques and monetary awards may be signed off to be picked up at the GL Fraternal Committee Booth in the Exhibition Hall on Tuesday after the completion of the Business Session.

**OPENING** from Page 1

The champion of the boys' competition was Tommy Goodelle, who competed in the boys' ages twelve and thirteen division, sponsored by Utica, NY Lodge No. 33. Cannon concluded her report with a video of two-time championship winner Bree Besonen missing her opportunity to secure a third first-place finish in 2023. Cannon noted that Bree's performance embodied the qualities of grit and dedication that Hoop Shoot instills in all participants.

Next up to the podium was ENF Associate Director Deborah Kahler Doles, who spoke about the Community Investments Program, which awarded an average of 2.8 grants totaling more than \$8,100 to each of 1,541 Lodges last year, and through which more than 80% of Local Lodges received at least one grant to assist their communities. Doles then introduced a video highlighting the ways in which Greater Pine Island, FL Lodge No. 2781 used a CIP grant to provide support following the devastating impact on the community following Hurricane Ian.

Doles also spoke about the January 2023 Winter Elks Scholar Service Trip, in which 21 scholars traveled to Florida to help Elks at the Greater Pine Island Lodge rebuild their Lodge and their community in the wake of Hurricane Ian. Doles presented a video demonstrating the dedication and hard work of the scholars during their time in Florida.

Doles concluded her report with an update on the Most Valuable Student Scholarship program, noting that in April of 2023, the ENF Leadership Weekend was held in person for the first time in four years. She introduced the top MVS Scholarship winners for 2023, each of whom will receive \$50,000 over four years to complete their college educations, and played video introductions for each of them. The top male winner was Agam Igwe, sponsored by Towson, MD Lodge No. 469, and the top female winner was Diya Jha, sponsored by Frederick, MD Lodge No. 684.

PGER Duitsman returned to the stage and as Elks National Veterans Service Commission Chairman, he gave the commission's annual report. He noted that the Emergency Assistance Program had provided financial assistance to 563 veterans

in 2022-2023 to help them exit homelessness or avoid losing their place of residence. In addition, the Welcome Home Kit program had provided basic household necessities to thousands of veterans moving into new homes. To illustrate the impact of the Welcome Home Kit program, PGER Duitsman introduced a video that showed Elks volunteers in action, distributing kits to veterans in New Jersey. Duitsman then resumed his remarks, noting that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Elks continued to provide needed support to veterans across the country, with Elks volunteers visiting a total of more than 360 VA facilities an average of twice a month to provide entertainment, support, and essential supplies for veteran residents. PGER Duitsman concluded his report by introducing a video highlighting the many ways Elks supported disabled veterans in Colorado during the annual, week-long Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic—providing essential services that help veterans break barriers.

Finally, PGER McQuillan returned to the stage to cap the ENF presentation by urging Elks across the country to join the ENF Fidelity Club, which involves making monthly donations to

the Foundation.

The Opening Ceremony's keynote presentation was given by Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley, who spoke about his successful year leading the Order. He recalled his year of travel and the fantastic work he had seen being done by Elks across the country, noting that the Elks fulfilled his goal of growing the Order, with 41 state associations reporting an increase in membership. In addition, Elks exceeded the GER's per-Member giving goal by an impressive 285.5 percent. Hidley also noted that the selfless work of Elks and the use of ENF resources like grant money has helped strengthen communities in a wide variety of ways—from showing appreciation for veterans to informing young people of the dangers of drug use.

To close his speech and round out the session, he returned to his year's theme of "Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm" and told the assembled Elks, "Each and every one of you should be proud of the work that you do for Elkdom every day and for your accomplishments. You have truly demonstrated that you are Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm." ★

## Sen. Klobuchar visits convention



U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar from Minnesota visited the convention on Sunday to meet Elks leaders and hear about the Elks' community service and veterans outreach programs. Here she is pictured with GER-Elect Randy P. Shook, PGER Paul R. Ryan, and GER Bruce A. Hidley. Photo: Coppersmith Photography

~ ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION ~

# Elks donate more than 16,000 hides in 2022-23

By Mary K. Morgan

Director, Elks National Veterans Service Commission

The Elks Veterans Leather Program provides services and support that are hard to find elsewhere.

In 2022-23, Elks and volunteers in 11 states donated 16,229 hides to the Veterans Leather Program. Volunteers helped to collect these hides and transport them to our partners, who turned them into leather.

That leather is turned into wheelchair gloves, and Elks across the country distributed 1,378 pairs of these gloves to veterans last year. Every year, Veterans Leather Program volunteers attend national adaptive sports events to meet with veterans and personally distribute these gloves. Each of these pairs of gloves is emblazoned with the Elks logo.

Finished leather is also turned into craft kits, with a little help from our longtime partner Help Heal Veterans (HHV). This past year, Elks donated 64,587 square feet of leather to HHV to make craft kits for veterans. In return, HHV helped Elks volunteers in State Veterans Homes and elsewhere hand out 8,800 craft kits directly to veterans. We know these kits are appreciated because we receive postcards in our office every week thanking the Elks for supporting this program.

Finished leather is also donated directly to VA Medical Centers, which recreation therapists use to plan creative



projects focused on helping veterans recover. In 2022-23, Elks distributed 5,982 square feet of leather directly to facilities for use in therapeutic crafting.

Every year, there's a battle to see which states can contribute the most hides. This year, Missouri came out on top, contributing 6,637 hides. Iowa came in second place with 4,514 hides, and Arkansas came in third place with 2,870 hides. Congratulations to these states!

Thank you to all the Veterans Leather Program volunteers who make this program a success, especially Program Chair Dennis McAleese, and Vice-Chair Chuck Mudge.

Are you interested in participating in the Veterans Leather Program? Come visit the Elks National Veterans Service booth to learn more and buy some gloves.

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To learn more about the Oregon Elks Major Project the Elks Youth Eye Service visit [EYES.OregonElks.ORG](https://EYES.OregonElks.ORG)

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## ~ G/L RITUALISTIC COMMITTEE ~

### RUSH LAMOTTE HOLLAND AWARD

This award, given to the highest scoring Leading Knight in the Ritual Contest, will be presented Monday on behalf of Colorado Springs, CO Lodge No. 309 PER Association, Colorado State Sponsor PGER John Amen, and the Colorado Elks Association.

In 1893, inspired by a visit to America's Mountain, Pikes Peak, Kathryn Lee Bates penned the famous poem which eventually became the song America the Beautiful. In turn, the Leading Knight charge was also authored at the foot of America's Mountain.

Rush LaMotte Holland was the Exalted Ruler of Colorado Springs, CO Lodge No. 309 in 1902-1903. Holland was a highly respected attorney, and during the Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore, MD in 1903, Holland was appointed to the Committee on Laws by GER Joseph T. Fanning.

In 1905, Holland was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Work and Ritual by Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Brown. GER Brown instructed the committee to prepare and submit an entirely new Ritual, for approval at Grand Lodge in Denver, CO, in 1906.

Brother Holland wrote the lecture of The Esteemed Leading Knight. This lecture was "written like no other and has stood the test of time and has resisted changes."

On July 14, 1908, Rush L. Holland was nominated and elected Grand Exalted Ruler at the National Convention, held in Dallas, TX.

In 1921, he was appointed Assistant Attorney General of the United States of America. PGER Holland was assigned the task of overseeing the FBI and other departmental divisions. He was also a confidant of President

Calvin Coolidge.

It is no doubt that PGER Rush L. Holland exemplified the virtues of Elkdom. Colorado Springs Lodge No. 309 is truly proud of his accomplishments to both our country and our Order.

### WILLIAM A. KING AWARD

It is our honor to present this award on Monday in memory of William A. King. This award is given each year by the Union City, GA Lodge 1617 to the Officer in the Eastern Division and the Western Division who achieves the highest overall scores of all Officers competing in the ritual contest.

Bill King was an Elk for over 50 years and a Life Member of Union City, GA Lodge 1617. He was active as an Officer, ritual coach, and judge. He was an All American Lecturing Knight and served as a Grand Lodge ritual judge.

In 1991, 1992, and 1994, Bill coached his home Lodge, Union City, GA No. 1617, to three National Ritual Contest Championships. His teams have been Eastern Division Champions five times and have produced 26 All-American Officers.

Bill King's dedication to the Ritual and his contributions to the members of his teams as a coach, mentor, and friend makes this award special.

Bill has passed beyond "The Eleventh Hour" for his Promised Reward, but his love for the Ritual continues in us as it is inscribed on this award given today:

*"There is no activity throughout Elkdom that more consistently and continually furthers the fundamental principles of our order than a dignified, impressive rendition of the ritual."*

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~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ~

# Schedule: Seminars and learning opportunities

The Elks National Foundation is putting a spotlight on service during its seminars, and you don't want to miss it. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open 30 minutes before seminars begin, and rooms are subject to change.

### Fundraising Chairs: Tips and Tools

The Chair Challenge is a road-map for ENF Fundraising Chairs to reach fundraising success. This session will teach Chairs (and Elks alike) how to navigate the map and give them the tools they'll need to make their journey a success.

**Monday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Minneapolis Convention Center, 101I**



ENF staff members can answer your questions at their booth during convention.

### Elks Hoop Shoot: Unleashing Gritty Kids

Be there for the tip-off of the upcoming Hoop Shoot season, and learn how you can help unleash gritty kids.

**Monday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Minneapolis Convention Center, 101B**

### Community Investments Program: #ElksAlwaysCare

Learn about Lodge grants, get grant ideas, and discover best practices for grant use from the ENF staff members who approve the applications.

**Monday, 2:45 to 4 p.m., Minneapolis Convention Center, 101I**

## ENF, Minneapolis nonprofit help kids sleep easier

By Abbey Knupp

ENF Communications Associate

The Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities, wherever they are. As a thank you to the hardworking Elks Support Committee and the local community for supporting this Convention, the ENF will donate \$10,000 to My Very Own Bed, a nonprofit dedicated to providing a new bed to children moving into stable housing.

Founded in 2014, My Very Own

Bed provided more than 4,000 beds to children ages 2-18 in Minneapolis and the surrounding suburbs. Each bed comes with a dream kit containing sheets, a blanket, a pillow, a mattress pad, a stuffed animal, and a book.

A good night's sleep can help a child improve in all areas of their life, improving their overall health and well-being.

"The ENF funds programs that help kids build grit, encourage healthy decisions, and improve

access to college education," said ENF Director Jim O'Kelley. "Future success is more likely when children have access to the resources they need—including a good night sleep."

A 501(c)(3) public charity, 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 [elks.org/enf](http://elks.org/enf).

## Special Recognition Award Best Grand Lodge Area

The generous donations in 2022-23 by the B.P.O. Elks of

### Manila, PI Lodge No. 761

are gratefully acknowledged by the Grand Exalted Ruler and our Board of Trustees

**Elks National Foundation**



## My Very Own Bed

Providing new beds to kids.

Since 2014, My Very Own Bed has provided thousands of dream kits — consisting of a bed, set of sheets, blanket, pillow, mattress pad, stuffed animal, and book — to children and teens in the Twin Cities metro area.

~ GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE ~

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SEMINARS

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee will be holding two seminars at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Monday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in room 103B and Tuesday from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in room 101I. The seminars provide an overview of the committee's programs, including the Soccer Shoot, Student/ Teenager of the Month/Year, JROTC Awards, Dictionary Project, Antlers, Community Projects Contest, Public Safety Medals, and the Junior Golf Program.

At the end of the seminar, there will be an opportunity to ask questions to the committee members regarding the programs. This is a great way to learn about programs that can help your Lodge become more visible in your community.

NEW ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE BROCHURES & VIDEOS AVAILABLE

To provide the membership with the latest information on the programs of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee, several new brochures and videos have been produced and are now available in the Activities Committee section of Elks.org.

The brochures can be shared with your fellow Members and the public to easily explain how a program works. The videos run from 5 to 10 minutes on average and provide an overview of the programs for your officers, committees, and Members.

The Activities Committee encourages you to look at what is available. If you should have any questions, feel free to contact your Activities Committee member.

Elks Magazine expands digital archives

Explore the history of the Elks — and the United States of America — through our archived issues of The Elks Magazine. The archive has been expanded, with issues available from the very first edition, June 1922, through November 1986. Each issue is posted in full as a PDF at [elks.org/history/archives.cfm](http://elks.org/history/archives.cfm).

G/L AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

The Auditing and Accounting Committee will be conducting two seminars on Monday and Tuesday to assist Lodges in their accounting tasks.

The *Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar* will address the basics of utilizing the recommended software to perform all the basic accounting tasks that a Lodge needs. The session will be conducted using a live session of QuickBooks. It is recommended for all beginners and intermediate Lodge personnel that handle the book-keeping at the Lodge level. The seminar is scheduled for 12:30-1:45 p.m. Monday and 2:15-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, both in Minneapolis Convention Center, meeting room 101G.

The *Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics* session will be addressing six of the most common areas where Lodges have issues with complying with Grand Lodge Statutes or federal and state information return requirements. This session is scheduled for 2-3:15 p.m. Monday and 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, both in Minneapolis Convention Center, meeting room 101G.

Each session will also have a question and answers segment. Members are also able to stop by the committee's booth in the exhibits area to meet one on one with a member of the committee to address specific issues. The committee looks forward to meeting you.

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**? YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ?**

How do I submit to the FRS?

What is the FRS?

How do I use QuickBooks?

What's a Restricted Fund?  
How do I handle it?

How do I use QuickBooks Desktop?

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Chat with the experts from the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee and the FRS Applications Specialist

Stop by our booth in the Exhibits Area (Hall C) during Exhibit Hours and pick up your free gift.



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# Grand Lodge Budget proposed for 2023-2024

## REVENUE

Per Capita Assessments . . . . .	4,977,604
Interest/Dividend Income . . . . .	841,000
Merchandise Sales . . . . .	25,071
Convention Revenue . . . . .	328,000
Management Fees . . . . .	52,800
Royalties . . . . .	162,000
Transfer From Reserves . . . . .	1,758,922
	<hr/>
	<b>8,145,397</b>

## EXPENSES

Grand Trustees . . . . .	46,350
District Deputies . . . . .	590,500
Special Deputies . . . . .	33,450
Special Representatives . . . . .	42,000
Rose Bowl . . . . .	100,000
Grand Lodge Conference . . . . .	127,200
Grand Lodge Session . . . . .	1,862,800
PGER Office and Travel . . . . .	400,000
Legal Fees . . . . .	200,000
Audit Fees . . . . .	39,000
Bank Fees . . . . .	30,000
General Insurance . . . . .	79,200
Investment Manager Fees . . . . .	252,000
Contingency . . . . .	100,000
Other Grand Lodge . . . . .	332,308
Grand Exalted Ruler . . . . .	369,593
Grand Secretary Expenses . . . . .	2,557,981
Committees & Other . . . . .	983,015
	<hr/>
	<b>8,145,397</b>

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## Minneapolis Convention



Photos: Coppersmith Photography

~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ~

# Student leader, junior firefighter win top MVS awards

By Abbey Knupp

ENF Communications Manager

In April, 20 high school seniors from coast to coast flew to Chicago for the first in-person Most Valuable Student Leadership Weekend since 2019. They got a chance to bond, learn about their new #ElksFamily, and interview for the top awards of \$30,000, \$40,000, and \$50,000.

Sponsored by Frederick, MD Lodge No. 684, \$50,000 winner Diya Jha was one of 12 students across the United States to be selected for the Bezos Scholars program. Diya developed Let's TALC (Teach, Access, Learn, Choice) to teach students in her school district about the dangers of opioid use.

"Some students shared how they initiated substance use as a coping mechanism for dealing with depression, anxiety and other mental health challenges," Diya said. "I worked on engaging students from diverse racial and



Diya Jha



Agam Igwe

ethnic backgrounds and social groups, such as the student athletes, to reach the full breadth of our high school population."

Diya's program encouraged participation in skill development courses as an alternative to drug use. She instituted public speaking classes, introduced students to oratorical competitions, and encouraged them to volunteer at the local soup kitchen.

Diya plans to attend Yale University and major in computer science.

The other top winner, sponsored by Towson, MD Lodge No. 469,

has been busy lifting 150-pound dummies and running rescue drills. Agam Igwe has been in his community's junior firefighters program since he was 9 years old.

"After six rigorous years of training, two leading battalion cadences, I graduated at the highest rank," Agam said. "I didn't expect the strenuous training, but I persevered, and the leadership skills I acquired molded ambitions of creating more inclusive communities."

This summer, Agam is interning at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory & Children's Hospital, where he will turn data into model representations. Agam plans to attend Stanford University and study engineering. His career dreams include working with surgical robotics, so entire surgeries can be performed remotely.

You can hear from Agam and Diya at [enf.elks.org/MVS23](http://enf.elks.org/MVS23).

~ GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE ~

## Antlers Program gives teens an intro into Elkdom

An amazing program to get the youth of your Lodge and community involved with the Order is a Junior Elks Program called the Antlers. It is a chance for young people in our communities to participate in the many service-related projects our Lodges sponsor.

Membership in the organization is open to any US citizen older than 12 and younger than 21, who is of good character and believes in the existence of God.

The Antlers of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America has these objectives:

- To quicken the spirit of American patriotism;
- To teach respect for parents and love of home;
- To inculcate the fundamentals of good citizenship;

- To aid in a worthy cause;
- To establish foundation of character;
- To promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members;
- And to respect the conviction of others in the matters of worship and religion is true Americanism.

Is your Lodge ready for the Antlers? For information regarding the Antlers Program, you can review and download the various documents at [elks.org/grandlodge/activities/antlers.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/activities/antlers.cfm).

If you do not already have an Antlers Program, consider doing so to grow our Elks of the future.

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# Summary of Proposed Resolutions being voted on Tuesday

**2023-01**—To clarify this Constitutional provision by eliminating a redundancy. **\*Final approval of this proposed amendment requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at this assembly and compliance with Article IX of the Constitution.\***

**2023-02**—To prohibit the use of resources of the Order and of Local Lodges for private, public, or social media fundraising activities in connection with a Local Forum or Grand Forum action.

**2023-03**—To prohibit the use of resources of the Order and of Local Lodges for private, public, or social media fundraising activities in connection with a Local Forum or Grand Forum action, and to authorize the Grand Forum to issue a contempt order.

**2023-04**—To formalize the appointment and authority of Special Representative District Leaders or Area Special Representatives.

**2023-05**—To clarify that the determination of whether there exists good cause not to attend a District Deputy Clinic rests with the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

**2023-06**—To clarify that the determination of whether there exists good cause not to attend a District Deputy Clinic rests with the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

**2023-07**—To require the Lodge Treasurer to attend all District Deputy Clinics.

**2023-08**—To clarify the types of projects that are subject to the provisions of this section of the Laws of the Order.

**2023-09**—To allow greater discretion for the use of defunct Lodge funds and to allow the Grand Exalted Ruler the authority to appoint a sufficient number of Trustees to administer the funds of a defunct Lodge.

**2023-10**—To allow Local Lodges to adopt a by-law setting a minimum age requirement for Life Membership applicants.

**2023-11**—To define spouse as used in the Grand Lodge Statutes and in publications.

**2023-12**—To require the Grand Lodge to provide a credit to Local Lodges for dropped Members.

**2023-13**—To authorize and prescribe the procedure by which a Member may resign from membership during the Lodge year.

**2023-14**—To allow Members to transfer from a Lodge appealing a Charter revocation.

**2023-15**—To permit and prescribe the procedure by which a Member, who has been dropped for non-payment, may apply for reinstatement in another Lodge when that individual's Lodge has had its Charter revoked and has appealed.

**2023-16**—To allow a Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association to form a separate non-profit corporation for the purpose of raising, receiving, and distributing funds for such charities, educational, and scientific purposes that are supported by its Lodge, State Association, and/or Grand Lodge.

**2023-17**—To make it clear that the Grand Exalted Ruler shall have the authority to remove any officer of a corporation formed pursuant to the new Section 16.035 who neglects the duties of office, or is guilty of contumacy or conduct injurious to the Order. **\*This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2023-16.\***

**2023-18**—To allow a Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association to form a separate non-profit corporation for the purpose of fundraising. **\*This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2023-16 and 2023-17.\***

## ~ 2023 RITUALISTIC CONTEST PRELIMINARY SCORES ~

EASTERN DIVISION			WESTERN DIVISION		
STATE	LODGE & NO.	SCORE	STATE	LODGE & NO.	SCORE
NEW YORK	Carthage, NY No. 1762	97.1461	COLORADO	Littleton, CO No. 1650	96.1010
FLORIDA	Gainesville, FL No. 990	95.0501	ARIZONA	Phoenix, AZ No. 335	91.8474
MAINE	Sanford, ME No. 1470	95.0846	MISSOURI	De Soto, MO No. 689	93.5936
PENNSYLVANIA	Bridgeport, PA No. 714	96.2929	NEBRASKA	Grand Island, NE No. 604	96.1400
VERMONT	St. Johnsbury, VT No. 1343	94.5259	NEVADA	Reno, NV No. 597	95.2159
OHIO	Kenton, OH No. 157	98.2560	WASHINGTON	Kelso/Longview, WA No. 1482	93.6631
NEW JERSEY	Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782	97.7114	CALIFORNIA	Santa Clarita, CA No. 2379	97.7330
MICHIGAN	Traverse City, MI No. 323	95.1639	NEW MEXICO	Carlsbad, NM No. 1558	97.1450
SOUTH CAROLINA	Charleston, SC No. 242	93.1291	OREGON	Keizer, OR No. 2472	94.9134
			OKLAHOMA	Broken Arrow, OK No. 2673	93.5099

**2023 GRAND LODGE  
RITUALISTIC CONTEST  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

### FINALS – MONDAY JULY 3, 2023

- 1:00 p.m. Carlsbad, NM No. 1558
- 2:00 p.m. Santa Clarita, CA No. 2379
- 3:00 p.m. Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782
- 4:00 p.m. Kenton, OH No. 157