



GRAND LODGE Convention News

SUNDAY ✨ JULY 2, 2023

Enthusiastic Minnesotans host Elks convention

By Mike Chamernik

Convention News Reporter

Finally, the lead up to the 158th Grand Lodge Convention is over. For Minneapolis, this year's host, it's been 19 years since the city last hosted an Elks convention. And for the convention organizers, this week is the endpoint of more than 18 months of planning and preparation.

Gretchen and Rick Peterson, a married couple from Hopkins, MN Lodge No. 2221, serve as the convention's Executive Co-Chairs. In leading the effort, they've recruited volunteers, appointed chairpersons to the Local Support Committee, and managed all the paperwork, accounting, and logistics that come with such an event.

"We've enjoyed the process, but we're looking forward to seeing the completion of what we've been working for a year," Rick Peterson said. "To have all of the hard effort turned into success will be rewarding."

One of the main tasks for the Petersons and the Local Support Committee is promoting the event itself. The theme this week is Get Your Plaid On, so volunteers will be wearing apparel with the familiar burgundy red checkerboard motif associated with Minnesota. The convention logo, which includes a plaid silhouette of an elk on top of a flowing river below the Minneapolis skyline, pays homage to Paul Bunyan and the Minnesota Northwoods lumberjacks.

"It's taken on a life of its own," Gretchen Peterson said. "We were trying to come up with a theme that would be fun and engaging for the attendees."



Downtown Minneapolis. Photo: Lane Pelovsky/Courtesy of Meet Minneapolis

VOLUNTEERING

More than 270 Members from across the state are serving as volunteers for the convention. The Petersons said many people jumped on board right at the start — they promoted the 2023 national convention at last year's Minnesota state convention, and 100 volunteers signed up immediately.

"We've learned a lot along the way," Gretchen Peterson said. "Overall, I think it's been a very good experience. We've gotten to know a lot more people in the state of Minnesota. The Minnesota volunteers have really stepped up."

Tammy Lehn, DDGER and a Member of Hutchinson, MN Lodge No. 2427 and General Chairperson of the convention's Local Support Committee, said there was no problem finding help.

"Our 7,000 Members in the state of Minnesota," Lehn said, "once we started selling it saying, hey we got

this coming, we're going to need this, that, and the other thing, once we released the Minnesota logo of Come Get Your Plaid On, people got so excited."

Justin Key is serving as the Airport Greeters/Transportation chairman, and one of his main roles is to ensure the endorsed candidate, PGERs, and other VIPs are able to get around

between the airport, hotel, and convention center. His role and working on the team have been fulfilling.

"It's a lot of fun, and you get to see people from around the state that we see at our state convention," said Key, an incoming DDGER and Member of Red Wing, MN Lodge No. 845. "You don't get to see these people all that often, so it's really fun to have an event like this where you can all work together as a team for one great objective."



Please see CONVENTION Page 5

~ GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE ~

All American Lodge Contest narrows down to 60 finalists

By **WILLIAM J. LINDSEY**
Committee Chairman

This past year, 229 Lodges from 38 State Associations entered the Contest 'A' - All American Lodge Contest.

Here are the top 10 in each division in alphabetical order.

Division I (1-150 Members)

- Cushing-Drumright, OK No. 2712
- Elmwood Park-Paterson, NJ No. 60
- Fayetteville, NC No. 1081
- Grangeville, ID No. 1825
- Green Bay, WI No. 259
- Mount Airy, NC No. 2061
- Norfolk, NE No. 653
- Norfolk, VA No. 38
- Pendleton, SC No. 2861
- San Angelo, TX No. 1880

Division II (151-225 Members)

- Cedar Grove, NJ No. 2237
- Greater Spokane, WA No. 228
- Katy, TX No. 2628
- Loudoun, VA No. 2406
- Milwaukee, WI No. 46
- Newport News, VA No. 315
- Ridgecrest, CA No. 1913
- Santa Monica, CA No. 906
- Tri-Cities, WA No. 2755
- Wheeling, WV No. 28

Division III (226-300 Members)

- Bridgeport, PA No. 714
- Forks, WA No. 2524
- Grand Island, NE No. 604
- Jackson, TN No. 192
- Kansas City (Northland), MO No. 2376
- Kearny, NJ No. 1050
- Mena, AR No. 781
- Page, AZ No. 2498
- South Bend, IN No. 235
- Tucson, AZ No. 385

Division IV (301-450 Members)

- Calvert, MD No. 2620
- East Stroudsburg, PA No. 319
- Eveleth, MN No. 1161
- Gilroy, CA No. 1567
- Kearney, NE No. 984
- Middletown, NJ No. 2179
- Provo, UT No. 849
- Putnam, CT No. 574
- Salem, IL No. 1678
- Sierra Vista, AZ No. 2065

Division V (451-700 Members)

- Casa Grande Valley, AZ No. 1957
- Chandler, AZ No. 2429
- Chattanooga, TN No. 91
- Dover, DE No. 1903
- Ferndale, MI No. 1588
- Hickory, NC No. 1654
- Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782
- New Braunfels, TX No. 2279
- Rensselaer, NY No. 2073
- Saratoga-Wilton, NY No. 161

Division VI (701 Members and up)

- Bremerton, WA No. 1181
- Fayetteville-Springdale, AR No. 1987
- Greater Cape May, NJ No. 2839
- Manahawkin, NJ No. 2340
- Manasquan, NJ No. 2534
- Manchester, CT No. 1893
- Phoenix, AZ No. 335
- St. George 'Dixie', UT No. 1743
- St. Louis, MO No. 9
- Sun City, AZ No. 2559

The first, second, and third place winning Lodges in each Division will be announced during the Convention on Tuesday morning during the Business Session. We hope to see you there.

CONTEST "I" WINNERS

The Contest I - State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins.

Judging is based on four categories: Content, Layout & Typography, Pictorial, and General.

Judging was an exciting process. The reader learned what other State Associations across the nation are doing.

Thank you to the many editors who entered and earned the 4 Star and 5 Star ratings. *And the winners are:*

5 Star ★★★★★ Awards

State	Editor
Arizona	Shawnee Carlile
Florida	Rachael King
Georgia	Lynda Lewis
Kansas	Carl E. Lindsey, Jr.
Louisiana	Buddy Hartle
MD, DE, DC	Janie Swigert
Missouri	Joy Clarkson
New Jersey	Joyce Powell

4 Star ★★★★★ Awards

State	Editor
Michigan	Dave Sladek
North Carolina	Ashley Buckwell
Pennsylvania	Glen Klein

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.

PLEASE, SPEAK UP!

Court Reporter Judy needs to know your **Name, Current Elks Title, and Lodge Name and Number**. If you are recognized for making or seconding a motion, please come forward at the end of the Session to make sure she gets your information correctly into the permanent record which will be used to produce the annual Grand Lodge Proceedings book. We don't want you to be listed as an *"Unidentified Delegate"* in its pages. Thank you for your kind cooperation!

SUNDAY AFTERNOON OPENING CEREMONY

04:00 Welcome	Robert L. Duitsman, PGER
Opening and Intro of PGERs	Robert L. Duitsman, PGER
Emergency Responders	Pipes & Drums
State Flags	State Presidents
Presentation of USA.	Louisville 8 Elks Honor Guard
Welcome from Rep. Dave Baker, Minnesota Assistant Minority Leader	
Drug Awareness Program	Millard C. Pickering, PGER
Local ENF Recipient	Robert L. Duitsman, PGER
Elks Charities At Work	James M. McQuillan, PGER
Hoop Shoot.	Makenna Cannon, Youth Programs Manager
Grants & Scholarships	Deborah Kahler Doles, Asst. Director
Veterans Service	Robert L. Duitsman, PGER
GER Speech	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
Closing	Robert L. Duitsman, PGER



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CONVENTION from Page 1

CAMARADERIE

The Elks convention always has the usual staples, including the Opening Ceremony, Memorial Service, business sessions, and the various meetings, seminars, and training classes. But the fraternizing between Members from across the country is what makes the convention special. Having thousands of Elks leaders in one place gives everyone a chance to share ideas.

“It’s really great to meet people in different hospitality rooms, meetings, and in trainings, and learn about different things and different programs that each state has,” Key said. “Maybe there’s something that worked and something that didn’t work, and it’s nice to share that with everybody, so we can all learn from each other and provide better programs for our communities.”

For instance, Minnesota implemented an Elks Passport Program in 2019, where Members get a passport book and receive a stamp when they visit the different Lodges in their state. Members from Minnesota talked about the program in the hospitality rooms at recent national conventions, and the Passport Program has now reached other states, including Missouri.

For Lehn, the Elks convention means family and friendship. “Getting to know others around the country, and how they handle their Lodges, and what are some new and exciting things they’ve tried and been successful with, that maybe our Lodges could try,” she said. “It’s a lot of communication going on during the hospitality rooms.”



Pat Wright and Bob Arthur will be walking around as Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox for photo ops

Lehn and her husband, George, the Grand Esteemed Leading Knight for 2022-23, have attended more than 15 conventions together, and over the years they’ve met plenty of couples from other states, including Oklahoma and Connecticut. Familiar faces always get a warm greeting.

“That’s what’s nice,” Lehn said. “The same type of people come around quite a bit, and you recognize each other. You may

not remember the names, but you do recognize each other.”

COMING FROM OUT OF STATE

For Rochelle Roerig, a Trustee and Member of Charlevoix, MI Lodge No. 2856, this will be her third convention, and her first time in Minneapolis. She’s making the nine-hour drive to the Twin Cities with her Lodge’s Exalted Ruler and House Chair. During the convention, she plans to attend some of the meetings, assist with her state’s hospitality room, and volunteer at the Michigan State Major Project booth, where she’ll sell merchandise and tell visitors about her state helps children with special needs. She’ll also attend the



Planning team for the Minneapolis convention (from left to right): Danielle Arthur, Lynn Rohlf, Tammy Lehn, Rick Peterson, Gretchen Peterson. Not pictured: Dave Norris.

Opening Ceremony.

“I still do really like the pomp and circumstance of the different flags at the Opening Ceremony, when they carry the flags that represent the states,” Roerig said. “I really like that.”

Roerig is a frequent commenter on the Elks.org message boards. She and some of the other commenters will take the opportunity to meet in Minneapolis.

“We just plan to get together and finally meet in real life, instead of chatting online,” Roerig said. “My favorite part is meeting these people that you feel like you know and that you really enjoy, and to meet them in person and confirm that.”

THINGS TO DO

Beyond Elks business, this should be an eventful week in Minneapolis. In addition to Independence Day celebrations, the Taste of Minnesota will be held downtown on Nicollet Mall on Sunday and Monday, and the Minnesota Twins host the Kansas City Royals from Monday to Wednesday. GER Bruce Hidley will throw out the ceremonial first pitch on Monday, and hundreds of Elks have already purchased tickets for the game (7:10 p.m. start).

Downtown Minneapolis is exceptionally walkable, with plenty of options for food and retail, and cultural and outdoor activities.

“It’s our hope that people get out and explore a little bit,” Gretchen Peterson said. “It’s a beautiful area. We have downtown parks, Gold Medal Flour Park. It’s a very vibrant area.”

The people of Minnesota add to that vibrancy.

“Minneapolis is a great place,” Key said. “It’s a very diverse community. All the time, you hear Minnesota Nice, Minnesota Nice, Minnesota Nice. In Minnesota, you can pretty much go up to anyone and ask for directions. We’re all really friendly and we like to help people.

“As far as Minnesota as a whole, as a state, and then Minneapolis as a city, we’re all really welcoming. There’s lot of parks, there’s lots of activities. There’s lots to see and do.” ★

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~ GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE ~

COMMUNITY PROJECT CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

CONGRATULATIONS to all the Winners! Elks Lodges across the country continued to show that "Elks Care—Elks Share" by conducting Community Projects. These projects were showcased in the Grand Lodge Activities Committee's Community Projects Contest. *The winners for 2022-23 are as follows:*

Division I • (1 – 150 Members)

- 1st Place Winner, SD No. 2084
- 2nd Place Mid Westchester, NY No. 535
- 3rd Place Florence, SC No. 1020

Division II • (151 – 225 Members)

- 1st Place Palmdale, CA No. 2027
- 2nd Place Roxboro, NC No. 2005
- 3rd Place El Paso TX, NM No. 187

Division III • (226 – 300 Members)

- 1st Place Goldsboro, NC No. 139
- 2nd Place Tifton, GA No. 1114
- 3rd Place South Orange, NJ No. 1154

Division IV • (301 – 450 Members)

- 1st Place Putnam, CT No. 574
- 2nd Place Presque Isle, ME No. 1954
- 3rd Place Tampa, FL No. 708

Division V • (451 – 700 Members)

- 1st Place Charlevoix, MI No. 2856
- 2nd Place Dover, DE No. 1903
- 3rd Place Hornell, NY No. 364

Division VI • (701+ Members)

- 1st Place Manasquan, NJ No. 2534
- 2nd Place Ashland, KY No. 350
- 3rd Place Milwaukie-Portland, OR No. 142

Every Lodge is encouraged to have a project that it conducts in its community. Does your Lodge have a Junior Golf program, or have you considered starting an Antlers Lodge? Perhaps participating in the Public Service Medal program is the right move for your Members?

By doing a project that benefits the people in your community, your Lodge increases its visibility, and offers opportunities for your Members to communicate to the public about who we are and what we do. Information on the process of developing a community project can be found on the ENF Community Investments Program page of Elks.org. If your Lodge conducts a project in the coming year, remember to showcase it in the Community Projects Contest.

Community Investment Grants

elks.org/cip/default.cfm

Community Projects Contest

elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/communityProjectsContest.pdf

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~ DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM ~

DAP awards given out at two-day training session

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
National Director
Elks Drug Awareness Commission

Prior to the opening of the Grand Lodge Session, Drug Awareness Chairs representing the various State Associations throughout our Order attended a two-day intensive training here in Minneapolis. The training consisted of presentations regarding many of the facets of the Elks Drug Awareness effort and included a presentation from the DEA regarding current trends and activities.

The Kent Gade Rookie of the Year Award was presented to Rebecca Underhill, Chair from Ohio. Becky was recognized for her exceptional

participation during her first year. She is the first recipient of the award since it was renamed in honor of longtime National Director, Kent Gade, who retired from the program at the beginning of this year.

The Chairman of the Year Award was presented to Henry Farnum from Virginia. Henry, a former Chair from Vermont, was recognized for his efforts forming coalitions within the commonwealth and for his untiring efforts in making Virginia one of the strongest programs in the nation.

At the training, a special video presentation was made to Gade, who

appeared via Zoom. As a tribute, Gade will receive the final Crystal Elk Award, which had been annually awarded to Chairman of the Year. Gade originated the idea for the award.



Crystal Elk Award

Special presentations were also made during the training by current Director Bill Bryan and by Sean Fearn from the DEA.

Drug Awareness will be holding a workshop here at the convention center on Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 101B, where the 2023 Enrique S. Camarena Award will be presented to Officer Kyle Mason from Wisconsin. Hope to see many of you there.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

? YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ?

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



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~ 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 bookkeeping 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.

Thank You All!

The Assistant Officers for the 2023-24 Minneapolis Grand Lodge Convention have been announced as follows:

► Clerks of Election

- Joe Allen — Camden, TN #2156
- Thomas P. Pavlik — Ashland, OH #1360
- Ron Hancock — Midwest City, OK #1890
- Kenneth J. Buuck — New Orleans, LA #30
- Brian Thompson — Mena, AR #781
- Larry R. Bratt — Lincoln, NE #80
- Steven W. Hardy
— Maynard-Clinton, MA #1568

► Assistant Clerks of Election

- Joseph Pedone — Park Ridge, NJ #2234
- Kevin Connolly — Pearl River, NY #2041
- Joseph C. Parisi — Pascagoula, MS #1120
- Kathleen Ackerman — Middletown, CT #771
- Donald L. Bittick — Caldwell, ID #1448
- E.J. Patrick III — Oregon City, OR #1189
- Jerry D. Fritz — Cody, WY #1611

► Inspectors of Election

- Roger Slief — Pratt, KS #1451
- Lance Evans — Brookfield, MO #874
- Michael E. Norway — Nashua, NH #720
- Robert Norred — Alexander City, AL #1878
- John T. Schlegel — Anchorage, AK #2868
- Kerry A. Ruth — Deadwood, SD #508
- Laura V. Laughlin — Cody, WY #1611

► Assistant Grand Esquires

- John Powers — Florence, SC #1020
- Jeffrey D. Cionni — Wellsburg, WV #1553
- Arthur Jacques — Woonsocket, RI #850
- Karl K. Hanke — Wausau, WI #248
- Sandra L. Anderson — Waterville, ME #905
- Willie Roberson Jr. — Dalton, GA #1267
- Renee' Rivituso — Waldorf, MD #2421

► Assistant Grand Inner Guards

- Thomas A. Maloney — Newport, VT #2155
- Carl E. Smith, Sr. — Beaver Falls, PA #348
- Gary C. Washburn — Eagle River, AK #2682
- Chris Elsberry — Des Moines, IA #98
- Andrew Housley — Silver City, MS #413
- Steven D. Weatherly — Fort Worth, TX #124
- Cynthia Wyszynski — Telluride, CO #692

► Assistant Grand Tilers

- Mark A. Alderman — Mount Airy, NC #2061
- Brian Pillar — Highland, IN #981
- Doyle W. Roller, Jr. — Shawnee, OK #657
- Dennis Darrow — Jonesboro, AR #498
- Don Baye — New Orleans, LA #30
- Stella A. Kolysko — Ticonderoga, NY #1494
- Floyd F. Schmidt — Lincoln, IL #914

~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ~

ENF Chairs' Challenge Contest Winners

April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

STATE ASSOCIATION WINNERS

Rank	State	Members	Score
1.	Rhode Island	6,772	557.400
2.	Wisconsin	6,900	529.896
3.	Minnesota	6,875	466.312
4.	Connecticut	21,491	445.838
5.	Mississippi	2,607	434.045

LODGE WINNERS

		Members	Composite Score
Division I — 150 Members or fewer			
1st Place	Tri-Cities, TX Lodge No. 2877	77	900.000
2nd Place	San Angelo, TX Lodge No. 1880	147	862.000
3rd Place	Green Bay, WI Lodge No. 259	64	810.000
Division II — 151 to 225 Members			
1st Place	Katy, TX Lodge No. 2628	177	870.000
2nd Place	Portage, WI Lodge No. 675	194	852.000
3rd Place	Wheeling, WV Lodge No. 28	205	842.000
Division III — 226 to 300 Members			
1st Place	Kerrville, TX Lodge No. 2081	266	1,000.000
2nd Place	Bridgeport, PA Lodge No. 714	280	882.000
3rd Place	Oshkosh, WI Lodge No. 292	289	835.000
Division IV — 301 to 450 Members			
1st Place	Oak Harbor, WA Lodge No. 2362	328	968.000
2nd Place	Gainesville, FL Lodge No. 990	439	912.000
3rd Place	Fairhope, AL Lodge No. 1879	341	894.000
Division V — 451 to 700 Members			
1st Place	Owatonna, MN Lodge No. 1395	} TIE	597
1st Place	Sheboygan, WI Lodge No. 299		
2nd Place	Grapevine, TX Lodge No. 2483	521	986.000
3rd Place	Delta, CO Lodge No. 1235	521	958.000
Division VI — More than 700 Members			
1st Place	Groton, CT Lodge No. 2163	873	1,000.000
2nd Place	Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475	1,614	996.000
3rd Place	Bristol County, RI Lodge No. 1860	1,857	988.000

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~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ~

~ ENVSC ~

ENF Per Member Contest Winners

April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

STATE ASSOCIATION WINNERS

Rank	State	Members	Donations	Per Member
1.	Nevada	6,035	\$145,636.50	\$24.132
2.	Mississippi	2,607	\$60,281.52	\$23.123
3.	Texas	13,269	\$303,761.15	\$22.893
4.	Minnesota	6,875	\$127,752.88	\$18.582
5.	Utah	3,558	\$62,196.92	\$17.481

LODGE WINNERS

Members Donations Per Member

Division I — 150 Members or fewer

1st	Wells, ME Lodge No. 2738	56	\$27,017.00	\$482.446
2nd	Seguin, TX Lodge No. 1229	102	\$33,519.24	\$328.620
3rd	Greeley, CO Lodge No. 809	143	\$22,414.00	\$156.741

Division II — 151 to 225 Members

1st	Atlanta-Northlake, GA Lodge No. 78	164	\$32,740.00	\$199.634
2nd	Porterville, CA Lodge No. 1342	154	\$22,966.00	\$149.130
3rd	Newport News, VA Lodge No. 315	156	\$19,982.00	\$128.090

Division III — 226 to 300 Members

1st	Fairview Heights, IL Lodge No. 664	255	\$15,663.00	\$61.424
2nd	Park Ridge, NJ Lodge No. 2234	270	\$11,715.00	\$43.389
3rd	Rochester, MN Lodge No. 1091	244	\$10,305.00	\$42.234

Division IV — 301 to 450 Members

1st	Las Vegas, NV Lodge No. 1468	420	\$62,098.00	\$147.852
2nd	Howell, NJ Lodge No. 2515	313	\$23,521.00	\$75.147
3rd	Louisville, KY Lodge No. 8	414	\$29,268.00	\$70.696

Division V — 451 to 700 Members

1st	Eagle River, AK Lodge No. 2682	460	\$18,398.47	\$39.997
2nd	Springfield, OR Lodge No. 2145	471	\$18,149.00	\$38.533
3rd	Sheboygan, WI Lodge No. 299	519	\$19,735.46	\$38.026

Division VI — More than 700 Members

1st	Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley, CA No. 2444	1,161	\$48,346.90	\$41.643
2nd	Gallipolis, OH Lodge No. 107	829	\$28,529.50	\$34.414
3rd	Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475	1,614	\$50,838.90	\$31.499

VISIT THE ENVSC BOOTH

Check out the new Elks National Veterans Service Commission booth, write your name on our Wall of Service, and pick up your "I'm a Veteran" ribbon.

While there, chat with ENVSC staff about Welcome Home Kits, and learn how you can sign up to help hospitalized veterans.

Veterans Leather Program Chair Dennis McAleese and Vice-Chair Chuck Mudge will be sharing their expertise and selling gloves for \$25.

This year, Chip Purkey from Help Heal Veterans will be available to answer any questions about ordering free craft kits for veterans. We'll also be asking for your input on a new craft kit calendar for 2024.

We look forward to seeing you!

CHEA seeks strongest Elk

Think you have the firmest handshake in the Order?

Stop by the California-Hawaii Elks booth to participate in the Strongest Elk contest. Visitors can have their grip strength measured using a dynamometer.

The contest will be held through end of Monday. The top men's and women's scores will receive a gift card. Anyone who wants to enter pays \$1, with funds going to the state major project.

The California-Hawaii Elks have raised over \$100.6 million since 1950 to address the unmet needs of children with disabilities. The program has four major components:

1. **Physical, occupational, and speech/language therapy** for children under 18 years old. This year more than 11,000 therapy visits were completed.

2. **Preschool vision screening** to identify potential eye problems prior to kindergarten. More than 30,000 children were screened this year.

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

4. **Undergraduate scholarships** for students with disabilities. Students are eligible for up to \$3,000 a year, renewable for four years.

Special Recognition Award Best New Lodge in Per-Member Giving

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

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Elks National Foundation



~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ~

Fourth-generation Elk named Alum of the Year

By Abbey Knupp

ENF Communications Manager

Elks scholarships are more than just funds for school – they’re an opportunity to join a community of service-minded peers and connect to a network of Elks across the country who make the scholars feel at home wherever they are. The Alum of the Year Award is given to a scholar who gives back to that community, and this year’s winner barged right in.

Erika Barger won a Legacy Awards scholarship in 2006, when she was sponsored by Ormond Beach, FL Lodge No. 2193. In 2008, Barger joined the Lodge that sponsored her scholarship, continuing a family tradition that goes back nearly 100 years.

“As a fourth-generation Elk, I strive to continue my family’s legacy in the organization by helping to make a small difference in my community through the Elks and beyond,” Barger said.

Barger was part of the inaugural Scholar Advisory Board when it was founded in 2009, and she served on the board for four years. Barger has done it all. She’s hosted Elks Scholar Meet-Ups at her college,

attended Elks Scholar Service Trips, and volunteered at a Lodge more than 3,000 miles from her home while interning with the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

In 2014, when she was serving as her Lodge’s Exalted Ruler, Barger used a scholar Cornerstone Grant to enhance the Lodge’s annual holiday party, where four other Elks scholars volunteered to make the event a success.

Now, Barger serves as her Lodge’s Scholarship Chair.

“Chairing the Scholarship Committee at my Local Lodge for many years has permitted me to engage with the next generation of Elks and to recruit much-needed talent to our great Order,” Barger said.

Congratulations to Erika Barger for earning ENF’s Alum of the Year. She received the award at the ENF Donor Event on Saturday night.



Erika Barger



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Elks Youth Eye Service

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OREGON ELKS CHILDREN'S EYE CLINIC

G/L GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

GOV. RELATIONS HOLDS SEMINAR

On Saturday, the Grand Lodge Government Relations committee welcomed State GR chairs from across the country to its annual seminar. Training topics included working with local and state governments, charitable reporting, the new charity reporting workbook and forms, and a networking discussion among all the areas.



Outgoing Government Relations Chairman Anthony Markarian (left) welcomes incoming Chairman William J. Bryan.

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Elks support mother, daughter ERs

By Mike Chamernik
Convention News Reporter

Deborah and Jamie England, a mother and daughter duo from New Jersey, are the Exalted Rulers of their respective Lodges this year. Of course, that leads to some questions.

“We confuse a lot of people,” said Jamie, of Hackensack, NJ No. 658. “We get that a lot. ‘What do you mean you’re not with Manahawkin? Your mom is in Manahawkin, why are you in Hackensack?’”

Deborah and her husband, Kim, raised Jamie in Manahawkin, NJ, but Jamie attended Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ, more than 100 miles to the north. She joined the nearby Hackensack Lodge 10 years ago. Deborah, meanwhile, became a Member of Manahawkin No. 2340 six years ago.

Being apart has some upsides. “It’s helpful,” Deborah said. “We can bounce ideas off another, or what her district does and maybe my dis-

trict doesn’t. We support each other in both districts, both Lodges.”

Jamie and Deborah have similar goals and challenges as ERs this year, specifically growing membership and raising money for causes and charities such as drug awareness, veterans, and youth peer leadership.

The Englands give so much to the Elks, and the Elks reciprocate. Kim England, PER of Manahawkin, died in December 2021. Ever since then, Members have reached out to his wife and daughter to keep in touch and invite them to dinners and social events.

“The Elks support everybody and everything,” Jamie said. “When my father passed, that was the organization that supported us the most. That just proved we were in the right spot.”

“We’ve been volunteers our whole life with different organizations,” Deborah said, “but nobody stepped up like the Elks did to support us, and continue to support us.”



Deborah (left) and Jamie England are serving as Exalted Rulers for 2023-24.

Elks Convention 2024
June 30 – July 3 • Austin, TX

~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ~

Hoop Shoot champs shoot perfectly under pressure

By Abbey Knupp

ENF Communications Manager

When the Hoop Shoot National Finalists step up to the line to take their shot at a national championship, they are standing with some of basketball's best. Wintrust Arena in Chicago is home to both the WNBA's Chicago Sky and the DePaul Blue Demons of the NCAA. Seating 10,000 spectators, the arena is a much different than playing on a backyard hoop or in a hometown gym.

This year's Getty Powell Award winners – the top overall boy and girl scorer – didn't let the lights or the splendor distract them. Both 12-13 girls champion Morgan Miehle, sponsored by Wheeling, WV Lodge No. 28, and 12-13 boys champion Tommy Goodelle, sponsored by Utica, NY Lodge No. 33, shot perfect scores of 25/25.

It wasn't Tommy's first time stepping up to the line at Wintrust. This four-time National Finalist had already won a 10-11 title and placed third in 8-9. After just missing the podium last year in a tie-breaking shootoff for third, Tommy bounced back, worked harder, and returned to Chicago to take home the gold.



Getty Powell Award winners Morgan Miehle and Tommy Goodelle each shot 25-for-25 in the 2023 Hoop Shoot National Finals.

"The Hoop Shoot is all about grit—the ability to keep trying, even when things aren't going your way," said Youth Programs Manager Makenna Cannon. "Grit doesn't always get you the win, but it pushes veteran Hoop Shooters to set new goals and keep going, and that drive is something they'll keep with them forever."

Morgan knows a bit about grit. For three straight years, Morgan made it all the way to the Regional Finals—and lost. After any of

those losses, it would've been so easy to throw in the towel, but Morgan didn't quit. She kept practicing and kept the dream of making it to the National Finals alive.

When she got there and finally stepped up to the line at Wintrust, she never missed a shot—the only perfect score of the day on the girls' side—which secured her a Frank Hise National Championship and the Getty Powell Award.

The ENF will share more of their story at the Opening Ceremony, and the two new films featuring these Finalists will be posted on the ENF's YouTube channel later this week.

The Elks have been unleashing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for more than 50 years. For 2023-24, the Elks National Foundation allocated more than \$1.4 million to fund the program. For videos, news from the court, and more information about the Hoop Shoot, visit elks.org/hoopshoot.



Donations could win your Lodge a bonus grant

By Abbey Knupp

ENF Communications Manager

The Elks National Foundation is putting a Spotlight on Service, shining its light in Minneapolis and giving you an opportunity to bring home a spark with a bonus Community Investments Program Grant!

The ENF is collecting new socks for veterans experiencing homelessness and new or gently used children's books to promote youth literacy.

Bring your donations to the ENF booth to have your Lodge entered into a raffle for the chance to win a \$2,000 bonus CIP Grant. Socks and books will benefit people in the Minneapolis area.

You can also get ribbons at the ENF Booth based on your Lodge's CIP participation! If your Lodge used CIP Grants last year—or plans to use them this year—stop by to talk to the ENF staff about your project and get a ribbon for your credentials.



Donate socks and children's books at the ENF booth for a chance to win a \$2,000 bonus CIP Grant.