



GRAND LODGE Convention News

MONDAY ✨ JULY 1, 2024

Elks declare 'We Are THE Elks' in 2023–2024

By Tiffany Bakker

Convention News Reporter

Thousands of Elks and guests from all 50 states attended the Opening Ceremony of the 159th Grand Lodge Session, where they learned of the past year's successes by the Elks National Drug Awareness Program, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, and the Elks National Foundation. The evening's highlight was a presentation by Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook, who congratulated the assembled Elks for spreading the word during the past year that "We Are THE Elks."

To open the ceremony, the assembled Elks were welcomed to Austin by PGER Paul R. Ryan, who then introduced the Past Grand Exalted Rulers and Past First Ladies, followed by First Lady Wanda Shook and GER Randy P. Shook. Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Chairman William J. Lindsey oversaw the Parade of Flags, which included the flags of the emergency responders; all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and overseas possessions; the six branches of the US Armed Forces and the US Merchant Marine; the POW-MIA flag; and the flag of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. To close the parade, the members of the Fraternal Committee escorted the flag of the United States to the front of the stage, and assembled Elks recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PGER Ryan then introduced PGER Millard C. Pickering, Chairman of the Elks National Drug Awareness Commission. Pickering acknowledged the leaders of the National Drug Awareness Commission, created during the 2022–2023 fraternal year, which has given the Drug Awareness Program a permanent place in the Order's statutes. Elks National Drug Awareness Program Director William



PGER Paul R. Ryan served as the Master of Ceremonies at Sunday's Opening Ceremony for the 2024 Elks National Convention in Austin. Photo: Dawson Smith/Dawson Productions.

Bryan spoke about the transition from a program to a commission. Bryan also gave the annual report and focused on the past year's highlights, which included a speaking tour of 142 schools by National Drug Awareness Program spokesperson Ray Lozano and Dr. Heather DiBlasi and a podcast in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Bryan then introduced a video calling attention to the various contests for children in communities across the country.

PGER Robert L. Duitsman, Chairman of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, gave the commission's annual report. He noted that the Emergency Assistance Program had provided financial assistance to 538 veterans in 2023–2024 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 3,412 veterans moving into new homes—a 41% increase over the previous year. To illustrate the impact of the Welcome Home Kit program, PGER Duitsman introduced a video that showed Elks volunteers in

action, distributing a kit to US Marine Corps veteran in North Carolina. Duitsman resumed his remarks, noting that through the Voluntary Service Program, Elks volunteers visited a total of more than 370 VA facilities, providing support in every state in the nation. PGER Duitsman concluded his report by introducing a farewell video to Dennis McAleese, who is stepping down after serving more than 20 years as Chairman of the Elks Veterans Leather Program, which provides fingerless gloves for wheelchair users and craft kits to thousands of veterans each year.

PGER Michael F. Smith, Chairman of the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees, introduced the reports of the ENF. Smith congratulated Elks Members on their outstanding fundraising performance. For the first time, donations to the foundation totaled more than \$8 million.

ENF Youth Programs Manager Makenna Cannon gave a report on

Please see **OPENING** Page 4

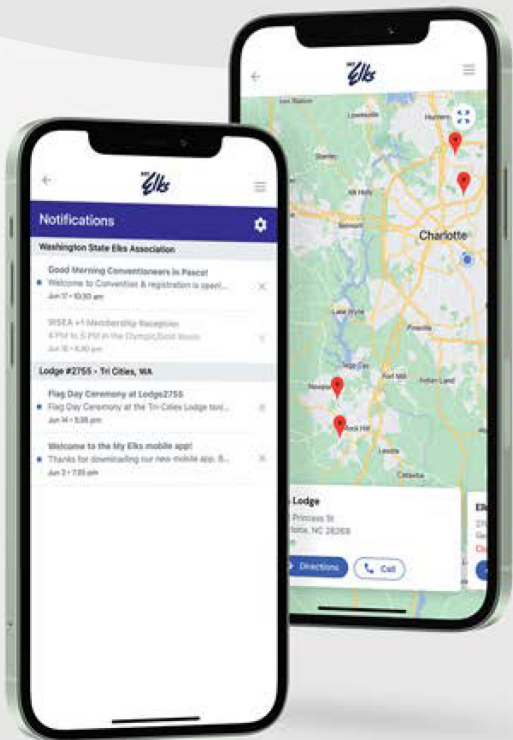
See Page 12 for Proposed Resolutions



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How Many Conventioneers?

The Credentials Committee 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	18
Grand Lodge Officers	8
Grand Trustees	8
Grand Forum	6
Grand Lodge Committeemen	76
District Deputies-Designate	229
Special Deputies	25
Representatives to Grand Lodge & Alternates	1,406
State Presidents	44
State Secretaries	40
Grand Lodge Members	1,589
Non-Voting Members	1,865
Guests	874
Vendors	26

Combined Totals: 6,215

1ST DAY BUSINESS SESSION

08:00	Opening Ceremony	Grand Lodge Officers
	Procession of Grand Lodge Officers	Steven Weatherly, Grand Esquire
	Call to Order	Randy P. Shook, GER
	— Invocation	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Recognition of Delegates.	Randy P. Shook, GER
	• From Distant Lodges • From New Lodges	
	Reading of Minutes from Previous Session — Motion to Dispense	
	Appointments	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Annual Report of the Grand Exalted Ruler	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Nat'l. Convention Commission Report.	Arthur H. Frost III PGER, Chairman
	Nat'l. Memorial & Publication Comm. Report (pt. 1) .	Ronald L. Hicks, PGER, Chairman
	Board of Grand Trustees (<i>preliminary report</i>) . . .	Richard J. Tabachuk, Chairman
	Committee on Judiciary.	Bryan M. Lindsay, Chairman
	Legislative Session discussion (<i>5 min/resolution</i>)	Bryan M. Lindsay, Chairman
	Ritualistic Committee (Preliminary Report)	Michael W. Iddings, Chairman
09:34	(<i>estimated</i>) Non-Members Admitted	
	Announcements	Steven Weatherly, Grand Esquire
	Nat'l. Memorial & Publication Comm. Report (pt. 2) .	Ronald L. Hicks, PGER, Chairman
	Nominations and Election of 2024-2025 Officers	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Designating Escorts for Procession of GER-Elect.	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Presentation of Grand Lodge Officers-Elect	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Celebration/Demonstration	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Acceptance Speech.	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER-Elect
	Announcements	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Announcements	Steven Weatherly, Grand Esquire
	Announcements	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Benediction	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Grand Lodge Session Recessed	Randy P. Shook, GER



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OPENING from Page 1

the 52nd annual National Hoop Shoot Finals competition, held in Chicago in April. Cannon introduced the two winners of the Getty Powell Award for the highest scoring boy and girl overall at the finals. The female winner was Ainsley Weaver, sponsored by Chillicothe, OH Lodge No. 52 and competed in the girls' ages 8 and 9 division. The champion of the boys' competition was Beckett Jilka, who competed in the boys' ages 10 and 11 division and was sponsored by Hoxie, KS Lodge No. 2415.

ENF Assistant Director Deborah Kahler Doles spoke about the Community Investments Program, which awarded an average of \$8,200 in grants to 85% of all Lodges in 2023-2024. Doles then introduced a video highlighting the ways in which El Paso, TX Lodge No. 187 has used a CIP grant every year since 2018 to provide nearly \$600,000 worth of toiletries to needy members of the community.

Doles then called out two scholarship opportunities—the Most Valuable Student Scholarship and the

Legacy Awards—noting that in April of 2024, a total of 850 high school seniors received one of these scholarships. She also spoke about the annual Most Valuable Student Leadership Weekend, noting that the experience provides opportunities for the MVS scholars to learn more about college and beyond. The weekend creates lasting friendships, providing scholars a support system that includes past MVS scholarship recipients. To conclude her report, Doles played a video introduction of the top 20 MVS Scholarship winners for 2024, each of whom will receive \$30,000 over four years to complete their college educations.

PGER Smith returned to the podium to encourage Elks across the country to take advantage of all the ENF's programs, and to make a one-time gift or join the ENF Fidelity Club, which involves making monthly donations to the foundation. PGER Ryan then said that if every person in the auditorium joined the Fidelity Club at five dollars per month, the ENF could raise \$360,000, and if every Member of the Order were to join, the ENF would

collect an impressive \$42 million for Lodges to use to give back to their communities.

The Opening Ceremony's keynote presentation was given by GER Shook, who spoke about his successful year leading the Order. He recalled his year of travel and the work he had seen being done by Elks to meet his three challenges of growing membership, providing support services to veterans, and taking advantage of grant opportunities available through the Community Investments Program. Shook commended the assembled Elks, "I am very proud to say it appears you got the message loud and clear, and you stepped up to those three challenges, and we had an outstanding year." Shook also noted that he witnessed the great work accomplished by Elks across the country through a wide variety of State Major Projects.

To close his speech, Shook returned to his year's theme and urged the assembled Elks, "Continue to make our presence felt in your community to ensure the people in your community that We Are THE Elks." ★

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ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

ENF announces allocation totals • Seminar list for Monday

By Patrick Roelofs

ENF Communications Coordinator

The mission of the Elks National Foundation is to help Elks build stronger communities. But how does the ENF do this?

By investing in the communities where Elks live and work.

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the ENF is allocating \$41.6 million to programs that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities, help State Associations accomplish their charitable objectives, meet the needs of today’s veterans, and provide our youth with lifelong skills.

The largest of these programs is the Community Investments Program. When John F. Malley founded the Elks National Foundation in 1928, he envisioned that it would “unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind.” With the opportunity for every Lodge to receive up to \$10,000 in small grants, it is safe to say that the CIP realized Malley’s vision.

CIP grants require Elks to identify the unique needs of their communities, form a plan, and address the needs through Elks-led, volunteer-based projects. Similarly, Elks State Association programs tackle the needs of the community. The ENF will contribute \$11.2 million to state grants this year, making it the second largest appropriation in the budget.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission provides aid and comfort to America’s veterans in

need. To ensure that the sacrifices of these veterans are never forgotten, the ENF allocation to the ENVSC will increase by 11.4% this year to \$5.7 million, the largest increase for any ENF appropriation this fiscal year. The allocation includes more than \$3 million for the Welcome Home initiative to end veteran homelessness.

Through scholarships, the ENF builds relationships with the leaders of tomorrow. More than \$5 million will be awarded to some of the brightest young minds in the country as they pursue their academic dreams and build connections with the Elks in their communities.

Scholarships aren’t the only way the ENF provides for the next generation. Through the Hoop Shoot, the ENF is unleashing gritty kids who understand the importance of hard work and perseverance. This year, \$1.5 million will be allocated to this national free throw contest. The ENF also allocated more than \$900,000 for the Drug Awareness Program.

Through these programs, the ENF continues its mission of building stronger communities. To see the full breakdown of grants and appropriations, visit secure.elks.org/appropriations.

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.

The Elks National Foundation is hosting three seminars to highlight its work and give tips to volunteers – you won’t want to miss them! Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open 30 minutes before seminars begin, and rooms are subject to change.

Elks Hoop Shoot: Unleashing Gritty Kids

Catch the tip-off for the upcoming Hoop Shoot season and learn how you can help unleash gritty kids. *Monday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Austin Convention Center– Ballroom B.*

Fundraising Chairs: Engaging and Retaining Donors

This session will demonstrate the importance of engaging donors, along with a guide to do so in your Lodge. Though the content for this seminar is designed for ENF Fundraising Chairs, all are welcome to attend. *Monday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Austin Convention Center– Ballroom C.*

Community Investments Program: #ElksAlwaysCare

Learn about Lodge grants, get grant ideas, and discover best practices for grant use from the ENF staff who approve the applications. *Monday, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Austin Convention Center– Ballroom B.*

**Special Recognition Award
Best Grand Lodge Area**

The generous donations in 2023-24 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



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.

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CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

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. Thank you for your kind cooperation!

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FRATERNAL CHAIRMAN HAS ELKS FAMILY TIES

William J. Lindsey, the outgoing Fraternal Committee Chairman, got one last hurrah Sunday, leading the Parade of Flags during Opening Ceremony. He had a few special people in the audience.

Not only was his wife Janice there, but also his daughter Brandi Wallace, the current Exalted Ruler for Hoquiam, WA Lodge No. 1082.

“I’m really excited that for her first convention,” Lindsey said, “she got to be out there, seeing her dad doing this.”

Wallace took on a leadership role, much like her dad and stepmom did. William and Janice were each Exalted Rulers for Columbia Basin, WA Lodge No. 1930 (they currently belong to Greater Spokane, WA Lodge No. 228). William has also served as District Deputy and as Washington State President.

As State President, Lindsey was able to initiate Wallace into the Order (even though she was from another district), and then invest her with her jewels for her first Officer position and finally to install her as ER.



William J. Lindsey, Brandi Wallace, and Janice Lindsey.

Wallace became an Elk because she wanted to give back to her community. Even with the family connections — two of Wallace’s siblings are also Members — she made her own choice to join.

“My father was very excited that I became an Elks Member,” Wallace said. “He never forced the Elks on us, he wanted us to forge our own path with Elkdom. And I’ve done that and worked my way to Exalted Ruler.”

Florida State Elks Association Major Projects



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OREGON Booth #600

PHOTO BOOTH OPEN

Visit Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing in the exhibit hall and take advantage of the free photo booth. Green screen options include backdrops of Austin and the American flag. Come as often as you want — share the photos on social media and e-mail them to your friends.



GRAND LODGE 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.

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.

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."

ROBERT GRAFTON AWARD

This award, given to the highest scoring Esquire in the Ritual Contest, will be presented on behalf of Florida State's Co-sponsor PGER Michael F. Smith and the 55,000+ Elks of the great Sunshine State. It is named in honor of Robert "Bob" Grafton, the senior member of the Grand Lodge Advisory Board. He has served this Order with honor and distinction for more than 75 years.

He was initiated into Elkdom in July, 1948 in West Palm Beach, FL Lodge No. 1352. He progressed through the chairs, serving as Exalted Ruler in 1957 and became a certified Ritual Judge in 1958. In 1962, Bob became Exalted Ruler of the Riviera Beach Lodge No. 2069. Bob served the Florida State Elks Association as Southeast District Vice President in 1964-65 and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1965-66. He served the Florida State Elks Association as a member of its Judiciary Committee from 1958 to 1977, serving as chairman from 1968-77. His hard work and dedication were further recognized when he was elected State President in 1971-72. He received Elkdom's highest honor when he was elected Grand Exalted Ruler and held our highest office in 1979-80.

Bob has had a long and distinguished career within the Grand Lodge, serving as State Sponsor of Florida, as well as Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Puerto Rico, and Panama. He has served on the Grand Lodge Judiciary, Grand Lodge Board of Trustees, as its chairman in 1976. He served on the Grand Forum, Grand Lodge Advisory Board, serving as chairman in 1991, Elks National Service Commission, Grand Lodge National Foundation Trustees and Grand Lodge Elks National Convention Committee.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS for 2023-2024

By Gwendolyn B. Parker

Committee Member

The annual Americanism Essay Contest provides young Americans with an opportunity to reflect upon their country's values, history, and future. This contest has been a tradition for generations, nurturing a sense of patriotism and civic engagement among the youth.

The essay contest is open to students in fifth through eighth grades. It prompts students to think critically about various aspects of Americanism, such as the principles of democracy, freedom, and civic responsibility. This encourages students to delve into their nation's history, exploring the sacrifices made by countless individuals to safeguard the American way of life.

The Americanism Essay Contest Theme for 2023-2024 was "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me." The Fraternal Committee is proud to announce the 2023-24 winners of the Americanism Essay Contest:

EIGHTH GRADE

1st Place: Isabelle Beeson, Argos Junior High School. Sponsored by Plymouth, IN Lodge No. 2548.

2nd Place: Samantha Wainhouse, Fieldstone Middle School. Sponsored by Park Ridge, NJ Lodge No. 2234.

3rd Place: Oliver Hill, Enterprise Middle School. Sponsored by Tri-Cities, WA Lodge No. 2755.

SEVENTH GRADE

1st Place: Adam Malik, Merritt School. Sponsored by Arlington-Fairfax, VA Lodge No. 2188.

2nd Place: Arya Gordon-Mitchell, Cony Middle School. Sponsored by Augusta, ME Lodge No. 964.

3rd Place: Mallorie Larson, Saint Matthew School. Sponsored by Omaha, NE Lodge No. 39.

SIXTH GRADE

1st Place: Lucia Aldeman, Fairhill School. Sponsored by Arlington-Fairfax, VA Lodge No. 2188.

2nd Place: Mae Clarity, Monsignor Clarke School. Sponsored by South Kingstown, RI Lodge No. 1899.

3rd Place: Reese Rasmvssr, Holloman Middle School. Sponsored by Alamogordo, NM Lodge No. 1897.

FIFTH GRADE

1st Place: Halle Snell, Flora Elementary School. Sponsored by Flora, IL Lodge No. 1659.

2nd Place: Kalaiyah Rhodes-Dingle, Lemira Elementary School. Sponsored by Sumter, SC Lodge No. 855.

3rd Place: Paige Heimbuch, Cole Valley Christian School. Sponsored by Boise, ID Lodge No. 310.

Congratulations to all of our winners and their sponsoring Lodges!

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GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SEMINARS

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee will be holding two seminars at the Austin Convention Center on Monday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in room 6, 3rd floor and Tuesday from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in room B, 1st Floor. 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.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE BROCHURES & VIDEOS AVAILABLE

To provide the membership with the latest information on the programs of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee, several brochures and videos have been produced and are

available in the Activities Committee section of Elks.org.

The brochures can be shared with your fellow Members and the public. The videos run from 5 to 10 minutes 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 Area Activities Committee member.

DICTIONARY PROGRAM

Last year, Elks Lodges distributed 89,636 dictionaries to grade school children in 42 states. Elks have now donated a total of 4,430,150 books to schools throughout their communities. This is a very affordable program, with the typical costs of \$60 for 24 dictionaries, including shipping. A sample kit of different dictionaries and reference books are available to order for \$35 per box.

Please contact the Activities Committee for information on how to get started with this program. Information is also available at the Activities Committee section of the Grand Lodge Website.

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 Ballroom E in the Austin Convention Center.

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 Ballroom E in the Austin Convention Center.

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.

Advertisement for the G/L Auditing and Accounting Committee booth. It features a large question mark graphic and lists several 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?', and 'How do I use QuickBooks Desktop?'. Below the questions, it states 'WE HAVE ANSWERS' and provides contact information for the committee and FRS Applications Specialist. It also includes the Elks USA logo and a note to stop by the booth during exhibit hours for a free gift.

Grand Lodge Budget proposed for 2024-2025

REVENUE

Per Capita Assessments	5,382,394
Interest/Dividend Income	915,000
Merchandise Sales	17,709
Convention Revenue	323,000
Management Fees	52,800
Royalties	150,000
Other Income	46,000
Transfer From Reserves	1,600,000
	\$8,486,903

EXPENSES

Grand Trustees	46,350
District Deputies	590,500
Special Deputies	33,450
Special Representatives	54,000
Rose Parade	100,000
Grand Lodge Conference	127,200
Grand Lodge Session	1,658,000
PGER Office and Travel	425,000
Legal Fees	200,000
Audit Fees	42,000
Bank Fees	30,000
General Insurance	79,200
Investment Manager Fees	210,000
Disaste Relief Donation	150,000
Contingency	475,000
Other Grand Lodge	346,032
Grand Exalted Ruler	408,970
Grand Secretary Expenses	2,527,951
Committees & Other	983,250
	\$8,486,903

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Grand Lodge Shipping/Supplies Manager Brian Sonne turned 50 on Friday. His colleagues at the Grand Secretary office hosted a birthday party and gifted him a custom Chicago White Sox jersey, plus slippers, socks, and other old timer goodies.

Elks USA

Calling

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North Carolina State Elks Association

Summary of Proposed Resolutions being voted on Tuesday

2024-01—To remove the word indoctrination, which has negative connotations linked to forced acceptance of certain values or beliefs and amend it to the term orientation, which is a familiarization with the organization’s principles and beliefs.

2024-02—1) To move the control of the assets from the Grand Exalted Ruler’s appointed Defunct Lodge Trustees to that of the State Sponsor(s). 2) Lodges and State Associations are both 501(c)(8)s. This change will allow funds to be given to State Associations without placing a restriction on their use if so deemed by the State Sponsor(s).

2024-03—To remove the word indoctrination, which has a negative connotation linked to forced acceptance of certain values of beliefs and amend it to the term orientation, which is a familiarization with the organization’s principles and beliefs. ***This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-01.***

2024-04—To allow the ability to download and print a current membership application directly from Elks.org.

2024-05—To make participation in the physical loss and crime coverage policy procured by Grand Lodge optional for the local Lodges.

2024-06—To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Secretary through an outside insurance company. ***This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-05.***

2024-07—To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Treasurer through an outside insurance company. ***This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-05.***

2024-08—To remove the requirement for the Lodge Treasurer to attend all District Deputy Clinics.

2024-09—To give the Local Lodges the opportunity to add or not add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors.

2024-10—To clarify and make uniform the standard of proof at trials before the Grand Forum resulting from any appeal of an Executive Order.

2024-11—To clarify and make uniform the standard of proof at trials before the Grand Forum resulting from any appeal of an Executive Order.

2024-12—The purpose of this resolution is to clarify and make consistent the process for nominations following the requirement that two meetings be held.

2024-13—To make the year-round entry of the charitable service statistics a formal duty of the Secretary.

2024-14—To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee.

2024-15—To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee. ***This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-14.***

2024-16—To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order.

2024-17—To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order.

2024-18—To clarify the role of the Exalted Ruler as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Trustees and a voting member of the Board of Directors of an incorporated Lodge.

2024-19—To provide a right of due process, hearing, and appeal to a member who is subject to expulsion from membership for an undisclosed felony conviction.

2024-20—To clarify the appellate jurisdiction and review process of the Grand Forum over appeals of an Order entered under the revised GLS 9.090. ***This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-19.***

2024-21—To make a record of the preliminary hearing.

2024-22—To codify what flags or other insignia may be displayed within the Order.

2024 RITUALISTIC CONTEST PRELIMINARY SCORES

EASTERN DIVISION

STATE	LODGE & NO.	SCORE
OHIO	Kenton, OH No. 157	96.5329
NEW JERSEY	Middletown, NJ No. 2179	92.9073
VERMONT	Bennington, VT No. 567	88.8957
SOUTH CAROLINA	Charleston, SC No. 242	93.0567
MICHIGAN	Traverse City, MI No. 323	93.2896
PENNSYLVANIA	Bridgeport, PA No. 714	94.4813
MAINE	Sanford, ME No. 1470	95.4876
NEW YORK	Carthage, NY No. 1762	94.9383
FLORIDA	Gainesville, FL No. 990	93.0430
GEORGIA	Dalton, GA No. 1267	93.4346

WESTERN DIVISION

STATE	LODGE & NO.	SCORE
TEXAS	Houston, TX No. 151	94.2799
MISSOURI	Festus-Crystal City, MO No. 1721	93.7960
NEVADA	Reno, NV No. 597	96.2287
WASHINGTON	Bremerton, WA No. 1181	96.1180
NEBRASKA	Grand Island, NE No. 604	92.4103
CALIFORNIA	Garden Grove, CA No. 1952	96.7304
OREGON	St. Helens, OR No. 1999	95.8721
COLORADO	Littleton, CO No. 1650	94.4827
ARIZONA	Phoenix, AZ No. 335	96.0226

**2024 GRAND LODGE
RITUALISTIC CONTEST
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

FINALS – MONDAY JULY 1, 2024

1:00 p.m.	Kenton, OH No. 157
2:00 p.m.	Reno, NV No. 597
3:00 p.m.	Sanford, ME No. 1470
4:00 p.m.	Garden Grove, CA No. 1952