



GRAND LODGE Convention News

TUESDAY ✨ JULY 2, 2024

GER-Elect praises Elkdom's Heart For America

By Tom Scudder

Convention News Reporter

The leadership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks held the first business session of the 159th Grand Lodge Session and elected Douglas A. Schiefer, of Bucyrus, OH Lodge No. 156, as Grand Exalted Ruler for the 2024-2025 year.

Schiefer joined the Bucyrus Lodge in 1984 as a third-generation Elk. He was an active Member, serving as Exalted Ruler in 1988-1989 and in 1996-1997. He served his Lodge for ten years as a trustee, including two terms as trustee chairman, and was Bucyrus Elk of the Year in 1992-1993. Among other roles at the state level, Schiefer served as a state trustee from 2004 to 2007, was State President in 2008-2009, and was chairman of the Elks Leadership Kollege from 2019 to 2021.

At the Grand Lodge level, Schiefer served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1998-1999. He served on the Fraternal Committee from 2013 to 2018, the last two years as its chairman, and then served as an Activities Committee member from 2018 to 2021. He was elected as a Grand Trustee in 2021 and served three years, resigning from the board to accept the position of Grand Exalted Ruler.

The newly elected GER spoke about his vision for the Order and told the assembled Elks that he looked forward to "visiting each and every one of your states to see firsthand the great things you all do to help demonstrate Elkdom's Heart For America."

Prior to the election of the Grand Exalted Ruler, several reports were heard, and other Officers were elected and appointed. The business of the session began with the report of Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook. With the approval of the assembled delegates, he appointed Bryan M. Lindsay



GER-Elect Douglas A. Schiefer and First Lady Julia keep tradition with a kiss after the Nominations and Election of Grand Lodge Officers. Photo: Dawson Smith/Dawson Productions.

as a Justice of the Grand Forum.

The GER's report was followed by the report of Chairman of the Elks National Convention Commission, PGER Arthur H. Frost III. He announced Denver, CO will host the 2027 convention and Baltimore, MD will be the site of the 2028 convention. Next was the report of the National Memorial and Publications Commission, which was given by PGER Ronald L. Hicks, Chairman.

This was succeeded by the report of Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees Richard Tabachuk, who introduced PGER Michael F. Smith for a special announcement. PGER Smith indicated that the Grand Lodge insurance program would change to an experience rating system, under which individuals would pay between \$15 and \$25, based on the assessed risk incurred by their Lodge. This would represent a decrease for most individuals relative to the current \$22 insurance assessment.

This was followed by the preliminary report of the Committee on Judiciary, during which committee members reviewed the 22 proposed amendments to the laws and con-

stitution of the Order that will be considered during Tuesday's Grand Lodge session. Next, Chairman of the Ritualistic Committee Michael W. Iddings announced the All-American teams and individual awards, the top four teams in the Ritualistic Contest, and the four finalists for each of the Flag Charge and Eleven O'Clock Toast contests. Finally, PGER Ronald L. Hicks gave the report of the Veterans Memorial Restoration Trust. He introduced a video and musical presentation celebrating the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Elks National Memorial and Headquarters.

After the reports, the assembled Elks turned to the election of their leadership for the following year. There were two notable elements of the Grand Trustees' election: three Trustees were elected rather than the usual two because John M. Owen III was chosen to complete the one year remaining of GER-elect Schiefer's uncompleted term, and Sandra C. Brantner will be the first woman to serve on the Board of Grand Trustees. ★

See Page 7 for G/L Insurance update

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How Many in Attendance?

The attendance report for the Grand Lodge Session through Monday has been announced and is as follows:

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	231
Special Deputies	26
Representatives to Grand Lodge & Alternates	1,482
State Presidents	44
State Secretaries	40
Grand Lodge Members	1,628
Non-Voting Members	1,918
Guests	922
Vendors	26

Combined Totals: 6,434

2ND DAY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

08:00	Call to Order	Randy P. Shook, GER
	— Invocation	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Pledge of Allegiance	All
	G/L Resolutions Committee	Robyn Sembinini, Chairman
	Registration (<i>final report</i>)	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Board of Grand Trustees (<i>final report</i>)	Richard J. Tabachuk, Chairman
	Grand Forum / Pardon Commission	Todd E. Deal, Chief Justice
	Legislative Session (<i>voting</i>)	Bryan M. Lindsay, Judiciary Chairman
	Disaster Relief Fund	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Government Relations Committee Report	William J. Bryan, Chairman
	Auditing & Accounting Committee Report	William J. Chinn, Jr., Chairman
09:40	(estimated) Non-Members Admitted	
	Announcements	Steven Weatherly, Grand Esquire
	GER-Elect Program Remarks	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER-Elect
	Activities Committee Report	Michael B. Bryant, Chairman
	Fraternal Committee Report	William J. Lindsey, Chairman
	Chicago Headquarters Report	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Legislative Results	Bryan M. Lindsay, Judiciary Chairman
	Ritualistic Committee Report	Michael W. Iddings, Chairman
	Announcements	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Benediction	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Grand Lodge Session Recessed	Randy P. Shook, GER
	GER Elect Card signing	Douglas and Julia Schiefer, GER-Elect

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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

G/L RITUALISTIC COMMITTEE

RAYMOND BENJAMIN AWARD

The Raymond Benjamin Award is given to the winning ritualistic team for the Elks National Contest. It is named after Raymond Benjamin, who was a charter Member of Napa, CA Lodge No. 832.

Brother Raymond served as the Grand Exalted Ruler from 1914-1915, then served as Vice Chairman of the Elks National Foundation from 1929 until his passing in 1952.

Ritual was a major interest of his. He made great contributions to updating the beautiful ritual in order to remind the existing Members and impress new Members of the importance of our affiliation as Elks.

In 1953, during the dedication of the Elks new national headquarters building in Chicago, his widow unveiled a plaque in honor of his contributions to the rituals of our Order. A duplicate of that plaque was presented to the Napa Elks Lodge.

Since that time Napa, CA Lodge No. 832 annually presents a replica plaque to the winning National Ritual Team.

JOHN D. FRAKES AWARD

The John D. Frakes Award is given to the winning coaches for the Elks National Contest. It is named after John D. Frakes, Lodge Secretary and ritual coach of Tucson Lodge No. 385 for over 35 years. He served on the Grand Lodge for the National Ritual Committee as a member and chairman. Frakes coached the Tucson Ritual Team to 45 National Ritual Contests. During his time with the Tucson teams, they competed 22 years in a row, having won numerous Western Division Winners. His 1968-69 team won it all. He remains a legend of the Tucson Lodge and of the Grand Lodge.

2025 ELKS CONVENTION
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Congratulations to 2023-24 Ritualistic Contest Winners



All American Officers — Eastern Division
 ER Dave Schrader (Charleston, SC #242); Leading Knight Wendy Gauthier (Traverse City, MI #323); Lecturing Knight Stacey Hamilton-Davis (Kenton, OH #157); Loyal Knight Marty McKinley Gray (Kenton, OH #157); Esquire Nate Davis (Kenton, OH #157). Standing, from left: Chaplain David Beazley (Kenton, OH #157); Inner Guard Eric Luther (Carthage, NY #1762); Candidate Brian Scott (Carthage, NY #1762); Coach D. Jack Buroker (Kenton, OH #157); Coach Todd Daquino (Kenton, OH #157); Coach John R. Hines (Kenton, OH #157).

All American Officers — Western Division
 ER Sean Williams (St. Helens, OR #1999); Leading Knight Chris Garland (Garden Grove, CA #1952); Lecturing Knight Sundee Hamrick (St. Helens, OR #1999); Loyal Knight Eric Michael (St. Helens, OR #1999); Esquire Tanya Apel (Littleton, CO #1650). Standing, from left: Chaplain Lori Gonzales (Littleton, CO #1650); Inner Guard Joyce Gabbard (Littleton, CO #1650); Candidate Maria Snyder (Garden Grove, CA #1952); Coach Karen Lewin (Garden Grove, CA #1952); Coach Eric Skillman (Garden Grove, CA #1952); Coach Mark Mahoney (Garden Grove, CA #1952).

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. Thank you for your cooperation!



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Resolution Honoring Retiring BOGT Chairman

Proposed by BOGT Approving Member Timothy F. Jaeger

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** of Rutherford, NJ Lodge No. 547 is retiring from the Board of Grand Trustees after four years of distinguished service and upon his retirement, the Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America wish to acknowledge this achievement and express their sincere appreciation for his leadership and service; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** was initiated into the Rutherford Lodge in March 1989 and became an active and dedicated Member, was appointed as Lodge Chaplain in August 1989. He proceeded through the chairs and was elected Exalted Ruler for the 1993-1994 fraternal year, he chaired or served on every Lodge committee, was named Elk of the Year for the 1994-1995 fraternal year, was the 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman for the Lodge in 2000, was Lodge Trustee 1999-2003 and Past Secretary and Past President of the PER Association. He was Lodge Secretary from 2003 to 2015, Officer of the Year 2015, and elected to Honorary Life in 2001 by the Lodge membership; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** served the Northeast District of New Jersey as CLMS Coordinator from 2010 to 2014, as District Chairman of Membership, Officers Training and Ritual, Ritual Judge and served as Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Past District Deputy Group; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** served the northern region of the New Jersey State Elks Association as the Regional Chairman of Government Relations 1995-1996, Ritual 1998-2001, Lodge Activities 2002-2003, Officers Training 2003-2004, Army of Hope 2006-2010; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** served the New Jersey State Elks Association as a Ritual judge from 1995 to present, State Chairman of Government Relations 1997-1998, Officers Training 2004-2006, Secretary of The Army of Hope 2008-2010, Army of Hope Picnic Chairman 2007-2014, State Chairman of The Army of Hope 2010-2014, State Sgt. of Arms 2014-2015, State President 2015-2016. He serves as advisor to National Veterans Service Committee, Army of Hope Committee, Soccer Committee, and advisor to the Northeast District of New Jersey and serves as a Trustee for the North Jersey Elks Developmental and Disabilities Agency since 2018; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** served Grand Lodge with distinction as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2001-2002, served on the Grand Lodge Membership/Public Relations and Marketing Committee, serves as advisor and Ad Journal Chairman for the Mid Atlantic Soccer Committee; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1978 with a degree in Electrical Engineering and has served as a Technical Engineer for the Walt Disney/American Broadcasting Company from 1978 till 2021, and received Emmy Awards for his work on the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 and the Calgary Olympics in 1988, and the Edward R. Morrow Award in 2014; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** has faithfully served the Board of Grand Trustees as Building Applications - East Member, Home Member, Approving Member and Chairman of the Board; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** ability and leadership, demonstrated by a passion for Elkdom has earned the respect of all Elks, especially the members of the Board of Grand Trustees; *and*

Whereas, **Richard Tabachuk** accomplished all of the foregoing with the help, love and support of his wife of 35 years Linda, who is a Past District Deputy from Rutherford Lodge No. 547 for the Northeast District of New Jersey, Trustee for the State Major Project Camp Moore and is the current Lodge Treasurer, as well as their daughter Emily and their son Michael who is also a member of Rutherford Lodge No. 547.



Richard J. Tabachuk

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that in grateful recognition of his valued service to Elkdom and in tribute to his dedication to our Order, the Board of Grand Trustees is hereby authorized and directed by the Grand Lodge in Session to procure and present to **Richard Tabachuk**, a suitable testimonial for his service, together with an embossed copy of this Resolution, thus expressing the gratitude and respect in which he is held by his fellow Members of the Board of Grand Trustees and the entire Membership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

Resolution Honoring Retiring Grand Forum Chief Justice

Proposed by Grand Forum Senior Justice Edward C.A. Johnson

Whereas, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** is completing his term as Chief Justice of the Grand Forum; *and*

Whereas, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** graduated from Southwest State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and was awarded a Juris Doctor Degree from the William Mitchell College of Law; *and*

Whereas, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Minnesota in 1986, licensed as an attorney in the State of Minnesota since 1991, and has practiced as such ever since; *and*

Whereas, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** has served his community in numerous positions, among them as a Board of Director member for the 12th Step House, a non-profit sober living facility and also for the Sexual Assault Program for Northeastern MN; *and*

Whereas, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** was initiated into the Virginia, Minnesota Lodge No. 1003 in 1993, served in all the chairs in the Lodge, including as Exalted Ruler for 1996-97; served as the Lodge's Treasurer for fifteen years (1998-2013); and is currently serving as its Lodge Esquire; *and*

Whereas, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** served the Minnesota Elks Association as the North District Trustee for eight years (2006-2014), the last six of which was served as its Chair; and that he was recently installed as the North District President for the State of Minnesota.

Whereas, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** has rendered dedicated service to the Grand Lodge, as a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the fraternal year 2001-2002, and more recently as a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary from 2013 to 2019, with the final two of which were served as its Chairman; *and*

Whereas, in July of 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** was nominated and elected by the membership to serve a five-year term on the Grand Forum; *and*

Whereas, in July of 2023 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** was appointed to serve as Chief Justice of the Grand Forum for this past fraternal year.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this 159th Session of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, in convention duly convened this 30th day of June, 2024, does hereby congratulate and commend the **Honorable Todd E. Deal** for his exemplary dedication; and directs that he be presented with an appropriate honorarium in keeping with one retiring after many years of worthy service to the Order, along with a commemorative copy of this Resolution, and the admiration, respect, and best wishes of his fellow Justices, colleagues, and the entire membership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

So Passed at the 159th Session of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America this 4th day of July, 2024, at Austin, Texas.



Todd E. Deal

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CHANGE TO GRAND LODGE INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Grand Lodge insurance program is moving to an experienced rating system.

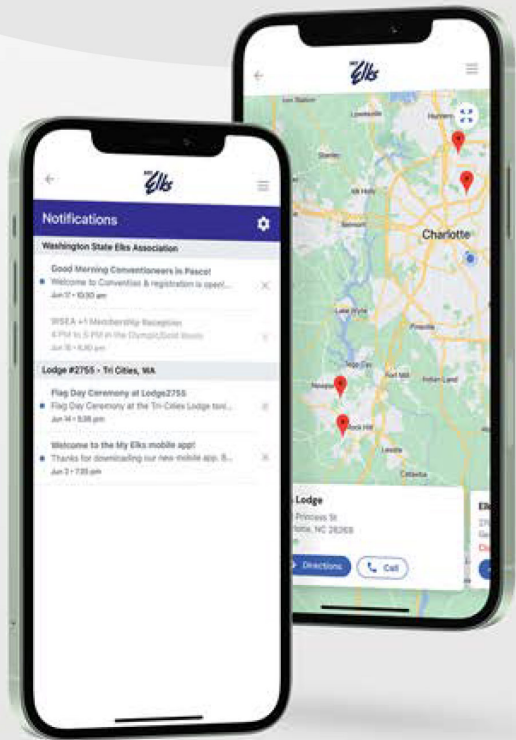
Currently, our Members pay \$22.00 per year. Under the liability insurance program, based on actuarial projections made by a national firm, and based on our plan history, there would be a cost reduction ranging from \$1.00 up to \$7.00 per Member. Seventy-three percent of Lodges will experience this reduction. Five percent of the Lodges' premiums would remain at the \$22.00 level. Twenty-two percent of Lodges would see an increase ranging from \$1.00 to \$3.00 based on claims history, claims frequency, and liquor sales.



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Resolution Honoring Retiring BOGT Vice-Chairman

Proposed by Board of Grand Trustees Pensions Member Joseph C. Cooper

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil, of Raymond, Washington, Lodge No. 1292, is retiring from the Board of Grand Trustees after four years of distinguished service and upon his retirement, the Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America wish to acknowledge this achievement and express their sincere appreciation for his leadership and service; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil has been a Member of the Order for forty years as a third generation Elk, was initiated on November 18, 1980, has served on numerous Lodge committees, progressed through the chairs, was installed as Exalted Ruler in April 2000, became Secretary in January 2002 and served in that capacity until April 2018 and then again in 2019–2020, was Elk of the Year in 2002–2003 and Officer of the Year in 2005–2006, and was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Raymond Lodge on May 18, 2010; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil has served the Washington State Elks Association as a financial trustee from 2003 to 2007, was elected to the position of Junior Vice President in 2007, served as President of the Washington State Elks Association in 2011–2012, has been the district advisor since 2010, and has served as the Chairman of the Hoop Shoot program in Washington in 2014 through the present; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil has served the Grand Lodge with distinction as District Deputy in 2006–2007 and as a member of the first Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee from 2012 to 2016, the final two years of which he served as Chairman, has served the Elks National Hoop Shoot Program as Region 1 Director from 2016 to the present, and served as Administrative Aide to Grand Exalted Ruler Michael T. Luhr in 2018–2019; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil has served as Area 8 Housing Coordinator coordinating all aspects of the annual convention for the Lodges and Sponsor of Area 8 for a number of years; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil graduated from Raymond High School in 1974, where he lettered in three sports and set the national free throw record for most consecutive free throws made in a quarter, then upon graduation entered the field of broadcasting both in radio and television; he joined the Raymond Fire Department in 1980, first as a volunteer, then became a paramedic in 1988 after his studies at Tacoma Community College, beginning a full-time relationship with the department that spanned over twenty-seven years, retiring as a captain in 2014, and is currently a member of the Pacific County (WA) Civil Service Commission board, having served in the position of Chairman, and also served on the paramedic advisory board at Tacoma Community College; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil has worked with the youth of Washington State and has been a high school basketball official for forty-five years and a high school football official for thirty-eight years, officiating more than three thousand ballgames as a member of the Washington Officials Association, a member of the Grays Harbor Basketball Officials Association, and a member of the Southwest

Washington Football Officials Association, and formerly umpired Division 1 baseball as a member of the Pacific Northwest Baseball Umpires Association; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil has faithfully served the Board of Grand Trustees as Building Applications – West Member, Pension Member, Secretary and Vice Chairman of the Board; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil’s ability and leadership, demonstrated by his passion for Elkdom has earned the respect of all Elks, especially the members of the Board of Grand Trustees; *and*

Whereas, Joseph C. Basil has accomplished all the foregoing because of the phenomenal support of his wife, Virginia who is also a PDDGER from Raymond, WA Lodge No. 1292 and a multi time Grand Lodge Vocalist; sons, Joseph and Kristopher; stepdaughter, Jessica; and stepson, Michael.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that in grateful recognition of his valued service to Elkdom and in tribute to his dedication to our Order, the Board of Grand Trustees is hereby authorized and directed by the Grand Lodge in Session to procure and present to **Joseph C. Basil**, a suitable testimonial for his service, together with an embossed copy of this Resolution, thus expressing the gratitude and respect in which he is held by his fellow Members of the Board of Grand Trustees and the entire Membership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.



Joseph C. Basil

Elks Lodges celebrate 100-Year Anniversaries

The following Elks Lodges have stood the test of time as they celebrate their 100-Year Anniversary this 2024-2025 fraternal year during GER Douglas A. Schiefer’s term. Here’s to 100 more years in service to humanity, community, our nation and our Order’s noble principles.

<u>LODGE NAME & NO.</u>	<u>INSTITUTED</u>
Beacon, NY No. 1493	July 17, 1924
Wellsville, NY No. 1495	September 23, 1924
Burbank, CA No. 1497	December 2, 1924
Watervliet-Colonie, NY No. 1500	January 5, 1925
Brattleboro, VT No. 1499	January 6, 1925
Saranac Lake, NY 1508	May 22, 1925
Hood River, OR No. 1507	May 29, 1925
Lyndhurst, NJ No. 1505	June 3, 1925
Ridgefield Park, NJ No. 1506	June 20, 1925
Brookfield, IL No. 1510	June 24, 1925

LOCAL LODGE ACTIVITY

During Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook's Fraternal Year 2023-2024

CHARTERS GRANTED = NEW LODGES

- Parrish, FL Lodge No. 2889—Instituted 08/26/2023.
- Frisco, TX Lodge No. 2890—Instituted 05/11/2024.

CHARTERS SURRENDERED

- West Frankfort, IL Lodge No. 1340
—(EO #23-104) Effective 01/11/2024.
- Rock Island, IL Lodge No. 980
—(EO #23-129) Effective 03/01/2024.
- El Centro, CA Lodge 1325
—(EO #23-185) Effective 05/28/2024.

CHARTERS REVOKED

- Agana, Guam Lodge No. 1281
—(EO #23-045) Effective 09/20/2023.
- Elephant Butte, NM Lodge No. 2885
—(EO #23-060F) Effective 11/16/2023.
- Boone, IA Lodge No. 2884
—(EO #23-153) Effective 04/12/2024.
- Helena, MT Lodge No. 193
—(EO #23-147F) Effective 04/22/2024.
- Albany, OR Lodge No. 359
—(EO #23-171F) Effective 06/05/2024.

LODGE MERGERS

- Lebanon, OR Lodge No. 1663 & Sweet Home, OR Lodge No. 1972, to be known as: Sweet Home, OR Lodge No. 1972. Effective 07/24/2023 by EO #23-016.
- Fort Walton, FL Lodge 1795 & Destin, FL Lodge No. 2688, to be known as: Fort Walton, FL Lodge No. 1795. Effective 08/01/2023 by EO #23-022.
- Watertown, WI Lodge No. 666 & Beaver Dam, WI Lodge No. 1540, to be known as: Watertown-Beaver Dam, WI Lodge No. 666. Effective 09/25/2023 by EO #23-047.
- Gainesville, GA Lodge No. 1126 & Toccoa, GA Lodge No. 1820, to be known as: Toccoa, GA Lodge No. 1820. Effective 01/17/2024 by EO #23-106.
- South Bend, IN Lodge No. 235 & Elkhart, IN Lodge No. 425, to be known as: South Bend, IN Lodge No. 235. Effective 03/12/2024 by EO #23-137.
- Harrisburg, PA Lodge No. 12 & West Shore, PA Lodge No. 2257, to be known as: West Shore-Harrisburg, PA No. 2257, PA Lodge No. 2257. Effective 03/18/2024 by EO #23-143.
- Lock Haven, PA Lodge No. 182 & Jersey Shore, PA Lodge No. 1057, to be known as: Jersey Shore, PA Lodge No. 1057. Effective 03/12/2024 by EO #23-138.
- Salina, KS Lodge No. 718 & Abilene, KS Lodge No. 1675, to be known as: Abilene, KS Lodge No. 1675. Effective 04/26/2024 by EO #23-170.

LODGE NAME CHANGE

- Kearney, NJ Lodge No. 1050, name changed to: Kearney-Belleville, NJ Lodge No. 1050. Effective 07/21/2023 by EO #23-003.
- Douglas County, CO Lodge No. 2873, name changed to: Parker, CO Lodge No. 2873. Effective 07/21/2023 by EO #23-004.

LODGE REDISTRICTING

WASHINGTON ELKS ASSOCIATION

EO #23-152 (Effective 04/01/2024)

- Seattle, WA Lodge 92—Central District No. 9320 to North District No. 9280

MONTANA ELKS ASSOCIATION

EO #23-188 (Effective 07/03/2024)

East District No. 5000 (6 Lodges)

- Billings Lodge No. 394; Miles City Lodge No. 537; Wolf Point Lodge No. 1764; Sidney Lodge No. 1782; Glasgow Lodge No. 1922; Plentywood Lodge No. 2566.

North District Lodge No. 5040 (6 Lodges)

- Great Falls Lodge No. 214; Butte Lodge No. 240; Lewiston Lodge No. 456; Havre Lodge No. 1201; Cut Bank Lodge No. 1632; Shelby Lodge No. 1696.

South District Lodge No. 5080 (6 Lodges)

- Anaconda Lodge No. 239; Livingston Lodge No. 246; Virginia City Lodge No. 390; Bozeman Lodge No. 463; Red Lodge Lodge No. 534; Dillon Lodge No. 1554.

West District Lodge No. 5120 (6 Lodges)

- Missoula Lodge No. 383; Kalispell Lodge No. 725; Bitterroot Valley Lodge No. 1651; Mission Valley Lodge No. 1695; Deer Lodge Lodge No. 1737; Clark Fork Valley Lodge No. 2757.

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G/L AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

The Auditing and Accounting Committee will be conducting two seminars on 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 2:15-3:30 p.m. Tuesday 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 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesday 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.

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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?

WE HAVE ANSWERS

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 during exhibit hours and pick up your free gift.

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Resolution of Appreciation

Now, Whereas, the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will conclude this 159th Grand Lodge Session in Austin, Texas on the 2nd day of July, 2024;

And, Whereas, it is appropriate that due note be made, and appreciation expressed, to the many individuals who have contributed their time and effort to the success of this Grand Lodge Session;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Delegates here assembled extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation as follows:

To all Elks, Spouses and Families of the State of Texas, for their wonderful hospitality and for giving so unselfishly of their time and talents;

To the Grand Exalted Ruler, Randy P. Shook for the excellent and timely manner in which he conducted the Business Sessions, and for his untiring efforts on behalf of our Order during his term as our Leader.

To our First Lady Wanda for the elegant grace with which she endeared herself to all during her tour as First Lady with our Grand Exalted Ruler throughout Elkdom;

To the Aide to the Grand Exalted Ruler, Joe Evans, for the efficiency with which he handled the many support functions required of that position;

To the Elks National Convention Commission, Chairman, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur H. Frost III; Vice-Chairman, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Millard C. Pickering; Past Grand Exalter Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger; Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Smith; and Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson Jr. whose planning and efforts began many months prior to this Convention, and for their attention and supervision during this Session, ensuring its success;

To the Local Support Committee Honorary Chairmen, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Charles F. Williams and John D. Amen for their guidance in the planning and execution of this Convention;

To the 2024 Local Support Committee, General Chairperson Kirk A. Storey and the many Elks of the State of Texas, who worked tirelessly on

the various committees and subcommittees to make this Convention truly outstanding;

To Grand Secretary Bryan R. Klatt and his capable Headquarters staff, for their cooperation and knowledge without which no Grand Lodge Convention would be successful;

To Tina M. Haran, Convention and Meetings Director, and her Associate, Jessica M. Ruiz, Meetings Coordinator for their efforts and dedication in carrying out their many responsibilities and logistical functions at this Convention;

To the Exhibits & Sessions Coordinators, Scott Kirstein, Edgar Manwaring, Roland L. Siebert, Michael Clark, Gordon Daniels, Scott Flota, Marcus Kirstein and Kari Larson who provide and prepare the exhibits, the sound and visual equipment, the timing, the lighting, and other Convention requirements;

To Rick Flores, Chairman of Registration, Spencer Moore, Director of the National Information Services Department, and their team of skilled credentials personnel, for the efficient and pleasant manner with which they welcomed and registered, for another successful year, the thousands of Elks and Guests attending our Convention;

To Avis Thomas, Publications Manager, and her Associate, Mike Chamernik, Publications Coordinator, for their efforts and dedication in producing the Convention Daily Newsletter.

To Chairman William J. Chinn, Jr of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee, and Johnetta Tyler, Grand Lodge Controller, for their prompt and capable handling of the financial commitments of this Session;

To Past Grand Exalted Ruler Paul R. Ryan for serving as Master of Ceremonies at the Opening Session of this Convention;

To Reverend Father Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain, for his spiritual guidance and prayers of Elks and Elkdom during the past year; and for invoking the Divine Blessing of Almighty God on these proceedings; and sending us forth from this Session to do the good works of Elkdom with his Benediction;

To Ragan Sullivan for her wonderful and stirring vocal performances during the Opening Ceremony, Memorial Service and our Daily sessions;

To the Borger Honor Guard, from Borger, TX Lodge No. 1581, for their dignified and impressive presentation of the Colors on Sunday;

To Past Grand Exalted Bruce A. Hidley, Grand Lodge Memorial Service Coordinator, for his meticulous planning of our moving Memorial Service;

To Past Chief Justice James R. Deamud, who rendered Past Grand Exalted Ruler James C. Varenhorst Eulogy;

To the National Champion, Callicott 11 O'Clock Toast or Ritual Committee member for the commitment to render a beautiful Eleven O'Clock Toast at our Memorial Service;

To the Getty Powell Award winners for the highest scoring girl and boy in the 2024 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals: Ainsley Weaver, sponsored by Chillicothe, OH Lodge No. 52 and Beckett Jilka, sponsored by Hoxie, KS Lodge No. 2415 who stood fast and displayed unbelievable grit under the pressure of intense national competition and emerged victorious.

Finally, our deepest appreciation to all the Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, who, with their spouses and families, have pledged allegiance under God to the Flag of the United States, the Emblem of our Order and this great country and the symbol of freedom and liberty throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted by the Grand Lodge Resolutions Committee:

Chair, Robyn Sembenini, San Rafael, California Lodge No. 1108

Daniel J. Nelson, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania Lodge No. 1173

David S. Doherty, Salisbury, North Carolina Lodge No. 699