



# GRAND LODGE Convention News

## WEDNESDAY ✨ JULY 3, 2024

### Delegates consider resolutions in Legislative Session

By Ruth Kellar

Convention News Reporter

On the second day of the Grand Lodge Session, delegates passed 18 and rejected three resolutions to amend the Statutes and Constitution of the Order during the legislative session. Delegates also heard from several Grand Lodge committees and commissions concerning their activities over the previous year and their plans for the future and congratulated the All-American Lodge winners and the champions of the Ritualistic Contest.

The resolutions that failed included a proposal to make participation in the physical loss and crime coverage policy provided by the Grand Lodge optional for Lodges. Two proposals dependent upon the passage of this resolution, which permitted Local Lodges to apply for insurance coverage from outside companies, also failed. An additional proposal was withdrawn from consideration before voting began.

Resolutions that passed included two related amendments substituting the term "orientation" for the word "indoctrination" in the Order's Constitution; a proposal removing the requirement for Local Lodge Treasurers to attend all District Deputy Clinics; proposals formalizing the Soccer Shoot Program and the Government Relations Committee within the Laws of the Order; a proposal providing right of due process, hearing, and appeal to a Member subject to expulsion from membership for an undisclosed felony conviction; and several amendments clarifying existing statutes and practices.

Prior to the legislative session, Grand Trustee Chairman Richard Tabachuk, in his final report, indicated that the 2025-2026 dues would be fixed at \$6.50 for the Grand Lodge, between \$15.00 and \$25.00 for the insurance assessment, and \$5.50 for The Elks Magazine.

While the results of the voting were being tabulated, Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt gave an update on the Disaster Relief Fund, which received no applications for assistance during the 2023-2024



In his speech during Tuesday's Legislative Session, GER-Elect Douglas A. Schiefer gave an overview of the Grand Lodge Programs. Photo: Dawson Smith/Dawson Productions.

year. Secretary Klatt reported that the Disaster Relief Fund received a total of \$33,979 over the past year and has \$162,277 on hand to respond to disasters.

Government Relations Committee Chairman William Bryan reported that the total national giving by the Order in time, money, and in-kind donations had been extremely generous over the last year. Bryan congratulated the Elks on donating a total of \$502,486,385. Next up, William Chinn, chairman of the Auditing and Accounting Committee, stressed the necessity of Lodges submitting their IRS Form 990s and avoiding substantial fines.

GER-Elect Douglas A. Schiefer spoke about his program for the coming year. He provided an overview of the Grand Lodge Programs, and he encouraged the assembled Exalted Rulers to focus on using these and Local Lodge programs to create a dynamic presence in their communities as well as forge a greater sense of unity and involvement among Lodge Members. He also reminded the gathered Elks that the initiation of new Members remains a priority while also congratulating them on their consistent growth in membership over the past

few years. Finally, he exhorted each Elk in the assembly to perform small acts of patriotism every day.

Activities Committee Chairman Michael Bryant gave his committee's report and announced the results of the Community Project Contest. He noted that the Soccer Shoot had conducted its virtual national championship, with participation by 19,590 children in 27 states, and congratulated the five boys and five girls who were national champions in their respective age groups.

Fraternal Committee Chairman William Lindsey congratulated the winners of the Americanism Essay Contest. He announced that the 2024-2025 contest theme will be "What Does Patriotism Mean to Me?" Next, he announced the 18 winners, including six first-place winners, of the All American Lodge Contest (Page 4).

Michael Iddings, chairman of the Ritualistic Committee, closed out the session by announcing the final results and recognizing the winners of the national Ritualistic Contest, plus the final results of the Eleven O'Clock Toast Contest and the Flag Charge Contest. ★

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## Registration Final Tally

On this last day of the convention, the grand total number of Elks, Spouses and Guests is:

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 . . . . .	1,483
State Presidents . . . . .	44
State Secretaries . . . . .	40
Grand Lodge Members . . . . .	1,633
Non-Voting Members . . . . .	1,922
Guests . . . . .	922
Vendors . . . . .	26

**Combined Totals: 6,444**

## 3RD DAY BUSINESS SESSION

<b>08:00 Call to Order</b> . . . . .	Randy P. Shook, GER
— Invocation . . . . .	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
— Pledge of Allegiance . . . . .	All
Memorial Service . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, PGER
PR & Membership Marketing Report . . . . .	Steven E. Meier, Area 8 Member
Installation of 2024-2025 Grand Lodge Officers . . . . .	T. Keith Mills, PGER
Grand Exalted Ruler Remarks . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
Installation of DDGERs . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
Announcements . . . . .	Larry A. Robertson, Grand Esquire
Special Resolution . . . . .	Arthur H. Frost III, PGER
Presentation PGER . . . . .	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
Presentation of Jewels to outgoing G/L Officers . . . . .	Randy P. Shook, PGER
Presentation . . . . .	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
Special Presentation . . . . .	"GER Badge", Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
Special Presentation . . . . .	Minnesota "Ring", gift from State Ass'n
Appointments . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
Presentation of G/L Officers & Committee Chairmen . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
Closing Ceremony . . . . .	Grand Lodge Officers
Benediction . . . . .	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain

**Grand Lodge Closed**



The Elks National Foundation put out a call to action, and you responded. Thank you to everyone who donated new or gently used children's books or new pairs of socks! The books will be donated to a local literacy organization, BookSpring, and the socks will go to the Austin VA Clinic for veterans experiencing homelessness.

Anyone who donated these items was entered into a drawing to win a bonus Community Investments Program grant of \$2,000 for their Lodge! The winners will be announced on ENF's YouTube channel on the next episode of The Middy Minute.



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## G/L FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# All American Lodge Winners 2023–2024

### Division I — [1-150 Members]

1st Place—Duarte, CA No. 1427  
2nd Place—Pendleton, SC No. 2861  
3rd Place—Los Banos, CA No. 2510

### Division II — [151 to 225 Members]

1st Place—Cedar Grove, NJ No. 2237  
2nd Place—Tri-Cities, WA No. 2755  
3rd Place—Lakeport, CA No. 2704

### Division III — [226 to 300 Members]

1st Place—Kearny-Belleville, NJ No. 1050  
2nd Place—Mena, AR No. 781  
3rd Place—Gouverneur, NY No. 2035

### Division IV — [301 to 450 Members]

1st Place—Lynnwood, WA No. 2171  
2nd Place—Forks, WA No. 2524  
3rd Place—Gainesville, FL No. 990

### Division V — [451 to 700 Members]

1st Place—Hickory, NC No. 1654  
2nd Place—Chandler, AZ No. 2429  
3rd Place—Roseville, CA No. 2248

### Division VI — [701 Members and up]

1st Place—Orange, CA No. 1475  
2nd Place—Garden Grove, CA No. 1952  
3rd Place—Ferndale, MI No. 1588



## Racers rep Elks

Kaidyn and Madex Moran, siblings and drivers in the Montana Big 5 Super Series auto racing circuit, are sponsored by the State Associations in Area 8.

Kaidyn, 18, and Madex, 16, each have "Discover Elks" decals on their cars.

## TUESDAY'S RESOLUTIONS BALLOTING RESULTS

**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. **2,164 YES, 291 NO. PASSED.**

**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). **2,203 YES, 249 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-03**—To remove the word indoctrination, which has a negative connotation 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. *\*This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-01.\** **2,183 YES, 275 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-04**—To allow the ability to download and print a current membership application directly from Elks.org. **2,239 YES, 220 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-05**—To make participation in the physical loss and crime coverage policy procured by Grand Lodge optional for the local Lodges. **970 YES, 1,470 NO. FAILED.**

**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.\** **1,072 YES, 1,384 NO. FAILED.**

**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.\** **1,079 YES, 1,379 NO. FAILED.**

**2024-08**—To remove the requirement for the Lodge Treasurer to attend all District Deputy Clinics. **1,577 YES, 869 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-09**—To give the Local Lodges the opportunity to add or not add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors. **1,892 YES, 567 NO. PASSED.**

**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. **2,265 YES, 186 NO. PASSED.**

**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. **2,247 YES, 203 NO. PASSED.**

**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. **2,222 YES, 233 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-13**—To make the year-round entry of the charitable service statistics a formal duty of the Secretary. **2,139 YES, 316 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-14**—Add Section 13.025: To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee. **2,019 YES, 437 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-15**—Amendment to Section 13.020: To formalize a standing Government Relations Committee. *\*This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2024-14.\** **2,017 YES, 432 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-16**—Amendment to Section 13.021: To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order. **2,153 YES, 298 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-17**—Amendment to Section 18.020: To formalize the Soccer Shoot Program within the Laws of the Order. **2,141 YES, 306 NO. PASSED.**

**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. **2,243 YES, 211 NO. PASSED.**

**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. **1,962 YES, 273 NO. PASSED.**

**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.\** **1,986 YES, 233 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-21**—To make a record of the preliminary hearing. **2,124 YES, 89 NO. PASSED.**

**2024-22**—To codify what flags or other insignia may be displayed within the Order. **Rescinded by the Committee on Judiciary.**

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## Grand Lodge Budget approved 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
	<b>\$8,486,903</b>

### 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
	<b>\$8,486,903</b>

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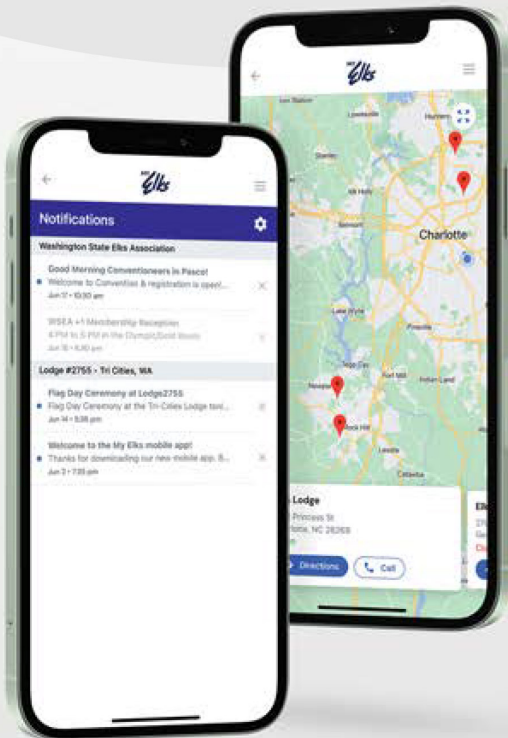
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# Congratulations to 2023-24 Ritualistic Contest Winners



**First Place — Kenton, OH No. 157  
(96.5423)**

ER Ryan Yoakum; Leading Knight Derryck Menard; Loyal Knight Marty McKinley Gray; Lecturing Knight Stacey Hamilton-Davis; Esquire Nate Davis. *Standing, from left:* Chaplain David Beazley; Inner Guard Dylan Menard; Tiler Roger Crowe (*not pictured*) Candidate Sue Fox Buroker; Coach D. Jack Buroker; Coach John Hines; Coach Todd Daquino.



**Second Place — Garden Grove, CA No. 1952  
(96.4781)**

ER Tony Lopez; Leading Knight Chris Garland; Loyal Knight Alice Salinas; Lecturing Knight Terese Caiazzo; Esquire Tina Duarte. *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Sharon Violano; Inner Guard Jennifer Van Dyne; Tiler Paul Escobar; Candidate Maria Snyder; Coach Karen Lewin; Coach Mark Mahoney; Coach Eric Skillman.



**Third Place — Reno, NV No. 597  
(94.9281)**

ER Frank Picone; Leading Knight Rachel Drake; Loyal Knight Antonio Ricci; Lecturing Knight Justin Hoch; Esquire Melissa Fitch. *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Barbara Glueck; Inner Guard Heidi Julius; Candidate Joy Brackney; Coach Dee Boskie; Coach Max Shen; Coach Ken DuBois; Coach Frank Reynolds III.



**Fourth Place — Sanford, ME No. 1470  
(94.6324)**

ER Frank Ricker; Leading Knight J. Andrew Bolz; Loyal Knight Marise Anagnost; Lecturing Knight Rob Wilkins; Esquire Robert Shaw. *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Corey DeWitt; Inner Guard Fred Daniels; Candidate Sheila Pillsbury; Coach Bruce Brunelle; Coach Joleen DeWitt; Coach Tricia Bolz; Coach Lisa Brunelle.

## 2024 CALLICOTT 11 O'CLOCK TOAST CONTEST FINALISTS



**National Winner: Mel Oliveira, Rotterdam, NY No. 2157**  
**Second Place:** Wayne Edwards, Santa Clarita, CA No. 2379  
**Third Place:** Stephen C. Giddens II, Hopkinsville, KY No. 545  
**Fourth Place:** Sean Williams, St. Helens, OR No. 1999

## 2024 MULHOLLAND FLAG CHARGE CONTEST FINALISTS



**National Winner: Larry Bratt, Lincoln, NE No. 80**  
**Second Place:** Rob Taylor, Canandaigua, NY No. 1844  
**Third Place:** James Staubach, Newport, KY No. 273  
**Fourth Place:** Randy Kettenhofen, Tucson East, AZ No. 2532