



HEARTBEAT

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

ISSUE 70 | WINTER 2022



MCN: THE ENF'S FOUR-TOOL TALENT

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In baseball, talent scouts grade players based on five tools that are central to success: hitting, hitting for power, running, fielding and throwing. Teams *need* players who possess several of those tools; they covet the ones who have all of them. That kind of talent is rare.

While speaking at the fall meeting of the Ohio Elks Association, Elks National Foundation Director Jim O’Kelley reflected on the ENF equivalent of the five tools.

“I came up with four,” he acknowledges, “and I think they capture the ways so many Elks contribute to our success.”

To thrive, the ENF needs volunteers to work the programs it funds, volunteers to raise money, donors with a generous spirit, and Elks leaders who use their platform to amplify the Foundation’s mission.

“Many, many people do one or two of those things for us,” O’Kelley says. “Even three. But all four? I only know of one person.”

And that’s why he went to Ohio—to present the first-ever Champion of the ENF Award to four-tool talent Mary Carolyn Nichelson, a.k.a. MCN.

Nichelson joined the Elks in 1997, and she quickly immersed herself in the Lodge. She has served as the Lodge, District, and State Fundraising Chair for years. She also volunteers with Ohio River Valley, Ohio, Lodge No. 231’s Community Investments Program grant projects.

see MCN, continued on page 2



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“BEING AN ELK MEANS REACHING FOR MY BEST SELF AND SHARING IT WITH OTHERS.” —MARY CAROLYN NICHELSON

CHAMPION OF THE ENF AWARD

MCN, continued from page 1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 15-18:
Spring Elks Scholar Service Trip
in Chicago

MARCH 31:
Fiscal Year 2022 Donation Deadline

APRIL 1:
CIP Grant Applications Open

APRIL 1:
Fiscal Year 2023 Begins

APRIL 8-9:
MVS Leadership Weekend

APRIL 28-MAY 1:
Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals

“I feel we have made a huge difference by touching many aspects of people’s lives,” Nicholson says. “Without CIP grants, our small Lodge could never have accomplished the numerous programs we initiated.”

What draws Nicholson to volunteerism is threefold. First, Elks build community through grant projects. Next, Nicholson sees their “sweat equity” as an investment in the Lodge’s future. Last, helping others makes her feel good, too—about her role in building stronger communities and how ENF programs elevate the Lodge.

On top of giving her time, Nicholson and her spouse, Past National President Jim Nicholson, support the Foundation by donating.

“Giving is a virtue that was modeled to me as a child,” Nicholson says. “For me, it is important to share my bounty with others. The ENF allows me to do that knowing that what I give will be responsibly used to build a future of giving.”

Nicholson gives through the Fidelity Club, the ENF’s monthly giving program. She appreciates the ease of it.

As Fundraising Chair, a dedicated volunteer and an exemplary Elk, Nicholson spreads the word about the Foundation and its programs by writing articles for the Lodge bulletin, inviting members to volunteer, and asking them to give.

“Educating people about the ENF is the best way to inspire them to support its efforts,” she says. “If they understand how important the ENF is to the Elks and to our Lodge, they will give.”

It’s that willingness to raise awareness and inspire that makes Nicholson an incredible advocate for the ENF—and an obvious choice for the first Champion of the ENF Award.

“Some days, being an Elk means a great deal of work,” Nicholson reflects. “Other days, being an Elk means laughter and being with friends. But all days, being an Elk means reaching for my best self and sharing it with others.”



Elks in Lake Oconee, Ga., are providing company and social outings for today's veterans with their Impact Grant Project—Reaching Out to Our Veterans.



IMPACT GRANT REACHES OUT

Lake Oconee, Ga., Lodge No. 2849 has used its Impact Grant to partner with the Georgia War Veterans Home since 2018. Through the project, Reaching Out to Our Veterans, the Lake Oconee Elks build relationships with the residents by holding monthly outings and events that provide entertainment and companionship.

Reaching Out to Our Veterans was originally designed to provide interaction with the outside world, as the veterans at the home rarely had the opportunity to leave. However, throughout the course of the project, the Lake Oconee Lodge realized that many residents use wheelchairs. Without a wheelchair accessible vehicle, the Elks weren't able to bring many of the veterans along on their adventures. So, the Lake Oconee Elks reworked the project, pivoting to host monthly events right at the Georgia War Veterans Home to be enjoyed by all residents, and the refreshed project has yielded incredibly positive results.

In the third quarter of their 2021 Impact Grant, the Lake Oconee Elks threw both a pizza party and barbecue luncheon for more than 100 residents. The Lodge has been creative in sharing its events with the local community, and the lunch was no different. That publicity inspired a community member to donate a fully functional wheelchair van. Though the community member is not affiliated with the Elks, she was so moved by the dedication and passion of the Lake Oconee Lodge that she wanted to give back to the veterans at the home.

“The donor, whose husband had used the van before he passed away, asked that our Lodge facilitate the donation,” says Lodge Grants project manager Mary Zachary. “We are very proud that our efforts have helped to engage the community in supporting the Veterans Home.”

With the donation, the Lake Oconee Elks will be able to deepen their impact and provide more accessible services to show that Elks always care.



IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The *Midday Minute* crew joined CIPster Meaghan Morris to announce the 2022 Impact Grant recipients on *Take a CIP*.

These 14 Lodges will each receive \$10,000 in grant funding for an in-depth, Elks-run community service project.

Visit enf.elks.org/TakeACIP to see how Lodges across the country will use their 2022 Impact Grants to make a meaningful, positive difference in their communities.



The Scholar Advisory Board is composed of Elks scholars who advise the ENF on its scholar relation efforts. Current Vice President Autumn Archuleta (from left), past president Kimberly Hadaway, and Kat Nakamura connected first at the 2019 Elks National Convention.



ELKS SCHOLARS WIN MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP

DONATE TODAY!

The end of the fiscal year is quickly approaching. As a reminder, the donation deadline is March 31. Donations must be **received** at the ENF office by that date. If you plan to donate to the ENF this fiscal year, please keep the donation deadline in mind. Some areas of our country are experiencing mail and courier delivery service delays. To guarantee donations are received by March 31, consider donating online at enf.elks.org/donate.

The continued support of our donors allows us to further our mission of helping Elks build stronger communities. We're so grateful.

The Scholar Advisory Board typically visits Chicago for a meeting every year, but the pandemic put a stop to in-person meetings—until this past fall.

“When I presented the idea of getting together in Chicago for our first in-person Scholar Advisory Board meeting since 2019, I was prepared for some trepidation,” says then-Scholarship Programs Manager Colleen Conrad. “However, the response from the SAB was an overwhelming, enthusiastic, ‘yes!’”

That enthusiasm continued throughout the meeting on November 5 and 6, which kicked off the board's year.

The SAB first launched in 2009 as the ENF sought input from Elks scholars to inform its scholar engagement efforts.

“We want to be more than a check to our Elks scholars,” says ENF Assistant Director Debbie Doles. “We want to engage scholars so that they know who we are as Elks. We want them to be part of the Elks family.”

Kat Nakamura, a junior SAB representative, received a 2019 MVS scholarship. Nakamura, sponsored by Oceanside, Calif., Lodge No. 1561, immediately joined the SAB—and the Elks family—as a first-year student.

“You really do become a family and unite in giving to others, bringing students in, and helping everyone pursue their own dream to live their best life,” Nakamura says.

One of the scholars Nakamura met through the SAB is the board's vice president, Autumn Archuleta. Archuleta is a 2018 Legacy scholar sponsored by Grants-Milan, N.M., Lodge No. 2053.

“[The SAB has] been a constant throughout my college experience,” Archuleta says. “All of these memories and all of these opportunities that I've had to serve

Second City became SAB City when the Elks Scholar Advisory Board came to Chicago for the 2021 SAB meeting—the first in-person meeting in two years.

The Second City STAGES

JOEYAN LANGATE

ELKS VALUE COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

The Scholar Advisory Board arrived in Chicago in November and paid a visit to the Elks Headquarters before the 2021 in-person SAB meeting. While at HQ, the scholars sat down with a film crew to discuss their time with the #ElksFamily.

“To begin with, I didn’t know a lot about the Elks scholar program,” explains Nishitha Karumuri, an at-large representative on the SAB. “I just knew I was getting a scholarship. But once I visited the Santa Monica Lodge through my service trip, I learned a lot about how the Elks value community and service and how it’s seen through everything they do.”

Visit enf.elks.org/SAB2021 to meet Karumuri and some of the Elks scholars who serve on the SAB.

others has really impacted me in a way that I haven’t been able to experience outside of the Elks.”

During the November board meeting, the SAB brainstormed ideas for how to bring the diverse community of Elks scholars together. Those efforts will leave a mark on the ENF, the scholarship program and the Elks.

“The SAB is just the upper echelon. They’re the scholars who want to go above and beyond in their engagement with the Elks family,” Conrad says. “I’m always blown away by how they step up and are willing to do the work and put in the time to make our scholar relations efforts better than ever.”

ASK THE ENF...

Q

My daughter applied for a Legacy Awards scholarship. When will the winners be announced?

—Eager in Eureka

A

Dear Eager:

Good luck to your daughter and all the 2022 Elks scholarship applicants! The Most Valuable Student scholarship recipients will be announced in late March, and the Legacy Awards recipients will be announced in late April. Recipients will be notified via email. The announcement will be posted to the Elks National Foundation’s **Facebook** page, enf.elks.org/scholars and enf.elks.org.

Have a question for the ENF? Email us at enf@elks.org.

FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP



WIN A GOLDEN TICKET FOR THE GOLDEN FINALS

A \$50 donation to the Hoop Shoot program could be your ticket to the 50th anniversary National Finals.

2022 is a brand-new and bigger-than-ever year for the Hoop Shoot. It marks the Hoop Shoot's 50th anniversary as a national program, and the Elks intend to deliver a gold-medal National Finals for a golden anniversary.

On April 30, 72 National Finalists will toe the line at Wintrust Arena, a new state-of-the-art, 10,000-seat facility in downtown Chicago that's home to the WNBA Champion Chicago Sky and DePaul University's Blue Demons. The 2022 Finalists will step up to the same line as some of basketball's best.

continued on facing page

We salute the following members of the 2021-22 Foundation Fellowship who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation from April 1, 2021 through December 26, 2021. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit enf.elks.org/fellowship.

(+ Denotes deceased member; ^ Denotes ENF Trustee; > Denotes John F. Malley Society; * Denotes Fidelity Club; # Denotes Loyalty Club; < Denotes Named Scholarship donor)

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In celebration of this Golden Anniversary, five lucky donors will be selected to win a Golden Ticket. Donate \$50 or more to the Hoop Shoot fund this fiscal year for a shot at a Golden Ticket—round-trip airfare for two to Chicago, onsite ground transportation, a two-night stay at the Hilton Chicago, and two complimentary registrations for all public events at the 2022 National Finals.

Visit enf.elks.org/hoop to donate today.

The winners will be announced on Facebook Live. As of press time, two winners have already been selected. The remaining drawings will take place on February 1, March 1 and April 1.

Planning to attend the Finals regardless of a Golden Ticket? Standard registration opened February 1. If you are selected for a Golden Ticket after registering, your expenses will be reimbursed.

Learn more at elks.org/hoopshoot. The Golden Tickets are non-transferable. If the winner is unable to attend, the Elks National Foundation staff will select a new recipient of the Golden Ticket.

A 501c3 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. **Heartbeat** is the Elks National Foundation's official newsletter. For more information about featured *Heartbeat* articles or to suggest items to be included in an upcoming issue of *Heartbeat*, please contact the ENF at 773/755-4728 or enf@elks.org.

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STAY CONNECTED!



Open this issue of *Heartbeat* to read about how the Elks are using Impact Grants to reach out to veterans ... and much more!

