



GRAND LODGE Convention News

WEDNESDAY ✨ JULY 5, 2023

Delegates consider Resolutions in Legislative Session

By Tom Scudder
Convention News Reporter

On the second day of the Grand Lodge Session, delegates passed 14 and rejected 4 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 require the Grand Lodge to reimburse Local Lodges for the per capita fees they paid for Members who were dropped for nonpayment of dues. Three interrelated proposals, which would have allowed Past Exalted Rulers Associations to establish nonprofit corporations, also failed.

Resolutions that passed included two related amendments clarifying that a Member of a Lodge that is appealing the revocation of its charter can transfer to a different Lodge; an amendment establishing a procedure for a Member to resign from the Order during the middle of a fraternal year; a proposal requiring the Lodge Treasurer to attend any District Deputy Clinics; two related proposals prohibiting the use of Elks resources to fundraise for legal actions before the Grand Forum or a Local Forum; and several amendments clarifying existing statutes and practices. In addition, a constitutional amendment correcting an error in the Constitution by deleting a redundant paragraph passed and will be sent to the Local Lodges for approval.

Prior to the legislative session, Grand Trustee Chairman Allen Lenort, in his final report, indicated that the 2023–2024 dues would be fixed at \$34.00—\$6.50 for the Grand Lodge, \$22.00 for the insurance assessment,



In his speech during Tuesday's Legislative Session, GER-Elect Randy P. Shook encouraged the assembled Exalted Rulers to recruit new Members. Photo: Coppersmith Photography.

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 provided \$75,000 in assistance to Florida following Hurricane Ian and \$25,000 in assistance to Montana following serious flooding. Secretary Klatt reported that the Disaster Relief Fund has \$125,255 on hand to respond to disasters.

Government Relations Committee Chairman Anthony Markarian reported that the total national giving by the Order in time, money, and in-kind donations had been extremely generous in the 2022–2023 fiscal year. The final total was a very impressive \$489,530,423—exceeding the previous year by \$121,162,159.

Next up was William Chinn Jr., chairman of the Auditing and Accounting Committee. He stressed the necessity of Lodges submitting their IRS Form 990s and avoiding substantial fines. During his presentation, Chinn recognized Past Grand Exalted Ruler T.

Keith Mills, who announced that a new financial reporting system will soon be available that will cost approximately \$30 a month, which would represent a significant savings for Local Lodges.

Next, GER-Elect Randy P. Shook spoke about his program for the coming year. He encouraged the assembled Exalted Rulers to focus on recruiting new Members and encouraging existing Members to stay, and recommended the new Why We Join video as a tool to help in this work. He recommended that every Lodge use ENF Community Investment Program grants to make a difference in its community, particularly by creating and developing local projects. He also announced that the per-capita goal for ENF donations would remain at \$4.80 for 2023–2024. He strongly encouraged the gathered Elks to continue to work to support veterans, young people, and other members of the community and to observe the Order's many traditions.

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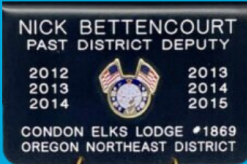
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Registration Final Tally

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	20
Grand Lodge Officers	8
Grand Trustees	8
Grand Forum	6
Grand Lodge Committeemen	76
District Deputies-Designate	227
Special Deputies	27
Representatives to Grand Lodge & Alternates	1,440
State Presidents	44
State Secretaries	32
Grand Lodge Members	1,406
Non-Voting Members	1,594
Guests	870
Vendors	34

Combined Totals: 5,793

3RD DAY BUSINESS SESSION

08:00	Call to Order	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	— Invocation	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	— Pledge of Allegiance	All
	Memorial Service	T. Keith Mills, PGER
	PR & Membership Marketing Report	Richard F. Gathen, Manager
	Installation of 2023-2024 Grand Lodge Officers	Paul R. Ryan, PGER
	Grand Exalted Ruler Remarks	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Installation of DDGERS	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Announcements	Steven D. Weatherly, Sr, Grand Esquire
	Special Resolution	David R. Carr, PGER
	Presentation	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Presentation of Jewels to outgoing G/L Officers	Bruce A. Hidley, 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
	Presentation	Alaska "Watch", gift from State Ass'n
	Appointments	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Presentation of G/L Officers & Committee Chairmen	Randy P. Shook, GER
	Closing Ceremony	Grand Lodge Officers
	Benediction	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
10:32	Grand Lodge Closed	Randy P. Shook, GER

For photographs from the Minneapolis convention, go to:
<https://coppersmithphotography.passgallery.com/-ELKS2023>



Kenyon Brown, Grand Lodge Shipping & Receiving Clerk and the unofficial Mayor of Convention, transports bags of donated socks collected by ENF. The socks will be given to veterans experiencing homelessness in the Minneapolis area.

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TUESDAY'S RESOLUTIONS BALLOTING RESULTS

2023-1	To clarify this Constitutional provision by eliminating a redundancy. *Final approval of this proposed amendment requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at this assembly and compliance with Article IX of the Constitution.*	Yes=2,490 No=84	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-2	To prohibit the use of resources of the Order and of Local Lodges for private, public, or social media fundraising activities in connection with a Local Forum or Grand Forum action.	Yes=2,336 No=236	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-3	To prohibit the use of resources of the Order and of Local Lodges for private, public, or social media fundraising activities in connection with a Local Forum or Grand Forum action, and to authorize the Grand Forum to issue a contempt order.	Yes=2,382 No=224	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-4	To formalize the appointment and authority of Special Representative District Leaders or Area Special Representatives.	Yes=2,455 No=145	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-5	To clarify that the determination of whether there exists good cause not to attend a District Deputy Clinic rests with the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.	Yes=2,406 No=185	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-6	To clarify that the determination of whether there exists good cause not to attend a District Deputy Clinic rests with the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.	Yes=2,404 No=196	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-7	To require the Lodge Treasurer to attend all District Deputy Clinics.	Yes=1,693 No=897	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-8	To clarify the types of projects that are subject to the provisions of this section of the Laws of the Order.	Yes=2,375 No=238	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-9	To allow greater discretion for the use of defunct Lodge funds and to allow the Grand Exalted Ruler the authority to appoint a sufficient number of Trustees to administer the funds of a defunct Lodge.	Yes=2,370 No=245	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed

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TUESDAY'S RESOLUTIONS BALLOTING RESULTS

2023-10	To allow Local Lodges to adopt a by-law setting a minimum age requirement for Life Membership applicants.	Yes=2,240 No=374	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-11	To define spouse as used in the Grand Lodge Statutes and in publications.	Yes=1,396 No=1,205	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-12	To require the Grand Lodge to provide a credit to Local Lodges for dropped Members.	Yes=769 No=1,826	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Failed
2023-13	To authorize and prescribe the procedure by which a Member may resign from membership during the Lodge year.	Yes=1,376 No=1,229	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-14	To allow Members to transfer from a Lodge appealing a Charter revocation.	Yes=2,375 No=240	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-15	To permit and prescribe the procedure by which a Member, who has been dropped for non-payment, may apply for reinstatement in another Lodge when that individual's Lodge has had its Charter revoked and has appealed.	Yes=2,146 No=469	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-16	To allow a Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association to form a separate non-profit corporation for the purpose of raising, receiving, and distributing funds for such charities, educational, and scientific purposes that are supported by its Lodge, State Association, and/or Grand Lodge.	Yes=349 No=2,251	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Failed
2023-17	To make it clear that the Grand Exalted Ruler shall have the authority to remove any officer of a corporation formed pursuant to the new Section 16.035 who neglects the duties of office, or is guilty of contumacy or conduct injurious to the Order. *This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2023-16.*	Yes=1,666 No=920	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passed
2023-18	To allow a Local Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association to form a separate non-profit corporation for the purpose of fundraising. *This Resolution is dependent upon the passage of Resolution 2023-16 and 2023-17.*	Yes=1,089 No=1,499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Failed

G/L FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

All American Lodge Winners for 2022-23

By **WILLIAM J. LINDSEY**
Committee Chairman

The top three Contest "A" All American Lodges have been chosen in each Division. After listing the top 10 in each Division in the July Grand Lodge Newsletter, the judges have chosen the top three in each division and announced them at Grand Lodge in Minneapolis on Tuesday morning at the Business Session.

Here are the top three awards for Lodges in each Division.

Division I – [1-150 Members]

- 1st Place – Pendleton, SC No. 2861
- 2nd Place – San Angelo, TX No. 1880
- 3rd Place – Green Bay, WI No. 259

Division II – [151 to 225 Members]

- 1st Place – Santa Monica, CA No. 906
- 2nd Place – Cedar Grove, NJ No. 2237
- 3rd Place – Wheeling, WV No. 28

Division III – [226 to 300 Members]

- 1st Place – Kearny, NJ No. 1050
- 2nd Place – Grand Island, NE No. 604
- 3rd Place – Page, AZ No. 2498

Division IV – [301 to 450 Members]

- 1st Place – Gilroy, CA No. 1567
- 2nd Place – Sierra Vista, AZ No. 2065
- 3rd Place – East Stroudsburg, PA No. 319

Division V – [451 to 700 Members]

- 1st Place – Rensselaer, NY No. 2073
- 2nd Place – Dover, DE No. 1903
- 3rd Place – Casa Grande Valley, AZ No. 1957

Division VI – [701 Members and up]

- 1st Place – Phoenix, AZ No. 335
- 2nd Place – St. Louis, MO No. 9
- 3rd Place – Manasquan, NJ No. 2534

Congratulations to all Lodges that participated in Contest "A." You are all winners. Your Lodge is better because of your participation.

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~ 2023 RITUALISTIC CONTEST FINAL SCORES ~

First Place	97.9588	Kenton, OH No. 157
Second Place	97.5192	Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782
Third Place	97.4081	Carlsbad, NM No. 1558
Fourth Place	96.5621	Santa Clarita, CA No. 2379

~ 2023 CALLICOTT 11 O’CLOCK TOAST CONTEST FINALISTS ~



National Winner: Lowell Neinast, Houston TX No. 151
Second Place: Randy Sterling, Phoenix AZ No. 335
Third Place: Todd Daquino, Kenton OH No. 157
Fourth Place: Sean McMenamain, Bridgeport PA No. 714

~ 2023 MULHOLLAND FLAG CHARGE CONTEST FINALISTS ~



National Winner: Heather Beal, Bremerton WA No. 1181
Second Place: Chad Spencer, Kenton OH No. 157
Third Place: Tyler Clemons, Carthage NY No. 1762
Fourth Place: Erica McMains, Claremore OK No. 1230

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Activities Committee Chairman Michael T. Ohren gave his committee’s report and announced the results of the Community Project Contest, of which the first-place winners were Winner, SD Lodge No. 2084 (Division One), Palmdale, CA Lodge No. 2027 (Division Two), Goldsboro, NC Lodge No. 139 (Division Three), Putnam, CT Lodge No. 574 (Division Four), Charlevoix, MI Lodge No. 2856 (Division Five), and Manasquan, NJ Lodge No. 2534 (Division Six).

Ohren noted that the Soccer Shoot had conducted its virtual national championship, with participation by 13,275 children in 25 states, and congratulated the five boys and six girls (including two girls in the Under 8 group who tied for first) who were national champions in their respective age-groups. He also presented the Marvin M. Lewis Elks in Scouting awards to Mark Wrightington, of Greater Palisades, NJ No. 2475, and Gregory Martin, Jr. of Homer, AK Lodge No. 2127.

Fraternal Committee Chairman William Lindsey congratulated the win-

ners of the Americanism Essay Contest, which for the first time was held in four divisions. The four top winners, each of whom received a \$1,000 prize, were fifth grader Cameryn Boots, who was sponsored by Egg Harbor Township, NJ Lodge No. 2653; sixth grader Kaleb Hill, who was sponsored by Cody, WY Lodge No. 1611; seventh grader Lily Strode, who was sponsored by Bloomington, IL Lodge No. 281; and eighth grader America Velaquez, who was sponsored by Kerrville, TX, Lodge No. 2081. He announced that the 2023–2024 contest theme will be “What Does the Bill of Rights Mean to Me?” Next, he announced the eighteen winners, including six first-place winners, of the All-American Lodge Contest.

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

~ 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.

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Congratulations to 2022-23 Ritualistic Contest Winners!



First Place — Kenton, OH No. 157

ER Chad Spencer; Esteemed Leading Knight Ryan Yoakum; Esteemed Loyal Knight Derryck Menard; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Marty McKinley Gray; Esquire Stacey Hamilton-Davis. *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Jeff Buroker; Inner Guard Julie Crowe; Candidate Sue Fox Buroker; Tiler Roger Crowe; Coach D. Jack Buroker; Coach John Hines; Coach Ignatius Todd Daquino.



Second Place — Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782

ER Lisa Rovito; Esteemed Leading Knight Samantha Martin; Esteemed Loyal Knight Eric Sabol; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Wayne McDonnell; Esquire Matthew Winnans. *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Lauren Greed; Inner Guard Heidi McDonnell; Tiler Sheila Speroni; Tiler Peter Appaluccio; Candidate Jennifer Appaluccio; Coach Kathleen Caffrey; Coach Robert Ricker.



Third Place — Carlsbad, NM No. 1558

ER Damon West; Esteemed Leading Knight Kent Hitchens; Esteemed Loyal Knight Eric McGee; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Roger Maxwell; Esquire Russell Elyasevich. *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Mark Barela-Eubank; Inner Guard Brad Rodgers; Candidate Nolan Autry; Coach Jeff Gordon.



Fourth Place — Santa Clarita, CA No. 2379

ER Glenn Daniel; Esteemed Leading Knight Wayne Edwards; Esteemed Loyal Knight Michael Brandriff; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Scott Bickle; Esquire Jay Larkins. *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Danise Davis; Inner Guard Ilia Piedra; Tiler Kelvin Swanson; Candidate Michael Lowrance; Coach John Rivetti.



All American Officers — Eastern Division

ER Lisa Rovito (Lake Hopatcong, NJ #782); Esteemed Leading Knight Ryan Yoakum (Kenton, OH #157); Esteemed Lecturing Knight Marty Gray (Kenton, OH #157); Esteemed Loyal Knight Derryck Menard (Kenton, OH #157); Esquire Sarah Stemple (Bridgeport, PA #714). *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Jeff Buroker (Kenton, OH #157); Inner Guard Kody Heukrath (Carthage, NY #1762); Candidate Sue Fox Buroker (Kenton, OH #157); Coach D. Jack Buroker (Kenton, OH #157); Coach John Hines (Kenton, OH #157); Coach Ignatius Todd Daquino (Kenton, OH #157).



All American Officers — Western Division

ER Glenn Daniel (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Esteemed Leading Knight Frank Picone (Reno, NV #597); Esteemed Loyal Knight Michael Brandriff (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Esteemed Lecturing Knight Scott Bickle (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Esquire Bruce Swedal (Littleton, CO #1650). *Standing, from left:* Chaplain Danise Davis (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Inner Guard Ilia Piedra (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Candidate Michael Lowrance (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Coach Kelvin Swanson (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Coach John Rivetti (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Coach Jay Larkins (Santa Clarita, CA #2379).