



MVS Finalists
Josephine Nwankwo (left) and Aleah Hahn smile for the camera while volunteering at the Jesse Brown V.A. Medical Center during Lead 5 in Chicago.



MVS SCHOLARS SAW THE SIGNS

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As the planes descended from the sky and the scholars made their way through the airport doors, a “Welcome to Chicago!” banner greeted them in the entryway. On the way to their luggage, a “Welcome Elks Scholars” sign held by a friendly face told them they were in the right place for the fifth annual Most Valuable Student Leadership Weekend.

There might as well have been a third sign at the hotel for the event: “Welcome Home.” The MVS scholars bonded quickly through their mutual ambition, goals and drive to succeed. They spent the first night getting to know one another, and themselves, through a series of leadership activities.

“I had the best time learning more about my strengths while simultaneously growing in my leadership skills,” says Ellie Gex, sponsored by Katy, Texas, Lodge No. 2628.

These activities also prepared the scholars for their interviews with the national judges for the top scholarships. Like many of the scholars, Natalie MacEwan, sponsored by Canoga Park, Calif., Lodge No. 2190, shared stories from her life that show the importance of the Most Valuable Student scholarship. To Natalie, it means people believe in her.

“I knew I was going to be extremely inspired after this weekend, and I’ll be taking home more than just a scholarship—friendships, networking opportunities, and being a part of the Elks organization,” Natalie says.

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Elks scholars jump in glee during the Spring Scholar Service Trip in Asheville, North Carolina.



THE WAY IT'S MEANT TO BE

IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE 26 - JUNE 29
Summer Elks Scholar Service Trip
in San Antonio

JUNE 29 - JULY 2
150 for 150 Elks Scholar Service
and Celebration Trip

JULY 1
2018-19 Grant
Applications Open

JULY 1-4
Elks National Convention
in San Antonio

JULY 31
2019 Impact Intent Deadline

AUGUST 15
2019 MVS Contest Begins

The scholars install flooring while preparing a room for a veteran and fellow volunteer at the Veterans Restoration Quarters in North Carolina.



By Marc Rademaker

I'm only a first-year student at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and I've already been on two Elks Scholar Service Trips. I couldn't wait to get to Asheville for the Spring Trip. Arriving at YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, I immediately connected with my fellow Elks scholars. These new friends came from Alaska, Puerto Rico, and everywhere in between to serve together.

Most of the week constituted indirect service. It was sometimes difficult to see our impact on the people we were serving. That changed at the Veterans Restoration Quarters.

The organization had transformed an old motel into a living space for veterans transitioning out of homelessness. I installed flooring with a few of the other scholars in a resident's room. We enjoyed each other's company through the service, but I was still curious about what I was achieving by simply installing flooring.

Later in the day, we discovered the story behind the room we were preparing. One of the volunteers at the VRQ—a veteran himself—had been living out of his car unbeknownst to the organization. Upon finding out, the staff cleared out a storage room and made it into a home for him. I was awestruck that a man who himself was homeless could still find joy in serving his fellow veterans.

I saw myself, and who I strive to be, in that veteran and every person that week: Someone who has zest for life, knows the importance of serving others, and is persistent in achieving goals. I saw who I strive to be in the future in those I met at Elks

Lodges. I saw the best of humanity in the humility of individuals willing to serve.

Isn't that the way it's meant to be?



2016 MVS Top Scholar Jay Little (right) links up with 2018 MVS Finalists (from left) Jessica Xiao, Natalie MacEwan and Brandon Staple while spending time with veterans and volunteering at the Jesse Brown V.A. Medical Center.

MVS, continued from page 1

The scholars also served together at the Jesse Brown V.A. Medical Center in Chicago. Maitland Thull sponsored by Mobile, Ala., Lodge No. 108, had an unforgettable experience singing “Happy Birthday” to a World War II veteran who was soon turning 97.

“It was amazing that we got to be in that place with that man,” Maitland says. “I feel like we did such a tiny dent in the scope of veterans...but keep doing that dent over and over again, and it gets bigger, and that’s encouraging.”

The weekend ended with a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan to celebrate the scholars and their new beginnings. The future is bright with these seniors leading the charge, and this weekend wouldn’t be possible without the support of the Elks.

“[Leadership Weekend] was truly transformative because I learned so much about myself and how to relate to others,” says Bob Schofner, sponsored by Brandon, Fla., Lodge No. 2383. “I am very honored and grateful to be selected as one of the Finalists.”

For 2018–19, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$2.9 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000. For more about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, including eligibility and deadlines, visit enf.elks.org/MVS.



Brianna Buelmann, an Elks Scholar Fellow, plays bingo with a veteran at the Jesse Brown V.A. Medical Center.

MVS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

\$50,000 Scholarship Winners

SHIV PATEL, sponsored by Roxboro, N.C., No. 2005

MAITLAND THULL, sponsored by Mobile, Ala., No. 108

\$40,000 Scholarship Winners

DAVID MA, sponsored by Frankfort, Ky., No. 530

ALEAH HAHN, sponsored by Holland, Mich., No. 1315

\$30,000 Scholarship Winners

ERIC DONOHUE, sponsored by Islip, N.Y., No. 2533

ELIZABETH GEX, sponsored by Katy, Texas, No. 2628

The other finalists received \$20,000 scholarships. A total of 486 semi-finalists received \$4,000 scholarships.

Visit enf.elks.org/MVS2018 for a complete list of Most Valuable Students.

LEGACY AWARDS WINNERS

The 2018 Legacy Awards winners have been announced. To see the full list, visit enf.elks.org/2018LegacyWinners.

ANNIVERSARY GRANTS

The \$1,500 Anniversary Grant was our most popular grant offer ever. Due to its smashing success, the special, one-year-only grant will return for a second year!

**FAST
FACTS**

82%

of all Lodges
received an
Anniversary Grant
in 2017-18

THAT'S 1,543 LODGES



- Individual Anniversary Grant (69.41%)
- Supersized Gratitude Grant (14.52%)
- Supersized Beacon Grant (11.34%)
- Supersized Promise Grant (4.73%)

STATES WITH 100% PARTICIPATION



New Jersey



& Rhode Island



CIP CHANGES

Big things are happening in the Community Investments Program—and now is the time to come together as a Lodge to start planning. Some exciting updates to the CIP include an online Final Report, grant dates shifting to correspond with the Lodge year, and a new two-step Impact Grant process.



Oak Ridge, Tenn., Lodge No. 1684 used a Gratitude Grant to construct a play set at Agape House, which provides temporary housing for families experiencing homelessness.

There are two important things your Lodge can do to set up for grant success in 2018-19. First, visit enf.elks.org/CIPChanges to learn about these significant updates and read the FAQ page. Then, close out your Lodge's 2017-18 grants on time! We highly encourage Lodges to mail completed Final Report Forms as soon as possible. Waiting until the August 31 deadline will slow down the process and may affect the Lodge's 2018-19 grants.

Questions? The CIP office is here to help. Email LodgeGrants@elks.org or call 773/755-4730.

THE ULTIMATE ANNIVERSARY GIFT, FROM THE ENF, TO THE ELKS

Ninety years ago, the Elks National Foundation was created to fulfill then-Grand Exalted Ruler John F. Malley's vision to "unite the forces of the Order." The Community Investments Program, established in 2005, completed Malley's vision.

Last year, to celebrate the Order's sesquicentennial, the ENF offered a \$1,500 Anniversary Grant to give Lodges a chance to do more in their communities. Now it returns to jumpstart the next 150 years.

Thanks to Malley and the CIP, wherever Elks gather to roll up their sleeves, lend their hands and make a difference, the ENF will be there.

To learn more about Anniversary Grants and the Community Investments Program, please visit elks.org/cip.

ASK THE ENF...

Q

I heard the Community Investments Program is making some big changes in 2018-19, including changes to the Gratitude Grant. What does that mean for my Lodge?

—Wondering in Waco

A

Dear Wondering:

You're right! The Community Investments Program is making some updates for 2018-19. You can visit enf.elks.org/CIPChanges to see a full list of what's in store for next grant year and beyond. The timing for Gratitude Grant eligibility has changed. The Gratitude Grant will continue to be the only grant contingent on the Lodge meeting the GER's per-member-goal for giving to the ENF. However, starting in 2018-19, the Gratitude Grant will be available to Lodges that met the GER's per-member-giving goal in the prior fiscal year. This will give every eligible Lodge the opportunity to apply for a Gratitude Grant starting the day grant applications open.

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

The spotlight was on sportsmanship and fun during the National Finalists' introductions at Gentile Arena during the 2018 Hoop Shoot National Finals.



ANOTHER SLAM DUNK FOR HOOP SHOOT

There are few national contests that encourage kids to set a goal that pushes them to their limits by practicing, being persistent, and, most important, getting gritty during their formative years. There's a program that engrains those attributes in our youth, and it's the Elks National Hoop Shoot free-throw contest.

This year, the 72 National Finalists and their families made their way from cities like Silverton, Oregon, and Waynesboro, Virginia, to Chicago. Spending time in Chicago is always an adventure for these families, and the fun starts as soon as they touch down in the Windy City.

Upon arrival, the Finalists were welcomed to the Kids Zone, where they picked up their trading cards, interacted with the Regional Directors, and made new friends.

Although shooting baskets is a big part of the Hoop Shoot, it's not the only thing. The first night of the weekend is dedicated to Hoop Shoot Assists. This year, the Finalists and their families helped create nearly 100 no-sew fleece blankets that will be distributed to V.A. hospitals in Chicagoland.

The action-packed weekend continued into the night before the contests. Finalists and their families spent an evening at the Adler Planetarium that was out of this world. It was also an opportunity for Finalists and their families to unwind before the big day.



Cayden Price lines up a shot while representing his hometown Lodge—Waynesboro, Va., Lodge No. 2270.

This year, the contests took place in Gentile Arena at Loyola University Chicago on April 21. Even though Sister Jean couldn't make it, the Ramblers' March Madness magic was in the air.

Every year, the Hoop Shooters dazzle with their ability to sink free throws, and this year was no exception. Anthony Thompson representing Dayton, Ohio, Lodge No. 58, and Bailey Finn representing Livingston, Mont., Lodge No. 246, were the Getty Powell winners. They will join the Elks at the National Convention in July.

The weekend came to a close at the Night of Stars Awards Banquet, where highlights from the weekend were shared and new ones were created.

Retired WNBA All-Star Tamika Catchings was the keynote speaker and gave a moving speech about struggling with her hearing disability while trying to become a basketball player in a league that didn't exist yet.

This year's Hoop Shoot National Finals was one for the books. The Finalists and their families will never forget these moments that were made possible by Elks like you.

More photos on the following page.



Loyola University Chicago's Gentile Arena was the home court for this year's Finals. Like the Ramblers, the Hoop Shoot had a couple of Cinderella stories of its own this year.



BackBoard member Fox Maikovich understands the importance of trading cards with superstars like Cole Dietz, especially since the trading cards weren't around when Fox competed in the Finals in 2010.

2018 HOOP SHOOT NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

8- TO 9-YEAR-OLD DIVISION:

ANTHONY THOMPSON, Dayton, Ohio, Lodge No. 58 – 24/25, 30/30

AVA KOURI, Massillon-North Canton, Ohio, Lodge No. 2029 – 23/25

10- TO 11-YEAR-OLD DIVISION:

CAMDEN COWGILL, San Antonio, Texas, Lodge No. 216 – 23/25, 5/5

KAMERYN KETCHAM, Livingston, Mont., Lodge No. 246 – 23/25

12- TO 13-YEAR-OLD DIVISION:

LUKE SIDES, Gaffney, S.C., Lodge No. 1305 – 24/25, 10/10

BAILEY FINN, Livingston, Mont., Lodge No. 246 – 24/25



Tamika Catchings, basketball legend and Hoop Shoot keynote speaker, knows having fun is the key to winning. She demonstrated that with National Champion and Getty Powell Award Winner Anthony Thompson before signing an autograph for him and his brother, Eric.

Will Benne checks out the back of his trading card. You can see his trading card and the rest of this year's cards online at elkshoopshoot.org.



The top three 12- to 13-year-old girls take in their well-earned praise after competing in their last National Finals. Although they're too old to compete in the Hoop Shoot, we hope they will continue "Onward to Victory."



CRAZY LIKE AN ELK

For Richard Clayton, who calls himself Crazy Richard, joining the Elks and donating to the Elks National Foundation came hand in hand. Clayton joined the Elks in 1998, and he's currently a member of Bountiful, Utah, Lodge No. 2442.

"In my indoctrination, a Past Exalted Ruler told me how important the ENF is for funding the great work the Elks do," Clayton says.

Clayton appreciates what the ENF has accomplished through the Hoop Shoot, scholarships and veterans programs, and likes to designate his many gifts to these causes.

"I hope the ENF builds leaders for many years to come," Clayton says.

Since 2007, Clayton has donated at the Faith level, propelling him into the Foundation Fellowship recognition program. His support not only funds programs like Hoop Shoot, but it has also opened the doors to other donor benefits, including a special invitation to an event at the Elks National Convention each year.

Clayton and other members who donate every year are key to the Foundation's continued growth. Learn more about the Foundation Fellowship recognition program at enf.elks.org/AnnualRecognition.



"Crazy Richard" Clayton and his wife, Kathy, are seen here celebrating with the Elks during the 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.



SUPPORT THE GREAT HEART OF ELKDOM!

Visit enf.elks.org/HBSpring, and your online donation will be put to work immediately in Elks communities!



150 SCHOLARS, 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

To commemorate the Elks' landmark anniversary, the Elks National Foundation is mobilizing 150 scholars to attend the Elks National Convention in San Antonio from June 29 to July 2. This will be the largest gathering of Elks scholars ever and will help kick off the Order's next 150 years.

While the scholars are in San Antonio, they will serve at Haven for Hope, a campus for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Delegates will also get the chance to serve side-by-side with the scholars. The scholars will be packing 5,000 hygiene kits for local veterans at the Exhibit Hall of the Convention Center on Sunday, July 1, from 10 a.m. to noon, and they want you to join them! This is a great opportunity for Elks to interact with the scholars while helping veterans in the area.

For more information on 150 for 150, visit elks.org/scholars/150.

FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

We salute the following members of the 2017-18 Foundation Fellowship who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Foundation from April 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018. To learn more about the Foundation Fellowship and to view the benefits for each level, visit enf.elks.org/AnnualRecognition.
(+ Denotes deceased member * Denotes Named Scholarship donor ^ Denotes ENF Trustee)

CHARITY (\$10,000)

John and Caroline Allman
Robert D. Clow
Lance M. Erickson
Carol M. Fuller
C. Jonathan Gattman*
Karl Karlin
Thomas A. Mays
John C. McAuley
R Lee and Beverly Querry
Darrel A. Stutesman
Nester W. Tan
Linda E. Weigel
J. Wayne Wrightstone*

HOPE (\$5,000)

Gordon R. Anderson
Joan Anderson
Charles R. Buel
Joyce T. Bunce
Shelly Clement
Rosemary Donohue
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Jonathan Harb
Robert Harraka
Richard E. Harris*
Mark J. Henderson
L. Scott Henry
John D. Kormendy Jr.+*
Charles W. Lester
Edgar W. Miner
James P. Nealom*
Mark D. Parisi
Jody M. Patterson*
Gunther K. Schroth
Elaine Simone
James D. Standen*
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Westley C. Stull
Ralph R. West
Jason E. B. 'J.E.B.' Williams
John J. Williams
Sean M. Williams
John G. Wilson

FAITH (\$1,000)

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Edward J. Adams
Nancy Alameda
Raymond Alford
Bernard H. Allen
Keith E. Alverson
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Robert M. Amy
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J. Scott Gates
Jackie Gentry
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Marc-Allyn Gloriande
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George C. Goesch
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Duncan J. Silver
Fred P. Simone
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Vernon P. Singleton
Stephen M. Slaggie
Karen S. Smales
Dennis A. Smith
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Dan Snyder
David R. Snyder
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Jack Thorpe
James A. Tilley
Don Tisdell
Larry D. Topping
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Roger R. True PGER*
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Pedro Urdiales Jr.
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Duncan E. Walker
Jason Walker*
Richard Wallinder
Jared Wanlass
James E. Warren
Robert H. Watts
Neil L. Weatherly
Cecil E. Webber

Charles M. Webster
Philip Welch
R. William Wellbaum Jr.+
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Warren Wertman
Pepper D. Westerman
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Edna Willmas
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Thomas S. Winn
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Edmond T. Wolfram
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Herbert T. Wright
James B. Wright
Gary M. Zabokrtsky
Marlyn and Virginia
Zacharias
Ronald A. Zampa
Robin Zimmerman

To Our Absent Member

We are deeply saddened to share that Jim Dorris passed away on May 16. He was 56. Jim

served as the Hoop Shoot's Central Region 9 Director for the past 13 years. When he was

asked why he loves the Hoop Shoot, Jim said he enjoyed making long-term connections with the contestants and their families.

Jim was an incredible regional director, Elk and person. To our absent member.





Elks
National
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STAY CONNECTED!



Here's a look at what's inside
this issue of *Heartbeat*.

Another Slam Dunk
for Hoop Shoot



The Way It's
Meant to Be



MVS Scholars Saw
the Signs



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