



Volume 22, Number 4  
Wednesday, July 4, 2012  
Austin, Texas

# Grand Lodge Convention News

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks... "A Fraternal Organization"

## Preliminary Round Ritual Results

The top two teams in each division participated in Finals on Tuesday afternoon. Final results will be announced in Wednesday's business session.

### Eastern Division

Sturgis, MI #1381	94.6391
Lake Hopatcong, NJ #782	93.9720
Dalton, GA #1267	92.7607
Norristown, PA #714	92.7131
Greenville, SC #858	92.6886
Danielson, CT #1706	92.5473
Bradenton, FL #1511	92.4464
St. Johnsbury, VT #1342	92.3919
Kenton, OH #157	92.2756
Woonsocket, RI #850	91.7420
Bath, NY #1547	91.5311
Dover, MD/DE/DC#1903	91.4296
Ocean Springs, MS #2501	91.2630
Sanford, ME #1470	90.0093
Sistersville, WV #333	89.6360
Newport, KY #273	89.2709
Arlington-Fairfax, VA #2188	86.2170

### Western Division

Reno, NV #597	97.0426
Carlsbad, NM #1558	96.9293
Bremerton, WA #1181	96.9056
Riverside, CA #643	96.8164
Blue Springs, MO #2509	96.7930
Pawhuska, OK #2542	96.2174
Lincoln, NE #80	95.9829
Littleton, CO #1650	95.7974
Houston, TX #151	95.7409
Hopkins, MN #2221	95.6397
Casper, WY #1353	94.7496
Robinson, IL #1188	93.8680
Hillsboro, OR #1862	93.7237
Milwaukee, WI #46	93.6214
Yuma, AZ #476	92.2411

## Elks Rest in Chicago completed

On June 10, 2012, the Elks Rest in the Mt. Greenwood Cemetery in Chicago, IL was rededicated. The new bronze and aluminum Elk Memorial Statue was commissioned after last year's convention in Phoenix to replace the old deteriorated statue. It sits on a base that was created for the US Centennial in Philadelphia in 1876 that features the four cardinal virtues of Elkdom: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

In 1990, Dan Raggio, ER of Chicago South, IL #1596 discovered the Elks Rest plot in the Mt. Greenwood Cemetery. It was overgrown, and many of the stones were damaged. The plot had not been maintained because there was a \$12,000 outstanding bill for grass cutting from the 1960s, and no new burials could take place until the bill was paid. The Illinois Elks negotiated the bill down to \$6000 and, in 2009, restructured their state association budget to pay the bill. The three Illinois State Presidents who made this possible are Kirk Wallace, Kevin Kennedy, and Larry Smith.

This year, the first internment in the plot since 1956 took place. New records reveal that in addition to Elks members, three women and three children are buried there. There are 145 people interred in Elks Rest and 73 vacant plots. This year the Illinois Elks Association created a new special committee to care for the plot in perpetuity. To inquire about a plot in the Elks Rest, contact Lawrence Nolan, Illinois Elks Rest State Chairman, at 708-388-4068 or call the Chicago South Lodge at 708-597-7465.

## William A. King Award winners announced

Presented to the individual with the highest score during the preliminary round of the Ritual Competition, the William A. King awards go to Gina Sweeney, Lecturing Knight of Dalton, GA #1267 (Eastern Division) with a score of 93.6530 and Larry R. Bratt, Inner Guard of Lincoln, NE #80 (Western Division) with a score of 95.4410. Congratulations on a job well done!



## NJ Miracle Run comes to Austin, Texas

The New Jersey Elks Miracle Run Committee is raffling off a new Harley Davidson Ultra Classic Electra Glide. All of the proceeds go to Camp Moore, a camp for special children with mental and physical disabilities, New Jersey's State Major Project. Every year we host 500 – 600 campers at no cost to their parents. Come see us in our booth at the Convention Center to learn more about our project and take a chance on the bike!

**Venita Brazier of Monterey, CA #1285 sits on the Harley Davidson bike to be raffled.**

## ENF Salute to Excellence Reception

Please join the Elks National Foundation as we honor the best of 2011-12. We'll introduce our top Most Valuable Student scholars and Hoop Shoot champions, and screen our latest Community Investments Program and Elks scholar videos.

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## Family of Elks celebrate anniversaries

Melissa and Craig Crossland of West Des Moines, IA #2752 celebrated their 6th wedding anniversary here in Austin on July 1.

Ian and Wanda Lanouette of Fremont, CA #2121 are celebrating their 41st anniversary here at the convention on July 4.

Earl and Lucy Groh of San Benito, TX #1661 are celebrating their 42nd anniversary here at the Convention.

Jimmy and Patty Davis of Tempe, AZ #2251 have celebrated 18 of the last 20 wedding anniversaries at Grand Lodge Conventions. They celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on July 6, 2012.

## Old friends reconnect at convention

Larry L. O'Laughlin, PSP from Nevada and Grand Esquire-Designate and his wife Carolye Jungwirth O'Laughlin, members of North Las Vegas, NV #2353 were visiting with Gail Gebhart Shelbey, First Lady of the Arizona Elks from Tucson #385. They discovered they are all alumni of Faulkton High School in Faulkton, SD. Their all-school reunion is currently taking place in Faulkton, and they are missing their 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> class reunions to be with us here in Austin.

## Oregon Elks help child with experimental eye therapy

Within months of Alexe Webb's birth, her parents noticed eye problems. She ate by feeling with her hands for her food. She never looked directly at faces. In preschool, she tripped over toys and other children. Alexe, as a toddler, would sometimes attach herself to strangers because she thought the stranger was her mother. Alexe Webb's parents went from doctor to doctor, but "Nobody could tell us what was wrong," said her father, Wes Denning.

Finally, a local eye doctor from her hometown of Grants Pass, Oregon referred her to Dr. Tim Stout, a retina specialist at the Elks Children's Eye Clinic at the Casey Eye Institute in Portland, Oregon. The family finally learned Alexe's diagnosis: Leber congenital amaurosis, the most common cause of inherited blindness in children. Alexe probably would lose much of her vision before age 14. Alexe's prognosis changed drastically when Dr. Tim Stout at Elks Children's Eye Clinic confirmed Alexe for an experimental gene therapy. They proposed to replace defective genes in the eye's retina with healthy functioning copies.

Alexe's parent's bravely signed her up for the experimental operation at age six. A year after the operation, her vision has improved drastically—she now can see details rather than shadows. Now she can make sure that when her brother pours her a root beer, she has exactly the same amount as he does. When asked what is

### Ohio Elks express thanks

Thank you to all from the Ohio booth! With the help of the GL Convention attendees, we sold out of atlases and gave away all of our buckeyes! It has been a pleasure to visit with Elks from across the country and explain our major project—cerebral palsy. Thank you to New Mexico Elks who donated \$50,000-\$100,000 worth of handicap equipment for our program. Elks Care—Elks Share.

### Happy campers at the Wisconsin booth

The Wisconsin Elks Association welcomes the opportunity to show off our state Major Project: The Wisconsin Elks/Easter Seals Respite Camp. The camp, located in the Wisconsin Dells, celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2012. It serves families by providing one-on-one care for their loved one with disabilities at camp and a needed respite for the family. It is the perfect vacation for campers with severe or multiple disabilities. New this year is the opportunity for returning veterans and their families to experience a camp weekend. Come see the happy faces at the Wisconsin booth.



the best thing about being able to see better, "I can see my mother's face."

There are only a handful of people in the world who have received this operation. Six-year-old Alexe is the fourth volunteer to receive the treatment at the clinic. This miracle was made possible thanks to the generous donations from the Oregon Elks who have been supporting pediatric eye care for 63 years. Alexe spoke at the 2012 Elks Summer Convention in Ashland, Oregon. She had just a few simple words to say, "Thank you for my surgery."

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### NY Redskins fans

Although a lifetime Giants fan, being from Ticonderoga, NY, here GER David Carr listens intently to the arguments of the four very convincing Redskins Cheerleaders at the Virginia Elks Association Annual Convention. The Redskins 80th Anniversary Road Trip decided that the VEA (about 99% Redskins fans) would love to hear from this invigorated team. GER Carr was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the Redskinettes.

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### Attendance Report as of noon on Tuesday

		Spouse/Guest
Grand Exalted Ruler	1	1
Past Grand Exalted Rulers	22	11
Grand Lodge Officers	8	7
Grand Trustees	9	7
Grand Forum	4	2
Grand Lodge Committeemen	49	29
District Deputies Designate	236	107
Special Deputies	18	14
Representatives to the Grand Lodge and Alternates	1634	670
State Presidents	44	26
State Secretaries	28	18
Grand Lodge Members	1272	483
Non-Voting Members	1221	129
Guests		409
Vendors		41
Total	4546	1954
Combined Total:		6500

### Strongest Elk contest final results

The California/Hawaii Elks Major Project booth would like to thank all of you who stopped by to give our "grip-meter" a try! We met some absolutely fabulous, fun, and interesting people. We enjoyed our time with you all! Our contest winners are

- Women: Linda Gathen, Lake Hopatcong, NJ #782, at 105
- 4 Men: Matt Gustin, Rock Spring, NY 3624, at 200



## Eastern Division

### All American Ritual Team

(Front) Exalter Ruler Natalie Boand, Sturgis, MI #1381; Leading Knight Thomas Novitski, Norristown, PA #714; Loyal Knight Janice E Lester, Dalton, GA #1267; Lecturing Knight Gina Sweenie, Dalton, GA #1267 (William A. King award winner).

(Back) Coaches Karen Cary and Scott Boland, Sturgis, MI # 1381; Inner Guard Timothy Muller, Bath, NY #1547; Esquire Eric Martin, Lake Hopatcong, NJ #782; Chaplain Beverly Dye Murdter, Lake Hopatcong, NJ #782; Candidate Bruce Brunelle, Stanford, ME #1470



## Western Division

### All American Ritual Team

(Front) Exalted Ruler Frank M Reynolds III, Reno NV #597; Leading Knight Wes Carter, Carlsbad, NM #1558; Loyal Knight Cathy Swanson, Hillsboro, OR #1862; Lecturing Knight Kim DuBois, Reno, NV #597

(Back) Coach Dee Boskie, Reno, NV #597; Inner Guard Larry R. Bratt, Lincoln, NE #80 (William A. King award winner); Esquire Larry J. Schwindt, Lincoln, NE # 80; Chaplain John Kinnel, Yuma, AZ # 476, Candidate Michael G. Jurado, Lincoln, NE # 80



## Four-time ER escapes west

Ernie Dole, ER of Tucson East, AZ #2532 was also the three-time Exalter Ruler of Andover, MA #2198. He has had a special pin made commemorating his "jail break" from the east to the west. Find him at the convention to see his pin and make a trade.



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## Subordinate Lodge Activity During GER David R. Carr's Term for Fraternal Year 2011-2012

**Charters Pending**—Institution Date: Mount Pleasant, SC #2867 (waiting for By-Laws), 09/26/10

**Charters Granted**—Institution Date: South Dade, FL #2870, Effective Date 08/28/11

### Charters Surrendered

Indian Lake, OH #2792 (E.O. #11-071), Effective Date 09/30/11

Altus, OK #1226 (E.O. #11-103), Effective Date 10/26/11

Warner Robins, GA #2178 (E.O. #11-222), Effective Date 03/28/12

Baton Rouge, LA #490 (E.O. #11-228), Effective Date 04/05/12

### Charters Revoked

Daytona Beach, FL #1141 (E.O. #11-034), Effective Date 08/22/11

Menominee, MI #1755 (E.O. #11-121), Effective Date 11/15/11

Clarion, PA #2315 (E.O. #11-140), Effective Date 11/29/11

Somerset Hills, NJ #1983 (E.O. #11-151), Effective Date 12/08/11

Brevard, NC #1768 (E.O. #11-208), Effective Date 03/05/12

Haines, AK #2634 (E.O. #11-255), Effective Date 04/17/12

Dolton-Lynwood, IL #2335 (E.O. #11-313), Effective Date 06/15/12

### Mergers

Baker, OR #338 and LaGrande, OR #433, Effective 08/04/11. To be known as Baker, OR #338. (Executive Order No. 11-012)

Duarte, CA #1427 and Pomona, CA #2038, Effective 09/14/11. To be known as Duarte, CA #1427. (Executive Order No. 11-061)

Silverton, OR #2210 and Woodburn, OR #2637, Effective 09/27/11. To be known as Silverton, OR #2210. (Executive Order No. 11-067)

Iron Mountain, MI #700 and Iron River, MI #1671, Effective 02/16/12. To be known as Iron Mountain, MI #700. (Executive order No. 11-194)

Myrtle Beach, SC #1771 and Conway, SC #2847, Effective 03/23/12. To be known as Myrtle Beach, SC #1771. (Executive Order No. 11-225)

Rochester, MI #2225 and North Oakland, MI #2716, Effective 03/28/12. To be known as Rochester-North Oakland, MI #2225. (Executive Order No. 11-231)

Holdrege, NE #2062 and Kearney, NE #984, Effective 06/22/12. To be known as Kearney, NE #984 (Executive Order No. 11-331)

### Name/Number Changes

Hamilton, MT #1651, to be known as Bitterroot Valley, MT #1651, Effective 07/21/2011 – Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Per undated cover letter and paperwork from Judiciary Member Michael L. Spencer received by us on 3/14/11—PGER Traynor approved via telephone 3/15/11. (E.O. #11-007, dated 08/02/11)

Cookeville-Putnam County, TN #2863, to be known as Cookeville-Sparta, TN #2863, Effective 07/21/2011 – Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Per letter from Secretary dated 11/08/10. (E.O. #11-008, dated 08/02/11)

Lansing, MI #2827, to be known as Lansing, MI #196 (Old Number), Effective 07/21/2011 – Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Per letter from PGER Varenhorst dated 6/15/11. (E.O. #11-009, dated 08/02/11)

Southwest Broward, FL #2273, to be known as Sunrise, FL #2273, Effective 07/21/2011 – Convention in Phoenix, AZ. Per letter from Secretary dated 01/28/11. (E.O. #11-010, dated 08/02/11)

Calumet, MI #404, to be known as Copper Country, MI #404, Effective 07/05/2012 – Convention in Austin, TX. Per letter from PGER Varenhorst dated 6/14/12. (E.O. #\_\_-\_\_, dated 00/00/12)

### District Changes

The following redistricting for Lodges within the State of Kansas is effective July 5, 2012: (Executive Order No. 11-232).

**District 3280 (Northeast)** shall consist of the following: Atchison #647, Salina #718, Ottawa #803, Osawatomie #921, Junction City #1037, Abilene #1675, Hiawatha #1741, Clay Center #2253 and Overland Park #2395.

**District 3320 (West)** shall consist of the following: McPherson #502, Great Bend #1127, Garden City #1404, Pratt #1451, Goodland #1528, Russell #1715, Liberal #1947, Hill City #1995 and Hoxie #2415.

**District 3360 (Southeast)** shall consist of the following: Pittsburg #412, Wichita #427, Parsons #527, Iola #529, Fort Scott #579, Galena #677, Winfield #732, Chanute #806 and El Dorado #1407.

(Article III, Section 9, Opinion 03 - ...changes confirmed by Executive Order.)

## Antlers make the trip

Before David Malmgren became ER of Show Low, AZ #2090, he learned from a PER that the Austin Lodge needed real elk antlers, as their antlers were in disrepair. Since Arizona has an abundance of antlers, one of the members of Show Low provided the antlers and another Show Low member mounted the antlers to be presented to Austin, TX #201 at the Grand Lodge Convention. A Show Low PER constructed a beautiful mount and prepared it to fly.

At the airport, TSA was not happy about this crate and didn't want to ship it. Southwest Airlines were graciously able to make provisions to allow Show Low to ship the antlers from Phoenix to Dallas. Then David, his wife, and sister drove the antlers from Dallas to Austin on the roof of their car. He delivered the antlers to ER Kathleen Davies, Austin, TX #201, on Sunday.

## Colorado Elks support new school building

Laradon, the Major Project of the Colorado Elks Association, will begin constructing a new school building by 2014, creating a lasting legacy for thousands of children and adults who want to accomplish their goals and overcome their disabilities. The building will feature 15 spacious classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology, large therapy areas and multi-purpose rooms to provide ample resources for teachers and therapists, and a regulation sized gymnasium to provide space for physical activities and athletic events. We also aim for this to be a "green" building, minimizing our environmental impact. Stop by the Colorado Elks Major Project booth and help us raise funds to support Laradon. We have several raffles, including a beautiful floral quilt that will be given away on July 4 at the Convention.

*Editor's note:* In Sunday's edition, we misspelled the name of Englewood, CO #2122. The editors regret this error.

## Texas Sales Team says "thanks"

Thanks to all visiting Elks for stopping at our booth. Last call for the "official" Grand Lodge Convention pins for only \$5—a must have! Patriotic and Texas Turvis tumblers are only \$15. Our patriotic tumblers will serve both Veterans and Americanism committees well. Finally, we still have 3X Austin GL T-shirts. They also look great on your sweetie as a beach coverup or nightie. Have a safe trip home.



## Youngest Elk in attendance

Marci Noss of Blairsville, PA#406, age 21, is the youngest member attending her first Grand Lodge Convention. She has been an Elk member for a month.

## Long time member

Albert F. Kehrer, Clarksburg, WV #482, age 88, has been an Elks member for 63 years.

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## Elk rides across nation to assist wounded combat veterans

Scot King, a former Corporal in the US Marine Corps and a member of Portland, OR Lodge #142 has been passionate about serving veterans and their families. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, he embarked on a 48-state solo bike ride to raise awareness of and funds for veterans wounded in combat. His ride will take two years to complete. The first leg lasted from May to October of 2011, and he covered approximately 6,025 miles. He is currently on his second leg, running from April to September of 2012, and he plans to cover over 8000 miles.

As a part of his ride, Scot will be stopping at as many Lodges as he can to visit with combat wounded veterans and collect their stories for a series of books that will chronicle their experiences. Scot will also be stopping at each of the state capitols to request a flag from that state to be brought back for a special ceremony at the Portland Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The ceremony will be held on Veteran's Day in 2013, and all 50 flags will be flown for a year. Scot was able to join us at this year's convention, and GER Carr recognized him during the opening ceremony. More information about his Remember the Wounded ride is available at [www.rtwr.org](http://www.rtwr.org).



## Drug Awareness seminar features Milt Creag, new Marvel comic

Internationally-known motivational speaker Milton "Bigg Milt" Creag spoke at the Elks Drug Awareness Seminar on Sunday, July 1. State Chairmen gathered in Austin for a day of training, education, and presentations prior to the opening of the 148th Grand Lodge convention in Austin, Texas.

Bigg Milt is best-known among Elks for his popular program for teens *UR Choice UR Voice* which was developed in partnership with the Elks Drug Awareness Program and has been presented in partnership with local Lodges to schools and community youth groups throughout the country.

If your Lodge has an interest in hosting a *UR Choice UR Voice* event, apply for a \$2000 Elks National Foundation Promise Grant. Applications are available starting July 1 to the first 500 Lodges who pledge to hold a youth event. Submit your application early to secure funding for your event. Applications are available at the [Elks.org](http://www.elks.org) website (<http://www.elks.org/enf/communiyt/PromisGrants.cfm>).

Although Bigg Milt commands knowledge of some amazing statistics regarding the impacts of drug and alcohol abuse, what sets his presentations apart is the way he weaves in the experiences of his audience. This approach personalizes the event in a way that captures and holds the attention of the teens in attendance.

Executives from Marvel Comics were also on hand to promote the upcoming release of a new comic book *Hard Choices*, featuring Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, and Elroy the Elk.

"Elroy has been redesigned and turned into a lean, mean, drug-fighting machine," said Elks Drug Awareness Program National Chairman Kent Gade.

*Hard Choices* is designed to educate 4th through 8th graders about the perils of underage drinking. This year 625,000 comic books will be sent to select elementary and middle schools in Elks communities across the nation. The comic is also available in digital format on the Elks Drug Awareness program website.

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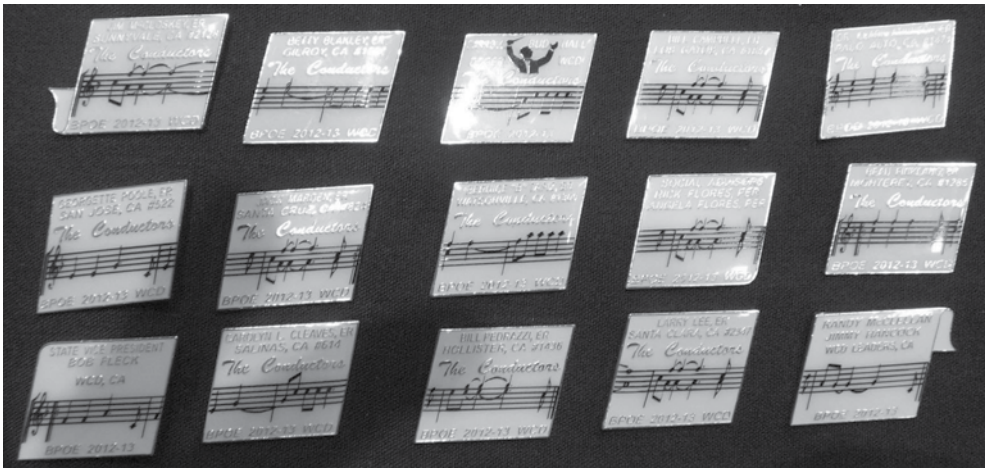
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### Calling all pin collectors

A very limited number of the full set of CHEA District 8 Conductor Pins featuring the song “Deep in the Heart of *Elkdom*” are available from Margaret Dow, Chaplain of Santa Cruz, CA #824. If you are interested, contact Margaret at 831-345-7070.

### Two charities highlighted at Florida Elks booth

The Florida Elks Booth at the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas, provides information about two main charities. One is Children’s Therapy Services which covers the entire state. They have 22 therapy vans on the road covering any area in the state where there is a child who needs therapy. We go to the home for the child and also instruct the parents how to help. The cost is nothing to the family. We receive the gratitude and thanks, and that is all we want.

Our other program is our children’s camp. Each year we send about 2,000 kids to camp. This camp is about 400 acres of beautiful land in Umatilla, Florida. The cabins are stone with hot and cold showers and air conditioning. Every activity you can imagine is available—fishing and boating in our lake, swimming in our beautiful pool, wall climbing, and every sport you could imagine. Each Lodge gives free camperships to kids who can’t afford to go. We are proud to be sponsor of these two main charities.



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<sup>2</sup> Accounts must be open and current on statement closing date to earn and redeem points. <sup>3</sup> \$10 paid to lodge only once. <sup>4</sup> You must be present and apply at the U.S. Bank booth in Hall 1 at the Austin Convention Center in order to claim your free gift. One free gift per applicant, while supplies last. Offer expires on 7/3/12.  
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## Colorado Elks help community affected by fire

On Monday, March 19, 2012, the Colorado State Forest Service initiated a controlled burn near Evergreen, CO. On Monday, March 26, four days after the fire was supposedly extinguished, windy conditions reignited embers and it burned out of control. The fire destroyed 25 homes and took 3 lives in the community. One of the people lost was a good friend of Mark Ryan, incoming ER of Evergreen, CO, Lodge #2363.

To help the community heal and to aid the families who lost their homes, the Evergreen Elks and the other Lodges in the Colorado Central Northwest District: Arvada #2278, Central City #557, Denver #17, Golden #2740, Idaho Springs #607, Lakewood #1777, Northglenn #2438, Tri-City #2541, and Westminster #2227, partnered with the Mountain Resource Center, which provides community based health and human services. This partnership is a perfect fit because “Elks Care —

### Missouri mule pins available

Get your Missouri “Kick Ass” mule pins in the Missouri booth while they last. Different colors are added as previous colors are retired. They come in a set of 4, and deals can be made. The newest pink mule represents “kick ass “ to cancer. This PER project also supports their Benevolent Trust. At the other end of our table is information supporting our State Major Project of dental care for children.

Elks Share” and the Mountain Resource Center are “Neighbors helping Neighbors”.

On July 14, they will hold Community Rising: A Benefit for the Lower North Fork Fire Families. The event will include an afternoon and evening of music, food, a silent auction, fun, and friendship. Five local bands will be featured. Several of the bands are made up of Elks, and all involved with the event are donating their time. Everyone is invited to attend, and tickets are \$10. If you are unable to join the fun but would still like to help, donations can be made through the Evergreen Lodge #2363.

As you may know, as of last Sunday, there were 14 wildfires burning in the state of Colorado. Other benefits are in the works in the Colorado Lodges to help their communities in this time of need.



**Happy 4th of July  
from the CONVENTION  
NEWS staff!**

### Michigan helps children with special needs

Michigan Elks have been helping special needs children for 55 years. Last year alone, Michigan Elks enabled over 450 children to attend 20 different summer camps for specialized therapies, funded numerous individual therapy sessions, and provided specialized equipment like iPads, specialized tricycles, computers, and physical therapy equipment to assist these children. \$412,256.00 was dispensed from our Major Project budget to assist these children in living with and overcoming their special needs.

These camps and therapies provide treatment for speech, autism, juvenile diabetes, impaired hearing and vision, juvenile arthritis, and developmental disabilities. We provide physical and occupational therapy along with individualized therapies. We invite all attendees to stop by the Michigan Elks Major Project booth to learn more about our program and help us enhance the lives of our special children.

### Vocalist shares her talents at opening

Virginia Basil of Raymond, WA #1292 was the featured vocalist at Sunday night’s Opening Ceremony and Memorial Service. She has been a member of the Elks for nine years and has graced us with her beautiful voice since 2005. She has been singing since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and has performed in many local musicals. She is looking forward to joining us for many future conventions.

Stop by the Idaho booth for your “potato” patch!

**There is a lot to Idaho's Major Project**

- ELKS REHAB HOSPITAL
- ELKS WOUND CENTER
- ELKS MEALS ON WHEELS
- ELKS INTERNAL MEDICINE
- ELKS HEARING & BALANCE CENTER
- ST. LUKE'S-ELKS CHILDREN'S REHAB
- ST. LUKE'S-ELKS REHAB

**Elks REHAB SYSTEM**  
Major Project of Idaho

[www.ElksRehab.org](http://www.ElksRehab.org)

## Elks National Home: Relax and Enjoy Your Retirement

Residents of the Elks National Home retirement community enjoy life to the fullest. They can relax and leave the worries to someone else. They have time to work on their golf game, start on all those books they've been wanting to read, take up a new hobby or devote more time to a hobby they had to neglect over the years. They spend time with friends, enjoy dancing at the birthday parties, take trips in our van to shopping malls, historic sites, and other interesting areas.

The Elks National Home is not a place to wait out your last months or years, but a beautiful retirement community for living and enjoying life with friends. We welcome visitors to come see what we have to offer. You can also see information on our website at [www.elkshome.org](http://www.elkshome.org).

For more information, contact Elks National Home, 931 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523, or call 1-800-552-4140.

## Kidney transplant unites Maine couple

Three years ago, Ron Voisine, Exalter Ruler of Skowhegan–Madison, ME #2531 began experiencing complications of diabetes. After numerous hospitalizations and procedures, he eventually went on dialysis while awaiting a kidney transplant. His wife Cathy Voisine, Chaplin at Skowhegan –Madison, ME #2531 got tested as a donor. There is only a 1-in-100 chance that a husband and wife will be a donor match, but Ron and Cathy are.

Ron had his transplant in November of 2011 and worked hard on his recovery to be well enough to begin his term as Exalted Ruler in April. The Voisines have been married for thirty years this month. Ron has been an Elk for 38 years, and Cathy has been a member for 3 years. This is their first Grand Lodge convention. Their story highlights Elksdom's commitment to organ donation.

## Elks National Foundation presents Give-Back Grant

Carol Castlebury, former First Lady of the Texas Elks Association, shows First Lady Penny Carr, Austin Rainbow Room treasurer Becky Johnson, GER David Carr, and Partnerships for Children Director of Development Kathi Haralson around the local Rainbow Room. Rainbow Rooms are resources for social services case workers to get access to items they need for immediate assistance for children in their care. The rooms are housed in the Dept. of Family and Protective Services, but all items come from private donations and all staff members are volunteers. Rainbow Rooms exist all over the state of Texas. The Austin Rainbow Room was the recipient of this year's ENF Give-Back Grant of \$25,000 for a non-profit in the host city of our national convention.





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**B.P.O.E. Elks Convention**  
**June 30-July 4, 2012 • Austin, TX**  
**We are an Official B.P.O.E. Licensee.**  
*Visit our special custom-product booth for your custom-designed gifts and pins.*  
*We will NOT be undersold on custom pins -*  
**THAT'S OUR GUARANTEE!**

**GRAND LODGE SESSION – Austin, Texas  
Wednesday – July 4, 2012**

- 8:00 Call to Order ..... David R. Carr, GER**
- Invocation .....Rev. Father Stephen McNally**
- Pledge of Allegiance .....All**
- 8:05 Committee on Judiciary Legislative SessionJohn D. Amen, Sr., Chairman  
(5 minutes per resolution)**
- Report of Committees**
- 10:00 Registration (Final Report) ... Phil Claiborne, Coordinator of Registration**
- 10:05 Grand Forum / Pardon Commission ... Robert M. Goolrick, Chief Justice**
- 10:10 Announcements ..... Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary**
- 10:13 Announcements .....William L. Hart, Grand Esquire**
- 10:15 Elks National Veterans Service ..... Louis J. Grillo, PGER, Chairman**
- 10:30 Final Report of Ritualistic Committee ..... Brian T. Burns, Chairman**
- 10:45 Results of Legislative Session – vote on Resolutions**
- 11:05 Benediction.....Rev. Father Stephen McNally**
- 11:08 Grand Lodge Session Recessed**

**Additional Events on Wednesday, July 4**

- 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Public Relations Seminar will be held at the Austin Convention Center, room 9**
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Auditing and Accounting Committee will be available for questions at the Austin Convention Center, room 10C**
- 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Committee on Judiciary will be available for questions in the Hilton Austin Hotel, room 401**
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ENF “Salute to Excellence” Reception will be held at the Hilton Austin Hotel in the Austin Grand Ballroom Salon F**
- 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler meeting at the Austin Hilton Hotel, room 400**
- 8:00 p.m. Exalted Rulers Ball will be held in the Hilton Austin Hotel, Austin Grand Ballroom, to honor all Exalted Rulers and their families. All Elks and their spouses are invited to attend. Admission by badge, dress is summer formal.**

**Results of convention booth judging**

The Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee judged State Association booths in the exhibit hall and the results are as follows:

Five Stars: Alaska, California/Hawaii, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin

Four Stars: Illinois, Minnesota, New York, South Carolina, Texas

Three Stars: Idaho, Missouri

The Committee wishes to thank all the states that participated.

**Can you identify this high school freshman?**

**Elks Care—**

**Elks Share**

