

SERVING *OUR* NATION'S VETERANS

*Elks National Veterans Service Commission
2017-18 Annual Report*



For 150 years, Elks have been there for their fellow Americans. 2017-18 was no different. Veterans from all walks of life learned that they could count on the Elks as thousands of our members upheld the Elks sacred pledge to serve our nation's veterans.

We are proud to report on this past year, and hope you enjoy reading about what Elks accomplished together, in service to veterans.

Sincerely,

David Carr, Chair | John D. Amen, Vice-Chair | Ronald L. Hicks, Secretary/Treasurer | Paul D. Hesel, Past Chair | James L. Nichelson, Past Chair

in 2017-18

6,823 Elks

provided friendship and support to

39,560

veterans through the Adopt-a-Veteran program.

5,498 Elks

supported

34,983

veteran families through the Army of Hope.

132,186 Elks

spent

772,262

hours in service to veterans, bringing thousands of their friends and family members to join in.

Lodges

held an average of

13

events for veterans.

The total value of Elks' service to veterans in 2017-18 is

\$46,940,389!

WE ASKED OUR VOLUNTEERS ONE SIMPLE QUESTION:

Why do you do it?

HERE'S WHAT THEY SAID.

THEY ARE THE FOUNDATION OF WHAT OUR COUNTRY IS BUILT ON.

THEY NEED OUR RESPECT AND HELP.

SERVICE OVER SELF.

BECAUSE I AM A VETERAN AND I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE.

IT BRINGS ME A LOT OF JOY.

I AM A VETERAN AND WANT TO HELP OTHER VETERANS IN ANY WAY I CAN.

IT IS AN HONOR TO DO SO.

IT'S WHAT ELKS DO.

I AM A RETIRED VIETNAM VET THAT NEVER GOT THANKED.

THEY GAVE THEIR ALL, THEY ARE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

AS A VIETNAM VETERAN, IT IS PART OF MY DUTY.

I AM ALSO A DISABLED VETERAN, AND AN ELK.

Welcome HOME

In September 2015, Elks joined the fight against veteran homelessness. Here's what Elks accomplished in 2017-18, the third year of this program.

Through the Emergency Assistance Fund

Elks helped
271

veterans exit or prevent homelessness by providing a total of
\$349,799
in assistance.

Veterans
received an
average of

\$1,290.77
showing that a small
amount of assistance
at the right time can
make a big impact.

34 Lodges used Focus Grants to target the areas with the highest number of homeless veterans. These grants provided:

- Food baskets for newly housed veterans
- Furniture for veterans and their children moving into new homes
- Care packages for veterans experiencing homelessness
- Resources at Stand Downs and outreach fairs
- and more!

Elks in 64 Lodges

put together Welcome Home kits of supplies to

806

newly housed veterans in

23 states.

Elks spent

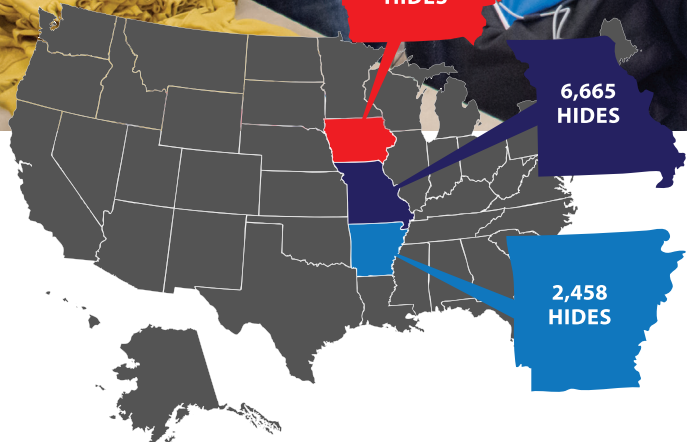
\$130,524.67

on supplies, often supplementing these kits with food, furniture, and more.

“I’m extremely grateful for your kindness in helping veterans that are building a new life...your generosity is so healing to homeless veterans. These items have helped me to make my apartment a home.”

Patricia, Army vet





TOP CONTRIBUTORS

1. MISSOURI
2. IOWA
3. ARKANSAS

Altogether, the value of the program last year:

\$1,056,436.13!

Elks in

16

states donated

15,983 hides

which were used to make wheel chair gloves and craft kits for veterans.

Elks leather

was used to make thousands more craft kits distributed in VA hospitals, clinics and anywhere veterans gather to recover and thrive.

Elks distributed

3,336

pairs of gloves and

3,074

craft kits to veterans across the country.

Leather PROGRAM

The ENVSC helps veterans stay fit and active by sponsoring **5 different adaptive sports** events across the country, attended by hundreds of veterans of all ages. Elks volunteers attend events to support veterans and hand out free wheelchair gloves to the veterans in attendance.

These events are the:

- National Veterans Wheelchair Games
- National Veterans Golden Age Games
- National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic
- National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
- National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

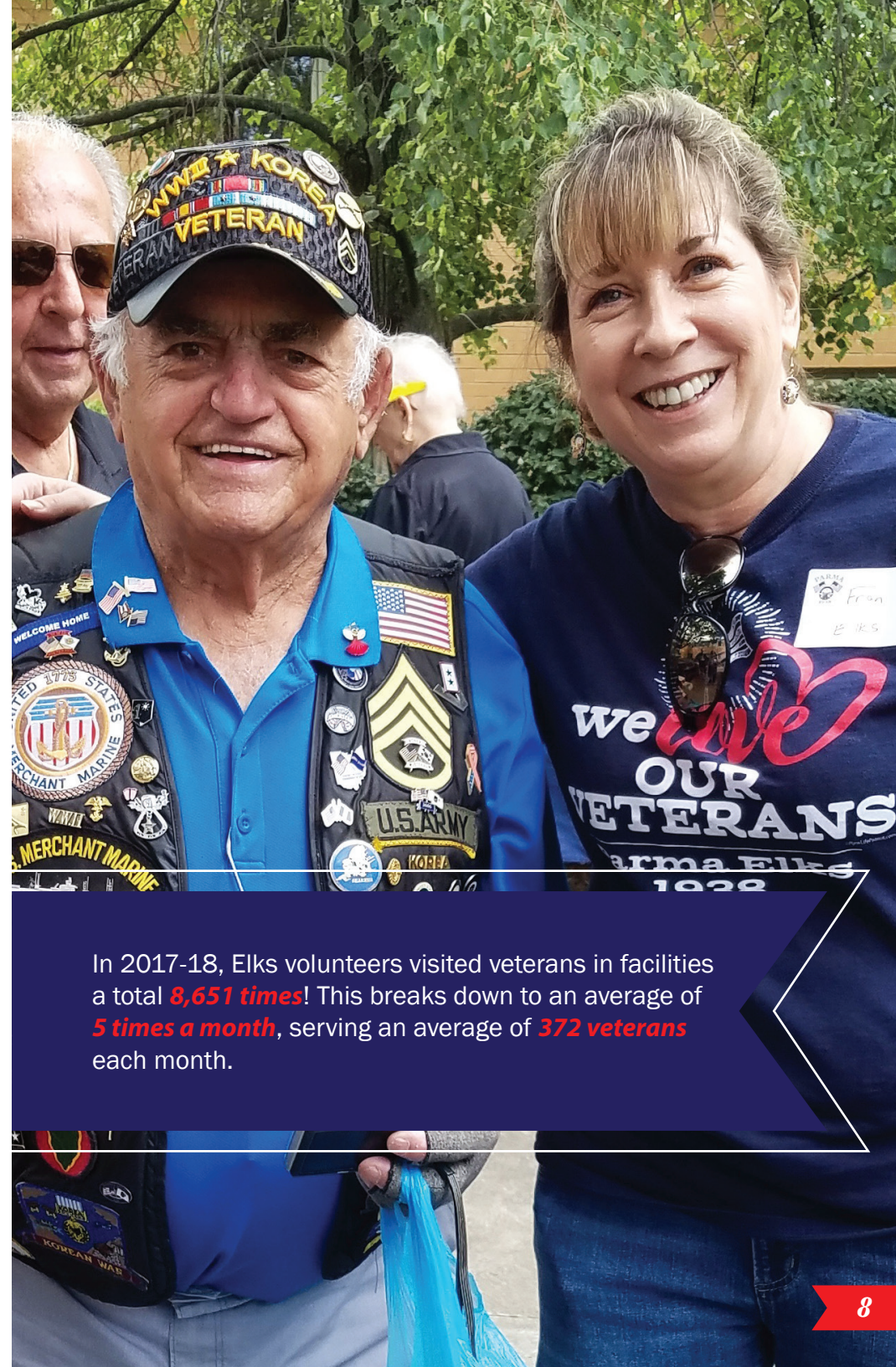
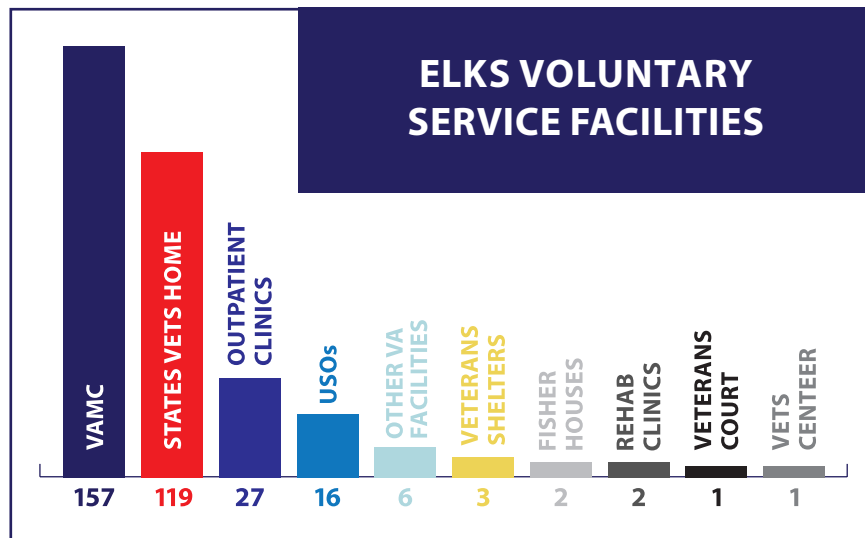


Elks

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Modeled on the VA Voluntary Service Program, the Elks version also includes support for veterans at State Veterans Homes, Veterans Shelters, Vets Centers and anywhere veterans need assistance.

Our **611** Representatives and Deputy Representatives provide consistent, ongoing support to hundreds of thousands of veterans across the country through this program. This year, Elks spent **66,703 hours** directly serving veterans in more than **330** veterans facilities. Everyone wants to be at the VA in November, but Elks remember our veterans year-round.



In 2017-18, Elks volunteers visited veterans in facilities a total **8,651 times**! This breaks down to an average of **5 times a month**, serving an average of **372 veterans** each month.

Freedom GRANTS

In 2017-18, we awarded a record **200 Freedom Grants!** Lodges used these grants to meet the unique needs of veterans in their communities, filling in gaps in services, expanding available resources for veterans in need, and building a community of support for veterans in their area.

Lompoc, Calif., Lodge No. 2274 partnered with Vandenberg Air Force Base to plan and host events to help children of military members understand deployment and to provide recreational activities and support for local military families.



Lynnwood, Wash. 2171 built wheelchair accessible raised garden beds for Sebastian Place, a housing facility for previously homeless veterans.



Reno, Nev., Lodge No. 597 partners with the VA to run the Disabled Veterans Kayak Program at the Lodge pool, which brings outdoor activity opportunities to recovering veterans and veterans with disabilities.



Barre, Vt., Lodge 1535 partners with Veterans Inc., to provide sneakers, work boots, jeans, and other needed items to veterans. Elks also distribute home supplies to veterans exiting the program and moving into their own homes.

Lodges used **977 other Community Investments Programs grants** to serve veterans, military members and their families.

Volunteers OF THE YEAR

2017-18

Alaska

Jeremiah D. Frye
& Susan McDonald

Arizona

Edward Carl Kromer Jr.

Arkansas

Randall J. Dugan
& Pam Boggan

California-Hawaii

Earl T. Bouchard &
Sandra Murphy

Colorado

Robert Cook &
Karen Carner

Connecticut

Alexander J. Atkinson
& Kathryn M. Atkinson

Florida

William M. Jameson
& Elizabeth Ann Jameson

Georgia

Charles Burke
& Patricia Hill

Idaho

Michael Marvin
& Judy Gessford

Illinois

James R. Hertenstein
& Angelia Hustedde

Indiana

Edward A. Chambers
& Martha Meyers

Iowa

Kalcey V. Harvey
& Judi Hoffman

Kansas

Kenneth C. Gates

Louisiana

Daniel Dilberto

Maine

William A. Demmons
& Monique Laflamme

MD-DE-DC

Carl A. Robinson
& Marie M. Cavey

Massachusetts

Donald M. Barnard Jr.
& Denise Shurtleff

Michigan

David Neeson

Minnesota

Todd Tanhoff
& Lisa Bishop

Missouri

Jim Queathem
& Eileen Scrivner

Nebraska

William T. Foster

New Hampshire

Steven F. Ordway
& Michele Lefebvre

New Jersey

Bruce R. Totten
& Deborah Porter

New York

Clara Lou Gould

North Carolina

Douglas McGrath
& Donna Kozlowski

Oregon

Adam Tom Britto Jr.
& Joan M. Shepherd

Rhode Island

Gerald Lapierre

South Carolina

Robert K. Compton
& Wendi Schulman

Texas

Richard D. Case
& Stacy Lahue

Utah

Roger W. Kaufman
& Toni D. Hopes

Virginia

Wayne Blake & Roberta
Deese

West Virginia

Donald L. Stokes &
Nanci J. Hovermale

Earl BOUCHARD

NATIONAL VETERAN
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Earl has been volunteering at his local VA for more than 30 years, planning dozens of events, large and small, for veterans every year. It's not just his work though; it's how he does it.

VA staff says, "Mr. Bouchard is dedicated to never letting anyone down, and he always talks to veterans with encouragement and kindness; this is what keeps veterans looking forward to these events."

Whether he's helping newly housed veterans with supplies and furniture, using his woodworking skills to build games for VA residents, collecting and distributing toiletries for at-risk veterans or volunteering alongside Elks Scholars, Earl's passion for veterans is always on display. Congratulations to Earl Bouchard!

In 2018, we awarded the first-ever National Veteran Volunteer of the Year award. The recipient was Earl Bouchard, of Sunland-Tujunga, Calif., Lodge No. 2098.

In memory

OF THE VOLUNTEERS WE LOST IN 2017-18

Samuel Berkowitz

West Palm Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 1352
Deputy Representative, West Palm Beach VAMC

Robert L. Boyer

Lebanon, Penn., Lodge No. 631
Deputy Representative, Lebanon VAMC

Joseph F. Donato

Erie, Penn., Lodge No. 67
Deputy Representative, Erie VAMC & Soldiers and Sailors Home

Sidney C. Ervin, Jr.

Vicksburg, Miss., Lodge No. 95
State Veterans Chair and Representative
Jackson VAMC & Mississippi State Home-Jackson

Steve A. Guest

Sumter, S.C., Lodge No. 855
Representative, Columbia VAMC

Loren R. Henderson

Montrose, Colo., Lodge No. 1053
Representative, Montrose VA OPC

Harry E. Hennemann

Crestwood, Mo., Lodge No. 2503
State Veterans Chair and Representative,
St. Louis VAMC & US

Clement W. Howell

Christian County, Mo., Lodge No. 2777
Representative, Mt. Vernon State Home

Mark D. Jurmu

Rock Island, Ill., Lodge No. 980
Deputy Representative, Rock Island USO

Albert F. Kehrer

Clarksburg, W. Va., Lodge No. 482
Representative, Clarksburg VAMC & State Home

Richard H. Laidlaw

Charleston, S.C., Lodge No. 242
Deputy Representative,
Charleston VAMC

Clarence W. McClain

Wagoner, Okla., Lodge No. 2838
Representative, Muskogee VAMC

Johnnie Frank Skinner

Clovis, Calif., Lodge No. 2599
Deputy Representative, Fresno VAMC

David L. Spirek

El Paso, Texas, Lodge No. 187
Deputy Representative, El Paso State Home

Ann Stagner

Johnson City, Tenn., Lodge No. 825
Deputy Representative, James H. Quillen VAMC

Finances

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission operates thanks to a generous grant from the Elks National Foundation. We are very grateful to the ENF for their continued and generous support. We extend special thanks to Grand Secretary Bryan R. Klatt and the Grand Lodge staff, as well as to the Grand Lodge Sponsors for their assistance.

Revenue and Support

\$2,228,179

Appropriation from Elks National Foundation, Inc.

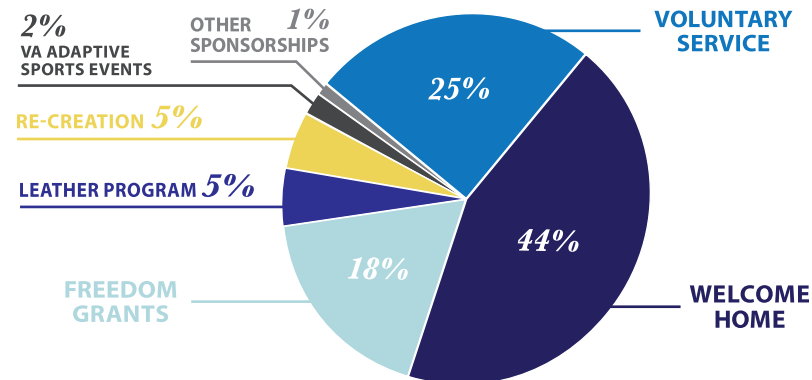
\$20,828

Other Contributions and Income

\$2,249,007

Total Revenue and Support

Programs and Partnerships



Financial highlights for 2017-18 were summarized from the Financial Statements of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, with the Independent Auditor's Report prepared by FKA Advisors. The audit covered the period beginning April 1, 2017, and ending March 31, 2018. Complete financial statements, including all notes, may be obtained by contacting the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.



**SO LONG AS THERE ARE VETERANS, THE
BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER
OF ELKS WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.**



@ELKSVETSSERVICE



**ELKS NATIONAL
VETERANS SERVICE
COMMISSION**



@ELKSVETS

www.elks.org/vets

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