



**GRAND
LODGE**

Newsletter

<http://www.elks.org>

Elks Care — Elks Share

May 2007

Volume 42 • No. 10

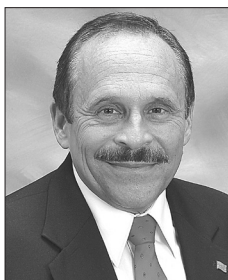
It's time for lodges to put best foot forward

To All District Deputies, Exalted Rulers, officers and members:

May is a very busy month for the subordinate lodges and provides your lodge with the opportunity to put its best foot forward in the community!

It begins with Law Day on May 1. Take the opportunity to publicly recognize and thank the men and women who serve and protect our communities. Their job has become increasingly difficult since the events of 9-11 and they very rarely receive the acknowledgement they deserve for the job they do.

The Elks National Youth Week begins the first week of May. The Youth Activities Committee should have a full program of activities celebrating the accomplishments of students, student athletes, Boy and Girl



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

Arthur H. Frost III

Scouts and scholarship winners. If your local community has a drug- and alcohol-free "graduation celebration," become an involved sponsor. If such a program does not exist, consider becoming the sponsor or nucleus of such a program. Today's youth are tomorrow's business leaders, farmers, doctors, teachers and leaders, and possibly future Elks. The ELKS are the "Enduring Legacy

Kindling Service. "

Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day both provide Elks lodges with the opportunity to demonstrate our solemn commitment to our veterans. Your lodge should be the leader in your community in recognizing those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who are actively serving to protect our freedoms and way of life.

Let us not forget to celebrate Mother's Day. It is an opportunity to invite our friends and neighbors to the lodge to observe our beautiful Mother's Day ceremony. This ceremony should be performed in an impressive manner so as to demonstrate the values we as Elks cherish.

May provides many opportunities for us, as Elks, to continue to demonstrate that "Elks Care — Elks Share."

Flags available

Flags honoring U.S. **Prisoners of War** and soldiers still **Missing in Action** (Code 541400, \$31.90) are available to Elks lodges preparing for **Flag Day** ceremonies in June. Write to Shipping Department, Elks National Headquarters, 2750 N. Lakeview

Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-1889; call 773-755-4710; fax 773-755-4711; or e-mail shipping@elks.org.

Grand Secretary

Jack M. Jensen

Elks lodge leaders and members can keep track of key dates during the lodge year in the 2007-2008 **Daily Reminder calendar booklet** (Code 570500). Booklets are available at the Elks National Headquarters in Chicago. Cost is 85 cents each. Minimum order is 10.

Schedule for May — Annual Report Due (Sec. 16.010); Grand Lodge Dues Due; Mother's Day Program; Law and Order Night; Elks National Youth Week Program begins; Lapsation Committee Report at first regular meeting (Sec. 13.090)

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Eminent domain remains a problem

By ROBERT F. BINETTI
Committee Member

The ownership rights of private individuals who own real property and our lodges are and continue to be a concern to us. The United States Supreme Court had the opportunity to revisit what many viewed as a bad decision, when they determined in 2005 in *Kelo v. the city of New London*, that government could seize private property and transfer it to another private person or entity for economic development based solely on the belief that it would provide appreciable benefits for the community.

However, the Supreme Court declined to do so in a recent case coming from the State of New York, and the ruling in *Kelo* continues to be the law of the land. This means that property owned by Elks lodges could be deemed prime real estate locations for development, and towns and municipalities could condemn the property and then sell it to a private developer for construction of a private structure or development that would increase tax revenues to the town

or municipality. Some states have passed legislation to limit the ability to take private property for private economic development, as opposed to true public use. Many states have either not taken action or have passed laws with so many exceptions that such legislation has had little effect on preventing the ability of government, particularly local government, to seize such property by eminent domain.

As with other laws that impact our Order, we must become aware in our respective states of the legislative position on unfair

Please see **EMINENT** Page 2

INSIDE

Winners of Lodge Bulletin Contest.	2
Let us blow our horn for Elkdom	2
Help stray Elks feel welcome.	2
ENF Impact Grant aids community	3
Speeches made for Elks occasions	3
Essay topic: 'What Is An American'	4
Comfort Care Kits show vets we care	4

Winners of Lodge Bulletin Contest announced

By **WILLIAM J. CHEMELLI**
Committee Chairman

The Grand Lodge, Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the 2006-2007 Lodge Bulletin Contest "D."

Division 1 (300 or fewer members)

1. **Lake Hopatcong, NJ, No. 2109**
2. **Plano-Richardson, TX, No. 2485**
3. **Van Nuys-Reseda, CA, No. 2790**

Division 2 (301-500 members)

1. **Wayne, NJ, No. 2181**
2. **Red Bank, NJ, No. 233**
3. **Rancho Cordova, CA, No. 2484**

G/L MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Help stray Elks feel welcome at your lodge

By **BARTON BARNES**
Committee Member

Every year, Grand Lodge sends out a listing that shows Elks who are paid up members and live in your area. The drawback is that they are members of another lodge.

In some instances, because there may be lodges located within a few miles of each other, the member is satisfied with his or her lodge of membership. In other instances, the Elks member may have moved into the area from another district or state.

Send the stray Elk an invitation to see your lodge, a current lodge bulletin and/or a schedule of what is happening at your lodge. This invites the stray Elk to utilize the facilities. When he or she does arrive, make the person feel welcome and the person will be glad to make new friends. Most of the time, stray Elks are from another area and are looking for a friendly face. You may get some much-needed support of your activities.

In the end, these stray Elks may possibly want to join your lodge. This can be attributed to the friendship the lodge extended to them. Many times, members who move into a new area, simply let their membership lapse. Even if they do not join your lodge, maybe they will keep their dues paid to their original lodge, but start and continue being active in your lodge.

With nothing to lose, by being hospitable and everything to gain with possible new members, it is worth the little time it takes to inform them of your existence.

Help those stray Elks become active members again.

LODGE ACTIVITIES/STATE ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE

Division 3 (501-700 members)

1. **Temecula Valley, CA, No. 2801**
2. **Oceanside, CA, No. 1561**
3. **Fremont, CA, No. 2121**

Division 4 (701-1,100 members)

1. **Joplin, MO, No. 501**
2. **Prescott, AZ, No. 330**
3. **Tucson, AZ, No. 2532**

Division 5 (1,101-1,500 members)

1. **Phoenix, AZ, No. 335**
2. **Santa Ana, CA, No. 794**
3. **Apache Junction, AZ, No. 2349**

Division 6 (More than 1,500 members)

1. **Carmichael, CA, No. 2103**
2. **El Cajon, CA, No. 1812**
3. **San Pedro, CA, No. 966**

There are no losers in Contest "D." Every bulletin entered in Contest "D" is a winner for their lodges and for the Great Order of Elkdom. On behalf of our committee, we congratulate the winners and we thank each lodge for your participation. We are honored to serve you — Fred W. Ruff and Donald L. Fenn, members, and William J. Chemelli, chairman, G/L Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Let us all blow our horn for Elkdom

By **DON PROCHNOW**
Committee Member

As I sit down to write this article, secretaries and exalted rulers are all working hard to complete their lodge's Annual Reports. Of course, the prime interest of this committee is page two, which is the survey of volunteer, youth, charitable and community service programs.

In the fraternal year of 2005-2006, this report showed the Elks contributed \$262,770,829.00 in time, travel and cash contributions, and we are looking to exceed that amount this year. Inasmuch as we use this information to maintain our 501C8 status with the Internal Revenue Service, the question is: Are we using it to our fullest

advantage?

We need to blow our horn to our lodge members and local communities. In all my years as an Elk, I have seldom seen a lodge bulletin that either monthly or annually prints how much the members have contributed to the many programs Elks participate in. We need to show our own members how much they mean to their community and youth programs. Then take this information a couple of steps further; make sure it is disseminated to your local government and state officials.

Let us blow our horn to show everyone that we are the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, not just a social club, and that *"Elks Care — Elks Share."*

Protocol Manual sets Order of Precedence

The organizational structure of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is made up of first, the Grand Lodge, second the State Association, and third, the Subordinate Lodge.

The order of precedence is set forth on Page 4 of the Elks Manual on Protocol (Code 510600).

Within the Grand Lodge, the order of precedence is: **A.** Grand Exalted Ruler, **B.** Grand Forum, **C.** Past Grand Exalted Rulers, **D.** Grand Lodge Elective Officers, **E.** Grand Lodge Appointive Officers, **F.** Grand Lodge Committee Chairpersons, **G.** Grand Lodge Committee Members, **H.** Special Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers, **I.** Special Representatives, and **J.** District Deputy Grand Exalted

Rulers.

For State Associations, the order is: **A.** State President, **B.** Past State Presidents, **C.** State Elective Officers: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees, and **D.** Appointive Officers: Chaplain, Tiler, Sergeant-at-Arms, Committee Chairpersons and Committee Members.

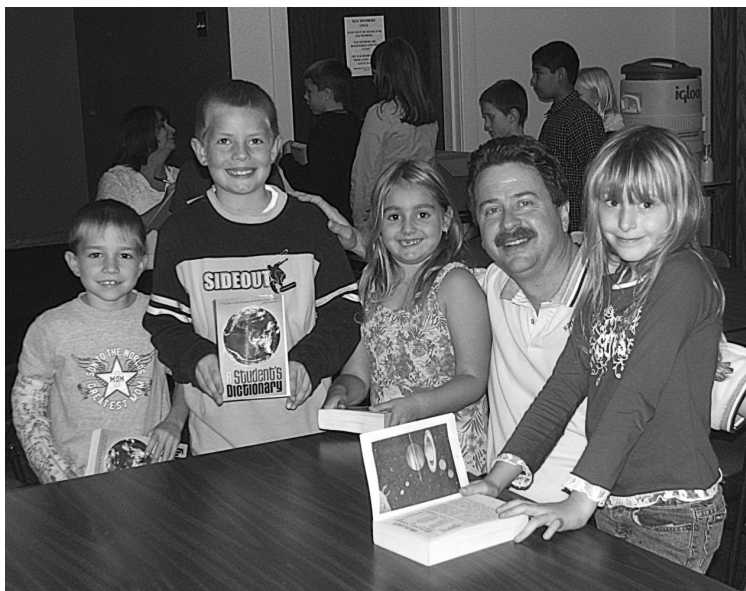
For Subordinate Lodges, the order is: **A.** Exalted Ruler, **B.** Past Exalted Rulers, **C.** Elective Chair Officers, **D.** Other Elective Officers, **E.** Presiding Justice, **F.** Appointive Officers, **G.** Committee Chairpersons and **H.** Committee Members.

— *Reprinted from Page 4 of the Manual on Protocol (Code 510600, Revised March 2003, Reprinted January 2006)*

Eminent From Page 1

eminent domain laws. We must be proactive by contacting our state legislators who have the ability to prevent the taking of private property for private development and support legislation that would not allow this to happen. Without the property they occupy,

the majority of our lodges would be severely restricted in their ability to conduct the many charitable, youth, community, patriotic and benevolent works and activities in which they participate. It is our responsibility to be active participants in preserving our property rights and continuing to be ever mindful that *"Elks Care — Elks Share."*



ENF Grant aids community

What would your Lodge do with \$10,000? How about enhance a Dictionary Project event by starting an after-school Reading Program in your community. With the help of a \$300 Promise Grant, one lodge (pictured left) was able to visit a local school, distribute dictionaries and read to children for the afternoon. With an Impact Grant, lodges can do even more! By applying for an Impact Grant, worth between \$2,500 and \$10,000, Lodges participating in the Dictionary Project could start their own literacy program. Impact Grants are a component of the Community Investments Program. They are larger, competitive grants intended to address unmet needs in communities where Elks live and work. All Lodges are eligible to apply, but only a select few will receive the grant. For more information, visit the Impact Grants Web site at www.elks.org/enf/community/ImpactGrants.cfm or contact Anne Neuville at 773/755-4954.

Speeches specially made for various Elks occasions

Elks leaders who worry about having to “say a few words” at special lodge events, can breathe a sigh of relief.

A collection of speeches tailor made for those special events is available in “Father Cassidy’s 2005 Speech-O-Matic,” a 91-page booklet of speeches on topics ranging from acknowledgment of awards to welcoming visiting Elks at lodge meetings.

The Rev. Father Kevin W. Cassidy, who was first appointed Past Grand Chaplain in 1987, has been culling material for his book for decades.

“Everything I encountered that could portray Elksdom’s ideals, programs and principles more clearly, I attempted to save,” Cassidy says in his introduction. “Some of these talks, speeches etc., may be reproduced word for word. Some may require few changes. Others may need more development. You can adapt, amend and expand on them as you see fit, and according to your

needs and circumstances.”

Other canned speeches of Cassidy’s center on the death of an Elk, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Teacher Appreciation, Flag Day, Indoctrination Dinner — more than 70 speeches in all.

To obtain a copy of “Father Cassidy’s Speech-O-Matic,” send a check for \$8 to Father Kevin Cassidy, P.O. Box 391, Mauston, WI 53948. The \$8 includes shipping.

Father Cassidy donates part of the proceeds to the Elks National Foundation. He also regularly sends cards to residents of the Elks National Home.

The Past Grand Chaplain also is the author of “Father Cassidy’s 2-Volume Chaplain’s Prayers,” made up of reverent and witty “Let Us Prays” for every occasion. The two-volume set is \$15 and may be obtained by writing to the same address and enclosing the payment. Don’t forget your return address.

Lettuce laugh

A man driving home one evening realized he hadn’t bought his daughter a birthday present, so he went to the toy store and he asked the store manager, “How much is that new Barbie?”

The manager replied, “Which one? We have ‘Barbie goes to the gym’ for \$19.95, ‘Barbie goes to the Ball’ for \$19.95, ‘Barbie goes shopping’ for \$19.95 and

‘Divorced Barbie’ for \$375.”

The surprised Dad asked, “Why is the Divorced \$375?”

“Divorced Barbie comes with Ken’s car, Ken’s house, Ken’s boat, Ken’s dog, Ken’s cat and Ken’s furniture.”

— Reprinted from the Norfolk, Va., *Elks Lodge 38 Bulletin*

Elks represent full spectrum of occupations

Although the original Elks were actors and entertainers, members of other professions soon joined the organization. Today’s Elks represent just about the full spectrum of occupations in America. Throughout the course of the Order’s history, many celebrities from the entertainment field, business and public service have been Brother Elks.

President Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S Truman and John F. Kennedy were all Elks. Former President Gerald Ford belonged to Grand Rapids Lodge No. 48, where his father served two terms as Exalted Ruler. Of course, many members of Congress have been Elks, too. Former Speakers of the House Tip O’Neill, Carl Albert, John McCormick and Sam Rayburn all belonged to the fraternity. Former Speaker Tom Foley belongs to Spokane, Wash., Lodge. And the late Hale Boggs of Louisiana was also an Elk.

General John “Blackjack” Pershing, American general and hero of the First World War, hailed from New York Lodge No. 1 as a lifelong member. 70,000 Elks served in the First World War; 1,000 gave their lives in the service of their country. 100,000 Elks served in the Second World War, and more than 1,600 made the supreme sacrifice for American freedom.

Entertainers Lawrence Welk, Will Rogers, Jack Benny and Andy Devine were Elks, too. Devine served as exalted ruler of San Fernando Lodge No. 1539. And Brother Clint Eastwood is a member of Monterey, Calif., Lodge No. 1285. William F. Cody, better known as “Buffalo Bill,” was also a Brother Elk. From the sports world, the Order has counted among its members the likes of Vince Lombardi, Casey Stengel, Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford and Jim Finks.

Comfort Care Kits show vets we care

By **MICHAEL F. MANNING**
Commission Director

Every morning we shower, shave, brush our teeth, rinse with mouthwash and comb our hair. We take these things for granted and do not even think about them.

These simple amenities, which we take for granted, are sorely lacking for our homeless veterans and many of our veterans in Veterans Administration medical centers and state veterans

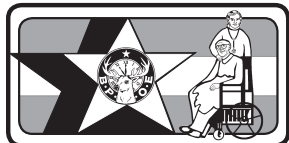
homes. They don't have the basic items for simple hygiene.

There are a couple of ways to meet the needs of these veterans. You can have members of your lodge collect the unused toiletries from

the rooms they occupy while staying at hotels. That way they can put together kits at little or no cost to the lodge.

Another way is to purchase ready-made packages. Federated Wholesale Inc. has ready-made comfort care kits available. There are three special kits. They are male, female and unisex. They also have an array of other items available so you can personalize the above kits or put together your own kits to meet special needs. You can call Federated Wholesale at 1-800-346-0859.

If you need a catalogue, you can call us in Chicago at 1-773-755-4736.



**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS
SERVICE COMMISSION**

GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

Essay topic: 'What Is An American'

By **MICHAEL K. GORDON**
Committee Chairman

As we plan for the implementation of the new Grand Lodge Program, it is necessary for lodges to incorporate the new Americanism Essay Contest into that plan. By distributing the new theme at this time of the year, lodges will have plenty of opportunity to get into area schools early, let teachers know about the program and solicit their participation in this most worthy program for the fall school term. We ask every exalted ruler and lodge Americanism Committee chairman to follow through with this contest and let students in your community know the significance of our American heritage and values.

The Essay Contest is a key component of the new Grand Lodge Program for 2007-2008

ENTRY RULES

■ Eligible participants must be enrolled in the fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth grades during the school year 2007-2008 preceding June 30, 2008.

■ Essay length is not to exceed 250 words.

■ Essay must be legibly written/printed or typed.

■ Essay must be submitted for judging to the Elks lodge administering the contest

at his/her school or, if unknown, lodge nearest to home address of entrant.

■ Entrant must be identified on the essay by name, home address, grade, school attended and sponsoring Elks lodge. The lodge may enter lodge information on the essay. State winners must be postmarked by March 31, 2008, and sent to the designated committee member. Watch for the Americanism

Supplement, which lists the Grand Lodge essay chairman and where to mail the state winners.

Any additional information needed may be obtained from your Area Grand Lodge Americanism Committeeman.

There are two divisions, Division I (combined grades 5-6) and Division II (combined grades 7-8).

Certificates may be downloaded on the Elks' Web site for local lodge participants in the contest. Additional information and certificates may be obtained on the www.elks.org Web site. The site will also have information on the Lodge Brochure Contest and other Americanism programs.

"The Values We Impart To Our Children Today Will Be The Values Of Our Nation Tomorrow" and will continue to prove to America that "*Elks Care — Elks Share.*"

**Elkdom's
Month
of May:**



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, IL
Permit No. 5244

May 2007

JACK M. JENSEN, Grand Secretary
ORDER OF ELKS
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889