



**GRAND
LODGE**

Newsletter

<http://www.elks.org>

Elks Care — Elks Share

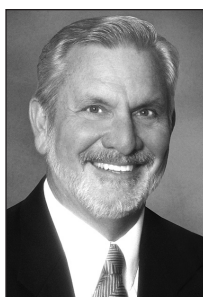
May 2011

Volume 46 • No. 10

Ramped up – Full speed ahead, focused on objectives!

By now you should be on your game and getting a quick start to ensure a successful year. With Officers and Committees in place you should set benchmarks to be checked throughout the year to help you stay the course. I would encourage you to make sure the Lapsation Committee is contacting the delinquent Members, either in person or by telephone, with a real discussion as opposed to a letter, bulletin or email.

We learned from the recent survey conducted by Edmonds Company that a large percentage of our delinquent Members would be interested in retaining their membership, but was never contacted. Now is the time to put the committee to work and report the results. Your efforts will determine the success of your Lodge, District, State and our Order. This is a year we need to meet the membership challenge without excuses. While you assume a leadership role, I want



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

Hon. Michael
F. Smith

to remind you that fun is permitted while you achieve your goals. Enjoy the year while you meet your responsibilities.

May is when we recognize our service men and women – our active military on Armed Services Day and our Veterans on Memorial Day. Make sure your Lodge has a suitable program for each tribute and invite the community.

In addition, we will also have the

opportunity to recognize our youth during Youth Week. Plan a program and involve the community. These worthy programs can give you a jump start on building membership in your Lodge and District with meaning. Let your community know what it means to be an Elk. Share our virtues with others and give them a chance to be a part of our Great Order. “Be Proud... Be Loud...and Be Visible!”

As you prepare for our National Convention in Phoenix, I urge you to “Clear Your Mechanism” and focus on the good of our Order and not be engrossed with the thought of “that is the way we have always done it”. We need some positive changes to modernize our Order to prepare for future growth while continuing to live by our obligation and virtues. As you focus on the future I hope all of you are able to “Promote Elks Passion”.

Future of Elksdom proposals detailed

Accompanying this issue is a sheet covering all “Future of Elksdom” proposals. Have the Officers and Members review,

Grand Secretary

Bryan R. Klatt

discuss and keep an open mind when decisions are being formulated.

**Filing of the
2010-2011 Annual
Membership and
Charity Reports**

has been progressing better than expected, with very few issues. HAVE YOU FILED YOURS? These reports are to be filed electronically via CLMS by May 1.

Have you begun compiling your data and met with your accountant for the 2010-2011 Subordinate Lodge Annual Financial Audit? Per our Statutes, this audit must be postmarked to your Area Grand Lodge Committeeman and District Deputy by June 30, 2011. Audits postmarked after that date are subject to a maximum \$500 fine. FYI: pages 10 and 11 have been eliminated.

GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Get ‘hyperlocal’ with Public Relations!

by **RICHARD F. GATHEN**
Committee Member

New Exalted Rulers, let’s start the new Fraternal year off right in Public Relations.

Envision your Public Relations strategy, and commit to the vision that positions your Lodge to be a “shining star in your community.” Do your best to make your Members proud to be a part of such a great organization.

A Public Relations strategy confirms your 2011/2012 objectives and articulates “how” to reach these objectives. It’s a statement of aspiration, intent and commitment. It both defines accountabilities and specifies expectations. Communication of your Public Relations strategy is what gives it meaning, and measurement activates response. Your District, State and Grand Lodge Public Relations Committees are ready and willing to provide you with everything you need at the Lodge level.

Lodges need to be hyperlocal with their

Public Relations strategy.

We need to increase our Public Relations efforts in order to attract new Members to us. The first thing we have to do is radically re-focus our thinking, and that will mean getting consistent with our branding and declaring digital first – and print last. This is not to dismiss print but only to fiercely focus us on the future.

Internally, we have an older demographic to serve. How does digital first fit in there? The idea is to create multiple platforms for

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GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

New Lodge year brings new opportunities!

by **ROBERT G. JANI**
Committee Member

It has been said that “every journey starts with the first step”, so, as we begin a new Lodge year, what a great opportunity to reintroduce an effective Government Relations program! At the very start of this Lodge year, the first step is to put in place an effective program that serves several purposes – one, it successfully records the Lodge’s charitable activities encompassing the accurate number of Elks and non-Elks involved, the total time spent on the specific charitable activity (including travel and planning), the miles traveled and the donations given.

Our National and State Associations Charitable Records Report carries an

incredible amount of influence with our local and state governments, especially when it comes time to approach them about legislation that may affect our Lodges. Additionally, the Charitable Records Report provides the documentation necessary to ensure that we maintain our nonprofit status, and it justifies our very existence, as well as, help tell our Elk story!

Secondly, an effective Government Relations program keeps our federal, state and local legislators aware of what we, as Elks, do day in and day out. Are your government leaders aware of what your Lodge does within your community? Are they aware of what your State Association does for your state? Open communication with our legislators allows our local Lodge chairpersons and district and state chairpersons the opportunity

to voice our opinions and monitor pending legislation that may potentially affect our Order. Share our success! The Grand Lodge Government Relations Report tells a compelling story.

New year, new opportunity! The time is now to set our Lodge’s goals and objectives. Let’s put plans in place so we have the best year ever! Update our charitable records monthly to ensure that we don’t forget all of the wonderful activities that we have provided in helping others! Lodge Secretaries, please don’t wait until the end of the year to enter all of those amazing statistics – update periodically, and break down that task into smaller monthly pieces. You may find that helps to achieve even greater success for your Lodge! *“Promote Elks Passion”* – “Be Loud, Be Proud and Be Visible!!”

GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

Americanism: Many choices

by **JEFFRY L. DURANT**
Committee Member

The dictionary defines Americanism as a trait, custom or tradition, especially characteristic of the people of the United States and, or devotion to the United States and its institutions.

When our founding fathers settled our country, they formed an ideal of what they hoped the future would hold for coming generations. This ideal has come to fruition, thanks largely to Americanism and the great people of our Order.

With this in mind, we can see that there are many ways to express one’s love of this great nation. It can be through continued support of our democratic government and all it represents. By voting and supporting our government and its elected representatives, we can help continue this process that is truly American. We can also choose voluntary service in the military or government service.

Belonging to patriotic clubs and organizations, or even supporting education, is another way we can be supportive of the American way. Honoring our national symbols is another way to support Americanism. By respecting the American flag and participating in the Pledge of Allegiance or joining the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, we are showing our ultimate support of our country.

There are many ways to support and respect the United States of America. It is up to each individual to decide which ways are the best for them to participate in expressing the ideals of Americanism.

Setting 2011/12 membership goal

by **ROBERT E. STEPHENS**
Committee Member

As our new year is beginning, we need to plan what our goals for the year should be.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks’ Mission Statement says, “We should serve the people and communities through benevolent programs that demonstrate that Elks Care and Elks Share.”

To help us achieve this goal, the Elks National Foundation has offered to help each Lodge with community investments. There are promise grants and gratitude grants worth \$1,000 each, as well as community impact grants worth up to \$10,000.

Each Lodge should determine what it takes to make the greatest impact in our locality and focus our attention on that need. Set that goal to make their Lodge the “go-to” place for filling that need. The Lodge should be the focal point of community involvement. If this is done, membership numbers will no longer be a problem since people will want to join and stay involved. Community involvement

is the key to Lodge growth. Ask people to join and then get them involved in the good works we do.

Form your Membership Committee early and make sure it includes the Public Relations, Lodge Activities and Community Activities Chairpersons. Make sure the Committee focuses on recruitment and retention by getting new and reinstated Members involved. You should plan for a positive membership growth of at least +1.

As our Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Smith says: **BE LOUD, BE PROUD and BE VISIBLE!**

Show that we *“Promote Elks Passion.”* Remember, we are part of the “Greatest Fraternal Organization” dedicated to helping others.

If you need assistance with membership or would like additional information on the Grand Lodge + 1 Membership Program, contact your State or Grand Lodge Membership Committeeman or visit the Membership Committee page at elks.org.

**GRAND LODGE
MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

2011-12 Grants and Appropriations –

On February 9, at a meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C., the ENF Board of Trustees approved appropriations and distributions for 2011-12 totaling a record \$21.7 million. This includes a 24.6 percent increase to the Veterans Services Program, doubling the amount of funding for the Community Investments Program, and increasing the state grant pool by more than \$190,000. Visit www.elks.org/enf/appropriations.cfm for all the details.

And the Winner Is...Join us in welcoming the 2011 Most Valuable Student scholars and Legacy Awards winners into the Elks family! Visit www.elks.org/enf/scholars for a complete list of 2011 scholarship recipients.

Swoosh! The Hoop Shoot results are in! Visit www.elks.org/enf/hoopshoot to see how your favorite finalists did. Congratulations to all of the Hoop Shoot champions.

GRAND LODGE, LODGE ACTIVITIES/STATE ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE

Community Service Contest B winners

by **EDWARD C. BLACK**
Committee Member

Your Grand Lodge, Lodge Activities/ State Associations Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2010-2011 Community Service and Image Contest B. We received a number of outstanding entries, which made the judging very difficult. Congratulations to the following Lodges on their awards:

Division 1 (under 301 Members)

1. Cedar Grove, NJ No. 2237
2. Mesquite, TX No. 2404
3. Tahoe/Douglas, NV No. 2670

Division 2 (301-500 Members)

1. Cass County, MO No. 2791
2. East Stroudsburg, PA No. 319
3. Hamden, CT No. 2224

Division 3 (501-700 Members)

1. Atascadero, CA No. 2733
2. Sierra Vista, AZ No. 2065
3. Melbourne, FL No. 1744

Division 4 (701-1,100 Members)

1. Bullhead City, AZ No. 2408
2. Blue Springs, MO No. 2509
3. Brooksville, FL No. 2582

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

1. Santa Barbara, CA No. 613
2. Port St. Lucie, FL No. 2658
3. Kelso-Longview, WA No. 1482

Division 6 (over 1,500 Members)

1. Lake Havasu City, AZ No. 2399
2. Sun City, AZ No. 2559
3. Bremerton, WA No. 1181

All entries will be displayed at the Lodge Activities/State Associations booth at the Grand Lodge Convention in Phoenix, AZ in July. First-, second- and third-place awards will be sent to the respective State Associations for presentation at a later time and place by each State Association.

A representative of each participating Lodge must pick up the Lodge's brochure Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday before noon. All entries not picked up by noon Wednesday will be discarded. Please don't let this happen to this valuable record.

Your Grand Lodge, Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee thanks every Lodge that entered this contest. Lodges that entered the event truly demonstrate that "*Elks Care – Elks Share,*" and by example each Lodge truly "*Promotes Elks Passion.*"

Lodge Bulletin Contest D winners

The Grand Lodge, Lodge Activities/ State Associations Committee has announced the winners of its 2010-2011 Lodge Bulletin Contest D.

Congratulations to the estimated 300 Lodges that participated. There were many outstanding entries. Each Lodge that submitted bulletins should be proud of their bulletin staff for the hard work.

There were three winners in each division. There has been a change in the awards presentation procedure this year. Previously, second- and third-place winning plaques were sent to the respective State Association for presentation at a state meeting. This year that policy will be extended to first-place winners as well. There will be no awards presented at the National Convention.

Winners for 2010-2011 are:

Division I (0-300 Members)

1. Chisholm Trail, TX No. 2659
2. Lincoln, NE No. 80
3. Waukesha, WI No. 400

Division II (301-500)

1. Springfield/Hillside, NJ No. 2004
2. Milwaukee, WI No. 46
3. Staunton, VA No. 351

Division III (501-700)

1. Santa Clarita, CA No. 2379
2. Summit, NJ No. 1246
3. Lancaster, CA No. 1625

Division IV (701-1,100)

1. Lompoc, CA No. 2274
2. Warrington, FL No. 2108
3. Augusta, ME No. 964

Division V (1,101-1,500)

1. Carmichael, CA No. 2103
2. Oceano/Five Cities, CA, No. 2504
3. Santa Barbara, CA No. 613

Division 6 (1,500 + Members)

1. Santa Maria, CA No. 1538
2. El Cajon, CA No. 1812
3. Frederick, MD No. 684

Note: Only the top 10 finalists in each division will have their bulletins displayed at the Lodge Activities/State Associations booth.
– Michael T. Luhr, Divisions 4-6
– James A. Ferland, Division 1-3

ELKS SPEECHES FOR ALL OCCASIONS – Elks leaders who worry about "saying 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.

To obtain a copy of "Father Cassidy's Speech-O-Matic," send a check for \$8 to Father Kevin Cassidy. His address from October to June is 10518 Bright Angel Circle, Sun City, AZ 85351. July-September his address is P.O. Box 391, Mauston, WI 53948. The \$8 includes shipping.

Memorial Service Program C winners

by **JOHN BENNETT**
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge, Lodge Activities/ State Associations Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2010-2011 Elks Memorial Service Program C.

Division 1 (Under 301 Members)

1. Saranac Lake, NY No. 1508
2. Johnson City, NY No. 2821
3. Amsterdam, NY No. 101

Division 2 (301-500 Members)

1. Camillus, NY No. 2367
2. Edison, NY No. 2487
3. New Milford/Teaneck, NJ No. 2290

Division 3 (501-700 Members)

1. Catskill, NY No. 1341
2. Escanaba, MI No. 354
3. Mechanicville-Stillwater, NY No. 1403

Division 4 (701-1,100 Members)

1. Oswego, NY No. 271
2. Fredericksburg, VA No. 875
3. Glens Falls, NY No. 81

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

1. Ashland, KY No. 350
2. Mesa Buckhorn, AZ 2656
3. None

Division 6 (Over 1,500 Members)

1. Carlsbad, NM No. 1558
2. Winthrop, MA 1078
3. Charleston, SC No. 242

All entries will be displayed at the Grand Lodge Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in July at the Grand Lodge, Lodge Activities/ State Associations booth. This year first-, second- and third- place awards will be sent to their State Associations for presentation at a later date. Representatives of all Lodges that entered the contest may pick up their entries from Tuesday afternoon through noon on Wednesday. All entries not picked up by noon on Wednesday will be discarded. The Committee wants to thank every Lodge that participated in the Contest. Our congratulations go out to all who submitted a winning entry.

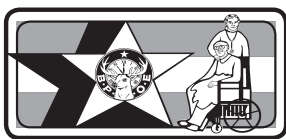
Hyperlocal From Page 1

our local communities and our Members to consume by their choice. The part of the demographic that wants print will be able to satisfy that demand. So will others who want the digital offerings of the Web, mobile and online video. The digital platforms will let local Lodges engage potential Members and drive enthusiasm in our communities by promoting our benevolent activities. Our audience will expand – not contract. Our membership will also begin to expand – not contract.

Army of Hope: Making a difference for troops, families

by **PAUL D. HELSEL, PGER**
Commission Member

For the past 93 years, since 1917 during World War I, the Elks have stepped forward during every conflict or war our Nation has been engaged in, and led the way to provide support for our troops, our "Defenders of Freedom". For the past seven years, our "Army of Hope" has provided that support and a variety of assistance for our troops and



**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS
SERVICE COMMISSION**

families across many of the states and communities our Lodges serve.

Our "Army of Hope" was established as a program, a movement if you will, enabling

Lodges and State Associations to provide support for the families of their local Military Reserves and National Guard Units that are deployed in harm's way, to defend our national interests during the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Well, the "Army of Hope" of today has evolved into much more!

Today in many states and communities, our "Army of Hope" has expanded its services to provide direct support for the troops and their families. Lodges and State Associations are providing all sorts of personal hygiene, clothing and comfort items, food, phone cards, etc. You name it, and it is being sent to our troops by the Elks. In addition, an even

greater effort is being made to make their return home as easy and pleasant as possible for both the trooper and the family.

Elks Lodges and Members are participating in "Welcome Home" events at airports, military bases and the like for these returning "Heroes". Lodges and "Army of Hope" Committees are holding "Welcome Home" celebrations, as well as providing financial and other forms of assistance, all to help returning Heroes in their efforts to continue with their normal lives with their families.

Many of our returning Heroes are not as fortunate as others are and return with injuries, both physical and sociological, the Wounded Warriors. Others, tragically, are even less fortunate and return as Fallen Heroes. Once again, our "Army of Hope" has stepped into the breach and in many states and communities provide assistance to Hero Warriors, as well as the families of Fallen Heroes.

Our "Army of Hope", through a wide range of fundraising activities, is providing funds for rehabilitation activities, services and facilities. Funding is also being provided to purchase rehabilitation equipment and aids. One State "Army of Hope" Committee has even donated a new special bus for transporting Wounded Warriors to distant rehabilitation services.

In the case of the Fallen Heroes, our "Army of Hope" organizes groups of Elks Members to show proper honor and respect to Fallen Heroes, and comfort to their families when

they are returned home. Lodges also provide their facilities for funeral- and memorial-related activities for Fallen Heroes and their families. Elks everyday are doing everything they can to ensure that our Fallen Heroes are given the respect and honor they deserve, as well as helping their families cope with their devastating loss.

Hopefully, you gather from this brief message that Elks all across our Order make up our "Army of Hope" and are bringing comfort and relief to our troops and their families, day in and day out.

The question is – is your Lodge involved and are you personally involved in this most worthy effort? If not, why not? The troops, these Heroes and their families, certainly deserve the support and assistance of all Americans. They serve and give up so very much that we might be free and able to pursue our lives as we wish.

If you and your Lodge are not currently involved in our "Army of Hope" effort, please contact the following for information on how to get started. Every Lodge and Elk should be involved!!

"Army of Hope"

Robert M. Hennings, Director
National Veterans Service Commission
2750 North Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

If you are currently involved – thank you!! In addition, please forward any information about your program and efforts, letters, pictures, reports to the address listed above.

<p>Elks Month of May:</p> <p>Happy Mother's Day!</p> <p>She's EVERY Woman!</p> <p>MOM</p>	<p>THANK YOU ARMED FORCES ON MEMORIAL DAY IN THE U.S.A.</p>	<p>Host A Law & Order Night</p>	<p>May 1-7</p> <p>Elks National Youth Week</p>
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May 2011

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
Denver and Protective
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2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889

INTERIM REPORT

on Future of Elkdom Committee

The Future of Elkdom Committee received from Elks Members nationwide more than 6,000 responses to the committee's recent request for proposed changes to the Order. From those responses, the Advisory Committee has approved the following issues for the Judiciary Committee and Advisory Committee on Laws to prepare for legislation. The resulting legislation (*where required*) will be voted upon by delegates to the July 2011 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, with the effective dates as listed. Those proposed changes are:

GRAND LODGE:

1. Change the name of the Grand Lodge to "National Lodge." [If passed, effective 2011]
2. Modernize titles of "National Lodge" Officers.
[If passed, effective 2012]
 - * National President from Grand Exalted Ruler.
 - * National Vice President from Endorsed Candidate for GER. (*Elected "National Vice President" will be elected a year earlier and will automatically become National President the following GL year.*)
 - * National Secretary from Grand Secretary.
 - * Eliminate Grand Treasurer.
 - * Sergeant-At-Arms replaces Grand Esquire, Grand Inner Guard and Grand Tiler.
 - * National Chaplain from Grand Chaplain.
 - * National Trustee(s) from GL Trustee(s).
3. Restructure Grand Lodge Committees as follows:
(If passed, effective 2012.)

Activities Committee

- ✓ Community Project
- ✓ Public Relations
- ✓ Youth Activities

Fraternal Committee

- ✓ Americanism
- ✓ Elks National Foundation
- ✓ Flag Day
- ✓ Memorial Day
- ✓ Membership
- ✓ Lodge Activities

Auditing & Accounting Committee

Committee on Judiciary

Ritualistic

This eliminates virtually ALL current Committees with only Auditing & Accounting, Judiciary and Ritualistic remaining. However, the activities of the Americanism, Lodge Activities/State Associations, Membership, Public Relations and Youth Activities Committees will be the responsibility of the Activities or Fraternal Committees.

4. A uniform job description for Special Deputies' duties and responsibilities to be created in Grand Lodge. [If passed, effective 2011]
5. Amend Statutes to provide that Lodges may collect dues annually or semi-annually. [If passed, effective 2011]
6. Remove all references to Communist party. [If passed, effective 2011]
7. Allow Local Lodges (*optional*), by By-Law, to grant suitable rewards for members who recruit other members that remain "paid up" members for one full Lodge year. [If passed, effective 2011]
8. Place the Membership Application on the GL Web site. [If passed, effective 2011]
9. Without waiting for a meeting, the Lodge Secretary immediately turns over a membership application to the Interview Committee. Name of the applicant, sponsor and references are posted. At the next Lodge meeting, if the Interview Committee has completed its review, the application is reported to members and voted upon. If approved, the applicant is invited to the next initiation. [If passed, effective 2011]

CHANGES AFFECTING THE DDGER:

1. No longer require the DDGER to witness and grade the Initiatory Ritual at the official Lodge visit, DDGER Report will continue to be filed. No GER response will be made. State Sponsor may still comment and make recommendations to the Lodge.
[If passed, effective 2011]
2. Will no longer conduct a January DDGER Clinic.
[If passed, effective 2011]
3. All DD Indoctrinations would be arranged by State Sponsor within the State. Budget funds for the State Sponsor's Indoctrination would be applicably made for DD-Designates. [If passed, effective 2012] DD would no longer attend Grand Lodge Session at Grand Lodge expense.
4. Lodge Officer memorization of the Initiatory Ritual would no longer be required. [If passed, effective 2011]

SUBORDINATE LODGE CHANGES:

1. Change the name "Subordinate Lodge" to "Local Lodge." [If passed, effective 2011]
2. Lodge meeting may be held once per month, or more often at the Lodge's decision. [If passed, effective 2011]
3. Local Lodge may opt to shorten Lodge Opening & Closing Rituals by By-Law change. (*Lodge Altar already set up and remains set up as ER closes Lodge.*) [If passed, effective 2011]
4. Local Lodge change in Officer titles. [If passed, effective 2012]:
 - President . . . from Exalted Ruler
 - 1st Vice President . . . from Esteemed Leading Knight
 - 2nd Vice President . . . from Esteemed Loyal Knight
 - 3rd Vice President . . . from Esteemed Lecturing Knight
 - Sergeant-At-Arms . . . from Lodge Esquire, Inner Guard & Tiler
 - Secretary* . . . from Lodge Secretary
 - Treasurer* . . . from Lodge Treasurer**These two offices may be combined by a By-Law, if Lodge so chooses.*
 - Chaplain . . . from Lodge Chaplain

Trustee(s) retain name of Trustee(s) & one of whom would be signatory on checks & provide for paper trail.

Inner Guard & Tiler would be eliminated. (*See Sergeant-At-Arms*)

5. Allow for one Community Program to be solely identified as the Elks-sponsored in each community. This would answer the question in the Community as to what the Elks are known for in that community. [If passed, effective 2011]
6. Restructure Subordinate Lodge Committees as follows:
(If passed, effective 2012.)

Activities Committee

- Community Project
- Public Relations
- Youth Activities
- Hoop Shoot Program
- Drug Awareness

Fraternal Committee

- Americanism
- Elks National Foundation
- Flag Day
- Memorial Day
- Membership
- Lodge Activities
- Veterans

Auditing & Accounting

OVER

The changes recommended would secure the following savings:

ELIMINATE OR MODIFY

Government Relations Committee
 Lodge Activities/State Associations Committee
 Membership Committee
 Public Relations Committee
 Americanism Committee
 Youth Activities Committee
 District Deputy Indoctrination
 Sunday dinner for Grand Lodge Officers and Committees,
 Exalted Ruler, State President and Secretary Luncheon,
 Ladies Entertainment, personalized stationery format for
 meetings of PGER's and Officers
 Reduce Convention 1 Day (estimate)

SAVINGS

\$ 66,775 [Comm. Seminar & Convention Costs]
 \$ 21,700 [Convention Costs]
 \$ 24,750 [Convention Costs]
 \$ 26,200 [Convention Costs]
 \$ 24,000 [Convention Costs]
 \$ 24,000 [Convention Costs]
 \$459,275 [at Convention]
 \$187,400 [at Convention]
 \$ 89,000

Suggestions made by Future of Elkdome Committee where NO Legislation is required:

1. Local Lodges encouraged to make facilities available for use by civic groups so long as all laws are obeyed. [Passed & effective 2011]
2. Local Lodges establish Mentoring Program for Lodge Officers. [Passed & effective 2011]
3. If not already existing, Local Lodges to establish an Activities/Entertainment Committee. [Passed & effective 2011]
4. A new "Member Welcoming Committee" for Local Lodges is seriously recommended. [Passed & effective 2011]
5. Installation and use of electronic games (*ie; Wi-Fi*) and other games in "Game Room" of Local Lodges (*for members and children*). [Passed & effective 2011]
6. Create a suggested format for State Association Meetings and Conventions with emphasis on less reporting and more training of Elks. [Passed & effective 2011]
7. Suggested dress code for GL Advisory Committee after Sunday be optional for business casual. [Passed & effective 2011]
8. National President appoint a Committee of five members knowledgeable and experienced in the Initiatory Ritual to study and make recommendations to the following Convention in Austin, Texas.
9. DDGER will no longer receive Business Cards and it is no longer an allowed expense. [Passed & effective 2011]
10. Eliminate Elks Training Program (*annual review of Statutes*). [Passed & effective 2011]
11. Eliminate Membership Benefits Program. [Effective when present contract expires]
12. Eliminate the printing of "GER Acceptance Speech" for audience Monday morning, and not in the daily Convention Newsletter. *The Elks Magazine* will keep it in a later issue. [Passed & effective 2011]
13. Eliminate the spouses' entertainment on Tuesday morning. [Passed & effective 2011]
14. Eliminate the "bull pen" roped off area for PGERs at the Exalted Rulers' Ball on Wednesday evening of the Convention. Attending PGERs will still be introduced. [Passed & effective 2011]
15. Eliminate all "Honorable" titles for all Grand Lodge Officers. [Passed & effective 2011]
16. Sunday OPENING SESSION to start at 4:00 p.m. until completion (*approximately 6-6:30 pm*) thus allowing for State Associations to conduct Sunday evening parties. [Passed & effective 2011]
17. Grand Secretary will develop a bank of "Elks Building Plans" for purpose & use of and by Local Lodges in rebuild actions. [Passed & effective 2011]
18. More meetings by Grand Lodge will be by electronic (*along this line, teleconferencing is being considered where it may be practical in costs*). [Passed & effective 2011]
19. After February 2012, the February GL Advisory meetings and Grand Trustees meetings will be held in Chicago, without spouses attending. [Passed & effective 2012]
20. Repeat Accident Prevention State Chairpersons attend their national seminar every other year. [Passed & effective 2011]
21. Standard Elks Stationery for all. Personalizing is okay. [Passed & effective 2011]
22. Create an "Elks Web Leadership School" on internet for access by Elks in Local Lodges. [Passed & effective – TBD]
23. Reduce the GL Convention by one full day. [Passed & effective dependent upon hotel contracts – TBD]
24. Eliminate all Grand Lodge Program Contests, except: Ritual, Web site, Convention State Exhibits, State Newsletters and All American Lodge. [Passed & effective 2012]
25. **For Phoenix:** For Committee Chairpersons to have their written reports to be published on the Web site. Chairperson introduces the Committee Members and thanks Lodges for their support and participation. All awards will be published in the Daily Convention Newsletter and received at the booth. On Tuesday morning, the majority of the Session will be devoted to the discussions of aspects, presented by the Future of Elkdome Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge Advisory, by the Lodges and their representatives. [Passed & approved for Phoenix Convention]

While the savings are needed, the Order is losing 100,000 members every 3 years (*by 2020 at this rate we will be down to about 500,000 members*) it is more important to change our focus, to stabilize and rebuild.

Since shortly after World War II, when our membership was growing 20 to 40 thousand members per year, more and more programs have been sent by Grand Lodge to the Local Lodges.

That was a change from traditional Elkdome when the Lodges focused on Community Activities. ***The Community is the Future of Elkdome!***

Thus our direction — reduce Grand Lodge, much more Community involvement, 21st Century appearance, retain our basics of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity and our gift to America — ***Elks Care—Elks Share***.

We will build a better Elkdome!

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