



**GRAND
LODGE**

Newsletter

<http://www.elks.org>

Elks Care — Elks Share

January 2014

Volume 49 • No. 6

Let's resolve to avoid the 'Snowball Effect'

Resolutions abound this time of year. Fitness centers love the new members, diets and exercise commercials dominate the media and people purchase all kinds of things in an optimistic belief that the rolling over of a calendar year will be sufficient incentive to take up that new habit or leave an old, undesirable one behind.

Why not consider putting some things related to the Order of Elks on your resolutions list? One of the things I am resolving to put some attention on this next year is a pervasive problem of mine: procrastination or avoiding the "Snowball Effect".

We have all experienced it. A due date approaches, someone's report is late, that makes the next person's report late and on it rolls down the hill until the whole process gets "balled-up".



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**MILLARD C.
PICKERING**

Much effort and time loss then results from unnecessary reminders to get late reports in not to mention the fines and penalties associated with major lapses.

As a part of the Elks' leadership team, whether we serve a Local Lodge, State Association, Grand Lodge, on a standing committee, or in some other capacity, we are all aware of the essential nature of effective communication. It is impossible to make proper policy decisions at

any level in the absence of valid information. Yet it is a challenge to get information up and down the leadership ladder in time to make proper use of it in the decision-making process.

While electronic communications certainly speed things up by diminishing the transmission time, it also highlights that the nature of the problem is human, not digital. We get the job done, often in an exemplary manner, but we fail to document and report in a timely manner.

The New Year will undoubtedly bring a few surprises with uncertain outcomes. Why not resolve to be more attentive to reporting deadlines? The payoff is certain, positive and absolutely predictable.

And that snowball is cold any time of year.

Statutes, nominations and Transfer Dimits

With February around the corner, nominations and election of Officers for the ensuing 2013-2014 Fraternal year is upon us. I charge that you familiarize yourself with sections 3.080 and 3.090 of the Statutes

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

Annotated. The Statutes Annotated are online in the Members Only section of www.Elks.org.

Org, under Manuals, Judiciary.

Via CLMS2Web, Transfer Dimits have become paperless and easier to process. The program automatically transfers the Member's information from the out-going Lodge computer to the incoming Lodge computer, no typing. Keep in mind, a Transfer Dimit started during the current Lodge year must be approved by the accepting Lodge before April 1. If not, that Member remains on your membership roll. Any variance from this procedure will throw your membership total out of balance.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Community Projects hit close to home

By R. DOUGLAS LARSEN
Committee Member

One of the programs incorporated into the Activities Committee is Community Projects. This program is quite important since it involves so many aspects for our future as an Order.

First it is one way to get Local Lodge Members involved in an important contribution to their Lodge and community. Many of our Members feel they are not contributing in a positive way and end up on the lapsation list. Getting them involved in a Community Project will do a great deal toward making them feel they are making a valuable contribution to their locale and that they should retain their membership.

The second important aspect of such a program is in letting the community at large know the Elks are more than just a social club. It informs local citizens that we do indeed follow the concept of "Elks

Care — Elks Share." We go to great efforts on behalf of our neighbors. The image of our Order will be beneficially altered in our communities.

The third aspect of such an activity is that it acts as a recruitment tool. By letting local citizens know we stand for outstanding concepts is by itself great advertising for our Lodges. Many people will become interested in becoming members of such an organization and

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The meaning of the flag-draped coffin

All Americans should be given this lesson.

Our founding fathers used God's word and teachings to establish our great nation, and it's high time Americans get re-educated about this nation's history.

Pass it along and be proud of the country we live in, and even more proud of those who serve to protect our "God-given" rights and freedoms.

I hope you take the time to read this, to understand what the flag-draped coffin really means. Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers:

■ Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

■ Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The first fold of the flag is a symbol of life. The second fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God. It is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance. The fifth fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it Stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

The seventh fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the

shadow of death, that we might see the light of day. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born. The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding them of their nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their

Please see **COFFIN** Page 4

Community From Page 1

they will be much more agreeable about having a membership application submitted in their name.

The type of project each Local Lodge can choose is virtually endless. They should be structured to fit the needs and size of the community involved. The type of project that will fit the needs of a large metropolitan area is quite different in scope and character than one appropriate for a smaller and more rural area.

For example, in a larger community something like a speech contest or a program to recognize a special citizen of the year may fit their needs. On the other hand, a more rural Lodge may decide to sponsor a cross country track meet, a rodeo or put up a display booth at the local fair. While these types of events may qualify as Community Projects they are certainly quite different in character. However, they certainly will go a long way in promoting our Order.

These are just a few of the positive results such programs can have on each community. There are certainly other factors that can be affected in a positive way. We must plan for such Community Projects in each of our Lodges and do everything we can to make them successful.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Don't forget youth programs

By **R. DOUGLAS LARSEN**
Committee Member

As a result of most Grand Lodge Youth Activities contests being canceled, some Lodges may feel they do not have to emphasize that facet of their program. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact Lodges don't have to concentrate on those contests simply allows them flexibility to fit the needs of the youth of their communities.

Our very future, both as an Order and a nation, lies with today's youth. Each community must find programs that will help develop positive values and talents in these young people. This should be the basis for any of our youth programs.

Organized athletic competition teaches young people they must follow rules to be successful. They can carry this lesson with them throughout their lives. Such competition also helps build sound bodies to help them maintain themselves as they grow older.

The type of athletic competition is not limited. While there is Hoop Shoot, Junior Golf and Soccer Shoot, the Lodges are not limited to just these activities. Such sports as tennis, track and baseball are certainly

valuable endeavors.

Lodges can also sponsor youth contests on their own such as Student of the Month and Year as well as Teenager of the Month and Year. Programs such as speech or essay contests are well worth the time and money spent. These local contests will enable us to reach many youths we would not be able to otherwise.

The Elks have a long tradition of supporting Scouting. This has led to such rewards for our own Members like the Marvin M. Lewis Award for honoring Members who have spent a great deal of time and effort to support Scouting.

The Dictionary Project gives us another opportunity to influence youth, some of whom have never had a book of their own. To present them with such a valuable reference book makes a positive impact on their self-esteem.

The various youth programs and activities listed are only some things that each Lodge should consider. However, one major factor must be considered for everything that is done for the young people in our communities: The programs must be positive in nature and done to promote better citizenship.

Painkiller abuse leads to heroin use among teens

By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

The number of first-time heroin users in the United States is on the rise, and overall, heroin use went up 66 percent in 2011. And it's reached epidemic proportions not in big cities so much as in rural towns and suburbs of America. Deaths and overdoses are also on the rise. Many heroin addicts start on prescription painkillers prescribed for minor injuries. When they run out of their prescription, they often turn to heroin because it's cheaper and easier to get.

The most startling thing about the new breed of heroin addict is both their age and social status. Newspaper reports nationwide tell us that heroin use is skyrocketing not only among middle

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

class suburban teens but also in quiet rural towns. Teens are turning to heroin in greater number than ever before, after first getting their habit going with prescription painkillers.

The rise in teen heroin use only serves to confirm the spiraling use of painkillers among teens is leading to an epidemic of heroin use because the drug is cheaper now. They can make what they call a "button", which is just a capsule of heroin, for about \$10 compared to up to \$75 for a prescription pain pill of Oxycontin. Pain pills are where a lot of heroin addictions begin. Police say the same people selling pain pills on the street are switching their customers over

to heroin.

A recent study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration says people who used pain pills non-medically were 19 times more likely to start using heroin. And there's another draw for new heroin users: One of the barriers, historically, to drug users even trying something like heroin, was the needle but this new form of heroin can be snorted. This information helps keep our Elks Members aware, which is what the DAP is all about.

News from the DAP: Be sure to check out the new Elks Kids Zone at www.elkskidszone.org featuring Elroy, the action figure who is now a "lean, mean, drug-fighting machine."

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Update your charity records!

By **BRUCE A. HIDLEY**
Committee Member

A very happy New Year to all of you. As we move into this New Year, we must continue to focus on the many areas of the Government Relations Program that are vital to our Lodges. Again, I must state the importance of getting to know your current and newly elected officials. They make extremely important decisions that affect not only our fraternal Order but our own personal lives.

Only three months are left of our fraternal year. I need to express the importance of checking with your Lodge committee people to be sure they are reporting all the necessary charitable records. Everyone on the Government Relations Committee continues to stress the importance of charity record data, which is used in discussions with our legislators and government officials at all levels to garner support for legislation that will help our Order stay vibrant and grow. Our charitable records data is the only resource we have to prove just how much work we do for our communities.

We must have accurate numbers from the charitable records reporting to ensure that our legislative leaders at all levels can see and understand that we are a proud fraternal Order and that: "*Elks Care*" about our veterans; about our active service people; about servicing our veterans hospitals; about our American heritage; about our youth; about our seniors; about making sure our students have dictionaries to use; about our Drug Awareness Program; about our Hoop Shoot Program; about our families...

Working together with our legislators and with each other, we demonstrate that "*Elks Care*." We can reaffirm our commitment to our Grand Exalted Ruler and his chosen theme of "*Elks Live, Elks Give*." Our charitable records continue to prove that the Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are truly the Best People On Earth.

Please accept this heartfelt thank you! for your commitment to our Government Relations Program. Together we can and do make a difference in bettering the lives of the people in our communities.

Passage inadvertently left out of 2013 (Tan) Bylaws

Please insert the following wording on Page 25 of the 2013 (Tan) Bylaws booklet, just above Section 2:

The Lodge shall have a reduced initiation fee of one dollar (\$1.00) for the month(s) of _____ and _____.

(NOTE: The above paragraph should be deleted if not adopted by the Lodge. If only one month is to be included then enter n/a in the second blank space. See Section 14.290, Statutes of the Order.)

CORRECTION: At the top of Page 28, also in the 2013 (Tan) Bylaws booklet, the reference to 30 days should be 60 days: "If application is made within ~~thirty (30)~~ sixty (60) days..."

Veterans From Page 4

courageously provided for all of us. We need to help our Veterans with a strong budgetary support program! Our Veterans were there for us, now it's our turn...

As we look to the new Lodge year, each chairman must plan his or her year's program and thus a suitable budget to support these programs. While all of our programs are equally important, maybe it's time we pay a little more attention to our National Veterans Service Committee. There are many ways to achieve this goal. Your Lodge can bring veterans from hospitals and nursing homes to the Lodge for a dinner or party, or bring the event to the hospital. Purchase "comfort care kits" or small gifts for hospitalized veterans during the holidays (or any time). Participate in a VA-sponsored "Stand Down" for homeless and at-risk veterans by collecting clothing and other necessities. Work with local military bases and family assistance centers to discover the needs of our troops

at home and abroad and their families. If your Lodge does not have a budget large enough to carry out a veterans-related program, be creative. Turn a Lodge dinner or other event into a fund-raiser, or apply for grants from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission and the Elks National Foundation.

Each year, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission awards 125 "Freedom Grants" of \$2,000 each to Lodges that create programs designed to assist veterans, the active military and their families. The Elks National Foundation offers Beacon Grants of \$1,000 each, Gratitude Grants of \$2,000 (for Lodges meeting the GER per capita donation goal of \$4.60) each, and Impact Grants of up to \$10,000.

I encourage you to plan your programs, prepare your budgets and put the appropriate teams in place to allow your Lodge and Members to show our veterans that we care. Give your time now and it will go a long way as you prove throughout the year that we as Elks will never forget them.

Our Veterans were there for us, now it's our turn...

By James C. Varenhorst, PGER
Commission Member

While traveling throughout our free and beautiful country, it's difficult not to notice those young people walking through the airports, dressed in fatigues. You can't help but wonder if they are returning home or being deployed for another tour of duty? Either way, you know they have one common thought – the pain of not being home or with their families and friends. You hope they're on their way home and wondering, "Who will be there to greet me?"

All too often our soldiers are traveling alongside of us as they prepare to again,

carry out their uncommon assignments in places we've never heard of or can't even pronounce. They too have similar questions – "Who will be there to greet me? What really lies in store for me

this time" or maybe even that ultimate question: "Will I ever get to see my family and home again"? The cost of "our freedom" is the competence and dexterity of a warrior. The price we pay for "our freedom"

is with their perpetual vigilance. The gift of "our freedom" provides us is a Veteran... The rewards that many of

our Veterans receive are unemployment lines, homeless shelters and memories of watching their buddies being taken out by an IED. Don't you think they just might deserve a little better treatment?

We as Elks are blessed with one of the most profound, beautiful and unique mottos, "*So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them*" and I know of no other organization or institution that's even close in sharing those same principles. But those aren't just some catchy words; that's a statement that we need to live up to! It's the least we can do is to show our Veterans how proud we are of "our freedom" that they so

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**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS
SERVICE COMMISSION**

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary

Benevolent and Protective
ORDER OF ELKS

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January 2014

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Legacy awards deadline quickly approaching

Elks National Foundation Legacy Awards applications, for high school seniors who are the children or grandchildren of dues-paying Elks, must be submitted online by 12 p.m. (noon) Central Time on January 31, 2014. For complete details and to access the application, visit www.elks.org/scholars.

Build a stronger future –

Ensure the ENF will continue to help Elks build stronger communities for years to come by leaving your own



legacy. Learn about planned giving and the ENF's John F.

Malley Society, named for the PGER who first championed the idea of the Foundation as a way for Elks to serve communities, by visiting www.enfplannedgiving.org.

Stay connected – Sign up for Pulse, the ENF's monthly e-newsletter, and don't miss a minute of ENF news. Visit www.elks.org/enf/pulse.cfm to subscribe.

Coffin From Page 2

comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of "Liberty and Freedom."

Maybe the Supreme Court should read this explanation before they render their decision on the Pledge of Allegiance. Our soldiers have preserved your right to make this choice!

