



**GRAND
LODGE**

Newsletter

<http://www.elks.org>

Elks Care — Elks Share

March 2014

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Paying it forward can help ensure Elks' future

This is an exciting time of year for the Order of Elks.

By Grand Lodge Statutes, Local Lodges should have selected their leadership for the next fraternal year, which commences in April. With those changes come new faces potentially at all levels, from committees to officer team.

Serving a Local Lodge can be a very rewarding experience. Every Elk enjoys being a part of something larger than themselves and working for worthwhile projects in their Lodge and community. I think that type of attitude is a big part of what makes us "Distinctively American", setting us apart from many other organizations and much of the rest of the world.

Those stepping out of office can look back with pride at having served the Order with diligence and fidelity. Our



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**MILLARD C.
PICKERING**

gratitude for everyone who serves should be evident and generous. Indeed, the survival of Our Order depends upon good people stepping up to carry forward, and gratitude is all the remuneration most officers and committee persons take away for all their hard work.

With much attention focused on the election and selection process, some important aspects of leaving office can be overlooked.

Just as any Elk would want to leave things a little better than they found them as a result of their service, we should also acknowledge the duty to get the next person serving off to a good start. However successful our term has been we have learned some things about the job, dodged a few pitfalls and found a few short-cuts that would help the new guy.

Spend some time with the person taking up the position. Share some success stories as well as areas where you may have fallen a little short of your goals. Doing this not only enhances your image as a leader in your Lodge but also helps foster the leaders of tomorrow.

Paying it forward is the best pay of all and great insurance for the future.

See you down the road.

Stop a mistake before it happens

Before March 31, Lodge Secretaries must complete all membership additions, drops, dimits and deaths in CLMS2Web. Then, after completing the year-end close-out procedure, the 2013-2014 Annual

Membership Report can be filed.

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

DO NOT ENTER membership

changes associated with the 2014-2015 Fraternal year until the 2013-2014 Annual Membership Report has been filed. Failure to comply with these two items will cause the Lodge membership total to be off. No corrections can be made until next year. Any questions, call your CLMS State or District Coordinator.

May 1, 2014, is the last day for filing the Annual Membership Report, Charity Report and for the per capita check to be postmarked. Per Statute 16.010, failure to comply with this date can result in a \$100 fine.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Contest, program deadlines announced

By ROBERT E. DRISKO
Committee Member

With the 2013-2014 fraternal year rapidly coming to a close, it becomes time for election of the new Lodge Officers. I encourage the newly elected Officers and appointed Committee Chairs to participate in all the various Lodge Programs. To accomplish this, you need to be aware of the scheduled deadlines for the Contest Programs and events for the remainder of this year as well as the ensuing fraternal year.

First and foremost, before April 15, the Exalted Ruler-Elect must make sure that the names of their appointed 2014-2015 Lodge Committee Chair Persons are entered into CLMS2Web. The Exalted Ruler-Elect should work closely with the Lodge Secretary to accomplish this task by the stated deadline.

For the retiring Exalted Ruler, you have an opportunity to recognize

various Members of your Lodge who have been instrumental in making your year enjoyable and successful. Several programs Exalted Rulers can use to thank their Lodge and individuals of the Lodge and community are:

Citizen of the Year – Postmark the honoree's name to the Grand Secretary between January 1 and March 31, 2014.

Elk of the Year – Qualifications:

Please see **DEADLINES**, Page 3

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E-cig smokers: Do you know what you're inhaling?

By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

Electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigs, are battery-operated devices that produce a largely odorless water vapor of highly addictive nicotine when inhaled into the lungs.

Puffing an e-cigarette, also called vaping (vay-ping), can take place in non-smoking environments and are not regulated in most states. They do not carry federal health warning labels.

Electronic cigarettes sound fantastic. Rather than fill your lungs with tar, they deliver a vapor of nicotine to satisfy your craving, without the nasty side effects. They are popularly perceived as the safe alternative to cigarettes, a harmless way to get a nicotine hit, but are ultimately harmful because of their nicotine.

GRAND LODGE DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

E-cigarettes are poised to be a billion-dollar industry, as they promise to lift the stigma of smoking and are increasingly permitted at indoor facilities where smoking is banned.

So, are e-cigarettes safe? Well, they're not great for you, doctors say. What's being debated is the degree to which they are less dangerous than traditional cigarettes.

Unlike tobacco products, e-cigarettes aren't regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. In 2009, the FDA warned consumers about potential health risks after analyzing nicotine cartridges from two leading brands. One sample was found to contain diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze, which

produces the white smoke to imitate a real cigarette. Several other samples were found to contain carcinogens, including nitrosamines; and those coming from China – who knows what they contain?

E-cigarettes are marketed to smokers to wean them off of tobacco (although studies show they don't help much); yet the same devices are marketed to young people who don't smoke, which could get them hooked.

Cancer and respiratory experts see the same ploy being played out today with e-cigarettes as was done in the 1940s with cigarettes, when Americans started smoking en masse. They often are distributed for free and pitched by celebrities and even doctors as cool, liberating and safe, but in reality they are *not*.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Assessing our impact rests with us

By **RODNEY D. BELLMAN**
Committee Member

Recognizing the important activities we do in our Lodges cannot be overemphasized. Information contained in the Annual Report allows the Government Relations Committee and every Elks Member to bring to the attention of government agencies and legislators the impact we have on youth and veterans in our communities.

Last Lodge year, cash contributions by Members and volunteers totaled nearly \$54.4 million. Combined with non-cash contributions topping an amazing \$367.7 million. That is an astounding grand total of \$422.1 million.

A report of activities can be found in the December/January issue of *The Elks Magazine*. Please publish that report in your Lodge and State Newsletters.

For 2013-14, the Elks National

Foundation has pledged a record \$26 million in grants and appropriations, including \$8.5 million to invest directly into our Lodge communities.

The information from your annual reports, combined with the ENF pledges, gives every Elks Member unequalled knowledge to supply community leaders and legislators with factual results of our Order's works.

We urge every Exalted Ruler, Officer and Member to make Government Relations a priority. Keep a constant vigil on all legislation at all levels of government, to see there is no indifference to unfair legislation that would prevent us from having the rights and privileges we enjoy as a private organization. All of us really are Members of the Government Relations Committee. Your eyes, ears and individual help are invaluable.

Speeches, prayers are tailor made for many Elks events

Elks Lodges in the market for specially made speeches and prayers tailor made for Elks events can get them with publications written by Past Grand Chaplain, the Rev. Father Kevin Cassidy.

A collection of speeches tailor made for those Elks events is available in "Father Cassidy's Speech-O-Matic," a 91-page booklet of speeches on topics ranging from acknowledgment of awards to welcoming visiting Elks.

For Elks on stand-by to say a prayer, Cassidy is also the author of a two-volume prayer book set, which includes his first (or classic) edition of Father Cassidy's Elks Chaplain Prayers and More Elks Chaplain Prayers (or New and Improved Volume II).

For the Speech-O-Matic, write a check for \$8, made payable to Father Kevin Cassidy. The prayer books are \$16 for the set or \$8 individually. Costs include shipping.

October to June, mail checks to Cassidy at 10518 Bright Angel Circle, Sun City, AZ 85351. July-September his address is P.O. Box 391, Mauston, WI 53948.

Assistance available for worthy, needy Members

Needy Elks Members can qualify for up to \$1,000 in an emergency 50-50 matching grant from the Order under Section 5.070 of the Grand Lodge Statutes.

The assistance would be available to "worthy and needy Members of the Order who are suffering from diseases of an incurable character or from total disability, and who are without funds or property or relatives able or willing to care for them," the Statute states.

The Statute also provides that the Lodge of the assisted Member "shall contribute toward the relief of the Member

an amount not less than one-half of the sum that is contributed by the Order."

The assistance program is administered by the Board of Grand Trustees, which is authorized to appropriate up to \$10,000 annually for the program. The board by resolution may give the Grand Exalted Ruler up to \$1,000 so that authorized payments may be made regularly by him.

"The monies so appropriated shall be administered by the Grand Exalted Ruler with the consent of a majority of the Board of Grand Trustees," the Statute states.

EXTRA! EXTRA! – At its February meeting, the Elks National Foundation Board of Trustees approved the appropriations and distributions for the 2014-15 fiscal year. Visit www.elks.org/enf/appropriations.cfm to learn how your donations will build stronger communities next year.

Deadlines From Page 1

cannot be a Lodge Officer; and only one person may be chosen. Postmark name to the Grand Secretary between January 1 and March 31, 2014.

Officer of the Year – The Exalted Ruler Shall direct the Lodge's Past Exalted Rulers Association to select the Officer of the Year. Must be a Lodge Officer – only one to be selected. Cannot be issued before January 1, 2014. Postmark full name and title of your honoree to the Grand Secretary between January 1 and March 31, 2014.

Outstanding Member Award – Members who have brought in three new or reinstated Members will receive a message of thanks and a GER Award Pin. (Lodge Secretary should forward to the Grand Secretary notice in writing of eligibility for Member recognition. Postmark deadline is June 15, 2014.

GER Outstanding Service Certificate – Exalted Ruler may issue two GER Outstanding Service Certificates to Members performing outstanding service to the Lodge. Order certificates from your Area Member of the GL Fraternal Committee. Requests must be postmarked by March 31, 2014.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee pamphlet, "Lodge Activities Programs, Contests and Grand Exalted Ruler Awards," details all Grand Lodge Programs and Contests, including those listed above. I strongly suggest the retiring Exalted Ruler and Exalted Ruler-Elect review the pamphlet, along with the Lodge Activities Manual, to familiarize themselves with the Programs and Awards available to them. The pamphlet (under the name Fraternal Committee Program 2013-2014) may be downloaded at: <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm>.

The link to the manual is <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/>.

The Grand Lodge website is valuable for obtaining the manuals and documents that can assist in making your year as Exalted Ruler very successful. Finally, do not hesitate to take advantage of the knowledge available to you from your Past Exalted Rulers Association – they can also help make your year as Exalted Ruler an enjoyable and successful.

I have developed a Power Point Presentation of the 2013-2014 Fraternal Committee Program Manual. Email me for the presentation at: drisko@roadrunner.com.

Membership retention: Hard work but worthwhile

By **JOSEPH C. BASIL**
Committee Member

It's that time of year when we think about installing Officers and all the good things we did in our soon-to-be-completed year. It seems too many Lodges decide it is no longer necessary to work on delinquent Members who will soon be dropped for non-payment of dues.



Reducing your numbers of delinquents at this time of year can be difficult, but a diligent effort by your Lodge Membership Committee, Secretary and other Members

can pay large dividends by whittling down the names on the list!

Phone calls are the best method of reducing the number of soon-to-be lapsed Members, but there are other methods, too. One that has proved very successful is contacting the proposer to make a call. When you look at membership numbers of Lodges that have positive membership growth and very low lapsation, you know that Lodge is working throughout the year and is making a final big push right now.

Get on the phone and make the call because saving those delinquent Members is never too late! Personal contact might completely change their minds, not only on keeping their membership intact but also possibly to make them productive volunteers in future endeavors.

Veterans From Page 4

set up to do and we do so very well in certain locals.

We encourage every Lodge and Association to get involved in the program. There is not a city or town in our country that isn't touched by the deployment of our military – our neighbors and friends who in many cases are putting everything on the line for us. If your Lodge or Association is not now involved, it is not too late to start. For specifics on how to get started contact:

Robert Hennings, Director
National Veterans Service Commission
2750 N. Lakeview Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

Some areas of service your Lodge and/or Association may be able to provide are:

- Have a "family-oriented" dinner at the Lodge in honor of our troops and host the families and Guard/Reserve representatives. This is a great way to introduce the families and Reserve or Guard representatives to the Elks volunteers they will be working with.
- Supply the families with phone cards.
- Provide lawn mowing, landscaping

or sprinkler service.

- Perform automobile repairs or transportation when needed.
- Complete minor home repairs, such as plumbing, or painting, etc.
- Provide either full time or "back up" babysitting service.
- Send comfort care packages to our troops – (check with local military bases for requirements and regulations).
- Send copies of the service person's daily hometown newspaper.
- Have a photography buff in your volunteer listing? Take some pictures of the soldier's family and possibly some local sights to send to the troop member.
- Participate in "Welcome Home" events at airports, military bases and the like for these returning "Heroes".
- Host a "Welcome Home" party at your Lodge, or for the troops who return home, and thank them and their families for their service.
- Hold fundraisers at the Lodge to provide monetary support to families (of those serving, returning and/or fallen) as identified and appropriate.
- Help each returning "Hero" in their efforts to pick up and continue with their normal life with their family – financially and otherwise (doesn't always require

money to provide help).

■ Through fundraising activities, provide funds for rehabilitation activities, services and facilities.

■ Organize groups of Elks Members to show proper honor and respect to the Fallen Hero, and comfort to the family when they are returned home (be a part of any procession, services, etc.).

■ Provide Lodge facilities for funeral- and memorial-related activities for the Fallen Heroes and their families. Do everything you can to ensure the Fallen Hero is given the respect and honor he or she deserves, as well as help the family cope with its devastating loss.

There are many ways Elks Lodges and Associations (our Army of Hope) can help our Heroes and their families, making their lives a bit more comfortable and hopefully less stressful while their family member(s) serves. And on their return, give them the help, respect and honor they deserve in carrying on their lives – whether it be returning to normal activities, rehabilitating or being put to rest.

Our Army of Hope should always be there! And your Lodge and Association should be a part of our Army of Hope efforts!

Adopt-A-Vet: Now is the time to make a difference

By Paul D. Helsel, PGER
Commission Chairman

The Elks Army of Hope was established and became an Elks National Veterans Service Commission Program in the 2003-2004 Grand Lodge year. It is now in its 10th year of providing needed service to our military personnel and their families, who have made and continue to make huge sacrifices so that we may enjoy our cherished freedoms and way of life.

The program enables, encourages and provides a path by which Lodges and State Associations can support and assist their local Active Military,

Military Reserves and National Guard Units who are deployed in “harm’s way”, as well as their families who remain at home. This is more or less an extension of our long-standing and admirable

programs supporting all our Veterans in our communities, hospitals and homes across the country.

Our Army of Hope Program has flourished and grown to be of major significance in many

of our Lodges and a number of State Associations. However, sadly many of our Lodges and Associations have not embraced this program to the extent

or with the outreach it was intended to bring about. The need is definitely still there, as we continue to have troops in “harm’s way” – and who are still making unimaginable sacrifices on a daily basis on our behalf. And their individual families are right there sacrificing with them, in ways that you and I will hopefully never have to experience. These sacrifices run the gamut from simply needing help and support of a material or financial nature to major issues involving health, rehabilitation and death situations that may require financial, emotional and always moral support – all things that this program was

Please see **VETERANS** Page 3



BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary

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March 2014

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Remember to claim your Lodge's Gratitude Grant!

To thank Lodges that meet or exceed the GER's \$4.60 per-member-giving goal, the ENF is offering \$2,000 Gratitude Grants. Gratitude Grants, part of the ENF's Community Investments Program, can be used to serve community members in need. Visit www.elks.org/enf/community for information on these and other CIP grants.

ENF donation deadline quickly Approaching – Help build a stronger

community today. Mailed donations must arrive in the ENF office by Monday, March 31, 2014, to count toward 2013-14.

You can also donate online with a credit card at enf.elks.org/donate until 11:59 p.m. Central Time on March 31. Any donations received after

March 31 will be credited to

next fiscal year. Don't forget. To simplify the remittance process, Lodge Fundraising Chairs and Secretaries may submit

donation information using the Online Remittance Form, available at www.elks.org/ENF/chairmen/forms.cfm and through CLMS. Remember Secretaries, if you're collecting donations with dues and recording them in CLMS, you can easily remit them to us through CLMS. Keep in mind that donations are credited to the fiscal year in which they are received, and the donation is not complete until the ENF receives the mailed check. Don't wait until the last minute if you'd like these donations to count toward 2013-14!



**ELKS
NATIONAL
FOUNDATION**



LODGE OFFICERS:

