



**GRAND  
LODGE**

# Newsletter

<http://www.elks.org>

**Elks Care — Elks Share**

**April 2014**

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## Elks.Org provides easy access to program manuals

Even in volunteer work, we all think about the cost/benefit formula as a metric for the effectiveness of our efforts. Time is a very valuable commodity, and no one has enough to entirely ignore wastefulness.

Fortunately, as Elks, we have many tools readily available to help us be more efficient in our tasks.

I would wager that if you look about the offices of your Lodge Secretary you will find several manuals related to the various tasks and offices common to any Local Lodge. These manuals have been developed over time, often by experts, and frequently updated to help people do their tasks more efficiently and to answer many frequent questions about the operations of our Order. Most of us who have served as District



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**MILLARD C.  
PICKERING**

Deputy recall reviewing the checklist of these manuals as a part of the annual official visitation. Sometimes we had to blow a little dust off the covers to read what they were.

Well, after a great deal of effort by our Grand Secretary, Bryan Klatt, and the Chicago staff, most of these important resources are now available online from your easy chair at home or wherever you

access the digital universe at [Elks.Org](http://Elks.Org).

These manuals offer a wealth of information to anyone involved in Lodge operations. There are ideas and tips gathered from around the country over many years, which can help your Lodge be more successful and avoid common problems.

Those hard-copy volumes were hard to keep track of, not easy to update, and sometimes only available during Lodge office hours. With online access, any registered Elks Member has information at his or her fingertips 24/7.

Why not take a moment to look over all the information offered at [Elks.Org](http://Elks.Org)?

You might be surprised at what you find and how much time it can save you.

See you down the road.

## Unaffiliated spouse of an Elks Member

We have been asked if a spouse who chooses to take an Absolute Dimit, or has been dropped for non-payment, may enter and stay in the Lodge. Yes, if he or she conforms to Section 14.190 Opinion 03 of the 2013 Statutes Annotated, which states: "The exception permitting visitation of a

### GRAND SECRETARY

**Bryan R. Klatt**

Lodge by a non-suspended spouse, or a delinquent Member spouse, means that the non-suspended or

unaffiliated spouse is treated as if he or she were never a Member."

**Have you filed your Annual Membership Report** and Annual Charity Report? April 30 is quickly approaching. Many questions have arisen as to when the Grand Lodge-calculated membership total will be lowered to coincide with the Local Lodge total. That will happen when the Annual Report is filed, the Secretary sends the proper paperwork to the Grand Secretary, both have been accepted and the Grand Lodge year is closed.

## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

## Donate Life – A family portrait

**By CARROLL L. SCHLEETER**  
Committee Member

"Why me?" my son, retired Army Lt. Col. John C. Schleeter, asked.

"All I wanted to do was to serve my country. They sent me to Iraq along with so many others," the Army veteran of 23 years said.

But sometime in those more than two decades, John contracted non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver, for which the Veterans Administration now is paying for his disability.

"At 51 years of age I can no longer work, and I have been on the waiting list for a liver transplant for a number of years," he said.

As John's father, I am appealing on my son's and Elks' behalf for all good Elks Members to become an organ donor.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is now in its third year of joining forces with DONATE LIFE AMERICA to increase donations of organs, eyes and life-

saving tissue.

The need is paramount. As of February 26, 2014, fully 121,381 people, including John, were awaiting transplants in the United States, with 77,403 listed on the active waiting list, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing ([unos.org](http://unos.org)).

From January to November 2013, 26,517 transplants had taken place with total donations of 12,994, the United Network reported.

We Elks Members can help close the gap! The effort of Lodges to promote

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# Responsible service/use of alcohol

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Local Lodges are asked to publish this article in their locally distributed newsletters.**

**By Grand Lodge Insurance Department**

A recent verdict totaling \$28 million (including \$10 million in punitive damages) was rendered against a Local Lodge; it was alleged that a non-Elks member was improperly served alcohol while attending an Elks-sponsored function that was open to the public.

This verdict has created a significant financial burden on the Master Liability Program, which provides insurance coverage for Local Lodges. But, more importantly, it has presented a negative image for the Order.

All Elks Members have a duty to be aware of the need to be responsible for the service and use of alcohol as it

pertains to themselves and the service provided by their Lodge. All those responsible for the service of alcohol should be made aware of the fact that no person approaching intoxication should ever be served and anyone who violates this policy could be dismissed.

The Master Liability Program was created to give Local Lodges the ability to operate bar facilities that serve Lodge Members and their guests; Lodges should not serve alcohol to either the public or non-Elks not accompanied by a Lodge Member.

Each and every Elks Member should demonstrate awareness of this situation—and how it affects him/her on both a personal and fraternal basis—by ensuring their Lodge is operating responsibly and raising concerns when issues are brought to light.

## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## It's Charitable Records reporting time!

**By JAMES W. MARTSFIELD**  
**Committee Vice Chairman**

Congratulations on your election as Exalted Ruler and for the opportunity to serve your Lodge for the 2014-2015 Fraternal Year.

The Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee has worked and will continue to work hard to see that all our Lodges are protected on the fundamental, constitutional right of private assembly, private association and exercise of free choice with regards to these rights, and to preserve, protect and defend these rights from any infringement or limitation from any source. We ask that you remember why the Government Relations Committee is so important to Elksdom when you, as a delegate at the upcoming National Convention in New Orleans, are asked to mark your ballot.

The end of April marks the deadline when all Lodge Annual Reports are due to Grand Lodge. The Charitable Records Survey part of the Annual Report is extremely important in that it reflects what our Lodges contributed to our communities during the fraternal year 2013-2014. Lodges that recorded their charitable records each month during the year, should find it much easier to complete this part of the Annual Report than those who did not.

It is also time for State Association secretaries to submit their charitable

records report of what their state chairpersons and helpers contributed. The hours, miles and money your state chairpersons and their helpers contribute during the year are often overlooked, but in reality they are just as important as the Lodge Charitable Records Report. Each year we have several State Associations that fail to submit their reports, and in doing so we are missing vital information needed by Grand Lodge.

Our National Charitable Records Survey Report compiled by Grand Lodge from the Local Lodges Annual Reports, carries tremendous weight with our local and state governments when we approached them for legislation that may affect our Lodges. The more you can prove what you contributed to charity last year in your community, the more influence you will have with those in government who deal with legislation. It will be very difficult for those in government not to take into consideration the charitable works you contributed in your community when you talk to them.

So, now is the time to make sure this year's Annual Report contains last year's most accurate charitable works information. Also, now is the time to ensure next year's charitable works are recorded accurately and timely and is very easily done in CLMS2Web at [Elks.Org](http://Elks.Org). Recording our work properly can ensure our local and state leaders know that *"Elks Care – Elks Share."*

*Go to CLMS2Web at Elks.Org to file complete, accurate report by April 30*

## Donate From Page 1

the program through their bulletins and websites can gain them five points toward attaining All American Lodge status. More incentives will be announced in coming years as the program continues to take shape throughout Elksdom.

Meanwhile, John is left wondering what the future holds for his wife Kathy and their son Jack, 13.

"What can I do next to save enough money to build a college fund? And, Oh my God, who will raise my son? What will I do when my mind starts to go, before my body fails? How can I provide?" he asked.

Doctors tell John the next thing to go will be his driver's license.

"Who will take my son where he needs to go?" John asks.

Kathy asks herself, "Did I sign up for this? Apparently... for better or worse, and this isn't better. What can I do to support my family? And, while I work the hours necessary to bring in the income, who will raise my child?"

Son Jack is confused, bewildered, pressured and afraid.

"Why must I do so much and grow up so fast? Why couldn't I be a kid a little longer? I'm only 13. I'm not ready to be a man, but my Dad may die. What do I do?"

My son and his family's ordeal is not an isolated one.

Should you be facing a loss, and can see past your grief, please consider giving a gift of life. What nobler purpose could there ever be?

"My main concern is for Jack's education and Kathy's well being if I am no longer here," John said. "This disease was not something we caused, expected, or signed on for."

"But...since it's here, we will make the best we can of it, and hope and pray for a transplant."

For information, log onto [donatelife.net](http://donatelife.net).

## State Bulletin Contest I results are announced

Results of the Grand Lodge State Bulletin Contest I for 2013-2014 have been announced. Elks State Associations winning Five Star Awards for their publications were Florida, Kentucky, and Wyoming.

Four Star Award winners were Michigan and New York. Three Star Award winners were Kansas and West Virginia.

– Submitted by Carroll L. Schleeter, Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member



## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

## Inspiration to others, ideas to many

By **JEFFRY L. DURANT**  
Committee Chairman

Did you apply for a Beacon Grant? Did you carry out the objectives and have a successful event? Did you ask the media to publicize the event? How about send 5x7 or 9x12 photos of your Community Project to display at the Grand Lodge Session in New Orleans?

Last year we put up photos and newspaper clippings of your projects in the booth to inspire others with ideas of what can be done with a Beacon Grant. Let's do it again this year! Send photos and clippings to your Area Representative on the Grand Lodge Activities Committee. Contact information is listed at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/roster.cfm>. Please do not send your originals, as they will not be returned. Send your photos no later than June 30 to give committee members a chance to go through them and enlarge, if necessary.

Attendees will be able to see the material posted all over the sides and inside of the booth. It would be a good idea to send copies of your project to your District and State Representative on the Activities Committee, as well. Your project can be spotlighted at the various levels and give other Lodges the jump-start to do a project. Remember, get the idea, plan, carry it out and file the final report. Not a difficult thing to do, but the rewards are tremendous.

Don't throw those articles and photos away! They can always be used in *The Elks Magazine*, your state newsletter or Local Lodge bulletin. Put them up on the Lodge bulletin board. These are avenues to gain members and keep the Lodge in the forefront of your community.

Serve your little corner of this great country by giving back with the Beacon Grant. Apply early and have a project that will make everyone take notice of the Elks and what we do. We can be a beacon or just a bar. We can serve the community or ourselves. The choice is yours. The origin of the Elks was just that, to help those in need, and who better to serve, than those in our own area?

Let's show everyone our purpose. Let's give those coming to the Grand Lodge Convention something to think about. Let's give them something to plan for this next year. Let's give Beacon Grants and your community projects a bright spot at the convention in the Grand Lodge Activities booth.

## Time for new Exalted Rulers to shine!

By **RON OLSON**  
Committee Member

Congratulations, new Exalted Rulers! You are now the focus of your Lodge and members. You should be familiar not only with the Elks Statutes, but with the programs of Grand Lodge.

One way of taking advantage of these programs is through an Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant. Simply select an ongoing, Elks-led Community Project to which your Lodge is committed, such as monthly dinners at a soup kitchen or an annual Veterans Stand Down. The Lodge Secretary then applies for the grant through CLMS2Web at [Elks.Org](http://Elks.Org), or assigns a Grants Coordinator through CLMS2Web.

Keeping the Lodge at the forefront of your community is vital to the Lodge's image and should be utilized to display our good works. The Internet and social media can help in that effort. Remember, positive images promote what we do and stand for.

Does your Lodge participate in the Dictionary Project? This is an easy way for the Lodge to reach out to our youth and possibly open new ways to introduce them and their families to more of our youth programs, including Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness and Soccer. They all can be used to spike parental interests in becoming Members. The possibilities are endless.

Our Student/Teenager of the Month/Year Program is another way of focusing public attention on what we do for high school and junior high school students. Who knows, these individuals may be the recipients of Elks scholarships one of these days. Don't pass this opportunity by. Certificates, suitable for framing and recognizing the selected recipients, are available at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm>.

A certificate of appreciation is never out of line. Has an individual or company done something that benefited the Lodge? If so, why not present them with a certificate that recognizes that deed and offers them our thanks? These too are available at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm>.

Elks also support Scouting. Does the Lodge sponsor a Troop or Pack? Do you have a Scout Troop that assists during Flag Day exercises, a pancake breakfast or some other Lodge activities? If so, perhaps a certificate of participation could be used to encourage more mutually beneficial contributions for both organizations.

You and your Lodge need to be a pro-active force within the community, spreading the news of Elksdom and emphasizing, "*Elks Care – Elks Share.*"

## Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Elks Youth Week slated

By **FRANK SCARPINO**  
Special Contributor

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, scheduled April 26, aims to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Prescription medications play an important role in the health of millions of Americans. But, expired or unused medications often stay in the back of cabinets for months or even years. They can pose significant health hazards to toddlers, teens and even family pets. Some are so potent that even one dose could be fatal if accidentally ingested. Isn't it time to get rid of those

### DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

prescription drugs you have around the house? You certainly don't want to flush them down the drain or toilet anymore. Though you can "take back" medications any day in most areas, this event provides a unified opportunity to surrender unused medications to authorities for destruction. This one-day effort brings national focus on prescription drug abuse. For locations and disposal guidelines go to [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/) or check with your local police.

On another note, as we begin this new Elks year, one of the first activities is Elks National Youth Week, held the first week of May. In supporting this annual

event, the Elks National Drug Awareness Program strives to teach children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevent the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs.

As the nation's largest volunteer drug awareness program, the program relies on volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle by attending all Elks youth events such as Youth Week, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot or Kids Fishing Derby. A Drug Awareness activity should always be included to illustrate the Elks' commitment against youth drug use. Have you started to plan your Drug Awareness event for Youth Week? Check out Elks Kids Zone at <http://elkskidszone.org>.

# Medal of Valor a fitting tribute to fallen soldiers

By James L. Nicholson, PGER  
Commission Vice Chairman

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission is proud to provide Local Lodges the opportunity to present a Medal of Valor to the families of members of our armed services who have paid the ultimate price.

The Medal of Valor is presented posthumously in recognition of the great loss the recipients have suffered. It tells the families the Members of the Local Lodge and all Elks have immortalized their loss in their hearts.

Your Lodge can make a Medal of Valor presentation a part of a Veterans Day or Memorial Day Program. Additionally, the family presentation could

be made part of a special program in your community. Some Lodges integrate the presentation into a Veterans Dinner. Others work jointly with veterans organizations to locate and recognize deserving families.

The Medal of Valor is very attractive, comes in a presentation case and can be engraved with the name of the deceased. The cost is \$8.00 per medal and shipping is included. It can be ordered from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889, or by E-mail at [vets@Elks.Org](mailto:vets@Elks.Org).

Elks remember veterans. It is what we do. What better way to do this than to present a Medal of Valor to deserving family members of those who have made the supreme sacrifice.



**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS  
SERVICE COMMISSION**



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary

*Benevolent and Protective*  
**ORDER OF ELKS**

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**April 2014**

**To: New Exalted Ruler**

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## Hoop Shooters compete, connect, succeed

Elks Hoop Shoot finalists have advanced through local, district, state and regional contests, and are eagerly preparing for the 2014 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals. Mark your calendar for April 12, 2014, when these 72 athletes, ages 8 to 13, will compete in Springfield, MA, for spots on the Hoop Shoot plaque in the Basketball Hall of Fame. Follow the finalists' progress on April 12 by visiting [www.elks.org/hoopshoot](http://www.elks.org/hoopshoot) for live, shot-by-shot results and Twitter commentary.



**ELKS  
NATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**

Leadership Weekend begins April 25, when the top 20 ENF Most Valuable Student scholarship finalists will gather in Chicago to get to know one another and the Elks. During this weekend, the National Scholarship judges will interview each student and select the top winners. Stay tuned to [www.elks.org/enf](http://www.elks.org/enf) that weekend for stories and photos.

After the Leadership Weekend, the ENF will announce the 2014 Most Valuable Student and Legacy Awards scholarship winners. Visit [www.elks.org/enf/scholars](http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars) in late April to welcome the newest members of the Elks family.

## Chicago office accepts Scout awards requests

Requests for Eagle Scout and Girl Scout awards should be mailed: Attn: Patricia Dempsey, Elks National Headquarters, 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889. They may also be emailed to Dempsey at [patriciad@Elks.Org](mailto:patriciad@Elks.Org).

Please include the name of the Scout, Troop number, date of the Court of Honor and address where the certificate is to be mailed.

**CONGRATULATIONS NEW EXALTED RULERS AND LODGE OFFICERS!**

**EXALTED  
RULER**

**LODGE  
SECRETARY**

**LODGE  
TREASURER**

**INNER  
GUARD**

**ESTEEMED  
LEADING  
KNIGHT**

**ESTEEMED  
LECTURING  
KNIGHT**

**ESTEEMED  
LOYAL  
KNIGHT**

**TILER**

**ESQUIRE**

**CHAPLAIN**