



**GRAND
LODGE**

Newsletter

<http://www.elks.org>

Elks Care — Elks Share

June 2014

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Living and giving the American way of life

As Susanne and I prepare for New Orleans, my final trip as your Grand Exalted Ruler, I am reminded of the story from my boyhood I related to you in Reno. How the neighbor's kid and I would often sit near the curb at the intersection of Jackson Avenue and Route 66 in Sapulpa, OK, on warm summer evenings watching the cars go by and thinking about the many places they represented. We dreamed then of visiting those many places, getting to know the people there and learning about their way of life.

Looking back on the almost 12 months and many miles since that July day in Reno, I am struck by how reality far exceeded the dream of that adventure. Wherever the road took us this last year, we were greeted by



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MILLARD C.
PICKERING

generosity and graciousness. We visited big, indeed palatial, Lodges as well as those with modest surroundings and the many in-between. All were passionate about this Order, involved in their communities, proud of their veterans and protective and embracing of their youth. People exhibited genuine affection for each other as well as the stranger, and a willingness to care and share

bigheartedly.

In short, we witnessed first-hand American people living the American Way of Life.

In my efforts to identify the many factors that make Our Order "Distinctively American" in that acceptance speech, I thought I had done a pretty thorough job. It's pretty easy, after all, to connect the Elks to Liberty, Godliness and Community. Yet with every visit this year I learned the inadequacy of that effort. The Order of Elks is literally woven into the fabric of this Country, an integral part, and a reinforcing presence wherever Elks live their lives.

I also thought, after 37 years of membership, that I had a good grasp

Please see **GER**, Page 2

Online reporting & Scouting certificates

As of this writing, 1,971 (99 percent) of Local Lodges had filed their Annual Membership Report, and 1,883 (93 percent) had filed their Annual Charity Reports via CLMS2Web. On behalf of Grand Lodge, I thank you for this.

The Office of the Grand Secretary

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

will issue Grand Exalted Ruler scouting certificates to a Boy Scout who has attained the rank of Eagle Scout or Arrow of Light, and to a Girl Scout who has attained Gold or Silver Award status. The recipients' names, contact and status information must be forwarded by the Lodge or Pack Leader to Grand Lodge.

Requests may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Office of the Grand Secretary. Grand Lodge contact information may be found at Elks.Org or in the Grand Lodge and State Associations directory.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Antlers add to Lodge programs

By **NORMAN C. BEHNKE**
Committee Member Area 5

Lodges looking for ways to increase membership, reach out to the community and support youth programs can get a helping hand by sponsoring an Antlers program.

The Antlers, made up of youth ages 12 to 20, elect their own President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees, and appoint a Sergeant at Arms, Guard and Chaplain. Together they can add a new dimension to any Elks Lodge's community outreach.

Sponsoring Lodges authorize their Exalted Rulers to appoint a five-member Advisory Council to organize an Antlers Lodge. Only 15 people eligible for membership are needed to form an Antlers program.

Antlers members over age 20 become an advisor until their 21st birthday when they may apply for Elks membership.

Between ages 20 and 21 Antlers members do not need to pay dues.

Antlers will be required to hold business meetings similar to those of Elks Lodges, with the opening business session and closing.

The Antlers – created by the then-Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee and approved at the 2002 Grand Lodge Session in Reno – is now a fully functioning program of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee.

Please see **ANTLERS**, Page 2

INSIDE

| | |
|--|---|
| Elks & Scouting: A win-win | 2 |
| Boost your Drug Awareness outreach | 2 |
| Elks partner to Donate Life | 3 |
| The gift that keeps on giving | 3 |
| Committee reports what Elks do | 3 |
| Don't miss out on Freedom Grants | 4 |

GER From Page 1

of what I meant when we adopted the remainder of our theme: *Elks Give*. Yet I barely touched on the length and depth of Elks' generosity. Our goals turned out to be too modest and were far exceeded. In addition, both the quantity and quality of all that you do for the people of this nation also went far beyond our anticipations.

I wish every Member could have this experience. Hopefully the letters we have prepared, articles in the magazine, and the blog have conveyed some sense of how much there is for every Elk to be proud of as a Member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

In short, Elks are Caring and Sharing, Living and Giving the American Way of Life as never before.

May it ever be so.

Thanks to you all, and congratulations on a job well done.

Freedom From Page 4

Final Report Form and receipts, or return unused grant monies, will be ineligible for any future grants, either from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission or the Elks National Foundation.

Guidelines and suggested ideas for Freedom Grant applications can be found at <http://www.elks.org/vets/freedomgrants/>. Our office will also mail or e-mail the guidelines and summaries of the programs of past Freedom Grant recipients upon request.

If you are new to applying for grants, or need some advice, the Elks National Foundation has developed a toolkit to aid Lodges applying for any type of grant. You can find the toolkit at: <http://www.elks.org/enf/Community/toolkit.cfm>. It includes the steps to follow to best serve the veterans or active military personnel in your community.

For information, contact us at vets@elks.org or call (773)755-4736.

Antlers From Page 1

Through the Antlers program, Lodges have often grown in membership as the Antlers age into Elks and their parents become Elks through involvement with their children.

Information needed to establish an Antlers program may be downloaded at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/antlers.cfm>.

Publicity generated through the Antlers and similar programs will enable your community to see that "*Elks Live – Elks Give*."

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**Elks & Scouting: A win-win**

By **CHARLES E. DEVINE**
Committee Member

With the 2013-14 Lodge year nearly behind us and planning for 2014-15 under way, a renewed commitment to Elkdome and Scouting is in order.

If your Lodge already sponsors a Boy or Girl Scout Troop then think of how to expand that sponsorship beyond financial help. Do they have projects that we can assist, or provide a room for meetings? Do we recognize the Scouts' achievements with Eagle Scout or Gold and Silver Girl Scouts awards? Maybe all we have to do is ask the Scout Leader how the Lodge may provide more help.

Many Elks communities still have no opportunity for youth to join a Troop because the Lodge has failed to sponsor one. If your Lodge is not now sponsoring a Troop, why not sponsor one? How better to serve the youth than to be a part of scouting.

The first step is to contact your local or district Scouting unit. They will take it from there and soon let you know if you can be a part of a Troop near you. Your Lodge can fulfill its charitable objectives by sponsoring a Troop.

Most Lodges have a Member who has children involved in Scouting. There is no better way for that Member to become active in the Lodge than by helping that Member with his or

her Troop. Some Troops have young families with friends who are not now Elks. Building members with the same interests is a very good recruiting tool.

Today's Scouts can become future Elks, but Lodges need to engage them now. Start forming relationships with Scouts, and see how it benefits you and your Lodge. Contact your Regional Scouting Chairman to get started.

For those Lodges that are doing the Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold or Silver awards, you need to contact Grand Lodge for a special printed certificate along with the Grand Exalted Ruler's congratulatory letter. To request a Scouting award, email Patricia Dempsey, patriciad@elks.org, in the Grand Lodge Office. Include the recipient's name as it is to appear on the certificate, Troop number, date the award is to be given and the address to which to send the certificate.

The booklet titled "Elks and Scouting Managing Guidelines has been updated and is posted at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/scouting.cfm>. It lists the four Regional Scouting representatives who can help their respective area Lodges. They are excellent resources for information and suggestions on scouting programs for Lodges. Lodges are encouraged to contact them for assistance.

GRAND LODGE DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM**Boost your Drug Awareness outreach**

By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

Looking for some new ideas for your Lodge Drug Awareness Program? If you are planning to attend the 150th Grand Lodge Session in New Orleans in July, you are invited to an open house of the Elks Drug Awareness Program – at 1:30 p.m. Monday, July 14 at the Convention Center, Room 238, after the General Session.

You can meet with the National Directors, several State Chairmen and Special Guests, and share your comments, concerns and ideas regarding the Drug Awareness Program.

Interactive activities, multi-media presentations and door prizes are among the trappings. Any attendee, delegate, Member or non-member guest is invited and welcomed. See the new Marvel Comic *Never Alone*; learn about the

new and exciting Elks Drug Quiz Show coming to a school near you; meet this year's Enrique Camarena Award winner; meet a former Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States and Director of the USA Freedom Corps and learn why he became a member of our Order; and meet one of the national spokespersons who, through a grant from the Drug Awareness Program, could come to your community; meet the vice president of Marvel Entertainment and learn why he is so passionate about the Elks Drug Awareness Program; and much more.

Look for future information regarding this open house, but mark your calendars now! Whether or not you have an active Drug Awareness Program in your Lodge, you'll not want to miss this fantastic opportunity to make it even better! You and your community will be glad you decided to attend.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Elks partner to Donate Life

By KEVIN L. BROUSE
Committee Member

Are you aware that you can potentially save or improve as many as 50 lives as an organ or tissue donor? Many people on waiting lists never receive the gift of life because of the shortage of donors.

Excuses not to donate – such as: I'm too old; I'm not in good health; my family would be upset – seem selfish or silly when someone you care about is on the list.

Neither age nor many medical conditions disqualify you from donating. The decision to use an organ or tissue is based on strict medical criteria from testing and questions. Trust the medical team to make that decision. Many families say that knowing their loved one saved other lives helped them cope with their loss.

I have two step-sons who are alive today only through the generous, loving donations of others' hearts.

Twenty years ago, at 17, Jeremy needed a heart as his was severely damaged by a virus. Seven years later, his twin brother Jeff, whose heart was damaged by the same virus, needed a heart. Those two have given us three of our grandchildren, as life continues through the generosity of others.

Saying you will donate is easy, but the key is to make your wishes known. To ensure that they are carried out, put them in writing and include them in a living will. If someone is designated to make health care decisions on your behalf, make sure he or she knows your wishes. Hospitals normally seek consent from the next of kin before removing organs, but usually are not required to do so if you're registered with your state's donor registry. You need to:

- Register at your state's donor registry
- Designate your choice on your driver's license
- Carry a donor card
- Go to <http://www.livingdonorsonline.org/> and become a living donor. Ask your doctor for details.

The above link is not endorsed by the Elks, but it is a good place to start your research, or find answers to questions.

This life-giving gift costs you nothing, but gives a sick person a chance to have a healthy and continuing life.

Gift that keeps on giving

By ASHLEY BUCKWELL
Committee Member

The Dictionary Project, founded in 1995 to provide a dictionary to every third-grade student in South Carolina, has since grown nationally with some 20 million dictionaries distributed to third-graders in all 50 states.

In 2004 the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks joined this movement, distributing more than 1.2 million dictionaries through 600 participating Lodges since that year.

A dictionary – perhaps the first and most powerful reference tool a child can own – is a companion that assists students as they develop their reading and writing skills. Students benefit from increased self-reliance and resourcefulness when they are able to look up a word for themselves. Most public schools struggle with day-to-day operating costs and are unable to provide dictionaries to individual students. School administrators and teachers appreciate our help.

Elks Lodges may start a Dictionary Project in their communities by contacting elementary school principals to explain the project. Once Lodges have permission to proceed, they obtain the number of third-grade students enrolled in each school to determine the number of dictionaries to order.

If Lodges discover another organization is already providing dictionaries to a given school, remember that next year a new group of third graders will need dictionaries. Contact the other organization and let them know you are willing to work with them on the project. One Lodge, when it found another organization was already distributing dictionaries, discovered that there was a need for Thesauruses in the fourth grade. This was that Lodge's project.

How is your Lodge using your Elks National Foundation grants? The dictionary program is a wonderful community program that can influence the lives of children for many years. One student wrote, "Elks are special people. I would love to be an Elk but I am not old enough. I think it would be fun to be in a club that helps kids. I love my dictionary."

For information go to <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm> or dictionaryproject.org.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Committee ensures government knows what Elks do

By CHARLES HENDRICKS, SR.
Committee Chairman

The question – What do Elks do? – is regularly answered by all Members of our Order. But public information about the Elks is sparse because we do not advertise all of our great works.

How can we fix this? One way is to let everyone know exactly what our Order is achieving in your Lodge and state as well as nationally. Secondly, ask your news media to report on your Lodge activities. Thirdly, let the public know what we do regularly by announcing the amount of funds and time we donate each year.

This is done by having the charitable reports completed each year and sent

to Grand Lodge on time each year. This information is a stepping stone to ensure that the public knows more about us and our good works. Be a contributor to your local news by spelling out these amounts and our charitable activities.

Your Government Relations Committee uses this information when we talk to the local, state and federal agencies about the affairs that impact our Order. We also use it when meeting with politicians to discuss items that might affect our Order.

This information is invaluable to the committees at the Grand Lodge, state and local levels.

Each Elks Member is also a committee member. You can help by talking to your

elected officials about our Order. Send them information about us, and invite them to your Lodge to see for themselves what we do. Your Lodge can host a night where your local elected officials are invited for a tour and discussion. You would be surprised by how much we all have in common.

But lastly, keep in mind your Government Relations Committee is there for you and is very important to our Order. Without it a large gap would exist in the communications between our Order, Lodges and general public. Make sure it is around for a long time. We truly care about Elksdom.

\$2,000 Freedom Grants available to Lodges in 2014-15

By Paul D. Helsel, PGER
Commission Chairman

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission is happy to announce that Freedom Grants of \$2,000 each will again be available to Lodges for 2014-2015. Recognizing the increasing popularity of these Freedom Grants and the innovative service being provided to our veterans and military through them, the Commission will this year award 140 Freedom Grants to Local Lodges that wish to serve veterans or active duty military personnel in their community. That's an increase of 15 grants over 2013-2014. Applications will



be judged on their expected impact on veterans and quality of Lodge support. Lodges can apply online only, from August 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014. Grants will be awarded in September for

events or programs to take place before July 31, 2015.

To best serve your community's veterans or active duty military personnel, while promoting your Lodge and the Elks, we encourage you to use

the Freedom Grant for more than a cash donation. Develop a grant project that involves veterans or active duty military personnel and utilizes Elks volunteers

as much as possible. Freedom Grants can be used for one or more events, as well as combined with grants from the Elks National Foundation to create larger programs having a greater impact.

Either the Lodge Secretary or the designated Lodge Grants Coordinator may apply for a Freedom Grant.

Before applying, be ready to describe your program, its expected impact (what need you hope to meet), and a projected budget. If your Lodge receives a Freedom Grant, you will have to complete a Final Report Form after the event has taken place, and return it to ENVSC headquarters along with grant-related receipts. Lodges that do not return the

Please see **FREEDOM** Page 2

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary

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June 2014

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Boost your community!

– Apply for an ENF Impact Grant of up to \$10,000 to start an Elks-driven community project! Visit www.elks.org/enf/community for information, including tips on planning an Impact Grant project. Online-only applications, available June 17, are due at noon Central Time on September 2. Start brainstorming local needs with Members of your Lodge today!



we're featuring a session on Sunday called Midday. In this talk-show format, Director Jim O'Kelley will interview current and former Elks scholars about their experiences with the Elks. In addition, we will hold two Impact Grant workshops, sessions on Beacon Grant Basics and How to Host a Hoop Shoot, office hours and more. For a complete schedule of the ENF in New Orleans, visit www.elks.org/enf. You can also follow us during Convention week on Twitter using #ENFCares or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/elksnationalfoundation.

**ELKS
NATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

Prayers for Elks events

Elks Lodge Chaplains who never know when they may be called upon to say a prayer can turn to the Rev. Father Kevin Cassidy's two-volume prayer book set, Elks Chaplain Prayers and More Elks Chaplain Prayers.

The books can be bought as a set for \$16 or singly for \$8, including shipping. Make out your check to Father Kevin Cassidy. His address from October to June is 10518 Bright Angel Circle, Sun City, AZ 85351-2244. July-September his address is P.O. Box 391, Mauston, WI 53948.

Hey Dad...



Happy Father's Day!

Grand Lodge Convention Next Month!



**Elks
Flag Day Ceremony**

