



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care – Elks Share*



## Meeting the needs of veterans and military members

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission was established in 1946, immediately after World War II, with the sole mission of “Serving Our Nations Veterans.” Though much has changed since then, the Elks’ dedication to serve our veterans and military members in need has never changed.

Recently, I traveled to Washington, D.C., the epicenter of the military and veterans’ affairs government agencies. Joined by Past Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Helsel and Government Relations team members Shawn Bullard and Jennifer Naaden, we met with top military and veteran officials. In these meetings, I received resounding gratitude and admiration for the Elks’ service to the military and veterans.



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MICHAEL  
F. ZELLEN

The leaders asked the Elks to join them in addressing two challenges. First, numerous veterans are struggling to find employment. Frequently employers misunderstand a veteran’s skill set and how to utilize it. This confusion has led to an increase of homeless veterans.

Second, there is a lack of awareness among the National Guard Bureau of the Elks’ programs available for their

members, veterans and their families.

How can your Lodge alleviate these problems? The answer will vary Lodge to Lodge, but here are some ideas. Your Lodge could facilitate career fairs, host workshops for business leaders on translating a veteran’s skills into success, and provide veterans with professional skills training. Additionally, your Lodge could provide scholarships for veterans to further their education.

Since the onset of the War on Terror, National Guard members have been called to serve at an unprecedented rate. This has created difficulties for soldiers and their families. Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau Lieutenant

Please see GER, Page 3

## E-mail Lodge bulletin with Members’ OK

**Section 1.115 Notice:** “Except as otherwise directed by Executive Order, any notice required to be sent or mailed to all Members of the Lodge may be included in the Lodge Bulletin or sent electronically to any Member who has given written authorization to receive notices electronically. Notice which is required to be served upon a specific Member must be served personally, by United States Mail or by United States Mail, Certified, Return Receipt Requested as specifically provided.”

### GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

The Grand Secretary’s Office has seen an increase in inquiries about e-mailing the Lodge Bulletin to save the Lodge money. Yes, a Lodge can e-mail the Lodge Bulletin to a Member “who has given written authorization to receive notices electronically,” the Statute says. Consequently, a Lodge cannot mandate all Members will receive the bulletin via e-mail without the Members’ authorization.

### GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

## All American Lodges announced

By **ASHLEY BUCKWELL**  
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has announced the winners of the All American Lodge Contest “A” for 2016-17.

In Division 1, the first-, second- and third-place winners, respectively, are Raceway, AZ Lodge 2852; Cedar Grove, NJ Lodge 2237; and Houston, TX Lodge 151

In Division 2, Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge 782; Salem, IL Lodge 1678; and Mena, AR Lodge 781

In Division 3, Columbia, MO Lodge 594; Manahawkin, NJ Lodge 2340; and Wilkins, PA Lodge 577

In Division 4, Apache Junction, AZ Lodge 2349; Kelso-Longview WA Lodge 1482; and Fayetteville-Springdale, AR Lodge 1987

In Division 5, Orange, CA Lodge 1475; Palm Coast, FL Lodge 2709; and Deep

Creek, FL Lodge 2763

In Division 6, Sun City, AZ Lodge 2559; Lake Havasu City, AZ Lodge 2399; and Santa Maria, CA Lodge 1538

We also wish to recognize all competing Lodges. Your applications prove that “*Elks Care – Elks Share*”. We encourage all Lodges to use the contest form as a guide to a successful year, impacting the communities in which you live, assisting veterans and working with our youth.

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**Process Payment**

Wizard: Process Dues Payment for James Zozzaro (#000014)

Membership dues currently paid to: 04/01/2017 **[Delinquent]**

Please submit this form to record regular One Year Dues Payment allocations. Note that submission of dues payments through this form will advance this member's "paid-to" date, regardless of the amounts submitted. If this is not what you want to do, [click here to cancel](#).

Transaction Date: 04/14/2017 (mm/dd/yyyy)

Check Number:

Description	Amounts Paid	Default Amounts	Assisted
Life - Current Dues:	25.00	25.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
Life - Current GL Per Capita:	6.50	6.50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
Life - Current GL Insurance:	4.00	4.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
Life - Current The Elks Magazine Per Capita:	5.50	5.50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
Life - Current State Fees 1:	2.00	2.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
BULLETIN BOOSTER:	0	10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:	0	10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
LODGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND:	0	10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
ARMY OF HOPE:	0	10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Lodge Assisted
Expected payment total:	43.00		

Submit Payment

## GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

## Process delinquencies quickly

Lodge Secretaries can help stem the tide of delinquencies that is holding back the BPOE's efforts to boost membership.

Almost all of our 18-month delinquencies are caused by the Lodge Secretaries not fully understanding the process on CLMS to ASSIST and waive dues from hardships.

Here is the process:

- Open CLMS2Web.
- Select "Process Dues Payment"

- Select "Member"
- Select "1 year Payment"
- Click in the box marked "Lodge Assisted"

■ Click "Submit Payment"

That's all there is to renewing a delinquency. Now see how quickly you can turn a delinquency into a membership in good standing. Good luck!

– Submitted by Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership and Public Relations Manager

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

## Dressing for success applies to BPOE Members as well

By DALE E. NIELSON  
Committee Member

Leading by example is a very good way to begin your Lodge year. The Exalted Ruler, Officers and Members are the Lodge. How they present themselves will reflect on all Elks, not just on their Lodge.

Some Members like to dress down to avoid standing out in the crowd. But all Elks should be "*Loud and be Proud.*" Let the public realize you are an Elk and helping the community.

You don't need a jacket and tie to process deer hides but it would help you stand out when ringing bells for the Salvation Army or volunteering at your Veterans Hospital. Others will recognize you as an Elk and realize the Elks are helping their community. Dressing up for handing out dictionaries to third-graders will impress not only the students but also the faculty to make future relations with the schools easier.

Thanks to those Lodges that have proposed Members for the Marvin M. Lewis Awards. All the applicants are worthy but we only present awards for each of the four Boy Scout regions. Judges are now determining the winners to be announced July 17 at Grand Lodge Session in Reno. If you are active in your Scouting program please join us in recognizing the winners. All Elks and guests are invited.

## Veterans From Page 4

Lodge 391 writes about their Freedom Grant project, "The reaction from the Lodge was tremendous. Newark Elks really want to help their area vets, and we had Members who don't normally

## End of school a good time to start Youth Activities

By PAUL A. GALARNEAU  
Committee Member

As the school year is ending, it's a good time to implement many of the Youth Programs for our communities.

As previously stated, the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. We must provide opportunities and organize pastimes that will enhance their future. Many youth programs of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee can provide those opportunities, including: Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, sponsoring Scouting groups for both boys and girls, the Antlers Program, Student/Teenager of the Month program, the Dictionary Project and the Junior Golf Program.

Remember, an Eagle Scout certificate, letter from the GER and an Elks and Scouting pin are available upon request from the Elks National Headquarters in Chicago. It is always appropriate to present a large or small flag to the recipient Boy or Girl Scout. The Girl Scout Silver and Gold awards are also available from the Chicago office, along with a congratulatory letter from Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Zellen.

For last-minute award presentations,

participate in Lodge activities help with this project. They were happy to donate items and money."

More information, including guidelines, frequently asked questions, project ideas and more can be found on the Freedom Grant webpage at [elks.org/cip/grants/FreedomGrants.cfm](http://elks.org/cip/grants/FreedomGrants.cfm).

Lodges may also create their own program, such as a bicycle rodeo or dodge ball tournament. Consider sponsoring an after-prom party at your Lodge. Summer is also a great time to start a youth golf outing or league.

Any youth activity that will entertain our children as well as expose them and their families to what the Elks stand for and do for our communities will also help us in signing up new Members.

All Youth Activities sponsored by your Lodge should be well planned, and selecting qualified chairpersons is crucial to their success.

So as summer begins I hope all of you have a safe and healthy season, and that you keep making a positive impact on our communities and youth.

fillable certificates are available online at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm> under the "Grand Lodge Student Recognition Program" link. You can fill in the recipient's name and print them for distribution.

The Youth Activities Programs Manual is also available online at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/>. It is updated as needed. (To report changes, please email the committeeman in charge of the portion of the manual that needs changed.)

Take pictures of your events, write articles about them and submit them to *The Elks Magazine* for possible publication. While it appears that fewer Lodges are submitting articles, it is nice to read what other Lodges are doing, which can give other Lodges ideas for events.



# Elks' charitable giving appears ahead of last year's

By SEAN MAGUIRE  
Committee Member

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has just completed another Lodge year and, although all the numbers are not yet in, it appears we have had another successful year in our charitable efforts.

It amazes me how the BPOE steps up over and over again in support of our children, veterans and those less fortunate within our local communities.

As I read the reports and see the numbers our volunteers produce annually, it makes my heart swell with pride in being an Elk!

Our Members, spouses, family and friends work hard in the Local Lodges with many hours devoted to our charitable endeavors. All this hard work should not be ignored in our charitable reporting.

Think about what activities you have been involved in this past year and think of what it took to pull them off. Were all the hours exerted to make these activities

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

a success reported? Make sure each chairperson has reported completely on each activity, including every Member and helper who has helped complete the activity. Any cash or non-cash donations, hours worked and miles driven by each volunteer should be included.

In 2015-16, our Order reported \$282,160,455 in cash and non-cash contributions, hours worked and miles traveled. Although an increase over the previous year, your Government Relations Committee feels many activities were left unreported.

We met with state Government Relations Committee chairs in Chicago last fall. It is felt that not only did many Lodge activities go unreported, but many district, state and national activities were left either unreported or under-reported.

We agreed that if we all worked together toward 100 percent reporting, we would have a substantial increase in

2016-17.

If you have any questions concerning what should or should not be reported, please check with your State Chairperson.

It's often said "the job's not over 'til the paperwork is done." Once the Elks have done the work, it's important that we report that all volunteer hours, miles driven, and all cash and non-cash contributions.

We all know how much hard work is involved in the organizing these activities. Report this information as well. All volunteers deserve recognition for their contribution, small or large, in the success of an event. Make every effort to achieve 100 percent reporting.

Be *loud and proud* in the sharing of these reports.

Thank you again for your commitment to our children, military veterans and local communities. We look forward to another successful year of "*Elks – Leading The Way.*" Keep up the great work showing that "*Elks Care – Elks Share!*"

## GER From Page 1

General Hokanson asked for greater collaboration between National Guard units and Local Lodges.

Hokanson has shared information on the Elks' programs, encouraging his Adjutant Generals to form relationships with Local Lodges. I ask every Lodge to reach out to your local National Guard unit and engage it on how to best support the soldiers and their families.

Look for more details of my D.C. trip in the July/August edition of *The Elks Magazine* for more about the new partnerships with congressional, administration and military leaders.

May God bless our veterans and the men and women who serve in the military worldwide, and may God bless America. They will all be in the line of duty, and some of them may give their lives in that duty.

Thank you for *Caring* and for continuing to demonstrate that, "*Elks are Leading the Way.*"

– Follow our travels at <https://travelsofgermikezellen.wordpress.com/>

## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# Americanism Essay Contest winners

By ROBERT E. DRISKO  
Committee Member

Judging has been completed for the 2016-17 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest, which addressed the question, "Why is it Important to Vote?"

Thirty-five State Associations participated again this year, 18 percent fewer from the high of 43 that participated in 2014-15.

Here are the 2016-17 winners, the schools they attend and the Lodges they represent:

### Division I (fifth and sixth grades):

First: Ava Francis, Tesoro del Valle School, Santa Clarita, CA Lodge 2379

Second: Molly Disharoon, Grandview Middle School, Hickory, NC Lodge 1654

Third: Avery J. Scott-Fudge, Twin Lakes Elementary, Coeur d'Alene, ID Lodge 1254

### Division II (seventh and eighth grades):

First: Taylor Bessent, Circle Middle School, Eldorado, KS Lodge 1407

Second: Zara Zervos, Sherrard Middle School, Wheeling, WV Lodge 28

Third: Julia Schwartz, Alliance Middle School, Alliance, OH Lodge 467

Congratulations to the national and state winners, and to all the participating students and schools. My thanks to the Local Lodges

that made the effort to include the contest in their respective schools' curriculum.

The award plaques will be on display July 15-17 at the Fraternal Committee booth at the Grand Lodge Session in Reno. State Association Presidents or designated representatives may pick up their plaques for presentation to the students back in their home states.

The theme for the 2017-18 contest will be: "*Why our Veterans are American Heroes.*"

Let's all get the word out to schools, and set a participation goal of at least 45 State Associations.

**Outstanding Service Award and Special Citations** – Once again, Exalted Rulers' requests for both the Grand Exalted Rulers' Outstanding Service Award and Special Citations appear to be down nationally this year.

Exalted Rulers may recognize two outstanding Lodge Members who have demonstrated that "*Elks Care – Elks Share.*" By doing so you have taken steps to further motivate your Members who have helped you achieve a successful year in Elksdom. Do not miss this opportunity!

Requests for both awards for 2017-18 are to be mailed to your Area GL Fraternal Committee Member by March 31, 2018.

*Thanks to the Local Lodges that made the effort to include the contest in their respective schools' curriculum*

# Summer means it's time to apply for Freedom Grant

By **MARY K. MORGAN**  
Commission Director

June is here and summer is just around the corner! Summer means different things to different people: sunblock and swimming to some, backyard grilling for others, and a few months of freedom for teachers and students.

Speaking of freedom, July 1 is just around the corner too and that means it's almost Freedom Grant season! Freedom Grants go online July 1 and close at noon Central Time July 31. Make sure your summer plans include submitting an application.

Not sure where to start? Here are a few

projects that were approved last year:

- Elks at Eugene, OR, Lodge 357 partnered with the Veterans Administration to bring dental care to veterans attending the annual Stand Down. In addition to helping with organization and buying supplies, Elks staffed the full-day event, processed all the paperwork, assisted veterans and coordinated appointments.

- Raleigh, NC, Lodge 735 partnered with Project Healing Waters to provide fly fishing supplies to veterans in recovery. Elks hosted meals during winter and provided space for veterans to learn to build their own fly fishing equipment.

- Lake Hopatcong, NJ, Lodge 782

holds a year-long Operation Outreach program, with a Thanksgiving dinner and summer picnic for homeless veterans and veterans with disabilities. They also provide handmade blankets, clothing and personal care items to the veterans.

As these projects show, a good Freedom Grant project consists of a few things. First, Elks participation is a must. Direct interaction with veterans and/or military families is even better. Ongoing projects that reach a large number of veterans are great. Finally, outreach to veterans in need is essential.

Remember, a good project can also energize your Lodge! Rebecca Underhill, grant project manager for Newark, OH,

Please see **VETERANS**, Page 2

**BRYAN R. KLATT**, Grand Secretary  
**Benevolent and Protective  
ORDER OF ELKS**

2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889



**June 2017**

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## How Drug Awareness Program can aid community

By **TIM JAEGER**  
Assistant Director

The Elks Drug Awareness Program will hold its fourth annual Breakout Session at the Elks National Session from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 18 in Room C1 of the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Ask anyone who has attended in prior years and they will tell you it was one of the highlights of the convention. Each year the session ends up standing room only, so plan to come early to get a good seat. Among the

exciting developments:

- The newly released comic book, "What Heroes Do."

- Challenge coins – the only way to get them is to come to this session.

- Meet Mrs. Enrique Camarena and get your souvenir postcard signed.

- Meet some DEA special agents who partner with the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

- Meet and hear our National youth speaker, Ray Lozano, deliver a message.

- Learn about poster, video and essay contest winners and how your Lodge can get involved.

- Meet special guest Jay Scott, the father of Alex of Alex's Lemonade Stands.

- Learn about new developments regarding Kids Zone, Teen Zone and the Drug Quiz Show.

- There will be some additional surprise guest speakers and, of course, some great door prizes.

Don't miss this event. It will be among the best two hours you spend in Reno.

**GRAND LODGE  
DRUG  
AWARENESS  
PROGRAM**

HEY  
DAD...



HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!

Grand Lodge  
Convention  
Next Month!

