



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



Youth programs: One way to strengthen Elksdom

The kids are back in school, fall weather is upon us, football is well underway, and Lodges across the country are about halfway through the fraternal year. The start of a new season always brings with it the promise of change, which is why I suggest you use this month as a checkpoint of your progress as a Lodge. Take this time to evaluate what you have already accomplished, review your goals for the next several months, implement any changes necessary to finish with a successful year come March and make our 150th year of Elksdom the best yet.

One great area to focus on is your youth programs. A large part of “*Strengthening Elksdom Through Community Awareness*” is investing in the young people in our areas — they truly are the future of the Elks.

With school still fresh in kids’ minds,



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MALCOLM J.
McPHERSON JR.

think about your scholarship programs and begin to identify candidates in your Lodge to nominate for local, state and national awards. It’s important that we honor our hardworking students and guide them to a bright future.

In addition, local Hoop Shoot contests should be taking place at Lodges across the country. This program is a fantastic way for our youngest future Elks to challenge themselves both mentally and physically, and learn that

hard work and practice do reap rewards. Rally your eligible children to participate — you may have a national champion in your midst!

Finally, now is the time to motivate your children in grades fifth through eighth to submit essays for the Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. This exercise promotes the Elks’ core value of patriotism while also encouraging young people to express their opinions and creativity.

These programs, as well as the many initiatives Elks are doing at the local and state levels, are all excellent ways we can ensure the Order of the Elks is thriving for the next 150 years.

I’m eager to hear about your Lodge progress on my visits and perhaps even meet some of your incredible youth. See you soon!

We need Local Lodges to give us your history for 150th celebration

The BPOE, which is celebrating 150 years of service over the next year, is asking for your help in uploading on the Elks.Org website, any photographs, newspaper articles, community service projects and any other documents

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

that provide a historical background of your Lodge. We will compile

and archive the uploaded documents to show the rich history of our Lodges, membership and accomplishments. Don’t be excluded. Learn more at www.Elks.Org/History on our website

REMINDER: November 5 marks the automatic filing date of our semi-annual Membership Report via CLMS2Web. Lodge Secretaries must make every effort to ensure your Lodge CLMS2 membership records are current by that date.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

No rest for the weary after Reno

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Assistant Director

One might think that after months of planning a two-day training seminar for State Drug Awareness Chairs and a two-hour open-house workshop for convention-goers at the National Grand Lodge Session in Reno that the Elks Drug Awareness Committee can take a little breather.

“Nothing could be further from the truth,” Elks Drug Awareness National Director Kent Gade said, indicating that the months following the Grand Lodge Session are some of the busiest for the Drug Awareness Program.

In addition to getting State Chairs ready for the beginning of a new school year, which includes ordering school-requested materials and rolling out the new DAP comic book, “*What Heroes Do*” (used in schools’ health classes), State Chairs are busy lining up dates for the Elks’ DAP Tour featuring nationally recognized speaker Ray Lozano, an Elk himself. State Chairs are also busy setting up Poster,

Video and Essay Contests, which run throughout the year, depending upon school calendars and teachers’ wishes.

“There’s a lot more happening in the fall,” said Gade, adding that this is the time for such things as the Red Ribbon celebration and the Enrique S. Camarena Award. The Red Ribbon celebration recognizes the everyday sacrifices that law enforcement officers, firefighters and other first responders make to keep our children safe.

“This celebration started back in 1985, when DEA Agent Enrique S. Camarena

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Blow the membership door down for Elks' 150th!

By **RICK GATHEN**

Membership and Marketing Manager

From April through August we have added approximately 30,000 new Members and reinstatements. We have more than 11,000 candidates anxiously awaiting initiation. They want to be Elks so let's make it happen *now*! This gives us the potential to be more than 50 percent of our national goal in September.

Keep focused on recruitment, reinstatements and scheduling frequent initiations. *Blow the Door Down* by inviting friends and family to join our ranks. We must put membership at the forefront of everything we do. By focusing on membership growth in your Lodge, you are focused on the future of your Lodge and our Order. Invest in your Lodge by growing membership especially during 2017-18, the Elks' 150th anniversary!

**GRAND LODGE
MEMBERSHIP
AND
MARKETING**

Drops require written notice

Exalted Rulers and Lodge Secretaries are reminded that written notice is required before a Member can be dropped for nonpayment of dues.

A Member is deprived of a substantial right of membership without due process of law when the Lodge seeks to drop him/her from the Lodge rolls without first strictly adhering to the requirements contained in Section 14.160 of the Grand Lodge Statutes Annotated.

Please review *all* required steps before a delinquent member shall be dropped from the rolls.

— Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge
Membership and Marketing Manager

We have nearly 90 percent of *all* Members paid and posted on the Chicago Lodge Membership System at the end of August. Outstanding work! With

continued hard work we can attain our next goal of 95 percent (or lower) delinquency by October 31. Please use the targeted delinquency letters we have prepared for you on CLMSPC2.

In addition, all delinquent Members should be called and/or personally visited in September. Please review all delinquent Members who may be worthy of Lodge assistance and kept on the rolls.

We have many deserving Members who are suffering with health setbacks, advanced-age challenges and severe financial hardships. Charity is greatest of all the virtues and Elks Charity begins at home.

Remember, "Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken." Please review each and every unpaid Member with your Lodges. *Every Member matters!*

Every Member you can save and every new Member initiated/reinstated brings us closer to our goal of a Membership increase. *Your leadership matters.*

DAP From Page 1

was brutally kidnapped and murdered in the line of duty," Gade said. "A childhood friend, Henry Lozano, also an Elk, along with California Congressman Duncan Hunter, created 'Camarena Clubs,' and from that came the Red Ribbon celebration."

During the next few months, State Drug Awareness Chairs will ask individual Lodges to nominate someone in their area of service for the Enrique S. Camarena Award.

"This is the most prestigious Award the DAP has to offer," Gade said, noting that along with recognizing an individual in law enforcement, the community where that officer worked is also presented with a life-sized bust of Agent Camarena.

"We don't want anyone to forget the sacrifice that 'Kiki' made to this country," Gade added.

But the work doesn't stop there.

"We're going Hollywood!" Gade exclaimed. He said that through hard work of the DAP directors and the PGER sub-committee, the program has united with the DEA.

With assistance from the Elks National Foundation and former Marvel executive Robert Samboni, the Elks DAP has negotiated a contract with SMOSH to create an anti-drug message, which will be viewed by more than 6 million teenagers!

Gade noted that this has been a dream of his for the past decade.

SMOSH is an American sketch-comedy YouTube channel. As of August, the SMOSH channel has more than 6 billion video views and 22 million subscribers, making it the 12th most subscribed channel on YouTube.

"We will now be able to reach children and teens all over the country," remarked Gade. "If kids didn't know the name 'Elks' before, they certainly will now!"

So if you thought the Elks Drug Awareness Program could take a little rest after Reno...think again!

GRAND LODGE DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

DEA forges ties with Elks as drug epidemic worsens

By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

Acting Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Chuck Rosenberg – a guest of the Drug Awareness Program at the Elks National Convention in Reno in July – had a grim message in an address to convention delegates.

"More than 59,000 people die a year of drug overdoses, and it's going to get worse," he said, warning that while heroin addiction is already a nationwide epidemic, a synthetic opioid called fentanyl is 50 times as bad and is becoming increasingly popular.

"We can't enforce, interdict and incarcerate our way out of this one," said Rosenberg. "We have to change our culture, and that's where good men and women like yourselves can help."

Rosenberg, the highest-level U.S. government official to

attend a Grand Lodge Convention in decades, noted two key areas where Elks can help fight the opioid epidemic.

This call for help was also repeated by Sean Fearn, DEA chief of Community Outreach who spoke at the Drug Awareness

Seminar at the Reno convention. As four of five heroin addicts get their start on prescription pain medicines, and most pain medicine addicts get their pills from people who have received

them legitimately, a good way to help is to eliminate unneeded pain medications from people's medicine cabinets. The DEA runs nationwide Prescription Drug Take-back Days twice yearly, and Elks can help by publicizing these days and volunteering to assist with local take-back efforts.

The next Take-back day is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 28. Check

"We have to change our culture, and that's where good men and women like yourselves can help."

**Acting DEA Chief
Chuck Rosenberg**

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Let's shoot for \$1 million a day in charitable giving

By **THOMAS J. WIDZINSKI**
Committee Member

Have our Members done enough?

At this year's National Convention in Reno, NV, we found that our charitable reporting rose from \$282,160,455 in 2015-16 to \$334,292,982 in 2016-17, an 18 percent increase.

Congratulations to all those who helped make that number grow. We can't break that down to find out if those numbers represented new activities within our Lodges, or just the fact that we got better in reporting the many things we do. We suspect it's probably some of both. In any case it really doesn't matter.

The fact is the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recorded an increase in our charitable efforts. With that, we must ask ourselves, is that enough? How many times have we neglected to accurately record all of

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

the many things we do for those in our communities?

The Government Relations Committee believes we still continue to under-report our giving. It's just a matter of how much. For 2017-18 we're trying to record \$365,000,000 in charitable giving or \$1,000,000 each day! Can you help us achieve our goal?

Most Elks are dedicated to the many ways we improve the lives of those of our communities. We see things that need to be improved, and we set about to accomplish them. We've done that for decades. It's become a way of life.

Let me challenge you with this thought. It has now become extremely important that we document all of the time we spend each and every day in service to our Order. How important is

our record keeping? Could it possibly be just as important as the work itself? If we looked at it in that respect, I think we would take that extra time to make sure we are accurate in what we do. That must be a commitment that each of us must make.

If our efforts through our liaison in Washington are to be successful, then we must also put forth the effort to assist in everything we can do. We realize we are not able to completely overcome the under-reporting of the past, but we must all put forth the effort to improve the future.

Can we count on you? As dedicated Elks, I know what the answer will be! If each of us would contribute, we can make that goal of \$1,000,000 per day become a reality. I'm in! How about you? Make reporting as much of a priority as our charitable efforts!

Elks selling 150th items through D. Turin

Local Lodges wanting to use the Elks' 150th Anniversary logo for stock and customized items, may do so through D. Turin Company. The Elks have granted D. Turin the exclusive rights to distribute the logo.

The D. Turin Company contact is David Plask, who may be reached at (305) 825-2004, ext. 312; or david@dturin.com.

DEA From Page 2

the DEA website (dea.gov) for take-back sites in your community and encourage your Lodge Members to help spread the word in your community to take this opportunity to dispose of their old or unused medications.

A second way Elks can help is through interactions with young people. Rosenberg pointed out that "If you don't start by the time you turn 25, odds are nearly zero you will ever become addicted."

Therefore, the Elks' existing youth-oriented Drug Awareness Program is a great start, and two additional resources available from the DEA include an educational curriculum available from www.operationprevention.com and the movie "Chasing the Dragon," a hard-hitting documentary produced by the DEA and FBI that reveals the true costs of heroin and opioid addiction.

For years, the DEA has focused on enforcing the nation's controlled substances laws, and on bringing to the criminal and civil justice system those organizations involved in the growing, manufacture or distribution of controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States.

According to Fearn, the DEA can no longer ignore prevention – "without it we cannot keep up and we will lose the fight," and the work that the Elks do is vital to help the DEA do their job.

NOTE: Other DEA websites for parents, teachers, and students: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov and www.justthinktwice.gov

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

What project is your Lodge doing to make a difference in your town?

By **DAVID B. LAKE**
Committee Member

I want to share with you what some Lodges are doing in their communities:

■ Lompoc, CA Lodge 2274 hosted a party for about 45 children and adults with special needs and more than 100 well-wishers. The event featured lunch, balloon art, music provided by a DJ, games and safety demonstrations by police and firefighters. The event was held with the help of a \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant.

■ Liberty, NY Lodge 1545 held a Christmas party for more than 250 needy children. The event was held with the help of a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant.

■ Weiser, ID Lodge 1683 used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to sponsor a Youth Bowling League that met for eight weeks.

■ Brockport, NY Lodge 2110 used part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to purchase backpacks and school supplies for 48 needy elementary school students.

■ Barre, VT Lodge 1535 used part of a \$2,000 Elks National Veterans Service Commission Freedom Grant to provide Welcome-Home Kits filled with linens, pillows, coffee machines, kitchen ware and other home supplies to eight veterans who were moving out of a residential facility for recently homeless veterans, and into their own housing.

■ Covington, GA Lodge 1806 used a \$2,500 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate 1,600 dictionaries to local third-graders.

Is your Lodge taking advantage of the grants

that are available from ENF and ENVSC for your Lodge's Community Project(s)? A special 2017-18 Anniversary Grant worth \$1,500 is available. It's an opportunity to do more in your community and to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of our Order.

Please make sure your Lodge applies for this grant. By using the available grants for Community Projects in our communities we can achieve our GER McPherson's theme "Strengthening Elksdom through Community Awareness."

**ENF, ENVSC
grants available
for community
projects**

Befriending a vet in need can make a huge difference

By **MARY K. MORGAN**
Commission Director

When it comes to veterans' issues, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed. Hearing about the high rate of veteran suicides, the difficulties of comprehensive medical care and understanding ever-changing benefits can leave some volunteers feeling like there's not much they can do to help.

However, a new study shows that it might be much easier than we thought to help.

Researchers at the University of Chicago and California show that improving health for veterans, especially older veterans, is something with which

anyone can help.

The study shows that patients who reported higher rates of social isolation had worse health than expected.

On the other hand, patients with the same health issues who reported lower rates of social isolation and closer ties with family and friends, had better health than expected.

The only difference between the groups was more frequent contact and connection with other people.

Good relationships and regular social interaction can improve physical health.

This study, which builds on previous research, affirms what many Adopt-A-Veteran volunteers have known: A small

amount of your time can be invaluable to a veteran in need.

This is the perfect time to get involved with Adopt-A-Veteran. And it's so easy to begin! Visit a local Veterans Administration facility, State Veterans Home, nursing home or transitional facility to connect with a local veteran in need. Then, simply be a friend.

Visit with them each month. Call them to check in and talk. Send a card on their birthday. Invite them to the Lodge for dinner. Watch a football game together. Reach out to them not just on holidays and special occasions, but in other times when much of the population isn't thinking about veterans.

Your support and friendship can make a huge difference in their life.



BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
**Benevolent and Protective
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GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Contest 'I' aimed at improving quality of state bulletins

By **THOMAS SHELTON**
Committee Member

The importance of State Association bulletins is to inform the Local Lodges within your state what is happening with your State Association, as well as what all local Lodges are doing in their respective communities. The bulletins also provide a forum where Lodges can acquire ideas to better improve their own community activities and public relations.

The effort that each editor puts into his or her publication deserves to be rewarded. Please consider submitting your state's bulletin by following these contest rules:

■ Enclose three copies of any two issues of your state bulletin, newspaper or newsletter published in the calendar year 2017 (January 1 to December 31).

■ Judging will be based on: Content, 0-100; layout and typography, 0-50; pictorial, 0-25; and General, 0-25

■ Please do not submit your entries in bulky notebooks or binders.

Awards will be Five, Four and Three Stars, mailed to the State President for presentation at a state meeting or function. (Submissions must be postmarked by January 15, 2018. NOTE: State Association contest due date may differ.)

Mail entries to: Thomas Shelton, 1304 W. Timberview Road, Nixa, MO 65714-7193; Martyselton77@aol.com



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