



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care – Elks Share*



## Celebrating a storied past and a bright future

February can be cold and dreary but it is a bright, optimistic time for Elks. This month we celebrate the birthday of our Order, which began 150 years ago on February 16, 1868.

While Elks will mark this significant milestone in our history throughout the year, with special events in San Antonio this July, I urge you all to take the time this month to celebrate your Lodge's contributions to the Order, as well as reflect on our mission as Elks and the future of this organization.

Amidst these celebrations, some of you will prepare to leave your positions as officers as our fraternal year nears its end, while others will consider starting a new journey as leaders in their Lodges.



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MALCOLM J.  
McPHERSON JR.

No matter your path, the success of your Lodge relies on this leadership, both past and present.

Retiring officers, your knowledge, contributions, and experience will live on as a valuable resource to those who come after you. New officers, take inspiration from your

predecessors to impact positive change and make your own mark on your Lodge.

Both past and current leaders must come together to engage Members and set Lodge goals, and there is no better time to do so than this pivotal anniversary time. As I blow out the candles on the Elks birthday cake this year, it is my wish that each and every Lodge continues to spread our causes of charity, education, and Americanism that our founding Members established. What is your Elks birthday wish?

During our travels in the coming months, Pat and I look forward to meeting more Members of this incredible organization and seeing how you are strengthening Elksdom in your communities as we embark on the next 150 years and beyond.

## Deadline announced for Lodge Committee Chairpersons Report

After the election of Lodge Officers in February and before April 15, the Secretary must complete the 2018-2019 Lodge Committee Chairpersons Report in CLMS2Web and confirm acceptance.

In January, to assist in compiling the needed information, a worksheet was mailed to the Secretary. Remember: This information is to be filed via CLMS2Web. Please, do not mail to Grand

### GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

Lodge or your District Deputy.

With the pending automatic submission of the Annual Membership Report, all membership activity must be completed by midnight March 31.

What does that mean? All membership records need to be finalized. All adds, drops and deaths must be entered into CLMS2Web before that time. If not, the Lodge membership total will be out of balance.

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

## PVSAs honor those who give back

By KENT D. GADE  
National Director

The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is our country's premier volunteer awards program, encouraging citizens to live a life of service through national recognition and presidential gratitude. The award is presented through the office of the President of the United States of America and the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

The Elks Drug Awareness Program presents lifetime PVSAs to adults who have volunteered 4,000 or more hours over their lifetime. To date, more than 2,000 volunteers nationwide have been recognized for their service. I feel it is very important to reward and recognize our Elks and community volunteers. You do not have to be an Elk to receive this award.

The Youth PVSAs are new to the Elks Drug Awareness Program. The volunteer hours required for a Youth Award are:

- Ages 5-10: 75 minimum
- Ages 11-15: 100 minimum
- Ages 16-25: 250 minimum

These awards are a great opportunity to recognize the amazing volunteer work that

the youth of your community are involved in. One great source of potential candidates come from the students who apply through our various scholarship programs.

The award includes a certificate, a letter from the President of the United States of America, and a "Challenge Coin" with the Presidential Seal. The entire cost of this award is funded by the Elks Drug Awareness Program, through the generosity of the Elks National Foundation.

The application form, which should be forwarded to your State Drug Awareness Chairman, is located at [elks.org/resources/dap/downloads/PVSAYouthApplication.pdf](http://elks.org/resources/dap/downloads/PVSAYouthApplication.pdf).

Does your Lodge or State participate?

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## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Presidents are shown some love every February

By **STANLEY J. WELSH**  
Committee Member

Did you know that four Presidents were born in February? Did you also know that Presidents Day, which takes place on February 19 this year, is not the actual birthday of any of them?

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732; William Henry Harrison on February 9, 1773; Abraham Lincoln on February 12, 1809; and Ronald Reagan on February 6, 1911. Presidents Day, though, is always the third Monday of the month, which can occur on the 15th through the 21st, depending on the year.

For roughly a century, the nation celebrated Washington's Birthday and Lincoln's Birthday separately. Washington's Birthday was unofficially observed during the 1800s and did not become a federal holiday until 1879, when President Rutherford Hayes

signed it into law. It became a national holiday in 1885, joining only four other recognized federal bank holidays: The Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Lincoln's Birthday, observed since the 1860s, never became a federal holiday.

Presidents Day was established in the late 1960s when Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. Representative Robert McClory of Illinois sought to have the holiday celebration of several federal holidays moved from specific dates to predetermined Mondays, a switch intended to create another three-day holiday weekend for the nation's workers.

There were some who thought that moving these holidays from their original dates would cheapen their meaning but the bill had support from many areas, including labor unions and retailers. Many felt that Presidents Day, situated between

Washington's and Lincoln's Birthday, was a way to give equal recognition to two of our most famous Presidents.

The Uniform Holiday Act passed in 1968 and became official in 1971 because of an executive order signed by President Nixon.

People today use Presidents Day to hold patriotic celebrations, reenactments, and other events. Elks Lodges get into the spirit as well: Chico, CA Lodge No. 423 traditionally displays roughly 200 American flags on Presidents Day, for instance.

Remember when celebrating that several Presidents were Elks Members: Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Gerald R. Ford.

Another date to keep in mind this month is February 16, the 150th birthday of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Come celebrate with us in San Antonio, Texas, in July.

## GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

# We must not be defeated with a membership loss

By **RICK GATHEN**  
Membership and Marketing Manager

Here in our 150th year, the next three months will determine our place in Elks history. Every delinquent Member we collect dues from and every new Member initiated and reinstated in January, February, and March takes us one step closer to a gain in membership. That makes it important for you to refrain from setting limits on what you can change and influence.

When doctors are sent into the middle of a battlefield to rescue injured soldiers, they never give up – and neither should you. This same leadership and attitude is needed to achieve a gain in membership and end the

37-year losing streak.

Roll up your sleeves, work even harder, and get excited. We are in the home stretch. Every Member matters and a membership gain is within our reach!

I challenge our Exalted Rulers and Lodge Secretaries to ask themselves, "What if?"

**What if** your Lodge Membership Committee calls or visits your remaining delinquent Members in January, February, and March?

**What if** you use your best judgment to consider Members in distress that are deserving of dues assistance?

**What if** your Lodge Secretary uses personal notes on late dues notices in an effort to save your delinquent Members in

January, February, and March?

**What if** your Lodge Secretary provides a list of all former Members who were dropped for nonpayment over the past five years to increase reinstatements? (Use the sample reinstatement letter from the Membership Manual.)

**What if** you begin 2018 with a membership drive and ask every Member to sponsor a friend and family Member into your Lodge?

**What if** you schedule dates to initiate new Members into the Order in January, February, and March? Leave no candidates behind for April.

How we answer these questions will determine our place in Elks history.

# What was happening in 1868?

By **MIKE CHAMERNIK**  
Publications Coordinator

The Elks aren't the only ones celebrating a sesquicentennial this year. The flat-bottomed paper bag, traffic signal light, and railway air brake all turn 150 years old in 2018 as well.

The world was very different when a group of actors and entertainers in New York City formed the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Other notable events in 1868 include:

- Decoration Day, a predecessor to Memorial Day where mourners decorated the graves of Union Civil War veterans with flowers, is first observed in Decatur, Ill.

- The House of Representatives votes to impeach President Andrew Johnson for

violations regarding the Tenure of Office Act. He is later acquitted by the Senate.

- The Fourteenth Amendment, which grants citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, is adopted.

- Republican candidate Ulysses S. Grant is elected President, defeating Democratic challenger Horatio Seymour.

- The Territory of Wyoming is created.

- Congress passes an eight-hour work day law for federal employees.

- Japan's Shōgun military dictatorship is overthrown and the city of Edo is renamed Tokyo.

- The element helium and the first skeleton of the Cro-Magnon are both discovered.

## 150th anniversary items

Local Lodges wanting to use the Elks' 150th Anniversary logo for stock and customized items may do so through D. Turin Company.

Contact David Plask at (305) 825-2004, ext. 312, or david@dturin.com.

## Elks share their thoughts

Do you have a question about your Lodge or the Order? Leave a message on the Elks Membership Forum (elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm). Members use the board to share positive, constructive information every day.



## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# The most prestigious Grand Lodge Award is especially sweet this year

By DAVID P. CIOE  
Committee Member

Our Lodges put in the time and effort to get to where they are today but only a few document their accomplishments. This should not be! Your Lodge Members deserve to have their efforts rewarded.

I urge each Lodge to make an effort to enter Contest "A," which recognizes Lodges that have best administered Elks Programs throughout the year, and be recognized as an All American Lodge. Now is a perfect time: We are half way through our Elks' fiscal year, and your Lodge would be recognized during our 150th Anniversary Celebration of our great Order. To exist 150 years is proof of the great work our Order does. Recognition is key to Member involvement and retention.

The Contest "A" application is on the ER's thumb drive or online at [elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm). The application is a road map to help your Lodge

have a successful year.

You will find that many items on the form can be checked off as complete right away. Lodge Officers should work together to complete this form. The application must be signed by the Exalted Ruler and Secretary and postmarked to your District Deputy by March 15. DDs will verify points earned and mail the District winners to the State Fraternal Chairman or Lodge Activities Chairman postmarked no later than April 1.

I urge you to work on this now. The Contest "A" All American Lodge is the most prestigious of the Grand Lodge Awards.

Three winners are named in each of the six membership divisions. First-place Lodges are awarded a plaque and second- and third-place Lodges receive a certificate.

I am challenging each Lodge to complete the application. Let's set records this fiscal year to have the most submissions and most awards ever given. What a great way to honor our 150th year of Elkdom!

*Contest "A" is a road map for your Lodge to have a successful year.*

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# A little recognition can spur motivation

By THOMAS A. BIANCO  
Committee Member

*"Praise youth and it will prosper."*

This quote was not taken out of a college teachers training course; rather, it is an Irish proverb coined more than 1,000 years ago. Have you ever been singled out for doing something outstanding or out of the norm? Most people like a pat on the back or a special recognition from their peers for a job well done.

One more quote, this one from Winston Churchill: *"Those who fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it."* As you can see I am a history nerd, and I learned that we didn't invent common sense in the last few years. For many years, people have taken cues from the Elks by giving people credit for a good job.

We Elks say thank you with individual awards such as Elk of the Year and Officer of the Year. Maybe your Lodge was awarded a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Star Award. If you were ever involved with any one of these awards, you know the feeling of pride in getting such acknowledgment.

Fidelity, the act of continuing loyalty and support, is one of the cardinal principles of Elkdom. This same idea goes for the local schools in our communities. Recognizing

a student for outstanding action goes right along with our Elks teachings. Working with our school leadership in finding and honoring these accomplished students is our objective.

One thing I have noticed in my local district is that in a lot of cases, the chosen student (by a teacher or a school administrator) is not necessarily the smartest or most athletic student, but one who is reliable, motivated, and a positive influence on others.

Now for the big question. How can we start a student recognition program? Or where can I get the printable certificates to give to the students?

Just go to the Elks web site ([elks.org](http://elks.org)) > Members only section > Officers & Committees > Grand Lodge Committees > Activities Committee > on the right hand side is a box and the bottom of the list is "Downloads & Printable Certificates" > scroll down to "Grand Lodge Student Recognition Program." Click on it and all the information and printable certificates will be there for your use. Access to this information is easy using the steps above, or you can give me a call I will walk you through.

To the outstanding students of our communities: Congratulations on your achievements, for you have made us proud.

# Generations bond through Hoop Shoot

Like the basketball Brad Baine bounced to his son Isaac, the memories he made with his father 30 years earlier—while practicing for the same Hoop Shoot—bounced back to him.

When he was 10 years old, Baine sat next to his parents on a flight to Indianapolis for the 1987 Hoop Shoot National Finals. Baine and his brother gravitated toward inexpensive activities like basketball since his family didn't have a lot of money.

"The primary source of opportunities and enjoyment for my family came from sports," Baine said. "One opportunity that stands out from the rest is the Hoop Shoot."

Although Baine finished eighth at the Finals, he will forever cherish his Hoop Shoot experience.

"As grateful as I am for the activities during the Hoop Shoot, the time I spent in the gym with my father and brother to prepare for it is priceless," he said.

Today, Baine is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at his alma mater, Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. He's grateful for the time he gets with his son practicing for the Hoop Shoot, a free throw contest for boys and girls between the ages of eight and 13.

"I am confident the Hoop Shoot will continue to make a positive impact on everyone that participates in the event, like it did for me," Baine said.

Lodges across the nation hold Hoop Shoot events. The best shooters advance through Lodge, District, State, Regional, and National contests. Like his father, Isaac Baine has been diligently practicing his free throws in hopes of becoming a Hoop Shoot National Finalist.

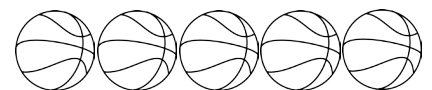
The 2018 Hoop Shoot National Finals will be held in Chicago on April 21. WNBA legend and four-time Olympic gold medalist Tamika Catchings is slated to be the keynote speaker at the Awards Banquet that day.

The Elks have been developing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for more than 40 years. In 2017-18, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$974,880 to fund the program. For videos, news from the court, and more information about the Hoop Shoot, visit [elks.org/hoopshoot](http://elks.org/hoopshoot).

# Elks Trivia Question

One Hoop Shoot champion is a five-time NBA All-Star and member of both the Basketball Hall of Fame and College Basketball Hall of Fame.

Do you know who? E-mail your best guess to [mikec@elks.org](mailto:mikec@elks.org)!



# Elks programs serve to assist homeless veterans

By **MARY K. MORGAN**  
Commission Director

The words “homeless” and “veteran” should never go together, yet each night in our country—the richest and most powerful in the world—as many as 40,000 veterans sleep in shelters, on the streets, or in their cars.

These are men and women who served our country, in most cases voluntarily, in peacetime and war. They’re home now, but homeless, and they’re fighting for their lives.

The Elks are now in the third year of a \$4 million program to help end veteran homelessness in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs. We’ve made great progress so far.



More than 760 veterans have been helped through the Elks Emergency Assistance Fund, which provides a lifeline for veterans in a time of need. These funds pay for security deposits so a veteran can exit homelessness and move into a new apartment, pay heat bills to help a veteran stay warm through the winter, and cover rent for a couple months when a veteran encounters an unexpected life event such as an illness or the loss of a job.

Through the Welcome Home Kit program, Elks have helped more than 700 newly housed veterans with home supplies such as pots and pans, dishes, towels, and sheets.

Lodges in the eight target cities with the highest number of homeless veterans

(Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., San Diego, Los Angeles, Seattle, Miami, and Loma Linda, Calif.) are eligible for additional grant funds. Elks there are working overtime to provide veterans with beds, furniture, and other basics to help them stabilize their lives.

For many veterans, it’s not just about material support. The knowledge that the Elks truly care resonates with them.

We’re proud of the work we’ve done so far. But there are many more veterans out there who need help, and we need all the volunteers we can get. Please consider joining the fight against veteran homelessness today. Visit [elks.org/vets](http://elks.org/vets) to get started.

With your help, we can provide these veterans in need with the shelter and support that they deserve.

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

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**February 2018**

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## A century of Elkdom

Lodges celebrating 100-year anniversaries during 2017-18 in service to humanity, our nation and our Order’s noble principles:

<u>Lodge Name</u>	<u>Instituted</u>
Lakewood, OH Lodge No. 1350	Sept. 14, 1917
West Palm Beach, FL Lodge No. 1352	Jan. 23, 1918
Casper, WY Lodge No. 1353	May 18, 1918
Woodward, OK Lodge No. 1355	March 29, 1918
Penns Grove, NJ Lodge No. 1358	June 11, 1918

## 150th birthday bash

As part of its annual February meeting, the Grand Lodge will mark the Order’s 150th birthday with a special celebration at Downey, CA Lodge No. 2020 on the 16th. The event will be livestreamed at [elks.org](http://elks.org).

Join us for a special evening with the Best People on Earth. The livestream will include interviews, videos, remarks by the Grand Exalted Ruler, the big reveal of the headline act for the anniversary celebration in San Antonio, and more!

For more information and to tune in, visit [elks.org/150](http://elks.org/150). Hope to see you there!



*Crazy in love  
with the Elks*

