



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care – Elks Share*



## March forward: Plan for the next fraternal year

For many, March is a time of change. It begins in the darkness of winter but ends with the first signs of spring. It's also a time of change for Elks, when Lodges across the country host installations to welcome a new slate of Officers for the 2018-19 fraternal year. Whether you are taking on a new office, reprising a current position for another year, or retiring from your leadership role, you are the future of your organization. How will you march your Lodge forward this month and year?

Officers and Members, as you work together to plan your year ahead, I hope you'll recognize an important date in our 150-year history: March 12, 1871, when the first Elks Lodge opened in New York City. Now with nearly 2,000 Lodges across



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MALCOLM J.  
McPHERSON JR.

the country, this milestone is a testament to the power of our great organization and an inspiration for the future as we continue to spread our values of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity that our founding Members set forth.

I urge you to use this month to evaluate

your Lodge. Think about what has worked and what hasn't, what your goals are (such as membership growth, charitable events, youth programs, etc.), and who the right people are to execute them. There are endless ways to strengthen Elksdom and your Lodge, many of which I have already witnessed firsthand on this journey. If you keep seeking out what your community needs and uniting as Elks to give back, you will be on the path to success.

Lastly, since this month also marks the celebrations of St. Patrick's Day, I'd like to leave you with an Irish blessing: May your troubles be less, your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door. Cheers and see you on the road!

## Deadline day for Lodge Secretaries

Local Lodge Secretaries are reminded that they must have all membership records for 2017-2018 ready for year-end closeout finalized by midnight March 31. Failure to have current records can—and probably will—throw membership totals out of balance in the Chicago Lodge Membership System.

### GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

I call your attention to the changes created by Section 16.010, and in particular the first paragraph:

"As of April 1 of each year the membership portion of the Lodge Annual Report shall be filed electronically by the Grand Secretary. Each Lodge Secretary shall ensure that all Lodge Membership information is current through March 31."

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

## Be proactive with Disaster Relief

By JAMES S. MASON

Committee Member/Disaster Relief Program

Every year our country experiences numerous natural disasters—such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornados, typhoons, and wildfires—but 2017 was particularly brutal.

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria descended on Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, causing massive destruction in each location, including extensive flooding and wind damage. California experienced devastating wildfires that resulted in dozens of deaths and thousands of destroyed homes and buildings. Recovery will be long and expensive.

The Disaster Relief Program was established by the Elks to assist, in any manner possible, those who are enduring the hardships of such tragedies. A relief fund was established in the Grand Secretary's office to help meet the immediate needs in each location. Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson has requested that our Lodges and their Members consider donating to the fund for present and future needs.

Additionally, it is recommended that each Lodge contact its local government to find

out if it has a disaster relief program; If so, learn how the Elks might assist the community in its recovery effort. It is important to remember that the Elks are a part of the city or town. Lodges can get a jump on gathering supplies such as first aid kits, blankets, cleaning materials, and non-perishable items including water and canned goods.

It is very important to follow a program properly prepared and heed the Boy Scouts' motto, "Be Prepared." It is most important to plan ahead rather than waiting until after a disaster strikes.

All funds should be sent to Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt at the Elks National Headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. Members can also donate at [elks.org/elksCare/](http://elks.org/elksCare/).

### INSIDE

Charitable contributions tell the Elks' story . . . 2	
The dangers of driving while impaired. . . . . 2	
It's time to reconnect with fellow Members . . . 3	
Football Pick'Em contest results . . . . . 3	
Five events that empower veterans . . . . . 4	
How to process new candidates . . . . . 4	



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Charitable contributions help to tell the Elks' story

By JAMES W. MARTSFIELD  
Committee Member

**Congratulations!** You are a newly elected Exalted Ruler, Trustee, Lodge Officer, Committee Chairman, or a Member waiting for the installation of officers and the beginning of your new Lodge year of 2018-19. All of your committees have been appointed, and all of your plans have been laid out for the direction of your Lodge. With the support and help from your PERs and membership, you should have a pretty good idea what's required of you and where you are going.

It is important that you become familiar with all the Grand Lodge manuals, especially the Government Relations manual. These manuals should be read by all of your officers and committee chairmen. They will help you and your officers carry out your responsibilities and duties for the coming year.

I would like to inform you of one of your first duties. On May 1 of each year, the Elks make a tremendous effort to gather and publish the charitable activities of every Lodge (including each Committee and ladies' group) and State Association in the Order. It is important that you keep an accurate account of everything you do in your Lodge.

There was a time in our history when we did not distribute this kind of information outside of our organization. But, we can no longer afford the luxury of hiding what our Order stands for. We must tell our story all over America to everyone who will listen.

And, what a story it is. We give generously of our time, our money, and talent to everyone who needs a helping hand, from children to aging veterans. Last year that amounted to more than \$334 million. It is very important that this information be presented to all our Members.

How do you do that? By printing charitable

contributions in your Lodge bulletins and State Association newsletter. Then take it a couple steps further by getting this information in the hands of your local government and state officials.

Some of you may feel that what you have donated this past year is just a drop in the bucket, with no need to report. Every little bit adds up, though, so please report whatever you have. We will not know what we have accomplished this past Lodge year until all of you tell us. Reporting serves as a great recruitment tool, and also helps our Order maintain its current tax status. It is a part of our story that should be told to everyone you know.

We're wishing all of you the best in accomplishing your goals for this upcoming 2018-19 year. I also wish to thank those of you who are going out of office for your dedication to Elkdom this past year. Always remember: "*Elks Care – Elks Share*"!

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

## Impaired drivers misjudge drug use

Submitted by FRANK SCARPINO  
Special Contributor

*An excerpt from a January 2018 press release by Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.:*

Experts are warning motorists to beware of all impaired driving, particularly the fast growing problem of drug-impaired driving.

The warning comes from officials at Drug Free America Foundation following a systematic review of national and state specific data that shows drug-related impaired driving has become increasingly prevalent. Furthermore, survey results indicate that motorists are driving high and erroneously believe it's safe to do so.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of nighttime weekend drivers involved in crashes in the United States and found to have marijuana in their system increased by 50 percent from 2007 to 2014. A 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) showed that 20.7 million people aged 16 or older drove under the influence of alcohol in the past year, and 11.8 million drove under the influence of illicit drugs. After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often found in the blood of drivers involved in crashes.

The results are especially troubling in states like Colorado and Washington, the first states to legalize recreational marijuana. "According to data from the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, marijuana-related traffic deaths when a driver tested positive for marijuana more

than doubled in Colorado from 55 deaths in 2013 to 125 deaths in 2016," said Calvina Fay, executive director of Drug Free America Foundation. "Also, marijuana-related traffic deaths in the state increased 66 percent in the four-year average (2013-2016) since Colorado legalized recreational marijuana compared to the four year average (2009-2012) prior to legalization."

Findings from the state of Washington also cause concern. "According to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, in 2014, over 84 percent of drivers in fatal crashes tested positive for marijuana, compared to only 44 percent in 2010," Fay said. "The frequency of drivers involved in fatal crashes that tested positive for marijuana, alone or in combination with alcohol or other drugs, was the highest in 2014 (75 drivers) compared to the previous four-year average (36 drivers)."

According to a survey of motorists on driving behaviors conducted by the Colorado Department of Transportation, 55 percent of participants who have used marijuana said they can drive safely under the drug's influence. Also, 72 percent of participants that have used marijuana believe it is safer to drive under its influence than under the influence of alcohol.

"Most troubling, 21 percent of participants who have used marijuana said they have driven a motor vehicle within two hours after consuming the drug 11 or more days in the last 30 days," Fay said. "Those attitudes are very disconcerting and must be addressed if we hope to reverse the deadly trend of drug-related driving fatalities."

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY

## Own a part of history

We will auction off pieces of history through Bidding for Good's online platform during the historic Grand Lodge Convention in San Antonio.

Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., will use custom gavels designed exclusively for the 150th Anniversary celebration during the proceedings. We're going to auction off 15 of them. For example, you'll be able to bid on the gavel used to introduce the new Grand, or to open the legislative session.

In addition, we'll conduct a special auction for experiences, memorabilia, and gear each month leading up to the Convention.

For more information and to get started, visit [www.elks.org/150](http://www.elks.org/150).

## Final donations due

The Elks' fiscal year closes this month, which means it's time for Lodges to send in their final donations to the Elks National Foundation. All donations must be received no later than March 31 to count toward the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The ENF will be closed on Friday, March 30 for Good Friday, but donations in the ENF's mailbox by March 31 will count. Be sure to plan ahead to avoid last-minute issues.

Check your total giving this fiscal year online at My ENF. There's still time to reach your personal giving goal—aim to reach toward the next level in Foundation Fellowship. Visit [enf.elks.org/MakeAGift](http://enf.elks.org/MakeAGift) to donate online.



## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# Personal connections are the key to boosting your Lodge's numbers

By DAVID P. CIOE  
Committee Member

Are you doing your part to keep your Lodge strong? It is the task of every Elk to work on reducing our Delinquent List. Every Officer should bring in at least one new Member in our fiscal year. Have you?

Lead your Lodge by example. We have another two months in our Elks fiscal year and can all do a lot for Membership and Growth during that period.

Why do Members drop out of the Order? Simple: They feel neglected. New Members are not numbers. They are people. Every person likes and deserves recognition and appreciation.

The critical time for retention and involvement is after a Member is installed. This takes effort on the part of the sponsor and on the part of the fellow Elks in your Lodge.

If you are reading this, you are an involved, active Elk because someone along the way took the time to recognize and appreciate your efforts and keep you involved. If you haven't paid that forward by keeping in touch with the Member or Members you have sponsored, now is the time to reconnect with your fellow Elks. Invite them to events, ask them to participate in fundraisers, and

have them join a committee.

Around this time every year, pressure is put on the Lodge Secretary and Membership Committee to "turn the numbers around" for a Lodge. Remember, retaining Members and bringing in new Members is every Elk's responsibility.

There is still time for you to get a +1 for your Lodge, but it cannot be done by relying on one Member or Committee to do it alone. It takes a village.

If each one of us reached out to even just one Member to invite him or her to an event, or simply to come by to get reacquainted, it would bolster the growth of your Lodge and our organization. Think of this initiative as a transfusion: Your time and effort are the life blood of your Lodge.

Positive actions result in positive numbers. Remember it is the responsibility of all of us in Elksdom to keep our Lodges and Organization alive! Between now and April, commit to reach out to one Member to reconnect with you and your Lodge. Every Member counts in the push to keep your Lodge alive.

I challenge every Elk to do this, and I thank you and appreciate you all for being active Elks.

*Your time and effort are the life blood of your Lodge.*

## Elks sure know how to Pick'Em

By MIKE CHAMERNIK  
Publications Coordinator

Roughly speaking, the chances of correctly picking the winner of all 13 games during an NFL weekend is one in 10,000. Keith Jorstad of Joliet, IL Lodge No. 296 defied those odds.

Jorstad won this year's Elks Football Pick'Em contest, where Members predict which team will win each game during the NFL regular season.

Out of the 1,500 ranked challengers, Jorstad topped the list by correctly picking 78.67 percent of games for a final record of 118-32. He joined the contest in Week 8, the week in which he nailed all 13 games.

Though he is more of a basketball fan, Jorstad participates in other football picks pools and in informal pools with his family. He said the social aspect of a pick'em contest is particularly appealing.

"I just joined the Elks this year so I was a little late to the contest," Jorstad said. "I wish I could have played the whole year and look forward to trying to defend my title next year. My boss recruited me to the Elks and is a very active Member, so this gives us something to laugh about. I was

just happy to be able to hold onto the lead and finish it out strong."

Daniel F. Lesnieski of Wallingford, CT Lodge No. 1365 finished second at 73.94 percent (122-43) and Anthony J. Devita of Bradenton, FL Lodge No. 1511 came in third at 73.72 percent (101-36). Sixth-place finisher Brian C. Thies of Hot Springs, SD Lodge No. 1751 correctly predicted 182 games, the most in the contest. Members didn't have to participate each week, but needed to pick at least half of the available games to make the national leaderboard.

Snake River, ID Lodge No. 2807 was the top Lodge, as Members correctly predicted 68 percent of games. Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475 racked up 6,404 wins (62.83 percent), the best turn-out of all the Lodges in the contest. To drum up participation, the Orange Lodge placed an ad for the contest in the monthly bulletin and announced the weekly standings at Lodge meetings. Though there were no official prizes for the contest, the Orange Lodge keeps a trophy in its club room with yearly winners' names on display.

For more information, and to make your picks when the 2018 NFL season rolls around, go to [elks.org/football](http://elks.org/football).

## Veterans From Page 4

limb. Its fundamental purpose is to provide early intervention for veterans battling back from injury, not only strengthening their bodies but improving their overall being and self-worth.

• The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is co-presented by Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. The games serve veterans with spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, amputations, and other central neurological impairments with the goal to increase their independence, healthy activity, and quality of life through wheelchair sports and recreation. Veterans are exposed to wheelchair sports at their home VAMC or PVA Chapters as part of their rehabilitation and to get them active in their home communities in sports and fitness. The 38th annual event will be in Orlando, Florida, from July 30 to August 4. Wheelchair basketball, softball, swimming, cycling, power lifting, and trap shooting are just a few of the 18 events that support this dynamic competition.

• April 1-6 is the week of activities in and around Snowmass, Colorado for the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. The qualifying veterans are very enthusiastic about this event, judging by the number of repeat applications received each year. A variety of opportunities is offered and the therapeutic value is huge. Local Lodges in Aspen and the Denver area volunteer, offering assistance both at the event and at the Denver International Airport, where they help United Airlines with transferring hundreds of disabled veterans from large intercontinental aircraft to the smaller jets that travel to and from the Aspen/Snowmass area. Over 250 local Elks help support the 400-plus veterans and handlers that participate.

We urge you to add one or more of these worthy programs to your list of Veteran Events for your support and volunteer agenda. You will be pleased with the results.

## Membership From Page 4

"Submit Dues Payment."

• Select "One-Year Dues Payment," and process dues for the next Lodge year as you would for any Member.

I suggest that Lodge Secretaries make a practice of explaining the amount of dues to be paid in their letters to candidates announcing the dates of initiation.

Keep those initiations coming. March 31 will be here before you know it!

## Elks share their thoughts

Want to discuss the Elks? Check out the Membership Forum ([elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm](http://elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm)). Members use the message board to share positive, constructive information every day.

# Five events that empower and rehabilitate veterans

By **JOHN D. AMEN, PGER**  
Commission Vice-Chairman

Do you know that our own Elks National Veterans Service Commission — with the support of our great charity, the Elks National Foundation — is a sponsor of five of the six major national events of the Veterans Administration Adaptive Sports Program?

In addition to the significant financial support we provide, each venue offers volunteer opportunities for local Elks Lodges and their Members. Let's briefly review each of these Big 5 National Events:

- The National Creative Arts Competition began this year's local competitions on January 1. The VA is a leader in using creative



arts as a form of rehabilitative treatment to help our veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition, which this year includes 51 categories in the visual arts division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are 100 categories in the performing arts pertaining to all aspects of music, dance, drama, and creative writing.

- The National Veterans Golden Age Games is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States. It's the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve

the quality of life for all older veterans. This event challenges and encourages senior veterans to be proactive in embracing a healthier lifestyle. This year's games will be held August 3-8 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

- The National Summer Sports Clinic will be held September 16-21 in San Diego, California. This event offers adventure sports and recreational activities such as sailing, surfing, track and field events, kayaking, and cycling (hand and tandem) to those who were recently injured. With the variety of water and summer sports available at the clinic, this week-long journey hosts veterans from all over the country who have injuries ranging from traumatic brain injury and polytrauma, to spinal cord injury or loss of

Please see **VETERANS**, Page 3

**BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary**  
**Benevolent and Protective**  
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**March 2018**

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## GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

# How to process new candidates onto Lodge rolls

By **RICK GATHEN**  
Membership and Marketing Manager

The Grand Lodge is hopeful that 2017-18 will be the year it produces an outright gain in membership for the first time since 1980.

Finding qualified candidates won't be enough to reach that milestone. We need to get those candidates processed and onto our Lodge rolls by 9 p.m. on March 31.

Processing those candidates calls for sure-handed Lodge Secretaries who know their way around the Chicago Lodge Membership

System2Web. Here's a step-by-step guide to processing membership candidates:

- In CLMS2Web, click on "Process Membership."
- Select "Applications Ready for Initiation."
- Click "Initiate" next to the candidate's name.
- Click on "Calculate Candidate Dues" to determine the amount of pro-rated dues for the remainder of the current Lodge year.
- To exit, click on "Previous Page" twice.

- Click on "Initiate" button.
- Enter initiated date (or date to be initiated up to two weeks in advance) and click "submit."
- Click on "One Year Dues Payment."
- Enter pro-rated dues payment and click "Submit." Congratulations, your candidate is now a Member with notice of "dues paid to date through current Lodge year."
- Use drop-down Wizard and select

Please see **MEMBERSHIP**, Page 3

# Happy St. Patrick's Day

Kiss me,  
I'm an Elk



Lucky to  
be an Elk



## Save the date

Applications for several Fraternal Committee awards and contests are due in March. For more info, go to [elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal](http://elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal).

