



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks



Two May holidays recognize moms and military

I've written a lot over the past several months about my theme for the year of "Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness" and the many ways Elks can support it. May is a particularly special month: Not only is spring finally here, but it also brings some important moments for us to celebrate mothers and the military in our communities with Mother's Day and Memorial Day. There's no better way to strengthen Elkdom than by focusing on causes meaningful to the Order.

As Mother's Day approaches on May 13, think about the ways you can honor the mothers and grandmothers in your personal life and Lodge life. Host a breakfast or lunch so they don't have to cook or set up a donation drive for those who may be struggling to support their families.

These small acts will make a big



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MALCOLM J.
McPHERSON JR.

difference. They allow you to recognize the women who make lasting contributions to your Lodge while also doing the most important job of all.

While Memorial Day for many is associated with barbecues, beaches, and the unofficial start of summer, the true meaning of the holiday—honoring our fallen soldiers—often goes unnoticed. The last Monday of May is a much more significant holiday for Elks as

strong supporters of our armed and uniformed forces and veterans. I urge you to take a break from your summer fun to participate in Memorial Day activities in your communities, such as parades and memorial services, as well as host your own rituals to remember our soldiers and other uniformed officers.

The holiday is also a great time to reach out to our veterans, since as Elks we believe that "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." While Elks support veterans with programs and outreach throughout the year, think about how you can help at your local VA this May or invite them to your Lodge for a dinner or Memorial Day service.

I look forward to celebrating these May occasions with you. I will see you out there!

Pre-register now for San Antonio

Pre-registration for the San Antonio Grand Lodge Convention is available at elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm through June 24. The online pre-registration fee is \$50 for all Members, and the on-site registration fee will be \$60. A current credit card for PayPal will be needed. There is

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

not a fee for a non-Elk spouse or guest.

When you arrive at the San Antonio Convention Center,

proceed to the registration area then into the designated pre-registration line. You will need your e-mail confirmation and current membership card to receive credentials (or voting credentials, if qualified) for you and your spouse or guest.

All non-Elks guests, including widows and widowers of Elks, must register at the Guest Registration Station at the convention center to obtain registration badges.

Please see **PRE-REGISTER**, Page 3

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

How to honor local stand-outs

By DAVID B. LAKE
Committee Member

Is your Lodge using the printable recognition certificates that are available on the Elks' website?

There are certificates to recognize the youth, emergency service providers, firefighters, and law enforcement officers in our communities. All you need to do is log in to elks.org. Click on Grand Lodge, then Committees, then Activities Committee, and finally Printable Certificates.

There you will find printable and fillable certificates for a variety of contests and programs:

Certificates of Participation: Hoop Shoot; Soccer Shoot; and Junior Golf.

Public Safety Medal of Valor and Medal of Service Recognition Program Certificates: Honor Our Flag; Certificates of Valor for the family of fallen Emergency Service Providers, Firefighters, and Law Enforcement Officers; and Certificates of Service for Emergency Service Providers,

Firefighters, and Law Enforcement Officers.

Grand Lodge Student Recognition Program: Teen/Student of the Month and Year; Eagle Scout certificates; and Gold, Silver, and Bronze Girl Scout certificates.

Certificate of Appreciation: Certificates for service to your Lodge.

Use these certificates to recognize the Youth and First Responders in your community and let them know that the Elks appreciate their accomplishments and service to their communities. By doing so, we will be keeping with our GER McPherson's theme of "Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness."

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DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Sobering facts of teenage pot use

By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

The teenage years are a time of rapid growth and exploration. Taking risks with new behaviors provides teens the opportunity to test their skills and abilities and discover who they are. But some risk behaviors—such as marijuana use—can have harmful and long-lasting effects on a teenager's health and well-being.

According to a 2016 study from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), 38 percent of high school students reported that they have used marijuana in their life. Research from the CDC shows that marijuana use can have permanent effects on the developing brain when use begins in adolescence, especially with regular or heavy use, and that frequent or long-term marijuana use is linked to lower educational achievement and dropping out of school. The 2017 Monitoring the Future Survey reported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse showed that daily marijuana use exceeded daily cigarette use among eighth, 10th and 12th graders.

Unlike adults, the teenage brain is actively developing and often will not fully mature until the mid-20s. Marijuana use during this period is harmful. Negative impacts on the developing brain include troubles with

thinking and problem solving, issues with memory and learning, impaired coordination, and difficulty with maintaining attention.

Marijuana use in adolescence or early adulthood has a serious impact on a teen's life as well. Negative effects on school and social life include:

- **Decline in school performance.** Students who smoke marijuana may get lower grades and may be more likely to drop out of high school than their peers who do not use.

- **Increased risk of mental health issues.** Marijuana use has been linked to a range of mental health problems in teens such as depression and anxiety. Psychosis has also been seen in teens at higher risk like those with a family history.

- **Impaired driving.** Driving while impaired by any substance, including marijuana, is dangerous. Marijuana impedes a number of skills required for safe driving, such as reaction time, coordination, and concentration.

- **Potential for addiction.** Research shows that about 1 in 6 teens who repeatedly use marijuana can become addicted. These teens may make unsuccessful efforts to quit using marijuana or give up important activities with friends and family in favor of using marijuana.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Details matter in Charitable Reports

By **VERNON R. SAUNDERS**
Committee Member

On April 1 we entered the new fiscal year of our Order. And, as most of you are aware, we will be celebrating the Elks' 150th Anniversary in San Antonio, Texas, in July. This will be one of the largest celebrations our Order has ever known. With that in mind, let's make 2018 a record year for charity reporting.

Every Member of every Lodge would like to have more publicity for all the good things that the Elks do for their communities and states. This can be done easily by reporting your charitable donations in more detail on the Charitable Report you file each month with the Grand Lodge. Compile the information and forward it to your local news outlets and let them tell everyone of the good things your Lodge does. I believe it's really that easy.

The mission of the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee is to guide the Elks, and its State Associations and Local Lodges, in protecting and preserving the right to exist as a private, nonprofit, charitable organization, a status our great

Order has enjoyed since our formation in 1868.

In our meeting in Chicago in October 2017, some of the main items of discussion were:

1. Charitable reporting and how the lack of accurate reporting can be a deterrent to our 501(c)(8) tax status.

2. Social media and how the negative comments and photos can cast an image that we don't want to portray.

3. Educating Members and employees on existing laws and regulations in their respective communities and states.

Our Members and their families and countless volunteers work extremely hard in their Lodges to continue the good work that they are so accustomed to doing: supporting our veterans, working with our youth in the many programs we offer, and helping our communities. These efforts should not go unnoticed.

As we begin our new year, let's strive to reach out to the public and our local, state, and federal governments to let them know of our good works. Let's always remember, "Elks Care – Elks Share."

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

CIP augments four community grants

By **TAYLOR ODISHO**
ENF Communications Assistant

The Community Investments Programs office is excited to share enhancements to its mission of helping Elks serve their communities.

The Elks National Foundation allocated \$12.4 million for 2018-19 to fund the CIP. The grants give Lodges opportunities to serve the community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, and encourage new and former Members to join the Order.

A big hit this past fiscal year, Anniversary Grants will return in 2018-19. Every Lodge has the opportunity to apply for the \$1,500 grant, which can be used toward a stand-alone project or to supersize another grant project.

The CIP also bumped the number of Freedom Grants to 300 as Elks continue their mission to serve veterans and their families. These grants will move from a competitive process to a first-come, first-serve basis, similar to the Promise Grant.

A simple new two-step process makes it easier for Lodges to apply for the Impact Grant. In step one, Lodges will submit a short project proposal to the Elks National Foundation offices. Based on that proposal, the Foundation will select Lodges to complete the second step, which will be to submit a full application. This allows the CIP to assist Lodges with improving their initial proposal before jumping into the lengthier application.

Lastly, the Gratitude Grant will now be available to Lodges that meet the GER's per-member-giving goal by March 31 of the prior fiscal year. With this change, every qualifying, compliant Lodge will have the opportunity to apply for a Gratitude Grant starting the first day grant applications are open.

Also included in these changes are a shift in grant deadlines. All grant applications will open July 1 and close by December 31. Lodges will have until the end of the Lodge year, March 31, 2019, to use their grant funds. In 2019-20, grant applications will open April 1, 2019.

The Elks National Foundation is excited to offer these enhancements to the grant opportunities and application process. Together, we will build the legacy for the next 150 years. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit elks.org/CIP.



GRAND LODGE AUDITING & ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

The blueprint for maintaining a balanced budget

By **RONALD J. CELESTE**
Committee Member

A budget is a projection of revenues and expenditures for each entity and each department of a Lodge (including restricted funds) for the coming year. It is a useful management tool to be compared to actual results on a monthly basis. The budget preparation process includes seven steps:

- 1) Reviewing actual results from the prior year for all departments.
- 2) Obtaining information regarding Lodge activities for the coming year from the Exalted Ruler and Committees.
- 3) Obtaining projected dues and fees income from the Lodge Secretary.
- 4) Obtaining projected club income and expenses from the House Committee.
- 5) Allocating overhead expenses to other departments in a reasonable manner.
- 6) Determining any capital improvements projected for the coming year.

7) Obtaining a depreciation schedule for the coming year (always budget depreciation).

The Board of Directors/Trustees is responsible for the preparation of the budget. It takes a series of meetings to develop a good budget. The Lodge bylaws can require a separate budget committee be formed to prepare the budget and present it to the board for their approval.

The budget must be approved on the floor of the Lodge by the last regular Lodge meeting in April. The Grand Lodge Statutes that cover the budget process are Sections 12.070 (Lodge), 16.020 (Separate Corporations), 16.030 (Club and Other Facilities).

When preparing a budget, always factor in revenues first, because you should not spend more than you expect to receive. Always take a realistic and conservative approach to budgeting. It is never a good business practice to prepare a deficit budget. Keep expenditures within the limits of anticipated revenue. A budget can be amended during

the Lodge year but it must be approved on the floor of the Lodge.

Comparing actual revenue and expenditures to the budgeted amounts will point out variances of material amounts that require action or further investigation. When these problems are found, action should be taken such as adjusting hours in the club, reducing labor costs, or raising prices.

Any expenditures in excess of budgeted amounts must be approved by a two-thirds vote on the floor of the Lodge. Each capital expenditure should be approved by the Members of the Lodge even if the capital expenditures for the year have been approved in the budget. All Lodges should develop a separate long-term replacement and improvements budget. Funding should come from net-profits each year. Any capital expenditures in excess of \$25,000 must obtain a permit from the Board of Grand Trustees (Sec. 16.050).

**GRAND LODGE
RITUALISTIC COMMITTEE**

Revised ritual guide adds new services

By **ALLEN H. LENORT**
Committee Chairman

A revision to the Rituals of Special Services Manual (Code #511601) has been completed. Changes to the manual include new Father's Day, Veterans Day and POW/MIA Services. The Tablet Service has been revised and is also included.

A courtesy copy will be sent to all Lodges and additional copies are available from the Grand Lodge Shipping Department. All the ritualistic manuals are available on elks.org in the manuals section.

Membership From Page 4

Optimistic Elks leaders embrace change that make the future not just different, but better. There is always a way when you are committed.

Visit the Membership Toolkit on elks.org and embrace change.

Pre-Register From Page 1

An official badge is necessary for a guest to enter the exhibit hall and attend the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers or any other functions.

Grand Lodge registration and its required fee are not included in any State Association's "package" arrangement. A registration badge will be required to enter the exhibit hall and all business sessions.

**GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL COMMITTEE**

14 SAs hit bullseye in bulletin contest

By **TOM SHELTON**
Committee Member

Results of the Grand Lodge State Association Bulletin Contest "I" for 2017-2018 have been announced.

State	Editor	Stars
Kentucky	Raymond Pauly	5
Louisiana	Buddy Hartie	5
New Jersey	Maureen Whalen	5
New York	Timothy Weipe	5
Kansas	Carl Lindsey	5
Missouri	Bud Clarkson	5
Ohio	Larry O'Grady	5
West Virginia	Jack Bennett	5
Illinois	Joseph L. Baker	5
MD/DE/DC	Margie McIntyer	5
Connecticut	John Paul	5
Michigan	Karen Cary	5
Georgia	John Heigesen	4
Virginia	Roger Monger	4

Congratulations to all the State Associations that participated in the contest. The overall content and quality of the bulletins submitted this year were impressive.

It is important that State Association bulletins provide Lodges and Members access to timely information and recognition for the good works being done.

Thank you and let's have more participation in 2018-2019.

**B.P.O. ELKS'
150TH ANNIVERSARY**

Lend a helping hand to 150 Elks scholars

By **JIM O'KELLEY**
ENF Director

Are you attending the Elks National Convention in San Antonio? Some 150 Elks scholars will be there, and you'll have an opportunity to join them in service on July 1.

The scholars, a mix of current college students and alumni, will be in town for a mega-Elks Scholar Service Trip in celebration of the Order's 150th anniversary. On June 30, they will volunteer at a local non-profit called Haven for Hope in the largest Elks scholar service event ever.

The next day they'll be at the convention center from 10 a.m. to noon to assemble hygiene kits for veterans in need, working along side the people who made their scholarships possible. Whether you want to pitch in for two minutes or two hours, the scholars will welcome your help. Let's celebrate through service together!

Learn more about the mega-service trip at elks.org/scholars/150.



Struggling vets appreciate help on Armed Forces Day

By **DAVID R. CARR, PGER**
NVS Commission Chairman

Armed Forces Day, held this year on Saturday, May 19, is a great time to remind our Members and others in our communities that the mission of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission includes supporting military members and their families. Our brave men and women who choose to enter the military should be praised and thanked for their dedication.

Unfortunately, often upon returning home from active duty, many veterans find it difficult to move on. We must always keep in mind that the scars they might have received are not necessarily visible. In addition to physical issues, many



veterans return home with very painful emotional and behavioral problems.

Members, your Lodges can reach out to local veterans' organizations as well as other members of the community to work together in promoting programs and fund-raisers to assist active-duty and retired military members. They and their families can be

assisted with home repairs, wheelchair ramps, and even transportation for medical appointments.

Other assistance can be offered by mowing lawns in the summer or shoveling driveways in the winter. How about a special event around Armed Forces Day to reach out to veterans or military families in need? With summer nearing, you might want to consider a golf tournament to help raise funds for their benefit. I'm sure your recognition would be deeply appreciated.

Members, take pride in continuing to demonstrate that "*Elks Care – Elks Share*" and always remember: "*Through their service, their pride, and their patriotism, the men and women of our armed forces continue to make our nation what it is today.*"

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
Benevolent and Protective
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GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Elks will grow by change, not by chance

By **RICK GATHEN**
Membership and Marketing Manager

Four consecutive years of improving membership trends are a good reason for optimism. We are dedicated towards building a more successful and sustainable Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Growing an active and more inspired membership truly matters.

However, our most challenging roadblock towards growing membership is pessimism

and fear of change that dominates the thinking in some Lodges. A pessimistic Elks leader looks out onto a bleak future and has no idea what to do, which gets the Lodge stuck in a slow-motion crisis. Pessimistic leaders just want to "kick the can down the road" and react to events as they happen, and hope things don't get worse.

Unfortunately, pessimistic Lodge leaders think the Elks' good work will just sell itself and membership will grow on its own. The truth is, the Elks won't sell itself and

membership won't grow without embracing change and enthusiastically working at it.

Successful Lodges have optimists in charge, people who are fiercely focused on growing membership. Success is not a matter of luck, and success is never accidental. Lodges that are growing in membership are doing so because they embrace change. They planned on making membership growth happen and stressed it as the highest priority.

Please see **MEMBERSHIP**, Page 3

Happy Mother's Day from the Elks!

