

HEARTBEAT

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

ISSUE 63 | SUMMER 2019



Jim Grillo (right), then the Vice-Chairman of the ENF Board of Trustees, and a singer from the Party Crashers throw down during the concert at Opening Ceremonies. The ENF sponsored the show.

ELKS TAKE CENTER STAGE IN ST. LOUIS

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The Elks National Foundation put on an incredible show during the Elks National Convention. Its four-day run included a Spotlight Grant Drive, an evening at Busch Stadium, and an unforgettable presentation at the Opening Ceremonies.

The first scene opened with a Board Meets Board dinner where the ENF’s Board of Trustees mingled with the Scholar Advisory Board, which is a group of current and alumni Elks scholars who advise the ENF on its scholar relation efforts. This dinner serves to strengthen the bonds between the scholars and the Elks family.

Next up was the ENF’s Donor Event. Program recipients, volunteers, donors and the ENF staff made their way to Busch Stadium to celebrate the previous year’s accomplishments. On behalf of the Elks, the ENF donated \$10,000 to the BackStoppers. Read more about that in “Giving Back to BackStoppers” on page 3.

Starting with the *Midday with the ENF* live show, the third act of the weekend began! Jim and Debbie hosted a slew of special guests, including Rick Gathen, Mary Morgan, Hoop Shoot Regional Directors Vern Larson and Larry Torres, and more! Listen to the special episode of the podcast at enf.elks.org/Midday or on iTunes.

That night’s grand finale was Opening Ceremonies. The ENF’s presentation included several film premieres highlighting programs like the Elks National Veterans Service Commission’s Welcome Home initiative. The Getty Powell

see St. Louis, continued on page 2



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The Scholar Advisory Board met in St. Louis and helped staff the Donor Event at Busch Stadium. Pictured from left are Kat Nakamura, Kimberly Hadaway, Autumn Archuleta, Jacob Fritchie, Brandon Dawson, Branden Pearson and Sean Pringle.

St. Louis, continued from page 1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 5
2020 MVS Contest Deadline

NOVEMBER
Impact Grant Recipients Announced

DECEMBER 3
Giving Tuesday

DECEMBER 31
2019-20 CIP Applications Close

JANUARY 31, 2020
2020 Legacy Contest Deadline

winners, Anthony Thompson and Jamisyn Stinson, were also featured and received their awards.

The top Most Valuable Student scholarship winners—Tabitha Escalante, sponsored by Maumee-BG, Ohio, Lodge No. 1850, and Victor Ramirez, sponsored by South Miami/Coral Gables, Fla., Lodge No. 1676—spoke passionately about their life experiences and their gratitude for the Elks for helping make their dream of attending college a reality.

And it wouldn't be Opening Ceremonies without a concert sponsored by the ENF! The Party Crashers covered hits from several decades and had the place shaking all night long (or at least until 8:30 p.m.)!



Guests on the *Midday* live show included Mary Morgan of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

Throughout the week, in honor of the brand-new Spotlight Grant, the ENF held a Spotlight Grant Drive. ENF staff collected thousands of socks and hundreds of children's books that were donated to Ready Readers, a local nonprofit, and area veterans experiencing homelessness.

It was another unforgettable Convention that will surely repeat for years to come. There'll be new faces and new memories, but the Elks family will still be at the core of the show. See you next year in Baltimore!

Beth Sulsberger (right), wife of then-Board Chair Lou, and Assistant Director Debbie Doles renew acquaintances in St. Louis.



Then-Board Chair Lou Sulsberger (left) presents a \$10,000 check to Chief Dennis Jenkerson, a member of the BackStoppers board. Jenkerson is the chief of the St. Louis Fire Department and, coincidentally, also a member of St. Louis Lodge No. 9.



GIVING BACK TO BACKSTOPPERS

On the eve of Opening Ceremonies for the Elks National Convention, a winning team assembled in the Champion's Club at Busch Stadium for the Elks National Foundation's annual Donor Event. The star-studded lineup of donors, volunteers, program recipients, Elks leadership and staff enjoyed an evening that knocked every expectation out of the park.

Before behind-the-scenes tours of the stadium began, the ENF made a special presentation.

In honor of then-Grand Exalted Ruler Mike Luhr and his wife, Barb, and on behalf of the Elks, the ENF donated \$10,000 to the BackStoppers, an organization that provides financial assistance to the spouses and dependent children of police officers, firefighters, paramedics and EMTs who lose their lives or suffer a catastrophic injury in the line of duty.

The BackStoppers currently provides \$1.5 million in assistance to 80 families and 65 dependent children in the St. Louis area. The organization has assisted more than 160 families since it was created in 1959.

Not surprisingly—for where there is a need, you'll find Elks—the Executive Director of the BackStoppers, Ron Battelle, happens to be a member of Florissant, Mo., Lodge No. 2316.

“The local Elks Lodges in our coverage area have been very supportive of the BackStoppers and help to raise awareness and funds for our mission,” said Battelle, a former St. Louis County police chief.

During the event, Chief Dennis Jenkerson of the St. Louis Fire Department, a BackStoppers board member and a member of St. Louis Lodge No. 9, accepted the check on behalf of the organization. He explained that no family's need is too big or too small for the BackStoppers' consideration. They help with debt relief, health insurance, tuition, and whatever else is needed.

see BackStoppers, continued on page 4

I WANNA BE LIKE LOU

As he announced at Opening Ceremonies, ENF Trustee Lou Sulsberger recently joined the Fidelity Club.

“It's so easy to do, and it allows us to keep growing our programs,” Sulsberger shared. “Plus, you don't have to remember to donate.”

Be like Lou. Start by setting up an initial monthly or quarterly gift, which will then be debited from your checking account or charged to your credit card automatically. It's a safe, easy and reliable giving method that allows the Foundation to spend less time on administration and more time on its charitable mission.

ENF Fidelity Club members also receive special membership benefits and recognition pieces, so the longer you're a member, the more benefits you'll get! Visit enf.elks.org/FidelityClub to learn more.

GET CONNECTED ON YOUTUBE!

Throughout the years, we've produced dozens of incredible films showcasing the ENF's programs—and there's always more to share! Stay connected by subscribing to our YouTube channel to watch Elks scholars share what #ElksFamily means to them, see Elks in action building stronger communities across the nation, and so much more!

All you have to do to subscribe is:

1. Visit our channel at [enf.elks.org/YouTube](https://www.enf.elks.org/YouTube).
2. Log in or create a YouTube account using your email address.
3. Click "Subscribe."
4. Click the bell to be notified when we post new content.

And stay tuned for brand-new ENF films premiering all the time. You don't want to miss them!



When he stalked the mound during his 13-year Major League career, Al "The Mad Hungarian" Hrabosky (left) was an intimidating presence. But when he represented the Cardinals at our Donor Event, he mostly evoked laughter and good cheer. He's pictured with Terry Gaber of Colorado.

BackStoppers, continued from page 3

"I can't tell you how great this donation is," Jenkerson said. "From my heart and every fallen officer's spouse, thank you very much."

As he did so often during his 13-year Major League career, Cardinals' representative Al "The Mad Hungarian" Hrabosky closed the presentation.

"You couldn't have picked a better organization than the BackStoppers," said Hrabosky, who knows the organization well. "You couldn't have a better representation of St. Louis than them."

The donation was a token of the Elks' appreciation to the people of St. Louis for welcoming the Convention into their city.

"We care about this city and the men and women who keep it safe," said Lou Sulsberger, then-Chair of the ENF Board.



Once you join the Elks family, you're only alone when you want to be!

After an on-field wedding cleared, we had Busch Stadium to ourselves for the Donor Event. Kimberly Hadaway, the Junior Representative on the Elks Scholar Advisory Board, took advantage. Kimberly is a math major at Williams College in Massachusetts.

Visit [enf.elks.org/ScholarAdvisoryBoard](https://www.enf.elks.org/ScholarAdvisoryBoard) to meet Kimberly and the rest of the SAB.



NEXT STOP, MED SCHOOL

We are proud to announce the recipients of the 2019 Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship. Each \$24,000 scholarship is offered to Elks scholars entering their first year of medical school. The scholarship was established through the generosity of the late Lee Weigel, widow of Florida Elk Gunther Weigel. Read more about four of the recipients below.

Keoni Bailey, University of Michigan Medical School

Keoni is a 2015 MVS scholar sponsored by Oshkosh, Wis., Lodge No. 292. He is studying academic medicine.

“My Elks Scholarship has been far more than a financial blessing; it truly has been an invitation to family. Now I have another opportunity to help Elks in their mission to build stronger communities in the best way I understand how: caring for the health of my neighbors.”



Madelyn Bollig, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Maddi is a 2015 MVS scholar sponsored by Fort Collins, Colo., Lodge No. 804. She is studying neuroscience.

“Being an Elks scholar means that I have been embraced and supported by a community that reflects the values that I aspire to in my career as a physician. These include a collective commitment to invest in the betterment of our communities, compassion that moves to action,

and a dedication to the welfare of all people.”

see Scholars, continued on page 6



A year ago, Kat Nakamura had just started applying for scholarships. Now, she’s a member of the Scholar Advisory Board.

TIME TO HIT THE BOOKS

Students across the country are dusting off their backpacks for a new school year. If you have a stellar high school senior in your life or community, encourage them to apply for ENF scholarships!

The 2020 Most Valuable Student scholarship contest is open to any high school senior who is a U.S. citizen. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership and financial need. The ENF will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2020 competition. The deadline is **November 5**, at 11:59 p.m.

Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships available to children and grandchildren of Elks. The ENF will offer a total of 300 awards in 2020. The deadline is **January 31, 2020**, at 11:59 a.m. Central Time.

Visit elks.org/scholars for everything you need to know about the 2020 contests.



Former first lady Mary Carolyn Nichelson (left) drops off a children's book for the Spotlight Grant Drive and shares a laugh with Programs Manager Colleen Conrad. More than 900 people donated to the drive.

DRIVE SUCCESS!

To raise awareness for the Spotlight Grant and the issues it highlights, we staged a donation drive during Convention. Each person who dropped off socks for veterans experiencing homelessness or children's books for Ready Readers could enter their Lodge into a drawing to double its Spotlight Grant to \$4,000.

We were blown away by the 540 unique Lodges donating more than 19 boxes of children's books and mountains of socks too plentiful to count.

The incredible outpouring of support inspired us to choose not one lucky Lodge winner, but five. To hear Jim and Debbie talk about the Spotlight Grant Drive and announce the winners, visit enf.elks.org/SGWinners.

Scholars, continued from page 5

Christina Fang, University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine

Christina is a 2013 MVS scholar sponsored by Sacramento, Calif., Lodge No. 6. She is studying to become a primary care physician.

"I grew up in Taiwan. When my father lost his job, my family moved to Sacramento in the hopes of pursuing better opportunities. I insisted on trying new things. Out of this spirit, I volunteered at my local Elks Lodge frequently. The Lodge played a pivotal role in shaping my character and molding me into an open-minded, sincere individual."



Ganeev Singh, Tufts University School of Medicine

Ganeev is a 2013 MVS scholar sponsored by Whittier, Calif., Lodge No. 1258. He is studying neuroscience.

"Who knew that a scholarship application I mailed six years ago would lead to my best friends, Elks Scholar Service Trips all over the country, and a deep appreciation for such a noble organization? The core of being a physician is altruism, and I value that the Elks' mission falls in line with my future goals."

Visit enf.elks.org/WeigelMSS for more information about the Weigel Medical School Scholarship and to meet the rest of the class of 2019 Weigel recipients.

Past Grands (from left) Jim McQuillan, Lou Sulsberger and Malcolm McPherson enjoyed the tour of Busch Stadium during the Donor Event.



BE OUR GUEST

On a warm summer evening, special guests of the Elks National Foundation made their way to Busch Stadium and into the Champion's Club for a night to remember.

Each year during the Elks National Convention, the ENF thanks its major supporters in a big way by hosting a Donor Event. A band plays on while guests indulge in a buffet and open bar. After a short presentation from the Foundation, the good times keep rolling, often with tours and special guests.

Wes Stull, a longtime donor and friend of the Foundation, said he and his wife have been enjoying the Donor Event for the past eight years. "We're always excited to see what's next!"

Guests include John F. Malley Society members and donors who've given at least \$1,000 annually to reach the Faith level of the Foundation Fellowship, the ENF's annual individual recognition program. The Fidelity Club makes it even easier to become a Faith-level donor: Donating just \$84 a month gets you an invitation. With that in mind, we hope to see you next year in Baltimore!

To learn more about the different levels of giving and perks of the Foundation Fellowship program, visit enf.elks.org/Fellowship.

FRESH CONTENT

Our YouTube page is full of new content! From the *Midday Minute* to "The Future Looks Like ..." series, there's something to watch for everyone.

We're using the *Midday Minute* to share breaking news, behind-the-scenes looks at the work we do at the Foundation, and interviews with special guests. To watch, visit enf.elks.org/MiddayMinute.

"The Future Looks Like ..." series showcases top MVS scholars sharing their stories. To see what our future looks like, visit enf.elks.org/TheFutureLooksLike.



SUPPORT THE GREAT HEART OF ELKDOM!

Visit enf.elks.org/HBSummer, and your online donation will be put to work immediately in Elks communities!

ASK THE ENF...

Q I saw pictures on your Flickr from the Donor Event, and it looked awesome! How do I get invited next year?

—Left Out in Lexington

A Dear Left Out:
Thanks for checking out our Flickr! You have two options for getting an invite: 1. Join the John F. Malley Society by putting the Elks National Foundation in your will. Call us to let us know. And, boom! You're invited indefinitely. 2. Before this fiscal year ends on March 31, 2020, donate at least \$1,000 to become a Faith-level donor through the ENF's Foundation Fellowship program. You can also meet that goal by donating \$84 a month through the Fidelity Club. Learn more at enf.elks.org/FidelityClub. To see more photos from the event, visit enf.elks.org/2019ConventionPhotos.

Have a question for the ENF? Email us at enf@elks.org.

A 501c3 public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. **Heartbeat** is the Elks National Foundation's official newsletter. For more information about featured *Heartbeat* articles or to suggest items to be included in an upcoming issue of *Heartbeat*, please contact the ENF at 773/755-4728 or enf@elks.org.

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STAY CONNECTED!



Open this issue of *Heartbeat* to read all about the recent National Convention ... and much more!

