



2018-19

Annual Report

Meeting the
needs of today's
veterans.



Coming Together for Veterans

As Chair of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, I spend my time seeing, learning and working to do more for veterans on a national level.

But it all starts at the local level, with Elks members coming together to serve the veterans in their community. I am involved locally as well, assisting the veterans in my community for more than 30 years. I do this because without these men and women who have served America so well, we would not be able to enjoy our freedom to live in this great country.

I became involved with Veterans programs at my Lodge to try to thank veterans in any way I could. I help cook the Veterans' Day dinner that our lodge puts on. I assist with projects like building wheelchair ramps and hosting fishing outings and boat rides for veterans. My lodge brings home-baked goods to the VA Hospital every December. My lodge is involved in our regional Veterans Stand Down, where we serve food and provide clothing and other services to homeless and near-homeless veterans.

I do these things because I believe all the veterans that Elks have served truly appreciate our efforts. I am so proud to be a part of the Elks programs for veterans, and to share this year's Annual Report with all of you so you can see the outstanding things Elks Lodges everywhere do to serve our nation's veterans.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission operates thanks to a generous grant from the Elks National Foundation. The Commission members and I are very grateful to the ENF for their continued and generous support. We extend special thanks to Grand Secretary Bryan R. Klatt and the Grand Lodge staff, as well as to the Grand Lodge Sponsors for their assistance.

Sincerely,

David R. Carr, Chair

John D. Amen, Vice-Chair

Ronald L. Hicks, Secretary/Treasurer

Paul D. Helsel, Past Chair

James L. Nichelson, Past Chair

"By providing resources and support, including emotional support, we can help our veterans cope with life's challenges, put a smile on their face, take them to another place, or sometimes, all we have to do is be there with them and listen. Just being in the same room with a veteran is an honor, and by sharing time with them, we not only add value to their lives, but we add value to our own lives."

– Ron Hicks, PGER,

*Secretary of Elks National
Veterans Service Commission*

7,786 Elks

assisted 31,139 military families with the Elks family through the Army of Hope.

148,859 Elks

volunteered

704,121 hours

in service to veterans through ENVSC programs, bringing thousands of friends, family and community members to join in.

12,000 free decks

of playing cards were provided to thousands of veterans in facilities by the Playing Cards for Veterans program nationwide.

5,321 Elks

offered friendship and comfort to

15,067 veterans

through the Adopt-a-Veteran program.

18 events

were held by Lodges on average to serve veterans and/or military members in their community.





Voluntary Service

Through the Voluntary Service program, our Representatives and Deputy Representatives provide vital, reliable support to hundreds of thousands of veterans across the country. Elks serve veterans at local VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, and whenever veterans gather. We partner with these facilities because together, we all have one goal: to help our veterans receive the services and treatment they need to be healthy, and to offer these veterans the chance to live full and engaging lives.



22,214

ELKS MEMBERS

Elks Representatives volunteered more than 23 hours each month, and Elks Deputy Representatives volunteered another 13 hours each month.



343

FACILITIES

Elks were stationed in more than 340 facilities, providing consistent, ongoing support for veterans across the nation.



636,865

VETERANS

Elks Representatives visited veterans at these facilities an average of 5 times each month, reaching hundreds of thousands of veterans.



Veteran Michael works on his pottery in an art therapy class started by Elks Representative Venita Collier at the Valor Point domiciliary for veterans experiencing homelessness.



Nebraska State Veterans Chair Rodney Nelson from Norfolk, Neb., Lodge No. 653 brought these puppies to the Norfolk Veterans Home to visit with the residents.

Freedom Grants



300 Lodges received Freedom Grants in 2018-19! Lodges use Freedom Grants to meet the needs that only local community members could recognize. These grant funds give Elks members the resources they need to provide active, essential support to veterans, military members and their families in the communities where they live.

For example, Vacaville, Calif., Lodge No. 2638 used its Freedom Grant to help host a military family night at a local food pantry. Each Monday night, Lodge members helped stock and run the pantry, meeting with local military families who stopped by for a little help from the Elks.

Through creative and responsive projects, Elks made a huge impact this past year.

7,000+
ELKS

300
LODGES

48,674
HOURS

Altogether, these projects served 42,416 veterans and military members, meeting needs that might otherwise go unfulfilled.



Lake Oconee, Ga., Lodge No. 2849 used its Freedom Grant to launch an art therapy program at the Georgia War Veterans Home to help veterans with PTSD express themselves.



Fayetteville-Springdale, Ark., Lodge No. 1987 hosted veterans from local nursing homes for two fishing derby events with lunch and prizes.

East Stroudsburg, Pa., Lodge No. 219 hosted a trip to a RailRider baseball game with dinner for veterans from the Wilkes-Barre VA Hospital.



Welcome Home



The Elks have pledged to help end veteran homelessness. One of the ways we help is

by partnering directly with VA Social Workers to provide emergency assistance to veterans to help them prevent homelessness. This year we've helped 778 veterans by providing timely assistance with things like rent, utilities or security deposits. A small amount of assistance at the right time can make a world of difference for veterans.

"While the VA can and does provide actual housing for Veterans, they do not have the wherewithal, funding, boots on the ground, etc., to actually move a Veteran into a home within a community with all the necessities (like a bed, furniture, supplies) needed to make it a functioning household."

*- Paul Helsel, PGER,
Past Chair of Elks National
Veterans Service Commission*

We've also helped veterans who are exiting homelessness and finding new homes. Elks in Lodges across the country have helped 1,437 veterans establish their new homes by providing Welcome Home Kits full of home supplies.

Lodges in the 8 areas of the country with the most veterans experiencing homelessness have stepped up to the plate in a big way, using Focus Grants to directly serve 621 veterans with projects like weekly meals at transitional centers, job training programs for veterans re-entering the workforce, and beds and furniture for recently housed veterans.



Redlands, Calif., Lodge No. 583 combined a Focus and Freedom Grant to provide home supplies for 28 veterans leaving Loma Linda Veterans Village and moving into permanent housing.



Cocoa Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 2387 has provided hundreds of veterans with kits of home supplies! Elks partner with Volunteers of America to help veterans leaving the shelter set up their new homes.

Veterans Leather Program



This year, the Veterans Leather Program volunteers were as impressive as ever, bringing the community together and inviting others to join in our mission of serving veterans. Our Veterans Leather Program could not work without Elks recruiting volunteers and hunters to join in this mission.

17
STATES

19,283
HIDES

3,460
GLOVES

8,378
CRAFT KITS

Altogether, Elks in 17 states donated 19,283 hides. Elks across the country distributed 3,460 pairs of gloves and handed out 8,378 craft kits. Because of the dedication of our Elks and volunteers, we were also able to donate more than 68,000 square feet of leather to Help Heal Veterans to create even more craft kits distributed to veterans in facilities across the country.

BIGGEST DONATIONS OF THE YEAR



Missouri again donated the most hides, contributing 9,648!



Iowa followed in second place, contributing 4,350.



Arkansas followed them with 2,437.



Veteran Roosevelt H., a patient in the Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Unit, tries on his new leather gloves donated by Elks at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center.

Adaptive Sports/ Partners



Through targeted partnerships with veterans service organizations and nonprofit organizations, Elks are able to meet more of veterans' diverse needs.

Bugles Across America

recruits, trains and organizes buglers across the country in support of their belief that veterans deserve a live rendition of Taps by a real bugler at their funeral.

Re-Creation USA

provides live, therapeutic entertainment to veterans in VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes and other facilities across the country.

The VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee

brings organizations together to improve service and resources for veterans seeking care at VA facilities.

The James H. Parke Memorial Fund

awards college scholarships to outstanding students who have served 100 hours or more at a VA facility.



Elks sponsor 6 adaptive sports and arts events to help veterans rehabilitate, recover and thrive.



National Veterans Golden Age Games



National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic



National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival



National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic



National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament



National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Volunteers of the Year

ALASKA

Jack Greenhalgh

ARIZONA

Mary I. Shaffer

ARKANSAS

Donnie Golden

Katherine Carey

CA-HI

Robert L. Evans

Isabel D. Good

COLORADO

Alec Jay Parker

Donna Kay Rowlands

CONNECTICUT

Bill Currin

Linda S. La Fauci

FLORIDA

Troy L. Hughes

Charlene K. Fisher

"Charlene's fierce commitment to service does more than make the lives of veterans better, it also manages to lift the lives and spirits of her fellow members."

GEORGIA

Margaret S. Klein

IDAHO

William John

Muirhead

Traci Roberts-
Marmon

ILLINOIS

Chris Ord

Amy Whitley

INDIANA

Raymond Brown

IOWA

Corey Kimmet

Pam Caboth

KANSAS

James C. Lilleston

Nancy A. McEachern

KENTUCKY

Brian L. Kinney

Sulena Bryant

"Brian has put countless hours into helping veterans. He is always ready to make someone feel special. I truly can't say enough about Brian's dedication and drive to the veteran community."

LOUISIANA

Warren Hoffmann, Jr.

Sonya Ann Belgard

MAINE

Peter J. Reny

Jacqueline S. Reny

MD-DE-DC

Joe L. Lancaster

Joseph E. Mornini

MASSACHUSETTS

Jesse Harvey

Assunta Palomba

MICHIGAN

Franklin L. Campbell

MINNESOTA

James Van Duyn

Ruth Mickelson

MISSOURI

Charles G. Cantrell II

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Norman G. Sanborn, Sr.

Barbara A. Allard

NEW JERSEY

George Tencza

Patricia Green

NEW YORK

Anthony J. Specchio

Justine Crowley-Duncan

NORTH CAROLINA

Robert (Shorty) Dennany

Kathleen M. Smith

OREGON

Todd Lund

Faye L. Clemens

PENNSYLVANIA

Norman Alan Johnson

"The emotional support Mr. Johnson provides to these men and women is immeasurable as he treats each and every veteran he meets with the utmost respect. He is always available to provide a sympathetic ear, hot meal or kick in the pants-whichever is needed."

RHODE ISLAND

William Kennedy

Lori Eaton

SOUTH CAROLINA

Thomas L. Hilton

Tabitha Lewis

TEXAS

James H. Stansbury

Christine Stansbury

UTAH

Ray Croxen

Mary Croxen

VIRGINIA

Joseph P. Handerhan, Jr.

WASHINGTON

Leonard Mills

"At a moment's notice, Mills will rearrange his schedule when he's notified of a homeless vet who is transitioning into an apartment. He has such empathy and compassion for these vets. This is his labor of love."

WEST VIRGINIA

Charles H. Buzzard

Deaonna M. Crowe





In Memory of the Volunteers We Lost

2018-2019

CLARENCE BAGBY JR.

Marion, IL Lodge No. 800
Representative, Marion State Home

FREDERICK BLACK

Staten Island, NY Lodge No. 841
Representative, Brooklyn VAMC

HERBERT R. DUPONT

Chicopee, MA Lodge No. 1849
Deputy Representative, Holyoke
Veterans Home

ALBIE FLEETWOOD

Gallatin, TN Lodge No. 2547
Past State Veterans Chair & Past
Representative, Murfreesboro VAMC

H.R. GUESS

Blue Springs, MO Lodge No. 2509
Deputy Representative, Cameron
State Home

RONALD W. HOLLOWAY

Livermore-Pleasanton, CA Lodge No.
2117, Representative, Livermore VAMC

MARK D. JURMU

Rock Island, IL Lodge No. 980
Deputy Representative, Rock Island USO

ROBERT MCQUISTION III

Coraopolis, PA Lodge No. 1090
Past State Veterans Chair

PATRICIA E. OPINSKY

Rogers-Bentonville, AR Lodge No. 2144
Deputy Representative, Fayetteville
VAMC

THOMAS E. PROCTOR

Dublin, GA Lodge No.1646
Representative, Dublin VAMC

JANET RENKOWSKY

Bridgeport, CT Lodge No. 36
Deputy Representative, West Haven
VAMC

HERBERT D. RETTKE, SR.

Midwest City, OK Lodge No. 1890
Past State Veterans Chair & Past
Representative, Oklahoma City VAMC

A. JOHN SULLIVAN

Mesquite, TX Lodge No. 2404
Deputy Representative, Dallas VAMC

KENNETH C. VALENTINE

Auburn, WA Lodge No. 1808
Past State Veterans Chair

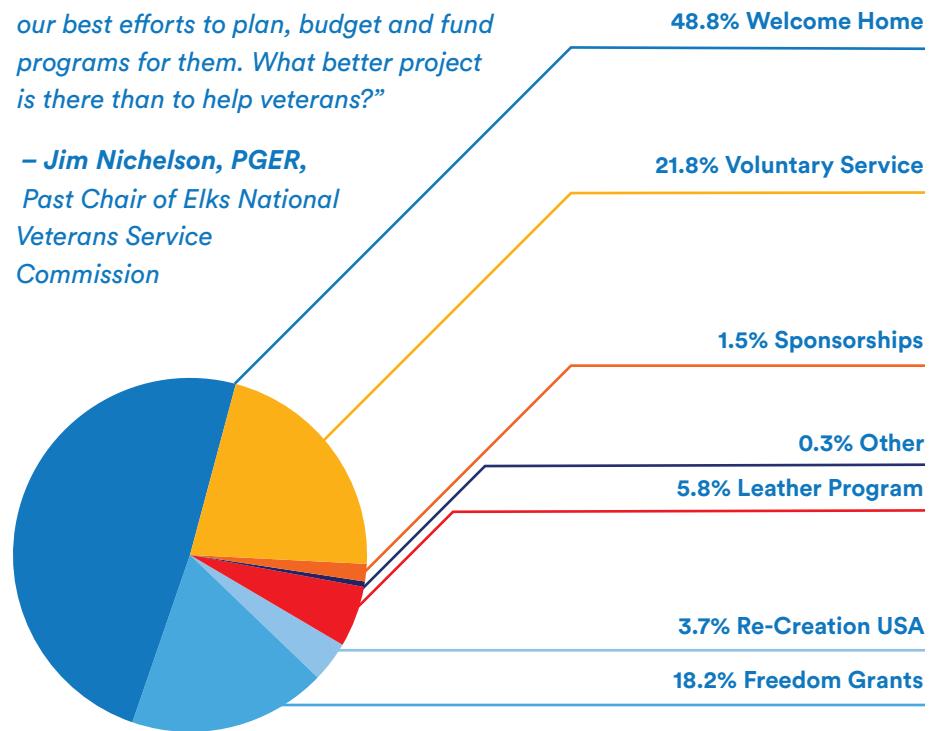
DANA VAN

Bremerton, WA Lodge No. 1181
Deputy Representative, Bremerton
State Home & Retsil State Home

Financial Information

"Veterans have served for us and deserve our best efforts to plan, budget and fund programs for them. What better project is there than to help veterans?"

– Jim Nichelson, PGER,
Past Chair of Elks National
Veterans Service
Commission



Revenue and Support

\$3,730,576

appropriation from The Elks
National Foundation, Inc.

\$47,601

other contributions

\$3,778,177

total revenue and support

Financial highlights for 2018-19 were summarized from the Financial Statements of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, with the Independent Auditor's Report prepared by FK Advisors. The audit covered the period beginning April 1, 2018 and ending March 31, 2019. Complete financial statements, including all notes, may be obtained by contacting the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

Elks Total Impact

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission works with the Elks National Foundation, Elks State Associations and local Lodges to combine resources and do more for veterans.

In 2018-19:



Elks Lodges used **867** Elks National Foundation Grants to serve veterans and military members, amounting to an approximate additional **\$1.54 million dollars** to serve veterans and military members in need.



The Elks National Foundation awarded a total of **\$693,755** to Elks State Associations to fund veterans programs.



States, Lodges and Elks from all over also contributed to their local projects. Altogether, **236,803 Elks** and friends volunteered **1,177,837 hours**. The value of this service, both in time, in-kind and fiscal donations equals **\$50,542,017**.



The Utah Elks Veterans Program hosts an annual Little Warrior Camp for children who have lost a parent in action or have suffered a loss related to PTSD.



McAlester, Okla., Lodge No. 533 uses its Beacon Grant to partner with the Oklahoma Veterans Center, providing toiletries, socks, clothes and other needed items to veterans and their families.

**Do you have an hour to
two to give? It only takes
a small amount of your
time to give back.**

– **John Amen, PGER,**
*Vice-Chair of Elks National
Veterans Service Commission*

**Join us in service to
our nation's veterans!
Visit elks.org to find an
Elks Lodge near you.**

www.elks.org/vets



@ELKSVETS



ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS
SERVICE COMMISSION



@ELKSVETSSERVICE

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