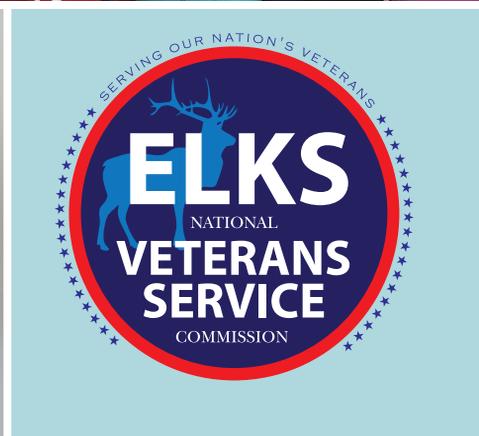




2016-17 *Annual Report*

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Meeting the needs of today's veterans



WE ARE THE *Elks*

Since 1868, we have been part of your community. Since WWI, when we formed the Elks War Relief Commission, we've made it our mission to serve this nation's veterans and military members. In 1946, we officially became the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

Today, our volunteers provide direct service to veterans in more than 330 facilities each month. Through our grants to Elks Lodges, we connect with veterans and military members in their communities, providing them with services where they live. We help veterans rehabilitate and thrive through adaptive sports programs and therapy kits. And our Welcome Home initiative is reaching out to some of our most vulnerable veterans: those who are experiencing homelessness.

Recently, we posted a photo to social media of a Lodge providing free haircuts to veterans in need. People liked and shared the photo, and one person commented, "These guys don't just talk." This is perhaps a perfect way to sum up not just the photo, but the Elk's history serving veterans. Elks don't just talk. Elks act, and we have been acting to serve veterans for more than 100 years.

We are proud to report on this, another successful year in our long history of service.

Respectfully Submitted,

James L. Nichelson, PGER, Chair
 David Carr, PGER, Vice-Chair
 John Amen, PGER, Secretary/Treasurer
 Paul D. Helsel, PGER, Member
 Louis J. Grillo, PGER, Member

2016-17 AT A GLANCE...

138,294
Elks
 gave
1,072,471
hours of service
 to veterans

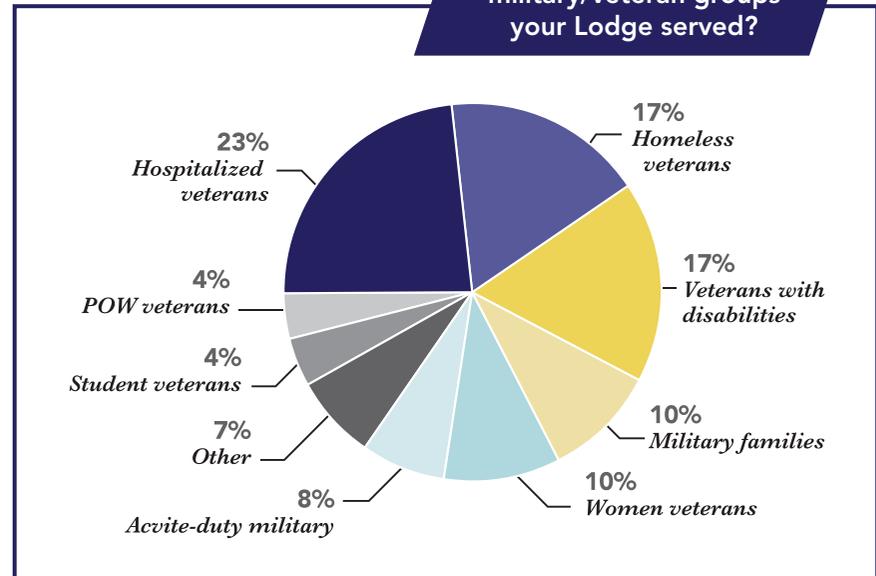
Elks supported
19,682
military members
and their families
 through the
 Army of Hope

Lodges held
 an average of
15
events
 to support local
 veterans

Elks provided
 friendship & support to
38,342
veterans
 through the
 Adopt-a-Veteran program

\$40,815,147
 The total value of Elks service
 in 2016-17 is estimated at

What are the primary military/veteran groups your Lodge served?





Elks make sure veterans in facilities have the supplies they need to be comfortable and know they are valued.

We serve hospitalized and recovering veterans.

Through the **Elks Voluntary Service Program**, we serve veterans, military members and their families in VA and other facilities.

In 2016-17, 311 VAVS Representatives and 282 VAVS Deputy Representatives served at 326 facilities to provide services to 323,573 veterans seeking medical and other care.

Facilities included:

- 153 VA Medical Centers
- 115 State Veterans Facilities
- 37 Community Vets Centers
- 9 USOs
- 2 Fisher Houses
- And more!



Elks help veterans relax and enjoy community events.



Our volunteers connect directly with veterans, providing individual attention and care.

“

The Elks continue to be extremely valuable members of the VAVS team. The support they provide in terms of coordination of Elks activities, volunteer manpower and donations is unparalleled.”

Nathan Witt,
Voluntary Service Chief,
Bay Pines VA

By the numbers:

311
VAVS
Representatives

282
VAVS Deputy
Representatives

326
facilities

323,573
veterans served



Elks plan trips to museums and other cultural attractions to keep veterans engaged.



We work to end veteran homelessness.

In 2016-17, the **Welcome Home Program** was able to make a big impact, giving some of our most vulnerable veterans the care, attention and recognition they deserve.

“

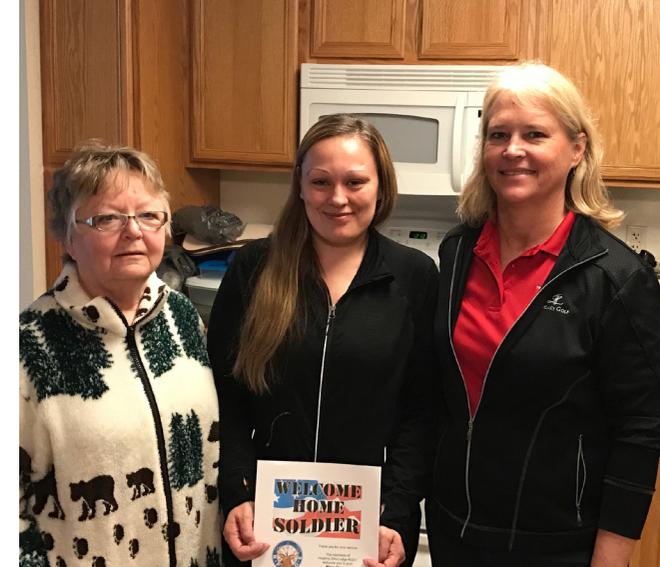
“I see not only the impact of the personal belongings but also the way in which the Elks have communicated to them that they’re important and that they matter.”

Joel Wenzel,
HUD-VASH Social Worker



217
veterans

received emergency assistance from the Elks, providing a lifeline for veterans at risk of homelessness and veterans exiting homelessness.



314
veterans

exiting homelessness received Welcome Home Kits of supplies, dishes, home goods and more to help them succeed in their new home.



“

“It’s a brotherhood. It’s in my heart. I can’t give enough out to make them feel better.”

Wayne Blake,
Loudon, VA,
Elks Lodge No. 2406

19
lodges

in communities with the highest number of homeless veterans received additional grant funds to begin outreach programs for veterans experiencing homelessness.



We help veterans rehabilitate and thrive

In 2016-17, Elks in 17 states collected 17,763 hides through the **Veterans Leather Program**. Finished leather was used in these ways:



Elks donated **54,279** square feet of leather to Help Heal Vets to manufacture craft kits

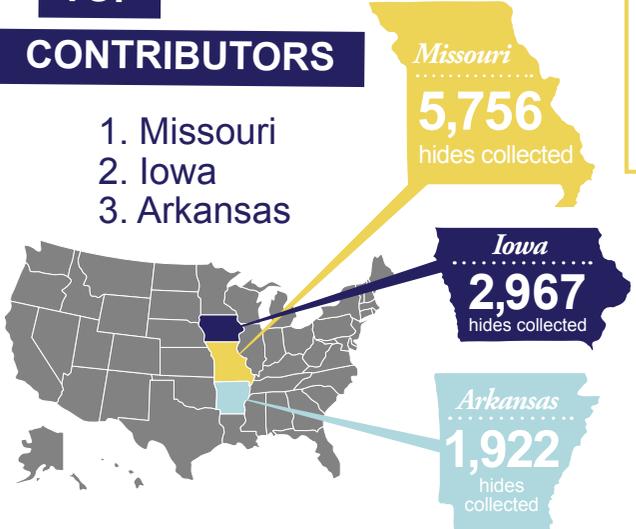
Elks donated **8,726** square feet of leather to hospitals and clinics.

Elks distributed **2,885** pairs of free wheelchair gloves to veterans.

Elks distributed **2,456** craft kits to recovering veterans.

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

1. Missouri
2. Iowa
3. Arkansas



Elks sponsor, volunteer and distribute free wheelchair gloves to veterans at **5 VA adaptive sports and arts events:**

- National Veterans Golden Age Games
- National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic
- National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
- National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic
- National Veterans Wheelchair Games

We connect with veterans in their communities to meet their needs.

**Watertown, NY,
Lodge No. 496**

hosts sailing trips and picnics at the Fort Drum rehabilitation center for returning wounded warriors.



**San Antonio, TX,
Lodge No. 216**

runs the San Antonio Fitness Club for Veterans, a running group that provides personal training and 5K race opportunities for local veterans.



Freedom Grants: In 2016-17, **180** Lodges received Freedom Grants to serve local veterans and military members.

**South Kingstown, RI,
Lodge No. 1899**

provides Thanksgiving and Christmas meal baskets to the families of enlisted military personnel at the Newport, RI Naval Base.



**Warrington, FL,
Lodge No. 2108**

partners with several area veterans' organizations to coordinate the Pensacola Homeless Veteran Stand Down. Elks provide meals, snacks, and bus passes for the veterans.



**Oakmont, PA,
Lodge No. 1668**

hosts monthly luncheons for residents of 3 local VA hospitals, providing good food, music, regular bingo games and prizes.



Community Investments Program Grants:

Lodges used **695** Community Investments Program Grants to serve veterans and military members in their communities.

**Florida Keys, FL,
Lodge No. 1872**

offers R&R to veterans in need with the Vets on the Water project, which provides fishing, kayaking and other trips for veterans struggling with stress, injuries, disabilities and PTSD.



We are "a mighty army for the service of mankind."

We are indebted to and thankful for our generous Elks volunteers, whom we depend on to make our programs run.

"It is a personal honor to be able to serve these veterans, and I'm grateful to all my fellow Elks volunteers for their time and contributions." - an Elks Lodge Veterans Chair

2016-17 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Alaska

Jan C. Jonker
& Kathi A. Johns

Arizona

Roger G. Bedell

Arkansas

Martin G. Caldwell Jr.
& Evonne Darrow

California-Hawaii

Robert A. Pickett

Colorado

Lary C. Herrera
& Joan Verhey

Connecticut

Philip C. Sengle
& Denise Johnson

Florida

James Klocke
& Lisa Ann Leighty

Georgia

John C. Hunt Jr.
& Maureen Ann Manning

Idaho

Ralph F. West
& Susan West

Illinois

Stanley K. Hayes
& Dolores Tomscheck

Indiana

Robert M. Hill

Iowa

Bob Kirchner
& Tasha Welch

Kansas

Gary A. Austin

Kentucky

Mike See
& Janet Cartwright

Louisiana

Don Baye

Maine

Henry G. Breton
& Sandra L. Anderson

MD-DE-DC

Guy W. Boniface

Minnesota

Richard Peterson
& Gretchen Peterson

Nebraska

Jimmie L. Meers
& Shirley Meers

New Hampshire

Dennis M. Joy Sr.
& Marion Savage

New Jersey

Fred Spages
& Kelly Mazzocchi, PER

New Mexico

Allen Semrau
& Janice Semrau

New York

William T. Mayer

North Carolina

Frank T. Brady Sr.
& Joan K. Breidenbach

Oregon

Robert A. Wymore
& Rhonda Brustol

Rhode Island

Pasquale A. Matteo
& Lynette Michele Wagner

South Carolina

Robert Block
& Jeanette Roveri-Smith

Texas

Roy J. Chambers

Utah

Alan P. Saunders
& Judith Cooley

Virginia

Dieter Schneider
& Patricia J. Graves

West Virginia

Natale Conti
& Carol Bostic

When John F. Malley founded the Elks National Foundation in 1928, he hoped it would "unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind."

In Memory

of the volunteers we lost in 2016-17

Vergel Barnes

Memphis, TN Lodge No. 2039
VAVS Dep. Rep., Memphis VAMC

Edwin W. Ball

San Mateo, CA Lodge No. 1112
VAVS Dep. Rep., Palo Alto VAMC

Damon Joseph Cutty

Shreveport, LA Lodge No. 122
VAVS Dep. Rep., Shreveport VAMC

Paul S. Fjestad

Fergus Falls, MN Lodge No. 1093
VAVS Rep., Fergus Falls Veterans Home

Clement W. Howell

Christian County, MO Lodge
No. 2777, VAVS Rep., Mt. Vernon
Veterans Home

Oscar "Buddy" Gloor, Jr.

Hot Springs, AR Lodge No. 380
VAVS Dep. Rep., Hot Springs VAMC

Sylvia Long

Wagoner, OK Lodge No. 2838
VAVS Dep. Rep., Muskogee VAMC

Richard E. Pierce

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, PA Lodge
No. 109, VAVS Dep. Rep.,
Wilkes-Barre VAMC

Richard Petrie

Clawson-Troy, MI Lodge No. 2169
VAVS Dep. Rep., Detroit, Michigan
Hospital

Anthony A. Sembarski

Battle Creek, MI Lodge No. 131
VAVS Rep. Battle Creek VAMC

Sandra K. Shaw

Biloxi, MS Lodge No. 606
VAVS Dep. Rep., Biloxi VAMC

Louis M. Withiam

Ithaca, NY Lodge No. 636
VAVS Rep., Bath VAMC

***We toast to our
absent members.***



We partner to accomplish more together.

We partner with ***Make the Connection*** and the ***Veterans Crisis Line*** to spread the word about mental health resources.

We work with the ***ENF*** to bring the Elks family together through service, helping to plan veteran-focused Scholar Service trips and a veterans service event at the Hoop Shoot National Finals.

We partner with ***Re-Creation USA***, which performed 127 shows and reached 5,628 veterans in VA facilities across the nation.

We sponsored ***Bugles Across America***, who works with more than 5500 buglers in all 50 states to perform live Taps at thousands of veterans' funerals and memorial services each year.



We spend our funds wisely.

Financial Information

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission operates thanks to a generous grant from the Elks National Foundation. We 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.

Revenue and Support

\$2,470,444

Appropriation from Elks National Foundation, Inc.

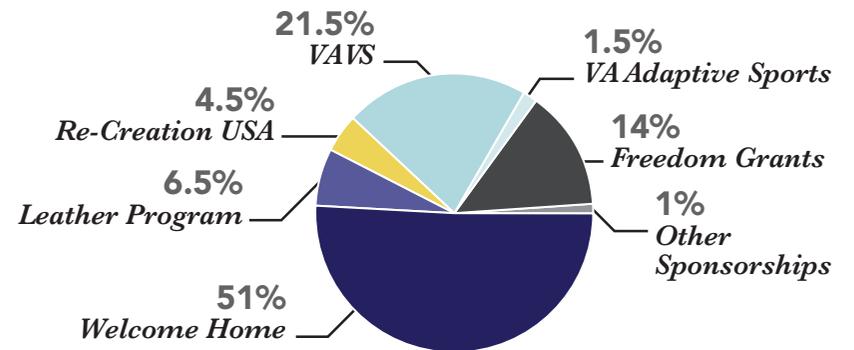
\$13,095

Other Contributions and Income

\$2,483,539

Total revenue and support

Programs and Partnerships



Financial highlights for 2016-17 were summarized from the Financial Statements of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, with the Independent Auditor's Report prepared by FKA Advisors. The audit covered the period beginning April 1, 2016, and ending March 31, 2017. Complete financial statements, including all notes, may be obtained by contacting the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.

“

“The Elks not only provided my family with critical assistance needed for housing, they did it with compassion and unbridled commitment, working outside of business hours to assure our needs were met during a crisis situation. Saying ‘thank you’ is not nearly enough to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Elks organization.”

- Diane, post-9/11 Army veteran

”

FOLLOW US!



Elks National Veterans
Service Commission



@ElksVetsService



@ElksVets

www.elks.org/vets

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