SERVING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

Elks National Veterans Service Commission
2017-18 Annual Report
For 150 years, Elks have been there for their fellow Americans. 2017-18 was no different. Veterans from all walks of life learned that they could count on the Elks as thousands of our members upheld the Elks sacred pledge to serve our nation’s veterans.

We are proud to report on this past year, and hope you enjoy reading about what Elks accomplished together, in service to veterans.

Sincerely,

David Carr, Chair | John D. Amen, Vice-Chair | Ronald L. Hicks, Secretary/Treasurer | Paul D. Helsel, Past Chair | James L. Nichelson, Past Chair

in 2017-18

6,823 Elks
provided friendship and support to 39,560 veterans through the Adopt-a-Veteran program.

5,498 Elks
supported 34,983 veteran families through the Army of Hope.

132,186 Elks
spent 772,262 hours in service to veterans, bringing thousands of their friends and family members to join in.

Lodges
held an average of 13 events for veterans.

The total value of Elks’ service to veterans in 2017-18 is $46,940,389!

WE ASKED OUR VOLUNTEERS ONE SIMPLE QUESTION:

Why do you do it?

Here’s what they said.

They are the foundation of what our country is built on.

They need our respect and help.

Service over self.

Because I am a veteran and I know what it’s like.

It brings me a lot of joy.

It is an honor to do so.

It’s what Elks do.

I am a veteran and want to help other veterans in any way I can.

I am a retired Vietnam vet that never got thanked.

They gave their all, they are my brothers and sisters.

As a Vietnam veteran, it is part of my duty.

I am also a disabled veteran, and an Elk.
Welcome HOME

In September 2015, Elks joined the fight against veteran homelessness. Here’s what Elks accomplished in 2017-18, the third year of this program.

Through the Emergency Assistance Fund

**Elks helped**

271

veterans exit or prevent homelessness by providing a total of $349,799 in assistance.

**Veterans**

received an average of $1,290.77 showing that a small amount of assistance at the right time can make a big impact.

**34 Lodges** used Focus Grants to target the areas with the highest number of homeless veterans. These grants provided:

- Food baskets for newly housed veterans
- Furniture for veterans and their children moving into new homes
- Care packages for veterans experiencing homelessness
- Resources at Stand Downs and outreach fairs
- and more!

**Elks in 64 Lodges**

put together Welcome Home kits of supplies to 806 newly housed veterans in 23 states.

**Elks spent**

$130,524.67 on supplies, often supplementing these kits with food, furniture, and more.

“I’m extremely grateful for your kindness in helping veterans that are building a new life...your generosity is so healing to homeless veterans. These items have helped me to make my apartment a home.”

*Patricia, Army vet*
The ENVSC helps veterans stay fit and active by sponsoring 5 different adaptive sports events across the country, attended by hundreds of veterans of all ages. Elks volunteers attend events to support veterans and hand out free wheelchair gloves to the veterans in attendance.

These events are the:

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

Elks in 16 states donated 15,983 hides which were used to make wheelchair gloves and craft kits for veterans.

Elks leather was used to make thousands more craft kits distributed in VA hospitals, clinics and anywhere veterans gather to recover and thrive.

Elks distributed 3,336 pairs of gloves and 3,074 craft kits to veterans across the country.

Altogether, the value of the program last year: $1,056,436.13!
Modeled on the VA Voluntary Service Program, the Elks version also includes support for veterans at State Veterans Homes, Veterans Shelters, Vets Centers and anywhere veterans need assistance.

Our 611 Representatives and Deputy Representatives provide consistent, ongoing support to hundreds of thousands of veterans across the country through this program. This year, Elks spent 66,703 hours directly serving veterans in more than 330 veterans facilities. Everyone wants to be at the VA in November, but Elks remember our veterans year-round.

In 2017-18, Elks volunteers visited veterans in facilities a total 8,651 times! This breaks down to an average of 5 times a month, serving an average of 372 veterans each month.
In 2017-18, we awarded a record **200 Freedom Grants**! Lodges used these grants to meet the unique needs of veterans in their communities, filling in gaps in services, expanding available resources for veterans in need, and building a community of support for veterans in their area.

Lompoc, Calif., Lodge No. 2274 partnered with Vandenburg Air Force Base to plan and host events to help children of military members understand deployment and to provide recreational activities and support for local military families.

Lynnwood, Wash. 2171 built wheelchair accessible raised garden beds for Sebastian Place, a housing facility for previously homeless veterans.

Reno, Nev., Lodge No. 597 partners with the VA to run the Disabled Veterans Kayak Program at the Lodge pool, which brings outdoor activity opportunities to recovering veterans and veterans with disabilities.

Barre, Vt., Lodge 1535 partners with Veterans Inc., to provide sneakers, work boots, jeans, and other needed items to veterans. Elks also distribute home supplies to veterans exiting the program and moving into their own homes.

Lodges used **977 other Community Investments Programs grants** to serve veterans, military members and their families.
Volunteers
OF THE YEAR

2017-18

Alaska
Jeremiah D. Frye
& Susan McDonald

Arizona
Edward Carl Kromer Jr.
& Pam Boggan

Arkansas
Randall J. Dugan
& Pam Boggan

California-Hawaii
Earl T. Bouchard &
Sandra Murphy

Colorado
Robert Cook &
Karen Carner

Connecticut
Alexander J. Atkinson
& Kathryne M. Atkinson

Florida
William M. Jameson
& Elizabeth Ann Jameson

Georgia
Charles Burke
& Patricia Hill

Idaho
Michael Marvin
& Judy Gessford

Illinois
James R. Hertenstein
& Angelia Hustedde

Indiana
Edward A. Chambers
& Martha Meyers

Iowa
Kalcey V. Harvey
& Judi Hoffman

Kansas
Kenneth C. Gates

Louisiana
Daniel Dilberto

Maine
William A. Demmons
& Monique Lafamme

MD-DE-DC
Carl A. Robinson
& Marie M. Cavy

Massachusetts
Donald M Barnard Jr,
& Denise Shurtleff

Michigan
David Neeson

Minnesota
Todd Tanhoff
& Lisa Bishop

Missouri
Jim Queathem
& Eileen Scrivner

Nebraska
William T. Foster

New Hampshire
Steven F. Ornday
& Michele Lefebvre

New Jersey
Bruce R. Totten
& Deborah Porter

New York
Clara Lou Gould

North Carolina
Douglas McGrath
& Donna Kozlowski

Oregon
Adam Tom Britto Jr.
& Joan M. Shepherd

Rhode Island
Gerald Lapierre

South Carolina
Robert K. Compton
& Wendi Schulman

Texas
Richard D. Case
& Stacy Lahue

Utah
Roger W. Kaufman
& Toni D. Hopes

Virginia
Wayne Blake & Roberta
Deese

West Virginia
Donald L. Stokes &
Nanci J. Hovermale

Earl Bouchard

Earl has been volunteering at his local VA for more than 30 years, planning dozens of events, large and small, for veterans every year. It’s not just his work though; it’s how he does it.

VA staff says, “Mr. Bouchard is dedicated to never letting anyone down, and he always talks to veterans with encouragement and kindness; this is what keeps veterans looking forward to these events.”

Whether he’s helping newly housed veterans with supplies and furniture, using his woodworking skills to build games for VA residents, collecting and distributing toiletries for at-risk veterans or volunteering alongside Elks Scholars, Earl’s passion for veterans is always on display. Congratulations to Earl Bouchard!

In 2018, we awarded the first-ever National Veteran Volunteer of the Year award. The recipient was Earl Bouchard, of Sunland-Tujunga, Calif., Lodge No. 2098.
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.

Financial highlights for 2017-18 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, 2017, and ending March 31, 2018. Complete financial statements, including all notes, may be obtained by contacting the Elks National Veterans Service Commission.
SO LONG AS THERE ARE VETERANS, THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

@ELKSNEWHAMPTON

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