



# GRAND LODGE Convention News

WEDNESDAY ✨ JULY 6, 2022

## All resolutions pass in Legislative Session

By Tiffany Bakker

Convention News Reporter

On the second day of the Grand Lodge Session, in a rare voting outcome, delegates passed all 11 resolutions to amend the statutes of the Order during the Legislative Session.

Delegates also heard from several Grand Lodge committees and commissions concerning their activities over the previous year and their plans for the future and congratulated the All-American Lodge winners and the finalists of the Ritualistic Contest.

Of note is the passing of a resolution to establish and codify a new Elks National Drug Awareness Commission, to better support and promote the Order's programs designed to increase drug awareness and address the dangers surrounding substance abuse. Another noteworthy resolution that overwhelmingly passed provides the GER with the ability to protect Lodge Members, guests, and property when a Member acts in a threatening or otherwise egregious manner.

Other resolutions that were passed included resolutions to add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors of incorporated Local Lodges, eliminate the age requirements to obtain life membership status, and grant the GER or District Deputy the authority to allow electronic meetings to protect Members with health concerns. Other resolutions adjusted various statutory requirements to take new electronic tools into account and allow for electronic meetings in some circumstances.

Prior to the legislative session, Grand Trustee Chairman Randy Shook, in his final report, indicated that the 2022-2023 dues would be fixed at \$29.00—\$6.50 for the Grand Lodge, \$17.00 for the insurance assessment, and \$5.50 for The Elks Magazine.

While the results of the voting were being tabulated, Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt gave an update on the Disaster Relief Fund, which provided \$135,000 in support for disasters, including floods and fires, in six states. He encouraged



**GER T. Keith Mills and the attending Past Grand Exalted Rulers recite the Pledge of Allegiance before Tuesday's Legislative Session. Photo: Jenni Girtman.**

continued Lodge donations to replenish funds for future relief efforts.

Government Relations Committee Chairman Anthony Markarian reported that the total national giving by the Order in time, money, and in-kind donations had increased significantly since the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The final total was \$368,368,264.17—exceeding the previous year by nearly \$125 million.

Next up was Wayne Cotterly, chairman of the Activities Committee, who announced the results of the Community Project Contest, of which the first place winners were Oakland Park, FL Lodge No. 2407 (Division 1), Roxboro, NC Lodge No. 2005 (Division 2), Goldsboro, NC Lodge No. 139 (Division 3), Putnam, CT Lodge No. 574 (Division 4), Houlton, ME Lodge No. 835 (Division 5), and Middletown, CT Lodge No. 771 (Division 6). He noted that the Soccer Shoot had conducted its third virtual national championship and congratulated the five boys and five girls who were national champions in their respective age-groups. He also presented the Marvin M. Lewis Elks in Scouting awards to Anthony Buccigrossi, of East Brunswick, NJ Lodge No. 2370; Kelly Pills-

bury of Waterville, ME Lodge No. 905; Timothy Kelley of Brawley, CA Lodge No. 1420; and Dana Ernst of Kearney, NE Lodge No. 984.

Fraternal Committee Chairman Robert Hinkle congratulated the winners of the Americanism Essay Contest. The winner of Division I was Addison Smith, who was sponsored by Marshall, TX Lodge No. 683. The winner of Division II was Yiorgos Kozak, who was sponsored by Asbury Park-Wall, NJ Lodge No. 128. He announced that the 2022-2023 contest theme will be *"What Is Your American Dream?"* He also noted two significant changes to the 2022-2023 contest to expand and encourage participation. The contest will be expanded from the previous two divisions to four divisions—one each for fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The contest will also award monetary prizes to the top three winners in each division. Next, he congratulated the 18 winners, including six first-place winners, of the All-American Lodge contest, marking the first year that the All-American winners were announced on the floor of a Grand Lodge session.

Please see **SESSION** Page 6

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## We're So Proud Of OUR Grand Exalted Ruler!



T. Keith Mills

Don't forget about...



A convention tradition, the popular Idaho potato patch sports a Georgia theme.

## Registration Final Tally

On this last day of the convention, the grand total number of Elks, Spouses and Guests remains unchanged from Monday's tally:

Grand Exalted Ruler . . . . .	1
Past Grand Exalted Rulers . . . . .	18
Grand Lodge Officers . . . . .	7
Grand Trustees . . . . .	8
Grand Forum . . . . .	6
Grand Lodge Committeemen . . . . .	78
District Deputies-Designate . . . . .	226
Special Deputies . . . . .	32
Reps to G/L and Alternates . . . . .	1,415
State Association Presidents . . . . .	47
State Association Secretaries . . . . .	34
Grand Lodge Members . . . . .	1,505
Members of the Order & Guests . . . . .	2,661
<b>Total of</b>	<b>6,038</b>

## 3RD DAY BUSINESS SESSION

<b>08:00</b>	<b>Call to Order</b> . . . . .	T. Keith Mills, GER
	— Invocation . . . . .	Rev. Father Michael Martine, Grand Chaplain
	— Pledge of Allegiance . . . . .	All
	Memorial Service . . . . .	Michael T. Luhr, PGER
	PR & Membership Marketing Report . . . . .	Richard F. Gathen, Manager
	Installation of 2022-2023 Grand Lodge Officers . . . . .	Robert L. Duitsman, PGER
	Grand Exalted Ruler Remarks . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Installation of DDGERS . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Announcements . . . . .	Timothy J. Whalen, Grand Esquire
	Special Resolution . . . . .	Roger R. True, PGER
	Presentation . . . . .	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Presentation of Jewels to outgoing G/L Officers . . . . .	T. Keith Mills, PGER
	Presentation . . . . .	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Special Presentation . . . . .	"GER Badge", Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Special Presentation . . . . .	Minnesota "Ring", gift from State Ass'n
	Presentation . . . . .	Alaska "Watch", gift from State Ass'n
	Appointments . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Presentation of G/L Officers & Committee Chairmen . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	Closing Ceremony . . . . .	Grand Lodge Officers
	Benediction . . . . .	Rev. Father Stephen McNally, Grand Chaplain
<b>10:32</b>	<b>Grand Lodge Closed</b> . . . . .	Bruce A. Hidley, GER



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TUESDAY'S RESOLUTIONS BALLOTING RESULTS		
2022-1	To add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors.	Yes=1,507 No=1,164 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-2	To reduce the burden of storage of hundreds of years of physical paperwork by allowing for digital storage of documents. To increase longevity of information by minimizing risk of loss of information due to disaster or accident. To eliminate the need to store membership-related paperwork and information already available in CLMS, and allow for digital storage of membership-related paperwork that pre-dates CLMS implementation	Yes=2,596 No=93 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-3	To eliminate the age requirement in part (a) of Section 14.260.	Yes=1,580 No=1,096 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-4	To create, establish, and codify a new Elks National Drug Awareness Commission, to better support and promote the programs of the Order intended to address the dangers and pervasive problems surrounding drugs, alcohol, and substance abuse, and to keep communities across the United States informed about those risks and dangers.	Yes=2,463 No=221 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-5	To provide the Grand Exalted Ruler with the ability to protect Members, guests, and property when a Member acts or threatens to act in an egregious manner.	Yes=2,346 No=334 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-6	The purpose of this amendment to clarify that there is no charge for the issuance of identification cards.	Yes=2,542 No=143 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-7	The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that the Grand Exalted Ruler has sufficient time to analyze the objections made by a Member, Lodge or State Association that are subject to an executive order.	Yes=2,605 No=82 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-8	The purpose of this amendment is to provide authority for local Lodge Committees and Subcommittees to meet by electronic means.	Yes=2,409 No=275 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-9	The purpose of this amendment is to authorize the Grand Exalted Ruler or District Deputy to allow electronic meetings to protect Members from a serious threat to their health and safety and to ensure the continuation of Lodge business.	Yes=2,450 No=236 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-10	The purpose of this amendment is to clarify that an unaffiliated Member, who is the current spouse of a Member, may visit a Lodge and attend events of the Order in a manner consistent with the status of a spouse who has never been a Member of the Order.	Yes=2,173 No=506 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>
2022-11	The purpose of this amendment is to authorize electronic submittal of forms in the permitting process.	Yes=2,602 No=73 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Passed</b>



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**Lodge Badges**



**Past District Deputy Badge**



**Past Exalted Ruler Badges**

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## ~ GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE ~

### Contest A – All American Lodge Winners for 2021-22

By **ANTHONY J. DARDANO**  
Committee Member

The top three Contest “A” All American Lodges have been chosen in each Division. After listing the top 10 in each Division in the July Grand Lodge Newsletter, the judges have chosen the top three in each division and announced them at Grand Lodge in Atlanta on Tuesday morning at the Business Session.

Here are the top three awards for Lodges in each Division.

**Division I – [1-150 Members]**

- 1st Place Crestview, FL Lodge No. 2624
- 2nd Place Norfolk, VA Lodge No. 38
- 3rd Place Norfolk, NE Lodge No. 653

**Division II – [151 to 225 Members]**

- 1st Place Santa Monica, CA Lodge No. 906
- 2nd Place Kearny, NJ Lodge No. 1050
- 3rd Place Roxboro, NC Lodge No. 2005

**Division III – [226 to 300 Members]**

- 1st Place Forks, WA Lodge No. 2524
- 2nd Place Bridgeport, PA Lodge No. 714
- 3rd Place Howell, NJ Lodge No. 2515

**Division IV – [301 to 450 Members]**

- 1st Place Roseville, CA Lodge No. 2248
- 2nd Place Sierra Vista, AZ Lodge No. 2065
- 3rd Place Louisville, KY Lodge No. 8

**Division V – [451 to 700 Members]**

- 1st Place Casa Grande Valley, AZ Lodge No. 1957
- 2nd Place St. Louis, MO Lodge No. 9
- 3rd Place Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge No. 782

**Division VI – [701 Members and up]**

- 1st Place Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475
- 2nd Place Fayetteville-Springdale, AR Lodge No. 1987
- 3rd Place Ballard (Seattle), WA Lodge No. 827

Congratulations to all Lodges that participated in Contest “A.” You are all winners. Your Lodge is better because of your participation.

~ 2022 RITUALISTIC CONTEST FINAL SCORES ~

First Place	97.5236	Kenton, OH No. 157
Second Place	97.4456	Garden Grove, CA No. 1952
Third Place	97.4254	Keizer, OR No. 2472
Fourth Place	97.0249	Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782

~ 2022 CALLICOTT 11 O'CLOCK TOAST CONTEST FINALISTS ~



From left to right

- Chad Spencer** — Kenton, OH No. 157
- John Montgomery** — St. Johnsbury, VT No. 1343
- Brad Lucas** — Sun City, AZ No. 2559
- National Winner: Chad Spencer**

~ 2022 FLAG CHARGE CONTEST FINALISTS ~



From left to right

- Stephen Teague** — Bridgeport, PA No. 714
- Becky Carlson** — Keizer, OR No. 2472
- Diane Bodwell** — Phoenix, AZ No. 335
- Todd Daquino** — Kenton, OH No. 157
- National Winner: Stephen Teague**

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GER-Elect Bruce A. Hidley spoke about his program for the coming year. He encouraged the attending Exalted Rulers to be active in engaging in many national programs. He also encouraged all Lodges to focus on membership and growth in the form of recruitment, reinstatements, and frequent initiations. GER Hidley then announced that card-signing donations collected during the Grand Lodge Convention, as well as throughout his travels as Grand Exalted Ruler, will be marked for the Elks Veterans Memorial Restoration Trust. Finally, he reminded the

leaders of Local Lodges to record, report, and publicize their Lodges' good works and deeds and to use the many Elks National Foundation grants for which their Lodges were eligible.

Ritualistic Committee chairman Kenneth Rice closed the session by recognizing the winners of the national Ritualistic Contest, including outstanding officers from the preliminary rounds and the top four winners of the national finals. In addition, the four finalists and the winner of the Eleven O'Clock Toast Contest and the four finalists and the winner of the new Flag Charge Contest were recognized. ★



GER-Elect Bruce A. Hidley waves to the crowd. Photo: Jenni Girtman.

Elks Magazine expands digital archives

Explore the history of the Elks — and the United States of America — through our archived issues of The Elks Magazine. The archive has been expanded, with issues available from June 1922 through November 1986. Each issue is posted in full as a PDF at [elks.org/history/archives.cfm](http://elks.org/history/archives.cfm).

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Congratulations to 2021-22 Ritualistic Contest Winners!



**First Place — Kenton, OH No. 157**

Esquire Derek Kaufman; Esteemed Leading Knight Chad Spencer; ER Nate Davis; Esteemed Loyal Knight Ryan Yoakum; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Derryck Menard. *Standing, from left:* Coach D. Jack Buroker; Candidate Sue Buroker; Chaplain John Hines; Inner Guard Todd Daquino; Coach Jerry Haudenschild; Coach David Beazley.



**Second Place—Garden Grove, CA No. 1952**

Esquire Mark Mahoney; Esteemed Leading Knight Tina Duarte; ER Eric Skillman; Esteemed Loyal Knight Richard Axe; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Christopher Garland. *Standing, from left:* Tiler Sharon Violano; Candidate Terese Caiazzo; Chaplain Pete Zappella; Inner Guard Alice Salinas; Coach David Offhaus; Head Coach Gary Mueller.



**Third Place — Keizer, OR No. 2472**

Esquire Corrine Arehart; Esteemed Leading Knight Sarah Coelho; ER Becky Carlson; Esteemed Loyal Knight Marion Farm; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Simone Busby. *Standing, from left:* Coach Richard Shipley; Coach Lee Arehart; Inner Guard Shawn Findley; Chaplain Agena Almero.



**Fourth Place — Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782**

Esquire Matthew Winnans; Esteemed Leading Knight Lisa Rovito; ER Wayne McDonnell; Esteemed Loyal Knight Jennifer Appaluccio; Esteemed Lecturing Knight Sallimae Johnson. *Standing, from left:* Coach Kathleen Caffrey; Candidate Peter Appaluccio; Chaplain Heidi McDonnell; Inner Guard Madelyn Walrod; Tiler Barbara Pirro.



**All American Officers — Eastern Division**

Esquire Christine West (Bridgeport, PA #714); Esteemed Leading Knight Lisa Rovito (Lake Hopatcong, NJ #782); ER Wayne McDonnell (Lake Hopatcong, NJ #782); Esteemed Loyal Knight Ryan Yoakum (Kenton, OH #157); Esteemed Lecturing Knight Derryck Menard (Kenton, OH #157). *Standing, from left:* Coach D. Jack Buroker (Kenton, OH #157); Candidate Sue Buroker (Kenton, OH #157); Chaplain John Hines (Kenton, OH #157); Inner Guard Todd Daquino (Kenton, OH #157); Coach David Beazley (Kenton, OH #157); Coach Jerry Haudenschild (Kenton, OH #157).



**All American Officers — Western Division**

Esquire Jason Gonzales (Littleton, CO #1650); Esteemed Leading Knight Sarah Coelho (Keizer, OR #2472); ER Becky Carlson (Keizer, OR #2472); Esteemed Loyal Knight Richard Axe (Garden Grove, CA #1952); Esteemed Lecturing Knight Simone Busby (Keizer, OR #2472). *Standing, from left:* Candidate James Thompson (Grand Island, NE #604); Inner Guard Brandon Halvorson (Reno, NV #597); Coach Richard Shipley (Keizer, OR #2472).