Enthusiastic Minnesotans host Elks convention

By Mike Chamernik
Convention News Reporter

Finally, the lead up to the 158th Grand Lodge Convention is over. For Minneapolis, this year’s host, it’s been 19 years since the city last hosted an Elks convention. And for the convention organizers, this week is the endpoint of more than 18 months of planning and preparation.

Gretchen and Rick Peterson, a married couple from Hopkins, MN Lodge No. 2221, serve as the convention’s Executive Co-Chairs. In leading the effort, they’ve recruited volunteers, appointed chairpersons to the Local Support Committee, and managed all the paperwork, accounting, and logistics that come with such an event.

“We’ve enjoyed the process, but we’re looking forward to seeing the completion of what we’ve been working for a year,” Rick Peterson said. “To have all of the hard effort turned into success will be rewarding.”

One of the main tasks for the Petkersons and the Local Support Committee is promoting the event itself. The theme this week is Get Your Plaid On, so volunteers will be wearing apparel with the familiar burgundy red checkerboard motif associated with Minnesota. The convention logo, which includes a plaid silhouette of an elk on top of a flowing river below the Minneapolis skyline, pays homage to Paul Bunyan and the Minnesota Northwoods lumberjacks.

“It’s taken on a life of its own,” Gretchen Peterson said. “We were trying to come up with a theme that would be fun and engaging for the attendees.”

VOLUNTEERING

More than 270 Members from across the state are serving as volunteers for the convention. The Petersons said many people jumped on board right at the start — they promoted the 2023 national convention at last year’s Minnesota state convention, and 100 volunteers signed up immediately.

“We’ve learned a lot along the way,” Gretchen Peterson said. “Overall, I think it’s been a very good experience. We’ve gotten to know a lot more people in the state of Minnesota. The Minnesota volunteers have really stepped up.”

Tammy Lehn, DDGER and a Member of Hutchinson, MN Lodge No. 2427 and General Chairperson of the convention’s Local Support Committee, said there was no problem finding help.

“Our 7,000 Members in the state of Minnesota,” Lehn said, “once we started selling it saying, hey we got this coming, we’re going to need this, that, and the other thing, once we released the Minnesota logo of Come Get Your Plaid On, people got so excited.”

Justin Key is serving as the Airport Greeters/Transportation chairman, and one of his main roles is to ensure the endorsed candidate, PGERs, and other VIPs are able to get around between the airport, hotel, and convention center. His role and working on the team have been fulfilling.

“It’s a lot of fun, and you get to see people from around the state that we see at our state convention,” said Key, an incoming DDGER and Member of Red Wing, MN Lodge No. 845. “You don’t get to see these people all that often, so it’s really fun to have an event like this where you can all work together as a team for one great objective.”
All American Lodge Contest narrows down to 60 finalists

By WILLIAM J. LINDSEY
Committee Chairman

This past year, 229 Lodges from 38 State Associations entered the Contest ‘A’ - All American Lodge Contest.

Here are the top 10 in each division in alphabetical order.

Division I
(1-150 Members)
Cushing-Drumright, OK No. 2712
Elmwood Park-Paterson, NJ No. 60
Fayetteville, NC No. 1081
Grangeville, ID No. 1825
Green Bay, WI No. 259
Mount Airy, NC No. 2061
Norfolk, NE No. 653
Norfolk, VA No. 38
Pendleton, SC No. 2861
San Angelo, TX No. 1880

Division II
(151-225 Members)
Cedar Grove, NJ No. 2237
Greater Spokane, WA No. 228
Katy, TX No. 2628
Loudoun, VA No. 2406
Milwaukee, WI No. 46
Newport News, VA No. 315
Ridgecrest, CA No. 1913
Santa Monica, CA No. 906
Tri-Cities, WA No. 2755
Wheeling, WV No. 28

Division III
(226-300 Members)
Bridgeport, PA No. 714
Forks, WA No. 2524
Grand Island, NE No. 604
Jackson, TN No. 192
Kansas City (Northland), MO No. 2376
Kearny, NJ No. 1050
Mena, AR No. 781
Page, AZ No. 2498
South Bend, IN No. 235
Tucson, AZ No. 385

Division IV
(301-450 Members)
Calvert, MD No. 2620
East Stroudsburg, PA No. 319
Eveleth, MN No. 1161
Gilroy, CA No. 1567
Kearney, NE No. 984
Middletown, NJ No. 2179
Provo, UT No. 849
Putnam, CT No. 574
Salem, IL No. 1678
Sierra Vista, AZ No. 2065

Division V
(451-700 Members)
Casa Grande Valley, AZ No. 1957
Chandler, AZ No. 2429
Chattanooga, TN No. 91
Dover, DE No. 1903
Ferndale, MI No. 1588
Hickory, NC No. 1654
Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782
New Braunfels, TX No. 2279
Rensselaer, NY No. 2073
Saratoga-Wilton, NY No. 161

Division VI
(701 Members and up)
Bremerton, WA No. 1181
Fayetteville-Springdale, AR No. 1987
Greater Cape May, NJ No. 2839
Manahawkin, NJ No. 2340
Manasquan, NJ No. 2534
Manchester, CT No. 1893
Phoenix, AZ No. 335
St. George ‘Dixie’, UT No. 1743
St. Louis, MO No. 9
Sun City, AZ No. 2559

The first, second, and third place winning Lodges in each Division will be announced during the Convention on Tuesday morning during the Business Session. We hope to see you there.

CONTEST “I” WINNERS
The Contest I - State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins.
Judging is based on four categories: Content, Layout & Typography, Pictorial, and General.
Judging was an exciting process. The reader learned what other State Associations across the nation are doing.
Thank you to the many editors who entered and earned the 4 Star and 5 Star ratings. And the winners are:

5 Star ***** Awards
State Editor
Arizona Shawnee Carlile
Florida Rachael King
Georgia Lynda Lewis
Kansas Carl E. Lindsey, Jr.
Louisiana Buddy Hartle
MD, DE, DC Janie Swigert
Missouri Joy Clarkson
New Jersey Joyce Powell

4 Star **** Awards
State Editor
Michigan Dave Sladek
North Carolina Ashley Buckwell
Pennsylvania Glen Klein

Exalted Rulers: Minneapolis Reports due in October!

Exalted Rulers (or alternate delegates) should be reminded that they are required to attend the Annual Session and submit a Report to their Lodge no later than the first regular meeting in October. [GLS §12.120]

A good suggestion would be to save each edition of the Convention News, along with a copy of the Resolutions. Also, record how you voted on each resolution and submit to the Lodge with a cover letter. That will complete the obligation of your report to your Lodge.
PLEASE, SPEAK UP!

Court Reporter Judy needs to know your **Name, Current Elks Title, and Lodge Name and Number**. If you are recognized for making or seconding a motion, please come forward at the end of the Session to make sure she gets your information correctly into the permanent record which will be used to produce the annual Grand Lodge Proceedings book. We don’t want you to be listed as an “Unidentified Delegate” in its pages. Thank you for your kind cooperation!

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**SUNDAY AFTERNOON OPENING CEREMONY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04:00</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert L. Duitsman, PGER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Opening and Intro of PGERs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Robert L. Duitsman, PGER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emergency Responders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pipes &amp; Drums</td>
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<td>Presentation of USA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Louisville 8 Elks Honor Guard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Welcome from Rep. Dave Baker, Minnesota Assistant Minority Leader</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Drug Awareness Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Millard C. Pickering, PGER</td>
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<td>Local ENF Recipient</td>
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<td>Robert L. Duitsman, PGER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elks Charities At Work</td>
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<td>James M. McQuillan, PGER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hoop Shoot</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Makenna Cannon, Youth Programs Manager</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grants &amp; Scholarships</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deborah Kahler Doles, Asst. Director</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Veterans Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Robert L. Duitsman, PGER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>GER Speech</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bruce A. Hidley, GER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Closing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert L. Duitsman, PGER</td>
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</tbody>
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CAMARADERIE

The Elks convention always has the usual staples, including the Opening Ceremony, Memorial Service, business sessions, and the various meetings, seminars, and training classes. But the fraternizing between Members from across the country is what makes the convention special. Having thousands of Elks leaders in one place gives everyone a chance to share ideas.

“It’s really great to meet people in different hospitality rooms, meetings, and in trainings, and learn about different things and different programs that each state has,” Key said. “Maybe there’s something that worked and something that didn’t work, and it’s nice to share that with everybody, so we can all learn from each other and provide better programs for our communities.”

For instance, Minnesota implemented an Elks Passport Program in 2019, where Members get a passport book and receive a stamp when they visit the different Lodges in their state. Members from Minnesota talked about the program in the hospitality rooms at recent national conventions, and the Passport Program has now reached other states, including Missouri.

For Lehn, the Elks convention means family and friendship. “Getting to know others around the country, and how they handle their Lodges, and what are some new and exciting things they’ve tried and been successful with, that maybe our Lodges could try,” she said. “It’s a lot of communication going on during the hospitality rooms.”

Lehn and her husband, George, the Grand Esteemed Leading Knight for 2022-23, have attended more than 15 conventions together, and over the years they’ve met plenty of couples from other states, including Oklahoma and Connecticut. Familiar faces always get a warm greeting.

“That’s what’s nice,” Lehn said. “The same type of people come around quite a bit, and you recognize each other. You may not remember the names, but you do recognize each other.”

COMING FROM OUT OF STATE

For Rochelle Roerig, a Trustee and Member of Charlevoix, MI Lodge No. 2856, this will be her third convention, and her first time in Minneapolis. She’s making the nine-hour drive to the Twin Cities with her Lodge’s Exalted Ruler and House Chair. During the convention, she plans to attend some of the meetings, assist with her state’s hospitality room, and volunteer at the Michigan State Major Project booth, where she’ll sell merchandise and tell visitors about her state helps children with special needs. She’ll also attend the Opening Ceremony.

“I still do really like the pomp and circumstance of the different flags at the Opening Ceremony, when they carry the flags that represent the states,” Roerig said. “I really like that.”

Roerig is a frequent commenter on the Elks.org message boards. She and some of the other commenters will take the opportunity to meet in Minneapolis.

“We just plan to get together and finally meet in real life, instead of chatting online,” Roerig said. “My favorite part is meeting these people that you feel like you know and that you really enjoy, and to meet them in person and confirm that.”

THINGS TO DO

Beyond Elks business, this should be an eventful week in Minneapolis. In addition to Independence Day celebrations, the Taste of Minnesota will be held downtown on Nicollet Mall on Sunday and Monday, and the Minnesota Twins host the Kansas City Royals from Monday to Wednesday. GER Bruce Hidley will throw out the ceremonial first pitch on Monday, and hundreds of Elks have already purchased tickets for the game (7:10 p.m. start).

Downtown Minneapolis is exceptionally walkable, with plenty of options for food and retail, and cultural and outdoor activities.

“It’s our hope that people get out and explore a little bit,” Gretchen Peterson said. “It’s a beautiful area. We have downtown parks, Gold Medal Flour Park. It’s a very vibrant area.”

The people of Minnesota add to that vibrancy.

“Minneapolis is a great place,” Key said. “It’s a very diverse community. All the time, you hear Minnesota Nice, Minnesota Nice, Minnesota Nice. In Minnesota, you can pretty much go up to anyone and ask for directions. We’re all really friendly and we like to help people.

“As far as Minnesota as a whole, as a state, and then Minneapolis as a city, we’re all really welcoming. There’s lots of parks, there’s lots of activities. There’s lots to see and do.”
GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY PROJECT CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

CONGRATULATIONS to all the Winners! Elks Lodges across the country continued to show that “Care—Share” by conducting Community Projects. These projects were showcased in the Grand Lodge Activities Committee’s Community Projects Contest. The winners for 2022-23 are as follows:

Division I • (1 – 150 Members)
1st Place Winner, SD No. 2084
2nd Place Mid Westchester, NY No. 535
3rd Place Florence, SC No. 1020

Division II • (151 – 225 Members)
1st Place Palmdale, CA No. 2027
2nd Place Roxboro, NC No. 2005
3rd Place El Paso TX, NM No. 187

Division III • (226 – 300 Members)
1st Place Goldsboro, NC No. 139
2nd Place Tifton, GA No. 1114
3rd Place South Orange, NJ No. 1154

Division IV • (301 – 450 Members)
1st Place Putnam, CT No. 574
2nd Place Presque Isle, ME No. 1954
3rd Place Tampa, FL No. 708

Division V • (451 – 700 Members)
1st Place Charlevoix, MI No. 2856
2nd Place Dover, DE No. 1903
3rd Place Hornell, NY No. 364

Division VI • (701+ Members)
1st Place Manasquan, NJ No. 2534
2nd Place Ashland, KY No. 350
3rd Place Milwaukie-Portland, OR No. 142

Every Lodge is encouraged to have a project that it conducts in its community. Does your Lodge have a Junior Golf program, or have you considered starting an Antlers Lodge? Perhaps participating in the Public Service Medal program is the right move for your Members?

By doing a project that benefits the people in your community, your Lodge increases its visibility, and offers opportunities for your Members to communicate to the public about who we are and what we do. Information on the process of developing a community project can be found on the ENF Community Investments Program page of Elks.org. If your Lodge conducts a project in the coming year, remember to showcase it in the Community Projects Contest.

Community Investment Grants
elks.org/cip/default.cfm

Community Projects Contest
elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/communityProjectsContest.pdf

The Elks Youth Eye Service has funded groundbreaking research and therapies in juvenile eye care since 1949.

Learn more at EYES.OregonElks.ORG
DAP awards given out at two-day training session

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
National Director
Elks Drug Awareness Commission

Prior to the opening of the Grand Lodge Session, Drug Awareness Chairs representing the various State Associations throughout our Order attended a two-day intensive training here in Minneapolis. The training consisted of presentations regarding many of the facets of the Elks Drug Awareness effort and included a presentation from the DEA regarding current trends and activities.

The Kent Gade Rookie of the Year Award was presented to Rebecca Underhill, Chair from Ohio. Becky was recognized for her exceptional participation during her first year. She is the first recipient of the award since it was renamed in honor of longtime National Director, Kent Gade, who retired from the program at the beginning of this year.

The Chairman of the Year Award was presented to Henry Farnum from Virginia. Henry, a former Chair from Vermont, was recognized for his efforts forming coalitions within the commonwealth and for his untiring efforts in making Virginia one of the strongest programs in the nation.

At the training, a special video presentation was made to Gade, who appeared via Zoom. As a tribute, Gade will receive the final Crystal Elk Award, which had been annually awarded to Chairman of the Year. Gade originated the idea for the award.

Special presentations were also made during the training by current Director Bill Bryan and by Sean Fears from the DEA.

Drug Awareness will be holding a workshop here at the convention center on Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 101B, where the 2023 Enrique S. Camarena Award will be presented to Officer Kyle Mason from Wisconsin. Hope to see many of you there.

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

How do I submit to the FRS?

What is the FRS?

How do I use QuickBooks?

What’s a Restricted Fund?

How do I handle it?

How do I use QuickBooks Desktop?

WE HAVE ANSWERS

Chat with the experts from the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee and the FRS Applications Specialist

Stop by our booth in the Exhibits Area (Hall C) during Exhibit Hours and pick up your free gift.

G/L AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

The Auditing and Accounting Committee will be conducting two seminars on Monday and Tuesday to assist Lodges in their accounting tasks.

The Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar will address the basics of utilizing the recommended software to perform all the basic accounting tasks that a Lodge needs. The session will be conducted using a live session of QuickBooks. It is recommended for all beginners and intermediate Lodge personnel that handle the bookkeeping at the Lodge level. The seminar is scheduled for 12:30-1:45 p.m. Monday and 2:15-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, both in Minneapolis Convention Center, meeting room 101G.

The Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics session will be addressing six of the most common areas where Lodges have issues with complying with Grand Lodge Statutes or federal and state information return requirements. This session is scheduled for 2-3:15 p.m. Monday and 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, both in Minneapolis Convention Center, meeting room 101G.

Each session will also have a question and answers segment. Members are also able to stop by the committee’s booth in the exhibits area to meet one on one with a member of the committee to address specific issues. The committee looks forward to meeting you.
Thank You All!

The Assistant Officers for the 2023-24 Minneapolis Grand Lodge Convention have been announced as follows:

**Clerks of Election**

Joe Allen — Camden, TN #2156
Thomas P. Pavlik — Ashland, OH #1360
Ron Hancock — Midwest City, OK #1890
Kenneth J. Buuck — New Orleans, LA #30
Brian Thompson — Mena, AR #781
Larry R. Bratt — Lincoln, NE #80
Steven W. Hardy — Maynard-Clinton, MA #1568

**Assistant Clerks of Election**

Joseph Pedone — Park Ridge, NJ #2234
Kevin Connolly — Pearl River, NY #2041
Joseph C. Parisi — Pascagoula, MS #1120
Kathleen Ackerman — Middletown, CT #771
Donald L. Bittick — Caldwell, ID #1448
E. J. Patrick III — Oregon City, OR #1189
Jerry D. Fritz — Cody, WY #1611

**Inspectors of Election**

Roger Slief — Pratt, KS #1451
Lance Evans — Brookfield, MO #874
Michael E. Norway — Nashua, NH #720
Robert Norred — Alexander City, AL #1878
John T. Schlegel — Anchorage, AK #2868
Kerry A. Ruth — Deadwood, SD #508
Laura V. Laughlin — Cody, WY #1611

**Assistant Grand Esquires**

John Powers — Florence, SC #1020
Jeffrey D. Cionni — Wellsburg, WV #1553
Arthur Jacques — Woonsocket, RI #850
Karl K. Hanke — Wausau, WI #248
Sandra L. Anderson — Waterville, ME #905
Willie Roberson Jr. — Dalton, GA #1267
Renee’ Rivituso — Waldorf, MD #2421

**Assistant Grand Inner Guards**

Thomas A. Maloney — Newport, VT #2155
Carl E. Smith, Sr. — Beaver Falls, PA #348
Gary C. Washburn — Eagle River, AK #2682
Chris Elsberry — Des Moines, IA #98
Andrew Housley — Silver City, MS #413
Steven D. Weatherly — Fort Worth, TX #124
Cynthia Wyszynski — Telluride, CO #692

**Assistant Grand Tilers**

Mark A. Alderman — Mount Airy, NC #2061
Brian Pillar — Highland, IN #981
Doyle W. Roller, Jr. — Shawnee, OK #657
Dennis Darrow — Jonesboro, AR #498
Don Baye — New Orleans, LA #30
Stella A. Kolysko — Ticonderoga, NY #1494
Floyd F. Schmidt — Lincoln, IL #914

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**ENF Chairs’ Challenge Contest Winners**

*April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023*

**STATE ASSOCIATION WINNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>6,772</td>
<td>557.400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>529.896</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>6,875</td>
<td>466.312</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>2,607</td>
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**LODGE WINNERS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Composite Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division I — 150 Members or fewer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Tri-Cities, TX Lodge No. 2877</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>San Angelo, TX Lodge No. 1880</td>
<td>147</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Green Bay, WI Lodge No. 259</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division II — 151 to 225 Members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Katy, TX Lodge No. 2628</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Portage, WI Lodge No. 675</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Wheeling, WV Lodge No. 28</td>
<td>205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division III — 226 to 300 Members</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Kerrville, TX Lodge No. 2081</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Bridgeport, PA Lodge No. 714</td>
<td>280</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Oshkosh, WI Lodge No. 292</td>
<td>289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division IV — 301 to 450 Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Oak Harbor, WA Lodge No. 2362</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Gainesville, FL Lodge No. 990</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Fairhope, AL Lodge No. 1879</td>
<td>341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division V — 451 to 700 Members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Owatonna, MN Lodge No. 1395 TIE</td>
<td>597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Sheboygan, WI Lodge No. 299</td>
<td>TIE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Grapevine, TX Lodge No. 2483</td>
<td>521</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Delta, CO Lodge No. 1235</td>
<td>521</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division VI — More than 700 Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Place</td>
<td>Groton, CT Lodge No. 2163</td>
<td>873</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Place</td>
<td>Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475</td>
<td>1,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Place</td>
<td>Bristol County, RI Lodge No. 1860</td>
<td>1,857</td>
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VISIT THE ENVSC BOOTH
Check out the new Elks National Veterans Service Commission booth, write your name on our Wall of Service, and pick up your “I’m a Veteran” ribbon.

While there, chat with ENVSC staff about Welcome Home Kits, and learn how you can sign up to help hospitalized veterans.

Veterans Leather Program Chair Dennis McAleese and Vice-Chair Chuck Mudge will be sharing their expertise and selling gloves for $25.

This year, Chip Purkey from Help Heal Veterans will be available to answer any questions about ordering free craft kits for veterans. We’ll also be asking for your input on a new craft kit calendar for 2024.

We look forward to seeing you!

~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ~

ENF Per Member Contest Winners
April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

STATE ASSOCIATION WINNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>6,035</td>
<td>$145,636.50</td>
<td>$24.132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>2,607</td>
<td>$60,281.52</td>
<td>$23.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>13,269</td>
<td>$303,761.15</td>
<td>$22.893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>6,875</td>
<td>$127,752.88</td>
<td>$18.582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>3,558</td>
<td>$62,196.92</td>
<td>$17.481</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LODGE WINNERS

Division I — 150 Members or fewer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Per Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Wells, ME Lodge No. 2738</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>$27,017.00</td>
<td>$482.446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Seguin, TX Lodge No. 1229</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>$33,519.24</td>
<td>$328.620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Greeley, CO Lodge No. 809</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>$22,414.00</td>
<td>$156.741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Division II — 151 to 225 Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Per Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Atlanta-Northlake, GA Lodge No. 78</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>$32,740.00</td>
<td>$199.634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Porterville, CA Lodge No. 1342</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>$22,966.00</td>
<td>$149.130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Newport News, VA Lodge No. 315</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>$19,982.00</td>
<td>$128.090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Division III — 226 to 300 Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Per Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Fairview Heights, IL Lodge No. 664</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>$15,663.00</td>
<td>$61.424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Park Ridge, NJ Lodge No. 2234</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>$11,715.00</td>
<td>$43.389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Rochester, MN Lodge No. 1091</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>$10,305.00</td>
<td>$42.234</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Division IV — 301 to 450 Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Per Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV Lodge No. 1468</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>$62,098.00</td>
<td>$147.852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Howell, NJ Lodge No. 2515</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>$23,521.00</td>
<td>$75.147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Louisville, KY Lodge No. 8</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>$29,268.00</td>
<td>$70.696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Division V — 451 to 700 Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Per Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Eagle River, AK Lodge No. 2682</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>$18,398.47</td>
<td>$39.997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Springfield, OR Lodge No. 2145</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>$18,149.00</td>
<td>$38.533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Sheboygan, WI Lodge No. 299</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>$19,735.46</td>
<td>$38.026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Division VI — More than 700 Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Donations</th>
<th>Per Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley, CA No. 2444</td>
<td>1,161</td>
<td>$48,346.90</td>
<td>$41.643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Gallipolis, OH Lodge No. 107</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>$28,529.50</td>
<td>$34.414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475</td>
<td>1,614</td>
<td>$50,838.90</td>
<td>$31.499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Recognition Award
Best New Lodge in Per-Member Giving

The generous donations in 2022-23 by the B.P.O. Elks of Canyon, TX Lodge No. 2887

are gratefully acknowledged by the Grand Exalted Ruler and our Board of Trustees

Elks National Foundation
Fourth-generation Elk named Alum of the Year

By Abbey Knupp
ENF Communications Manager

Elks scholarships are more than just funds for school—they’re an opportunity to join a community of service-minded peers and connect to a network of Elks across the country who make the scholars feel at home wherever they are. The Alum of the Year Award is given to a scholar who gives back to that community, and this year’s winner barged right in.

Erika Barger won a Legacy Awards scholarship in 2006, when she was sponsored by Ormond Beach, FL Lodge No. 2193. In 2008, Barger joined the Lodge that sponsored her scholarship, continuing a family tradition that goes back nearly 100 years.

“As a fourth-generation Elk, I strive to continue my family’s legacy in the organization by helping to make a small difference in my community through the Elks and beyond,” Barger said.

Barger was part of the inaugural Scholar Advisory Board when it was founded in 2009, and she served on the board for four years. Barger has done it all. She’s hosted Elks Scholar Meet-Ups at her college, attended Elks Scholar Service Trips, and volunteered at a Lodge more than 3,000 miles from her home while interning with the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

In 2014, when she was serving as her Lodge’s Exalted Ruler, Barger used a scholar Cornerstone Grant to enhance the Lodge’s annual holiday party, where four other Elks scholars volunteered to make the event a success.

Now, Barger serves as her Lodge’s Scholarship Chair.

“Chairing the Scholarship Committee at my Local Lodge for many years has permitted me to engage with the next generation of Elks and to recruit much-needed talent to our great Order,” Barger said.

Congratulations to Erika Barger for earning ENF’s Alum of the Year. She received the award at the ENF Donor Event on Saturday night.

Oregon Major Project
Helping children see a brighter future since 1949

To learn more about the Oregon Elks Major Project the Elks Youth Eye Service visit EYES.OregonElks.ORG

Elks Youth Eye Service
To make a donation, scan the QR code to the right and help children see a brighter future.
GOV. RELATIONS HOLDS SEMINAR

On Saturday, the Grand Lodge Government Relations committee welcomed State GR chairs from across the country to its annual seminar. Training topics included working with local and state governments, charitable reporting, the new charity reporting workbook and forms, and a networking discussion among all the areas.

Outgoing Government Relations Chairman Anthony Markarian (left) welcomes incoming Chairman William J. Bryan.

Elks support mother, daughter ERs

By Mike Chamernik

Deborah and Jamie England, a mother and daughter duo from New Jersey, are the Exalted Rulers of their respective Lodges this year. Of course, that leads to some questions.

“We confuse a lot of people,” said Jamie, of Hackensack, NJ No. 658. “We get that a lot. ‘What do you mean you’re not with Manahawkin? Your mom is in Manahawkin, why are you in Hackensack?’”

Deborah and her husband, Kim, raised Jamie in Manahawkin, NJ, but Jamie attended Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ, more than 100 miles to the north. She joined the nearby Hackensack Lodge 10 years ago. Deborah, meanwhile, became a Member of Manahawkin No. 2340 six years ago.

Being apart has some upsides.

“It’s helpful,” Deborah said. “We can bounce ideas off another, or what her district does and maybe my district doesn’t. We support each other in both districts, both Lodges.”

Jamie and Deborah have similar goals and challenges as ERs this year, specifically growing membership and raising money for causes and charities such as drug awareness, veterans, and youth peer leadership.

The Englands give so much to the Elks, and the Elks reciprocate. Kim England, PER of Manahawkin, died in December 2021. Ever since then, Members have reached out to his wife and daughter to keep in touch and invite them to dinners and social events.

“The Elks support everybody and everything,” Jamie said. “When my father passed, that was the organization that supported us the most. That just proved we were in the right spot.”

“We’ve been volunteers our whole life with different organizations,” Deborah said, “but nobody stepped up like the Elks did to support us, and continue to support us.”

Deborah (left) and Jamie England are serving as Exalted Rulers for 2023-24.
Hoop Shoot champs shoot perfectly under pressure

By Abbey Knupp
ENF Communications Manager

When the Hoop Shoot National Finalists step up to the line to take their shot at a national championship, they are standing with some of basketball’s best. Wintrust Arena in Chicago is home to both the WNBA’s Chicago Sky and the DePaul Blue Demons of the NCAA. Seating 10,000 spectators, the arena is a much different than playing on a backyard hoop or in a hometown gym.

This year’s Getty Powell Award winners—the top overall boy and girl scorer—didn’t let the lights or the splendor distract them. Both 12-13 girls champion Morgan Miehle, sponsored by Wheeling, WV Lodge No. 28, and 12-13 boys champion Tommy Goodelle, sponsored by Utica, NY Lodge No. 33, shot perfect scores of 25/25.

It wasn’t Tommy’s first time stepping up to the line at Wintrust. This four-time National Finalist had already won a 10-11 title and placed third in 8-9. After just missing the podium last year in a tie-breaking shootoff for third, Tommy bounced back, worked harder, and returned to Chicago to take home the gold.

Getty Powell Award winners Morgan Miehle and Tommy Goodelle each shot 25-for-25 in the 2023 Hoop Shoot National Finals.

“The Hoop Shoot is all about grit—the ability to keep trying, even when things aren’t going your way,” said Youth Programs Manager Makenna Cannon. “Grit doesn’t always get you the win, but it pushes veteran Hoop Shooters to set new goals and keep going, and that drive is something they’ll keep with them forever.”

Morgan knows a bit about grit. For three straight years, Morgan made it all the way to the Regional Finals—and lost. After any of those losses, it would’ve been so easy to throw in the towel, but Morgan didn’t quit. She kept practicing and kept the dream of making it to the National Finals alive.

When she got there and finally stepped up to the line at Wintrust, she never missed a shot—the only perfect score of the day on the girls’ side—which secured her a Frank Hise National Championship and the Getty Powell Award.

The ENF will share more of their story at the Opening Ceremony, and the two new films featuring these Finalists will be posted on the ENF’s YouTube channel later this week.

The Elks have been unleashing gritty kids through the Hoop Shoot program for more than 50 years. For 2023-24, the Elks National Foundation allocated more than $1.4 million to fund the program. For videos, news from the court, and more information about the Hoop Shoot, visit elks.org/hoopshoot.

Donations could win your Lodge a bonus grant

By Abbey Knupp
ENF Communications Manager

The Elks National Foundation is putting a Spotlight on Service, shining its light in Minneapolis and giving you an opportunity to bring home a spark with a bonus Community Investments Program Grant!

The ENF is collecting new socks for veterans experiencing homelessness and new or gently used children’s books to promote youth literacy.

Bring your donations to the ENF booth to have your Lodge entered into a raffle for the chance to win a $2,000 bonus CIP Grant. Socks and books will benefit people in the Minneapolis area.

You can also get ribbons at the ENF Booth based on your Lodge’s CIP participation! If your Lodge used CIP Grants last year—or plans to use them this year—stop by to talk to the ENF staff about your project and get a ribbon for your credentials.