



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



New Year brings renewed focus for Local Lodges

Welcome to 2019, a year we all hope holds prosperity, good fellowship, and the solidification of the programs of the Grand Lodge in our Local Lodges. In order to move forward we need to accomplish many things and have our eyes keenly focused on details.

Now is the time to make certain the Auditing and Accounting Committee is engaging with an accounting firm for the annual audit and reporting to the floor their current findings of the Lodge's financial condition. The Trustees and House need to be deep into working on their respective budgets so the Lodge can roll into April ready to continue business. The office also needs to make



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MICHAEL T. LUHR

certain that all federal and state year-end reports are taken care of.

The Membership Committee should be reaching out to lapsed Members by telephone now, rather than waiting until the last few weeks of March.

Please review year end awards and decide

who to commend for exceptional work. Giving a pat on the back for great deeds by a Member can be done through Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, Citizen of the Year, and one of the Fraternal Committee's commendation awards. Not only are you honoring your hard-working Members, you just might get others to step up their game.

Have fun at PER night the first meeting of February, and get a plan for Valentine's Day along with our 151st birthday of the Order on February 16.

We are wishing all Elks a very Happy New Year. By *"Working Together to Make a Difference"* we will give others a Happy New Year as well!

Rules regarding Virtual Lodges

Membership records of current paid-up Members whose Lodge lost its Charter during the current year, either by revocation or surrender, have been transferred to the Virtual Lodge associated with the state to which the former Lodge was located.

Virtual Lodge Members will receive a new membership card for the remainder of this current year. This card will have their new Virtual Lodge number on it and will be in effect until April 1, 2019. The card allows entry to all Lodges, the same as the previous card did.

During the first weeks of 2019, a dues notice will be sent by Grand Lodge to the Virtual Lodge Members. Upon payment, they will gain another 12 months to find a new Lodge in the Order. If the current Virtual Lodge Members do not renew or they have not found a new Lodge by March 31, 2020, they will be dropped from the Order.

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Antlers today, leaders tomorrow

By **BRIAN H. CRAWFORD**
Committee Member

An Antlers Program provides numerous benefits for Lodges. Local youth can perform charitable functions for your Lodge, which builds experience in goodwill activities. In turn, your Lodge will have more opportunities for philanthropy.

Antlers nurtures the leaders of tomorrow. The program is structured in the same manner as the Lodge's officer and management system with an Advisory Committee's oversight. The Antlers members operate their program with officers and trustees to make decisions for their charitable opportunities, such as fund-raisers and community projects. This structure mirrors the management operations of many large corporations.

Antlers will learn practices that can be used in future job opportunities, preparing members for future leadership roles.

An added benefit is that once the Antlers members reach the age of 21, they can become Lodge Members and take on the roles of Elks. Involvement in Antlers gives them an understanding of how the Lodge management system functions, and they will be suited to accept Lodge

officer and committee roles.

The success of tomorrow begins with the support of today. Having an Antlers Program increases our opportunities of obtaining that success. A successful Antlers Program of volunteerism and involvement increases chances for our youth to be involved in the future of our country. These Antlers could be making decisions that will keep America great now and well into the future.

Please visit our Antlers information site at elks.org/grandlodge/activities/antlers. cfm. I am here to help with your Antlers Program. Contact me at bbcrawf@mchsi.com. Let me help you in organizing your program or assisting in your continued success of your existing program.

A future leader of our country might be an Antlers member of today.

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DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

YouTube group dons makeup to show drug horrors

By **JACKI SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

The Elks Drug Awareness Program has again teamed up with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for another powerful and emotionally driven campaign to bring awareness to the effects of drugs.

The video was produced by SMOSH, an American sketch comedy YouTube channel. "Elks Drug Awareness: Facing Addiction (Squad Vlogs)" features the SMOSH cast and Elks Drug Awareness spokesman, Ray Lozano. During their latest "Squad Vlog," a few members of the group were shocked and terrified when they got a personal, up-close look at what their lives would be like if they became addicted to meth, oxycodone, and heroin.

Actors were made up to resemble three members of SMOSH after "taking the wrong path" in their lives. Lozano provides drug awareness training to the actors so they are able to successfully play the roles of addicts. The makeup process and transformation is realistic and phenomenal. The SMOSH cast members are quite unnerved as they are led into a room to face oxy, meth, and heroin addiction.

As the story unfolds, it is quite amazing to see the cast's reactions when they realize that the actors are portraying their lives after making these bad decisions.

To view this 13 minute video, go to elks.org/dap/newslst.cfm, then click on Anti-Drug Campaign Launches Targeting Youth: Facing Addiction.

The video was seen by more than 850,000 viewers with more than 20,000 likes and over 1,600 comments in its first month. Here is a sampling of some of those comments:

- I love these types of videos, the other drug awareness video was very interesting to watch so I'm glad you guys made another! Thank you for using your large platform to spread awareness regarding a serious topic.

- I'm so happy that you did this. I haven't seen this before and it really helped me realize what drugs will do to you. Thank you.

- Definitely cried jeez that hit hard and this definitely is a great way to spread awareness.. I've never thought about taking drugs because seeing others mistakes but the thought of seeing myself as that mistake is crazy.

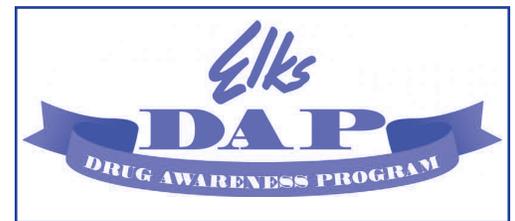
I'm actually thankful to see this type of awareness, and I'm glad Smosh has provided to young teens like me.

- Stuff like this should be shown in schools. It would be a lot more effective.

- I was expecting a funny vid today, but got something better. You guys clearly address and care about the real situations in today's time. Seeing this was heartbreaking & more channels need to bring awareness to this. I love you guys.

This is the second year that the Elks have partnered with SMOSH. Last year, the group made the video Elks Drug Awareness Makeup Transformation, which got 1.5 million views on YouTube.

For more information, please visit www.elks.org/dap.



GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Awards honor top Elks, Officers, and citizens

By **DENNIS A. RAMSEY**
Committee Chairman

The final quarter of the 2018-2019 Elks Lodge Year is here, and it is the last chance for us to attain a +1 gain in membership. Exalted Rulers: Lead your Lodge Membership Committee to stay focused on recruitment and reinstatements, hold frequent initiations, and don't leave candidates waiting. Every Member matters!

Now is a great time for ERs to review the Lodge's accomplishments and to recognize those Members and individuals who have made significant contributions to the Lodge and community. Below are three award certificates available for you to present.

- **Elk of the Year.** This award is for a Member who demonstrated devotion, dedication, and loyalty to the Lodge. This award cannot go to an Officer.

- **Officer of the Year.** For an outstanding current Officer who went beyond his or her duties to provide leadership and voluntary services to

the Lodge.

- **Citizen of the Year.** This award is not limited to Elks. It gives Lodges an opportunity for community outreach and membership recruitment within community.

Application requests for the above may be downloaded at: <https://www.elks.org/clms2web/files/AwardRequestForm.pdf>. These applications must be postmarked or e-mailed to the Grand Secretary's Office by March 31.

In addition to the above, the following awards are also available from the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee:

- **The GER Special Citation Award including a GER Pin.** The ER is authorized to issue these to two Members who did extraordinary work during the year.

- **Making a Difference – ER.** This Special Citation is available for the ER, who participated in six of the nine listed programs and contests during the year.

- **Making a Difference – Lodge.** This Special Citation is available for the

Lodge that participated in six of the 11 listed programs.

Application requests for the above Special Citations may be downloaded at: <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/ger/files/GERAwardCertificationForms.pdf>. These applications must be postmarked or e-mailed to your Area Member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee by March 31.

The GER Membership Citation with a GER pin is also available, which includes a personal "Message of Thank You" in recognition of Members who sponsored a total of three new or reinstated Members. The application may be downloaded at: <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/ger/files/AwardPinRequestForm.pdf>. These request forms must be submitted to the Grand Secretary's Office by June 15.

Stay connected with your Fraternal Committee with questions and answers as we are here for you. Together, we are making a difference in all we do, as "*Elks Care – Elks Share.*"

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

For Elks, zero publicity is bad publicity

By DANIEL J. CAPELLA
Committee Member

As Elks, we are aware of the importance of our Survey of Volunteer, Youth, Charitable and Community Service Programs and its usefulness in the effort to maintain our right to exist as a private organization. The statistics generated by our survey are of great value as we attempt to open eyes within our communities and of our elected officials to the good work we do and the positive effects we have.

We know that our Lodges operate great programs that reach out to our youth, the needy, and those who are handicapped, as well as donate to our Elks projects, school organizations, and local fundraising drives. Additionally, we lend a helping hand to community efforts for the clean up of a park or the building of a wheelchair ramp, or the rent-free use of our Lodge facilities for a blood drive or to an organization in need of a place to meet.

Our list of charitable acts and donations goes on and on. This is what we proudly do, not because we want a thank you, but because we care and we want our communities to be better places to live, work and raise a family.

My question to you is, *What is your Lodge doing to publicize the good work we do?* Some may say that tooting our own horn is bragging and therefore, unacceptable. I disagree and believe it is necessary that we do so, if only for the purpose of

self-preservation.

All too often, our Lodges neglect to appoint a capable and hardworking Member or committee for the sole purpose of Lodge publicity, which includes writing articles and taking pictures of the many activities we sponsor. Truth is, this person or committee is an essential component if a Lodge wants to be known for its benevolence and earn respect from the community.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a picture and article that publicizes our work is similar to our use of the figures from our Survey of Volunteer, Youth, Charitable and Community Service Programs. It is true that our survey results are tremendously impressive, but an article and picture of the work we do or of a donation we make creates a lasting impact that circulates throughout our community. The same can be said about pictures and articles that illustrate Elks having an enjoyable time at a Lodge picnic or at some other social gathering. Let the residents of our communities know that Elks do have fun and that we do laugh.

Good publicity shapes opinion, which in turn will help us build appreciation within our communities and with those who will shape our future. Also, it can easily lead to an increase in membership.

Please take a look at the effectiveness of your Lodge publicity program. It is time to make tooting our horn an everyday practice.

Pass it down

By TAYLOR ODISHO
ENF Communications Assistant

Elks who appreciate tradition will love the The Legacy Awards scholarship, a competitive \$4,000 award given to 300 high school seniors each year. The scholarship is a way for Members to pass Elkdom on to children and grandchildren.

Award recipients are required to perform service once a year with a Lodge during the four years in which they are receiving the scholarship.

Nathan Bartlett, sponsored by Dearborn, MI Lodge No. 1945, is carrying the Elks legacy of his father and mother who have been Elks for 21 years and nearly 10 years. His parents have been actively involved at their Lodge, showing Bartlett the Elks' way.

"It's nice to see the Elks helping the next generation gain a higher education," Bartlett said. "I'm proud to represent the Elks as a scholar."

The scholarship is open to the children and grandchildren of dues-paying Elks who joined the Order on or before April 1, 2016, or who are Charter Members of a Lodge that was instituted on or after April 1, 2016. Winners will be chosen based on academics, leadership, and the core values of the Elks National Foundation.

The application deadline is February 1 at 11:59 a.m. CST. Visit elks.org/scholars/scholarships/Legacy.cfm for complete eligibility and contest details.



GRAND LODGE AUDITING & ACCOUNTING

How to choose the correct annual report method

By KEITH E. ALVERSON
Committee Member

There are four acceptable levels of Annual Reports that may be submitted to Grand Lodge annually: an audit, a review, a compilation, or an in-house preparation. The requirements and level of service of each varies greatly, so each Lodge must determine what type of financial statement meets their specific needs.

Audit. Although an audit is appropriate for any Lodge, it requires much more work and is the most expensive type of report. The audit is normally prepared for larger Lodges that have extensive assets and more complex operations. The end result is a final report in which the accountant issues an opinion as to the financial condition of the Lodge. An audit can only be prepared by a Certified Public Accountant.

Review. A review is an engagement performed by an independent accountant and is less expensive than an audit. A review determines whether the financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles. A review is appropriate for all but the larger Lodges. Like an audit, a review can only be prepared by a CPA.

Compilation. A compilation merely presents, in the form of financial statements, information that is the representation of the Lodge management. The Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee must inform the Lodge that the report is based solely on information provided by the Lodge, and that no opinion or other form of assurance will be issued by the accountant. A compilation can only be prepared by a CPA as well.

In-House Preparation. GLS Section

13.040(j) states that a Lodge must request permission to prepare the Annual Financial Report using in-house personnel. An application, as well as the additional documentation noted on the application, must be submitted each year to the area Auditing & Accounting Committee member. The application can be found on the Grand Lodge web site, in the Auditing & Accounting Manual in Exhibit I.

Whatever report is chosen, make sure that your preparer has uploaded the most recent forms from the Grand Lodge web site. The use of obsolete, modified, or substitute forms will cause your annual report to be rejected and would have to be redone on the correct forms. Also, the 990/990T must be submitted with your annual report even if your preparer has filed an extension with the IRS.

Veterans and military members make great Elks

By **JAMES L. NICHELSON, PGER**
Past Chairman

Is your Lodge looking for new Members? Wouldn't you love to have more service-minded people at your Lodge?

It's a natural fit for Lodge Membership and Veterans Committees to team up to recruit veterans and military members as Elks. The Order has proudly supported veterans for more than 100 years and the military teaches teamwork and leadership skills we need. Military members and recently separated veterans have the youth, energy, and know-how to get the Elks' job done.

Elks connect with recently separated veterans through the Welcome Home

Program. Elks battle homelessness among veterans and volunteer in more than 600 VA and state veterans hospitals. Our Veterans Leather Program provides gloves and craft kits. Many Lodges support military families and send comfort kits to active military units. These recipients appreciate what the Order does for them, and they may want to be part of the effort.

Actively recruit Members from within your Lodge's veterans programs! If you sponsor a dinner for veterans, provide an Elks brochure and an application with the dinner. If you adopt a vet, invite that vet to be a Member. If you stuff

comfort care kits for overseas, put in an invitation to visit an Elks Lodge "when you get home." If you learn of a Member's child or grandchild actively serving, encourage that Member to sponsor his or her relative. The Lodge, under Sec. 14.310 of the Laws of the Order, may waive dues, initiation fees, or reinstatement fees of any applicant or Member who is serving on active duty.

Encouraging interested community residents to become Members is just another way of serving military members and veterans. You will find many who will make good Veterans Committee members.



BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
Benevolent and Protective
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January 2019

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GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Ensure long-time Members remain on our rolls

By **RICK GATHEN**
Membership and Marketing Manager

As charity begins at home, please give consideration to delinquent Members who may be facing hardships. Remember, "Living or dead, an Elk is Never Forgotten...Never Forsaken."

Let's stand by these great words when reviewing Lapsation rolls. Pay special

attention to Members with many years serving our Order before canceling their memberships.

The Exalted Ruler, Esteemed Leading Knight, Loyal Knight and Lecturing Knight, Secretary, and Treasurer shall constitute the Standing Relief Committee of the Lodge, which shall examine the merits of all cases suggesting the necessity of aid or relief. Upon

committee recommendation, your Lodge may legally vote on assisting with their dues. Any Member present at a Lodge meeting may make that motion.

Please make sure your Lodge Standing Relief Committee performs this important responsibility. Only then are we acting with Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

Happy New Year, Elks!

Please don't freeze this January