



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care – Elks Share*



## Finishing strong can jump start a new Elks year

As the Lodge Year nears its end, let's not lose focus on the fact that another will soon begin. Every Member seeking an officer position should be prepared to vote this month. Incoming Exalted Rulers-Elect should have their committee chairs lined up and ready for April 1.

When your Lodge Secretary sends out dues notices, Exalted Rulers should consider including a letter addressing the "State of the Lodge." List your Lodge's accomplishments during the previous 12 months, and include the many hours you've donated to your community. Introduce incoming Lodge Officers and inform them of your scheduled Installation date. Outline the



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**MICHAEL T. LUHR**

challenges the new Elks year will bring. Include a "fixed cost" report that details the operational expenses of your Lodge.

This kind of open communication with Members helps them understand how dues are spent, and makes them feel good about supporting those in need of assistance.

Has your Lodge met the GER per capita

goal of \$4.75 per Member? Do you have a 151st Elks Birthday Celebration or Valentine's Dinner scheduled for mid-February? If not, there is still time.

Now is also the time to consider your Citizen, Officer, and Elk of the Year Awards. Also, your All American Lodge Contest "A" request form, and your GER Special Citation selections are due in March. What better way to show appreciation for your hard-working Members than to present them with an award for their dedication to your community.

Let's all finish this Elks year strong and be ready to hit the ground running when April returns by *"Working Together to Make a Difference!"*

### Attention Secretaries: Report due soon, must be done on CLMS2Web

After the election of Lodge Officers in February and before April 15, the Secretary must complete the 2019-2020 Lodge Committee Chairpersons Report in CLMS2Web and confirm acceptance.

In January, to assist in compiling the needed information, a worksheet was mailed to the Secretary. **Remember:** This information is to be filed via CLMS2Web. Please do not mail to Grand Lodge or your District Deputy.

**With the pending** automatic submission of the Annual Membership Report, all membership activity must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on March 31. What does that mean?

All membership records need to be finalized... all adds, drops, and deaths must be entered into CLMS2Web before that time. If not, the Lodge membership total will be out of balance.

We appreciate your attention to and cooperation with this process.

**GRAND SECRETARY**  
Bryan R. Klatt

### GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

## Every Lodge can be All-American

By **LARRY W. SMITH**  
Committee Member

I urge each Lodge to make an effort to enter the Contest "A" — All American Lodge Contest, which recognizes Lodges that have the best administrative Elks programs during the year. Start planning now. With little effort in filling out the application, your Lodge could be recognized as an All American Lodge, the most prestigious award of the Grand Lodge Awards.

The Contest "A" letter and application is on the ER's thumb drive or online under the Contest Information section at: [elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm)

You will find that many items on the form can be completed right away. Lodge Officers should work together to complete it. The application must be signed by the Exalted Ruler and the Secretary, and it must be mailed to your District Deputy and postmarked no later than March 15. DDs will verify points earned and then mail the District winners by April 1 to the State Activities Chairman.

State Activities Chairman will mail to the GL Fraternal Committee Member. The name of that person on the application has changed. Mail to William Schran, 2725 Sapling Street, Allison Park, PA, 15101-4022. He can also be reached at [william\\_schran@yahoo.com](mailto:william_schran@yahoo.com). Cell phone: 412-551-3963.

Three winners are named in each of the six membership divisions. First place Lodges are awarded a plaque. Second and third place Lodges receive a certificate.

I challenge each Lodge to participate by filling out the applications. Let's show how *"Elks Care – Elks Share!"*

### INSIDE

- The six Lodges that turn 100 . . . . . 2
- The FAQ for trendy drugs . . . . . 2
- Scholarship leads to Elks opportunities . . . . 3
- A celebration of Elks and Scouting . . . . . 3
- How to help vets during the February lull . . . 4
- Don't leave prospective Members hanging . . 4

# 6 Lodges celebrate century of service

Lodges celebrating 100-year anniversaries during 2018-19 in service to humanity, our nation, and our Order's noble principles:

<u>Lodge Name</u>	<u>Instituted</u>
Rockville, CT Lodge No. 1359 .....	September 12, 1918
Ashland, OH Lodge No. 1360 .....	November 21, 1918
Jerome, AZ Lodge No. 1361 .....	April 19, 1919
Wallingford, CT Lodge No. 1365 .....	June 11, 1919
Scottsbluff, NE Lodge No. 1367 .....	June 10, 1919
Bend, OR Lodge No. 1371 .....	June 27, 1919

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

# Guide gives dangers of prescription, OTC drugs

By JACKI SCARPINO  
Special Contributor

An increasing number of teens use prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications to get high. Many parents and caregivers don't know enough about this problem, and many teens don't understand the dangers.

The DEA released *Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Misuse Medicine*, a guide that helps parents and caregivers understand and identify the medications teens are abusing. It presents prescription drug basics, includes information about commonly abused prescription drugs, and lists steps parents and caregivers can take to keep their teens drug free.

Prescription drugs are the most commonly misused substances by teens after marijuana and alcohol. Misuse of prescription drugs, such as taking them in different amounts or for reasons other than as they are prescribed, affect the brain and body in ways very similar to illicit drugs. When prescription drugs are misused, they can be addictive and have harmful health effects such as overdose (especially when taken along with other drugs or alcohol).

Some teens use prescription stimulants to try to improve mental performance. Teens and college students sometimes misuse them to try to get better grades. Taking prescription stimulants for reasons other than treating ADHD or narcolepsy could lead to harmful health effects, such as addiction, heart problems, or psychosis.

Many teens obtain prescription drugs from their family or friends. Teens find prescription drugs and OTC drugs in their home medicine cabinet or on the kitchen



Parents might not know enough about the popular drugs that teenagers abuse

shelf. For persons aged 12 or older who misused a prescription pain reliever in the past year (i.e., 11.5 million people):

- 40 percent got the pain reliever they used most recently from a friend or relative for free.
- 35 percent received the pain reliever through a prescription from one doctor.
- 9 percent bought the pain reliever from a friend or relative
- 6 percent bought the last pain reliever they misused from a drug dealer or stranger.

Over-the-counter medications seem to be less harmful since they do not have to be prescribed by a physician, but used inappropriately can be deadly. Drug-drug interactions can occur when two or more drugs react with each other. This may cause an unexpected side effect. For example, mixing a drug to help you sleep (a sedative) and a drug you take for allergies (an antihistamine) can slow your reactions and make driving a car or operating machinery dangerous. Drug-condition interactions may occur when an

existing medical condition makes certain drugs potentially harmful. For example, if you have high blood pressure, you could experience an unwanted reaction if you take a nasal decongestant.

It is also important to recognize that everyone's metabolism and brain chemistry are different, and the same drugs can have very different effects on individuals. Experimenting with medicine to get high is extremely dangerous, and mixing drugs to get high can be deadly.

To read the guide, *Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Misuse Medicine* go to: [https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/DEA\\_PrescriptionForDisaster-2018ed\\_508.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/DEA_PrescriptionForDisaster-2018ed_508.pdf)

## MEMBERSHIP From Page 4

Now let's combine that great collective effort and schedule more frequent initiations. Make it your mission to leave no candidates behind at the end of the fraternal year. As a result, we will proudly share the pride with a national membership increase.

We are closer than ever before to an outright gain.

# Tying together Elks family

By TAYLOR ODISHO  
ENF Communications Assistant

Every scholarship is a doorway into a family that includes other Elks scholars, alums, and Elks alike. Sean Pringle is a 2010 Most Valuable Student recipient who walked through the doorway, stayed involved with Elks and scholars, and joined his sponsoring Lodge, Oceano/Five Cities, CA Lodge No. 2504.

“I’m proud to be able to continue serving my local community in many ways as a member of my home Lodge,” Pringle said. “Hopefully I can continue giving back in the way that the Elks have given to me through my scholarship.”

Receiving a college scholarship meant Pringle didn’t have to worry about student loans. He’s paying it forward by donating to the Foundation through a monthly recurring gift as an ENF Fidelity Club member.

“No matter what you contribute,” Pringle said, “you have peace in knowing it’s going toward incredible programs that benefit Elks communities and students who receive ENF scholarships every year.”

As the Lodge and District Scholarship



Sean Pringle (right) attended ENF’s 150 for 150 event at the Convention in San Antonio

Chair, Pringle sees the impact of the ENF’s support in his Lodge and in the high schools he visits to talk about scholarships and youth programs. Pringle continues to give because he believes the ENF embodies the Order’s cardinal principle of charity. He hopes to encourage more scholars to walk through the doorway and into Elkdom.

“The ENF does a wonderful job of connecting our Elks scholars to our one, big Elks family,” Pringle said, “showing us the promising future of our Order and helping us continue to build strong communities.”

## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Charity is at the heart of Elkdom

By KENNETH N. BRUCKNER  
Committee Member

Though it’s the shortest month, February is packed with many important events. The month’s signature holiday, Valentine’s Day, reminds all of us of the importance of sharing our God-given talents to those less fortunate. This very important day is symbolized by the hearts on the cards that we send to family and friends.

Take the time to rethink this symbol of joy and the friendship that we as Elks can provide as we give time and money and volunteer assistance to others:

**H – Helping** the Lodge committee programs is extremely important. They provide a service within your Lodge, to the less fortunate, to our youth, to our veterans, and to our local communities by providing programs, personnel assistance, and awareness of who we are as Elks.

**E – Effort** that is put forth by each Elks Member, family member, or friend provides the support to the many programs provided within our communities. Many times, volunteers do not even stop to think as to why they are doing so. It’s out of pure heartfelt volunteerism and individual pride to provide an enriched life to others.

**A – Arouse** interest in fellow Members, family members, and friends to become Members and get involved with fellow committee volunteers within our great Order. It is amazing what can be accomplished with a program through individual involvement.

**R – Report** these accomplishments of time, travel, and monetary donations to your Lodge Secretary. After completing a project or event, a very simple form can be obtained from your Lodge Secretary or your Lodge Government Relations Committee Chairperson. Complete and return the form to your Lodge Secretary so they can report the activity in CLMS to be accumulated by Grand Lodge. The compiled information is submitted to the Federal Government to inform Senators and Representatives in Congress the amount of charitable time, money, and travel that Elks provide.

**T – Thank** each Member that is or was involved on a committee or event, whether it may be an ongoing project, an annual project, or event that has been completed. Recognition gives a volunteer a great deal of satisfaction and makes them feel accepted and appreciated within your Lodge and in the organization.

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# Award honors Members who spread Scouting

By MICHAEL T. OHREN  
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee invites all Lodges to nominate one candidate for the **Marvin M. Lewis Award**, the highest award for Scouting presented by the Elks. It is awarded to those Members who have promoted Scouting in their Lodge and have a strong history in working with Scouts. Four Elks each year are given this prestigious award.

In addition to the annual ceremony at the Grand Lodge Convention, a presentation can be made at one of the following events: Boy Scouts of America Local Council, Elks State Convention, or a Local Lodge meeting.

When selecting a candidate for the Marvin M. Lewis Award, candidates must have the recommendation of their Local Lodge and their Scouting Council to be eligible. Lodges should consider Elks who meet the following criteria.

1. Have brought Scouting to many youth.
2. Have assisted Lodges in forming Scouting units.
3. Are fully trained in the skills of Scouting and are outstanding role models.
4. Have contributed significantly to Elks and Scouting by bringing the two movements together to serve the community.
5. Have offered Scouting to all youth regardless of race, creed, or income level, and have been instrumental in organizing Scouting units, especially in inner-city or other low-income communities.

A Grand Lodge selection committee will review the candidates and choose the qualified recipients. Applications for this award can be found on the Elks web site under Grand Lodge Committees and are due on or before March 1. Lodges who submitted an application in the past and were not selected are encouraged to resubmit.

If you have any questions about the application, contact Michael Ohren at [White-tail@cox.net](mailto:White-tail@cox.net); Richard Belmore at [american@flash.net](mailto:american@flash.net); or William Sternberg at [bigjockeywing@yahoo.com](mailto:bigjockeywing@yahoo.com).

# February can be rough, especially for veterans

By **MARY K. MORGAN**  
Commission Director

February is a tough time here in Chicago. We've finally had enough of winter, but winter hasn't had enough of us. We're still in for weeks of cold even if the groundhog doesn't see his shadow.

It can be the same for veterans and military families in need across the country. Veterans Day has passed, the holidays are over, and many people won't think about veterans and military members again until Memorial Day.

It's the perfect time for your Lodge to step up and help! Here are a few ideas on how your Lodge can serve veterans in facilities.

• Host a Super Bowl, Valentine's Day or March Madness party at a local veterans' facility, or invite veterans to your Lodge for an event.

• Take veterans on a trip down memory lane with a sing-along or musical performance by bringing a local band to perform popular old songs. Or, invite a choir from a church or local school to perform at a facility.

• Nationwide, the VA has designated the week of February 14 as "National Salute to Veteran Patients" week. For an easy way to give back, simply contact your local VA and offer to volunteer at one of the events they are planning.

• Consider a winter food basket program for veterans, or contribute to a veterans food pantry at a VA or facility near you.

• Support veteran families by holding a baby shower for veterans and their partners who are expecting new babies.

• Buy children's books and school supplies for local military families in January. Connect

with a local Family Resource center to be put in touch with families in need.

Visit [elks.org/vets](http://elks.org/vets) or view our social media pages to learn more about what other Lodges are doing. Make a wish for the groundhog to predict an early spring!



**BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary**  
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**February 2019**

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## GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

# "Let's try" are words that win many battles

By **RICK GATHEN**  
Membership and Marketing Manager

An immediate call to action is needed with scheduling initiations. The main reason we have not had a national membership increase in recent years is our lack of urgency. We currently have more than 10,000 candidates waiting to be initiated.

It is unacceptable to have candidates waiting two months or more to be initiated

into our Lodges. We can and must do better. We highly recommend Exalted Rulers schedule special meetings for the purpose of initiations on weekends and non-meeting nights. There is simply not enough meeting nights left to get all the candidates in for many Lodges.

We are slightly ahead of last year with collecting dues and reducing our delinquency percentage. This is great news, but we need much more work done

to collect our delinquent Members. It is import to review the delinquency rolls and the hardship of those deserving of our assistance. Especially Life Members. If we cannot or will not take care of our own, we have no business taking care of anyone else. Charity begins at home. Remember "*Living or Dead, an Elk is Never Forgotten, Never Forsaken.*"

Please see **MEMBERSHIP**, Page 2

