



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER



Elks Care – Elks Share

Community projects give back—and lure new Members

How are you doing with your Lodge Community Projects? Did you know that you can enter your Lodge into the Community Project Contest offered by the Grand Lodge Activities Committee? Visit the Grand Lodge Activities Committee on elks.org to see what is needed to get your Lodge some additional recognition. If you have done some projects, fantastic. If not, it is not too late to begin now. This is a great way for your membership to get involved outside the Lodge. Who knows, it may interest new Members for your Lodge.

October 23-31 is Red Ribbon Week. This is our nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program,



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
T. KEITH MILLS

reaching millions of Americans every year. The Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, and others plan activities throughout the month. Contact local law enforcement and community organizations to see if your Lodge can get involved. In addition, encourage your Members to wear red ribbons

for the month during their daily routine. Pass out red ribbons to your schools, sponsor a red ribbon activity, submit public service announcements supporting your Red Ribbon program to local media. Also, during this time, most DEA agencies sponsor a prescription Drug Take Back Day. Ask a local law enforcement agency if your Lodge can volunteer to help in any way.

Now is the time for your six-month review of your Lodge operations. Lodge Secretaries need to give their bi-annual report on the activities of their office to the membership. Exalted Rulers, if you have not done so, you need to submit to the Lodge floor your report

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Help is available

Members in need of help can qualify for up to \$1,000 of assistance from the Order under Section 5.070 of the Grand Lodge Statutes.

This assistance would be available to *“worthy and needy Members of the Order who are suffering from diseases of an incurable character or from total disability, and who are without funds or property or relatives able or willing to care for them,”* the Statute states.

The Statute also provides that the Lodge of the assisted Member *“shall contribute toward the relief of the Member an amount not less than one-half of the sum that is contributed by the Order.”*

The assistance program is administered by the Board of Grand Trustees, which is authorized to appropriate up to \$10,000 annually for the program. The Board, by resolution, may give the Grand Exalted Ruler up to \$1,000 so that authorized payments may be made regularly by him.

“The monies so appropriated shall be administered by the Grand Exalted Ruler with the consent of a majority of the Board of Grand Trustees,” the Statute states.

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Have a good year by being All American

By **WILLIAM J. LINDSEY**
Committee Member

There is an app for a successful Lodge year.

The Fraternal Committee has just the plan to guarantee you a productive 2021-22: It is called following the contest requirements on the Contest “A” All American Lodge application.

(Okay, so I stretched the word “app” a little—this one is not electronic per se, but you can add it to your computer or smartphone.)

You may not have noticed, but over the last few years the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has been tweaking the All American Lodge Contest requirements to better focus on a successful year and level out the contest playing field. More emphasis has been put on membership issues, and for this year the makeup of the divisions have been revamped. Next year will see a change in allowing points for submitting for ENF grants whether or not you actually receive them.

We truly believe that the elements listed in the contest certification sheet make a great road map for the Lodge

and Exalted Ruler to follow throughout the year. You can find out areas where your Lodge is strong, as well as identify and work on weaker areas. The Fraternal Committee also has a manual available regarding Lodge activities that has many suggested activities for your Lodge that you may have yet to consider. Both the certification sheet and Lodge Activities manual can be found on the Elks website in the “Manuals” and “Forms, Contests & Downloads” sections of the Fraternal Committee page.

Just by participating, your Lodge and community will be winners! You will have given back to your community and contributed to the programs of Grand Lodge, furthering what our Order is all about.

Our Order's 18 All-American Lodges, three Lodges from each division, will be announced at the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta on the Tuesday of the sessions.

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on the Grand Lodge Session. Auditing and Accounting Committees also need to review the Lodge financials and report to the Lodge Members. Finally, make revisions (if necessary) to your annual budgets to get a clearer financial picture of your Lodge and to make decisions moving forward. Keeping your Lodge fiscally strong will ensure you continue *“Meeting the Challenge.”*

In addition to other activities, get started on the American Essay contest at your local schools. The deadline for submission is in mid-December. Information for the essay contest is located in the Grand Lodge Americanism Manual found on the Elks website. Have your Americanism chairperson examine the manual—There are great programs for your Lodge and community, and it provides ways to interact with others outside the Lodge, promote our programs, and find prospective new Members.

Finally, let us not forget Halloween at the end of the month. Think about planning an event for kids or working with another entity to provide a safe and fun opportunity for our youth.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Scouting leaders can earn top award

By **MICHAEL T. OHREN**
Committee Member and Scouting Coordinator

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. This is awarded to those Elks Members who have been strong promoters of Scouting in their Lodge and have a strong history in working with Scouts. Four Elks each year are awarded this distinguished award.

The Marvin M. Lewis awards are presented annually at the Grand Lodge Convention. In addition, recipients of this award can be recognized 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 Lodge and their local Scouting council to be eligible. Lodges should consider Elks who meet the following criteria.

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



The Grand Lodge Regional Scouting Chairmen will review the candidates and choose qualified recipients.

Applications for this award can be found on the Elks website under the “Programs” section of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee page. Applications are due on or before March 1, 2022. Lodges who have submitted an application in the past and were not selected are encouraged to resubmit.

If you have any questions concerning the application, contact Activities Committee member Michael Ohren at white-tail@cox.net, Richard Belmore at america@flash.net, or William Sternberg at bigjockewing@yahoo.com.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

DAP to honor NC officer during Red Ribbon Month

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**
Assistant National Director

October is recognized by all Americans as Red Ribbon Month, a time where we remember and celebrate the sacrifice made by DEA Agent Enrique S. Camarena in his attempt to live up to his own motto that one person can make a difference. His story and his history is well known by many Elks.

Later this month, the Elks Drug Awareness Program will travel to Atlantic Beach, North Carolina to present Officer Ricky V. Hughes with the prestigious Enrique S. Camarena Award. Officer Hughes was nominated by Roxboro, NC Lodge No. 2005, and they too will be recognized for their contributions in the Drug Awareness effort.

Lt. Hughes is a 24-year law enforcement veteran who spent several years



undercover in an attempt to make his community safe. He has spent countless hours mentoring at-risk youth in efforts to break the cycle of family violence, drug use, and gang activity. When his selection was shared with Geneva

“Mika” Camarena, widow of the slain DEA Agent, she simply said: “I think my husband would have been proud to serve with Lt. Hughes.” Nothing more needs to be said.

If your Lodge is looking for low-cost ideas on how to celebrate Red Ribbon within your community, contact your State Chair of the Elks Drug Awareness Program for ideas. Your Chairs are well equipped to assist you. Wear your red ribbon with pride. Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31. If your Lodge sponsors a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, remember that the DEA has a Red Ribbon Patch for Scouts. More information about this patch can be obtained at: www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/get-involved/red-ribbon-week-patch-program.

Remember: *“One person can make a difference.”*

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Understanding UBI is crucial for good status with IRS

By **GLENN E. FOSTER**
Committee Member

Unrelated Business Income (UBI), as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, is any trade or business which is not related to the organization's performance of its charitable, educational, or other functional income found under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The income from dues, fees, charges for goods, or services for members or their dependents or guests is an exempt function income as long as the member pays for everything. Income from members is not UBI.

The IRS states that guests are persons invited by a member to an activity and

the member pays all the expenses. Liquor laws in states differ, as in Pennsylvania, only members are allowed to purchase alcoholic beverages. Be sure you know the liquor laws in your state.

The IRS will assume sales of goods and services to non-members to be taxable. However, there are exceptions. Check with your accountant as to the definition of these laws.

If you receive a letter from the IRS saying that your Lodge is going to be audited, contact your State Sponsor and the Grand Lodge Secretary. The office of the GL Secretary has packets of information to help you prepare for the audit. Also contact your accountant to

let him or her know you would appreciate their help during this audit. Do not try to do this alone unless you are an accountant.

The IRS says that solicitation by the club/lodge advertising for public patronage of its facilities is clear evidence the club/lodge is engaged in business to the public. This could cause a Lodge to lose its 501 status.

A Lodge may provide bingo games to the public without having UBI, provided the bingo games are in compliance with the IRS requirements. Bingo games must be legal under state law and not be in competition with similar games conducted by a for-profit organization.

Legacy Awards contest, MVS scholarships are open

By **CATHLEEN DRAPER**
ENF Communications Coordinator

It seems like it was just yesterday that we welcomed a new class of Elks scholars to the #ElksFamily. But a new scholarship season has already begun.

The 2022 Most Valuable Student scholarship contest opened in August. The MVS scholarship is open to high school seniors who are U.S. citizens. The 500 four-year scholarships are awarded based on academics, service, leadership, and financial need.

The top 20 finalists will attend the 2022 Leadership Weekend in Chicago to learn about the Order and to serve in the name of the Elks. That same weekend, the top 20 will also interview for the top awards,

ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000. The remaining 480 runners-up will receive \$4,000 scholarships. Spread the word to the high school seniors in your life to apply by November 15, 2021. Learn more about the MVS contest and find the application link at enf.elks.org/MVS.

The 2022 Legacy Awards contest launched in September. Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships for high school seniors who are the children and/or grandchildren of dues-paying Elks.

Any child or grandchild (or stepchild, step-grandchild, or legal ward) of an Elk who joined the Order on or before April 1, 2019, is eligible to apply. Legacy scholars are required to serve with a Lodge every year.

Legacy Awards applications are due on or before February 7, 2022. Visit enf.elks.org/Leg to learn more about the Legacy contest.

In 2021-22, the Elks National Foundation will award \$4.6 million in college scholarships, ensuring a bright future for our nation's youth. As important members of the Elks family, Elks scholars have many social and service opportunities to connect with the Elks and one another. For more information about our scholarship programs, and for ways Lodges can get involved with Elks scholars, visit elks.org/scholars.



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them," Pletz said. "There were tears. It was hard at times to make sure that they understood they could take as many toys as they needed to make sure their kids had a nice Christmas."

Thanks to the Lodge's advocacy, the amount of donated supplies, and thrifty spending, they even had funds left over, which was used to buy fresh produce for the veterans food bank. Not a penny was wasted!

Pletz doesn't stop at one issue though. She and her Lodge are active in the Welcome Home Kit program and have provided 57 kits of needed home supplies to newly housed veterans since February of 2020. It was through this program that the Lodge learned about a new veterans housing unit opening in Portland that needed community support.

The Lodge wasted no time in

connecting with the staff for the new Robert J. Breitung Veterans Building, who were thrilled to receive the call. "The director declared the Elks 'angels from heaven' and said she had no idea how she was going to furnish all the apartments."

Using Spotlight Grant funds, state funds, the Welcome Home Kit program, and a truckload of donated supplies, the Lodge was able to completely furnish all 28 units at the newly opening housing facility.

When the pandemic delayed construction, Pletz's home became the storage space. "There were boxes all over my house! My living room and hallway became a warehouse, with just a path to get through for 4 months," she said. When construction was completed and the shelter opened, each veteran received a full kit of home supplies and a new bed.

The Lodge can rest assured that their

efforts were certainly appreciated. "The veterans were so excited," she said. "We could hardly get the items stacked in the commons room before they wanted to start snooping. A few helped us sort and deliver to each room of the facility. We brought flags, balloons, and cupcakes to make it a celebration. The veterans enjoyed not only the new additions to their apartments but visiting with the Elk Members. They couldn't wait to take their items inside their rooms and start enjoying them."

When we called Pletz to share the news, she was thrilled and shared part of her motivation for serving veterans. "My dad was a World War II veteran, and I'm from the Vietnam era. It's been very gratifying to help veterans."

When we asked her how she pulled it off, she shared, "Honestly, I'm exhausted."

Well, we know why.

NVS Volunteer of the Year navigated a busy 2020-21

By **MARY K. MORGAN**
Commission Director

The past year and a half have been tumultuous, to say the least. Longstanding projects were shaken up, canceled, or reworked entirely. Lodges scrambled to navigate ever-changing guidelines, trying to serve veterans while ensuring everyone's safety.

One woman who handled the roller coaster of last year with grace and determination is Emma Pletz of Milwaukie-Portland, OR Lodge No. 142. From serving National Guard families to helping veterans shelters open for business, Pletz found a way to keep contributing.

That's why she is the 2021 National Veterans Service Volunteer of the Year!

Pletz wears many hats. As the State Secretary for the Oregon Elks Association, she makes sure the Voluntary Service Representatives receive the funds they need every month to serve veterans in facilities across the state.

As Grants Coordinator for her Lodge, she secures the Freedom Grant every year, using the funds to serve local National Guard families. The Lodge goes above and beyond with this project, working closely with battalion leadership to identify

families in need and tailor the food boxes to meet the needs of those families.

They partner with local businesses to include fresh bread, produce, and toys for children. They host a food drive at the Lodge to supplement the boxes. This year, the food baskets were as essential as ever, with many Guard members coming back from deployment, unsure if their usual jobs were still there. "Many had no idea how they were going to have a Christmas and then they saw what they were receiving and were awestruck that all of that food was for



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BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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**G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP
MARKETING COMMITTEE**

GER Class Months

By **RICK GATHEN**
Membership Marketing Manager

Remember, September and October are the Grand Exalted Rulers Membership Class months. Report your GER class size on the November 1 Membership Report—Line 21. We have nearly 16,000 candidates waiting to be initiated. *“Meet the Challenge”* and break new membership records in September and October in honor of GER Keith Mills. Post your membership class photos on the Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Social Media page.

Name game: Elks take field in CFL

By **MIKE CHAMERNIK**
Publications Coordinator

This summer, after a year-long search for a new moniker, the Edmonton franchise in the Canadian Football League changed its name to the Edmonton Elks.

Formerly the Eskimos, the 14-time Grey Cup champions chose Elks over other names including the Evergreens, Eagles, Eclipse, and Elkhounds. The team retains its “EE” initials and green-and-gold color scheme.

According to the team's press release that announced the name change: “After lengthy debate, consultation with linguistics experts from the Oxford Dictionary and the [University of Alberta's] linguistics department, the

name ‘Elks’ was finally chosen, adding the ‘s’ to the original choice ‘Elk’. The new name reflects the speed, strength, and resilience of the Green and Gold and Northern Alberta.”

“Elks” is a relatively uncommon team name. According to MascotDB.com, a database of nicknames for high school, college, and pro teams in the United States and Canada, only 42 active or defunct teams have used the name “Elks.” Many have the word “Elk” in the school or city name (for example, the Elk Creek Elks). A handful of other teams go by variations including “Elkhorns” and “Elkettes.” No teams go by “Elk.”

The CFL season runs through December.