



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



New calendar year arrives, but Elks year ends soon

Happy New Year to you all! As I write this letter, I think back to January 2000. The big scare about the electronic world coming to an end at the onset of the new century, and the tricks about turning your computer clock back a few years to ensure you would not lose all your data. Now look at us 22 years later. I was not even thinking this far ahead, or about what I would be doing.

I am not a big resolutions guy. I used to try to stick to a few things, but I found out resolutions just caused me more stress. I decided long ago to work on the things that I can control and do my best to adjust to the things that I cannot control.

Now is the time to start working on



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**
**T. KEITH
MILLS**

your next year's officer corps. Officer nominations begin in your Lodge meetings this month. I hope most Lodges have individuals stepping up and moving forward to the next chair. If not, now is a good time to start looking for people who want the opportunity to serve. Do your best not to just fill a chair. Be open

and honest with the person you are asking. Let them know just what the expectations are for the position they are committing to.

At this time, your Lodge also decides the Citizen, Elk, and Officer of the Year. I am going out on a limb here, but you probably have multiple individuals who deserve these honors. It is now time to start observing the final choices. Lodges should have these names submitted to Grand Lodge by the end of February so certificates can be printed and sent back to the Lodges for Officer Installations.

Membership and Lapsation Committee members also need to look over

Please see GER, Page 2

Maintain balance with Transfer Dimits

Secretaries: Transfer Dimits must be processed in a timely manner. Currently, there are more than 2,200 incomplete Transfer Dimits.

The CLMS2Web program automatically transfers the Member's information from the outgoing Lodge computer to the incoming Lodge computer, with no typing required. Keep in mind, a Transfer Dimit started during the current Lodge year must be approved by the accepting Lodge before March 31. If not, that

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

Member remains on your membership roll. Any variance from this procedure will cause your membership total to become out of balance.

Reminder: Year-end membership information must be updated and completed in CLMS2Web by 11:59 p.m. on March 31.

Elks Care – Elks Share

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Honor the locals who make a difference

By ROBERT R. HINKLE
Committee Chairman

Exalted Rulers should review their Lodge's accomplishments and recognize those who make significant contributions to their Lodge and community.

The three most valued awards are the Elk, Officer and Citizen of the Year Awards. Certificates are available upon request from the Grand Lodge Secretary. Applications must be postmarked or e-mailed by March 31. Forms may be downloaded at: elks.org/clms2web/files/AwardRequestForm.pdf.

• Elk of the Year. For a Member who demonstrated devotion, dedication, and loyalty to the Lodge. This award cannot be presented to an officer.

• Officer of the Year. For an outstanding current officer who exhibited extraordinary leadership and voluntary service to the Lodge.

• Citizen of the Year. This award is not limited to Elks. It presents an opportunity for Lodges to recognize an individual for significant community effort. It is a useful tool for community

outreach and membership recruitment.

The following four awards are available by request directly from the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee. Applications are submitted to your Area Member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee by March 31. Online fillable PDF forms which facilitate processing and reduce error are available online: elks.org/grandlodge/ger/files/GERAwardCertificationForms.pdf.

• The GER Special Citation Award. Exalted Rulers are authorized to issue citations to two (2) Members who displayed extraordinary effort during

Please see FRATERNAL, Page 2

INSIDE

Win a trip to see Hoop Shoot Final	2
DEA updates parental guidebook	2
PGER was a pro baseball bigwig	3
The importance of Antlers	3
Thanking the volunteers	4
Useful social media channels	4

GER From Page 1

the lapsation list. We all do a great job initiating new Members, but sometimes we forget about our delinquent Members. Your delinquent Members had a reason for joining and sometimes they just need a reminder. If they do not want to return, find out why. If everyone is saying the same thing, you might want to change some things in your Lodge.

The end of year will be here before you know it. With the new Financial Reporting System, your Lodge just needs to ensure all entries are current. The nice thing about the FRS system is your Lodge no longer needs to have the annual audit completed. However, you still must submit your 990 and 990T for each corporation in your Lodge. Have them completed by a qualified individual (e.g., CPA) and filed with the IRS and uploaded on Elks.org.

I have said it before and I will say it again, thank you for everything you do.

FRATERNAL From Page 1

the Lodge year.

• Making a Difference – Exalted Ruler. This Special Citation is available to recognize Exalted Rulers who participated in at least six (6) of the nine (9) listed programs and contests during the Lodge year.

• Making a Difference – Lodge. This Special Citation is available for Lodges that participated in at least six (6) of the eleven (11) listed programs.

Stay connected with your Fraternal Committee. Do not hesitate to ask questions and forward suggestions! Together, we are making a difference in all we do as “*Elks Care – Elks Share!*”

Golden Ticket wins a Hoop Shoot invite

By CATHLEEN DRAPER
ENF Communications Coordinator

This year marks the Hoop Shoot’s 50th anniversary as a national program, and the Elks intend to deliver a gold-medal National Finals for a golden anniversary. A \$50 donation designated to the Hoop Shoot program could be your ticket to the 2022 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals.

On April 30, 72 National Finalists will toe the line at Wintrust Arena, a state-of-the-art, 10,000-seat facility in downtown Chicago that’s home to the 2021 WNBA champion Chicago Sky and DePaul University’s Blue Demons. The 2022 Finalists will step up to the same line as some of basketball’s best.

To celebrate this golden anniversary, five lucky donors will be selected to win a Golden Ticket—a trip for two to the 2022 National Finals.

Donate \$50 or more to the Hoop Shoot fund this fiscal year for a shot at a Golden Ticket—round-trip airfare for two to Chicago, on-site ground transportation, a two-night stay at the Hilton Chicago, commemorative Hoop Shoot t-shirts, and two complimentary registrations for all public events at the 2022 National Finals. Donate online at enf.elks.org/hoop.

One winner will be selected each month from December to April. Donors not selected in a drawing will be eligible for the next drawing(s), so donate early to maximize your opportunity to win. The winners will be announced on Facebook Live at enf.elks.org/FB.



Draw 1 was announced December 1, but the upcoming draws are:

Draw 2: January 3

Draw 3: February 1

Draw 4: March 1

Draw 5: April 1

Planning to attend the Finals regardless of a Golden Ticket? Early Bird Registration opened on November 1 with discounted packages, and standard registration opens February 1. If you are selected for a Golden Ticket after registering, your expenses will be reimbursed. Visit enf.elks.org/HS22Gold to learn more. To register to attend the 2022 Finals, visit enf.elks.org/HS22Reg.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM**Updated guide explains substance use, risk factors**

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Assistant National Director

As part of commemorations of Red Ribbon Week and National Youth Substance Use Prevention Month, our partners at the Drug Enforcement Administration are excited to announce the release of the updated edition of *Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent’s Guide to Substance Use Prevention*. The publication was written by the DEA in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education.

This guide includes an overview of substance use among children and young adults; descriptions of some substances young people may use; a look at risk factors that may make children and young adults try alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs;



and protective factors that help offset those risks, along with suggestions for how to talk to young people about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

This 64-page publication is packed with information and is available at no cost. Every Lodge DAP Chair should have this resource. Although this is not a companion piece to *Awkward Conversations*, our collaborative video which premiered

on November 15, it is a great resource for parents or anyone who deals with youth.

The DAP encourages you to share this resource with your colleagues and community partners. This publication is available on getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/publications.

This year has got to be better than 2021. The directors of the Drug Awareness Program wish the very best to all Elks. As we look forward to the New Year, we thank all Elks who, despite the problems we all faced with COVID-19, worked diligently to make the Elks Drug Awareness Program the largest all-volunteer drug education program in the country. Thank you one and all and happy new year!

Pioneering baseball exec served as GER

By MIKE CHAMERNIK
Publications Coordinator

Every Grand Exalted Ruler has a list of accomplishments, but only one can claim to be the father of baseball's World Series.

August "Garry" Herrmann, the GER in 1910-11, was president of the Cincinnati Reds and served as chairman of baseball's National Commission from 1903 to 1920.

Herrmann's chairman role functioned much like MLB's commissioner today. In the early 1900s, tensions were high between the established National League and upstart American League, as clubs battled over players and their salaries.

The Commission was formed to operate as the major leagues' governing body. Along with settling disputes between league presidents, Herrmann helped to make the World Series, the postseason matchup between the top team in the AL and NL, an annual event starting in 1905.

An Elk since 1887, Herrmann used his influence to get his hometown Cincinnati to host the 1904 Elks Grand Lodge Session. As GER, Herrmann encouraged Elks to become mentors to the youth, creating the Committee on the Big Brother Movement. The program connected more than 30,000 little brothers with Elks Members and was eventually folded into the Social and Community Welfare Committee.

The gregarious Herrmann was a lavish spender, known for his wardrobe that included checked suits, pinky rings, and silk undergarments. He was also called "The Walking Delicatessen" because he took sausages with him everywhere. Despite his career in baseball, Herrmann's preferred sport was bowling. He was named president of the American Bowling Congress in 1908.

The son of German immigrants, Herrmann became a self-made man. According to the Society for American Baseball Research and Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, Herrmann worked in a type foundry as a boy to support his widowed mother. As a young man he started *The Law Bulletin*, the newspaper of the courts of Ohio's Hamilton County. He then worked his way through Cincinnati's political machine, serving as clerk of the courts, a member of the school board, and president of the water works commission. After earning millions of



PGER Herrmann

By W. J. BRYAN

Committee Member

Happy new year, my Brother and Sister Elks.

The dawn of the new year is filled with anticipation of the new Elk Year. PER Nights are being planned, officer nominations are discussed and forthcoming, and, in many Lodges, the next Exalted Ruler is likely known. Whether now or after nominations, we encourage the new ERs to make a thoughtful selection of their Local Lodge Government Relations committee chairman. They can be a valuable asset to your leadership team.

We encourage local events, such as meet and greets after local elections. They can contribute to your publicity. Your chairperson can ensure Charitable Reports are completed in a timely manner by committee and event people and submitted to the secretary for entry. These reports result in goodwill when

posted on social and print media with the story of what your Lodge contributed to the community.

Your chairperson should invite local officials to Lodge events such as Flag Day, scholarship dinners, youth and drug awareness activities, veterans events, and other appropriate functions.

Contact community officials regarding local needs, and always have at hand the amount your Lodge has contributed over the years to your community. Demonstrating your charitable contribution towards your community will encourage a positive response to your needs.

This would not be a Government Relations Committee article if I didn't mention a charitable reporting reminder. Be sure and count all those hours, miles, and dollars you used during the last two months with Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other events at the height of our charitable year!

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Don't let your Lodge shed its Antlers

By RICHARD E. BARD
Committee Member

As we slowly emerge from this horrible pandemic, signs of new growth can be seen in several places. Not a week goes by that I don't get a phone call or e-mail from Lodges all across our Order looking to start or revive an Antlers program.

It really is a perfect fit, and easier to do than you might think. Antlers Lodges help our Order and our communities on so many levels. Parents looking for a safe and service-minded spot for their kids are finding our program. Antlers Lodges and Antlers kids bring new Members with them. I have seen it happen. Antlers who become familiar with what we do for our local communities often stay with us as future



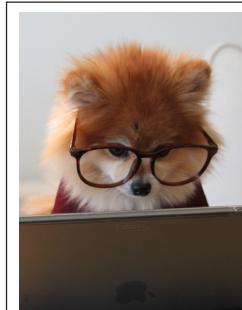
Elks. I have seen that happen as well.

Perhaps your Lodge had an Antlers program. Maybe it was thriving and active, but through happenstance, such as numerous kids going off to college together, and the program stalled or ceased. That doesn't mean it's done. Now is the time to look into jump-starting that program again.

The Activities Committee updates and posts available information and materials on the Grand Lodge website. Our Grand Exalted Ruler's motto is "*Meeting The Challenge*." I too am asking you to meet the challenge. Put your mark on your Lodge, and start or renew an Antlers program. The rewards will be endless. Contact me or your Area Activities Committeeperson and lets "*Meet the Challenge*" together.

dollars and developing connections with other local power players, Herrmann purchased a stake in the Reds in 1902. His club won the World Series in 1919 (a series now remembered for the Black Sox scandal), and he remained team president through 1927.

Herrmann died in 1931. He was elected to the Reds' team hall of fame in 2008, but has fallen short of induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.



Want to discuss the Elks? Check out the Membership Forum (elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm).

Members use the message board to share constructive information every day.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Connecting with your community is key

posted on social and print media with the story of what your Lodge contributed to the community.

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Selfless volunteers make ENVSC programs possible

By DAVID R. CARR, PGER

ENVSC Past Chairman

As the Elks National Veterans Service Commission celebrates its 75th year of service to our veterans, we wish to say "thank you!" to all of our dedicated volunteers who strive to help our veterans in need. Without them, none of our programs—Adopt-a-Vet, Freedom Grants, Voluntary Service, Veterans Leather, and Welcome Home—would be possible.

In the past year alone, tens of thousands of hours have been donated by our volunteers to serve our veterans. What an honor and a privilege it is to give back to those men and women who

have defended our freedom at the risk of their own lives!

We therefore encourage each Lodge throughout this great country of ours to nominate their special veterans' volunteers to receive recognition as their State Veteran Volunteer of the Year.

Perhaps they have built a wheelchair ramp, served dinners to veterans, helped out at the local VA hospital, given transportation to and from medical appointments, shoveled snow, or assisted with home repairs. There are countless situations where our deserving veterans

have been aided by these selfless individuals.

Lodges, in recognition of these volunteers, please note that applications are available on elks.org/vets and can be submitted to your State Veterans Chairperson. Lodges can also submit to the State Veterans Chairperson a letter of nomination which includes the person's name, Lodge name and number, and why they should receive the award.

In addition, please note that nominations are due to your State Veterans Chair by January 31, 2022.



BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
**Benevolent and Protective
 ORDER OF ELKS**
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G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

Official social media channels spread Elks' message

By RICK GATHEN

Membership Marketing Manager

We are utilizing the following official Grand Lodge social media channels to provide authoritative information:

Grand Lodge Marketing and Membership Facebook Group

Private group for use by Elks Members in their marketing and membership efforts. It also provides Grand Lodge Marketing and Membership training opportunities.

facebook.com/groups/grandlodgemembershipandmarketing/



BPOE TV

For live or recorded official Grand Lodge communications. This allows us to spread the word to vulnerable populations. It also gives us a platform to provide more training and discussion opportunities throughout the year.

facebook.com/BPOETV/

BPO Elks USA Facebook Page

The page contains publicly available information for Members and other public stakeholders. It provides shareables and spreads the word about the great things Elks do.

facebook.com/bpoeusa

Elks State Associations

Linking state associations to national efforts will help us all disseminate our information better.

ELKS Do!