



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care – Elks Share*

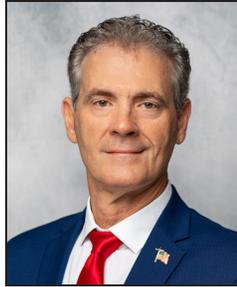


## Incoming leaders start year with proactive mindset

April is here and spring has finally arrived. It always feels like a new beginning in April, especially if you live in the colder regions of our country.

A new fraternal Lodge year begins. I want to congratulate all the newly installed Exalted Rulers and Lodge Officers. It is a proud moment to be installed and take on the challenge of providing leadership within your Lodge. Be sure to review and implement the programs of the 2024-2025 Grand Lodge Program booklet so you can continue showing *“Elkdom’s Heart For America.”* Make sure that you have all your committees prepared and that committee members know their responsibilities. Communication is the key.

Financially, it is the Trustees and Officers who need to submit a budget to the Lodge for adoption no later than



**Message from  
the Grand  
Exalted Ruler**

**DOUGLAS A.  
SCHIEFER**

the last regular meeting in April or the following regular meeting. Your Lodge should be ready to present a sound budget to your Members. The annual report for the previous year is also due May 1 so make sure that your FRS financial reporting system is up to date.

On a housekeeping note, you should review any by-laws or house rules and regulations that need to be updated. It’s for the good of the Lodge to make

everything orderly and that you always prioritize the integrity and safety of the Lodge.

On a festive note, it’s time to make a calendar of social events for your Lodge. Create reasonable, achievable monthly events that will excite and attract your membership. Outside of your Lodge you are encouraged to establish a community project that emphasizes charitable work. Your Lodge life should always have a balance of what you do inside your Lodge and outside in the community you serve. Don’t forget to set aside May 1-7 as Elks National Youth Week. All Lodges are urged to sponsor programs dedicated to the youth of our country.

Julia and I wish you a blessed Easter season. It is a celebratory time for our family. God bless you and God bless America!

## Pre-registration for Convention opens in April

Online pre-registration for the Grand Lodge Session in Kansas City opens April 1 and will be available at [elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm](http://elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm) through June 25.

Registration will be open on Friday, June 27, from noon until 4:00 p.m. in the Kansas City Convention Center. Be advised, Exhibitors and Vendors will not be open at this time. Normal registration and Vendor/Exhibitor hours will begin Saturday, June 28, at 8:00 am.

**GRAND SECRETARY**  
Bryan R. Klatt

The online pre-registration fee is \$50 for all Members. The on-site registration fee will be \$60. A current credit card for PayPal will be needed. There is no fee for a non-Elk spouse or guest.

A registration badge will be required to enter the exhibit hall and all business sessions.

### GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## Reporting is easier with a Coordinator

By MYRON T. SHANNON, JR.  
Committee Member

With the Elks year over, we need to be on top of our charitable reporting. We might never reach that 100% level, but we can do better than we have done in the past.

One way of capturing the charitable works that our Members achieve is to appoint a Government Relations Lodge Coordinator. The Secretary will give this person access to CLMS for recording charitable giving. They will only have access to charitable giving and will not be able to access any other part of CLMS. By doing this we will have two people capturing and reporting our giving.

You should have the Government Relations Manual at your Lodge. This book will give all the information you need. On page 19 you will find Appendix 8, which is the form you need for reporting. Make copies and make them available for Members so

they can fill them out and return them to the Government Relations Coordinator of your Lodge or the Secretary.

Let’s make sure we keep the Lodge Government Relations Coordinator very busy so that we can surpass last year’s totals.

As an example, the Hoop Shoot has thousands of hours and miles for capturing and reporting, when counting Lodge, district, state, regional, and the National Finals in Chicago.



**Hoop Shoot National Finals**  
**April 24-27, 2025**  
**Chicago, IL**

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# Many ways Lodges can support Scouts

By **DAVID C. FOSTER**  
Committee Member

For more than a century, Scouting has contributed to the development of young people around the world. The Scouting movement teaches citizenship, stewardship of the environment, and outdoor skills such as woodcraft, aquatics, hiking, and backpacking. Adult leaders provide guidance for the Scouts and assist them through the ranks of their organization.

Your Lodge may even be interested in supporting young Scouting groups that include the Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Daisies, or Brownies.

Grand Lodge offers free-of-charge certificates for the Eagle Scout, Cub Scout Arrow of Light, and Girl Scout Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards.

The highest rank in Boy Scouts is that of Eagle Scouts. It can take years to reach this rank, and only one out of every 20 Boy Scouts ever achieve this level.

The highest Cub Scout level is the Arrow of Light. It also requires a significant amount of effort for this age group, and they deserve special recognition by the Elks.

The awards for Girl Scouts are based on the Scouts' grade levels. The Bronze is fourth and fifth grade, the Silver award is for sixth through eighth grade, and the Gold award for ninth through 12th grade. Each of these achievements requires a substantial amount of time and effort.

When you request the certificate and letter you will need to provide the following information: Scout's name, troop number, date and place of Court of Honor, Lodge name and number, Exalted Ruler's name, and mailing address.

There are many ways your Lodge can support Scouting. This could be by providing a local Scout troop with a place to meet on a regular basis or making your Lodge available for the Court of Honor. Note: If the Lodge is letting the group meet in the Lodge, the Scouts must provide them with insurance coverage and a Certificate of Insurance. Your Lodge can assist Scouts by providing them with the materials they need or hiring them to work around the Lodge. The possibilities are many and limited only by your imagination.

## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# Top websites both show and tell

By **RONALD A. BROOKS**  
Committee Member

This year, 47 Lodges participated in the Local Lodge Website Contest.

Each Lodge put the message forward about how they welcome both Members and non-Members to come out to Elks events and participate in the activities. The contents of the websites truly displayed, *"Elkdom's Heart for America."*

Every Lodge stated how the Elks are dedicated to giving to, caring about, and loving the communities that we live in.

Elks were shown supporting veterans and youth, as well as the overall health of their local communities.

The Lodges listed will need to pick up their award at the Fraternal Committee booth at the end of the Grand Lodge Session in Kansas City in July.

### Five Star Winners

Annapolis, MD No. 622  
Ballard (Seattle), WA No. 827  
Bremerton, WA No. 1181  
Burien WA, No. 2143  
Carson City, NV No. 2177  
Erie, PA No. 67  
Essex MD, No. 1866  
Florence, OR No. 1858  
Gig Harbor, WA No. 2560  
Hightstown, NJ No. 1955  
Manchester, CT No. 1893  
Seattle, WA No. 92  
Simi Valley, CA No. 2492  
Tahoe/Douglas, NV No. 2670  
Trenton, NJ No. 105  
West Shore-Harrisburg, PA No. 2257

### Four Star Winners

Ardmore, OK No. 1906  
Chandler, AZ No. 2429  
Coolidge-Florence, AZ No. 2350  
East Stroudsburg, PA No. 319  
Hackettstown, NJ No. 2331  
High Point, NC No. 1155  
Jacksonville, FL No. 221  
Jupiter, FL No. 2469  
Lebanon, OH No. 422  
New London, CT No. 360  
Palmer, AK No. 1842  
Pasadena, CA No. 672  
Provo, UT No. 849  
Punta Gorda, FL No. 2606  
South Bend, IN No. 235  
Tacoma, WA No. 174

### Three Star Winners

Anacortes, WA No. 1204  
Broken Arrow, OK No. 2673  
Bullhead City, AZ No. 2408  
Cedar City, UT No. 1556  
Cuyahoga Falls-Akron-Barberton, OH No. 1923  
Elizabethtown, KY No. 2891  
Faribault, MN No. 1166  
Lakewood, WA No. 2388  
Las Vegas, NV No. 1468  
Logansport, IN No. 66  
Massena, NY No. 1702  
Price, UT No. 1550  
St. Louis MO No. 9  
Telluride, CO No. 692  
Tooele, UT No. 1673

Congratulations to each Lodge for a job well done.

### Website or Facebook page judging is based on:

- Content.** News of Grand Lodge, state, and local programs.
- Layout.** Menu or table of contents, accessibility, and readability.
- Design.** Special presentation methods.
- Graphics.** Pop up or scrolling messages, overall continuity of site, use of photographs or graphics.
- Telling the Elks story.**

## G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

# Leave your doubt at the door

By **RICK GATHEN**  
Membership Marketing Manager

Every year, when it is time to renew your Elks membership, a thought may creep in: Does my membership really matter?

Maybe you've felt that moment of hesitation. But let us tell you this, loud and clear: Leave your doubt at the door.

Because when you walk through that

Lodge door, you stand in a place where heroes are honored, children are lifted, communities are strengthened, and kindness wins. You are part of something that stretches across generations, across towns and cities, across this entire nation.

You are an Elk. And that matters more than you may ever know. So, Leave your doubt at the door.

## ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

# Elks Scholar Service Trip: All aboard to Chattanooga

By **PATRICK ROELOFS**  
ENF Communications Coordinator

In early January, 18 Elks scholars gathered in Chattanooga, Tennessee for the 2025 Winter Elks Scholar Service Trip. The city is a historical hub for rail travel—and it still brings people together.

“It’s not often you see a bunch of college students out here working to serve a community none of them are from,” said Chandler Plante, a 2023 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Sedona, AZ Lodge No. 2291.

Regardless of the tracks they have traveled, Elks scholars all have one thing in common: a love for service.

On the first full day of the trip, the scholars headed to the CHATT Foundation, a local organization that seeks to meet the needs of the people experiencing hunger and homelessness. At the CHATT Foundation, scholars reorganized donations, cleaned, sorted toiletry items, and helped in the thrift store.

“Seeing just how much manpower it takes to get these organizations running means a lot,” said Jed Quiaoit, a 2021 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Vista, CA Lodge No. 1968 and member of the Elks Scholar Advisory Board. “It’s the little things that make a big difference.”

Employees at the organizations where the scholars served commented on how helpful and speedy the scholars were. At most service sites, the scholars finished their assigned tasks so quickly they could do more than what the organizers initially planned. Teamwork was the difference.

On Elks Scholar Service Trips, scholars bond through their shared love of helping others and the activities that get them out of their comfort zones. After the first day of service, the scholars completed an escape room together.

“With 30 seconds to spare, we managed to escape from the runaway train at the Chattanooga Escape Experience,” said Anika Raburn, a 2024 Most Valuable Student scholar, sponsored by Raleigh, NC Lodge No. 735. “We quickly learned each other’s strengths and how to divide the tasks fairly and efficiently.”

This teamwork was on full display when the scholars went to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity

Restore the next day. At the Food Bank, the scholars packed 375 emergency food boxes and labeled 4,020 cans of green beans. The food bank purchases unlabeled cans at a discount from the manufacturer, so they have volunteers put handmade labels on the cans to help cut costs.

In the afternoon, the scholars reorganized the inventory in Habitat for Humanity Restore’s thrift store to make it more desirable for customers. Proceeds from the thrift store go toward keeping the nonprofit operational.

For the final day in Chattanooga, the scholars started at the Chambliss Center for Children, which provides 24-hour childcare, transitional homes for teenagers aging out of foster care, and spaces for children to feel safe and cared for before they enter the foster care system. The scholars helped by taking down and storing Christmas decorations.

After their last service project, the scholars traveled to a lookout point of view over Chattanooga before heading down in a glass elevator to see Ruby Falls. Many of the scholars’ favorite part was visiting the Chattanooga Elks Lodge for food, music, and dancing.

“The Chattanooga Elks Lodge was really special to me,” said Shani Tur-sunova, a 2024 Most Valuable Student scholar sponsored by Florence, KY Lodge No. 314. “Putting a face behind the impact that [the Elks] have had on my education and my future is incredible to me.”

*The Elks National Foundation offers three Elks Scholar Service Trips annually. These trips provide scholars the opportunity to learn about societal issues, serve those in need in the name of the Elks, and connect with their #ElksFamily from across the country. For more information about the trips, visit [enf.elks.org/ScholarServiceTrips](http://enf.elks.org/ScholarServiceTrips).*

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

## Next generation starts with Antlers

By **RONALD A. MANGONE**  
Committee Member

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, passed Executive Order 11330—Providing for the Coordination of Youth Opportunity by Programs. It acknowledged that the future strength of America was in our youth.

As Members, we are following this executive order not only by offering our youth sports programs and scholarships, but also by sharing our beliefs and rituals with the members of our many Antlers Lodges.

Across the country, Antlers members have collected donations for their local food bank as well as hosted winter clothing drives to provide items to local shelters. Several groups have assisted at holiday parties for children with special needs and at local nursing facilities. Projects were created to honor local military families and first responders. Everyone who watched this year’s Rose Bowl Parade knows the Antlers had a part in the Elks’ float. Lastly, many states rely on their local Antlers Lodges to assist with their state’s major project.

In the past three years, 33 Antlers Lodges have had a charter issued or their charter reinstated. Since June 2024, 13 Antlers Lodges are now up and running. Congratulations goes to:

Antlers Lodge No. 2 from Greater Essex, NJ; Antlers Lodge No. 39 from Rahway, NJ; Antlers Lodge No. 42 from Passaic Valley, NJ; Antlers Lodge No. 477 from Marietta, OH; Antlers Lodge No. 41 from Rutherford, NJ; Antlers Lodge No. 27 from Hackensack, NJ; Antlers Lodge No. 1475 from Orange, CA; Antlers Lodge No. 40 from Toms River, NJ; Antlers Lodge No. 2152 from Huntington, TN; Antlers Lodge No. 2442 from Bountiful, UT; Antlers Lodge No. 2699 from Reedley, CA; Antlers Lodge No. 25 from Somerville, NJ; and Antlers Lodge No. 1311 from Willimantic, CT.

On [elks.org](http://elks.org) you will find information not only on the Antlers Program, but on all Grand Lodge Activities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Antlers. I look forward to hearing from the various Lodges about how their Antlers are providing a positive role in making a difference in their community. As a reminder, please forward pictures of your Antlers serving their communities so that I can share them at Grand Lodge.

With so much interest in our Antlers Program, we can be assured that our beliefs as Elks will survive as “*Elkdom’s Heart for America*” continues to live on in our youth.



Helping Elks Build  
Stronger Communities  
Elks  
National  
Foundation, Inc.

# Freedom Grants allow Lodges to spread Brotherly Love

By **EMILY CRUZ**  
ENVSC Programs Associate

One of the Elks' cardinal virtues is Brotherly Love. With the ENVSC's Freedom Grants, Elks have the chance to share their brotherly love with our nation's veterans. Applications for the \$1,000 Freedom Grants go online April 1 and are available to any Lodge to serve local veterans and/or military members in need.

Here are a few examples of Elks using Freedom Grants to build community with veterans in need of support.

Clovis, CA Lodge No. 2599 banded together to support veterans, who are

facing homelessness, in Fresno County at their local Stand Down. Members worked diligently to fill survival backpacks with winter items like gloves, homemade knit hats, and other supplies to uplift veterans facing harsh winter conditions. These backpacks not only provide supplies but also remind veterans that the Elks are looking out for them.

Golden, CO Lodge No. 2740 has provided aid to the 140th Security Forces Squadron of the 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard and their families for four years. Lodge Members shopped for, prepared, and

served three lunches this year during the Security Forces Squadrons weekend training events. Members also provided five baby baskets to squadron members who were recently expecting a child.

Through Golden Lodge's dedication, veterans and their families know that they can always call on the Elks for help!

Elks brotherly love for veterans truly knows no bounds.

Whenever veterans need a helping hand, Elks are there to meet the call!

Read about the ENVSC's Freedom Grant program at [elks.org/vets](http://elks.org/vets) and start planning your project.



**BRYAN R. KLATT**, Grand Secretary  
**Benevolent and Protective  
ORDER OF ELKS**  
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889

**April 2025**

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## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

# Deadlines approaching for Drug Awareness contests

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**  
National Director

April is an exciting time in Elksdom as new Officers take leadership roles in many of our Lodges. One of the most important roles is that of the Lodge's Drug Awareness Chairman.

All Lodges are required to have one by statute, but the position should not just be filled with a name. It is important that the person is willing to serve the Lodge and the community. My recommendation would be to have that person contact their State Drug Awareness Chair and offer whatever help is needed.

April is also the deadline for the three youth contests conducted by the Elks Drug Awareness Commission. There are two categories for the video contest (elementary schools and secondary schools), along with an essay contest and poster contest. Each state has its own deadlines, but winners must be sent to one of the National Directors by April 1 for all contests. Contact your State Chair for details.

The theme for all contests is: *"Throw Away Drugs... Not Your Future."* This is a great opportunity to get positive press for your Lodge. National winners are selected with a variety of prizes awarded.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. While national figures show a downward trend in the number of young people who use alcohol, it remains the number one drug of choice for America's youth and is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined.

Plans are underway for our annual training, which takes place for State Chairs at Grand Lodge Convention. We will also hold our annual workshop for the general membership to hear about what your Drug Awareness Program is doing.

We hope to see many of you in Kansas City. Make plans to stop by our booth and have a picture taken with Elroy.