

John D. Amen  
Grand Exalted Ruler  
P.O. Box 64154  
Colorado Springs, Co. 80962-4154

Bryan R. Klatt  
Grand Secretary  
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

*BOARD OF GRAND TRUSTEES*

—  
**Marvin L. "Pete" Nelson**  
*Chairman*



*A Fraternal Organization*

2410 Salina Road  
Fairfield, Iowa 52556  
(641-472-5609) Home  
(641-919-6583) Cell  
(641-472-1723) Fax  
e-mail: [pnel@iowatelecom.com](mailto:pnel@iowatelecom.com).

September 9, 2014

**Sale of the Elks National Home & Retirement Center**

Attention State Association Elks National Home Coordinators:

After sixteen months of negotiations, the Elks National Home and Retirement Center was sold on Friday August 29, 2014, thereby, ending over 100 years of operation and maintenance of our assisted living retirement facility in Bedford, Virginia of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. At the time of the sale there were 112 residents, who are mostly from the Bedford area. Also, there were 56 employees at the Home. The Elks National Home was purchased under the name "English Meadows" by two local businessmen who have extensive experience in the senior living business, Mike Williams and Steve Ornduff.

As stated in earlier correspondence from former Trustee Chairman Ronald Hicks: **Over the last two years, we met with a number of people expressing an interest in purchasing the Home, and carefully considered the potential value that each could bring to the Home and our Elk residents. Throughout all negotiations, our focus remained on our residents, and finding a Buyer who would appreciate and continue to offer the quality service and care that the Elks Home has provided for more than 100 years, and a Buyer willing to offer attractive pricing and other benefits to our members, while allowing our Order to maintain a liaison with our resident-members.**

The closing took place at the law offices of Will Berry IV in Bedford Virginia. At the closing, the Grand Lodge and the Elks National Home Corporation were represented by Marvin L. "Pete" Nelson, Chairman and Ronald L. Hicks, Past Chairman who had agreed to handle the negotiations. Former Chairman Hicks started the negotiations over a year ago and all Elks owe him a debt of gratitude for his time and efforts, leading us to a fair and reasonable conclusion for the National Home employees, residents and our Order.

The sale proceeds have been prorated to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (Grand Lodge) and the Elks National Home and Retirement Corporation according to the ownership of the assets. There may be questions about the true value of the home but with the continual monetary losses over the past years, action needed to be taken. One previous action was the need for a Grand

(OVER)

Lodge assessment to the lodges, this is now behind us. As Elks, we now can use these resources elsewhere. The 2015 National Home assessment of \$1.00 per Member, as approved during the 2014 national convention in New Orleans, will not be needed for the Home. As for the current 2014 National Home assessment, the Home has only drawn 1/6 of the amount. The remaining balance of the assessment, \$660,000.00, has been placed in a special account until reimbursement checks can be calculated, printed and mailed to the respective Lodges of the Order.

Our contract with English Meadows has provisions for an acceptable future for the Elks, the employees and the residents of the Home. The Home has been the site of an annual Christmas light display that was a highlight for the community. The new owners want to continue that tradition. The Home has been the responsibility of The Board of Grand Trustees who by statute are also the Board of Directors of the Elks National Home and Retirement Center Corporation. They were given the power to sell the Home by a resolution at the Grand Lodge Session on July 5, 2012 in Austin, Texas. An effort will be made to return the selected Elk items located at the Home to the Lodges and State associations who donated them.

A master plan will be developed by the Board of Grand Trustees/Directors for use of the sale proceeds and existing funds of Elks National Home and Retirement Center Corporation. It will also address the future of the Corporation.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information, or if you have any questions, concerning the sale of the Home.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,



Marvin L. Nelson, Chairman  
Board of Grand Trustees

Cc: John D. Amen, GER  
Past Grand Exalted Rulers  
Grand Forum  
Board of Grand Trustees  
Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary  
Committee on Judiciary  
Grand Lodge Committeemen  
Special Deputies  
District Deputies  
State Presidents  
State Secretaries