



GRAND LODGE Convention News

TUESDAY JULY 1, 2025



GER-Elect Klatt asks Elks to 'Be The Difference'

By **Tiffany Bakker**
Convention News Reporter

The leadership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks got down to business with the first business session of the 160th Grand Lodge Session and elected Bryan R. Klatt, of DeKalb, IL Lodge No. 765, as Grand Exalted Ruler for the 2025–2026 year.

Klatt has been an Elk since 1985, when he joined the DeKalb Lodge. He was an active and dedicated Member, serving as Exalted Ruler in 1989–1990 and as Secretary from 1998 to 2009.

He served the Illinois Elks Association as Vice President of the North Central District in 1992–1993, as State Chaplain and State Americanism Committee Chairman in 1993–1994, as Third (1994–1995), Second (1995–1996), and First (1996–1997) Vice President, and as State President in 1997–1998. Among other roles, Klatt served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee in 2000–2001, Chairman of the IEA Convention Committee from 2002 to 2004, and as Chairman of the Leading Knight/Officer Training Seminars from 1998 to 2008.

At the Grand Lodge level, Klatt served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1994–1995. He served on the Membership Committee from 2001 to 2008, serving as Chairman from 2005 to 2007. He served as Co-Chairman of the LouGER Committee to then Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger and served in the position of Grand Secretary from July 2008 to June 2025.

The announcement of the election was followed by an exuberant celebration as supporters from Klatt's Area 5 streamed into the hall. Once the celebration subsided, the newly elected Grand Exalted Ruler spoke



GER-Elect Bryan R. Klatt and First Lady Susan keep tradition with a kiss after the Nominations and Election of Grand Lodge Officers. Photo: Gary Rohman/Rohman Photography.

about his vision for the Order, which is expressed in his theme for the year: *"Be The Difference."* He spoke of various ways Elks can be of service in their own communities and reminded the assembled Elks that "we cannot sit on our laurels. We—as in you and I—need to *Be The Difference* to elevate our Lodges to new levels."

Prior to the election of the Grand Exalted Ruler, a number of reports were heard, and other Officers were elected and appointed. The business of the session began with the report of Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer. With the approval of the assembled delegates, he appointed Joel W. Todd of Red Lodge 'Beartooth', MT Lodge No. 534 as a Justice of the Grand Forum.

The GER's report was followed by the report of Chairman of the Elks National Convention Commission, PGER Millard C. Pickering, of Sapulpa, OK Lodge No. 1118. He announced that the 2026 convention will be held in Chicago, Illinois, where the Order will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Elks National Veterans Memorial

building. He also announced that Denver, Colorado, will host the 2027 convention, with Baltimore, Maryland, serving as the site of the 2028 convention and Columbus, Ohio, hosting the 2029 convention. Next up was the report of the National Memorial and Publications Commission, which was given by commission Chairman PGER Malcom J. McPherson, Jr.

PGER McPherson encouraged the assembled Elks to take advantage of the online edition of The Elks Magazine and to take that message back to their Lodges. He noted that "currently, 130,000 Members read our magazine online, which leads to one million fewer printed copies, resulting in savings of about \$800,000 on printing, postage, and freight costs."

Also serving as Chairman of the Elks National Veterans Memorial Trust, PGER McPherson next gave the report of the Elks National Veterans Memorial Building and the activities of the Restoration Trust. He noted substantial repairs were made to the Elks

Please see **KLATT**, Page 9



INNOVATING AND PROMOTING ELKDOM

The DiscoverElks Group is team of talented and dedicated members in Area 8 brought together by PGER Roger True. Their goal has been to develop innovative strategies and solutions to promote the Elks to the public and enhance member communication. This team has implemented numerous new technologies and media campaigns highlighting Elks' contributions to local and national communities.

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The Discover Elks Group



Steven Meier
Area 8 Membership
& Marketing Chair



Blake Whitson
State President
Oregon



Sera White
State President
Idaho



Ben Braden
President Elect
Washington

How Many in Attendance?

The attendance report for the Grand Lodge Session through Monday has been announced and is as follows:

Grand Exalted Ruler	1
Past Grand Exalted Rulers	19
Grand Lodge Officers	8
Grand Trustees	8
Grand Forum	6
Grand Lodge Committeemen	77
District Deputies-Designate	228
Special Deputies	29
Representatives to Grand Lodge & Alternates	1,456
State Presidents	44
State Secretaries	35
Grand Lodge Members	1,632
Non-Voting Members	1,908
Guests	859
Vendors	31

Combined Totals: 6,341

2ND DAY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

08:00	Call to Order	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	— Invocation	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Pledge of Allegiance	All
	G/L Resolutions Committee	David S. Doherty, Chair
	Registration (<i>final report</i>)	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Board of Grand Trustees (<i>final report</i>)	Timothy F. Jaeger, Chair
	Grand Forum / Pardon Commission	Edward C.A. Johnson, Chief Justice
	Legislative Session (<i>voting</i>)	Joel W. Todd, Judiciary Chair
	Disaster Relief Fund	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Government Relations Committee Report	William J. Bryan, Chair
	Auditing & Accounting Committee Report	Harley R. Eckert, Jr., Chair
	Chicago Headquarters Report	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	GER-Elect Program Remarks	Bryan R. Klatt, GER-Elect
09:40	(estimated) Non-Members Admitted	
	Announcements	Larry A. Robertson, Grand Esquire
	Activities Committee Report	Michael B. Bryant, Chair
	Fraternal Committee Report	Gwendolyn B. Parker, Chair
	Legislative Results	Joel W. Todd, Judiciary Chair
	Ritualistic Committee Report	Steve D. Rysdam, Chair
	Announcements	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	Benediction	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Grand Lodge Session Recessed	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	GER Elect Card signing	Bryan R. and Susan Klatt, GER-Elect




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Grand Lodge Budget proposed for 2025-2026

REVENUE

Per Capita Assessments	5,397,665
Interest/Dividend Income. . . .	910,000
Merchandise Sales	9,000
Convention Revenue	298,500
Management Fees	52,800
Royalties	160,000
Other Income.	46,000
Transfer From Reserves	1,900,000
	\$8,773,965

EXPENSES

Grand Trustees	58,950
District Deputies.	614,200
Special Deputies	33,450
Special Representatives	54,750
Rose Parade	100,000
Grand Lodge Session	127,200
Grand Lodge Conference. . . .	1,959,000
PGER Office and Travel.	500,000
Legal Fees	200,000
Audit Fees	45,000
Bank Fees.	30,000
General Insurance.	86,000
Investment Manager Fees	240,000
Disaster Relief Donation	150,000
Contingency	117,000
Other Grand Lodge	355,846
Grand Exalted Ruler.	456,714
Grand Secretary Expenses. . . .	2,627,584
Committees & Other	1,018,271
	\$8,773,965

G/L RITUALISTIC COMMITTEE

The Ritualistic Committee relies upon dedicated Elks who strongly believe in our Rituals. We would like to acknowledge these Elks who have spent many hours judging these contests.

Area 1 Floor Judge: **Roger Normandeau** from Sanford, ME No. 1470.

Area 1 Floor Judge: **Robert E. Lumpkins** from Clifton Park, NY No. 2466.

Area 2 Floor Judge: **William B. Rose** from Somerville, NJ No. 1068

Area 2 Word Judge: **Charles Crerand** from Brick, NJ No. 2151.

Area 3 Floor Judge: **James L. Solana** from St. Augustine, FL No. 829.

Area 4 Floor Judge: **Richard Wolfe** from Ashland, OH No. 1360.

Area 4 Word Judge: **Richard G. Wlosinski** from Pontiac-Waterford, MI No. 810.

Area 5 Floor Judge: **Douglas Jordan** from Blue Springs, MO No. 2509.

Area 6 Word Judge: **Gregory D. Stephens** from San Angelo, TX No. 1880.

Area 6 Floor Judge: **Johnny Hilliard** from Albuquerque, NM No. 461.

Area 7 Floor Judge: **Max Shen** from Reno, NV No. 597.

Area 7 Floor Judge: **William Whitmore** from Huntington Beach, CA No. 1959.

Area 8 Word Judge: **Charles J. Roberts** from Caldwell, ID No. 1448.

Area 8 Floor Judge: **Heather L. Beal** from Bremerton, WA No. 1181.

RAYMOND BENJAMIN AWARD

The Raymond Benjamin Award is given to the winning ritualistic team for the Elks National Contest. It is named after Raymond Benjamin, a charter Member of Napa, CA Lodge No. 832. Brother Raymond served as the Grand Exalted Ruler from 1914-1915, then served as Vice Chairman of the Elks National Foundation from 1929 until his passing in 1952.

Ritual was a major interest of his. He made great contributions to updating the beautiful ritual in order to remind the existing Members and impress new Members of the importance of our affiliation as Elks.

In 1953, during the dedication of the Elks new national headquarters building in Chicago, his widow unveiled a plaque in honor of his contributions to the rituals of our Order. A duplicate

of that plaque was presented to the Napa Elks Lodge.

Since that time Napa, CA Lodge No. 832 annually presents a replica plaque to the winning National Ritual Team.

JOHN D. FRAKES AWARD

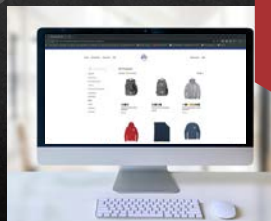
The John D. Frakes Award is given to the winning coaches for the Elks National Contest. It is named after John D. Frakes, Lodge Secretary and ritual coach of Tucson Lodge No. 385 for over 35 years. He served on the Grand Lodge for the National Ritual Committee as a member and chairman. Frakes coached the Tucson Ritual Team to 45 National Ritual Contests. During his time with the Tucson teams, they competed 22 years in a row. His 1968-69 team won it all. He remains a legend of the Tucson Lodge and of the Grand Lodge.

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Congratulations to 2025-26 Ritualistic Contest Winners



All American Officers — Eastern Division

ER Derryck Menard (Kenton, OH #157); Leading Knight Marty McKinley Gray (Kenton, OH #157); Loyal Knight Stacey Hamilton-Davis (Kenton, OH #157); Lecturing Knight Kristin Grimshaw (Kenton, OH #157); Esquire Andrew Smith (Carthage, NY #1762). Standing, from left: Chaplain Amanda Lodge (Kenton, OH #157); Inner Guard Samuel Thesier (Carthage, NY #1762); Candidate David Beazley (Kenton, OH #157); Coach D. Jack Buroker (Kenton, OH #157); Coach John R. Hines (Kenton, OH #157).



All American Officers — Western Division

ER Rachel Drake (Reno, NV #597); Leading Knight James McKenna (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Loyal Knight Danise Davis (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Lecturing Knight Ilia Banks (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Esquire Ken Ward (Grand Island, NE #604). Standing, from left: Chaplain Jeannette Fisher (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Inner Guard Joy Brackney (Reno, NV #597); Tiler Kelvin Swanson (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Candidate Donna Nichols (Colorado Springs, CO #309); Coach John Rivetti (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Coach Jay Larkins (Santa Clarita, CA #2379); Coach Wayne Edwards (Santa Clarita, CA #2379).

PLEASE, SPEAK UP!

Court Reporter Judy needs to know your **Name, Current Elks Title, and Lodge Name and Number**. If you are recognized for making or seconding a motion, please come forward at the end of the session to make sure she gets your information correctly into the permanent record which will be used to produce the annual Grand Lodge Proceedings book.



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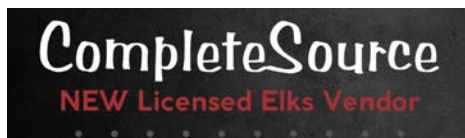
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Resolution Honoring Retiring BOGT Chairman Proposed by BOGT Vice Chairman Joseph C. Cooper

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** of Napa, CA Lodge No. 832 is retiring from the Board of Grand Trustees after four years of distinguished service and upon his retirement, the Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America wish to acknowledge this achievement and express their sincere appreciation for his leadership and service; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** was initially initiated as an Elk in Sioux Falls, SD Lodge #262 in 1985 and later served as Exalted Ruler of Petaluma, CA Lodge #901 in 2007-2008 and was later named Officer of the Year and Elk of the Year by Petaluma Lodge. Tim later joined Napa Lodge #832 after serving as Napa's Lodge Advisor from 2011 until 2013 and in 2024 was named an honorary Life member by Napa Lodge; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** served the Northwest District of California as Business Practices Chair, Drug Awareness Chair, Jamboree Chair, BLT Chair, Mini Convention Chair, and Auditor to the DDGER; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** served the California-Hawaii Elks Association as Association Vice President, 2010-2011, CHEA Drug Awareness Chair 2011-2013, CHEA Trustee (representing the Bay, Hawaii and Northwest Districts) 2014-2017, First Vice President 2018-2019, and Keynote speaker 2018-2019 Midterm CHEA convention; CHEMPI Trustee 2024-Current; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** was recognized by the CHEA Elks Luncheon Club as the 2023 recipient of the Roses for the Living Award; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** served the BPOE Grand Lodge as Napa Lodge Advisor, 2011-2013, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler 2013-2014, Assistant Director National Drug Awareness Program (July 2014 - 2021) and CHEA Northwest District Leader (May 2020 - current; Board of Grand Trustees 2021-2024 and Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees 2024-2025; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** served with distinction as President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association for the Fraternal Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** continues to serve as a valued member of the California-Hawaii Elks Association Advisory Committee; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** has worked as a CPA, CEO, CFO and Director of private and public companies for almost 40 years; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** dedication to country, community and fraternity is equaled only by his dedication to and love for his wife, Sandy, children and spouses of his children, Ben, Brittany, Lizzie, Whitney Tyler and Bob, and grandchildren, Logan, Conner, Jameson, Trace, Reece and Avery; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger** has faithfully served the Board of Grand Trustees as Building Applications - West Member, Pensions member, Approving Member and Chairman of the Board; and

Whereas, **Timothy F. Jaeger's** ability and leadership, demonstrated by a passion for Elksdom has earned the respect of all Elks, especially the members of the Board of Grand Trustees.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that in grateful recognition of his valued service to Elksdom and in tribute to his dedication to our Order, the Board of Grand Trustees is hereby authorized and directed by the Grand Lodge in Session to procure and present to **Timothy F. Jaeger**, a suitable testimonial for his service, together with a commemorative copy of this Resolution, thus expressing the gratitude and respect in which he is held by his fellow Members of the Board of Grand Trustees and the entire Membership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.



Timothy F. Jaeger

Resolution Honoring Retiring Grand Forum Chief Justice

Proposed by Grand Forum Senior Justice Thomas M. Zisa

Whereas, Edward C. A. Johnson is completing his five (5) year term as Chief Justice of the Grand Forum; and

Whereas, Edward C. A. Johnson attended the University of Minnesota and then the Golden Gate University School of Law where he graduated with a Juris Doctor degree; and

Whereas, Edward C. A. Johnson has been licensed as an attorney in the State of California since 1970, and spent his career with the City Attorney's Office of the City and County of San Francisco, California; and

Whereas, Edward C. A. Johnson has served his community in a number of ways most recently as member of the Contra Costa County California Grand Jury; and

Whereas, Edward C. A. Johnson was initiated into the Walnut Creek California Lodge No. 1811 in 1992 and served in many positions in the Lodge including Exalted Ruler in 2004-05 and as Lodge Secretary at various times for 14 years; and

Whereas, Edward C. A. Johnson served the California-Hawaii Elks Association as Central District Vice-President in 2007-2008 and as Association Trustee for three years from 2012 to 2015; and

Whereas, Edward C. A. Johnson has rendered dedicated service to the Grand Lodge, as a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the fraternal year 2009-2010, as a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary for five years from 2015 to 2020; and as a Justice of the Grand Forum for five years from 2020 to 2025; and

Whereas, in July of 2024 in Austin, Texas, Edward C. A. Johnson was appointed to serve as Chief Justice of the Grand Forum for this past fraternal year; and

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this 160th Session of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, in convention duly convened this 29th day of June, 2025, does hereby congratulate and commend **Edward C. A. Johnson** for his exemplary dedication; and directs that he be presented with an appropriate honorarium in keeping with one retiring after many years of worthy service to the Order, along with a commemorative copy of this Resolution, and the admiration, respect, and best wishes of his fellow Justices, colleagues, and the entire membership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Adopted at the 160th Session of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America this 1st day of July 2025, at Kansas City, Missouri.



Edward C. A. Johnson

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MISSOURI MULE

Named after the state animal, the Missouri Mule cocktail was created in honor of President (and Elks Member) Harry S. Truman, a native of the state and a bourbon drinker.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 parts bourbon
- 2 parts applejack or apple brandy
- 2 parts lemon juice (optional)
- 1 part Campari
- 1 part Cointreau
- ice

Add all ingredients to mixing glass. Add ice and stir until chilled (roughly 10 seconds).

Strain into cocktail glass. Garnish with an orange peel, if desired.

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KLATT from Page 1

National Memorial and Headquarters this past year. He encouraged Elks to support the trust fund, in the form of donations, in order to help maintain and repair the Memorial Building now and into the future.

McPherson’s reports were followed by the report of Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees Timothy F. Jaeger of Napa, CA Lodge No. 832, who presented the proposed preliminary budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2025, and ending May 31, 2026. Jaeger then noted that the Income and Expense items are balanced for the year, reflecting an overall increase in total budget from the previous Grand Lodge year. Then he announced that more than 1,400 Lodges saw a decrease in insurance premiums this year.

This was followed by the preliminary report of the Committee on Judiciary, during which committee members reviewed the seven proposed amendments to the laws and constitution of the Order that will be considered during Tuesday’s Grand Lodge session. Next, Chairman of the Ritualistic Committee Steve D. Rysdam of Littleton, CO Lodge No. 1650 announced the All-American teams and



PGER Millard C. Pickering announced the locations of future Elks National Conventions during Monday’s session. Photo: Gary Rohman/Rohman Photography.

individual awards, the top four teams in the Ritualistic Contest, and the four finalists for each of the Mulholland Flag Charge Contest and Callicott 11 O’Clock Toast Contest.

The day’s reports having concluded, the assembled Elks turned to the election of their leadership for the following year. In addition to GER-elect Klatt, the slate of Officers that were nominated and unanimously elected included Grand Esteemed Leading Knight Anthony N. Gilberti of Mid Westchester, NY Lodge No. 535; Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight Frederick S. Thompson of Murrells Inlet, SC Lodge No. 2797; Grand Esteemed Lecturing

Knight Robert C. Ricker from Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge No. 782; Grand Secretary Carl T. Seibert of Eustis, FL Lodge No. 1578; Grand Inner Guard M. Shawn Sullivan of North Little Rock, AR Lodge No. 1004; and Grand Trustees John M. Owen III from Bedford-Lynchburg, VA Lodge, No. 321 and Bradford Smith of Modesto, CA Lodge No. 1282. The appointed Officers for 2025–2026 are Grand Tiler Jerry T. Long from Iowa Falls, IA Lodge No. 1674; Grand Esquire Jeffrey A. Rodier from Springfield, IL Lodge No. 158; and Grand Chaplain, Father Christopher J. Ford of Naugatuck, CT Lodge No. 967. ★

G/L FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

STATE ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT BOOTH DISPLAY AWARDS

We are proud to recognize the following states for their excellent displays.

Awards are presented to State Associations that exhibit their Major Projects in the exhibit area at the Grand Lodge Convention. State Associations can earn up to five stars for their displays. Exhibits are judged on content, graphics, pictorial, overall appearance and special effects. *And the winners are:*

5 Star ★★★★★ Awards

Arizona, California-Hawaii, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland-Delaware-DC, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Utah, Washington

4 Star ★★★★ Awards

Michigan, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin

3 Star ★★★ Awards

Kentucky, Nevada, Oklahoma

Elks Lodges celebrate 100-Year Anniversaries

The following Elks Lodges have stood the test of time as they celebrate their 100-Year Anniversary this 2025-2026 fraternal year during GER Bryan R. Klatt’s term. Here’s to 100 more years in service to humanity, community, our nation and our Order’s noble principles.

LODGE NAME & NO.	INSTITUTED
South Haven, MI No. 1509	October 21, 1925
Bradenton, FL No. 1511	July 4, 1925
Fort Pierce, FL No. 1520	February 25, 1926
Millinocket, ME No. 1521	February 25, 1926
Arcadia, FL No. 1524	May 21, 1926
Des Plaines, IL No. 1526	June 25, 1926
Goodland, KS No. 1528	June 28, 1926

LOCAL LODGE ACTIVITY

During Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer's Fraternal Year 2024-2025

CHARTERS GRANTED = NEW LODGES

- Elizabethtown, KY Lodge No. 2891—Instituted 11/09/2024.
- Moses Lake, WA Lodge No. 2892—Instituted 11/23/2024.

CHARTERS SURRENDERED

- Beaver Falls, PA Lodge No. 348
—(EO #24-116) Effective 02/01/2025.
- Wells, ME Lodge No. 2738
—(EO #24-149) Effective 03/26/2025.
- Mandarin/St. Johns, FL Lodge No. 2866
—(EO #24-164) Effective 04/28/2025.

CHARTERS REVOKED

- Shelby, MT Lodge No. 1696
—(EO #24-083) Effective 12/02/2024.
- Manchester, NH Lodge No. 146
—(EO #24-074F) Effective 12/16/2024.

LODGE MERGERS

- Ottawa, IL Lodge No. 588 & Oglesby, IL Lodge No. 2360, to be known as: Oglesby, IL Lodge No. 2360. Effective 09/03/2024 by EO #24-030.

- Lynchburg, VA Lodge No. 321 & Bedford, VA Lodge No. 2844, to be known as: Bedford-Lynchburg, VA Lodge No. 321. Effective 09/05/2024 by EO #24-034.
- Marion, OH Lodge No. 32 & Bucyrus, OH Lodge No. 156, to be known as: Bucyrus, OH Lodge No. 156. Effective 11/13/2024 by EO #24-072.
- Crawfordsville, IN Lodge No. 483 & Lebanon, IN Lodge No. 635, to be known as: Lebanon, IN Lodge No. 635. Effective 11/13/2024 by EO #24-073.
- Bellflower/Long Beach, CA Lodge No. 888 & Lakewood, CA Lodge No. 1570, to be known as: Lakewood-Bellflower, CA Lodge No. 888. Effective 02/12/2025 by EO #24-117.
- Bluffton, IN Lodge No. 796 & Decatur, IN Lodge No. 993, to be known as: Bluffton, IN Lodge No. 796. Effective 05/28/2025 by EO #24-182.

LODGE NAME CHANGE

- Greater Spokane, WA Lodge No. 228, name changed to: Spokane, WA Lodge No. 228. Became effective at the conclusion of the Kansas City Convention.
- Union City, GA Lodge No. 1617, name changed to: Tyrone, GA Lodge No. 1617. Became effective at the conclusion of the Kansas City Convention.

Digital editions of the Convention Newsletter can be found at elks.org/convention/default.cfm

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Convention scenes



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G/L AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

The Auditing and Accounting Committee will hold two seminars Tuesday to assist Lodges with accounting tasks.

The *Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics seminar* will address common areas where Lodges have issues with complying with Grand Lodge Statutes or federal and state information return requirements. Topics will include overhead allocation, an FRS overview, key submission points of Form 990, adjusting journal entries, depreciation expenses, and year-end closing of restricted funds. This session is scheduled for 12:30-1:45 p.m. in Room 3501C in the Kansas City Convention Center.

The *Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar* will address the basics of using the recommended software to perform all the accounting tasks that a Lodge needs. The session will be conducted using a live session of QuickBooks. It is recommended for all beginners and intermediate Lodge personnel who handle the bookkeeping at the Lodge level. The seminar is scheduled for 2:15-3:30 p.m. in Room 3501C in the Kansas City Convention Center.

The sessions will have a question and answer segment. Members are also able to stop by the committee's booth in the exhibits area for one-on-one meetings to address specific issues.

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Resolution of Appreciation

Now, Whereas, the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will conclude this 160th Grand Lodge Session in Kansas City, Missouri on the 2nd day of July, 2025 and;

Whereas, it is appropriate that due note be made, and appreciation expressed to the many individuals who have contributed their time and effort to the success of this Grand Lodge Session;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Delegates here assembled extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation as follows:

To all Elks, Spouses and Families of the State of Missouri, for their wonderful hospitality and for giving so unselfishly of their time and talents;

To the Grand Exalted Ruler, Douglas A. Schiefer, for the excellent and timely manner in which he conducted the Business Sessions, and for his untiring efforts on behalf of our Order during his term as our Leader;

To our First Lady Julia for the elegant grace with which she endeared herself to all during her tour as First Lady with our Grand Exalted Ruler throughout Elkdom;

To the Aide to the Grand Exalted Ruler, Lee O. Young, for the efficiency with which he handled the many support functions required of that position;

To the Elks National Convention Commission, Chairman, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Millard C. Pickering, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson Jr., Past Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur H. Frost, III, Past Grand Exalted Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger, and Past Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills, whose planning and efforts began many months prior to this Convention, and for their attention and supervision during this Session, ensuring its success;

To the Local Support Committee Honorary Chairman, F. Louis Sulsberger, for his guidance in the planning and execution of this Convention;

To the 2025 Local Support Committee, General Chairperson Richard Techau and the many Elks of the State of Missouri, who worked tirelessly on the various committees and subcommittees to make this Convention truly outstanding;

To Grand Secretary Bryan R. Klatt and his capable Headquarters staff, for their cooperation and knowledge without which no Grand Lodge Convention would be successful;

To Tina M. Haran, Convention and Meetings Director, and her Associate, Jessica M. Ruiz, Meetings Coordinator, for their efforts and dedication in carrying out their many responsibilities and logistical functions at this Convention;

To the Exhibits & Sessions Coordinators, Scott Kirstein, Michael Clark, Gordon Daniels, Scott Flota, Marcus Kirstein, and Kari Larson who provide and prepare the exhibits, the sound and visual equipment, the timing, the lighting and other Convention requirements;

To Rick Flores, Chairman of Registration, Spencer Moore, Director of the National Information Services Department, and their team of skilled credentials personnel, for the efficient and pleasant manner with which they welcomed and registered, for another successful year, the thousands of Elks and Guests attending our Convention;

To Avis Thomas, Publications Manager, and her Associate, Mike Chamernik, Publications Coordinator, for their efforts and dedication in producing the daily Convention Newsletter;

To Chairman Harley Rick Eckert, Jr., Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee, and Rudolph Brinson, Grand Lodge Controller, for their prompt and capable handling of the financial commitments of this Session;

To Past Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills for serving as Master of Ceremonies at the Opening Session of this Convention;

To Reverend Father Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain, for his spiritual guidance and prayers of Elks and Elkdom during the past year, and for invoking the Divine Blessing of Almighty God on these proceedings, and sending us forth from this Session to do the good works of Elkdom with his Benediction;

To Ragan Sullivan for her wonderful and stirring vocal performances during the Opening Ceremony, Memorial Service and our Daily sessions;

To the Borger Honor Guard, from Borger, TX for their dignified and impressive presentation of the Colors on Sunday;

To Past Grand Exalted Randy P. Shook, Grand Lodge Memorial Service Coordinator, for his meticulous planning of our moving Memorial Service;

To Past Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills, who rendered Past Grand Exalted Ruler James W. Damon's Eulogy;

To Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John C. Loftus, who rendered Past Grand Exalted Ruler Paul D. Helsel's Eulogy;

To the National Champion, Callicott 11 O'Clock Toast or Ritual Committee member for the commitment to render a beautiful Eleven O'Clock Toast at our Memorial Service;

To the Getty Powell Award winners for the highest scoring girl and boy in the 2025 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals: Carrigan Price, sponsored by Columbia/Middletown, PA Lodge No. 1074, and Cooper Thompson, sponsored by Claremore, OK Lodge No. 1230, who stood fast and displayed unbelievable grit under the pressure of intense national competition and emerged victorious.

Finally, our deepest appreciation to all the Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, who, with their spouses and families, have pledged allegiance under God to the Flag of the United States, the Emblem of our Order and this great country and the symbol of freedom and liberty throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted by the Grand Lodge Resolutions Committee:

Chair, David S. Doherty, Salisbury, North Carolina Lodge No. 699

Warren I. Grody, Columbus-Grove City, Ohio Lodge No. 37

Alan Sunukjian, Cohoes-Waterford, New York Lodge No. 1317