

GRAND LODGE Convention News

SUNDAY ✨ **JULY 5, 2026**

Elks commemorate 100th anniversary of Memorial

By Tom Scudder

Convention News Reporter

Some 1,250 Elks and other guests from across the nation gathered in Chicago, Illinois, at the Elks National Memorial on Saturday to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Order's magnificent headquarters and Memorial Building. The celebration was deeply steeped in American patriotism and Elks lore and featured patriotic music, inspiring messages, and flawless ritual performances.

Through it all, the national leaders of the Order who participated in the program reiterated the Elks' solemn pledge: *"So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."*

The ceremony opened with a greeting by PGER Malcom J. McPherson Jr., after which a color guard consisting of eight U.S. armed forces veterans representing seven Elks Lodges in seven states posted the flags of the U.S. armed forces and raised the U.S. flag and a 250th anniversary flag on the Memorial Building's two flagpoles.

Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary Chairman Daniel J. Nelson then led the singing of the national anthem, after which PGER McPherson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Grand Chaplain Rev. Fr. Christopher Ford offered an opening invocation. Following the Grand Chaplain's words, PGER McPherson read a letter from U.S. President Donald J. Trump congratulating the Order for its faithful service to veterans.

The program continued with a summary of the Memorial's history, which was delivered by PGER McPherson and stretched from the Memorial's initial conception in 1921 through its dedication in 1926 and up to the present

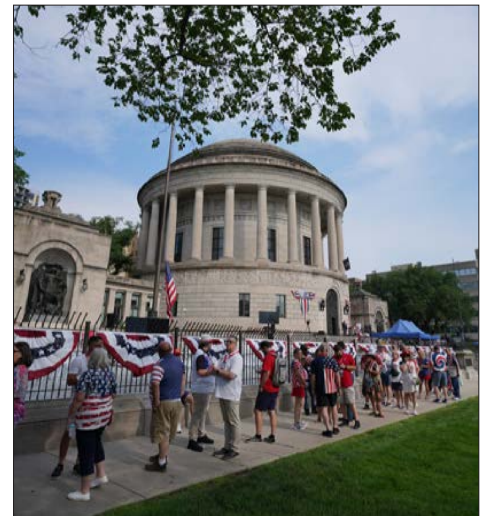


Visitors bow their heads during the invocation at the Memorial Building on Saturday during the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Photo: Laz Suarez



Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan R. Klatt gives a speech in front of the Memorial Building on Saturday during the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Photo: Laz Suarez

day. Grand Exalted Ruler Bryan R. Klatt then gave the principal address, during which he explained who the Elks were: a group dedicated to charitable service to veterans, young people, and other people in need. "Every day, somewhere in America, an Elk is helping someone in need," Klatt said. Klatt also announced that the block of Lakeview Avenue in front of the Elks National Memorial had been given the second, symbolic street name of "Elks National Memorial Street".



Visitors line up outside the gates of the Elks National Memorial on Saturday ahead of the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Photo: Marcus Oania

The ceremony continued with a ritual tribute to the Memorial Building, which was delivered by Grand Exalted Ruler Klatt, Grand Esteemed Leading

Please see **CONVENTION** Page 13

For some Elks, a first-time visit to the Memorial

By Mike Chamernik

Convention News Reporter

The Elks celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Elks National Memorial Building with a ceremony Saturday morning.

The event—which also coincided with Independence Day and served as a prelude to this week's Elks Convention—was a hot ticket. Since there was only room for 1,250 guests, a lottery system this past winter determined who would be fortunate enough to be there.

Gina Staskal, Wisconsin State Secretary from Oshkosh, WI Lodge No. 292, was among the winners. She was blown away when she opened the congratulatory email.

"I was just flabbergasted," Staskal said. "I was totally psyched. I'm so grateful. It's just awesome."

Staskal has been to the Memorial once, but only for a brief stop more than 15 years ago.

"It was just so gorgeous, I could've spent all day, but I didn't have more than an hour or so," Staskal said. "I was disappointed so I really wanted to get back."

For many attendees, this was their first time attending the Memorial, a Beaux Arts-style domed building that serves both as a monument and as the headquarters for the Elks.

"My wife and I have never been to the Memorial before," said Shawn Melvin, Exalted Ruler from Alleghe-



Visitors to the Elks National Memorial get a closer look at some of the objects that were in a 1926 time capsule unearthed earlier this year. Photo: Marcus Oania

ny, PA Lodge No. 339. "What better opportunity than on the centennial?"

Melvin has long wanted to visit the building. He's read about the Memorial and saw the pictorial of it in a recent issue of *The Elks Magazine*. But he said being there in person captures the grandeur of the space, particularly the murals in the rotunda.

"I'm sure the photos don't do them justice," Melvin said. "It will be awesome to stand in the middle and do a 360 and watch history."

The Memorial exists as a tribute to veterans. Originally designed to rec-

ognize Elks Members who died in World War I, it has since been rededicated multiple times to honor all who have served.

John Hofer, PDDGER from Morristown, TN Lodge No. 1667, is a Marine who served in Vietnam. Saturday was his first time at the Memorial.

"Being a veteran, that's been on my bucket list for a number of years," Hofer said. "Having a memorial for all veterans, a true living memorial, is beyond words."

Please see Memorial Page 14

Committee on Judiciary Chair performs National Anthem

By Mike Chamernik

Convention News Reporter

Daniel J. Nelson, the Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary, sang the national anthem at the start of the Elks National Memorial 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday.

Nelson has performed the anthem at Hoop Shoot events and ballgames, including a sold-out Pirates game in Pittsburgh.

"But you know what, I would rather be singing for all these Elks here today," Nelson said.

Nelson, from Philipsburg, PA Lodge



Daniel J. Nelson, Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary, performs the national anthem at the start of the 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday. Photo: Laz Suarez

No. 1173, said he was honored and humbled to be chosen by the Elks Veterans Memorial Restoration Trust to

sing at such an important ceremony.

"I think all the Elks here—physically or on the simulcast—they were a part of history today," Nelson said. "It's been 100 years since Elks gathered at this location to celebrate this amazing monument. This is an edifice of who we are as an order. It stands for everything we believe in."

Though he is not a professional singer, Nelson has been performing since he was in his early 20s.

"I'm happy to sing the national anthem because it's the greatest song out there," he said. ★

G/L FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

STATE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE CONTEST WINNERS

FIVE ★★★★★ Awards

Arizona	arizonaelksassociation.org/
Florida	floridaelks.org/
Massachusetts	maelks.org/
Mississippi	mselks.com/
New Jersey	njelks.org/
North Carolina	ncelks.org/
Oregon	oregonelks.org/
Texas	texaselks.org/

FOUR ★★★★★ Awards

Connecticut	ctelks.org/
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Michigan	mielks.org/
Missouri	moelks.org/
New Mexico	nmelks.com/
Ohio	ohioelks.org/
Oklahoma	okelks.org/
West Virginia	wvelks.org/
Wisconsin	wielks.org/

SUNDAY AFTERNOON OPENING CEREMONY

04:00	Welcome	Bruce A. Hidley, PGER
	— Invocation	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Opening and Intro of PGERs	Bruce A. Hidley, PGER
	Parade of Flags	Gwendolyn B. Parker, GLFC Chair
	Presentation of U.S. Flag and Pledge	Gwendolyn B. Parker, GLFC Chair
	Drug Awareness Commission	Millard C. Pickering, PGER, Chair
	Elks National Veterans Services	Paul R. Ryan, PGER, Chair
	Veterans Memorial Presentation	Malcolm J. McPherson Jr, PGER, Chair
	Elks Charities At Work	James L. Nichelson, PGER, Vice-Chair
	Hoop Shoot	Nathan Springberg, Programs Assoc.
	Grants & Scholarships	Deborah Kahler Doles, Asst. Director
	GER Introduction	Bruce A. Hidley, PGER
	GER Speech	Bryan R. Klatt, GER
	Closing	Bruce A. Hidley, PGER
	Benediction	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain

PICK UP 2027 ROSE PARADE FLOAT MERCH!

The California-Hawaii Elks Association is selling 2027 Rose Parade float shirts and pins at Booth 518 during convention.

Members can stop by and buy shirts for \$20-25 each, and pins for \$5.



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Thank You All!

The Assistant Officers for the 2026-27 Chicago Grand Lodge Convention have been announced as follows:

► Clerks of Election

David S. King — Elizabeth City, NC #856
 Stephen J. Petrie — Lake Oconne, GA #2849
 Jeffrey S. Sterr — Joliet, IL #296
 Manuel Salinas III — Waukesha, WI #400
 Michael Polson — Front Royal, VA #2382
 David Charbonneau — Auburn, MA #2118
 Dennis Henline — Brandford, CT #1939

► Assistant Clerks of Election

W. J. Bryan — Temple, TX #138
 Daniel J. Gutierrez — Santa Fe, NM #460
 Dennis Morgan — Pueblo, CO #90
 Lori Nally — Jackson, TN #192
 Nathan Wood — Windsor, VT #1665
 Darren A. Lawler — Brandford, CT #1939

► Inspectors of Election

Scott Welch — Rochester, NH #1393
 Paul S. Bokoski — Woonsocket, RI #850
 Michel R. Sage — Vestal, NY #2508
 Donald K. Tonachio — Lacey, NJ #2518
 Darlena Jones — Marshall County, KY #2707
 David B. Lake — Fort Myers, FL #1288
 Michael Allen — Russell, KS #1715

► Assistant Grand Esquires

Carl Gerace — Rotunda, FL #2710
 Michael A. Childress — Decatur, AL #655
 Edward L. Bennett — Florence, SC #1020
 Duane J. Clark, Jr. — Farmington, ME #2430
 Roger L. Lampe — Falls City, NE #963
 Kris A. Benedict — Westshore-Harrisburg, PA #2257
 Howard Procter — Union, NJ #1583

► Assistant Grand Inner Guards

Dave Cook — Vicksburg, MS #95
 Benjamin Braden — Ballard, WA #827
 John R. Opitz Jr. — Abingdon, MD #2354
 Patrick McCaffrey — Findlay, OH #75
 E. J. Patrick III — Oregon City, OR #1189
 Ronald Elsheimer, Jr. — Cushing-Drumright, OK #2712
 Joshua Gray — New London, CT #360

► Assistant Grand Tilers

Timothy J. Whalen — Griffin, GA #1207
 Thomas R. Ludwick — Plant City, FL #1727
 Danny E. Tabor — Bradenton, FL #1511
 Tim Pereira — Gooding, ID #1745
 Phyllis C. Caldwell — Mena, AR #781
 Chris Sutterfield — McAlester, OK #533
 Ted G. Talbot — Torrance, CA #1948

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

ENF OFFERING SEMINARS AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Elks National Foundation is hosting three seminars to highlight its work and give tips to volunteers, and you won't want to miss them! Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Doors open 30 minutes before seminars begin, and rooms are subject to change.

Community Investments Program: #ElksAlwaysCare

This session is an opportunity to learn more about the 2026-27 grant specifics, including a \$500 increase to the Spotlight Grant and best practices for grant use.

Sunday, 2 to 3 p.m. in McCormick Place - West Building Room W187.

Hoop Shoot: Unleashing Gritty Kids

Catch the tip-off for the upcoming Elks Hoop Shoot season and learn how you can help unleash gritty kids.

Monday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in McCormick Place - West Building Room W475.

ENF Fundraising Chairs:

Back to Basics — Fundraising 101

This session will break down the art and science of fundraising and provide best practices to apply in your Lodge. Though the content for this seminar is designed for ENF Fundraising Chairs, all are welcome to attend.

Monday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in McCormick Place - West Building Room W184

ENVSC

ELKS VETERANS LEATHER PROGRAM GOING STRONG

Last year, in 2025-26, Elks and volunteers in nine states collected and prepared 9,460 leather hides for the Elks Veterans Leather Program. Finished leather is used to make wheelchair gloves for veterans and assemble craft kits for recovering veterans.

In total, Elks distributed 2,252 pairs of wheelchair gloves to veterans last year, in VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes and at veterans' adaptive sports events.

Elks also handed out 14,570 craft kits directly to veterans across the country, thanks to the more than 31,509 square feet of leather Elks donated to Help Heal Veterans. These kits help with physical therapy and foster improved concentration.

Every year, there's a battle to see which states can contribute the most hides. Here are this year's winners, including a newcomer in third place!

First Place: Iowa came out on top, contributing 3,825 hides.

Second Place: Missouri came in second with 2,933 hides.

Third Place: Oklahoma came in third this year with 1,050 hides.

Congratulations to all our winners, and thank you to the volunteers who



make this program possible, including Veterans Leather Program Chair Chuck Mudge and Vice-Chair Curtis Blystone.

VISIT THE ENVSC BOOTH

Check out the new Elks National Veterans Service Commission booth, write your name on our Wall of Service, and pick up your "I'm a Veteran" or your "I volunteer for veterans" ribbon.

While there, chat with ENVSC staff about Welcome Home Kits, and learn about your state's Veteran Volunteer of the Year Award winners. Voluntary Service Representatives and Deputy Representatives are invited to stop by for a special gift!

Veterans Leather Program Chair Chuck Mudge and Vice-Chair Curtis Blystone will be sharing their expertise and selling gloves for \$30.

We look forward to seeing you!

DRUG AWARENESS COMMISSION

NATIONAL ENRIQUE CAMARENA AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

The Pennsylvania State Association is very proud of its first National Enrique Camarena Award Winner, Detective Dustin Hess from the Penn Hills Police Department. Dustin was nominated by Oakmont, PA Lodge No. 1668 and endorsed by Pennsylvania State Chairman Deb Raible.



Det. Dustin Hess

At 38 years old, Detective Hess brings 14 years of dedicated law enforcement service and he exemplifies the spirit of service and dedication that this award represents. When asked why he chose this path and why he focuses on narcotics, Detective Hess's answer was straightforward: to help people, to be part of the community, and to positively impact lives.

Come meet Detective Hess when he receives his National Award at the Drug Awareness Open House on Tuesday from

1 to 3 p.m. at McCormick Place - West Building, Room W184.

VISIT DAP AND TAKE A PHOTO WITH ELROY!

Elroy invites everyone to visit the Elks National Drug Awareness Commission booth in the Exhibit Hall and have a picture taken with him as a free souvenir for this year's convention.

Your State Chairs of the Drug Awareness Program have been hard at work Saturday and Sunday at an intensive training, learning all about the latest drug trends and the best ways to protect our youth from the dangers they present.

Stop by and have a chat and see what's new in the world of the Elks DAP!



G/L ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Lodge Activities Committee will be hosting seminars on **Monday, July 6, from 2:30-4 p.m. at McCormick Place - West Building, Room W470, and Tuesday, July 7, from 12:30-2 p.m. at McCormick Place - West Building, Room W470.**

The seminars will provide a brief overview of all the related committee programs: Public Service Awards, Jr. Golf Program, Scouting, JROTC & Student/Teenager of the Month Awards, the Antlers Program, the Dictionary Project, Soccer Shoot, and the Community Project Award contest. There will be time before the end for questions and answers.

If one cannot attend one of the seminars, please stop by the Activities Booth. We will be happy to speak with you.



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G/L GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

NEW GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CHAIRMAN INSTALLED

Robert E. Wambach turns over leadership role of Chairman of the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee leadership role to Johnny Jones.

Johnny Jones is a 24-year Member and PER of Marshall County KY Lodge 2707. He has actively served on several committees and is passionate about veteran's programs.

He served as State President in 2022-2023 and served as a State Trustee for

seven years, currently as the Chair.

On the State Level, he chaired Lodge Activities Committee for five years. Johnny served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2014-2015 and is currently serving his second year on the Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee. Johnny retired from the U.S. Navy after 22 years, with the rank of Master Chief, and from the United States Postal Service after 18 years.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY PROJECTS CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

CONGRATULATIONS to all the Winners! Elks Lodges across the country continued to show that "*Elks Care—Elks Share*" by conducting Community Projects. These projects were showcased in the Grand Lodge Activities Committee's Community Projects Contest. *The winners for 2025-26 are as follows:*

Division I • (1 – 150 Members)

- 1st Place Hackettstown, NJ No. 2331
- 2nd Place Mid Westchester, NY No. 535
- 3rd Place Holbrook, AZ No. 2450

Division II • (151 – 225 Members)

- 1st Place Waukesha, WI No. 400

Division III • (226 – 300 Members)

- 1st Place Gallatin, TN No. 2547

Division IV • (301 – 450 Members)

- 1st Place Goldsboro, NC No. 139
- 2nd Place Jacksonville, FL No. 221
- 3rd Place Fairfield, IA No. 1192

Division V • (451 – 700 Members)

- 1st Place Hickory, NC No. 1654
- 2nd Place Elmira, NY No. 62
- 3rd Place Wethersfield-Rocky Hill, CT No. 2308

Division VI • (701+ Members)

- 1st Place Middleboro, MA No. 1274
- 2nd Place Greensboro, NC No. 602
- 3rd Place Vestal, NY No. 2508

The points system for the contest factors in total volunteers, man-hours, event duration, attendance, and media coverage and promotion.

This contest is a great way to reward your Members and volunteers for their dedication and hard work. We appreciate each Lodge's participation in the program this year and look forward to seeing other Lodges showcase their programs next year.

CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE

The court reporter needs to know your **Name, Current Elks Title, 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 the reporter gets your information for the permanent record, which will be included in the annual Grand Lodge Proceedings book.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

ALL-AMERICAN LODGE CONTEST FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

By **MICHAEL L. KENNEDY**
Committee Member

We are excited to announce the top ten Lodges in each Division in this year's All-American Lodge Contest "A". Overall, Grand Lodge received 145 entries from 30 states and we consider all Lodges that entered winners. Here are the top ten leaders:

Division I (1-150 Members)

Mahanoy City, PA Lodge No. 695; Green Bay, WI Lodge No. 259; Elmwood Park-Paterson, NJ Lodge No. 60; Duarte, CA Lodge No. 1427; Pendleton, SC Lodge No. 2861; Berea, OH Lodge No. 1815; Norfolk, NE Lodge No. 653; Bedford-Lynchburg, VA Lodge No. 321; Norfolk, VA Lodge No. 38; Anchorage, AK Lodge No. 2868.

Division II (151-225 Members)

San Angelo, TX Lodge No. 1880; Kearny-Belleville, NJ Lodge No. 1050; Cedar Grove, NJ Lodge No. 2237; Golden, CO Lodge No. 2740; Wheeling, WV Lodge No. 28; Hastings, NE Lodge No. 159; Los Banos, CA Lodge No. 2510; Elk Grove, CA Lodge No. 2577; Santa Monica, CA Lodge No. 906; Tri-Cities, WA Lodge No. 2755.

Division III (226-300 Members)

Gardiner, ME Lodge No. 1293; Bridgeport, PA Lodge No. 714; Texarkana, TX Lodge No. 2771; Danbury, CT Lodge No. 120; Winchester, KY Lodge No. 2816; Loudoun, VA Lodge No. 2406; Gardena, CA Lodge No. 1919; Arcadia, CA Lodge No. 2025; Benton County,

MO Lodge No. 2783; Negaunee, MI Lodge No. 1116.

Division IV (301-450 Members)

Calvert, MD Lodge No. 2620; Severna Park, MD Lodge No. 2482; Derby, CT Lodge No. 571; Rutherford, NJ Lodge No. 547; Golden Spike, UT Lodge No. 719; Middletown, NJ Lodge No. 2179; Huntington, WV Lodge No. 313; High Ridge, MO Lodge No. 2455; Homer, AK Lodge No. 2127; Oak Harbor, WA Lodge No. 2362.

Division V (451-700 Members)

Chandler, AZ Lodge No. 2429; Allegheny, PA Lodge No. 339; Newport, KY Lodge No. 273; Danielson, CT Lodge No. 1706; Hickory, NC Lodge No. 1654; Ashland, OH Lodge No. 1360; Falls City, NE Lodge No. 963; Roseville, CA Lodge No. 2248; Thousand Oaks, CA Lodge No. 2477; Lynnwood, WA Lodge No. 2171.

Division VI (701+ Members)

Cape Henlopen, DE Lodge No. 2540; Vancouver, WA Lodge No. 823; Manahawkin, NJ Lodge No. 2340; Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge No. 782; St. George 'Dixie', UT Lodge No. 1743; Littleton, CO Lodge No. 1650; Orange, CA Lodge No. 1475; Santa Ana, CA Lodge No. 794; Blue Springs, MO Lodge No. 2509; Festus-Crystal City, MO Lodge No. 1721.

Congratulations to all Lodges that participated. First, second, and third place winners of each Division will be announced during the Business Session. We hope to see you there!

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IDAHO ELKS REHAB

IDAHO Booth #211

ERs: Chicago Convention Reports due in October!

Exalted Rulers (or alternate delegates) should be reminded that they are required to attend the Annual Session and submit a Report to their Lodge no later than the first regular meeting in October. [GLS §12.120]

A good suggestion would be to save each edition of the *Convention News*, along with a copy of the Resolutions. Also, record how you voted on each resolution and submit to the Lodge with a cover letter. That will complete the obligation of your report to your Lodge.

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ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

2026 MVS Leadership scholars serve, enjoy Chicago

By Patrick Roelofs

ENF Communications Coordinator

In May, the Top 20 Most Valuable Student scholars experienced the #ElksFamily firsthand when they visited Chicago for the Most Valuable Student Leadership Weekend. Dedicated to service and leadership, these impressive high school seniors were selected out of more than 23,000 applications to receive \$30,000 scholarships. Four hundred and eighty-two runners-up received \$4,000 awards.

Throughout the weekend, the Top 20 served at a local nonprofit, attended workshops to help prepare them for college, and even danced the night away on a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan.

"With other scholarships, you don't really get to know other people that won," said Rohn Mathew, sponsored by Bridgeport, PA Lodge No. 714. "With the Elks, you're a family, and

you become part of that family. Just getting to know your local Elks Lodge or the whole community of the Elks is really a different experience that you can't get from other scholarships."

Though the weekend was full of #ElksFamily fun, the most powerful moment came at the Elks National Memorial and Headquarters.

Celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, the Memorial is a stunning architectural feat and a reminder of the history of Elkdom.

When the scholars first stepped into the domed rotunda, their mouths dropped and soft gasps echoed through the hall.

"One of the most lasting images in my mind is the rotunda at the Elks National Memorial," said Elijah Borjon, sponsored by Petaluma, CA Lodge No. 901. "Standing there, I felt the weight of the organization behind the award. The Elks were not just a

logo on a form. They are people, buildings, traditions, volunteers, stories, and generations of members who decided that supporting young people was worth their time and money."

Elijah recognizes that ENF scholarships are more than just financial aid—they're an invitation to join the vast and supportive network of the #ElksFamily. At today's Opening Ceremony, you will be able to hear from him first-hand. Elijah will be sharing his story during the ENF's presentation—you won't want to miss it.

For 2026-27, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$3 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$30,000. For more information about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, including eligibility and deadlines, visit elks.org/scholars.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

2026 Getty Powell Award winners shoot for the stars

By Patrick Roelofs

ENF Communications Coordinator

Stepping up to the line at the Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals takes courage. With all eyes on them in a completely silent 10,000-seat arena, competitors must dig deep, try their best, and trust the hard work that got them there. They could make zero. They could make 25. Ultimately, no matter how Finalists finish, the grit they unleash along the way will stick with them for life.

This year's Getty Powell Award winners, Duncan Walker and Logyn Parkinson, have courage and grit in spades—and they proved it when the lights were brightest.

In the Boys 10-11 division, Tre Estes went an incredible 25/25 from the free throw line, the first perfect score of the day. But, the fans at Wintrust Arena didn't have to wait very



Olympic gold medalist Erin Jackson poses with Duncan Walker (left) and Logyn Parkinson, who won Getty Powell Awards at the 2026 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals in Chicago in April.



long for another piece of Hoop Shoot history. After the first round of the Boys 12-13 division, four different Finalists were tied at 10/10, with another three Finalists closely behind at 9/10. As the last competitor of the division, Duncan, took the line for his final 15 free throws, his margin for error was slim; four competitors had made 23 free throws, and three competitors had made 24. He had to be perfect for the gold.

Just as Tre had done before him, Duncan, a three-time National Fi-

nalist sponsored by Henderson/Green Valley, NV Lodge No. 2802, confidently stepped up, went through his routine, and knocked down all 15 free throws to finish with a gold medal and the second perfect score of the day.

On the other side of the court, Logyn Parkinson, sponsored by Grand Rapids, MI Lodge No. 48, seemed to be following in Tre and Duncan's footsteps, as she started with a perfect 16/16. She missed her next shot but finished with an impressive 24/25 to slide into first place.

Please see HOOP SHOOT Page 11



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G/L PR & MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

SEMINARS: BUILDING ELKDOM'S FUTURE

Don't miss the Membership & Marketing seminars at the 161st Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago. These sessions will introduce innovative programs, tools, and strategies designed to strengthen member engagement, improve retention, and support sustainable membership growth.

Learn about exciting new initiatives including Best-in-Class Customer Service, the "I Will" New Member Engagement Program, the Member Experience Center, Digital Doors, and the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our Lodges.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Part One

Sunday, 10-11:30 a.m., Room W184, McCormick Place – West Building

Part Two

Monday, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Room W184, McCormick Place – West Building

Join us as we continue building exceptional Member experiences and a stronger future for our Order.

Six in a Row—Let's Grow!

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

ENF Chairs' Challenge
Contest Winners

April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

STATE WINNERS

	Members	Score
Wisconsin	6,580	632.259
Maryland, Delaware & District of Columbia	20,789	607.818
Rhode Island	8,862	606.200
Connecticut	24,581	573.236
Maine	11,177	548.188

LODGE WINNERS

	Members	Score
Division I — 150 Members or fewer		
1. Berea, OH No. 1815	112	866.000
2. Tri-Cities, TX No. 2877	85	864.000
3. Gulfport, MS No. 978	65	834.000

Division II — 151 to 225 Members

1. Anderson, SC No. 1206	176	914.000
2. Portage, WI No. 675	195	874.000
3. West Orange, NJ No. 1590	179	811.000

Division III — 226 to 300 Members

1. Arcadia, CA No. 2025	234	980.000
2. Henderson, KY No. 206	268	930.000
3. Clawson-Troy, MI No. 2169	243	880.000

Division IV — 301 to 450 Members

1. Severna Park, MD No. 2482	447	1,000.000
2. St. Mary's County, MD No. 2092	413	1,000.000
3. Glen Burnie, MD No. 2266	372	980.000

Division V — 451 to 700 Members

1. Cranford, NJ No. 2006	513	1,000.000
2. New Castle, IN No. 484	632	992.000
3. Roseville, CA No. 2248	642	980.000

Division VI — More than 700 Members

1. Greater Cape May, NJ No. 2839	2,147	1,000.000
2. Augusta, ME No. 964	1,129	1,000.000
3. Groton, CT No. 2163	870	996.000

In the event of a scoring tie, place was determined by categories listed in the Chair Challenge Guidelines. For information, visit elks.org/ENF/ChallengeRules.cfm.

ENF Per Member
Contest Winners

April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

STATE WINNERS

	Mem.	Donations	Per Mem.
Utah	3,831	\$146,776.01	\$38.313
Maine	11,177	\$278,365.26	\$24.905
Texas	14,264	\$347,012.89	\$24.328
Wisconsin	6,580	\$136,480.26	\$20.742
Minnesota	6,969	\$138,978.04	\$19.942

LODGE WINNERS

	Mem.	Donations	Per Mem.
Division I — 150 Members or fewer			
1. Pendleton, SC No. 2861	56	\$32,714.79	\$584.193
2. Fort Wayne, IN No. 155	129	\$54,355.00	\$421.357
3. Kaukauna, WI No. 962	39	\$11,060.00	\$283.590

Division II — 151 to 225 Members

1. Atlanta-Northlake, GA No. 78	154	\$15,940.00	\$103.507
2. San Angelo, TX No. 1880	158	\$15,935.18	\$100.856
3. Porterville, CA No. 1342	153	\$15,323.29	\$100.152

Division III — 226 to 300 Members

1. Park City, UT No. 734	236	\$45,643.30	\$193.404
2. Cuyahoga Falls-Akron-Barberton, OH No. 1923	292	\$31,109.21	\$106.538
3. Lakewood-Bellflower, CA No. 888	279	\$22,532.06	\$80.760

Division IV — 301 to 450 Members

1. Springfield, OR No. 2145	445	\$30,922.00	\$69.488
2. Park Ridge, NJ No. 2234	308	\$19,513.17	\$63.354
3. Sweet Home, OR No. 1972	387	\$24,445.12	\$63.166

Division V — 451 to 700 Members

1. Painesville, OH No. 549	633	\$47,012.83	\$74.270
2. West Covina, CA No. 1996	640	\$45,840.00	\$71.625
3. Gateway-Gresham, OR No. 1805	616	\$42,075.00	\$68.304

Division VI — More than 700 Members

1. St. George 'Dixie', UT No. 1743	1,422	\$66,534.40	\$46.789
2. Gallipolis, OH No. 107	908	\$41,737.00	\$45.966
3. Mission Viejo-Saddleback Valley, CA No. 2444	1,334	\$55,495.88	\$41.601

G/L AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE

The Auditing and Accounting Committee will conduct two seminars on Monday and Tuesday to assist Lodges in their accounting tasks.

The *Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers* seminar will address the basics of using the recommended software to perform all the accounting tasks 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 **12:30-1:45 p.m. Monday and 2:15-3:30 p.m. Tuesday**, both in **Room W181 in the McCormick Place - West Building**.

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 **2-3:15 p.m. Monday and 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesday**, both in **Room W181 in the McCormick Place - West Building**.

Each session 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. The committee looks forward to seeing you.

HOOP SHOOT *from Page 9*

Competitor after competitor was unable to tie Logyn, until it seemed that Kylie Minor, the final shooter of the division, would catch her. After starting 21/22 and needing just three more successful shots to force Logyn into a shoot-off, Kylie's 23rd shot sailed deep and off the back of the rim, securing Logyn's gold medal.

"It felt really good to win because I was here last year and ended up losing," said Logyn, who finished in fourth place in the Girls 10-11 division at the 2025 National Finals. "I knew I had to practice even more than last year to come back and become a National Champion."

Logyn didn't only become a Frank Hise National Champion, though—she also earned the Getty Powell Award, which is given to the top girl and boy scorers in the entire competition. On the boys' side, the race for the Getty Powell was anything but certain.

Duncan and Tre, the two perfect

scorers, had to settle their tie in a shoot-off. Duncan went first, immediately putting pressure on Tre by making all five shots. Tre didn't flinch and made his five shots to send the shoot-off into another round. With all eyes on them, Duncan and Tre stunned attendees as they continued going shot for shot, make for make. It wasn't until Tre missed his 27th shot of the shoot-off that Duncan was able to claim his Getty Powell Award. In total, Duncan went an unbelievable 55/55 from the free throw line.

Along with the other four Frank Hise National Champions, Duncan and Logyn will have their names displayed in the Elks Hoop Shoot digital exhibit at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

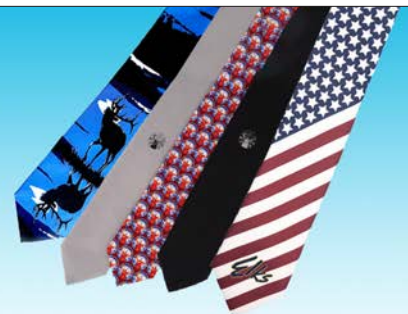
The Elks National Foundation will send all six to Springfield, Massachusetts, to see their names in those hallowed halls.

Additionally, Duncan, Logyn, and their parents are guests of the Elks this weekend and will attend the Opening Ceremony, where they will show off their trophies.



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ABOVE: Grand Secretary Carl T. Seibert speaks during the 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Elks Memorial Building on Saturday. Photo: Laz Suarez

LEFT: Attendees cheer during the 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday. Photo: Marcus Oania

BELOW: From left, Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr.; Rev. Father Christopher J. Ford; Anthony N. Gilberti; Frederick S. Thompson; Robert C. Ricker; and Linda Gathen stand in front of the Memorial Building at the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Photo: Laz Suarez

Convention from Page 1

Knight Anthony N. Gilberti, Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight Frederick S. Thompson, and Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight Robert C. Ricker.

The four Chair Officers reaffirmed that the Memorial Building was dedicated to the Order's four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

Following this moving display of Elks ritual, Grand Secretary Carl T. Seibert spoke briefly.

He invited the assembled Elks to inspect the contents of the one-hundred-year-old time capsule that had been retrieved from the Memorial's foundation, discussed the plans to create a second time capsule to be opened in 2126, and officially unveiled a plaque commemorating the ceremony and the building's one hundred years of service.

The Elks National Memorial 100th Anniversary Celebration closed with four more ritual observances: a performance of the Eleven O'Clock Toast by Ritual Committee, Area 5 Member Raymond N. Summers, a rendition of taps by Past District Deputy Linda Gathen of the Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge No. 782, the singing of Auld Lang Syne by Past Grand Exalted Ruler Millard C. Pickering, and finally a benediction by Grand Chaplain Ford, who offered the prayer that the building should be "a perpetual memorial of all that is highest and best in American patriotism." ★



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We're asking Members to tell us their best Elksdom memories.

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Memorial from Page 2

Hofer is excited to take a tour to see the building's artwork and architectural features. The building also contains numerous exhibits about the armed forces.

"It's saying something that an organization would dedicate their headquarters to veterans," Hofer said.

Elizabeth Dye, DDGER from Redondo Beach, CA Lodge No. 1378, said that her patriotism spurred her to attend. She said the bulk of the charitable initiatives led by her and her Lodge is to help veterans.

Dye said that she has delved into the Elks and its ties to America and the military. She said she was moved by Saturday's ceremony and was amazed by all the history that was showcased in the Memorial.

"Everything within those walls represents something significant," Dye said.

Scott Knight, DDGER from Burien, WA Lodge No. 2143, joined the Elks 20 years ago, drawn by the organization's tradition and charitable works.

Knight said the Elks does so much to help everyone: Members, veterans,

children, and people in communities throughout the country. The Memorial embodies the Elks' story.

"The Memorial should be everything to the Elks, because that's our heritage," Knight said. "That's our ground roots. That's our beginning and our future. We have to be very proud of the Memorial because the Memorial tells the story of who we are." ★



ABOVE: Visitors view some of the military uniforms and other artifacts on display in the Memorial Building after the 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday. Photo: Laz Suarez

LOWER RIGHT: The Memorial Building is seen from above shortly before the start of the 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday. Photo: Marcus Oania

LOWER LEFT: Visitors navigate the rotunda to view the Memorial Building and artifacts after the 100th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday. Photo: Marcus Oania



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