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Soccer Season

Loren Anthony, El Dorado

The 2015 Kansas Elks Soccer season has started in about half of the local Lodges. Many young shooters have begun their trip from Local contest to District, to State and then, the Elks Mid-America finals. Each shooter and their families will have the opportunity to compete against the four surrounding state champions with bragging rights for the heart of our great country soccer skills.



The twelve Lodges who host local contests give the area soccer shooters a stage to exhibit their skills and bring their families along on a fun trip around Kansas.

All Local contests are to be held during September so the winners' names can be forwarded to the District chairperson. A copy of their birth certificates must be given at the District contest, along with a filled-out entry form, signed by their parent and the Local chairperson.

District Contest:

Northeast:

Chair: Diana Servaes, Atchison #647
913-367-2265 (H) 913-630-3463 (C)
Date: October 4th, 12:00 Registration, 1:00
Contest Location: Register at Atchison Elks Lodge #647 and travel as a group to the Atchison middle school for the contest.

West:

Chair: Eddie King, Great Bend #1127
Date: October 10th, 11:30 Registration, 1:00
Contest Location: Start at Lodge home and travel to soccer field as a group.

Southeast:

Chair: Nona Reep, Winfield #732
Date: October 11th, 12:00 Registration, 1:00
Contest Location: Parson Elks Lodge #527 will host the registration at the Lodge. After lunch, all will travel to the soccer field for the contest.

State Contest:

Kansas Elks State Championship:

Chair: Loren Anthony, El Dorado Elks Lodge #1407
Date: October 18, 2015 12:00 Registration 1:00
Contest Location: Register at Elks Lodge and travel to Soccer Complex for competition.
The 10 winners of the State contest will qualify for the Elks Mid-America Regional Soccer-Shoot. Each winner will receive a Soccer jacket with their name's on the back, to be worn at the Elks Mid-America competition.

Regional Contest:

Elks Mid-America Regional Soccer-Shoot:

Chair: Loren Anthony, El Dorado Elks #1407
Date: November 6th, 7th and 8th, 2015
Contest Location: El Dorado, KS
All State winners will be sent a schedule of events.

I hope you helped your Lodge host a Local contest, and take your winners on to your District Contest in October. Your area youth should get a chance to take part.

Wickwire Receives Enrique Camarena Award



Tom Clark (left), District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, presents, the Elks' Enrique S. Camarena Award for drug prevention to Butler County Sheriff's Sgt. Phil Wickwire (center), as his wife, Kay, and El Dorado Lodge No. 1407 Exalted Ruler Roger Cutsinger look on.

Courtesy of Cristina Janney/Butler County Times-Gazette

Butler Sheriff's Sgt. Phil Wickwire, a member of El Dorado Elks Lodge 1407, was honored Monday night with the Enrique S. Camarena Award.

Special Agent Enrique S. Camarena was a DEA agent who was brutally tortured and murdered by one of the Mexican drug cartels, while investigating drug trafficking into the United States in 1985. His family remains in hiding under threat from the cartels.

His death precipitated the start of the Red Ribbon Campaign, which was started in tribute to the agent by his friends and family.

Wickwire was nominated for the national award, but placed behind an officer who was shot in the line of duty during a drug raid.

The local Lodge honored him for his service to drug prevention and as the only law enforcement officer to be nominated for the award from the state of Kansas.

In his recommendation letter, Sheriff Kelly Herzet said, "With 37 years of law enforcement service, I can't think of a more deserving person to receive this prestigious award than Sergeant Phil Wickwire. His service and dedication to his community and his law enforcement career is unselfish and goes above and beyond the 'Call of Duty.'"

In his nomination letter Sheriff's Deputy Curtis Cox said, "Phil is a pillar of the community, and I am very proud to serve alongside him and call him my friend. Phil always tells me he is not big on 'accolades,' when it comes to award ceremonies, and I can tell you his great-

est award is helping others. Due to his service, dedication and commitment to his community in raising drug awareness, I can't think of anyone more deserving of this prestigious award than Phil Wickwire."

In 1998, Wickwire became supervisor of the Community Policing Section/Drug Abuse Resistance Education unit, which is also known as DARE.

During his tenure as a DARE officer, he also has served as the Kansas DARE Officer Association president and represented Kansas DARE officers on the National Board of Directors.

He serves on the board of directors of the combined Kansas DARE Officers Association and the Kansas School Resource Officers Association. In 2009 he was selected as the Kansas DARE Officer of the Year, and in 2010 was presented with a Life Time Achievement Award.

The Elks raised \$12,000 to purchase a DARE trailer to be used by the Sheriff's Department. Wickwire is the chairperson of the Elks' drug awareness efforts.

Wickwire pulls the trailer about 500 miles per year to eight events and festivals across the county, trying to reach out to young people about the dangers of drug use.

Wickwire also has been instrumental in the Butler 2000 program, which is a camp program for at-risk middle school students. Students who complete the program can earn scholarships to Butler Community College.

Wickwire said the DARE program is a team effort, thanking all of his co-workers and those who nominated him for the award.

"This is a huge honor," Wickwire said. "I do it because I love the kids. I want to help them make better choices."

Kansas Elk Honored at Grand Lodge, Indianapolis, Indiana



Resolution honoring **Walter B. Linthacum**, Member Board of Grand Trustees, Proposed by Michael T. Luhr, Secretary, Board of Grand Trustees, and Seconded by Kansas Past State Presidents, **Frank Springer**, Chanute Lodge No. 806, and **Carl Lindsey**, Overland Park Lodge No. 2395, and adopted by the Grand Lodge at its general session in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Wednesday, July 8, 2015.

Whereas, Walter B. Linthacum of Goodland, Kansas Lodge No 1528 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 sincere appreciation for his leadership and service, and

Whereas, Walter was born and raised in Goodland, KS attending high school and Kansas State University and still resides there, and, he and his wife Linda started an independent insurance agency from the ground up, later acquiring another agency in Saint Francis, KS where they are licensed to sell insurance in the states of Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska and currently farm 2,000 plus acres growing wheat, corn and milo, and

Whereas, he continues to find time to be active in his community as a member of the First United Methodist Church, an announcer at the local "Topside Tipoff" basketball tournament for 20 plus years, Chairman of the Goodland Area Crime Stoppers and has been the chairman of the Sherman County Economic committee for 2 years, and

Whereas, his career in Elkdome started in 1963 upon his initiation into the Goodland, KS Lodge # 1528 where he immediately became active and served as Exalted Ruler in the years 1972-73, 1994-95 and 1995-96. He served Lodge Trustee from 1973 to 1993 with the exception of 2 years. He has been Goodland Lodge's Elk of the Year twice and was elected to Honorary Life Membership in the Goodland Lodge in 1998, and

Whereas, he has been active in and chaired the following State Committees, Youth Activities, Benevolent, Seating Arrangements, Hoop Shoot, Entertainment and Decorations, General Chairman's, Elks National Foundation, Business Practices, Ritual and Insurance and Risk Management from 1997 to present. He was Kansas State Elks Association Elk of the Year in 2001- 02 and with the help of PSP Charles Lester, established and became the Director of the Kansas Elks Association ER & Secretary Seminar, now called Leadership Training including Lodge Trustees from 1997 to 2008. He served with distinction as President of the Kansas Elks Association from 1996-97 and is a member of the KEA Advisory Board from 1997 to present, and

Whereas, he was the announcer for the West Central Region #8 Hoop Shoot in Denver, CO, from 1999 to 2010, has judged Ritual contests in the States of Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, and has served the Grand Lodge as a Ritual Judge at the Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City in 1999, as District Deputy for the Kansas Northwest District in 1986-87 and as Special Deputy to the Grand Exalted Ruler for the State of Kansas in 2001-2011 and was the Chairman of the SDGER's for 3 years, and

Whereas, through all these accomplishments, he has had the encouragement and support of his loving wife Linda, who has been by his side for 28 years. They have two daughters, Lea Ann Studer and Chandra Parker, and two sons, Devin and Lane, as well as three grandchildren, Brooke, Ryan & Megan Parker, and

Whereas, he was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees in 2011, serving as Building Applications West Member, Approving Member and most recently as Vice-Chairman of the Board, and

Whereas, his dedication and passion for Elkdome, and his dedication to our Order have earned him the respect of all Elks, and

Whereas, Walter B. Linthacum represents the epitome of a true Elk and American gentleman, one who loves and serves his fellow man.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that in grateful recognition of his valued service to Elkdome and in tribute to his character, leadership and 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 Walter B. Linthacum, a suitable testimonial for his service, together with an engrossed 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.

President
James Capper, Overland Park



This year has certainly began with a bang! A special thank you to Debbie Betts and the Atchison Lodge #647 for setting us off on the right foot at Flag Day. Despite some high waters, and some very large rain clouds, we had a terrific ceremony and turn out. I highly recommend making the trip to Atchison to visit with some friends, and the Veterans Memorial at Riverfront Park.

Soon after, many of us traveled to Indianapolis for the Elks National Convention. As State President, I was very honored to be a part of the Grand Lodge Opening Ceremony by carrying our State Flag across the stage. I would like to offer a great deal of thanks to Frank and Linda Springer for all their hard work, marketing and delicious food! Everyone had such a wonderful time and as always you two did an impeccable job. Volunteers sold travel cups marked with our State Pin, raffled some very large, very nice, baskets, and also sold our state pins in our hospitality

1st Vice President
Loren Anthony, El Dorado



With Elks, Americanism is not just a word, it's a way of Life! We are thankful our religious beliefs are ours, not the Government's. We honor those who served, or are serving our country in the military. Without their sacrifices, we would not have our freedom. We can fly our beautiful American flag at our home or work site to show everyone of those beliefs. We have the opportunity to live and grow with our family unit, and not be dictated by others, where and how to live. We can educate our children as we see fit, not as others deem best for the country. America has always been the most free and greatest nation in the world. If we continue to live with these Americanism beliefs, we will remain free and prosperous.

“ELKS PRIDE – COMMUNITY FOCUS”

room and we were able to raise a total of over \$1000 to be used toward the KEA.

Most recently, we traveled to Park City, KS for our Fall Kickoff Meeting. I had such a wonderful time seeing all of you. Once again, corn-hole was a success and I would like to thank the Ladies for taking care of our entertainment for us. I would also like to both commend and express my gratitude to my General Chairman, Brenda King and her committee for putting together a wonderful meal and hospitality room for all of us. It was so nice to see some old faces, but don't forget to invite some new ones to our next meeting in October!

As always, you know I must mention ENF and membership. I am looking forward to setting a record this year in having each of our 25 Lodges meet it's per capita ENF goal. Chair-people, it is up to you to spread the good word about ENF, as well as it's programs and benefits. Remind people about your grant opportunities and find someone new to help you out. You would truly be surprised how many people want to help! All you have to do is ask. Don't forget to check out the Elks.org website for valuable tips, and information on all of our Grant opportunities. Remember that doing fun things brings lots of positive attention to not only Elks, but your Lodge. Invite non members to help with your events as well, this can have such a huge impact on growing your membership!

In closing, I would like to recognize each and every one of you for all of your hard work and dedication to our organization. Without you we could not be successful. I hope to see you all in Junction City on October 24th-25th.

2nd Vice President
David Foster, Pratt



Greetings. It was fun seeing everyone in Park City the middle of August. I went to KETCH to help stuff pink tickets to mail out. There was lots of help and an enjoyable time. Let's support the Ladies Major Project and sell all the pink tickets. Then we went back to Park City for some fun and games, the general chairman's committee did an excellent job. Sunday morning's meeting wasn't very well attended, but we had good meeting and we received a lot of good information. Let's show our support and get more attendance at Junction City. Our local soccer is underway so we can get to district then on to state. The 1st of October is about here so let's look at those members who have not paid the Dues. Your Lodge also has received the shoot out tickets. Let's support Jim and Fred and get them sold. Looking at the Fall District Deputy Clinics. I hope they had a good show so our State Sponsor Jim McQuillan will be proud of Kansas. Remember to get out to the Lodge and support the committees, activities, the State Elks and KETCH. See you in Junction City.

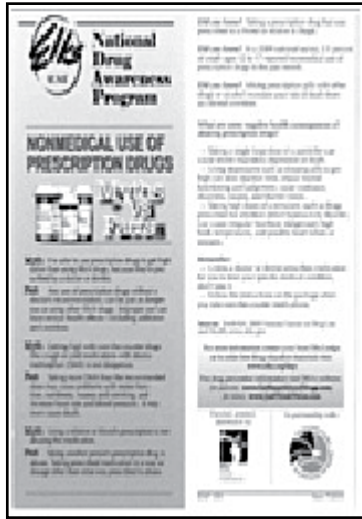
DAP
(Drug Awareness Program)
Cindy Walton, Overland Park

I have recently finished Drug Awareness Training at Grand Lodge, and WOW was I impressed with what we have available. The Drug Awareness Program (DAP) is alive and well and is truthfully getting a renewed focus from Grand Lodge. This is great news in light of the direction so many of the other programs seem to be headed. There are some very good things already completed, and more improvements coming.

Printed Material for Distribution:

The first and most consistent message that we received was that what we have historically focused on for success (handing out literature) is not where our focus should be today. Grand Lodge has entered into a number of partnerships with other groups and they are assisting with online and interactive information that is much more timely and in-line with the way the youth of today communicate.

Now with that said, we do still have access to printed materials most of which has been or is being updated. Your old info is not obsolete, but, there will be new versions of some of the old materials. I have sample copies of three of the new brochures to this article. They are ½ sheets printed front and back. You will see they include links to more information that is current and child friendly.



We do have annual limits on how much can be ordered by each Lodge, and each District Chair. As District Chair persons you are entitled to order a supply for yourself or to augment a Lodge's supply of materials or for your own use.

| Annual Limits: | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Items | Lodge Limit | District Chair Limit |
| Coloring | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Books | | |
| Bookmarks | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Pamphlets | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Comic Books* | 250 | 250 |

Please do not order the limits unless you truly feel you will be able to distribute the information to a target group who will truly benefit from the information and who will be positively impacted. All orders still must come to me, and I can only order online. If you send your order to me via e-mail, or include an e-mail on the order I am now able to have Grand Lodge update you when your order is shipped. You can view the most current brochures on the Grand Lodge website, they do change, so I encourage you to continue to check back for new brochures.

* Comic Book orders that are meant to be sent to a school. You will need to have the signature of a School representative on the form in order to process the order and have it sent directly to the school. The limit is per School and the target age group is 3th through 7th grades.

*A limited number of Comic Book kits are available for "Special Lodge Events". The Comic book order form has a section to indicate the nature of the event. I need to get these approved on an individual basis, so please leave time for these to reach me, and be approved by the National Director prior to the order being released.

I can request quantity overrides on a very limited basis, so if you need more than the limits of any item, please include a written reason as I may need to forward this to the National Director for approval.

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ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:
We order our mailing labels through Grand Lodge so if you have an address change, your Lodge secretary can make that change for you through CLMS2. Thanks!

SPECIAL NOTE:
If your Lodge isn't mentioned in this edition;
1) Articles were not submitted by your Lodge
2) The Editor did not receive any of your Lodge bulletins
3) there wasn't any charitable or benevolent news included in your bulletins. Please submit bulletins and articles to the editor so they may be published.



Scan this code with your smartphone or mobile device to visit www.kselks.org and this Sunflower.

Drug Awareness
Program
Cindy Walton, Overland Park

It was great seeing everyone again in Wichita. Every year it is a struggle to get the DAP Annual Reports from our Lodges and I know they are having events, giving out coloring books, etc. It is important that our Lodges are recognized for their hard work. I have been working with Carl Lindsey trying to make it easier by adding the report onto the KEA website with drop down boxes. Some of you have used this report this year and it seem to be easier. Carl has put a lot of time into this report to help make it easier and I want to personally Thank him!

In addition to this report, when you have an

event where you hand out DAP brochures, basketballs with the DAP emblem, coloring books, etc., the Lodges need to give the Lodge Secretaries these events and make sure they know it is drug awareness so it can be added into CLMS-2. CLMS-2 will total all events for you. CLMS-2 is the official record of a Lodges activities and by using this it will make your DAP Annual Report a lot easier to complete. Also, make sure your Lodge Secretaries are putting these activities under 1801 – Drug Awareness Program.

Please get this information out to your Lodges and it will hopefully make completing the DAP Annual Report a lot less time consuming for everyone. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail: c-walton1@hotmail.com/ or 913-499-5021.

NOTE: Tentative Calendar – subject to change. Any questions, please call or email: Cindy L. Walton, 913-499-5021 or drugawareness@kselks.org

2015-2016 Elks Drug Awareness Program
DAP Theme – “Just Don’t Do It”
Due Dates to Remember



2015

- August 15, 2015 – DAP Annual Report
- October 15, 2015 – Nominations for the Elks Enrique Camarena Award
- October 23-31st – Red Ribbon Week / Postcard Event (9 days but still called a week)

2016

- March 1, 2016 – Video, Essay and Poster Contests
- August 1, 2016 – DAP Annual Report
- October 2016 – Red Ribbon Week / Postcard Event
- October 15, 2016 – Nominations for the Elks Enrique Camarena Award



Grand Exalted Ruler
Ronald L. Hicks
Fredericksburg, Virginia Lodge No. 875
BIOGRAPHY OF RONALD L. HICKS
GRAND EXALTED RULER 2015 – 2016
Benevolent and Protective Order
of Elks of the U.S.A.

Ronald L. (Ron) Hicks was born, and continues to live, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The son of M. Emory Hicks and the late Annie Mae Hicks, he has one sister, Carole Anne Hicks. He graduated from Spotsylvania High School in 1964. Also a graduate of Chowan Junior College (now Chowan University) in North Carolina and Lynchburg College in Virginia, he received his law degree from the Uni-

versity of Richmond Law School, Richmond, VA, in 1972.

Ron has practiced law in the Fredericksburg Area for over 40 years, currently serving Of Counsel to the law firm of Jarrell Hicks & Waldman. He is retired from the active practice of law, devoting most of his time to other business interests, including Jarrell Properties, LLC, a residential and commercial development and management company. Throughout his legal career, he maintained a general practice, with emphasis on criminal and civil litigation, corporate and real estate law. Ron’s law office, built circa 1790 and located at Spotsylvania Courthouse, was the headquarters for Confederate General Jubal Early during nearby battles of the Civil War. Fredericksburg is proudly known as “America’s Most Historic City” and the Fredericksburg Area is filled with history of the Colonial, Revolutionary and Civil War periods.

Ron served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Union Bank & Trust Company and Union Bankshares Corporation for 25 years, and currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Bankshares Board and is serving on its Executive and Compensation Committees. Ron is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Riverside Center for the Performing Arts and serves on the Board of Trustees of Chowan University. In addition, Ron has served, or is serving, on numerous other community, civic and business Boards and Committees. He is a former member of the Virginia Army Air National Guard. An avid golf-

er and sports fan, Ron played baseball throughout his college years, and has coached many youth sports teams in baseball, softball, basketball, and soccer, including select or travel teams. A former President of the Battlefield Basketball Officials Association, he has refereed youth, high school, and adult basketball, and umpired youth baseball and softball.

Ron was initiated into Fredericksburg, Virginia, Lodge #875 in February, 1972. He has served on numerous Committees, including the House Committee and Board of Trustees, advanced through the Officer Chairs, and served as Exalted Ruler in 2002-03. He served as Chairman or Co-Chairman for a number of Lodge construction projects, including the construction a new Lodge facility in 1997, and as Co-Chairman of the Lodge’s 100-year Celebration in 2003. A former Elk of the Year, he is an Honorary Life Member, and remains very active in the Lodge. He is also an Associate Member of Orlando, Florida, Lodge #1079.

At the State Level, Ron became active with the Virginia Elks Association with his appointment as Association Inner Guard. He has served as State Legal Advisor and on numerous Committees, Vice President of the Central District, and was elected Virginia State President in 2009. He has been recognized by the Association as Officer of the Year and Elk of the Year, won the Eleven O’clock Toast Contest, and currently serves as Chairman of the VEA Board of Trustees and as General Chairman of the State Orientation Committee.

At the Grand Lodge Level, Ron has served as District Deputy for the Central District of Virginia and as a Certified Ritual Judge. In 2005, he was appointed to the Committee On Judiciary, representing Area 3, an experience that introduced him to, and allowed him to work with, many Lodges and Elk members throughout the Southeastern United States, as well as other areas of the Country.

In 2010, Ron was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Grand Trustees, serving as Chairman of the Board in 2013-2014. While on the Board, he was appointed to serve as Building Applications – East Member, Investment and Pension Member, and Home Member prior to his election as Chairman. During his time on the Board, he orked diligently with other Board Members to resolve significant issues at the Elks National Home in Bedford, VA. This effort resulted in the Home being opened to the public in 2012 to help increase the number of residents, and led to its eventual sale in August 2014.

Ron married his high school sweetheart, Nancy Jeanne Camper, on April 12, 1969, and they are now celebrating 46 wonderful and eventful years together. Ron and Nancy have three children, Joseph, Jason and Anne Kathryn, and they have been further blessed with eight grandchildren. Nancy, Joseph and Jason are also members of the Fredericksburg Elks Lodge, and Joseph and Jason are both Past Exalted Rulers of the Lodge. Ron and Nancy are life-long members of Fairview Baptist Church.

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SDGER Message
Charles Buechman, Larned

As I stated in my last article for the Kansas Elks Sunflower, I am extremely disappointed in the number of Kansas Elks Lodges that did not send a representative as required by our Grand Lodge Statutes to the Grand Lodge Convention in Indianapolis. I truly believe that some of you have become so accustomed to saying the Lodge cannot afford to send your Exalted Ruler that you believe it is an acceptable practice. I am telling you once again, Section 12.120 says: “The representative to the Grand Lodge shall attend the Annual Session thereof and submit a report to the

Lodge not later than the first regular meeting in October. The Lodge shall pay its representative not less than the amount provided for transportation and per diem while necessarily engaged in travel and for each day actually spent in attendance at the Session, as provided in Section 4.240.” If your Lodge is one of the Lodges who did not send your Exalted Ruler or an alternate representative to Grand Lodge your Lodge is in violation of the Grand Lodge Statutes and subject to being placed on probation by Grand Lodge. We had eleven (11) Lodges not in attendance with only one of those having a legitimate excuse. Go back to your Lodge and hold a couple of fundraisers to help send your representative to Houston next year.

At the Legislative Session there were 18 resolutions presented and voted upon. 15 of those resolutions passed and are now a part of the Grand Lodge Statutes. Most of the resolutions were “housekeeping” in nature and passed without any debate. The first of the three that failed would have allowed Lodges to recognize organizations other than ladies groups to be auxiliaries. This was a Constitutional matter and required a 2/3 majority vote to pass and it only received a simple majority, thus it failed. The other two resolutions that failed would have allowed “social facilities” to remain open during regular Lodge sessions and to meet only monthly if approved in your bylaws. Again, those resolutions did NOT pass.

Two of the resolutions that passed changed the two months that are allowed for a reduced reinstatement fee and initiation fee from having to be consecutive. For those Lodges that allow “six-months” dues, resolution #15 provides that any member who is delinquent in the payment of any amount of dues during the month of March shall only be dropped during the month of March. In other words, if you collect 6-months dues and the second half is not paid, you need to drop those members before the first of April and get them off of your rolls. I encourage everyone to go to the Elks website and go to Grand Lodge Convention and find the Grand Lodge Convention News for Wednesday and review all of the changes that were approved. Also, while there, the front page of the Monday through Thursday editions summarizes the previous days business session very well.

You are now halfway through the Lodge year. How are you coming on the goals that you set for the year? I remind the officers, make sure that you are committed to the responsibilities of attending meetings, not just at your Lodge, but also the District Deputy Clinics, the KEA Leadership Seminar and the other meetings of the Kansas Elks Association. You have that responsibility to your Lodge. The Advisory Committee asked that the Elks Leadership Seminar be held in conjunction with all three District Deputy Clinics. The date has been set for March 5-6 at a site to be determined. There is no reason every Lodge

should not be represented by the four required officers at both the Leadership Seminar and the District Deputy Clinics which will be held on consecutive days with the KEA paying for two motel rooms for each Lodge. Make your plans now to attend and do not schedule local Lodge activities to conflict with these dates!

If you didn’t get the message, Grand Lodge has made a new recommendation for your local Lodge Membership Committee. The committee should consist of the Exalted Ruler, the Secretary, the Leading Knight, the Membership Committee Chairman and 1 person per every 100 members in your Lodge. In other words, if you have a membership of 300 there should be 3 additional members on the committee, if your membership is 700 there should be 7 additional members. Also, the emphasis should be on RETENTION!

We still have Lodges and officers who do not realize that the bylaws of your Lodge sets who makes decisions regarding the social facilities of your Lodge. Grand Lodge has tried to help clarify those duties by splitting the old Section 16.040 of the Statutes into two separate sections. The new Section 16.040 states the standard duties for the managing body and Section 16.041 addresses disciplinary proceedings that the managing body may have to address. Please make sure that your Lodge is following the method as stated in your local bylaws.



Southeast DDGER
Tom Clark, El Dorado

We had a great time at the Ketch stuffing party. Being my first time, I really didn’t know what to expect. However with a lot of Elks working together it made it fun, looking forward to the next time. I hope any of you who have not done this, come and be a part of it.

The kickoff meeting went well with a lot of good information for all of our Lodges. Our Lodge in El Dorado received a plaque to be presented to Phil Wickwire who is a Deputy Sheriff in Butler County and our Leading Knight. This award was for being nominated for the Enrique Camarena award for Drug Awareness through the Grand Lodge . We made that presentation to him on the following Monday night in El Dorado. He was totally surprised as we had not let him know that he had been nominated.

All of my visits are scheduled and started Tuesday September 8th at my home Lodge. Next I was at the Iola Lodge. I am looking forward to all of the visits.

My first DD Clinic was September 12th at the El Dorado Senior Center. This was a joint effort with the SE and NE Districts. We had several speakers lined up and feek that it was a successful and informative event.

Loren Anthony and I made an early trip to visit with the Pittsburg Lodge and was received very well. We had a good visit with some of the members and officers. Looking forward for my return visit with them.

Good luck with your year and keep up the great work you are doing in your Lodges.



Northeast DDGER
Charles Ulanski, Osawatomie

Hello! Things have been a little slow since the National Convention but things are about to pick up here in the “Incredible” Northeast District real soon. We just had our KEA Kick-Off meeting and I am excited to be the committee chairman for Ritual committees in our Lodges. We have gotten away from having ritual teams in our State and I am looking forward to getting these teams started back up and having some great competition again. I know it’s a lot of hard work but it seems to make members prouder of their Lodge and also bring members closer together.

I enjoyed seeing everyone at our DD Clinic on September 12th in El Dorado. My first DD Visit was September 15th in Clay Center. Thank you to Tom Clark and the Southeast District for joining and hosting the DD Clinic. We held the dual DD Clinic at the El Dorado Senior Center, We then went to the El Dorado Lodge for dinner and drinks. Please contact me if you have any questions.



West DDGER
Marlin Wilson, Garden City

Greetings from the Great West District. By now the new Exalted Rulers have made all their committee appointments for the new Lodge Year, and conducted a few meetings, really getting into the swing of things. My DD friends in the East and I are going through similar new year exercises. With our visitation schedules completed, and our fall clinics set, we are on our way in the new Lodge year. As you read this, we all will have made a couple of visitations, and may have had our fall clinics. We appreciate all the work involved in preparing for a visitation, and the hospitality accorded with the visit. The host Lodge for a clinic makes similar preparations, I thank them for their hard work and hospitality as well. I’m Looking forward to seeing you all at our meeting in Junction City.

Remember, next time just say, “meet at the Lodge”.

“ELKS PRIDE – COMMUNITY FOCUS”

To Our Absent Members

Chanute #806
Joe D. Books

Clay Center #2253
Dean King

Goodland #1528
John Bateman
John Heri
Donald Keith

Junction City #1037
Dale Staatz

Osawatomie #921
Wayne E.Henness
Don F. Lindsey Jr.
Joe Ricci
Gene Murray

Parsons #527
Les LaRue
Joseph Stottman

Salina #718
Carol Hindman

Community Investments Program Calendar

Stay Connected With The Community Investments Program All Year Round!

Here’s a list of important ENF Lodge Grant deadlines for 2015-16

March 31, 2016—2015-16
March 31, 2016—
May 31, 2016—2015-16
July 31, 2016—2015-16
August 31, 2016—All 2015-16

Beacon Grant applications due online.
The end of the 2014-15 fiscal year. All 2015-16 per-capita donations must be received by the ENF.
Gratitude Grant applications are due online by 11:59 p.m., Central Time.
Beacon, Gratitude and Promise grant projects should be completed.
Beacon, Gratitude and Promise Grant Final Report Forms due.

“Theres No Place Like Elkdom” Dates

October 4, 2015
October 10, 2015
October 11, 2015
October 15, 2015
October 18, 2015
October 24 - 25, 2015
November 6-8, 2015
January 16, 2016
February 6 - 7, 2016
May 5 - 8, 2016
July 3 - 6, 2016

NE District Soccer Shoot
W District Soccer Shoot
SE District Soccer Shoot
Enrique S. Camarena State Nomination Form Due
KEA Soccer Shoot
KEA Fall Meeting
Mid-America Soccer Shoot
Scholarship Judging
KEA Mid-Winter Meeting
KEA Spring Convention
Grand Lodge National Convention

Atchison
Great Bend
Parsons
Parsons
El Dorado
Junction City
El Dorado
Junction City
Wichita
Wichita
Houston, TX



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Sunflower Donations

Charles Buechman, Larned

I thank everyone who has contributed in the past. As always, donations are still a viable need to help cover the quarterly cost of the publication. Individuals, Lodges and businesses, you can help by sending your contributions to: Kansas Elks Sunflower, P O Box 83, Larned, KS 67550-0083. Any amount will help!

Donors since the last issue of the Sunflower are:

- Ron & Addie Atkinson
- Deb & Steve Betts
- David & Carla Bienhoff
- Chuck & Karlene Buechman
- Charles Lester
- Walt & Linda Linthacum
- Jim & Jamie Malone
- Lannie Pender
- James Standen
- Gary & Mary Lou Wilson
- Past State Presidents' Wives
- Memory of Carol Hindman:
- Cindy Cramer
- Tony & Becky Nash family

I want to thank Kyla Nash for donating the two bags of Jack Daniel's Whiskey Barrel Charcoal and Nancy Cure for the travel cooler that were given away Friday night during the Kickoff Meeting.

Donors participating in the BBQ Giveaway during the Kickoff Meeting are:

- Ron & Addie Atkinson
- Melinda Baumann
- Steve & Debbie Betts
- Bruce & Pippa Boone
- Jim Capper
- David & Sandy Foster
- Carl & Sheri Lindsey
- Jim & Jamie Malone
- Herb & Sharon Matlock
- Stormy May
- Tony & Becky Nash
- Lannie Pender
- Christina Ramirez
- Ken & Glenda Schaffer
- Jim Standen
- Steve Stelzer
- Vic & Carolyn Symons
- Chuck & Karen Ulanski
- Gary & Mary Lou Wilson
- Marlin Wilson

Again, thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Public Relations

Christina Ramirez, Iola

Your Exalted Ruler can tell someone how great your Lodge is, but your Public Relations (PR) Chairperson has the tools to tell the world. Think of them like a megaphone. The PR Chair should be your connection to the community. They are vital to the dissemination of information and putting a face to your Lodge.

Make sure your PR Chair knows they are in that position, after contacting the ones with e-mails listed, I discovered some didn't know they were the PR Chair. I need their name, phone number and email.

I can't stress how important this position is. They should be working closely with the Membership and Activities chairs, as well as most other chairs in your Lodge. It's not worth doing the activity if nobody shows up, right?

A good PR Chair will; increase attention and presence in the community, build a brand and recognition, by capitalizing on desirability of membership assets. They will bring awareness through print and social media to projects and expand the knowledge of current members. Task your PR Chair to ensure all Lodge endeavors are successful. Make sure they know you want to get Loud and Proud.

There are 14 Lodges that have not reported this year. If you believe your Lodge is one of them, please contact me. I know the Lodges are all doing things in the community and advertising them, somehow the report isn't getting filed.

The good news; it isn't too late. You have this month to file back reports. It is a very simple process; 1. Go to kselks.org 2. click on the blue bar, Programs 3. scroll down to Public Relations and click it 4. Select Lodge Monthly Reports from the left hand blue box and fill out the blanks. You will select your Lodge, district and month you are reporting for. If you know your information, do May, June, July and August. There is a bit of explanation in counting your PR work at the bottom of the form. Once you have filed it once it will get easier.

I have noticed many Lodges forget to count their Lodge sign or any signage visible to the public with your name or logo on it. Some Lodges do not count the correspondence via their face book page. Each post and view counts as a point just like e-mails do.

If you have questions about your duties as Public Relations chair, or filing a report, don't hesitate to contact me, my e-mail is hrb139@yahoo.com

Audit And Accounting

Ron Atkinson, Galena

It was great to see so many at the KETCH Stuffing Party and the Kick-Off Meeting. I think we finished in record time this year. There are still several Lodges in Kansas that have not filed their Grand Lodge Audit for 2014-2015. You need to get those to me as soon as possible to avoid a larger fine.

Addie and I look forward to seeing all of you at the Fall Meeting in Junction City in October.

Ronald Atkinson, Member
GL Auditing & Accounting Committee Area 6
P. O. Box 156
Galena, KS 66739-0156
Fax: 620-848-4019

KANSAS ELKS SUNFLOWER | STATE COMMITTEES



KEA FALL MEETING

Junction City Elks Lodge #1037
723 S. Washington St.
Junction City, KS 66441
785-762-2922

KEA President James Capper and his Lady Melinda Baumann invite all Elks to join them at the Fall Meeting in Junction City, October 24th & 25th

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Hampton Inn Hotel

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| KETCH Board Meeting - Hampton Inn | 9:00 - 11:00 AM |
| Ladies Dutch Luncheon - Bella's Italian Restaurant (KEA PSP Spouses, KEA State Officer's Spouses, D.D. Spouses, Grand Lodge Spouses) | 12:00 PM |
| Ladies Advisory Meeting will follow luncheon | |
| KEA Budget - Hampton Inn | 1:00 PM |
| KEA Advisory Committee - Hampton Inn | 4:00 pm |
| Start Accepting Auction Items - Lodge | 3:00 pm |
| *Registration Opens - Lodge | 3:00 pm |
| Scholarship Meeting - Lodge | 3:00 pm |
| General Chair Meeting - Lodge | 4:00 pm |
| Membership Meeting - Lodge | 5:00 pm |
| Dinner-Lodge - Homemade Enchiladas with rice & beans \$8.00 | 6:00 - 7:30 pm |
| Basket Auction for KETCH - Lodge | 7:30 pm |
| Entertainment - DJ | 8:00 pm - Midnight |

Sunday, October 25, 2015

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| *Registration & Breakfast - Lodge | 8:00 - 9:00 am |
| KEA Business Meeting - Lodge | 9:00 - 11:30 am |
| Ladies/Spouses Meeting (Silent Auction) - Lodge | 9:00 - 11:30 am |
| *Bloody Marys& Screw Drivers - Lodge | 11:30 am |
| *Lunch - Lodge | 12:00 pm |

***Included in registration fee**
\$60.00 Couple
\$30.00 Single

Headquarter Hotel

| Hampton Inn | Candlewood Suites | Best Western | Express Inn |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1039 S, Washington St. Junction City, KS 66441 (785) 579-6950 \$89.00 + Tax Double Queen | 100 S. Hammons Dr. Junction City, KS 66441 (785) 238-1454 \$84.95 + Tax Single Queen or 2 Full Size Pet Friendly - Fee | 604 E. Chestnut St. Junction City, KS 66441 (785) 210-1212 \$84.99 + Tax Standard or Double Queen Pet Friendly - Fee | 1214 S. Washington St. Junction City, KS 66441 (785) 238-7887 \$49.99 + Tax King Rooms Pet Friendly - Fee |

Please make your reservations by Sept. 25th. As this is a K-State football weekend rooms cannot be held beyond this date.

Membership

Mike Jewell, Iola

We all know the struggles of keeping the doors open on an all volunteer organization. Theoretically, we zero out financially at the end of the year and fight to keep it going the next. And once your numbers get low enough, its not hard to zero out in membership too. It takes constant vigilance and implementation of proven processes to ensure the future of our Lodge.

If you don't have people knocking on your door to ask for a membership application or members begging to pay their dues in March, then you might have to change your strategy. Grand Lodge is working on a better orientation program to help with new member involvement.

All indicators show, this is the year Membership grows. No more mourning for the old days, its time to relish in the new.

Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman, said we are right on track, "we have more tools, more momentum and more enthusiasm to succeed than ever before."

Last year marked the first bump in the linear decline of our membership in decades. Three months into this year and Elks ended July on track, with a 13.1% national delinquency. Kansas is a bit higher with 14.9 %. To date, we have initiated or reinstated 129 members.

The Membership committee met at the KEA Kick-off meeting in August. Roger Slief, Pratt, was selected as Vice Chair of the committee and those in attendance discussed methods for bringing the 836 unpaid members back into the fold. The bulk of our discussion focused on getting more information. We need to ask new and lapsed members more questions. We need to find out why a candidate wants to join our organization; why they don't want to keep paying their dues. If they aren't connected, they won't stay.

For membership to expand or stop declining, we have to invest ourselves in a brother or sister Elk to keep them in our Lodges. We shouldn't settle for keeping them on the rolls, we want them in our Lodge and at our activities. How often do you call on a member you proposed and ask them to go with you to an Elk activity? Figure out what motivates a person and ask them to participate in a manner that makes them feel fulfilled and you will keep them involved.

Grand Lodge has asked that Lodge Membership committees be comprised of a Chairperson, the Exalted Ruler, Secretary and Leading Knight as well as one Lodge member per every 100 members.

The next Membership meeting will be held during the KEA meeting in Junction City on October 24. All Elk members are invited, Exalted Rulers, District Deputies and Membership Chairs should be in attendance as well. We will be discussing a plan for decreasing lapsation and increasing membership.

As our Grand Exalted Ruler, Ron Hicks recently said, "the strength and vitality of any organization largely depends on its ability to maintain and increase membership."

A big thank you to KEA's current Top proposers: Bob Pollman, Iola 569 with 9, Millie Lipscomb, Fort Scott 579 with 5, and Ken Schaffer Hoxie 2415 with 4. There are many more on the list and plenty of time to add your name. Let's get out there and Get Loud and Get Proud.

Scholarship

Venita Runke, Hiawatha

September 1st Most Valuable Student Scholarships applications were made available online. Applications are no longer mailed to Lodges or schools. They must be downloaded from the Elks website by the applicant. When the student downloads the application they are given an ID number which is printed in the top right hand corner. All applications must have this number to be judged. Please remember that your local Lodge scholarship chair has to register on CLMS. Scholarship chairs after judging make sure to sign the applications and enter your results online.

Dates To Remember:

December 4th scholarships due to local Lodges
December 26th top winners of 3 boys and 3 girls sent to:

Venita Ruhnke
1104 Miami Street
Hiawatha, KS 66434-2047

January 16th is the State Judging at Junction City Lodge beginning at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to come and help judge. Please note the change of where to send your scholarship applications. Paula is planning to move and as of right now has no forwarding address. Don't forget the Legacy Awards and Emergency Education Grants are also available online. If you have any questions or need help in judging you can call myself or Paula Ash and we would be more than happy to answer questions or to come and help you.

Insurance And Risk Management

Walt Linthacum, Goodland

As loyal Elks we all need to pay closer attention to our Lodges physical property and more closely guard our Order from liability claims. Our largest problems arise from not taking time to learn the rules and regulations and to also enforce those rules and regulations. All officers should take time to read the Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations governing their Lodge and the duties of the office that they have accepted. For instance if a Lodge spends more than \$25,000.00 on their building it must go through the Grand Trustees before the work is done, even if it is an insurance claim, but of course if the roof is leaking, fix it to protect the contents from further damage.

There are new loss forms for turning in a loss at your Lodge. Please check your insurance manuals that are mailed annually to your Lodge, they can also be found on the internet. **If Your Lodge Does Not Have D&O Insurance Get It Now**, before the lawsuit, you can not get it after the fact. If you have any questions about D&O Insurance please give me a call, I will be glad to explain the coverage to you and the necessity for having the policy.

Also all Lodges need to carry a Workers Compensation policy in case someone is injured at the Lodge, even if your Lodge has no paid employees you can get a policy that covers volunteers, this can also help you avoid a lawsuit. Ask me for details on this policy it is unique and not even allowed in all states, but Kansas does allow it.

As always if you have questions give me a call anytime, best number is my cell, 785-821-2345 I will return your call.

Fall 2015

Government Relations

James Standen, Overland Park

Kansas voters passed an amendment to the Kansas Constitution last November. This amendment provided that certain charitable organizations and other not-for-profit organizations, like the Elks, could, subject to enacted laws, legally hold and conduct raffles. Subsequently, Kansas House Bill 2155 created the Kansas Charitable Gaming Act which passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor. The bill allows raffles to be conducted by bona fide nonprofit religious, charitable, fraternal, educational and veterans' organizations which will be the same as those definitions used in current law for charitable bingo. The State, through the Secretary of Revenue, has the exclusive power to regulate, license and tax the management, operation and conduct of and participation in charitable raffles. Licensing of the organization is required when \$25,000 in cumulative gross ticket sales is anticipated for the "raffle year" which is July 1 through June 30th. The Kansas Department of Revenue is currently in the process of adopting administrative regulations to implement and interpret the legislation. Local Lodge and KEA Officers should be mindful of the \$25,000 licensing threshold and that records of sales must be kept. Additional vital information may be found at www.ksrevenue.org/bustax-typesbingo.html and www.ksrevenue.org/bingoraffle.html which also includes an online copy of the raffle license application.

This new law and regulations are a classic example of being careful to not let a business practice become a government relations problem.

Hoop Shoot

Tony Nash - Parsons

All Lodges should have the local Hoop Shoot in their plans. Please make sure you as local directors know the rules and that all your helpers know what to do.

Make sure you start your contest at the time that you have posted or sent to your school winners. Do NOT start earlier than what was posted.

Only send your first place winners or the contestant that will be representing their age group.

Send your hard card not a copy, filled out completely to your District Director at least one week before the District contest.

Give your contestants the Date, Time, and Location of the District contest. Please keep a copy of your contestants hard card in case you need to contact them before the contest or just to keep in touch with them.

Follow your contestants to the District contest and support them.

The information for the District Hoop Shoot Directors are as follows:

Northeast District Hoop Shoot Director:

Cassandra Quick
1512 S. 7th Street, Atchison, KS 66002-4207
cmarie0023@gmail.com
Cell: 913-426-5166
Benedictine College, Atchison, KS Jan. 17 1:30 p.m.

West District Hoop Shoot Director:

David Foster
706 Welton, Pratt, KS 67124-1361
dfoster57@hotmail.com
Cell: 620-770-0284 Home: 620-672-5216
Russell High School, Russell, KS, Jan. 23, 1 p.m.

Southeast District Hoop Shoot Director:

Kyla Nash
2723 Clark, Parsons, KS 67357
kylanash11@gmail.com
Cell: 620-605-8759
Parsons High School, Parsons, KS, Jan. 9, 10:30 a.m.

State Hoop Shoot Director:

Tony Nash
16084 Queens Road, Parsons, KS 67357
tnash@altamontks.com
Cell: 620-778-4779
Sunrise Christian Academy, 5500 E. 45th St., North Bel Aire, KS 67220 Feb. 6 10 a.m.

If you have any problems, please call your District Director or call me, Tony Nash.

Let's have all Lodges have a local contest. You never know, there maybe some new member to gain through your local contest.

The date, time, address location of the District Contests will be sent to your Lodge to the local Hoop Shoot director before the District contests by the District Directors.

If you need more information about the Hoop Shoot, news releases before and after the shoot go to www.elks.org

Business Practices

Charles Buechman, Larned

As I reviewed the Audit Report each Lodge receives back from our Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committeeman Ron Atkinson, I notice one common area that is highlighted in red on almost every report; your percentage of cost compared to sales of liquor and food is too high and in most cases, your Lodge lost money last year. This isn't anything new, it has been that way for the last 3 to 4 years or more which tells me you either don't read the report, or you completely ignore it.

Our Government Relations Chairman and PDDG-ER Jim Standen has told most of us for the past couple of years that if you would simply raise your drink prices a quarter, most of our Lodges would raise your bottom line by \$7,000 a year or more. Is there any Lodge in Kansas that couldn't use that extra income?

Stay on top of the business side of your Lodge and know what is going on financially.

Veterans Service

Gary Wilson, Atchison

I would like to see all of the Lodges do a fund raising project and use it to put on a function involving the veterans in their area or help fund some more functions at one of the V A Centers in Kansas. We still need to keep sending comfort items for both men and women veterans along with clothing that helps make the seasonal changes better for them.

Don't forget that we are getting closer to colder weather that brings the holiday seasons to all of us, Thank you for your support.

Pink Tickets

Nancy Cure, Co-Chair, Galena

By now, everyone should have received their “pink” tickets in the mail. The pink tickets are to support the Kansas State Elks Major Project. Every dollar you send is a contribution to Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicap and this year will go towards purchasing a 20 Passenger, wheelchair accessible, transit bus. All Elks, this is your major project please support your major project by returning your pink tickets and donation today.

We had forty two members, and spouses attending the KETCH stuffing party. Thanks to KETCH for stapling our books of tickets. It only took us approximately 2 hours to complete stuffing 5,675 envelopes to be mailed to all Elks in the state of Kansas.

The Kick-off meeting held at the Best Western began this year’s fundraiser. Our next event will be the Fall Festival to be held October 24 and 25 at Junction City. This will be a silent auction the same as we have had the past two years. All members are asked to contribute an item for the silent auction. This can be in the form of food, cash, gift cards to a restaurant, movie, or department store as many times the bidders are using this as a way to purchase Christmas gifts for family and friends.

Ladies Major Project committee will begin accepting items at 4:30 on Saturday evening and the silent auction will end on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. with all auction winners determined at that time.

Elks Scholarship
Impacts Lives

Courtesy of Julie Clements/Butler
County Times-Gazette

The Elks Lodge gives away scholarships each year to help youth further their education. One of those scholarships went to Jonathan Taliaferro, who has gone on to have a successful career with ESPN, then Bleacher Report.

“The Elk’s scholarship had a significant and direct impact on my past and present,” he said. “The computer engineering program I chose was so intense that it would not have been possible for me to hold a job without it negatively impacting my focus and grades. This scholarship gave me the ability to focus solely on my studies and therefore excel.”

He earned an associate of science degree from York College in 2000, his bachelor of science in computer engineering from Oklahoma Christian University in 2003 and a master of science in ministry from Pepperdine University in 2008. He also went on an international studies program in Europe the semester after he graduated with his bachelor’s degree.

“Because of this success in my degree, I was offered the Garmin (International) engineering position,” he said.

He started with them as a software engineer in 2003. He helped develop the Nuvi line of GPS products and after that was in the first wave of engineers to get assigned to a project developing apps for an Android phone.

“Had I not been given that job, I likely would not have been able to take a job in Kansas City,” he continued. “Had I not moved to Kansas City, I likely would never have met my wife, Cindy, and had I not met her, my two precious daughters would not exist.”

In 2010, after Garmin chose to get out of the business of making cell phones, he was hired by ESPN to be their lead Android developer. Some of the primary apps he worked on were the ESPN app and the ESPN FC app.

“While at Garmin, the unique opportunity to work on Android apps gave me a rare experience in the new-at-the-time Android platform, setting me apart from other software engineers in the industry,” he said. “This led to my dream opportunity at ESPN, and now continuing that dream in the sports software industry at Bleacher Report.

“So many things in life have a ripple effect. One event can spawn a sequence of events that could never have been envisioned, resulting in things more wonderful than I could ever have been imagined. The Elk’s scholarship was the start of my life’s ripple. Had it not been for the generous scholarship provided by the Elks organization, I do not believe I would vocationally be where I am today. I do not believe I would relationally be where I am today. I do not believe I would be the person I am today. For that, I am forever grateful.”

The Elks national Foundation will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2016 competition. It is open to any high school senior who is a United States citizen. Applicants need not be related to a member of the Elks but college students are not eligible. The next scholarship contest will kick off on Sept. 1. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership and financial need. Applications will be available to download after Sept. 1 and they are due to the local Elks Lodge by Dec. 4. The applications must be submitted to the Elks Lodge closest to the student’s permanent address. Applications will advance through local, district and state competitions to reach national judging. At each level, an e-mail will be sent to applicants informing them if they advanced or not. The first e-mails will be sent in mid-January. District judging will be completed in late January and state judging in mid-February. In late April, 20 top finalists will be vying for two first-place awards of \$50,000, two second-place awards of \$40,000 and two third-place awards of \$30,000. The remaining 14 finalists will receive \$20,000 and 480 runners-up will receive \$4,000. For an application, visit www.elks.org.

Enrique Camarena
Award Criteria
Elks Drug Awareness
Program

Enrique S. “Kiki” Camarena was an 11 year veteran agent of the DEA, who was kidnapped, brutally tortured and then murdered in Mexico in 1985. Prior to serving with the DEA, Agent Camarena was a fire fighter, a criminal investigator and a narcotics officer. He was a loving husband and a father of three children. His death has inspired millions of Americans to lead a drug-free life and the Elks celebrate his commitment to this effort with an annual award.

October is traditionally Red Ribbon month, a time when people wear red ribbons to commemorate Agent Camarena’s ultimate sacrifice. The millions of Americans who wear these ribbons visibly take a stand that they are opposed to illicit drug use and commemorate all of those who have been tragically affected by the results of use and abuse.

Each year, the BPO Elks present the Enrique S. Camarena Award to a member of law enforcement who best exemplifies the qualities and principles for which Agent Camarena gave his life. Nominees should be involved in their communities in efforts to make them drug-free. Nominees should have the support of their agency and respect of their community.

Nominations should be submitted to the State Drug Awareness Chairman by October 15th. Local Elks Lodge awards and District awards should be made before October 15th to ensure they can be included in the State competition. National selection will take place in December and the award will be presented at an appropriate setting during 2011-2012.

Basic Criteria

- This award should be presented to an individual and not an organization. Consideration will be given to a “team” within an organization, but ideally the award should go to an individual.
 - The individual should be living, but consideration will be given to presenting this award posthumously.
 - The nominee should be involved in law enforcement.
 - The nominee should be a positive role model committed to a healthy lifestyle.
 - The nominee should have made an outstanding contribution in the field of drugawareness/prevention.
 - Ideally, the nominee has been identified as someone who has gone “above & beyond” their normal duties - someone who has made a difference.
 - The nominee must have the support of their superiors.
 - If selected, the nominee must be willing to attend an awards ceremony.
 - Nomination must be in narrative form and include endorsements & recommendations from appropriate sources (Departments, Governments, Citizens etc.)
 - Nomination should contain a list of nominee’s previous awards & accomplishments.
 - Lastly, the nominee should exemplify the standards by which Enrique Camarena lived, worked and died - that one person can make a difference.
- Time Line For Enrique Camarena Award
- August/September- This is a good time to get the information to your Lodges.
- October 1 - Lodges should select their nominee and should forward that selection to District Chairpersons.
- October15 - District winners should be selected and forwarded to State Chairman to be considered for State award.
- November - State Winner will be forwarded to Grand Lodge
- Each State Winner Will Receive A National “Runner-Up”Award**
- December 31 - National Winner will be selected and will be invited to attend
- A National Ceremony along with sponsoring State Chairman - Sponsoring Lodges will also receive an award
- January 15 - All National Runner-ups will receive an Award and a letter from the National Directors.

Kansas Elks
Association Changes

Address

Jim Standen
8586 Hauser Court
Lenexa, KS 66215-4546

Larry & Connie Whisenhunt
1431 S. W. Arbor Valley Drive
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785-220-2387

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816-769-6078
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Rosella Boone
groveelksLodge2715@yahoo.com

KANSAS ELKS ASSOCIATION KICK-OFF MINUTES
WICHITA, KS AUGUST 16, 2015

Secretary, Frank Springer, Chanute



President James Capper called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. State Chaplain Gary Austin gave the invocation. First VP Loren Anthony led the flag salute. President Capper introduced the KEA officers, Grand Lodge Officers, and Grand Lodge Committeemen at the head table.

The minutes of the May 3, 2015 meeting were approved as published in the Sunflower.

Secretary Frank Springer conducted roll call of Lodges, District Deputies, and KEA Officers. 20 Lodges were present. 59 members answered the roll call including 1 Past Grand Lodge officer, 1 Past Grand Trustee, 1 Grand Lodge committeeman, 14 Past State Presidents, and 22 Past District Deputies. Lodges not present were Pittsburg, McPherson, Fort Scott, Great Bend, and Hill City.

President James Capper welcomed those in attendance. He thanked all who helped with the KETCH pink ticket stuffing. He also thanked Atchison Lodge 947 and Debbie Betts for putting on a wonderful Flag Day. President Capper briefly talked about the Grand Lodge Convention Indianapolis and thanked State Secretary Frank and Linda Springer for their hard work with the hospitality room. He concluded by asking all committee chairs reporting to the president and the vice-presidents to stress... Communication!

President Capper presented PSP Carl Lindsey with the Grand Lodge 5-Star award for our Sunflower publication and a 4-Star award for our website.

The next KEA meeting will be the Fall Meeting in Junction City, October 24-25, 2015.

District Deputy West Marlan Wilson reports, “Greetings fellow members. I’ll keep my remarks brief. Everyone told me how much easier my second year as DD would be. Sure enough, I sat down with a new calendar at my computer, and started filling in the dates of my visitations in the blank spaces and picked a date for my fall clinic. I breezed right through it, stuffed the envelopes, and got them in the mail. I got home all proud of myself, hung my quick reference calendar, and stepped back to admire it. To my horror, I discovered I had used a 2016 calendar. It had been around the house a couple months and I have no idea where it came from; so much for an easier year. Anyway, my clinic is scheduled for the 19th of September in Garden City at 1:00 pm. I’ve sent out visitation schedules to all the Lodges and have extra copies here. I’m looking forward to seeing you all.”

District Deputy SE Tom Clark reports, “After being installed as DDGER for the SE District at Grand Lodge in Indianapolis, I have been busy preparing for my year. There is a lot of information to digest to make sure that I am following the needs of each Lodge in the District. Membership was a huge topic during the conference. With retention and learning how to deal with some of the members who need a little extra tender loving care.

I first sent my introduction letter to each Lodge of the District and attached a copy of my intended agenda for visits to each Lodge. I now have sent out invitation letters to all Lodges in the SE for my first DD Clinic to be held in El Dorado on Saturday September 12, 2015 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. It will be held at the El Dorado Senior Center on 210 E. Second Ave. I have several of our great Elks to help with presentations at the Clinic and hope the information will be useful for each of you.”

District Deputy NE Charles Ulanski reported he sent out his introduction letter to the Lodges. It included his DD Visit schedule. His first DD Clinic is September 12th in El Dorado, jointly with the SE DD Clinic.

Ladies Major Project Chairperson, Nancy Cure, thanked everyone for their help with the mail stuffing yesterday. She also thanked those that participated in the KETCH fundraiser last night. Nancy asked each Lodge to hold a fundraiser for KETCH this year.

Special Deputy Charles Buechman addressed the delegation, “As I stated in my last article for the Kansas Elks Sunflower, I am extremely disappointed in the number of Kansas Elks Lodges that did not send a representative as required by our Grand Lodge Statutes to the Grand Lodge Convention in Indianapolis. I truly believe that some of you have become so accustomed to saying the Lodge cannot afford to send your Exalted Ruler that you believe it is an acceptable practice. I am telling you once again, Section 12.120 says: “The representative to the Grand Lodge shall attend the Annual Session thereof and submit a report to the Lodge not later than the first regular meeting in October. The Lodge shall pay its representative not less than the amount provided for transportation and per diem while necessarily engaged in travel and for each day actually spent in attendance at the Session, as provided in Section 4.240.” If your Lodge is one of the Lodges who did not send your Exalted Ruler or an alternate representative to Grand Lodge your Lodge is in violation of the Grand Lodge Statutes and subject to being placed on probation by Grand Lodge. We had eleven (11) Lodges not in attendance with only one of those having a legitimate excuse. Go back to your Lodge and hold a couple of fundraisers to help send your representative to Houston next year.

At the Legislative Session there were 18 resolutions presented and voted upon. 15 of those resolutions passed and are now a part of the Grand Lodge Statutes. Most of the resolutions were “housekeeping” in nature and passed without any debate. The first of the three that failed would have allowed Lodges to recognize organizations other than ladies groups to be auxiliaries. This was a Constitutional matter and required a 2/3 majority vote to pass and it only received a simple majority, thus it failed. The other two resolutions that failed would have allowed “social facilities” to remain open during regular Lodge sessions and to meet only monthly if approved in your bylaws.

Two of the resolutions that passed changed the two months that are allowed for a reduced reinstatement fee and initiation fee from having to be consecutive. For those Lodges that allow for “six-month” dues, resolution #15 provides that any member who is delinquent in the payment of any amount of dues during the month of March shall only be dropped during the month of March. In other words, if you collect 6-months dues and the second half is not paid, you need to drop those members before the first of April and get them off of your rolls. I encourage everyone to go to the Elks website and go to Grand Lodge Convention and find the Grand Lodge Convention News for Wednesday and review all of the changes that were approved. Also, while there, the front page of Monday through Thursday editions summarizes the previous days business session very well.

Congratulations to all of the officers who have taken the reigns in your local Lodge. I remind these officers, make sure that you are committed to the responsibilities of attending meetings, not just at your Lodge, but also the District Deputy Clinics, the KEA Leadership Seminar and the other meetings of the Kansas Elks Association. You have that responsibility to your Lodge. I was disappointed that only about half of our Lodges were represented at the Leadership Seminar last spring. I hope to see better attendance this year.”

KETCH Memorial Trust Trustee, Frank Springer reported the Trust has received total donations of \$273,987 through the years. \$119,046 has been granted to KETCH for various past projects. After adding interest, the balance currently in the trust is \$366,230 of which \$92,243 is available for future grants to KETCH.

KETCH Board of Directors Chr. Carla Bienhoff reported the KETCH Board met yesterday, August 15th. Disposition of property owned by KETCH was discussed. The fiscal year end financial statements were reviewed. Changes made to several of the programs KETCH offers in hopes of making them more efficient and financially feasible were discussed. She invited all Elks to support KETCH’s fundraiser “Battle of the Burgers” next weekend.

Committees Reporting to the State President: Advisory Committee Chr. Vic Symons reported the Advisory Board met yesterday, August 15th. The board heard a report on the Sunflower publication and reviewed the investment portfolio. The fiscal year end financial statements were reviewed and referred to the Auditing Committee for tax return preparation. Two nomination letters for 2016-17 officers were read and accepted. PSP Frank Springer gave a financial report on the Grand Lodge hospital-ity room. The board heard suggestions on how to increase attendance at the Leadership Training Seminar. No DD candidates approached the board for consideration. PSP Symons reported the DD candidate list is very small and we need members to step up for appointment consideration.

Budget Committee Chr. Ron Atkinson reported the Budget Committee met yesterday, August 15th. He distributed the proposed Charity Fund Budget for 2015-16 and moved for its approval. Vic Symons seconded the motion and the Charity Fund Budget was approved.

General Chairman Brenda King thanked everyone who participated and contributed to last night’s festivities. Everyone enjoyed the evening. She congratulated the winners of the games. Her sub-committee chairpersons are Brenda Harrison for Banquet, Seating, and Registration; and Debbie Betts for Entertainment. Brenda passed out a list of hotels for the Fall Meeting in Junction City. The cutoff date to receive the “Elks Rate” for the blocked rooms is September 25th.

Membership & Retention Chr. Mike Jewell reported the Membership Committee met yesterday. He reminded all Exalted Rulers that they are members of the membership committee. Several ways to develop active members in a Lodge were discussed. Mike feels this is the year we will stop the membership decline and begin growing again. Top proposers so far this year were recognized: Bob Pollman, Iola 569 with 9, Millie Lipscomb, Fort Scott 579 with 5, and Ken Schaffer Hoxie 2415 with 4. There are many more on the list and plenty of time to add your name. Mike needs Membership Chairperson contact information from Hill City and Hoxie Lodge. He also needs e-mail information on Garden City’s Chr. Lynn Deines, Great Bend’s Chr. David Titus and McPherson’s Chr. Lyle Larson.

Auditing, Banquet, Convention Registration, Entertainment, Judiciary, and Lodge Development committees had no reports.

Committees Reporting to the 1st VP: Americanism Committee Secretary Springer read Chr. Deb Zang’s report as follows, “I’ve e-mailed all Lodge secretaries with the information I would normally hand out at this meeting. Included in that information is the 2015-2016 Americanism report form that is due March 1, 2016. Please make sure you locate the e-mail and read that information. Watch for further information on Americanism in the upcoming edition of the Sunflower.

Last May I asked everyone to send me copies of programs, pictures of events and anything else that could be used for an Americanism display at the upcoming convention in May. To date I have received nothing. Please send me information as the events occur. I would appreciate your help in letting everyone know the many great things we do in Americanism in Kansas.

I am looking forward to a great year and please contact me with any questions you might have.”

Business Practices Chr. Charles Buechman reports, “As I review the Audit Reports each Lodge receives from our Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committeeman Ron Atkinson, I notice one common area that is highlighted in red on almost every report; your percentage of cost compared to sales of liquor and food is too high and in most cases, your Lodge lost money last year. This isn’t anything new, it has been that way for the last 3 to 4 years or more which tells me you either don’t read the report,

Atchison #647 had an ATV Ride for ENF. They held their annual Golf Tournament and made approximately \$12,000 to help support their programs.

Chanute #806 is donating their lake grounds to the Osage Nation District Boy Scouts for their annual Camparee. They estimate 50 to 75 Scouts and adult leaders will attend this year.

Clay Center #2253 distributed over 190 bags of school supplies for families with a financial need with funds from their ENF Promise Grant. Members distributed commodities to 344 people and 134 households. They held monthly meals and raised \$453 for their local community service projects.

Goodland #1528 presented medals to five quiz bowl students from each of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades and banners to the top class in each grade. They held their 7th annual Bicycle Roundup. The bikers had classroom activities inside and a safety course in the Lodge parking Lot. The 29 boys and girls that participated in the event were given a bicycle helmet and treat bag. The Lodge helped fund an Eagle Scout Project - a prescription take back receptacle. Junior Teen of the Year certificates and \$50 were given to two 8th grade students who were chosen top citizens by their teachers and staff at the Junior High.

Junction City #1037 obtained six applications and three reinstatements at their Rush Party.

Osawatomie #921 had a fish fry and silent auction fundraiser to help a member with medical expenses. Members pulled the Drug Awareness Trailer in the Paola Parade and passed candy out to the kids. Members cooked hotdogs at the Osawatomie Golf Course for the Junior golfers.

Ottawa #803 members in Topeka, hosted Bingo for the Veterans at the VA Hospital. More than 40 veterans have attended the past two months

Overland Park #2395 was notified that their Promise Grant Application has been approved. They will use the money for school supplies for a local Elementary School



Atchison #647 member Robert D. Hirsch, Sr. was presented with a "Quilt of Valor" in Powhattan, KS at the United Methodist Church in a "Surprise Gift of Love" during church services. Bob's daughter in law, Joan of Abilene, made the quilt with the help of her friend, Vicky Chamberlin, Chapman. In a moving ceremony surrounded by his family and members of his church. Joan described that Bob was an honorable Veteran of the Vietnam War along with his 40 years of active service in the National Guard and how his dedication to his country continues in retirement. "Quilts of Valor" is a national registry started in 2003 to honor military men and women for their service. Bob has been an Elk member for 41 years and is a Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, and Elk of the year.



Clay Center #2253 held a picnic for the clients at Big Lakes Developmental Training Center in May. Due to weather, the picnic was held inside. Funding provided by an ENF Beacon Grant.



Clay Center #2253 Exalted Ruler, Trish Halstead, volunteered to paint at the new animal shelter, Clay County Animal Rescue and Education Center, being built in Clay Center.



Clay Center #2253 held a pizza party for the clients at Big Lakes Developmental Training Center in honor of Independence Day. Funding was provided by an ENF Beacon Grant.



Clay Center #2253 participated in a Flag Retirement ceremony on June 15 along with American Legion Post 101 and Boy Scouts Troop 54.



Clay Center #2253 distributed \$3,221 of free school supplies to 220 kids at the Elk's Back to School Fair on August 11. Funding was made available through a \$2,500 ENF Promise Grant and extra donations from the community.



Goodland #1528 purchased and donated to students K through 2nd grade at West Elementary School. 221 different school supplies totaling \$250 as part of the Gratitude Grant awarded to the Lodge. Pictured receiving the donation is Principal Michelle Willaims with Zona Price, Secretary of Goodland Elks #1528.



Goodland #1528 Elks Scholars Elizabeth House and Ian Bonsall giving back to their local Lodge and community by assisting with the Goodland Elks Lodge #1528's Annual Community Project (Quarter Slide Game) to raise money for the home-owned carnival at the Sherman County Fair. Also shown is Grady Bonsall. Chaplain.



Junction City #1037 donated \$250 to the Food Pantry. During their Food For Families program that was made possible through an Impact Grant from the Elks National Foundation donations were collected and a check was presented to Edna Mendez.

Pictured L-R: Front- Charles King, Rosie Smith, Edna Mendez, Vicki Barnes, Brenda King, and Lannie Pender Back Row: John Bonacorda, Phil Irby, Jack Allen, Mary Jo Knowles and Rick Scott



Osawatomie #921 members presented Mark Marques, manager of the Oz Food Panty, a \$2000 check for food and supplies at the local panty. Presenting the check on behalf of the Lodge is Lew Sanders, P.D.D.G.E.R. on the left and newly elected D.D.G.E.R. Chuck Ulanski of the Northeast District. The Grant was available because the members paid into the Elks National Foundation. This money will feed 400 families for about 2.5 months. The Elks National Foundations has other grants that the Lodge has applied and received over the past 4 years putting to good use in our community.



Overland Park #2395 Exalted Ruler Cindy Forsberg accepts a Thank You note from Charles Ramey, Voluntary Service at the Dwight D Eisenhower VA Center in Leavenworth, KS in. The Lodge made and delivered over 200 lap robes utilizing the Beacon Grant.



Overland Park #2395 used their Gratitude Grant to supply a meal to over 150 people in July. The Lodge also was able to purchase canned goods to the food pantry and donated face paints to Breakpointe Community Church Children's department. Linda McGuckin and DJ Demjanik of Overland Park Lodge 2395 are demonstrating the face paints.



Overland Park #2395 had the Girl Scouts from Troop 1472 help with their efforts to meet their Beacon Grant commitments of lap robs for the VA. Pictured from left to right are Juliana Martin, Anna James, Jessica Hill, and Maddy Pilarz.



Parsons #527 Elks and Elks Auxiliary presented LeAnn with a check for \$400 and a box full of school supplies for Stuff The Bus Campaign. LeAnn said that they will use the \$400 to buy backpacks. Pictured is Becky Nash from the Parsons Elks Auxiliary, LeAnn Spencer from the Labette County Emergency Assistant Center and Mitch McClenning from the Lodge.



Pittsburg #412 held its annual cookout at Lincoln park in Pittsburg Kansas. A special feature was added, a Dunk Tank for this Fourth for the public. Ramsey Center who is in the picture volunteered most of the day to sit on the Dunk stool. Other volunteers were Clint Center and Elk Member Charles Helig. The Lodge raised over \$1500 in which \$434 dollars were raised alone on the Dunk tank for Elks Scholarships. The scholarships will be given at the Government Day next April. The next event will be in September for Little Balkans Day Festival with the Dunk Tank, raising more money for youth scholarships.



Pratt #1451 Trustees Kenny Gates and Fred Badders present a \$150 check to Tiffany Ailstock for the Angel Tree Program as part of their Gratitude Grant.



Pratt #1451 member Linda Stelzer presents a check for \$150 as part of the Gratitude Grant. Kirsten Blankenship, is the Assistant Principal of Southwest School.



Pratt #1451 Trustees Kenny Gates and Fred Badders hand a check to Ron Friends, Clinical Director and David Smith, Superintendent of Ft. Dodge Soldier's Home for \$150. They also received five \$10 gift cards from Wal-Mart all as part of the Gratitude Grant.



Pratt #1451 Secretary Kasey Brown presented a check for \$150 as part of the Gratitude Grant to Jeannette Gaider, Office Manager for the Hope Center. The Hope Center helps find jobs for those in need.



Pratt #1451 prepared 30 food baskets to help families in the Pratt area through a Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation. The project was called “Christmas in July” and this is the first time the Pratt Lodge has received a Beacon grant written by Elks Secretary Kasey Brown.

Elks Trustees Fred Badders and Jack Bailey spear-headed this project preparing 30 food baskets for delivery along with 15 Ells members and volunteers. The baskets contained essential summer food items including hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, bread, peanut butter, jelly, varieties of hamburger helper, macaroni and cheese, cereal, milk, juice, cookies, pork and beans, spaghetti and sauce, salad dressing and soap.

The baskets went on to benefit 47 adults and 68 kids - overall helping 115 people in the Pratt community.



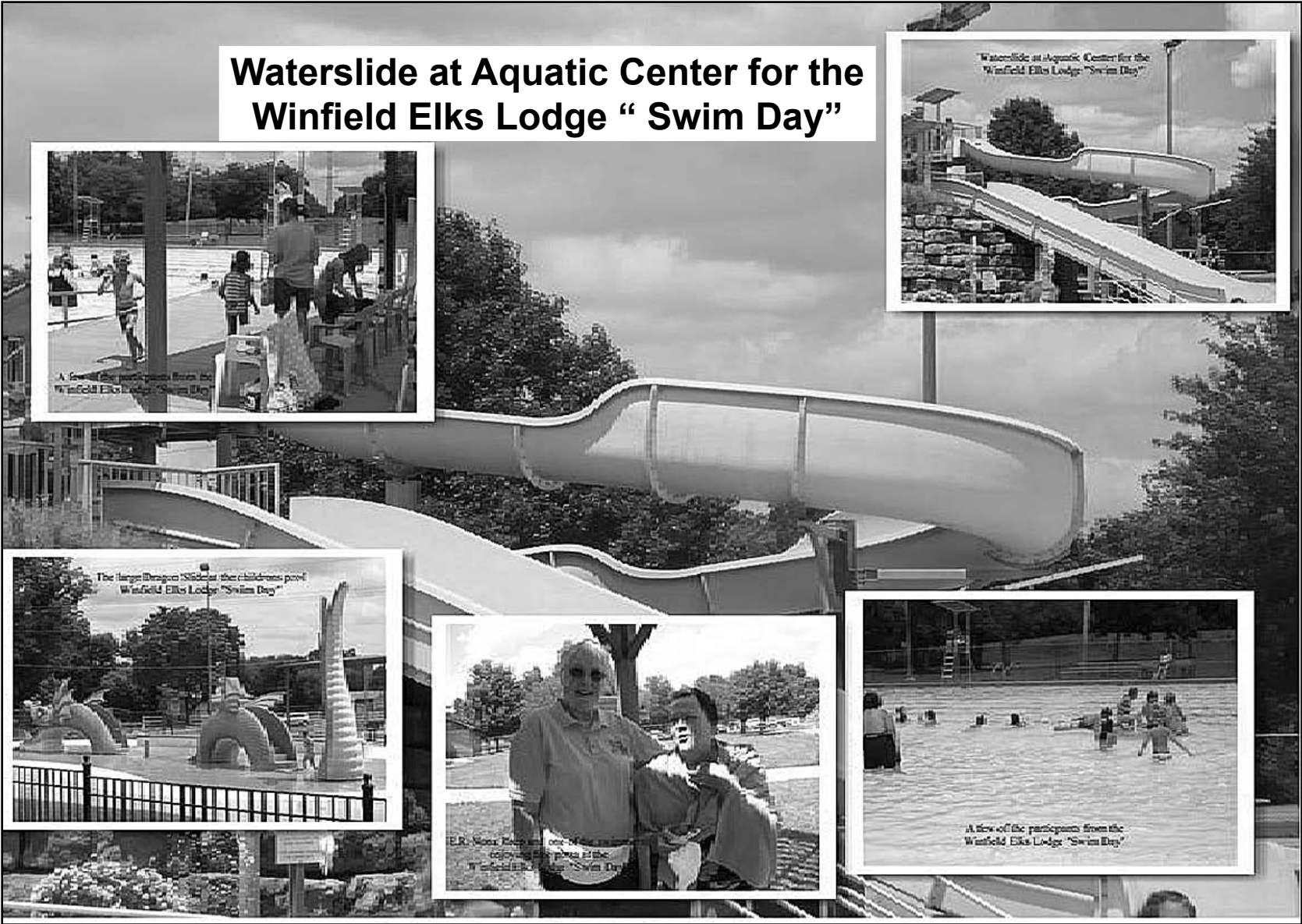
Spring Convention President Victor Symons 2014-2015 passes the Big Knocker to incoming President James Capper 2015-2016.



Spring Convention The Kansas Delegations that assembled to welcome Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen and Marcia to Kansas.



Spring Convention President Victor Symons and Carolyn are presented an autographed photo of the State Hoop Shoot Winners. Presenting the framed photo is Hoop Shoot Chair Tony Nash (L) and Becky Nash (R).



Waterslide at Aquatic Center for the Winfield Elks Lodge “Swim Day”

Winfield #647 held 3 Thursday nights in July and each night was better than the night before. Exalted Ruler, Ed Laing and ELK volunteers collected food items, served free pizza, handed out drug awareness information, and collected names for a free \$25 gift card each night. The event was held from 7-9 pm. Under 18 needed to be present with an adult which made this a family event. Each adult contributed 2 canned items, and children contributed 1 item each. They collected over 300 lbs of food items to donate to their local food bank, and the food bank was very happy to receive their donation. The local food bank has served over 8900 people in the Winfield area in the last year and the numbers keep growing.

The City of Winfield looks forward to their Swim Days and Food Drive and the Winfield Elks hope to be able to continue this event for years to come. This year was a total success with their annual Swim Day!



Salina #718 was able to utilize a Gratitude Grant this year to support their local community. Like last year, they were able to provide 500 jars of jelly to the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank to support local families in need. In addition, they were able to supply and construct two new bunk beds for the Ashby House who provides temporary housing for local homeless families and single women.



Spring Convention National Hoop Shoot Winner from Kansas was honored at the Saturday Night Banquet. Zoe is holding her trophy she received at the Nationals. Her name will be inscribed in the Naismith Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA. Pictured with Zoe (L-R) is Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen, State President Victor Symons, and Hoop Shoot Chair Tony Nash.



Spring Convention James Standen was honored for reaching the Elks National Foundation Gold Circle of Giving. Presenting the recognition is Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen.



State Major Project KETCH President and CEO Ron Pasmore presents President Victor Symons with a plaque signifying his year as Kansas Elks Association President and serving on the KETCH Board of Directors.



Spring Convention The First Lady of Elldom Marcia Amen spoke to the Ladies Organization at their Coffee. Pictured (L-R) Carolyn Symons, Marcia Amen, and Karlene Buechman.



Spring Convention The Presidents reception: President James Capper and his Lady Melinda Baumann.



Spring Convention Officers for the 2015-2016 Year. Pictured (L-R) Melinda Baumann, President James Capper, Jackie Anthony, 1st Vice President Loren Anthony, Sandy Foster, 2nd Vice President David Foster



Grand Lodge The annual Tuesday outing at Grand Lodge was to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway followed by dinner at Rock Bottom Brewery. The group photo was taken at the Hall of Fame Museum.



Grand Lodge dinner at the annual Tuesday outing in Indianapolis, The Rock Bottom Brewery.



Grand Lodge dinner at the annual Tuesday outing in Indianapolis, The Rock Bottom Brewery.



Grand Lodge dinner at the annual Tuesday outing in Indianapolis, The Rock Bottom Brewery.



Grand Lodge Kansas Reception line. The Kansas Officers and Grand Lodge Committeemen.



Grand Lodge Kansas Sponsor James McQuillan, PGER being greeted by the Kansas Reception line.



Grand Lodge Incoming District Deputies with Kansas Sponsor James McQuillan, PGER prior to installation. (L-R) SE-Tom Clark, NE-Charles Ulanski, W-Marlan Wilson.



Grand Lodge opening ceremony Sunday afternoon. President James Capper carries in the Kansas Flag during the opening.



Grand Lodge Kansas State Secretary Frank Springer posed for a photo with Dorothy and Toto at the Kansas reception.



Grand Lodge center piece at the Kansas Reception.

Go To Elks.Org For Program Material

Ron Olson
Committee Chairman
GL Activities Committee
GL Newsletter September 2015

The committee has attempted to be proactive in all areas for which it is responsible. Each committee member has written three articles for the monthly Grand Lodge Newsletter offering information on how our Lodges can enhance their community image.

The committee has made available through the Grand Lodge website electronic downloads of numerous types of recognition certificates, which each Lodge may customize with recipients' names and other pertinent information. Each Local Lodge now has the ability to process and issue these certificates immediately rather than through an ordering process. They are found on the website under downloads.

Elks National Youth Week proclamations for use by local municipal officials and for state governors have been made electronically available. The youth of America continue to be recognized through our Teenager/Student of the Month/Year program including the Junior/Student of the Month/Year. All these certificates may be downloaded at the website.

A Soccer Shoot Out task force has been formed and is currently reviewing, revising and suggesting changes that may be utilized to improve and unify rules for local, district, state and area competitions.

Antlers Program information, including membership applications, parental forms, rituals and other guidelines, have been revised and made available electronically, along with a tri-fold brochure.

Scouting activities have resulted in 2,055 achievement letters being issued by Grand Exalted Ruler Amen honoring Eagle, Arrow and Girl Scout Gold, Silver and Bronze Award recipients. These are in addition to those scouts achieving the Venture Summit Award. Records for certificates being issued by Local Lodges are not available, but several of our states do issue achievement letters signed by the State President. Committee members attended Court of Honor ceremonies in at least three states.

This new Elks year will bring back the Elks and Scouting feather pin. If your Lodge sponsors a Scout troop or allows them to utilize your facilities for meetings, family dinners or breakfasts or any other social activities, it is suggested that you make sure that your Chartered Organization Endorsement has your Lodge listed on the BSA Certificate of Insurance. This COI should be part and parcel of each Recharter Package every year. The COI should provide coverage of \$1 million.

Lodges continue to take advantage of the ENF Beacon Grant for Community Projects. A total of 843 Lodges received a Beacon Grant last year, down slightly from 885 reported in 2013-14. Starting in 2015-16 the Activities Committee will implement a "Community Project Contest" in an attempt to help increase membership, enhance community image and spur competitive spirit among Lodges. Hopefully this contest will encourage more Lodges to use these grants. Let's reach 1,000 Lodges this year!

The Dictionary Project continues in a positive way. During 2014 our Lodges donated more than 310,000 dictionaries. Since the Elks became involved with the Dictionary Project, our Lodges have donated slightly fewer than 3 million dictionaries.

Junior Golf is a program to which our Lodges need to give more time, talent and resources. With all the young adults winning PGA tournaments, we should help our younger golfers to become leaders in the game. Work with your local golf courses by perhaps sponsoring a "Golf Day" for Jr. Golfers at your local course, or even rotate among area courses. Inquire about program dollars for Jr. Golf from your local or regional PGA. Have Local Lodge Members or a course professional give lessons on golf etiquette and rules. Perhaps with a giant effort we can grow this program to the size of our Hoop Shoot.

The Public Safety Medal of Valor continues as a positive way to enhance our community image. It provides our Lodges the means to honor those Police Officers, Firefighters and Emergency Service Providers who surrendered all to protect us.

Your Activities Committee will continue to work for you and your Lodge.

Tips To Orientate New Members

A tour of the Lodge – Tell them what takes place in each area of your Lodge.

A how-to session – Bringing in guests, sign up sheets, etc...

Written copy – Lodge and House rules and customs.

How to accomplish basic tasks – How to volunteer, who to ask, how to get help.

Develop – WELKome packets.

Request – Email and cell phone if not on the application.

Explain – How to become a good and productive Member.

Birds of a feather – Give three applications and how they earn the GER Award pin.

Provide – Hours the Lodge is open.

Chain of command – Provide them with a written list of Officer contact information.

Communicate – Copy of the Lodge bulletin, website and social media page.

Survey – Hand out the new Member survey.

KANSAS ELKS SUNFLOWER | GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES

Commission Takes Mission To Heart To Serve Veterans

Mary Morgan
Commission Director
GL Newsletter September 2015

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission was established in 1946, in the aftermath of WWII, with the primary purpose of caring for veterans. Since that time, the Elks have taken that mission to heart, giving hundreds of thousands of hours to serve veterans each year.

Today, there are nearly 22 million veterans in the United States. Nearly 55 percent of those veterans are under the age of 65, and that percentage will increase as more veterans from recent conflicts return home. Nine percent of veterans are female, and that percentage will grow as more women are serving in the military each year. The VA system is evolving to fit the needs of today's veterans with more locations, improved mental health services and updated programs. So must our programs.

As Elks, we pledge to never forget our nation's veterans. The Veterans Service Commission takes that pledge one step further, and promises service to our nation's veterans, with a special focus on service to veterans and military members in need.

Through the Freedom Grants, support for veterans' arts festivals and adaptive sports programs, and a new program to help end veteran homelessness, the Veterans Service Commission is expanding to serve the needs of all of today's veterans.

Is your Lodge looking to turn the Elks' passion for veterans into action? These guidelines offer a blueprint for how your Lodge can focus on areas of increased need for veterans, military members and their families:

- Many veterans can struggle to find employment when they return home. Elks can help veterans adapt their military skills and find jobs in the local community.
- Health, both physical and mental, is an area of great need. Elks can help by assisting at VA hospitals and transitional centers, enabling veterans to access care.
- Homelessness and housing are increased areas of concern for many veterans. Elks can help by lending a hand at local Stand Downs, and by supporting local homeless shelters.
- Military families have unique struggles related to employment, finances, the stresses of frequent moves and the stress of reintegration. Reach out to military families in your community.
- Veterans are more likely to drop out of school than their non-veteran counterparts. Offer educational support to student veterans near your Lodge.

Finally, be a friend. Veterans are looking for social connections, and as service-minded individuals, can be a great resource to your Lodge and your community.

For more ideas, visit www.elks.org/programs/vets.cfm.

Government Relations: How Can It Help You And Your Lodge!

Joann Aldridge
Committee Member
GL Government Relations Committee
GL Newsletter September 2015

Your Government Relations Committee, led by James W. Martsfield, is making plans to improve the way this committee can help you and your Lodge. To do this we need to get as much information to everyone as possible and help you understand the ramifications of each issue.

We just finished with Grand Lodge Convention in July and some good information was given to all. It was announced that the 2014 Charity report grand total in cash and noncash values came to \$281,235,548. This is lower than the last two years. One reason is we had 115 Local Lodges and five states not reporting. I hope your state committee-man has been able to share this information and answer any questions you may have.

September is a great time to start working with your local and state legislators. Elections will be coming up soon and your present, or possibly future, representatives are looking for venues to get their word out. Likewise, we can get our charitable numbers to them, and if you can get the media involved it is a win-win.

I am excited to announce a Government Relations Seminar is being planned for October for your State Government Relations Committee-man. Two of the highlights of this seminar will be to talk about how Charitable Reports are being entered and used, as well as Unrelated Business Income (UBI). One form of a UBI is the income your Lodge receives from property rental. There are limits that you can receive each year without falling into a "for-profit" status.

Also in the plans is a new booth that can be used for Grand Lodge and possibly seminars during the year. The thought is that this will attract more visitors to our booth so we can get our information out to Members. We have a lot of useful literature, and not only do we have it available we want to sit and discuss any ideas or questions you may have. So next year plan to come by our booth and see what Government Relations is all about and what we can do to help you!

Key Provisions For Defining UBI

Andy Milwid
Committee Member
GL Auditing And Accounting Committee
GL Newsletter October 2015

The Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee has taken 2 years to rewrite the Auditing and Accounting Manual, which may be downloaded at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/default.cfm>.

Following is Section 10.103, Pages 22-25, of the new manual:

IRS says, "The term 'unrelated trade or business' means any trade or business the conduct of which is not substantially related to the exercise or performance by the organization of its charitable, educational, or other purpose or function constituting the basis for its exemption under section 501."

The Federal income tax exemption for Lodges applies to its "exempt function income," which IRS defines as "the gross income from dues, fees, charges, or similar amounts paid by members of the organization as consideration for providing such members or their dependents or guests goods, facilities, or services in furtherance of the purposes constituting the basis for the exemption of the organization to which such income is paid." Sales of goods or services to members are automatically tax-exempt and are not UBI.

Sales of goods or services to nonmembers will be presumed by IRS to be taxable UBI, although there are several exceptions discussed under subsection B below that if met will make those sales tax-exempt.


The tax exemption of Lodges does not generally apply for sales to the general public. IRS says, "Solicitation by advertisement or otherwise for public patronage of its facilities is prima facie evidence that the club is engaging in business. ..."

According to the IRS, "The term 'general public' means persons other than members of a club or their dependents or guests. The member's spouse is treated as a member."

Rentals of Lodge real property for occupancy only, without providing other services, can be tax-exempt, in whole or in part. But the rental exception does not apply where the rental encompasses both occupancy and other services, such as providing food and beverages as part of the rental package. If the rental agreement includes both rental of space and catering services, IRS probably will take the position that none of the income comes under the rental exception.

Elks Put Passion Into Action In Service To Veterans

Mary Morgan
Commission Director
GL Newsletter October 2015



Everyone knows that Elks have a passion for veterans and military members. With Veterans Remembrance Month right around the corner, now is a great time to consider how you can put that passion into action, and use your time and talents to give back to those who have served our country. The Elks National Veterans Service Commission depends on Volunteers to keep its programs running. Will you join us?

For inspiration, read about some of the 2014-15 Elks Veterans volunteers of the Year, and why they serve:

Bud Abare, New York Veteran Volunteer of the Year

"In 1999 I was involved in a bad accident. Since my treatment was at the VA, I give of my time to show my appreciation to the staff, and I really like connecting with my fellow veterans. As a patient the Elks provided me with ice cream while at the VA. So when I become an Elk I could not wait to return the favor and serve others."

Patrick Tyler, South Carolina Veteran Volunteer of the Year

"My work as a volunteer for veterans began in 1969 when I was discharged from the U.S. Air Force. After having served in Vietnam, all veterans and their issues held a special place in my heart, and my work with the Elks and other organizations gave me a place to give back through the use of my time and resources. When volunteering, your reward needs to be in how it makes you feel."

Linda Gardner, Virginia Veteran Volunteer of the Year

"My father and several uncles were WWII veterans so I've always had high regard and compassion for what they've given in service to our country. When we go to the VA hospital, hearing them express gratitude for our service humbles me almost to my core. If you have any inclination to give back to those who have served our country, volunteer for your Local Lodge Veterans Committee. It's the most rewarding activity I've found."

There are so many opportunities to serve, and so many veterans and military members who could use a hand up. To find out how you can use your time and talents to serve veterans, visit www.elks.org/vets.

To Lodge Secretaries: Keep Those Paper Membership Apps

Each year, many of our Local Lodges install new and inexperienced Secretaries. With this new office, there is a learning curve which each new Secretary must navigate in managing the office as well as our CLMS2Web and PC programs. A word to the wise, never destroy or discard paper membership applications and records. Those are the only records available.

Sure, there is our computerized membership program, CLMS2, which started in the fall of 2008 but many records prior to 2008 were not entered into the program; hence the need to maintain those records.

Start Planning Community Project

David B. Lake
Committee Member
GL Activities Committee
GL Newsletter October 2015

Does your Lodge have a Community Project? If not, why not start planning for one today?

The Exalted Ruler can appoint a Community Project Committee to explore the needs and opportunities that exist before applying to the Elks National Foundation for a grant to fund the project.

Please don't pass up the opportunities to make a difference in your community and the funding that is available through ENF to assist you. Here is how several Lodges are making a difference in their communities:

- Flat Rock, MI Lodge 1731 used parts of a \$2,000 ENF Promise Grant and an ENF Gratitude Grant to hold a Warrior Games basketball event for children and adults with learning disabilities. The event, cosponsored by Arc Downriver and two area school districts, attracted 73 players and 12 family members. Each participant was given refreshments and presented with a medal.
- Christian County, MO Lodge 2777 used a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant, a \$2,000 ENF Promise Grant, more than \$3,000 in contributions from Lodge members and more than \$10,000 in community donations to provide shoes, socks and other clothing to nearly 180 needy children in their community.
- Arlington-Fairfax, VA Lodge 2188 used part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant to provide food for the weekend to 78 needy Garfield Elementary School students.
- Danville, VA Lodge 227 held a luncheon for about 350 local veterans at the Danville Virginia Community Based Outpatient Clinic, using part of a \$2,000 ENF Beacon Grant.
- Islip, NY Lodge 2533 used a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to sponsor the 29th annual Town of Islip Antidrug Basketball Shooting Competition. More than 8,000 students in 40 schools took part in the contest.

These are a few examples of Community Projects. Reach out into your community with a Community Project, and live up to the vision of our Order and our Grand Exalted Ruler's theme of "Elks Pride – Community Focus."

Some Helpful Disclaimers For Your Lodge Social Media

Rick Gathen
Membership and Public Relations Manager
GL Membership and Public Relations
GL Newsletter October 2015

Please consider using the following social media disclaimer for your Lodge:

We reserve the right to remove comments and or materials from the (name) Elks Lodge social media when those comments:

- are hateful or mean-spirited.
- are potentially libelous, obscene, or sexually explicit.
- are personal attacks, or involve profanity or insults.
- are private or public information published without Lodge consent.
- violate any law or promote the violation of any law.
- contribute to or encourage discrimination or harassment.
- display photos of Members drinking or smoking, or considered harmful to the Elks' image and reputation.
- contain the names of minors.
- divulge Lodge business that may violate your Obligation.
- are not positive and informative.

We reserve the right to terminate someone's ability to post when any of the aforementioned has been posted.

Minutes Continued From | P5
or you completely ignore it. Our Government Relations Chairman and PDDGER Jim Standen has told most of us for the past couple of years that if you would simply raise your drink prices a quarter, most of our Lodges would raise your bottom line by \$7,000 a year or more. Is there any Lodge in Kansas that couldn't use that extra income? Stay on top of the business side of your Lodge and know what is going on financially."

Elks National Foundation Chr. Larry Cure reports, "Most of you have been coming to state meetings for years, and hear the same reports every time. It's not my job to preach to you about getting the job done. It's to HELP YOU GET THE JOB DONE. I could tell you we're way behind and just 3 Lodges have met the GER goal, but I want to report that we're 3 Lodges closer to having every Lodge meeting the goal. You as representative of your Lodge should go back and share this information. Get your members excited about meeting a goal. If your ENF chairperson is just sitting on their but not telling everyone about the good things ENF does, then get someone that will. I have yet to find that magic fairy that does the work for you. Its hard work but it can be fun work. I hope that most of you here today will learn a few things you can share with your Lodge." Larry asked Tom Clark, from El Dorado Lodge to tell how his Lodge is meeting the GER's goal. He concluded with, "There are many ways to raise money but you have to work at it, unless you find that magic fairy."

Grant Coordinator Carla Bienhoff reported 5 Lodges have met the ENF per capita goal. She noted that several Lodges have not filed their grant reports that keep them in compliance. The Gratitude Grant report filing is due at the end of this month. Clay Center has already received a Beacon and Promise Grant this year. September 4th is the deadline for Impact Grant applications and March 31st is the deadline for Beacon Grant applications.

Government Relations Chr. Jim Standen reports, "The Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee and I share a concern. That concern is most Elks members do not understand what the function of the Grand Lodge, State Associations', and Local Lodges' Government Relations Committees is. Let me try to clear this up.

The function of the Committees at all levels is to protect our existence. This function is performed in two ways. The first is by protecting our non-profit status by informing the IRS of our charitable and community service works. This is accomplished by the timely filing of our charity reports at the Lodge and State Association levels through CLMS Charitable Activity reporting system. Grand Lodge gives this information to the IRS via their Form 990 filing. The second way is by protecting our Lodges by informing them about new or pending legislation or regulations. The most common law enforcement and regulatory agencies that Lodges deal with are the IRS, federal and state wage and hour agencies, Secretaries of State, federal, state and local environmental protection and health departments, state gaming commissions, and as always, alcohol beverage control.

Let's get out there and help the Lodge Secretaries file timely and complete Charitable Activity updates through the CLMS system by getting the charitable information to them immediately following a function.

Speaking of charitable activities, last year the Order through its Local Lodges and State Associations contributed over \$281,000,000 in cash and in-kind donations to charitable causes. Here in Kansas we contributed a total of almost \$1,400,000!

Please remember, don't let a business practices problem become a government relations problem."

Insurance & Risk Management Chr. Walt Linthacum reports, "I know you all think I have said about all there is to say on the subject of insurance and risk management, well... surprise... we have only just scratched the surface! Yes the basics remain unchanged, but there have been changes and they can be important to your Lodge and its well being. For instance you now have the option of coverage for the mechanical appliances around your Lodge. The first thing that comes to mind is your walk-in freezers and air conditioning and heating units to name just a few.

First your trustees should have named one of the trustees as being in charge of your insurance and risk management. This individual, or whoever is the responsible member around your Lodge, should contact AON through the 800 number in your insurance manual. This manual is sent to the Lodge secretary annually. Have a serious conversation as to what you feel your Lodge needs to be covering, what the value should be, and what the Lodge can afford as a deductible. The price of insurance various with deductibles so choose the one that is most desirable to your Lodge.

For example if your Lodge is carrying a large deductible on real property, say \$5,000, to help hold down the premium cost, you probably don't want the same deductible on the machinery coverage because the repairs might be around the same as the deductible. It is your choice. Meet, discuss, and decide what you want and what you can afford or are comfortable with. Do it, before you have a loss, it will not magically get done by itself.

Now the ever persistent silver bullet question, does your Lodge have D & O insurance? If not, WHY NOT? I know that there are some Lodges that have D & O through a local agent. This is okay. Just make sure the defense fees are paid for over and above the amount of coverage that the policy provides. For example; your Lodge is sued for 1,000,000 and your policy is for 1,000,000 and you lose. Your insurance pays the \$1,000,000 but your defense costs were \$100,000. Without the defense cost coverage option, can your Lodge absorb the \$100,000 expense? Would Lodges that have a policy through a local agent please let me know you have the coverage and for what amount; both coverage and premium. I need these figures to report to Grand Lodge. Send the information to me at walter.linthacum@gmail.com.

Remember you can call me anytime, 785-821-2345. If you miss me please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Also please do not let your Lodge serve liquor to the public or let your Lodge get the reputation for nothing but a place to get drunk. We have to manage to rise above

KANSAS ELKS SUNFLOWER | KEA MINUTES

this image!

Leadership Training Chr. Carl Lindsey reported the committee met yesterday and offer the following suggestions to increase attendance.

1. Pay for members hotel stay, their lunch and then a happy hour.
 - a. Cost considerations are 25 Lodges times 2 hotel rooms each. For example; 25 Lodges x 2 rooms @ \$80 = \$4,000 room cost to KEA. At 70% attendance by Lodges, the cost goes to \$2,750. This is within the current budget for the seminar.
 - b. The Lodge pays for their rooms and submits a voucher to the KEA Secretary for reimbursement.
 - c. Lodges are responsible reserving and coordinating their own sleeping arrangements.
2. Cut down the number of presenters and pay for their rooms. There were 15 presenters last year.
3. Present ideas, activities, and solutions to help the Lodges succeed with their programs.
4. Hold the seminar at a Lodge and if not possible, then a hotel as a second choice.
5. Keep the seminar centrally located in the state.
 - a. The committee heard from El Dorado and Chanute with offers to host the seminar.
 - b. Carl would like other Lodges to put in their bid to host the seminar and he will report at the Fall Meeting where it will be hosted.
6. Hold the seminar in late February and early March. Suggested date is March 5-6, 2016.
7. Incorporate a combined; all district DD Clinic with the seminar.

Public Relations and Publicity Chr. Christina Ramierez reports, "Your Public Relations Chair should be your connection to the world. Think of them as your megaphone. Without them, the message can be heard by one or two. With them, everyone gets the information.

Make sure your PR Chair knows they are in that position. After contacting the ones with e-mails listed, I discovered some didn't know they were the Chairperson. I can't stress how important this position is. They should be working closely with all the Committee Chairperson in your Lodge.

In the last three months, I have received 23 reports. We started with 6 Lodges and we are up to 8 a month now. There are 14 Lodges that haven't filed a report all year.

Did you know that Clay Center has sent or received 56,286 e-mails in three months plus they average 420 points in the "other" category which can include parades, proclamations, letters, programs, dictionaries and assorted networking items. Clay Center is creating and responding to a desire for information by members and the community. They are building a brand and capitalizing on the desirability of membership assets.

El Dorado has 25 to 30 commercial or television hit's a month. Junction City has 30 signs they can count on to spread their message. These two have put a face on their Lodge every time they advertise. With effective advertising, they increase awareness and create interest.

If you haven't already done so, select a PR Chair, tell them about it, and turn them loose. Get Loud and Proud about Elksdom."

Publications Chr. Carl Lindsey gave the ***Sunflower Report*** showing printing costs for the summer issue of the Sunflower were \$2,582.73 for 6,300 copies plus \$1,225.06 for 1,082 copies sent to widows. \$126.58 was spent for labels. KETCH paid \$1,000 for their pages. This brings the total cost to \$2,934.37 for the issue. Articles for the fall edition are due 8/22/15. Publication date will be 9/15/15. Carl also reported the Website name renewal was renewed for 5 more years. The cost was \$68.08. Our hosting account, GoDaddy, relocated us to another server. This was transparent to members and outsiders. It mainly affected the maintenance side with our FTP addressing changing. They did change our redirect address which did not affect us getting on the website and was handled by our redirect.

Carl also reported our Facebook account is running with updates and activities. As stated at the May convention by GER Amen this is a closed Facebook page. It is copied after KETCH's Facebook page. You can comment on posts and "like" us. Posts such as the one by KETCH where WSU Coach, Greg Marshall, visited KETCH can also be seen on our Facebook page. The picture from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum is also posted. Macy Warburton is our Facebook Coordinator/Chairperson.

PSP Charles Buechman gave the Sunflower financial report showing CDs and investments with a current value of \$148,987 plus a checking account balance of \$6,851.

Benevolent and Lodge Activities committees had no reports.

Committees Reporting to the 2nd VP: Drug Awareness Chr. Cindy Walton reports, "I recently finished Drug Awareness Training at Grand Lodge, and WOW was I impressed with what we have available. The Drug Awareness Program (DAP) is alive and well and is getting a renewed focus from Grand Lodge. This is great news in light of the direction so many of the other programs seem to be headed. There are some very good things already completed, and more improvements coming. Look for more information from your District Chairpersons on a number of programs your Lodge may already be participating in. Some Highlights follow:

- **Video, Essay and Poster Contest** theme is: ***"Just Don't Do It"*** - State deadline for all three contests is March 1, 2016 to me.
- **Red Ribbon Week** is October 23-31. I know that is 9 days, but they still call it a week. This is a great chance to get involved with local schools or other service groups.
- **The Enrique Camarena Award** nomination form is due to Grand Lodge by November 1st—our State deadline is October 15th. Remember this is a great way to reward someone in Law Enforcement for their efforts. Nomination forms are posted on the Elks Website.
- **Literature** - The first and most consistent message that we received at training was that what we have historically focused on for success (handing out literature) is not where our focus should be today. Grand Lodge has entered into a number of partnerships with other groups and they are assisting with online and interactive information that is more timely and in-line with the way the youth of

today communicate. However, the pamphlets, coloring books, bookmarks, etc. are all still available to order and the order form is posted on the Kansas Elks website. All orders must be sent to me as State Chairman. If you include an e-mail address, I can have an alert sent to you automatically when your order is processed.

- **Training for Parents and Grandparents** – the most influential persons in a child's life are typically his or her parents. The Elks have developed educational materials for Parents that can assist them in reaching their children and spotting the danger signs of substance abuse earlier.
- **Highlight the Drug Awareness section on our websites:**
 - State Web site - <http://kselks.org>
 - Grand Lodge website - <http://www.elks.org/dap/>
 - Grand Lodge kid friendly website - <http://elkskidszone.org/>

All of these websites are regularly updated and contain links to additional resources. It is up to you to make a difference in a child's life today.

In closing, I would like to take time to present a Commendation Award to the El Dorado Lodge in grateful appreciation of meritorious participation in the Drug Awareness Program of Grand Lodge. On behave of the Drug Awareness Program, I want to thank the El Dorado Lodge for participating in the Enrique S. Camarena Award Program and present this Award for Sgt. Phil Wickwire from a Grateful Nation on Behalf of the Elks Drug Awareness Program. One person can make a difference and Butler County is certainly fortunate to have a dedicated law enforcement official in Sgt. Wickwire."

Elks National Veterans Service Chr. Gary Wilson reports, "Well the weather has been hot but that is what it is supposed to be for summer. It has let our veterans get out and enjoy the outdoors.

The VA Hospitals try to have activities for them and I am sure they could use some help from anyone that has a little time to volunteer with some of the programs they plan. I want to thank Atchison Lodge 647 for having a motorcycle Fun Ride. It raised \$560 to be used wherever needed for additional programs to help our veterans. Don't forget about comfort items that are always needed."

Army of Hope Chr. Charles King reports, "Mike Jewell did a great job getting this program off the ground, and being the old soldier that I am, I am not going to reinvent the wheel.

Mike provided all the Lodges with a list of all the military units in your area. Touch base with these men or women and see what we can do for them. Maybe host a meal, do some type of holiday event, or a kid's party.

Don't forget the spouses. You can always see if they need a place to hold a family support group meeting, a shower, or a birthday party. All of this is a way to show support and get the Elks involved.

The two words that should never go together are Homeless and Veteran. But if you know of one, see what we, as Elks, can do to help them. These are things Elks hold dear to our hearts; taking care of soldiers and veterans. If I can help your Lodge in any way my phone number and e-mail are in the Sunflower.

Hoop Shoot Chr. Tony Nash recognized the local Hoop Shoot Directors. The Hoop Shoot packet should have been received by all Lodges last week. It contains all the information necessary to conduct a successful Hoop Shoot. He emphasized that the contest should not be started early or closed early. The dates, time and location should be posted with the schools. Also include the District, State, Regional, and National information.

Tony has Hoop Shoot pins available. The proceeds support the Hoop Shoot program.

Ritual Chr. Charles Ulanski asked members to revive Ritual in their Lodges.

Scholarship Co-Chr. Venita Ruhnke reports, "Most Valuable Student Scholarship applications will be available online for students to download September 1, 2015. I have a handout for Lodge scholarship chairs which includes information on the Most Valuable Student Scholarship, Legacy, and the Emergency Educational Grants. I would really appreciate it if the Lodges who have not already reported their local Scholarship Chairperson in the CLMS system to do so right away. Please send me the name and contact information of your chairs also. My e-mail or if you prefer my address is listed in the Sunflower. Registering your chair is a "have to" item in the process of sending on scholarships. If you don't do this, the Lodge cannot send any applications on and the students that have worked so hard filling out their scholarship applications are being done a great injustice. This also really reflects poorly on your Lodge.

Education is very expensive and most students rely upon scholarships to make their future dreams come true. If your Lodge needs help judging scholarship applications, please give me a call and I will be more than happy to come help. I will be contacting the Lodges in the next few weeks to make sure I have their correct chair's information.

- Important dates for scholarships are:
- Most Valuable Student Scholarship applications due to local Lodges (which means the Lodge closest to the student's permanent U.S. address) on or before December 4, 2015.
 - Applications are due to me for State Judging by December 26, 2015.
 - Please make a note this year the applications are to be mailed to

Venita Ruhnke, 1104 Miami Street, Hiawatha, KS 66434

This change is because Paula will be moving. Only send on the top 3 boys and top 3 girls. Make sure your Lodge signs the application and you have registered your results online.

- Each one of the applications you receive MUST have an application ID number. This number is automatically put on the application when the student downloads the form.
- State Judging will be at Junction City Lodge on January 16, 2016, starting at 9:00AM.

State Allocated Scholarship Coordinator Charles Buechman reported, "33 of the 42 scholarships have been completed and the checks have been sent to the students. I have heard from 3 of the 9 remaining students. Those 3 are either not enrolling until after Labor Day or they are waiting to complete their class

schedule.

Of the remaining 6 students who have not responded are:

1. Milea G Anderson, Chapman HS, Salina Lodge
2. Roger D Clark, Chaparral HS, Anthony, Pratt Lodge
3. Charlotte H Davis, Blue Valley Southwest HS, Stilwell, Overland Park Lodge
4. Mylan M Gray, Sunrise Academy of Arts and Sciences, Kansas City, Overland Park Lodge
5. Brooklyn T McElderry, Southeast of Saline HS, Salina, Salina Lodge
6. Joseph C Redeker, Olpe HS, Ottawa Lodge

Adopt-A-Veteran Chr. Loren Anthony offered several ideas on how Lodges can easily recognize veterans. He has free certificates, playing cards, wheelchair gloves, and other items available for Lodges to distribute to veterans. Loren asked all veterans to stand and be recognized. He encouraged members to always thank veterans for their service.

Soccer Shoot Chr. Loren Anthony encouraged all Lodges to host a Soccer Shoot. He offered several ideas on how to get the local schools and recreation departments involved in the program. The SE District Soccer Shoot will be 10/11 in Parsons. The other two districts have not set their dates yet. The State Soccer Shoot will be 10/18 in El Dorado. Family participation is always emphasized in the soccer program.

Mid-America Soccer Shoot Chr. Loren Anthony reported the Soccer Shoot program is growing across the country. The Mid-America Soccer Shoot is one of four regional shoots nationally. Currently 25 states participate in regional shoots. 5 states participate in the Mid-America regional shoot. He hopes to have more states involved in future years. The Mid-America shoot will be held in El Dorado November 6-8, 2015.

Youth Activities committee had no report.

Secretary's Report & Communications: Secretary Frank Springer presented the June 30, 2015, financial statements for both the General Fund and Charity Fund. They were duly approved. The financial statements and records for the fiscal year ended 6/30/15 have been turned over to Audit Committee Chr. Jim Malone for audit and preparation of the tax return.

Frank noted the Budget Committee will meet today after this meeting to set the Charity Fund Budget for 2015-16. We have received the ENF Special Project Grant for this year. It was \$26,310 which is \$630 more than last year. In anticipation of the Charity Budget approval, \$25,200 of this grant has already been sent to the Scholarship Committee for distribution to the 42 state allocated scholarship winners. We will receive only \$30,130 ENF State Charities Grant. This is down \$5,070. We will also only receive a \$6,820 ENF Bonus Grant; down \$1,550. Both of these grants should be received by the end of August. Net grants from ENF this year are down \$5,990 or 8.6%. Evidently ENF has changed their allocation formula again since they announced grants have increased nationwide. PSP Charlie Lester was asked if he could find out the ENF's current allocation formula for future planning.

Frank reported the following officer nomination letters for 2016-17 have been received; Chanute Lodge is nominating Frank Springer for KEA Secretary and Atchison Lodge is nominating Deborah Betts for 2nd Vice-President.

Executive Order No. 15-004 appointing PSP Jim Malone as Special Representative to Great Bend Lodge No. 1127 was received in July.

The Elks Veterans Memorial Restoration Trust sent a letter acknowledging a \$139.50 donation; check #3515 dated 6/16/15. ENF also sent a letter acknowledging a \$139.50 donation from 6/3/15. These donations came from donations for the GER to sign cards at the May convention.

KETCH sent a letter acknowledging our \$5,000 donation from the funds we received from Senator Dole.

ENF sent a letter acknowledging our \$300 donation on behalf of PGER John Amen, as an honorarium for his visit to Kansas in May.

We received several thank you letters from our allocated scholarship winners. Frank read excerpts from a few and turned them over to Sunflower Editor Carl Lindsey.

Frank discussed the participation and costs associated with Grand Lodge in Indianapolis, IN. 45 Elks and spouses attended the convention. 43 paid the \$50 Hospitality Room registration fee. 2 elected not to pay the assessment. Those in attendance had a wonderful time. A few small expenses have not come through on the credit card statement yet. When all clears we will be under budget.

The next Grand Lodge convention will be in Houston, TX. This will be the first year the convention is shortened from 4 to 3 days. Opening ceremony will be Sunday, July 3rd and the closing session will be Wednesday, July 6th. Frank must turn in our room reservation block by 8/28/15 so he asked for a preliminary count of those who are considering going to Houston. Hotel assignments will be announced in late October.

Unfinished Business: Jim Standen mentioned that it is now legal in Kansas for non-profits to conduct raffles. The rules for conducting a legal raffle have recently been published on the Kansas Department of Revenue's website. There is a \$25,000 gross receipts threshold that if exceeded requires a license from the Kansas Department of Revenue.

New Business: Mike Jewell challenged all Lodges to do a fundraiser this year for the KEA's Veterans Committee.

Good of the Order: Larry Cure asked each Lodge to pick up pink tickets to mail to their widows.

Chuck Buechman reported his address is still the same. He will be moving later in the year and will announce any address change then.


Ron Atkinson reminded the Lodges of what to do with the GL Audit Committee's review. This year the review will be transmitted to the Lodge via e-mail.

Announcements: Brenda Harrison invited all Elks to come to Chanute, September 19th for the annual Elkstock family fun event and live music event.

Benediction: Chaplain Dan Demjanik offered the benediction.

President Capper adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

The Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped, Inc. is the major project of the Kansas Elks Association.



KETCH

Aspire higher

EDITED BY ASHLEY RUCKMAN



SHOCKER FAN DARREN THOMAS: THROUGH THE YEARS AT WSU

By Shane Ewing, KAKE News

There is no way to measure a "Number 1 Fan." There is only a case to be made. This is the case of Darren Thomas.

"I just fell in love, I guess," says Thomas, a 54 year-old fan of all things Wichita State.

It's love that leads his journey with the Shockers. Love for the team, and love for family. Often, the line between the two can be thin.

"I don't know what got me to loving basketball but i just loved it. I'm just a sports nut, I guess," he admits.

The answer may actually come from a neighborhood football field, now an overgrown landscape at the crossroads of 19th and Erie just off the WSU campus. It was there that he played with the neighborhood boys as a kid. One of them became a legend.

"(Darren) was just one of the family. We were kids. He would get out there and throw the football and no one had an arm like Darren," recalls Barry Sanders, who went from that same field in Wichita to the NFL Hall of Fame.

But Darren's arm could only take him as far as his legs would go. He was born with cerebral palsy.

"I used to fall a lot. I had scrapes and bruises. But I didn't let that stop me," he says.

So he followed the game to Wichita State.

"Something told me 'you need to go over there and check those players out,'" he says. "So I did and I met all the players."

And they loved him. Darren walked to football practice every day on challenged legs and became their volunteer manager. He would lift weights with the team and quickly became its source of

inspiration.

"That was my heart right there. It was just my heart."

But Darren's heart broke on December 2nd, 1986, when the Shocker football program folded under the strain of the university's budget. But that loss did not take Darren's love for Wichita State.

He watched another of his other neighborhood friends, Antoine Carr, become a star. Ever since the glory days of "The Big Dog" at WSU, Darren has likely been to more games than any other Shocker fan.

"He sits behind Coach Marshall on the bench. That's his spot. If he's not there, everybody's wondering about starting the game on time," says Maurice Mitchell, a Wichita Police detective who has taken Darren to Shocker games for 17 years.

He is part of a long line of officers who have taken Darren to every home game, where they work security. For 30 years, he's been their guest and a reminder of the Shocker spirit they protect.

"It's been kind of a neat relationship as far as bonding, not only with Darren, but his family and friends," says Mitchell.

People like Mitchell, or Darren's close friend and fellow WSU fan Tony Hill, are who make living this dream possible. They know when the team needs him, Darren will be there. But no one has a bigger hand in Darren's pursuit of the Shockers than his brother, William Polite. He loves WSU, but to Polite, Darren is the show. He takes him to any big stage the Shockers find - even the

I ALWAYS FEEL GOOD WHEN I TURN AROUND AND SEE HIS SMILE. BECAUSE I'M A LITTLE STRESSED AND HE'S ALWAYS SMILING." - GREGG MARSHALL

biggest stage.

"We went all the way to Atlanta without tickets. I said 'Darren, you're going to get blessed here. Something's going to happen for you to get in this game,'" Polite remembers.

The blessing came in the form of Antoine Carr who, by a twist of fortune or divine intervention, happened to be waiting outside the arena. He gave his extra pair of tickets to Darren.

So goes the case of a "Number 1 Fan." Whatever magic the Shockers have captured is a part of Darren Thomas. And he is a part of them. They proved it at the team's season celebration in April, when Gregg Marshall called for Darren to be in the team photo.

But that experience was more than a picture. It was a renewed invitation into the Shocker family.

For 30 years, Darren has worked at KETCH in Wichita, making air filters by hand. Those filters go straight to state schools, including Wichita State. It's a way to give back. He loves his job, working each day toward next season, when he sees Coach Marshall again.

But on a hot summer afternoon in August, Marshall decided that wait had been long enough. He surprised Darren at work and wanted to talk Shocker hoops.

Unsure of whether he was allowed to take a break while on the clock, Darren continued assembling his air filters while wrapping his mind around the situation.

"He's like Jack Nicholson at the Lakers games. He's got the best seat in the house. I always feel good when I turn around and see his smile. Because I'm a

little stressed and he's always smiling," says Marshall.

That's a smile he will never lose. But he still tries to protect it. So he levels with the former national coach of the year, who remained at Wichita State despite more lucrative offers from other schools.

"I hope you stay, Marshall," says Darren.

"I'm staying," the coach responds.

"We'll be here for awhile, won't we? Me and you together. It's a pretty good combination."

Marshall offers Darren every Shocker fan experience he can, instituting an open door policy for Darren at his office in Koch Arena, where he "can see the recruiting board" - as long as he doesn't tell anybody who WSU covets.

After 15 minutes of face-to-face time, Marshall and Darren have to get back to work. As Marshall leaves, the reality sets in. The tears come, the smile remains.

And just as it always has been when the Shockers are gone, William Polite is there, hugging his brother proudly. It's clear in that moment that, as great as this day was, the family they truly require is in each other.

Darren's story aired on KAKE News on September 13. The full video is on the KETCH Facebook page. If you'd like to be emailed a copy please contact Ashley at aruckman@ketch.org.

Photo (above): Gregg Marshall insisted Darren, bottom right, be in the team photo at their annual awards ceremony. Photo courtesy The Wichita Eagle.

Photos from Coach Marshall's visit to KETCH can be found on page 12.

DARREN THOMAS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



Top left: Coach Gregg Marshall with Darren Thomas (right) and his brother, William Polite, in his work area at KETCH. Top right: Darren hard at work, representing the Shockers. Middle left: Coach Marshall signed Darren's WSU hat while KAKE's Shane Ewing films the magical day. Middle right: Darren continued to work as Coach Marshall visited with him about the team. Bottom: Darren takes the court at Koch Arena as his brother, as always, watches on.



COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: WEIGAND-OMEGA MANAGEMENT, INC.

In business, relationships are a key ingredient to success. The same is true for non-profits. At KETCH we're always looking for new businesses to partner with to further our mission, whether it is through our sales department, board development, or special events. We've been especially fortunate to work with Weigand-Omega Management, Inc. as they've supported our mission through all three of these areas.

Weigand-Omega believes in investing in people and improving and enriching the lives of others by giving back to the community both personally and corporately. Their support of KETCH and persons with disabilities is evidence of this. In fact, at the KETCH Annual Meeting in May they received the Outstanding Business Award in recognition of their commitment.

Weigand-Omega Management, Inc. is a locally owned business founded in 1976 by Bob Hanson, CEO. The Hanson family has provided a firm foundation for the company with son Craig serving as president and wife Bonnie serving as board chair. The company currently manages 125 different properties in six states with 56 of them being apartment communities.

Weigand-Omega first began working with KETCH in 1988 when they began managing the Almond Tree Apartments. The company expanded their relationship with KETCH three years ago by purchasing air filters for ten of their properties. KETCH now provides air filters for all of their residential properties across the state of Kansas. This equates to nearly 40 properties or 9600 air filters annually and will provide work for eight individuals in our vocational training program.

Weigand-Omega Board Chair Bonnie Hanson, has also served on the KETCH Board of Directors. She made great strides to connect their company with KETCH fundraising efforts. As a result, they purchased 148 tickets for their staff to attend Battle of the Burger in 2014. In 2015, they purchased a table at Palette to Palate and made a huge commitment to step up at the Burger Battle for 2015 by purchasing another 150 tickets and signing on as the Presenting Sponsor!

KETCH is grateful to be a beneficiary of a company that values the services provided for adults with developmental disabilities in our community. We offer our sincerest thanks to the Weigand-Omega family for their strong support.

BURGERS AND BASES WERE LOADED AT WICHITA BURGER BATTLE

Fans of the iconic movie The Sandlot often quote the now famous line, "You're killin' me Smalls!" For some, bite size Samples of burgers could garner this same reaction. There's no way you'll get full from just a few burger samples. It's just not possible, right? Guests at the third annual Wichita Burger Battle learned quickly that just isn't true. While those bites may have been small, they were jam packed with unique, quality ingredients and loaded with flavor.

The 3rd annual Wichita Burger Battle: A Throwdown to Benefit KETCH brought more than 650 guests to Lawrence-Dumont Stadium on Saturday, August 22 making this the most successful year yet! Restaurants competed for two awards: People's Choice and Judge's Choice.

The restaurant lineup included: Fizz Burgers & Bottles; Five Guys Burgers & Fries; Burnout Bar and Grill; Mooyah; Harvest Kitchen and Bar; Eurest Dining; SAVOR; and last but not least Officer Chris Robinson with the Wichita Police Department.

Other activities included Family Feud with KFDI's JJ Hayes, a VIP meet & greet with the Wingnuts players & coaches, kids activities, raffle, grub grab and 50/50. Following the event, attendees also enjoyed free admission to the Wichita Wingnuts game for the final home game of the season.

Proceeds from the burger cook-off, presented by Weigand-Omega Management, Inc., benefit more than 400 adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities receiving KETCH services.



Top: Fizz Burgers & Bottles took home the People's Choice Award for the third year. They also won the Judge's Choice award.

Bottom: Restaurants cooked all their burgers on site and topped them with delicious and unique ingredients.



Right: Steve, an Individual receiving KETCH vocational training services, was invited to sing the National Anthem at the Wingnuts Game immediately following the event. He did a wonderful job!

NEW VP OF COMMUNITY LIVING

Please help us welcome Jaime Hutchinson, vice president of Community Living, to KETCH! Jaime comes to us from the Wichita Public School system where she was employed for the past 20 years. She has been an educator as well as an administrator at various levels working to affect change and turn around in the educational system.



Jaime was attracted to KETCH due to her desire to work with a non-profit service organization dedicated to making life better for individuals with disabilities.

Her main goal is to support the Community Living department staff and persons served as they work together to continually strive for excellence in the programs and services Community Living provides. This will be accomplished by reinforcing and building upon a positive working and housing climate as well as creating and sustaining proactive systems for communication and systems management.

Welcome to KETCH, Jaime!

»»» TRIBUTES 7/1/2015 TO 8/31/2015

Carol Hindman
Gary and Elaine Austin
Fred and Nancy Badders
Eugene B. Bauer
Charles and Karlene Buechman
Jane Gingles
Ron and Sandy Larson
Charles Lester
Carl and Sheri Lindsey
James and Jamie Malone
Herb and Sharon Matlock
Past State Presidents' Wives
Ken and Glenda Schaffer
Frank and Linda Springer
James D. Standen

Dale Price
Eugene B. Bauer
Ron and Sandy Larson
Charles Lester
Carl and Sheri Lindsey
James D. Standen

Dwane McClain
James and Jamie Malone
Russell Elks Lodge #1715

Gary Vann
Carl and Sheri Lindsey
James D. Standen

Jack Piper
Carl and Sheri Lindsey

Janet McQuillan
Charles Lester

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