

Arizona Elks Electronic News

The Arizona Elks Electronic News is an Official Publication of the Arizona Elks Association

December, 2017



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"Good Communication Breeds Success "

Jim's Jibberish...

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Members all,

As we begin the second half of our year, Jan and I have so many warm and everlasting memories from our Area 7 State visits to our many visits to Lodges in Arizona. We still have two Lodges remaining. Again the reports of your Vice Presidents have been thoughtful and constructive.

Thanksgiving has passed but it just reminds us of the work we all do in our communities, by contributing to local food banks and supporting the most in need in our cities and towns. Great work being done by the **Best People On Earth**.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention another one of our Lodges in need of a special representative, this should never be necessary. As I have preached for the past two years, follow the statutes and stay out of trouble. All Lodges should just comply.

I will be asking members to serve as escorts for our May convention. This is a very important function and has always been one of Arizona's greatest achievements in protocol.

Again, Jan will be asking for your support of her "Undies for Veterans" project. In October, this was a great success, it benefitted Vets at the VA Hospitals and VA Homes statewide. What a great way to show our respect for their commitment to our nation.

As Christmas, not Xmas, approaches, let us look at what we can do for the less fortunate. When you hear the Salvation Army bell ringing, do what you can to help. When your place of worship asks you to give, try to support their cause. Let's us also remember, we are a guiding force in your community and we must lead by example. This will be a busy month for Elk's Lodges, as Clothe-a-Child and Clothe-a-Veteran will be in full swing.

This month is also our remembrance of the Elks Memorial Service in honor of those who have passed, we will miss them.

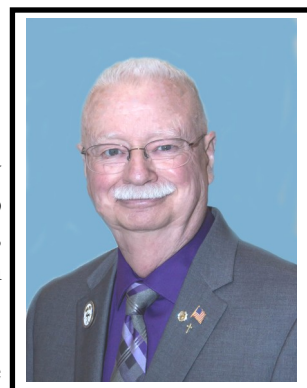
As our Lodges have Christmas dinners and parties, please remember to ask for a designated driver in your group. We want everyone to have a safe holiday.

I want to take this opportunity to convey a Very Blessed Christmas and Holiday Season from Jan and I along with our family to all of you and your families.

Until next issue, I remain

Fraternally,

Jim





**OFFICERS
FOR 2017-2018
ARIZONA
ELKS
ASSOCIATION**

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VICE PRESIDENT

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Elks Red Ribbons

The community recently gathered to show support for Red Ribbon week and the annual "Walk Away From Drugs." Elks Drug Awareness chairman Ray Lackey handed out red ribbons and pamphlets to the nearly sixty children at the Boy's and Girl's Club in support of staying away from drugs; just don't get started. The children are shown holding their red ribbons which say; "Hugs not drugs!" with Lackey is in the background.



Article and photo submitted by Terri Frear, Public Relations Chair

Elks Major Projects Donation



Elks Exalted Ruler, Shalimar Haas, ELK Michael McBurney, Bridget Rendon, and Arizona Elks Major Projects board member John Doucette, presented Border Patrol Explorer Program Aron Oliphant with a \$500 donation. Explorers tagging along were Michelle Ramirez, Shoshanna Noriega, Ilian Aguilar, and, kneeling, Jack Haney and

Eduardo Molina.

Sun City Elks Walk to End Alzheimer's



For the fifth year the Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 registered a Team for the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Sun City West. This year the Lodge and 50 donors and/or walkers for the 10/14/17 Walk to End Alzheimer's raised \$6,000 for the Alzheimer's Association joining the fight for Alzheimer's First Survivor. In 2012 the Lodge began a Memory Care Meet and Greet Program team that visits facilities with Alzheimer/dementia units every week with therapy dogs, singing songs, demonstrating and playing drums and maracas with music, recognizing birthdays and all veterans, then talking to and leaving each resident with a stuffed animal. Starting in 2013, partnering with the Alzheimer's Association for this Walk each year, was another activity that the same volunteers in our Lodge decided to start in hopes that this disease could be eliminated in the not too distant future.

First picture: Lorraine Gentile, Mary Stokes (Team Leader), Bev Davis, John Stokes, Marge Paulding, Bill Hudson, Claire Hudson. Second picture: All the Lodge #2559 Walkers and supporters including Elroy (Bill Hudson) - Elks Mascot

Ajo Lodge Donations

Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Shalimar Haas, along with ELK Michael McBurney, Bridget Rendon, and Arizona Elks Major Projects board member John Doucette, presented Susan Guinn-Lahm of Kaity's Way a donation of \$500.

Article and photo submitted by Shali Haas, Exalted Ruler



Special Olympics



Elks host the local Special Olympians to a Halloween/Christmas party recently to sixty costumed participants and their parents/caregivers. Pizza was on the menu as well as Karaoke furnished by Susie Stillabower. Leading Knight and Special Olympics chairman Mark Crough gave each Special person a \$35 gift card for their use at Chrstmas and what was left over from a \$4,000 Grant from Elks National Foundation, a check for \$1,393.98 which will go toward their travel expenses. Shown is Crough with "Batman" Jeff handing him a gift card and Crough with Volunteer Linette Cordell. Special thanks to River Valley senior Denice Klock for helping the Elks prepare and serve at the party. Klock shown here with Susie Stillabower.

Enrique Camarena Award

"The Arizona Elks Association presented the Enrique Camarena Award to LHC Police Sergeant Jake Bekkedahl for his many years of service combatting drugs in our community. Pictured from left: ER Gary Parsons, AEA 1st Vice President Mike Murphy, AEA Drug Awareness Chair Jack Ponzo, Sgt Bekkedahl, and LHC Police Chief Dan Doyle."

Article and photo submitted by Jackie Turcotte, Public Relations Chair



Elks Lodge #335 Presents check to the ALS Association



On October 15th, 2017 a memorial jazz concert was held to raise funds for the ALS Association. ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease is an incurable fatal neuromuscular disease characterized by progressive muscle weakness. Former member, Joe Carroccio, passed away on Oct. 6th from this terrible disease. Many friends from so many places came to honor him; he would have been very touched by their loving spirits. Lodge #335 presented a check to the ALS Association in the amount of \$500, (with \$300 coming from the charity fund and another \$200 coming from the PERs) to help fight this disease. Joe's jazz, blues and rock musician friends (those he had played with over the years...he played bass guitar), played a concert with smiles on their faces and tears in their hearts. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the ALS Association.

Ajo Elks Host Red Ribbon Week

Ajo #1576 hosted a Red Ribbon Week Halloween Carnival using part of a CIP Promise Grant. Sixty people came through the lodge room in 2 hours. They got to play games, eat treats and win prizes. Everyone received information about Red Ribbon Week and Elks DAP. There were pencils, ribbons, and stickers for all. Everyone had a great time, Elks and families alike. The thanks we heard from parents was really incredible and humbling. Pictured L to R: Amy Kerr, C. Starr, Kathleen Macfarland, ELK Helen Pyron, ER Shalimar Haas, Bridget Rendon, PER, Sarah & James Antone, PERs



Article and photo submitted by Shali Haas

Payson Elks Halloween Carnival



Elroy visited the Payson Elks Lodge during its annual Halloween Carnival. He passed out Drug Awareness material to all the children who attended. Elroy was played by our member, Dana Smith

Article and photo submitted by Kim Riley, Secretary.

Elks honor students

Bullhead City Elks recognized three seniors for their academic excellence for the month of October. From left from Mohave Accelerated Learning Center is McKenna Burris who will attend ASU to study business and marketing. From Mohave High School is Daniel Vega and he also will go to ASU in hopes of joining the marching band and study the performing arts. From MHS is Kate-lyn Mulquiny who desires to attend Southern Utah Univ. to become a performer, a writer and a designer in the tech industry. Each was presented a Certificate of Excellence in comeration of this occasion

Article and photo submitted by Terri Frear, Public Relations Chair.



Veterans Day Parade



Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 Had a float in the Phoenix Veterans day parade for the 4th consecutive year with a 60ft long float and about 2 members that rode the float and also walked and handed out thank you cards to veterans along the route.

Article and photo submitted by Larry Bodwell, Exalted Ruler.

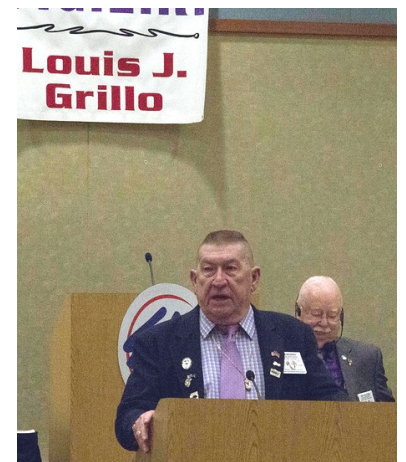
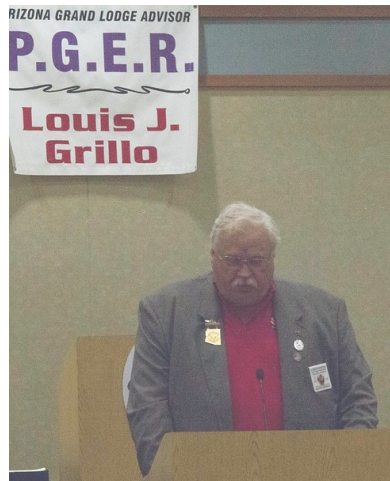
Phoenix #335 Law & Order Night



On November 8th 2017 Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 held a Law & Order dinner and awards banquet to honor officers from 9 agencies from around the valley. At that time they donated \$100.00 to the North Phoenix Police Cadets from Shadow Mountain High School to assist with the maintenance of uniforms and US flags for their uniforms

Article and photos submitted by Larry Bodwell, Exalted Ruler.

Photos From Arizona Elks Mid-Year Convention



Law and Order Night



Elk's Lodge #335 held it's annual Law and Order Night to honor outstanding heroes in our Law Enforcement community on November 9, 2017. We celebrated the achievements of 7 brave men and women with sincere and compelling testimony of their respective accomplishments from their supervisors and department leaders. The evening was celebrated by approximately 115 Elks, their guests and members of our community. All were served with a wonderful meal prepared by our very own Cindy Pendergrass and served by Elks volunteers. Regional Law Enforcement Agencies represented were: Towns of Florence, Paradise Valley and City of Phoenix Police Departments, Arizona Game and Fish, Arizona Department of Corrections, United States Drug Enforcement Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The officers were greeted by the North Valley Police Cadets from Shadow Mountain High School. Our Lodge presented the Cadets with \$100 to assist their Program. A wonderful evening was had by all in attendance.

Article and photo submitted by Marti Edwards.

Sierra Vista Elks Annual Haunted House



On 27 & 28 October 2017, the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 partnered with the 32-4 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) to host the 3rd Annual Haunted House. Hosting the Haunted House is a way that our Lodge gives back to our community by 1) providing a safe environment for participants to have fun, and 2) we use the price of admission (\$3.00 or 3 nonperishable food items) as a donation to our local food bank, Peach's Pantry. The mission of Peach's Pantry is to provide food to children, and families with children, in our county that are not able to afford to eat over the weekends. Every week, the volunteers gather to stock 168 individual bags for school children to last them through the weekend. Families with 2 or more children in the program receive a "Family Bag". Peach's outreach includes schools in Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Benson, and Douglas.

On Thursday, 2 November 2017, Barry "Bear" Carlile Jr, PER & Haunted House Chairman, Shawnee Carlile, Elks & 32-4 CVMA Auxiliary member, and Adam Smith, 32-4 CVMA Public Relations Officer, headed to Peach's Pantry to present a check, and the food raised from the event.

Through the hard work, and dedication of the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065, the 32-4 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, over 450 volunteer hours to build, execute, and tear down the Haunted house, combined with the generosity of our community, we raised \$432.00, and approximately \$500.00 in food donations for Peach's Pantry.

State Soccer Shoot

Last Sunday, with the able help of Tempe Lodge #2251 we held the AEA State Soccer Shoot. There were only sixteen participants but a good time was had by all who participated, both shooters and workers. The results are as follows: In the Under 8 Girls division 1st place - Taylor Perez - Casa Grande Valley Lodge # 1957 -- 2nd - Elizabeth Martinez - Kingman Lodge #468 and 3rd - K'Sera Lehfeldt - Sun City Lodge # 2559. Under 8 Boys - 1st - Tristen Bentley - Kearney Lodge #2478 - 2nd - Aleksander Gonzales - Chino Valley Lodge #2842 - 3rd - Andrew Roche - Sun City Lodge - #2559. Under 10 Girls - 1st place - Itzel Flores - Chino Valley Lodge #2842. Under 10 Boys - 1st place - Ruben McElroy - Casa Grande Valley Lodge #1957. Under 12 Girls - 1st Place - Paola Urbina - Mesa Buckhorn Lodge # 2656 - 2nd place - Brooklyn Lechuga - Kearney Lodge # 2478. Under 12 Boys - 1st - Gabriel Torres - Kingman Lodge #468 - 2nd - Bernard Vega, Jr. - Green Valley Lodge # 2592 - 3rd place - Luther Wilson - Casa Grande Valley #1957. Under 14 Girls - 1st place - Alexis Gallego - Kearney Lodge #2478. Under 14 Boys - 1st place - Cache Lehfelt - Sun City Lodge # 2559 - 2nd place - Daniel Blackwell - Page Lodge #2498 . Congratulations to all our participants. You are all winners. -

Elk Lodge Hero's

" My husband and I along with two friends attended th Route 91 Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas. All three days we had a spot by a picnic table between the two stages. We had a wonderful time up until around 10:10 on Sunday evening.

On Sunday evening my friend Marcie and I moved up closer to the stage to watch Jason Aldean while our husbands stayed back at the picnic tables that we had been sitting at all day.

About 6 or 7 songs into Jason Aldean set we heard pop pop pop. I said lets go when someone said its just fireworks. When another round of pop pop pop went off and I realized it was gun fire. I grabbed her hand and we ran. In the process of running I felland lost her hand. When I recovered she was not there so I continued to run until a Swat member grabbed me and got me out an entrance.

I was not able to go towards our vehicle and was told to go in the opposite direction. I was alone, scared, without my friends, no ID or cell phone. Mine and my husbands thought were we going to see each other again. Would we ever see our kids or granddaughters again.

After running a couple blocks there was a store on the corner that had its door open and about 20 of us ran inside the store. In there was a young man who had been shot in the side. I turned into nurse mode and held pressure to stop the bleeding. His girl friend and I went out the back door and found someone to take him to the hospital.

When I looked around, the street was filled with wounded, ambulances, police cars, and private owned pickups. Myself along with many others helped to triage these people and get them into privately owned pickups and ambulances. The worst part of the night was not being able to help a young lady who passed away on the street in front of me.

When most of the wound had ben moved we were told to go to the Tropicana Hotel for safety. On my walk to the Tropicana I borrowed a phone and called my husband who along with our friends was safe. I told him I was on my way to the Tropicana and he pro ceeded to meet me there. Before I could get there the Tropicana went on lock down so was then told to go to Hooters Hotel. Around 3:00am we were reunited with each other.

When my husband first heard the shots he ran behind a tree where bullets landed on either side of him. On a very short break in gunfire he ran. He had to climb over a fence and helped many people over the fence before he got with our friends.

It was a horrible night that will never be forgotten. We, especially me, hav good days and bad days. But thank God we are alive.

I can't give enough credit to the Las Vegas Police Spt., Swat Team, Paramedics, off duty police from mny other states. They were all fantastic."



Story as presented by John and Joan McConnell to Val Bianchini, Public Relations Chairman. Both John and Joan are Members of Sun City Elks. John is a Viet Vet and Joan a retired nurse.

Steele Center Tour



Members of Tucson East #2532 toured the Steele Center with Lauren Erdelyi, Coordinator, Community Outreach and Public Education Tuesday November 14th. We viewed some of the research areas and had a wonderful talk given by Daniel Laubitz, PhD an Associate Research Scientist who is based in the Gastroenterology and Nutrition Lab. He spoke on some of the ongoing research and also demonstrated the confocal microscope for us. We had the pleasure of walking through the Arizona Elks Pediatric Clinic where we delivered 130 books for the children along with 8 stuffed animals and a new red rider wagon. We received a wonderful thank



you from Lauren "Thank you for organizing such a wonderful tour group yesterday! I really enjoyed giving the tour and spending time with you all. I also want to thank you for your generosity and let you know that the books are already out in the clinic and the stuffed animals are proving to be a huge hit with our kiddos in clinic!"

Article and photos submitted by Mary Shafer.

Sun City Elks Continue To Support Our Vets

On Thursday, October 19, 2017, two more vets were provided with an opportunity for increases mobility.

On that Thursday, the Sun City Elks delivered two more motorized wheel chairs to vets at the U.S. Vets facility on Grand Ave, in Phoenix, Arizona.

The chairs are dedicated to vets who presently do not have mobility that would like to have and these chairs will go a long way in increasing their freedom of movement considerably.

Both vets have extremely difficult times walking and look forward to the extra mobility that these chairs will provide and the Sun City Elks are only happy to accommodate them.



Pictured standibg L to R: VAL Biachini, Elks Arizona State West District Veterans Chairman; Gary Drumheller, Elks State Veterans Chairman; Randy Roberts, U.S. Vets Grand Ave . Facility Cas Worker and Viet Nam Vet; Tony Davis, Sun City Elk member, Korean War Vet and donor of one of the power wheel chairs. Seated on left is C. Sosa, Army Vet, 1975-1979. Seated o the righr is William Evans, 69 An Army Vet serving in Viet Nam at the time of the "TET" offensive with the 101st "Screaming Eagles".

Article and photo submitted by Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks Public Relations Chair.

Sun City Elk Veterans Honored



An estimated 60-70% of the male members of the Sun City Elks are Veterans, so it is quite easy to understand why were honored at the 5th Annual Veterans appreciation dinner held at the Westbrook Village Veterans Club in Peoria, Arizona

Over three hundred and fifty people were in attendance, with one hundred and fifty nine of them being veterans, all with the sole purpose of bringing recognition and honor to those members of the military that served our country so well.

The event was the fifth annual appreciation dinner sponsored by the Westbrook Village Veterans Club and due to its popularity, continues to grow in both membership and sponsors.

The ranking senior member of the group was Hans Sivert, 99 years old and a member of the Sun City Elks Lodge.

The color guard were ROTC members of Peoria High School and the entertainment was provided by the Desert Dancers a local dance group with patriotic songs sung by Lilac Crazy and Bill Wolfe.

Article and photo submitted by Val Bianchini Sun City Elks Public Relations Chairman.

Arizona Elks Electronic News

News Timelines:

The *Arizona Elks News* is a quarterly publication. It is printed and mailed in January, April, July, and October of each fraternal year, and is mailed before the 5th of the month.

In order to achieve that deadline, it is necessary for your copy and photos to be in the hands of the editor by the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication.

The *Arizona Elks Electronic News* is published 8 times a year. The February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December editions are e-mailed and posted on the Arizona Elks web page before the **5th** of the month.

In order to achieve that deadline, it is necessary for your copy and photos to be in the hands of the editor by the **25th** of the month prior to the month of publication.

NOTICE TO ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

One of the biggest complaints that people have with editors is the quality of reproduction of their photos. "Why is my photo so blurry?"

To help prevent this use a digital camera set at the highest pixel setting, ("Super Fine" on most cameras). This will give you the sharpest photo and will allow the photos to be edited.

Attach photos as JPG with your article and e-mail to the AEA News team.

Contact Information:

Arizona Elks News

Jack C. Page, Editor

4102 E Tamaya St. Phoenix AZ. 85044

(H) 480.598.0343 (C) 480.383.3836

Send stories and photos to:

aeaneews@live.com