

Arizona Elks News

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

July, 2018



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"Be An Elk Everyday"

As I start this article it reminds me how quickly time passes and how much work we must do together to support our charitable charges from the tenants of our Order.

During this past month I have been fortunate to represent our Elks Programs at the National Cemetery for Memorial Day and to meet with local leaders at that event. I was pleased to see members of both the Tempe and Phoenix Lodges in attendance. I also had the opportunity to address the Arizona VFW contingency at their annual meeting in Scottsdale and was able to spread the word that we are a partner service organization and in addition to our Orders Programs to support Veterans that each of the 44 Lodges in the State stand ready and willing to provide support through the programs at the local level.



This month as we celebrate the 242nd anniversary of our Nation's birth on the 4th of July many of us will be together in San Antonio, Texas for our Grand Lodge Convention. Deb and I look forward to spending time together with attendees, representing our State Programs and learning from the sessions. It is always an adventure to attend the program and see our special guests in the children who have benefited from our charitable works. I look forward to hearing from the Hoop Shoot and Scholarship winners and will report back to you on what we learn.

Reminder of the challenges and goals for the coming year -

1. Growth in Membership – last year you got us committed to +1 so my goal for each Lodge this year is +2. I am counting on you to see that we get this done.
2. Supporting our Lodges – we are in the business of growing our Lodges and strengthening support to local communities.
3. Increasing support to the Elks National Foundation to \$10.00 per member.

My tidbit for the month is from the Elks Magazine Online for June 2018 "The Order has just been featured at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in their virtual exhibit "America's Mailing Industry," which was launched on September 13, 2016, at a reception in Washington, DC. The Smithsonian Postal Museum recognizes the Elks' quiet network of good deeds and with 28.2 million visitors each year to the Smithsonian Museums, this is a very powerful forum on which to appear. The full article is available on the Elks web-site at: <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/americasmailingindustry/BPO-Elks.html>.

As I continue to think on challenges for the coming year I am reminded of a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson - "To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived - that is to have succeeded". These are everyday things that each of our Lodges are demonstrating in their communities and I applaud the continued dedication.

We have a lot of work to do together, I know I can count on your help and support.

Fraternally,
Mike Murphy
AEA President



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Elks Chili Cook off

The 9 annual Memorial Day Chili Cook off was held at the Bullhead City Elks Lodge and there were 17 cooks. The newly formed band, Arizona Thunder entertained the crowd. This event was to benefit the veterans in our community along with the homeless. there was a 50/50 raffle and there were over 15 door prizes. It was a very successful event. The winners of the chili cook off are Ron Stevens in first, Dan Barron took second and Gene Whiteley came in third. All chili was tasty!

Article and photo submitted by Terri Frear, Public Relations Chair



Catalina Mountain Vision Donation



Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 presented a \$1,000 check to IMPACT of Southern Arizona for its Vision Program. This is the second year that the lodge has contributed to this worthy endeavor.

IMPACT, who partnered with the Oro Valley-Catalina and South Tucson Lions Clubs for vision screening of students in the Copper Corridor, found that 28 percent of high school students and 17 percent of elementary and pre-school children needed glasses. IMPACT will work with parents who qualify through AHCCS to get free glasses for children whose families fall into the income gap. This program will help improve the lives of people in our community.

Pictured (from left) are Past Exalted Ruler Steve Asp, Barbara McClure, Executive Director IMPACT of SoAZ, and Exalted Ruler Bob Kielsa.

Article and photo submitted by Pat Cox, Public Relations Chair

Elks donate \$15,000.00

Yuma Lodge 476 donated \$15,000.00 to the Yuma YMCA to help with their Summer Youth Camp and other Youth Programs. Pictured above; PER Lonny Cline, ER Ed Kromer, YMCA Director Bob Nidifer, Executive Director Annie Clary, and Lodge Trustee Bob Stull.

In other news Yuma 476 donated \$25,000.00 and the Lodge Auxiliary \$500.00 the Arizona Elks State Major Project.



Article and photo submitted by PER John Fuller

Aux Scholarship Bullhead City Elks Auxiliary #2408

Bullhead City Elks Auxiliary President Kathleen Clemons presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Brandon Rivera at Academy Of Building Industries recently. Rivera will attend Snow Tech College in Ephraim, Utah to study a trade. Shown here with Rivera are his proud parents with Clemons in the background .

Article and photo submitted by Terri Frear, Public Relations Chair



President's Lifetime Achievement Award



“Lake Havasu City Elks Drug Awareness Chair Mike Arlowe (left) took great pleasure in presenting Rudy Jehle with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award given to individuals with at least four thousand hours of volunteer service. Aside from opening and successfully running his own business and being a member of the Elks, Rudy has spent the last forty-five years as a volunteer with the Mohave County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and the Lake Havasu City Search and Rescue Unit (LHC SAR) including being a member of the SAR Jeep Posse Unit, MCSO Deputy Sheriff and LHC Reserve Police Officer. He has held the rank of Sergeant and Captain of the MCSO LHC SAR Unit. He is currently Staff Sergeant/Fund Raiser for the MCSO LHC SAR Unit to raise money to support Search and Rescue efforts.”

Article and photo submitted by Jackie Turcotte, Public Relations Chair

Bullhead City Elks #2408 Flag Day

Bullhead City Elks recently hosted Flag Day at the Lodge for our Members and the public to witness. We invited Scout Troop #104 to post the colors as each flag was presented and Lodge Esquire Chris Maurer described the history and it's meaning to our nation. Shown standing in the middle of the ten boys who participated is Maurer backed by all nine flags.

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



A Time To Kneel



Take a little trip to Valley Forge in January. Hold a musket ball in your fingers and imagine it piercing your flesh and breaking a bone or two. There won't be a doctor or trainer to assist you until after the battle, so just wait your turn. Take your cleats and socks off to get a real experience.

Then, take a knee on the beach in Normandy where man after American man stormed the beach, even as the one in front of him was shot to pieces, the very sea stained with American blood. The only blockers most had were the dead bodies in front of them, riddled with bullets from enemy fire.

Take a knee in the sweat soaked jungles of Vietnam. From Khe Sanh to Saigon, anywhere will do. Americans died in all those jungles. There was no playbook that told them what was next, but they knew what flag they represented. When they came home, they were protested as well, and spit on for reasons only cowards know.

Take another knee in the blood drenched sands of Fallujah in 110 degree heat. Wear your Kevlar helmet and battle dress. Your number won't be printed on it unless your number is up! You'll need to stay hydrated but there won't be anyone to squirt Gatorade into your mouth. You're on your own.

There are a lot of places to take a knee where Americans have given their lives all over the world. When you use the banner under which they fought as a source for your displeasure, you dishonor the memories of those who bled for the very freedoms you have. That's what the red stripes mean. It represents the blood of those who spilled a sea of it defending your liberty.

While you're on your knee, pray for those that came before you, not on a manicured lawn striped and printed with numbers to announce every inch of ground taken, but on nameless hills and bloodied beaches and sweltering forests and bitter cold mountains, every inch marked by an American life lost serving that flag you protest.

No cheerleaders, no announcers, no coaches, no fans, just American men and women, delivering the real fight against those who chose to harm us, blazing a path so you would have the right to "take a knee." You haven't any inkling of what it took to get you where you are, but your "protest" is duly noted. Not only is it disgraceful to a nation of real heroes, it serves the purpose of pointing to your ingratitude for those who chose to defend you under that banner that will still wave long after your jersey is retired.

If you really feel the need to take a knee, come with me to church on Sunday and we'll both kneel before Almighty God. We'll thank Him for preserving this country for as long as He has. We'll beg forgiveness for our ingratitude for all He has provided us. We'll appeal to Him for understanding and wisdom. We'll pray for liberty and justice for all, because He is the one who provides those things. But there will be no protest. There will only be gratitude for His provision and a plea for His continued grace and mercy on the land of the free and the home of the brave. It goes like this, GOD BLESS AMERICA!

by Stanislaus Drew

Article submitted by Val Bianchini, Public Relations Chair

Mike Murphy's Hawaiian Party



On June 2, 2018, Tempe Elks held a Hawaiian Party for President Mike Murphy. It was attended by many Elks from many Lodges from the Arizona Elks Association and his family members. Everyone had an "Aloha" time with plenty Food, Hawaiian Entertainment and music for dancing.



Photos Thanks
Tp
Bill Kabat



Tucson East Gratitude Grant



On May 30th Tucson East Lodge #2532 delivered a \$2500 Gratitude Grant to Tucson's Youth On Their Own (YOTO). YOTO provides food, clothing, financial and educational assistance to youth in the Tucson area that are living on their own, due to loss of family or other unfortunate life experiences. Their goal is to provide a source where teens can access the necessities of life, continue to get their education and learn job seeking skills. CEO Nicola Hartmann reported that in May 2018, 239 students graduated high school and are either employed or continuing their education at a local college. This program mentors' teens by providing them a safe place to build a solid foundation and gives them the tools to build a successful future.

Pictured L-R: Diane Cushing, member; Amber Benoist, Youth Activities Chair, Katie Tomecsko, and Youth On Their Own CEO Nicola Hartmann. May 30, 2018

Article and photo submitted by Mary Schaffer, Public Relations Chair

Memorial Day At Tucson East

On Memorial Day May 28th Tucson East #2532 Lodge Officers were privileged to perform as the Military Flag Honor Guard during the Memorial Service held at All Faiths Cemetery Tucson, AZ for our honored dead.

Tucson East #2532 Military Flag Honor Guard – Memorial Day at All Faith Cemetery May 28, 2018

Pictured L-R Exalted Ruler Maynard Stout, Megin Goetz, Joe Peto, Sally Frankel, Justin Splain, Vickie Jarvis, Paul Crumm

Article and photo submitted by Mary Shaffer, Public Relations Chair



Arizona State Veterans BBQ



On May 19 Tucson East #2532 Veterans Committee hosted a BBQ at the Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson for Armed Forces Day. Residents were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs, and pulled pork along with several side dishes, sodas and desserts. Several Elk members who are also Shriner clowns donned their best costumes and face paint to cheer the residents

Rocky Shamburg cooks up some hot dogs at the Arizona State Veterans Home – Tucson

For the Armed Forces Day BBQ. May 19, 2018

Article and photo submitted by Mary Shaffer, Public Relations Chair

Veterans Thrift Store Donation

"The Lake Havasu City Lodge Elkettes donated \$600.00 to the Veteran's Thrift Store to help with renovations in their new store in Desert Hills. The proceeds from the store, which is open to the public, benefit veterans who need help in getting medical supplies, clothes and furniture. Pictured are from left Elkettes Carol Melendez and Venessa Brewster, Thrift Store President Roberta Arreola, Elkettes Eva D. Fox, Joyce Bradley and Susan Seales."

Article and photo submitted by Jackie Turcotte, Public Relations Chair



A Letter From Your Editor

Well I guess that my request for participating in the Arizona Elks News, from the Convention, has fallen on deaf ears.

As of the 16th of this month, I have received only 146 members interested in having the newsletter mailed to them quarterly. That's from only four lodges in the state. That will not be enough to continue the printing and mailing of it.

If you want to continue having the Newsletter mailed to you quarterly, you had better participate by sending in your requests. That's sending me the list of participants and your check to our Treasurer Al Kayal. This is the responsibly of the Lodge Secretaries.

Every lodge should have a Public Relations Chairman assigned to send in events of their Lodges. This month I have had to use fillers to get to eight pages.

The printing must be of 4, 8 or 12 pages of information. With Flag Day, a Grand Lodge requirement, I received one article for printing for this publication. That seems strange to me.

This is my final request for your participation. Let's get your requests in and continue the printing and mailing of the Newsletter. The Trustees are watching this very closely and will make a decision as the need to continue the publication mailing.

Fraternally,
Sonoran Jack
Arizona Elk Editor.

Elks Care - **Elks** Share

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AEA State DA Essay Contest Winner



On May 22, 2018 Jack Ponzo PER, Arizona Elks Association Drug Awareness Chairman presented Adrianna Cervantes a 6th grader from Continental Elementary School an award for the best Drug Awareness Essay Contest for the state of Arizona. Adrianna submitted her entry through the Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592. The theme of the 2018 year Drug Awareness Essay Contest was "What Heroes Do". Adrianna was awarded a Drug Awareness Basketball, a plaque and a monetary check. Her Essay will compete for the National Elks Drug Awareness award contest. There were ~ 100 parents and ~610 students plus staff. No Drug Awareness information was distributed at this assembly.

Photo: Lt to Rt: Jack Ponzo PER – AEA Drug Awareness Chairman, Adrianna Cervantes

Photo and article submitted by Cheryl Ponzo PER

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