

Arizona Elks News

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

September, 2018



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"Be An Elk Everyday"

Greeting Arizona Elks,

Across our great state changes are coming – fall is upon us even as the days in the desert are still showing in at triple digits. This month as we head into fall I want to focus my update on communication and building strong relationships among our membership and in Lodge Officer relationships.

A good working relationship depends upon a strong foundation for us as Elks this includes building a relationship with our members and among Officers that is based on Trust, Mutual Respect, Mindfulness, Diversity and Communication.

Trust is the foundation of every good relationship **Respect has to be earned** - When you respect the people that you are working with, you value their input and ideas.

Mindfulness means that you are taking responsibility for your words and your actions Diversity - people in good working relationships welcome new ideas and opinions and respect traditions and experience. I encourage you to take the time to discuss and consider different ways of handling situations or ways to make your Lodge more successful. Communication - is key is working together more effectively

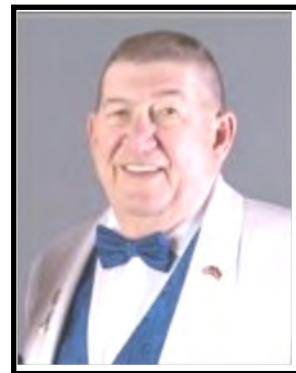
To be part of a team we all need to demonstrate our commitment to being reliable and to acting responsibly. Not all relationships will be great, but we can make sure we do our individual parts to make them workable. To succeed we need to make the effort to get to know each other better and focus on our common commitments. Remember the resources you have include nominators, mentors and the PER Associations. The PER Association is a mandated Grand Lodge requirement that is charged with and available as a resource to you. As usual I remind us of our goals for the coming year are – 1. Growth in Membership – last year you got us committed to +1 so my goal for each Lodge this year is +2. I am count-ing 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 and, 3. Increasing support to the Elks National Foundation to \$10.00 per member. I also appreciate that you will also remember the 1st Lady's Fall Fundraiser to support the veterans in our two State Veterans Homes. My quote for the month comes from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who said, "The life of man consists not in seeing great visions and in dreaming dreams, but in active charity and willing service".

Answer to the August 2018 Quiz – Arizona was awarded 3 All American Lodges. They are Division 1 – Raceway #2852, Division 4 – Phoenix #335, and Division 6 – Sun City #2559. I know you will join me in congratulating these Lodges for their success. Great work Arizona Elks – we are all proud of you. I encourage each Lodge to fully participate in the All American Lodge Program. We have these awardees to learn from.

I thank each of you for your service to our Order and for you continuing commitment to the tenants of our Order in Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. We still have work to do and I am proud to be working beside and for you.

Let's get busy – it will keep us young at heart.

Fraternally,
Mike Murphy
AEA President





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

PRESIDENT:

Mike Murphy

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

West: Dan Snyder

VICE PRESIDENT

North: Cheryl McKean

South: Ira Cohen

East: Tom Freestone

SECRETARY:

Peter K. Gillespie PSP

TREASURER :

Albert Kayal

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

East-1 Year:

Jimmy S. Davis, PSP

West-2 Year:

Richard Conway, PSP

North- 3 Year:

Leland R. Schwein, PSP

South-4 Years:

Alfred R Skorupski, PSP

East- 5 Years:

John F James, PSP

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Tony Almeda

CHAPLAIN:

Richard M Ross

TILER:

Sari McQuality

INNER GUARD:

Dennis Dunkirk

ASST. SEC/TREASURER

Richard Seals

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Bill Kabat

ORGANIST:

Nancy Coleman

Story About A Veteran

This is a story about a veteran named Leroy Miller. Several years ago Rocky Shamburg, a Tucson East 2535 member, coached Leroy's Step Grandson. He had never met Leroy, however during the past few years Leroy's Step daughter, Donna noticed that Rocky's wife, Danielle was posting about Elks events. Recently Leroy was been diagnosed with Colon cancer, had surgery and is currently going through therapy. The family did not know where to turn for help when it was decided that a ramp was needed so he could safely access his home and it was unclear if there were options through the VA. Donna knowing that the Elks do a lot for Veterans reached out to Danielle to see if we had connections. We told Donna, we weren't sure how to get aid through the VA but would be more than willing to build one for him. Our immediate thought was not to just build a ramp, but also give him a little patio to be able to sit out with a cup of coffee and enjoy the view as the sun rises and sets from his home. Elk members donated money and worked with local retailers to make it happen.



Several members of the Tucson East #2532 Elks Riders donated their Saturday to gather supplies and perform the work needed. By the end of the day the work was completed and Mr. Miller and his family were very appreciative of the finished ramp and small deck. The big take away from these events is charitable giving leaves a lasting impact that sticks with people. So much that it creates relationships and opens the opportunity to give back in other ways. Leroy not only has a much safer place to live but an outside space to enjoy through the years.

Rocky Shamburg added; "Coaching a small boy years ago, I would have never thought that I would have the chance to give such hope to past generations of his family."

Article and photo submitted by Mary Shaffer, PER.

Catalina Mountain Donates to Mighty Impact Meals



Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 used a \$2,000 Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP) grant to provide special meal kits for families who rely on free and reduced lunch programs through school cafeterias. IMPACT of Southern Arizona provides the Mighty Impact Meals (MIMs) service during the summer months and school breaks. School counselors determine the students who are eligible to participate in the program. This donation is in keeping with the Arizona Elks Major Projects motto of "Cherish a Child."

Pictured are (from left) AEMP President Ira Cohen, IMPACT Executive Director Barbara McClure, Catalina Mountain Exalted Ruler Bob Kielsa, and Catalina Mountain Committee Chair Lisa Chavez.

Article and photo submitted by Pat Cox,
Public Relations Chair

Catalina Mountain Blood Drive

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge sponsored a Blood Drive on Saturday, July 28. The American Red Cross provided the Blood Mobile which was located in front of the lodge. Forty-three people participated in this community effort, and 34 pints of blood were donated (four were double red blood cell donors, which is a longer process). Congratulations to Loyal Knight Doug Harpold, PER for another successful blood drive, and thanks to all those who made possible this gift of life!

Article submitted by Pat Cox, Public Relations Chair

Elk Riders Donate

The Elks Riders, an auxiliary of Lodge 499, participated in the Nation of Patriots-Patriot Tour-Arizona Flag Escort, July 7-11. The NOP is a 100% volunteer organization that has an annual motorcycle ride, carrying the American flag throughout 48 states. Funds raised are returned to each state for distribution to needy veterans in that state. Money raised in Arizona, stays in Arizona!

Donations are used to aid wounded veterans in need (such as car payments, house payments, and medical bills. Christmas gifts are not included.) Last year, NOP Arizona raised \$26,000. This year, after the NOP ride in Arizona, the tally on July 20, 2018 was \$45,382.40. Included in that amount are funds from an ENF Gratitude Grant that Lodge 499 donated to the Nation of Patriots. More fundraisers will follow, including a Poker Run and dinner in early August.



Lodge 499 is proud to support America's Veterans in many ways.

Photo L-R: Dan Smith, Elks member/Elks Riders member, Regional Director of NOP, Vietnam Veteran; Paul Capps, Exalted Ruler Lodge 499; Rick Bitzer, Elks member/Elks Riders member

Article and photo submitted by Debra Wheelis

Elks Major Project Grant to Katie's Closet



FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2018: Payson Elks Lodge 2154 presented a \$1,000.00 Arizona Elks Major Project Grant to Katie's Closet of Payson. Accepting the grant, Bob Horne, Executive Director, Katie's Closet and his wife Marilyn attended the event. Bob gave a short talk on the service that this dedicated group of individuals furnish to Rim Country residents.

Katie's Closet is a non-profit organization with a mission to supply needy children with clothing. Last year they served 248 families that resulted in a total of 667 children. Volunteers supply the man hours and with the help of various organizations in the Payson area,

Katie's Closet fulfills a special need for the community. A dinner followed the evening ceremony with music provided by Don and Candy Brookes Entertainment.

PHOTO: Bob Horne, Katie's Closet Executive Director, Elks Lodge 2154 Exalted Ruler, Adrianne Troutman, Elks Lodge 2154 Loyal Knight Beverly Cunningham.

Article and photo submitted by Bob & Karyn Sitter, Public Relations Chairs

September Planned Giving Article

Can my Social Security benefits be garnished if I have outstanding debts? I just turned 62 and would like to start collecting my retirement benefits, but I want to find this out before I apply.

Whether your Social Security benefits can be garnished depends on who you owe. Banks and other financial creditors, for example, cannot touch your Social Security checks. But if Uncle Sam is collecting on a debt, some of your benefits are fair game. Here is what you should know.

Creditor Protections

If you have credit card debts, medical bills, unpaid personal loans or pay day loans, you will be happy to know that your Social Security benefits are safe from your creditors. **Section 207 of the Social Security Act** prohibits debt collectors or a bankruptcy court from dipping into your bank account to take Social Security money for purposes of paying off what you owe.

In addition, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), veterans' benefits, federal employee and civil service retirement benefits and benefits administered by the Railroad Retirement Board Administration cannot be touched either.

Do be aware, however, that creditors can still take legal action against you to recover what you owe. Depending on your state's laws, creditors may be able to garnish your wages and tap into other allowable assets, if you have any.

Government Garnishment

If, however, you owe money to Uncle Sam, it is a very different story. The federal government can garnish a portion of your Social Security benefits to repay several types of debts, including federal income taxes, federal student loans, state-ordered child support and alimony, nontax debt owed to other federal agencies, defaulted federal home loans and certain civil penalties. Note that, if you receive SSI, those benefits cannot be garnished under any circumstance.

The amount that can be taken depends on the type of debt. In most situations, the government can claim 15% of your benefits to cover your debt, but under the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, it must leave you at least \$750 each month, unless the levy is for federal income taxes. In that case, the government is not required to leave \$750 behind.

The outcome is different if the debt is for child support or alimony payments. Depending on your state laws, the court may be able to take half of your benefits or more to pay your obligations to your children or ex-spouse.

If you think your Social Security benefits might be claimed to pay overdue government debts, you need to address the problem rather than ignore it. Most government agencies are happy to work with you, so long as you are willing to work with them.

The government typically sends several letters before it acts to collect a debt. The final letter will inform you of the intent to levy Social Security payments and, after that, you typically will have 30 days to contact the agency and work out a payment plan.

Get Help

To get a handle on your debt problems, consider contacting a financial counseling agency that offers free or low-cost services to help you manage your financial problems. To locate a credible agency in your area, contact the National Foundation for Credit Counseling by visiting its website or calling 800-388-2227.

You should also make sure you are not missing out on any financial assistance programs. The National Council on Aging's website contains a database of more than 2,500 federal, state and local programs that can help seniors with prescription drug costs, health care, food, utilities and other basic needs. The site will help you locate programs that you may be eligible for and will show you how to apply.

Faternally,

Al Skorupski, PSP
Planned Giving Coordinator
Arizona Elks Major Projects

Arizona Elks Major Projects Award Grants

The Arizona Elks Major Projects Committee is always looking for new ways to serve our local youth and Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 has an active Youth Activities Director, who is anxious to help them spend that money. Jennifer Jehorek, a relatively new Elk member and a very new Youth Activities Director, saw the offer of grants as a challenge and jumped at the chance to receive those grants. The grants, each \$1,000 in value (2 received by the Sun City Elks), were offered to any Arizona Elk Lodge (44 lodges), who would take on the project of assisting our local youth, the only "hitch" being, that the money could not be spent on any existing lodge youth programs. The Sun City Lodge already sponsors a boy/girl scout troop and a cub scout den, plus numerous other school projects, such as drug awareness programs, essay contests and scholarship programs, so new projects needed to be explored.



Article and photo submitted by Val Bianchini, Public Relations Chair

Bullhead City Elks Host Meet



The Elks hosted a "town hall" meeting between the Mayoral candidates up for election in two weeks. Past Exalted Ruler Mike Swain emceed the meeting by having the persons in attendance write down questions for Mayor Tom Brady and Jerry Duvall. Swain then read the question and each candidate had 3 minutes to respond.



The meeting was well attended and informative.

Article and photo submitted by Terri Frear, Public Relations

AEA First Vice President Visit

Saturday August 11, 2018: Payson Elks Lodge 2154 was visited by West District First Vice-President Dan Snyder and his lady Mary. A meeting with all the Lodge Officers and Committee Chairpersons in the afternoon brought up some very useful and timely advice on how to improve our lodge. A question and answer period was also helpful on a number of items. After the meeting, a Charity Ball dinner was served with entertainment provided by the well known band "Junction 87". The theme for the evening was Luau, and all enjoyed the array of Hawaiian dress. The event was well attended by Rim Country residents, and money raised from dinner, silent auction items and donations will go to support our local charities.

Photos 1 and 2: Lee Schwein, PSP: - AEA West District 1st Vice President Dan Snyder: - Lodge 2154 Exalted Ruler Adrianne Troutman.



Article and photo submitted by Bob and Karyn Sitter, Public Relations Chair.

Pillow Donation To Vets



Never let it be said that the Sun City Elk members are not dedicated to helping our vets.

Another indication of that is stated by a spouse of an Elk member, Terry Oliver, spouse of Elk Member Dave Oliver.

Terry had a brainstorm recently. While watching a program on T.V., a commercial popped up advertising "My Pillow", and she said, "why not", and decided to send an e-mail to "Mike Lindell" of "My Pillow" fame.

Terry's e-mail informed Mike of the many activities that the Sun City Elks do for the vets in the Phoenix, Arizona area, including outfitting living units with beds, bedding, t v's, appliances, clothing, etc., everything required to make life a bit easier for our vets. She mentioned that pillows are also donated by our members, but in some cases, the pillows are to worn to use. Terry informed Mike, that the Elks sponsor several facilities in the Phoenix, Arizona area, and all are in need of pillows. She

also informed Mike of an additional veteran's facility, which recently opened also in the Phoenix, Arizona area.

The new facility, when fully occupied, will house 70 veterans, but there are only 45 residents there presently, and asked, if possible, could his company donate 45-50 pillows to help outfit those facilities.

Without question or hesitation, Mike Lindell's company delivered a gracious gift of 45 new pillows to Terry and the Sun City Elks for distribution. Thirty of those new pillows were delivered to the Vets for Vets facility on Grand Ave., in Phoenix and the remaining 15, went to the recently opened M.A.N.A. house (Marine, Army, Navy, Air force) facility. To "trump" that first offer, and without a second request, the "My Pillow" company, sent an additional 50 pillows to be used at the new facility, so that when fully occupied, each vet would have a brand new "My Pillow".

The new facility located at 2422 W. Holly St. in Phoenix, Arizona, is a completely modernized building, which was previously owned by the U.S. Government. The building was purchased by the "Catholic Charities" Foundation, and with the assistance of such notables as, the Arizona Diamondbacks Baseball Org. (which donated \$100,000), the Dell Webb Construction Organization (completed a full wing of living units) and several other charitable organizations, the building was completely gutted and rebuilt.

Posing in front of the new Catholic Charities building holding packages of new "My Pillows" are: (left to right as viewed) Gary Drumheller, AZ. State Elks Veterans Chairman and Viet Nam Vet; Danny Yates, Navy vet and house resident; Pete Fleckenstein, Marine Corps vet and asst. house supervisor; Dana Willis, U.S. Navy vet and another house resident.

Article and photo submitted by Val Bianchini, Public Relations Chair

Bullhead City Elks are 150

Have you been wondering what the banner says on the Elks corner? (1745 Emerald) As you're driving by it's hard to read it all so I'll spell it out for you. We, the *Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks* are proud to announce that our fraternal organization turned 150 years this year. The Elks were formed on February 16, 1868 in New York City and has grown from there. We also are proud to announce that our Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408 has contributed \$1,289,600 to this community over the past 10 years.



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

July 14, 2018 - Was the PEANUT BUTTER BALL! - 5th Annual Event - Fund Raiser

We presented the Kingman Area Food Bank with \$2,000 worth of peanut butter to Executive Director Catherine Walker, bought with our Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant for 2018, along with jars of peanut butter brought in by participants to Peanut Butter Ball. Our Arizona ELKS President, Mike Murphy and his wife, Debra, gave his presentation of AZ Elks Lodge standings and indicated that Kingman Elks Lodge #468 could be in the top 10!



< 8 Kilo Cats entertained all night as their donation to our lodge.



AZ Elks 1st Lady Debra & AZ Elks President Mike Murphy above with Kathy Taylor, PER and Catherine Walker, Executive Director of Kingman Area Food Bank.



< Donations of peanut butter was fun to this little boy. Kathy & Bob Taylor introduced Mike & Debra Murphy to John Lawson (& Mrs. Lawson), Leading Knight and to Exec. Director Catherine Walker, Kingman Food Bank. >



Jimmy Powell was our auctioniere and both recliners went fast!



Winners of raffles and big Auction of recliner chairs:



Winners Not photoed (sorry):
Carleen Lacey
and Nani Chrimes.

Debra & Dave Oudin won Gift Card to Dambar SteakHouse, \$100 Bill framed and \$100 Gift Certificate to Home Style Furniture. Kathy Taylor won Snack Cooler set and Framed Car Picture. AZ First Lady, Debra, won the Metal Art. Nani & Bob Chrimes won \$450 towards Estate Planning donated by Tom Price, Attny. The puffy recliner was auctioned and won by Carleen Lacey. The leather and wood frame recliner was won by Lynne Gregor. Congratulations to all!

Vets Only Permit Elks to “Push Them Around”.



For the third day in a row, the Sun City Elks served our local veterans. On Saturday, August 12, 2018, the Sun City Elks delivered 50, “my pillows”, to the M.A.N.A. house (Marine, Army, Navy, Airforce) fa-cility, a grand donation, from the “my pillow” org.

On Sunday, August 13, 2018, the Sun City Elks hosted a “magic show”, for the residents of the Arizona State Veterans home. On Monday, August 14, 2018, the Sun City Elks, “pushed” eleven (11) vets from the Arizona State Veterans Home, to the VA hospital, providing them with a breakfast of their choice, which they do not regularly get. Although the breakfast was a treat, the camaraderie between the vets and the Elks was far more important and enjoyable. The goal of the Elks is to try to make a better day for the vets and on this day they succeeded big time, as they have succeeded the entire

weekend.

God bless our vets, past and present, and God bless America.

Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks Veterans P.R. Chairman

Bullhead Elks---\$1,000 Donation



Bullhead City Elks donate \$1,000 to Academy Of Building Industries recently through the Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP). As our Lodge was able to meet the per capita of \$8, the Bullhead City Elks were granted \$2,000 by AEMP to give to our community and we singled out AOBI for half the grant. The other half will go to the Colorado River Concert series' Outreach program. Shown accepting the check from ARMP vice president Roy Haddick for \$1,000 is Principal Jean Thomas who said the money can be used in various ways that will benefit the 125 students in learning their craft or helping with supplies for wood or metal shop. One of the schools recent projects is turning an old school bus into a greenhouse which the goal is to raise their own greens for a salad a day for each students



dent. Ms Thomas shown standing by her bus greenhouse project.

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

Elks Care — Elks Share

Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Christmas in July

On July 28, 2018 the Entertainment Committee hosted a Christmas in July Benefit to raise funds for our Lodge Christmas Shopping Spree, and toy donations for Toys for Tots. The committee served 54 meals, collected more toys for Toys-for-Tots than the box could handle. In addition to the toys, the committee raised \$784.66 for our Lodge's Christmas Shopping Spree which will be held the first Saturday after Thanksgiving 2018.

Article and Photo submitted by Shawnee Carlile, Public Relations Chair



Ajo AZ 1576 Youth



Ajo Elks used a new Beacon Grant to make Chemo Care kits for children in local area hospitals! The superhero and car-toon totes were filled by members with everything from warm fleece blankets, lotion, colored pencils and crayons, Quea-y Pops and Sea Bands to Playdoh and journals. If we can make a child smile for even a minute during this ordeal, to provide any comfort, then we have succeed-ed!! AZ Elks say, "Be An Elk Every Day!"



Pic 1 PELK Helen Pyron table of playdoh

Pic 2 PER Bridget Rendon, Virginia Schnell, ER Kord Klinefelter, Lauren Elderly.

Veterans Home Visit



On August 26, 2018 the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Veterans Committee hosted an ice cream and pizza social for Veterans at the Tucson Veterans Home. 6 Volunteers served 35 Veterans that served in WWII, Korean War or Vietnam. The Committee served various types of pizza and delicious ice cream sundaes.

Article and Photos submitted by Shawnee Carlile, Public Relations Chair

Vets Magic Show



First you see it, then you don't, and for the magician, that was truer than you may expect as the magician, Ryan Fox, is legally blind.

That was the theme of the last magic show put on for the resident vets at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix, Arizona on Sunday, August 13, 2018. The magic show lasted just under an hour, but the vets in attendance loved it. Anything to break the same boring routine. Thirty six (36) vets, five (5) Elks, sixteen (16) volunteers and ten (10) aids attended the event. The show is an annual event put on by the Sun City Elks, in an attempt to bring a little cheer, to the vets in residence. In addition to the magic show, the vets were treated to servings of cake and ice cream, something they do not always get, but thoroughly enjoy

Picture caption:

Sitting in wheelchairs in front are two of the homes residents (names are forbidden), but both are army veterans, and the one on the right, holds a bronze star and Purple Heart. Standing on the left (in blue shirt), is Viet Nam Vet, Terry Hunt, U.S. Army purple Heart recipient; (in blue shirt in the rear) is Gary Drumheller, AZ. State Elks Veterans Chairman, Army Viet Nam Vet; to his left is the Blind Magician Ryan Fox, who is pleased to be able to entertain the vets; on the extreme right is Brian Sauro, Viet Nam army Ranger and also a Purple Heart recipient. On the table are nine bottles, pulled out of an "an alleged" empty bag. It is always a pleasure for the Sun City Elks to try to provide entertainment to the homes residents. God bless our vets, passed and present, and God bless America.

Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks P.R. Chairman, 623-326-0238

NOTICE

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Mailing of the Arizona Elks News has been discontinued.

It can be downloaded from the Arizona Elks Web Page at.

arizonaelksassociation.org