

Arizona Elks News

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

December, 2018



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"Be An Elk Everyday"

Happy Holidays Arizona Elks,

The season of giving is now upon us and my update for this month will focus on the first cardinal principal of our Order - "Charity". As the Holiday season approaches I am pausing for a moment to reflect on the many ways the individual Elks and Lodges across our State work to lessen the burdens of those among us in need. We demonstrate the generous and charitable spirit of the great heart of Elksdom within our membership by:

- 1.Charitable giving to children and families in need,
- 2.Supporting programs and providing drug awareness resources as well as scholarships to develop and foster talents of the next generation,
- 3.Honoring our commitment to veterans,
- 4.Supporting needs in our local communities, and
- 5..Assisting those affected by natural disaster



These good works, given from the heart, throughout the year take on special emphasis during the Season of Giving. The boundless charity of our programs demonstrates that selfless giving as nothing out of the ordinary for us as Elks – because for us, this spirit of giving is the very essence of Elksdom.

Even as the Eve of Christmas approaches there remains strife throughout the world, but for us we see a brightness and a happiness in the hearts and souls of people throughout our great State, placed there by the goodness and generosity of our works of charity. Our individual yearning is for peace and prosperity this season of Christmas, and for us there is greater hope and a greater love of man because of our charitable foundations.

Quote for the Month - "“We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give.” Winston Churchill

Remember – Grand Lodge Mandated Memorial Services will be performed at each Lodge on Sunday, December 2, 2018.

I know that you are working hard to keep my promise of +2 in membership, ENF per capita state-wide at \$10.00 and growing our lodges. Let me know how I can help.

2019 is fast approaching and Hoop Shoot season is upon us. I look forward to seeing you cheering on our “kids” at the District Shoots. We have so much work to do and I am proud to be working along-side and with you.

As your President and First Lady, Deb and we wish you and your family a blessed and joyous Christmas and a prosperous, safe and Happy New Year.

Fraternally,

Mike Murphy, President
AEA



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FOR 2017-2018
ARIZONA
ELKS
ASSOCIATION**

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Mike Murphy

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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

Sun City Elks Continue To Support Our Vets



Saturday October 19, 2018, was a very busy day indeed for the Sun city Elks.

The day started, with the Elks providing a lively fun filled morning, for the Vets at the Arizona State Veterans home residents, 4141 North S. Herrera Way in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Elks provided live entertainment, to the Vets at the home, by arranging the visit of a professional entertainment group, the "Re-Creations", a volunteer group, who have been entertaining our Vets since 1976.

The Elks organization has been supporting that group for 30 years.

Immediately following the show, five members of the Sun City Veterans committee, made a trip to the "Vets for Vets" facility, at 3400 Grand Ave., in Phoenix, Arizona.

The purpose on the visit was to deliver motorized wheel chairs to two of the residents of the facility, who were badly in need of some form of mobility.

The first chair, a "Liberty series 36" chair, that was five (5) years old, but had never been used. It belonged to a Sun City Elk Lodge member, who died before ever having used it. It just sat.

That chair was dedicated to Tyrone Marshall, an Air Force Viet Nam Vet.

The second chair, a "Hov-A-Round", was reserved for Mike Woods, an Army Viet Nam Vet.

Each chair new, was valued in excess of \$5,000.

Each chair was inspected and repaired, if needed, by the "Southwest Mobility" co. in Sun City. "Southwest mobility", partners with the Sun City Elks, by repairing and upgrading each chair brought to them, prior to delivering the chairs to the Vets in need.

The Sun City Lodge pays for the material required, and the "Southwest Mobility" co. provides the labor, absolutely free. In this case, both needed new batteries and a good cleaning.

God Bless our troops, past and present, God Bless all those who contribute their time or money to our Vets, and God Bless America.

Picture captions: (1) Tyrone Marshall, (White beard) seated, in his new "Liberty" chair. (standing left) Randy Roberts, case manager of the "Vets for Vets" facility, holding the Air Force flag; (right) Gary Drumheller, Az. Elks State Veterans Chairman holding the U.S. flag.

(2) Mike Woods, Army, Viet Nam Vet, seated on his new "Hov-A-Round" chair. (standing to the left, holding the Army flag), is Randy Roberts, case manager of the "Vets for Vets" facility. (right holding the U.S. flag), is Gary Drumheller, Az. State Elks Veterans Chairman and Viet Nam Vet.



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

Elks Halloween Party for AEMP



Bullhead City Elks Halloween party held to benefit Arizona Elks Major Projects, was a big success. The event was well attended and many dressed up in creative costumes. Our live band was *Kid & Nic* who are members of our Lodge and donated their time and talents. Kid was Popeye and Nicole was Olive Oyl which added to the fun. Bill Machon surprised us as the “local undertaker” and Mary O’Keefe dressed as Mrs. Dracula and they each won for best costume. The “Chain Gang” were awarded best group which comprised of prison guard Brian Horvath, prisoners Doodie Stufflebeam, Judy Allar, Susie Stillabower and Cheri Horvath as the prison chef.

Article and photos submitted by Terri Frear, PER, Public Relations Chair.

Casas Adobes Dictionary Presentation

Casas Adobes Exalted Ruler Bruce C. Van Den Eng and Leading Knight Kathy Aitchison present dictionaries to the students at the Academy of Math and Science in Tucson

Article and photo submitted by Ira Cohen, PER,



Arizona Elks Show Their Support!

The Elks of Arizona are proud to announce the next endorsed candidate for the prestigious position of Grand Exalted Ruler of Elkdom 2019 – 2020, is Robert Duitsman. As many of you know, Robert and his wife Beth, are from California.

To help show our support for Bob and for Area Seven an endorsement pin is available for purchase. These pins are selling for one pin for \$100.00 or two pins for \$150.00. In addition, with your participation you will receive an exclusive invitation to attend Bob and Beth’s congratulatory reception on Monday July 1st in St. Louis.

Be the first in your Lodge to proudly wear Bob’s endorsement pin at your next lodge meeting. You may contact either your District Leader’s to purchase pins or I may be reached either by email nukid@npgcable.com or by phone 928-753-5925. Checks should be made payable to (CHEA) California Hawaii Elks Association.

Thank you in advance for your continued support for the programs of *Elkdom*.

Jerry Grimes, Special Deputy

AEMP Raffle Winners

Happy Holiday season to my fellow Elks! As we enter into the new year, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your generous donations at the ER March during mid-year convention. Being that it was my first convention, I was floored by the generosity of each lodge and their dedication to AEMP. To say that it was a successful convention would be an understatement as we received nearly \$77,000! On top of the donations, I am proud to say that the winners of this year's raffle were all members of lodges in Arizona. The list of winners is as follows:

Grand Prize winner of the John Deere Gator: Bob and Tamera Hanson of Parker Lodge #1929

\$500: Rick Marking of Phoenix Lodge #335

\$300: Frank Lieberman of Sun City Lodge #2559

\$200: Matthew Young of Casa Grande Lodge #1957

\$100: Jerry Trammel of Wickenburg Lodge #2160

Congratulations to all of the winners!

As we near Christmas, I would like to encourage you all to continue in your generosity towards AEMP. Holiday's can be a difficult time for some families at the Steele Children's Research Center as they undergo various life-saving procedures and treatments. Your support will make the holidays a little bit brighter for the children in the hospital during the holidays.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year from all of us at Arizona Elks Major Projects!

*Please note that we have implemented new email addresses for the office of AEMP as we work on restructuring our website.

Katie Murdoch: katie@azelksmp.com, Cathy Wright: secretary@azelksmp.com, Ira Cohen: president@azelksmp.com,

Roy Haddick: vicepresident@azelksmp.com, Al Skorupski: plannedgiving@azelksmp.com

Article submitted by Katie Murdoch

When The Music Stopped...

When the Music Stopped... in Iraq. What a refreshing story after all the garbage we've been seeing and hearing regarding the NFL. (For those who are unaware: At all military base theaters, the National Anthem is played before the movie begins.)

This is written by a Chaplain in Iraq:

I recently attended a showing of 'Superman 3' here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium that we use for movies as well as memorial services and other large gatherings.

As is the custom at all military bases, we stood to attention when The National Anthem began before the main feature.

All was going well until three-quarters of the way through The National Anthem, the music stopped.

Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-to-22-year-olds back in the States? I imagine that there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and yell for the movie to begin. Of course, that is, only if they had stood for The National Anthem in the first place.

Here in Iraq 1,000 soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again, and the soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. Again, though, at the same point, the music stopped.. What would you expect 1,000 soldiers standing at attention to do? Frankly, I expected some laughter, and everyone would eventually sit down and wait for the movie to start.

No!! . . You could have heard a pin drop while every soldier continued to stand at attention.

Suddenly, there was a lone voice from the front of the auditorium, then a dozen voices, and soon the room was filled with the voices of a thousand soldiers, finishing where the recording left off:

"And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

It was the most inspiring moment I have had in Iraq, and I wanted you to know what kind of U.S. Soldiers are serving you! Remember them as they fight for us!

Pass this along as a reminder to others to be ever in prayer for all our soldiers serving us here at home and abroad. Many have already paid the ultimate price.

Written by Chaplain Jim Higgins, LSA Anaconda is at the Ballad Airport in Iraq, north of Baghdad

God Bless America and all
of our troops serving throughout the world.

Article submitted by Joyce Bianchini

Pinal County 4-H Donation

The Pinal County 4-H Club received a \$2000 grant thanks to the Arizona Elks Major Projects Foundation and the Casa Grande Elks Lodge. This program will bring robotics SPIN Clubs to Pinal County elementary schools through 4-H!! Pictured in the presentation is: (LtoR) CGV Elks Exalted Ruler: Bob Jaworski; Misti Todd, Pinal County 4-H, and AZ Elks West Vice President, Dan Snyder.

Article and picture submitted by Donna Johnson, Secretary



Tucson Veterans Donation



Casas Adobes Exalted Ruler Bruce C. Van Den Eng presents 46 new microwave ovens and several toasters to local Tucson veterans transitional housing. Pictured with Bruce are, l to r, Elizabeth Cox; Mandy Martell; Lucretia Vaughn, MD and Jodi Frederik. Funding for the microwaves came from the ENF Freedom Grant.

Article and photo submitted by Ira Cohen, PER

Elks have party for Special Olympics



Elks are happy to present 77 Walmart gift cards valued at \$25 each to the Special Olympic Athletes at the annual Halloween party hosted by the Bullhead City Elks recently. There were 30 or so in attendance and Wonder Woman and Captain America each did receive a gift card. All that were there enjoyed the karaoke provided by Elk Loyal Knight Susie Stillabower. Elks Chairman of the Trustees Marsha Haddick and the local Director of the Special Olympics Linette Cordell hosted the event.

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

Garden Of Phoenix Donation



Exalted Ruler Bruce C. Van Den Eng presents Arizona Elks Major Projects Community Reward check to Bette Jeppson, Principal of Carden Charter Elementary School of Tucson. AEMP President Ira Cohen assisted with the presentation.

Bullhead City Elks Join The Vets Parade



Bullhead City Elks support and honor our vets by participating in the annual Veteran's Parade recently. Thanks to Jim and Linda Pageau for preparing the float, Roy Haddick for portraying "Uncle Sam" and the Elk members and veterans who rode on the float. Shown are the Pageaus driving the float. Along with two vets and an Elk who are Navy mechanic Reese Van Dyke, a 43 year Elk Member Tom Miller and Army veteran Ken Pfannenstiel.

Article and photos submitted by Terri Frear, PER, Public Relations Chair

Social Welfare Membership Request

The AEA Social Welfare committee has consistently aided the needy and conducted the children's Christmas shopping spree with great success. We are presently looking to increase our membership, especially from the South and East Districts in order to balance representation throughout the state.

Those members interested should contact the state chairman Judi Melott 623-377-3339, the South chairman Robin Danielson 520-282-3133 or the East chairman Mary Greenwald 480-433-0932. Members from the North and West of course are always welcome.

We thank all Lodges for their participation in the basket raffles during the conventions and those members who frequent our Boutique there in order that we may add to the monies for the spree.

Gus Noble PER
AEA Social Welfare committee

December Planned Giving Article

I am interested in making a video of my 82-year-old parents' life story. With the holidays approaching, I thought this could be a neat gift to my older siblings, but I could use some help. What can you tell me?

A personal recording of your parents' life story could be a wonderful holiday gift and something you and your family could cherish the rest of your lives. Here are a few tips to help you get started.

What You Will Need

Your first step is to find out if your parents are willing to make a legacy video, which would entail you asking them a number of thoughtful questions about their lives in an interview format in front of a video recording device. If they are willing, all you will need is a smartphone or camcorder and a list of questions or prompts to get them talking.

Recording Equipment

If you have a smartphone, making a video of your parents' story is simple and free. However, you may want to invest in a "smartphone tripod" to hold the phone while you conduct the interview, and a "smartphone external microphone" to improve the audio quality. You can find these types of products online for under \$20.

Most smartphones today can record quality video and give you the ability to edit out the parts you do not want. You can also download a free video-editing app like Magisto or Adobe Premiere Clip to help you customize your video.

If you want a higher quality video, consider purchasing an HD camcorder. Sony, Panasonic and Canon are the top-rated brands, according to Consumer Reports. These can run anywhere from a few hundred dollars up to \$1,000 or more.

Questions and Prompts

To help you prepare your list of questions for your parents' video interview, go to the "**Have the Talk of a Lifetime**" website at TalkofaLifetime.org. This resource, created by the Funeral and Memorial Information Council, offers a free workbook that lists dozens of questions in different categories. Some of these include: earliest memories and childhood; significant people; proudest accomplishments; and most cherished objects. This will help you put together a wide variety of meaningful, open-ended questions.

Old photos of your parents, their family members and friends are also great to have on hand to jog your parents' memories and stimulate conversation.

After you select your questions and photos, be sure to share them with your parents ahead of time so they have some time to think about their answers. This will make the interview go much smoother.

Interview Tips

Arrange an interview time when your parents are rested and relaxed. Choose a quiet, comfortable place where you will not be interrupted. You may need several sessions to cover everything you want.

When you get started, ask your parents to introduce themselves and ask a warm-up question like "When and where were you born?" Then ease into your selected questions, but use them as a guide, not a script. If your parents go off topic, go with it. You can redirect them to your original question later. Think of it as a conversation; there is no right or wrong thing to talk about as long as it is meaningful to you and your parents.

Also, be prepared to ask follow-up questions or diverge from your question list if you are curious about something. If you would like to hear more, ask, "And then what happened?" or "How did that make you feel?" or "What were you thinking in that moment?"

Consider concluding your interview with some reflective questions, such as, "What legacy would you like to leave?" or "How do you want to be remembered?"

Alfred R. Skorupski, PSP
Arizona Elks Major Projects
Planned Giving Coordinator

Here's Among Us



At this time of year, when it is more appropriate than ever, to honor our vets, a local Vet and Elk member is recognized for his service to other Vets. The occasion occurred at the third annual, Veterans Day Recognition ceremony, held at the "Bethanys Gaite Ranch", outside of Prescott, Arizona.

"Bethanys Gaite Ranch" is an active 501c3 working ranch, that accepts rescue and abused animals, including horses, dogs, goats and other animals.

The purpose of the ranch is not solely to save animals, it also saves veterans.

Veterans, with disabilities, are accepted at the ranch to teach them how to train and care for animals. The animals are used for therapy, with an attempt to give the vets a means to occupy their time and to give them a sense of purpose in their lives. The ranch is

open to vets, active military, reserves and their families. It also assists children and teens.

The ranch began presenting awards to vets two years ago in an attempt to further recognize them. Eight individuals were recognized at the event, including military vets, first responders, police, fire, EMT and two spouses of military veterans.

This year, Gary Drumheller, one of our own local vets, was selected to join with eight others, in being recognized for their service. Gary is a Viet Nam Vet, the Arizona Elks State Veterans Chairman and a member of Sun City Elks Lodge #2559.

Gary has been active in veteran's activities for approximately nine years, and due to his association with the Elks Organization, has consistently raised over \$300,000 a year in non-perishable goods, for our local vets. Although Gary is still actively employed, he selflessly donates a considerable amount of his time and money, in an effort to make the lives of our vets a little more comfortable.

Through his efforts and fund raisers, Gary has arranged to send sixty five (65) WW11 and Korean War Vets to Washington D.C., to visit our nation's military monuments, Provided needy vets with motorized wheel chairs, manual wheel chairs, walkers and canes, taken vets to numerous Diamondbacks baseball games, bowling events, breakfasts, BBQ's and even Disney on Ice.

Gary and the Sun City Elk members, outfit at least 200 vet's living units per year, with furniture, appliances, beds and bedding, clothes and food.

When looking for a vet to be truly honored, "Bethanys Home Ranch's" program, to honor a "Hero Among Us", they could not have made a better choice.

Gary's motto is, "a vet should never have to eat on the floor, sit on the floor or sleep on the floor". Thank you Gary and thank you to every vet past or present.

Picture caption: Bob Wallace, Prescott Marine Corps Legion Commandant, (left in blue Jacket) Gary Drumheller, (center) Daryyl Croft, Mayor, Chino Valley, Arizona. (right in brown jacket)

Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks Veterans public relations chairman

Donation to Women's Warriors Project

Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 Exalted Ruler Bruce C. Van Den Eng presents \$500 check to Karen Kuciver, President of Women Warriors chapter in Tucson. Funding was from an ENF Grant.

Article and photo submitted by Ira Cohen, PER



Last Man Standing



The Elks Auxiliary's Candy Mochon hosted a new event called "Last Man Standing" which was well received by the all who were present. The raffle winner was the last person holding the last number called, hence the title "Last Man Standing." There were also winners at the 100th and 200th number called and each won \$25. Those lucky winners are Ken Whitaker and Vickie Eagan, but the big winner, taking home \$250 was Betty Day. What fun we had!

Article and photos submitted by Terri Frear, PER, Public Relations Chair

Halloween Party For Children



Halloween wouldn't be the same for many children in the Flagstaff area if they couldn't participate in a cakewalk, play other games, as well as win prizes and treats. Lodge 499 provides a safe and warm alternative to trick-or-treating, assisted by Boy Scout Troop 33. This year, we provided a fun evening for 50-55 children. The adult volunteers enjoyed interacting with the children and their parents. We were visited by the nicest families this year, and some of the parents even stayed after to help clean up!!

Photo captions:

(IMG_1863) Rae and John Bachrach, aka the El Dia De La Muertos duo

(IMG_1871) Randy Evans, Boy Scouts Liaison and Annual

Halloween Party planner Article and photo submitted by Debra Wheelis, Bugle Publisher.



Veterans Banquet



Approximately 80 people attended the Salute to Our Heroes Banquet on Nov. 10 to honor our Elk member veterans. Guest speakers included West District Vice President, Dan Snyder, and Casa Grande Justice of the Peace, the Honorable John Ellsworth.

Article and photo submitted by Donna Johnson, Secretary.

Donation To Kathy's Way

Ajo #1576 ER Kord Klinefelter hands a donation for \$1000.00 to Susan Lahm for Kaity's Way. The donation was made possible through the hard work of the Lodge members winning a Community Award from AZ Elks' Major Projects. Members chose Kaity's Way because of the important work they do teaching teens about safe & healthy relationships. Most importantly, what the red flags are and how to get help!

Article and photo submitted by Shali Haas.



Dictionaries Distribution



The Bullhead City Elks distributed Student Dictionaries to three rural schools recently. Black Mountain Elementary, Topock Elementary and Yucca Elementary third grade students each received a dictionary for their very own. Shown are students from Black Mountain and Topock.



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

Sun City Elks Honor Veterans Day

Honoring Vets is nothing new or original to Sun City Elk Lodge #2559 Members, it is indeed almost a daily event.

Rarely a day goes by, when Elk members do not contact the Sun City Elks lodge Veterans committee, to donate items of every nature, to support our Vets, Items such as cloths, furniture, appliances, bed and bedding, medical supplies food and cash.

It is estimated that approximately sixty (60) percent of the Sun City Elk members, both male and female, are military veterans and several more are first responders, police fire, EMT.

Giving to Vets is as normal to the Sun City Elk members as it is to enjoying the camaraderie of the lodge.

Twenty eight (28) Vets, from the Arizona State Veterans Home 4141 North S. Herrara Lane and the "Vets for Vets" facility, 3400 West Grand Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, were invited to the Sun City Elks Lodge, 10760 W. Union Hills Drive for a "Veterans Day", all you can eat spaghetti dinner, including rolls, salad and ice cream, and to thank those Vets and all the lodge Vets present at the dinner, for their service to our country.

Vets from both of those organizations, plus several others facilities, are regularly invited to the Elks lodge for dinners, as the Elks way of thanking them.

This dinner, however, was special, as it celebrated not only the 149th birthday of the Marine Corps, but also Veterans Day.

The Vets from the Arizona State Veterans home had their own bus transportation, to attend the dinner, but the Vets from the "Vets for Vets" facility, had none, and had to be picked up by Elk members in their own private vehicles. Not a problem, all were eager to assist.

On this Veterans Day, the Sun City Elks, would like to thank all Veterans, past and present for their patriotism and service to our country. God Bless them all.

(left to right as viewed) Gary Drumheller, Az. State Elks Veterans Chairman and Viet Nam Vet; Erin Jewell, Navy vet; Mike Walker, Air Force Vet; Ron Wilkins, Army Vet; Tyrone Marshall, Air Force Vet and Brandon Livingston, Navy Vet. All are from the "Vets For Vets" facility on Grand Ave. in Phoenix with the exception of Ron Wilkins, who is from the Az. State Veterans Home.

Article and photo submitted by Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks Veterans P.R. Chairman



Elks Deliver Dictionaries



Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 delivered 768 Dictionaries to third grade students through out the Casa Grande area.

Thanks to all that helped: Bob Jaworski ER, Jim Reeves, Donna Johnson, Ken Sample, Shirley Sample, Colleen Plutowski, Russ Squires, Vicki Squires, Linda Dodson, Yvonne Graham PER, Grover Ramsey PER, Denver Davis, Kate Schmidbauer, Mary Lou Turk, Barb Michaud, Barb Ponsi, Emily Reimer, Moe Tiedt and Calvin Fong!

Student Of The Month



The student of the month for October is Paul Kuzminsky, a senior at Mohave High School, received a certificate for his academic excellence. Kuzminsky will go to Arizona State Univ. in Lake Havasu to study business administration. Elizabeth Orth of MHS was unable to attend as well as Coleton Brook and Regan Broz of Mohave Accelerated Learning Center.

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

Ajo #1576 Elks Care, Elks Share



Ajo Lodge #1576 took this year's special Elks' 150th Anniversary Year Award Grant and spread it among the smaller, neediest non-profits in their community. The local Food Bank is burdened with high utility bills to keep the donations fresh. The Senior Center so it can make repairs and buy needed items. It is the only place for our elderly population to have any activities or lunches at. And the local All Volunteer



Fire Department, which always needs money to keep their operation moving forward. Each was awarded \$500.00.

ER Kord Klinefelter also hands over a \$1000 donation check to Mark Coyle from the Ajo/Gibson Fire Department from this year's Red & White Festival. The Fun-filled weekend is a lot of work and the fire department is a real lifesaver in helping make it happen!

Article and photo submitted by Shali Haas

Safe House Gratitude 2018-19

The Yuma Elks Lodge 476 used a Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation to donate \$2000.00 to the Safe House Shelter. The funds will be used to improve the security system at the shelter. Pictured from left: ER Ed Kromer, Safe House Director Jodi Wright, C.C.S./Shelter board member Sandy Ramos, and C.C.S. Executive Director Eva Mendez Counts.

Article and photo submitted by John Fuller.



A Final "Hoorah" To Veterans



It was all over but the shouting for Veterans Day 2018, but Sun City Elk Lodge members wanted 2018 to go out with a bang.

A final Veterans Day event was scheduled on November 17, 2018, at the Vets for Vets facility at 3400 W. Grand Avenue in phoenix.

A BBQ, of broasted chicken, baked beans, potato salad and of course, a verity of pies, all from the kitchen of the Elks Lodge, were delivered to the Grand Avenue facility for one last fling.

The Elks Veterans committee arrived about 12:30 PM and were greeted by a group of about thirty hungry vets.

Although the Elks were happy that those Vets were waiting for them, they were a bit disappointed as they were expecting more.

It didn't take long for that disappointment to evaporate however, as the Vets just continued to walk in.

In all, it is estimated that between Eighty (80) and ninety (90) finally

showed up and ate their fill.

Disappointment turned to joy as they just kept on coming and each and every one of them thanked the Elks for remembering them, not for this day only, but for remembering them throughout the year.

The Elks regularly invite the Vets from several local facility's, to the Elk Lodge, for all you can eat spaghetti dinners and "hamburger nights".

The Elks also take Vets to Diamondbacks baseball games and bowling events, all free to the Vets of course.

The next event bowling event is scheduled for December 16, 2018, when Vets from at least four facility's will be invited out for a day of fun, lunch and best of all, "SANTA", with all his gifts.

It would be great to have a number of patriots drop by, to observe the event, and to thank the Vets for all they have done for our country.

Happy Thanksgiving to all and to all a very Merry Christmas.

God Bless our Vets past and present, God Bless all Patriots wherever they may be, and God Bless America.

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

Picture captions:

Lester Thompson, Army Vet (with Walker), Claire Hudson, Joan McConnell and John McConnell, Viet Nam Vet and Elk Member as are Claire and Joan.

Alvin Barge, Marine, Viet Nam; Marty Huff, volunteer; Dave Wimmer, Navy Viet Nam Vet; Claire Hudson, Jackie Drumheller, Joan McConnell, all Elk member volunteers and far right, John McConnell, Army Viet Nam Vet and Elk Member. Alvin, Marty and Dave run the "Veterans, Women and Children's organization, which picks up all usable items to outfit Vets residences. They do so with a truck donated by Sun City Elks Lodge #2559.



Article and photos submitted by Val Bianchini, Public Relations Chair.

Fraternal Police Donation

The Yuma Elks 476 presented a check for \$10,000 to the Fraternal Order of Police for a monument to fallen officers. It is to be erected at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex. Pictured from left; Leading Knight Joanna Kromer, Fraternal President Eric Egan, and Exalted Ruler Ed Kromer.

Article and Photo Submitted by John Fuller.



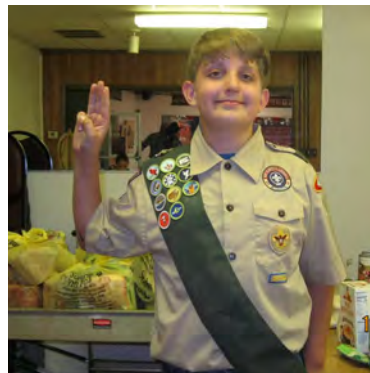
Free Breakfast For Veterans



Over 30 area veterans attended a free breakfast at the Green Valley Lodge #2592 as part of an early Veterans Day celebration. Shown here (l-r) Volunteers Naomi Grobe, Nancy Barney, Bruce Distler, Becky Baker and Dave Baker serve breakfast to a local Veteran and his wife.

Article and photo submitted by Annie Currie, Public Relations Chair.

Elks Hoedown



The Western Hoedown was a great success as always with the menu the star of the evening. Chef Don Cetani and his crew prepared the rib feast to perfection. Arizona State President Mike Murphy and wife Debra were the guests of honor and they enjoyed our Lodge and commented how active and welcoming we are. The Gad-A-Bouts sure know how to put on a good party. On a side note, Boy Scout Troop #104 Connor Ferrell was knocking on our door at about 5pm that evening to deliver about 100 pounds of nonperishable food to be used in our 75 food baskets for the needy this Christmas. This Scout Troop, who helps us with the Flag Day ceremony, is very much appreciated. Thanks!

Article and photos submitted by Terri Frear, PER, Public Relations Chair.

Tucson East Honors Veterans



On October 29th, Tucson East members helped with the sendoff at Tucson International Airport for Honor Flight veterans. Several members helped with check-in and baggage. They also held banners and cheered our veterans in addition to handing out flags. Tucson East sponsored 3 veterans for this flight. Pictured L to R: Brigid Sherbo, Tucson East Veterans Committee Chair and PER Ernie Dole USNR, tag luggage at Tucson International Airport for Honor Flight Veterans

Article and photo submitted by Mary Shaffer, Public Relations Chair.