

# Arizona Elks News

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

January, 2018



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## "Be An Elk Everyday"

Happy New Year Arizona Elks –

The year 2018 is now in the history books. I look forward to the opportunities that the coming year 2019 will bring for us as Arizona Elks. This is the time of year to take inventory to assure that we grow stronger lodges – both financially and numerically – and that we work together to demonstrate our spirit of service in our communities and with our programs. I believe that our strongest asset is our collective volunteering spirit.



George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens - citizens in the fullest sense; partners in civilization." The 1992 Elks Archive preserves a well-coming message from then President Bush at the Grand Lodge Convention held in Dallas, Texas where he saluted our proud tradition of service to our nation and for being points of light in our communities every day.

I expect you will be hearing from the State Chair's for Membership and ENF asking for status reports on your progress to date and your anticipated fundraising projects. I am counting on you to ensure we surpass my goals of increasing membership, supporting our Lodges and increasing support to the Elks National Foundation to \$10.00 per member.

This will be a busy month for our Lodges and District Chair's as each Saturday we hold the District Hoop Shoot Contests. The dates, times and locations are posted on the website in our AEA Calendar. Next month I will be able to report the district level winners. I hope to see you all there supporting our Youth for this cornerstone program.

It was interesting for me to find out that the ENF archives on the Grand Lodge Website report that in 1946 while observing a group of boys playing basketball the late Grand Exalted Ruler Frank Hise noticed that the smaller kids had a hard time keeping up with the others. To level this imbalance, he organized a free-throw contest where every kid could participate. On that day, the Elks Hoop Shoot was born. It was not until 1972 that the program held its first national finals in Kansas City, Missouri. This year the national finals will be held in Chicago, Illinois.

In closing, Deb and I wish each of you a Happy and Healthy New Year and thank each of you for your service to our Order and for your continuing commitment to the tenants of our Order in your work for Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

We have lots of work to do and I am proud to be working beside and for you.

Fraternally,  
Mike Murphy  
AEA President



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

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**Mike Murphy**

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**West: Dan Snyder**

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**North: Cheryl McKean**

**South: Ira Cohen**

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**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**

## Tucson East Soccer Shoot

October 14– District soccer shoot held at Jesse Owens Park. Three children from Tucson East placed, 2 first place winners and one third place. Pictured are 1<sup>st</sup> place winners Rebecca Frankel and Cypress Goetz.

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



## Breakfast For The Veterans



Local school, Liberty Elementary, reached out to the Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 about cooking breakfast for about 100 local Veterans. The Lodge donated the food, and lodge members Gary Miller, Steve Staudinger and Keith Coker cooked and delivered the sausage gravy, biscuits and scrambled eggs. It was much appreciated!

Article and photo submitted by Deanne Forney/ Lodge Secretary



## Sierra Vista Children's Shopping Spree



On Saturday, 24 November 2018 our Lodge hosted 22 Children for our Annual Children's Shopping Spree. Each child was taken to Wal-Mart and received \$150 of much needed clothing. After the shopping trip, everyone was treated to a hot lunch, and time with Santa. Our Lodge was able to raise funds through the ENF Promise Grant (\$2000), our Lodge entertainment committee and through our Annual Lodge yard sale.

Article and Photos submitted by Shawnee Carlile, Public Relations Chair





## Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Thanksgiving in a Bag

On Monday, 19 November the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge Volunteers came together to make 100 Feast in a Bag Thanksgiving dinners containing sides, pie, and a donated turkey, to feed hungry families in our community. The dinners will feed 100 families of 4-6 for the Holiday, and were delivered by Peach's Pantry, our local food pantry that provides much needed food for school-aged children that would otherwise go hungry over the weekends and Holidays. Food items were purchased with our \$2000 ENF Beacon Grant.

100 Feast in a Bags, Peach's Pantry staff, and pictured on the right had side: Lodge Secretary Barry Carlile Jr, PER, Member Robert Conte, PER Mike Ellingson, and taking the picture is PER Kenneth Adams.



Article and Photos submitted by Shawnee Carlile, Public Relations Chair

## Tucson East Trunk or Treat



October 27– Tucson East held its second annual Trunk or Treat event for Halloween hosted by the Tucson East #2532 Elk Riders. This event was open to the public and well attended by families in the neighborhood and children from our local schools.

Submitted by Mary I. Shaffer, Public Relations Chair

## Vets Love Elk Burgers

No, we are not talking about those beautiful animals, with the huge antlers, that run wild in the North Country, we are talking about the Sun City Elks, although we believe that they are beautiful also. The Veterans we are talking about are from the Arizona state Veterans home at 4141 North S. Herarra lane in Phoenix, Arizona. The occasion we are talking about is a visit by the Vets to the Sun City Elks Lodge at 10760 West Union Hills Drive in Peoria, Arizona. The Vets from the home love the burgers at the Elks Lodge and rarely miss an opportunity to visit, when the occasion arrives, as it did on Thursday, November 28, 2018.

On this occasion, 14 Vets and 3 aides, made their trek from the Veterans home to the Elks Lodge to enjoy an evening out and some fantastic burgers and fries.

This is the sixth visit, so far in 2018, by a Veterans organization, to enjoy a free meal and a bit of camaraderie, that includes, all you can eat spaghetti dinners pizza nights and burger nights.

The Veterans appreciation week may have officially ended, but with the Sun City Elks, Veterans appreciation is a seven day a week, 52 week a year activity.

God Bless our Veterans past and present, God Bless all true Patriots and God Bless America.

Picture caption: (left to right) Frank Alexander, army; Rich Bates, Army and Bill Gonzalez, Army, part of the 14 Vets who attended the dinner.

Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks P.R. Chairman



## January AEMP Article

*Does the VA provide any special burial benefits to veterans? My dad, who has late-stage Parkinson's disease, served during the Vietnam War in the 1960s.*

Most U.S. veterans are eligible for burial and memorial benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration. Veterans who were discharged are eligible, unless the discharge was under dishonorable conditions. To verify your dad's discharge, you will need a copy of his DD Form 214 "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," which you can request online at [Archives.gov/veterans](http://Archives.gov/veterans).

Here is a rundown of some of the different benefits that are available to veterans who pass away from a nonservice-related cause.

### **National Cemetery Benefits**

If your dad is eligible, and would like to be laid to rest in one of the 136 national or 111 grant-funded state and tribal VA cemeteries (see [www.cem.va.gov/cem/cems/listcem.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/cems/listcem.asp) for a list), the VA provides a host of benefits at no cost to the family, including: a gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual gravesite care, a government headstone or marker, a United States burial flag that can be used to drape over the casket or accompany the urn (after the funeral service, the flag is given to the next-of-kin as a keepsake) and a presidential memorial certificate.

National cemetery burial benefits are also available to spouses and dependents of veterans. Note that, if your dad is cremated, his remains will be buried or inurned in the same manner as casketed remains.

Funeral or cremation arrangements and costs are not, however, taken care of by the VA. They are the responsibility of the veteran's family. Some veterans' survivors are eligible for burial allowances, which are explained below.

If you are interested in this option, the VA offers a pre-need burial eligibility determination program at [www.cem.va.gov/pre-need](http://www.cem.va.gov/pre-need). You can also call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

### **Private Cemetery Benefits**

If your dad wants to be laid to rest in a private cemetery, the benefits available include a free government headstone or marker, or a medallion that can be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker, a burial flag and a presidential memorial certificate.

Funeral or cremation arrangements and costs are the responsibility of the family (some burial allowances may be available). Benefits are not available for spouses and dependents buried in private cemeteries.

### **Military Funeral Honors**

Another popular benefit available to eligible veterans buried in either a national or private cemetery is a military funeral honors ceremony. This includes an honor guard detail of at least two uniformed military persons, folding and presenting the U.S. burial flag to the veteran's survivors and the playing of Taps by a bugler or an electronic recording.

The funeral provider you choose will be able to assist you with all VA burial requests. Depending on what is desired, certain forms may need to be completed. For a complete rundown of burial and memorial benefits, eligibility details and required forms, visit [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov) or call 800-827-1000.

### **Burial Allowances**

In addition to the burial benefits, some veterans' survivors may also qualify for a \$300 burial allowance (or \$780 if hospitalized by the VA at the time of death). For those who choose to be laid to rest in a private cemetery, a \$780 allowance may be available to the veterans' survivors. To find out if your dad is eligible, see [Benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets/burials/burial.pdf](http://Benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets/burials/burial.pdf).

When the time comes to apply for burial allowances, you will need to fill out VA Form 21P-530 "Application for Burial Benefits." You will need to attach a copy of your dad's discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. You may download this form at [VA.gov/vaforms](http://VA.gov/vaforms).

Alfred Skorupski, PSP  
Planned Giving - AEMP



## Sun City Elks Remember The Spouse Of A Veteran



As so often happens, with the Sun City Elks, a veteran, or in this case his spouse, is in need of assistance and Sun City Elks Veterans committee is quick to respond.

The latest call for assistance came from Boyd Smith, just an average individual, who believes in helping others, only in this case, Boyd is not exactly average.

Boyd, is an individual that the Sun City Elks had helped a few months earlier.

Boyd was born without his left arm and his right arm is only a stub, also he has one good leg and the other is also a stub.

The Sun City Elks Veterans Committee met Boyd at the Southwest Mobility Store in Sun City, while he was shopping for a motorized vehicle, for obvious reasons. Boyd had little money and was negotiating for a used chair.

Enter the Sun City Elks. The Elks Were visiting the store as "Southwest Mobility" partners with the committee in repairing motorized chairs for veterans. Southwest repairs the chairs at no expense to the Sun City Committee, or the Vet. All that required payment was the material.

Boyd's story became even more complex a few years ago, when he found his home engulfed in flame. His entire family escaped the flames, but his granddaughter was nowhere in sight. Thinking she was still inside, Boyd' with his limited abilities, rushed inside to find her. She was

not inside, she had escaped, but was not readily seen. Boyd however, suffered sever burns to his good leg and face, but still considered himself blessed. His granddaughter was safe.

That is Boyd's personal story, but it continues to his neighborhood. While walking his dog about his neighborhood in his "new" Elks provided motorized wheelchair, Boyd happened to pass a neighbor's house and stopped to visit.

The neighbor, John Gloski, a 90 year old WW11 navy veteran, was distressed because his wife, 89 year old, Mary Gloski, could barely walk and was mostly confined to her home.

Knowing of the assistance that the Sun City Elks provides the Vets, Boyd called Gary Drumheller, the Elks Veterans chairman, and asked if they could be of assistance, of a motorized power wheel chair, he even offered to pay for the chair himself.

It only took about one week, when one of the Elk members donated a motorized chair.

After repairing and upgrading the chair, the Elks Committee delivered it to Mary.

John Gloski was aware of the gift, but his wife Mary was not.

When Mary was presented, with the chair, she burst into tears, thanking the Elks profusely.

At this time of year, when charity reigns most high, it is good to help your fellow man, to see the joy your good deeds have provided and to dwell in the knowledge of the blessings you know will eventually come your way for your thoughtfulness.

Mary Gloski sitting in her "new" motorized wheel chair(left), with Boyd Smith, also in his "new" motorized wheel chair. Standing behind is Gary Drumheller, Sun City Elks Veterans CHairman

God Bless all in this Christmas season.

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

## Ajo Supports Paradise Lodge

Ajo #1576 responded to our Brothers & Sisters in need from the Paradise Lodge. To help them rise from the ashes, we sent \$1000.00 to their Fire Relief Fund, along with our love and prayers.

Article submitted by Shali Haas PER



## Casa Grande Children's Shopping Spree



Casa Grande Valley Elk Lodge volunteers were up early on this Sunday morning to host a group of 25 children to a shopping excursion for Christmas! Each child received more than \$250 of needed clothing items and shoes. The children were then treated to a pizza party at the Lodge and a visit from Santa! This event is the result of funds raised at the rummage sale held annually at the Elks Lodge and a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

Article and photo submitted by Donna Johnson, Secretary

## Elroy the Elk

Elroy the Elk at Wal Mart Entertaining the Children participating in the Chino Valley Clothe a Child shopping spree. Don Polk is in the picture. Can you find him?

Article and photo submitted by Norman Swanty



## Students of the Month of November



The Bullhead City Elks are proud to honor those students who have achieved academic excellence for this past month. All are seniors and were presented a certificate to comerate the occasion. From left is Miranda Milstead who attends Mohave Accelerated Learning Center and will be attending NAU to possibly study dentistry or physiology, from Mohave High School are Sean Acosta and Josephine Marsmaker. Acosta has been accepted to 7 Universities and will study sports medicine once he chooses a school and Marsmaker will go to BYU to become an elementary school teacher.

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



## CATALINA MOUNTAIN SPONSORS KIDS SHOPPING SPREE

Christmas came early for students from Roadrunner Elementary School in the Marana Unified School District. On Saturday, December 8, thirty-five students had the unique opportunity to be treated to a shopping spree and holiday luncheon sponsored by Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815.

Lodge members and community volunteers greeted the students, grades K-6, and personally assisted each child with their clothing and shoe purchases at Oro Valley Marketplace Walmart Supercenter. The students were allowed to spend \$150 each.

Following the shopping spree, Roadrunner students attended a holiday luncheon party at Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge in Catalina. After the luncheon, students were visited by Santa and Mrs. Claus, who arrived in a Golder Ranch Fire District fire truck. The Fire District surprised the children this year with a firefighter hat. Each child received a toy from Santa and a bag full of school supplies and snacks.



Oro Valley Police Officer Wendy Davis, who is assigned to the School Resource Officer Unit, spoke to the students about the difference between good and bad drugs. Elroy the Elk accompanied her and distributed drug awareness literature.

Joyce Garcia, event chairperson of Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge said, "This is the twelfth year our Lodge has hosted this wonderful event for Roadrunner students and it is one of our favorite times of the year."

Pictured are the Roadrunner Elementary School students and teachers. Photo by Robert Hurt  
Article and photo submitted by Pat Cox, Public Relations Chair.

## Sopori Pizza Party for Drug Awareness

On October 25, 2018, during Red Ribbon Week, the Green Valley Elks Drug Awareness AEA Chairman, Jack Ponzo PER judged the annual Sopori Elementary School K-5 grades Drug Awareness Door Contest. The winners were judged for the best DA theme of "Drugs Take Away" from K-2 and 3-5 grades. The winner for K-2 grades was a first grade class of Mrs. Robin Kleinholz with the theme "Drugs Take Away". The winner for 3-5 grades was a fourth grade class of Mrs. Monica Schotts with the theme "Be A Hero Give Drugs Zero". Drug Awareness literature was distributed for 190 students and 23 school employees.

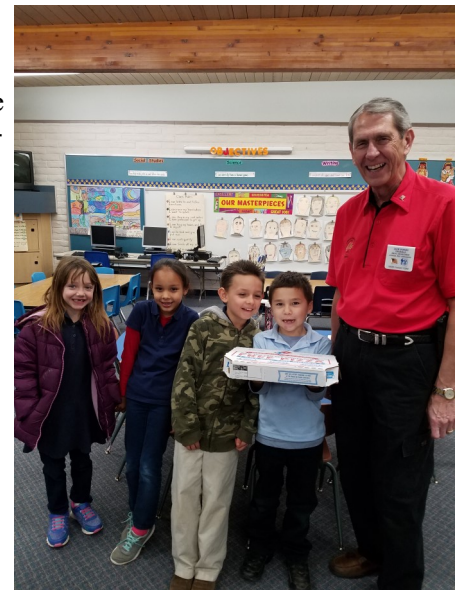
Each winning class received a Pizza Party from the Green Valley Elks Lodge on December 18, 2018. There were 2 Elk members, Jack Ponzo PER and Cheryl Ponzo PER, that distributed the 6 pizzas and water to the 2 winning classrooms. The pizzas were the hit of the day!

Photos:

Sopori pic 1<sup>st</sup> graders with pizza.

Lt to Rt

Jaymee, Guadalupe, Trevor, Ruben and Jack Ponzo PER, AEA Drug Awareness Chairman



Article and Photos submitted by Cheryl Ponzo PER

## Sun City Elks Lodge Presented Award by United Blood Services



It is normal for the Sun City Elks Lodge, to make gifts and presentations to others, but it is with deep humility, when it receives an award.

The Sun City Elks has many volunteer donation programs, such as a dictionary gift program, where approximately 1600 dictionaries are given to area third grade students, a scholarship program that awards \$30,000 per year, to graduating seniors, Students of the month and Teenager of the year awards, Drug awareness programs, to intermediate school students, Patriotic essay contests, a childrens shopping spree, where 50 children, are taken to "Penny's" for shopping,

Memory care programs for seniors, an organ donor program, a blood drive program, a food distribution program that feeds 25 needy families, for a full week at Christmas time and probably the best Veterans assistance program, by a fraternity organization, in the entire country.

With all of the myriad charitable activities, of the Sun City Elks, the receiving of an award, or even the expectation of receiving an award, never enters their minds, but recently, recognition of one of their activities was received.

At the last regular lodge meeting, a "volunteers for life award", was presented, to the Elks Lodge and its blood drive chair person, Joan McConnell. A "Silver Award Plaque", for the year 2017, was presented by the, "United Blood Services Organization", for "Honoring your life saving program in the community Blood Program".

Sun City Elks Lodge #2559, is proud, to assist their community in any way possible, and does not expect, or seek, to receive praise, or reward, for their activities, but the recognition given to the lodge is appreciated. Thank you "United Blood Services organization".

God Bless all during this Holiday Season, Merry Christmas to all.

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

## Presidential Volunteer Service Award

"Lake Havasu City Lodge Drug Awareness Chair Mike Arlowe (center) was presented the Presidential Volunteer Service Award recently. Mike was given this special award for devoting countless hours over many years to making children in our community aware of the dangers of drugs. He visits schools monthly and coordinates drug awareness essay and poster contests. He is at all special events, both Lodge and community, distributing literature about drug awareness and distributes Arizona Elks Association Red "Drug Free" ribbons to promote a drug free society. Mike is also the AEA West District Drug Awareness Chair. Pictured with Mike are DDGER-West District Steven Whitney and ER Mike Vail."





## Elks Care, Elks Share

Tis the season for sharing and Sun City Elk Lodge members take that sentiment to heart.

The Sun City Elks are widely known for their charity, when Veterans are involved, but the Elks do not restrict their charity giving to Veterans alone.

The main tenant, of the Organization of Elks, is to aid and support your community, regardless of where you live.

This tenant of the Elks is strongly endorsed by the Sun City Lodge, as was displayed on Friday, December 7, 2018.

On this day, a family of eight (8), was surprised when five (5) Elk members and four (4), members of the "Veterans for Veterans, women and Children", made an unannounced visit to Frank Garcia and his family.

The Garcia family, mother father, four girls and two boys, were totally surprised, when a pick-up-truck, with the logo of "Veterans for Veterans, etc.", labeled on their doors, pulled up to the Garcia family home, pulling a trailer full of home furnishings, all provided by Elk members and the "Veterans" group.

Frank was not a veteran, but that did not matter, they were a family in need.

The Garcia family is living in a two bedroom home with little in the line of necessities.

They had a washing machine, inoperable, a toaster oven for cooking, two king size beds, a refrigerator and little else.

The Elks delivered and set up three (3) bunk beds complete with mattresses, replaced the washing machine, provided a clothes dryer, microwave oven, TV, dish washer, bedding and dozens of items of clothing. When installing the appliances it was discovered that there were not enough electrical outlets to accommodate all that was delivered. Problem solved, a certified electrician was notified and will provide the required amenities.

To make the day even more complete, the family was given a Christmas tree complete with the required ornaments, 2, \$100 Visa gift cards, \$150 in Walmart gift cards and \$110 in cash, tips donated by the band "Boomerang", that played at the Elks Lodge the previous night.

It is said that, "the Lord works in mysterious ways". That was the case with the Garcia family.

Frank was observed trying to get donations at a recent car show, a minister, Pastor Horace Carter, noticed Frank and referred him to another individual that could possibly assist him. That individual, a "learning" minister, Pastor George Calderon, leader of the Soldiers

for Christ" church, in Avondale, Az., notified Mr. Dave Wimmer, director of the "Veterans for Veterans, Women and Children" organization, who in turn, notified Sun City Elks Lodge #2559, who work closely with Dave to assist our Veterans.

When notified of the purpose of the visit, Frank stated that, "he was speechless, he did not know what to say". His wife, Vanessa, said nothing, she just cried. Tears of joy, of course.

At this time of year, when giving is the norm, several people and organizations, joined together to assist their fellow man and to "bring cheer" to a family, who's father, had recently told his family, that there would be no Christmas this year as they had no money.

The "Lord" does indeed work in mysterious ways.

God Bless all this Christmas season and the best wishes of Sun City Elks Lodge #2559, are with you all this holiday season.

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



Garcia family being presented with gift cards by Gary Drumheller, Sun City Elks and State Veterans Chairman (left); far right, Terry Hunt, Elks Member and donator of a \$100 gift card; Frank Garcia in rear center; Vanessa next to Gary; and the six Garcia children, Elianna, 2years; Anthony, 5; Jenessa, 6; Hector, 7; Alieze 11 and Venida, 17.

Volunteers standing at truck loaded with the items for the Garcia family. Left, stand on ground, Larry ortez,; on truck in red shirt, Dave Wimmer, director of the "Veterans for Veterans, Women and Children: organization; Dale Blomker,; Elk member; Pastor George Calderon; Terry Hunt, Elk member, Gary Drumheller.

## My Day Is Full Filled, I Heard A Child's Laughter



The greatest joy most people can have, is to hear the laughter of children.

To surpass the joy of hearing the laughter of one child, is to hear to joy of fifty (50) children, and that is what happened on Tuesday, December 12, 2018, at Sun City Elks Lodge #2559. On that wonderful day, one hundred (100) Elk members, took fifty (50) needy children on a shopping spree to the penny's store in Glendale, Arizona.

The shopping spree is an annual event with the Elks Lodge and has been for many years.

Twenty five (25) children from the Country Meadows Elementary School and twenty five (25) children from the Arizona Charter Academy, were treated to a day that the children will not soon forget.

Immediately after their school session, the children were driven by bus from their individual schools to the penny's store, where they (actually their guardians) were each given a \$100 gift card, to purchase any item they chose, excluding toys and school supplies. Shoes were flying off of the shelves as if they had minds of their own. Winter coats were not far behind.

With the help of thrifty guardians, who headed for the sales racks, the children walked away with a large array of clothing. To sweeten the deal even further, the Penny's store knocked off an additional 20% from each item, making the days "haul" closer to \$150 worth of cloths, rather than the \$100 they started with. Following the shopping spree, the buses than drove the children to the Elks Lodge at 10760 W. Union Hills Dr. for a dinner of hot dogs, French fries, cookies and milk.



The excitement of receiving their treasures was a joy to behold, for both, the children and the guardians, but that excitement only escalated, when that Jolly old man, with the red outfit and long white beard arrived. Santa has arrived, bearing Christmas gifts for each and every child, thus the reason for not allowing the children to purchase toys.

The excitement, laughter and cheers of "Santa", that most in attendance hear, but once a year. It was a throwback to days of old for most in attendance, guardians, Elk volunteers and members. Each child's name was called and each politely approached Santa to receive their gifts (2), before returning to their respective tables, but what happened after the last name was called, was monumental for all, as every child, as if rehearsed, rushed back up to and gave Santa "huge" hugs and professed their love and belief in him.

Words were not necessary at this point, as the joy of the children needed no explanation.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

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

### Picture Captions:

Tree of the fifty children who approached Santa for presents. Santa (Aka Val Bianchini); Mrs. Clause (Aka Donna Barr.

Santa (aka) Val Bianchini; Mrs.Clause (aka Donna Barr); Back row, Santa's Elves, Janice Gale (left); Maryanne Guerrero; Sheree Gudgeon, Chairperson for the shopping spree, enjoying the day's activities with the children.



## Christmas For Disadvantaged Families



Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 put together Christmas dinner food boxes and distributed them to disadvantaged families in the Casa Grande area. Christmas toys for the children in these families were also delivered.

Article and photo submitted by Donna Johnson, Secretary.

## President Mick Murphy at Vets MANA House With Donations



Pictured are President Mike Murphy and First Lady Debra, Past President Jimmy S. Davis and his Lady Patty and members of the MANA House.



## Christmas For Veterans



The Veterans committee helped make Christmas a bit better for Veterans at the VA Hospital in Prescott, AZ. Each Veteran received gifts that included blankets and basic necessities among other things. Total amount of these packages was \$12,494.88. Accepting the gifts on behalf of all Veterans at the hospital from Elks Veterans Committee Chair Bud Watts (back row left) and Elk Member Kim McCoy (back row right) were Army Sgt. Venessa Rubio, who served from 2001 - 2007 with tours in Korea, Germany and Iraq, and Army E-4 Trent Parker who served in the Army 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq plus did two tours in Afghanistan from 2006 - 2011. They also accepted a new Play Station 4 Pro System.

On Veterans Day the Veterans Committee held a “free” hotdog/hamburger and fries for all Veterans in our community. During this event, the committee received donations in the amount of \$391.00 to be used for Christmas gifts for the Prescott VA Hospital. After contacting the VA Hospital, it was determined that their gaming system was so old that they could no longer purchase new games for their antiquated unit. Utilizing the \$391.00 donated at the Veterans Day luncheon along with additional funds provided by the Veterans Committee, a new Play Station 4 Pro system was purchased along with several new games for the Veterans in the VA Hospital. This new system was presented to the hospital staff along with many other gifts which were taken to the hospital on December 11<sup>th</sup>

and will be given to the Veterans being treated there on Christmas morning. I would like to thank those who generously donated to our Veterans during the Veterans Day event. Boredom is one of the major issues that has to be dealt with during the Christmas Holidays at the hospital. This new system will help brighten their days in the coming new year.

Article and photo submitted by Jackie Turcotte, Public Relations Chair.

## Donation To The CGV Boys And Girls Club

The Casa Grande Elks donated \$1930 to the Casa Grande Valley Boys and Girls Club. The money was raised from a poker run organized and managed by the Casa Grande Elks Riders. This donation will help fund the Arizona City Girls and Boys Club programs.

Pictured is (LtoR) Exalted Ruler, Bob Jaworski; Boys and Girls Club Director, Matt Lehmberg; and accepting the gratitude plaque from the Boys and Girls Club is Casa Grande Elks Riders President, Steve Tiedt



Article and photo submitted by Donna Johnson, Secretary

## Bullhead City Elks Hand Out Food



The Bullhead City Elks packed up 75 food boxes for the less fortunate in our community and they were gladly handed out on the Saturday before Christmas. Each box had a spiral cut ham, potatoes, apples, oranges, rice, beans, milk and bread along with many other non-perishables. Shown are Dan Barron and Charlie Place standing next to the oranges and Roy Haddick and Tom Miller packing the boxes one at a time.



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



## Christmas with Vets at the Arizona State Veterans Home



Monday, December 17, 2018, will be a date to remember by the Sun City Elks, and hopefully, by the residents at the Arizona State Veterans Home. On that day, the Sun City Elks put on the regular monthly bingo event for the Vets. The only difference was it was held on the third Monday of the month not the forth as is generally the case.

The Christmas Season dictated that the bingo event be moved up one week to avoid conflict with any Christmas plans by the staff at the home.

The regular bingo event generally sees twenty to twenty five Vets attend, but for some reason, this event ended up being a spectacular one.

Maybe it was because Santa was going to appear, maybe it was because the word got out that each Vet would be given a gift, or maybe it was because

the word got out that Bobby Freeman, organist for the Diamondbacks Baseball team, was going to be playing Christmas carols, or maybe it was because the Vets were bored and wanted to get out of their rooms.

Whatever the case, the Sun City Elks were over joyed at the attendance. The Vets just continued to show up until the room was packed and a total of forty two Vets arrived.

Normally the Elks put on four bingo games per visit, but on this day it was cut to two games, to allow time for Santa and the giving of gifts. After the two games, Bobby Freeman did his magic with the organ, playing Christmas carols and entertaining the Vets until Santa arrived bearing gifts.

Each Vet, whether in attendance or not, received a Christmas card containing a \$5.00 bill, each Vet was given a hand woven lap robe, and each Vet was given a hand written Christmas card giving them thanks for their service. The cards were gifts from third grade students from the Arizona State Charter Academy School in Surprise, Arizona.

It was a beautiful day for all, who had attended, and made that day, one of the best days ever, for the Sun City Elks, and hopefully, for the Veterans as well.

God Bless our Veterans, past or present, and God Bless America.

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

Picture captions:

Veteran Larry Chessin, Army, who spent two tours in Viet Nam and two tours in Germany (claimed that this picture was his one and only for the entire year), to his right, Santa's helper, Lorraine Gentile, Elk volunteer.

Santa (aKa) Val Bianchini; Bobby Freeman, Arizona Diamondbacks Baseball team organist, Gary Drumheller, Sun City and Az. State Elks Veterans Chairman



## Ajo Veterans Donation to the Vets



Ajo Lodge #1576 shopped away to fulfill the Christmas wishes for twenty residents of the AZ State Veterans Home at their annual Elk's Christmas Party. The Veteran's Committee also sent along \$500 worth of Cookies.

Article and photo submitted by Shali Haas, PER