

Arizona Elks News

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

April, 2018



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"Be An Elk Everyday"

Spring greetings Arizona Elks –

Well now we know - March left the desert southwest as a lamb. Warmer weather is upon us all across our great State and I for one am welcoming it.

My focus this month is about our second tenant "Justice", and my quote was once said by Robert Kennedy, "Every time you stand up for an ideal, you send forth a tiny ripple of hope". I think these words demonstrate what our Order stands for. We demonstrate justice in every Program we support as we judge applications, select recognition for awards and in our daily work within our home Lodges and in our Communities.



Our founding fathers demonstrated commitment to Justice in our "Ritual of Initiation" by assigning this responsibly to the Loyal Knight. When called upon to recite his or her duty the response is: To see that all Members are rewarded as they shall deserve, thereby exemplifying the motto of this station – Justice.

Justice is evident in everything we do and in preparing this message I found that much of GER Michael Leur's article in the Grand Lodge Newsletter for April offers us some guidance on the topic of Justice. He recommends, and I echo, that this is the time to get our houses in order. Some ideas include:

- Review Bylaws to identify areas that need to be updated
- Review House Rules to ensure they are written to protect the Lodge and ensure that they clearly define the rules Members are expected and required to follow
- Set goals to accomplish and identify areas that need attention
- Hold regular ongoing meetings with Lodge Officers and Committee members to set the years calendar and track accomplishments and needs

Taking care of these items early in the year will keep us all on solid ground for the 2019/2020 year. As the GER says, "Work hard, pay attention to details and follow through". Through all of this we will strengthen members confidence, build greater community trust and strengthen our foundation for moving forward.

I am sure you all know that the AEA has 2 shooters representing AREA 7 in the National Hoop Shoot event in Chicago this month. Remember you can watch progress on-line for the event and I know you will join us in cheering on our two shooters.

Now back to the broken record part. By the time you read this message our progress on 2 of the goals related to membership and support for ENF will be in the books. I look forward to reporting our progress to you at the May Convention and will be happy to see you all there celebrating your hard work and accomplishments.

With only a little over a month to go in the AEA Year I remain proud to be working with and for you. See you in May – and thank you for helping me to keep my promise to be an ELK every day and to supporting the Lodges in our State.

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-1Year:

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 Initiate 44 New Members



Tuesday, February 26, saw the Sun City Elks register the largest initiation class in its history.

Sun city Elks Lodge #2559 at 10760 W. Union Hills Drive in Sun City, already the fifth largest Elks lodge in the country, initiated 44 new members. The lodge generally initiates between 20-30 new members per month, this month was outstanding for this organization.

The lodge already has in excess of 3300 members, and this new group of initiates will increase that number even more.

Forty seven candidates, were originally scheduled to be initiated, but three dropped out for various reasons, and their initiations will be postponed to a time more fitting to their conditions.

The Elks Organization is a Benevolent and charitable organization and is dedicated to helping their community in every way possible.

The Sun City Lodge has been recognized for their charitable activities, by their "Mother Lodge" in Chicago, Illinois, and has already received Eight (8) awards, recognizing them as being, the "Best Lodge in the Country", they expect to receive #9 in July at the Elks Organizations annual convention.

That recognition comes with a plaque stating that they are an "All American Lodge", and the best in their category. (1501 members and above)

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

Chamber Mixer

Casa Grande Elks Lodge hosted the Chamber of Commerce Mixer on February 27, 2019. Elk committee chairs were in attendance to share information regarding various Elk programs and how these programs benefit the Casa Grande community.



Article and photo submitted by Donna Johnson, Secretary

Special Olympics Recipient

The Yuma Elks Lodge 476 helped a local athlete to participate in the World Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi, March 14-21, 2019. Conner Smith of Yuma is going to represent the U.S. on the Special Olympics basketball team, which this year is from the state of Arizona. Conner was selected from about seventy-five Arizona Special Olympic athletes as they went through an intensive 3-hour team tryout with the assistance of ASU men's and women's basketball coaching staff and players. Conner and his mother, Kelly, drove to Phoenix every Saturday for practice and last July Team Arizona participated in the USA Games in Seattle, WA. The Arizona team was then selected to represent the United States in the World Games in Abu Dhabi. Arizona will have 13 representatives participating including the team and on swimmer. Pictured from left; proud mother Kelly Smith, Conner, Exalted Ruler Ed Kromer, and Special Olympics District Chairman Joan Cendejas.



Drug Awareness Poster Contest



Casa Grande Elks hold an annual poster contest for their Drug Awareness program. Students are invited to submit a poster depicting their vision of what happens when you use drugs. The entry is judged on a local, district, and the winner on the national level is used in a pamphlet distributed to all schools nationwide.



1st Pic: LtoR: Janet Bishop, Drug Awareness Chair, Julie Holdworth, Principal, Mesquite School; Gage Hickey 3rd Grade Poster Winner, and Maureen Tiedt, Elk Member.

2nd Pic: LtoR: Janet Bishop, Drug Awareness Chair, Sarah Reyna, Grade 4 Poster Winner, Teacher Margaret Wootten, and Maureen Tiedt, Elk Member.

Article and photos submitted by Donna Johnson, Secretary

Elks Honor Students For March

Bullhead City Elks honored three seniors for their excellent academic performance in February. Shown from left is Gavin Valdivia, Tiger Lilyle Le, both from Mohave HS and from Mohave Accelerated Learning Center, Cassandra Hecht. Also from MALC Jonah Blackie-Brix who was unable to be here.

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



Helping Seniors Extend Their Driving Years

What tips or resources can you recommend to help seniors extend their driving years? My dad, who is 82, is still a decent driver, but I worry about his safety going forward.

With more than 40 million licensed drivers in the U.S. over the age of 65, there are many resources available today to help keep older drivers safe and behind the wheel longer. Here are some simple steps you can take to help keep your dad driving safely.

Get his eyes checked: Because about 90% of the information necessary to drive is received through our eyes, getting your dad's eyes checked every year to be sure his vision and eyewear is up to par is an important first step.

Check his meds: Does your dad take any medicine or combination of medicines that make him sleepy, light-headed or loopy? If so, make a list of all his medications (prescription and over-the-counter) and dietary supplements and take it to his doctor or pharmacist for review. You can also get help with this online at *RoadwiseRX.com*.

Evaluate his driving: To stay on top of any potential driving issues, you should take a ride with your dad from time-to-time and watch for problem areas. While you observe, ask yourself: Does he drive at inappropriate speeds, tailgate or drift between lanes? Does he have difficulty seeing, backing up or changing lanes? Does he react slowly, get confused easily or make poor driving decisions? For more tips, see the National Caregivers Library driving assessment checklist at *SeniorDriverChecklist.org*.

If your dad needs a more thorough evaluation, you can turn to a driver rehabilitation specialist who is trained to evaluate older drivers. This type of assessment typically costs between \$100 and \$200. To locate a professional in your area, visit *AOTA.org/older-driver* or *ADED.net*.

Take a refresher course: AAA and AARP both have older driver refresher courses that can help your dad tune-up his driving skills and learn how to adjust for slower reflexes, weaker vision and other age-related changes that affect driving. Taking a class may also earn him a discount on his auto insurance. To locate a class, contact your local AAA or AARP. Most courses cost around \$15 to \$30 and can be taken in the classroom or online.

Another good resource to look into is CarFit. This is a free assessment program that will help your dad adjust his vehicle for a better fit, making it easier and safer to drive. CarFit events are held around the country in select locations. See *Car-Fit.org* to look for one near you.

Make some adjustments: Recognizing your dad's driving vulnerabilities and making small changes to when and where he drives can go a long way to help keep him safe and driving longer. Adjustments may include not driving after dark or during rush hour traffic, avoiding major highways or other busy roads and not driving in poor weather conditions.

When it gets to the point that your dad's driving is not safe anymore and he needs to step away from the wheel, The Hartford Financial Services Group and MIT AgeLab offers two helpful resources. Visit The Hartford's website and click on "Publications" to download or order the "At the Crossroads" and "We Need to Talk" guides.

Al Skorupski, PSP
AEMP Planned Giving

The Wall That Heals



Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 donated \$2000 to bring The Wall That Heals to Casa Grande, AZ. Over thirty Elks acted as attendants around the clock. Standing in front of The Wall is (LtoR): John Zawacki, Barb Michaud, Kate Schmidbauer, Larry Schmidbauer, Bob Jaworski, Casa Grande Exalted Ruler, and Bob Quinn.

Article and photo submitted by Donna Johnson, Secretary

Vet Gives Car To Vet

Dan Flaherity, a winter visitor, who lives in Sun City West, is a Viet Nam Army Vet, who wished to help other Vets.

Dan is not an Elk member, but reached out to the Sun City Elks, to help him in his quest, as he was permanently leaving the state, but wanted to leave a gift behind.

The gift, a 2007, red, Chevy Impala.

Dan could have sold the vehicle, but instead, chose to donate it to a Vet, who might just be able to use a vehicle.

The exchange had to be done immediately, as Dan was leaving our fair state on Monday, March 11, 2019.

Not sure of how to accomplish this, Dan approached members of the Sun City West auto restoration club, to ask for assistance.

No one at the restoration club knew of a Vet in need of a vehicle, but did know of a person and an organization that would be able to help him.

The person and organization?

Gary Drumheller and the Sun City Elks Veterans Committee.

Dan contacted Gary on Friday, March 8, 2019, Gary contacted the US Vets Facility at 3400 W. Grand Ave. that same day and asked if they could use a vehicle. On Saturday March 9, 2019, the exchange was made.

The recipient of the cherry red Impala is himself an Army Viet Nam Vet., Pedro Alves, a resident of the Grand Avenue facility.

One Viet Nam Vet helping another Viet Nam Vet, Dan's wishes could not have been better.

Pedro, has been assisting other Vets for several years, helping them find clothes and dress properly, when auditioning for a job, unfortunately, he was presently without a means of transportation, so his ability to aide other vets fell by the wayside, unless they lived in his facility.

Pedro is normally a quiet taciturn individual, but on this day he was even more so, his expression, on being given the vehicle, "unbelievable".

Have a safe trip home Dan, and thank you.

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

Picture caption: (left to right standing in front of the Chevy Impala)

Gary Drumheller, Az.State Veterans Chairman and Viet Nam Vet, Mike Biggs, Army Vet and Case Manager at the Grand Avenue Facility, Dan Flaherity, Army Vet and donor of the vehicle and Pedro Alves, Army Vet and recipient of the vehicle.



Elks Honor Students



Bullhead City Elks honored three seniors for their excellent academic performance in February. Shown from left is Gavin Valdivia, Tiger Lilyle Le, both from Mohave HS and from Mohave Accelerated Learning Center, Cassandra Hecht. Also from MALC Jonah Blackie-Brix who was unable to be here.

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

Casino Night Fund Raiser



A recent fund raising event was held at the Sun City Elks a Lodge located at 10760 W. Union Hills DR. to help raise funds to send their Veterans to Washington D.C. on the Memorable "Honor Flight Program".

The lodge has already sent over seventy members on this flight to honor their sacrifices.

Approximately thirty seven (37) WW11 vets and approximately forty (40) Korean Ware vets have already made this flight and the lodge is seeking to send each and every lodge Vet, capable of making the flight, the opportunity to go.

Most WW11 and Korean War lodge Vets have already made the flight and the lodge is beginning to enroll it's Viet Nam Vets at this Time, but as new Vets from the previous wars pop up, they

will be given priority.

It costs the lodge \$1,150 to send each Vet on the trip.

The event in question was a "Casino Night" gala that saw over 150 members and guests attend.

The lodge raised in excess of \$3500, allowing the lodge to send 3 more Vets to Washington and still have a few dollars to spend on other Vets programs.

One such program is providing power wheel chairs and power scooters to Vets in need of them.

Elk members and friends donate the various chairs and scooters and the Sun City Elks take these items to the Southwest Mobility store at 15458 N. 99th. Ave. in Sun City for repair and upgrading.

Southwest mobility only charges the Elks for any parts required, but does all of the maintenance free of charge to the Elks, as their contribution to our Vets.

The money for the parts, plus food, clothing, bedding and appliances the Elks provide, come from its various fund raisers, and individual donations.

The entire Elks Organization, consider it their duty and responsibility, to assist our Vets in any way possible and work diligently to that end, living up to it's motto, "that as long as there are Veterans, they will never be forgotten".

Article and Photo submitted by Val Bianchini, Az. Elks West District Veterans P.R. Chairman, 623-326-0238

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge Donates to IMPACT Food Bank

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 used two Grand Lodge grants to purchase \$3,500 worth of food for the IMPACT of Southern Arizona food bank. Under the leadership of Catalina Mountain Elks Community Activities Coordinator Jan Trudeau, 30 lodge members assembled and delivered over 500 bags of food to IMPACT. The food will be distributed in March to underprivileged families in addition to their regular food allotment. IMPACT of SoAZ serves less fortunate families in SE Pinal County, Catalina, Oro Valley, Vail and surrounding communities. It is one of the primary charities that Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge supports



Article and photo submitted by Pat Cox, Public Relations Chair

Regional Hoop Shoot



On March 9th, 2019 the Arizona Elks stormed into Las Vegas for the Regional Hoop Shoot contest. Pictured above are the ones who traveled on the "Junk Food Express" and also some who drove them selves. When the dust had settled, 10-11 year old Champion Kenadi Stuart from Show Low Lodge #2090, a 3 time Regional Champion and Barron Stuart, 12-13 year old Champion from Chandler Lodge #2429 were declared Champions in the respective age groups. They now move on to the National Finals in Chicago, Ill. on April 27th, 2019. Barron also took home the Adrian Brubaker award which is awarded to the boy and girl that makes the most baskets. Barron made 24 out of 25. The other 4 contestants that represented Arizona also were very successful as they finished with 3 second places and 1 fourth. The 3 second places finished just 1 shot out of first each.

Also pictured is Mike Murphy, AEA President and Gregg Boyce, PDDGER and AEA Hoop Shoot Director
Pictures and article submitted by Gregg Boyce, PDDGER and AEA Hoop Shoot Director

Aux Fashion Show



The Auxiliary fashion show "Carnival" was a Hugh success! The luncheon, Asian Chicken salad, served to a sellout crowd and there were 27 gift baskets raffled to several lucky ladies. Ten lovely Auxiliary models show-cased five local stores at the gala event.

Who's behind the masks?

Behind the scenes model Valeri Clark has her make up donated by Tracey Lorkovic, a Mary Kay rep.

One of the basket winners was Fay Stamper which was delivered by Betty Day. Models Kathy Strand and Jan Zamaeipa show off their garments.



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

Sun City Elks offer Sequel To Vets Superbowl Party



Four days prior to the L111 Super Bowl, the Vets at the Cloud Break Veterans Facility at 950 E. Jones St. in south Phoenix, were having a difficult time acquiring food and snacks for their party.

Three days prior to the event, “Ace” Carter Transitional Health Supervisor at the Community Bridges Facility next door at 804 E. Jones Street, and who’s residents eat at the 850 Jones St. kitchen, contacted Gary Drumheller, Elks Lodge membership chairman, and asked for assistance.

Two days prior to the Superbowl party, the Sun City Elks Membership committee, delivered \$560 in food products to to kitchen, just in time for about 100 Vets to celebrate the event.

Last week the Elks were again called for assistance as the kitchen pantry “was almost bare.”

The Sun City Elks Veterans Committee had just about enough money left in it’s 2018-2019 budget, to lend a hand, meager as it may be.

As quickly as possible, the Elk members made a trip to a Walmart store within two miles of the Cloud Break facility, and purchased \$470 in food products, enough to sustain the kitchen for a few more days, until a new shipment of food was delivered to them.

The Sun City Elk budget may have been temporarily “blown”, but with the generosity of the Elk members, the budget would soon be viable again.

Donations to assist our Vets are a prime requisite within the Elks lodge, and it’s members have never let the Veterans Committee down.

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

Picture Captions:

(1) Terry Hunt, Army Viet Nam Vet, loads up the conveyor built at a Walmart Store. (The Walmart Store manager threw in an additional \$25 gift card to help with the purchases.

(2) Left to right as viewed: Jimmie Mason, chief chef at the kitchen; Terry Hunt Army, Viet Nam Vet; Rae Mason, assistant chef and Jimmies wife; Gary Drumheller, Army, Vet Nam Vet and Elks State Veterans Committee Chairman



Drug Awareness Poster and Essay Contest winners

On March 20, 2019 Jack Ponzo PER –Arizona Elks Association Drug Awareness chairman presented Continental Elementary School awards for the best Drug Awareness Poster and Essay contests to 6 Continental students at a school assembly. Each student winner received either a Drug Awareness Soccer ball or a Drug Awareness Basketball.

Poster winners:

3rd Grade 1st place - Leah Deason, 4th Grade 1st place – Madeline Flowers, 5th Grade 1st place – Monica Ontiveros

Essay winners:

6th Grade 1st place – Kayleanna Renshaw, 7th Grade 1st place – Portia Bentley, 8th Grade 1st place – Anyssa Glabe

Then Jack Ponzo PER presented a special award to Kayleanna Renshaw for the best Drug Awareness Essay Contest for the state of Arizona. She received a plaque and a momentary

check. Her essay will be submitted to the Drug Awareness National competition.

There were ~ 400 students and ~ 150 parents and teachers present at the assembly.

No Drug Awareness information was distributed.

Article and photo submitted by Cheryl Ponzo PER

Photo: Lt to Rt Kayleanna Renshaw and Jack Ponzo – PER and Arizona Elks Association Drug Awareness Chairman



April 2019 Major Projects Newsletter

I would like to personally thank all of the lodges who generously donated their time in helping with 4th Avenue Street Fair in March! The continued efforts from dedicated lodges in assisting with this busy event is greatly appreciated and our community presence is always well received!

As we enter into spring and summer, I am making great effort to increase our community presence across the state of Arizona. I was featured on the local news in Tucson for our sponsorship of the annual Autism Walk and Resource Fair which gave me the opportunity to share how truly amazing the Elks are in their mission of bettering the lives of children. Our support of the Autism Walk not only benefits children who are seen at the Steele Children's Research Center, but also benefits us as an organization to spread the word on who we are and what we do as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The walk was a huge success and I would love to find other opportunities around the state to do the same. If you have any ideas or recommendations, please email me at katie@azelksmp.com.

I would also like to offer my assistance in helping with events that benefit AEMP with your lodge. I consider it an honor to be included in your efforts to raise money for the Steele Children's Research Center and the Jack C. Warter Youth Camp so please don't hesitate to reach out to me with your needs. I am always in awe of all that you have done and continue to do for your Major Projects. If any lodges need more raffle tickets and/or posters, please contact the office at (520) 326-0556 and we will be sure to send more out to you. I will also be bringing extras to the May convention for anyone who might need them. It has been very exciting putting the tickets into the raffle drum!

Be sure to check out the new website at www.azelksmp.com !!

Katie Murdoch

Executive Director, AEMP

Hoop Shoot Suns Game



On March 1st our six champions along with other Hoop Shoot competitors were treated to a Suns game. 80 Elks and parents, grand parents, aunts, uncles, and friends gathered to celebrate the AEA Hoop Shoot Night with the Suns. Although the Suns came out on the wrong end of the score the Hoop Shooters had a ball. They were on the floor for the National anthem in front of the New Orleans Pelicans players. The

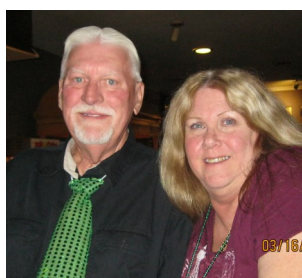
response from our Champions was that those guys are really tall. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

pictures and article presented by Gregg Boyce, PDDGER and AEA Hoop Shoot Director



Article and pictures submitted by Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director

Bullhead City Elks #2408 St. Patrick's Day



The House Committee did it again---they put on a great St. Patty's Day dinner dance. The corned beef and cabbage dinner was cooked to perfection and Grace Black and the Class Act band did not disappoint. We ate, we danced and we definitely had fun with our friends. Here are some of the party goer's! Jan & Charlie Greer, Marla Beck & Barbara Brusegaard, Dan Barron & Debbie Kittleman, Marsha & Roy Haddick.

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

Hoop Shoot Semi-Finalists – March 8 & 10



Arizona semi-finalists had lunch at the Elks before going to Las Vegas for competition and back again from Las Vegas. Who won for Arizona?

Jerry and Linda Grimes accompanied the “Junk Food Express” (bus) of semi finalists and their families to the Regional Hoop Shoot in Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 8 for the weekend. Region 7 Hoop Shoot included semi-finalists from California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Hawaii.

State Hoop Shoot Director, Gregg Boyce, from Show Low, AZ Lodge #2090 also accompanied our Semi Finalists to the regional competition in Las Vegas and back. Kingman Elks Lodge 468, 900 Gates Avenue, Kingman, AZ, provided free lunch on March 8 and March 10 to families and

contestants.

This year, Arizona has two WINNERS! Kenadi Stuart (girls 10-11 group) sponsored by Show Low Lodge #2090 and Barron Silsby (boys 12-13 group) sponsored by Chandler Lodge 2429. The Chandler Elks Riders also joined them in support!

The Arizona Lodges that sponsored Elks Hoop Shoot were: Kearney, Chandler, Show low, Chino Valley, Tempe, Pinal Mountain (Miami/Globe), Payson, Raceway Lodge (Avondale, AZ), Apache Junction, Coolidge-Florence, Tucson Lodge #385, Jerome and the Elks Kingman Lodge 468



Kenadi Stuart and Barron Silsby. Barron was Arizona State Champion four times in a row but only now made it all the way to the National Finals for 2019. His T-shirt was specially made by Chandler Elks Lodge. Congratulations to both winners!

Article and photos submitted by Sarah Pleth, Editor 468

Golf Committee Donation



The Yuma Elks Lodge 476 donated \$4000.00 to the Right Turn Vets. The funds were raised by the Lodge's Golf Committee. The Right Turn Vets provide housing for Veterans in transition from the military and homeless Vets. Pictured from left; Committeeman Steve Schulte, Exalted Ruler Ed Kromer, RTV Director Judy Smith, RTV Councelor Richy Rubi, Committeemen Gary Gist, Dean Wolf, and Kieth Neinase.

Article and photo submitted by John Fuller

Humane Society Donation

Yuma Elks Lodge 476 presented a check for \$8000.00 to the Humane Society of Yuma. The funds will be used to repair floors that need treatment to keep from becoming contaminated. Pictured from left; Lodge Trustee Louie Hirth, HSOY Board member David McHone, and Exalted Ruler Ed Kromer.

Article and photo submitted by John Fuller



Catalina Mountain Sponsors Easter Shopping Spree



Easter came early for students from Roadrunner Elementary School in the Marana Unified School District. On Saturday, March 9, twenty-five students were treated to a shopping spree and luncheon sponsored by Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge. At the luncheon, the students were surprised by a visit from the Easter Bunny (Debbie Conover), who distributed Easter Baskets filled with goodies. They also received a bag of school supplies.

Oro Valley School Resource Police Officer Wendy Davis was guest speaker and talked to the students about making healthy choices and the dangers of drug abuse. The students received Drug Prevention information packets to take home.

Robert Hurt, who has been involved with the Roadrunner School project for many years, noticed that the school's United States flag was aging. He purchased a new one and presented it to Principal Kristina Brewer at the event. Principal Brewer said, "The heartfelt generosity that is continually shown by these wonderful Elks Lodge members makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our students."

Project Chairperson Joyce Garcia said, "This is the first time our Lodge has hosted this event in the spring. For the past twelve years, we have enjoyed offering a special Holiday shopping spree for Roadrunner students in December. It always fills our heart to give to these students."

Pictured are shopping volunteers. Photo by Robert Hurt

Article and photo submitted by Pat Cox, Public Relations Chair

Eagle Scout Award



The Eagle Scout Award was presented to Geoffrey Tobias at Double V Scout Ranch in Tucson AZ. He was presented with a homemade Eagle Flag that was made by a member of the Lodge. Geoffrey was thrilled to receive this Eagle Flag and requested that it be donated to Troop 739. He hopes that all scouts in the Troop that make the rank of Eagle will have their names to be added to the flag.

Left to Right: Sally Frankel, Youth Activities Chairman; Jack Erickson III, Adult Boy Scout; Aaron Crandall, Brent Sigafus, Eagle Scout Geoffrey Tobias; Jamie Hussell, Boy Scouts Leader.

Article and photos submitted by Mary Shaffer, Public Relations Chair

Sun City Delivers Power Scooter To Vet



There was another cry for assistance from one of our local Vets, and again the cry went out to the Sun City Elks Veterans Committee.

John Till, a navy Veteran and a five year resident at the U.S. Veterans facility at 3400 W. Grand Ave., in Phoenix, Arizona, was in dire need of a new power scooter, hopefully, a larger one, and he made an appeal to the Sun City Elks Lodge.

This is not the first time that an appeal was made to the Elks as several power chairs and two golf carts had been presented to the facility over the past few years.

The golf carts were given to the facility for transportation of the Vets and for use by their security members to patrol the grounds.

The donation of the power chairs is obvious, in this recent case, John had an aging three wheeled scooter, and as it turns out, three wheel scooters have a tendency to turn over, John as happened to John on several occasions.

The new scooter is larger, more powerful and most of all, has four wheels, making it far more dependable and safer.

John was delighted and very appreciative of his new chair and stated that the Sun City Elks went, "above and beyond" his expectations. Also stating, "this is fantastic, thank you, thank you".

To the Sun City Elks Membership Committee, the words were gratifying, but the look of joy on John's face, could not be more satisfying.

The Elks again lived up to the Elks Organization Motto, "that as long as there are veterans, they will never be forgotten."

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

Picture caption: John Till sitting in his new power scooter, flanked on the left by Terry Hunt, Viet Nam Army Vet and Purple Heart recipient and on the right by Gary Drumheller, Arizona Elks State Veterans Chairman and Army Viet Nam Vet.

Freedom Grant Donation

Utilizing Freedom Grant money the Tucson East #2532 Veterans Chair, Brigid Sherbo, partnered with the Department of Housing and Urban Development -Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing commonly referred to as (HUD-VASH). The HUD-VASH program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Services are provided for participating Veterans at VA medical centers and community-based outreach clinics. She requested the names and addresses of 10 Veterans in this program who were in need of food boxes. With names in hand we filled 2-3 boxes per family and included a \$25 Walmart for future needs. As the second part of our Freedom Grant the Lodge filled Care Packages which are being sent to forward deployed Airmen from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.



Preparing the food boxes for delivery. L to R: Megin Goetz, Mary Shaffer and Ed Deschaines

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