# Arizona Elks News

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

June 2019



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# "Elks are Patriotic Americans!"

My fellow Arizona Elks,

As we begin our monthly visits, let me start by again thanking you all for the flattering honor of allowing Mary and I to serve you and our great organization as your President and First Lady. As promised previously, we will both do our utmost to try to be worthy of your confidence.

As I write this Mary and I are on our way to attend the California-Hawaii Elks convention and are facing a short deadline to get this to you. As a result, and inasmuch as a number of you had requested a copy of our Acceptance Remarks at last week's convention, I have captured the same below as the subject matter of this month's visit. I hope you'll find the reading worthwhile and I look forward to next month's visit.

#### **ACCEPTANCE REMARKS**

My fellow members and our guests with your indulgence I would like to share a few comments of introduction and thanks and briefly recap our outlook for the coming year.

First of all, many thanks to all of you for extending your stay at this convention and being part of this installation. Sharing in the changing of the guard means an awful lot to all of us especially the new administration and we thank you all for spending the additional time to be a part of it and making it a special day.

Also, many thanks to brother Homer Sylvers and his installing officers. Most of you probably do not know but Brother Homer and myself share the same Exalted Ruler class of 1985-86, and brother Homer it was an honor to have you serve as our installing grand along with Brothers Jerry Grimes, Al Skorupski and Jimmy Davis and Lee Schwein. Thank you all for assisting in our installation.

Further I want to thank our baby Lodge Raceway # 2852, of which I am a proud member, for the flattering demonstration they conducted during the program. Would the participating members of Raceway please stand - as a personal favor can I ask we all recognize them with a round of applause for their enhancement of our program?

Before going further, lest I forget, I would like to thank and introduce the person who supports all I try to do in Elkdom your First Lady this year and mine for almost 50 years my wife Mary -Mary would you wave to the crowd please thank you. (Introduce the Family if present).

Most certainly I want to thank the Past Presidents of our great Association both for their counsel and guidance and for the privilege of allowing me to speak to you today.

## "Elks are Patriotic Americans!"

President's Message Continued:

I would especially like to recognize Past Presidents Richard Conway and Jack Lawrence for their tutelage as my district leaders for all my time in Arizona, and a special thank you posthumously to Brother Charlie Serventi who counseled me through three years as one of his DDGER's.

As important, I would like to thank all of you my fellow members in our great association for the honor and privilege to serve as your President for the coming year. It is truly a day of heady wine for Mary, myself and our family, and it is a flattering pleasure, privilege and honor to serve. Mary and I promise to work diligently in the coming year to be worthy of your confidence

As we go forward this year, there are six areas that I would like to keep in focus. The first is membership. Two years ago, we surprised Grand Lodge and to some extent maybe even ourselves in posting a substantial membership gain. This past year we again posted an additional membership increase. Keeping all of that in mind, I would like to stress commitment to our +1program and the goal of gaining in membership in all our Lodges, and again, as a state, show a substantial gain for our order. Our State Chair Diana Adams and her vice chairs stand ready to assist in any way they can, but keep in mind that membership is an obligation we all have in our Lodges.

Next, I would like to see each Lodge focus on a specific need that they can fill in their communities. Encourage your membership to help in identifying specific areas where Elks can make a difference. During the process, always keep in mind the Elks National Foundation grants as part of your program and seek a special way in which you can leave your community wood piles taller than you find them. As regards our Elks national foundation program, I would like to establish a per capita goal of \$8.75 for the coming year. This is a mild stretch goal over the generosity shown by the membership last year, but I feel with the work Jack Baillargeon and his Vice Chairs as well as the commitment and generosity of our Lodges it is very achievable.

Our major project program has seen significant growth under excellent leadership over the past years. I challenge all of our Lodges to continue that growth with an average per capita increase of \$10.00 from all sources. We have a very active board of directors and with the help of all of the committees in our Lodges and the generosity of our members I'm confident we can continue the excellent support for both the Steel Research Center and support for Tom and Judy Miller and their many volunteers in the operation of our camp.

In the area of Veterans Services we are blessed in this association with leadership that is not only credentialed in our Elks Association but also in the state of Arizona and with the VA. If you attended the opening session of our convention you heard of the commitment of this leadership. Brothers Gary Drumheller, Henry Brown, Bill Carr and David Gnuschke along with Mary Schafer and their colleagues are an excellent source of support for all of our Lodges. So, if you feel you need to rebuild, reorganize, or simply rejuvenate the Veterans Program in your Lodge this committee is an excellent source of support and guidance. I urge you to feel free to contact them for help.

## "Elks are Patriotic Americans!"

President's Message Continued:

The last, but for me most certainly not the least, area of focus I would identify, for lack of a better term, as the patriotic education of our youth. You know, if Pres. Ronald Reagan wasn't the first to warn us, he was certainly among the most eloquent when he reminded, and I quote:

"Freedom is never more than one generation from extinction. We cannot pass it along in the bloodstream. The only way the next generation can experience the freedoms we have known is if we fight for it, defend it, protect it, and then hand it off to them with the well taught lessons of how they in their lifetime must do the same."

My fellow members and our guests I believe we have all encountered, to varying degrees, the extent to which reconstruction historians have invaded our schools and educational institutions teaching our youth that they should be ashamed of their heritage and apologize for their citizenship. Hardly the well taught lessons to which President Reagan referred.

I believe it is incumbent on all of us to seek creative ways to marry our disciplines of Americanism and Youth Activities and join organizations like Hillsdale College, Wall Builders and The Heritage Institute in promulgating the real story that is the proud heritage of our great country. I've already witnessed some of our Lodges, whether consciously or unconsciously, working toward this end. For instance, Phoenix 335 and Wickenburg 2160 in working with our youth have also rejuvenated the *Antlers* program and introduced our youth to Elkdom in the process.

Still I have witnessed other Lodges modify our Flag Day ritual and take it into our elementary and junior high schools where the story and pageantry of the flags have focused the students attention on the history and proud message of the *Response*.

I believe this effort is truly worthy of the attention of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks because, after all, Elks are patriotic Americans. And *Elks are patriotic Americans* will serve as the motto and theme of our coming year.

With this said, we begin.

Fraternally,

Dan Snyder, President Arizona Elks Association



# ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION 2019-2020 STATE OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT:

Dan Snyder

#### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

South: Richard "Rich" Botkin

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

North: Gregg Boyce West: Albert "Al" Kayal East: Dennis Appel

#### **SECRETARY:**

Peter K. Gillespie PSP

#### TREASURER:

Alane Asp

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

West-1Year:

Richard Conway, PSP

North-2 Year:

Leland "Lee" R. Schwein, PSP

South- 3 Year:

Alfred R Skorupski, PSP

East-4 Year:

John F James, PSP

North- 5 Year:

Edward Leuer, PSP

#### SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Valentino Bianchini

#### **CHAPLAIN:**

David Quackenbush

#### TILER:

Mari Slocum

#### INNER GUARD:

Sammy Birdsong, Jr.

#### ASST. SEC/TREASURER:

Leslie O'Brien

#### **PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Dwayne Cunningham

#### **ORGANIST:**

Hugh Dixon

## Sun City #2559 Elks Keep Vets Flying

Monday, April 29,2019, saw Sun City Elks Lodge 2559, 10760 W. Union Hills Dr. in Sun City, send another four Veterans from their Lodge, on the historic "HONOR FLIGHT" program.

The "Honor Flight" program is a program in which, a Veteran is flown to Washington D.C., to visit the monuments there, which were built in their honor.

The flight lasts three days and includes air flight mileage, lodging, food and entertainment, all paid for by the Sun City Lodge members.

Funds for the flights are secured through fund raising events in the Lodge. It costs the Lodge \$1150.00 to send each Vet on this memorable flight, an expense the Lodge is proud to pay.

Over the last seven years, the Lodge has sent approximately 75 Vets on this flight, 31 WWII and 34 Korean War Vets.

The Lodge feels that it has sent all of the WWII Lodge member Vets on this flight, who were physically able to go, and are now working, to send each and every one of their Korean War Vets also. When that task is accomplished, the Lodge will begin sending their Viet Nam Vets on the flight. Hopefully, some of the present Lodge members, on the Veterans committee, will still be around to see all of the Lodges Veterans so honored.

This program is consubstantial, with the goals and motto of the Elks, "As long as there are Veterans, they will never be forgotten".

Submitted by: Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks Veterans P.R. Chairman



Picture Caption: Four Korean War Veterans, (in Gold shirts) pose before the "Honor Flight" signs. Left to right as viewed; Terry Hunt, Elks Veterans Committee member and Viet Nam Vet; Carl Lewis, U.S. Army; George Romaine, U.S. Army; Robert Pearlman, U.S. Army; John Elkardt, U.S. Navy; Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks Veterans P.R. Chairman.

## Ajo #1576 Elks use Beacon Grant for Chemo Kits



Ajo Elks Lodge #1576 completed the second round of their Beacon Grant, making 40 Chemo Care Kits to be distributed through Diamond Children's Hospitals Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant units. The brightly colored kits contain a plethora of soothing and fun things made up for both teens & younger kids! Aria Pongratz, MPH, came out to the Lodge to pick up the bags! The Lodge & community are excited to see these go out to the children!

Submitted By: Shali Haas, PER

Pictured L-R: Tom Pyron, Chaplain Virginia Schnell, Helen Pyron, Aria Pongratz, MPH Program Coordinator Department of Pediatrics, and Kord Klinefelter PER

#### Lake Havasu #2399 Elkettes Donate to Veterans Court

The Elkettes made a \$1,000.00 donation to the Veterans Court which provides guidance to veterans who have had legal problems.

**Submitted By:** Jackie Turcotte, Public Relations Lake Havasu City Elks Lodge #2399

Pictured L-R: Elkette President Eva D. Fox, Military Moms President Cindy Ritter, and Veterans Court Judge Mike Dunbar.



## Lake Havasu #2399 Elkettes Donate to the Junior Bowling League



Using proceeds from their 52 Week Club, the Elkettes donated \$500.00 to the Junior Bowlers Program, which provides a safe and structured environment for enthusiastic young bowlers.

**Submitted By:** Jackie Turcotte, Public Relations Lake Havasu City Elks Lodge #2399

Pictured are: Back row: Coaches Rhodanne Abbott and Don Schrecengost and Elkette President Eva D. Fox. Front row: Junior Bowlers Matthew Balbin, Donnie Ward and Talon Davis

## Green Valley #2592 Elks Donate to Sahuarita Food Bank



Green Valley Elks #2592 recently donated \$633.00 to the Sahuarita Food Bank. The donation will go towards purchasing food similar to the items in the picture.

Submitted By: Annie Hall, PR Chair

Pictured L-R: Inner Guard Chris Mahaffy, PR Chair Annie Currie, Community Activities Chair Mari Hodges, Food Bank Director Penny Pestle and Exalted Ruler Brent Mahaffy

### Green Valley #2592 Elks Supports Boy Scouts Summer Camp

Green Valley Elks #2592 gave \$1079., which was part of the proceeds from a recent rummage sale, to help send four Boy Scouts to summer camp in Colorado.

Submitted By: Annie Hall, PR Chair

Pictured Back row L-R: Assistant Scoutmaster Luis Vijarro, Ricardo Manriquez, James Voss, Scoutmaster of Sahuarita Troop #365 Robert Garcia and Exalted Ruler Brent Mahaffy. Front Row L-R: Community Activities Chairman Mari Hodges, Joshua Voss and Issac Dominiques.



### Sierra Vista #2065 and Boy Scout Troop 444 Repair Lodge Fence



Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Exalted Ruler Renee Concodora, and Lodge Secretary Barry "Bear" Carlile Jr. PER, teamed up with our Boy Scout Troop 444, and their Scout Leader and Elk, Scott Pierce to re-construct the fence out in front of the Lodge. They spent an evening fixing and treating the wood, rebuilding the fence, and will continue to add reinforcements. The fence serves as a soft barrier to protect our Lodge and the Military Service plaques located in front of the Lodge.

Submitted By: Shawnee Carlile, PR Chair

Pictured: Repaired fence line and Military Service plaques

## Sierra Vista #2065 Elks Use Gratitude Grant for Project Graduation

Our Elks Lodge Project Graduation chairmen, presented a \$1500 ENF Gratitude Grant check to the Tombstone High School Project Graduation committee on 8 April 2019 and a \$2000 ENF Gratitude check to the Buena High School Project Graduation committee on 15 April 2019.

The committees will use the funds to support the Tombstone High School and Buena High School graduates, in providing them an unforgettable safe graduation event. Graduation night is on 23 May 2019, at 7pm. The committees meet every Monday evening for planning and coordinating the Project Graduation event for the estimated 60 Tombstone High School graduates and over 400 for Buena High School. We have requested the Project Graduation committees provide an after-action report on their event. The information received will be included as a follow-up to the ENF final report for this Gratitude Grant

Submitted By: Harry Brown PER and Michael Ellingson PER, Project Graduation Co-Chairs.



Pictured L-R: Michael Ellingson PER, Project Graduation co-chair, Exalted Ruler Renee Concodora, Dennis Bielicki Fundraising Chair, Jessica Gateman Buena PG Chair, Joe Farmer Treasurer, and Harry Brown PER, Project Graduation co-chair.



Pictured L-R: Michael Ellingson PER, Project Graduation co-chair, Andrea White Tombstone Project Graduation Chairman, and Harry Brown PER, Project Graduation co-chair.

#### 2019 Yuma Elks Lodge #476 Scholarship Awards

The Yuma Elks Lodge #476 presented a record 14 scholarships to 13 local students. Four of the scholarships came from the Past Exalted Rulers and the rest from the Elks National Foundation. Four students will attend AWC, three to the U. of Arizona, one U.S.C., one to Yale, and one to Harvard.

Submitted by: Arlene Fornoff, PR Yuma Lodge



Pictured from left; Gary Gist Exalted Ruler, Joan Cendejas P.E.R. president, Samantha Nieto, Bailey Navy, Araceli Padilla, Saul Diaz, Kevin Espinoza, Alvaro Hernandez, Abiela Conde, Jillian Kravitz, Jose Monjardin, Leilani Wesley, Jackie Kravitz and John Kinnel Scholarship committee. Not pictured; Anny Zhen, Briana Terrazas, and Mariana Valencia.

## Bullhead City Elks #2408 Honor Students

The Bullhead City Elks are happy to reveal the "Student of the Year" for the three area high schools. From Mohave Accelerated Learning Center are Joseph B Evans and Sierra L Demers, from Mohave H S are Sean Acosta and Brianna Lipinski and from River Valley H S are Seth Solano and Ryann Glenn. Most Valuable Student-Arizona scholarship for \$1,100 was awarded to Brianna Lipinski. All received many other awarded and are destined for greatness.







## Bullhead City Elks #2408 Auxiliary Scholarships Awarded

The Bullhead City Elks Auxiliary #2408 Past President Kathleen Clemens awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to five students at \$1,000 each. From Mohave H S is Anthony Arellano, Kendall Williams and Maddisyn Myers, Yolanda Barajas was not available for photo. And from Academy of Building Industries is Lawrence G Wiegele. All received numerous awards which reinforced our decisions.

Submitted by: Terri Frear, PR Chair







## Kingman Elks Lodge #468 received Recognition from JAVC



JAVC presented a plaque to the Elks Lodge 468 for the help that Elks volunteers gave them. They cooked and served the veterans and their families at the Tri-State Stand-Down on March 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Trustee Nani Chrimes, who is also a volunteer member of Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council (JAVC), mentioned that Elks Volunteers saved the day for the event on March 1 and March 2 and she presented the plaque on behalf of JAVC to PER Bill Riehle on May 8, 2019 to be place on the Lodge wall.

Operation 6 is going strong. Pat Farrell thanks them very, very much and so do the Veterans they served!

JAVC help Veterans and their families for housing, health services and support.

**Submitted by:** Sarah Pleth, Elks Editor 468

#### Kingman Elks Lodge #468 Awards 7 Scholarships



Pictured at left the Elks Scholarship Committee (Nani Chrimes) was honored to present scholarships at the Kingman Academy of Learning (KAOL) on Thursday, May 16, 2019, to Ashton Gatineau and Amanda Villeso.

Ashton's Senior Project was to collect at least 500 books for the University of Arizona Steele Children's Research Center; he received over 1,000 books. Steele is a place where internationally recognized researchers work together to solve the medical problems that plague our children. The Kingman Elks collect books, baby blankets and caps, stuffed animals, etc. every year for the children treated at Steele. Ashton exemplified the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity with this project. He was awarded a \$1,000 local Lodge scholarship.

Amanda applied for the Arizona Elks Association Most Valuable Student Award through our Elks on-line system. Any

graduating senior may apply for the Elks Local, State and/or National Scholarship Awards and actually can receive all three if selected at the different levels. Congratulations to Amanda for winning a \$1,100 scholarship award from the State level competition.

At Lee Williams High School on Tuesday, May 14, Kathy and Bob Taylor presented \$1,000 Kingman Lodge scholarships to Matthew Bathauer, Michael Bathauer, and Katelyn Kirby. All three of these graduating Seniors have been very active in the Kingman Elks Lodge programs – helping serve at dining events, fundraisers, and Christmas food baskets assembly and delivery. Their Elk parents have encouraged them to be "good Elks family members" who help their community. In addition, all three of them received the Legacy Award Scholarship from the Elks National Foundation as children or grandchildren of active Elks. The students must apply on-line to compete for this \$4,000 scholarship which is renewable if they meet the annual criteria.

Submitted by: Sarah Pleth, PR Chair



## Catalina Mountain #2815 Awards Scholarships

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge Scholarship Chairman Roger Mastro presented \$1,600 Elks National Foundation scholarships to two outstanding high school seniors, Joseph Weichsel, Canyon Del Oro High School, and McKinley Severson, Pusch Ridge Christian Academy at a Youth Awards ceremony in May. Both scholarship recipients plan to attend the University of Arizona.

The Lodge also awarded a total of \$4,000 in scholarships distributed among five students pursuing higher education or technical training. The students receiving these awards were Peggy Brownlee, University of Arizona; Travis Dobbin, University of Notre Dame; Madison Johnson, Grand Canyon University; Lili Oland, University of Arizona; and, Aaron Peck, Butler University.

Submitted by: Pat Cox, PR Chairman



Pictured are (from left) Exalted Ruler Gloria Cisneros, Everest Severson (McKinley's brother), Joseph Weichsel, and Scholarship Chairman Roger Mastro.

### Holbrook Elks Lodge #2450 Delivers Dictionaries to Students



Jim and Elvera Hall, Holbrook Elks Lodge #2450, delivered dictionaries to the Joseph City School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. Pictured is teacher's aide Pat Pogue. Jim and Elvera, along with Phil Cobb, also delivered dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Holbrook and Indian Wells.

Submitted by: Bev Goodnight, PER / Secretary

## Lake Havasu Elks Lodge #2399 Elkettes Donate to Pet Sanctuary

The Elkettes, from Lake Havasu City Lodge #2399, donated \$500.00 to R&R Pet Sanctuary to provide veterinary needs to pets under their care. R&R provides a loving and safe forever home to elderly and special needs pets that are not likely to be adopted due to their needs.

Submitted by: Jackie Turcotte, PR Chair



Pictured are front: Chasen Kurth cradling DeLanna and R&R Co-Founder Rich Crayne holding Dodge. Back are R&R Co-Founder Rachel Kurth holding Daisy, Elkette President Eva D. Fox making friends with Piggy and Elks Loyal Knight Chuck Fox with Lassie.

#### Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592 Host Memorial Day Ceremony

Green Valley Elks #2592 took part in an hour-long Memorial Day program along with other local patriotic and service groups. Over 100 community members attended the solemn ceremony at the local cemetery. Shown (l-r) after placing the Lodge remembrance wreath are Exalted Ruler Brent Mahaffy and Americanism Chairman Peter Kmiec.

Submitted by: Annie Currie, PR Chair



## Raceway Elks Lodge #2852 Donates to Onward Hope

On Saturday May 18th, Chuck Waugh, ER, Carrie Waugh, PER, Chris Gillies, Loyal Knight, and Christine Gillies presented a check to Onward Hope at a function being held by Onward Hope celebrating Parent Appreciation. The check presented was proceeds from the Elk's Lodge Chili Cook Off held February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Onward Hope is an organization that works with children that have been placed in foster care. They help adults become foster parents and they work with biological parents that have had their children removed from their home to take the necessary steps to get their children back. For more information go to <a href="https://www.onwardhope.org">www.onwardhope.org</a>

Submitted by: Robin Cox, Lodge Newsletter Editor



## Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Donates to the Gold Star Memorial

On May 4, 2019, members of the Veterans Committee of Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 attended a groundbreaking ceremony of the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation Gold Star Families Memorial at the Southern Arizona Veterans Cemetery. The memorial will honor families that have lost a loved one in service to their country. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries from Sierra Vista, Fort Huachuca, and Phoenix. Following the ceremony the Veterans Committee Chairman for years 2018-2019, Bob Conte, and current Chairman 2019-2020, Ben Granado, presented a check in the amount of \$1000.00 to Heather Hocker, founder and president of Gold Star Mothers of Cochise County.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, PR Chair



#### Arizona Elks Major Projects News

First and foremost, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your generous contributions to AEMP during May convention. The amount of joy and gratitude felt during the ER March is unlike any other. It reminds us all of what it truly means to be an Elk and for that, I am so very proud.

I would also like to showcase a longtime Elk who is going the distance for Major Projects, both literally and figuratively. 89-year-old Vince Kopec has been a member of Sierra Vista Elks Lodge for over 50 years and is embarking on a 427-mile bike race across Iowa to raise money for AEMP. The race is July 21<sup>st</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> with each day more challenging than the last.

You may remember Vince from a few years back when he did the Bisbee 1000 Stair Climb while carrying his walker on his back. In true Elk fashion, Vince will be donating 100% of the monies raised to AEMP. He exemplifies the true meaning of charitable giving and I am honored to have the privilege of assisting him in his efforts to raise money for the children of Arizona so I challenge each and every one of you and your Lodges to help me, help Vince. Hats off to Vince and being an inspiration to us all!

To donate, head to our website at <u>www.azelksmp.com</u> and click on his picture under the "events" section or send checks to our office (4545 E 5<sup>th</sup> St, Tucson, AZ, 85711) specifying that it is for Vince's fundraiser.

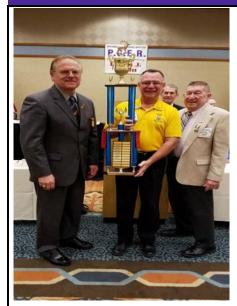
Fraternally,

Katie Murdoch Executive Director



Pictured: Vince Kopec, Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065

# Highlights from the AEA Annual State Convention







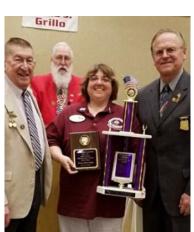














## Arizona Elks Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles either via e-mail at: aeanewsletter@arizonaelks.org or through the online submission form found at the Arizona Elks Association website: <a href="https://arizonaelksassociation.org/az-elks-news/">https://arizonaelksassociation.org/az-elks-news/</a>

The following will need to be included with the submission:

Lodge Number:

Submitted by:

All news items and photos must include the following information:

Name of event:

Number of people recognized/given awards:

Dollar amounts given, if applicable:

If six or fewer honorees, their names and titles:

A brief description of what happened (community events):

If a fund-raiser, the amount raised:

If a fund-raiser, what organizations/individuals benefited:

The Deadline for the AEA Newsletter is the 25th of each month. Articles submitted after the 25th will be added to the following month's newsletter.

Thank you!