

# Arizona Elks News

The Arizona Elks News is an official publication of the Arizona Elks Association

August 2019



## *“Elks are Patriotic Americans”*

My fellow Arizona Elks, as we move into August, we are definitely in the *dog days of summer*. I hope all of you have taken this opportunity to join your fellow Elks at the Lodge for good friendship and fellowship in a much cooler environment.



Before we move into August, I would be remiss if we didn't take a moment to look back at July. As most of you know our Grand Lodge Convention took place last month and with the support of all of you, I had the honor and privilege of carrying the Arizona State Flag in the opening ceremonies. Further, we witnessed the installation of our new Grand Exalted Ruler. He is from Area Seven and as most of you know his name is Robert “Bob” Duitsman. I have had the pleasure of dealing with Brother Bob on a number of occasions while he was part of our Grand Lodge Judiciary committee. In my opinion we could not have put our order in better hands and under his leadership I am sure our organization will flourish.

Brother Bob has chosen as his motto for the coming year “Honoring the past – Embracing the Future.” As our Grand Exalted Ruler has said in the past, his motto focuses on keeping us mindful of the many great works we have accomplished over the past 150 years and with the spirit of optimism moving forward together to grow our membership, work our programs, and promote our brand.

Our grand Lodge session also found three of our Arizona Elks Lodges recipients of the All-American Lodge award. As we commented last month, this is a proud achievement for all of us as Arizona Elks. There are only six of these awards recognized in the country and we can be proud to say that 50% of them reside in the state of Arizona. I believe we recognize those Lodges last month, but it bears repeating; in Division I Raceway Lodge # 2852 received the award. In Division IV Phoenix Lodge #335 was also a winner. And in Division VI Sun City Lodge # 2559 was also a winner. All three of these Lodges reprised their role as All-American Lodges. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them. I encourage all of our Lodges to participate in the All-American Lodge contest and in our Arizona Elks Association Lodge of the Year program. Taking the time to track your accomplishments and tally your score might very well surprise your membership. All of you are doing excellent work in your communities and with your membership and keeping track of your progress and success is likely the key to achievement in this area.

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**AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:**  
25 August 2019.

aeaneewsletter  
@arizonaelks.org



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## 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

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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

## *"Elks are Patriotic Americans"*

Continued from page 1.

As we move into August, our Lodge Visitations are in full swing. Please work with your Vice Presidents on getting these visitations scheduled if they have not been already. Our Lodge visitations are aimed at learning what you are doing in your Lodge with success and how those successes are achieved. We share that information with other Lodges who may very well benefit from your experience. We are also there to assist you in any way possible with difficulties you may be encountering especially in relationships with the administration of our State Association. Another thing that I would encourage all of you to do during these visitations is to attend the business meetings that usually take place in the afternoon before a Lodge function.

Let me close our visit this month with a prophetic quote from Pres. Theodore Roosevelt:

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble you wouldn't sit for a month"

Until next month always remember "Elks are patriotic Americans."

Fraternally

Dan Snyder, President AEA



Join us at our Arizona Elks Association Mid-Year Convention. 18-20 October 2019 at the DoubleTree in Tempe, AZ. Registration forms are online, and can be downloaded by using the following link: <https://arizonaelksassociation.org/state-committees/meetings/>

## ‘Needle Wielders benefit AEMP and NICU’

There is a group of ladies who meet regularly at the Pyle Adult Center in Tempe. They knit, crochet and quilt, and their products are distributed to needy people here in the valley. They also make helmet liners for our troops serving in the military. Every May and October, PSP Jimmy S. Davis and former First Lady Patty visit the center and receive a large bag of caps, blankets and booties the ladies have created for the Steele Children’s Research Center Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Tucson. They have supplied these items for many years and so, Jimmy and Patty along with Exalted Ruler Georgiana Gersley from the Tempe Lodge, presented the group with a certificate of appreciation for their dedicated and continued support of the preemies in the NICU. The Arizona Elks Association and the Arizona Elks Major Projects are deeply indebted to, and truly appreciate these ladies’ efforts.

*Submitted by:* Jimmy Davis, PSP

## “Sun City Elks #2559 receives Highest Award in Elkdom”

At the recently completed Elks national convention, June 30-July 3, 2019, the Sun City Elks received the highest and most prestigious award in all of Elkdom, “The All American Lodge Award”. This award is given to only those Lodges that have excelled in their local programs and who have given the most to their individual communities.

The Sun City Elks Lodge has programs fitted to each segment of our society, from the very youngest to the more senior and every age group in between.

Drug Awareness programs are provided to k-3rd. Grades, Patriotic Essay contests for 3-6 th. Grades, Students of the month awards for High Schoolers, Teenagers of the year and scholarships for graduating seniors. Last year the Sun City elks Lodge awarded \$30, 000 in scholarships to these senior students. Cash and non-cash awards are given to each of the other programs. There is a committee which visits 19 memory care units, giving each resident a stuffed animal, and lest we forget, the Sun City Elks boast the best Veterans program in the country, catering to Vets in the State Veteran home, Veterans hospital and at least 6 individual Veterans Facilities, scattered throughout the Phoenix area.

This is the ninth (9th) time that Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 has received this award and includes the last five (5) years in a row.

The Sun City Elks Lodge was not alone in receiving this award, as three other Elk Lodges received similar awards. The awards are based on the size of the Lodge, in an attempt to give all Lodges, a fair shot of winning the award. The Arizona State Elks association has 43 Lodges, and six of those Lodges won awards, making the Arizona Lodges the best in the country, and the Sun City Lodge members believe that they are, “Best of the Best”, because of their programs and have nine (9) awards to back them up.

*Submitted by:* Val Bianchini, Elks West District Veterans coordinator and P.R. Chairman.



Pictured Left: Bill Hudson (center) receiving award, (right) William Schran, Administrator of the “ALL American Contest”, and Dennis Ramsey, Chairman of the Elks Fraternal Committee.

Pictured Right: Dennis Ramsey, (left) Bill Hudson, Exalted Ruler of Sun City; Thom R. Strupp, Exalted Ruler of Phoenix; Chuck Waugh, Exalted Ruler of Raceway.





## **“Show Low Elks #2090 Earns Top Prize at Independence Day Parade”**

The Show Low Elks Lodge entered a float in the local Independence Day parade, and we were informed that we won the "Judges' Choice Award" for best float! The float was spearheaded by member, Larry Legge, and, with the help of several members, the idea took hold and the float created. On the day of the parade fifteen Elks members, spouses and family members participated in the float. Walkers passed out candy, Elks Lodge brochures, flyers about the next event at the lodge and Drug Awareness items. On board the float trailer, others waved flags and red, white and blue spinners, and played patriotic music selected just for the float that really got the parade watchers shuffling their feet and waving their hands. The float driver and two others in the decorated truck hauling the trailer waved, donned patriotic clothing, and lifted their voices in song. When the news arrived that the Show Low Elks Lodge won the number one float award, we were ecstatic!

*Submitted by:* Renée Higginbotham, PER

Winner of the “Judge’s Choice Award” at the  
2019 Independence Day Parade



## **“Sun City Elks #2559 and Southwest Mobility to Assist Another Veteran”**

They say the best marriages are made in heaven, and although the association of the Sun City Elks and Southwest Mobility is not a marriage in the true sense of the word, the partnership, of the two organizations, is truly a blessing for our Vets, and to some Vets, they are heaven sent. The Sun City Elks, has been helping Vets for their entire existence and their efforts became much easier when the Southwest Mobility company agreed to lend whatever assistance they could in that endeavor. Southwest mobility is a company, which sells products to those in need of mobility, such as walkers, canes, power chairs and scooters, to name a few and on Friday July 12, 2019.

Recently, a WW11 widow, Mary Williams, had a power scooter, which she no longer needed, as her husband, a WW11 vet had passed away. Mary chose to donate the scooter to a Veterans organization, but did not which one would make the best use of it, so Mary went back to the company which sold her the scooter, and asked for their advice. There was no question, Jeff Sturvett, Mgr. of Southwest, called Gary Drumheller, Sun City Elks Veterans Chairman and informed him of the donation.

The scooter required new batteries and minor maintenance, before it could be usable. The Sun City Elks paid for any parts required, including a new battery, and Southwest did the repair work free of charge as usual. On Friday July 12, 2019, the Elks and Southwest, presented the scooter to a Viet Nam Navy Vet, Daniel Sediver, absolutely free of charge. The same as presented to several other Vets in need.

Daniel had difficulty walking, as his legs were badly damaged, due to his approximation to “Agent Orange”. Daniel is not a member of an Elks lodge, and neither is he a customer of Southwest, what he is, a Veteran in need and this gift is in keeping, with the Elks Organization motto, “As long as there are Veterans, they will never be forgotten”.

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

Pictured: Danial Sediver, seated in his new power scooter, and wife and benefactors. Standing to Danials left is Jeff Sturvett, Mgr. Southwest Mobility, to his right, wife Jean Sediver, and Gary Drumheller, Sun City Elks Veterans Chairman.



### **“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Hosts Annual Food, Fun, and Fire Trucks BBQ”**

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 held our annual Food, Fun, and Fire Trucks barbecue on July 4, 2019. The event was attended by about 60 people from the Lodge and community. Scottsdale Fire Ladder truck #62 and crew showed up to present fire safety, and a tour of the truck for kids of all ages. Fire hats and badges were distributed to the younger kids. The event raised \$150.00 for the fallen Firefighter's fund.

*Submitted by:* Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary

### **“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Makes 100 Hygiene Kits for Homeless Vets”**

Scottsdale Elks, Lodge 2148, with the assistance of a Freedom grant, put together 100 hygiene bags for the homeless vets. The bags included toiletries for men and women along with socks and underwear. The bags were then given to United Methodist Organization Homeless Vet Day Care Center to be distributed to the Vets in need.

*Submitted by:* Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary

### **“Phoenix Elks #335 Donates New Power Wheel Chair to the Paralyzed Veterans of America”**



Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 received a donation of a new Power Wheel Chair from a caring community member: Edie Ponyman, who generously donated it to the Phoenix Elks. After careful consideration of where this very special gift could do the most good, the Veterans Committee decided to donate the Power Chair to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Arizona Chapter. We estimated the donation value to be approximately \$6,000. We cannot thank Edie enough and we are sure that the paralyzed veteran that receives this gift will also be overwhelmed with your donation. Your commitment to our Veteran's Committee Projects greatly impacts the quality of life of our most precious veterans and their families. Accepting this donation is Dawn Quinn of the Paralyzed Veterans of Arizona.

*Submitted by:* Nancy Baker, Lodge Tiler

Pictures (from left) Dawn Quinn, Sheila Mazzeo, Elks Committee member and Edie Ponyman

### **“Phoenix Elks #335 Donates \$1,000 to Veterans Parade”**

The Veterans Committee presented a check for \$1,000 to Paula Pedene, Chairperson of the Veteran's Day Parade of Phoenix. The check was presented by Peter Haas, a Committee Member. The Veterans Parade is one of many Organizations supported by the Phoenix Elks. Paula Pedene, founder of the Honoring Arizona's Veterans nonprofit that puts on the parade, said the parade and events like it provide healing for Veterans. “There is something about honor and recognition at events like this that just makes them feel welcome and it helps them put their demons behind them”. “The rigors of war and service are hard, and the healing helps them move forward, so that is why we do the parade”.

*Submitted by:* Nancy Baker, Lodge Tiler





### “Phoenix Elks #335 Donates Blankets to VA”



Recently we have seen an increase in donations of both handmade and purchased blankets to the Veterans Committee. Some of these blankets have already been donated to the Veterans Administration (VA) in Phoenix. Veterans Committee member Jeanette Turpin recently donated three beautiful handmade blankets along with five new blankets to the Veterans Committee. These were swiftly donated to the Phoenix VA. They loved the donation and said they can use as many as we can supply. At left in the photograph are Veterans Committee member Janet Smith and Esteemed Lecturing Knight Lady, Alice Brown who display yet another amazing handmade blanket donated to the Veterans Committee by a friend of Janet, Sandy Shriner. Sandy and Jeannette are already making additional blankets to be donated to another Veteran location.

*Submitted by:* Nancy Baker, Lodge Tiler

### “Tucson East Elks #385 Annual 4th of July Parade”

Tucson East #2532 annual July 4<sup>th</sup> parade was a huge success. Over 100 flyers were distributed to homes in the surrounding area inviting families to come out and enjoy a piece of hometown Americana at its best. Lodge members and families decorated their vehicles and motorcycles. Truly Nolen came with a couple of their trademark vehicles and an antique fire engine lead the procession. Bags of candy and small American flags were given to the children in attendance bringing out more than one smile as the vehicles slowly traveled down the street.

*Submitted by:* Mary I. Shaffer, Public Relations Chair



Navy Veteran Ernest Dole and Air Force veteran Calvin Payne rode in the Tucson East Patriots vehicle



Navy Veteran Ernest Dole and Air Force veteran Calvin Payne rode in the Tucson East Patriots vehicle driven by John Olson

## “With the Sun City Elks #2559 Hosts 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ”

Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 generally holds a July 4<sup>th</sup> BBQ for Vets, but due to extenuating circumstances, 2019, was an exception. One exception, was the conflict, with the Elks national convention, which was held on that date and the AZ. Elks State Veterans Chairman, Gary Drumheller, was asked to be at the convention, to give a report as to the success of the Sun City Elks Lodge’s success concerning their Veterans program. The Sun City Elks Program is recognized as being one of the best Veterans programs in the country.

On Sunday, July 21, 2019, approximately 75 Veterans, housed at the Grand Ave. Veterans Facility, were treated to a chicken dinner, complete with baked beans, potato salad, soft drinks and cupcakes, all prepared for the Vets at the Sun City Elks Lodge. Comments by at least one of the Vets was; “I have been here for about 6 weeks and this is the best meal I have had since coming here”. Kind words indeed.

The Sun City Elks Lodge has been serving our Vets at the Grand Ave. Facility and at least 5 other facilities, for at least 9 years, and has no desire to ever quit, fulfilling the National Elks Motto that,” as long as there are Veterans, they will never be forgotten.”

**Submitted by:** Val Bianchini, Elks West District Veterans coordinator and P.R. Chairman.



Picture 1: Serving the dinner in the kitchen are (L-R) Jackie Drumheller, Clare Hudson, Joan McConnell, Sun City Elks Lodge President, Bill Hudson.

Picture 2 and 3: Veterans lining up for a great meal and enjoying their dinner.

## “Green Valley Elks # 2592 Donates School Supplies”

Green Valley Elks #2592 recently donated nearly \$800. worth of school supplies and food to “Youth on their Own”, a program serving Pima County that assists homeless students complete high school.

**Submitted by:** PDDGER Annie Currie, PR Chair



Shown with part of the donations of school supplies and food are (L-R) members Annie Currie, Rusty Hodges, Mari Hodges, Program Marketing and Events Manager Katrina Calderon, Chris Mahaffy and Exalted Ruler Brent Mahaffy.



## Arizona District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Swearing-in Ceremony

AZ District Deputies getting sworn in at Grand Lodge. July 3, 2019. From left to right: South DDGER David Dean (Sierra Vista #2065), East DDGER Frank Buso (Kearny #2478), North DDGER Rick Kimberly (Sedona #2291), West DDGER Hank Thonnard (Lake Havasu City #2399). Photo by ER Cindy Wilmer, Sedona #2291.

**Submitted by:** Cindy Wilmer, Exalted Ruler Sedona Elks Lodge #2291



## “Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Raises Money for Veteran’s Fund”

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge Inner Guard Larry Wittenborn raised \$1,200 for the Veteran’s fund by selling raffle tickets for a month with the following unique proposal. The winning ticket holder could decorate his long white beard any way they desired, and he would wear it for a week.

The winning ticket was drawn at the lodge on a Friday night after Queen of Hearts. The lucky winner was Chuy’s, but they delegated the decorating task to Larry’s daughter, Mandy. She did an excellent job of dying Larry’s white beard red and blue with a western flair (very patriotic). A special thanks to Larry for being such a good sport and raising money for our veterans. Elks Care, Elks Share!

**Submitted by:** Pat Cox



Pictured (L-R) are ER Gloria Cisneros and Inner Guard Larry Wittenborn.



## Arizona Elks Major Projects News

The Youth Summer Camp is owned and maintained by The Arizona Elks. We invest \$60,000 to \$70,000 each year to ensure it is ready for the youth of Arizona to come enjoy this unforgettable site. Therefore, we ask that our guests help keep the site in good condition. Located 40 miles Northeast of Globe, Arizona, Workman Creek is nestled in the Sierra Ancha Mountain Range. It's a remote mountain location so campers should be aware of bears, wolves, dangerous reptiles, flash flooding, and lightning.

Youth Groups such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Camp Fire Girls, 4-H, CASA, Church Groups, and other Youth Service Organizations are welcome to use the camp at no charge. We do, however, require a refundable \$200 Security/ No Show deposit required at the time of booking.

### HELP WANTED

#### ELKS YOUTH CAMP HOSTS NEEDED FOR THE 2020 SUMMER SEASON

Arizona Elks Major Projects is looking to hire camp hosts for the 2020 summer season. This is perfect for RV'ers, married couples, and those who love working with children and living in the mountains!

Contact [katie@azelksmp.com](mailto:katie@azelksmp.com) for more information

ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS

### L. CEDRIC AUSTIN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

PROCEEDS BENEFITTING  
ARIZONA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS

SEPTEMBER 7 & 8  
8AM SHOTGUN START  
APACHE WELLS COUNTRY CLUB  
5601 HERMOSA VISTA DR., MESA, AZ

\$110.00 PER GOLFER  
CONTACT:  
[RICHINARIZONA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RICHINARIZONA@YAHOO.COM)



### AEMP MID-YEAR RAFFLE 2019

October 19, 2019 TICKETS: \$5.00 / 3 for \$10.00.

Enter to win some great prizes for our annual raffle!

1st Prize – Polaris RZR XP 4 1000 with 14' Trailer

\*\*Purchase on Wednesday's and get an extra ticket FOR FREE!



AUGUST 2019

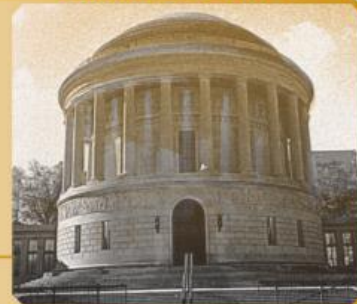
www.elks.org

Volume 55, No. 1



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care – Elks Share*



## Look backward and forward to build Elldom

As was the case with most people who have joined our great fraternity over the years, it never occurred to me that someday I might become its National President. It is the culmination of a long journey, with many twists and turns. I have met and developed relationships with fine and dedicated men and women whom I am very happy to call my friends. At its core, friendships are what Elldom is all about, and I am very proud to have been given this wonderful opportunity to serve our Order.

I see the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks as an organization dedicated to doing good works while having a good time doing them. From the countless projects our Lodges engage in within their local communities, to the help they extend to those in need, to our scholarship programs, to the support of our veterans, to supporting the values



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**ROBERT L.  
DUITSMAN**

and causes that have made our country the greatest in the world, the Elks have a long tradition of service in a wide variety of areas. I've lost track of how many times new Members have said they wanted an opportunity to get involved, to give back, and to be part of something greater than themselves. At its best, Elldom gives its Members all of those opportunities.

My motto for this year is *"Honoring the Past—Embracing the Future."* Its

significance to me is that, as Elks, we need to be mindful of the many great works we have accomplished over the last 150 years, and with a spirit of optimism, move forward together to grow our membership, work our programs, and promote our brand.

By "Honoring the Past" my goal is to emphasize the richness of our traditions, the things we have accomplished, the importance of our rituals, and the quality and character of our Members, that together have made the Elks the premier fraternal organization in the United States. There is a lot of history for every Elk to be aware of and take pride in; it is what makes us special.

By "Embracing the Future" I want to share my optimism that our Order is capable of great things. As a result of

Please see GER, Page 3

### GER From Page 1

our history, the benefit of our experience in so many areas, the good-hearted men and women who are involved in their Lodges and care so deeply for their success, and with the financial support of our Great Heart of Elldom, the Elks National Foundation, we will continue the journey together toward an even greater future.

To our friends, Mike and Barbara Luhr, Beth and I extend our sincere appreciation for your friendship and year of service, and your steady leadership that has seen our Order achieve many successes. You both are truly the best Elldom has to offer.

Beth and I look forward to the coming year as we travel around the country, hearing about and sharing in the great works being done every day by Elks. Again, thank you for this unique opportunity.

### GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

## How Activities make a difference

By **DAVID B. LAKE**  
Committee Chairman

Your Grand Lodge Activities Committee is here to assist you in your Lodge's Youth Activities Programs and Community Projects.

There are eight committee members each representing a Grand Lodge Area. The contact information on each member and his or her area of responsibilities can be found online at [elks.org/grandlodge/activities/roster.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/activities/roster.cfm). Please feel free to contact us when you have a question or need assistance.

The information on all our programs, along with manuals and printable certificates, can be found online at [elks.org/grandlodge/activities/default.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/activities/default.cfm).

Our Youth Programs include Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Junior Golf, Antlers, Scouting, Dictionary Project, National Youth Week, Teenager/Student of the Month and Year, and JROTC Recognition. In the community area, our focus is on promoting Lodge Community Projects, Disaster Relief, and the Medal of Valor and Service Recognition Awards.

We hope that your Lodge participates in these programs and reaches out in your community with a Lodge Community Project. Remember that an active Lodge is a successful Lodge, and a successful Lodge is one that makes a difference in their community, showing that *"Elks Care – Elks Share."*