

Arizona Elks News

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

September 2019



"Elks are Patriotic Americans"

My fellow Arizona Elks,

It hardly seems possible that another month has passed, but, in any event, welcome to September!! This month's arrival comes with the promise of cooler weather being a light at the end of the tunnel and soon the return of our snowbirds to our lodges. Welcome home to all of them.



Our visitations continue apace and both our vice president and myself want to thank all the lodges we have visited for their involvement in our meetings and the wonderful hospitality they have shared. All of us are very much looking forward to continuing our visits and sharing time with all of you. I encourage all Lodge members to communicate to your Exalted Ruler your desire to sit in on our afternoon meetings during the visitation. These meetings are very informative, and I feel, are mutually beneficial to our Association and your individual lodges.

I had come across an email from our Grand Lodge Membership and Marketing manager, Rick Gathen sharing some interesting statistics with us concerning our progress to this point in the year on our membership. It was encouraging to see that Arizona's delinquency rate was under the national average, however at 11.7% we all know that it is too high. All of us as members need to be mindful that our lodge needs our help in working on our delinquent members. Please check with your secretaries, identify fellow members on the delinquency list, and explore the possibility of utilizing your relationship (sponsorship) to help keep these members in the fold. At a minimum, try to find out why they are reluctant to renew, and share your findings with the Lodge. Remember that the loss of a current member is not only the loss of the member but also the money you have already invested in that individual.

As for new members, let us all stay focused on recruitment by selling all of the positive things we do as Elks as a primary selling feature. I would reference our Grand Lodge website and all the recruitment tools that brother Rick and his people have created for our use in this regard. Remember that our state membership chair Dianna Adams and her vice chairs stand ready to help and assist you in any way. Please feel free to contact them with any questions you may have. Keep in mind two years ago we shocked Grand Lodge and maybe surprised ourselves with a substantial membership gain in our state. We again achieved a membership increase in Arizona last year. With all of us continuing to exert a concerted effort I look forward to Arizona achieving this result for a third year in a row. What a great statement that would be for the work that all of you do.

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AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
25 September 2019.

aeanewsletter
@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

SECRETARY:

Peter K. Gillespie PSP

TREASURER:

Alane Asp

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West-1Year:

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Leland "Lee" R. Schwein, PSP

South- 3 Year:

Alfred R Skorupski, PSP

East-4 Year:

John F James, PSP

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Edward Leuer, PSP

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Valentino Bianchini

CHAPLAIN:

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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.

One last point involves the change that is coming, to some extent already here, in our financial reporting responsibilities. You may have heard that our order approved a new procedure in communicating our financial results to the Grand Lodge. We have identified this process as the Financial Reporting System (FRS). The biggest change involves mapping accounts we use in the Lodge to the system that will report that information to the Grand Lodge for use by leadership in helping our local lodges. For those of you that are involved in this process in your individual lodges please be aware that we have an implementation team headed by Charyll McKean and she will be conducting a workshop at our Midterm Convention. I would strongly urge anyone directly involved in this process to attend as well as anyone who would like to know more about the program and what it will do.

This having been said, let us move forward through September. We look forward to our next visit and hopefully cooler weather.

Many thanks to all of you for all that you do and until next month always remember: *Elks are Patriotic Americans.*

Fraternally

Dan Snyder, President AEA

AEA Mid-Year Convention



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/> **Registration closes on 20 September 2019.**

“Sun City Elks #2559 Veterans and Elks Convoy”

Once again, the Vets at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix, were treated to an “all you can eat” breakfast outside of the Veterans home Facility, it was not a long trip, but a trip the Vets thoroughly enjoyed.

Nine Vets, James Winston, Ron Kumelski, Ted Orahood, Charles Cummings, Susan Robertson, Robert Tate, George Paul and Alfio Santo, ranging from WW11, Korea and Viet Nam, joined the convoy hosted by Sun City Elks Lodge #2559, and made the trek from the Veterans Home to the VA Hospital, Phoenix AZ., directly South of the home.

It was not a long trek as far as treks are concerned, but it was a winding route around the Home, through the VA Hospital parking lot, then through winding hallways, in the hospital itself, to the VA cafeteria.

An easy and enjoyable trip for the Vets, but a little more strenuous for the Elks, as they were pushing the Vets in their wheel chairs.

No complaints for the Elks of course, as they have done this several times before, and enjoyed every minute of it.

The purpose of the breakfast was not solely to get the Vets out of the home, but to give them an opportunity to talk, one on one, with someone other than the people they associate with on a daily basis.

One such Korean war Vet, told of his harrowing experience, of being bayoneted three time and shot twice, but still managed to survive. No wonder all of our warriors are called heroes. Bless them all.

Elks motto, “As long as they are Veterans, they will never be forgotten”. At least not by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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



Picture 1; Convoy of Vets being “pushed”, from the Az. State Veterans Home, to the Az.VA hospital, directly South of the home.

Picture 2; Three Vets waiting to be served at the VA Hospitals cafeteria buffet counter, (left in red cap) George Paul, being pushed by Elk member, John McConnell, to his right is Ted Orahood, being pushed by Bob Vanderwerken, Elk Member and waiting at the serving counter is Susan Roberson, waiting to be served by Jackie Drumheller, also an Elk Member, picking up Susan’s order.

Picture 3; Some of the Vets from the Veterans Home, chowing down at the Az. VA hospital, Phoenix, cafeteria.

“Kingman Elks #468 *Nation of Patriots* - 1 FLAG 48-STATES 100+DAY TOUR ”

On July 5 at about Noon, Nevada NOP passed the US FLAG to Arizona NOP Riders in a short ceremony and then had free lunch at Kingman Elks lodge 468. Community and members came to support the patriots and had lunch for only \$5. Anyone can join the tour in any vehicle for \$10 participation fee. The Schedule of Tour was as follows (6 days):

July 5 – Kingman, AZ Elks Lodge lunch at noon.	July 8 – Show Low, AZ and overnight.
After lunch, to Williams, AZ, for overnight.	July 10 – Twin Arrow Casino Resort for overnight stay.
July 6 – Flagstaff, AZ and overnight.	July 11 – Winslow, AZ to Gallup, New Mexico to pass the
July 7 – Chandler, AZ and overnight.	FLAG to New Mexico NOP.



Rick Bitzer, Flagstaff Elk & Chair AZ NOP Young Marines took the Flag into the lodge. Chandler Riders came, too!



Las Vegas Chapter – Buffalo Riders came and joined in the ride.

Rick Bitzer, Dick Hardin, Chair of Elks Veterans Committee center and Dan Smith, Founder of AZ NOP.

Rosalie Harrigan, Trustee & Dick Hardin, Elks Veterans Chair, pulled together and donated \$500 to the NOP from their committees. Individual donations were also being collected during lunchtime at the Kingman Elks Lodge #468.

The Elks Riders - Chandler #2429 came in to support and ride with Rick Bitzer and Dan Smith of the Nation of Patriots. Dan is founder who started this tour in Arizona – about 11 years now. This was a great success for Arizona Veterans! Any money collected in Arizona stays in Arizona for our veterans in need through the Nation of Patriots.

Elks 468 Editor, Sarah Pleth

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Donates to Seeds of Hope”

Casa Grande Elks Lodge Golf Committee donated \$2000 to the Seeds of Hope of Casa Grande, AZ during a presentation at the Lodge August 1, 2019. The golf committee holds a tournament to raise money which funds numerous Lodge charities and activities. Pictured (left to right): Elks members Joe Turk, Bruno Ponsi, Bob Jaworski, Mark Vanderheyden and Sandi Petersen, Seeds of Hope representatives, and Elk member, Larry Schmidbauer.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Supports Veterans at Wheelchair Games”

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 hosted a luncheon on Saturday, July 27 for Arizona veterans who attended the 39th

National Wheelchair Games in Louisville, Kentucky. They returned proudly displaying 15 medals that were received in a variety of different sports. The veterans received \$1,000 to help with their travel expenses from the Lodge Past Exalted Rulers Association and \$1,000 from the Lodge Veterans Committee.

The purpose of the Wheelchair Games is to encourage veterans with physical disabilities to become aware of their potential while promoting a spirit of healthy activity and camaraderie. It was apparent from the stories that the athletes shared that a bond of solidarity was formed from their experiences.

Submitted by: Pat Cox, Public Relations



Pictured: Lodge Volunteers and Veterans of the Wheelchair Games

“Jerome Elks #1361 Clothe a Child Event”



The Jerome Elks Lodge #1361 took 16 families shopping for their Clothe a Child Event on 4 August 2019 at Wal-Mart.

Submitted by: Charyll McKean, Public Relations Chair

Pictured: One of the 16 Families at the Clothe a Child Event

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Auxiliary Hosts Soci-a-Tea for Charity”

The Auxiliary “Soci-a-Tea” was so much fun with all the ladies and their hats. Once again, the room was transformed into an old fashion tea parlor thanks to Karen Magrum and her crew. Shown are some of the ladies who participated in the “parade of Hats” with Magrum sporting the very big hat, look closely and you’ll see Kathleen Clemens in the background. Then Sheri Smith is next with Irene Gilkay, Vickie Hernandez, Fay Stamper and the HAT winner----who we don’t know her name, (sorry) but she was so funny with her crazy hat. This event raised over \$500 going toward the various Auxiliary charities; i.e., Woman’s Safe House, AEMP to name some.



Submitted by: Terry Frear, Public Relations Chair

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Delivers Backpacks to Kids in Need”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge 2#148 packed and delivered 54 fully stuffed back packs to the Tonalea K-8 school on August 2, 2019. Along with the back packs, we took a whole truck load of school supplies that were so generously donated by our members to the school to distribute to needy students.

Submitted by: Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary



Pictured R— Supplies, and L- Justin Firehawk and Lynn Youngs, P.E.R., Est. Leading Knight.



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 hosts Welcome Home Event for South District DDGER”

The Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Hosted a Welcome Home & Congratulations Dinner and roast in honor of David Dean, the new South DDGER. The celebration was well attended, and the dinner of pizza, wings, and antipasto salad was a slam dunk. DDGER David Dean thanked the crowd for the kind words, and PDDGER Jim Krausman cracked the crowd up with his jovial roast of all things David Dean! PDDGER Dianna Adams presented David Dean with a black DDGER cowboy hat, and the DDGER jewels as it is customary for the last DDGER at our Lodge to present the newest DDGER with the hat and jewels.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile P.R. Chair



Pictured (L): David Dean, DDGER and Dianna Adams PDDGER, (C) David Dean, DDGER speaks to the crowd, and (R) Ken Adams, PER roasts David Dean, DDGER

“Phoenix Elks #335 Convention Veterans Booth”

At the Elk’s State Convention, The Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 Veterans Committee hosted a Vet table that displayed leather goods made by the Veterans at the Phoenix VA in the leather therapy room. Henry Brown has spent a great deal of time and money supporting this project. The Veteran’s Committee donated \$2,000 to this group last month by the request of our own, Henry Brown, who works tirelessly for all of the Veteran Affairs. He is an amazing volunteer. Along with the leather goods, were all occasion greeting cards made by Janet Smith and Karen Seaman. The table was manned by Henry Brown, Janet Smith, Cindi Pendergast and Karen Seaman. The Veteran’s Committee made a very large fishing basket for the raffle, that was displayed on the table. Henry also brought some free items for people to take with them; such as key rings and bumper stickers denoting all of the branches of service.

We want to say to our Veterans,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE,
our freedom is because of you!

Pictured: Janet Smith, Henry Brown, and Al Kayal



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Spotlight Grant Funds Veterans Kits at Stand Down”

The Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Veterans Committee purchased items for, and distributes kits, for 100 Veterans in need, at the Cochise County Veterans Stand Down on 16 August 2019. The Veterans Committee was able to purchase items, bags, and print flyers thanks to the ENF Spotlight Grant. Each kit included much needed toiletries, socks, emergency blankets and sunscreen as well as afghans to wheelchair bound veterans that attended.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile P.R. Chair



“Flagstaff Police Dept. National Night-Out 2019 attended by 4 AZ Lodges”

On August 13, 2019 Jack Ponzo PER – AEA Drug Awareness Chairman & Cheryl Ponzo PER – AEA Activities Committee Executive Assistant attended the annual National Night-Out 2019 hosted by Flagstaff, AZ Police Department. The Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make their neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work. This Event was held at Bushmaster Park in Flagstaff, AZ. The AZ DEA 360 community outreach representative invited the AZ Elks Drug Awareness Chairman, Jack Ponzo, to participate in this event with Elroy the Elk and Drug Awareness materials. Free grilled hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips and water were provided by Flagstaff PD.

Over 3,000 adults, and participants children attended this event. Approximately 2,000 Drug Awareness Brochures, Red Ribbons & Coloring Books were distributed to adults and children. Elroy was the biggest attraction of this event. There were 4 AZ Elks present. Jack Ponzo PER – AEA Drug Awareness Chairman from Green Valley Lodge # 2592, Cheryl Ponzo PER from Green Valley Lodge # 2592, Paul Capps E.R. from Flagstaff Lodge # 499 and Ed Vesely – Tiler from Flagstaff Lodge # 499.

Submitted by: Cheryl Ponzo, PER



Photo: Elroy with boy in an officer uniform (his father was an Flagstaff PD officer) – Elroy (Paul Capps E.R.) and Jose (no last name was not permitted by his father)

Photo: DEA booth with Jack - L to R – Aaron Gencarelle, Jacque Gencarelle, DEA 360 Representative, Jack Ponzo, AEA Drug Awareness Chairman. Photo: Drug Awareness Banner listing programs supported. Photo: Elroy, Children, Ed Vesely, Tiler #499, and Jack Ponzo, AEA Drug Awareness Chairman.

“Sun City Elks #2559 Provides Golf Cart to Veterans Facility”

Once again Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 was called upon to lend a hand in securing a vehicle to patrol their facility, by the M.A.N.A. House (Marine, Army, Navy, Air Force) facility in Phoenix, AZ. The M.A.N.A House was in dire need of some kind of mobility, to allow its security forces to patrol their property. M.A.N.A. house is a transitional facility, which is the last step a Veteran requires, before moving into private quarters.

“Ace” Carter, the newly appointed case manager of the facility, and recent member of the Elks Organization, called upon the Chairman of the Arizona State Elks, Gary Drumheller, a member of the Sun City Lodge for assistance. The answer to the problem was obvious, the facility needs a golf cart, and Mike Bunker, proprietor of the Discount Golf Cart Company, is more knowledgeable than most about golf carts. Mike has been a partner of the Sun City Elks, for about five years, first starting his association by donating smaller items, for the various Elk Projects. That association progressed to him now donating badly needed golf carts. With this donation, a total of six (6) golf carts. This golf cart is valued at approximately \$4,000, with the Sun City Elks providing needed parts for repairs, such as new batteries and seat covers, and Mike providing the cart, labor, repairs and detailing.

Mike informed the Sun City Elks, that this is one way for him to honor his father, who served in WW11. Mike's generosity extends beyond the Phoenix Metropolitan area, as the last golf cart he donated went to the Tucson Veterans Home, which was not only used to patrol their grounds, but even more importantly, the golf cart is used to transport Veterans from the home to the V.A. hospital for medical treatments. Transportation at the home was not always readily available as it is now.

Elks Motto, “So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”. Thank you to our Veterans.

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

Picture Caption: “Ace” Carter, M.A.N.A. House Case Worker (seated in cart), Mike Bunker, proprietor of the Discount golf cart co., and Gary Drumheller, Arizona State Veterans Chairman and Sun City Lodge Member.



“Sun City Elks #2559 Provides Bowling Event for Veterans”

On Saturday August 17, 2019, Veterans from two Veterans facilities, took advantage of an invitation by the Sun City Elks, to show their prowess on the bowling alley. This bowling event is the second of the year put on by the Sun City Elks with at least one more planned close to the Christmas Holidays, where the Vets will not only get free bowling, lunch and camaraderie, but they will also receive Christmas gifts.

Thirty-three Vets from two local Veterans facilities, took part in the event. Seventeen Veterans from the M.A.N.A. House (Marine, Army, Navy, Air Force), and sixteen Veterans from the Grand Ave. Veterans facility, showed up for fun and an opportunity for a day away from their transition facilities.

In addition to the free bowling that the Sun City Elks Provide, the Veterans are also treated to a hot lunch consisting of either a ham and cheese sandwich, cheese burger or chicken salad sandwich, all complete with fries and a soda. Treats indeed when compared to the mundane fare the vets are accustomed to.

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

Picture 1: Terry Hunt, Elks Member and Viet Nam Vet; John McConnell, Elk Member And Viet Nam Vet; “ace” Carter, Case Manager at M.A.N.A. House; Gary Drumheller, Az. Elks State Veterans Chairman; Pio Cruz, Veterans Service Assistant Grand Ave. Veterans Facility; Showtell Dinello’lege, Grand Ave. Veterans Activities Coordinator; Garry Watson, Army Vet and Resident; John Villareal, Retired Army Vet, Business Banker and volunteer; John Greer, Navy Vet and Grand Ave. Resident. Picture Caption #1497 Gary Drumheller in Blue shirt greeting a Vet ready to bowl. In background are some of the 33 Veteran Attendees



“Sun City Elks #2559 Make Sure That Vets Still Believe in Magic ”

It's magic time again, for the residents of the Arizona State Veterans home in Phoenix, Arizona. For the fourth year in a row, Sun City Elks Lodge #2559, has hosted a magic show at the Arizona State Veterans Home, and as usual, the multi-purpose room was jammed.

Thirty-six (36) Vets gathered into the multipurpose room to watch a magic show put on by Ryan Fox, a legally blind magician. Also helping to fill the room were six Veteran home aids, several Veteran home employees, six young lady volunteers from the Phoenix Chapter of the National Charity League and six Elk members.

The Sun City Elks Lodge is given \$550 each quarter by the Elks National Foundation, to be specifically used for Veterans events. In addition to the magic show, the Elks Lodge provided treats in the nature of ice cream and homemade pies, baked by Linda Bannon, the spouse of a Sun City Elks Member, Holly Bannon.

The magic show was heartily applauded and the pies heartily ingested.

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



Picture 1: Ryan Fox posing with some of the Vet residents in attendance. In the background are six young lady volunteers from the Phoenix Chapter of the National Charity League. Picture 2: Mike Mitchell, resident Army Vet, assisting Ryan Fox.

Picture 3: Khristen Vanderwey, of the Phoenix Chapter of National Charities, assists Ryan Fox in one of his magic tricks.

Picture 4: Alfio Santo, WW11 China Marine, seated with his wife Patricia. Seated to the left of Alfio is Army Vet Rico Donatelli.

Standing in the rear, left to right are Elk members: Jackie Drumheller, Pat Vanderwerken, Bob Vanderwerken, Gary Drumheller, Holly Bannon, (crouched Down) and fantastic baker Linda Bannon. Alfio served as a Marine in China prior to the start of WW11

“Prescott Elks #330 Present Check to Partners for Healthy Students ”

On August 20, 2019 Prescott Elks Lodge #330 made a presentation of funds from their Gratitude Grant to Partners for Healthy Students program run by Yavapai Regional Medical Center (YRMC) Foundation. Partners for Healthy Students is a program where a portable medical unit with 3 examine rooms travels to various elementary schools within our area and provides free medical care to kids who are under-insured or have no insurance. Over 1400 kids were seen and treated last year and this figure rises each year.

Submitted by: Rick Allen P.R. Chairman.

Pictured L to R: Steve Buck - ER, Patti Brubaker - Secretary/Grant Coordinator, John Goodenow - YRMC Foundation Director of Philanthropy, Harvey Skoog - YRMC Foundation Board Member/previous Mayor of Prescott Valley, AZ



“Tucson East Elks #2532 Hosts Annual Christmas in July Fundraiser for AEMP”

On July 27th Tucson East held its annual Christmas in July AEMP fundraiser. This holiday themed dinner/dance featured speaker Dr. Ghishan, MD, Director, Steele Children’s Research Center. Katie Murdoch, Executive Director of AEMP, invited Gracie’s family to attend and speak on the impact on their family of the work done by researchers at Steele Children’s Research Center and the new life given to their daughter. Gracie today is a confident and energetic 8-year-old. This event raised over \$3,000 in donations to continue important research and treatment. To see Gracie’s full story visit azelkssmp.com.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer, PER and Public Relations Chair



Pictured L to R: Rocky Davis, ER, Katie Murdoch, Allen Swope, PER, AEMP Chair, Dr. Ghishan. Front center: Gracie

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Provides Funds for Honor Flights”

On August 19th Brigid Sherbo, Veterans Chair invited Margo Susco with Honor Flight to the Lodge. We have partnered with them over the years to send veterans on Honor Flights to our Nations Capital and this year was no different. We utilized our \$2,500 Gratitude Grant this year to ensure eligible veterans will have to opportunity to take this special flight. We are honored to be listed as Honor Flight Patriots on their webpage. Honor Flight #28 from Southern Arizona departs September 28th from Tucson International Airport at 5:00 AM, returning September 30th at 7:18 PM. Tucson East will be there to help with baggage and to cheer on our veterans upon their departure and return to Tucson.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer, PER and Public Relations Chair

Information about donating or volunteering to this worthwhile organization is available at <https://honorflightsaz.org>. Honor Flights are open to World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam Veterans. Priority will be given to WWII veterans.



Pictured L to R Rear: Maynard Stout, Leading Knight, Charlie Thomke, Loyal Knight, Allen Swope, PER & Rocky Davis, ER Front: Brigid Sherbo, Veterans Chair & Margo Susco, Honor Flight

“Green Valley Elks #2592 Donates School Supplies to Children in Need”

Green Valley Elks #2592 recently donated over \$500. worth of needed school supplies to Sopori Elementary School. Shown are a portion of the Community Activities Committee (l-r back) including Naomi Grobe, David Grobe, Dave Rambo and Rusty Hodges along with (l-r front) Marie Rogers, Chris Mahaffy, Annie Currie, Sopori Administrative Assistant Claudia Vasquez, Activities Chair Mari Hodges and Attendance Clerk Kassondra Pina.



Submitted by: Annie Currie, PDDER and Public Relations Chair

“Raceway Elks #2852 Exalted Ruler Honored by Students”

Crystal Mowbray, Advisor for Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) and two student members, visited Raceway Elks Lodge during the pre-meeting dinner on Tuesday, August 13th. They presented ER Chuck Waugh a beautiful plaque to thank Raceway Lodge for the support we have shown the Aqua Fria High School chapter of HOSA over the years. The HOSA students have been very appreciative of our support, often working dinners at the Lodge in appreciation for financial assistance through our Grant Programs and individual cash donations.



Submitted by: Carrie Waugh, Raceway Elks

Arizona Elks Major Projects News

This month I would like to feature a family whose lives were directly impacted thanks to the generosity of the Elks. Gracie Robinson was just a baby when it was learned that she had a rare condition called Protein-losing Enteropathy (PLE) which is a significant complication of complex congenital heart disease in children. In this condition, the normal vessels (called lymphatic vessels)



that carry fat and proteins from our diet into the circulation make abnormal connections back to the intestinal cavity. When this happens, there can be significant spillage and loss of essential blood proteins into the stool. Over time, PLE leads to malnutrition, an

inability to fight infection, and if not corrected, early death.

In Gracie's case, innovative surgical approaches were required following her first 2 open heart surgeries to treat intractable fluid draining into her lung cavities. As a result, her lymphatic vessels found a way to connect with the intestines to spill vital proteins into her stool. Before the age of 5, Gracie underwent multiple medical procedures, surgeries, and treatments with hopes of slowing down the loss of protein. Those interventions only worked for a short time until the doctors and researchers at the Steele Children's Research Center decided that something new had to be done.

Gracie became the first ever patient with her condition to undergo a new procedure that blocked and re-diverted the abnormal lymphatic vessel connections which ultimately saved her life.

These days, Gracie is a vibrant, active 8-year-old who enjoys all aspects of life and then some! She is a master of the monkey bars (so much so that there are calluses on her hands), an emerging gymnast, and a talented soccer player



who has conquered all of the obstacles given to her. Her energy and lust for life is something that we should all aspire to possess.

Gracie is the reason why we continue to give and contribute to the innovative research and clinical care being done at the Steele Children's Research Center. Without our contributions, the surgery Gracie received may never have been presented as an option for her. Her family expressed the



sincerest gratitude I have ever felt from anyone. I met Patrick, Gracie's dad, by chance when he was fixing the lights in our offices. Not only did he embrace me as a gesture of gratitude towards each and every Elk, but he asked what he could do for us in return. Gracie IS our return. She is proof that the benevolence of the Elks goes much farther than the name of a pediatric clinic or the presentation of a large check; the benevolence of the Elks has saved lives and given children the ability to live life to its absolute fullest. Gracie, and others like her, depend on you to give them hope. Let's show them how much more we can do!

I'll leave you with a direct quote from Gracie: "I want to thank all of the Elks for saving my life and saving the lives of my friends from the hospital"

Katie Murdoch

Executive Director

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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



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!



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



New Members can give your Lodge a spark

The Lodge year is nearly half over, so I hope that Lodges are taking action and making plans that will result in overall success. The best events are the ones that are properly planned and executed, with forethought as to what will be needed in terms of promotion and execution. New ideas should be discussed with open minds to provide more opportunities for Members to enjoy their membership and meet new people. Our new Members bring fresh energy and ideas that should be heard and considered. We need to make them feel like they are an important part of the Lodge, because they are.

In planning events, it often seems that a small group of reliable Members are the ones who do the work, while newer Members feel left out and have no place in the life of their Lodge. Hmm...maybe there's an opportunity here. Consider bringing more Members into your helper network, including



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**ROBERT L.
DUITSMAN**

new Members, so that everyone can feel invested in the life of their Lodge. One of the biggest reasons we lose Members is because nobody takes an interest in them. If they are invited to be a part of events, they will likely take a stronger interest in their Lodge.

Also, one of the hallmarks of our Order is our service to our communities by getting out and making our communities better places while promoting the Elks brand. I have often said, *"If they know you, and they like you, they'll want to be a part of you."* By getting involved in community events and

undertaking programs and activities that will resonate with your community, everyone wins. A great opportunity is an activity celebrating National Patriotism Week, September 9-15. It is only one of many suggested opportunities included in the Grand Lodge calendar that has been distributed.

Exalted Rulers, you were there for our national convention in St. Louis. You were able to see Elksdom on full display. For too many, "Elksdom" is their Lodge building and whatever is contained within. While that is an important part of the Elks experience, there are other opportunities outside the Lodge, such as district, state, and national events that can enrich Members' understanding of what we are all about. Please share your experiences with Members who were unable to attend so they can better understand what Elksdom encompasses and instill in them greater pride in being part of our fraternity.



**Arizona Elks
Association**

NEWSLETTER

Please submit articles to:

aenewsletter@arizonaelks.org

Due Date: 25th of each month.



For all the latest news, please check out our
Arizona Elks Association Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaElksAssociation/>