

Arizona Elks News

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

March 2020



“Elks are Patriotic Americans”

My fellow Arizona Elks,

Welcome to March, the threshold of a new Lodge year. By now all of you have elected a new core of officers and are in process of installing them in their new positions. This is always a highlight of a new Lodge year and we strongly encourage all members to participate and witness the installation of their new officers as the torch is passed to your 2020 – 2021 administration.



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AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
25 March 2020

aeane newsletter
@arizonaelks.org

Since we visited last, I've been very pleased with the participation of all our Lodges in displaying their Charity banners. I was further excited by our Special Deputies' challenge to all Lodges to take pictures of their banners in place and bring them to our next convention. This not only shows strong Arizona support for Brother Rick Gathen's program, but also displays the efforts of your Lodge in your community and invites the community to join the organization and be a part of the same. At this point it appears that all 43 of our Lodges are in process of proudly displaying their banner. 100% participation is something we can all be proud of and is certainly a proud accomplishment to the challenge given us by the California Hawaii Elks Association President.

In reviewing our Grand Lodge membership report, I'm proud of the fact that we stand on the crest of a 3rd straight year of increase in membership. To accomplish this, all of our Lodges must aggressively work candidates in the queue and get them initiated before the end of this month. Accomplishing this will assure a membership gain. I know our state chair, Dianna Adams, and her committee are committed to helping all of our Lodges in accomplishing this task. If you have any questions in this regard, contact your district membership chair, Dianna Adams, or me.

While all of you are working hard in advancing all our Lodge programs, for me, there is one area of disappointment. Our State's participation in the Pearl Harbor Memorial fund is paltry and embarrassing. In checking the figures at the time of this writing I find our State's participation has not yet achieved \$1000. As I've shared previously our goal is \$1 per capita which would bring our State's goal to \$25,000. Obviously, we are far below that goal. I know the generosity of our Arizona Elks is far greater than this. And I urge all Lodges to find ways to create fundraising activities and help improve these numbers. As I've said before our State's namesake battleship is part of this memorial and it is only right, as such, that we take a more leading role. I know our baby Lodge, Raceway, through fundraising activities and individual donations, has reached \$3 per capita. And I know they issue that challenge to all other Lodges.



Continued on page 2.

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

"Elks are Patriotic Americans"

Continued from page 1.

I'll conclude our visit this month with the invitation to join us for our April visit. At that time, we will preview our state convention in May which features a number of impressive guests. Please make sure to visit the site again at that time for this preview.

Until our visit in April, keep in mind that ***Elks are Patriotic Americans*** and many thanks to all for all that you do.

Fraternally,

Dan Snyder, President AEA

Help us reach the \$25,000 Goal for Arizona

Pearl Harbor National Memorial on Oahu, Hawaii



[Make a donation today at enf.elks.org/phc/](http://enf.elks.org/phc/)

“Sun City Elks #2559 Delivers Goods to Veterans Organizations”

Friday, the 24th of January, was a good day for the Elks, our community and our Vets as items donated by the Sun City Elk members, their families and friends, were delivered to the CASS center (Central Arizona Social Services). On this day, with the assistance of Dale Blomker, a Veterans committee member, they delivered shirts, slacks, robes, shoes, jackets and suits for the total of \$1,500. The estimated value of donated items thus far this fiscal Elk year (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, exceeds \$460,000. That number includes; scooters, walkers, wheelchairs, and other big ticket items, in addition to clothing.

After leaving the CASS center, the Sun City Elks drove over to the Phoenix, state fairgrounds, where a “Stand Down” event was taking place. The Sun City Veterans Committee, headed by Gary Drumheller, the Elks Arizona State Veterans Chairman, using a \$2000 ENF CIP Grant, donated \$953 in food to the workers setting up and cleaning up the arena for the “Stand Down. The Elks Veterans committee visited the “Women Vets exhibit”, where they made another donation of \$700 in gift cards to the “Women Vets Organization”.

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



“Sun City Elks #2559 Partners with the Red Hat Ladies for Vets

The “Sweet and Sassy” Red Hat Ladies chapter recently met at the Sun City Elks Lodge asked Gary Drummer, AEA Veterans Chair, to discuss what they could do to help our local Veteran population.

After a brief discussion among the group, it was decided that their chapter would purchase bus passes, for those Vets, who had jobs, but needed transportation, to allow them to get to their places of employment. The “Red Hat Ladies”, also presented Gary with 2 carts full of merchandise, which will be given to a Veterans Facility. The carts contained blankets, sleeping bags, clothes, and hygiene products, plus medical and cleaning items.

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



Pictured: Gary Drumheller and 9 of the “Red Hat Ladies” present for the luncheon, pose behind the carts of merchandise donated to the Vets.

“Yuma Elks #476 Donates to Sea Eagle Squadron”

Yuma Elks Lodge 476 donated \$250.00 to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet's “Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron”, for their recent presentation of the Flag Colors. The funds were raised at the 45th annual Elks Golf Tournament.

Submitted by: John Fuller, Yuma Elks Lodge

Pictured; Commanding Officer John Bacon, and Leading Knight Don Jacobs.



“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Veterans Committee Support Military Spouses”



Lake Havasu City Elks Lodge #2399 Veterans Committee donates \$500.00 to the local American Legion Auxiliary's “Military Support Program” specifically their “troop box” program which sends a care package of items to Active duty Military Personnel serving, in harm's way, protecting our Country.

Submitted by: Jackie Turcotte, PER

Pictured are ALA vice president Vicki Hart, Elks Lodge #2399 ER Debbie Herd, Veterans Committee Chairman Bud Watts and ALA Secretary Judy Harvey.

“Chino Valley Elks #2842 Presents Charitable Donations Banner at City Council Meeting”

On Tuesday, 11 February 2020, the Chino Valley Elks Lodge # 2842, presented a banner showing that our Lodge has raised over \$261,000.00 for our town since our inception in 2005.

Our organization has worked tirelessly for our community and has given a substantial amount of money to our town non-profit programs such as; Clothe a child, Chino Valley Food Bank, Hungry Kids Project, Our Town Library summer reading program, Road Clean Up, Blood Drive, People who Care, Yavapai Transit Authority, Annual Pancake Breakfast honoring our Veterans, Annual 1st responders banquet for our Police, Sheriffs and Fireman, The Homeless Children's project and the list goes on.

Submitted by: Norman Swanty



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Honors Outstanding Students”

Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408 honored students of the month for January recently during our Wednesday night tacos. Each was given a certificate for their achievement and free tacos.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Freak, Public Relations Chair

From left all are seniors, two from Mohave H.S. Caleb Fearing and Jena Clingaman and one from River Valley H.S. Sheyanne Bringle. Five students were not able to be there who are Natali Handlin, Kainen Shaw, Kyle Cottrell, Isabella Rozsa and Chase Rice.



“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Host Have a Heart for AEMP”



The annual “Have a Heart” fundraiser” held in February at Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge to benefit the Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP) was extremely informative and financially successful. The Lodge raised approximately \$1,000 for this worthy cause.

Katie Murdoch, AEMP Executive Director, introduced guest speaker, Daniel Laubitz, a microbiologist at the Steele Children’s Research Center. He explained the incredible work that is being done with the millions of dollars donated by the Elks. The evening was not only informative, but those in attendance also enjoyed dinner, dancing, and raffle prizes. Congratulations to Catalina Mountain Elks Major Projects Chairperson Lisa Chavez and her team for a job well done.

Submitted by: Pat Cox, Public Relations Chair

Pictured are (from left) ER Gloria Cisneros, Lisa Chavez, Katie Murdoch, Daniel Laubitz.

“Raceway Elks #2852 Proudly Displays Donation Banner”

Raceway Elks is proud to display our banner outside our lodge for others to see. This is a wonderful way to let our community not only know how much we have donated to help others but also know how much we care about them. Elks care. Elks share

Submitted by: Robin Cox, Newsletter Editor



“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Riders Raise Funds for 1st Responders”

The Casa Grande Valley Elks Riders presented the 100 Club of Arizona with a \$1200 donation of funds raised at a motorcycle run held for First Responders. The Elks recognized local first responders at a banquet held on the same evening in September.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Pictured are: Yvonne Graham, Past Exalted Ruler; Frank Ricci, CG Fire Chief; Angela; and Robert Dodson, Chair, Elks Americanism Committee.

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Auxiliary Honors Members at Sweetheart Ball”

The Bullhead City Elks Auxiliary held their annual *SWEETHEART BALL* recently and honored the couples who have been married 50 years or more at a dinner dance recently. There were 10 couples in all that were married (to the same man) over 50 years. As luck would have it, there were two couples who’ve both been married for 66 years. There were several couples and singles as well, to celebrate love and romance no matter their status. The Elks Auxiliary support our Lodge and several charities one of which is the Safe House and the new 16 bed “Hildie’s House” that will open soon as a rehabilitation center for women.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Freak, Public Relations Chair



“Jerome Elks #1361 Hosts Student of the Month Awards”

On February 20th, 2020 the Jerome Elks Lodge #1361 presented Student of the Month Awards to two eighth grade students from Clarkdale-Jerome School. These students were chosen by the teachers of the school to be the February recipients of these awards. Each student was provided a free dinner at the lodge for themselves and their families, as well as a \$10.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card. Immediately following dinner, the students were honored with their awards.

Submitted by: Charyll McKean, Public Relations Chair

Pictured from left to right are Ray Stock, Co-Chairman Youth Activities, 8th grade students from Clarkdale-Jerome School David Rodriguez and Katelyn Baker, February Students of the Month, and Exalted Ruler Janet Leuer.



“Raceway Elks #2852 Donations Impact 10 Charities in January 2020”

During the month of January Raceway Elks donated over 930 pillows to 10 different charities.

Tim Barrett, PER provided us the information on how we can get pillows to donate to charities in our community. The pillows were distributed as follows: Onward Hope 90 pillows, Justa Center 103 pillows, Knights of Columbus picked up 150 pillows to donate to Sunshine Angels, Andre House and St Vincent de Paul. 90 pillows went to Homeward Bound, 303 pillows to MANA House and 109 pillows to Veterans First where they will be distributed to James Walton Home, Seed's Program and Steele Organization.

Submitted by: Robin Cox, Newsletter Editor



“AEA State Hoop Shoot Winners: Ages 8-9 Girls and Boys”

Las Vegas here we come!

On February 15th, 2020 at the Cactus Canyon Junior High School in Apache Junction, the AEA State Hoop Shoot took place to find out which six winners would advance to the Regional finals in Las Vegas. Gregg Boyce, AEA Hoop Shoot Chairman wants to thank all the volunteers who donated their time to make this a successful Shoot. Also a special thanks to Gay Haywood and the Apache Junction Lodge #2349 for hosting and doing more than could be asked of them. The results are as follows:

8-9 year old girls R to L; 4th place Leilani Ramirez Green Valley #2592 3rd place Isabella Arrioja Yuma #476 2nd place Savannah Magallanez Kearny #2478 and 1st place went to Nalani Chee Winslow #536

8-9 year old boys L to R; 4th place Abdelbasit Adam Tucson #385 3rd place Alberto Bonilla Coolidge-Florence #2350 2nd place Jacoby Chee Winslow #536 and 1st place Tyler Rhodes Raceway #2852



Good luck to all our champions at the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas on March 14th.

Article and pictures submitted by Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Vice president North District

“AEA State Hoop Shoot Winners: Ages 10-11 Girls and Boys”

Las Vegas here we come!

On February 15th, 2020 at the Cactus Canyon Junior High School in Apache Junction, the AEA State Hoop Shoot took place to find out which six winners would advance to the Regional finals in Las Vegas. Gregg Boyce, AEA Hoop Shoot Chairman wants to thank all the volunteers who donated their time to make this a successful Shoot. Also a special thanks to Gay Haywood and the Apache Junction Lodge #2349 for hosting and doing more than could be asked of them. The results are as follows:

10-11 year old girls R to L; 4th place K'manii Hinton Payson #2154 3rd place Samantha Wortman Apache Junction #2349 2nd place Haley Traber Wickenburg #2160 and 1st place Hayden Schellhorn Green Valley #2592

10-11 year old boys L to R; 4th place Chase Van Hooser Raceway #2852 3rd place Nate Huber Green Valley #2592 2nd place Zion Velasquez Sedona #2291 and 1st place Carson Rose Tempe #2251



Good luck to all our champions at the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas on March 14th.

Article and pictures submitted by Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Vice president North District

“AEA State Hoop Shoot Winners: Ages 12-13 Girls and Boys”

Las Vegas here we come!

On February 15th, 2020 at the Cactus Canyon Junior High School in Apache Junction, the AEA State Hoop Shoot took place to find out which six winners would advance to the Regional finals in Las Vegas. Gregg Boyce, AEA Hoop Shoot Chairman wants to thank all the volunteers who donated their time to make this a successful Shoot. Also a special thanks to Gay Haywood and the Apache Junction Lodge #2349 for hosting and doing more than could be asked of them. The results are as follows:

12-13 year old girls R to L; 4th place Brooklyn Neace Apache Junction #2349 3rd place Mia Brown Phoenix #335 2nd place Chloe Cicero Green Valley #2592 and 1st place Maya Francisco Holbrook #2450

12-13 year old boys L to R; 4th place Miguel Dicochea Tucson #385 3rd place Esias Passmore Winslow #536 2nd place Benny Schlenske Casa Grande Valley #1957 and 1st place Tristen Rhodes Raceway #2852



Good luck to all our champions at the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas on March 14th.

Article and pictures submitted by Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Vice president North District

“AEA State Hoop Shoot Top Shooter Awards”

We then handed out our first ever awards for top girls and boy shooters. The award for the top girl shooter was named the Bob Benson award and was given to Maya Francisco Holbrook Lodge #2450 and she made 22/25. The award for the boy top shooter was named the LeRoy "Bugs" Lewis award and we had to have a shoot out to determine who the winner was. It just so happened that they were brothers. 8-9 year old Tyler and 12-13 year old Tristen Rhodes both shot 23/25. Tyler shot first and made 4/5 and his older brother made 5/5. Bugs was then called up and along with AEA President Dan Snyder presented Tristen with his award. These awards will be a yearly award from here on out. They are named after two of the pioneers of our Hoop Shoot program.



Good luck to all our champions at the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas on March 14th.

Also pictured are AEA President Dan Snyder Raceway Lodge #2852 and Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Vice president North District

Article and pictures submitted by Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Vice president North District



A Special Thanks to our Hoop Shoot Volunteers!!

“Arizona Elks Major Projects News”



It is with great sorrow that I write about the loss of Judi Miller. Judi was one of the most uniquely wonderful human beings I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and the impact she had on Arizona Elks Major Projects is unlike any other. She dedicated her life to improving others without asking for anything in return- a rare ability to embody charity to the full extent of the word. For many years, Tom and Judi would put AEMP stickers on the thousands of books donated by the Elks at every convention and drive them to the Steele Center to be placed in the clinic for the children.

She and Tom also spent countless hours at the youth camp each year since its inception, making it better than the last. Simply put- Judi Miller was the very essence of charity, compassion, and joy. She was a symbol of selfless humanity and we should all take a page out of her book. Judi brightened my life and so many others that it is hard to imagine a world without her.

To honor Judi, we will be placing a plaque at the Steele Children's Research Center where the books she hand delivered are chosen by the children to take home during their visit.

Let's toast a glass of scotch to Judi and hope that we can all leave a legacy as wonderful as hers. Here's to you, Judi!

Fraternally,

Katie Murdoch, Executive Director

katie@azelksmp.com



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



New leaders stress communication, education

March is an exciting month in the life of every Lodge. The installation of officers must be held after March 15 and no later than April 15. This is the time for new leadership to assume responsibility for the governance of the Lodge.

A challenge that may exist is the failure to properly train new officers for their duties. Many Lodges have their practices and traditions in some respects, but there are fundamental responsibilities provided in our statutes that all officers should be familiar with. Are you holding an officer training program within the Lodge or district that gives new officers the knowledge and tools to help them do their jobs? Knowing what to do must be learned, and new officers may not know where



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**ROBERT L.
DUITSMAN**

to look to get the best information.

And please, don't forget to get your committees appointed and provide committee members with the information they will need to do their jobs. I've often thought how helpful it would be for every committee chair to be asked to attend a Lodge meeting every month or at least every quarter to give a report on the activities of the committee. It will provide

meeting attendees with updates of committee activities, and it will instill in committee chairs an understanding that the activities of their committees have value and their reports are appreciated.

All eyes are also on Lodge finances. Budget preparation should be underway, with serious thought being given to rightsizing Lodge spending plans to keep them within anticipated receipts. Too often budgets are prepared just because they have to be without serious consideration of what will be needed to maintain long term Lodge viability.

Please take your budgeting responsibilities seriously to make sure your Lodge will remain a welcoming home for your Members for many years to come.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Charity reporting protects our valuable status

By **CARL R. LEDIG SR.**
Committee Member

The ability to operate as a nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organization is a blessing and a right worth protecting. It allows the Elks to increase disposable revenue for its charitable programs rather than pay taxes.

Who monitors and protects this nonprofit status for the Elks?

The Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee's primary mission is to guide the Grand Lodge, its State Associations, and its Local Lodges, in protecting and preserving the right to exist as a private, nonprofit, charitable organization.

Where do the Elks get the right to exist as a private, nonprofit, charitable organization, and what do we have to do to keep that right?

Years ago the Grand Lodge filed with the IRS to become a 501(c)(8) tax exempt organization and qualified. To maintain tax-exempt status, first the Elks must continue our charity programs. We have

to give time, give money, give services, and give what we can. Second and equally important, we must record every act of charity that we can identify, including details such as number of people; number of Elks; number of hours, mileage, and money spent; and value of items and/or services donated for each and every charity act in which we engage. We then report the details of these programs to the IRS, using the appropriate forms.

What can you do to help the process?

1. It is important to know what should be reported and where to report it.
2. Start by being sure that you are giving all new and existing Members a charity reporting form so they can track their charity work and contributions. (Find the forms here: Government Relations Manual — Code 511000 at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals>, page 18, Appendix page 7.
3. Make sure Members know what to do with this information once it is on the form and the deadline for doing it.
4. Assign a Lodge Member the task to remind other Members to report.

5. Ensure the Lodge Secretary correctly handles the recording and reports timely to the Grand Lodge.

6. Be sure your Lodge has a system in place for accountability to be sure the correct forms are filed with the IRS.

All of this information can be found in the Government Relations Manual and Charity Records Workbook in Chapter 2, pages 2-5.

The lifeblood of the Elks is charity so it is critical that each Lodge ensures it has the proper forms available and procedures in place together with the people to handle charity reporting. Without it, we cannot maintain our tax-exempt status, and without that, we cannot continue to do the amazing work we do as Elks.

You can change a life with your charity, but you may find that the life changed is your own!

For official IRS rules and more details, see: <https://www.stayexempt.irs.gov/home/existing-organizations/maintaining-501c3-tax-exempt-status>.

Grand Lodge Convention- Baltimore, MD. July, 5-8 2020

Registration forms are up:

<https://arizonaelksassociation.org/grand-lodge-headquarters/>



Arizona Elks Association



For all the latest news, please check out the Arizona Elks Association webpage

<https://arizonaelksassociation.org/>

or our Facebook page:

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

Arizona Elks Major Projects Diamond Club

Your Monthly Gift Gets You:

A Commemorative Pin showcasing
your membership

Your name displayed on our website
as 'Diamond Member'

Certificate of Appreciation

Recognition at all AEA Conventions
& Meetings

Become a Diamond Member today at:
WWW.AZELKSMP.COM