

Arizona Elks News

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

April 2020



"Elks are Patriotic Americans"

**Article was submitted before cancellation of May convention. Please see Update following this article

My fellow Arizona Elks,



Welcome to April! Spring is upon us, temperatures are rising, and hopes that that will help us defeat the coronavirus are also on the rise.

As promised in our visit last month, the focus of our message this month will be the agenda in place for our May convention.

First, this convention will feature as an honored guest our Grand Exalted Ruler. While Brother Bob Duitsman is known to many of us from his days in the judiciary, this will be the 1st opportunity for Arizonans to hear from GER Bob as our national leader. We look forward to giving him a warm Arizona reception.

We will also be honored to host our *Grand Lodge Public Relations and Marketing Manager*, Rick Gathen. He will be reprising his role as leader of our Membership Workshop which had a considerable impact when he last visited Arizona. I join with our Special Deputy in reminding all of our lodges to bring the pictorial evidence of their Charity Banner displays.

Further, we will be hosting the State Presidents from Nevada and Utah and I look forward to their experiencing our Arizona hospitality during their visit. We will also be hosting our own Patrick Riley from Yuma Lodge who will be representing area 7 of the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee. In that regard, we will also be conducting our Arizona Ritual competition overseen by Arizona's 1st lady of ritual State Chair Sue Krausman.

As is our custom, we will be conducting our annual Memorial Service in respect to our brothers and sisters who have passed before us. Our State Sponsor has agreed to honor us with the Oration at this service and I strongly encourage all to arrange their social events to allow them to attend.

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AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
25 April 2020

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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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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.

Also, we will have year-ending reports from your Officers and your State Committee Chairs. I know many of the committees will be recognizing several of our lodges with awards for the various contests they have conducted throughout the year. Of course, we will also have a series of informative workshops that I believe you will find beneficial.

Maybe a crowning event of this program is the passing of the torch to a new administration. We will vote for our new officers and conduct their installation as the Administration of the Association for the 2020-21 year.

This, then, is an overview of the planned activities at our upcoming convention. It will also be interspersed with a number of social activities and banquets as well as the regular operation of our hospitality room.

I am excited by this program and it is my fondest hope that we will be able to hold this session. As I shared in a previous message to you, we are consistently monitoring the Covid 19 virus situation and will have a final evaluation of the situation within the next 2 weeks. We pledge to keep the membership advised of these developments and appreciate your patience and understanding.

We look forward to our visit with all of you in May as we prepare to close another Association year.

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

Fraternally,

Dan Snyder

UPDATE..... UPDATE..... UPDATE.....UPDATE

We again rely on your patience. On the eve of the release of this newsletter the outlook for control of this virus grew increasingly dim. As a result, it required the cancellation of the above described convention. It left little time for anything else other than enjoying the above as the musings of what might've been. So, I invite you to enjoy it for that while you stay home and stay healthy.

Sincerely, and Fraternally,

Dan Snyder
AEA President

“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Food Bank Donation”

Approximately 45 members of Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 met at the Lodge on February 24 and stuffed 550 bags with food items for distribution to underprivileged families by IMPACT of Southern Arizona's food bank. Lodge Community Activities Coordinator Jan Trudeau organized the event. The food was given to families in addition to their monthly allotment. The donation was made possible by a \$2,500 Beacon Grant received from the BPOE Grand Lodge.

Submitted by: Pat Cox, Public Relations Coordinator



“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts 124th Annual Charity Ball”

The “Roaring 20’s” Annual Charity Ball was completely sold out with over two hundred members and guests with almost all dressed to the theme of the ball. Two tables accommodated our visiting dignitaries including Dan Snyder, AEA President and his wife, Mary as well as an entire table of guests from the Sun City Elks Lodge #2259. Music was performed by “Jazzona” with light music during the cocktail hour and continued into dinner and lively dance music followed thereafter. The many Silent Auction items of artwork, gift baskets were lined up and saw spirited bidding. All were sold. The cash raffle prizes and special raffle prize garnered high levels of interest with accompanying ticket sales. Karaoke started at 10 o’clock and went into the wee morning hours. A great time was had by all and the Lodge Charities enjoyed what is anticipated to be a new recent record amount donated by our Benevolent Members and Guests.

Submitted by: Nancy Baker, Tiler

Pictured: Charlie Yardley, PER had his 1934 Model A Ford available for pictures of the guests. Pictured: Chris Dohrwardt and Jamie Saucier.



“Payson Elks #2154 Commemorates 75th Anniversary of Iwo Jima”

Art Schairer, our Veterans Chairman, along with help of Craig Triphahn, Sawmill Theater got together to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Marines landing on the Island of Iwo Jima. On February 29th the Sawmill Theater had a special showing of the movie “Sands of Iwo Jima”. This event was a success. Thank you to the members who helped along with presence of the Marine Corp League, Honor Guard, Fire Department and the Police Department. Art raised almost \$2,800. All proceeds go to Veterans.

Submitted by: Beverly Cunningham, E.R.



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Recognize Students”

The Bullhead City Elks recognized two seniors from Mohave Accelerated Learning Center for their accomplishment for the month of February.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Freak, Public Relations Chair

Pictured: Left is Michael Martin who wants to become a veterinarian and Madison Ochoa who will be a psychologist. Unable to attend from Mohave HS are Emma Torrecampo and Anna Kuzminsky.



“Phoenix Elks #335 Hoop Shoot Results”

The Elks Western District Hoop Shoot was held in Wickenburg Arizona. Through our Lodge Phoenix #335 we had 3 competitors who advanced and participated in this competition. Luke Gutierrez, Abigail Peters and Mia Brown were our local winners who advanced and should be proud as we are in their achievement. There was spirited competition, camaraderie and great sportsmanship exhibited by all the participants. These young people truly exhibited personal values shared with Elkdom.

Luke put up a spectacular effort with three overtime shoot out attempts for a First Place Trophy only to miss by one basket. Mia Brown advanced to the State Competition after yet another nail-biting series in a shootout which she won.

Congratulations to all our competitors and thanks to all volunteers who brought their support.

Submitted by: Nancy Baker, Tiler

“Kingman Elks #468 receive Promise Grant for Scouts Program”

Kingman Elks Lodge 468 now have Pack 468 (cub scouts) and Troop 468 (older scouts) at Kingman, AZ which is sponsored by the ELKS Promise Grant at \$2,500. Scouts will participate in community events such as “Walk Away from Drugs” as well as serve in our Elks programs, especially in the upcoming “Fishing for Smiles” program on June 6 family day and June 9 for Special Needs participants. End of February, they had their Blue & Gold Banquet where the scouts receive their awards and pins for advancement. See photos from Bill Riehle, Scouts liaison (and Elks Trustee).

Submitted by: Sarah Pleth, Elks Editor 468



Kingman Elks Troop #468 (older pack)



Kingman Elks Cub Scout Pack 468



Recruitment Day with Terry Griffis, scout leader, Seated at table and Troop 468 behind her and Pack in front of banner.

Recruitment Day was March 7, 2020 at Fire Station #22 located on 1605 Harrison, Kingman, AZ.

Elks Pack 468 is cub from kindergarten to 6th grade and Elks Troop 468 is from 7th grade through high school. Both Elks 468 sponsored scouts have grown! This is the future of our Elks 468 Lodge!

“Bullhead Elks #2408 Presents Citizen of the Year Award”

As it is the practice of the Bullhead City Elks' Exalted Ruler to name a person as “Citizen of the Year” and this year it is Grace Black, best known for her band “Class Act.” She is a two time cancer survivor and is very active in the *Relay for Life* event and supports the We Care Cancer center as a volunteer and benefactor. Grace is a good friend to the Elks and is very deserving of the Elks award.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Freak, Public Relations Chair

Shown is Black, left accepting the plaque from Exalted Ruler Marsha Haddick.



“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Old Timer’s Dinner”

The Annual Old Timers Dinner was held at Phoenix Elks Lodge #335. It was extremely well attended by the Old Timers, friends and family and fellow Elks numbering over 80 persons. Old Timers are defined as those members who have accrued at least 25 years as an Elk and there were many Elks who had achieved long service as Lifetime Members – some over the seventy-year mark such as Jim Karam, PER who celebrated his 71st year as a member. Al Kayal, PDDGER was the Master of Ceremony and Lori Smith performed as Chaplain. The Officer Volunteers served the dinner which was prepared by our volunteer kitchen staff. Service pins were given to all qualifying members. The presentation of award for the oldest member was made to 98-year-old John Melton.

A very good time was had by all. The Annual PER Lodge Meeting following the dinner was memorable as Chair Positions were filled by the PER's with some levity as always. As always, a special thank you to all the volunteers.

Submitted by: Nancy Baker, Tiler

“Phoenix Elks #335 Chili Cook-off Raises Funds for Veterans”

The Annual Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 Chili Cook-Off Competition was held in our lounge. The Veterans Committee held several raffles, sold hand made greeting cards raising several hundred dollars. The hungry crowd of more than 50 members and guest paid a \$5 tasting donation for the privilege of trying out as many as they could of the 20 Chili dishes prepared by the contestants. Chili recipes of all types ranged from the “Texas Standard” to the “New Wild West” and absolutely no one walked away hungry. The Grand Prize Chili winner was Lodge Esquire Karen Seaman, Lorie Bowe 2nd place and Linda Thompson 3rd place.

The Veterans Committee was by far the biggest winner of the afternoon receiving donations well over \$500 for their charitable work.

Special thanks to all the volunteers for making this a successful event.

Submitted by: Nancy Baker, Tiler

“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Participates in Tucson StandDown”

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 used a \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant and close to \$4,000 in donations from the Lodge to purchase 210 backpacks and personal items for homeless and transitioning veterans. Thirty-three Elk lodge veterans, under the leadership of Dan Bradshaw, met and filled the backpacks with shirts, socks, underwear, hats, flashlights and personal hygiene items. On March 11, the Lodge set up a booth at the Tucson Veterans StandDown where the backpacks were distributed over a two-day period. The veterans also received a “Thank you for your Service” challenge coin.

The Arizona Veterans StandDown Alliance is a program of the Arizona Housing Coalition that holds annual events that allow veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing housing instability to receive supportive services. The event is open to all veterans, national guard and reservists in the Tucson area.

Submitted by: Pat Cox, Public Relations Coordinator



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Presents Elk of the Year Award”

At a recent dinner dance held at the Elks, Jimmy Pageau was really surprised when Exalted Ruler (right) presented him with a plaque naming James Pageau Elk of the Year. Pageau is head of the House committee and has guided our Lodge thru many events during the Lodge year and chaired many activities which generate funds for our various charities.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Freak, Public Relations Chair



“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Elkettes Pie Fundraiser for Charity”

In November 2018 the auxiliary of Elks 2399 in Lake Havasu City known as the Elkettes have been selling pies during some of the dinner hours. It started out 2 nights a week and is now 3 and sometimes 4 nights. With the expectation of making \$300-\$400 a month to give to selected local charities it bloomed into \$1000 a month profit. Donations have been given to the VFW veterans relief program, American Legion troop box program, Faith and Grace house for domestic violence, Veterans Thrift store, DAV, ENF, local food bank, Elks Scholarship fund, Veterans court, Military Moms, Stand down, earbuds and Amazon gift cards for Steele Children's hospital.

It's amazing what we can do selling Pies at the dinner hour at \$2-\$3 per slice. Most people are so generous and give more to the cause. We get our pies through the company the kitchen uses to get their food supplies. Using a cart, we navigate from table to table offering approximately 8 varieties.

It is an old idea revisited that just happen to work this time.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Elkette President



Pictured: Elkettes along with Faith and Grace President Kathi DeClark and Faith and Grace Secretary Nat Munn excepting a donation for \$1000 derived from Pie sales

“Raceway Elks #2852 Triples Pearl Harbor Per Capita Challenge”

Pictured are Raceway members Sarah Purcell and AEA President Dan Snyder. They were among the donors that helped Raceway Lodge raise over \$600 during their Western Night function. This added to previous money raised allows the Lodge to forward over \$800 to the fund. This amounts to just over \$3 per capita donated. Also pictured is ER Chuck Waugh who noted that **we would now post this as a challenge to all Lodges to match this generosity.**

Submitted by: Robin Cox, Newsletter Editor



“Payson Elks #2154 Honors Outstanding Students”

We honored 3 students for the month of February. Two from Julia Randall Elementary and one from Rim Country Middle School. Each student was awarded with a certificate and a \$25 gift card from Walmart.

Selah was chosen for being an exemplary student, a model for others, and is kind, and thoughtful towards others.

Angelica is an excellent student in advanced classes and receiving credit in high school courses as an eight grader. She placed 3rd in the Arizona Science Fair with a score in the top 10 of all competitors. She is also an honor student, involved in athletics, bridges incoming students.

Carter was chosen for is pillar character, for being trustworthy and always putting effort into his learning.

Submitted by: Beverly Cunningham, E.R.



Pictured left to right: Carter Kelton, Selah Spalding, Beverly Cunningham, E.R., Angelica McFarland, Gayla Robles,

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Hosts Awards Night”

Tucson East held their annual awards night March 14th. Our Officer of the year is Megin Goetz, she is the Lecturing Knight, House Committee Chair, and in charge of keeping our rental rooms booked. She is quite the ball of energy and a real go getter. The Elk of the Year is Rich Botkin. Rich can be found lending a helping hand at many of our Lodge functions and is always really to give advice. Tony Goetz is the proud recipient of the “Outstanding Service Commendation”. Tony is one of our Trustees and general “Mister Fixit” around the Lodge, a very handy person to be sure. Congratulations to these award winners they shine as beacons of Elkdom.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



Left to Right: Megin Goetz, Rich Botkin and Tony Goetz

“Tucson East Elks #2532 uses Gratitude Grant to Help Homeless Veterans”

Tucson East 2532 used their Gratitude Grant and other funds to provide backpacks to homeless veterans during the Veterans Standdown that was held March 9th through the 13th. Each of our fabulous backpacks contained multiple t-shirts and undergarments, sunscreen, hats, water bottles, rain gear, a flashlight with extra batteries, deodorant, razors, shampoo, soap, a couple of washcloths and Chapstick and wet wipes.

The first two days of the Standdown consisted of setting up the space at the Luxe Hotel and sorting the clothes, hygiene items, shoes and pet supplies that had been donated by partner agencies and the community at large. Since we were there from day one, we were asked not only to give out our pre-stuffed backpacks, but to also man the hygiene day and hand out those supplies too.



When we finally opened for the veterans on day three it was inspiring. In addition to the clothing, shoes, hygiene and pet area, there was a haircut area, veteran's court area, meals, bus passes, housing and a section filled with service vendors willing to give a helping hand. We ran out of some items the first day, but a quick trip to the dollar store replenished our dwindling supplies and we were ready for the next day of serving our veterans. On day four a job fair was added for those interested in seeking employment. Towards the end of day four we started packing up and breaking down the space and day five was a continuation of that process. Once everything was packed up it was into the trucks and back to storage.

We can honestly say while tired we felt grateful for the many things we have in our lives and truly Blessed that we were able to help so many in need. This standdown was sponsored by [Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans](#) (TVSV) a local group. If you are interested in seeing more there are pictures and live interviews on their Facebook page, check it out by searching for “Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans”.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Donation for Employees”

Scottsdale AZ Lodge 2148. on March 26, 2020 had a member, who wishes to remain anonymous, make a very generous donation to all our bartenders who are temporarily unemployed due to COVID19. They each received \$100.00 and a donation of \$200.00 was made to the Lodge to help get through these unprecedented times. Elks Care, Elks Share!!!

Submitted by: Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary

Pictured L-R: Matt Compau, Gilbert Puente, Robyn Hansen, Rian Steinenger, Josie Braker, Lenie Johnson, Brittney Strummer, Dia Borjogez, and April Arruda



“Buckeye Elks #2686 use Spotlight Grant to Provide Care for Veterans”

The Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 with the help of the Spotlight Grant, the city of Buckeye, the VA administration, and local businesses helped veterans on February 22, 2020. The event was held at Odyssey Jr. High School. Over 300 veterans attended and benefitted from the event. The VA Administration helped with questions veterans had regarding benefits and assistance, local businesses provided was to save money or buy a house, even dog food for the pets of veterans. Buckeye Elks lodge provided 2 pair socks and a men's or women's toiletry kit. Many veterans learned about the Elks Organization and what the Elks does for the community, youth and veterans. Buckeye Elks lodge is always there for veterans. It is our way of giving back to the ones who gave so much for our freedom.

Submitted by: Rose Hendricks



“Buckeye Elks #2686 use Beacon Grant for Veteran's Shopping Spree”

The Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 with the help of the Beacon Grant helped 20 Veterans by giving each Veteran a \$125.00 shopping spree to JCPenney.

The day started with all veterans meeting at the Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 for coffee. After coffee the veterans and shopper helpers boarded a bus provided by the Buckeye Union High School and all traveled to JCPenney. JCPenney open the store early as a tribute to the veterans and provided coffee and donuts for all involved. The veterans and shopper helpers shopped for things for the veterans and the amount of \$125.00. Veterans got such things as shoes, pants, shirts, dresses and under garments. Upon checkout JCPenney stepped up and gave each veteran 40% off so many of the Veterans had to go back and do more shopping to spend the whole \$125.00.

After completing the shopping spree all veterans and helpers had breakfast at the Lodge.



Submitted by: Rose Hendricks

"Regional Hoop Shoot Awards"

On March 13th, 2020 the "Junk Food Express" loaded at the Tempe Elks Lodge for Las Vegas and the Regional Hoop Shoot. Thank you to Tempe Lodge for once again providing us with the opportunity to meet and have a send off snack. We were going although the fears of the coronavirus were all around us and all was well until just before we reached our hotel. I had received a phone call from Regional Director Larry Torres that the City of Las Vegas had closed all of the schools and we had lost our gym. We were literally 10 miles from our destination. Well as Elks always do, they scrambled and were able to secure a new site for the shoot. With the help of every Elk, parent, grand parent, uncle, aunts and everyone present the gym was set up in record time and the shoot was on. Arizona was once again represented by an outstanding group of Champions. The results are as follows;

8-9 year old girl Nalani Chee Winslow Lodge #536 took home a 2nd place.

8-9 year old boy Tyler Rhodes Raceway Lodge #2852 also a 2nd



10-11 year old girl Hayden Schellhorn Green Valley Lodge #2592 took a 4th but was right there in the scoring

10-11 year old boy Carson Rose Tempe Lodge #2251 took 2nd



“Regional Hoop Shoot Awards”

12-13 year old girl Maya Francisco Holbrook Lodge #2450 took 2nd after losing in a tie breaker

12-13 year old boy Tristen Rhodes Raceway Lodge #2852 took home a 1st and is now eligible to be a National Champion. He also took home the Adrian Brubaker Award for making the the most tie breaker baskets in the system that was set in motion by the ENF after it was decided that the National Competition would be cancelled this year. So whoever won there division would shoot 5 extra sets of 5 shots for a total of 25 to be used as tie breakers to decide the trophy winners at the National Competition. Tristen stepped up and made 25/25. He had made 21/25 in his first round. I will make the results known as soon as they are available.



I personally want to thank everyone that made the trip to Las Vegas for all of your help and patience in making this a very excellent experience for our Champions. You are all Champions for your help.

Also pictured are Dan Snyder, AEA President, Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, Vice President North District, AEA Hoop Shoot Director , Larry Torres Region 7 Director

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

“Grand Lodge COVID-19 News”

A Message from Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L. Duitsman

All,

Various Local Lodges are requesting information pertaining to being open or closed. As a reminder, Local Subordinate Lodges are Chartered under the 501(c)(8) umbrella of the Grand Lodge and governed by the Constitution, Statutes and Laws of the Order.

The day to day operations are overseen by the Lodge Officers, the House Committee and membership as governed by said Constitution, Statutes and Laws of the Order as well as complying with local, county, state and federal laws, executive orders, mandates, rules and ordinances. Of which, most are different for each Lodge or Lodge location. In instances of this nature, Local Lodges must also comply with any local, county, state and federal public health mandates, directives and announcements as well as using common sense during these trying times.

Attached are suggested recommendations (<https://www.elks.org/members/NewsStory.cfm?StoryID=122184>) for the Local Lodges to follow and offer guidance on other items. ***For further guidance, assistance and direction, please contact your State Sponsor.***

Grand Lodge hopes each Local Lodge and State Association has implemented the following CDC guidelines on practical ways to prevent the spread of infection:

1. No shaking hands, hugging, knuckle bumps or high fives.
2. Keep a safe distance from others. Six feet when possible.
3. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
4. No soap? Use hand sanitizer (60–95% alcohol based).
5. Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
6. Cover your cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
7. Stay home when you are sick and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Encourage others to do the same.

We all need to keep in mind that the health of our Members, spouses, significant others, friends, volunteers and employees is paramount. Let's be vigilant in our efforts to keep one another healthy!

Fraternally and sincerely,

Robert L. Duitsman
Grand Exalted Ruler

“Grand Lodge COVID-19 Recommendations”

CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR THE B.P.O.E.

Grand Lodge Advisory Committee recently held a conference call to discuss the coronavirus issue and how Lodges should proceed during this unprecedented health crisis. They offer the following guidelines that may be applied to all of our Lodges in every State. Items listed below are a guide for each State Sponsor so he can establish further guidelines for the State Associations and Local Lodges he oversees.

Since every State, and even localities within a State, are issuing different guidelines on activities and closures, the Advisory Committee determined that restrictions/limitations regarding the virus should be left to each State Sponsor and that the Lodges should follow their State government directives, along with local and state health official guidelines, as overseen, encouraged and/or directed by the State Sponsors. An example of the differences is that some states have closed bars and restaurants, others have not ordered closures, but most all are limiting gatherings to groups of no more than 50, 25, 20, 10 or even 4 persons, depending on the Federal, State and Local mandate.

It was determined that if bars and restaurants are closed in your State, then your bar and kitchen must also be closed. Some Lodges, located in States which has not ordered the closures, are closing their bar and kitchen anyway, opting for on the side of caution, and that is acceptable. If the bar and kitchen are closed, most States do not prohibit access to the Lodge facility in order to conduct needed services/repair and/or to conduct Lodge business as long as the gathering exceeds the mandated total.

In some cases, where there are closures of the bar and kitchen, a Lodge may still allow Members to access the Lodge, subject to the limitation of the size of gatherings, thereby allowing Members gather in small groups for cards, gaming machines, pull tabs, and other minor activities. If allowed, these Lodges must take extra care to have hand sanitizers available at all entrances and often clean and disinfect high traffic areas. Members who appear ill should be asked to leave the Lodge immediately and to always follow best practices and CDC guidelines. If entry is allowed, it should be restricted to Members Only and no Guests may be invited to the Lodge.

Additional Information can be found by clicking on the following link: <https://www.elks.org/members/NewsStory.cfm?StoryID=122184>

“ENF Grants News: COVID-19”

Lodge Grants: Adapting in Response to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we're now experiencing a new normal together. In a few short weeks, everything has changed. And, the Community Investments Program must change this year, too. The new CIP grant year set to open on April 1, will likely be delayed to June 1, for all grant components **except** the Gratitude Grant.

With an increasing number of states under shelter-in-place mandates, and many others following the CDC and WHO guidelines—and with the health and wellbeing of Elks communities paramount—we must press pause and let the dust settle before we jump back in to project planning on any scale. With the ability to donate funds to a charitable organization, the Gratitude Grant offers eligible Lodges the perfect opportunity to make a difference when and where it's needed most.

Normally, if a Lodge proposed to donate its Gratitude Grant to another organization, we'd ask to consider a more active use of the funds. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we're adapting that approach this year. If a Lodge proposes to use a Gratitude Grant for an active project to take place in the next few months, we're going to have a lot of questions about feasibility. Instead, we'll encourage Lodges to think about donating to food pantries or other organizations in the community that are better equipped to directly serve the populations in need as we work our way through this pandemic.

Here are a few causes that could benefit from a Gratitude Grant donation. Your Lodge may identify others. You know your community best.

Feed the Community: Food Banks

As people find themselves unemployed or underemployed, local food banks and food pantries will feel the strain and will have an increased need for donations and supplies. The need will be great and the opportunity to positively and immediately impact the Lodge community is greater. Visit [Feeding America](#) to find your local food bank or food pantry.

The Frontline: Healthcare Workers

We all need to do our part to [#FlattenTheCurve](#) so that hospitals and healthcare workers can continue to do theirs. Hospitals—including V.A. hospitals, medical centers and nursing homes—may find themselves in short supply of life-saving equipment. Consider donating directly to [hospitals in your area](#) that may be working tirelessly to combat this pandemic. If your Lodge focuses on veterans, consider donating directly to a [VA hospital](#) that caters to this population in need during this time.

The American Red Cross has also published [an excellent resource](#) on medical preparedness for individuals and their communities.

People Experiencing Homelessness

Support [homeless shelters](#) and assistance programs. For those who don't have anywhere safe to go, this time is even more difficult. Consider donations to programs that will help [vulnerable veterans](#) during this time.

Delaying the launch of the other Lodge grants until at least June 1 will allow us to assess the needs of our communities and figure out the best ways for Elks to help. This may include loosening or reconfiguring grant guidelines prior to the June 1 launch.

We will get through this together. Elks have always shown a tremendous amount of caring, sharing, and grit, and now is no different. As always, the CIP is here to help showcase that #ElksAlwaysCare.

“30 Days to Slow the Spread: COVID-19”

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

30 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.



For more information, please visit
CORONAVIRUS.GOV

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts —
USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

“AEMP News”

Nonprofits are on the front-lines of our communities- in good times, challenging times, and times of community crisis. Arizona Elks Major Projects is no different. In fact, we feel an even greater obligation to continue our mission being that one of our Major Projects is uniquely the most effected and the most important. The University of Arizona's Steele Children's Research Center not only houses immunocompromised children who are the most at risk during this outbreak, but it also conducts research that could be crucial to the course this pandemic takes.

We know that majority of you are trying to navigate your lives that have most likely been uprooted into a time of uncertainty, but the children and researchers need you more now than they ever have. We often take our health for granted and this new virus has put us all into a state of fear questioning our own health for quite possibly the first time. But imagine the children whose families are terrified that this fast-moving virus might enter in to their already fragile immune system. Life was uncertain prior to this outbreak and now, their fears are magnified.

As you can imagine, doctors and researchers are working around the clock to find a way to end or even just slow down the outbreak of COVID-19. This is where we, as a community, need to come together and support the work of the researchers at the Steele Children's Research Center. If everyone were to donate as little as \$10 a month with our Diamond Club program, we would be able to give more than we ever have to their efforts and make a significant change- right here. right now. We will be launching new online fundraisers including t-shirt sales where all proceeds will go directly to our major projects.

We simply don't have the option to close our doors, we will persevere and do everything within our reach to support those most vulnerable during this time. It is now, more than ever, that we remind ourselves of what it means to *truly* be an Elk.

Katie Murdoch
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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/>

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