

Arizona Elks News

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

June 2020



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Members all:



This is my first of many articles that will appear in the AEA Newsletter. I would like to thank PSP Dan Snyder and his lovely wife Mary for the way they represented the Arizona Elks Association throughout their travels when visiting other Lodges and attending out of state conventions. Their commitment to represent our organization was by all standards superb. Thank you both for your support of JoAnn and I and for all the information you shared with us to make our year successful.

As you well know our daily lives and routines have been completely turned upside down. I am not sure when it will get back to normal if that is even possible at this stage of the pandemic. However, even though it has put us behind the eight ball, business must continue as best we can. With that in mind I will share as much information that I have available to me at this time. Of course, I am sure everyone is aware of the cancellation of all the conventions including the Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore. Very disappointing, but not unexpected, especially to the Exalted Rulers and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Designates.

Also, the Organization meeting scheduled for May 30th at the Tempe Lodge has been cancelled and a new date has not been established at this time. All the AEA officers have been installed and starting to conduct the business of the order, this was done on May 9th, 2020 at various Lodges throughout the state by Past State Presidents.

My biggest concern at this time is the reopening of the Lodges, retention of membership and the financial burden some Lodges might be encountering at this time. I have instructed my Vice Presidents to contact every Lodge in their districts and find out if the Lodge is open and if so, how is it doing. in any way.

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AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
25 May 2020

aeanewsletter
@arizonaelks.org



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**ARIZONA ELKS
ASSOCIATION
2020-2021
STATE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT:

Richard "Rich" Botkin

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

North: Charyll McKeon

VICE PRESIDENTS

West: Val Bianchino

East: Jerry Ingram

South: Jack Baillargeon

SECRETARY:

Peter K. Gillespie, PSP

TREASURER:

Alane Asp

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

North-1 Year:

Leland "Lee" Schwein, PSP

South-2 Year:

Alfred R. Skorupski, PSP

East- 3 Year:

John F. James, PSP

North- 4 Year:

Edward Leuer, PSP

West- 5 Year:

Dan Snyder, PSP

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Larry Pratt Jr.

CHAPLAIN:

Beverly Swanty

TILER:

Gloria Cisneros

INNER GUARD:

Dale Blomker

ASST. SEC / TREASURER:

Roy Haddick, PDDGER

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Dwayne Cunningham

ORGANIST:

Hugh Dixon

"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Continued from page 1.

If the Lodge is not open when do they expect to open. We need to know what is going on with our Lodges in the state. I will put at your disposal, all my elected and appointed officers to render aid or help. There are plans in the works by our trustees to render aid and relief to Lodges in need of assistance.

This is a profoundly serious time and we need to take some very drastic steps to ensure our membership that we are going to get through this and perhaps come out stronger than before. I encourage you as leaders and members to step up and reach out to us for assistance and vital information. We are in this together and I promise you, as president, I will be a strong leader who will be there in a time of crisis as well as when it is the time for celebration that *Elks are Patriotic Americans* and again many thanks to all for all that you do.

May you all stay safe and healthy. Bless you all.

Fraternally,

Rich Botkin
AEA President

"AEA First Lady JoAnn's Message"



Hi to all Arizona Elks spouses. Hope everyone is staying safe and practicing social distancing while your lodge is open. Sorry the May convention was cancelled as I am sure Mary Snyder had a great luncheon and entertainment planned. So sorry that Dan and Mary did not get the opportunity to finish their year, hopefully, we will make it up during the Mid-Year convention in October.

I am working on my fundraisers which will be focused on the Veterans and children. I will give more details later. I am always open for suggestions for entertainment at our luncheons or fundraisers information. You can always reach me at joannbotkin@hotmail.com or 520-730-5869 at any time with any ideas you may have. Stay healthy and happy and we will look forward to seeing you during our visits to the Lodges.

JoAnn Botkin
AEA First Lady

“Sun City Elks #2559 Donate Power Chairs to Veterans”

On Friday, April 24, 2020, the Sun City Elks Veterans Committee, again provided a critical service to our area's Paralyzed Vets. Four (4) power wheel chairs by the Sun City Elks Lodge members, and from there the Elks Veterans committee loaded them up and delivered them to the Paralyzed Veterans Facility, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Since being adopted by the Sun City Elks as one of their Veterans projects, the Elks have delivered dozens of these power chairs, some costing a staggering \$40,000, when new. In addition to the power chairs, the Elks have provided hundreds of manual chairs and thousands of other items such as walkers, canes, crutches and other items badly needed by the Vets looking to the facility for assistance.

The Elks ever vigilant in protecting the proceeds of their Veterans budget, doubled up on their trip to downtown Phoenix, by delivering sleeping bags, blankets and homemade “plastic” mattresses to the homeless, at the C.A.S.S., in downtown Phoenix.

The plastic mattresses are hand made by the “Pueblo El Mirage Ladies Club”, in the El Mirage R.V. facility in El Mirage, Arizona, the other items were donated by Elk members and friends.

Bless all Veterans past and present and all those Patriots who assist them.

Val Bianchini, Sun City Elks Veterans Committee P.R. Chairman



“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Donates to Health Foundation”

In April Elks Lodge 2399 in Lake Havasu City, AZ donated \$2000 dollars to the Lake Havasu Community Health

Foundation to support the food bank.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, News Editor

Pictured: Past Exalted Ruler Debbie Herd and Food Bank volunteer Ellie Zeuke



“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Donates”

In March the Lake Havasu City Elks Lodge #2399 donated \$500 to the LHC high School Track team.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, News Editor

Pictured from left to right are PER Mike Vail, Megan Gagnon, and Exalted Ruler Debbie Herd.**

**Pictures were taken before the COVID-19 orders



“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Deliver Easter Baskets”



Friday April 10th the Elkettes with Elks lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City finished up and delivered Easter baskets to the Havasu Nursing Center in Beautiful Lake Havasu. Yes, they were disinfected and assembled with gloves and face masks. Azalea met us at the door and loaded the baskets onto a cart to take inside. They were handed out Easter morning to 55 inpatients and two nursing stations.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, News Editor

Pictured from left to right are Elkettes Karen Oliver and Robin Spring-Wheeler, Havasu Nursing Center Activity Director Azalea Meneses and Elkettes Mae Pine. Due to Covid-19 and social distancing rules the Elkettes could not deliver themselves on Easter day as planned.

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Donates Gratitude Grant to Help Homeless Veterans”

Scottsdale AZ Lodge # 2148 with the help of a Gratitude grant was able to donate \$1200 to UMOM of Phoenix to assist with the Homeless Veterans Day Care Center along with their other programs for the homeless, domestic violence victims and more.

Submitted by: Debra Jo Clark, News Editor

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Spreads Easter Joy”



Scottsdale AZ Lodge #2148 on April 12, 2020, our very own Easter Bunny, Terry Youngs along with his carrot helper, Lynn Youngs, Exalted Ruler, stood on the corner near the Lodge waving at passersby. Bringing a little touch of happiness to the community since the Lodge was unable to provide our annual Easter Egg hunt and Brunch with the Easter Bunny.

Submitted by: Debra Jo Clark, News Editor

Pictured: Easter Bunny, Terry Youngs waving and Carrot, Lynn Youngs, Exalted Ruler)



“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Delivers Food to Healthcare Workers”

Scottsdale AZ Lodge # 2148 Two of our members, Anna Mineer, Est. Leading Knight and Rota Venners used their food truck, Eur Haus, to provide complimentary meals for 100 nurses and healthcare workers at Banner Desert Hospital and Banner Valley wise hospital. Giving back to the hardworking front-line workers of our community.

Submitted by: Debra Jo Clark, News Editor



Picture in front of food truck attached left to right healthcare workers of Banner Desert hospital

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Donates to Food Bank”

Scottsdale AZ Lodge #2148 with the aid of a Gratitude grant donated \$1000.00 to the St Mary's food bank along with members providing over 80 hours of volunteer service to help feed our community in April 2020.

Submitted by: Debra Jo Clark, News Editor

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Donates Meals to Seniors”

Scottsdale AZ Lodge #2148 May 8, 2020 Est. Leading Knight, Anna Mineer and member Rota Venners along with the Scottsdale firefighters, using the Lodge kitchen, prepared 100 meals to be served to seniors in our community.

Submitted by: Debra Jo Clark, News Editor



Pictured eft to right Emily Lane, Bill Rodgers, Anna Mineer, Est. Leading Knight, and Rota Venners in front of Eur Haus food truck.

“Green Valley Elks #2592 Student Wins Drug Awareness Essay Contest”

Due to the closure of all schools in Arizona, pictures could not be taken of the awardees at a school assembly. Arizona Drug Awareness Chairman, John (Jack) Ponzo decided to mail each first-place winner their awards. The winning awards consist of a plaque, letter of congratulations and an honorarium check for the winners. This year the First-Place 8th Grade winner for the Arizona Elks Association Drug Awareness Essay Contest was Cutter Papritz from Continental School in Green Valley, AZ the Green Valley Lodge #2592 chose Cutter Papritz as the lodge winner. Cutter's parents took his picture with his plaque and congratulation letter in their back yard. The theme of the 2019-2020 Drug Awareness Essay Contest was;

“Life Does Not Rewind, Choose Life Not Drugs”

Submitted by; Cheryl J. Ponzo P.E.R.



“Sun City Elks #2559 Donate Car to Navy Veteran”

Sun City Elks Lodge friend Mr. David Monk, 90 years young and talking through a mask, presented his 1998 Chevy Lumina vehicle to a vet in need of transportation. Ron Mikels, a Navy Veteran, the recipient of the vehicle, presently resides at the M.A.N.A. House facility, has a job, but no transportation.

David Monk is not an Elk member, but he heard of the Elk Program through his friend, Donna Barr, a longtime member of the Sun City Elks Lodge.

This is the fifth vehicle, that the Sun City Elks have arranged to provide to our Vets over the last two years, and this vehicle was the second one given this month alone.

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



Pictured left to right; Horace “Ace” Carter, case manager of MANA House, Ron Mikels, Navy Vet and recipient of the Vehicle, David Monk, and Gary Drumheller, AEA Veterans Chairman. All are wearing masks, in accordance with State regulations.

“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Awards 6 ENF Scholarships”

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 is proud to announce that it has awarded scholarships to six local high school graduates who are recipients of the ENF scholarship awards which total \$2.44 million in scholarship awards across the country.

Receiving ENF \$4000 scholarships for their exemplary performance in academic achievements, leadership skills, participation in community activities, and strong family contributions are: Ashley Wheeler graduate of Canyon Del Oro High School was awarded most Valuable Student Scholarship. She will be attending the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona. Clare Salazar graduate of Basis High School was awarded Legacy Scholarship and will be attending North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

Receiving \$1600 Arizona Elks Association Scholarship are: Abby Odom graduate of Pusch Ridge Christian Academy and will be attending Azusa Pacific University in California. Kyle Bushelman graduate of Pusch Ridge Christian Academy who will be attending Biola University, La Mirada, in California. Jeremiah Grille graduate of Pusch Ridge Christian Academy and will be attending Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Henry Newman graduate of Pusch Ridge Christian Academy and will be attending Colorado Christian University in Colorado.

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge also awards a scholarship to students that are pursuing a higher education or technical training. This year the \$1500 scholarship was awarded to Kaustin Bellon graduate of Ironwood Ridge High School and Pima Community College simultaneously and is attending Eller College at the University of Arizona.

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 would like to extend our congratulations to these exceptional students.

Submitted by: Soraya and Michael Bellon, PR Co-coordinators

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Drug Awareness Essay Winners”

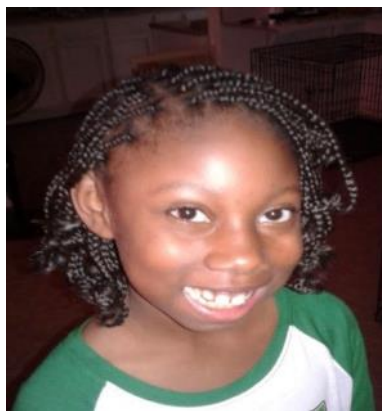
Casa Grande Valley Elks are pleased to announce that two students in Casa Grande placed first in the Arizona Elks State Drug Awareness competitions.

Winning first place in the state of Arizona for her Drug Awareness Essay was Alexis Cervantes. Alexis, age 11, is the daughter of Evelyn Cervantes of Casa Grande. She is in 6th Grade at Mary C. O'Brien Elementary School.

Cha'nel Howell Tibbs has been awarded first place for her poster drawing in the Drug Awareness Program. Cha'nel is the daughter of Catrina and Christopher Stevens and is in the fourth grade at Mesquite School District, Casa Grande, AZ.

Both received a plaque from the Arizona Elks Association as well as a check for \$50. Congratulations to them both!

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Pictured L to R: First place essay winner; Alexis Cervantes, and First Place poster winner; Cha'nel Howell Tibbs

“Raceway Elks #2852 Donate Leather Coats to MANA House”

On 4/30/20 Raceway Elks Lodge #2852 donated 9 beautiful men's leather coats to Mana House, which is a residency program for previously homeless Veterans. This donation was made possible due to the generosity of Eugene Mahler, Lodge Charter Member.

The Program Manager at Mana House was grateful as last winter they only had a few coats for the residents".

Submitted by; Robin Cox, Newsletter Editor



“Raceway Elks #2852 Members Makes Masks for AZ DPS”



Raceway Elks #2852 member, Christine Gillies, spent her time during “Stay home, Stay safe”, working over 240 hours making 273 masks and donating them to AZ DPS, Maricopa County Correctional Officers, Valleywise Medical Health Center for their nurses, Metro Hearing and Hope and Community Church. Jesica and Jason Chernosky donated materials and supplies for Christine to sew and then they distributed them to the above-mentioned facilities. Supporting our heroes is appreciated!

Submitted by: Robin Cox, Newsletter Editor

Pictured: Christine Gillies wearing one of her homemade masks

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Donates Flower and Gifts for Mother’s Day”

Members of Tucson East purchased and wrapped bracelets as gifts for the 8 ladies residing at the Arizona State Veteran Home for Mother’s Day. They also purchased bouquets of flowers for each lady. Staff presented these gifts to the ladies during their annual Mother’s Day Tea. Due to visiting and volunteer restrictions the gifts had to handed off at the door.

Our Lodge Veteran Committee Chair also provided to the Senior Recreation Therapist, San Nanez \$300 in gift cards to be used provide entertainment for the residents.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



Picture 1) L to R: Mary Shaffer, PER; Brigid Sherbo, AZ Veteran Home Representative and San Nanez, Senior Recreation Therapist

Picture 2) L to R: Brigid Sherbo, Veteran Committee Chair and San Nanez, Senior Recreation Therapist

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Donates Gratitude Grant to Food Pantry”

Tucson East used their \$2,000 Gratitude Grant to provide funds to ‘God’s Vast Resources’ a local food pantry. Due to COVID 19 restrictions Elks National Foundation allowed us to provide as check in lieu active participation. Also known as the ‘Tucson Neighborhood Food Pantry’ it is part of God’s Vast Resources and GV Resources, LLC. This non-profit supplies low or no-income families with bags of food, household and hygiene items. GVR is a Qualified Charitable Organization with the Arizona Department of Revenue. You may donate and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your Arizona tax return.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



L to R: Brigid Sherbo, Grant Coordinator, Mark and Debbie Struble founders and owners of Tucson Neighborhood Food Pantry

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Drive Thru Food Drive”



On Friday, 22 May 2020 the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge hosted our first Drive Through Food Drive in support of Peach’s Pantry. Peach’s provides weekend food to school aged children on the school lunch program. Lead by Exalted Ruler Robert Applegate, and Leading Knight Sally Applegate, the Lodge raised over \$1500 in monetary donations and \$800 in food donations.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Newsletter Editor

Congratulations AEA President Richard Botkin and First Lady JoAnn

Congratulations to Arizona Elks Association (AEA) State President Richard “Rich” Botkin and 1st Lady, JoAnn. Rich was installed on Saturday, May 9th by Joseph Riley, PSP. Rich and JoAnn have been members of Tucson East Lodge since its Charter and will serve the AEA as State President for the 2020 – 2021 Fraternal Year. Dan Snyder, PSP was installed as the AEA 5-year Trustee at the same ceremony. Other installing officers included Leroy Zaugra, Grand Secretary; John Olson, Grand Esquire and Rocky Davis, Grand Chaplain, all Tucson East Past Exalted Rulers.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



“Installation of AEA Chaplain and Assistant Secretary / Treasurer”

On Saturday, 9 May 2020 PSP Jim Casacchia installed Beverly Swanty as our 2020-2021 AEA Chaplain, and Roy Haddick as our AEA Assistant Secretary / Treasurer. Congratulations!

Photos submitted by Past First Lady, Jan Casacchia.



"AEMP News"



THIS COULD BE YOURS!

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AND WE WILL TAKE CARE OF

Every year, Arizona Elks Major Projects raffles off a vehicle as our largest fundraiser. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to ensure the safety and well-being of our community, we are focused on online orders for tickets to win the Honda Pioneer. Purchasing tickets online is safe, secure, and most importantly: **EASY!**

BUY TICKETS

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our offices if you have any questions:

katie@azelksmp.com

(520) 326-0556



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

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Your name displayed on our website
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“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Elks stay strong, connected during pandemic

The past few months have been a chaotic time in the life of our Order and our nation. There has been an unprecedented amount of suffering, deprivation, hardship, fear, and for some even the loss of life as we collectively deal with the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But through this and other trials we as a nation have faced over the years, we as Elks and as Americans have always stood strong. It is times like these that we should be all the more mindful of the cardinal principles on which our Order was founded. Our Lodges have been closed and activities have been suspended, but we would do well to focus our thoughts and look for ways to help others get through these times.

While the typical focus of newsletter messages is to address business and operational matters within our Lodges, it bears repeating that under



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**ROBERT L.
DUITSMAN**

our cardinal principle of Brotherly Love we should be looking after our fellow Members and those in our communities who are disadvantaged. Some likely don't have family or support and may need our help. Consider setting up a phone tree so that your officers can make personal contact with Members, especially those who are alone or may need some help with even routine tasks like shopping. A little attention may go a very long way.

It has been fully recognized that we can't

do the work of our Lodges in traditional ways, and flexibility and creativity have been encouraged to take care of Lodge matters the best we can. Hopefully you are finding ways to keep moving until things can return to normal, or at least improve.

This is a time for Elks to do what Elks have always done better than anyone else: Help others, as best we can.

On a more mundane note, remember to submit your Lodge Audit Report by the end of June. It is important information, and timely submission will avoid a \$100.00 fine. If there are problems, talk with your Sponsor to see how they can be addressed. Also, for Members who are eligible for GER membership pins, you need to get your request in by June 15.

May God bless you all as together we move forward to better times.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Moving forward in Youth Programs (eventually)

By **BRIAN H. CRAWFORD**
Committee Member

Families across our country have endured many restrictions in these unprecedented times. Normality will return, and soon, so will the availability of the many youth programs of our organization. That will help restore our charitable foundation's fun and entertaining activities.

If you have an active Antlers program, have all members and advisors reorganize and make future plans for when things get back to normal. Remember, the Antlers program uses the same mission and goals as BPOE to address charitable needs in the community. Antlers projects should be fun character-building events that promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members.

If your Lodge does not have an Antlers program and would be interested in starting one, information on the program can be found on the Elks' website's Activities Committee page. This program teaches our young people leadership and decision-making skills in a fun environment with other local youths in the community.

Summer is here and everyone will want to return to outdoor activities. Our youth will be back on the basketball courts honing their free throw skills and on the soccer fields enjoying time with other kids.

Another outdoor Youth Activities Program offered by the Elks is the Junior Golf Program. Golf is a sport that everyone can play, regardless of size and age. There are numerous ways to create a golf program: A Lodge can sponsor

a Golf Day for Junior Golfers at their local course; sponsor a Drive, Chip & Putt competition; or hold a Junior Golf tournament competition sponsored by your Lodge.

Utilize your local golf course's PGA professional to assist you on planning an event. These activities will produce a character-building opportunity in a fun and supportive environment. Information on Junior Golf can also be found in the Grand Lodge website's Activities Committee page. If more information or help is needed, please contact me at bbcrawf@mchsi.com.

While we think about our future, we will remember that the strength of our family and friends ease the pain we all experience. Use that strength when you continue to Care & Share as all Elks do.