

Arizona Elks News

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

July 2020



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Members all:



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AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
25 May 2020

aeanewsletter
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Well here it is, the month of June is practically over, and things have stayed the same over the last few months. Uncertain and confusion seems to be the words that are dominating the world currently. As JoAnn and I traveled throughout the state attending the final District Deputy clinics we were able to talk to a lot of members about not only what is happening in the country, but in their communities and their Lodges. Some have taken the bull by the horns and charged ahead while some have taken the precautionary measures and are proceeding slowly. Either way it is strictly up to the individual Lodges, however I want to reassure you that we are ready to help in any way we can. I will stand by my commitment to have all our State elected and appointed officers to assist every Lodge in their districts. The worst thing that can happen is that you do not call when you need help or assistance. We are in this together, and we will beat this together.

I was given the opportunity to speak at each clinic and my constant appeal was for the Exalted Rulers to gain back the passion they had when they were initiated into the order and to lead their Lodges during this time of uncertainty, and to step up and be the leaders I know they can be. It is not a problem to ask questions and for help. The trustees, during their meeting to close last year's budget and establish this year's budget, decided to return to each Lodge their AEA fees of \$2.50 per member. This will be a one-time payment and is not for the members but for their Lodge to assist in their financial struggles. This will be handled by the Treasurer's Office by a check through the US mail. Also, they have set aside \$50,000 dollars to be used as assistance to Lodges that are in financial stress. This will be accomplished by a Lodge applying with their reasons for the financial needs. The applications will be reviewed on an individual basis and the Lodges financial needs at that time. More information will be forthcoming.

Continued on page 2.

**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.

I would like to address the upcoming Mid-Year Convention in October. This is going to be a little different then the normal convention. First this convention is going to start on Friday October 16th, 2020 at 9:00 am for the first business session and end on Sunday October 18th after the last business session.

The reason for the additional day is to allow PSP Dan Snyder to pass out awards and give his thank you and goodbye to the membership. After that we will finish the day with introductions of the new officers and a little time for a celebration. What this means is that most out-of-towners should register to come in Thursday, unless you feel you have time to register on Friday before the session begins.

Registration information will be forthcoming I just wanted to give you a heads up with what information we had available.

I hope this finds you Healthy, Happy and Safe. God Bless our Troops, our First Responders, and the United States of America.

"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Fraternally,

Rich Botkin
AEA President

"AEA First Lady JoAnn's Message"



Hope everyone is staying safe.

I'm going to continue Mary's project for the Steele Center of gift cards \$5, \$10 and \$15 for the older kids and with everything happening they cannot accept used books or stuffed animals. They can still use brand new books, small toys and gifts for the younger kids.

We are still planning on the mid-year convention so you can bring them at that time. If all else fails you can send to me or send a check and I will gladly shop. We are looking forward to mid-year convention to see everyone and meet the new officers and their spouses or significant other. Our theme will be the 50's and 60's. More details about the luncheon to follow.

I know it has been a slow start to this year but it has to get better.

JoAnn Botkin
AEA First Lady

“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Donates to Shelter”

The Past Exalted Rulers Association presented \$500.00 and the Elks Lodge, using an Elk Grant donated \$2,500.00 to Faith and Grace which provides shelter and guidance to victims of domestic abuse

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

“Chandler Elks #2429 Annual Youth Awards Winners”

On Wednesday, May 20th a very subdued Annual Youth Awards Banquet was held honoring our six Americanism essay winners, two Drug Awareness Posters winners and Chandler's very own AEA Police Officer of the year. Dinner and refreshments were provided, as well as some yummy patriotic themed cupcakes. It was a great honor to be able to host this year's recipients and immediate families. We were fortunate enough to have Grover Ramsey, the AEA American Chairman come and present the State Awards to Officer Ashley Lewis and Miss Helena Sherman. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients. And a big "Thank You" to all of the volunteers in the kitchen, Brian Gorski and Robin Freeman for making this event happen in our new COVID reality.

Submitted by: Dick Garlic, Newsletter Editor



Elks Essay Contest - Division II (Jr. High Division)
1st Place Miss Helena Sherman - Payne Junior High-
Also took 1st place in the State Competition for Division II



Elks Essay Contest - Division II (Jr. High Division)
2nd Place Miss Kailani Higgins - Payne Junior High
3rd Place Mr. Owen Cumbo - Payne Junior High



Left to right, Lincoln, Shea & John
Elks Essay Contest - Division I (5th & 6th Grade)
1st Place Mr. John Goff - Navarrete Elementary School
2nd Place Miss Shea Kaplan - Navarrete Elementary School
3rd Place Lincoln Mickow - Navarrete Elementary School

Not pictured:

Drug Awareness Poster Contest 3rd Grade - Miss Samantha Downie
Hartford Elementary School

Also took 1st place in the State Competition

5th Grade - Miss Emery Hanson - Hancock Elementary School could not attend

“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Donates to Clothes Closet”

The Clothes Closet in Lake Havasu City received \$500 in snack foods for the homeless and needy from the Elkettes of the Elks lodge 2399.

The Clothes Closet is a local charity that provides services to local homeless and needy. In photos are Elks Leading Knight Chuck Fox and volunteer Elkette Eva D. Fox with Clothes Closet manager Cindy. Not in photo is the Clothes Closets Founder Christine Watson Buntmeyer.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, News Editor



“Buckeye Elks #2686 Makes Face Shields for First Responders”

The Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 partnered with the Buckeye Rotary Club to purchase face shields for those working and helping on the front lines. On May 23, 2020 volunteers Conrad Villegas, Don Nathaniel, Harold Simpson, Bob and Wanell Costello, Jay Broadbent, and Rose Hendricks spent a Saturday afternoon putting together the face shields. The Lodge delivered 100 face shields to the Surprise Fire & Rescue. Pictured below are the group putting the face shields together and the presentation of the face shields to the Surprise Fire & Rescue.

Submitted by: Leatta McLaughlin, Lodge Trustee



“Tempe Elks #2251 Feed Local Students and Families”

In response to issues created by COVID-19, members of Tempe Elks Lodge #2251 and their Elk RVer guests launched a Food Drive to support students and families in their Tempe community. Through the generosity of the members and friends involved, Tempe Lodge was able to donate \$3,000 worth of food in the form of several hundred individual food bags for students and multiple food boxes to each of twelve families of their neighborhood school and other schools throughout their community. Members of the Tempe Lodge noted that every family expressed very sincere appreciation for the ray of hope their Lodge gave them during dire times for their families.

Submitted by: Sheryl Filliater, Lodge Secretary



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Donates to Food Bank”

The Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 donated \$1000 from our Gratitude Grant to the food bank operated by the Interfaith Community Services (ICS) here in Tucson.

Submitted by: Bruce Van Den Eng, Exalted Ruler

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Flag Day Ceremony”

On Sunday, 14 June 2020, our Lodge Officers held a private Flag Day ceremony in order to honor our flag and our country. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to hold our traditional ceremony for our community.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile,
Newsletter Editor



“Buckeye Elks #2686 Donates Masks to Vulnerable Population”

As part of our Gratitude Grant, the Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 was able to donate almost 200 masks that have a pouch for filter inserts for extra protection to our City of Buckeye Fire and Police first responders on June 22, 2020. We are also able to donate masks to our more vulnerable populations at the Buckeye Public Library and the Buckeye Community Center & Senior Programming. These masks will ensure that our first responders are adequately prepared to serve our communities. Pictured are: Bob Costello, Buckeye Fire Chief & Elks Lodge Trustee; Eric Cooke, Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler; Leatta McLaughlin, Elks Lodge Trustee; Jana White, Buckeye Library & Museum Director and Elks Member; Billy Brackett, Elks Lodge Trustee; Larry Hall, Buckeye Police Chief; and Phil Yabez, Buckeye Senior Center Director.

Submitted by: Leatta McLaughlin, Lodge Trustee.



“Phoenix Elks #335 Contributes during COVID-19 Crisis”

Although we were closed for 2 ½ months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our committees were busy during that time. The Veteran's Committee donated nearly \$10,000 for Veteran causes. A check for \$3,000 was donated to Henry Brown (Elk Member and Army Veteran so that he could purchase leather goods and Brightech Lightview magnifying clamp lamps for the Veteran's Administrations Leather Therapy Program that trains veterans to have a skill that is very marketable, and enjoyable for veterans that have disabilities.

Another \$5,250 was donated to the Arizona Paralyzed Veterans to help them purchase a new vehicle that will enable them pick up and deliver medical equipment to Veterans in need.

The Veterans Committee also donated \$1,500 to Honoring America's Veterans (HAV), a non-profit organization formed to help Arizona's veterans heal and reintegrate through recognition events and other programs, one of which is the Veterans Day Parade. Due to the Covid-19 virus there was not to be a parade, however they are preparing a television event for Veterans which will include notable individuals helping to make it a super success. They are currently in the preparation process and the money will help them immensely. This is a great way to Honor our Veterans.

Last but not least, Wonderful Lap Blankets hand made by Elizabeth (Betty) Thompson and donated to the Veteran's committee will now be donated to the Veteran's State Home. Betty has donated these blankets in the past. The residents at the home appreciate getting them as many are in wheelchairs and find the blankets perfect to keep their legs warm.

Submitted by: Nancy Baker, Chairman of Public Relations

“Sierra Vista Elks # 2065 Members Donate Masks to Community”

The Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 has been blessed with two member mask makers, Diane Kotila and Sandi Koloske. Both members have diligently made and donated over 350 masks to members, first responders, and members of the community.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Newsletter Editor



“Casas Adobes Elks #2686 Hosts Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and First Responders”

On Sunday, 21 June 2020, our Lodge held a combined Mother's and Father's Day ceremony that was followed by a dinner that also honored our First Responders. Firefighters from Station 31 of the N.W. Fire Department attended.

Submitted by: Bruce Van Den Eng, Exalted Ruler



“Chandler Elks #2429 Donates \$5000 to Mathews Crossing Food Bank”

Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 donated \$5,000.00 to Mathews Crossing a Chandler food bank who is assisting families impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lodge members used two grants they received from the Elks National Fund. The first grant of \$2,500 was a Spotlight Grant and the second grant was the Gratitude Grant. An additional \$500. was raised and donated by the members of the Chandler Elks Lodge making the total amount donated to Mathews Crossing \$5,000.00.

Submitted by; Terry Mickelson

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Hosts Flag Day Ceremony ”

Tucson East held its annual Flag Day Ceremony on a beautiful Sunday morning. We had members and officers' parade in the flags as our Boy Scouts had spent the night helping evacuate animals from the fire area in the Catalina Mountains. Our guests social distanced as did the officers performing the ceremony due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



L to R: Roger Anderson; Mary Shaffer, PER; John Olson, Per; Megan Goetz, Lecturing Knight and Sally Frankel, Loyal Knight

Arizona Elks Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Welcome to a New Elk Year AEA members. Thank you for all that you do, and keeping everyone informed about your Lodge contributions. As we continue with the new Elk Year, please provide articles, and pictures in the following format;

- 1) Articles may be submitted in Word format or in the body of the email message
- 2) Include the 5 Ws– Who, What, When, Where and Why, as well as your position title.
- 3) Pictures should be attached separately, or can be added to a power point slide. This will allow for copying, pasting and formatting into the newsletter. No collage pictures in jpeg, or PDF
- 4) Please do not send press releases, or articles that are formatted for local newspapers.
- 5) Please do not send in newspaper clippings without an additional article detailing the news story.
- 6) While our state is still in Phase One of the reopening due to COVID-19, please only send pictures with either masks on, or using social distancing guidance.

“AEA State News”

Elks National Foundation News

Bruce C. Van Den Eng, AEA ENF Chair

Hello my fellow Elks. I'd like to introduce myself as your new state ENF chair, share my goals for this year, and ENF related news with you. First, please welcome your district ENF chairs for the 2020-21 Elk Year:

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| • North District | Adrienne Troutman | Payson #2154 |
| • South District | Cheryl Ponzo | Green Valley #2592 |
| • East District | Jody Knapp | Fountain Hills #2846 |
| • West District | John Fuller | Yuma #476 |

We are here to assist lodges with any questions or provide guidance with ENF issues.

I believe that active participation with ENF is a critical lynch pin for a successful lodge. As many lodges have fewer than 500 members, ENF grants are usually the sole source of funding for lodge charitable efforts. When lodge members see grant funds used in their local community, I believe they are more inclined to donate to ENF.

I encourage all members who have not donated to ENF to consider a yearly donation of 12 dollars to ENF. For just a dollar a month, you become part of Elkdoms charitable financial engine in addition to supporting your lodge. Donations are easily made on line at elks.org and members can also join the Fidelity Club with a recurring monthly donation of 5 dollars.

My goal is to have every lodge in our state apply for at least one ENF grant and I'd love to see all of our lodges be awarded at least one grant this year. While the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 has impacted so many things, Grand Lodge has made the grant application process easier than ever.

The Gratitude grant can be used as a direct donation to another non-profit (501c3) organization that is providing COVID-19 assistance or relief. For example, identify a non-profit food bank in your area, confirm their non-profit status, and apply for the grant as a direct donation to that organization. This can literally be accomplished in short order by your lodge ENF chair.

As of June 19th, 22 lodges were awarded the Gratitude grant while 12 lodges remain eligible for it. Sadly, 9 of our lodges are not eligible for the grant this year and that's something we need to change for next year. I'd like to see all of our eligible lodges apply for the Gratitude grant this year. Your lodge earned it, so use it. It's just too easy!

In other grant news, all of the 325 Freedom grants have been awarded. ENF began accepting applications for the Freedom and Spotlight grants on June 1st. Twelve of our lodges received the Freedom grant and nine lodges have been awarded the Spotlight grant thus far.

Remember to apply as soon as grants become available since the competition is keen and grant numbers are often limited. ENF is still accepting applications for the Spotlight grant, if your lodge Freedom grant application was "wait listed" or "not funded", this grant may be an alternative as it can be used to support Veterans as well. Those who snooze, loose. With that in mind, ENF will begin accepting applications for the Beacon and Promise grants on August 1st and there are only 300 Promise grants available.

Stay tuned for more articles as the year progresses.

**Dedication of Elk Statute in memory of a
great friend to ELKDOM**

Charles F. Serventi, GELK, SDGER, PSP

Special guests Betty Serventi and family



July 4th 10:30 AM

Tucson East 2532

615 S Pantano Road

Tucson, Arizona

We invite you to join us for this special event honoring our good friend Charlie.

Our annual 4th of July parade is scheduled at 8 AM followed by coffee and danish.

Dedication of the Elk Statue 10:30 AM by AEA President Rich Botkin.

Everyone is invited to our traditional indoor picnic afterwards.

RSVP (520) 886-8129 or email us at
housemgmt2532@gmail.com and help
us ensure that we have enough food.

We look forward to seeing you.

“AEMP News”

Arizona Elks One & All:

First and foremost, I am honored to have been chosen to be your State President. It is a privilege to lead this organization and witness first-hand the benevolence that each and every one of you possesses.

We are experiencing one of the most challenging times in our lives both as a country and an organization, but I refuse to let it defeat us. I firmly believe that the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will rise as a shining star and set the standard for other organizations to follow with our motto “Elks Care-Elks Share”.

Arizona Elks Major Projects is our only project that truly belongs to Arizona. This project strives on donations from our members that benefit Steele Research Center and the Jack C Warter Elks Youth Camp. Since its inception in October, the Diamond Club has made donating to our Major Project accessible to all. As one of the charter members for the Diamond Club, my donation of \$10 dollars a month is automatically withdrawn and deposited into the AEMP account. A monthly pledge of as little as \$10 does not seem like a lot, it equates to around .34 cents a day (or in my case two drinks at the bar per month) but the impact it has when multiplied by hundreds is incredible.

As your State President, I am issuing a challenge to every member to at least match my donation of \$10 per month and join the Diamond Club (www.azelksmp.com/donate). Let me know that you are a member of an exclusive club and a big part of finding a cure for childhood diseases or sending a group of kids to our Youth Camp. May this letter find everyone safe and in good health. Hope to see you during the year!

God Bless Our Troops.
God Bless Our First Responders.
God Bless America.

Rich Botkin, PDDGER
AEA State President



Jack C. Warter Youth Camp

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

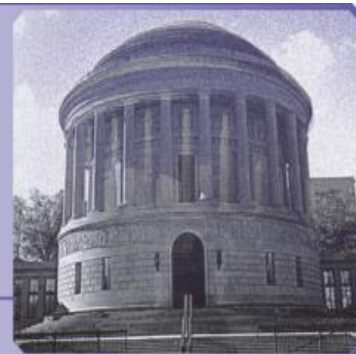
Become a Diamond Member today at:
WWW.AZELKSMP.COM

“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Elkdom shines during unprecedented times

This will be my final newsletter message as your Grand Exalted Ruler. Given the ongoing concerns for the health and safety of our Members, together with that of their families and friends, the Grand Lodge Session in Baltimore has been cancelled. It is unclear as of the time of this writing what alternative arrangements will be made. Whatever happens, I can assure you that some very good people have been working to develop contingency plans.

History will remember these as extraordinary times in the history of our nation and the world. While many previously felt secure in the belief that the world's problems were always in far off places and there was little for us as Americans to worry about, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed that. Who had heard of social/spatial



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**ROBERT L.
DUITSMAN**

distancing and the use of face masks in common areas?

We've been experiencing some challenging times, but here as in all throughout our history, the Elks have stood tall and worked through problems. Through creative new means of handling the business in our Lodges and looking after each other as best we can, we have done well and can be proud of what we have accomplished together.

It has been deeply moving for both Beth and I to have had the opportunity to travel around our country and meet so many wonderful people, to make new friends, and to learn about the truly remarkable charitable works being done in so many ways. While our travel was cut a bit short (a dozen of our visits were canceled due to COVID-19 concerns and restrictions), we saw that Elkdom is clearly shining bright, building on the work and traditions of those who have gone before and moving forward together toward a brighter future.

That was the essence of my slogan, ***“Honoring the Past-Embracing the Future”*** and it is ringing true in our Lodges and State Associations all across the nation. There is a lot to be proud of with Elkdom.

Please see GER, Page 3



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/>

GER From Page 1

This has indeed been the ride of a lifetime, and I take this final opportunity to thank you all for the warmth, caring, and hospitality shown to Beth and me along the way. Elks are a truly special breed of people, and worthy of the title **Best People On Earth!**

By the way, don't forget that the Auditing and Accounting Committee is to be looking at the Lodge books and report at the last meeting of the month. Just doing my job.

Best wishes to all, and may God bless.