

Arizona Elks News

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

August 2020



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Greetings members all:

I hope this finds everyone safe, healthy, and happy. We are entering the last days of the summer months and things have not improved. We still find ourselves playing catch up or struggling to stay afloat. As I traveled throughout the state and talk to members about the situation we are in I keep hearing the same things. Mostly they are concerned with the Lodges financial position, membership, safety, and the well-being of their members.



All of these are important concerns and rightfully so. Some feel their Lodges are being pulled in many different directions at the same time. There are many things that your Lodge can undertake to help ease the crisis. Please remember that help is only a phone call away. We are here to help anyone, anytime, anywhere. We are in this together and we find our way out of this crisis together.

To update everyone on what has happened around the State and the Association. With the cancellation of the Grand Lodge Session on July 8th the Grand Exalted Ruler for the year 2020-2021 Paul R Ryan of Willmar Mn Lodge # 952 was elected by Resolution as adopted by the Corporation. Also, on that same day via a conference call our four District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers were installed by PGER Louis J. Grillo. I am proud to announce they are as follows in no certain order Janet Leuer, North District Jerome Lodge # 1361, Roger Ehrlich, West District from Sun City Lodge # 2559, Ralph Henderson, East District from Apache Junction Lodge # 2349, and Richard Ross, South District from Douglas Lodge #955. They are all deserving Elks who have earned their positions by hard work and dedication to the order. When you see them please extend a hardy congratulations. They have also offered their help in anyway possible within their districts, please reach out to them.

Inside this edition:

AEA President's Message 1-2

AEA First Lady's Message 2

Local Lodges Charitable and Community Contributions 3-8

Tribute to Jack Page PER 9

District News 10

Grand Lodge News 11

AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
25 August 2020

aeanewsletter
@arizonaelks.org



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.

We are meeting with the Doubletree by Hilton hotel staff and try to reach a solution for our mid-year convention in October, At this time it is still being scheduled so we must make plans to proceed with it, We will keep you in the loop as to what we are planning. Please be patient. Also, our annual golf tournament is still on for September 12 and 13th. Please sign up to play or to sponsor a tee box or donate something. I wish everyone to stay safe and healthy during these difficult times.

God Bless our troops, God Bless our First Responders, and God Bless America.

"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Fraternally,

Rich Botkin
AEA President

"AEA First Lady JoAnn's Message"



Hello Elk Spouses!

I hope everyone is staying safe and not too bored. Lots of planning and trying to figure everything out.

We are talking to the hotel to see if Mid-year is going to work for everyone. We have been traveling to a few Lodges to talk to everyone to keep everyone safe.

No new updates currently, just keep praying everything works out for the best for everyone.

If anyone has any ideas for me please email me at joannbotkin@hotmail.com.

I am open to anything or anyone with ideas.

JoAnn Botkin
AEA First Lady

“Sun City Elks #2559 Donates to HART Pantry”

The West district Newsletter Chairman, Ronald Wilson, held a new article submission contest for Lodges in the West District. The winner of the 2019-2020 contest was Sun City Elk #2559. They donated their \$100 award to HART Pantry which provides food for at risk teenager.

Submitted by: Ronald Wilson, West District Newsletter Chairman



“Jerome Elks #1361 Celebrates Flag Day”

The officers of Jerome Lodge #1361 held a Flag Day ceremony on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at the lodge. Participating in the ceremony was Secretary, Ed Leuer, Chaplain Ray Stock, Lecturing Knight Bill Weeks, Flag monitor Nancy Brushingham, Trustee Jim Plas, Leading Knight Phyllis Stock, Exalted Ruler Tim McKean, Esquire Charyll McKean and Loyal Knight Nancy Imus.

Submitted by: Charyll McKean, AEA 1st Vice President

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Celebrates Flag Day”

The Casa Grande Valley Elks Lodge held their annual Flag Day ceremony on July 4, 2020. The ceremony is usually held on Flag Day, June 14, but due to COVID restrictions, it was postponed until the 4th of July. Approximately 42 Elks attended the ceremony. The purpose of this service is to honor our country's Flag, to celebrate the anniversary of its birth, and to recall the achievements attained beneath its folds. It is quite appropriate that such a service should be held by the Order of Elks, an organization that is distinctively American, intensely patriotic and without counterpart. The HOHP Honor Guard assisted the Elks in presenting a historical depiction of the American flag.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Pictured- Honor Guard Members - Gene Briddle/US Army - Bill Bailey/US Air Force - Ivan Brooks/US Army - Mike Fanning/US Navy - David Lynch/US Army



“Kingman Elks #468 Helps Move Veteran and Family”

The Kingman Elks Lodge #468, with the help from funds provided by the Impact Grant, helped move, Kevin Burns, with his son, Michael, daughter, Aubri and his mother. Elks members Richard Joseph, Joe Pleth, Sarah Pleth, Nani Chrimes (also JAVC), Bob Chrimes (also JAVC), JAVC member Richard Mickle, and Veteran Dave and Jodi Roberts help facilitate the move. We packed them up from the rental home and delivered the big furniture, freezer and boxes to the new location in Kingman where Kevin Burns bought a doublewide home to call his own. However, this home was undergoing major repairs by Kevin and he needed some help for flooring and more.

The Impact Grant funds allows up to \$1,000 per Veteran and Nani Chrimes was instrumental in having the carpeting in hallway, master bedroom and one other room paid for through the grant. Cindi's Floors n' More donated carpeting & installation in living room and 2 bedrooms. Richard Mickle donated a new air conditioner for one of the rooms. Sarah and Joe Pleth donated the cost of two Roll Offs, to clear the property of debris left from prior tenants who left all their trash, broken furniture, and more at the property. Now, this veteran has his own home for his family and property! Elks Care-Elks share.

Submitted by: Sarah Pleth, News Editor

“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Donates Needed Items to Homeless”

On 10 July 2020, the Spotlight Elks National Foundation Grant was used by Elks 2399 to provide essential funds and items for the homeless affected by COVID 19. Funds will be used by the Clothes Closet to provide items and services needed

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured are Elks 2399 Exalted Ruler Bill Horton and Clothes Closet founder Christine Watson Buntmeyer



“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Elkettes Donate to Clothes Closet”



On 10 July 2020, The Elkettes donated \$300 to the Clothes Closet to assist homeless and needy families with necessary items needed for new babies. Also, to purchase water and cooling clothes for the homeless.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured left to right: Clothes Closet founder Christine Watson Buntmeyer, Elkette volunteer Eva D. Fox and Clothes Closet assistant Cindy Keasey.

"Tucson Elks #385 Presents Scholarship Awards"

June 28, 2020, Tucson Elks Lodge awarded Scholarships totaling \$14,400.00 to local High School graduating Seniors, 3 boys and 5 girls. The Lodge #385 amount was \$7,200.00, AZ State awards, \$3,200.00 and Grand Lodge National Legacy recipient of \$4,000.00. Due to the pandemic, this year's ceremony was held via a drive thru service presentation.

Submitted by: John Aceves, PR Chairman

Pictured L-R: Scholarship member J. Sanford, Scholarship recipient, Exalted Ruler M. Lopez



"Tucson Elks #385 Donates to the Southern AZ Community Food Bank"



July 2020, the Tucson Elks Lodge #385 donated \$2,000.00 more to the Southern AZ Community Food Bank using funds from the Elks Spotlight and in April \$2,500.00 from the Gratitude Grant. A total of \$4,500.00 have been donated.

Submitted by: John Aceves, PR Chairman

Pictured L-R: Trustee/PER B. Holyoak, Treasurer/PER D. Gnuschke

"Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Citizen of the Year 2019-2020"

Christine Watson Buntmeyer was the recipient of the Citizen of the Year award from the Elks 2399 in Lake Havasu City for the 2019-2020 year. Christine is the owner of Print it Havasu and the founder of the "Clothes Closet" that helps needy and homeless in the area.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Donates Gratitude Grant to Peach’s Pantry”

The Sierra Vista Elks Lodge applied for and received the 2020-2021 Gratitude Grant in July 2020. Due to the new guidelines for the grants as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, our Lodge was able to donate the full \$3000 to Peach’s Pantry. Peach’s provides weekend meals for children and families on the school lunch program, and has been instrumental in providing weekly food to families impacted by unemployment during the crisis.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Newsletter Editor



Pictured L: Peach’s Pantry Staff, and R: One of Peach’s many vehicles loaded with Meal bags for families across our community.

“Jerome Elks #1361 Presents \$2500 Donation to Angie’s House”

At the location of one of the homes used to house Veteran’s and Seniors, operating as Angie’s House, the Jerome Elks Lodge #1361 presented a check to Angie Lozano for \$2500.00 to use for the Veteran’s needs. Angie stated that they currently house 115 residents, consisting of both Veterans and seniors. Each home, and there are several in the Cottonwood area, has a House Manager, who volunteers his or her time to help all the other residents. This is known as “supported housing” since each home has a House Manager to offer support. Residents are responsible for their own food and personal needs, but other agencies such as area food banks also offer assistance and Angie stated that they also receive donations from the community.

Submitted by: Charyll McKean, 1st Vice President and PR Chair



Pictured in photo, from left to right, Director Angie Lozano and Exalted Ruler Tim McKean.

“Tucson East #2352 Hosts Annual 4th of July Parade”

Tucson East #2532 annual July 4th parade was a huge success again this year. Flyers were distributed to homes in the surrounding area inviting families to come out and enjoy a piece of hometown Americana at its best. Lodge members and families decorated their vehicles and motorcycles. Bags of candy and red, white and blue necklaces were given to the children in attendance bringing out more than one smile as the vehicles slowly traveled down the street.

Submitted by: Mary I. Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



Members came out and decorated their vehicles in a patriotic way before lining up for the parade. Navy veteran Ernest Dole and Air Force veteran Calvin Payne prepare to ride in the Tucson East Patriots vehicle driven by John Olson on July 4, 2020

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

On July 4, 2020 Tucson East had the great pleasure of dedicating our new Elk statue to our longtime friend and mentor Charles F. Serventi. The statue was purchased and donated to Tucson East Lodge 2532 by Rob Hyatt, PER, HLM. AEA President Rich Botkin presided at the dedication ceremony. Charles widow Betty was unable to attend due to COVID 19. The family was represented by his daughter Stephanie and her husband Tom. A special dedication plaque was placed in front of the Elk statue.

Submitted by: Mary I. Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



Pictured L: AEA President Rich Botkin leads the Pledge of Allegiance. Pictured R: Charles Serventi's daughter Stephanie and her husband Tom prior to the dedication ceremony. The 11 o'clock toast was posed in front of the Elk statue dedicated to Charles Serventi given by Joe Riley, Jr. PSP

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Hosts Blood Drive”

On Monday July 6th Tucson East 2532 Elks, hosted a blood drive for the American Red Cross. This event was spearheaded by Megin Goetz, Loyal Knight. Upon arrival Red Cross members along with few Elks turned the Wapiti room in a medical blood draw facility. We had 31 donors who came out and collected 25 pints of whole blood and 2 pints of power reds. Did you know that 1 Pint can save 3 lives? For those who aren't familiar with the term double red (Power Red) here is the American Red Cross explanation.



Power Red Donation. During a Power Red donation, you give a concentrated dose of red cells, the part of your blood used every day for those needing transfusions as part of their care. This type of donation uses an automated process that separates your red blood cells from the other blood components, and then safely and comfortably returns your plasma and platelets to you.

Who it helps: Red cells from a Power Red donation are typically given to trauma patients, newborns and emergency transfusions during birth, people with sickle cell anemia, and anyone suffering blood loss.

Time it takes: About 1.5 hours

Ideal blood types: O positive, O negative, A negative, and B negative

Submitted by; Mary I. Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair

Pictured above: AEA President Rich Botkin donates precious life-giving blood

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Donates Freedom Grant to Disabled Veterans”

On 24 July 2020, the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge presented the Disabled American Veterans with a check for \$2500 from the ENF Freedom Grant. The money will go towards the purchase of items for a COVID-19 Health Kit for Veterans and Families that are home challenged. A portion of the money will also go to help offset the cost to transport Veterans to their VA appointments.

Submitted by; Shawnee Carlile, Newsletter Editor

Pictured: Gerry Gabel, DAV Chapter 14 Commander



“AEA State News”

In tribute of Jack Page PER former AEA Newsletter Chairman



Tempe Elks Lodge lost one of the really good guys. Who will ever forget Past Exalted Ruler Jack Page? Because of his booming voice, many affectionately dubbed him 'Foghorn.'

Jack was born in Alameda, California on April 30, 1938. You can well believe; Alameda was never the same after that date. He and his bride, Sieni, breezed into Arizona years ago and again, Arizona was never the same. Jack was a Sales Manager for Baker Brothers Flooring until he retired not many years ago.

Jack was initiated into Tempe Elks Lodge #2251 on November 21, 2000 and immediately he and Sieni became fixtures in our Lodge. He served as Exalted Ruler in 2008 - 2009 and was named Elk of the Year in 2012. Jack served as Editor for the Tempe Elks Newsletter and the Arizona Elks Newsletter for many years.

As a member of the House Committee for many years and just as a "really good guy," Jack was always ready and willing to step up to help. Many times, when there was a breakfast to be served, you would find Jack in the kitchen creating his world-famous omelets. Jack also volunteered as a cook on numerous events in the Lodge.

Jack passed away on July 20, 2020, from complications after a stroke. We are truly saddened at the loss of this Elk. He will be sorely missed. Services will be announced at a later date.

Sympathy cards can be sent to Sieni at:

2025 4102 E Tamaya St.
Phoenix, AZ 85044-1513

******Editors Note:**

Jack Page, PER held the AEA Newsletter Chairman position for many years. He was always kind, and helpful when I asked him for advice when I first took over as the AEA Editor. Our newsletter won 5 stars from Grand Lodge last year, we would not have achieved that goal if it was not for Jack's help and guidance. He will be deeply missed.

Shawnee Carlile
AEA Newsletter Chair.

“AEA District News”

Installation of Richard Ross as the 2020-2021 South District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler. The ceremony was performed at the incoming DDGER designates home Lodges. Past Grand Exalted Ruler Jim Grillo performed the installation via phone conference at the same time for every designate. AEA President Botkin and Lady JoAnn were also in attendance for the installation of DDGER Richard Ross. Pictured: South DDGER Richard Ross’s installation, and center: DDGER Richard Ross and his lovely wife Cindy.

Submitted by: Sue Krausman, PDDGER



ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY

Show Low Elks Lodge #2090

SEPT 12-13

**8 AM SHOTGUN START
2 MAN SCRAMBLE
\$120 PER PLAYER**

All Proceeds To Benefit

Elks Arizona Elks
Major Projects



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

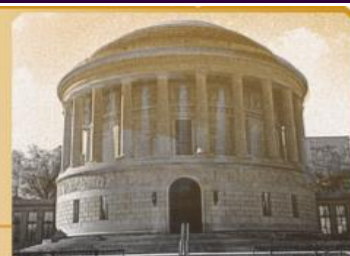
Become a Diamond Member today at:
WWW.AZELKSMP.COM

"Grand Lodge News"



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Communities need Elks' help more than ever

As I begin my year as Grand Exalted Ruler, I want to begin by saying thanks to all of you and offer my sincere gratitude and appreciation that you have entrusted me as your next national president. This would not have been possible without all of you, my fellow brothers and sisters, and your support and guidance. I also need to thank my family and friends, and of course the assistance and aid of my wonderful wife.

When I started this adventure, finding a theme was something that I wanted to make sure stood out. I wanted to change a little of the landscape of the organization to make sure that we not only survive the future but thrive in it. With the changes happening in this world, my theme has become more and more vital to the situation. My Theme for 2020-2021 is **Creating Momentum for the Future of Elksdom**. Now more than ever we need to go out there and help our communities and get them to



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

thrive again, get them to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Help to realize that this is a **great country**. And teach them who we are as Elks and that our organization is one that will Create Momentum for the Future of Elksdom and the people of this country.

The Elks are a community, and it is my hope for the coming year that by working together with the Elks National Foundation and through our Members and Lodges nationwide we can build both stronger communities and stronger Elks.

It is my goal that we can reach \$4.80 per Member in our ENF donations this Elks year. It's not a lofty goal when you consider that we have reached this amount for many of the past years. I understand that with the way the world is right now, it is hard to increase the goal. Lodges are closed and will have a hard time coming up with the extra funds to be able to sustain our current activity. Reach down and grab one more dollar. Believe me, the Elks National Foundation charitable giving will be needed more than ever and the funds will go a lot further now in the world that we are living in.

It is my challenge to each and every Member to practice the Elks values of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity in your work, your daily lives, and everything you do.

Stacey and I are looking forward to visiting you in each of your respective states and Lodges during our travels during the next year.

Elks family serves on pandemic's front lines

Jaime Graham has always had a weak stomach.

But the 2006 Hoop Shoot National Finalist's admiration for healthcare workers led her into the field. As a medical staff coordinator, Graham helps ensure hospitals and providers comply with state and hospital guidelines.

But as the COVID-19 pandemic took shape in the U.S., her job changed. She's been facing the unexpected with patience and lessons from her days at the free throw line.

"I think the most valuable thing the Hoop Shoot taught me is we have so many more things in common than we think we do," said Graham, who was sponsored in the Hoop Shoot by St. Marys, WV Lodge No. 1701. "You can always find common ground with someone if you care to look hard enough. It's been encouraging to see how quickly people can come together and work toward a common goal."

Doctors, nurses, and healthcare

to fight the pandemic. Medical students like 2014 Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship recipient and 2009 MVS scholar Lauryn Falcone are ready to help.

Falcone, who was sponsored by Enfield, CT Lodge No. 2222, is finishing her seven-year dual doctoral degree program at West Virginia University. She started her residency in internal medicine in June.

"I think it's quite normal for anyone to feel nervous prior to entering residency, and that's just compounded with everything happening in the world right now with COVID," Falcone said.

The most encouraging thing for Falcone is watching people rally around healthcare workers and those most at risk. Many people have sent homemade personal protective equipment or care packages with snacks and kind notes, and she encourages everyone to reach out to a healthcare worker.

"Even sending someone a short

goes a long way to make them feel better and brighten their day," Falcone said.

Falcone finished her classes online, and she's since become an Elks scholar alum.

"I'm not sure I can ever repay the Elks for all they have done for me," Falcone said. "The financial as well as emotional support during my early career played a big part in getting me to where I am today. Thank you for all that you do and for being such strong advocates for students and our community."

A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Elks National Foundation helps Elks build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans and meet needs in areas where Elks live and work. For more information on the ENF, visit elks.org/enf.



**Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.**