

Arizona Elks News

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

November 2020



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Members All,



Inside this edition:

**AEA President's
Message** 1-2

**Local Lodges
Charitable and
Community
Contributions** 3-10

Grand Lodge News 11

Hope this finds everyone happy, healthy, and safe. In some areas of the state the weather is cooling down and making it a little more comfortable to venture outside and enjoy the scenery. There is still the pandemic that is on everyone's mind. It is still here and hopefully will start to slow down before the end of the year. That is all I am going to say about it. This article is what I would have reported at the Mid-Year Convention in October.

As State President and First Lady JoAnn and I have traveled close to 5000 miles and visited around 16 lodges in the state. Some official and some unofficial and to say the least we were quite surprised at the programs and work being done by the members at every lodge. In some cases, we just dropped in unannounced to talk to the members about what is going on with their lodges. I can tell you from the conversations we had, the Arizona Elks are alive and well and believe we will come out of this stronger than ever.

As we talked to members it became quite obvious that there was a deep concern for their old members and how they were getting along. There were several different opinions on what should be done, but the most was keeping in contact with them. Some lodges set up a small group of members just to contact them on a regular basis and others just picked up the phone and called them directly or went to their home. Either way it is especially important to make sure our elderly members are not forgotten.

**AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
26 December 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 also found out that the members are taking pride in reopening their lodges. I was impressed with the huge outpour of members cleaning, painting and just an all-around general cleaning of their lodge and grounds. I find myself looking at a group of elks working together toward a common goal. I guess you would call it character. Character is something you have when no one is watching you. I find myself talking to Moms & Dads, Husbands and Wives, children of elks who have now become elks themselves. What a great feeling to be able to just sit and talk with them about anything. They are worried about delinquent members, their elderly members and through it all have reached out to their community to assist in any way. With that being said I would like to express JoAnn and myself sincere thank you to all the lodges we have visited and have extended their hospitality to us. Arizona Elks are "The Best People on Earth". Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.

Rich Botkin, President
Arizona Elks Association



"AEA First Lady JoAnn's Message"



Well, the October Convention date has come and gone, and we are still struggling at times to make sense of anything. But I am positive when we turn the corner in January and things will start to look up. We are still planning the Annual May Convention May 12th-15th 2021. We have already started designing our decorations for the hospitality room and our theme is going to be geared toward the fifties & sixties. So, if you think of something that fits into that theme please feel free to contact me. Until then please stay safe and healthy.

With regards,

JoAnn Botkin, 1st Lady
Arizona Elks Association



"Buckeye Elks #2686 Raise Funds for Member in Need"

At the end of July, a long-time member of the Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 lost his wife of 40 years to cancer. This member had not been working since March due to COVID-related restrictions so the Lodge wanted to help their fellow member during his time of hardship and mourning. So on the evening of August 15, they held a to-go pulled pork benefit dinner to help him with his wife's medical and funeral costs. During this dinner, they held a 50/50 raffle. Their Lodge's Treasurer won the raffle and donated her portion of the proceeds back to the family in need. The Lodge also held an auction on Facebook for items donated by the Verdado Golf Club and West Valley Rock, both located in Buckeye. The member in need stated the following about the help he received from his Lodge: "The Buckeye Lodge 2686 has once again shown that they truly are a benevolent and protective order. The fundraiser held for my family's benefit overwhelmed me and I will be forever grateful....Thank you to all of you and you truly live up to the pillars of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity."

Submitted by: Leatta McLaughlin, Trustee

"Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Performs POW / MIA Ceremony"

On Thursday the 18th of September, Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 honored and remembered our POW/MIA veterans with the POW/MIA Service. Current COVID-19 restrictions limited attendance but the lodge held the ceremony while maintaining mandated social distance requirements. All of our current slate of lodge officers participated in the ceremony with the exception of the Inner Guard role that was covered by our Tiler.

Exalted Ruler:	Bruce C. Van Den Eng, PER
Leading Knight	Aimee L. Van Den Eng
Loyal Knight	Jim Thacker
Lecturing Knight	Carolyn Lopez
Esquire	Ken Short, PER
Chaplain	Ursula Woods, PER
Inner Guard	Nick Barnes

Submitted by: Exalted Ruler Bruce Van Den Eng, PER

POW / MIA Ceremony September 18, 2020



Salt is added to the plate by the Loyal Knight, Jim Thacker



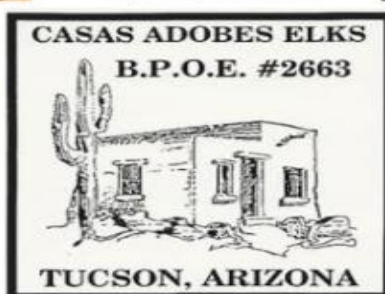
Leading Knight, Aimee Van Den Eng, adds the empty wine glass to the table



The Chaplain, Ursula Woods, adds a red rose



The Esquire, Ken Short, adds a lighted candle



Exalted Ruler, Bruce C. Van Den Eng

“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Law Enforcement Awards”

The Lake Havasu City Police Department Community Services Unit was recently awarded a Commendation from the Elks Lodge lodge 2399 Lake Havasu City, AZ. This Unit worked closely with restaurants, bars and other businesses in the city to make them aware of COVID-19 Mandates with the goal of making everyone safe and keeping businesses that were allowed to open to remain open.

Pictured are from left: Exalted Ruler Bill Horton, Officers Dwayne Fernandez, Mike Thornhill, Dana Kirk and Chris Sautner and LHCPD Chief Dan Doyle.



The Elks Lodge 2399 in Lake Havasu City, AZ recognized the Mohave County Sheriff's Department for their commitment in keeping our Community safe.

Pictured with Undersheriff Edward Trafecanty (holding plaque) are several members of the Sheriff's Department who had just finished their shift keeping us safe along with Elks 2399 Exalted Ruler Bill Horton.

Photo taken by Jackie Turcotte

Members of Mohave County Search and Rescue Unit accepted a plaque from the Elks Lodge 2399 Lake Havasu City, AZ recognizing their quick response to urgent situations regardless of the time of day or night or the location they are called to.

Pictured are from left: Search and Rescue Volunteers Gene Hepler, Rudy Jehli and Mike Beets and Exalted Ruler Bill Horton.



The Elks Lodge 2399 Lake Havasu City, AZ recently recognized three Police Officers for their rapid response to a boat collision in July. They quickly assessed the situation and immediately took charge of the situation. Their attention to detail resulted in several people being rescued and the injured quickly transported to the hospital.

Pictured are from left: Exalted Ruler Bill Horton, Officers Mike Thornhill and Dana Kirk and LHCPD Chief Dan Doyle. Also recognized but not present was Officer Nolan Smith."

The Elks Lodge 2399 Lake Havasu City, Az awarded Lake Havasu City Police Department's K9 Officer Brent Skancke the Enrique Camarena Award for his continued fight against illegal drugs. When Officer Skancke was part of the Street Crimes Unit, he was involved in making arrests in narcotic crimes, fugitives from justice, trafficking in stolen property and tracking repeat and violent offenders. In 2019 he volunteered for a K9 Officer position with the goal of getting illegal drugs off our streets. Since then he, along with his partner trained in the detection of narcotics, Rocky, have taken part in numerous traffic stops and narcotic investigations resulting in the arrest of offenders and preventing the sale and distribution of illegal drugs in our community. Officer Skancke and Rocky also address several groups in Lake Havasu City about the K9 program. Pictured from left are: AEA West District and Elks Lodge Drug Awareness Chair Mike Arlowe, K9 Officer Brent Skancke, Rocky, LHPD Chief Dan Doyle and Exalted Ruler Bill Horton.



Submitted by: Eva Fox, News Team, Photos by Jackie Turcotte

*note- masks are no longer mandatory in Havasu

“Sun City Elks #2559 Receives Prestigious Two Awards”

On Tuesday October 6, 2020, the Sun City Elks Lodge #2599 Lodge and all of its members, were presented, with two awards, the “Arizona Elks Lodge of the year award” The Sun City Lodge took Second Place in that particular contest, and the “All American Lodge Award”

Both awards were to be presented at the Arizona Elks annual convention, which was supposed to be held last May, but like everything else this year, changes had to be made.

This “All American Lodge Award”, is the tenth (10) overall award, that the Sun City Elks Lodge has received and is one of the last six (6) awards in a row.

This award was made possible due to the charitable good works of the Sun City Elks Lodge members, guests and local citizens in the community, who have heard of the good deeds of the Sun City Elks and wanted to be a part of their charitable works.

The Awards were presented to Valentino “Val” Bianchini, Arizona Elks V.P.-West District and Elks Veterans P.R. Chairman, and the individual responsible for compiling all of the large and varied items required, for both awards, in order to achieve its successes. The awards were presented to “Val”, by Vicki Way, Sun City Elks Lodge President for fiscal year, 2020-2021.

Many thanks are given to all those, who participated in the Elks charities and have made these awards possible.

Submitted by: Val Bianchino, Veterans PR Chairman

Pictured: Vicki Way, (left) presents Val Bianchini the two Elks awards



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Presents Scholarship Donation”

Mike Swain, Past Exalted Ruler Association president presented to the Auxiliary President Deb Cyrus a check for \$2,000 to support their scholarship program. The event was held by the Elks Auxiliary, celebrating member’s birthdays and anniversaries.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chairman



Pictured 1) L-R left are Karen Bouse, Sharon Cunningham, Kathy Strand, Karen Magrum, Gayle Mansell and Jan Greer. 2) Mike Swain, presents check to Auxiliary President Deb Cyrus ***Note: Mohave County no longer has a mask mandate

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Donates to Food Pantries”

The Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408 received a Spotlight Grant from the Elks National Foundation and the Lodge in turn donated \$2,000 to a local food bank “Food For Families.” This organization is managed by Sheria Liles and is supported by several volunteers from places all over the tri-state area and even a volunteer from Washington State. When we arrived, there was a waiting line of about 15 folks eager to receive a shopping basket of food. The Exalted Ruler Dom Cetani presented Liles, center, and two of the volunteers, Helen Ramirez and Jennifer Bowen the check and then Cetani decided he wanted to help. So Cetani pushed the basket to a gentleman’s car and helped load his car with groceries while Liles supervised, right.

Recently the Bullhead City Elks Lodge held the eleventh annual Veteran’s Chili Cook-off and were able to donate half of the proceeds to the local Veterans Resource Center a check for \$500. Exalted Ruler and US Marine vet Dom Cetani presented a check to Program Support Specialist Kim Decker. Decker was thankful to get the money but also suggested there were other needed items that anyone could donate, some of which are flip flops, reading glasses, small can openers and personal care items.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chairman



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Presents Student of the Month Award”

Elks Student of the Month is back! Instead of the students going to the Elks Lodge to receive their certificates, the Elks are going to the classroom. The first presentation of this very unusual year was to Mohave High School honoring Audree Burgess and Eric Estrada for their accomplishments. Ms. Burgess wants to become a pre-school teacher and will be attending ASU. Unfortunately, Estrada was not available this day.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chairman



Pictured L-R: Counselor Amber Parker, Ms. Burgess and Elks Youth Activities chair Terri Frank. *Ms. Burgess requested that we remove our masks only for the picture.

“Tucson Elks #385 Donates Bicycles to Hugo Charities”

Tucson Elks Lodge #385 in conjunction with Lugo Charities' donated 5 kids bicycles to Family Involvement Center, a non-profit organization which assist local Tucson families in need. This donation will make 5 kids excited and happy during the upcoming holidays. Pictured L-R, Southern Regional Director P. Grant, Program Development Manager, E. Casillas and ER M. Lopez. 10-16-2020.

Submitted by: John Aceves Secretary, Tucson Lodge #385



Pictured L-R, Southern Regional Director P. Grant, Program Development Manager, E. Casillas and ER M. Lopez.

“Tucson Elks #385 Donates to S. AZ Community Food Bank”

Tucson Elks Lodge #385, donates again to the Southern AZ Community Food Bank using the Beacon Grant in the amount of \$3,500. With this donation Lodge #385 has donated \$8,000.00.

Submitted by: John Aceves Secretary, Tucson Lodge #385

Pictured, L-R: ER, M. Lopez, Trustee, B. Holyoak, Treasurer, D. Gnuschke, and SACFBank representative. S. Castillo Chief Development Officer



“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Talk Like a Pirate Event”

At our Lodge we always find something to celebrate. A lot of our members feel safe at the Lodge due to all the protections we have put into place from a pandemic.

Saturday night we had a “Talk Like a Pirate” dinner and costume party. It was well attended by our members and a lot of pirate costumes were worn. Randy Sterling, Exalted Ruler was a well-dressed pirate, but did not win first prize. Sher Bruckner took first prize. Of course, we had a 50/50 and basket raffle as well as some pirate games. This was sponsored by the Social Planning Committee. Chairman Char Myrick did a great job as did all the volunteers. Thank you.

Submitted by: Nancy Baker



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Awards Event”

Congratulations to Nancy Turner of the Casas Adobes Lodge, who was honored by the Elks National Foundation for reaching more than \$5,000 of personal donations to ENF.



Submitted by: Exalted Ruler Bruce Van Den Eng, PER



Congratulations to Ira Cohen of the Casas Adobes Lodge, who was selected by the AEA as the South District PER of the year for 2019-20. Ira has also served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2012-13 and as the AEA South District Vice President in 2018-19.

“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Talk Like a Pirate Event”

At our Lodge we always find something to celebrate. A lot of our members feel safe at the Lodge due to all the protections we have put into place from a pandemic.

Saturday night we had a “Talk Like a Pirate” dinner and costume party. It was well attended by our members and a lot of pirate costumes were worn. Randy Sterling, Exalted Ruler was a well-dressed pirate, but did not win first prize. Sher Bruckner took first prize. Of course, we had a 50/50 and basket raffle as well as some pirate games. This was sponsored by the Social Planning Committee. Chairman Char Myrick did a great job as did all the volunteers. Thank you.

Submitted by: Nancy Baker



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Hosts AEMP Halloween Fundraiser”

Arizona Elks Major Projects made a bundle of money from the special event for AEMP/Halloween a party hosted by AEMP director Roy Haddick recently. The evening’s entertainment was Kid & Nick. They were dressed as Natasha & Boris while the rest of the band came as convicts and their music was fantastic. A few came in costumes; e.g.; the big bad Wolf and Little Red Riding Hood, Frankenstein, a flapper, scream and a floozy. The winners of the best man and woman costumes were Mike Swain (giant skeleton) and Mary O’Keefe (Prof Oops!) A lot of dancing went on and the raffle prize, smoker/BBQ/ grill donated by Lowe’s was re auctions and Dominick Cetani paid the price. A great time was had by all!

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank,
Public Relations Chairman



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts AEMP Oktoberfest Fundraiser”

On October 17th the Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 held an Oktoberfest event that raised more than \$1300 for AEMP. The event included brats with all the trimmings, beverage specials, and the opportunity to throw horseshoes and play corn hole.

Submitted by: Exalted Ruler Bruce Van Den Eng, PER



Bags Were Thrown



Brats Were Eaten



Shoes Were Tossed



Raffle and Silent Auction Prizes Abounded



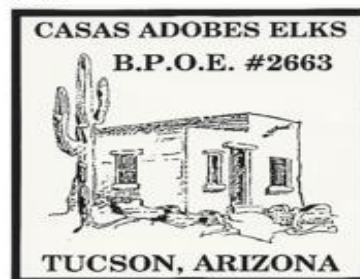
Our lodge volunteers make events like this happen.

Many thanks to (from left to right):

Standing: Jimmy, Tammy, Judy, Tammy, & Raylyn

Kneeling: Adam, Wayne, Fernando, & Steve

In Repose: Nick



Arizona Elks Association



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

<https://arizonaelksassociation.org/>

or our Facebook page:

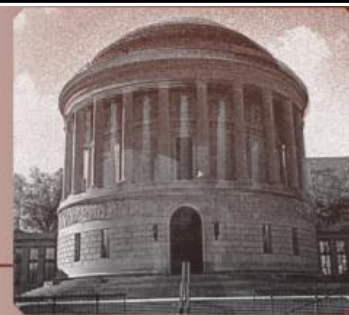
<https://www.facebook.com/ArizonaElksAssociation/>





Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Season of sharing and feeling the reward

'Tis the season we give thanks as the holiday season comes upon us. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you during this special time of year. Take the time to give back to your local veterans as Veterans Day is also upon us. So long as there are veterans, Elks will never forget them.

Set up a dinner for as many local veterans as you can. Help a homeless veteran with finding housing and household goods. Go to your local veterans hospital and bring them something as simple as socks and underwear. Take some Bingo cards and some small winner gifts and play Bingo for a few hours. There are so many things you can do to show your support of your local veterans. No matter what you accomplish to do in your Lodge, or outside your Lodge, to show the support, I am positive the thanks you receive will be worth it.



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

Thanksgiving is also cherished this month. Many Elks throughout our nation will celebrate by opening their Lodges to a dinner for the homeless, or for those who are less fortunate. Be a part of this if you can: The reward of thanks will warm you as the chill in the air gets cooler. Before sitting down with your family, give thanks for what you have and remember those who have fought to allow you to do so.

Now, this time of year is also a time to start thinking about the end of the Lodge

year. Have you thought about your Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, or your Citizen of the Year? This is a time to reflect on your Members who have stood out and helped you through your year. Show your appreciation for their hard work and prepare an event for attendance by Members to show them and non-Members what it means to be an Elk.

Stacey and I will travel back to Minnesota to be with our families during the holidays. We will think of all the people we have already met and also the ones who we look forward to meeting. We wish to extend to you a very happy Thanksgiving. We thank you for all your efforts during our year representing you as Elks. With your efforts for now and years to come we are ***"Creating Momentum for the Future of Elkdom!"***

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Elks grants let Lodges focus on community needs

By **MICHAEL B. BRYANT**
Committee Member

COVID-19 has been a life-changing event for most of us and there does not seem to be an end to the restrictions in the near future. Work has been affected, not only with job losses but also with changes in daily job functions. Social life is different, as many are not able to socialize with friends as they normally would. Going to restaurants, movie theaters, parks, and yes, even the Lodge, has in many cases been eliminated or curtailed greatly.

This has taken a great toll on our local Lodges. Depending on your state, you may not be able to assemble in groups for normal Lodge meetings, gather to plan events, or to meet with the public to collaborate on our community programs. In this difficult time, our programs are even more valuable to our communities.

We can still find ways to work with our communities to provide services and goods unique to your individual community. We may not be able to meet in large groups, but we can still meet the needs of others in many ways. This not only supports our community, making a difference to those who are in need, but also enhances our image in the community, showing we are there to serve even in very difficult times.

The thing I truly love about Elkdom is that we can customize our programs to our individual communities, drilling down to specific needs as best known by the local Lodges. These projects may involve youth, veterans, teachers, homeless, and others in need.

Grand Lodge is providing additional assistance with meeting these community needs. The Beacon Grant this year, as an example, has been increased to \$3,500.

You can merge this grant with the Spotlight Grant and receive an additional \$2,000 to be used for COVID-19 relief. These can supplement local fundraising, which may be limited now, to assist your community and bring positive recognition to your Lodge.

You can participate in the Community Project Contest for these worthy programs. Now is the time to start planning for your entry. The Lodge Community Project Contest form is online at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/communityProjectsContest.pdf>.

All entries must be received by May 1, 2021. There are six divisions based on Lodge size with a first, second, and third place winner in each division. This contest recognizes and rewards your Lodge Members for their hard work and lets them know this work is appreciated by others, including the Grand Lodge.