

Arizona Elks News

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

December 2020



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Members All,



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**AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
26 December 2020**

aeanewsletter
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Arizona Elks, I hope this finds everyone healthy and safe. For those who have contracted the virus JoAnn and I wish you the most rapid recovery. Just when you think we are turning the corner on defeating the virus we slowly spiral upward, and more cases are reported. Please stay safe and follow the guidelines as best you can. It is everyone's responsibility to protect our members and guests.

There will be new guidelines that were set forth by the Executive Director of Arizona Elks Major Project that will provide protection to the AEMP employees and Board Members. This is in no way a reflection on individual lodges but just a commonsense approach to those members that are asked to attend functions regarding AEMP. And while we are on the subject just to let you know that the AEMP team is out there working to fulfill our obligations to both the Children's Hospital and the Youth Camp. We will be presenting the second check to the Research Center and Dr. Ghishan on December 7th via a zoom meeting. The Executive Director Katie Murdoch is doing a wonderful job and has sent out an appeal letter to all the members for donations to the projects. The AEMP has a couple of projects going on to raise funds for the Children so please be as generous as you can as this is the season of giving. Also, you can join the Diamond club and donate as little as \$10 per month, (www.azelksmp.com/donate) you can use Amazon Smile as a means to donate a percentage of your purchase to AEMP. I belong to both. You will be surprised how fast it builds up in your name.

One other subject is the Elks National Foundation, it seems the pandemic has reduced our participation in this area. Our State Chairman Bruce Van Den Eng has reported a very dismal picture of contributions to this wonderful organization. I completely understand that lodges must protect their members by limiting the functions at the lodge and the number of members that can be present at any given time.

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.

But here is a suggestion, instead of a major event that requires planning for just a minimum of members. Try getting a few members together and join the Fidelity Club I am a member of this also. You can do this online and donate as little as \$10 per month. (it is on the GL website) If each lodge had 20 members join that would be a great start. This will not only help ENF but will achieve the same thing as holding an event.

Again, please try to remember what these two organizations mean to our Arizona Elks Association. I know it is difficult when during these troubling times we ask for donations, but as Elks we must always remember our motto. "Elks Care-Elks Share."

First Lady JoAnn and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. May your blessings be many and your troubles few. May you find peace and happiness through out the year. God Bless our Troops, God Bless our First Responders, and God bless each of you.

Rich Botkin, President
Arizona Elks Association

"AEA First Lady JoAnn's Message"



Dear Ladies of the Elks: I hope this finds everyone getting into the Holiday spirit and planning Christmas wherever it may find you. President Rich and I have been traveling to as many lodges to see what is happening around the state. While he is conducting meetings, I have had the opportunity to talk to the ladies if the lodge in a separate meeting.

Our discussions range from the pandemic to what is happening in the lodge. I always come away from these meetings with a grateful heart and mind. Despite all the problems that have occurred there is hope and a lively spirit among the lodges and the attitude that we will prevail through this crisis and still maintain the integrity of our organization. I am grateful for all the things the ladies are doing to keep their lodges going. The year is swiftly passing and hopefully we will be able to not only visit more lodges but meet again at the annual convention in May. I am still looking forward to our ladies' luncheon and being able to talk to everyone. Our theme is still the fifties and sixties. Further information will be sent out as we get closer to the convention. Until then please stay healthy and safe. May you all have a wonderful holiday, and we will keep you in our prayers. God bless everyone.

JoAnn Botkin
1st Lady of Arizona.

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Donate AEMP Rewards Grant to School”

On November 2nd, the lodge presented our \$1000 grant from AZ Elks Major Projects to the Carden school that will be used for much needed student school supplies. The lodge also donated 25 dictionaries for the 3rd and 4th grade students and the school is participating in the Americanism essay contest. In celebration of Red Ribbon Week, the lodge also delivered 60 bags filled with drug awareness literature for the students.

Submitted by: Exalted Ruler Bruce Van Den Eng, PER



Pictured are Carden Principal, Eugene Moore and Lodge Exalted Ruler Bruce C. Van Den Eng

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Soccer Shoot”

Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 held their annual soccer shoot on November 2nd at Carden of Tucson, a local charter school.

Submitted by: Exalted Ruler Bruce Van Den Eng, PER



42 students and 8 lodge members participated in the event.



The students enjoyed getting a bit of exercise and had a great time interacting with each other.



Our lodge volunteers make events like this happen. Many thanks to (from left to right): Allan, PER Marv, PER Bruce, Nick, Wayne, Murry, and Allen. Not pictured, PER Don B.

“Sun City Elks #2559 Donates Beacon Grant to Navajo Nation”

Early in October, Mr. Tom Eisiminger, Jr. MBA, and President, Veterans Medical Leadership Council and VMLC Charities in Phoenix, reached out to Mr. Ted Murphee, Project Coordinator with “Freedom Flights”, which sends Vets to Washington, D.C. Ted, being very familiar with Mr. Gary Drumheller, the Arizona Elks State Veterans Services Chairman and member of the Sun City Elks Lodge reached out to Gary, for any possible assistance he and the Elks might possibly provide.

Gary just happened to have in his pocket a \$3,000 “Beacon Grant”, which was then used to provide “Potable” water to the Navajo Nation in Chinle, Arizona.

On October 17, 2020 our Lodge donated our Beacon Grant to help offset the costs for sixty 300-gallon water tanks, 40 of which were purchased by the Beacon Grant itself.

The tanks were filled with potable water, which is to be used for washing, cooking and drinking only.

More water tanks may be required in the future, but for now, our Navajo Brothers and Sisters are living a much better life, because of that fresh water supply.

Submitted by: Valentino “Val” Bianchini, Sun City Elks Veterans P.R. Chairman

Pictured: Water Tanks erected on the Navajo Nation



“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Halloween Fundraiser for Kids”

On October 25 we had our annual Halloween Party for the kids at 1 PM. The Elks Kid Committee did their usual great job. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic this was a Trunk or Treat event and the kids all loved it and want to do it again next year. They had games, raffle baskets, snacks, best costume contest and pumpkin decorating contest all outdoors in our parking lot.

On Saturday, October 24 we had the Adult Halloween Party with a Karaoke host. Baskets raffle, 50/50 drawing, pumpkin decorating contest and costume contest. Many of the guest were in costume so it was hard for our three judges to determine the winners. The judges were Randy Sterling our ER, Tim Bos chairman of the house committee and Val Bianchini visiting AEA Vice President. Awards were given for various categories.

The excellent dinner was enjoyed by all: Ribs, Sausage en Croute, Witches Pasta, Eyeball eggs, Toxic Waste salad, Roasted brains (cauliflowers) and Puking Pumpkin w/dippable vegetable Fingers and Tombstone crackers. This was a fun event with the proceeds going to the Children’s Shopping Spree.

Submitted by: Nancy Baker, Lodge Secretary

Pictured winners: Sher Bruchner, Lisa Pichtard, Al Kayal, Diane and Larry Bodwell, Chris Dohrwardt and Jamie Saucier



“Sun City Elks #2559 Pick-up and Deliveries to Charitable Organizations”

The first week of November saw the Sun City Elks Lodge #2559, break all of their records, in the receiving and giving of power wheelchairs and a golf cart to those who needed them the most.

The day started early on November 1st, with members of the Sun City Veterans Committee, picking up a “Zoomie” three (3) wheel power bike, a “Comfy Go” power chair and a three (3) wheel walker, from Barbera Kelton.

Barbera heard of the Elks generosity and the Elks veterans’ program from the manager of the Southwest Mobility Store, Jeff Sturrett. Southwest Mobility partners with the Elks in refurbishing power chairs donated by various individuals.

Towards the end of the previous week, the Sun City Lodge’s Secretary had received a call from a couple, Rex and Debra Bell, to donate a 2013 Columbia Electric golf cart. They are the proud parents of an active duty Marine Gunny Sgt. The Bells heard about our Sun City Elks program through a local news outlet. Their generous donation has been put to good use at the Arizona State Veterans Home to shuttle residents to and from the VA hospital.

Although the Sun City Elks is noted for their work with Veterans we also extend a helping hand to others in need. We received a call about a 12-year old boy named Ricky, with cerebral palsy. He was in need of personal transportation badly. With the help of the Paralyzed Veterans Facility, we were able to present Ricky with his own power wheelchair.

As the week progressed, we were contacted by “Ace” and the La Frontera to assist Mr. Carl Davis, a disabled Marine Viet Nam Vet. Our Lodge was able to provide Mr. Davis with transportation.

We received a request for help for one of our own, Bud Bowlin PER and member of 31 years. Our Chairman of the Elks State Veterans Service Committee Gary Drumheller was able to connect him with the Paralyzed Vets of America Facility and secure a motorized power chair for Bud.

Submitted by: Val Bianchino, Veterans PR Chairman



Pictured:

Gary Drumheller (and Barbera Kelton, after picking up donations from Barbera Kelton.

Gary Drumheller, member John McConnell, Elk Member, Ken Bouseman, and Kayla Curtain, Arizona State Veterans Hospital with the golf cart recently donated by Rex and Debra Bell.

Ricky sitting in his newly received power chair and showing his gratitude.

Carl Davis disabled Marine Viet Nam Vet.

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Honor Student for Excellence in the Classroom”

The Elks in Bullhead City are proud to showcase the four students at Mohave Accelerated Learning Center for their excellence in the classroom. The Elks Lodge Youth Activities chairman Terri Frank presented each with a *Certificate of Achievement* to commemorate the occasion.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chairman

Pictured L-R: Able Chee who will become a highway parole officer, Aaron Sessions who will be joining the Air Force, Destiny Beardsley wants to become an FBI agent, and Maisy Mulligan aspires to become State Superintendent of Schools.



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Host Veterans Day Flag Ceremony”

Western Arizona Regional Medical Center requested the Bullhead City Elks Officers to present the Flag Day Ceremony and History to their staff and guests on Veterans Day in the cafeteria. The hospital enlisted several veterans to post each of the flags during the presentation, as this was truly a moving celebration of our nation's history.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chairman

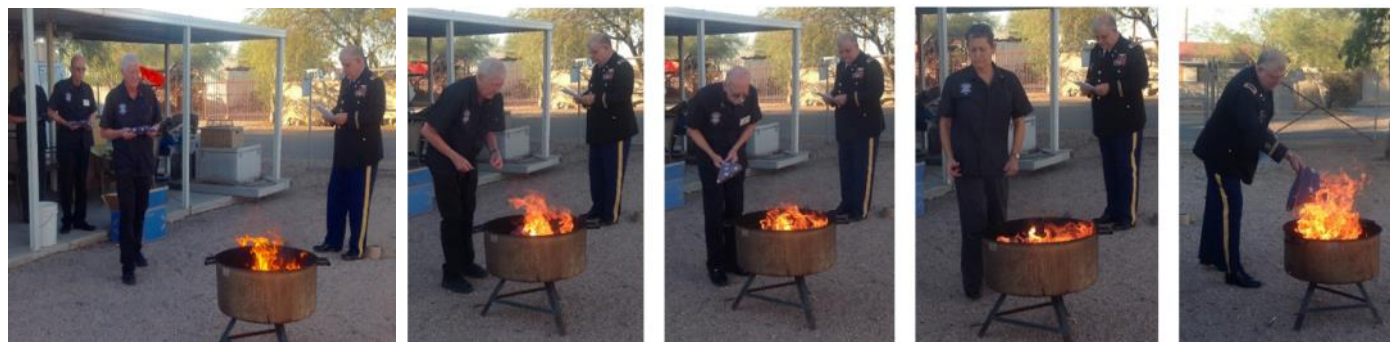


Pictured in front of the nine flags that make up the story of the evolution of the nation's banner is (in no particular order) Martin Vaughn, Karla Davis, John Martin, Elizabeth Carducci, Ahsraf Malik, Mike Bruno, Mark Bellmore and Heidi Greenman.

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Flag Retirement Ceremony”

On the 11th our lodge held the Veterans Day Ceremony as well as the Flag Retirement Service and followed those up with the honorable disposal of flags. There were approximately 50 lodge members (including the officers conducting them) at the ceremonies and we honorably retired more than 50 flags.

Submitted by: Exalted Ruler Bruce Van Den Eng, PER



Exalted Ruler (PER) Bruce C. Van Den Eng presides over the ceremony as the Leading, Loyal, and Lecturing Knights prepare to place flags into the pyre for their honorable disposal.

Leading Knight (PER) Don Douglas, Loyal Knight Jim Thacker, Lecturing Knight (PER) Kellie Smith, and Exalted Ruler (PER) Bruce C. Van Den Eng started the honorable disposal of flags.



Exalted Ruler (PER) Bruce C. Van Den Eng (CW4 Army Retired) presided over the ceremonies in uniform.

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Hosts Student of Month Ceremony”

The Bullhead City Elks honor students for the month of October at Mohave High School recently and presented a certificate of accomplishment to Madelyn MacDonald and Thomas Guertin, however Guertin was not available that day. MacDonald will study nursing at ASU upon graduation.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chairman

Pictured is Elks Youth Activities Chair Terri Frank presenting the certificate to Miss MacDonald.



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Hosts Western Hoedown Fundraiser”

The Gad-a-Bouts RV club hosted the annual Western Hoedown in November to raise funds for their various charities. Although there was limited seating because of the Coved19, the event was very successful. Ray Gunn and band entertained us for the evening while we danced the night away. Three baskets were auctioned and there was a 50/50 won by Pat Briggs.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chairman

Pictured L-R: The best dressed cowgirl and cowboy were won respectfully by Marti Kelly and Mike Swain and each was given a \$25 gift card.



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Donates Spotlight Grant to Veterans Standdown”

Our Lodge presented a check for \$2,000.00 using our ENF Spotlight Grant, to Cochise Serving Veterans for the 2020 Cochise County Stand Down / Veterans Resource Fair.

This year's event was hosted at the Mall of Sierra Vista on 23 October 2020, and due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our Veterans Committee was unable to host a table and hand out supplies using the Spotlight Grant like we did last year. The \$2,000 grant was used to purchase clothing, food, water and other necessary supplies for our community Veterans that are homeless, or home challenged.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Loyal Knight



“Sun City Elks #2559 Hosts Veterans Day Parade for Senior Center”

Veterans are the life blood of the Sun City Elks and Veterans Day is their day to shine. To celebrate Veterans Day, the Sun City Elks were part of a parade hosted by the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix. The Sun City Elks had 3 vehicles in the 120-vehicle parade.

After the parade, members of the Elks Veterans Committee made another stop, this time at the Hacienda Del Rey care facilities for seniors. Our Veterans Committee recognized the oldest Veteran resident of the facility and presented him with a plastic case, also containing a folded American Flag.

Bless all Veterans, past and present, and may they ever be recognized for their service to our country.

Submitted by: Valentino Bianchini, Sun City Elks Veterans P.R. Coordinator



Pictured 1: Sun City Elk members at the senior care facility and present an American flag in a shadow box to Connie Alaimso Director, Jose Corderro-Torres, 83 years old retired Army, and Gary Drumheller, AEA State Veterans Chair. Picture 2: Sun City Elks Parade vehicle.

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Hosts Drive Thru Veterans Day Lunch”

On Veteran's Day, November 11, 2020, the Casa Grande Elks Lodge hosted a free drive-thru lunch for all veterans. Working with the Ride for the Warrior, VFW, Knights of Columbus, and Texas BBQ, many BBQ dinners were served to veterans. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this day a success!

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



“Jerome Elks #1361 Presents \$1500 check to Senior Center”



On Friday, November 20th, 2020, at the Verde Valley Senior Center in Cottonwood, AZ, the Jerome Elks Lodge #1361 presented a check to Executive Director Elaine Bremer for \$1500.00 to use for the Meals on Wheels program. Executive Director Elaine says there is a much greater need than normal right now due to the pandemic and the fact that so many seniors are shut in and she was so glad to receive these funds.

Submitted by: Charyll McKean, Public Relations Chair

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Provides Dictionaries for Students”

The Casa Grande Elks Lodge distributed 732 dictionaries to Casa Grande third grade students during the month of October. Each year, the Elks provide a personal dictionary which the child can take home. It's primary focus is to promote literacy to children in third-grade as they transition from learning how to read to identify and use information.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Pictured: Elk Member Barb Michaud and Casa Grande School District Administrative Assistant, Michelle Raley.



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

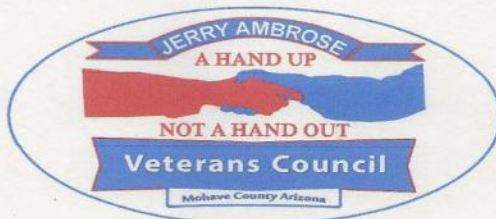
<https://arizonaelksassociation.org/>

or our Facebook page:

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



"Veterans Resource Fair: Friday, 15 January 2020 in Kingman, AZ"



KINGMAN VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR



**Mohave County Fairgrounds
2600 Fairgrounds Blvd.
Kingman AZ 86401**



Friday, January 15, 2021



From 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM

**Many resources will be available
Homeless Resources, Veterans Administration
Specialists,**



**Legal Representatives, Veterans Treatment Court,
County Agencies, Arizona State Agencies,
Military Records Retrieval, Women's Programs,
Hygiene Supplies, Food, Support Groups
and much more**



Transportation Provided - Shuttle Stops as Follows:

8:30 AM - American Legion, 3435 Verdi Rd, Golden Valley

9:00 AM - St. Vincent's DePaul, 218 E. Beale St., Kingman

9:30 AM - Cornerstone Mission, 3049 Sycamore Ave, Kingman



Return Trip Starts at 1:30 PM

Lunch will be provided, at no cost, by the Kingman Elks #468 Lodge and they are also a co-sponsor. Additional sponsors, at this time, include the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and the Arizona Veterans Stand Down Alliance.

"You can make a difference!"

Dorn Patrick Farrell, President
Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council of Mohave County, INC (JAVC)

“Arizona Elks Association Trustees Help Kingman Food Bank in Need”

The Arizona Elks Association, through our AEA Trustees, funded a commercial freezer for the Kingman Arizona Food Bank on Friday November 6, 2020. Please see the note below from Executive Director Mark McGregor.

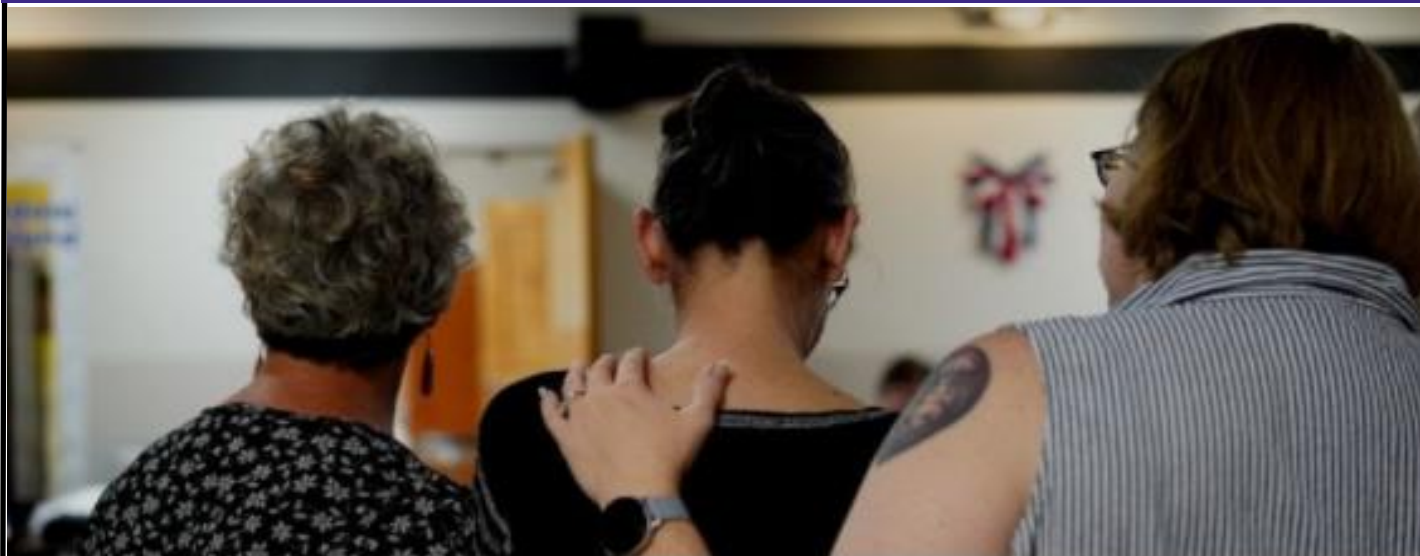
“I, once again, want to express our thanks for the help you gave us in securing this funding from the Arizona Elks! On Friday we used this unit to provide frozen meats, vegetables, French fries and fish to 53 families during our four hours the store was open!. I bring that to your attention so you will know that the freezer had immediate impact on the community. The total cost was \$4892.60 to purchase and install the freezer. I also wish to thank Home Depot who expedited this purchase through the Kingman store.

Thank you so much.

Mark McGregor
Executive Director
Kingman Food Bank”



“AEMP News- Katie Murdoch, Executive Director”



As the Executive Director for Arizona Elks Major Projects, I have had the supreme privilege of witnessing the generosity of the Elks. Founded on the principles of charity and benevolence, the Elks have made our world a better place for over 150 years. But it was one event, and one individual, that will inspire generations of Elks to continue to uphold the four cardinal virtues set by our founders- Fidelity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and most importantly, Charity.

When one of our most dedicated members, Megin Goetz, was diagnosed with breast cancer, her life was turned upside down. Yet instead of succumbing to the devastation, she took a different route. Knowing that she would lose her hair, she decided to turn it into an event and fundraiser that our State President, Rich Botkin, not only got on board with and helped plan, but also took part of.

“AEMP News- Katie Murdoch, Executive Director”

Within two weeks, the event was planned and organized by her and our State President, Rich Botkin, along with the officers of Tucson East #2532. Through the support of our fellow Elks member, the event raised nearly \$13,000.

Covid-19 has taken a financial toll on lodges and Major Projects around the country and we are no different. Our annual golf tournament had to be cancelled which meant we would lose at least \$10,000 in donations based on prior years. But the dedication of Elks members like Megin and our State President have proven that there are no mountains too high for us to climb- we will persevere and overcome this obstacle.



“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness”





Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



December: A time of remembrance for us all

As a person who loves good eats and treats, this has to be one of my favorite times of the year. Holiday parties and events. Dinners with family and friends. College and NFL football—Go Gophers and Skol Vikings. And ice fishing! This is when we all get to enjoy our time with so many things.

The beginning of this month is an occasion to reflect on those who have left us. Those Members who have passed during this last year and those who have gone in the years before. Lodges hold the sacred Elks Memorial Day on the first Sunday in December. This is a statute of the Order, so please make sure to honor those Elks who have gone to be with God.

This is a fabulous month to give to those in need of assistance. These can be people of your own community, or even veterans in your hospitals. Reach



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

out to some of the groups for help on finding them and helping them. Grab a family and shop with them or go into a store and grab the cart and pay for it. No matter what you do, you will be fulfilled by any charity that you can do.

With all that Elks and families have going on in the month of December, do not let it get so out of hand that you forget to prepare for January. It is time to get ready for the All-American Lodge Contest. The

certification form for this can be found online at elks.org under the Fraternal Committee section. A revised form was sent back in September.

This is also the time to start pulling together the officers, ensuring they are all willing and able to move forward and to have a leader among them to continue the efforts you have made in your year. Also, it is the time to recruit new Members to become a part of the routine of becoming an officer. I suggest that you find a few younger Members to get involved. This will **“Create Momentum for the Future of Elkdom.”**

From my family—Stacey, Jordan and Alex, Cassandra, and Jackson—we all wish you a very Merry Christmas and happy new year with good health and safe travels for you and all your families during this blessed holiday season.

Recognition greases the wheels of Elkdom

By JOHN D. AMEN, PGER
Commission Chairman

The Elks have a long and storied history of serving the community. We operate with only a handful of paid positions among our hundreds of thousands of Members nationwide. We accomplish our mission with volunteers. How do we accomplish the great things we do and keep our hard-working volunteers coming back for more? We do not pay them with money. We pay them with gratitude for the jobs well done. If volunteerism is the engine that drives our organization, then recognition for worthy and diligent Members is the fuel for meritorious accomplishments.

We don't perform our charitable services to seek recognition. But when a job well done is recognized by our

peers and leaders it becomes an unsought reward that helps validate the time, work, and passion that we have invested.

Recognition is extremely important in all phases of what we do. Veterans service is no exception. We are motivated by love of country and the desire to help and serve those who have defended our beloved freedoms. Our nation owes an unpayable debt to our servicemen and women: a helping hand from an Elks volunteer goes a long way

toward making a veteran feel that they are truly thanked for their service.

It is now time to ponder a most appropriate form of recognition for outstanding service to veterans. I am talking about the Veteran Volunteer of the Year Awards. You can write your own letter to nominate a worthy candidate, or you can use the nomination form available in the Volunteer Resource

Center at elks.org/vets. There is meaningful recognition in simply being nominated for the prestigious award. Who knows? You may be the one who nominates your State's winner!

