

Arizona Elks News

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

February 2021



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Members all:

I hope this finds everyone safe, healthy, and happy. Well, here we are moving toward the final quarter of our fraternal year. The old year is behind us and the New Year is moving ahead without hesitation. Resolutions have been made and broken, our lives have been disrupted, dear friends and family have been taken from us. We have lost our freedom to gather, to attend our church, to send our children to school. But as I travel and talk to and listen to our members we have not lost our faith or our commitment to succeed within our order. You are incredibly special people and have adopted a resolve to not fail. I most passionately believe we are the "Best People On Earth".



By the time you read this article all the Districts Leading Knights Clinics have been held along with the District Deputy caucus. Your District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers have been selected for year 2021-2022. Let us support them in their endeavor to have a successful year. The meetings committee is still working toward having the annual May convention, but again it all depends on the regulations and requirements set forth by the State Government. I know if there is any way possible they will be looking at all possibilities.

I would like to address our membership problems, at least our delinquencies. I realize that most lodges are trying their best to bring their members back into the lodge, but we must realize that there is that underlying idea that it is not safe and could be disastrous. There is nothing we can do to alleviate their fears except to continuously make them aware of the safety precautions you have in place at your lodge. I have sent out a form pertaining to membership for all lodges to fill out and return to me.

Continued on page 2.

Inside this edition:

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

**AEA First Lady's
Message** 2

**Local Lodges
Charitable and
Community
Contributions** 3-7

AEMP News 8

Grand Lodge News 9

**AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
25 February 2021
aeane newsletter**



**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.

This is important because I'm using the information you send to assess your lodges membership. Along with the District Membership representative we will be working close with the lodges with the highest delinquent percentage rate to help regain that membership. Membership is our bloodline and I know we can win back these members with a little hard work. We need to make January & February our priority for regaining our members.

Please stay healthy and safe.

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

Fraternally

Rich Botkin, President

Arizona Elks Association

"AEA First Lady JoAnn's Message"



Well, the new year is upon us and things have not change. We are still in the battle to get back to some sort of normal life as we are used to. I do not have any new information to share with you except that the May Convention is still in limbo and I am sure if there is any way possible the meetings committee will find a way. Here is hoping this finds everyone safe and healthy. Will pass on any new information that comes our way.

With regards,

JoAnn Botkin, 1st Lady

Arizona Elks Association



Elks Care - *Elks* Share

“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Donates to H.A.V.E.N.”

With donations of nearly \$10,000.00, the Elks and Elkettes from Lodge 2399 bought and wrapped gifts for 61 foster children and 18 adults who are in need in our community. “The Giving Tree” was delivered by advocates at Havasu Abuse Victims Education Network (H.A.V.E.N.) to foster children and adults in need. This new program allowed us to sponsor children and shop safely while observing Covid-19 guidelines.

Submitted by; Eva Fox, Lodge News Team



Pictured L-R: Debbie Herd Elizabeth Ledingham,, and Matt Brewster representing Vanessa Brewster (Elkette President), with H.A.V.E.N. Family Advocates Ashley Buckles and Kelsey Thurman. Wearing a Santa hat is Elks lodge 2399's Leading Knight Chuck Fox.

“Yuma Elks #476 Donates to Yuma Community Food Bank”

The Yuma Community Food Bank received a \$2000.00 donation from the Yuma Elks Lodge 476. The funds were made possible through a “Spotlight Grant” from the Elks National Foundation. Spotlight Grants are focused on serving people in need. The President and CEO of the Food Bank, Shara Whitehead, stated that the Food Bank is providing over 500 families per day with essential food nourishment which has become so important in the COVID environment.

Submitted by: John Fuller, ENF Chairman



Pictured from left; Exalted Ruler Don Jacobs, Shara Whitehead, and Esteemed Leading Knight Glen Ball.

“Tempe Elks #2251 Hosts Drive-Thru Gifts for Needy Students”

The Tempe Elks Lodge held a drive-thru distribution of gifts of clothing, toys and food boxes for needy students and their siblings from an elementary school in the Tempe community. The food boxes contained a turkey with all the trimmings for a holiday meal, along with additional breakfast lunch, dinner and snack items. Each of the 25 families also received several gallons of milk which were all donated by the Arizona Milk Producers. The 75 children received toys and/or clothing items that may not have been possible without the help from the Elks. The families were all so appreciative. It was obvious the Tempe Elks made a huge difference in the lives of these children and their parents this Christmas.

Submitted by; Dan Miller and Sheryl Filliater, Children Shopping Spree Chairs



Pictured: Elks Members distributing food boxes and gifts to one of the families (L-R): School Principal, Patrick Cahalan, Father and Son, Sheryl Filliater, Rick Roser, Billy Santee, and Bill Santee.

“Yuma Elks #476 Provides Food Boxes to 200 Families”



Yuma 476 filled over 400 boxes of food for 200 families during the holidays. Pictured is Christmas Food Box Chairman Sandy Ramos

Submitted by: John Fuller, ENF Chairman

Pictured is Christmas Food Box Chairman Sandy Ramos

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Hosts Charity Brunch and Volleyball Tourney”

Scottsdale AZ Elks Lodge #2148 put on a charity brunch and volleyball tournament on December 13, 2020. The Lodge "volleyball volunteers" pour their hearts and souls into preparing and serving a brunch to over 60 people and with monies raised by the brunch and volleyball tournament were able to give \$200.00 to First Responders and \$1000.00 for a needy family in the community. The single father and his three children recently relocated here from Syria and were extremely appreciative of the generosity of the Elks.

Submitted by: Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary

“Raceway Elks #2852 Donates to Veteran-Elk in Need”

Raceway donates to Bud Bowlen an Elk, and Veteran who has lost the use of his legs, while trying to go out side in his wheel chair it tipped over and he laid in the street for 45 minutes be for he got help his wheel chair was damages and could not be repaired, Raceway Lodge #2852 donated to him and elect chair so he could get around the house, and it has a chair lift in it so he can now get in bed with out help, The lodge also donated to him a mobility scooter so he can now go out side and enjoy the sun and go with his wife on walks.

Submitted by: William Buttram Lodge Americanism and PR Chairman



“Join the ENF Fidelity Club Today”



Becoming a member of the Fidelity Club is simple! Enroll online at enf.elks.org/recurring and start your gift today! If you prefer to sign up through the mail, [click here](#) for an enrollment form.

Questions? Contact enf@elks.org or 773/755-4728 for additional information about starting a monthly gift and joining the ENF Fidelity Club.

“Holbrook Elks Lodge #2450 Donate Grant to Support Charities”

The Holbrook Elks Lodge #2450 applied for a grant to support local charities in our community that needed help. We were allowed to split the \$3500 to support two of the organizations. First Step Workshop and Catholic Charities, each received a check for \$1750.00. The other picture is one taken by the newspaper of Holbrook Elk members and volunteers donating food boxes, toys for tots, gift cards for Clothe-A-Child families, and hot dogs. All were presented at a drive-through event.

Submitted by: Beverley Goodnight, Lodge Secretary



“AEMP Diamond Club”

Diamond Club



All donations made to Arizona Elks Major Projects will go directly to our two projects. That's right, **100% of your money that is donated will go to our causes that help children!** Of course, when you make a donation to AEMP, it is Tax-Deductible.

<https://azelksmp.com/donate/>

Arizona Elks

major projects

Making a world of difference, locally.



Happy New Year! I am excited to see what 2021 will hold and have high expectations of a wonderful year ahead.

I want to thank each of you with the Arizona Elks for your support through these tough times.

We continue to work diligently to find cures and keep our children healthy at the Steele Children's Research Center. As we look forward to 2021 we still must remain diligent in protecting ourselves and loved ones from COVID. Our healthcare systems are overwhelmed and we can do our part to help by wearing masks, avoiding gatherings, and most importantly, *getting vaccinated*. I wish you all a healthy and joyful new year and thank you again for your amazing support!



Dr. Ghishan receiving his first COVID vaccination on Dec. 18. He received the second dose on Jan 9

A VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

Twice a year, the Arizona Elks Association has the great honor of presenting the University of Arizona Steele Children's Research Center a check for \$225,000. Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of our conventions, AEA State President Rich Botkin, AEMP President Ken Adams, and AEMP Executive Director Katie Murdoch virtually presented the second check to Dr. Fayez Ghishan and Ashley Hammarstrom. While it may be different, the impact remains the same!

It is because of our incredible members and loyal donors that we were able to present this check. So from all of us at AEMP, THANK YOU for your continued support and generosity!

Link to presentation can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/499743720>

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

Our annual vehicle raffle has officially begun! Support Arizona Elks Major Projects and enter to win this brand new off-road vehicle!

2021 Yamaha Wolverine X4-850



PURCHASE

1st Prize - Yamaha Wolverine X4-850
(14' trailer included)
2nd Prize - \$500
3rd Prize - \$300
4th Prize - \$200
5th Prize - \$100

Support AEMP in style!

Check out our limited edition shirts and support AEMP!



Looking for a way to support AEMP? We've got the answer for you! These custom, high-quality shirts come in various sizes (including kids!), styles and colors. Inventory is limited so don't miss out!



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Finish your year strong by creating momentum

Creating Momentum for the Future of Elkdom. This is my motto going into my year, but this can be your thoughts going out of your year. Finish the year strong—don't think to yourself that you only have two more months until you are done. Instead, think that **you have two more months to make a difference.**

Start bringing your Leading Knight or whoever will be your ER to all the events and all the meetings to help train them going into April. Don't forget, April 1 is a Thursday, and for the next week the Lodges throughout the country will be voting in the new leadership. Hopefully that doesn't mean you are stepping away. PERs are essential to the future of the Lodges.



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

Have a celebration for the Birthday of the Elks. The date of our origin is February 16th. It may be a Tuesday, but you can make it a profitable day! Celebrate our birthday and create an avenue for a fundraiser.

This is the time of year both current and future leaders of your Lodge need to come together to set the goals for the next

year. Engage Members in this process. Getting them involved can **Create Momentum for the Future of Elkdom**, and this is what we all want.

Contest 'A' — All American Lodge Contest certification forms are due in March, so get prepared to participate in this. Even if you don't think you qualify, it is worth the efforts to work toward it. I know the parameters are different this year, but the efforts are still worth it!

Stacey and I have had minimal travel throughout the country. However, in our travels we are meeting some great people who are Creating Momentum. We feel change is coming and we look forward to meeting even more people and seeing how this Momentum is helping keep Elkdom strong.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

How to thank heroes on the home front

By **DUANE D. HELDENBRAND**
Committee Member

Valor. A word we commonly associate with the heroic acts of men and women on battlefields in distant lands. However, this term can also be applied to those heroes found closer to home.

These individuals may not be answering the call of service by marching into unknown enemy territory, but responding to emergencies within their local communities. You can find them dashing from the back of ambulances, entering homes roaring with flames without a moment's hesitation, or calmly facing apparent danger many others would shirk away from.

As Elks, we have the privilege and opportunity to respect and honor those who have given all to ensure the wellbeing of this nation's citizens, and those who continue to do so on a daily basis. For those unsung acts of service, your Lodge at the local level may award those individuals who persist in their efforts helping their communities with

the Medal of Service. Unfortunately, we are not always able to thank those who have performed their final act of heroism. Therefore, you can honor their ultimate sacrifice by presenting their deserving families with the Medal of Valor.

The medals mentioned can easily be obtained by placing an order through Grand Lodge Supplies by your Lodge Secretary. Please use Code #575100 for the Medal of Valor and Code #575200 to order the Medal of Service. Both medals are \$9.00 each, plus shipping and handling. Personalized certificates pertaining to both awards are also available for download at elks.org to accompany these medals. Just click on the Members section followed by the Activities' Committee webpage to access these certificates.

Please give your Lodge the opportunity to thank those heroes within your own community who represent the truest meanings of service and valor with these humble recognitions.



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/>