

Arizona Elks News

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

January 2021



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Members all:

Well, it is the start of a new year and hopefully the ending of the most disastrous and deadliest year in our history. I hope everyone had a joyous and peaceful holiday. We as Elks have experienced the hardship of trying keep our lodges open, safe, our finances stable, and our membership intact. I know you have tried everything possible to achieve those goals and as President I hope I have been able to provide some assistance and leadership during these stressful times. I know Joann and I have traveled to so many lodges and always come away with pride at what our association is doing as a whole. We can only pray for a better future this year.



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During the month of January, the Arizona Elks Association will be conducting the Leading Knights Clinic in each district. This is not only for the Leading Knights but for any member in good standing that would like to attend. Find out how your districts and state organization are doing. Contact your District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in your District and find out the time and place.

Also, we are dedicating the month of January to regaining our delinquent membership back. I included along with our District Vice Presidents and District Deputies will be focusing on contacting each lodge and coordinate with the lodge membership committee to find out exactly what is being done to reduce our delinquency. So, lodges be prepared to respond to our inquiries with what ever plan you have available. I will be sending out a directive to each lodge asking for information concerning your membership committee and committee chairperson.

AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
25 January 2021

aeanewsletter
@arizonaelks.org



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**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 must have some type of plan in place to stem the flow of delinquency. The Order of Elks as with other organizations are suffering in membership retention. I believe if we have a plan and work that plan we will be able to regain some of our members.

God Bless our Troops

God Bless our First Responders

God Bless America

Rich Botkin, President

Arizona Elks Association

In Memoriam ~ Gary Drumheller



Please join us in prayer as we mourn the loss of our Arizona Elks Association Veterans Committee Chairman and Brother Elk, Gary Drumheller. He passed away on Wednesday, 23 December 2020 due to complications from COVID-19.

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Donate to Military Moms”



The Bullhead City Elks awarded the Tri-State Military Moms a *Beacon Grant* from the Elks National Foundation for \$3,500. The Tri-Stat Military Moms began in 2001 by sending care packages to their boys and others overseas. In 2013 they received nonprofit status and began sending more packages as well as helping local Vets with their needs that other organization did not meet. In 2014 the “Moms” began hanging banners along our major highway to honor those home town young men and women who are in the military. It started with 46 and is now today at 176.

Submitted by; Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chair

Pictured: Sue Trani, PER Marsha Haddick who presented the check and Cindy Frizelle who said it would be used in part for postage to send 76 packages overseas.

“Tucson Elks #385 Deliver Christmas Bikes to Children”

Tucson Elks Lodge #385, in conjunction with Lugo Charities Bike in the Box 2020, ready to make 500 local underprivilege kids Christmas season a bit more exciting.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chair

Pictured: Top Right; Tucson Lodge Members/Santa Helpers. Bottom; Member J. Lugo/Lugo Charities overseeing unloading of bikes.



“Sun City Elks #2559 Member Hosts Garage Sale for Veterans”

On 3 December 2020, the Sun City Elks Lodge Veterans Program received a check for \$1000 from the Sun City West Garage Sale group. Member Patti Thomas, and four of her friends hosted a Thanksgiving Veterans Committee fundraiser / garage sale. An anonymous individual also donated 4 boxes of catheters, which will be sent to one of our Veterans Facilities.

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



Pictured: Marianne Prather, Patti Thomas, Gary Drumheller, Elli Thorton, Myra Litscher and Marion Hare, who assisted in the garage sale.

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Put the Giving into Thanksgiving”

The Scottsdale Elks Lodge celebrated Thanksgiving by bringing much needed food and supplies to community members. On 21 November 2020 we delivered 21 food baskets, valued at \$70.00 each to needy families at Hirsch Academy. We then served 60 Meals to the community on Thanksgiving as well as provided meals to 50 homeless individuals on Monday, 30 November 2020.

Submitted by: Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Host Student Awards”

The Elks are proud to honor two students at Mohave High School. Bullhead City Elks Youth Activities chair Terri Frank presents a Certificate of Achievement for November to Andrew Anderson and Maya Radic during Mr. Lipinski’s class recently. Anderson is interested in business administration as a career and Radic wants to become a physical therapist.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chair



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Elks Memorial Service”

On December 6, the lodge held the annual Elks Memorial Service that was attended by the AZ Elks Assn State President Rich Botkin, three widows of our departed members, and many lodge members who paid their respects.

Submitted by: Bruce Van Den Eng, Exalted Ruler



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Student of the Month Awards”

The Bullhead City Elks were pleased to hear from CRUHSD Academy, an alternative school where students can learn at their own pace, who have nominated two of their own for Student of the Month. The senior is Luis Gomez and a junior, Melany Baines who is on a different schedule and was not present.

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chair



Pictured: Gomez, center with certificate of accomplishment in hand and flanked by history teacher Brock Barrows and at right is CRUHSD Academy Principal Troy Heaton.

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Host Memorial Service”

The Elks Memorial was held recently to remember those Members who have passed from our realms this year

Submitted by: Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chairman



Pictured: Acting Lecturing Knight Margaret Lopez, Leading Knight Deb Cyrus, Secretary Dan Barron, Exalted Ruler Dom Cetani, acting Loyal Knight Mike Swain, Esquire Roy Haddick and Chaplain Terri Frank. Also pictured the lighting of each candle is Esquire Roy Haddick and Chaplain Terri Frank.

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Host AEMP Toy Drive”

On December 11th, our lodge members donated more than 50 new, unwrapped, toys in support of the AZ Elks Major Projects (AEMP) toy drive.

Submitted by: Bruce Van Den Eng, Exalted Ruler



“Tucson Elks #385 Donate Holiday Gifts to Children in Need”

Tucson Elks Lodge #385 members donated several children holiday gifts to Southern AZ Family Involvement Center, a non-profit organization which assist local Tucson families in need

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chair

Pictured L-R, BOD Chairman/Leading Knight W. Burns, Southern Regional Director P. Grant, Program Development Manager, E. Casillas



“Lake Havasu Elks #2339 Donate Beacon Grant to Afterschool Program”

The Lake Havasu Elks donated the \$3500 Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant to the Lake Havasu City Parks and Recreation to be used for the afterschool programs

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured are Parks and Recreation Coordinators Janice Brown and Sara Ross and Grant Administrator and Past Exalted Ruler, Debbie Herd.



“Lake Havasu Elks #2339 Donate Beacon Grant to Afterschool Program”

Lake Havasu Elks #2399 donated toys to the LHC PD community Service Unit for distribution at Shop with a Cop on Tuesday December 8th.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured: Community Service Unit Sergeant Chris Sautner with his Team standing. Also in photo is Elks Leading Knight Chuck Fox with Chair persons Ed & Kay Wdowiak with the Elks Christmas basket program.



“Lake Havasu Elks #2339 Donates to Food Bank”

Volunteers from the Havasu Community Health Foundation Food Bank received donated food from the Elks Lodge #2339

Submitted by: Ava Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured 3rd from left is Elk Ed Wdowiak Christmas Basket Chairman.



“Kingman Elks #468 Provides Welcome Home Kits to Veterans”



Kingman Elks Lodge Presents first of many Welcome Home Kits from our Elks Impact Grant was purchased for Army Veteran Karen Ellis who recently was approved for one of the Veterans Villas on Hualapai.

JAVC's Women Veterans Director, Joyce Williams and Elk Nani Chrimes took Karen shopping for household items, food, clothing, and cleaning supplies to set up her new home. “I can't believe all the help I'm getting to get back on my feet. I'm so grateful” said Karen.

Kingman Elks Lodge's Impact Grant has helped 20 Veterans this year with a variety of needs including air conditioners, furniture, food, clothing, utilities assistance, transportation to work, and storage. We also were able to continue our Adopt-A-Vet Program for these Veterans and those at The Gardens.

Submitted by: Nani Chrimes, Kingman Elks Lodge 468

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Donates Christmas Food Boxes”

Casa Grande Valley Elks donated food boxes and Christmas gifts to needy families in the Casa Grande area. Food and gift donations were made by Elk members and members of the community along with a generous donation from the Lodge. The food box distribution is an annual event for Casa Grande Elks. Elk members preparing the food boxes is (LtoR): Diane Repass, Deborah Ramsey, and Cathy Ziembra.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Pictured: Elk members preparing the food boxes is (LtoR): Diane Repass, Deborah Ramsey, and Cathy Ziembra.



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Prepares Christmas Food Boxes for Donation”

On December 19th, lodge members assembled Christmas dinner boxes for 32 local families in need. More than 30 lodge members were directly involved in the project and more than \$5000 was spent in support of the families this year with the funds coming from the ENF Gratitude Grant (\$1500), AZ Elks Assn Social Welfare (\$250), lodge donation (\$250), and lodge member donations of cash and food items (\$1000+). Several lodge members donated all of the turkeys and one member donated all of the bread for each dinner box. All of the families received their dinner box on December 20th.

Each box was tailor made based upon the size of each family and contained a turkey, potato's, rice, pinto beans, salt, sugar, flour, tortillas, mac & cheese, green beans, corn, peas, diced tomato's, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy mix, cookies, and bread. As a Christmas surprise, lodge members also provided 96 backpacks for the children of the families. The backpacks were also tailor made for each child and contained school supplies, goodies, and a age/gender appropriate gift. Throughout the year, lodge members donated the additional \$2797 in funds required to provide the backpacks.

Submitted by: Bruce Van Den Eng, Exalted Ruler



“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Hosts Santa Wave”

Casa Grande Elks had a great time Sunday afternoon dressing as Santa and his elves and just standing in front of the lodge waving to traffic! Traffic waved back, horns honked and for two short hours, there was a feeling of "pre-Covid" Christmas. It wasn't long before a few parents stopped to have children pose with Santa. Many said they had been looking for a Santa in town and couldn't find one. The Elks didn't know they were filling a void left in our community by the pandemic, but were extremely happy to step up to the challenge. It's what Elks Do!

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Pack Meal Boxes for the Salvation Army”

The Bullhead City Elks were found early one morning packing boxes with food for the needy recently which contained nutritious and delicious items. There was a 5 lb. ham, oranges, apples, butter, bread, peanut butter, canned vegetables, rice, cookies, candy and so much more. All fifty boxes were taken to the Salvations Army for distribution that same morning. All in all there were about 15 to 20 Elk members and friends who volunteered to begin packing food at 6:30 am. Pictured below are some volunteers working at filling the needed food boxes.

Submitted by; Terri Frear-Frank, Public Relations Chair



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Donates Beacon Grant to Support Feast in a Bag”

The Sierra Vista Elks Lodge donated our \$3,500 in support of our Annual Feast-in-a Bag. For the 3rd year in a row, we have support our food bank, Peach's Pantry to supply meals to children on the school lunch program. This year, due to limitations caused by the COVID-19 crisis, ENF allowed us to donate directly to Peach's Pantry. Pictured below: Staff and volunteers from Peach's assembling Thanksgiving Meal bags for distribution to over 170 families totally almost 600 people.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Loyal Knight / Grants Administrator





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**

Diamond Club



PURCHASE

1st Prize - Yamaha Wolverine X4-850

(14' trailer included)

2nd Prize - \$500

3rd Prize - \$300

4th Prize - \$200

5th Prize - \$100

Donate to Arizona Elks Major Projects

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

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.

“ENF News~ Bruce Van Den Eng, ENF Chairman”



**Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.**

Support the Elks National Foundation (ENF) by joining the Fidelity Club

Bruce C. Van Den Eng, PER
AEA ENF Chair

As of December 8th, there are only **158** of the 26,222 (.006%) lodge members statewide that participate in the Fidelity Club. We need to do much better than that and joining the Fidelity Club is easily done at elks.org. Individual participation in the Fidelity Club has a direct and significant impact on a lodge's charitable activities.

Gratitude grants are awarded to a lodge that has met the Grand Exalted Rulers Per-Member donation goal the previous Elk year. ENF has added two \$500 bonuses to the Gratitude grant recognizing member donations on-line and participation in the Fidelity Club. A \$500 bonus if, 15% of lodge members donate a minimum of \$10.00 each elk year and an additional \$500 bonus for lodge's that have at least 15% of their members enrolled in the Fidelity Club.

The Fidelity Club is an automatic, regularly scheduled donation from a bank account or credit card, taken monthly (minimum \$5) or quarterly (minimum \$15) to ENF.

Please join the Fidelity Club and donate to ENF on-line using the following instructions:

Create your user profile at <https://www.elks.org/>. Log in and follow the instructions below:

Click on the Elks National Foundation button located in the center of the red bar at the top of the page which will take you to ENF page.

Click the Support ENF button that takes you to the support page.

Click the Monthly Giving button that will take you to the Fidelity Club page.

Click on enf.elks.org/recurring link (found in the text in the middle of the page) that will take you to the on-line registration form for the Fidelity Club.

Fill out the required fields, click the Process button at the bottom of the page, and you're done.



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Resolutions, goals: Make them now for your Lodge

Frohes Neues Jahr, Godt Nyttår, Feliz Año Nuevo, and Happy New Year!!!! No matter how you say it, 2021 can ONLY be a better year!

Do you still have resolutions? Or maybe they are goals. I had a few goals as your Grand Exalted Ruler for my year as your representative of this organization. My biggest thing is to make sure that the Order builds on what we already have. Create more ways to give back, add to the programs to help others, build on our benevolence. But, we can all say that—are you doing it? Knowing what I know about all of the Members that we have had the opportunity to meet, there is no doubt in my mind that we are doing a lot, but can we do more!

Because of our wonderful new program, the Financial Reporting System (FRS), normally at this time I



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

would be suggesting that it is time to get your Auditing and Accounting Committee on regular meetings to look at the budgets and prepare the financial documents to ship to CPAs. But because of the FRS, we only need to prepare, compare, and send for your 990s to be completed. Although our "Lodge year" is different, the IRS needs your information for a calendar year. Make sure to get them prepared.

This is also the time to start preparing

for your PER Night. Get your new officers ready to start their year. Help your future officers and prepare for the next regime. But, don't stop your current **momentum**. This is what is going to take you into the new year. It will also teach your future leaders to **Create Momentum for the Future of Elksdom**.

I had the honor of participating and being a part of the 150th anniversary celebration of this great Order. I will never forget what an honor that was, and the fact that two of my children were also able to be a part of it. February is the birthday of our Order. Use this to have a celebration, a dinner, or an outing to help create funds for your Lodge, to help with the community, or to help another organization. No matter what

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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/>

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you do, make the birthday of the Elks an event in your Lodge.

For ERs, Secretaries, and PERs, this is the time also to choose your Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Citizen of the Year. As always, take time to deliberate and choose thoughtfully.

Lapsation should also be a focus of your Membership Committee. My Lodge has reported that we are nearing 2% in lapsation. Although for me that is a small number, for many it is huge. Let's make this another year of growth.

