

Arizona Elks News

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

March 2021



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Greetings:

Well, here we are in the final stretch of our fraternal year and things have gotten a little better. I hope that everyone is trying to stay safe and healthy as possible. As of this time the restrictions and the guidelines from our State Government, local county, and city restrictions and guidelines are still in effect. So, we are extremely limited as to what we can or can not do as an organization. Our State Meetings Chairman Past State President Lee Schwein and his committee have been in constant contact with the hotel, but the possibility of having an annual convention in May does not look hopeful. The hotel is under the same restrictions as every business with limited number of people in one location, skeleton staffing, and basic menus. We will research everything and look at every possible solution that may be presented to us and if there is any way possible to have a convention we will certainly do our best.



Incoming Exalted Rulers, by now you have received your registration form and the information letter from PSP Jerry Grimes, who along with his wife Linda are our Grand Lodge Headquarters Committee for Arizona, about attending the GL Convention in Tampa Florida starting on July 4th 2021, please fill out this form and return it as soon as possible. They will normally hold a number of rooms for all the Exalted Rulers, Ritual Teams, etc., but they still need your returned form with deposit right away, also the check from each lodge for the hospitality room at GL. PSP Jerry and Linda would normally hold a meeting at the AEA convention but since that is in a limbo state they are relying on each individual ER and lodge to complete and return the forms. Please try to help and comply with their instructions.

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AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
25 March 2021

aeane newsletter



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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.

I was very honor to attend the North/West District Ritual competition held at Sun City Lodge 2559, and the East/South District Ritual competition held at Tucson East Lodge # 2532 all total there were 7 lodges competing. I would like to express my sincere and most gracious "THANK YOU" to the Exalted Rulers and Officers who competed in those competitions. To witness, along with other members in attendance, this type of commitment, was absolutely amazing. I know that membership is the bloodline of Elkdom, but I believe Ritual is the heart of Elkdom. To my observation there were no losers, only winners in every sense of the word. My congratulations to all the teams, coaches, candidates, and the Ritual committee for having a very well-run Ritual contest. Looking forward to visiting a few more lodges before the end of the year, so please stay safe, healthy, and happy.

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

Fraternally

Rich Botkin, President

Arizona Elks Association

ELKS *Do!*



Support our Foundation by donating online. You *could* give through the Lodge, but the *only* difference when you donate online is how quickly your gift helps others.

Donate to the Elks National Foundation online at
enf.elks.org/MyLodge!

ELKS *Do!*

“Coolidge-Florence Elks #2350 Hosts Annual Dinner Event”

At the Coolidge-Florence Elks #2350 annual Veterans dinner event, we had the opportunity to meet and speak with an army veteran that was invited by our Lecturing Knight, Lina Austin. Henry Harris was diagnosed with sickle cell anemia and was about to become homeless. He owned a piece of property, but had no means of putting a residence on it. With the assistance of our lodge Officers and Board of Directors, we purchased an RV for his property. The RV salesman, a Purple Heart recipient, waived his commission in order to lower the cost. Mr. Harris is now the proud owner of an RV!

Submitted by; Angela Shenk



Pictured L to R: Lina Austin (Lecturing Knight), Henry Harris, and Micky McGraw-Steien (Exalted Ruler) Chuck Fox.

“Yuma Elks #476 Donates to the Safe House of Yuma Shelter”

The Yuma Elks Lodge 476 donated \$5,500.00 to the Safe House of Yuma, a shelter for abused women and children. The funds were made available through grants from the Elks National Foundation.

Submitted by: John Fuller, ENF Chairman



Pictured from left; Safe House Director Sandra Ramos, President and CEO Jody White, and Exalted Ruler Don Jacobs.

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Host Old Timer’s Night”

Recently the Bullhead City Elks awarded service pins to our members ranging from 10 years to 60 years of service to our community. There were 88 members eligible to receive pins but many were not in attendance. Congratulations to all.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations



Pictured L-R: Patrick Kelly, Alton Larson, Dwayne Witty, Paul Diffenderffer, Linda Morrow, Gene Quinn, James McCollum, Mike Swain and Ron Russell. If Don Laughlin had been at the Elks meeting he would have received his 60-year pin.

“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 PERs donate to Dementia Charity”

The Past Exalted Ruler Association donated \$500.00 to the Dementia Connection of Havasu "Movin' for Memory" Walk. Even through the pandemic, the Dementia Connection remained dedicated to providing support and education regarding issues related to dementia and Alzheimer's.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team



Pictured L-R: PER Larry O. Lee, from Dementia Connection: Libbe Gilbert, Virginia Michels, Devin White, Vilma Urbina and Roberta Bayles and PER Jack Zehr. In front is Eli Gonzales.

"Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408 Student of the Month Awards"

Five seniors from Mohave Accelerated Learning Center were named Student of the Month. The Bullhead City Elks are proud to honor them with a Certificate of Achievement for January. Congratulations to all!

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations

Pictured L-R: James Borland, Jules Hunter, Dallas Davidson and Kyle Mathew Sicat. Bryant Booz was not available for the photo.



"Casa Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Clothe-a-Kid Event"

Today our lodge used the \$3500 ENF Beacon Grant to take 35 children from a local elementary school (Laguna Elementary) for a shopping trip at the JC Penny store in the Tucson Mall. Each child received a \$100 gift for the purchase of clothes and shoes. The lodge had 30 members and 5 others volunteer to escort and assist the children while shopping. The elementary school also brought along 11 faculty members to assist as well.

Submitted by: Bruce C. Van Den Eng, Exalted Ruler



The lodge used the \$3500 ENF Beacon Grant to provide a \$100 gift card for each child to buy clothes and shoes.



The students and faculty from Laguna Elementary School.

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Americanism Essay Winners”

Casa Grande Valley Elks held an Americanism essay contest for students of the Casa Grande area schools. The theme of the essay this year was "How can patriotism be demonstrated?"

Americanism Essay Contest 1920-21

Division II 7th & 8th Grade

1st Place

Elizabeth Osborn

2nd Place

Emery Siggard

Americanism Essay Contest 1920-21

Division I 5th & 6th Grade

1st Place

Aldo Ruiz

2nd Place

Andres Saucedo

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

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

The Bullhead City Elks are proud to acknowledge two seniors from Mohave High School as “Students of the Month”.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations

Pictured L-R: is Daniella Suttles who will study law and music upon graduation and Trevor Salahub who will be going to college in Nebraska on a wrestling scholarship.



“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

“Casas Adobes #2663 Donates Backpacks for Veterans”

Working in concert with the Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans (TVSV) organization, the Casas Adobes lodge #2663 in Tucson, AZ contributed 50 backpacks for their Homeless Veterans Stand Down effort. All of the backpacks will be directly delivered to homeless Veterans throughout the Tucson area. The Casas Adobes lodge regularly participates in TVSV projects in addition to direct support of the VA Homeless Veterans (HUD-VASH) Program.

The TVSV is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that was started in 2002 with the primary goal of assisting local Veterans in need. It's comprised of members from federal, state, and local governments, as well as, private organizations that partner with Veteran service organizations to collaboratively facilitate the independence and self-sufficiency of Tucson area Veterans.

Submitted by: Submitted by: Bruce C. Van Den Eng, Exalted Ruler



PDDGER Ira Cohen and Kay Baker filling the backpacks at the lodge. Not pictured is Mary Shaffer, our lodge Veterans chair who lead this effort.



Each backpack has a blanket, gloves, socks, washcloth, underwear and t-shirts, a water bottle, masks, hand sanitizer, and a myriad of personal hygiene products.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Useful apps help with issues including stress, vaping

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Assistant National Director

Although Elks range in age from 21 to triple digits, many of us who are technically challenged haven't quite mastered the cell phone. Phones can be a nuisance — such as at family gatherings, where everyone is staring at their phones and not socializing — but also beneficial. Did you know that you can use your phone to stay healthy?

There are apps to help you start and keep up healthy habits, like exercising and eating a balanced diet. Other apps are intended to assist with avoiding or quitting unhealthy habits, like smoking or using other drugs.

Here's just a sample of the health-oriented apps and online programs out there. All of these are endorsed by the Elks Drug Awareness Program, and they are all free.

Reducing stress

Breathe2Relax—The U.S. military designed this app, which offers breathing exercises that have been shown to reduce stress and help with managing anger and anxiety.

Stopping vaping

This Is Quitting—The Truth Initiative's text messaging program helps young people (ages 13 to 24) quit vaping. The program is tailored based on age.

Addressing bullying

KnowBullying—This one, from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, has resources for parents and caregivers who want to help build their children's confidence and discuss effective strategies for facing bullying.

The next time you see someone staring at their cell phone, oblivious to their surroundings, maybe they're just seeking to reduce the stress in their life... let's hope so!



Arizona Elks

major projects

Making a world of difference, locally.



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

Elks Youth Camp

• OPEN MAY - SEPTEMBER 2021 •

**BOOK YOUR
SPOT TODAY**

Our youth camp is **FREE** for youth groups to use! Don't miss out on your opportunity to explore the great outdoors!



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!



**JOIN
THE
CLUB**



DIAMOND CLUB

Our camp is only free because of our generous donors. A monthly donation to AEMP comes with a commemorative pin, certificate of appreciation, and recognition on our website. Just \$10 a month can help us keep our camp open!



Grand Lodge Attendee's 2021:

Just an update on the latest information concerning the Grand Lodge Convention scheduled for Tampa, Florida this July, Sunday, July 4th thru Wednesday July 7th.

We have been assigned the "Sheraton Tampa Riverwalk Hotel" as our official hotel for this convention. The Sheraton is located at 200 North Ashley Drive, Tampa, 33602. Room rate is \$112.00 plus tax, currently 14.5% which computes to \$128.25 per night. This rate also includes the "Resort Fee" which has been so common in the industry!

Opening ceremonies and all sessions will take place at the Tampa Convention Center, 333 South Franklin Street. Which is approximately ½ mile from our hotel.

Shuttle service will be provided to all Grand Lodge functions and Hotels housing the other State Associations. The shuttle schedule will be posted on the Grand Lodge website by the middle of June.

Opening ceremonies are on July 4th starting promptly at 4pm at the Convention Center. You must be pre-registered to attend this event!! Immediately following the opening a celebration event will take place with the "Party Crashers" for entertainment with food & beverages available for purchase.

Daily business session schedule:

Monday & Tuesday	8am – 12:00pm (estimated time)
Wednesday	8am – 11:00am (estimated time)

Again, we suggest planning on your arrival on Saturday July 3rd, or earlier to allow time to register and get a "*lay of the land*". Due to the time change you may want to consider departing on Thursday the 8th or Friday the 9th, to allow time to unwind after the convention. We will have the hospitality room open for those staying over the extra day(s).

The varying Committee Seminars will be scheduled on Sunday as early as 9am and following the General Sessions on Monday and Tuesday. These will be listed on the website after March 2021.

We hope that this information will be helpful as you look forward to celebrating during this Grand Lodge Convention. We know that many of you are looking forward to "getting out" and sharing *Elkdom* with your fellow members and families.

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact us anytime.

Fraternally,
Jerry & Linda Grimes
Grand Lodge Coordinators



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Planning the new year means taking a look back

This is the time of year that many people look for change. Days are getting longer and, in much of the country, warmer. Signs of spring are beginning to show. It may be the end of an Elks year, but it is also the beginning of a new one. If you are retiring from your leadership role, continuing on in a new one, or beginning your year as the leader, no matter what you are doing, you are the leadership of the organization and your Lodge.

Year end seems like a time of celebration, but we also need to continue to move forward. Lodge Secretaries need to prepare the year-end reports. Budgets for the upcoming year should be solidified and any last-minute



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

changes should be made, if need be.

This is also the time to evaluate your Lodge and review what was successful. Continue those programs and work them. But also look to see what didn't work. Don't over analyze it, but rather consider what it was that didn't work. Ask yourself if it is worth having it again or scratching

it and try something new.

Begin now to update your Lodge's calendar and prepare for the future events. If you are prepared, you are Creating Momentum ahead of time.

Be sure also to review your Lodge bylaws. Is there anything that needs attention? At the same time, review your house rules and make sure they are up to date and ready for the next year. It is vitally important to have these rules and bylaws in effect to protect your Lodge from a business perspective to clearly define how the Lodge will handle any and all negative situations that may arise.

Lastly, celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Use this celebration as a chance to meet and greet your new officers.

Congratulations Arizona Elks and Webmaster Barry "Bear" Carlile Jr. PER!!!

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

State Associations enjoy net gains

By **ANTHONY J. DARDANO**
Committee Member

Thank you and congratulations to the State Association webmasters who placed entries into the Grand Lodge State Association Website Contest. As the internet continues to evolve as the go-to source of information, it is increasingly essential to have a great website to tell the story of Elksdom.

The good work of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been a secret for too long. Websites enable us to tell our stories Lodge by Lodge and State by State. A website can put more information into the hands of a curious person faster and at less cost than most analog sources.

A strong website can **"Create Momentum for the Future of Elksdom."** I encourage you to view the following States' websites and use some of the ideas on your Lodge and State websites. You might learn something about Elksdom that you didn't know. If your State Association did not enter into this year's contest, please consider entering into next year's contest. Elks Care, Elks Share.

Go to <https://www.elks.org/states/> to find links to every State Association's website, plus a map of every Lodge in each state.

5-Star Winners

Arizona
Connecticut
Florida
MD-DE-DC
Minnesota
Mississippi
New Jersey
Ohio



4-Star Winners

Arkansas
Illinois
Kansas
Kentucky
Massachusetts
West Virginia

