

Arizona Elks News

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

April 2021



"Elks Are Meant to Serve!"

Greetings Members:

Well, here it is, we have come full circle and we survived one of the most destructive years in modern history. But let us not dwell on the negatives but everything positive. It was put upon us, we dealt with it, got through it, and now is the time to move on.



Enough said on that subject. There is a rumor running around out there that claims the AEA is going to have a May Convention. **But wait, that is not a rumor, we are going to have a May Convention.** It will take place at the Doubletree by Hilton in Tempe, Arizona on May 15th and 16th. This was accomplished through the hard work of PSP Lee & Sunday Schwein and the meetings committee. It will be a shortened version, but none the less, a convention. You should have received the registration form and returned it with your information. There will be a lot of activities during the two-day event.

On Friday May 14th the Ritual Competition will take place starting at 0900 am and continue until all teams have performed. Team times will be posted, and I encourage everyone to attend and support all the Ritual Teams that have sacrificed their time to continue this tradition. On Saturday May 15th, the first business session will begin at 0800 am break for lunch and the second session will begin at 1:00 pm. Roll call of lodges will take place at the beginning of each session. The third and final session will be on Sunday May 16th starting at 0800- 11:00 am. Installation of the new AEA Officers will be the last order of business. In between those times we will have the reports from all the committees. As you can see we are actually putting what is normally a three-day convention into two, so please be on time to each session. **There will be one evening dinner and that will be on Saturday evening May 15th, the theme is the fifties and sixties, and the dress code is of that time period or business casual. No cutoffs, shorts, tank tops or shower shoes.**

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AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
25 April 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 will have the honor of having our Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Ryan and his wife Stacey attending our convention, along with PGER Jim & Lucia Grillo. Both have been restricted traveling, so it is a great honor to have them with us.

This being my last article as President of the Arizona Elks Association, JoAnn and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the honor of serving such a great organization. As I have often said during our travels that our members are not only the "Best People On Earth" but also the unsung hero's that not only suffered their own losses but managed to help others in our communities during this crisis. May you stay healthy, happy, and safe during the coming year. God Bless our Troops, God Bless our First Responders, and God Bless America.

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

Fraternally,

Rich Botkin, President

Arizona Elks Association

"AEA First Lady JoAnn's Message"



Hi Everyone,

Well, this is my last article for our year. It has been a different year than I expected, but it has been fun and busy. Thank you to all the lodges that we have visited whether it was an official visit or just to stop and say Hi. Sorry we did not get to visit every lodge but with all the different restrictions it has been challenging.

I hope to see all the spouses, of all the members, for the morning coffee, in the hospitality room, on Saturday at 9am. There will be a seminar, the time and place to be determined for all the new E.R. spouses, to help you with your year in entertaining the dignitaries visiting your lodge. My project for this convention is to help the teens with a small gift card \$5 or \$10, and diapers for the little ones, and always books for all ages. They must be new books, puzzles, coloring books, crayons to help their hands and minds keep busy.

Best of luck to Charyll and Tim for the incoming year.

Thank you to everyone for a great and fun year.

JoAnn Botkin

1st Lady of Arizona



Elks Care - Elks Share

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Hosts National Vietnam War Veterans Day”



A pizza party was held Monday, March 29, 2021 and approximately 30 members attended. Casa Grande Valley Elks thank Palmer and all veterans for their service.

"So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Submitted by; Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Hosts First Responders Awards”

On Saturday, March 20, 2021, Casa Grande Valley Elks presented Outstanding First Responder Awards to two individuals within our law enforcement community who have served above and beyond in their field of service. Honored were Officer Matthew Perry, Casa Grande Police Department and Arizona State Trooper, David Rocha.

A banquet meal was served by Seeds of Hope students and extra meals were delivered to the homeless and needy by officers.

Submitted by; Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Picture 1 L-R: Sergeant Sereski, Trooper Rocha, and Sergeant O'Sick of Arizona Highway Patrol.



Picture 2 L-R: Deputy Chief Reginald Winston, Officer Matthew Perry, and Sergeant Brian Martinez.

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt”

Happy Easter Egg Hunt to the 150 that participated! It was a very successful hunt with 31 Easter baskets given away, 61 wooden toy cars handed out and 75 stuffed animals donated by the Bullhead City police department given away. The Easter Bunny was kept busy with children on his lap and lots of pictures were taken. Loyal Knight Kathy Honse, chairman of the event, did a great job organizing the hunt. Many thanks to the 17 Elk volunteers who helped as we can't do without them. Pictured: toys and stuffed animals were given out, the Easter Bunny (Ray Kohler), face painter Angela Turner drawing designs on a child, and their off to find those thousands of eggs full of candy.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations



Pictured: toys and stuffed animals were given out, the Easter Bunny (Ray Kohler), face painter Angela Turner drawing designs on a child, and their off to find those thousands of eggs full of candy.

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Hosts Easter Egg Drive Thru”

Casa Grande Valley Elks held an Easter Basket Drive Thru giveaway on Saturday, April 3 in front of the Elks Lodge. Children who were 10 years old and younger received a free Easter basket. Members of the Casa Grande Valley donated the wrapped candy, baskets, grass, coloring books and crayons which were put into the Easter baskets by a crew of volunteers. Also included were Elks Drug Awareness Program bookmarks. At the end of the day, 204 baskets had been given away. Thank you to our Exalted Ruler, Chris Repass (Easter Bunny), our Trustee, Robert Dodson (Elroy the Elk) and our Lecturing Knight, Rhonda Poola (the Duck) for wearing the outfits on this warm Saturday morning!

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Picture 1 L-R: Robert Dodson, Chris Repass, and Rhonda Poola.

Picture 2: Easter Bunny, Chris Repass, presents a basket to his grandson during the drive thru.

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



The Bullhead City Elks are pleased to honor four Mohave High School seniors as “Student of the Month” for February and March. We presented a certificate of achievement to Austin Atlas, Hannah Burgess, Freddy Mendez and Jacob Hamilton. Both Mendez and Hamilton study online and were not available for the photo. Atlas will attend NAU to study the sciences and Burgess will go to BYU to become a psychologist.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations

“Payson Elks #2154 Dedicate Parking Spot to First Responders / Vets”

Thanks to Art Shaier, Veterans Chairman, Veterans Coffee Time, Veterans Helping Veterans and the Town of Payson we now have a designated parking spot for Veterans, Active Duty Military, EMTs, Police and Firefighters next to Elks of the Month parking spot.



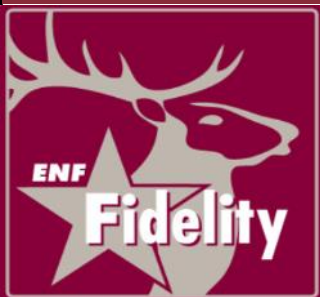
Submitted by: Beverly Cunningham, PER

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Host Easter Brunch for Children’s Charities”

Scottsdale AZ #2148 held an Easter brunch on Sunday, April 4, 2021. We served over 100 meals and the Easter Bunny joined us to hand out baskets to the kids. Over \$800.00 was raised for our children's charities and we look forward to next year when we can have the annual Easter egg hunt again.

Submitted by: Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary

“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.

“Buckeye Elks #2686 Establishes Scholarship in Memory of Late Trustee”

Bob Costello, the Fire Chief of the Buckeye Fire Department, passed away on April 8. Bob was not only a beloved 15-year member of our Lodge, but he was also on our Board of Trustees.

Wanell, wife of Bob, also let us know that one of the things that Bob was most proud of was the vocational scholarships that we give out to the youth in our community. As a result, the Bob Costello Vocational Scholarship has been established in Bob's honor and legacy.

Submitted by: Leatta McLaughlin, Lodge Trustee



“Buckeye Elks #2686 Beacon Grant for Veterans”

The Buckeye Elks lodge received the Beacon grant for the 2020-21 year, and it was used to help active duty, reservists and retired veterans. Buckeye Elks Lodge is always there for veterans. The event took place on March 12th, 27 from Buckeye and the surrounding area attended the event. The event started off with a breakfast meet and greet. Veterans met other veterans and exchanged phone numbers and email addresses. After breakfast the 27 veterans and elks boarded a bus to be transported to Kohl's. At Kohls' each veteran embarked on a shopping spree of \$125.00 to spend on themselves. Veterans purchased item such as clothes, shoes, socks, underwear, cookware, pillows, athletic gear, shorts, jeans, dresses, work shoes, and dress shoes.

Submitted by: Rose Hendricks

“New Arizona Elks Red Vest Order Information”

The Arizona Elks Association has a new Red Vest order form. A copy of the form will be sent out with the Newsletter and may also be accessed from the AEA Website using this link: <https://arizonaelksassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Red-Vests-FlashOver-Graphics-Feb-2021.pdf>

Submitted by: Jerry Grimes, SDGER



Arizona Elks Red Vest Order Form



FlashOver Graphics

2425 Hualapai Mtn Rd STE C

Kingman AZ 86401

928-718-6892 Phone

rebekahshelton@flashovergraphicsaz.com

Please make checks to: FlashOver Graphics

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email:

All vests will have a breast pocket on the left-hand side.

Please Circle Size

Vest	S	M	L	XL	\$32.00	
Vest/ with pocket on bottom	S	M	L	XL	\$32.00	
Vest	XXL	XXXL			\$32.00	
Vest/ with pocket on bottom	XXL	XXXL			\$32.00	
Name on Left:						included
Title or Lodge and Lodge # on Right						included

Please mark choice of delivery

Jerry Grimes Pick Up	Free	
Ship to Customer	\$9.00	
Total		
Cash		
Check #		
Credit Card #	Exp Date	V Code

“Green Valley Elks and AEA State Drug Awareness Poster Awards”

On April 20, 2021 at Continental School in Green Valley Arizona, state awards for the Arizona Elks Association State Drug Awareness were presented by John Ponzo PER Arizona State Drug Awareness Chairman and Cheryl Ponzo PER Drug Awareness Chairman Green Valley Lodge #2592 and eight teachers were present for the Arizona Elks Association State Drug Awareness awards. No Drug Awareness information was distributed at this this presentation.

The Poster Contest winners were the following:

The 4th grade Arizona winner was Kiley Downes. She received a Drug Awareness plaque and \$100.00 \$100 for winning the Arizona Drug Awareness Essay Contest.

The 5th grade winner was Diego Torres Cruz . He received a Drug Awareness plaque and \$250.00 for the overall Arizona State winner. His entry was sent to the Grand Lodge Drug Awareness competition contest.

Submitted by: Cheryl J. Ponzo PER GV Lodge #2592 Drug Awareness Chairman



Kiley Downes and John Ponzo PER AEA Drug Awareness Chairman



Diego Torres Cruz and John Ponzo PER AEA Drug Awareness Chairman

“Green Valley Elks and AEA State Drug Awareness Essay Awards”

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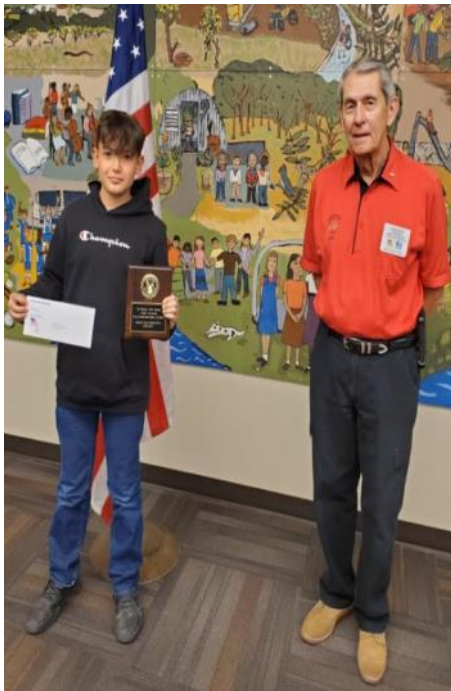
The Essay Contest winners were the following:

The 6th grade winner was Julian Alvarez. She received a Drug Awareness plaque and \$100 for winning the Arizona Drug Awareness Essay Contest.

The 7th grade winner was Lewis Harvey. He received a Drug Awareness plaque and \$100 for winning the Arizona Drug Awareness Essay Contest.

The 8th grade winner was Logan Descamps. He received a Drug Awareness plaque and \$250 for winning the Arizona Essay Contest. His entry was sent to the Grand Lodge Drug Awareness competition contest.

Submitted by: Cheryl J. Ponzo PER GV Lodge #2592 Drug Awareness Chairman



Julian Alvarez and John Ponzo
PER AEA Drug Awareness
Chairman



Lewis Harvey and John Ponzo
PER AEA Drug Awareness
Chairman



Logan Descamps and John
Ponzo PER AEA Drug
Awareness Chairman

“AEA First Place Americanism Essay”

How Can Patriotism be Demonstrated **Reagan Moore**

Patriotism is the act of loving one's country, but how can it be demonstrated? A lot can be shown right here at school without even noticing. Some actions include learning about the country and agreeing to follow rules. Other ways consist of supporting all the great things in our country. Being a patriot can be shown in many different ways.

When we say the Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble to the Constitution, The Declaration of Independence, and a weekly quote we show our appreciation for the United States. Some schools also perform presentations for Veterans Day and for the Constitution. In school people are also taught America's history and the importance of participating in activities like jury duty and voting. These are just part of being a good citizen.

Another way to demonstrate patriotism is following rules. Not only laws but the guidelines at stores and schools. By giving respect to police officers, firefighters, doctors, the military, and our government you can show your thanks to the people that defend this place. You can donate to communities to help them get what they need. Additionally, putting a flag up in your neighborhood or house is a wonderful way to show your gratitude.

The definition of patriotism is devotion and vigorous support for one's country. The quality of being patriotic is a citizen's duty. We the people need to show our loyalty and passion for this magnificent country through school, community, service, and even small acts of nationalism. Taking care of the places and people we cherish is the best way to show our patriotism.



Reagan Moore, pictured to the left of PER Bruce Van Den Eng, is a student from Carden of Tucson. Her essay was the AEA State winner, and has been selected by Grand Lodge as a finalist. Congratulations to Reagan!!!





AEA May Convention Book, Toy / Stuffed Animal Donations

At the South District DD Clinic, PDDGER Tom Miller informed the attendees that AEMP will be accepting Book, Toy / Stuffed animal donations for the children's hospital. Please note, due to the COVID-19 restrictions and status of the children, only new books will be accepted and they will need to be submitted in a clear, sealed plastic tote. Toys / Stuffed Animals will need to be submitted in plastic bags (or Ziploc bags). The children are in desperate need of books and toys.



AEMP will have a booth at the AEA State convention, May 15 & 16, to accept the donations.



Thank you!

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!



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



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.

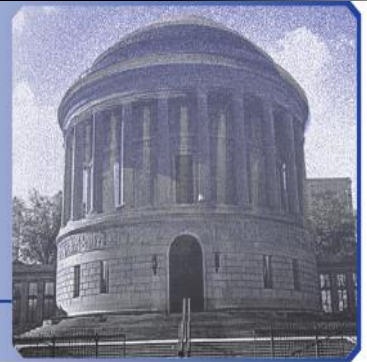
If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact us anytime.

Fraternally,
Jerry & Linda Grimes
Grand Lodge Coordinators



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



May checklist: Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Reporting

April showers bring May flowers—as the season blossoms so do the activities of the Elks.

In Minnesota, there is a possibility we could still get a snow storm. But in the rest of the country I am hoping that the season is changing for you and your Lodges. We are moving into the time of the year that traditionally can be a little slower for most Lodges because of the season coming upon us: Convention season... just kidding, the summer. But don't let it get you down.

This is a great time to have (safe) gatherings outside the Lodges for friends, families, and people who you can get interested in joining this super organization. We will take any Members,



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

but young ones will *Create Momentum for the Future of Elkdom.*

A tradition for us this time of year was to go and visit our family on Memorial day. This is a time to remember our family, friends, and Members who have gone before us. Memorial Day is an opportunity to reflect. Although they have gone on

another journey, they will never be forgotten.

Also, a day to celebrate is Mother's Day. This entire month should be spent honoring them. I know that the mothers in my life have been a great influence on me. Make sure to give them the attention they deserve this Mother's Day.

Don't forget that this is when your Lodge's Annual Report is due. If you have been keeping up with the Financial Reporting System, this will be a much easier year for you. Now you will still have to have someone prepare your 990 and maybe a 990T but a complete audit can be avoided. Is this a wonderful feeling?

Please see GER, Page 4

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

11 States win top bulletin award



5 Star ★★★★★ Awards

State	Editor
Arizona	Shawnee Carlile
Florida	Rachael King
Georgia	Lynda Lewis
Kansas	Carl E. Lindsey
Kentucky	Leigh S. Ruble
Louisiana	Buddy Hartle Jr.
MD, DE, DC	Jane L. Swiger
Michigan	Karen J. Cary
New Jersey	Nancy Rochford
New York	Timothy R. Welp
North Carolina	Ashley Buckwell

GER From Page 1

Stacey and I are diligently preparing for the Tampa Convention. It isn't too far away and we will be preparing for the meeting and end of our term. We appreciate all the support you have given us throughout the year. We look forward to serving this organization in the years to come.



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!