

Arizona Elks News

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

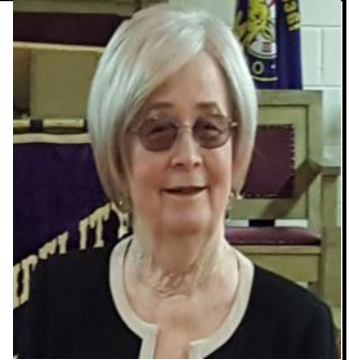
June 2021



"Be Proud of Elkdom"

To all AEA Members:

This being my first article for our great AEA Newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Past President Rich Botkin and his wife JoAnn for doing such an outstanding job during a very difficult year. I'm very thankful that we were able to hold a May Convention and I know Rich and JoAnn were thrilled as well. It was wonderful to get to see everyone again and I'm sure it is a fond hope of all of us that we continue to be successful in our fight against this virus that disrupted so many lives.



I would also like to thank Past Presidents El Leuer, Jerry Grimes, Lee Schwein and Jim Cassachia for handling the Installation of Officers for this Association year. I am honored to be serving as your President, and Tim and I are looking forward to visiting as many lodges as possible this year, both for official and unofficial visits.

There will be an Organizational Meeting this year on Saturday, June 12th at 10:00 AM at Phoenix #335. Attendance for Vice Presidents and State Chairmen is required, and it is suggested that Vice Chairmen also attend if possible, as well as other State Officers. Our State Chairmen will have an opportunity to meet with their Vice Chairmen and all will be able to hear plans from each State Chairman for this AEA year.

I know that many lodges struggled during the pandemic's darkest days and I hope that now that restrictions have been lifted by Governor Ducey and most areas have opened up fully that we can get back to normal. All our lodges are to be commended for the way they handled things during the pandemic, closing if health needs dictated they do so, and then when they were able to re-open, finding innovative ways to continue with the State and Grand Lodge programs to help our youth, veterans and our communities. Hopefully this year will be easier as we return to normal.

My Photographer for the upcoming year will be Jan Cassachia from Jerome Lodge #1361. She will be taking photos at many of the events and Conventions and these photos will be posted on the Arizona Elks website for all to download and view, courtesy of our webmaster, Bear Carlile and Photographer Jan.

Ritual is one of our oldest and most treasured traditions, but unfortunately in recent times, has been discontinued in many lodges. Having a Ritual team and practicing to go to District and / or State contests builds cohesiveness and character within your officer core. I know many lodges are having trouble getting and keeping officers. By having Ritual practice, you build that mutual trust and companionship among your officers and it makes them more likely to go thru the chairs. I hope each lodge will consider the benefits and upside of Ritual.

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AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
25 June 2021

aeanewsletter
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ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION 2021-2022 STATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Charyll McKean

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

West: Mike Weishan

VICE PRESIDENTS

South: Sue Krausman

West: Stephen H. Whitney

North: Roy Haddick

SECRETARY:

Peter K. Gillespie, PSP

TREASURER:

Alane Asp

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

South-1 Year:

Alfred R. Skorupski, PSP

East- 2 Year:

John F. James, PSP

North- 3 Year:

Edward Leuer, PSP

West- 4 Year:

Dan Snyder, PSP

South-1 Year:

Richard "Rich" Botkin

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Bruce C. Van Den Eng

CHAPLAIN:

Marsha Haddick

TILER:

Jo Ellen "Jody" Knapp

INNER GUARD:

Hank Thonnard

ASST. SEC / TREASURER:

Sara McQuality

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Jan Casacchia

ORGANIST:

Hugh Dixon

"Be Proud of Elkdom"

Continued from page 1.

Unfortunately, a side effect of the pandemic led to a large drop in membership for our organization as a whole, although some lodges actually realized gains, and for that, they are to be commended. My goal this year is to bring back those 1200 plus members we lost last year, and to add as many more as possible.

My motto this year is *Be Proud Of Elkdom*, and we want to show that pride, as we have been doing, through our philanthropic works and our publicizing of all that we do for youth, veterans and our communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns – I almost always answer my phone and I will be happy to hear from any of our Members. Please stay safe, both from the virus and during your travels. Until next month - - -

Regards



Charyll McKean
AEA President



"AEA First Gentleman Tim's Message"



Hope everyone has had their Covid shots and are beginning to get out and see the world again. President Rich Botkin and the Meetings Committee were able to put on a shortened May Convention. This was truly a huge success and was only accomplished with Rich and JoAnn Botkin and the Meetings Committees' hard work. When you see any of these people tell them thank you. JoAnn was unable to put on a luncheon due to the time constraints of the shortened convention and the hotel not being able to supply the employees to put on the luncheon. As of this writing it appears there will be a Mid Year Convention in October and we hope we will be able to have a spouse's luncheon at that time. The dates have not been firmed up but will be posted as soon as they are known.

My main fundraiser for will be in for the homeless Vet population in the state. While receiving my Covid shot by a nurse at a public vaccination center, the nurse saw I was a Vet and we began to talk. When I told him that I was thinking of asking our members to donate new, unopened packages of undies and socks to be distributed to Vets throughout the state, the nurse said that would really fill a need. When vets are discharged from the hospital they get clean clothes but not under garments or socks all the time. The Children's Hospital is always in need of New and unused Children's books, crayons, colored pencils, coloring books and puzzles to give to the young patients. Also gift cards in \$5 & \$10 amounts are needed that will be handed out to the older kids. At this time the hospital is not accepting crocheted or knitted items.

Until Next Month

Tim McKean

Spouse of AEA President



Elks Care - Elks Share

“Thank you for Past State President Rich Botkin”



Members all:

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone. First, to my beautiful wife JoAnn who was by my side throughout my career as I moved up in the association. She never met a stranger and her smile, and her voice of reason wins most discussions. To all the Officers and members of Tucson East Lodge # 2532 for all your love and support during our year, you are the best. I am proud to be a member of our lodge. Next, to all my Vice Presidents who struggled to make their visitations, but somehow managed to pull off a small miracle and visit as many as possible. To all my appointed and elected officers, you hitched your wagon to a falling star but got to perform at a convention at the end. I am immensely proud of the job you did, and it was an honor serving with you.

To PSP Lee & Sunday Schwein, who through all their hard work managed to put together this last convention, which was magnificent. The AEA needed something to lift their spirits and they made it happen. To PSP Peter & Cheryl Gillespie, who worked with JoAnn and I the whole year putting together pictures and information for the directories, list for appointed State & District representatives, and helping with the never-ending paperwork. To PSP Dan & Mary Snyder, for all their advice to ensure a good transition of officers and being there with answers to all our questions.

But most of all, to you the members of Arizona Elks Association who weathered the storm and made the “Best of Things—In the Worst of Times”. My motto this year was “Elks Are Meant To Serve!” and we as an association did just that. We served our members, our lodges, our community, our veterans, each other and most certainly one flag. In the darkest of times, you cast a giant shadow across our state in the name of Elkdom. You are the very meaning of what Elks are all about. Your desire to succeed rose to the surface and was most evident in the way you conducted the business of your lodges and membership. You are truly the Best People On Earth. Thank you again for a most rewarding year.

Rich Botkin

Past State President

“Thank you from Past First Lady, JoAnn”



Hi everyone,

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone at the convention who brought diapers and gift cards. Tom Miller said we had over \$3000 in gift cards and lots of diapers of all sizes.

Thanks to everyone for coming to my coffee and staying for Cheryl’s seminar. It was very informative for new E.R. spouses.

The convention was a fun time to see old friends, meet new friends and give hugs. I just want to say Rich and I had a great year even with all the precautions and cancellations that we all had in all of our lodges.

Thanks for a great year as 1st Lady of Arizona.

JoAnn, PSP Rich’s Lady

“Lake Havasu City Elks #2408 Youth Week Proclamation”

The Mayor of Lake Havasu City presented a Proclamation to the Elks Lodge designating May 1 thru May 7, 2021 as B.P.O. Elks National Youth Week during Lodge sponsored Family Swim Day. This event, which is open to local families, offers free swim time and pizza at the Aquatic Center.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team



Pictured L-R: PER Bill Horton, Lodge Member represent Drug Awareness Diana Bridge, Lodge Organist Barbara Volk, Lodge Member Bob Volk, Leading Knight Paulette Nainteau, Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy, PER Debbie Herd and Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox.

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Check Presentation to Project Graduation”

On Thursday, 6 May 2021, the Project Graduation Committee presented Buena High School and with a check for \$2500 from our ENF Gratitude Grant, and a \$300 check from our Lodge Auxiliary. The funds will be used to purchase prizes for the graduating seniors at their Annual Project Graduation Event. Our Lodge will host Bingo for the two night event at Buena High School. On Friday, 14 May 2021 the Lodge Project Graduation committee presented Tombstone High School Project Graduation with a check of \$500 to support their graduation night festivities. Our ENF Gratitude Grant made our donations possible.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Leading Knight



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

The Elks are pleased to honor two seniors at Mohave High School for Students of the Month for April. Shown holding a certificate of accomplishment are Connor Dubois and Emily Krebs. We also are happy to acknowledge Mohave H S's Audree Burgess as Student of the Year as she displays her certificate of excellence.

The Bullhead City Elks Auxiliary awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to Adriana Argote and Chelsea Alvarez at the school's recent awards ceremony.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations



“Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408 Most Valuable Student Awards”

The Bullhead City Elks attended River Valley H.S. awards ceremony recently and proudly presented two \$2,000 scholarships on behalf of Arizona Elks Assoc., Most Valuable Student to Riley Smith and Ashley Lively.

The Elks are proud to present Mohave Accelerated Learning Center, Student of the Year, to two outstanding students. Shown holding the certificate of achievement are Aaron C. Sessions and Maisy Mae Mulligan.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Youth Week”

On Sunday, 2 May 2021, Youth Week Chairman, and Boy Scout Troop 444 leader, Scott Pierce hosted a Troop 444 membership drive and BBQ. Although the winds kicked up, Troop 444 prevailed in constructing a rope course for children to enjoy. A big thank you goes out to all that attended and supported this event.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Leading Knight



“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Hosts Mother’s Day Fundraiser”

Scottsdale AZ Lodge 2148 put on a wonderful Mother's Day Brunch and Ceremony. The Lodge served over 160 meals had over 175 in attendance and raised \$3000.00 for Family Promise, a local charity that serves homeless families in our area. The mothers were all entered for a chance to win a spa package donated to us by Scottsdale Spa, The lucky winner, Linda Espinosa, will enjoy a day of pampering as every mother deserves.

Submitted by: Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary

“Catalina Elks #2686 Present Scholarships for Youth Week”

Catalina Mountain Elks awarded five \$ 2,000.00 ENF, Arizona Elks Association, scholarships to graduating students at our May, Youth Week Awards.

Submitted by: Jim Bergi



Pictured from L to R are: Riley Johnson, is attending The University of Arizona; major undecided. Alane Asp: Catalina Mountain Elks, Exalted Ruler. Cory Tompkins, is attending Northern Arizona University; major is Environmental & Sustainability Studies. Trent Oland, is attending The University of Arizona, major is Optical Science & Engineering. Nathan Hernandez, is attending Arizona State University, major is Aerospace Engineering. Sydney Enos, is attending The University of Arizona, Honors College, major is Engineering. Roger Mastro, Scholarship Chair, Elks Lodge 2815

“Green Valley Elks #2592 Donates to Food Programs for the Needy”

On April 7, 2021 two Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592 officers, Mark Miller, Esteemed Loyal Knight and Betty Miller, Inner Guard delivered checks of \$1,200 each to the following local Food Banks : Green Valley Food Bank, Sahuarita Food Bank and Amada Food Bank. These donations were possible by applying for the Elks National Foundation Spotlight Grant.

Also, on April 7, 2021 the Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592 donated food for the ~ 200 students at Sopori Elementary School using the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant and additional contributions from Green Valley Elks Lodge members. These backpack Lunches were distributed once a month this past year from 2020 – April 2021 to each student to take home. Photos taken by Betty Miller – Inner Guard

Submitted by: Cheryl J. Ponzo, PER / Drug Awareness Chairman



L-R: Mark Miller and Sopori Elementary School Backpack Lunch employee



L-R: Mark Miller, Loyal Knight and 6 Volunteers, Amada Food Bank.



L-R:1 Sahuarita Food Bank Volunteer, and Mark Miller, Loyal Knight



L-R: Mark Miller, Loyal Knight and 2 Volunteers, Green Valley Food Bank

“Tucson Elks #385 Presents iPad to Prader-Willi Syndrome Association”

On May 21, 2021, Tucson Lodge #385 donated an iPad to the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association to support their National Convention silent auction.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations



Photo L-R: ER W. Burns, T. Penta, L. Wilford, V. Penta

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Support Run for the Wall Event”

Casa Grande Elks Riders served over fifty dinners to the "Run for the Wall" run participants this past week at the Casa Grande Elks Lodge. The mission of the RTW Ride is to promote healing among all veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all prisoners of war and those missing in action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those killed in action (KIA) from all wars, and to support to support our military personnel all over the world. This group left from California and will ride to Washington, D.C. and gather at the VietNam Wall Memorial. We are honored to be able to host this great group of dedicated people and wish them only the best on their travel across the United States.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Pictured: receiving a certificate of appreciation is CG Elks Exalted Ruler, Chris Repass; Bob "Captain America" Nelson, Ride for the Wall; and Steve Tiedt, President of the Casa Grande

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Wins AEA All American Lodge”

Casa Grande Lodge #1957 just won the state lodge of the 20-21 year! Out of 43 Elks lodges in Arizona, Casa Grande Valley #1957 placed first and was recognized by Arizona Elks Association President, Rich Bodkin at the State Convention held in Tempe, AZ this past week. All American Lodge contest application winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Convention in July. Casa Grande Elks won this honor last year and are hoping for good results at the 2021 Convention.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Pictured L-R: AEA President, Richard Botkin, and Exalted Ruler Chris Repass.

“Phoenix Elks #335 Host Eagle Scout Honor Court”

In a ceremony held at our Lodge, Mark Yee of our Lodge’s resident Scout Troop #607 was presented with a Lodge Certificate of Recognition by Exalted Ruler Ted Sadlowski. An American Flag which had been flown at our Nation’s Capitol was presented to Mark by Leading Knight Clem Brown. This was done to honor Mark’s achievement in attaining Eagle Scout rank. Achieving this rank in scouting is no easy challenge. Only 4% of scouts conquer the rank of Eagle Scout which is the highest achievement or rank attainable in scouting. Mark’s Eagle project was working and upgrading the helipad on Camelback Mountain for mountain rescues. The activities and challenges Mark has been involved with during his journey through scouting were recollected in an inspiring testimonial to his years of Scouting. His beaming parents and other family members were special guests at the ceremony.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson



L-R: Eagle Scout Mark Yee, Exalted Ruler Ted Sadlowski, Scout Trenton Mukia.



L-R Eagle Scout Mark Yee, Leading Knight Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler Ted Sadlowski, Scout Maxx Wallace.

“Green Valley Elks #2592 Presents Drug Awareness Traveling Trophy”



On May 15, 2021 Jack Ponzo PER Arizona Elks Drug Awareness Chairman presented the Arizona Elks State Association traveling Drug Awareness Trophy at the Arizona State Association Convention to Antonio Iannarone, Exalted Ruler of the South District Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592. Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592 had 139 Posters and 99 Essays submitted from Continental School in Green Valley, AZ to the Elk Lodge Drug Awareness Chairman, Cheryl Ponzo PER and Lodge Esquire. What a great honor this was for the Green Valley Elks Lodge to receive this award.

Submitted by: Cheryl J. Ponzo, PER / Drug Awareness Chairman

L-R: Richard Botkin Arizona Elks Association President, Jack Ponzo PER and Arizona Elks Association Drug Awareness Chairman, Antonio Iannarone Exalted Ruler, Paul R. Ryan Grand Exalted Ruler

“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Annual Youth Week Scholarship Awards Banquet”

Phoenix Lodge #335 held their annual Scholarship Awards Banquet during Youth Week. In attendance were over 130 parents, family members, Elks and the contest and award winners. The Scholarship Committee reviewed 32 applications for female students and 14 applications for male students and awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to high school seniors in our community. Camille Kerber from Xavier College Preparatory and Diego Cardenas Rivera from Peoria High School received \$2,000 each. Ethan Scher from Chaparral High School, Suhani Patel from Mountain Ridge High School, Jimena Rascon from North High School, Edith Reyes Correa from Deer Valley High School, Sami Al-Asady from Ironwood High School, Kelly Scott from Xavier College Preparatory, Richard Johnston from Great Hearts-North Phoenix Prep, Izabelle Mercado from Xavier College Preparatory, Elise Short from Desert Mountain High School, and Maverick Courtney from Great Hears-North Phoenix Prep received \$1,000 each. Four of the students, Izabelle Mercado, Elise Short, Maverick Courtney, & Diego Cardenas Rivera also received \$2,000 Arizona Elks Association Scholarships and Camille Kerber received a \$4,000 Most Valuable Student Scholarship from Grand Lodge. This year our Lodge had three Legacy Scholarship Winners that are only awarded to children or grandchildren of Elks Lodge Members. The \$4,000 Legacy winners were Maverick Courtney, Jillian Martellaro, and Liam Paul.

The Past Exalted Rulers Association contributed two \$500 scholarships that were awarded in Memory of Robert Benson, PER, PDDGER and Gerald Cooley long time members of Phoenix Lodge #335's scholarship program. Richard Johnston was the recipient of the Robert Benson Scholarship which was presented to him by Patty Benson, wife of Robert Benson, PER, PDDGER. Maverick Courtney was the recipient of the Gerald Cooley Scholarship which was presented to him by Portia Cooley, wife of Gerald Cooley.

The Americanism Essay Awards theme this year was “Patriotism”, with 51 Essays comprised of a maximum of 300 words with entries from three schools in Division I (5-7 grades) and Division II (7-8th grades). Chairman Kirby Everingham with Bill Jansen presented a \$50 award to the Winners. The local level winners were: Holly Rabadan, Zander Wagner from Cactus View Elementary School and Pepper Hittel from Fireside Elementary School from Division I, and from Division II were Jasmine Domokos, Avah Montgomery and Violet Nelson, all from Shea Middle School. The first through fourth place winners at the State level were Zander, Holly, Violet and Avah. These awards were well deserved.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson



L-R: Diego Cardenas Rivera, Camille Kerber, Kelly Scott, Ethan Sher, Richard Johnston, Sami Al-Asady, Maverick Courtney, Jimena Rascon, Suhani Patel, PER Diane Bodwell, ER Ted Sadlowski.

“Raceway Elks #2852 Honors Veterans with Memorial Day BBQ”

On Friday May 28, 2021, a special friend to Raceway Lodge in Avondale Arizona, donated Hamburgers and Buns to hold a special Hamburger Dinner, with potato Salad and Baked Beans to Honor our Veterans and active Man and Woman of the Military on Memorial Day. The Picture was sent to us by Michael Taylor a Raceway Lodge Member on active duty with some of his fellow Marines on top of a Mountain where they held a memorial to all their fallen brothers.

Submitted by: Willie Buttrum, Public Relations



“Tucson Elks #385 Student Scholarship Awards”



For Youth week, Tucson Elks Lodge #385 on behalf of Harry's Violins program, donated 4 violins (approximately \$2,000) to local senior high school musicians from Flowing Wells and Oro Valley High Schools.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations

“Tucson Elks #385 Collects Books for Steele Center”



Tucson Lodge 385 members have collected forty-eight new books for K - 6 grade patients at the Steele Children Research Center. In addition, sixty-four \$10.00 gift cards were also donated. These items will be delivered to the Arizona Elks Association State Convention on May 14th. Through the generosity of Tucson Elks 385 members a total of \$1,202.25 goods were donated to support the Steele Children Research Center.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations

L-R: Wayne Burns Exalted Ruler, Jim Sanford Trustee

“Tucson Elks #385 Student Scholarship Awards”

Tucson Lodge #385 donated \$7,000 to 8 recipients on May 2, 2021. The AEA South district selected 7 of our seniors with an additional \$7,000, for a total of \$14,000 in Scholarships.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations

L-R: Tucson #385 Scholarship Chair J. Sanford, Youth Week Scholarship recipient, ER W. Burns.



On May 2, 2021, Youth week, AEA South District Scholarship chair (left) R. Campbell presented to 7 of Tucson Lodge #385 and 7 additional scholarship for \$7,000. Center Scholarship recipient, ER W. Burns

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations



“AEA ENF News”

Elks National Foundation News

Bruce C. Van Den Eng, AEA ENF Chair

As we begin the new Elk year, I'm pleased to report that your ENF committee has not changed from last year and I humbly thank the district chairs for their continued service. I believe that active participation with the ENF is a critical lynch pin for a successful lodge.

To say that the last Elk year was a challenge, is a massive understatement. However, our lodges found ways to support and participate in ENF programs regardless of the shutdown roadblocks we all encountered. My goals this year are for every lodge to; meet the incoming GER's per-member goal, have an increase in ENF grants, and increase member participation in the Fidelity Club.

We ended the year with state a per-member average of **\$7.61**, surpassing the GER's goal of \$4.80 per-member. Additionally, every district had per-member average that exceeded the GER per-member goal. Thirty four lodges exceeded the GER goal and sixteen lodges had a per-member increase from 2019-20.

Last year, 37 lodges in our state received 105 ENF grants that totaled **\$286,200**. This year, the ENF continues to give lodges broad latitude to use grant funds for direct donations to other organizations involved in COVID-19 relief. As with last year, the Promise grant will not be offered this year. On April 1st, applications opened for the Freedom and Gratitude grants and ENF will begin to accept applications for the Beacon and Spotlight grants on June 1st.

We started last year with **124** members in the Fidelity Club and ended the year with **187** members participating. That was a terrific increase that ranked us third in the nation, and we currently have **195** members in Fidelity Club, but I think we can do better. Let's see if we can get 300 or more members participating in Fidelity Club by the end of this year.

Donations are easily made on line at [elks.org](https://www.elks.org) and members can also join the Fidelity Club with a recurring monthly donation of just five dollars. Create your user profile at <https://www.elks.org/>. Log in and follow the instructions below:

- Place the cursor over the Elks National Foundation button located in the center of the red bar at the top of the 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.

Stay tuned for more articles as the year progresses.

“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.

Arizona Elks

Major Projects

Making a world of difference, locally.

AEA State Convention ER March

We just finished counting and depositing all of the money from the convention so I was hoping you could include it in the newsletter for AEA. In total, the lodges contributed over \$90,000 in the ER march! This is INCREDIBLE especially after a global pandemic. A big thank you to ALL of the lodges for their dedication to the mission of AEMP. I also wanted to include that Yuma Elks Lodge raised over \$20,000 at their annual Clair Culver event. I am floored by the generosity of the Elks!

Katie Murdoch
Executive Director
Arizona Elks Major Projects
W: 520.326.0556
katie@azelksmp.com



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



June: Our flag, our loyalty, and our veterans

Honoring the flag of our country on a day of national recognition for our flag is one of the proudest things we can do as Elks. After all, Flag Day was first introduced by the Elks.

You should be honored to put on the Flag Day ceremony. Talk to your city if they have a memorial that can be performed in conjunction with the Legion or VFW. My Lodge has performed it at a Veterans Hospital. Perform the ceremony in a place where many will see it and be educated by it. As you can see by my pin, the flag of the greatest country on earth is something that Stacey and I cherish deeply. I hope you will feel the same sense of pride this Flag Day.



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

That being said, you should also honor fathers this month. I know that my father has taught me a great plenty in life and I am so proud to call him dad.

My father-in-law has also been a great influence on me. My wife may have been the one that got me into the Elks, but he was the one who set me on my path

and mentored me to where I am today. I am proud of them both and I am so glad that they have both been an influence to me.

Make sure to come to Tampa and partake in all of the great convention seminars and meetings. There is so much to do and so much to learn. You will also have a chance to meet other great Elks throughout the nation and gain new ideas and develop new connections. Don't just rush out and join your own state in their hospitality room—go get introduced to others.

Stacey and I look forward to seeing you soon in Tampa. Remember to *Create Momentum for the Future of Elkdom!*