

Arizona Elks News

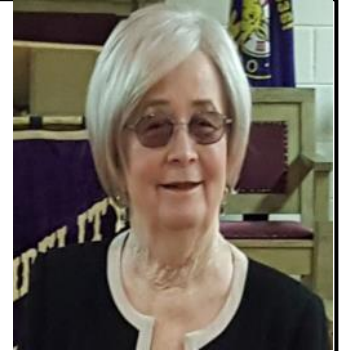
The Arizona Elks News is an official publication of the Arizona Elks Association

November 2021



“Be Proud of Elkdom”

To All AEA Members,



Well – our AEA Mid Term Convention is now in the history book – and what a great convention! It was so nice to see everyone and also resume our spouse’s luncheon and our Saturday night banquet. I want to thank each and every one of you who attended, and I also want to thank Meetings Committee Chairman PSP Lee Schwein and his committee for an outstanding job. This is one of the hardest working committees and they did a great job in the face of some constraints which are still in place due to Covid.

I want to commend all of our Officers and State Chairmen for their great reports. All were informative and to the point and our meetings moved along very quickly. I also want to thank Ron Wilson, State Public Relations, and Jerry Ingram, State Membership for the great Membership Seminar they held on Saturday. It was very well attended, and Ron followed up by sending a printed version of the presentation to all who attended.

Of membership, as of October 21st, we have gained 2307 members and lost 671 for an overall gain of 1636, and that’s an outstanding accomplishment. However, we still show 2252 delinquents, giving us a net loss to date of 616 members. We also have 489 candidates awaiting initiation – so please, please, let’s get those candidates in and bring our numbers way, way up. Keep up the good work! **These numbers are again significantly up from last month.** If we can get all the candidates (489) initiated, **we will only have a current loss of 127!!!!** We can have a gain Arizona!!!! Just keep bringing in those new members, keep initiating and keep working on the delinquents.

Any lodge that wishes to can participate in this year’s Ritual Contest or a Past or current Exalted Ruler may participate in the new Eleven O’clock Toast contest. Please contact your District Ritual Chairman if you wish to participate. Remember – Ritual can be fun, and it promotes camaraderie among your officers, and also helps to maintain officer progression.

Inside this edition:

AEA President’s Message 1-2

AEA 1st Gent’s Message 3

Local Lodges Charitable and Community Contributions 3-12

Grand Lodge Convention Intent to Attend Form 13

Grand Lodge News 14

aeaneewsletter@arizonaelks.org

AEA Newsletter

Submission deadline:
25 November 2021



Continued on page 2.

**ARIZONA ELKS
ASSOCIATION
2021-2022
STATE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT:

Charyll McKean

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

East: 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:

Vacant

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.

You are likely reading this article in our great AEA Newsletter, and our editor is Shawnee Carlile from Sierra Vista #2065. This newsletter has been sent to each Lodge Secretary and I have requested that it be emailed to all members in our Directory and that each Lodge Secretary email it to all their members. If you are not receiving it and wish to do so, please contact Shawnee and she will email it to you.

Remember – photos from all of our events are available to all Elk Members by logging on to the Arizona Elks website and clicking on "Members Documents & Manuals" and then "AEA Photographs 2021-2022". This link is also at the very bottom of the "Committees" page as well.

I hope all of you stay safe, both health wise and in your travels, and I look forward to seeing all of you at the October Convention. Please be advised the dates in our Directory are incorrect – the Convention dates are October 15th thru October 17th.

From Tim and I, have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Remember -- Be Proud of Elkdom

God bless everyone – until next month - - - -

Regards



Charyll McKean

AEA President



Elks Care - *Elks* Share

AEA Annual Convention 11-14 May 2022 in Tempe, AZ

*****Please submit articles to: aeaneewsletter@arizonaelks.org**

“AEA First Gent’s Message”



Hello Everyone,

Hope everyone is feeling fine and looking forward to the holiday season. If you were not able to get together with family and friends last year due to Covid, let’s hope this is past us and you are able to this year.

Our Mid-Term Convention was held October 15-17th in Tempe AZ. For this convention, I asked for donations to the A.E.M.P. Major Project of children’s books, coloring books, crayons, puzzles and gift cards for the older children. The response was overwhelming, with over 24,000 books alone being donated. A personal thank you and a job well done is due to Tom Miller of San Manuel Lodge #2007.. In addition A BIG THANK YOU to all of the lodges for helping make an overwhelming success of the donations of undies for vets. We had a total of 2896 undies, t shirts, socks and ladies undergarments. Again Thank You.

From Charyll and myself, have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tim McKean

Arizona First Gent

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Hosts Students of the Month Event”

Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 named two local scholars as “Students of the Month” for September.

Luis Lucio, 11, son of Luis R. Lucio-Orquiz and Carla Lucio, attends Mary C. O’Brien Elementary and lives in Eloy, AZ. Luis was nominated for this honor as a diligent student who strives for excellence every day. Technology Teacher, Gerald Deall states that “Luis works diligently in all his academic work and continually volunteers for special projects throughout the school.”

Luis is 6th Grade Class Treasurer and last year was 5th Grade Student Council Representative and Honor Roll recipient. He enjoys baking brownies and cookies as he aspires to attend cooking school to become a professional chef. His mother commented that he is a tremendous help with their two dogs and his younger brother. In his spare time, Luis plays soccer on a local team and enjoys playing video games such as Legend of Zelda and Super Mario Odyssey.

Amaya Casares, 14, daughter of Erica and Javier Casares, attends eighth grade at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School, Casa Grande and lives in Eloy, AZ. Her activities include the school basketball team as a guard/forward, youth softball centerfielder, choir at both St. Anthony’s and St. Helen’s Churches.

Recently, Amaya donated about fourteen inches of her hair to “Children with Hair Loss” for wigs and plans to grow her hair out again to be able to donate again. She collects donations of clothing and toiletries for St. Vincent de Paul for the less fortunate. Researching the medical field is her passion, as she has two aunts that are nurses, and with her calm demeanor Amaya, hopes to become a cardiologist or neurologist to be able help people.



Submitted by: Debra Johnson, Lodge Secretary

“Phoenix Elks #335 Donates Power Chair to WWII Veteran”

Phoenix Lodge #335 National Veterans Service Committee donated a power chair to World War II and Korean War Veteran Richard Klappa who is 99 and 1/2 years old. Richard is the father of our longtime member Joan Noble, wife of Gus Noble, PER.

Submitted by: Larry Bodwell, Veterans Committee Chairman

Pictured: Gus Noble PER, Richard Klappa, Larry Bodwell PER



“Phoenix Elks #335 Celebrates 125th Lodge Birthday”

Phoenix Lodge #335 celebrated our lodge's 125th birthday on September 11th. We had a great time with a large barbecue dinner and dance sponsored by our PERs. Master of Ceremonies Al Kayal read a Letter of Commendation from Arizona Sponsor Jim Grillo, Past Grand Exalted Ruler. We also paid tribute to our fallen Americans and first responders of 911.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Host Pancake Fundraiser for Scout Troop #56”



Recently the Bullhead City Elks Lecturing Knight Sussie Stillabower hosted a pancake breakfast at the Lodge to benefit Boy Scout Pack 56, of which her son is a member, so they may go on a campout and begin learning skills they will need to earn merit badges. The event earned over \$500. The “Pack” made a big thank you card to the Elks for the use of their facilities and they all signed it.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations

Pictured are Stillabower and Exalted Ruler Dep Cyrus holding the card.

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Second Feed a Vet BBQ”

On 17 September 2021, the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge held our solemn POW / MIA ceremony. After the ceremony the Veterans Committee hosted the second of their 3 Feed A Vet BBQs. They served 42 veterans, 11 veteran spouses, and 4. The committee also prepared and delivered 25 BBQ meals for some of our homebound veterans located at our community nursing homes / care centers.

Submitted by: Edward Mealy, Veterans Committee Chairman / Lodge Newsletter Editor



“Tucson Elks #385 Appreciation Dinner for First Responders”

On September 22, 2021, the Tucson AZ Elks Lodge #385 thanked 7 of our local first responders from Tucson and surrounding areas. Law enforcement and Fire fighters from Tucson Police Department, Department of Public Safety, U of A ,Tucson Fire, Northwest and Golder Ranch departments were honored

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman



“Tucson Elks #385 Hosts District Vice President”

Tucson East Elks Lodge #335 hosted a visit with our AZ VP North Steve Whitney.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman

Pictured (1) AZ State VP North S. Whitney with Tucson AZ Lodge #385 ER W. Burns, L. Castro from the AZ Steele Center, accepting gifts for the kids and T. Morgan Vet Chair. October 1, 2021

Pictured (2) Left-AZ VP North S. Whitney and ER W. Burns during his October 1, 2021 visit.



“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Elkettes Donate to Multiple Charities”

DAV Donation

The Elkettes, using proceeds from a special jewelry raffle coordinated by Elkette Jo Black, donated \$700.00 to DAV Chapter 27. This donation will be used for Veterans Assistance, which helps Veterans in need during unexpected emergencies.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured L-R: DAV Senior Vice Commander Jack Howe, Elkette President Vanessa Brewster and DAV Commander Bud Watts. Elkette Jo Black was unavailable for photo.



Donation to Military Moms

The Elkettes donated \$1000 to Lake Havasu City's Military Moms. Presenting the check to Military Moms President Cindy Ritter is Elkettes secretary Connie Jones along with Elkette President Vanessa Brewster and other Elkettes.

Donation to Search and Rescue

The Elkettes donated \$1000 to Search and Rescue. In Photo are Elkettes with Exalted Ruler of Lodge #2399 and Elkettes Chuck Fox presenting check to Captain Mike Beets, 2nd Lt Dena Mangana and Sergeant at Arms Todd Sosey.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team



“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Hosts Visit by AEA President”



Arizona Elks Association State President Charyl McKean visits Lake Havasu City lodge #2399 on October 4th for our Drug awareness dinner.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured: Arizona Elks Association State President Charyl McKean seen speaking with Mayor Cal Sheehy and Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox during the Elks Drug Awareness dinner

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Donates Funds to Two Local Charities”

The Casa Grande Elks presented funds to the Opportunity Tree to assist in their work in the Casa Grande area. The CG Elks Golf Committee donated \$1000 from funds raised at the annual Elks Fun Golf Tournament. Another \$1000 was donated from Arizona Elks Major Projects to assist the company in providing a flagpole for their facility.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Pictured above is (LtoR) Opportunity Tree Director of Development, Taylor Buttrey; Chris Repass, Exalted Ruler; Elk and Opportunity Tree Day Training Supervisor, Lori Gemmel; Golf Committee Chair, Todd Sample; and Opportunity Tree CEO, Keli O'Toole.

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup Project”



The Casa Grande Elks Lodge has adopted the highway on Pinal Avenue from Cottonwood to Kortsen for cleaning four times a year. The past clean up took place on Saturday, October 9, at 6 AM. Thanks to the cleaning crew, the Elks stretch of highway is clean again!!

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Pictured are Leading Knight Kary Kerr, Elizabeth Leigh Kerr, Steven Kerr, Joei Admire, and Exalted Ruler Chris Repass.

“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Highway Cleanup Project”

The Lake Havasu City Elks Lodge # 2399 cleaned up their piece of highway on the morning of October 13th.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Drug Awareness Booth at Art in the Park”

The Lodge Secretary PER Barry “Bear” Carlile JR. and our Leading Knight Shawnee Carlile, hosted our Lodge Booth at Art in the Park on the 2nd and 3rd of October, 2021. The booth generated great interest in the work that we do for our Community. We had 3 Elks that moved from other states that are interested in transferring to our Lodge. We met with a charter member that has since reinstated. We also received a donation of \$100 from a mother of a Hoop Shoot participant from 33 years ago, which was deposited into the Hoop Shoot Account.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Leading Knight



“Green Valley Elks # 2592 Pays Tribute to 13 Marines KIA in Afghanistan”



Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592 displayed a Memorial to the 13 soldiers killed in Afghanistan airport suicide bombing. This table was set up outside the Lounge with memorial items for all to see.

Submitted by: Cheryl Ponzo, PER

*No alcohol was used in the glasses pictured.

“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Donates Food and Clothing for Veterans”

On 10/5 PER Steve Asp and ER Alane Asp made a delivery of food and new clothing to the VA for the Homeless program. The donation was valued at \$1,396 in goods.

Submitted by: Jim Beregi

Pictured L-R: Steve Asp, PER, Alane Asp, ER and Social Workers (and veterans) Gabby Cabon, and Danny Altig.



“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Presents Enrique Camarena Award”

Lake Havasu City Police Detective Ian Dailey is the recipient of the Enrique Camarena Award from Lake Havasu City Lodge 2399. As part of the Special Investigations Unit, Detective Dailey was involved in several drug trafficking investigations as either a team member or team leader. From January 2020 to August 2021 he and the Unit were responsible for seizing 3.6 pounds of cocaine, 3 ounces of heroin, over 8 pounds of methamphetamine, nearly 2,200 counterfeit pills and a variety of other drugs making our city and surrounding area safer.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured L-R: ER Chuck Fox, Detective Ian Dailey and Lake Havasu City Police Chief Dan Doyle



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Presents Students of the Month Awards”

The Bullhead City Elks are pleased to honor two River Valley High School seniors as students of the month for September. A certificate of accomplishment will be mailed to each student. From left is Cassie Gill who volunteers in several activities and works in the school cafeteria, wants to become a mechanical engineer. Yair Flores has made it known that he wants to be a dentist after looking into other health care vocations. Both students have not picked the college they want to attend.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Holds Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser for Spree Kids”



The Annual Lodge Yard sale was a total success as this year we broke previous yard sale records, and raised \$2550.50 for our Children's Shopping Spree. After the yard sale ended, our Inner Guard, Mark Thibodeau utilized the Facebook Marketplace and raised \$500 of the \$2370.50. 100% of proceeds will go towards our Spree, to clothe and provide a day with Santa for 21 children.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Leading Knight

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Delivers Dictionaries to Students ”



Bullhead City Elks delivered 75 student dictionaries to Black Mountain School, Topock Elementary school and Yucca school recently.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations

Pictured Students at Topock along with their teacher Ms. Nikki Shot and Principal/superintendent John Warren and Elk member Terri Frank.

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Donates Grant to Food for Family Organization”

The Bullhead City Elks received a grant from the Elks National Foundation recently and wanted to give back to the community. Bullhead City Elks Exalter Ruler Deb Cyrus presented to the Executive Director of Food For Families Sheria Liles and check for \$2,000. Liles said she will put it to good use.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Presents Bronze Level ENF Award”



Nancy Turner, Elks National Foundation (ENF) Chair and Carolyn Smith, Exalted Ruler, present the Bronze Level giving award plaque to John Mooney for achieving \$5,000 in donations to ENF.

Submitted by: PER Mary Shaffer, Public Relations Chair

L to R: Nancy Turner, John Mooney, and Carolyn Smith

“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.

“Tucson Elks #385 PERs host Military Appreciation Night”

The Tucson Elks Lodge #385 PER Association hosted a Military Appreciation night. ER Wayne Burns served as our MC.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations

Color Guard from
American Legion Post
132.
John Madaloni
Dan McGregor
Fred Shaeffer
Leon Donahue
Gene Wickey--Lodge
member of 385
1st Commander Steve
Didio narrated the 13 US
flag fold meaning.



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Presents Check to AEMP”

At a recent gathering to raise money for the Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP) at Bullhead City Elks, the President of the lodge's RV club, Gad-a-Bouts, Ren Griggs presented a check for \$300 to (AEMP) board member, North District Vice President and local committee chairman Roy Haddick. The money will be used in support of the Steele Children Research Center in Tucson and the Jack C Warter, Jr Arizona Elks Youth Camp in the Globe/Miami area which is free to youth groups during the summer months.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations Chair



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Presents Check to AEMP”



On Saturday, September 18th our Lodge held its first CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) /AED (Automatic Electric Defibrillator) class. I'm proud to say that they all passed with flying colors and are certified in CPR and the use of our AED. We are planning more classes in the future for anyone that is interested. This training may save lives in our community as well as our Elks members.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations Chair

Pictured from left to right ,back row, Rich Becker, Marty Griffith, Tim Woods, Ted Sadlowski, Randy Sterling instructor. Front row: Nancy Tripp, Karen Seaman, Joe Brown, Carol Brown.

“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Oktoberfest Fundraiser”

On Saturday October 23 Raceway Held its annual Oktoberfest to help raise money for new lighting for our patio. There were 54 people in attendance who enjoyed Brats, German potato salad, sauerkraut, and German chocolate cake. We run out of Brats and almost of the potato salad. This Event is put on by the Lodge Trustees, who then donate the funds to charities or lodge repairs. The event was a great success.

Submitted by: PDDGER William Buttrum, Public Relations Chairman.

“Raceway Elks #2852 Invitation to Flag Raising Event”

We want all AEA members to mark their Calendar for November 6, this is the date that we will be holding Our annual Flag Raising. We retire the old Flag and Raise a new one over the Lodge. The ceremony starts at 4 pm followed by awards and dinner. This year there will be two speakers, and our Award for the person, Elk or community members who shows the most Americanism. Come and see who the winner is this Year. For \$15 you can have Tri-Tip beef, potatoes, baked beans, salad and dessert. The Ceremony is heart-moving and the color guard this year is 2 Girl Scouts and Two Eagle Scouts.

Submitted by: PDDGER William Buttrum, Public Relations Chairman

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Student of the Month Awards”



On October 25th, in celebration of Red Ribbon Week, the lodge delivered 217 bags filled with drug awareness literature for the students at Laguna Elementary School and 58 bags to the Carden School. Each bag contained a drug free coloring book, crayons, various drug fact cards, the red ribbon week information card, a red drug free ribbon, and a bit of candy.

Submitted by: PER Bruce Van Den Eng

Picture 1: Drug Awareness Chair Aimee Van Den Eng is pictured with the Laguna Elementary School Principal, Alan Schmidt and 2) with Carden School Principal Eugene Moore.

“Jerome Elks

#1361 Hosts Student of the Month

On October 21st, 2021 the Jerome Elks Lodge #1361 presented Student of the Month Awards to two eighth grade students from Clarkdale-Jerome School. These students were chosen by the teachers of the school to be the October recipients of these awards. Each student was provided a free dinner at the lodge for themselves and their families, as well as a \$10.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card. Immediately following dinner, the students were honored with their awards.

Submitted by: AEA President Charyll McKean, Public Relations Chair

Pictured L-R: Jim Plas, Exalted Ruler of Jerome Elks Lodge and 8th grade students from Clarkdale-Jerome School Jaydem Mollohan and Lyra Earles, October Students of the Month.



“State Veterans Committee News”

Our State President Charyll McKean's husband (First Gent, Tim) has a special project this year for helping our Veterans, especially the homeless and those that are having a hard time making due to health problems. Tim asked that our lodges donate New unopened packages of T-Shirts, Briefs along with athletic socks (white) in all sizes. These are to go to both men and women in need and be handed out at Veteran Stand Downs, Veterans Homes here in Arizona and any other Veterans groups you know of.

I have done the physical inventory of what I got from Mary Shaffer, our State Veterans Chairperson at the Convention this past week. Here is the detailed inventory for you to select from.

Please let me know what and when you would like me to bring to your Lodge the items you selected which will help Tim McKean with his special project.

Submitted by: Dick Garlic, Chandler Newsletter Editor on behalf of the AEA Veterans Committee

Inventory from AEA Donations

Bag #1-Mens		Bag#2-Mens		Bag#3-Ladies		Bag#4-Mens		Bag#5-Mens	
Socks	size	Socks	Size	Socks	Size	T-Shirts	Size	Shorts	Size
6 pair	6 to 12	8 pair	?	10 pair	9 to 11	6	XL	6	XL/XG
12 pair	6 to 12	2 packs	?	6 pair	9 to 12	10	L/G	6	L/G
8 pair	8 to 12	12 pair	12 to 15	13 pair	8 to 12	3	3XL/3XG	6	L/G
12 pair	6 to 14	12 pair	6 to 12	6 pair	5 to 9	3	XL/XG	3	L/G
12 Pair	6 to 12	8 pair	6 to 12	10 pair	8 to 12	2	XXL	6	L
12 pair	12 to 15	5 pair	10 to 13	6 pair	4 to 10	10	XL/XG	6	L
large pack	?	12 pair	6 to 12	10 pair	8 to 12	6	XL	6	XL/XG
6 pair	4 to 10	12 pair	6 to 12	10 pair	4 to 10	6	L	3	XL
large pack	?	10 pair	10 to 13			6	XL	6	XL
large pack	?	6 pair	6 to 12	Panties	Size	3	3XL/3XG	6	XL
large pack	?	4 pair	9 to 11	9	8XL	6	XL	6	L
8 pair	6 to 12			6	9	3	XL	3	L
6 pair	6 to 12			9	7/L	3	L	6	L
12 pair	6 to 12			9	7/L	3	XL	6	2XL
10 pair	4 to 10			10	8/XL	3	M	2	?
large pack	?					6	XL	3	2XL
12 pair	6 to 12					1	LG	3	XL/XG
6 pair	6 to 12			T-Shirts	Size	1	XL/XG	7	L
8 pair	8 to 12			1	L	3	L		
10 pair	6 to 12			1	L/G	3	M		
12 pair	6 to 12			1	?	6	XL		
12 pair	6 to 12			1	SM	4	L		
8 pair	6 to 12			1	SM	3	L		
				1	XL				
				1	SM				

“2022-2023 Grand Lodge Convention Intend to Attend”

**Intent to Attend
Atlanta Georgia Grand Lodge Convention
Georgia “On Our Minds”
July 3 – July 6, 2022**

Please Type or Print Legibly

Name _____

Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Spouse / Significant Other Name _____

Lodge Name _____ Lodge # _____

2021 – 2022 Year Position _____

~~~~~

Rooms are limited. Reservations will be on a first-come basis.

**Please return no later than January 1, 2022**

Jerry Grimes  
3397 Monte Moro Street  
Kingman AZ 86401

Work: 928-753-5925

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nukid@npgcable.com

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Comments/Questions/Concerns: _____

"Grand Lodge News"



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



November starts the season of caring and sharing

The holiday season is upon us. I know as Elks we are in a giving mood 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But, at this time of year we all reach down deeper and work a little harder to help those who are less fortunate. Something about this time makes me crave the spirit of giving more than usual. I think that is why I love this organization so much. I get to have this feeling all year by volunteering and helping any way I can to keep *"Meeting the Challenge."*

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times. I do not know what I would do if not for the family gatherings and social activities. I remember growing up and being surrounded by family and friends for the entire day. Socializing, playing



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**T. KEITH
MILLS**

games and, of course, consuming more food in one sitting than I ever thought was possible. I know many Elks Lodges open their doors to serve meals for the homeless and others in need. I have had the pleasure helping at these events during some of my travels and seeing firsthand the random acts of kindness

that happen every day through our benevolent activities. It is one more reason why I am proud to be an Elk.

Now is also a good time to hold a veterans event at your Lodge coinciding with Veterans Day. So long as there are Veterans, Elks will never forget them. Set up a dinner, hold a social event, set up an activity or reach out to veterans homes or hospitals in your area and determine if there is anything your Lodge can do to thank them for their service. We all owe gratitude for the commitment they made to our country.

In addition to veterans activities, the Americanism Essay Contest and Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship

Please see GER, Page 2

Contest theme centers on love of country

By DAVID P. CIOE
Committee Member

Grand Lodge once again is pleased to offer the national Americanism Essay Contest to fifth and sixth graders for Division I and seventh and eighth graders for Division II.

For 2021-2022, members of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee have selected the theme, *"What does it mean to love your country?"* This very important patriotic contest gives school children the chance to express their views on their pride in America. Kindling our youth's appreciation and respect for patriotism is central to understanding our country's heritage. Our youth come to understand the symbols that represent what this country stands for, and can get a deep appreciation for the individuals who sacrifice everything so all can enjoy its freedom. The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee and all Elks across the country enthusiastically endorse this program because patriotism is one of the BPOE's great cornerstones.

Another academic year has begun and students all across our great country

are back in classrooms or distance educating to study, learn, and grow into our future leaders. Lodges should have already contacted local school districts, private schools, home schools, charter schools, and teachers (who may also be Elks) to provide them with the new Americanism Essay Contest to add to their fall curriculums. In this time of distance learning, employing the help of groups like the PTA and hosting zoom meetings are great tools to spread the word about this contest.

Entry information and contest rules are available for download online, or you can contact your local Lodge Americanism Chair. All Area DDGERs and ERs should have thumb drives with instructions and forms. If you do not have your thumb drive with information, contact your DDGER immediately to get yours, or have the zip files e-mailed to you. All information is also available online at elks.org.

This contest is important because it shows Americanism at its best to school children in your area. Plaques will be

Please see AMERICANISM, Page 2

GER From Page 1

deadlines are this month. Reach out to your schools and give them a friendly reminder. One more reminder: Do not forget to turn in your membership report.

Now is the time to start working on your annual Memorial Service that will take place December 5, 2021. As you all know, this is the time to remember all our departed Members over the past year and also reflect on those who have departed in years past.

No matter how you celebrate Thanksgiving or volunteer to serve, thank those around you for everything they do and give thanks for what you have received.

AMERICANISM From Page 1

awarded by the Grand Lodge for first, second and third place for winning essays in Division I and Division II. Winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Atlanta in July 2022. **Essays must be submitted to Local Lodges by December 15, 2021.**

Your action now will shape the youth of our country, which impacts all of our futures. I urge all ERs and Americanism Committee Members to implement this contest in your local schools, or follow up on the essays if your school districts already have the contest underway.