

# Arizona Elks News

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

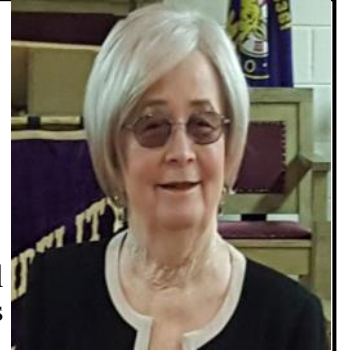
October 2021



## *“Be Proud of Elkdom”*

To All AEA Members,

My husband Tim and I have been continuing our unofficial and official visits to Arizona Lodges, and as I said last month, the welcome we’ve received at all the lodges we’ve visited has been outstanding – thank you Arizona Lodges!! I want all the members to know that our State Association always stands ready to assist you in any way possible – just let us know if you need something.



Our State ENF Chairman, Bruce Van Den Eng from Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 is working very hard to have a banner year for ENF. One easy way everyone can donate is to join the Fidelity Club. By joining you agree to make an automatic donation each month, which can be done through Pay Pal, and it’s really easy. You can sign up and donate any amount of your choice – for example, \$10.00 per month really adds up. Bruce’s goal was to increase Fidelity Club membership this year, and let’s all do our part. Signing up is easy and can be done by contacting Bruce or by going to the Grand Lodge website and then navigating to the ENF section. And don’t forget to apply for any and all ENF Grants your lodge may be eligible for.

Of membership, as of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, we have gained 1982 members and lost 575 for an overall gain of 1813, and that’s an outstanding accomplishment. However, we still show 2388 delinquents, giving us a net loss to date of 981 members. We also have 503 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 significantly up from last month showing we picked up over 600 members. If we can get all the candidates initiated, we will only have a current loss of slightly less than 500!!!! We can have a gain Arizona!!!! Just keep bringing in those new members, keep initiating and keep working on the delinquents.

We hope that you are all planning to attend our Mid-Year Convention at the DoubleTree in Tempe, to be held from October 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. Applications were sent to each Lodge and are also available online at [arizonaelksassociation.org](http://arizonaelksassociation.org).

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:

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**AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:**  
25 October 2021

[aeane newsletter@arizonaelks.org](mailto:aeane newsletter@arizonaelks.org)



Continued on page 2.

**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:

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.

All lodges should have received visitation requests from either a Vice President or myself. If you have not already done so, please be sure and respond so all the visits can be set up and completed in a timely manner.

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 15<sup>th</sup> thru October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Remember -- Be Proud of Elkdom

God bless everyone – until next month - - - -

Regards,



Charyll McKean  
AEA President



*Elks* Care - *Elks* Share

**AEA Mid-Year Convention 15-17 Oct 2021 in Tempe, AZ**

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

## *“Chandler Elks #2429 Raises Funds for School Supplies”*

Every August the Grand Lodge asks every lodge to support a back-to-school drive. One of the Chandler Elks Lodge projects this year, was a Beer Pong Tournament. Our Chandler Lodge #2429 hosted the Beer Pong tournament, which was supported by American Legion Post 91, VFW 7401 and Winslow Lodge #536. The winning team wins a traveling trophy for their facility. We raised \$1,435.00 along with 25 back packs filled with school supplies. All proceeds benefit local Chandler Elementary Schools.

**Submitted by:** Dick Garlic, Newsletter Editor



## *“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Hosts Pancake Fundraiser for Scouts”*



Recently den leader and Lecturing Knight of the Bullhead City Elks Susie Stillabower put on a pancake breakfast for the Cub Scout Pack #56 to help with the purchase of uniforms and books for the youngsters. They also hope to go on a campout in Henderson, NV area to introduce them to new experiences and build on their skills.

**Submitted by:** Terri Frank, Public Relations

Pictured: Stillabower receiving a check from acting Exalted Ruler Mike

## *“Yuma Elks #476 Donates to Special Olympics”*

Yuma, AZ, Lodge donated \$3,405 to the Gila Bend Lodge to assist the families of Gila Bend who were displaced by flash floods. Yuma Lodge raised \$905 from 50/50 drawings & members donations and presented another \$2,500 from the Lodges Community Projects Funds.

**Submitted by:** Antonio Cendejas



Pictured are (from left) DDGER Joan Cendejas Arizona West District, ER Michelle Gibbons Gila Bend, ER Gary Gist Yuma



## *“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Donates to Special Olympics”*



On August 31st the Elks Lodge Youth Activities donated \$500.00 to the Special Olympics Breakfast with Champions. Supporting this event increases opportunities for Unified Athletes in local schools while promoting social inclusion through sports programs.

**Submitted by:** Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured L-R: Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox, Special Olympics, Jim Wijnhamer and Shelley Wijnhamer, SO Athlete, Brandon Wijnhamer and Youth Activities Chair Debbie Herd.

## *“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Donates to Scouts”*

On August 25, 2021 the Elks donated \$75.00 each to Lake Havasu City Boy Scout Troop #25 and Cub Scout Pack #85 to renew their yearly Charters in order to remain active.

**Submitted by:** Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured L-R: Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox, Boy Scouts of America Committee Chair Tanya Powell, Scout Master Tyson Lloyd and Elks Boy Scout Liaison Tom Bradley.



## *“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Host Riders First Responder Poker Run”*



The Casa Grande Valley Elks Riders held a First Responder Poker Run on Saturday, September 18. Approximately 42 motorcycles participated with rides to Coolidge, Oracle Junction, Toltec and back to the lodge. Raffles and auctions were held after lunch was served. Lowe's had donated a smoker to be auctioned off and the winner of the auction (who wishes to remain anonymous) donated the smoker to the firemen of the Arizona City Fire Department. Funds raised by the Elks Riders will be donated to the Arizona 100 Club who assists the families of first responders whose lives are lost while on duty.

**Submitted by:** Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Pictured is Arizona City Fire Department (Itor) Engineer Bill Brown, Captain Joseph Ortega, Firefighter Chase Evans and Exalted Ruler, Chris Repass.

## ***“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Donates Supplies for Homeless Veterans”***



Casas Adobes #2663 was fortunate enough to receive a surplus of disinfectant and sanitizer cloths. We delivered 7 boxes of supplies to Esperanza En Escalante, transitional and permanent housing for homeless veterans and veteran's families. They were very appreciative of the donation.

On any given day, 50,000 veterans are homeless and living on the streets. The mission of Esperanza En Escalante (EEE) is to provide transitional and permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans and veterans families, as well as off social rehabilitation to nurture and support the transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

***Submitted by:*** Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair

Pictured: Anne Molstad, Esperanza En Escalante, Office Manager

## ***“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Donates Supplies to Veterans Outreach”***

Casa Grande Valley #1957 provides food, health & hygiene supplies for veterans and/or active-duty Military personnel in the direction of our local Veterans outreach HOHP (Honoring our Hometown Heroes of Pinal County). HOHP is dedicated to assisting Veterans and Military Families in Pinal County by providing services or connecting them to providers that will assist with life's challenges. Services are provided at "Eagles Landing" Veterans Center and "Eagle One" Mobile Veteran Outreach Center. Our Lodge purchases and collects donations of needed items that HOHP deems necessary for a returning Veteran, homeless Veteran, or active duty personal.

***Submitted by:*** Eva Fox, Lodge News Team



Pictured (LtoR): Al Gramando, veteran; Deborah and Grover Ramsey, Casa Grande Elks; and Chris Garcia, Veteran.



## ***“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Donates to Legion Auxiliary”***

On Sept 8th, 2021 the Elks Veterans Committee donated \$500.00 to the American Legion Auxiliary #81 for the Annual Troop Box Convoy Car and Bike Show which takes place every March. This show helps provide funds for Military support programs, troop boxes sent to deployed Military men and women and Veterans in need.

**Submitted by:** Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured: Veterans Committee Chair Bud Watts and Troop Support Coordinator Judy Harvey. Pic by Jackie Turcotte



## ***“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Honors First Responders on Patriot’s Day”***

Casas Adobes #2663 treated Patriot Day as an opportunity to honor our local Fire Fighters and Sheriff’s Deputies. We delivered homemade baked goods, water and assorted other snacks to NW Fire Station 31 and the North District Sheriff’s Substation. We expressed how thankful we are for their bravery and everything they do to keep our community safe.

**Submitted by:** Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



Pictured PER Mary Shaffer, Leading Knight, with members of Station 31, and LT Nixon.

## **Hoop Shoot Updated to Reflect West District Location Update.**

### **District Competitions**

08 Jan 2022 East District, Chandler, AZ

29 Jan 2022 West District, Wickenburg, AZ

22 Jan 2022 South District, Tucson, AZ

15 Jan 2022 North District, Camp Verde, AZ

## *“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Honor First Responders of Pinal County”*

On 9/11/21, Casa Grande Elks honored our first responders of Pinal County who have served above and beyond the call of duty. Our Arizona Elks Association State President, Charyll McKean and first gent, Tim, also visited and spoke at the ceremony. Representatives of Casa Grande Police Department, Casa Grande Fire Department, Eloy Police Department, Arizona Department of Public Safety and retired Military Working Dog, Iken, were recognized. Judge John Ellsworth was also recognized for his service to the community and his dedication to Elksdom.

**Submitted by:** Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Pictured L-R: Chief Dave Kean, Dispatcher Alicia Ramirez, Casa Grande Fire Chief, Det. Tisa Ellsworth, Casa Grande Police; Honorable John Ellsworth, Presiding Court Judge; Chief Chris Vasquez, Eloy Police Department; Detective Ana-Alicia Mariscal, Eloy Police Department; Detective Aaron Moe, Arizona Department of Public Safety; Sgt. Michael Valdez, Arizona Department of Public Safety; President Charyll McKean, Arizona Elks Association.



## *“Jerome Elks #1361 Honors Verde Valley First Responders”*

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the Jerome elks Lodge invited all Verde Valley First Responders to a free dinner at the lodge as a means of thanking them all for their service to our Verde Valley communities. Attending was Travis Munday, Officer from Yavapai College Police Department, as well as five members of the Cottonwood Fire Department.

**Submitted by:** AEA President Charyll McKean, Public Relations Chair



Photo 1: Officer Monday from Yavapai College Police Department with Doug Howard, Event Chairman and Photo 2: Five members of the Cottonwood Fire Department as well as several family members. Photos by AEA President Charyll McKean



## *“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Donates to School Children in Need”*



On August 31st, 2021 the Elks Youth Activities donated \$200.00 to purchase 40 Lake Havasu Unified School District shirts to be given to school children in need. The shirts will be distributed through the Clothes Closet.

**Submitted by:** Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured L-R: Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox, Clothes Closet representatives Christine Watson-Buntemeyer and Cindy Keasey and Elks Lodge Youth Activities Chair Debbie Herd.

## *“Payson Elks # 2154 Donates to Payson Community Kids Organization”*

Friday, 9/10 Payson Elks Lodge 2154 donated \$1,000 to Payson Community Kids PCK). PCK is a non-profit organization that supports children during after-school hours with meals and social activities for low-income families and their children. The money will be used to help support their programs.

**Submitted by:** Kathy Zeisse

Pictured: Accepting the check was Suzy Tubbs, President and Dana Ashton, Treasurer.



## *“Casas Adobes Elks # 2663 Donates School Supplies to Laguna Elementary”*

Casas Adobes #2663 donated much needed school supplies to Laguna Elementary in September in addition to hand sanitizer dispensers complete with additional packages of sanitizer. We donated enough supplies to fill two plastic tubs and another 50 packages of writing paper.

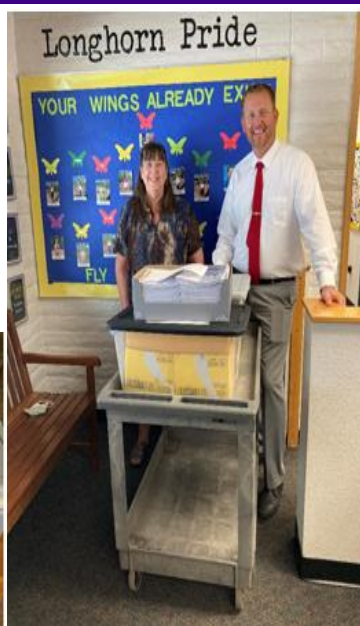
**Submitted by:** PER Mary Shaffer, Public Relations Chair



A cross section of the supplies for Laguna Elementary



School supplies packaged and ready to transport to the students



Delivery day L to R: Mary Shaffer, Leading Knight and Alan Schmidt, Principal



Alan Schmidt, Principal demonstrates the new sanitizer dispenser



## *“Raceway Elks #2852 Host Sock Hop Event ”*

On September 11, 2021, the Raceway Lodge held its Sock Hop to collect new pairs of socks for homeless community members, some of which are Veterans, and mothers with children. We had 64 in attendance, 59 Elks, 4 new Elks. We asked all who attended to bring new pairs of socks for the homeless. We collected 320 pairs of socks for both men and women. The estimated value at \$3.00 pair for a total of \$920 collected. We are also working with a local church to help distribute the socks. We also raffled off a 1950's basket, and raised \$133 for our Children's Shopping Spree in December, as well as a 50-50 drawing that raised \$155 for ENF. The night was enjoyable and profitable for our Elks Programs. The DJ, and food was all donated by Elks making a difference.



Pictured: Large collection of Socks for the Homeless

**Submitted by:** PDDGER William Buttrum, PR Chairman

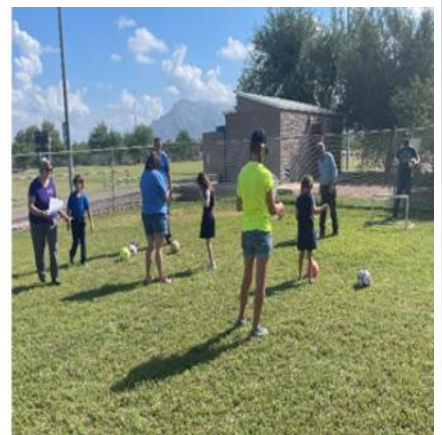
## *“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Soccer Shoot”*

The Soccer shoot at Carden Elementary went very well this year. We had 30 students participate and show off their skills. The volunteers and the students seemed to have a very good time. Although it was awfully warm and muggy the day of the shoot, everyone was in good spirits and determined to do their best. Our winners are listed below.

Kyra Baer and Navy Smith 6th grade  
Taryn Martin and Noah Belanger – 5th grade  
Michael Martinez – 4th grade  
Angelina Martinez and Ammon Anderson – 3rd grade  
Gwen Livingood and Raymond Dimase – 2nd grade

I would like to thank the volunteers that came to help Steve Baker, Tammy Mccollum, Heather Spiess, Marv Thompson, Don Baker, Calye Tidebeck, Ursula Woods and Gene Benevenia. We could not have done it without you. We will award Medals soon.

**Submitted by:** Nick Barnes, Soccer Shoot Chairman



## *“Chandler Elks #2429 Donates to Operation Shockwave”*



At the Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 meeting on August 17th, the lodge presented Operation Shockwave with a check for \$5,500 to support the P.A.W.S.S. Program and their efforts to heal military Veterans from invisible traumas. This money was from both the Beacon & Spotlight Grants that will help fund the P.A.W.S.S. program for five new local military Veterans and their new service dogs.

**Submitted by:** Dick Garlic, Newsletter Editor

Pictured L-R: Karie Warfield, Operations Officer, Cassandra Facciponti, Co-Founder of Operation Shockwave, Jesse Rogers, ER

## *“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts POW / MIA Ceremony”*

Casas Adobes #2663 was honored to perform the POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ritual on September 17th. We strongly believe in all the table stands for.

**Submitted by:** PER Mary Shaffer, PR Chair

Pictured L to R: Marv Thompson, PER (Vietnam), Don Baker, PER (Vietnam), David Saunders, Ursula Woods, PER, Ira Cohen, PDDGER/PSVP, Mary Shaffer, PER (Gulf War), Linda Seggie-Saunders, Ken Short, PER (Vietnam). Not shown: Bruce Van Den Eng, PER (Gulf War), photographer



## *“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 PERs Donate to School Nurses”*



On August 24, 2021. Past Exalted Rulers, Doug Harpold and Steve Asp, along with Exalted Ruler, Alane Asp, delivered 10 plus cases of water, juice boxes, breakfast bars, and other food supplies to Coronado School's Nurses office. The supplies will be used by the nurses to help kids who may be dehydrated, have missed breakfast or need a snack due to low blood sugar.

**Submitted by:** Jim Beregi

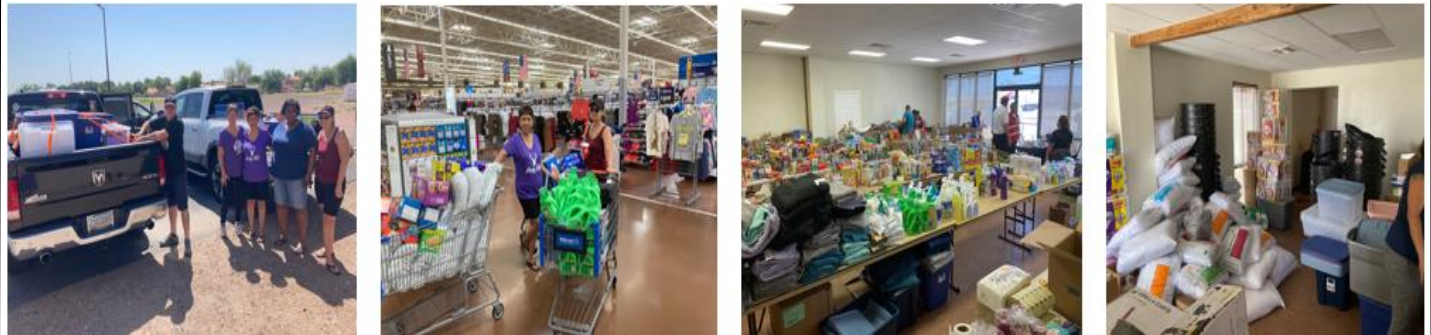
From Left to right are Lauren Anderson, Coronado School Registered Nurse, Doug Harpold, PER, Lauren Hagin, Coronado School Health Assistant, Steve Asp, PER and Alane Asp, ER.



## *“Chandler Elks #2852 Riders Raise Funds for Gila Bend Elks ”*

On the weekend of August 13, a monsoon storm ravaged Gila Bend, AZ causing historic flooding and leading to power outages and damage to private property, roadways and drainage systems and at least two known fatalities. Our friends from the Gila Bend Elks Riders asked for assistance and within a week the Chandler Elks Riders raised over \$1500 dollars from Member donations to purchase totes, bedding, cleaning and laundry supplies, trash bags and food for flood victims. The Elks Ladies donated another \$250 and additional merchandise was donated by other Elks Lodge Members. All of this was delivered to Gila Bend on Saturday, August 20. Thanks to Deb Appel, Liesel Hunt and Jeannette McAfee for doing the shopping as well as Steve Hunt and Michelle Pack for delivering the items to Gila Bend!

**Submitted by:** Dick Garlic, Newsletter Editor



## *“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Donates to Mighty IMPACT Meals Program”*

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks donated \$6,000 to the Mighty IMPACT Meals (MIMs) program to IMPACT of Southern Arizona. The \$6,000 Beacon grant was received from Elks National Foundation as part of the Community Investments Program; which will make donations totaling \$14.9 million nationally in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The MIMs program provides food to feed siblings and adults extra breakfast, lunches, dinners and snacks once a week. Typically, MIMs members include families whose children qualify for the free and reduced lunch programs based on family income and have been participating in the weekend Snack Pack Program. School counselors give MIMs membership cards to qualified and interested families.

**Submitted by:** Jim Beregi



Pictured from Left to Right: Alane Asp, Exalted Ruler – Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815, Jan Trudeau, Community Activities Chair – Catalina Mountain Lodge #2815, Michele Santorelli, Program Director – IMPACT of Southern Arizona.

## *“Payson Elks #2154 Perform POW / MIA Ceremony”*



On Friday, Sept 17th, the Payson Elks, #2154, paid tribute to our POW's and MIA vets.

Setting the table to remember our Vets and keeping that set table in an area in the Lodge to remind us "Never Forget"

*Submitted by:* Kathy Ziesse

## *“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Law and Order Awards Night”*

On September 25, 2021, Raceway Lodge #2852 held their Annual Law and Order Night. Raceway Elks Honored 4 Police Officers and 2 Fire Fighters for going beyond the call of duty. Avondale Police Officer Daniel Benavides, Goodyear Police Officer Kory Miyazato, Goodyear Police Officer Erik Johnson, and Police officer Joshua Bucur, Avondale Firefighter Battalion Chief Justin Ernst, and Goodyear Firefighter Engineer Colin McGrath. There were 64 intendance, 27 Elks 37 Non-Elks which 5 were Students from Agua Fria High School HOSA members, that helped with the event by being servers.

*Submitted by:* PDDGER William Buttrum, Public Relations Chairman



## *“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Hosts Multiple Community Events”*

Scottsdale AZ, Lodge 2148 held our first Women and Wine event on August 26, 2021. The event was in partnership with Scout Wines and raised monies for the Women's Forensic Unit of Honor Health. This unit assists women after rape with medical treatment and counseling. There were 39 in attendance and a wine basket that included a massage was raffled off. Total raised for the event was \$825.00 all going to the charity.

Scottsdale AZ, Lodge 2148 held our first annual Shrimp Boil on September 4, 2021. There were 65 in attendance, and we raised \$750.00 for the 100 club. The 100 club is a charity that helps families of fallen First Responders. We said goodbye to summer as we celebrated Labor Day. The food was wonderful, and a good time was had by all while raising monies for our First Responders.

*Submitted by:* Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary



***“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

Cell: 928-727-5925

Home: 928-692-5633

nukid@npgcable.com

~~~~~  
Comments/Questions/Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## "Grand Lodge News"



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care — Elks Share*



## Community projects give back—and lure new Members

How are you doing with your Lodge Community Projects? Did you know that you can enter your Lodge into the Community Project Contest offered by the Grand Lodge Activities Committee? Visit the Grand Lodge Activities Committee on [elks.org](http://elks.org) to see what is needed to get your Lodge some additional recognition. If you have done some projects, fantastic. If not, it is not too late to begin now. This is a great way for your membership to get involved outside the Lodge. Who knows, it may interest new Members for your Lodge.

October 23-31 is Red Ribbon Week. This is our nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program,



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**T. KEITH  
MILLS**

reaching millions of Americans every year. The Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, and others plan activities throughout the month. Contact local law enforcement and community organizations to see if your Lodge can get involved. In addition, encourage your Members to wear red ribbons

for the month during their daily routine. Pass out red ribbons to your schools, sponsor a red ribbon activity, submit public service announcements supporting your Red Ribbon program to local media. Also, during this time, most DEA agencies sponsor a prescription Drug Take Back Day. Ask a local law enforcement agency if your Lodge can volunteer to help in any way.

Now is the time for your six-month review of your Lodge operations. Lodge Secretaries need to give their bi-annual report on the activities of their office to the membership. Exalted Rulers, if you have not done so, you need to submit to the Lodge floor your report

Please see GER, Page 2



**NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK**  
**OCTOBER 23-31**

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on the Grand Lodge Session. Auditing and Accounting Committees also need to review the Lodge financials and report to the Lodge Members. Finally, make revisions (if necessary) to your annual budgets to get a clearer financial picture of your Lodge and to make decisions moving forward. Keeping your Lodge fiscally strong will ensure you continue "*Meeting the Challenge.*"

In addition to other activities, get started on the American Essay contest at your local schools. The deadline for submission is in mid-December. Information for the essay contest is located in the Grand Lodge Americanism Manual found on the Elks website. Have your Americanism chairperson examine the manual—There are great programs for your Lodge and community, and it provides ways to interact with others outside the Lodge, promote our programs, and find prospective new Members.

Finally, let us not forget Halloween at the end of the month. Think about planning an event for kids or working with another entity to provide a safe and fun opportunity for our youth.