

Arizona Elks News

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

September 2022



“ELKDOM” it is in Giving, that We Receive”

Members All:

I hope your August went well. September looks to being a busy month. Many of our Lodges have fundraisers scheduled in support of our programs for this upcoming month. Thank you all for your hard work and success in these programs.



I want to start out by wishing a speedy recovery to our Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hindley. GER Hindley suffered a head injury a couple of weeks ago as many of you heard, and is now home recovering. Our thoughts and prayers go to him from the great members of the Arizona Elks Association.

Now, on to what's up in Arizona. We are only 6 weeks away from the mid-year convention October 14th - 15 - 16th. Please get your registration forms mailed in to PSP/Meetings Committee Chairman Lee Schwein ASAP. The deadline is September 20th 2022 to have your paperwork in to Lee. Exalted Ruler's, please remind your Leading Knight, and Secretary, that they also are required to attend the convention and meetings. The dress code for all meetings is as usual, business casual. NO SHORTS!! Dispensation requests for required officers who need to be excused from attending the convention, must submit by email a short letter to my office asking for the dispensation and the reason for it.

AEA morning sessions will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

On a fun note.....

This convention will have several prize giveaways during both the Saturday and Sunday meetings. The holders of the winning tickets drawn can select the gift of their choice that are on display. Tickets will be given at the door only to those who attend the meetings. And, tickets are absolutely FREE!! This is Kathy's and my way of saying thank you to all of you for your dedication to the order and taking your time and resources to come to this convention. We truly appreciate all of you.



Also, on Friday night, the welcome dinner theme is.... A **Halloween costume party!!** So, over the next few weeks get your costume ready to go. There will be Prizes for the best individual costume and the best couple's costume. The official costume judges are the 4 State Vice Presidents. (I'm told they do accept bribes). We will have live non-stop music and a dance floor set up for those of you that want to twirl your "ghoul" around. No costume? Your casual dress is welcome.

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AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
23 September 2022



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ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION 2022-2023 STATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Mike Weishan

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

West: Albert S. Kayal

VICE PRESIDENTS

South: Barry "Bear" Carlile, Jr.

East: Grover T. Ramsey

North: Dennis Holt

SECRETARY:

Charyll McKean, PSP

TREASURER:

Alane Asp

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

East-1 Year:

John F. James PSP

North- 2 Year:

Edward Leuer, PSP

West- 3 Year:

Richard Conway, PSP

South-4 Year:

Richard "Rich" Botkin, PSP

East- 5 Year:

Jimmy S. Davis, PSP

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Mike Duran

CHAPLAIN:

Aimee Rogers

TILER:

Timothy Barrett

INNER GUARD:

Larry Hamel

ASST. SEC / TREASURER:

Roy Haddick

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Karen Koble

ORGANIST:

Hugh Dixon

"ELKDOM" it is in Giving, that We Receive"

Major Projects and the Steele Research team will be giving a presentation on Sunday that every Elk should hear. It will be very informative and a presentation all Elks will be proud of. The discussion will cover our 30 years with Steele, their Pediatric Research and our new COVID-19 research program.

Also, on Sunday our exalted rulers March for major projects will take place. These donations that are given that day provide us the funds needed to support both the Steele Center and the Jack Warter Jr. Youth Camp. Thank you very much to the entire Major Projects team for all that you do. And thank you all Arizona Elks for your involvement in our programs showing the world that:

...Elks Care Elks Share...

**** God Bless ****

Fraternally,

Mike Weishan- President
Arizona Elks Association



“AEA President Visits Prescott Elks #330 ”

The Prescott Elks Lodge Officers were graced with a visit from our Arizona State President, Mike Weishan, on August 6th, 2022. It was good that the Officers were able to meet him in person.

Submitted by: Bobbi Knorr, PR Chairperson

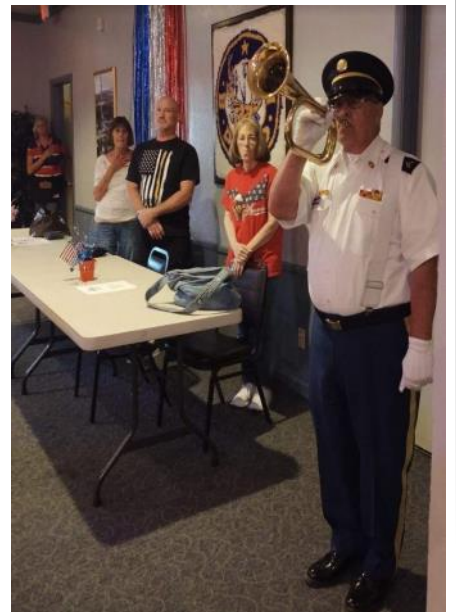


Pictured L-R: Jeff McWane, Joe Hofmeister, Russ Eby, John Ramsey, Ralph Ortiz, Dion Runge Mike Wieshan, Darrol Thornton, Cynthia Thornton, J Ivan Hall, Marycatherine Colvin and Teresa Miller

“Payson Elks #2154 Flag Day Ceremony”

On June 14, 2022, the Payson Elks Lodge #2154 gathered for the Flag Day Ceremony. PER/PDDGER and current Lodge Secretary, Adrienne Troutman, led the ceremony. The Honor Guard presented the Flags. Elk Member and Veteran Roy Palmer recited a poem he wrote for Flag Day, and the ceremony concluded with Taps being played.

Submitted by: LuAnne Frost, Newsletter Editor



“Payson Elks #2154 Presents Check to Veterans Organization”



On June 10, 2022, Art Schaier, Veterans Services Director, and ER Dana Smith, on behalf of the Veterans and Payson Elks Lodge #2154, presented checks and thanks to the Payson Warming Center and Duker Ranch to assist with the Veterans services and programs they provide.

Submitted by: LuAnne Frost, Newsletter Editor

“Tucson Elks #385 Hosts Blind Veterans for Breakfast”

On July 27, 2022, the Tucson Elks Lodge #385 invited 22 Blind Veterans from the VA for a dinner which was served by some Lodge and American Legion Riders members who also sat and talked about their service with them. All had a good time.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman



“Payson Elks #2154 Awards Student Scholarships”

Six graduating Payson Senior High School students were awarded college scholarships on May 20, 2022 at the Payson Elks Lodge #2154.

Submitted by: LuAnne Frost, Newsletter Editor

Pictured L-R: Emaline Whatley, Caitlin Harold, Melanie Brade, Landree Ryden, Darby McFarlane and Cole Goldman



“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Raises Funds for Adults with Special Needs”

The Casa Grande Elks Lodge was recognized for their contributions to the American Red Cross for their ongoing commitment of blood drives within our community. On July 18 we collected 41 units of lifesaving blood and welcomed six first-time donors. On July 22, we collected 22 units of lifesaving blood and welcomed five first-time donors.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Diane Repass and Kate Schmidbauer, Elks Blood Drive volunteers, accepted the plaque and certificate presented from Red Cross representatives.



“Tucson Elks #385 Presents Food Bank with Donation”



August 7, 2022, Tucson Elks Lodge #385 donates to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, \$2,000.00 with proceeds received from the ENF Spotlight Grant.

Submitted by: John Aceves, PR Chairman

Photo L-R: Treasurer D. Gnuschke, PER B. Holyoak, Food Bank rep K. Burgerhoff and ER S. Trecartin

“Catalina Elks #2815 Sponsors Veterans for Wheelchair Games”

Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge #2815 Provided lunch on July 23 and sponsored 6 veterans who participated in the Paralyzed Veterans Wheelchair games held in Phoenix. The Elks lodge donated \$3,960 to support this project.

Submitted by: Jim Beregi, PR Chairman

Pictured L-R: Gene Venechanos, Larry Wittenborn, Mimi Wittenborn, Monty Derting, Bob Kielsa, Gloria Cicenros, Deb Durling, and Marie Starjanski



“Tucson East Elks #2532 Hosts Christmas in July Fundraiser for AEMP”



Members of Tucson East Elks lodge held a Christmas in July fundraiser to benefit AEMP. Members celebrated with a dinner dance and raffles. The lodge raised approximately \$ 1600 dollars for the children.

Submitted by; PSP Rich Botkin, PR Chairman

Pictured L-R: Tony Goetz, ER Megin Goetz, Esquire Denise Lefkowitz, Lecturing Knight LuAnn Taylor, Kelly & Mike Kerzman, Chaplain Tina Swope, and PER Allen Swope.

“Buckeye Elks #2686 Hosts Fundraiser for Member and School Drive”



On Saturday, July 23, the Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 held a benefit dinner for fellow members, Patrick and Lishia Hayes, who lost their home in a fire. We served pulled pork, beans, coleslaw, bread, and dessert, and we held a 50/50 raffle. Thank you to all you who came and donated to our fellow members in need. We raised almost \$2,000, and all proceeds went directly to the family. We've also had members donated household items, such as a couch, to the Hayes family.

On June 30, the Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 participated in a Back to School Drive held at the Buckeye Union High School gymnasium. Backpacks with school supplies were handed out to children and classroom supplies were handed out to teachers.



Submitted by; Leatta McLaughlin

“Prescott Elks #330 Raises Funds for Stand Down”

The Prescott Elks Lodge #330 hosted a dinner for 78 including the A.E.A. State President and his wife, Mike and Kathy Weishan on August 6th, 2022, recognizing Veterans and Veteran support organizations. There were several baskets raffled off for donation. Sheryl Gillum, US. VETS-Prescott workforce coordinator shared their mission and accomplishments with the Elks.

Submitted by; Bobbi Knorr, PR Chairperson

Pictured: L-R: AEA President Mike Weishan, Exalted Ruler, Darrol Thornton, Sheryl Gillum, US-VET.org workforce coordinator, Bill Dean and Carole Dean Veterans Support Chairs. Carole, organized the event (dinner and directed the creation of the raffle of the baskets).



“Tucson Elks #385 Donates to Steele Center and AEMP”

August 8th, 2022, 17 Crafty Critter Ladies of Elks Lodge #385 had a workshop to support the U of A Steele Research Children’s Center in Tucson AZ which is an AZ Elks Major Project. Donation of diapers, 78 pillowcases, zipper t-shirts for kids with ports, stuff toys and I spy Bags and more. Anne Koehler made 78 pillowcases; the group did another 35.

Submitted by: John Aceves, PR Chairman



Teen Morgan, Laura Castro, Anne Koehler, and Katrina Sharp



Zipper t-shirts that kids do not have to take their shirts off when getting treatment.



Teen Morgan, Laura Castro from the Steele Center, Curt Winters (leading knight)

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Presents Go-Bags to Veterans in Need a Stand Down”

On Friday, 19 August 2022, our Lodge Veterans Committee, headed by Chairman / Loyal Knight Ed Mealy, Jr., set up a table / booth at the Annual Cochise Serving Veterans Stand Down. Our Lodge Veterans Committee handed out bags with toiletries, blankets, and non-perishables. The ENF Spotlight grant enabled our committee to purchase the much-needed items to fill 125 bags. Photos by Diahn Conte

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Newsletter Editor



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 AEMP Rewards Check to Jr. Livestock Assoc.”



On Thursday, 18 August 2022, our Esteemed Leading Knight, Laura S. Davis, presented the AEMP Rewards Grant of \$1000.000 to the Cochise County Jr. Livestock Fair representative Cory Thompson.

Submitted by; Shawnee Carlile, Newsletter Editor

Pictured L-R: Exalted Ruler Shawnee Carlile, Leading Knight Laura S. Davis, and Cory Thompson, Jr. Livestock Fair Coordinator.

“Chandler Elks #2429 Conducts Dictionary Project”

The Chandler Elks distributed Spanish to English dictionaries to four Chandler Elementary Schools this year: Galveston, Hartford, San Marcos and Frye and well as Legacy Charter School in North Chandler. In addition, we also provided dictionaries to Willis Jr. High for their Spanish I & II classes as well as their English Language Learner Program. The Chandler Elks purposefully selected these schools that are in particular need of actual books since the students are less likely to have tablets or computers at home. A total of 432 dictionaries have been distributed this year.

Submitted by; Dick Garlic, Newsletter Editor



Pictured L-R: Exalted Ruler Taleen Carpenter, and Kalia Carpenter.

“Fountain Hills Elks #2846 Hosts Scholarship Awards”

Fountain Hills Elks Lodge #2846 recently awarded scholarships totaling \$6000 to 4 Fountain Hills High School graduates. The recipients were selected based primarily, but not limited to, their Americanism Essay submissions.

Submitted by; James Beischel, PR Chairman

Pictured L-R: Leading Knight and local teacher John Engels, Jared Reichler, Marc Reyes and Eddie Greco. Not pictured is Kyle Markel



“Fountain Hills Elks #2846 Hosts Scholarship Awards”



Fountain Hills Lodge #2846 recently held a drive to collect toiletries for homeless Veterans. The toiletries were donated to Community Bridges Inc., an organization we have partnered with in the past, for distribution to those unfortunate homeless Veterans.

Submitted by: James Beischel, PR Chairman

Pictured with collected goods: Veterans Committee Chair Ralph Christofferson.

“Sun City Elks #2559 Use ENF Grant for Back to School Events”

Sun City, AZ Elks Lodge #2559 using an ENF Gratitude grant and member donations created a \$4,700.00 two-Phase "Back-to-School", June through August, program for students-in-need. For the High Schools, Elk Member volunteers delivered school supplies and joined Peoria's Helping At Risk Elementary School portion of the program, Lodge members packed boxes of new school supplies and clothing they delivered to two local area Title-1 schools. When Elks care and share, functioning classrooms are created with stability and confidence for overall better learning.

Submitted by: PER Vicki Way, PR Chairperson

Picture 1: Back-to-School Program Chair Lorraine Gentile.

Picture 2: Back-to-School Program Volunteers Vicki Way PER, Audrey Plout, Barbara Fowerbaugh, Edna Futscher, Karen Hartman, Yvonne and Terry Cook, Carol Lauterbach and Ellie Jenkins.



“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Donates to HOHP Food Pantry”



Casa Grande Elks donated \$260 worth of supplies to the HOHP Food Pantry. The Elks are able to keep the food pantry stocked through a grant they receive from the Elks National Foundation.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Pictured L-R: Bruce Boenig, Jean Bischoff, Elk members Kim Skelton and Sherree Svoboda, and Jim Sylvester.

“Sun City Elks #2559 Donates Toiletries to Veterans”



Sun City, AZ, Elks Lodge #2559 donated toiletries, new men's and women's clothing and medical mobility assistance equipment to U.S. Vets in Phoenix, AZ. Using Freedom Grant funds and member donations \$1,200 in products and refurbished equipment was delivered to the 165-housed Veterans facility.

Submitted by: PER Vicki Way, PR Chairperson

Pictured in the forefront is Michael Biggs Facility Mgr. with (from left) Lodge members Eleanor Jenkins-Veterans Svc. Chair, Terry and Yvonne Cook, Al and Trudi Dahms, Mark Balodis, Sharon Siewert, Lodge Officers Vicki Way, PER, Martin and Laura Galchutt, and members Edith and Norm Bertram.

“Chandler Elks #2429 Recognizes Local Business for Flying the Flag”

On Friday, July 29th, our Exalted Ruler, Taleen Carpenter set out to surprise three local businesses with Certificates of Honor for Properly Flying the United States Flag. First on the list was SDHQ Motorsports We were fortunate enough to meet with the owner, Ryan Marselis who has an extensive WWII collection in his office and a fully operational 1942 halftrack. Second on our tour was the AutoNation Nissan dealership We met with the assistant managers, John Moss and Jered Schager. They were pleasantly surprised to receive their certificate. Finally, we stopped at Chick-fil-A .The “Director” Scott was very happy to receive his certificate and he even shared that they regularly replace any tattered flags and dispose of them properly.

Submitted by: Dick Garlic, Newsletter Editor



“AEA NEWSLETTER UPDATE”



Successfully we had 27 donors come to the Blood Drive on August 8th, 2022 at the Prescott Elks Lodge. Which is 169% of what we expected.

Submitted by: Bobbi Knorr, PR Chairperson

Pictured: Leonard Strege, Elks member

“Chandler Elks #2429 Builds Veterans Food Pantry”

In June of 2022, Chandler Elks #2429 applied for and was awarded a National Veterans Service Commission Focus Grant. The grant, intended to help address Veteran homelessness, was written by Chandler to build a Food Pantry Donation center right in the Valor on 8th building in Tempe. This building is run by Save the Family, and it is the only all Veterans low-income housing building in the state of Arizona. Save the Family provides a long list of services to our Veterans to help them transition from homelessness to include job training and after school programs for children of these Veterans. After Chandler was awarded the grant, it immediately started to build the pantry in July of 2022. In close coordination with Save the Family corporate office and the onsite community counselor at Valor on 8th, Chandler built a pantry to fit their needs, and the initial stocking of the pantry involved input from the counselor as well as the residents. The grand opening, scheduled on 8/27/2022, is going to kick-off the ongoing project for Chandler through staffing the pantry once a month and running food drives. In addition, Chandler started raising awareness in the East District Elks community so they can also participate.

Submitted by; Dick Garlic, Newsletter Editor



Pictured L-R: (back) Harvey Gaubatz, ER Taleen Carpenter (Chandler), ER Debra Melton (Mesa Buckhorn), Tracy Hanlon Cabell, Doug Cabell, Mark Whitaker. (Front) Keith Carpenter, Jaime Podratz (Save the Family POC) and Susan Whitaker.

“Buckeye Elks #2429 Cooked Steaks for Chamber of Commerce ”



On Friday, August 19, the Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 cooked dinner for the annual Buckeye Rocks awards ceremony. This year's theme was Rope in the Champions! For this event, we cooked 280 steaks, 18 pounds of beans, potatoes, rolls, and salad. The Buckeye Chamber of Commerce hosts this event so they can honor the individuals, businesses, and organizations that have made Buckeye the #1 fastest growing city in the country.

Submitted by; Leatta McLaughlin, Trustee

“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Multiple Events”

The Phoenix lodge has several community service projects in the works. We continue to support our local Scouts troops with meeting space and leadership. The Elks Kids are rounding up hygiene and food products for local families in need as well as school backpacks. They are pairing with a local food bank. They supported a local family last month that needed all of those items and have offered assistance to other groups.

The Veterans Committee, led by Chairman Vet Joe Brown, and a project leader Vet Kelly Callaway connected with the quilting club of Resurrection Lutheran Church, which donated 19 beautiful quilts for our vets and fund raising auctions for vets. We'll share pictures and details as they are distributed in the coming months. Meanwhile, we continue to collect needed items for local vets.

We had a successful blood drive for the local Red Cross, bringing in 35 donors.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

“Prescott Elks #330 Supports Veterans Charity with Bedding”

Prescott Elks Lodge uses \$2,000 Spotlight Grant funds and \$230 Lodge Veterans Committee funds to purchase 60 Sets of sheets, blankets and pillows for U.S.Vets-Prescott for Vets to use and keep.

U.S.Vets-Prescott provides clean bedding to a couple hundred veterans experiencing homelessness each year. These types of donations are essential to our program.

Submitted by; Leatta McLaughlin, Trustee

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Meal for Veterans ”



Casas Adobes members cooked ten pounds of pork for the Arizona State Veterans Home-Tucson. We shredded the pork before its delivery to the Home on August 23rd and it was served with other dishes prepared by the kitchen staff. The event was Hawaiian themed, and everyone had an enjoyable time watching the dancers. Our volunteer helped serve and move residents to and from the Luau. The Recreation Team has more fun activities coming up.

Submitted by; Mary Shaffer PER, Exalted Ruler

Residents at the Arizona State Veteran Home-Tucson enjoy Hawaiian dancers while dining.



Beginning in September 2022, All Lodge Article Submissions will need to be turned in by the **23rd of each month, by 5:00pm AZ time**. This is due to formatting of pictures, text, and articles that have been submitted for publication. Pictures must be clear, and not pixelated or blurry. Please do not submit jpegs or other pictures as an article, or articles in PDF format. Submissions after the due date will be featured in the next month's Newsletter

Fraternally,

Shawnee Carlile
AEA Newsletter Editor.

Arizona Veterans News



Veterans Updates

Mary I. Shaffer AEA ENVSC

I'm proud to announce we have a new Veterans Representative for the State Veterans Home-Phoenix. Debra Murphy is assuming the position as of October 1, 2022. Her application is currently with Grand Lodge for processing. Dale Blomker is stepping down for personal reasons. We thank Dale for his service and wish him and his family well.

STATE OF ARIZONA VETERAN HIRING EVENT



SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

9 AM - 12 PM

Veterans, Military and Spouses only

12 PM - 3 PM

Open to the General Public

FLAGSTAFF READINESS CENTER

(located at the Arizona National Guard Armory)

320 N. Thorpe Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001



AZ HIRES VETS!

CONTINUE TO SERVE



AEMP News



September 2022 Update

Bruce C. Van Den Eng, Executive Director

In compliance with Grand Lodge Statute Section 16.150 to protect the privacy of our members the AEMP newsletter will not be posted to our AEMP website which is open to the public. The AEMP website is open to the public to allow the public to see what we do and provide a booking venue for the youth camp. The AEMP newsletter and other AEMP messages will be sent to lodges and lodge members using the Constant Contact platform. Any Elk in good standing can request to receive the newsletter by sending an email to info@azelksmp.com with a copy of their membership card.

Donations to the Steele Children's Research Center

Teen Morgan and 17 of the Crafty Critters from the Tucson Lodge #385 held a workshop at their lodge to collect donations and craft items for the children at Steele. Thirty-Five pillowcases were made, 1048 diapers were collected, 78 handmade pillowcases made by, Anne Kohler, 12 t-shirts with zippers, stuffed toys, and I spy bags were donated to the Steele Children's Research Center. Teen is also working with Catalina Mountain Lodge to establish a workshop at their lodge as well.



Pictured above from left to right are:
Teen Morgan, Lori Castro, Curt Winters



Pictured above from left to right are:
Teen, Lori, Anne Kohler, and Katrina Sharp

AEMP News

Community Rewards Program (CRP)

In 2016, the Community Rewards Program (CRP) was established by Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP) to assist lodges in our state support children. The CRP provides a \$1,000 gift for youth organizations that serve children in Arizona, through a qualifying local lodge.

To qualify for the \$1,000 award, a lodge must reach a per-capita donation goal to AEMP of \$8.00 per member between April 1 and March 31 each year. The lodge donation goal includes those funds raised through lodge member donations, lodge AEMP raffle ticket sales, or lodge fundraising events.

During the 2021-22 Elks year, twenty-eight lodges attained the donation goal and are eligible for the CRP award. Thus far, six lodges have applied for, and have been issued, the CRP award. All CRP awards are sent to the lodge and not to the organization receiving the award funds.

Congratulations to the following lodges for helping make a child's life just a little bit better in their local community.

Tucson #385	Amphi HS Summer Basketball League
Jerome #1361	Playground Equipment, American Heritage Academy
Casa Grande Valley #1957	Toys for Tots via the Salvation Army
Bullhead City # 2408	Children's concerts, Colorado River Concert Assn
Sierra Vista #2065	Cochise County Fair Assn, Junior Livestock Program
Tucson East #2532	Empire Cheer Booster Club

Each lodge is responsible for having a formal presentation of the award to the recipient organization and should invite an AEMP Board Member or District Representative to attend. The award ceremony is also an excellent public relations opportunity to share with the local media. Don't forget to submit your lodge article (with photo) of the ceremony to the AEA and AEMP for inclusion in their newsletters.

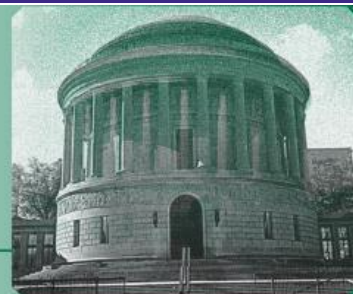
Lodge CRP applications must be received by the AEMP office by September 30th.

"Grand Lodge News"



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



The fall season and what it means to us

It's hard to believe that the summer months have come and gone and the beautiful fall season is now upon us. As our Lodge activities ramp up once again, let's take a look at what the fall season means to us as Elks in *"Promoting Elkdome With Enthusiasm!"*

September marks the beginning of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler/State Vice President Lodge visitations. These visitations provide great opportunities to examine your overall Lodge operations. Be sure to plan with your Lodge board of directors well in advance of the visitation day by completing the audit items, building a self-inspection checklist and all of the other information the DDGER/SVP travel teams will need. This will give you and your officers along with your committee chairs ample time to prepare



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler
BRUCE A.
HIDLEY**

your Lodge for successful visitation.

Since the end of September is the halfway point of the Lodge fiscal year, it is a good time to inspect where your Lodge stands with the Grand Lodge and State Association per capita. This is a perfect time to see what funds need to be raised during the balance of the Lodge year. By evaluating where you stand now, your Lodge will be prepared to meet per capita.

Fall also brings the reopening of schools in your communities and tremendous occasions for our Lodges to encourage our youth. Supporting local football, soccer, lacrosse and other sports programs and youth-related activities are wonderful ways to show your Lodge's support and personal community spirit! Look into and apply for the many Elks National Foundation grants. These grants are available to assist financially in your community partnerships with our youth, veterans, and community members. When possible, invite your local media to help publicize and promote your valuable activities.

This is also a time to concentrate on our Elks scholarship programs. Seek

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out your school guidance counselors and provide them with the needed student applications to apply for grants that can aid students with much-needed financial support. These scholarship grants include the \$4,000 Legacy Awards, \$5,000 Emergency Educational Grants, Most Valuable Student Scholarship for up to \$50,000, or a Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship. Please follow the Elks website for deadlines to apply for these grants. Don't wait; act quickly.

Can you think of any better way of *"Promoting Elkdome With Enthusiasm"* than by helping the youth of today grow into the responsible leaders of tomorrow? Many of the youth who have been inspired and aided by Elks programs have joined our great fraternal Order to become active Lodge Members.

Observed on the first Monday in September, Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. In honor of this national holiday, please accept my heartfelt thanks for all you do for Elkdome. Your selfless time and

dedication truly exemplifies that *"Elks Care — Elks Share."*

Elks Patriotism Week in September is a respectful reminder of the tragic events that occurred twenty one years ago on September 11, 2001.

Like so many of you, I remember that day. I was sitting at my desk at work when the radio broke the news that an airplane had flown into one of the towers of New York City's World Trade Center. This was quickly followed by an announcement that the plane crash was not an accident, but a deliberate attack on the building. Reports indicated that the attackers first flew intentionally into the North Tower, followed only minutes later by another intentional strike into the South Tower. Shortly after, there were broadcasts of a third plane that flew into the Pentagon building and a fourth plane that crashed in a Pennsylvania field. Many innocent lives were lost that day.

The Elks remember September 11 each year and honor all those who lost their lives during these horrific attacks, including the first responders and community members who sought to help the crash victims. In this regard,

the Elks have developed a Patriotism Week Proclamation that I encourage all Lodges across our great country to embrace. The proclamation PDF is located on the Elks website under the Fraternal Committee's programs page. Please take the time to download this very important proclamation. Have your local government officials place it on their agenda to recognize our freedom and to honor our nation.

September is also a time when we wish a very happy birthday to the United States Air Force. The Elks honor you for all of your years of service to our country — **thank you**. On the last Sunday in September each year, we take time to recognize our Gold Star Mothers. This day is intended to recognize and honor these brave mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of the United States Armed Forces. God bless each and every one of our Gold Star Mothers as they deserve this day of observance. What a great way of *"Promoting Elkdome With Enthusiasm"* during the month of September.

God bless all of you, God bless our troops past and present, and most of all, God bless America.