

# Arizona Elks News

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

November 2022



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

Members All,

Kathy and I want to thank all of you who attended the mid-year AEA convention last month for being there. It was a very eventful weekend. It started out with a terrific dinner Friday night followed up by some great music and the Halloween costume party. That was an event in itself. The creativity of costumes worn by those who attended was terrific! It was an evening that I'm sure will be remembered for some time.



The reports that were given during the business sessions Saturday and Sunday, indicate that we are definitely going in the right direction with our programs. Our new membership numbers are up which is great news, however we need to work on retention of members a little more. If you know someone who has not paid their dues this year, please reach out to them and find out why. Let's get those delinquent members reinvolved. Sometimes all people need to be, is asked.

Red ribbon week took place during the last week of October. The Elks drug awareness program is amongst the best in the country. The fight against drugs in our community must continue and must get stronger. Members, please ask your Lodge Drug Awareness chairperson how you can help them with this most important program.

Our Arizona Elks Major Projects commitment to the Steele Research Center, celebrated it's 30 year anniversary with a very heartfelt thank you from Dr. Gishan who spoke to the assembly on Sunday. He thanked the Arizona Elks Association for their generosity for both the cancer research projects and the new COVID-19 research program. We, the Arizona Elks, have donated more than 9 million dollars over the past 30 years to the Steel Research Center. Our other Major project is our Jack C. Warter Jr. Youth camp. The camp was brought on board 20 years ago and since then has provided a getaway for thousands of youngsters and the programs they belong to. Knowing Jack as I did, I know if he saw the camp today, he would shake his head and say WOW!!! My dream came true. A BIG thanks to those VOLUNTEERS who work so hard during the year keeping the camp in such great shape. 🍷🍷🍷🍷

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**AEA Newsletter**  
**Submission deadline:**  
**23 November 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:***

Steve Henderson

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

The Exalted Ruler March on Sunday at the convention raised approximately \$100,000. Thank you lodges for your hard work raising these funds for Major Projects.

The Wreaths across America fundraiser we held at the convention was a HUGE success. Thanks to Chandler Elks member Susan Whitaker and her assistants, they raised enough money to put a wreath on every veteran's grave (1200 of them) at the Valley of the Sun cemetery in Chandler. Wreaths dedicated to other cemeteries will be set also. Pictures of those who donated were taken by AEA State photographer Karen Koble and each picture will be assigned to a wreath so all of those veterans families will know that " Elks Care.. Elks Share" and that we are so thankful for their loved ones service. Now, a very special thanks goes out to Exalted Ruler Anna Mineer of Scottsdale Lodge #2148 for their overwhelming donation of \$5,000 to the Wreaths across America program. What a difference Maker your Lodge is Anna. Thank you so much.

And finally to the people behind the scene who make our conventions the success that they are. Meetings committee chairman PSP Lee Schwein and his lady Sunday, along with PSP Ed Leuer and his lady GL audit committee person Janet, and all of the meetings committee people for your long hours putting together everything including decorating the hospitality room, registration table personnel, setting up and providing all of the refreshments and goodies, etc etc. It's their work that makes our convention a wonderful and comfortable event to attend... EVERY YEAR!!

Thank you Meetings Committee.

Have a great month everyone.

\*\*\* GOD BLESS\*\*\*

Fraternally,

Mike Weishan -President  
Arizona Elks Association



## ***“Yuma Lodge Elks #476 Holds POW / MIA Ceremony”***

On September 16th, Yuma Lodge 476 held a POW/MIA ceremony honoring those personnel still missing from their families. In attendance was AEA State President Mike Weishan and his First Lady Kathy.

On September 17th, volunteers from Yuma Lodge 476 provided and served hotdogs, chips, drinks and desert to over 125 athletes, families and friends at the Special Olympics Swim Meet held at Caver Park Swimming Pool in Yuma, AZ.

*Submitted by:* Jim Thompson, Loyal Knight

## ***“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Treat 1st Responders during Patriot Week”***

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved naming September 11 “Patriot Day” to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In 2009, Congress named September 11 a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Casas Adobes #2663 treated Patriot Day as an opportunity to honor our local Fire Fighters and Sheriff’s Deputies. We delivered water and assorted snacks to NW Fire Station 33 and the Foothills District Sheriff’s Substation.

*Submitted by:* Mary Shaffer PER, PR Chair



L to R: Fireman Marcus, Engineer Jordon and ER Mary Shaffer at NW Fire Station



L to R: Deputy Hudson, Sgt. Gress, Deputy Schoonover, Deputy Joseph and

## ***“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Donates School Supplies”***



Exalted Ruler Mary Shaffer is pictured with Laguna Elementary School Principal, Alan Schmidt and Health Office Assistant, Cathy Farrand. Mary delivered the school supplies that had been collected and donated by lodge members. The approximate value of the donation is \$1,230.

*Submitted by:* Mary Shaffer PER, PR Chair



## *“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Awards Law Enforcement Officer of the Year”*

On September 10<sup>th</sup> we held a First Responders Dinner honoring those who keep our community safe.

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



Center: Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Daniel Sharp is presented with a plaque honoring his distinguished service. Pictured are ER Mary Shaffer and Lt. Guy Quaintence.



ER Mary Shaffer with Fire Fighters L to R: Kyle Williams and Anthony Campaño. Both are retiring in December.



Kay Baker, wife of Lodge Secretary, Don Baker presents the Grand Lodge Medal of Service to her son, retiring Firefighter, Kyle Williams.



Local television news anchor, Dan Marries shares a few memories and his admiration for our first responders

## *“Tucson Elks #385 Holds Annual First Responder Awards Dinner”*



On September 22, 2022, the Tucson Elks Lodge #385 held its annual 1st Responders Appreciation event.

**Submitted by:** John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman

Picture with Law enforcement and Fire Fighters are Trustee Jim Sanford and ER Susan Trecartin (far right on 2nd photo).



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



On 16 September 2022 the Casas Adobes Elks Lodge hosted the annual POW / MIA Ceremony.

*Submitted by:* Mary Shaffer PER, PR Chair

Pictured L-R: PERs Mike Comerford, Mary Shaffer, Kellie Smith, Carolyn Smith, Bruce Van Den Eng, Ursula Woods, Don Douglas, and Ira Cohen.

## *“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Hosts Annual First Responder Awards Ceremony”*

The Scottsdale Elks Lodge also raised \$4,000 for two charities at its August 28 First Responder Awards Ceremony.

The awardees from the Scottsdale Fire Department were firefighter Joe Jesatko and David Getz, a systems integrator. The Scottsdale Firefighters Charities were given \$2,000 in Getz and Jesatko's names.

The Phoenix Police Department recognized Ofc. Robert K. Fisher and civilian Ryan Perez, a civilian logistics technician for the department. The Matthew Ortiz Family Foundation also received \$2,000 in Fischer and Perez's names.

Scottsdale Mayor David D. Ortega helped hand out the awards and Scottsdale City Councilmembers Kathy Littlefield and Linda Milhaven also attended.

*Submitted by:* Jody Miller

Pictured L-R Scottsdale Mayor David D. Ortega, Officer Robert K Fisher and Sergeant Burnis Engram - Supervisor.



## *“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Donates to the Coronado Foundation”*



Scottsdale Elks Lodge presented the "Coronado Foundation for the Future" a \$1,000 AEMP grant in October. (They provide no cost computers for students upon high school graduation to use in college.)

*Submitted by:* Jody Miller

Pictured L-R: Kevin Maxwell (Elks Member), Anna Mineer (Exalted Ruler), Maryann McAllen (Foundation VP), Karen Becca's (Foundation Executive Director)



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



Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 hosted a build your own pizza evening August 17<sup>th</sup> raising money for kids shopping events. More than 60 delicious pizzas were served raising over \$650 from pizzas and tips. The Scottsdale Elks Lodge also raised \$4,000 for two charities at its August 28 First Responder Awards Ceremony.

Scottsdale Elks Lodge promoted a SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUNDRAISER - BAR OLYMPICS Saturday, September 24th. It was a great event for a great cause which included competition of pool, darts, shuffleboard, ping-pong, corn hole and horse shoes. The Special Olympics does so much to help special needs children & adults by providing sports training and activities. It was a fulfilling event. Money from the event & raffles along with donations from Tuesdays Bridge Club, and Lodges Charity Urn RAISED \$1,350 to provide to the Special Olympics foundation. Congratulations to the Bar Olympics Winners. 1. Mike Halford 2. Chris Wilcox 3. Shawn Whyte

*Submitted by:* Jody Miller

## *“Prescott Elks #330 Holds POW / MIA Ceremony”*

On 16 September 2022 the Prescott Elks held the annual POW / MIA ceremony.



*Submitted by:* Bobbie Knorr, PR Chair

## *“Prescott Elks #330 Hosts Wine Pairing Fundraiser”*

Prescott Elks Lodge House Committee held a wine tasting with Food pairing 9/17/2022 The event netted \$1600 for charity. It was applied to ENF, Clothe A Child and to the Children's Christmas Party reaching our goal for all three charities. Plans are to repeat the event in the Spring.

*Submitted by:* Bobbie Knorr, PR Chair



## ***“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Annual Oktoberfest Event”***



On 23 and 24 September 2022, the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 hosted our Annual Lodge Oktoberfest Event. The event included a paired down menu, great refreshments, and entertainment by the Sierra Vista community band. Funds raised goes towards the Lodge budget to help continue the good works we do for our community. The Mayor of Sierra Vista, Richard Mueller, presented the Lodge with a proclamation naming Friday and Saturday the official Sierra Vista Elks Oktoberfest Weekend.



*Submitted by:* Shawnee Carlile, Oktoberfest Chairperson

## ***“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Membership and Drug Awareness Booth”***

On Saturday, and Sunday 1 & 2 October, the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge hosted our Lodge booth at the Annual Art in the Park city event. Our Booth served 3 purposes, membership promotion, information on our upcoming public events, and Drug Awareness where we handed out over 100 Drug Awareness swag bags (literature, candy, and stickers) to children at the event. We even had a surprise visit by Elroy the Elk.

*Submitted by:* Shawnee Carlile, PR / Art in the Park Chairperson



## ***“Prescott Elks #330 Provides Supplies for Stand Down”***



On 16 September 2022, the Prescott Lodge provided the following donations for the Veterans Stand Down: 40 sets of sweat suits, 19 sweat shirts, 28 pairs of sweat pants, along with 150 pairs of socks, 50 winter hats and misc. toiletries.

*Submitted by:* Bobbie Knorr, PR Chair



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

On September 24, 2022, Raceway Lodge #2852, Held its annual Law and Order night Honoring First Responders from Avondale, Goodyear and Surprise Police and Fire Departments. This year Raceway Honored Captain Michael Morris, Surprise Fire Department, Officer Christopher Smith, Surprise Police Department, Engineer Robert Kuehn, Avondale Fire Department, Officer Bethany Rendo, Avondale Police Department, and Firefighter Cory Nocht, Goodyear Fire Department. Those in attendance helped raise \$700 for the 100Club of Arizona which provides financial assistance to First Responder. Robin Cox the Lodge Drug Awareness Chairperson provided the different departments with Red Ribbons to pass out to the citizens and children in their community. After the evening meal of Cordon Bleu Chicken Cheesy Potatoes Green bean, coleslaw, and Dessert Tim Barret Leading Knight Master of Ceremonies, handed each honored a plaque after reading what each Officer or firefighter did for their community to receive the award.

*Submitted by;* PDDGER William Buttram, PR Chairman

## *“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Sock Hop Fundraiser”*

On September 10, 2022, Raceway Lodge held its annual sock hop to get sock for the men and woman veterans this year we received \$500 worth of sock donated for this cause. We had 22 in attendance, 17 Elks and 5 Non-Elks. Those in attendance for the festivities had fun doing trivia contest, a Hula Hoop contest, and helped raise \$43 for AEMP.

*Submitted by;* PDDGER William Buttram, PR Chairman

## *“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Elkettes Raise Money for Kitchen”*



The Elkettes of Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City hosted a Left, Center, Right game that raised \$1552.52 that was donated to the Kitchen for needed equipment. In the photo is Elks Kitchen Manager/Chef Kevin Rogers and Doreen Davis, Elkette treasure and LCR event coordinator.



The Elkettes of Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City hosted a Left, Center, Right game that raised \$1552.52 that was donated to the Kitchen for needed equipment. In the photo is Elks Kitchen Manager/Chef Kevin Rogers and Doreen Davis, Elkette treasure and LCR event coordinator.

The proceeds came from August and September pie sales in the Elks Dining room.

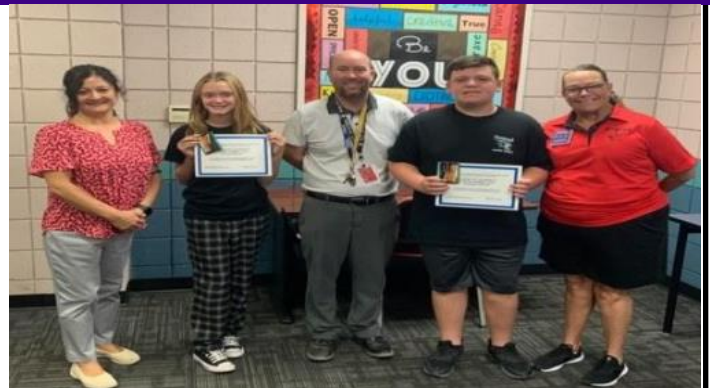
*Submitted by;* Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

## *“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 September Student of the Month”*

Principal of Thunderbolt Middle School, Gordy Hall, Student of the Month, Kooper Charles and Debbie Herd PER and Youth Activities Elks Lodge #2399. Students receive a certificate and a \$10 gift card from In and Out.

*Submitted by;* Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured are 7th grade counselor Nancy Johnson with Student of the Month Alivia Sartin.





## *“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Donate to Middle School Program”*



The Elks Lodge 2399 donated \$300 to Thunderbolt Middle School to continue the mission of spreading kindness as part of Rachel's Challenge, a victim from the Columbine shootings who pledged to spread kindness before her death. Pictured are Thunderbolt's principal Gordy Hall, Debbie Herd Elks Youth Activities/ PER and Eighth Grade counselor Jessica Forster

*Submitted by:* Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

## *“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Donate to Military Moms”*

The Elkettes donated proceeds of \$1450 from a concert to Military Moms.

*Submitted by:* Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured: Eva Fox, Elkette and Concert committee chair with Cindy Ritter, president of Military Moms.



## *“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Donates to Pinal County Sheriff's Programs”*

Funds raised at the Casa Grande Valley Elks Golf tournament were donated to the Casa Grande Fire Department and the Pinal County Sheriff's Office to assist them with their community programs. Each year, the Elks Fun Golf Tournament raises money to donate to numerous agencies within our community. The Golf Tournament is scheduled for April, 2022.

*Submitted by:* Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Pictured with PER Bob Jaworski is Fire Chief, Tony LaFalce.



Pictured with Pinal County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Ross Teeple is PER Bob Jaworski on left and Elk Member, John Zawacki on right.

## *“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Hosts Dignitary Visits”*

Casa Grande Valley Elks were honored by the visit of the South District Vice President and his first lady on Friday, November 7, and by the East District Deputy, Mari Slocum, on Tuesday, October 4. Annual visits from these dignitaries is a highlight of the Elks Lodge and the red carpet is rolled out to welcome them into our lodge.

Our District Deputy Slocum was accompanied by her companion, Robert Kripas, and Esquire, Brian Gorski and his wife, Sherri. Deputy Slocum attended the meeting Tuesday evening where an initiation ceremony was performed. She met with officers and committee members during the afternoon hours.

South District Vice President, Bear Carlile and first lady, Shawnee, attended the All-American Lodge Celebration on Friday evening, enjoying dinner and dancing to live music. Committee chairs and officers met during the afternoon with the couple prior to dinner.

*Submitted by:* Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



## *“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Soccer Shoot Winners”*

Casa Grande Valley Elks held their annual Soccer Shoot Competition on Saturday, October 8, 2022 at the Casa Grande Middle School. Winning in the U-12 Division was Isaiah Rodriguez and the winners of the U-14 Division were first place, Armando Rodrigues and second place, Daniel Rodriguez. The two first place winners will compete at the District level on November 5, 2022 in Kearny, Arizona.

*Submitted by:* Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



Exalted Ruler Chris Repass and winner Isiah Rodriguez



Exalted Ruler Chris Repass, 1st Place winner Armando Rodrigues, and 2nd Place winner Daniel Rodriguez



## *“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Hosts Student of the Month Awards”*



Casa Grande Elks announced their October Students of the month.

Alivia Marca, 6th grader from Mary C. O'Brian Elementary School.

Ethan Raymond, 6th grader from Mary C. O'Brian Elementary Raymond.

*Submitted by;* Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



## *“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Annual Law and Fire Awards ”*

On Saturday, 8 September 2022, our Lodge hosted our Annual Law and Fire Awards Ceremony. Detective John Andela, Sierra Vista Police Department took home the Officer of the Year award, and Captain Jared Haros from Fry Fire Department was recognized as the Elk's Firefighter of the Year. The winners received a beautiful black slate trophy, challenge coin, and basket items from our Exalted Ruler Shawnee, a special medal of service from our PER Association, and gift certificate basket. At the event, the Elks were also able to recognize a true hero who, during his off time, came to the aid of a gunshot victim and saved his life. Border Patrol Agent Techendorf received a special plaque, medals of valor, challenge coin, and a BBQ gift basket. Gift Certificates were provided by the PER Association, Auxiliary, and Bingo.

*Submitted by;* Shawnee Carlile, Newsletter Editor



## *“Tucson Elks #385 Hoop Shoot Winners”*

Tucson Lodge 385 held the annual Hoop Shoot at Amphi High School on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Ten shooters participated in the contest. The following winners will advance to the South District Hoop Shoot on January 28, 2023.

Ismael Victorino	8 - 9 Boys
Zhandos Aitiken	10 – 11 Boys
Kaleb Gonzalez	12 – 13 Boys

Sofia Valenzuela	8 – 9 Girls
Aubree Brown	10 – 11 Girls

The contest was a success due to the efforts of 16 volunteers from our Lodge and the Amphi High Basketball team. A special thanks to Amphi High Summer Basketball Coach, Ben Hurly who allowed us to use the High School gym.

*Submitted by;* John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman

## ***“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Multiple Events”***

On September 27th, Elks, Dawn Quinn, Sheila Mazzeo, Diane Sullivan and Karen Seaman made a delivery to the Resurrection Street Ministry, (RSM) S.T.U.F.F. Thrift Store. They delivered bags and bags and hangers of amazing clothing valued at \$4,000. This Thrift Store is also a large Food Recovery Pantry. They also specialize in Veteran Services for goods such as clothing and tools and electronics. They are a huge gift to their community as well as an enormous help to our Veterans. Our Elk, Dawn Quinn is part of the Arizona Paralyzed Veterans and works with this ministry side by side.

We had a fantastic time at our September 17 Redneck Party! We saw loads of overalls, torn flannels, hair rollers, and great hats! Our volunteers presented yummy BBQ roadkill chicken. Corn hole, auctions, and fun raffles were followed by dirt kicking music with fantastic Line Dancing! We had 120 attendees and 17 volunteers – thank you! We raised \$2,300 to benefit the Children’s Christmas Shopping Spree charity. We will begin shopping for 115 children from November 7 – December 13 and report back with photos of our deliveries.

*Submitted by;* Linda Thompson

Pictured in the attachment are Dawn Quinn and Tim Loehr with the RSM Ministry.



## ***“Sun City Elks #2559 Sponsors Veterans for Honor Flight”***

Honoring their sacrifices to keep our country safe, Sun City’s Elk Lodge sponsored eleven of its veteran members on an Honor Flight to our nation’s capital. The group of servicemen from the Korean and Vietnam war eras visited Washington D.C. memorials dedicated to the respective war(s) in which they fought.

The two-day momentous trip shared with fifty-three additional Arizona veterans, began with a celebratory send off at Sky Harbor. With presentation of the colors, Honor Flight AZ volunteers cheered and waved flags. During the flight, veterans were given special recognition by the crew and fellow passengers. Upon arrival in Baltimore, there were groups of adults and children clapping and cheering a “Heroes Welcome.” The local Fire Department’s engines provided a recognition water salute. A first night heroes banquet honored the veterans. The second busy day of touring included the witnessing of the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

*Submitted by;* PER Vicki Way,

John Valentine, John McConnell, Brian Sauro, Terry Hunt, David Oliver, Jose Cordero-Torres, Dale Blomker, Terry Heig, Jim Engstrom, Guardian Barbara Davies, Myron Lindahl, Ed Wiesniewski





## *“Sun City Elks #2559 Joins G.A.I.N. Public Safety Night ”*

Peoria’s Police and Fire-Medical Departments brought together family fun and safety education in one place during their annual G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizonans Involved in Neighborhoods) Public Safety Night. Begun in 1998, Arizona’s G.A.I.N. is a cooler weather alternative to “National Night Out” held in August. The event is designed to bring all of the Peoria community together promoting Peoria as a safe and family friendly city.

Sun City’s Elk Lodge added to the fun with their friendly Elroy the Elk mascot greeting attendees and stopping for photos. Lodge volunteers were busy hosting prize winning children’s games, and giving away raffle tickets to win an amazing new mountain bike. Contributing to public safety, the Elks distributed pamphlets of information on their “Drug Awareness” program.

*Submitted by;* PER Vicki Way



## *“AEA Jewelry Project ”*

The Mission of this project is to support the Steele Research Center Children patients and clinics, by allowing the hospitalized Children, not only in Steele, but all Lodges allowing the economically challenged children to use a piece of the costume jewelry to be presented to their mothers. This would be a valuable tool for your Clothe a Child programs. In addition, for Christmas or Mother’s Day.

The program will begin to contact Lodges who wish to join the program after November 1<sup>st</sup>. The jewelry will not be sent to the Lodges, but the Committee within the Lodge. Posters will be produced and will be sent to all Lodges.

For any further information, please contact Diane Skorupski, via email [dcskorupski48@gmail.com](mailto:dcskorupski48@gmail.com)

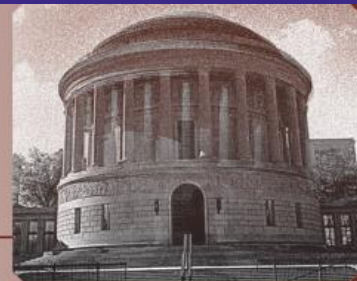


## "Grand Lodge News"



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care — Elks Share*



## A time to reflect on our veterans and Thanksgiving

The month of November brings to us one of the most important days we celebrate as American citizens. Election Day, always held on the first Tuesday of the month during November, is set by law for the general election of federal, state, county and local government officials.

There have been many changes to the election law in our states all across our country. Check your local Board of Elections to get the necessary information for you to vote. I encourage each and every one of you to take the time to vote. You have earned this right! As former President Barack Obama once stated, "There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter."

In November, our thoughts turn to a couple of very special days. During Veterans Day on November 11, we



**Message from  
the Grand  
Exalted Ruler**

**BRUCE A.  
HIDLEY**

honor our veterans past and present. COVID-19 halted many ceremonies and parades in the last few years, but with the pandemic in our rear view mirror, we can again host events to honor the men and women who served our country. I have personally been marching in our local Veterans Day parade in all kinds of weather for over 35 years. Although I never personally served in the armed forces, I take a lot of pride when

marching in honor of our troops. As we march down the parade route, there is no better feeling than to watch the parade spectators salute the flag as we pass by.

In my hometown, I attended a ceremony for the dedication of a monument wall of honor for all of our local veterans from WWI to our current conflicts. My father-in-law was one of those names inscribed on the monument wall. Seeing the names of so many veterans I personally knew brought tears to my eyes. There are so many ways to say **thank you** to our nation's veterans. Hosting dinners in our local Lodges, sending care packages, holding Stand Downs, and participating in events at Veterans

Please see GER, Page 2

### DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

## DAP gives thanks for successful year

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN  
Assistant National Director

Leaders with the Elks Drug Awareness Program have a lot to be thankful for at this time.

We are especially thankful to the membership who wholeheartedly supported our efforts at this year's Grand Lodge Session that let us become a commission under the auspices of the Grand Lodge. This will help us to grow the program under the direct supervision of a Board of Directors and allow us to be more responsive to the wishes of the membership.

We are thankful for our many partnerships in our mission to educate children, families, schools, and communities about the dangers of illicit drugs and the abuse of substances.

We are thankful for our partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration and our current podcasts that have been made available on a variety of media. If you haven't checked them out, please visit our YouTube page—and while doing so, as the content creators

say, "click that subscribe button" so you won't miss an episode.

We are thankful for our State Chairs who have been bringing the message to their Lodges, providing them with the latest materials relevant to what is happening in their jurisdictions. Their dedication to Elksdom is second to none and their hard work is paying off in ways we previously could only imagine. The Elks Drug Awareness Program is saving lives!

We are thankful for our sub-advisory, who have guided us this past year and have provided the necessary oversight to ensure the membership's funds have been spent in a fiscally responsible manner. We realize without the support of the membership, none of our works would be possible.

So as we approach the holiday season, we pause to give thanks and ask that each and every one of you are able to express your thanks for all the work Elks do. Not just in the DAP, but in every aspect of what it means to be an Elk.

Thank you.

### GER From Page 1

Administration Hospitals are just a few ways to say thank you.

The Elks slogan is, "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." We never have and never will. Our dedication and commitment to our veterans is a fine example of **"Promoting Elksdom With Enthusiasm."** Thank you to all our fellow Elks who take the time to make Veterans Day a most special day. Our veterans deserve the gratitude they receive.

Happy birthday to the United States Marine Corp. November 10, 2022 will mark its 247th birthday. Thank you to all our Marine Corp. veterans.

November is also a time that we celebrate Thanksgiving. I encourage all Lodges to support food pantry programs in your local communities. Thanksgiving is the perfect time for us as Elks to assist food pantries by delivering food items to families in need. Take the opportunity to show your communities that **"Elks Care — Elks Share."**

As Helen and I travel home for the holiday, we want to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.