

Arizona Elks News

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

January 2023



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

Members All,

Happy New Year to all of you. I hope your 2023 year is a healthy and safe one to you and your families.



The Arizona Elks had a great ending to the 2022 year. Our hoop shoot program got off to a great start statewide. Youngsters from all over the state competed in the contests at the lodge levels and those winners are now going on to compete at the district competition which will be held in January. We will keep you posted as to the results. If you can help out with these contests, please contact your Lodge Exalted Ruler for volunteer information.

The children's shopping spree that took place in early December went extremely well. Hundreds of Arizona children received clothes and gifts thanks to your kindness and generosity. Of course, a visit from Saint Nick helped complete these young children's wishes.

Also in mid-December, Kathy and I participated in the Wreaths Across America program that was held at the Valley of the Sun cemetery in Chandler. Many Elk members from local lodges were on hand and placed over 1,200 wreaths on the graves of veterans. This event was organized by Chandler Lodge #2429 members Susan Whitaker, Tracy Cabell, and Mark Whitaker. Thank to them and everyone who participated in this event. I'm sure the families of these veterans were so pleased at what you did for them.

There will be Leading Knight's clinics held in each of the four districts throughout January. These clinics provide instructions for those who will be or wish to be considered for the position of Exalted Ruler in their lodges. You MUST ATTEND the clinic to be a consideration. I also strongly urge you to have your spouse accompany you to these clinics. They too will receive instruction on the spousal requirements. The Past District Deputies in each district will be holding a caucus to assign people to the various chair positions in the districts. If you are interested in a district chair position, please contact your District Deputy or District Leader for more information on how you can get involved. Leadership in the Elks is one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. Believe me!

Speaking of leadership, public relations chairman PDDGER Ron Wilson and his staff did an amazing job in November. For the first time in "EVER", the largest on time monthly reporting percentage from Arizona lodges was accomplished. 97.6% which equals to 42 of the 43 Arizona lodges reported on time in November. That is an amazing number. Traditionally 65% to 70% is the norm. A major effort was put out by the leadership to hit 100% And they darn near did it. Congratulations to all of the public relations Committee personnel throughout the state. Now that you all know it can be done, let's do it again!!

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AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
23 January 2023



**ARIZONA ELKS
ASSOCIATION
2022-2023
STATE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT:

Mike Weishan

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West: Albert S. Kayal

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South: Barry "Bear" Carlile, Jr.

East: Grover T. Ramsey

North: Dennis Holt

SECRETARY:

Charyll McKean, PSP

TREASURER:

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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:

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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"

Remember, Success is Fun!!

It's time to put on the push to achieve our per capita goals with Major Projects and ENF. Schedule your fundraisers NOW! March 31st is right around the corner. According to the updated reports, many of our lodges are doing very well and have either achieved or are real close to achieving their per capita goals. Then there are some lodges that are not so close. Hey folks, you have only 3 months left in this year to "git er done." So let's go Arizona.

Finally, be sure to tune in to the Rose Parade Monday morning, January 2nd and look for the Elks float. That's right, if you haven't already heard, the BPOE has a float in the parade for the first time in decades. Believe me it is a beautiful work of art. It definitely will make you.... **"Proud to be an Elk"!!**

Have a safe and Happy New Year....

*** GOD BLESS***

Fraternally,

Mike Weishan -President
Arizona Elks Association



“Payson Elks #2154 Feeds Veterans on Veterans Day”

Recently the Lodge fed close to 175 veterans and their spouses on Friday, 11/11, Veterans Day. All Veterans' meals were free with non-veterans paying \$13 for the standard Fish Fry Menu. In addition, the Lodge provided a ceremony with the Color Guard and an evening of dancing with Sol Deville.

Submitted by: Kat Zeisse, PR Chair

“Wickenburg Elks #2160 Attends Dedication of Veterans Homes”

Wickenburg Elks Lodge #2160 Veterans Chair, Sharon Rosiek, along with members Charles Sapienza, and Ron Wilson attended the dedication and open house on November 19, 2022, of Ashley House in Phoenix, AZ. The homes are named in honor of LT. Ashely White, (1987-2011) the first Cultural Support Team member of the U.S Army Special Operations Command killed in action. The homes are provided by US Vet, a non-profit organization who combats America's Veteran homeless head-on. They also give supportive services to help Veteran's lives .U.S.VETS is uniquely positioned to help Veterans and their families across our nation successfully transitioning them to civilian life. The two Ashley homes were built by Habitat for Humanity volunteers. The Wickenburg Elks received a \$10,000 Focus Grant from the ENF. The monies will be used to purchase furnishings.

Submitted by: Ron Wilson PDDGER, PR Chairman

“Lake Havasu Elks #2399 Host Children’s Shopping Event”

The Elkettes of Elks Lodge # 2399 sponsored their annual Kids Turn To shop on Saturday November 26th from 9-11am. Children from 4-14 were able to shop for up to 10 family members at 25 cents per gift, however no child is turned down. They are each individually guided with a personal shopper and the child leaves with wrapped gifts.

Santa was also there talking to the children and giving out his traditional candy canes. In the photo standing to the left of Santa is Elquette President Vanessa Brewster and all of the Elquette Volunteers. Not in the photo are all the volunteer helpers from Lake Havasu City High School.



Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Children’s Shopping Spree”

On November 29, 2022, Raceway Lodge held the children's shopping spree this year we took 12 kids, along with members from the lodge to helping with the shopping at J C Pennies, then back to the Lodge for a Lunch, of Hot Dogs, Mac and Cheese with chips, Cooked by the Andy and Susan Turay, Jean Blasko, Exalted Ruler, Steven Cox. Special thanks to the Tury’s for donating all the food. After the lunch the Americanism award to a special person Lillian Linn who showed Americanism every day to the community and our Country. In attendance were 12 Elks and 28 Non-Elks. Once again Raceway Lodge #2852 showed the community and 12 kids that Elks Care Elks Share.

Submitted by: William Buttram, PDDGER, PR Chair

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Host Float at Annual City Christmas Parade”

On Saturday, 1 December 2022, our Lodge Loyal Knight, Gail Eaton, headed up our Lodge float in the Annual Christmas Light Parade. It was the first time our Lodge participated in the city parade in over 10-years. Our float featured Elroy the Elk, Veterans, and members that wished parade goers a Merry Christmas. Decorations included hundreds of lights, Veterans, Drug Awareness, Haunted House and other Lodge Marketing Banners.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Exalted Ruler / Newsletter Editor



“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Hosts Children’s Shopping Spree”



Roadrunner Elementary School bus brought 35 Students to meet 35 Elk's Volunteer Escorts at Walmart, they shopped together to outfit children with new jackets, shoes, boots, and various clothing items. Later pizza was served at the Lodge.

Submitted by: Submitted by: Jim Beregi

Pictured: Kylie Crooks with Santa and Mrs. Claus

“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Tree Trimming Event”

On December 2, 2022 Raceway Lodge held the annual Tree Trimming, we invite all the kids to come to the Lodge to decorate the Lodge Christmas Tree. For the last few years, the kids have starting to come back to decorate the tree, this year there were 4 one more than last year. They did a superb job again this year and enjoyed the pizza. This event is put on by the PER'S, in attendance this year there were 4 kids 15 Elks and 1 Non-Elk. Those in attendance once again had a great time at his event, the joy of see the smiles on the kids faces wormed our hearts. This feeling can't put to money, you must be there to get the great feeling.

Submitted by: Submitted by: William Buttram, PDDGER, PR Chair

“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Annual Lodge Memorial Service”

This year we honored Brother Frank Howard, Brother Frank Hylton, Brother Michael McCormack, Brother Ronald Melot, Brother Michael Pastor and Brother Charles Weast. Once again, the Officers performed the Ceremony that made us all Prod to be part of Raceway Lodge. There was nothing but praise of this ceremony by the Love one of the departed members, there is nothing more rewarding that hear from a Past members love one thank us for we have done to lift up their spirits. Once again, the slide show by Robin Cox was heart moving, WE will never forget the Veterans, but past Elks will all way be in our hearts, and live forever.

Submitted by: Submitted by: William Buttram, PDDGER, PR Chair

“Raceway Elks #2852 Hoop Shoot Winners”

The Raceway Hoop Shoot was a great success with all the bumps on the way the shootout was a great success. There was 65 Shooter to participate this year and the winners were

8-9 Girls Biana Smith, 8-9 Boys Steven Miles Lancaster

10-11 Girls Yurali Gonzalez, 10-11 Boys Joshua Pacheco

12-13 Girls Nemo Sihdu, 12-13 Boys Tyler Rhodes

The winners of the Lodge Shoot will be going to the District Shoot in Buckeye and hopefully to the State in Apache Junction. If luck prevails to regionals, then to National. Besides the shooters and their family's there were 15 Elks and 1 Non-Elk. Raceway Elks want all of the Boy and Girls to that win or lose they are winners to us.

Submitted by: *Submitted by:* William Buttram, PDDGER, PR Chair

“Tucson Elks #385 Annual Clothe-a Child Event”



Twenty-five kids were taken on a JCPenney's shopping spree and each child and parents receiving lunch and a bicycle and the shopping at the Lodge.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman

Picture 1: ER Susan Trecartin and child

Picture 2: Trustee Jim Sanford as Santa, and child receiving a gift

“Prescott Elks #330 Annual Lodge Memorial”

On December 4th 2022 the Elks Members Memorial was held at 10:00 a.m at the Prescott Elks Lodge. The Ceremony included the lighting of a candle for each member who has passed. Along with the members and families present, the Ceremony participants were PER Sam Volrich, Leading Knight Marycatherine Colvin, Loyal Knight Dion Runge, Lecturing Knight Rob Phoenix, Treasurer Kathy Hofmeister, Secretary Teresa Miller, Chaplain Gerri Runge, Esquire J. Ivan Hall and Inner Guard Fran Phoenix.

Submitted by: Bobbie Knorr



“Tucson Elks #385 Annual Lodge Memorial”

On Sunday, 3 December our Lodge held our annual Lodge memorial service.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman



“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Supports Local Agencies”



Casa Grande Valley Elks presented donations to the Casa Grande Fire Department, Casa Grande Police Department, Pinal County Sheriff's Office, Eloy Fire Department and Arizona City Fire Department at the CG Lodge. These funds were raised by the Elk Riders when they held their First Responder Poker Run. Elks are committed to supporting our first responders and appreciate all they do for the community. Pictured (LtoR): Casa Grande Police Department Officers Thomas

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Anderson, Andrew Wilcox, and Carlos Gutierrez: Jeffrey Heaton, Arizona City Fire Department; Bruce Gemmell, President, Casa Grande Elks Riders, and Travis Hartman, Eloy Fire Department.

“Gila Bend Elks #1957 Host Bad Bingo to Raise ENF Funds”

On Friday, 9 December 2022, our Lodge hosted dinner and Bad Bingo to raise funds for ENF. Bad Bingo is a night time event with great music, disco lights, and baskets for the winners of each Bingo round. We also hosted S. District VP Barry “Bear” Carlile, and his wife Shawnee.

Submitted by: Ryan Mendoza, Exalted Ruler

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Presents Dictionaries for Kids”



Casa Grande Elks present dictionaries annually to all third grade students in the Casa Grande area, but this year, the Elks were able to expand our giving area and provide the dictionaries to third graders in the Sacaton School District. Presenting them was Drug Awareness Chair, Kate Schmidbauer (right) and third grade teacher, Miss Gillespie.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

“Tucson Elks #385 Bike in a Box Event”

Tucson AZ Elks Lodge #385 "Bike In A Box" December 10, 2022, event went smooth with 500 bicycles' given to local Tucson underprivilege children a Christmas present. Photos include ER Susan Trecartin, Trustee Jesse Lugo (Lugo Charities) (photo #1), Santa and Mrs. Clause (photo #3) and Trustee Wayne Burns (photo #2) controlling foot traffic. Each child left with a Christmas bicycle and safety helmet that Tucson Medical Center custom fitted each child. Money from the Gratitude Grant in the amount of \$2,500 donated to help in this annual event.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman



“Prescott Elks #330 DDGER Visit”



District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Marsha Haddick and her husband Roy, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler and Grand Esquire visited the Lodge on Tuesday, October 18th, 2022. They met with the Officers and various Chairmen and received updates on the Lodge's activities and financial status.

Submitted by: Bobbie Knorr

“Prescott Elks #330 Hoop Shoot Contest”

The Prescott Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot was held on December 10, 2022 at Mountain View Elementary School. We congratulate our winners and plan to cheer them on at the district finals on January 21, 2023

Winners Tom Fargher, Hoop Shoot Coordinator.

Girls:

8-9 years McKenzie Ackermans
10-11 years Kortney Bennett (sunk 20 of 25 free throws)
12-13 years Janae Ayers

Boys:

8-9 years Austin Rojas
10-11 years Kingston Evens
12-13 years Oliver Hadley

Submitted by: Bobbie Knorr

Picture 2: Tom Fargher Elks Hoop Shoot Coordinator, Winners: Austin Rojas, Kingston Evans, Janae Ayers, Kortney Bennett, Oliver Hadley



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Annual Clothe-a-Child Event ”

Our Lodge Leading Knight, Laura Davis, coordinated our Annual Christmas Clothe a Child which was held on December 17th 2022. Children from the HUD / VASH program were gifted \$125 worth of clothing, and the families were treated to hot BBQ lunch. Santa paid a visit bringing gifts of clothing and toys for each child. A couple of families were not able to attend so the gifts and a meal was delivered to them.

Submitted by; Shawnee Carlile, Exalted Ruler / Newsletter Editor



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Purchase Uniforms for Special Olympics”

With a grant from the Elks National Foundation, the Bullhead City Elks Lodge 2408 purchased uniforms and bocce ball equipment for the local Special Olympic athletes before their bocce ball tournament. They were also presented a \$685 check to assist with their traveling expenses for out-of-town tournaments.

Submitted by; Debbie Cantril



Pictured: Athletes, and Mike Swain Exalted Ruler, Linda Plane Special Olympics Head of Delegation for Bullhead City, athletes Gary Plane and Tim Blonshire, Sheila Blonshire, Lodge Special Olympics Chairperson and athlete Tyler Morris.

“Yuma Elks #476 Annual Children’s Shopping Spree Event”

On December 3rd, 2022, Yuma Elks Lodge 476 sponsored the annual Children's Christmas Shopping Spree at JC Penny. Through donations raised throughout the year we were able to provide clothing to underprivileged children in our community. Elk volunteers along with volunteers from the Yuma Police Department and Rual Metro Fire Department escorted 82 children through JC Penny spending \$150.00 each. Afterwards the children and volunteers were treated to a breakfast including pancakes, eggs, bacon, and sausage at the Lodge. Santa Claus was present at both the store and breakfast and was able to provide each child with a Christmas stocking of goodies.

Submitted by; Jim Thompson, Loyal Knight

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Purchases Choir Supplies for Mohave HS ”



With a grant from the Elks National Foundation, Bullhead City Elks 2408 was able to donate \$1,000 to Mohave High School music department for much needed microphones for their sound system.

Submitted by; Debbie Cantril

Pictured: Choir Director Cameron Pruett, Choir President Alina Hudson, and Exalted Ruler Mike Swain.

“Payson Elks #2154 Donates Spotlight Grant to Meals on Wheels”

Trustee Kim Riley and Secretary Adrienne Troutman, PDDGER, presented a check for \$2,000 to Laura Marlowe and Debbie Stephens representing Meals on Wheels. This donation was made using funds from the Spotlight Grant.

Submitted by; Lu Anne Frost



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Host Annual Food Box Event”

Our annual Holiday Food Box event was a huge success. We provided food boxes to 32 families in need. Each family received 2 or 3 boxes of food depending on household size. We ensured the families received either a turkey or ham in addition to enough food for a week. A huge thank you to our members who generously donated a turkey or ham and to those who spent an evening packing the boxes. A special thank you to Marv and Ira for coming in early on Sunday to help with delivery.

Submitted by; Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Annual Children’s Shopping Spree”

We had a wonderful time during our annual Clothe a Child Shopping Spree. Thirty-five members and family came out in the early hours on Saturday, December 10th to JC Penny’s and were paired with a student from a local school. Utilizing Beacon Grant funds, Social Welfare funds and other donations we were able to spend close to \$200 per child and ensure everyone got a warm coat and shoes in addition to several sets of clothes. Afterwards the children came to the Lodge for a meal and visit with Santa who provided each child with a backpack with school supplies and an age-appropriate gift. We are very thankful for Jimmy Walker who is not only great at fundraising, but also a phenomenal Santa.

Submitted by; Mary Shaffer



“Wickenburg Elks #2160 Host Operation Warm Library Event”

Thanks to the generous Spotlight Grant, the Elks Lodge and the Wickenburg Public Library held it's first Operation Warm on Thursday, November 17th. At this event the Elks members gave away over 120 brand new coats and books to local family residents. Anyone under the age of 18 was eligible to receive these items. The Auxiliary, and other members of the Lodge, did a wonderful job sorting and displaying the coats and books, fitting kids up to the right sizes, and being a general ray of warmth and sunlight to all those that attended. We also received amazing cookie and goodie donations from Lodge members, which we were then able to pass out. The goodie table was very popular, including the tasty hot chocolate bar.

The purpose of this grant is to not only get coats on kids but to promote literacy in the community. Several of the families stated they had never been to the library before and spent time wandering around the facility and getting to know the staff. All and all it was a successful event that the Lodge and library look forward to continuing next year.

Submitted by; Sarah Brown, Leading Knight



“Phoenix Elks #335 Host Veterans Appreciation Dance”

The Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 held the annual Veterans appreciation Dance on November 5th. This year's event was extra special as the Arizona Elks Association President, Mike Weishan and First Lady Kathy were in attendance. Thanks to everyone that took time out of their busy schedules to attend and make this event such a success. Those who attended were treated to some good food, good music and good fun. The Committee put together a wonderful collection of items for the auctions and raised a lot for the Veterans. The final total will be calculated and a report will be made on the floor of the Lodge. I want to personally thank every member of your Veterans committee for all their work not only with this event, but with all they do each and every day to help our Veterans. The Veterans Committee meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 6pm at the Lodge and welcomes new members.

Submitted by; Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler



“Phoenix Elks #335 Host Veterans Ritual Ceremony”



Members and guests attended a Veterans Special Ritual presented by the Lodge Officers and Volunteer on Friday, November 11th held in the Lounge during the dinner hour. The service was special in the regard that it was not performed in the Lodge room as Special Rituals usually are. There were approximately 100 persons in attendance for the event. The Ritual included honoring all the branches of our Military by each of the Chair Officers. Thanks to Diane Bodwell PER for coordinating the Ritual.

Submitted by; Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler

Carol Brown Esteemed Leading Knight, Volunteer Dennis Wardon, Larry Bodwell PER. Nancy Tripp Chaplain, Clem Brown Exalted Ruler, Becky Simons Lodge Esquire, Karen Seaman, Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Ken Stewart Tiler.

“Sun City Elks #2559 Distribute Holiday Food Boxes”

Sun City Elks #2559 prepared Holiday food boxes for the Lodge's Red Wagon program. Working with the Salvation Army for area recipients in need, Elk volunteers purchased and collected groceries that filled boxes for struggling families. These food boxes were distributed on December 17, so that these families could have Christmas dinner with their families.

Submitted by; PER Vicki Way, PR Chair

Pictured: Family Food Baskets Chairperson Monica Fitzgerald and her team of volunteers



“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Honor Flight Reunion Lunch”

Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 hosted just under 100 veterans and their families for an Honor Flight Reunion luncheon. This is the forth such event that we have hosted this year. Most of the veterans on this flight were Viet Nam Veterans, however there was a 101 year old WWII veteran that was in attendance. The Honor Flight is a trip to Washington DC and these veterans visit the monuments, memorials and Arlington National Cemetery for the changing of the guard of the tomb of the unknown.

Submitted by: Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler



“Phoenix Elks #335 Public Safety Appreciation Night”

Our Lodge continued tradition honoring our police, firefighters and first responders on Public Safety Appreciation night. The event was held Thursday November 10th in our Vista and Heritage room filled for this event with 73 invited Public Service Agency guests and nearly the same of Elks and their guests for a total of over 100 persons. This event tied the amount of participating Agencies with eleven Departments in all. All of our guests and awardees were served dinner by our volunteers. As each Agency Department Head took the podium a resounding message came forth expressing deep thanks to the Elks, our Lodge and all of our Members for their welcoming and appreciative reception to their visit and to their efforts, especially in these unprecedented and trying times.

Awards were made as follows: Phoenix Fire Department, Scott Durkee; Arizona Dept. of Public Safety Detective Trooper Alex LeauPepe, Arizona Game & Fish Wildlife, Officer Justin Winter; Maricopa County Emergency Management, Coodinator Aimee Mankins; United States Marshal Service, U.S. Marshal Charles Rowland; Paradise Valley Police Department , Officer Jimmy Phan; Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Candace M. Rose; Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Luke Hardisty; Arizona Department of Corrections, Officer II Miguel Ruiz-Luna, Drug Enforcement Agency Special Agent David W. Bedford. A very special award was made by the by City of Phoenix Police Department Maryvale Precinct Commander to Officer Austin Peru with the National Elks Law Enforcement Medal.

Submitted by: Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler



“Phoenix Elks #335 Soccer Shoot Winners”



U8B—Jude Williams,
Carlo Herrera-Boe, Andrew Vaught

U10B—Max Krich, Jax Benavidez,
Deacon Bast

U12B—Gabriel Alessi, Giovanni
Herrera-Boe

A group of 16 girls and boys had the chance to show off their skills at the 2022 Soccer Shoot. The event took place on the North Phoenix Preparatory Academy Field, just south of the Lodge. Several Lodge #335 Volunteers were on site to sign kids in, monitor the contests and energetically cheer the kids on. Special thanks to Jay Krich for organizing the entire event and creating a great atmosphere for participants, parents and volunteers. Winners by group:

Boys:

U8: 1st Andrew Vaught, 2nd Carlo Herrera-Boe, 3rd Jude Williams

U10: 1st Max Krich, 2nd Jax Benavidez, 3rd Deacon Bast

U12: 1st Gabriel Alessi, 2nd Giovanni Herrera-Boe

Girls:

U8: 1st Caroline Vaught, 2nd Audrey Parra, 3rd Ruby Emory

U10: 1st Isabella Herrera-Boe

U12: 1st Claire Sichi

U14: 1st Adrianna Alessi



U8G—Caroline Vaught

U8G—Audrey Parra

U10G—Isabella Herrera-Boe

U12G—Claire Sichi

U14G—Adrianna Alessi

Submitted by; Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler

“Sun City Elks #2559 Launch Three-Tier Holiday Program”

Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 launched their annual three-tier December holiday programs and Christmas got a little brighter this year for hundreds of school students and families.

Funded by an Elks National Foundation grant and member donations, Sun City Elks #2559 first Christmas Donation was the purchase of hundreds of local area fast-food restaurant gift cards with an Elks holiday greeting which were included in a holiday gift bag presented to at-risk students. Presentation was to the HART Pantry organization serving 230 weekend food bags and 400 snack-supper bags to at-risk students ages 13-19 when school meals are not available.

Submitted by; Vicki Way, Public Relations Chair

Pictured: Ruth Langford, Executive Director-HART Pantry & PER Vicki Way



“Sun City Elks #2559 Children’s Shopping Spree”



The Sun City Elks #2559 Christmas Charities was the afternoon “Children’s Shopping Spree” and evening Christmas party. Fifty elementary students identified in need by school resources were accompanied by one hundred Elk members on a \$6500.00 shopping trip to JC Penny’s children’s department. Clothing head-to-toe and winter outerwear were all selected by the children with funds provided by various Sun City Elks #2559 Lodge auxiliary clubs, activities, and the Arizona Elks Association’s social welfare committee. Upon the return to the Lodge, there was a “kid-friendly” dinner with Santa for the energetic little shoppers and somewhat weary adults. Ornaments taken from the lobby Christmas tree by Lodge Members produced three wrapped gifts of toys per child from Santa’s pack.

Submitted by; Vicki Way, Public Relations Chair

“Sun City Elks #335 Donate Items to MANA House and Veterans Homes”



Veterans Service Committee delivered in December new products, clothing, and medical mobility assistance equipment to MANA House, an organization serving homeless and formerly homeless Veterans in the Phoenix, AZ area.

Submitted by; Vicki Way, PR Chair

Volunteers Linda and Larry Callahan with deliveries to MANA House Director Rachel Masch

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Host Children’s Shopping Spree”

Members of Tucson East Lodge # 2532 took 50 children from Ford Elementary School on a shopping spree on December 10th, 2022. Each Child was assigned an adult volunteer to shop with. They were allotted \$ 100 dollars each to spend. Afterwards the children, teachers and volunteers traveled to the school for pizzas, games and a dance contest.

Submitted by; PSP Rich Botkin, PR Chairman

Pictured L-R: School Counselor Heather Martin, Lodge Community Chairman Rick Botkin, PSP Rich Botkin, and school Principal Dianne Johnson plus two children from the school.
Article submitted by PSP Rich Botkin



“Tucson East Elks #2532 Provides Special Meal for Veterans”



The veterans committee hosted 45 veterans from the Veterans Blind Center for a special dinner. It was also attended by a large number of lodge veterans and members. Each veteran received a ticket for a prize and no one left empty handed. Also, to help serve the veterans and guests were 15 students from Tucson Academy. High School. It was a pleasure to see so many young people honoring our veterans.

Submitted by; PSP Rich Botkin, PR Chairman

Photo by PSP Rich Botkin

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Distributes Food Boxes to Needy Families”

On December 17th, 2022 members of Tucson East lodge packaged and delivered 35 food boxes to needy families in the community. The money to purchase the product came from the members and money raised through raffles and other events.

Submitted by; PSP Rich Botkin, PR Chairman

Pictured L-R: Esquire Denise Lefkowitz, Treasurer Rocky Davis, members Michael Early, and Bonnie Davis. Article submitted by PSP Rich Botkin



“AEMP News”**Congratulations to the following November Raffle Ticket Winners**

Nov 1 st (\$25):	Brian Mashburn	Bullhead City #2408
Nov 2 nd (\$25):	Pat Riley	Yuma #476
Nov 3 rd (\$25):	Joe Carlone	Green Valley #2592
Nov 4 th (\$25):	Linda Head	Tucson #385
Nov 5 th (\$50):	Addie Swearengin	Sierra Vista #2085
Nov 6 th (\$50):	Bill Gamble	Chandler #2429
Nov 7 th (\$25):	Page Lodge #2498	Winnings donated back to AEMP
Nov 8 th (\$25):	James Berning	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Nov 9 th (\$25):	Debie Ogden	N/A
Nov 10 th (\$25):	Norma Smith	Sun City #2559
Nov 11 th (\$100):	Alan Hall	Scottsdale #2148
Nov 12 th (\$50):	Mengo Darr	Phoenix #335
Nov 13 th (\$25):	Charles Purdy	Gila Bend #2089
Nov 14 th (\$25):	Rod Burgess	N/A
Nov 15 th (\$25):	Dale Poage	Yuma #476
Nov 16 th (\$25):	Phillis Widelo	Sun City #2559
Nov 17 th (\$25):	Steven Havertine	Phoenix #335
Nov 18 th (\$25):	Jim Zaborsky, Jr.	N/A
Nov 19 th (\$50):	Don Denman	Catalina Mountain #2815
Nov 20 th (\$50):	Page lodge #2498	Winnings donated back to AEMP
Nov 21 st (\$25):	Bob Kiesla	Catalina Mountain #2815
Nov 22 nd (\$25):	James Kelly	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Nov 23 rd (\$25):	James Danner	Parker #1929
Nov 24 th (\$25):	Dorothy Dunn	Fountain Hills #2846
Nov 25 th (\$25):	Janet Theesfeld	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Nov 26 th (\$50):	Chandler Lodge #2429	Winnings donated back to AEMP
Nov 27 th (\$50):	Robert Fogelsanger	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Nov 28 th (\$25):	Jimm Krausman	Sierra Vista #2085
Nov 29 th (\$25):	Karen Griffin	Yuma #476
Nov 30 th (\$25):	Robert Laform	N/A

Raffle Tickets are still available

The December raffle ticket drawing was held on Dec 29th and those winners will receive a check in the mail from AEMP. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$20 and can be purchased directly from the AEMP office by completing the form below and mailing it to AEMP at PO Box 91560, Tucson, AZ 85752.

Please fill out this form completely (with applicable information) to order your raffle tickets

And please include a check or money order for your desired number of tickets

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Street Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

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Bruce C. Van Den Eng, Executive Director

“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



January means a greater commitment to Elkdom

Helen and I want to wish each of you and your families a very Happy New Year as we welcome in 2023. New Year's Eve is a time when we reflect upon the events of 2022 with our family and friends. It's a time when new resolutions are made regarding yourself, your family, your friends, and Elkdom. The most common resolutions made include exercising more, improving diet habits, saving money, and pursuing career ambitions.

For us, as Elks, I'm hoping that *“Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm”* is also added to the list. Why not add becoming more active in your Lodge by working on a committee that will assist with your community image and charitable endeavors? Get your membership retention and arrears program into full stride.



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**BRUCE A.
HIDLEY**

Have your membership retention committee reach out to delinquent Members and speak with them personally. There is a chance this personal touch will bring those Members back into our folds. These Members must not be forgotten. They joined our great Order for a reason. Bring that burning spirit back into their thoughts by reminding them why they joined and how much they mean to your Lodge operations.

Wouldn't it be great for your Lodge to boast a +1 membership gain in 2023? With these thoughts in mind, I hope each of you will have a very prosperous new year in Elkdom in 2023.

Let's now take a moment to reflect upon what January means to us in the Elks. January means a greater commitment to your Grand Lodge, state association, and Lodge programs. It's a time when you and your Lodge Officers should be reviewing how you stand with your Lodge per capita. If you see that your Lodge is falling short with the per capita goal, make January, February, and March your one last push over the goal line and score that touchdown. Use your Past Exalted Rulers Association and Board

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of Directors meetings to focus on how your Lodge is doing with all of the Lodge committees programs.

By reviewing your Lodge programs you may also begin to decide on who would deserve an award for the great work they have done for your Lodge. Some of the awards you can proudly present to Members and officers who have done so much to promote the cardinal principles of our Order are: Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Citizen of the Year.

There is no better way to say **thank you** for the hard work and dedication they have demonstrated. Maybe you might just get another Member of your Lodge to get involved and promote the good work your Lodge does in your community.

Another way that the Elks can be *“Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm”* is by participating in National Blood Donor Month, which has been observed since January 1970. Organizations such as the American Red Cross and the America's Blood Centers work together during the month to encourage people to donate blood. Perhaps your Lodge can be used as a location. You can save a life by donating blood. This is just another way we as Elks can prove that *“Elks Care - Elks Share.”*

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