

Arizona Elks News

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

March 2023



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

Members All,

Is it me or are the months really flying by extremely fast?
Here we are in March already.



February saw the nominations and elections of our 2023-2024 Arizona Elks Association officers. Congratulations and thank you to all who were selected to lead your lodges for the upcoming year. I have some quick advice for all of you. Please be sure to mix in some FUN with the work next year.

Our Hoop Shoot state finals took place on February 11th at Apache Junction Cactus Canyon Junior High School. Six winners came out of that event and went on to represent Arizona at the area 7 regional finals in Boulder City Nevada on February 25th. California / Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah also had six players, three boys and three girls each, representing their states. The 24 best shooters in area 7. Six winners will earn their way to Chicago for the national championship in April. The competition was tough as you would expect it to be at this level. Our boys and girls fought hard and played like champions but unfortunately came up just a little short. The smiles on their faces and the sportsmanship they displayed after the event made us all proud. What a bunch of fun everyone had on the "Junk Food Express Bus" that transported the players, family and many Arizona Elks to and from the event. It was definitely a smooth and well-planned trip thanks to the outstanding organizational work done by PDDGER Gregg Boyce and his wife Jeanne and their volunteer help. You two are terrific!

And a big thank you to all of the Arizona hoop shoot volunteers for your work and dedication this year. We couldn't do it without you.

Hey boys and girls, this year the Arizona Elks Association Major Projects is going to have 2 grand prizes for the raffle winner to choose from at the October 2023 mid-year convention. A beautiful brand new 2023 four-seater side by side vehicle with trailer OR \$15,000 in cash! Whichever one they choose. Second and third place cash prizes will also be available. Ticket prices are: \$1 each, 6 tickets for \$5 or "The Big Value" which is 30 tickets for \$20. Tickets will go on sale soon. Stay tuned for more information on that from your Arizona Elks Major Projects.

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Submission deadline:
23 March 2023**



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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:

Joe Riley, 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"

This month we will be having a District Deputy membership Initiation for all incoming initiates in all four districts. One lodge in each district will host the event. Check with your Exalted Ruler or District Deputy for the time, date and location of this event. Currently we are sitting in fourth place in the nation in membership gain. A successful event such as this could move us up into third place. So, sign up a friend TODAY!

Our May convention is coming soon. Registration forms will be available in the upcoming weeks. Be sure to get them filled out and back in to PSP Lee Schwein immediately to secure a room and meals. This convention is the largest attended convention of the two we have and there are only so many rooms available. Don't miss out. It's going to be a fun and educational convention.

Kathy and I will be attending the Utah State Convention March 9th - 11th representing you, the great members of the Arizona Elks Association. One of the biggest joys I get out of attending events in other states is when I am asked by them "how do you do this or how do you do that"? They have seen or heard from others how good Arizona is in so many areas. Protocol, membership gain, scholarship programs, veteran programs and fundraisers to name a few. It makes a person proud to be an ELK.

Thank you brothers and sisters for making me a proud ARIZONA ELK!

**** God Bless ****

Fraternally,

Mike Weishan -President
Arizona Elks Association



AEA State Convention 10 -13 May 2023



Grand Lodge Convention 2-5 July 2023

“Phoenix Elks #335 Donates AEMP Community Rewards Grant”



The Arizona Elks Major Projects provided a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 as a result of the Lodge applying for a Community Rewards Grant. This check was presented to Jackie Curtis of the Great Hearts School Academy for use in building a new children's playground with equipment at their facility. The check was presented by Al Kayal Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Arizona Elks 1st Vice President and Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler on Wednesday January 4th, 2023 at the Phoenix Lodge.

Submitted by; Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler

“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts AEMP Fundraiser”

The Annual Elks New Year's Eve Gala Event was held December 31st at the Phoenix Elks Lodge and was attended by over a hundred twenty five party-goers who took advantage of the minimal \$25 ticket price which included all hors d'oeuvres, desserts, party favors and a champagne toast. The Eleven O'Clock toast was led by Exalted Ruler Clem Brown and the Jolly Corks toast was led by Al Kayal, PDDGER which filled the dance floor with Members and guests participating and extended throughout the Lounge area as well. The music was provided by “Straight from Vegas” Tommy. There was a cash raffle for the Arizona Elks Major Projects which raised several hundred dollars for the support of the Steele Children's Research Hospital



Submitted by; Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler

“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Drug Awareness Event”



On Saturday December 19, 2022, at Great Heart North Phoenix Preparatory Gymnasium Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 sponsored the Lodge Hoop Shoot Competition. The registration table provided a wonderful opportunity for the Lodge Drug Awareness Program Committee to educate the parents and the children competitors on the dangers of illegal drug use and the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs.

Submitted by: Bill Darr, PDDGER, DAP Lodge Chairman

“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Eagle Scout Ceremony”

On Monday December 19th, 2022 in a ceremony held at our Lodge Thomas Koska of our Lodge’s resident Scout Troop #607 was presented with a Lodge Certificate of Recognition and the Ritual Flag Ceremony by Exalted Ruler Clem Brown. An American Flag which had been flown at our Nation’s Capitol was presented to Thomas by Christian Curry, representative of Arizona Congressman David Schweikert and by Damien Speck, Americanism Chair and Liaison for all Scouts.

This was done to honor Thomas’ achievement in attaining Eagle Scout rank. Thomas advanced from Scout in April of 2015 to Eagle Scout on June 9th, 2022. He has been recognized as a National Outdoor Camping Scout with 103 nights, Order of the Arrow, 192 Backpacking Miles, 50M Afoot/Afloat. His parents, Juraj & Aneta, brother and Eagle Scout Matus and sister are pictured at the ceremony



Submitted by: Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler

“Phoenix Elks #335 Recognizes Local Business”



This 2022-2023 Elks year the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is continuing to encourage Lodges to embrace the Fly the Flag program which allows you to present a Recognition Certificate for properly flying the United States Flag. The Fraternal Committee believes that this Americanism Program activity will provide Local Lodges another key tool to increase good effective public relations and patriotism in the community by promoting outside the Lodge. On December 20th Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler of the Phoenix Lodge #335 presented a Grand Lodge Recognition Certificate of Honor for properly Flying the United States Flag to local business “All Styles Barber Shop” for properly displaying our United States Flag during the day and at night.

Pictured is Michele Preston, owner of the business accepting the award from Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler of the Phoenix Elks #335 Lodge.

“Chandler Elks #2429 Donates to Angel Fund”

The Chandler Elks Riders donated \$450.00 to the Shumway Elementary School’s Angel Fund. The money donated is to pay down debt owed by needy families for reduced cost and free school lunches.

Submitted by: Terry Mickelson



“Yuma Elks #476 Americanism Contest Winners”

Yuma Lodge 476 held a ceremony to honor the Lodge’s Americanism Essay Contest winners. First, second, and third place winners from grades five through eight and their families were treated to a spaghetti dinner.

Submitted by: Jim Thompson, Leading Knight

“Page Elks #2498 Presents Certificate of Merit to Eagle Scout”



During our regular lodge meeting on January 18, ER Travis Napolitan presented Eagle Scout Jeff Jensen with the Certificate of Merit award. Congratulations and thank you for your support of our veterans, Jeff!

Submitted by: April Roush, Lodge Secretary

Pictured L-R: Jeff Jensen and Exalted Ruler Travis Napolitan

“Phoenix Elks #335 Host PER Night”

Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 held it's annual PER night on Feb 2nd with the Past Exalted Rulers performing the initiation of 13 American citizens. This was a wonderfully done exemplification of the Ritual and as intended impressed the new members. Phoenix 335 has a long history of, and takes great pride in performing all the rituals and are instrumental in helping to keep this Elk tradition alive.

Submitted by: Larry Bodwell



The PER's that participated are from left to right are, Al Kayal Esquire, Bill Darr Lecturing Knight, Randy Sterling Chaplain, Gus Noble Tiler, Thom Strupp Exalted Ruler, Larry Bodwell Loyal Knight, Diane Bodwell Leading Knight, Marty Griffith Inner Guard, Jim Karam Treasurer, Tim Woods Secretary.

“Prescott Lodge Elks #330 Americanism Contest Winners”



I am pleased to announce that we have two winners representing Prescott Elks Lodge #330.

Our First Place winner is Ms. Michaela McDonough. She is in 6th grade and is 11 years old. Michaela attends Granite Mountain Middle School. Her cash award is \$50.

Our Second Place winner is Mr. Riley Gamble. He also is in 6th grade and is 11 years old. Riley attends Granite Mountain Middle School. His cash award is \$30.

Submitted by: Bobbie Knorr, PR Chair

Picture dL-R Riley Scott Gamble, Diana Ramsey, Americanism Chair, Michaela Rose McDonough

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Americanism Contest Winners”

The Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 held our Annual Lodge Americanism Contest, and received 25 submissions from area schools. 1st place winners received a \$25 Amazon gift card. Our Lodge Winners were:

5th Grade

Jaime Williamson— 1st Place, Center for Academic Success
Felix Tran—2nd Place, Center for Academic Success
Annabelle Molinar— 3rd Place, Center for Academic Success

6th Grade

Ronin Knight— 1st Place, Center for Academic Success
Isabelle Froehler— 2nd Place, COL Smith Middle School
Eli Gillner— 3rd Place, COL Smith Middle School

8th Grade (two applicants)

Alina Flores— COL Smith Middle School
Kyarrah Wilson— COL Smith Middle School

Annabelle Molinar, and Isabelle Froehler won the S. District level contest, and will advance to the AEA contest.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Exalted Ruler / Americanism Chairperson



“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Annual Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser”

January 28, 2023 Raceway held its annual Chili Cook-Off, this year money raised went to Scholarship. All in attendance enjoyed a night of chili tasting, raffles a cake Auction and desserts. The Chinese Raffle raised \$611.00 the 50/50 raised \$158.00, Necklace Raffle netted \$175.00, Chili tasting raised \$150.00, the Cake Auction raised \$65.00 and the desserts sales made \$41.00 for a total of \$1,200.00 for Raceway Scholarships.

This year the winners were 3rd place Marilyn Dolezal, 2nd place Steve Cox, and 1st place for 2 years in a row Melanie Jacobs.

Submitted by: PDDGER William Buttram, PR Chair

“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Annual Wings and Sliders Fundraiser”

On January 21, 2023, Raceway held a Wings and Slider night for a donation to our Scholarship program. We raised \$170 for the program. There was 25 Elks and 5 non-Elks in attendance. All the food was donated by Tim and Kim Barrett and Steven and Robin Cox. Steven Sherman donated back to the Lodge his winnings of \$22.00 and Kim Barrett donated back her winnings of \$36.00 from the Raffle.

Submitted by: PDDGER William Buttram, PR Chair

“Phoenix Elks #335 Helps Salvation Army Raise Funds”



On Saturday, December 17, 2022 our Eks #335 Lodge members participated in the Salvation Army yearly Bell Ringer program to raise funds for the needy in our community. Our bell ringers did two hour shifts at the front doors of Fry's, The 335 Bell Ringers in attendance were: Bill and Nadine Lucas, Jan Bennett Mitchel, Betty Chamberlain, Bill Herrin, Laura (Amanda) Havea, Janet Smith, Karen Seaman. We raised \$595.64 that day!

Submitted by: Clem Brown, Exalted Ruler

“Fountain Hills Elks #2846 Valentine’s Day Event”



As ER at Fountain Hills Lodge #2846, I realized that our first February meeting fell on Valentine’s Day. I apologized in my e-mail blast, but explained that it was Nomination of Officers & a new member initiation, and asked that the members please try to attend. I bought long stem red roses for the ladies and chocolate heart candies & picked up several small gifts for door prizes. Our “Libations Manager” went above & beyond and made beautiful chocolate covered strawberries. My Esquire, who was passing out the roses, decided to make it special so he wore his bling tux. My Loyal Knight (1st Dude), and Treasurer decided to join in the spirit & wear tuxes as well. I’m excited to serve a second term as Exalted Ruler for this “Small but Mighty” Fountain Hills Lodge!

Submitted by: Judi Beischel, Exalted Ruler

Pictured: Treasurer Greg Thomas and Esquire Billy Pageau; Standing is Loyal Knight (& 1st Gent) Jim Beischel.

“Payson Elks #2154 Holds Public Safety Personnel Awards”

On Friday February 17, Payson Elks Lodge #2154 honored public safety personnel from Payson and Tonto Basin. Town of Payson Police Officer Keven Rush and Dispatch Supervisor Josh Higgins were nominated by Payson Police Chief Ron Tisher for their dedication to their profession and service to their community. Chief Holt was nominated by the Central Arizona Fire Chiefs Association in recognition of his twenty-seven years of continuous service to the Tonto Basin Fire District and surrounding communities within the Roosevelt Lake area.



Submitted by: LuAnn Frost, Lodge Newsletter Editor

“Phoenix Elks #335 Holds Public Safety Personnel Awards”



Around 30 hard-working Elks created 700 bags for the local food bank, Impact of So. Az. We picked up the load at Fry’s, loaded it into our multiple trucks and trailers, and delivered it to the lodge. We unloaded, staged, and created the bags. They included cereal, soups, beans, and corn. We then loaded the 700 bags back into the trucks and trailers and delivered them all to the food bank. Oh yea, we had to unload it also. Lots of hard work, but very rewarding too. The funds came from 2 grants from the grand lodge, a gratitude grant and a spotlight grant. Let me know if you need any other information

Submitted by: Jim Beregi

Pictured: Jan Trudeau, organizer

“Chandler Elks #2429 Flag Retirement Ceremony”

On Saturday, February 11th for the first time in Chandler Lodge history, there was a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Chandler Unified School District, Hamilton High School JROTC accompanied by their instructor, Fred river II, MSgt, USAF (ret), came to the lodge to perform a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Family of the Hamilton JROTC, Chandler Fire Department Station #3, over 20 Elks and their guests were in attendance.

Our flag is more than just a piece of cloth flown from a staff or halyard. Our flag is the symbol that stands for a nation's basic ideas and purposes an according to the Flag Code subsection 8k., “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

The cadets ceremonially burned over 20 flags and after the ceremony light refreshments were served and members and officers had a chance to mingle with cadets and their families. It was a wonderful ceremony.

Submitted by: Taleen Carpenter, Exalted Ruler



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Donates to Veterans in Need”

January 31st was a busy day for our veterans committee. We loaded up vehicles and transported 34 boxed kitchen sets, toasters, cutting boards and colanders to a storage Conex on the Southern Arizona VA Hospital campus.

These “Kitchens in a Box” and auxiliary items will be given out to veterans transitioning from homelessness. Linda Seggie is our Veterans Committee Chair and does wonderful work for veterans in our community.

Submitted by: PER Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler



Top Left: Linda Seggie, Veterans Chair & Lecturing Knight packs toasters for transport to HUD-VASH. Top Right: Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler with add on items to the Kitchen in a Box package. Bottom Left: David Saunders ensures boxes are correctly loaded and tied down. Bottom Right: Linda Seggie poses with members of the HUD-VASH team after everything is stored at the HUD-VASH Conex.

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts PTSD Awareness Event”

On Valentine’s Day we held our annual Charity Ball. Proceeds from this Ball will be reinvested directly in our community through Elk programs. We are proud of our membership who once again gave from their hearts and met our goal of \$1,000.

Submitted by: PER Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler

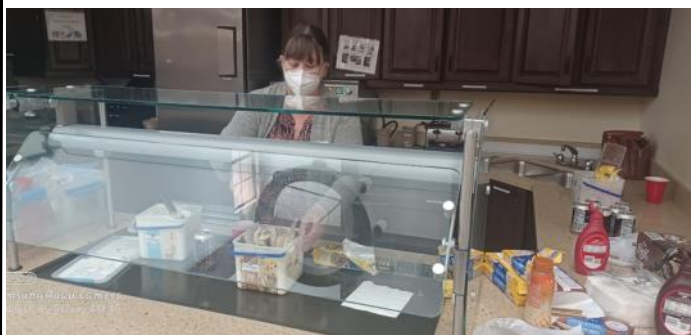
Left to Right: Ken Short, PER won the TV at our Charity Ball and Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Veterans Valentine’s Ice Cream Social”

On Valentine’s Day our Veterans Committee hosted a Valentine’s Day Ice Cream Social at the Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson. Residents were treated to Root Beer Floats, Ice Cream Sundaes, a variety of cookies and of course candy. Our Veterans Committee Chair is Linda Seggie, Lecturing Knight.

Submitted by: PER Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler



Mary Shaffer, ER prepares an ice cream sundae.



Some residents of the Home waiting on their orders

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Hosts PTSD Awareness Event”

Tucson East Hosted a dinner/dance fundraiser to promote Veterans PTSD. During the fundraiser Exalted Ruler Megin Goetz accepted the award for the Lodge for participating in the event by event coordinator Mark Lacy. The dinner/dance drew a crowd of over 150 members and guests and the music was presented by Brett “Porkchop” Miller from KLLM.

Submitted by: PSP Richard Botkin, PR Chairman

Far Right- ER Megin Goetz, Mark Lacy & Misty Lacy.

Right- DJ Brett “Pork Chop” Miller



“Arizona Hoop Shoot Winners 8-9 Year age Group”

On February 11th, 2023 at the Cactus Canyon Junior High School in Apache Junction we met for the Arizona State Hoop Shoot contest to see who will represent Arizona at the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas. The first-place winners will move on. I cannot thank all of the volunteers enough that took the time out of their busy schedules to come out and make this contest a success. A special thanks goes out to Gay Hayward and the crew that cooked from the Apache Junction Lodge #2349 who hosted this contest. Lets get on to the results:

8-9 year old girls R to L; 4th place Sofia Valenzuela Tucson Lodge #385 3rd place Kimiela Kalalau Chandler Lodge #2429 2nd place Kolbi Rova Show Low Lodge #2090 1st place Bianca Smith Raceway Lodge #2852

8-9 year old boys L to R; 4th place Damon Dominguez Casa Grande Valley #1957 3rd place Austin Rositas Prescott Lodge #330 2nd place Steven Miles Lancaster Raceway Lodge #2852 1st place Arian Tapla Green Valley Lodge #2592



“Arizona Hoop Shoot Winners 10-11 year age Group”

On February 11th, 2023 at the Cactus Canyon Junior High School in Apache Junction we met for the Arizona State Hoop Shoot contest to see who will represent Arizona at the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas. The first-place winners will move on. I cannot thank all of the volunteers enough that took the time out of their busy schedules to come out and make this contest a success. A special thanks goes out to Gay Hayward and the crew that cooked from the Apache Junction Lodge #2349 who hosted this contest. Lets get on to the results:

10-11 year old girls R to L; 4th place Savanna Ebert Willcox Lodge #2131 3rd place Yurall Gonzalez Raceway Lodge #2852 2nd place Kaulia Bowler Chandler Lodge #2429 1st place Cinniah Echoles Winslow Lodge #536

10-11 year old boys L to R; 4th place Thells Baker Winslow Lodge #536 3rd place Alek Martinez Green Valley Lodge #2592 2nd place Joshua Pacheco Raceway Lodge #2852 1st place Caleb Skacy-Daw Tempe Lodge #2251



“Arizona Hoop Shoot Winners 12-13 Year Age Group”

On February 11th, 2023 at the Cactus Canyon Junior High School in Apache Junction we met for the Arizona State Hoop Shoot contest to see who will represent Arizona at the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas. The first-place winners will move on. I cannot thank all of the volunteers enough that took the time out of their busy schedules to come out and make this contest a success. A special thanks goes out to Gay Hayward and the crew that cooked from the Apache Junction Lodge #2349 who hosted this contest. Lets get on to the results:

12-13 year old girls R to L; 4th place Ana Sofia Flores Green Valley Lodge 2592 3rd place Natalie Kelley Chandler Lodge #2429 2nd place Payton Orton Holbrook Lodge #2450 1st place Nemo Sidhu Raceway Lodge #2852

12-13 year old boys L to R; 4th place Weston Doble Casa Grande Valley Lodge #1957 3rd place Nate Huber Green Valley Lodge #2592 2nd place Tyler Rhodes Raceway Lodge #2852 1st place Manny Guerrero Holbrook Lodge #2450



“State Hoop Shoot Winners continued”

The Bob Benson award for the top girl shooter on the day went to Nemo Sidhu Raceway Lodge #2852 making a perfect 25 out of 25 shots.

The LeRoy "Bugs" Lewis award for the top boy shooter went to Manny Guerrero Holbrook Lodge #2450 making 22 out of 25 shots.

The 1st place winners and their families will now board the Junk Food Express Bus on Friday February 24th and head to Las Vegas to compete in the Regional Finals. The winners there will compete at the National Finals in Chicago, Ill in April.

Lets go Arizona.

Also pictured is AEA President Mike Weishan and Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, PSVP, AEA Hoop Shoot Director

Pictures and article submitted by Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, PSVP, AEA Hoop Shoot Director



“AEA Website Earns 5-Stars”



Congratulations to the AEA for Winning 5-Stars in the Website contest. Great job to AEA IT Websites Chairman, Barry “Bear” Carlile Jr, South District Vice President.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Top State Association websites balance visuals, info

By RANDY J. SNELLENBERGER

Committee Member

This year it was my honor to evaluate the State Association Website Contest entries. A total of fourteen (14) State Associations chose to participate. Websites are reviewed for:

1) **Content:** coverage of Grand Lodge and State Association Programs and keeping content current.

2) **Layout:** menus, table of contents, accessibility, and ease of use.

3) **Design:** borders, colors, and overall aesthetics.

4) **Graphics:** overall continuity, window identification, and use of photos and graphics to maintain interest.

5) **Effectiveness in telling the Elks' story:** usefulness to Members, provides pertinent information, and succeeds in giving non-Elks important information about our programs.

Rather than viewing this contest as a competition, it is more an opportunity for State Associations to showcase their websites, provide visibility to the Elks, and duly recognize the hard work and dedication of state membership. All State Associations that participated are worthy of praise and should be congratulated.

The rankings are as follows:

5-Star Awards

Arizona	Connecticut
Georgia	Idaho
Kentucky	Louisiana
MD-DE-DC	Mississippi

4-Star Awards

Arkansas	Kansas
New Jersey	New Mexico
Washington	

3-Star Award

Utah

Website content varied between states. Maintaining current information is always a challenge. Website administrators rely heavily on State Committee Chairs and State Officers to provide the information to keep websites current.

Publishing open content to educate the public and encourage membership is wonderful; however, password protecting sensitive content and Member contact information is prudent. A website calendar could include important dates such as deadlines and Elks holidays to serve as reminders to Exalted Rulers and Lodge Officers and assist in Lodge monthly planning. Other platforms, such as Facebook and email blasts, are often used; however, a well-maintained website can be a resource to membership.

Again, congratulations to all State Associations and, hopefully, we can see more participants next year.

“AEA Past First Ladies’ Jewelry Project News”

Lori and Diane Skorupski coordinated a Valentine’s Distribution at the Steele Center Clinic and for the kids that are currently in the hospital. Sixty-three kids were served and almost 100 pieces of jewelry was distributed during the giveaway. There were lots of smiles, grateful tears, and hugs from families.

Submitted by: Past First Lady Diane Skorupski

“AEA Veterans News”

We received a note from Cyndi Rice, who is in charge of the woman's Stand Down at the fairgrounds each year. She is hoping that the Elks Lodges attending this year's convention could possibly help our Arizona Veterans by supplying much-needed goods to the ladies Standdown this year for the fairgrounds.

Her List includes 10 items most important to least important starting with:

- Backpacks or sport bags
- Tarps or small tents
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Rope or bungee cords
- Toilet paper
- 3 in one wash
- Towels
- Toothpaste
- Tooth brush
- Small gas card for those who live in their car or bus packs for those job hunting

Any of the items on this list that any of the lodges could bring to the veterans table in Tempe at the convention would be very greatly appreciated by Cindy Rice and our in need Veterans. Cyndi will attend the table off and on throughout the convention for anyone who has questions regarding Standdown. We appreciate everyone's generosity in helping our in need veterans. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If you could circulate this list to the Elks Lodges please, we would be greatly appreciative .

Thank you again,

Henry Brown
State Representative for. Veteran Affairs and Services

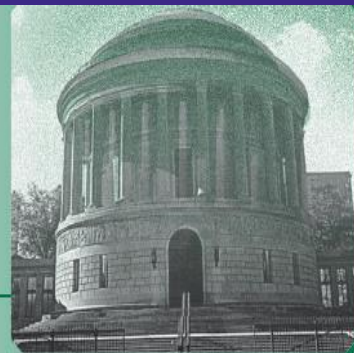
Karen Seaman
Deputy Representative, Veteran Affairs and Services

“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



March brings new leadership to our Lodges

The month of March brings us to the close of our Lodge year. Wow, does the time fly!

I hope all the Officers in your Lodge had a successful year in Elksdom. The work that was accomplished this past year is a tribute to your leadership and effort. The torch of authority is now being passed to the new Officers in our Lodges.

Congratulations to all of you who have stepped up to continue the great work in your community and, most of all, your Lodge. I wish you all success in achieving any new goals and successes in the programs for the coming year.

All may not be smooth sailing, but as the captain of the ship, I know you will guide its course to the best of your ability. Don't ever be afraid to ask a question. Utilize your Past



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

Exalted Rulers in your Lodge to assist you. They have been there and can give you excellent advice. Ask them what worked for them—just maybe, this can also work for you. I encourage you to listen to your membership, as someone may have an idea for a fundraising event or Lodge function for all to enjoy. You can and will make a difference in your Lodges and communities by *“Promoting Elksdom With Enthusiasm.”*

As the new leader of your Lodge, it is extremely important to put together a slate of dedicated committee people. Your committee members are the ones who work to make your Lodge great. They are the ones who will be promoting in each of your communities that *“Elks Care — Elks Share.”* As the baseball season has started again, I'll use this analogy: Step up to the plate and hit a home run with all of your Lodge programs. Score that winning run as you run the base paths of Elksdom. **Win, win, win.**

The month of March is also a time when many Lodges participate in St. Patrick's Day. Lodge St. Patrick's Day parties or community parades are celebrated. Please be safe during these

Please see GER, Page 2

Back-to-back gains look possible

By RICK GATHEN

G/L Membership Marketing Manager

We are in the homestretch of the year—the final numbers for the 2022–2023 Lodge year will be recorded on March 31. We are projecting 88,000 Members will be added to the rolls with lower than average cancellations.

Our new Grand Lodge Billing System continues to grow with 671,000 invoices printed and mailed in January. The billing program has made it easier than ever for people to pay their dues. If this all pans out, we will be in a strong position for the first back-to-back gain in 43 years. Remember: All gas—no brakes!

Part of this success is owed to the membership tools available at elks.org and join.elks.org, which provide helpful, positive messages to reach out to new Members and retain the Members we have. However, growth in numbers doesn't come from any one special marketing trick. Instead, it reflects the way that Elks have made their Lodges attractive places for people to join.

We can achieve growth by continuing to be loud and proud about Elksdom, by ensuring that our Lodges are inviting to all visitors, and most importantly, by continuing to be the Best People On Earth.

GER From Page 1

celebrations. I'd like to close with an Irish blessing: *“May your heart be warm and happy with the lilt of Irish laughter, every day in every way, and forever and ever after. May the luck of the Irish be always with you.”*

Thank you for all you are doing to make our great Order of Elks the greatest Order in the nation. God bless all of you. God bless our troops, past and present, and most of all, God bless America.