

Arizona Elks News

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

April 2023



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

Members All,

Well here we are bringing in another new Elk year. I would like to congratulate all of the state's new Lodge officers and committee people for being selected to guide your lodges for the upcoming year. I would also like to thank all of you for taking on a leadership role. While it can be challenging at times, it is also very rewarding. Have fun and enjoy it!



Hey, here's some exciting news. Major Projects is going to have a raffle this year. They are giving away to the lucky ticket holder a 2023 Kawasaki 1000 four-seater side by side vehicle. And is it a beauty! Comes with a trailer too. But listen boys and girls, if you can't use the vehicle, there is a \$15,000 cash option you can take instead. Who can't use \$15,000? Tickets are on sale now at any Arizona Elks Lodge or you can call the Major Projects office at 520-326-0556 and they will get you hooked up. The vehicle will be making appearances at the Lodges around the state between now and the 2023 October mid-year convention in Tempe. That is also when and where the drawing will take place. There is a second-place prize of \$500 cash and a third place prize of \$250 cash. So get your tickets today and good luck! Remember, all proceeds go to the support of the Steele Research Center and the Jack Warter Jr. youth camp.

And wait..... There's more great news.

As of this writing, the AEA Membership Committee has got Arizona currently in third place in the nation for membership gain. That's right we are third in the country. What a great accomplishment this is. No one I've talked to has ever remembered us being ranked this high. Last year we finished in fourth and that was a tremendous accomplishment. To our state committee chairman Jerry Ingram, The District committee people and of course you Arizona Elks Association members, I say thank you all so very much for your wonderful efforts that got us to third place. (FYI) California is in first place and New Jersey is in second. Both of those states have larger populations than Arizona and guess what, lil ole us gave them a run for their money. BE PROUD ARIZONA!!!

Oh look at this..... I am told the BPOE gave out more scholarships this past year across the Nation than anyone else, including the United States Government. The BPOE is # 1 in the United States! Holy cow. Way to go Elksdom. Getting kids educated is what we do.

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23 April 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"

Oh you're going to want to read this. 😊

1st Lady Kathy and I are gearing up for the Arizona Elks Association State Convention this coming May 10th through 13th in Tempe. On Thursday May 11th we will have fun night. After dinner we will adjourn to the hospitality room where Tommy Fontaine will provide the live music for your evening enjoyment. We will again have a dance floor set up for those of you who like to strut your stuff. The theme for the night is..... BASEBALL ⚾. We will have baseball bats and balls and pennants of your favorite teams decorating the tables. And hey fans, no baseball party is complete without peanuts, popcorn, cracker jacks and ice cream. We'll have all that too! So please, wear your favorite teams hat or Jersey or both to the party. Of course casual dress is always welcome.

Kathy's spouse luncheon on Friday May 12th will have a "Spring into Bling" theme. It is going to be a terrific time I assure you for all who attend. Ladies and gents be sure and wear something blingy to the luncheon. She has also made arrangements for a "special guest" also.

And oh yeah there will be some gift giveaways going on during the luncheon as well. Be sure and sign up to attend.

Finally on Sunday, April 9th, we will celebrate Easter with our family. Kathy and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very happy Easter.

Faternally,

Mike Weishan -President
Arizona Elks Association



AEA State Convention 10 -13 May 2023



Grand Lodge Convention 2-5 July 2023

“Fountain Hill Elks #2856 Donates to Homeless Shelter”

Lodge #2846 periodically holds drives to benefit homeless Veterans. The most recent one involved clothing and non-perishable food items. In addition to those items donated by Lodge members we were able to purchase 36 new air mattresses, 36 sets of sheets, 40 \$15 McDonald's gift cards, 25 \$20 grocery gift cards, and Phoenix bus passes. All our donations are channeled to the homeless through CBI, Community Bridges Inc., a Veterans Outreach program.

Submitted by: Jim Beischel,

Pictured with a sampling of the donation are (l to r) Selina Gutierrez of CBI, Ralph Christofferson, Lodge Veterans Committee Chair, and Judi Beischel, Lodge Exalted Ruler.



“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Provides 700 Food Bags for Food Bank”



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.

Submitted by: Jim Beregi

Pictured: Jan Trudeau, organizer

“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Hosts Tea Party for Charity”

The Casa Grande Elks held a Sunday afternoon tea party to raise funds which will be used to take local children Christmas shopping in December. Thirty seven people attended and \$746 was raised. Each person attending was able to have a personal teapot and hat, provided from members' collections.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary



“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Hosts Food Drive Event for Veterans”



Over \$735 in food was donated to the Honoring/Hiring/Helping Our Heroes of Pinal County (HOHP) by the Casa Grande Elks Lodge #1957 in Casa Grande, AZ. The donation is made possible through our Freedom Grant, funded by the Elks National Foundation.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

Pictured is HOHP Volunteer Jean Bischoff and Elks Veterans Committee Chair, Sherree Svoboda.

“Page Elks #2948 Distributes Dictionaries to Schools”

288 dictionaries were donated to the following area schools:

Kaibeto School, Kaibeto, AZ (Navajo Nation)
Gap Primary School, Gap, AZ (Navajo Nation)
Desert View Intermediate School, Page, AZ
Glen Canyon Outdoor Academy Page, AZ
Big Water School, Big Water, UT

Submitted by: April Roush, Secretary

Pictured Helene Gilbert, Delores Johnson and Christopher Bennett (principal of Kaibeto School)



“Tucson Elks #385 Delivers Items to Steele Center”



In February, 2023 member of Tucson Lodge #385 Teen Morgan and chair of the Lodge's Crafty Critters Committee and her committee members donated/made, delivered to the U of A Childrens Steele Research Center, 11 cases of diapers, 7 cases of formula,(21 cans) and baby wipes, 44 pillowcases made by crafty critters and friends. The Steele Center was appreciative of the donations and gave accolades to Tucson Lodge #385 Teen Morgan and the Crafty Critters on their Facebook.

Submitted by: John Aceves, PR Chairman

Pictured: Teen Morgan of the Lodge Crafty Critters

“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 PERA Donates \$1000 to Desert Woodcrafters”

In February, the Past Exalted Rulers Association made two donations from Queen of Hearts Charity Funds. The first donation of \$1,000 was made to the Desert Woodcrafters before our Queen of Hearts drawing on January 27th. In 2022 this organization distributed 2,292 Pens for Troops overseas thru Chaplain's and Woodcraft. This put Tucson Number #1 in the US for third year in row and eight times in past 18 years with a total of 28,495, pens. The woodcrafters Toy Program started in 2002. Members make toys for preschool and 1st graders at schools in area's of needy children in south Tucson, plus Aviva Children's services for children who are victims of neglect, abuse and poverty for Christmas; in 2022, 3,200 Toys were made bringing a total over 42,200. The Purple Heart Pens program started in 2015. These pens are delivered to VA Hospital, Tucson and Veteran's organizations. In 2022 we made 256, bringing total to over 1,256. The group also makes boxes for Beads of Courage; in 2022, 83 boxes were made which brings total since program started in 2014 to 933. This year we made 40 Pens for Veteran's Day and POW presentation for Catalina Elks.

Submitted by: Jim Beregi



Left to right 1st row Jack Baillargeon, PDD, Gloria Cisneros, PER, Steve Asp, PDD, Neal Patronskey, PER, Paul Swane Past President of Woodcrafters, Alane Asp, PER, 2nd row Tom Wilson, PER, Bob Kielsa, PER, Jim Buell, PDD, Lee Cook, PDD, Frank Picket, President of woodcrafters

“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Lunch and Shopping Event for Veterans”

On February 21, 2023, Raceway Lodge #2852 held a Lunch and shopping for Veterans. This was our way of show that we will never forget the sacrifice they made to our country and the people of the United states. 15 Elks including some of the Lodge Officers helped make lunch and provided transportation and help for 11 veterans to go shopping at Kohl's Department Store. Some of the Veterans stated that this was one of the best day that they had in many years. Veterans chairman Sandra Kucera spent 54 hours working and planning this event. The lodge's Gratitude Grant was used for this event, there was a total Expense of \$3,018.24 for the event. The Veterans were very appreciative, and the Members of Raceway Lodge was proud to be a part of such a great event to honor some of our country's best.

Submitted by: William Buttram, PDDGER, PR Chairman

“Chandler Elks #2429 Presents Award to Scholarship Winner”



Chandler Elks Lodge #2429, Chandler, Arizona, proudly presented a check for \$810.00 to our 2020/2021 National Scholarship winner, Maxwell Bregman for his second Elks Scholar Service Trip. He was chosen last year for a trip to Chicago and chosen for the Raleigh/Durham trip this year. Unfortunately, his trip this year was cancelled due to some health concerns on staff. He will use these funds next year for his upcoming trip. Thanks to our committee's and members for contributing to his trip funds.

Submitted by: Terry Mickelson,

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Donates \$6000 to Food Bank”

With their Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation, Bullhead City Elks 2408 was able to donate \$6,000 to The Colorado River Food Bank. They provide food to those with extreme financial hardships living in our surrounding areas.

Submitted by: Michael Swain, Exalted Ruler

Pictured above from left to right are, food bank volunteers and Elk members Vicky Hernandez and Margaret Lopez, Pat Carter food bank Lead Volunteer and Mike Swain Exalted Ruler.



“Sun City Elks #2559 Teams-up with AppleOne to Provide Kindness Kits”



AppleOne Employment Services sent members to the Lodge as part of their volunteering-hours initiative. They worked with the Sun City Elks, in conjunction with the Elks National Foundation Focus Grant, to pack 150 “Kindness Kits” for their Circle the City project. The Sun City Elks built kits in gallon sized Ziploc bags with bottled water, soft snack bars, socks, personal sized hygiene and dental care products, 1st aid items and notes of encouragement. Circle the City distributes the pre-assembled kits daily to the city’s homeless via their mobile medical teams and through their family health clinics.

Submitted by: PER Vickie Way, Public Relations Chair

Photo #1: Circle the City Project. AppleOne Volunteers with Project Chair, Elk Member Jennifer Huff.

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Packs Bags for HUD / VASH Veterans”



On Saturday, 18 March 2023, our Veterans Committee completed the last of our Freedom Grant Bag Building for Veterans transitioning from Homelessness to Housing. The Grant allowed us to pack bags for 94 Veterans and their families on the Housing and Urban Development / Veterans Administration Supplemental Housing program. A total of 139 individuals received soup, chicken, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products thanks to the grant, and money raised by our Committee

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Exalted Ruler

“Sun City Elks #2559 Hosts Veterans Supply Drive”

The Sun City Elks in combination with the Ventana Lakes Veterans Club, held a first of four quarterly planned drive by/drop off event at the community's Yacht Club. Homeowner donations of new men and women's undergarments arrived throughout the morning by auto, in golf carts and with dog walkers. Combined with Elk Lodge member donations, sixteen cartons were filled with new clothing, toiletry, grooming aids, health and hygiene products. Contributions were taken to the transitional living facilities of USVets, MANA House, and Ashley's Place for women veterans.

Submitted by: PER Vickie Way, Public Relations Chair

Ventana Lakes Volunteers, including President Art Wienke, Vice-President John Valentine and his wife Rosemarie who are also members of Sun City Elks #2559.



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Builds Veterans Supply Shed to Help Vets in Need”



On 19 March 2023, the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Veterans Committee completed their Veterans Shed. The Shed will be used to house much needed supplies for Veterans in need in our Community. Money was raised by donations from members, and the fundraising efforts of the Veterans Committee. The shed will be stocked with clothing, hygiene, and food items.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Exalted Ruler

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Stand Down Event”

The week of March 13-16 was incredibly busy as we prepared for and manned the Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans (TVSV) Stand Down and Career Fair. Casas Adobes has for many years held the position of Hygiene Coordinator. We collect items needed for the veterans and then assemble them into hygiene kits that we present to the homeless veterans attending the event. This year we gave out over 150 of these kits and large bags for clothing items.

It was my great pleasure to meet the new Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director, retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Dana Allmond. We had a productive conversation about the Arizona Elks and how our programs favorably impact veterans in Arizona. We also discussed what we as Elks can do in the future.

Submitted by: PER Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler



Rear row left to right: Tessa, Moira, Mary Shaffer, Dana Allmond
Front row left to right: Linda Seggie, Ursula Woods, Judy Mooney



Judy Mooney packs grab & go hygiene kits.



Linda Seggie, Veterans Chair sorts hygiene items.

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hoop Shoot Winners”

Due to inclement weather we had to reschedule our Hoop Shoot twice, 1st due to heavy rain and again due to of all things, SNOW. We finally held it March 9th on a beautiful spring morning at Carden of Tucson Charter School. Many thanks to Nick Barnes, who persevered and held a successful Shoot along with all children & Elks who participated. He also awarded our Soccer Shoot winners from our November 29th Soccer Shoot. Well Done!

Submitted by: PER Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler

Nick Barnes, Youth Activities Chair with 1st and 2nd place winners of Hoop Shoot



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Donates to Food Bank”



In March it was my privilege to present a Donation Check to Interfaith Community Services (ICS) Food Bank. This donation was made possible through funds received from Elks National Foundation (ENF) in the form of a Beacon Grant.

Submitted by: PER Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler

L to R: Mary Shaffer, Exalted Ruler presents to Tom McKinney, Chief Executive Officer for Interfaith Community Services (ICS) a check for \$2,567.37 to use to replenish the ICS Food Bank.

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Annual Ritual Team St. Patrick’s Fundraiser”

Each year the Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065 Ritual Team hosts our annual St. Patrick’s Day fundraiser. The meal features the traditional St. Pat’s meal of Corned beef, potatoes, cabbage, and carrots, but homemade soda bread, and cookies provided by our Lecturing Knight Cheryl Stone, and Loyal Knight Gail Z Eaton. The corned beef was slow cooked by our Exalted Ruler Shawnee Carlile, Leading Knight Laura S. Davis, Cheryl, and Gail. We raised a total of \$1292. Our team raises funds all year long in order to pay for our competition costs.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile, Exalted Ruler



“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Annual St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser”

On the 17 of March on St Patrick day Raceway lodge held its annual corn beef and cabbage dinner during the dinner they held a 50/50 and after the diner they auctioned off a slice of carrot cake. Made by member Jacqueline Burke. The slice of cake went for \$25.00, and the 50/50 made \$112.00 for a total of \$137.00 for the lodge’s Arizona Major Project.

Submitted by: William Buttram, PDDGER, PR Chairman

“Regional Hoop Shoot News”

On February 24th the "Junk Food Express" left Tempe Lodge on the journey to Boulder City, NV to compete at the Regional Finals. With 6 State Champions and their families aboard the excitement was at a peak level. Although we came home with no one advancing to the National finals, Arizona was represented with 6 Champions that we as Elks could not be more proud of. And once again the following of the Arizona faithful was 2nd to none as the picture above proves.

The results are as follows;

The 8-9 year old girl pictured L to R; Bianca Smith placed 2nd 10-11 year old Cinniah Echoles placed 4th 12-13 year old Payton Orton placed 4th

The 12-13 year old boys pictured R to L ; Manny Guerrero placed 3rd 10-11 year old Caleb Skacy-Daw placed 2nd 8-9 year old Arian Tapia placed 4th

Also pictured are AEA State 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 Newsletter Wins 5-Star Award



11 States win Bulletin Contest awards

By Thomas W. Fraker, Committee Member

The Contest I – State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins. Judging is based on four categories: Content, Layout & Typography, Pictorial, and General. Judging was an exciting process. The reader learned what other State Associations across the nation are doing.

Thank you to the many editors who entered and earned the 4 Star and 5 Star ratings.

5 Star Awards

Arizona: Shawnee Carlile

Florida: Rachael King

Georgia: Lynda Lewis

Kansas: Carl E. Lindsey, Jr.

Louisiana: Buddy Hartle

MD, DE, DC: Janie Swigert

Missouri: Joy Clarkson

New Jersey: Joyce Powell

4 Star Awards

Michigan: SP Dave Sladek

North Carolina: Ashley Buckwell

Pennsylvania: Glen Klein

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



New leadership pushing forward with positivity

April begins with the changing of the guard. It is extremely important that the new Officers, Board of Directors, and Trustees work hand in hand to accomplish the important programs in each of your Lodges.

It is crucial to develop a budget for your Lodge that each committee can work with. You must develop a budget that will keep your Lodge financially sound throughout the new Lodge year. Pick out a night and invite all the Officers, Board of Directors, and your committee members and take this opportunity to review your Lodge budget. Discuss ideas to make your Lodge programs even better. Discuss your goals for the Elks National Foundation, your state's Major Project, and any other community activities that your Lodge may be involved with.



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**BRUCE A.
HIDLEY**

Listen to what your Members have to say. Always consider their input and be open and flexible to new ideas. Perhaps say, "OK, let's try it."

Another area of critical focus at the onset of a new Elks year is **membership**. Work with your appointed Membership/ Membership Retention Chair as a **team**. All of your Lodge Members are a part of your membership committee. It is important to reach out to delinquent

Members in order to bring them back into your Lodge. It may only take one phone call. There is a chance that by speaking with the delinquent Member, you may get them to renew their dues and become an active Member again.

Your Lodge Secretary plays a very important role for Members who were dropped for nonpayment of dues. I encourage you to review Statute 14.180. This Statute is very clear that your Lodge Secretary shall advise the unaffiliated of his/her rights to reaffiliate within 60 days.

Make +1 in membership a priority during your term. I know our Grand Lodge Membership Marketing Manager Rick Gathen would be very proud to say your Lodge achieved a +1 in membership. With the leadership team

Please see GER, Page 3

"AEA Past First Ladies' Jewelry Project"

The Jewelry project needs a Lodge or two in the Phoenix area to do a Mother's Day distribution at the Glendale building at 5310 W. Thunderbird Road, Glendale, AZ 85225. For more information please contact Diane Skorupski at 520-235-5598, or Lori Castro at the Steele Center.

Submitted by: Past First Lady Diane Skorupski

GER From Page 1

you have put together, I know how hard you will be working on *"Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm."*

April also is the month when families get together for Passover and Easter. Helen and I want to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday celebration.

In closing, thank you for your continued leadership this year by working hard within your communities to show that *"Elks Care — Elks Share."*

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