

Arizona Elks News

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

May 2023



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

Members All,



As you may know, my term as your Arizona Elks Association President ends in 3 weeks on May 13th, 2023 and makes this my last newsletter. I want to say thank you to our AEA newsletter editor PER Shawnee Carlile for her expertise not only this year but for all the past years that she has been involved doing this. You're the best! 1st Vice President Al Kayal will be installed at the May Convention as you're new Arizona Association State President. Kathy and I congratulate Al and Brenda on their new position and wish them all the success in the world in their new adventure. You're terrific people!

Our programs in Arizona did very well this past year. There will be a lot of awards given out at this year's May Convention. Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce Hidley will be in attendance at the convention and will be distributing those awards. I am so proud of ALL of our Committee chairs for the job they did during the year. Their leadership and the members support together made our Arizona Elks year a very successful one. Thank you all so much!

As you may know by now major projects has a big new raffle prize available. This 2023 side by side off road vehicle will look real nice in someone's driveway. Or if you don't need the side by side, the \$15,000 cash option will look real nice in your bank account! Tickets for the raffle are available and can be purchased at any Elks Lodge in the state. Or you can go through our major projects office for your purchase. The drawing will be held in October 2023 at the mid-year convention in Tempe. Good luck!

And finally, Thank You the Arizona Elks Association for your kindness and support this past year. Kathy and I are so proud to have represented this great State Association in all our endeavors. Reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones was terrific. I want to thank my officers for their participation and for fulfilling their duties in a positive and professional way during the year.

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AEA Newsletter Submission deadline:
23 May 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"

To the Arizona Elks Association / AEMP Board members, Executive Director Bruce, and all the Past State Presidents, thank you all very much for giving me your support and confidence. I thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you.

And finally to my wife, 1st Lady Kathy, and our family for allowing this to happen. I am truly a lucky guy to have you all in my life. And with that I say.....

***** God Bless the Arizona Elks*****

Fraternally,

Mike Weishan -President
Arizona Elks Association



AEA State Convention 10 –13 May 2023



Grand Lodge Convention 2-5 July 2023

“Yuma Elks #476 Honors First Responders”

On the evening of March 24, 2023, Yuma Elks Lodge 476 held a Dessert Social to honor First Responders from the Yuma Police and Fire Departments. The recipients were nominated by their respective Departments. YPD Chief Thomas Garrity and YFD Chief Dustin Fields were on hand to assist in the presentation. Awards were given to Fire Dispatcher Selena Ramirez, Firefighter Cody Pelfrey, Fire Engineer (now Capt.) David Padilla Jr., Fire Capt. Ryan Johnson, and Detective Jesse Escott.

Submitted by: Jim Thompson, Leading Knight



“Raceway Elks #2852 Adds New POW / MIA Flag”

Raceway Lodge #2852 had two members that finance to have a new rope with spaces to Fly two Flags installed and bought a POW Flag. On March 25, 2023 Raceway Lodge held service to lower and add a POW Flag below the United States Flag and then raised it Back up with the POW Flag addition. Before the lower and raising member Keven Thompson, a Veteran gave the history of the POW Flag to those in attendance. There were 32 in attendance including 3 non-elks. The Lodge member are very proud to have the United States Flag with the POW Flag Fly over our Lodge.

Submitted by: PDDGER William Buttram, PR Chairman

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Hosts Annual Charity Ball”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 raised over \$20,000 at our Annual Charity Ball held February 26th, 2023 to help support our charities and activities throughout the year. The theme was Saturday Night Live! People were encouraged to dress up as a Saturday Night Live character. The event included a silent & live auction, socializing, New York City inspired food tables from Little Italy, China Town, Irish, and New York street food. A comedy session led to a live auction that contained items ranging from plane rides, Rip Van Winkel a rare bourbon, staycations, golfing, hot air balloons, and many other items. Then a cover band played to close out a fun night with dancing.

Submitted by: Jody Miller

Pictured: Amy Tupay, Hubert Tupay, Matthew Jaramilla, Aida Jaramilla, David Sweinhagen, Melissa Sweinhagen



“Tucson Elks #385 Hosts Polar Plunge Event”

Tucson Elks Lodge #385 held the annual Polar Plunge fundraiser on Sunday March 26 at Trustee's Jim Sanford's community pool. The event featured Trustee's Jess Lugo's 1/2 lb BAM Burgers with an assortment for side dishes supplied by the attendees. The plungers, Trustee/PER Wayne, Member Chris and his guest Amber. This annual fundraiser raised \$1436.30 for Special Olympics Coronado Area in Southern Arizona. There were approximately 30 Elk #385 members in attendance.

Submitted by: John Aceves, PR Chairman



“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Donates Golf Clubs to Special Olympic Athletes”



Casa Grande Golf Committee donated two sets of golf clubs to Special Olympics athletes in the Casa Grande community.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Secretary

Pictured left to right: Todd Sample, Golf Committee Chairman; Gabriel Barrera, Special Olympian; Bob Jaworski, PER; and John Zawacki, Golf Committee member.

“Casa Grande Elks #1957 Receives Toy Donation for Annual Toy Parade”

The Casa Grande Elks say a BIG THANK YOU to Cactus Mines for their donation to the CG Elks Toy Parade and to the CGESC After School Food Program!! This will be used to make a difference in the lives of the children in our community!! Again, thank you for your support of our charity programs!

Submitted by: Donna Johnson, Secretary

Pictured left to right is Mike Cruz, CGESD Governing Board Member and CG Elk Member; Kary Kerr, CG Elks Exalted Ruler; Adam Hawkins, Global External Relations; and Travis Snider, Arizona Sonoran Copper.



“Catalina Mountain Elks #2815 Hosts Easter Clothe-a-Child Event”



25 disadvantaged children from Roadrunner Elementary School, Marana, AZ, were escorted by lodge volunteers for an exciting shopping spree. Each child had a \$140 shopping budget to buy clothes at the Walmart, Oro Valley Marketplace. Walmart provided drinks and treats, plus donated 25 new pillows for each child. Crafty Critters made fun custom pillowcases for each child. After shopping, the children and their escorts were brought to the lodge for a pizza party. The Easter Bunny even visited, and each child received a fun Easter Basket with candy and small toys from him too. Funds were donated by our great Lodge Members either through their very generous personal donation or the Diamond Art Picture Raffle. Our amazing, benevolent Elk - Christine Sullivan- donated two beautiful art pictures for the raffle.

Submitted by: Jim Beregi

Pictured: Easter Bunny Leslie Lefave-Huerta, with Jubilee Dennison.

“Yuma Elks #476 Donates Golf Cart to Crossroads Mission”

Yuma Lodge 476 presented a golf cart to the Yuma Crossroads Mission. Funds for the cart were raised through various donations and raffles

Submitted by: Jim Thompson, Leading Knight

Pictured is Mission Director Barbara Rochester receiving the keys from Esteemed Leading Knight Jim Thompson.



“Show Low Elks #2090 Hosts Easter Egg Hunt”

The Show Low Elks Lodge held our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 on our property behind the lodge. It was a great success with approximately 350 people in attendance. Our team started out with 150 hot dogs, but when we saw the droves of people coming, one of our members ran to the store and bought 240 more hot dogs and buns - we gave them all out for lunch at the Egg Hunt! We also provided small bags of chips, which we ran out of before feeding everyone. Our Easter committee members, with the help of some junior high students, decorated 350 cupcakes, which were also all gone! Thanks to the donations of cases of soda and water from the fine folks at PepsiCo and Swire Coca Cola, everyone stayed well hydrated!

Submitted by: Renée Higginbotham, Secretary

Bike Winners

Kinslee Thompson
Knightly Butora
Zeanna Nakai
Laylah Tsosie
Malaki Bitsui

Natalie Wilson
Forrest Carson
Abiah Baca
Kaiden Adelman
Madison Plumb



“Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 Presents Annual Awards”

Casa Grande Valley Elks Lodge named member and Navy Veterans Peter Richards as this year's Elk of the Year. Peter has donated hours of volunteering at the lodge helping with the Queen of Hearts program, soccer and hoop shoots, and participating in competition with the Lodge Ritual Team. Peter always helps when asked.

Elk Member and Trustee, Diane Repass, was awarded Officer of the Year for her dedication to our programs and support of our Red Cross Blood Drives. Diane helps with bingo, Queen of Hearts, Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, Easter program, and the after school backpack program. She also serves as an officer of the lodge while working full-time for the Casa Grande School District.

Gary Drysdale was recognized for his recruitment of new members for the Casa Grande Elks Lodge. For proposing more than 11 new members, Gary was awarded an Elks Watch from Grand Lodge Exalted Ruler, Bruce A. Hidley. Pictured with Gary is Exalted Ruler, Kary Kerr.



“Easter Bunny Visits Steele Center”

Aside from stuffing baskets and dying eggs, the Easter Bunny did some early visiting stopping by a church preschool along the way before trekking into Tucson. While in Tucson Mr. Bunny visited the Banner Diamond University Childrens Pediatric Hematology Oncology Clinic, Cholla NW Multispecialty North Plains Pediatric along with Banner Diamond Childrens Multispecialty Clinic.

The Easter Bunny was chaperoned by Linda Grimes and Lori Castor from the Steele Research Center. Their preschool visit was attended by 75 very excited children. Hugs and pictures all around.

Once arriving Tucson, Mr. Bunny was met by over 150 happy children in various locations. All the children showed their appreciation with their wide opened eyes and smiling faces. All the support staffs, nurses and Doctors enjoyed the special visit as well. The Easter bunny thanked everyone for having him visit and a very big thank you for the U of A Steele Childrens research Center/Dept. of Pediatrics.

Submitted by: Ron Wilson, AEA PR Chairman



“Tucson East Elks #2532 Celebrates Easter”



Members of Tucson East Lodge 2532 celebrated Easter with a big Easter Egg Hunt for about 30 children of members and guests. A special appearance by the Easter Bunny topped the morning for the kids. After the hunt the children and their parents enjoyed a lunch prepared by volunteers from the lodge.

Submitted by: PSP Rich Botkin, PR Chairman

Pictured is Brooklyn Botkin and the Easter Bunny (PER Megin Goetz)

“Tucson East Elks #2532 Donates to Veterans Memorial Park”

Tucson East Lodge 2532 presented a check for \$1000 dollars to the Veterans Memorial Park. Receiving the check is Tom Shambo from the veterans organization.

Submitted by: PSP Rich Botkin, PR Chairman

Pictured left to right. Gerry Innis, Inner Guard, Tom Shambo, Megin Goetz ER, Rocky Davis Treasurer, Brigid Sherbo, Secretary, Mike Kerzman Veterans Committee, and Sally Frankle Leading Knight.



“Phoenix Elks #335 Hosts Quarterly Veterans Evets”



Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 was very active to support our local veterans with two big events this quarter. In late January, we paired with the Arizona Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America to use the ENF Focus grant to provide essential personal items, new clothing including shoes and socks, tents, sleeping bags (unfortunate necessities), and lunch to our community veterans. The Veterans Outreach Program of Community Bridges also helped distribute the needed items. On February 15, we held a similar event using the ENF Freedom grant to hold a stand down event to “share the love” by providing a meal and the above-noted essentials. Phoenix Elk Dawn Quinn provided many items from her “Stuff” charity thrift store. Retired USAF Sgt. Diane Price and US Army veteran Otis Tillman expressed their gratitude and admiration for the Elks’ recognition of their service and the great gifts, like brand new shoes.

Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 volunteers participated in the Read Across America National Education Association’s reading celebration. Elks volunteers handed out 200 dictionaries to young readers at Mercury Mine School and read to classes from three age groups. Horton Hatches the Egg, The Good Egg, and Henry’s Freedom Box, raising laughter and good discussions for thought. Below, are Elks volunteers Good Egg Mary Beth Bloom and Cat in the Hat Cathy Maciel.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson

AEMP News



Arizona Elks
Major Projects



The 2023 AEMP Mid-Year Raffle

Win this 2023 Kawasaki TERYX KRX®4 1000 SE and trailer or \$15,000 cash!



The TERYX has a 999cc, 4 stroke, DOHC, liquid cooled engine, automatic CVT transmission, belted seating for 4, 31x10 tires, a multi-function digital meter with bar-style tachometer, digital speedometer, bar style fuel gauge, gear indicator, odometer, clock, driving mode indicator, and much more.

Tickets are: \$5 each, or 3 tickets for \$10.

Drawing will be held on October 20, 2023 at the AEA Mid-Year Meeting in Tempe.

Must be 21 years of age or older to win. Tickets are not tax deductible. Winners need not be present to win but are responsible for any applicable taxes and vehicle registration fee's.

Complete this form completely, with applicable information, to order your raffle tickets.

Please include a check or money order for your desired number of tickets and mail it to:

A.E.M.P. PO Box 91560, Tucson, AZ 85752

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Lodge Name and Number _____

AEMP News



AEMP is on the Move - Electronically

On May 1st AEMP will have a new website and new email address. The new website is azelksmp.org and is just slightly different from our current website address (azelksmp.com).

The new email address is exdir@azelksmp.org. Any email messages sent to our current email address (info@azelksmp.com) after May 1st, will not be received by AEMP as that email address will cease to exist.

The AEMP mailing address (PO Box 91560, Tucson, AZ 85752), the physical address (2262 W. Magee Rd, Tucson, AZ 85742), and office phone number (520-326-0556) all remain the same. Please send any written correspondence to the AEMP post office box listed above.

Lodge's that hold a fundraising event benefiting AEMP are encouraged to email the event information to AEMP so it can be published in future editions of the AEMP newsletter and sent out as a "blast" to help publicize the event.

The new Mid-Year Raffle of a 2023 Kawasaki side by side with trailer is underway. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. All lodges have received the new raffle tickets and can get additional raffle tickets at the May Convention in Tempe or by requesting them from the AEMP office.

The vehicle will be on display in Tempe at the AEA May Convention and at the AEA October Mid-Year Meeting when the lucky winner will be drawn. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the AEMP booth at both events in Tempe.

AEA Newsletter News

Dear AEA Elks Family,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the AEA Newsletter Editor for the past 4 years. I would like to personally thank all the Lodges for the great articles you all submitted.

I am very happy to introduce the new AEA Newsletter Editor, PDDGER David Dean, from Sierra Vista Elks Lodge #2065. He is very much looking forward to serving as the new editor.

Please submit all articles to aeaneewsletter@arizonaelks.org Articles are due on the 23rd of each month unless otherwise notified.

Fraternally,

Shawnee A. Carlile, PER

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



May holidays salute moms, service members

The winter months are well behind us now. It is time for us to focus on our Elks spring and summer activities.

May has many events that we as Elks are proud to recognize and participate in. Let's start with Mother's Day, which this year falls on Sunday, May 14. Thank you to each Lodge that has a Mother's Day celebration. You may want to consider assembling a committee and starting an event if your Lodge has never had one. Mother's Day is a very special day to spend not only with your mother but your grandmother, your great-grandmother, sister, or your aunt. Take a moment to call your relatives, and send flowers or candy. Make them feel as special as they are. **Happy Mother's Day!**

During the month of May, we celebrate Armed Forces Day, which will



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**BRUCE A.
HIDLEY**

occur on Saturday, May 20. This is a day for all of us to say thank you to all of the men and women in all branches of service in the military. Each of these individuals are the ones who have taken time to defend this great country of ours and protect the liberties we enjoy today. What a better way for our Lodges to recognize Armed Forces Day and show them *Elks Care* about their service to our country.

May is also when we remember our departed service members on Memorial Day. This year Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 29. There are so many ways that we as Elks can take the time to reflect on our departed service members. You can place flags at the graves of deceased military veterans. Participate in or host a Memorial Day parade. Please take part in this very important way to honor the deceased veterans in your community. I remember the day when my community opened our first veterans park. It was during a Memorial Day ceremony. There was nothing more heart wrenching to see all the names of the people who served our country with distinction.

Each year, I proudly walk with

Please see **GER**, Page 2

G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

Elks grow again

By **RICK GATHEN**

Membership Marketing Manager

Congratulations to everyone throughout the Order on another terrific year in membership!

In 2020–2021, the BPO Elks showed great resilience in surviving through the pandemic year, and in 2021–2022 our membership numbers bounced back as we grew by nearly 26,000 Members.

This past year, we managed to take things even further, **gaining more than 11,000 Members**. By recording another year of growth, we've achieved back-to-back membership gains for the first time since the two-year period ending in 1980—43 years ago.

GER From Page 1

veterans in our local Memorial Day parade. It makes you proud to be an Elk knowing that you stand behind our pledge, *"So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them"* and we never will. Take the time to hold some type of ceremony or participate in a community remembrance for the veterans who fought so hard to enjoy the freedoms all of us enjoy today. There is no better way we as Elks can continue *"Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm"* than to remember our veterans.

Helen and I would like to say thank you for all that you do during the month of May, and for the very special events that are so important to us as Elks. God bless all of you. God bless our troops, past and present. And most of all, God bless America.