

# Arizona Elks News

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

June 2023



## "Thanks for Lending a Hand"

Brother and Sister Elks,

I wanted to thank all of you that attended the May Convention and the Installation of Officers. Please give our new corps of officers your support and assistance throughout the year. Special thanks to Past State Presidents Rich Botkin, Lee Schwein, John James and Ed Leuer for their part in the Installation and a big thank you to Past State President Charyll McKean who coordinated the Installation program and served as Grand Exalted Ruler.



I suppose every incoming President wonders what the celebratory parade on Installation day will be like, but I could never anticipate the show of support demonstrated by family, friends, Lodge #335 family and West District supporters. Thank you all so very much.

Brenda and I wanted to thank the members, the Officers and the Past State Presidents of this great Arizona Association of Elks for allowing us to lead you and represent you in the year ahead. We are humbled by the trust you have placed in us.

At this early writing, Brenda and I have already traveled far and wide as representatives of our great State. In late April, we attended the year-end meeting of the Nevada Elks Association in Las Vegas. Last week, Brenda and I traveled to Palm Springs for the year-end meeting of the California-Hawaii Elks Association. Great State Associations made up of great Elks and their supporters doing incredible works. But there is nothing like home and to be part of, leaders of, the greatest Association of all - the AEA! I can not wait to see the sea of red vests at the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis and proudly parading and waving that great Arizona flag.

During the course of the next twelve months Brenda and I will travel our great State from border to border and are looking forward to visiting as many of our Lodges as we can. If you are having a special event or program you would like for us to attend, please let us know. As long as it doesn't conflict with an official visitation by one of our outstanding Vice Presidents, we will make every effort to attend and would be honored to do so.

My motto this year is "Thanks for Lending a Hand". Simply put, Elks are the most generous people in the world, both in terms of monetary assistance, but also in terms of physical support. Whether it be a less fortunate child that, without our assistance, may not have warm clothes or a small toy at Christmas; or the struggling family that, without our assistance, may not enjoy a warm meal during the holidays; or the destitute veteran that, without our assistance may not have a shelter from the elements, or shoes or a meal; or the first responders of our communities that, with our recognition, realize they are highly valued and supported by a large segment of our communities.

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**AEA Newsletter**  
**Submission deadline:**  
**19 June 2023**



**ARIZONA ELKS  
ASSOCIATION  
2023-2024  
STATE OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:**

Al Kayal

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:**

South: Susan Krausman

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

North: Hershel "Hersh" Eaton

East: JeRay Bellon

West: Hank Thonnard

**SECRETARY:**

Charyll McKean, PSP

**TREASURER:**

Alane Asp

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

North-1 Year:

Edward Leuer, PSP

South- 2 Year:

Joe Riley, PSP

South- 3 Year:

Richard "Rich" Botkin, PSP

East-4 Year:

Jimmy S. Davis, PSP

North- 5 Year:

James R. Cassacchia, PSP

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:**

Alejandro "Alex" Arroyo

**CHAPLAIN:**

Brad Lucas

**TILER:**

Travis Napolitan

**INNER GUARD:**

Taleen Carpenter

**ASST. SEC / TREASURER:**

Roy Haddick

**PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Karen Koble

**ORGANIST:**

## "Thanks for Lending a Hand"

Continued from page 1

I sometimes forget that, with the start of the new Association year, we have a new set of Exalted Rulers just over a month into their terms as leaders of their respective Lodges. Best of luck to these men and women that are making the ultimate sacrifice in leading their Lodges. Have some fun, put your members to work and feel free to call on the AEA for assistance, if needed. We are here to Lend a Hand.

This trip down the path of Elkdom is not possible without the love and support of my wife and friend, Brenda, who herself has served as a Lodge Officer over the last twenty years. Thanks, Baby.

I am looking forward to our Organizational Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> at Phoenix Lodge #335 at 10 A.M. and hearing of the exciting plans of our AEA Committees for the upcoming year.

Last, but not least, a sincere and heartfelt thank you goes out to immediate Past State President Mike Weishan and immediate Past First Lady Kathy. The Arizona Elks Association has deeply benefitted from your leadership and guidance and we owe you our debt of gratitude. Thanks for Lending a Hand!

Fraternally,

Al Kayal, President

Arizona Elks Association

## "AEA Secretary News"

### From the Desk of AEA Secretary Charyll McKean

Congratulations to all new Exalted Rulers and I'm sure our lodges will continue to make Arizona a Shining Star in Elkdom in the coming year.

I want to thank all Exalted Rulers or their representative, as well as all State Chairpersons, for the prompt responses to pick up the new AEA Directories and pictures of our new State President Al Kayal at our May Convention.

I also want to thank all officers and State Chairpersons for providing written reports to me for the May Convention – again this year 100% - thank you all!!!

From time to time, announcements are sent out to everyone in our Directory by my office and these are generally sent out at the behest of someone other than myself. Although I appreciate your attention to these announcements, it is not necessary to respond that you have received them, because if you all responded I would have over 250 emails in my inbox.

Occasionally there are items sent out which require a response, so please answer promptly if information is requested from you, or from one of our lodges.

If there is anything that I can help you with, please do not hesitate to call or email – my information is at the end of this article.

I look forward to another great year for Arizona and look forward to serving all Arizona Elks and our AEA President, Al Kayal.

*Submitted by:* Charyll McKean, AEA Secretary / Executive Director  
928-450-7139

[secretary@arizonaelks.org](mailto:secretary@arizonaelks.org)

## ***“Tempe Elks #2251 Donates \$10,000 for Juvenile Diabetes Research”***

The Tempe Elks Lodge #2251 annual Charity Ball and Silent Auction was a huge success! We presented a check for \$10,000.00 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) during our annual ER Ball on April 8, 2023.

JDRF is the leading global organization harnessing the power of research, advocacy and community engagement to advance life-changing breakthroughs for type 1 diabetes which affects so many children at an early age.



Pictured left to right: Amy Wasson, Marty Wasson, Taunya Turner, Chris Turner, JDRF representative Peggy Schapler, Melannie Kirsch, Rebecca Harrower and Larry Kirsh.

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and members, we had a great variety of auction items. And because of the generosity of the attendees, we were able to raise a record-setting amount of funds for a very deserving charity. Many thanks to all who participated!

**Submitted by:** Larry Kirsch, Esteemed Leading Knight

## ***“Tucson Lodge #385 Youth Awards Include Musical Instruments”***

Tucson Elks Lodge #385 held its annual Youth Awards Luncheon on May 7, 2023. Thirteen scholarships were awarded to well-deserved Tucson area High School Seniors totaling \$13,900.00.

In conjunction, Lodge #385 held its annual “Harry Dobis” Strings Awards of 2 viola’s and 2 violins to local high school musicians. These were valued at \$550.00. Harry was a long-time member of Tucson Elks #385 and began this Lodge program several years past. We also gave an award to our local Lodge Hoop Shoot South District 2023 winner.



Also, on May 8, 2023, Tucson Elks Lodge once again donated an iPad worth \$600.00 to the local branch of the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association.

**Submitted by:** John Aceves, Lodge Public Relations Chair

## ***“Student Sponsored by Green Valley Lodge #2592 Wins State Contest”***



On Friday April 21, 2023, Jack Ponzo Arizona Elks Drug Awareness Chair presented the first place Arizona 2022-2023 Drug Awareness Essay Award and a check for \$250. The winning student was Jessica Heydel 8th grader at Wrightson Ridge School, Sahuarita, AZ. Her winning Essay was submitted to the National Elks Drug Awareness contest.

**Submitted by:** Cheryl Ponzo, Lodge Drug Awareness Chair

Pictured left to right: Jessica Heydel and Jack Ponzo PER



## *“Raceway Lodge #2852 Uses Beacon Grant to Help Local Schools”*



On April 29, 2023, Raceway Elks Lodge #2852 used the Beacon Grant of \$6000 along with \$800 worth of school supplies from Goodyear Staples Office Supply for donations to Local schools, Lattie Coor School, Eliseo C Felix School and Avondale Middle School. Each School received \$2000 in supplies along with the donated supplies from Staples Office Supply. This act of kindness helps the community know that Elks Care Elks Share.

*Submitted by:* William Buttram, Raceway Lodge Public Relations Chair

## *“Mesa Buckhorn Lodge #2656 Family Assistance Check”*

On Feb 2nd, Mesa Buckhorn Elks Lodge #2656 presented a \$5000 "check" to the 161st Air Refueling Wing from the fall golf tournament. This money helps family members of deployed military personnel when an emergency arises. It was presented to Colonel Jessica Hastings, Wing Commander of the 161st.

*Submitted By:* Debbie J Melton, Exalted Ruler



Pictured, from Left to Right: ER Debbie Melton, Ron Spear, Executive Director of the Phoenix Air National Guard Patriots, Colonel Jessica Hastings, Bob Boudro, and PER Larry Craver.

## *“Scottsdale Lodge #2148 Busy Raising Money for Charity”*



Scottsdale Lodge #2148 raised \$290 for Moms & Easter and donated \$4,062 to Tunnels to Towers program, which includes a donation match from The Veterans Committee. The money was raised from Easter activities and events held on April 9th. The lodge served 189 meals, 27 Easter baskets and over 500 eggs were stuffed to be gathered by kids that attended. On Easter the lodge was hopping with children hunting for Easter eggs and baskets in addition the Easter bunny visited which brought many smiles to children who attended. Scottsdale Lodge #2148 has also started a “Charity Tree” where tree tags can be purchased with donation amounts. The money received goes toward an identified monthly cause.

*Submitted by:* Jody Miller

Pictured are: Mother Ryan Tubbs with her daughters, Cody and Kori Tubbs.

## *“Bullhead City Lodge #2408 Helps Local Disabled Vet”*

Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408 donated an electric wheelchair it received from the Shue family to a local Disabled Veteran named Hank Barela.



Pictured from left to right are: Exalted Ruler Mike Swain, Elk members Mike Carson and H. Beaver, Barela,

## *“Casa Grande Valley Lodge #1957 Renames Ramada for Long-time Member”*



Elk member and PER Larry Phillips was honored on April 29 at the Casa Grande Elks lodge. The ramada has been named after Mr. Phillips who has had a very active career during his 45 years as an Elk. Larry has been named Elk of the Year two times, Officer of the Year, and has held the position of Exalted Ruler four times at the Casa Grande lodge.

Larry and his wife, Denise, are still active volunteers at the Elks Lodge with Larry being instrumental in bringing back the Lodge Ritual Team and also assisting with the origin of the local Elk Riders Association. Denise is still helping with meat draws and motorcycle runs.

*Submitted by:* Donna Johnson, Lodge Secretary

## *“Lake Havasu Lodge #2399 News”*

The Elks Lodge Highway Clean-up crew gathered recently to pick up trash along the section of Highway 95 assigned to the Lodge as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. Their back breaking efforts resulted in several large bags of trash collected leaving the area as neat as possible.

A donation of \$250 was given to Western Arizona Humane Society for their Spay/Neuter program.

Proceeds from the Elkettes Crazy Auction in the amount of \$1,850 were donated to Search and Rescue.



*Submitted by:* Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

## *“Phoenix Lodge #335 Scholarships Banquet”*



On May 6, Phoenix Elks hosted our annual Scholarships Banquet, honoring 30 local students with attendance of their families and many Elks. In total, we awarded \$41,000 in scholarships and Americanism essay gifts. Eighteen honor students received scholarships from Lodge 335. The Arizona Elks Association provided \$6,000, and the National Elks supported the program with \$4,000. The National Winner was Xitlali Vazquez, receiving \$1,000 from Lodge 335

and the \$4,000 National scholarship award. Recipients of the Arizona Elks Association awards each received \$1,000 from our lodge and \$2,000 from the AEA: Samuel Benavidez, Alex Bouchard, Olinmazatemicli Reyes. Ten others received scholarships: Ashley Caranza, Jayden Murray, Lucy Burch, Isabella Robinson, Abigail Smith, Eden Spaden, Cade Miller, Bryson Lee, Yasoa Habbaba, and Ibrahim Laleka. Four Elks' family members also received a \$4,000 legacy scholarship from the lodge: Miranda Courtney, Samuel Benavidez, Cade Miller and William Rubach.

*Submitted by:* Linda Thompson



## *“Catalina Mountain Lodge 2815 Awards Six Scholarships”*

Roger Mastro, the Scholarship Chair at Catalina Mountain Elks Lodge, has shepherd the scholarships for the Arizona Elks Association and Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship Awards.

This year we are proud to recognize six soon to be college/university freshman as recipients – of one \$ 4,000 ELKS National Foundation (ENF) Scholarship and five \$ 2,000, Arizona Elks Association Scholarship Awards (AEAS):

The five high schools in our Oro Valley jurisdiction are:

Basis  
Canyon Del Oro  
Immaculate Heart  
Ironwood Ridge  
Pusch Ridge Christian Academy (PRCA)

Catalina Mountain ELKS lodge had 6 applicants submitted to district and state for evaluation. This resulted in one \$ 4,000. national and five \$ 2,000. The Recipients are:



Pictured from left to right: Lori Abrams, Charles Elliott, Ross Wilson, Madi Van Holsbeke, Ella Pierpont, Susan Wixon.

Ross Wilson: (PRCA). \$4,000.  
Elks National Foundation Scholarship.  
John Brown University in Arkansas

Charles Elliott: (PRCA). \$2,000.  
Arizona State Elks Scholarship.  
University of Arizona

Sai Konkimalla: (University H.S.). \$2,000.  
Arizona State Elks Scholarship.  
Stanford University

Abigail Delavara: (Salpointe Catholic) \$ 2,000.  
Arizona State Elks Scholarship.  
University of Arizona

Ella Pierpont: (PRCA) award: \$ 2,000.  
Arizona State Elks Scholarship.  
University of Arizona

Madison Vanholsbeke: (PRCA) \$2,000.  
Arizona State Elks Scholarship.  
Samford University In Birmingham, AL

## *“Fountain Hills Lodge #2846 Honored by Local Chamber”*

What an honor just to be nominated for consideration as the nonprofit organization of the year. Although hopeful, we were very surprised, humbled and proud to be selected as the Fountain Hills Chamber of Commerce award recipient at their recent annual Awards Gala. Not being a group of volunteers to rest on our laurels, we are right back at work supporting children, high school scholars, homeless Veterans and the community.

*Submitted by:* Jim Beischel



Pictured are: Catherine Thomas; Greg Thomas; Chamber Vice-President Tammy Bell, Exalted Ruler Judi Beischel, and Jim Beischel

## *“Sun City Lodge #2559 Honors Local Youth”*

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks declared May 1-7, 2023 as National Youth Week. Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 held a banquet on May 1, 2023 to honor our Local Youth.

With over 160 attendees and 47 total awards the awards banquet was a success. 20 high school seniors were awarded \$1000 scholarships at the Lodge, with two receiving additional scholarships in the amount of \$2000 from the Arizona Elks Association (state), and 1 student receiving an additional \$4000 at the national level. In addition to the scholarship winners, awards were given to 15 students of the month, 8 teens of the year, 2 Americanism Essays, 1 drug awareness award, 1 student of the year and 2 hoop shoot winners.



Pictured are: Drug Awareness Poster winner Allee White and family

Allee White was awarded first place for her Drug Awareness Poster. Allee also received first place from the Arizona Elks Association. She was presented her award by Jack Ponzio, AEA State Drug Awareness Chairman. Allee's poster will be the cover of the Drug Awareness Coloring Book which is distributed to students to promote Drug Awareness.

Submitted by: Vicki Way

## *“Chandler Lodge #2429 Hosts Tribute for Armed Forces Day”*



The Chandler Elks Lodge Veterans Committee hosted an Armed Forces Day Tribute Breakfast on Saturday, May 20, 2023. The theme of the tribute was to remember our Vietnam Veterans who returned home fifty years ago. The Veterans Committee honored 21 veterans. Our veterans had served in areas ranging from Korea, Vietnam Era, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Tribute was opened with an invocation by Susan Horan and the posting of the colors by Basha High JROTC Honor Guard

with the National Anthem sung by Lillian and Kate Sackett also from the Basha High JROTC Honor Guard. Vice Mayor Matt Orlando led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. After a breakfast of scrambled eggs and pancakes, Veterans Committee Members Ben Vega, an Army veteran, and Dave Waltzer, an Air Force veteran, told their military stories with humor and pride. It was interesting to hear from two proud veterans who served at different periods of time. The Veterans Committee is very proud to have them as members. The armed forces tribute songs were played and after completion, each veteran was presented with a challenge coin, designed by the Veterans Committee.

Submitted by: PER Taleen Carpenter

**Elks National  
Convention**  
**Minneapolis**

**Grand Lodge Convention**

**2-5 July 2023**

## ***“Annual Youth Awards Banquet at Chandler Lodge #2429”***

Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 hosted their Annual Youth Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 18, 2023. The Youth Awards Banquet encompasses the Elks Scholarship Program, the Americanism Essay Contest, the Drug Awareness Poster Contest & Essay Contest, JROTC and Scouting Awards.

Scholarship Chairman Vickie Hyde presented four \$2000 per year scholarships + \$125 directly from the lodge to the following students: Deangelo Brasen, AZ College Prep; Suryatej Vakkalanka, AZ College Prep; Chelsea Condon, Desert Vista High School and Isabelle Buter, Highland High School.

Veterans Committee Chairman Susan Whitaker presented the Jr. ROTC award to Cadet Ryan Martin, Basha High School

Americanism Essay Chair Sandy Theobald presented essay awards in four different divisions on the topic of “What is My American Dream”. This year brought new opportunities, as the divisions were increased from two divisions to four divisions. Their American dreams included becoming a successful soccer player, a mathematician and the first female Asian president.

### Division I (5th Grade):

- 1st Place - Pragun Aurora  
Jacobsen Elementary
- 2nd Place - Jacob Sunwoo Park  
Knox Gifted Academy
- 3rd Place - Shania Norah  
CTA Freedom

### Division II (6<sup>th</sup> grade):

- 1st Place - Aubrey Smith  
Navarrete Elementary
- 2nd Place - Eva Rem  
Jacobsen Elementary
- 3rd Place - Mario Solano  
Navarrete Elementary

### Division III (7<sup>th</sup> Grade):

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Kaitlyn Heaton  
Payne Jr. High
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Evan Dianda  
Payne Jr. High
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Trenton Strong  
Payne Jr. High

### Division IV (8<sup>th</sup> Grade):

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Sophia Mihalopoulos  
Kyrene Traditional Academy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Dyuthi Pothukucchi  
Arizona College Prep
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Serenity Hinkson  
Kyrene Traditional Academy

Drug Awareness Chair Taleen Carpenter presented three awards for the drug awareness program to the following students:

Drug Awareness Essay - Mylania Santos (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Hartford Sylvia Encinas Elem School

Drug Awareness Coloring Book Contest - Madison Murphy (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Hancock Elementary School

Valentina Camarillo (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Hancock Elementary School

Taleen Carpenter also presented the scouting awards to Girl Scout, Jane Spellman (Troop #1553), for her successful completion of the Gold Award with the AZ Cactus Pine Girl Scout council and to Eagle Scout, Sandra Moore – the first female who created a storage unit for the AZ History Museum.

**Submitted by:** PER Taleen Carpenter



## *“Sun City Lodge #2559 Supports Local Veterans”*

When it comes to serving veterans, the Elks have a long and storied tradition of being there when they were needed most. Since the beginning, the needs of military members and returning veterans have continued to change and the Elks have adapted to those needs.

The Sun City Elks Veteran Service committee and Lodge members remain an ever-present ally to those who have served this country. With Elks National Veterans Service Commission grant awards and the generosity of member donations, volunteers connect with hundreds of area veterans and active military personnel. The Elks pledge "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them", is not allowed to lie idle with the Elks of Sun City Lodge, #2559.

In the month of April, \$200 from the FOCUS Grant in products and a check \$2000 from member donations were presented to Veterans First, Ltd. A \$2000 check from member donations and \$200 from the FOCUS Grant in products were presented to USVets. Also, a \$1000 check from member donations and \$500 from the FOCUS Grant plus member donations resulted in 6 cartons of products delivered to the veterans at MANA (Marine, Army, Navy, Air Force) House. Additionally, \$300 from the FOCUS Grant plus member donations resulted in 7 cartons of products (toiletries, new clothing, bedding, and cleaning supplies) delivered to Ashley's Place for women veterans.

**Submitted by:** Vicki Way



Pictured are: Veterans First, Ltd. CEO/Founder Joan Sisco with Vice President Darlene Gonzales, and Project Manager Jennifer Little.



Pictured are: USVets Director Jennifer Gewarges with Lodge Veterans Services Chairperson Ellie Jenkins.



Pictured are: Lodge Trustee Mike Leary, House Community Coordinator Rachal Masch, Elk Member Marge Leary, PER Vicki Way, Elk Member Mike Way, and future Elk Everett Stinson.



Pictured are: Sun City Veteran's Services Committee members Greg & Barb Selendic, USVets Housing Coordinator Toney Black, and Lodge First Lady Laura Galchutt.

## *“Lake Havasu City Elkettes Pie Team Helping Pet Sanctuary”*



The Lake Havasu City Lodge #2399 Elkettes Pie Team donated \$500 to R & R Pet Sanctuary.

**Submitted by:** Eva Fox, Lodge News Team

Pictured from left to right: Chris Dukey, Elkettes Pie Chair; Karen Ford, Elkettes Pie Seller; and R & R Pet Sanctuary founders Rachel Kurth and Rich Crayne, with Aiden Kurth.

## *“Prescott Lodge #330 Celebrates National Youth Week”*



Pictured left to right are: Carson Carpenter, Alanah Sutton, Youth Chair - Diana Ramsey, McKenzie Ackerman, ER - Sam Volrich, and Logan Hawks. Not pictured: Mario Delgado Zamora - Scholarship Award recipient

The first week of May each year the Order of the Elks holds its Elks National Youth Week, The Arizona Elks Association recognized three young people for their involvement with achievements in the community. A Spaghetti dinner was also included for the youths and their families.

The Prescott Elks Lodge was pleased to announce the presentation of Scholarship awards of \$2,000 each for Most Valuable Students Carson Carpenter, Alanah Sutton and Logan Hawks.

Also recognized were McKenzie Ackerman for her participation in the Prescott Elks "Hoop Shoot" National free Throw Contest and Americanism Essay Contest winner Riley Gamble.

Other Prescott Lodge #330 News: Congratulations to Teresa Miller, all the volunteers and donors for the Trash to Treasures fund raiser. Over \$3800 netted for Arizona Major Projects.

**Submitted by:** Bobbie Knorr

## *“AEA Past First Ladies’ Jewelry Project News”*

Thank you AEA Ladies and friends for all the jewelry donated to the AEA Jewelry Project. At the May convention in Tempe I reported the following:

1. The Jewelry Project is under the guidance of the Past State President’s Spouses.
2. In one year we served over 1,100 children, patients of the six AEA Elks Clinics (our original clinic at the hospital, North Hills, Orange Grove, La Cholla, Glendale, Mesa) and the Steele Children’s Hospital plus, three Clothe a Child events held in Yuma, Kearny and Chandler chose over 2,500 pieces of jewelry for their Mothers, Grandmothers, Nanas or favorite nurse.
3. This was accomplished without using any funding from AEA or Major Projects

**Submitted by:** Diane Skorupski



## *"Tucson East Lodge #2532 Ritual Team Surprises the GER"*



During the AEA convention the Tucson East Ritual Team invited GER Bruce Hidley & his wife Helen to their Hospitality Room for a special treat - "Gus's Hotdogs". It seems that this is a New York treat and one of the Ritual Coaches is from New York and a good friend of the GER and managed to supply that special "Hotdog" for this occasion. The GER was very surprised and of course enjoyed the food and complimented the team for their kind gesture. As he put it "It was a little home away from home"

*Submitted by: PSP Rich Botkin*

## *"Arizona Elks Association May Convention 2023"*



Dr. Geshon receives \$250K for the Steele Center.



Who is that cowboy?



Phoenix Lodge #335—Arizona State Ritual Champions



Top ENF Per Capita Winners



AEA Firefighter-of-the-Year Corey Nochta



AEA Law Enforcement Officer-of-the-Year Jesse Escott



## “Grand Lodge News”

### Honoring our Flag, remembering our fathers

The Esteemed Leading Knight's charge to our new Members opens with: *“The Emblem of this station is the Flag of our country; and its motto is Charity, the cornerstone of every Elk structure, the highest virtue of every Elk creed.”* New Members listening to this charge may gain an understanding of what the Flag means to us as Elks.

Across our great country, Flag Day is observed on the 14th day of June each year to honor and commemorate the adoption of the American Flag. The Second Continental Congress adopted this date in 1777, and President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation in 1916 establishing June 14 as national Flag Day.

In our great Order of Elks, the Grand Lodge, by Resolution, designated June 14 as Flag Day. In 1911, the Grand



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

Lodge adopted a mandatory observance of Flag Day in all of our Lodges.

Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the red, white, and blue in front of homes and businesses. Flag Day events are held by Lodges all across our great country with ceremonies, parades, essay contests, and, most importantly, our Elks Flag Day Ceremony. The American Flag is the emblem of the “land that I love.” Our Flag symbolizes the land of

the free and home of the brave for all Americans.

June also has another special day for all of us as we honor and celebrate Father's Day. This year the holiday falls on Sunday, June 18. No matter how far away you may be, take the time to reach out and say happy Father's Day. This is not only a special day for your father but it is also special for your grandfather, your great-grandfather, your brother, and your special uncle. **Happy Father's Day.**

June is the beginning of our summer months. Children are home from school, graduation ceremonies are held, and families begin summer vacations. Celebrating our Flag and participating in June activities in our homes and at

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#### GER From Page 1

our Lodges truly show *“Elks Care — Elks Share.”* I encourage each of you to continue *“Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm”* by bringing joy, happiness, love and lots of sunshine to one another.

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

### “Arizona Elks Association May Convention 2023”



Special Gifts to the Elks National Foundation in Memory of Past State Presidents Dan Snyder and Leroy “Bugs” Lewis