

# Arizona Elks News

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

February 2024



## "Thanks for Lending a Hand"

Brother and Sister Elks,

As 2024 has kicked in, we have hit the ground running, but no complaining here.

We managed to make three out of the four District Hoop Shoot Contests held in the month of January. What a show. It was an incredible experience to witness the physical maturity of our youth and the mental focus displayed by the young participants. A tip of the hat is due to the Lodges for their extraordinary participation this year. I know Hoop Shoot Director Gregg Boyce appreciates the efforts by all concerned. Now, we are on to the State Hoop Shoot Finals on the 10th of February in Apache Junction, Area 7 Shoot in Boulder City, NV on February 23-24 and then on to Chicago for the National Finals. We have a host of really strong shooters this year, so come out and root our kids on.

Exalted Rulers, you have two months remaining to complete the programs, to achieve the goals, you set out to complete at the start of your terms. Congratulations to you, your officers and members for making this a great year.

January has also witnessed the completion of Leading Knights' Clinics in three out of the four Arizona Districts. The Clinics were well-run by the District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers and provided a wealth of information that will be helpful to our incoming Exalted Rulers. Speaking of which, February is one of the more important months of the year as the nomination and election of Officers will be conducted. It is my deepest desire that all Lodges find an abundant supply of members willing to experience the joy of being a Lodge Officer. If you have the slightest inclination towards a leadership role, take a chance, step forward and help build and lead a Lodge organization of which all members can be proud.

As we coordinate the election of officers for the new Lodge year, we take a moment to recognize, to celebrate, the accomplishments of our Past Exalted Rulers as PER Night approaches. Thank you, Past Exalted Rulers!!

Brenda and I want to thank all of you for the confidence you have placed in us to be representatives, ambassadors, for the great State of Arizona. Sometimes the joy of the experience can be overwhelming as we have witnessed the fruits of your, our, labors. We have often realized that we have received much more than we have given. On January 5, 2024, Brenda and I, Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jerry Grimes and wife Linda as part of a contingent of proud Elks journeyed to Mesa-Buckhorn Lodge #2656 to welcome an energetic group of young ENF scholars that journeyed to Arizona to complete its annual service project. These are students that are current and prior year recipients of the ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarships. It was a pure joy, as we mingled and visited with the students, as their enthusiasm and vigor so easily rubbed off on us. The youngsters were here to provide service and relief to the veterans of Arizona.



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**Next AEA Newsletter submission deadline:**  
19 February 2024

aeanewsletter  
@arizonaelks.org



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

**PRESIDENT:**

Al Kayal

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:**

South: Susan Krausman

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

North: "Hersh" Eaton\* R.I.P.

East: JeRay Bellon

West: Hank Thonnard

**SECRETARY:**

Cheryl Gillespie

**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

**MUSICIAN:**

Ira Cohen

## "Thanks for Lending a Hand"

Continued from Page 1

Hats off to Mesa-Buckhorn Lodge, its officers and members for the hospitality extended to the students and to the Arizona contingent of Elks. Also a big thank you to Linda and Special Deputy Jerry, members of Mesa-Buckhorn Lodge and members of Chandler Lodge #2429 that helped host and coordinate the veterans service element of the visit.

We are in the homestretch of the Lodge year. In terms of net membership, we are well on the way to another plus membership as of the Grand Lodge Membership Report of 1/11/24, as follows:

Gains	3,365
Losses	(1,371)
Delinquents	(1,986)
Awaiting Initiation	<u>642</u>
Net	650

We are having another extraordinary year, membership-wise, as the latest report shows we are number 7 in the nation. And, you know the routine: a) Let's contact our delinquent members and find out why they are not paying dues or what we can do to help, if needed, and encourage them to renew, b) Let's actively inspire our existing members to invite friends, family and acquaintances to join our great Order, c) Let's invite our membership, by specific and detailed invitation, to attend our fundraising events and to help with Hoop Shoot, Visiting the Sick, supporting our Veterans, etc., d) Let's review our Stray Elks lists, contact those potential members that have moved into the jurisdiction of our Lodges and invite them to come to a Lodge Meeting or an event, e) Let's welcome our winter visitors back and encourage them to renew their dues; and f) Initiate, Initiate, Initiate!

Brenda and I are already coordinating the many details of the May Convention with our life-savers, Janet and Ed Leuer of the Meetings Committee. We hope you will find this to be a fun and enjoyable convention. Please let us know if you have any special requests with respect to the meeting or the facilities.

Please remember that the Arizona Elks Association and its officers are here to lend a hand in most any facet of Lodge operation, without repercussion, if you desire. Please feel free to consult with any of us, regardless of the request.

Don't forget to supply evidence of our substantial and many accomplishments for publication to this AEA Newsletter, to the Grand Lodge Magazine and to local news.

In closing this month, I want to express a debt of gratitude and affection to my friend, my wife, lover and rock of support as Valentine's Day approaches on February 14th. I love you, Baby.

Brenda and I are proud to be of service to all of you and to this great Association. May God bless our troops, our first responders, our families and all of you.

Thanks for Lending a Hand!

Fraternally,

Al Kayal, President  
Arizona Elks Association

## *“Elks Ladies Keeping Spirits Bright With Jewelry Project”*



In the true spirit of Christmas, a trio of Elks Ladies, with a visit from Steele Research staff Lori Castro, distributed refurbished items of jewelry to the young patients at Banner Children's Specialist Clinic in Phoenix. Over two separate dates, the volunteers distributed a total of several hundred gift-wrapped jewelry items to 120 children to be used as Christmas gifts for their mothers, grandmothers, aunts and family members. In this holiday season, Arizona Elks Ladies have distributed thousands of pieces of beautifully-refurbished items of jewelry to hundreds of child patients throughout Arizona.

Submitted by: Al Kayal

In the picture, seated from left to right, Mary Snyder, Arizona Elks Association Past First Lady; Brenda Kayal, Arizona Elks Association Current First Lady; and Linda Boyson, Lady of Past State Vice-President. Standing is Lori Castro, Volunteer Engagement Manager, Steele Children's Research Center

## *“Veterans Never Forgotten at Phoenix Lodge #335”*

From December 13-17th, Lodge 335 volunteers helped lay 18,000 wreaths on the headstones of our deceased military in the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road in Phoenix, honoring those who diligently protected our freedom over the years. On January 6th and 8th, we volunteered to clean up all the wreaths laid.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson  
Photo by: Reyness Price



## *“Sierra Vista Lodge #2063 Hosts Haunted House for Charity”*

The Ghouls and Ghosts (plus a few zombies, clowns, and witches) were out in force at our Annual Haunted House (26-29 October 2023). We had another successful year, and made a total of \$3,100—\$1,100 in cash, and \$2,000 in food. Due to the Mid-Year convention, we were only able to host the Haunted House over 4 days, instead of our standard two weekends in October. Based on how we did, we crushed previous weekend totals. All food and monetary donations collected were presented to Peach's Pantry Food bank. They provide weekend meals for children on the school lunch program.



Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile



**Arizona Elks Association  
Annual Meeting  
May 9-11, 2024**



## *“Tucson Lodge #385 Hosting Multiple Blood Drive Events”*

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Tucson Elks Lodge #385 hosted our first Red Cross Blood Drive. We have scheduled additional Blood Drive events listed below. The donations begin at 9:00 AM and end at 2:00 PM. Please feel free to drop in as walk-ins are welcome!

Saturday, April 13, 2024  
 Saturday, June 8, 2024  
 Saturday, October 12, 2024

If you are donating somewhere else and would like, it's easy to ask to have your donation credited to our account: Tucson Elks Lodge 385.

Submitted by: John Aceves

Pictured: Blood Drive Coordinator  
 Katrina Sharp donating blood.



## *“Clothes and Toys From Lake Havasu City 2399 to H.A.V.E.N.”*



The Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City assembled 100 bags with clothes and Toys to H.A.V.E.N. family resource center for distribution to 100 local children in need. Each bag included a new coat, pajamas, socks, underwear, shoes, outfits and toys. Each child also received a stuffed toy donated from Kays Jewelers.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

L to R Front to back:  
 Elkette President Gabriele Medley,  
 Member Steve Harris, Exalted Ruler  
 Paulette Nanteau, Trustee Tom Bradley,  
 Ashley Buckles (Haven House), Trustee  
 Jon Villalobos, and Eva D. Fox

## *“Santa and the Grinch On Hand at Sedona #2291 Cherish-A-Child”*

On Saturday, December 16, 2023 several members and guests of Sedona Elks Lodge #2291 took 21 children from the Verde Valley shopping at Walmart as a part of its Cherish a Child Children's Shopping event. The Lodge received \$3,150 in grant money and used this to take local needy children shopping for clothing and necessities. Each child was allowed to spend \$150 on his or herself and was then asked to select a \$25 toy to be donated to the Steele Children's Research Hospital in Tucson, one of Arizona's Major Projects. The children and their families were then invited to return to the Lodge where we hosted lunch and arts and crafts, plus a surprise visit from Santa and the Grinch. All in all, \$1,300 in toys was donated to the Steele Children's Research Hospital to provide for a very Merry Christmas!

Submitted by: Julie Spector



## *“Mesa Buckhorn #2656 Hosts ENF Scholars’ Winter Service Trip”*

Mesa Buckhorn Elks #2656 was honored to host the ENF Scholars who were participating in their 2024 Winter Service Trip on January 5th. We were also please to have AEA State President Al Kayal and his wife Brenda, PDDGER Paul Green and his wife Verna, Special Deputy to the Grand Exalted Ruler Jerry Grimes and his wife Linda, and AEA East District Vice President JeRay Bellon and his wife Nita join us. Also in the picture is ER Dennis Bulck. These Scholars are attending college all over the country thanks to the scholarships they received.

Submitted by: Debbie Melton



## *“Children’s Christmas Party at Ajo Lodge #1576”*



Ajo Elks Lodge #1576 held a children’s Christmas party that included a visit from Santa Claus, a gift for each child who attended, face painting, and pizza.

Submitted by: Marlene Hinman  
Photo by: Melissa Page

Pictured with Santa are Elf Ed Ahlm, Marceline Garcia, Isabella Garcia, Lima Padres, Sophia Rendon, Mia Gallindo, Nyah Padres, Exalted Ruler Diana Ahlm, Elf Marlene Hinman, Alize Rendon, Cameron Baur, Emery Pedersen, Joshua O’Neill, Evalynn O’Neill, Elk Debbie Allen, and Olivia Whitehouse.

## *“Sierra Vista Lodge #2065 Hosts Feast in a Bag Event”*

Our Lodge held our annual Feast in a Bag event in November, and provided food for 200 bags. We were able to provide the food due to the receipt of the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant of \$4000. Items included veggies, yams, gravy, pie, cranberry, and other items that will feed up to a family of 4 over Thanksgiving. Our Lodge has been coordinating the shopping, pick-up, and packing of the bags for 6 years. Peach’s Pantry added more items to complete a total of 245 bags, while members of the community donated 245 Turkeys to complete the meal. They also received help in distributing the items from businesses in the community.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile

A Peach’s Pantry volunteer unloads Feasts-in-a-Bag.





## ***“Hometown Heroes Honored by Bullhead City Lodge #2408”***



Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408 recognized three local first responders with Hometown Hero Awards at a dinner on Saturday, January 20th.

**Submitted by: Debbie Cantril**

Pictured from left:  
Exalted Ruler Mike Swain, Fort Mojave  
Mesa Firefighter Carlos Martinez,  
Bullhead City Police Detective Scott Grigsby,  
Bullhead City Firefighter Cesar Guzman,  
and Americanism Chair Melanie Beaver.

## ***“Phoenix West Lodge #2729 Uses Spotlight Grant to Help Local Vets”***

Phoenix West Elks 2729 presented a check for \$2000.00 from the Spotlight Grant to the US Vets in Phoenix AZ. Present were PDDGER Richard Kovaleski and Leading Knight Gerard Cox who is also a Program Manager at US Vets.

**Submitted by: Richard Kovaleski**



## ***“Gratitude Grant Helps Ajo Lodge #1576 Assist Cactus Cupboards”***



Exalted Ruler Diana Ahlm presented check from Elks Gratitude Grant to Cactus Cupboard's Joyce Millar. The grant will help with construction of the new distribution center for holding supplies. The Cupboard distributes basic necessities to the Ajo, Why, and Lukeville area.

**Submitted by: Marlene Hinman**

Pictured are:  
Exalted Ruler Diana Ahlm and  
Joyce Miller of Cactus Cupboards.

## ***“Phoenix Lodge #335 Helps Veterans in Multiple Communities”***

In December, Elk Kathy Lindstrom, a Golden Star mom, distributed a box of 40 white Blessing Bags of toiletries to local veterans' groups to distribute where needed. We also sent over 100 hand-made quilts to Flagstaff along with Blessing Bags. Their Eastern Star Chapter assisted us in distributing these gifts to a veterans' shelter in Flagstaff and the women's shelter in Cottonwood. Our donated bags of clothing and hats were welcome at the Sunshine Rescue Mission in Flagstaff. A huge thank you to Sue Bushmaker and the Resurrection Lutheran Church hand-made quilting team.

**Submitted by: Linda Thompson**

## *“Soccer Club Receives Donation From Tucson Lodge #385”*



On December 13, 2023, the Tucson Elks Lodge #385 donated \$1,000.00 from our Community funds to the Tucson AZ Ft. Lowell Soccer Club.

Submitted by: John Aceves

Pictured left to right is ER Curtis Winters, soccer club representative Zach Roth, and Trustee/BOD Chair/PER Wayne Burns.

## *“Phoenix Lodge #335 Raises ‘Cool’ Cash for AEMP”*

Congratulations to the winners of the Elks Lodge 335 Polar Plunge! Despite the chilly 52-degree weather, these brave souls took the plunge for a great cause, raising around \$2,000 for the Arizona Elks Major Projects. A big shoutout goes to: King: Jeff Beasley who won Youngest Participant, Veteran Plunger, Best Bellyflop and Best Cannonball; Queen Karen Seaman who won Oldest Participant, and Most Pledges raised; and Best Costume: Betty Chamberlain.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson

Pictured are:  
2024 Polar Plunge Queen— Loyal Knight Karen Seaman  
and Polar Plunge King— Inner Guard Jeff Beasley.



## *“Sierra Vista Lodge #2065 Hard at Work Helping Veterans”*



We ordered and packed the food for the Veterans Stand Down Day. The packing party was on Saturday, 20 January, where we had quite a few Lodge members show up to help. We finished all the bags in about 2 hours. It was awesome to see how we all came together, jumped right in and got the job done. We gave the remaining Veteran's Stand Down bags and some crocheted blankets to the Disabled American Veterans and the Warrior Healing Center, which had emptied our shed, only to fill it again with all the bags from the Freedom Grant.

Submitted by: Ed Stone

Pictured are: Sally Applegate, Trustee Ben Granado, Bob Knipps, PER Bob Applegate, and Zeke Knipps.

## *“Kingman Lodge #468 Wheelchair Donation Brings Smiles”*

Ms. Colbert is all smiles after receiving a new motorized wheelchair from Kingman Lodge #468. Stat Medical donated their time to clean and replace the batteries. The chair with a value of over \$9,000.00, was graciously donated by a local Lodge member.

Submitted by: Tami Cash

Pictured left to right:  
Ben Truax, Stat Medical Supplies;  
Mrs. Norene Colbert, Recipient; and  
Exalted Ruler Richard Joseph





## *“Hoop Shoot News”*

The first District Shoot for 2024 was held in Tucson. A big congratulations to South District Chairman Joe Jablonski for achieving 100% in the **South District**. All the Lodges held a shoot. Joe also wanted to thank all of the volunteers that showed up in massive numbers to make sure this contest was a success. South District winners are pictured below, along with AEA President Al Kayal, AEA State Hoop Shoot Chair Gregg Boyce, and South District Chair Joe Jablonski.



South District 8-9 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place girl, Luna Pahonu, Tucson East #2532  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place girl, Asha Rupp, Green Valley #2592  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl Cynthia Whitmen, Willcox #2131  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy, Anakin Machado, Green Valley #2592  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Steven Hyde, San Manuel #2007



South District 10-11 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place girl, Jocelyn Steele, San Manuel #2007  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place girl, Charlee Parker, Green Valley #2592  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl Aubrey Lopez, Ajo #1576  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy, Arian Tapia, Green Valley #2592  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Isiah Hoyer, Tucson #385  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place boy, Santiago Barraza, Willcox #2131



South District 12-13 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place girl, Taytum Defeo, Willcox #2131  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl, Gabriella Gonzalez, Green Valley #2592  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy, Jase Hurtado, Douglas #955  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Hayden Salas, Willcox #2131  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place boy, Santiago Barraza, Willcox #2131





## *“Hoop Shoot News”*

On Saturday January 13th, 2024 in Wickenburg at the Middle School, the **West District Hoop Shoot** took place. West District Chairman Randy Sterling and his volunteers (pictured) did an outstanding job. Randy would like to thank all of the volunteers. West District winners are pictured below, along with West District Hoop Shoot Chair Randy Sterling, AEA State Chair Gregg Boyce, and AEA President Al Kayal.



West District 8-9 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place girl, Paisley Jacobs, Lake Havasu City #2399  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place girl, Ariana Breazzel, Parker #1929  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl, Mila Sheppard, Raceway #2852  
 1st place boy, Ezekiel Mesa, Raceway #2852  
 2nd place boy, Jaegeun Kim, Phoenix #335  
 3rd place boy: Giovanni Briseno, Sun City #2559



West District 10-11 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place girl, Emma Aguilar, Sun city #2559  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place girl, Jaelyn Johnson, Yuma #476  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl, Bianca Smith, Raceway #2852  
 1st place boy, Steven Lancaster, Raceway #2852  
 2nd place boy, Jaxen Bosch, Yuma #476  
 3rd place boy, Burke Holmes, Parker #1929



West District 12-13 Year Olds  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl, Erica McGlory, Raceway #2852  
 (She was the only shooter so she shot against the State Chairman and she showed no mercy, beating him handily)



West District 10-11 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 1st place boy, Deelan Anderson, Raceway #2852  
 2nd place boy, Hayden Hinton, Sun city #2559  
 3rd place boy, Daesung Kim, Phoenix #335



## ***“Hoop Shoot News”***

The 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the District Shoots is in the books. On January 20<sup>th</sup> Dennis Appel, **East District** Chairman, and his volunteers (pictured) met at the Boys and Girls Club in Chandler and put on a seamless shoot. East District winners are pictured below, along with East District Hoop Shoot Chair Dennis Appel, AEA President Al Kayal, and AEA State Chair Gregg Boyce.



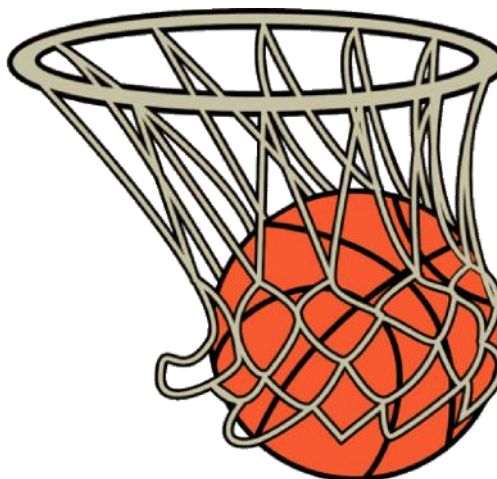
East District 8-9 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place boy, Grayson Coats, Apache Junction #2349  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Jahari Jordan, Casa Grande #1957  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy, Billy Bowler, Chandler #2429  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl, Karianna Ortega, Kearny #2478  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place girl, Audreyana Valenzuela, Tempe #2251  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place girl, Lilliana Lamb, Mesa Buckhorn #2656



East District 10-11 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place boy, Easton Rutherford, Tempe #2251  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Jacob York, Mesa Buckhorn #2656  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy Josiah Dew, Chandler #2429  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl, Naleich Bowler, Chandler #2429  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place girl, Keyla Alvarez, Apache Junction #2349



East District 12-13 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place boy, Anthony Mansfield, Mesa Buckhorn #2656  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Weston Doble, Casa Grande #1957  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy Caleb Stacy Daw, Tempe #2251  
 1<sup>st</sup> place girl, Kawlia Bowler, Chandler #2429  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place girl, Luciaha Lara Solaho, Apache Jctn #2349  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place girl, Leilani Valenzuela, Tempe #2251





## *“Hoop Shoot News”*

On January 27<sup>th</sup> in Camp Verde the North District Hoop Shoot was put on by Chairman Daniel Patterson and his volunteers. Daniel wants to send out a great big thank you to all that helped make this shoot a great success. North District winners are pictured below, along with Arizona Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jerry Grimes, North District Hoop Shoot Chair Daniel Patterson, and AEA State Chair Gregg Boyce.



North District 8-9 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place boy, Trevor Chee, Flagstaff #499  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Clifton Skidmore, Show Low #2090  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy Liam Joe, Page #2498  
 1st place girl, Hunter Robinson, Show Low #2090  
 2nd place girl, Bianca Allred, Page #2498  
 3rd place girl, Sadie Ogborn, Kingman #468



North District 10-11 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place boy, Spencer Hatch, Show Low #2090  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Landon Gorman, Page #2498  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy Thells Baker, Winslow #536  
 1st place girl, Kolbi Rova, Show Low #2090  
 2nd place girl, Aliana Jake, Winslow #536  
 3rd place girl, Tasheena John, Holbrook #2450



North District 12-13 Year Olds. Left to Right  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place boy, Wesley Forsse, Kingman #468  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place boy, Conner Redform, Flagstaff #499  
 1<sup>st</sup> place boy Bradley Nelson, Winslow #536  
 1st place girl, Payton Orton, Holbrook #2450  
 2nd place girl, Kortney Bennett, Prescott #330  
 3rd place girl, Cinniah Echoles, Winslow #536

This wraps up all of the District Shoots. Now the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners will advance on to the State contest in Apache Junction on February 10th, 2024 to compete against the other winners from the Districts for the chance to represent Arizona at the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas.

Submitted by: Gregg Boyce



## ***“Veterans News”***



### **Information and Veterans News**

Mary I Shaffer - Elks National Veterans Service

East Chair - Tracy Cabell 714 587-1070

North Chair - John Roush 719 313-0565

South Chair - Linda Seggie 520 401-3990

West Chair - Chad Arruda 480 338-7814

### **DOD Expands Pilot Program to Renew USID Cards Online**

Jan. 16, 2024 | By [C. Todd Lopez](#) , DOD News |

As part of an expansion of a Defense Department pilot program that kicked off in February 2023, most Uniformed Services Identification, or USID, card holders can now renew their cards online and receive them in the mail, instead of having to schedule an appointment at an ID card office.

Before this expansion, only sponsors with a common access card could request online renewals, but now most retirees and non-CAC holders are eligible.

The ongoing pilot program allows family members, retirees and others to avoid making appointments at a pass and ID card office. Instead, they can renew USID cards online via the [ID Card Office online](#), or IDCO, website. It's important to note that the pilot program is for renewal of the USID card only — not for the initial issue. Also, the pilot is limited to cardholders within the United States, though expansion to non-US addresses is in the works.

#### *Spotlight: Taking Care of Our People*

Mike Zarlenga, with the Defense Manpower Data Center, said that DOD currently issues about 4.5 million ID cards each year. About 2.5 million of those are USID cards, and of those, roughly one million are renewals eligible for online renewal. The pilot program, Zarlenga said, is meant to make life easier for family members and retirees.

"We think modern capabilities like renewing a driver's license online make it easier for people to get what they need when they need it without burdening them with having to take a trip somewhere," Zarlenga said. "We're excited about this, and it sounds like people see online renewal as making their lives easier, based on the feedback we're getting."

The pilot program also enhances the DOD mission by freeing up appointment slots at pass and ID offices for active duty military personnel and civilian government employees who need to apply for or renew a CAC.

"We want to enable the ID card sites today to better service the CAC holders who are our mission enablers," Zarlenga said. "We want to make sure that people visiting that office can get an appointment when they need one, and they can get their CAC and resume their mission or duties with minimal impact to them or to the department."

More information about the online USID card renewal pilot program, including restrictions and requirements, is available on the [cac.mil website](#).



## *“Grand Lodge News”*

### **New Officers elected, PERs honored in February**

A small group of actors and entertainers began this great Order on February 16, 1868. Look where we are one hundred and fifty six years later: We are still here to serve those in need, proving that *“Elks Care—Elks Share.”* What a journey!

February is a very busy month for us as Elks. Only two months remain in the Lodge year. If you still have goals you haven't met, it's not too late. Get to work on them, they can still be accomplished. Use the next two months wisely and you certainly can get a lot done. It would be quite an accomplishment to announce to all of your Members that you have successfully reached the goals you set almost one year ago.

February is when new Officers are nominated and elected for the new Lodge year. All Lodges in our Order should elect leaders who are going to be dedicated to



**Message from  
the Grand  
Exalted Ruler  
RANDY P.  
SHOOK**

the affairs of your Lodge and community. The success of your Lodge programs will depend upon their leadership. Lodge Secretaries should note that February is when you must upload the Lodge directory into the CLMS2 web page. This information is extremely important so that updates are done in a timely manner.

This month we recognize our Past Exalted Rulers. We must let them know their leadership and experience is invaluable to

us. A Past Exalted Rulers Night is a great way to honor them for their contributions to your Lodge. Make them feel proud of their accomplishments.

During February, we recognize American Heart Month. This is when we get our Lodges and communities together in raising awareness to prevent heart disease. Proudly wear red during this month to show Elks care about cardiovascular health.

In addition to Presidents' Day on February 19, we also celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14. We remember the people we love and those who make a difference in our lives. To my wife, Wanda, thank you for being my valentine for the past forty one years.

Remember: *“We Are THE Elks.”*

God Bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

### *“Sierra Vista Lodge #2065 Veterans Parade and Shed Dedication”*

Our Lodge decorated and participated in the Sierra Vista Annual Veterans Parade on November 11, 2023. After the parade we hosted a BBQ for Veterans and their families in our community. Later in the afternoon we dedicated our Veteran's Committee's shed to the late LTC Earl Devine. He was the driving force that started and built the Veteran's Committee to where we are today, not only in our Lodge, but within the community. The Veteran's Committee is alive and well and it is a true honor to be dedicating the Veteran's shed in his name.

Submitted by: Shawnee Carlile

### *“Phoenix Lodge #335 Sends Winners to District Hoop Shoot ”*



The Phoenix Elks Lodge held their Hoop Shoot on December 16th at North Phoenix Preparatory Academy. The Lodge hosted an Awards Ceremony with trophies to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in their six divisions: Boys 8-9, Girls 8-9, Boys 10-11, Girls 10-11, Boys 12-13, and Girls 12-13. Our Lodge winners who will go on to the district finals: are Max Krich, Adelyn Finecey, Daesung Kim, and Jaegeun Kim. This is the first time we have had brothers (the Kims) win in their respective divisions.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson

Pictured are:

Elroy the Elk and PER Randy Sterling, in the back  
And in the front are Daesung Kim, Jaegeun Kim,  
Adelyn Finecey, Jax Benavidez, and Max Krich.

## “Arizona Red Vest Order Form”

### Arizona Elks Red Vest Order Form



*Flashover Graphics*

2425 Hualapai Mtn Rd Ste C Kingman, AZ 86401

928-718-6892

[info@flashovergraphicsaz.com](mailto:info@flashovergraphicsaz.com)

Name:   
 Address:

Phone:  Email:

Red Vest Bottom Pockets	S	M	L	XL	2XL	\$ 36.00	
Red Vest Bottom Pockets	3XL	4XL	5XL			\$ 40.00	
Name on Left Chest:						included	
Title/Lodge# on Right Chest:						included	

Red Vest Bottom Pockets	S	M	L	XL	2XL	\$ 36.00	
Red Vest Bottom Pockets	3XL	4XL	5XL			\$ 40.00	
Name on Left Chest:						included	
Title/Lodge# on Right Chest:						included	

#### Please Mark Delivery

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pick up - Jerry Grimes	Free	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ship to Customer - USPS Priority Mail	\$ 14.00	

#### Payment

Cash	\$	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>		
Make Checks Payable to: Flashover Graphics				
Check	\$	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	/CK#	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
Credit Card#	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text"/>	Exp Date	<input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/>	CVV Code <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/>
CC Total	\$	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	Signature	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 250px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">SIGN HERE</div>



## “Grand Lodge Convention HOTEL Reservation Form”

### Austin Texas Grand Lodge Convention HOTEL Reservation

**“Everything is Awesome In Austin”**

*June 30, - July 3, 2024*

**Return This Form To Jerry Grimes By March 1, 2024**

*Please Print Legibly*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: Please PRINT CLEARLY \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse / Significant Other Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Persons: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: King Bed \_\_\_\_\_ Two Double \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Flying \_\_\_\_\_ Driving \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge # \_\_\_\_\_ 2024 – 2025 Year Position \_\_\_\_\_

**This is a Non-Smoking Hotel**

~~~~~  
**Rooms Are limited.** Reservations will be on a first-come basis. Send reservation early.  
*All Rooms Require a Deposit - First Night's Stay \$158.00*

1. Room Deposit \$158.00 (includes tax) – Required \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. New Arizona Individual Trading Pin \$ 3.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Arizona Hospitality Room – (\$100.00) - Per Lodge - Exalted Ruler \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:

**Arizona Elks Association**

Mail to: Jerry Grimes  
3397 Monte Moro Street  
Kingman, Arizona 86401  
928+692-5633 (H)  
nukid50@gmail.com

**Note:** You will not receive confirmation from the hotel. I will receive.  
a master list of confirmation numbers. Be assured if you send me  
your registration form by DEADLINE DATE (3/1/24) you will  
have a room reservation.

**Office Use Only - Please Leave  
Blank**

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Check # / Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Balance Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospitality Room \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL FOR YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER**  
**ANY/ALL cancellations or changes in reservation MUST go through Housing Chairman**

**RETURN REGISTRATION FORM TO Ed Leuer, PSP BY April 15, 2024**



## “AEA Annual Meeting Registration—Page 2”

### ANNUAL MEETINGS REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Elk/Non-Elk Spouse or Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration required to attend Meetings, Seminars, Social Events and Hospitality Room.

**NO REFUNDS AFTER APRIL 30th, 2024 NO TO GO BOXES AT MEALS**

Please indicate events you will attend by inserting the NUMBER OF TICKETS (#) and TOTAL DOLLARS.  
Cut-off date for these requests is April 15, 2024. NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE REGISTRATION DESK.  
NOTE: The Hotel does not allow plate/meal sharing and to go boxes.

| DATE/DAY                                                                                                               | SOCIAL EVENT                                                                                                                                                   | CHOICES                                                                                            | # | Price * (Ea.) | Total   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------|---------|
| May 08<br>Wednesday                                                                                                    | <b>WELCOME DINNER</b><br>No Host Cocktails 6:00 - 7:00 PM<br>Dinner 7:00 PM<br>All Elks and Guests<br>Dress - Casual                                           | <b>BUFFET</b><br>Chicken Boursin and Beef<br>Tips and Noodles, Salad,<br>Dessert,<br>Coffee or Tea |   | \$40.00       | \$ 0.00 |
| May 09<br>Thursday                                                                                                     | <b>WESTERN FUN NIGHT</b><br>No Host Cocktail 6:00 - 7:00 PM<br>Dinner 7:00 PM<br>All Elks and Guests<br>Dress - Western or Casual                              | Fried Fish                                                                                         |   | \$40.00       | \$ 0.00 |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                | BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich                                                                           |   | \$40.00       | \$ 0.00 |
| May 10<br>Friday                                                                                                       | <b>SPOUSES LUNCHEON - 1:00 PM</b><br>No Host Cocktails 12:00 to 1:00 PM<br>Theme: "Spring is in the Air"<br>Dress - Casual                                     | Chef Salad                                                                                         |   | \$22.00       | \$ 0.00 |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                | Turkey BLT on a Croissant                                                                          |   | \$22.00       | \$ 0.00 |
| May 10<br>Friday                                                                                                       | <b>A.E.A. BANQUET - FIESTA BALLROOM</b><br>No Host Cocktail, 6:00 - 7:00 PM<br>Dinner 7:00 pm - Assigned Tables<br>Dress: Summer Formal-Officers<br>Suit & Tie | Prime Rib                                                                                          |   | \$40.00       | \$ 0.00 |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                | Salmon<br>w/ Bourbon Maple Sauce                                                                   |   | \$40.00       | \$ 0.00 |
| May 10 & 11<br>Thur & Friday                                                                                           | <b>SPOUSES COFFEE</b><br>Hospitality Room , 9:00 - 10:30 AM                                                                                                    |                                                                                                    |   |               |         |
| <b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE FOR SOCIAL EVENTS (Automatically Transfers to Page 1)</b><br>(*Tax and Gratuity Included in Price) |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                    |   |               | 0.00    |

BREAKFAST AND LUNCHESES are available in the Milagros Restaurant

A.E.A. MEETINGS begin at 8:00 AM, Fiesta "I" and "II" - May 09, 10, and 11  
STATE RITUAL FINALS Thursday & Friday mornings (Rooms & Times TBA)

#### A.E.A. REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

May 08 - NOON-5:00 PM    May 09 & 10 - 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM    May 11 - 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM  
CONVENTION CENTER LOBBY

#### A.E.A. HOSPITALITY ROOM HOURS

Wednesday, May 08  
12 noon – 5:00 PM  
After Dinner – 11:00 PM  
Host: Sue Krausman  
1st Vice President South

Thursday, May 09  
12 noon – 3:30 PM  
After Dinner – 11:00 PM  
Host: JeRay Bellon  
Vice President East

Friday, May 10  
12 noon – 4:00 PM  
After Banquet – 11:00 PM  
Host: Hank Thonnard  
Vice President West

Saturday, May 11  
12 noon – 1:30 PM  
Host: Meetings Committee