

Arizona Elks News

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

May 2024



“Thanks for Lending a Hand”

Brother and Sister Elks,

It is hard to believe that this AEA year is coming to a close. It seems like yesterday that Brenda and I were returning from the Nevada Elks annual meeting and making final preparations to take the reins of leadership from Mike and Kathy Weishan. As we approach the May Convention, we are looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of this fantastic year documented by the committee reports and the awards presented and passing the torch of leadership to soon to be installed President Sue Krausman and First Gent Jimm. Brenda and I wish Sue and Jimm the best of luck, grateful in knowing the AEA is in good hands.



Brenda and I had the privilege of traveling to Chicago to represent the Arizona Elks Association at the National Hoop Shoot Finals. You may recall that Gabriella Gonzalez, representing Green Valley Lodge #2592, won the Girls 12-13 Year Old Division at the Area 7 Shoot thus advancing to the National Finals. Gabriella was accompanied by her family and was graciously hosted by Hoop Shoot Director Gregg Boyce and wife Jeannie. We had the opportunity to visit and tour the majestic and stately Elks National Memorial. We, along with Gabriella and her family, took in a Cubs game at Wrigley Field, zipped to the top of the majestic Sears (Willis) Tower and dared to walk out onto the transparent SkyDeck. We enjoyed the pleasure of each other's company as we ate Deep Dish Chicago Pizza. Gabriella did not win the contest, but won our respect and love as she competed valiantly. Gabriella is a multi-talented young lady and will continue to accomplish great things in life. Thank you Gregg and Jeannie.

We have had another extraordinary year, membership-wise, as the latest report shows we are number 3 in the nation, the second consecutive year we have achieved that lofty standard. Congratulations to Membership Chair, Jerry Ingram, his District committee chairs, the Lodge Secretaries and the AEA members that have made this lofty accomplishment possible. If tradition holds true, we should have a pretty good seating position at Grand Lodge as we cheer for Sue as she parades our great Arizona flag. Now, let's get our members, new and old, involved in the great works we do as Elks.

Brenda and I have been 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 extend a word of gratitude to Janet, Ed and every member of that hard-working committee. Brenda has planned another spectacular luncheon for the spouses/partners/guests. Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and First Lady Wanda will be our guests of honor. Randy is an accomplished auctioneer and might help auction an item or two for AEMP fundraising and he can sing, too. State Sponsor and dear friends Jim Grillo (and Lucia) will.....

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Next AEA Newsletter submission deadline

23 May 2024

aenewsletter
@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* R.I.P.

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"

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.....also be in attendance. Bring your cowboy/cowgirl finest, as we will have a live band and plan on "raising the roof" on Fun Night. Ritual activities will be in full swing and on display. Take a moment to support our dedicated Lodge Officers and members as they compete in the Team, Eleven O'Clock and Flag Presentation Contests. We will hold a Memorial Service in memory of our departed AEA leaders Lee Schwein, PSP; Charyll McKean, PSP; Hersh Eaton, VP; Jimmy Davis, PSP; Kurt Brown, PSP, and all our departed members. "We shall meet, but we shall miss them..."

Please help us out! A) Lori Castro, from Steele, is gladly receiving diapers and gift cards. Please load up on these items and bring them to the convention. There will be a receptacle for collecting these in the Hospitality Room; B) Lori also states...The Elks North Hills Clinic would love a 40" TV with a DVD player built in it to have in the Lobby for the Kiddos to watch during their Doctor visits. Anyone having a special connection to this type equipment and can arrange for a donation or special pricing, please let me know. Help me find a deal or donation.

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.

Brenda and I want to thank all of you for your support, your encouragement and your friendship. We have toured the great State of Arizona from North to South and from East to West. Your works of generosity, kindness and selflessness are unmatched and have truly blown us away. We have represented our great State at the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, the National Hoop Shoot Finals in Chicago and State Conventions of Elks in Nevada, California and Utah. We are so proud to have been of service to all of you and to this great Association. Thanks, finally, to the AEA Committee members and AEA Officers that work so hard to make dreams a reality. It is great to be an Arizona Elk.

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

"Lake Havasu #2399 Assists Families Affected by Cancer"



The Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes from contributed \$500 to Denise's Day, a local charity dedicated to assisting families affected by cancer. The funds were raised through pie sales at the Elks lodge during dinner time.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured from left to right:
Elkette Pie Chair Lisa Nutt, Melinda Obradovich,
and Denise's Day President Heather Springman.

“Sedona #2291 Hosts Verde Valley Veterans Stand Down”



On Wednesday, March 27, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Sedona Elks Lodge #2291 hosted the 3rd Annual Verde Valley Stand Down. This event was dedicated to Verde Valley Veterans and was in memory of James David Warfield USMC. Services available included: VA Enrollment and Services, Hygiene Kits, Clothing and Surplus, Community Services, Employment Services and Job Fair, Dental, Vision and Medical Assistance, Haircuts, Pet Food and Pet Care, Veteran’s Court Information, Notary, Housing Support Services and a Women Veteran’s Reception. Lunch was provided by the Sedona Elks Veteran’s Committee, free of charge to all participants.

Submitted by: Julie Spector

“Lake Havasu City #2399 Helps Sponsor Local Special Olympics”

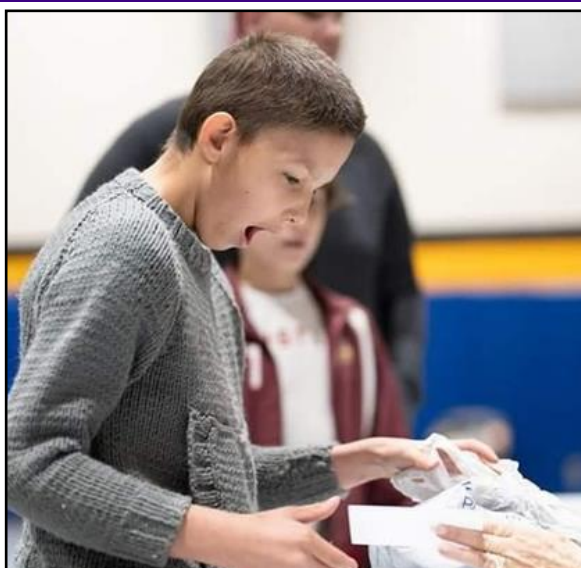
The Elks Lodge # 2399 in Lake Havasu City, AZ donated \$500 to the Lake Havasu City Special Olympics. In photo from left to right is PER and Special Olympics Chairperson Debbie Herd with Chris Anderson, Special Olympics Volunteer and Sergeant Cox with Mohave County Sheriff’s office who sponsor the Special Olympics in Lake Havasu City.

The money will go towards travel to the Special Olympics Volleyball championship tournament.

Submitted by: Eva Fox



“Flagstaff #499 Uses ENF Grant for Shoes, Socks, and Books”



Ash Fork student reacting to his new shoes!

Flagstaff Lodge #499 provided a Beacon Grant to the Ash Fork School District on March 23rd. The grant provided 100 students with new shoes, socks and a book selected for them. Approximately \$3000 was spent of Beacon grant monies to provide the items listed above. On that morning 12 volunteers from Flagstaff Lodge #499 were on hand to process the students through the stations where they signed in and got their card, then went to each station to receive the items selected just for them. The students were treated to pizza, snacks and juices. Reading centers where short stories were read to them by the Elk volunteers were a huge hit. It was a wonderful experience for all involved.

Submitted by: Kathleen Cothrun

“Tucson #385 Teams with ENF for Easter 2024 Clothe-A-Child”

On March 16th, 2024, the Tucson Elks Lodge #385 held its Easter 2024 Clothe A Child. Twenty-five kids each received a \$150.00 for clothe shopping at JC Penny’s located at the Tucson Mall. Each also received the bike with a helmet and pillow with handmade pillowcase. Each child also received a backpack with school supplies and other essentials for school.

A basket full of small toys, coloring book with crayons & fruit candy were waiting for them at the Lodge which also included a light lunch. Along with funds from Lodge #385, funds were used from the \$2,500.00 Beacon Grant received from Elks National Foundation. An Elk member also presented each teacher with a small gift certificate for all their hard work.

Submitted by: Martha Megerle



Members Laura Ruiz, Mona Garcia, and volunteer Lois Wilford ready to help with the kids shopping.

“Casa Grande #1957 Hosts Elks Riders Quarterly Meeting”



It was a beautiful ride to Casa Grande, Az for the quarterly Elks Riders Meet on April 6, 2024. Four lodges joined together to discuss upcoming rides and events. Those lodges included, Casa Grande, Chandler, Ajo, and Tucson East. The quarterly meetings are rotated at different lodges throughout the great state of Arizona.

Arizona Elks Riders get together quarterly and yearly to promote brotherhood and Elkdom. The separate lodges come together to support each other’s lodges

by attending rides and special events. The Riders discuss ideas of how we can better get Elks and Riders out into the community with participation and better communication. As members of this great organization, we are Elks first, riders second. Many of us serve in officer positions within our lodges and support lodge charities. We promote Elkdom by inviting others in the community to join us through riding, therefore gaining new members.

Chandler Elks Riders are very active in riding, supporting and fundraising for charities such as AEMP, Nation of Patriots, Capture the Flag and various other Veterans organizations. By being active Elks and Riders we bring the communities together for a common goal....supporting our veterans.

Submitted by Mags Bohner
Chandler Elks #2429 Elks Riders President

“27 Years of Hosting Chess Tournament at Kingman Lodge #468”

Kingman Lodge #468 has been hosting and grilling up lunch for area kids, their families and coaches for the annual schools Chess Tournament for 27 years now. We had children from five school locations including Parks and Recreation.



“Lake Havasu Elkettes ‘Tip’ Disabled American Vets”

The Elkettes of Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City donated \$1000 to the DAV. Funds came from the Tip Jar during the Elkettes January concert series by the Dueling Pianos. The Dueling Pianos generously donated the tips from their concert to a selected charity announced prior to the starting of their playing.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured:
 Frank Blain, DAV Chapter 27's
 Senior Vice Commander,
 with Elkettes Concert Chairperson,
 Sheri Sanderson.



“GOVERNMENT RELATIONS—A New Year Begins”

Each year the Elks contribute millions of dollars’ worth of time and money - as well as goods and services - to hundreds of worthwhile programs throughout the nation. Tracking this generosity online is one of the key ways we maintain our 501(c)(8) tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service.

COMMITTEES THAT SHOULD BE REPORTING CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Americanism | Major Projects |
| Drug Awareness | Student of the Month/Year |
| Hoop Shoot | Food Basket Programs |
| National Veterans Service | Recognitions (Firefighters, law enforcement, etc.) |
| Scholarship | Other lodge committees as needed |
| Youth Activities | |

Every member or lodge Chairperson should report all charitable activities. For each activity, report:

- Time spent planning, round-trip travel, cash and non-cash contributions and time actually performing the event.
- Designate whether participation in these activities was by the member or non-member such as spouse.

All hours, etc., are reportable. Include time spent planning, organizing, shopping, setting up and cleaning up after the event as well as time spent during the event.

Note: Attendance at Grand Lodge or State Association Conventions is reportable as:

- Miles traveled to and from the convention and one half of the hours spent in business sessions.
- Time spent in working booths at convention, etc., such as the Major Projects booth at both the Grand Lodge and State Conventions, as well as time spent setting up and tearing down and cleaning.

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

“GOVERNMENT RELATIONS—A New Year Begins”

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CHARITY RECORDS

A partial list of items to report for the following events include time, mileage, and expenses.

Elks National Foundation events	Golf tournaments
Mothers/Father’s Day events	Crab/Lobster/Spaghetti, etc. dinners
Elks Memorial Services	Youth Week
Flag Day	Lodge meetings
Boy/Girl Scout contributions	Orientation/Initiation of new Members
Firefighters/law enforcement recognitions	Investigating Committee
Hoop Shoot	Member Appreciation Nights
Soccer Shoot	Board Meetings (Trustees, House, BOD)
Scholarship awards/dinners, etc.	Calendar meetings
Americanism	CPR/First Aid classes
Car shows	Drug Awareness activities
Veterans night	Auxiliary Organization activities
Parades	Grant writing
Bingo for Veterans	Lodge Bulletin preparation/Bulletin contest
Gold Tournaments	Major Projects activities
Charitable meals (Taco/burger nights)	DD Clinics, Leading Knight Clinics
Easter programs	
Veterans hospital activities	

Lodge Secretaries have Charity Records forms to be completed following each event. The forms should be returned to the lodge Secretary as soon as possible. The lodge Secretary is responsible for physically entering the charitable statistics in CLMS each month and at the end of the fraternal year. All required forms are found in the Government Relations Manual.

As the new State Chairman for Government Relations it is my goal to make Arizona a shining example for charitable reporting. Special recognition is given by the Grand Lodge to the state associations that are successful in reporting the charitable things we do for our communities, including our schools, our seniors and our veterans.

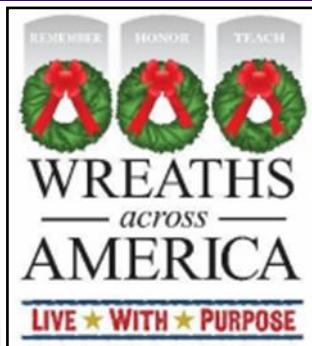
The 2024-2025 Government Relations Committee District Chairs are:

- East District: Debra Melton Mesa Buckhorn Lodge
- North District: Sari McQuality Jerome Lodge
- South District: Renee Concodora Sierra Vista Lodge
- West District: Roger Ehrlich Sun City Lodge

With the diligence of lodge Government Relations Chairs monitoring lodge events, I know we can accomplish great things. I’m depending on the District Chairs to provide guidance to lodges as needed and to continue to encourage reporting. According to the Grand Lodge, they estimate that only half of the charitable things we do are reported, and that is probably an understatement. With our attention to the importance of diligent reporting practices, I know we can show the nation that we are truly the finest and most charitable state Association in the nation.

Ira Cohen
State Chairman

“Casa Grande Valley #1957 Receives Special Recognition”



Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 is Proud to be Named a Top Group in Arizona for Wreaths Across America Casa Grande, AZ, April 10, 2024 – Each year, national nonprofit Wreaths Across America (WAA) recognizes top sponsorship groups for excellence in serving their local community while helping to share the yearlong mission to Remember, Honor, Teach. Among the thousands of supportive groups honoring locally interred veterans through wreath sponsorships, WAA recently announced that special recognition has been given to Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957, as one of the outstanding groups in Arizona. Since its founding in 2007, WAA has collaborated with hundreds of like-minded charities, community programs, and civic groups throughout the country to remember and honor our nation’s veterans and active-duty military throughout the year. Through this national program, WAA has given back \$25 million in local contributions over the last 16 years! “I have long said it would be disingenuous for us as an organization whose mission is to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom if we do not support other like-minded programs doing just that in their communities,” said WAA Executive Director Karen Worcester. “The Sponsorship Group Program is a great way to support the programs doing good work in your area all year, while honoring as many veterans as possible!”

Submitted by: Donna Johnson

“Law Enforcement/Firefighter Awards at Prescott Lodge #330”

Each year, Elks all over the country, and our Lodge in particular, gather to honor those who have chosen professions that often place their lives and bodies in harms way. It is not just a platitude that the men and women who fight fires and enforce our laws have the courage to run toward danger. They do this despite the fact that human nature and logic tell us to flee those dangers.



Firefighters actions stop the spread and put out horrific conflagrations. Their paramedics medical training and actions save lives and occasionally revive those whose hearts have stopped. Police officers, Sheriff deputies and state troopers man the thin blue line between anarchy and order, between criminals and victims, between open roads and highways of death, injury and destruction.

On March 5, 2024, the Prescott Elks Lodge #330 honored six police and fire personnel with awards and dinner. Buz Williams, Elks Police and Fire Chairman awarded Arizona Highway Patrol - Trooper Robert Coker, Central Arizona Fire - Engineer/Paramedic Adam Croft, Prescott Fire Department - Engineer Adam Morris, Prescott Valley Police Department - Detective Brian Hohrein, Prescott Police Department - Officer Dylan Schrock and Yavapai County Sheriff's Office - Deputy Darrell McClintock.

Besides the recipients, their chiefs of supervisors and family were in attendance. After the awards ceremony approximately 25 attended a special dinner at the Lodge. for all.

Submitted By: Bobbie Knorr

“Tempe #2251 Charity Ball Honors First Responders / 100 Club”



Jason Schechterle receives check from Esteemed Leading Knight Larry Kirsch

On February 24, 2024, Tempe Lodge No. 2251 hosted our annual Charity Ball. This year the committee selected the **100 Club of Arizona**, an organization that helps the families of first responders that have either lost loved ones or have been injured in the line of duty.

It was a fantastic evening that included a silent auction, lottery board raffle, food, and dancing with all proceeds going to the 100 Club. I am pleased to announce that we recently presented a check for \$9,000 to Jason Schechterle, the Mission Ambassador of the 100 Club of Arizona!

We also honored the Tempe Officer of the Year, Detective Sergeant Dave Koger of the Tempe Police Department; Tempe Firefighter of the Year, Captain Jim Collier from Tempe Fire and Medical Rescue; and our Tempe Citizen of the Year, Dawn Garza of Lily’s Pad.

Submitted by: Connie Schulteans

“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Donate to K-9 Foundation”

The Elkettes of Lake Havasu City Lodge # 2399 donated \$400 to the Mohave County Sheriff K-9 Foundation. Money came from sales in the Jewelry case at the lodge.

In the photo on the left accepting the check is MCS K-9 Foundation Board Member Sandee Scherer with Jewelry Chair and Elkette Jo Black

Submitted by: Eva Fox



Grand Lodge Convention

Austin, Texas

June 30 through July 3, 2024

“News From Phoenix Lodge #335”



Esteemed Loyal Knight Becky Simons and Honor Flight Board Member and Elk Robert Krug

Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 continued its tradition of community service by hosting yet another successful Red Cross Blood Drive on March 20th. Twenty-six volunteers donated blood and plasma to save lives.

On March 17, Lodge 335 held a chocolate making class, raising \$900 for the Children's Christmas Shopping Spree. Forty participants had great fun and were able to take their yummy creations home.

On March 23rd, Phoenix Lodge Veterans Committee volunteers attended the 20th Anniversary Piestewa Fallen Heroes Memorial honoring fallen hero Lori Piestewa of the Hopi Tribe and other local fallen service members. Lodge 335 donated 20 quilts and blankets, jointly with RLC quilting group and the Paralyzed Veterans of America, to provide comfort to tribal and Gold Star families.

Phoenix Elks participated in the Stand Down event at the State Fairgrounds on March 21 and 22, in a longstanding commitment to support Veterans. These yearly Stand Downs provide crucial help to homeless and at-risk Veterans with a wide array of services such as food, clothing, health screenings, as well as referrals for health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, and mental health counseling. Our Veterans Committee not only attended but also played a vital role by offering services such as a coffee cart filled with snacks supplied by our volunteers, and medical equipment, ensuring the health-related needs of the Veterans were met.

On April 18, the Lodge 335 Veterans Committee, in addition to hosting a luncheon honoring Phoenix area veterans, had the pleasure of donating \$2,600 to cover the costs for two Veterans on an upcoming flight.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson

“Traveling Elk Volunteers to Help Veterans”

March 2023 – John Wilson joined the Elks in Prescott last year as he was getting ready to retire from driving trucks for Ace Hardware. He found out that many of the Elks Lodges have campsites throughout the United States; so he retired, bought an RV, and hit the road last month. While visiting Kingman Elks Lodge No. 468, he mentioned that he would be in the area and wanted to volunteer to help out. ER Richard Joseph suggested he contact Nani Chrimes at the Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council where he was sure they could use some help.

John spent several hours installing window blinds in the living quarters for homeless Veterans entering the Low Demand Safe Haven program at Operation 6 on Oak Street in Kingman. The blinds ensure privacy for the Veterans. The facility will house 20 homeless Veterans when fully operational. It’s volunteers like John that once again prove that “Elks Care, Elks Share.” Thank you, John!

Submitted by: Tami Cash



From left to right are John Wilson, Jared Akin (JAVC Outreach Navigator), and ER Richard Joseph.

"This & That"



Lake Havasu City Lodge # 2399 Monday Night Dancers donated \$200 to the Clothes Closet. In the photo are the Elks Monday night dancers with Clothes Closet's Cindy Keasey receiving the check .



On Saturday, March 29, 2024, **Casa Grande Valley Lodge #1957** gave away over 300 Easter baskets to children under 12 who reside within our community! The Easter bunny (Leading Knight, Chris Repass) and Elroy the Elk (Exalted Ruler, Kary Kerr), were present to meet and greet! Thank you to all who volunteered and donated for this event!



Payson Lodge #2154 donated two bicycles to the Pedal & Play Community Health Day, a biking safety education event, held on April 27th.



Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes donated \$900 to the Disabled American Vets. Funds came from the Elkettes Crazy Auction. In the photo from Left to Right are DAV chapter 27's Senior Vice Commander, Frank Blain, and Crazy Auction Chairs Heidi Albrecht and Susan Seales.



At the lodge meeting of the **Casa Grande Lodge #1957** held on April 2, lodge members were presented with end of year awards. Receiving the Elk of the Year was Elaine Lamm. Officer of the Year was presented to Grover Ramsey.



Payson Lodge #2154 donated \$1,000 to the Gila County Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse for their Shop with a Hero program. Pictured Sergeant Mark Highstreet, Deputy Engler and Kris Bolingmo, Lecturing Knight.

“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

VA priority groups

Priority group 1 - We may assign you to priority group 1—You have a service-connected disability that we've rated as 50% or more disabling, or You have a service-connected disability that we've concluded makes you unable to work (also called unemployable), or You received the Medal of Honor (MOH)

Priority group 2 - We may assign you to priority group 2—If you have a service-connected disability that we've rated as 30% or 40% disabling.

Priority group 3 - We may assign you to priority group 3—You're a former prisoner of war (POW), or You received the Purple Heart medal, or You were discharged for a disability that was caused by, or got worse because of your active-duty service, or You have a service-connected disability that we've rated as 10% or 20% disabling, or You were awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C § 1151, “benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation”

Priority group 4 - We may assign you to priority group 4—You're receiving VA aid and attendance or housebound benefits, or You have received a VA determination of being catastrophically disabled

Priority group 5 - We may assign you to priority group 5—You don't have a service-connected disability, or you have a non-compensable service-connected disability that we've rated as 0% disabling, and you have an annual income level that's below our adjusted income limits (based on your resident zip code), or You're receiving VA pension benefits, or You're eligible for Medicaid programs

Priority group 6 - Assignment based on disability rating or general service history—We may assign you to priority group 6 if any of these descriptions are true: You have a compensable service-connected disability that we've rated as 0% disabling, or You participated in Project 112/SHAD, or You served in World War II between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, or You served in the Persian Gulf War between August 2, 1990, and November 11, 1998, or You served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987

We may also assign you to priority group 6 if all of these descriptions are true for you: You served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and You were discharged from active duty on or after October 1, 2013, and You meet the minimum active-duty service requirement Note: You'll have 10 years of enhanced eligibility from the date of your discharge or release. At the end of this 10-year period, we'll assign you to the highest priority group you qualify for.

We may also assign you to priority group 6 if you were exposed to toxins or other hazards during military service at home or abroad in any of the ways listed here. If you participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. If you were assigned to a duty station (including airspace above) in certain locations during specific periods: On or after August 2, 1990, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates, or On or after September 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country that we determine is relevant. If you were deployed in support of any of these operations: Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Freedom's Sentinel, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn, or Operation Inherent Resolve, or Resolute Support Mission. If you were exposed to ionizing radiation in any of these ways: During atmospheric testing, or During the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or While conducting cleanup of Enewetak Atoll between January 1, 1977, and December 31, 1980, or While participating in onsite response efforts in Palomares, Spain, between January 17, 1966, and March 31, 1967, or While participating in onsite response efforts on Thule Air Force Base, Greenland between January 21, 1968, and September 25, 1968. If you were exposed to Agent Orange and served in any of these locations and time periods: The Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, or Thailand at any United States or Royal Thai base between January 9, 1962, and June 30, 1976, or Laos between December 1, 1965, and September 30, 1969, or Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province between April 16, 1969, and April 30, 1969, or Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa between January 9, 1962, and July 31, 1980, or Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll between January 1, 1972, and September 30, 1977.

Priority group 7 - We may assign you to priority group 7 if both of these descriptions are true for you: Your gross household income is below the geographically adjusted income limits (GMT) for where you live, and You agree to pay copays.

Priority group 8 - We may assign you to priority group 8 if both of these descriptions are true for you: Your gross household income is above VA income limits and geographically adjusted income limits for where you live, and You agree to pay copays .



“Grand Lodge News”

May calendar has events for moms, military, youth

May is a busy month for the Elks. There are several different opportunities to show our communities that “*Elks Care—Elks Share*” and “*We Are THE Elks.*”

The Elks National Youth Week is celebrated May 1–7. This is an excellent time to show our support for the many programs dedicated to our youth such as scholarships, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness, and the Dictionary Project, just to name a few. They demonstrate to our communities the dedication we have for the youth of today and our commitment to helping them become the leaders of tomorrow.

The second Sunday in May is Mother’s Day, a time to honor mothers and grandmothers. Our mothers spent endless hours teaching and guiding us, shaping who we are. They inspired us,



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
RANDY P. SHOOK

protected us, taught us about devotion to family, and loved us unconditionally. We give them gifts, take them to dinner, cook them a special dinner, or send them flowers— anything to make them feel as special as they are. To them, Mother’s Day is a day to be surrounded by loving family. **Happy Mother’s Day.**

This is also the month we celebrate Armed Forces Day, on Saturday, May 18. This is the day to say **thank you** to

all men and women in all branches of the military. These individuals protect and defend this great country of ours. Please show them that **Elks Care** and appreciate their service to our country.

Memorial Day, on May 27, is a time to demonstrate patriotism for our great country, exhibit pride in our flag, and show our commitment and appreciation for those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice so we can live free. There are many services that honor these deceased military men and women. Please take the time to hold a ceremony or participate in a community remembrance for the heroes who served.

Finally, remember GER Award for DDs deadline is on the 15th. The Annual Report and Annual Charity Report are due May 1.

“Tucson #385 Feeds 470 at Special Olympics”



Members and volunteers making sandwiches.

The Tucson AZ Elks Lodge #385 made about 470 sandwiches for the Special Olympics Event held at the Tucson Amphi High School on April 13, 2025. Many Elks members(18) and volunteers (6) helped with the making of the sandwiches and the distribution at the event itself. Over 400 athletes and about 50 other volunteers at the event.

Submitted by: John Aceves

“Lake Havasu City #2399 Supports Soup Kitchen”

The Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes contributed \$500 to Our Lady of the Lake Soup Kitchen raised through pie sales during the lodge’s dinner hour.

The soup kitchen serves 1400-1600 meals per month to homeless and needy families. Sit down meals are served Tuesday and Thursdays from 4-5:30 at the Knights of Columbus building and to-go meals can be picked up on Saturdays from 8:30-10:30 am.

Pictured from left to right are Elkettes Pie Chair Lisa Nutt, Elkette Dottie Toppin, and Soup Kitchen Supervisor Linda Nitschke.



Submitted by: Eva Fox

14 states lauded for informative, vibrant bulletins

By THOMAS W. FRAKER
Committee Member

Contest I – State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins.

Today’s various forms of media have increased the pressure on the editors to create eye-catching publications.

Judging is based on four categories: **Content, Layout & Typography, Pictorial, and General.** Thank you to the many State Associations and their editors who entered.

5 Star ★★★★★ Awards

State	Editor
Arizona	David G. Dean
Florida	Rachael A. King
Georgia	Linda Lewis
Illinois	Elizabeth Conaway
Kansas	Carl E. Lindsey, Jr.
Louisiana	Buddy Hartle
MD, DE, DC	Janie Swigert
Michigan	Jean Chapdelaine
Missouri	Joy Clarkson
New York	Timothy Welpe
New Jersey	Kelly Miller

4 Star ★★★★ Awards

Colorado	Cynthia Wyszynski
North Carolina	Ashley Buckwell
Washington	Jen Steele

“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

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

Pick up - Jerry Grimes	Free	
Ship to Customer - USPS Priority Mail	\$ 14.00	

Payment

Cash	\$ <input type="text"/>
Make Checks Payable to: Flashover Graphics	
Check	\$ <input type="text"/> /CK# <input type="text"/>
Credit Card#	<input type="text"/>
Exp Date	<input type="text"/>
CVV Code	<input type="text"/>
CC Total	\$ <input type="text"/> Signature <input type="text"/>

“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

“AEA Annual Meeting Registration—Page 1”

Please No Staples

May 9 - 11, 2024

ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION - 109th ANNUAL MEETING

Double Tree by Hilton Hotels, 2100 S. Priest Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO AEA AND MAIL WITH FORMS BY April 15th TO:

Ed Leuer PSP,Chairman PO Box 2383 Camp Verde, AZ 86322 (928) 301-2369 email: leuer.123@centurylink.net

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Lodge _____

ATTENTION: LODGE SECRETARY AEA HOSPITALITY ROOM FEE \$ (\$50.00 per lodge)

ELK MEMBER Choose One Name _____

NON ELK MEMBER Choose One Name _____

REGISTRATION FEE* \$ (Number of Elks x \$25.00) SOCIAL EVENTS (From Page 2) \$ \$ 0.00 TOTAL CHECK ATTACHED \$ \$ 0.00

WIDOW / WIDOWER NAME Elk [] Non Elk []

STATE OFFICER LODGE OFFICER

STATE COMMITTEE [] PSP [] PDDGER [] DDGER [] PSVP

* Fee is \$25.00 for each Elk member. If husband and wife are both Elks fee is \$50.00. No fee for Non-Elk spouse, widow, or guest. Fee must be paid to attend all Meetings, Seminars, Social Events and Hospitality Room.

Separator line of asterisks

Double Tree REGISTRATION FORM

2100 S. Priest Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282

Please PRINT information for Room Reservations:

Please note: Hotel Check In Time is 3:00 PM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Early Arrival [] Tuesday, May 07 Arrival Date (Please check one) [] Wednesday, May 08 [] Thursday, May 09 [] Friday, May 10 Departure Date (Please check one) [] Thursday, May 09 [] Friday, May 10 [] Saturday, May 11

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

LODGE NAME/NUMBER _____

Type of Room Desired [] Two Queen Beds [] One King Bed

Room Rates: Single \$109.00 Double \$109.00 Plus 14.07% Sales Tax

Please list any special needs (i.e., Handicapped Room, Roll-in Shower, etc.) _____

DO NOT send Room Deposit with Registration Form! ALL RESERVATIONS and CANCELLATIONS MUST BE HANDLED BY THE MEETINGS COMMITTEE Your Lodge will be charged for all "No Shows" The Doubletree is a Non-Smoking Hotel

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

BREAKFAST AND LUNCHEAS 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
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