



Arizona Elks

Major Projects



August 2024 Newsletter

Please send all written correspondence to AEMP at
P.O. Box 91560, Tucson, AZ 85752



**A Message from the
Executive Director,
Richard Ross PDDGER**

Great to Be An Elk!

Everywhere we went in Austin Texas during Grand Lodge convention we heard these Positive Words! What a revelation for me! I have been to many Conventions, but this is the first time I utterly understand why I wanted this position! To share what we believe and why we stand out among so many other State Major Projects. Our motto of Elks Care, Elks Share, Children's Laughter is What we Are After is the catalyst that is sending a chill to so many Elks. Sharing all we do for our Kids. From Steele Research to Jack Wartner Youth Camp many other organizations are looking for change and see our program as an opportunity to succeed. Everyone who stopped by the Arizona Booth was amazed about what we did.

The information we provided to other Elks allows us to tell a story about our Research Center and a Youth Camp. How this research and finding is helping our children who graciously deserve a chance to live life to their fullest. Through all our hard work we shared to many, what our Doctors have done to find ways for our children to live long healthy lives. I know that the Mortality rates have gone down with so many positive results, but I like to share two stories.

God Called this Young Lady but her research helped many!



Courtney Zillman's Story

Courtney Zillman was diagnosed with neuroblastoma when she was 9 months. Cancer became a way of life for her and her family. She once was overheard telling a neighborhood friend, "I can't come and play today, I have cancer."

Her cancer was in remission once, then she relapsed and needed a bone marrow transplant. A few months after that her cancer returned and pediatric oncologists at the Steele Center were out of treatment options.

Courtney died on Thanksgiving Day. She was 4 years old.

This story was sent to us by the Steele Research Center.

By Krystina Diaz

Born at 24wks gestation.

114 days early

Born May 16,2012

Due: Sept 7,2010

Mirea 1lb 5 oz

Miguel 1lb 11 oz

Days in NICU: 164

So, my NICU story would begin with Misael, Miguel and Mirea in 2010. It was UMC at the time. I gave birth to my first triplet at 22+6wks (Misael), he was tiny weighing 1lb 1 oz, and his lung collapsed, he only survived for the day.

8 days later at 24wks I gave birth to Mirea and Miguel. Mirea weighing 1lb 5oz and Miguel 1lb 11oz. They remind me how far we have come medically. 12 years ago, my little 24-week miracles were a rarity. Now working in the NICU a 24wker is a regular occurrence. These babies are met with confidence and care.

You hear a lot how baby girls seem to be stronger and do better than baby boys. That wasn't the case for me, my Mirea needed a lot of help and support. I held her twice before she was put on the High frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV). After that I was not able to hold her until she was just about ready to come home. I even got a call telling me to come in because she had coded several times, and it was possibly time to say goodbye. Lucky for me, I had amazing primary nurses and one of them repeatedly advocated for Mirea and eventually she received a PDA ligation. I honestly believe that is what saved her life.

Both Mirea and Miguel have Permanent Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus (NDM), it is a lifelong condition caused by a mutation in their KCNJ11 gene. Along with diabetes this mutation is also associated with developmental delay, epilepsy and other neurological conditions. My littles were treated in the NICU with glyburide.

Permanent Neonatal diabetes Mellitus (NDM) is a rare 1 in 300,000–400,000 newborns in 2016 and 1 in 500,000 in 1996.

Banner attendings (Dr Bader and Dr Kylathu) did research and have written a paper on the studies they did for NDM following the birth of the M&Ms. I can't open many as they require payment or some sort of log in, but here is a snippet of a paper that I was in fact able to access online.

Personalized precision medicine in extreme preterm infants with transient neonatal diabetes mellitus - PubMed (nih.gov) Personalized precision medicine in extreme preterm infants with transient neonatal diabetes mellitus (degruyter.com)

Giving birth early and losing a child makes you feel alone and well, frankly like a failure. But the NICU nurses made me feel supported and heard. They loved and still love my kids as if they were their own. Even now, 12 years later someone will say something about my littles, and I will learn something new about their birth... Because they remember, they remember the delivery room, the emergency page, the crazy sugar babies in room 13.

NICU runs in Mirea's veins. Every year from kindergarten to 6th she has been a NICU nurse for career day. With help she made button headbands during the pandemic for mask wearing. She has donated parent goodie bags to the NICU with her Scholarship Pageant group (Cinderella). Did a book drive to help with the NICU library when it first started and now, she wants to help volunteering at clinic when the Kids of Steele are there.

Miguel still comes on his therapy days and has lunch with one of his primary nurses. He is always asking to come visit the nurses he grew up with and eat some Banner pizza lol.

For the first 5 years after they were born, I did not work outside of my home. When I was finally ready to work, I knew I didn't want to go back into finance. I was scared, I was scared to leave my kids, I was scared of starting over career wise, scared to fail. I wanted to make a difference for people and feel useful. I now had a lot of medical knowledge and experience from my kids. And I was fascinated by all the advancements that had taken place in the last 5 years alone. So I started school at Pima to be a medical assistant and I applied to work at the one place that gave me strength at my weakest moment.

I started off as a part time NICU HUC (health unit coordinator) at the front desk working 2 nights a week and then eventually added a day shift because I loved it. Even at HUC you learn so much. Everyone is always so willing to explain things when you ask. I joined many committees. Was laid off by Banner and crazy as it sounds, I came back lol. I started back at the NICU as a Formula Technician which is where I am now.

I now have 5 NICU graduates out of my 6 living children. I took home 30wk twin girls with NAS (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome) and hip dysplasia in 2022 as medical kinship and adopted them in January 2024 and am fostering a 27weeker with several rare medical conditions including Holoprosencephaly and Hydrocephalus.

My oldest Markie is not a NICU graduate, but he spent 6 months of his early life visiting his siblings. He was 1.5years and back then siblings could come in. He would sit in the recliner chair and eat snacks and color or read from books the NICU staff had given him.

Funding from Arizona Elks for Pediatric Medical Research is what makes all of this so important. Every second, every day new findings and research discoveries.

Thank you for sharing my story!











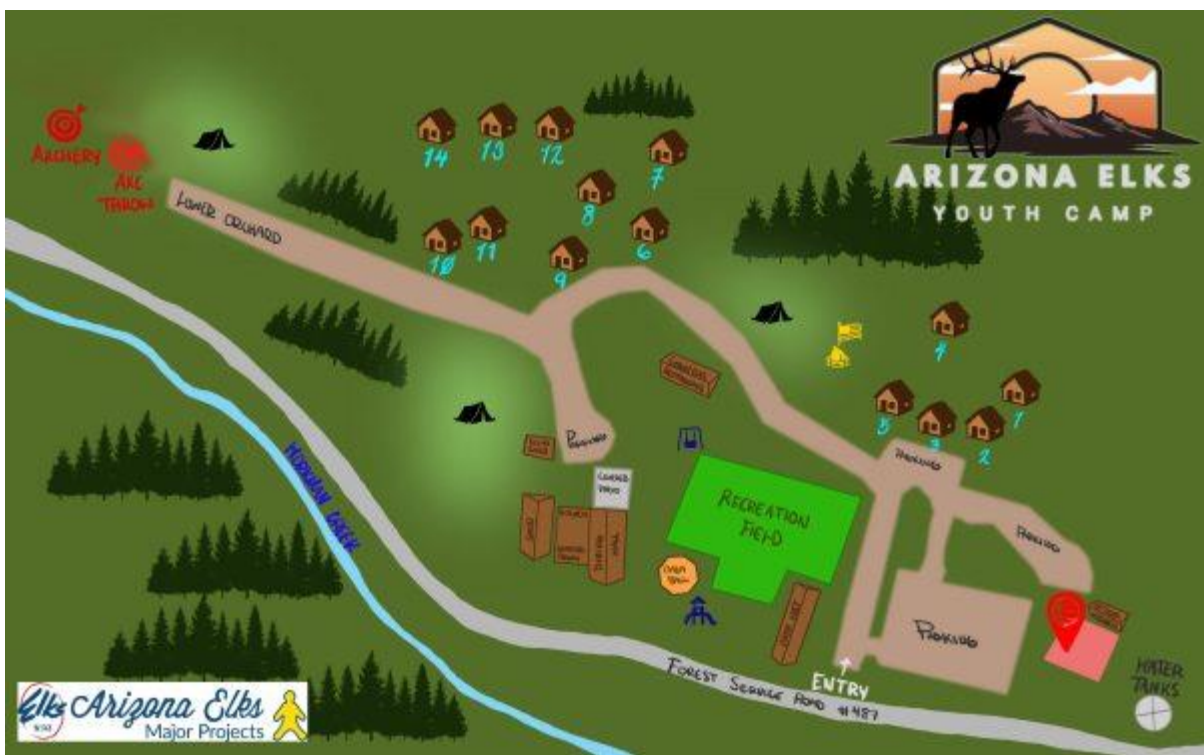


The message we are sending is that we want all our children to live life to the fullest. As in life we must take the good with the bad but with all our hard work we can have more successful stories of life. Your Lodge Fundraising, all your hard work, helps us stay Alive!

Jack C. Warter Jr, Youth Camp

The Jack C. Warter Jr Youth Camp is Camp for Youth Groups such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, 4-H, JROTC, CASA, Church Groups, and other not for profit. Youth Service Organizations are welcome to use the camp at no charge. We do, however, require a refundable \$350 Security (Which is Refunded at their request once the Camping Trip is completed) and a \$50 administration fee at the time of booking.

The Youth Summer Camp is owned and supported by The Arizona Elks Major Projects. We invest \$60,000 to \$70,000 each year to ensure it is ready for the youth of Arizona to come enjoy this unforgettable site. Therefore, we ask that our guests help keep the site in good condition. Located 40 miles Northeast of Globe, Arizona, Workman Creek is nestled in the Sierra Ancha Mountain Range. It's a remote mountain location so campers should be aware of bears, wolves, dangerous reptiles, flash flooding, and lightning.




GREAT NEWS FOR ALL!

Twenty plus years ago we bought the Land as an opportunity to help our children experience camping and exploring the Wilderness. Our promise to purchase this camp was to give three youth camp \$5000 scholarships a year. As of this day we only have one more to award and then the Camp will fully belong to AEMP. The Total Cost was \$300,000.

We went to Austin Texas to share and express how hard all Arizona Elks work to make these programs more successful. All the Fundraising, Diamond Club, Fall/Spring Appeals and Donations help Arizona Elks Major Projects keep moving forward for better results. I can't wait For Kansas to share more success!

Thank you, Casa Grande Valley Elks Lodge, for your donation of \$3800 for the Youth Camp. They raise it during the Testicle Festival. Already told them that I will be there for next year's event. Contact Grover Ramsey for more information.

Thank You Tucson East Lodge for your donation of \$3400.00, It was raised at their Christmas in July. Dr. Fayez Ghishan, Director of the UA Steele Children's Research Center, gave a great speech. He reported the latest successes in defeating Autoimmune Diseases and Cancer in Children, and his gratitude for the Elks is inspiring! What Joy, 🥳🎉


Thank You Ken Nelson PER from Douglas Elks Lodge #955. Ken was selected by Arizona Public Service (APS) as one of 20 Top volunteers. He has been given the opportunity to select an organization of his choice to receive a one-time \$500 donation. He chose Arizona Elks Major Projects and will make a \$500 donation from APS. Congratulations!

If you have an AEMP Fundraisers or Golf Tournament or a Donation please let us know. We want to show everyone all the challenging work you are doing for our future leaders!

From Arizona Elks Major Projects Board Members and Staff, we thank you in this Great Endeavor! God Bless our Troops, our 1st Responders, Our Elk Families, and the United States of America!

Steele Research Center Upcoming Tours



Saturday, August 24th
East District

Steele Research Center Tour Bus

Only 56 tickets-\$40/person includes Sloppy Joe Lunch
at CGV Elks #1957 Purchase ticket by 8/22/24

Departure:

7:00 AM Depart-Mesa Buckhorn Elks Lodge
7:30 AM Depart Chander Elks Lodge
8:30 AM Depart Casa Grande Elks Lodge
Arrive Steele Children's Research Center at 9:30ish

See Grover Ramsey or Steve Like for more info

Return:

11:30 Depart Steele Center
12:30 Arrive at CGV Elks #1957 for lunch
2:00 Depart to Chandler
3:00 Arrive at Chandler
4:00 Depart to Mesa
4:30 Arrive at Mesa

BYOB
if you choose!

Steele Research Center Tour

Visit the Steele Research Center by Booking your Tour through AEMP Office. Call Megin at 520-326-0556.

Community Grant Award

2023-2024

We have 32 Lodges who Made the \$8.00 Per Capita for 2023-2024. Please DO NOT WAIT TILL THE LAST DAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. Get them Turned in ASAP!

Lodge	District	P/C Total	Award Donated To
Ajo	South	\$15.42	
Apache Junction	East	\$22.83	
Bullhead City	North	\$13.76	
Casa Grande Valley	East	\$9.60	
Casas Adobes	South	\$8.61	
Catalina Mountain	South	\$28.28	Steele Foundation
Chandler	East	\$19.90	
Chino Valley	North	\$67.97	
Douglas	South	\$25.49	Douglas Youth Football & Cheer
Flagstaff	North	\$10.63	
Fountain Hills	East	\$9.69	
Gilbert	East	\$15.19	Pandora's Box Feed the Kids
Green Valley	South	\$9.94	
Holbrook	North	\$11.08	
Jerome	North	\$10.33	
Kearny	East	\$24.26	
Mesa-Buckhorn	East	\$10.17	
Page	North	\$21.89	
Parker	West	\$23.21	
Phoenix	West	\$20.74	
San Manuel	South	\$22.52	
Scottsdale	West	\$8.00	
Sedona	North	\$12.96	
Show Low	North	\$9.47	
Sierra Vista	South	\$11.27	
Tempe	East	\$32.83	
Tucson	South	\$32.70	AHS Summer Basketball
Tucson East	South	\$27.27	
Wickenburg	West	\$21.06	
Willcox	South	\$8.75	
Winslow	North	\$8.00	
Yuma	West	\$15.35	

Upcoming August/September Events

Winner, Winner! **Fried Chicken Dinner!**

Join us for a Fried Chicken Dinner with the delicious sides!

When

August 10, 2024 5:00 pm Dinner at 6:00

Where

Catalina Mountain Elks 16045 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, 85739

What

A Chicken Dinner with Sides, Tea, Desert, Raffles, and some fun surprises. It is a \$20 donation to MAJOR PROJECTS!



This is your opportunity to join us in our support of The UofA Steele Children's Research Center, The Elks Pediatric Clinic, and Jack C. Warter Elks Youth Camp!! There are so many ways to contribute. This is a labor of love as our children are always so close to our hearts. Lisa Chavez 520-609-2484



The 2024 AEMP Raffle Prize

2024 Honda Pioneer 700-4 Deluxe UTV

with a 14' Carson Utility Trailer or \$10,000 Cash!

The Pioneer has a 675cc, liquid cooled 4 stroke engine, automatic transmission, belted seating for 4, 25x10 tires, half doors, windscreen, and roof. The rear seats fold down to create a cargo bed with a 1000lb capacity, and the Pioneer has a 1,500lb towing capability, making it a very flexible utility vehicle ideal for multiple uses.

Get your tickets at your local Elks Lodge or from the AEMP office.

Tickets are: \$5.00 each or 3 tickets for \$10.00.

The drawing will be held on October 20, 2024, at the AEA Mid-Year Meeting in Tempe.



Must be 21 years of age or older to win. Tickets are not tax deductible. Winners are responsible for any applicable taxes and vehicle registration fees. Individuals do not have to be present to win and will be notified by AEMP.

SHOW LOW ELKS STATE

GOLE

TOURNAMENT

Join us for a day of fun and friendly competition on the greens as we raise funds and awareness for a great cause. All proceeds to go Arizona Eks Major Projects! **This event will be a 4-person scramble.**

**\$125
PP**



**SEPT
7, 2024**

Price includes golf, range balls and lunch back at the lodge!
Raffle and 50/50 tickets will be sold and we will have silent auction items.

Birdie Ranch at REGISTER NOW!

Silver Creek

2051 Silver Lake Rd
Show Low, AZ 85901

Brooke: 828-788-0987
brookepatterson2090@gmail.com

Hole Sponsors \$100

Player 1: _____ HDCP: _____

Player 2: _____ HDCP: _____

Player 3: _____ HDCP: _____

Player 4: _____ HDCP: _____

Contact Phone # _____



The 2024 AEMP Mid-Year Raffle

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The Pioneer has a 675cc liquid cooled engine, automatic transmission, belted seating for 4, the rear seats fold down to create a cargo box.

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

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

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

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

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Lodge Name and Number _____

GREAT NEWS



Here at the ZOOM Meeting giving AEA the Best News Ever!

Dear Arizona Elks,

On behalf of the National Philanthropy Day committee, we want to congratulate The Arizona Elks again on being selected as the 2024 Outstanding Foundation Philanthropist.

There are six major awards celebrated at National Philanthropy Day. Here are this year's Big 6 Honorees:

- Outstanding Philanthropist – The Levitz Family
- Outstanding Foundation – Arizona Elks Association
- Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser – Nancy March
- Outstanding Fundraising Executive – Gemma Thomas
- Outstanding Corporation/Corporate Foundation – AZ Complete Health
- Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy - no recipient this year

I look forward to meeting you and learning more about you during the filming of the video (see attached PDF with details). You can reach me here or my work email address is mindy@bagitcancer.org

Thank you so much, and congratulations again!

Mindy Griffith, Nominations Committee Chair
National Philanthropy Day

AEMP will keep you updated!



Arizona Elks
Major Projects



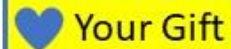
Proudly Presents the

Diamond Club

Become a member today to join the cadre of caring individuals that help to support AEMP with a monthly donation.

Joining the Diamond Club is easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Go to azelksmp.org

2. Click on yellow the “Your Gift” button 

3. Fill out the donation form and click on the blue donate button 

All Diamond Club members receive this stunning lapel pin



to proudly display their support for AEMP and all members are recognized in the monthly AEMP newsletter and at our state and Grand Lodge conventions.

Donations to AEMP are tax deductible

THE DIAMOND CLUB needs your support! We have over 30,000 AZ Members and to be realistic would like to have a 10% increase or more. Your Donations would help all around in Supporting AEMP! So, join a Great Program that supports our children.

AEMP Diamond Club Members

A big Thank You to our AEMP Diamond Club Members for their ongoing monthly donations to AEMP.

CM denotes a Charter Member

Ken & Dianna	Adams	Sierra Vista #2065 (CM)
Edward	Ahlm	Ajo #1576
Debbie	Allen	Ajo #1576
Janae	Appel	Chandler #2429
Alex	Arroyo	Wilcox #2131
Robert	Bahr	Sun City #2559
Kurt	Baker	Sun City #2559
Vincent & Roseann	Bancroft	Chino Valley #2842
James & Judi	Beischel	Fountain Hills #2846
Larry & Diane	Bodwell	Phoenix #335 (CM)
Richard & JoAnn	Botkin	Tucson East (CM)
Steve	Bowman	Page #2498
Greg & Jeanne	Boyce	Show Low #2090 (CM)
Daniel	Bradshaw	Catalina Mountain #2815
Venita	Brazier	Sun City #2559
Clem	Brown	Phoenix #335 (CM)
Brandy	Bruffett	Out of State
Dennis	Bulck	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Bob & Lisa	Burns	Tucson East #2532 (CM)
Carol	Burns	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Angela	Buso	Kearny #2478
Beth	Butler	Douglas #955
Michael & Jodi	Carboni	Gilbert #2848
Barry & Shawnee	Carlile	Sierra Vista #2065
Joseph & Diane	Carlone	Green Valley #2592
Taleen	Carpenter	Gilbert #2848
Gloria	Cisneros	Catalina Mountain #2815
Ira	Cohen	Casas Adobes #2663 (CM)
Michael	Comerford	Casas Adobes #2663
Bill & Margaret	Darr	Phoenix #335
David & Vicky	Dean	Sierra Vista #2065
Monty & Deborah	Derting	Catalina Mountain #2815
Vickie	DeValle	Out of State
Brian & Sharon T.	Dooley	Bullhead City #2408
Barbara	Eble	Show Low #2090
Paul	Ertman	Sun City #2559
Frank	Fieldhouse	Catalina Mountain #2815 (CM)

AEMP Diamond Club Members

CM denotes a Charter Member

Daniel	Foley	Out of State
Calvin	Fong	Casa Grande Valley #1957
William	Foucher	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Eva	Fox	Lake Havasu City #2399
Salley	Frankel	Tucson East #2532
John	Fuller	Yuma #476 (CM)
Martin	Galchutt	Sun City #2559
Michael	Giannetta	Wilcox #2131
Bob	Gleason	Sun City #2559
David	Gnuschke	Tucson #385
Megin	Goetz	Tucson East #2532
Brian & Sheri	Gorski	Chandler #2429
Mike	Granholt	Sierra Vista #2065
Paul & Verna	Green	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656 (CM)
Casey	Hackett	Show Low #2090
Douglass & Victoria	Harpold	Catalina Mountain #2815
Catherine	Hart	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Renne	Higginbotham	Show Low #2090
Tamara	Hilton	Prescott #330
Frank	Hinman	Ajo #1576
John	Holtzapple	Out of State
Leslie	Huerta	Catalina Mountain #2815
Jerry & Sandie	Ingram	Chandler #2429
Donna	Johnson	Casa Grande Valley #1957
Bruce	Kather	Sun City #2559
Al & Brenda	Kayal	Phoenix #335 (CM)
Richard	Kimberly	Sedona #2291
Michelle	Krivanek	Catalina Mountain #2815
Elane	Lamm	Casa Grande Valle #1957
Larry	Legge	Show Low #2559
Rokki	Leonard	Gilbert #2848
Steven & Mary	Like	Chandler #2429
Denise	Loth	Out of State
Robin	Madson	Show Low #2090
Alan	Malott	Winslow #536
Michael	McBurney	Ajo #1576
Tim & Charyll	McKean	Sierra Vista #2065
Danny	Monroe	Scottsdale #2148
Judy	Mooney	Casas Adobes #2663
Lawrence & Virginia	Morrison	Gilbert #2848
Travis	Napolitan	Page #2498

AEMP Diamond Club Members

CM denotes a Charter Member

Ken	Nelson	Douglas #955
John	Olson	Tucson #2532
Gary	Parsons	Lake Havasu City #2399
James	Powell	Kingman #468
Peter	Pervi	Out of State
Zachery	Phillips	Ajo #1576
Larry & Stephanie	Pratt	Tempe #2251
Grover & Deborah	Ramsey	Casa Grande Valley #1957
Jim	Ray	Chino Valley #2842
Lisa	Rivers	Wickenburg #2160
Aimee	Rogers	Chandler #2429
Richard	Ross	Tucson East #2532
Theodore	Sadlowski	Phoenix #335
Terry & Stephanie	Sanders	Parker #1929
Denny	Scanlan	Tucson #385
Mary	Shaffer	Casas Adobes #2663 (CM)
Kathleen	Schellhas	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656
Thomas	Seeley	Ajo #1576
Katrina	Sharp	Tucson #385
Brigid	Sherbo	Tucson East #2532
Phillip	Shoaf	Lake Havasu City #2399
Ken	Short	Casas Adobes #2663
Anthony	Sichi	Phoenix #335
Bryan	Silver	Tucson #385
Al & Diane	Skorupski	Catalina Mountain #2815 (CM)
Dan & Mary	Snyder	Raceway #2852 (CM)
Mary	Springer	Payson #2154
Darla	Stacy	Out of State
Ron & Marie	Starjnski	Catalina Mountain #2815
Thomas	Strupp	Phoenix #335
Jim	Theobald	Out of State
Linda	Thompson	Phoenix #335
Hank	Thonnard	Lake Havasu City #2399
Susan	Trecartin	Tucson #385
Nancy	Turner	Casas Adobes #2663
Bruce C.	Van Den Eng	Casas Adobes #2663
Jim	Watkins	Apache Junction #2349
Vicki	Way	Sun City #2559
David	Whitmore, Jr	Show Low #2090
Patricia	Willers	Bullhead City #2408
Clinton	Wilkins	Show Low #2090

AEMP Diamond Club Members

CM denotes a Charter Member

Ronald

Wilson

Wickenburg #2160

Membership is easy! Just go to <https://azelksmp.org/donate/> and complete the donation form to join us in our support of children in Arizona. In Austin Texas Elks Convention, I signed up 5 New Diamond Club Members. We have many other New Diamond members that signed up and I will have a complete list of all Diamond Club Members in the August 2024 Newsletter!

Who's Who in AEMP

AEMP Board of Directors

President	Mike Giannetta, PER	Wilcox #2131
Vice President	John Fuller, PER	Yuma #476
Secretary	Randy Appel, ER	Chandler #2429
Treasurer	Hank Thonnard, PDDGER	Lake Havasu City #2399
South	Steven Like PER	Chandler #2429
East	Al Skorupski PSP	Catalina Mountain # 2815
North	Dennis Holt, PDDGER	Jerome #1361
North	Larry Legge, PER	Show Low #2090
Member At Large	Larry Carver, AEA 1 st VP	Kingman #468
Ex-Officio Member	Susan Krausman, AEA President	Sierra Vista #2065

AEMP Staff

Executive Director	Richard Ross, PDDGER	Tucson East #2532
Administrative Assistant	Megan Goetz, PER	Tucson East #2532
Financial Advisor	Bob Burns	Tucson East #2532
Statutory Agent	Tom Sylvester	Tucson East #2532

AEMP District Representatives

East	Grover Ramsey, PDDGER	Casa Grande #1957
North	Richard Kimberly, PDDGER	Sedona #2291
South	John Olson, PER	Tucson East #2532
West	Robert Gleason, PER	Sun City #2559

AEMP Camp Advisory Committee

Chairperson	Dennis Appel, PDDGER	Chandler #2429
East	Randy Appel, PER	Tucson East #2532
North	David Whitmore, PER	Show Low #2090
South	Tom Miller, PDDGER	San Manuel #2007
West	Larry Bodwell, DDGER	Phoenix #335

AEMP Camp Scholarship Advisor

James Rasmussen	Globe-Miami #489
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