

Arizona Elks News

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

September 2024



“Spreading the Joy”

Inside this edition:

AEA President's Message 1-2

Local Lodges Charitable and Community Contributions 3-9

AEA Jewelry News 10

Veteran's News 11

Government Relations News 12

Grand Lodge News 13

AEA Newsletter

Submission deadline:

24 Sept. 2024



September means school is back in session and our Americanism program is in full swing.

Patriotism Week is September 8-14.

Each Lodge should perform the ceremony in recognition of every American who lost their life on that terrible day. September 11, 2001 – I was Exalted Ruler and remember being glued to the television. Our American way of life changed in many ways, travel,

business, communications. But the

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks DID NOT. It remained patriotic and concerned about our citizens. We banded together to bring relief to those in need. Just like those First Responders we watched on TV and continue to honor through our annual Law Enforcement/First Responder Award Ceremony.

Every Exalted Ruler received information about the Americanism essay contest at their respective District Deputy Clinic in August. Our website shows the subject at “What does Patriotism Mean to Me?” Send letters to the school administrators, and both public and private schools. Do not forget the home school group. Each city should have a formal organization of home schoolers who come together for meetings.

It is time we stopped using COVID as an excuse. We need to get back to when we talked to people and help them understand our Order is here to help round out our nation's children. We do this through our sports and scholastic programs, and we are not going to let them fade away. Be strong and convince the administrators, teachers, coaches, and parents our job in their lives is not to cause more work, but to give the kids another experience before they become adults.



Continued Page 2

**ARIZONA ELKS
ASSOCIATION 2024-2025
STATE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT:

Sue Krausman

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

North: Larry Carver

VICE PRESIDENTS

South: Rocky Davis

East: Steve Like

West: Ron Wilson

SECRETARY:

David Dean

TREASURER:

Alane Asp

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

South -1 Year:

Joseph H Riley, Jr. PSP

South – 2 Year:

Richard Botkin, PSP

East – 3 Year:

Michael Weishan, PSP

North -4 Year:

James R. Casacchia, PSP

West- 5 Year:

Al Kayal, PSP

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Shawnee Carlile

CHAPLAIN:

Giorgio Phillips

TILER:

Casey Hackett

INNER GUARD:

Anna Mineer

ASST. SECRETARY:

Gary Parsons

ASST TREASURER:

Angela Buso

ORGANIST:

Ira Cohen

“Spreading the Joy”

Continued from Page 1

We need to thank AEA Membership Chairman Giorgio “George” Phillips for organizing the Phoenix Rising soccer game experience. Jimm became interested in the game while working with his international students at Fort Huachuca. We watch the various championships throughout the year rooting for the United States in whichever one they are playing in. Of course, we were rooting for the men’s and women’s teams in the Olympics. Being able to attend a game in person was just as fun. Sorry to miss those of you who did not go.

The new District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers have finished their first clinics. They all showed why their District chose them to be the new leaders. I attended every clinic and heard the plans for the upcoming year. Again, every District is slightly different, but we all stress the same things – children, veterans, community.

The Social Welfare Committee again asked for baskets to raffle off at the upcoming Mid-Year Convention. This is one way to raise money for the Children’s Shopping Sprees. Here are a few ideas for the baskets – baking, lottery, BBQ, gardening, bird watching, travel, let your imagination go.

Oh, and don’t forget about their Golf Tournament on September 27th. Every Exalted Ruler received a flyer at the DD Clinics. Let’s support them as they support us.

Fraternally,
Sue Krausman, President Arizona Elks Association



Arizona Elks Association

Mid-Year Meeting

18-20 October 2024

“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Walk the Dogs ”

We Elks at lodge 2350 love and take care of our children and Veterans, but we also do something for our helpless animals at our local shelter located at 1150 11 Mile Corner, Casa Grande, AZ.

This is a big problem here in Pinal County. They consistently have more dogs than they have space for, and the intake is greater than the outgoing. They have over 200 dogs. Through no fault of their own, they are there and kenneled 24/7 with a short break for a walk if they are lucky.

On August 10th, 9 Elks and 1 helper met at the shelter to participate in their public dog walking program. We schedule this the second Saturday of each month and bring donations of food to assist them in feeding these animals.

Pictured left to right: Back Row: Jim Reimer, Craig Smith, Art & Andrew Ridenhour, Janet & Darryl Dobagai Front Row: Debbie Reimer, Gail Smith, Bonnie Ridenhour, Debbie Knutson

Article submitted by: Debbie Knutson



“Casa Grande Valley #1957 ”

Five welcome home kits were donated to the families of veterans this past week by the Casa Grande Elks Lodge. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has pledged to help end veteran homelessness, and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve.

Most veterans move into their homes with nothing. Elks can help veterans establish their homes by building Welcome Home Kits. Generally, this kit would include some small furniture, kitchenware, and cleaning supplies.

Pictured with the home items is (left to right): Grover Ramsey, the Austin Bland family and Veterans Committee Chair, Randy Davis.

Submitted by: Donna Johnson



“Show Low #2090 Holds Backpack Drive”

In June the Show Low Elks Lodge Elks Riders held a poker run to collect backpacks for local elementary school students. Afterward, many lodge members donated paper, pencils, notebooks, crayons and more to fill the backpacks full of school supplies. On July 29, the students at Tonto Basin School received 75 backpacks and school supplies from members David Whitmore and Jennifer Kaiser.

On August 3rd at their registration event, 142 students at the Vernon Elementary School, received their surprise backpacks full of school supplies delivered by 6 members of the Elks Lodge/Elks Riders. Pictured: David Whitmore, Layne Slapper, Brad Garrow, Baron Laetzsch, Jim Pakkala, Jennifer Kaiser



Submitted by : Renee Higginbotham, PER

“Kingman #468 Receives an Excellent Nomination ”

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission is seeking nominations for 13 Commission awards for 2024 in the Kingman area. This year the Kingman Elks Lodge was nominated as they met the criteria for this prestigious award. Groups and individuals must have excelled in efforts to benefit wildlife, wildlife habitats or programs of the Arizona Game & Fish Department.

Kingman Lodge was nominated for an Award of Excellence. This was due to their efforts in the Fishing for Smiles Program they sponsor annually.

Should the Lodge be selected in September to receive the award, an invitation will be given to attend the awards ceremony on January 25th, 2025, at the Tapatio Cliffs Resort in Phoenix.

Submitted by : Jimmy Powell, PER

“Kingman #468 Fishing For Smiles”

Fishing for Smiles is an annual fishing event for young adults and special needs that is sponsored by the Kingman Elks Lodge #468 and co-sponsored by the Mohave Sportsman Club along with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Many other local organizations also made special donations. This program is a catch and release.

This year there were 108 attendees and 18 volunteers. Every year the AGFD provided 61 rods and reels to whoever needed them. They also handed out bags filled with bait, cut up wieners.

The event chairman, PER Jim Powell and Brenda Vallejos were asked how many years this program has been happening. Jim has volunteered for 17 years; Kingman resident Don Martin has volunteered 20 years and states it has possibly been in existence for over 30 years. Martin explains the event originally began with the Kingman Bass Club named Kids Fishing day.

The Mohave Sportsman Club eventually took over the program and renamed "Fishing for Smiles." The program was ultimately adopted it as an annual event by the Elks.

Afterwards all participants and volunteers were treated to hamburger, hot dogs with chili, assorted chips, ice cold drinks and cookies.

Scotty Dunton and the Dunton family generously donated their ponds on their ranch over the years to support this great program for the attendees. Without their ponds many of the youth in the Kingman community would not know the joys of fishing with friends and family.

Without these three organizations and the Dutton family there possibly would not be "Fishing for Smiles" for the children and the special needs citizens as well.

Submitted by: Jimmy Powell, PER

“Page #2498 Celebrates 4th of July ”

Elroy T Elk stole the show again this year during the 4th of July parade. Thank you, Ricky Cottrell for braving the heat in that costume to make Elroy T Elk come to life and Savannah Cottrell for keeping Elroy safe! Thank you to all who came out to decorate and walk with the float to hand out candy and to Dave for the donuts!

Pictured Below: Left to Right front row: Vern, Lionel, John, Adam, Savannah, Mandy and Ricky. Back of the pack is Richard, Delores, Randy and Cody and taking the photo is Melissa

Submitted by; Belinda Napolitan



“Tucson #385 Hosts DD Clinic”

On August 3rd, 2024, SDDGER Barry "Bear" Carlile (1st Picture) held his first south district clinic at the Tucson AZ Lodge #385. All south district Lodges were present, and several members joined the clinic. With a full agenda, this was a perfect opportunity for those new/seasoned officers to gain additional Elkdom knowledge to assist not only their lodge but Elkdom in general. Also in attendance was Arizona Elks Association State President Sue Krausman (pictured in photo with other dignitaries) and 1st gentleman Jimm Krausman. *Submitted by; John Aceves*



“Catalina Mountain 2815”

On August 7th The Catalina Mountain Elks PER Association was happy to have provided about \$250 in snacks and supplies to the Coronado K-8 School Health Office in Catalina, AZ. The donation included cases of water, Liquid I.V. Drink mixes, Snack Crackers and Breakfast Bars to assist the office in taking care of the students whom they attend to. Douglas Harpold, PER and Gloria Cisneros, PER from the Elks delivered the items to the Health Office Nurse Jessica Levy and the Health Assistant Lea Hagin.

Pictured; Douglas Harpold, PER
Jessica Levy and Lea Hagin

Submitted by; Marie Starjinski



“Coolidge –Florence #2350”

Coolidge-Florence members Chad Knutson, Leading Knight and Veterans Chair Mike and Bonnie Rabelhofer (Drug Awareness Chair), teamed together with the members of our local Legion and VFW Clubs to fill backpacks at the National Guard Armory in Florence, AZ. For the children of Military personnel. Each bad was labeled with the Red Ribbon as part of Bonnie’s drug awareness activities.

Submitted by Debbie Knutson

Pictured below Left to Right; Paula Smith, Steve Colins, Bonnie & Mike Rabelhofer Drug Awareness Chair, Chad Knutson Leading Knight & Veterans Chair, Jose “Mo” Maldonado, Florence, AZ City Council and Legion District Manager.



“Phoenix #355 Hosts Bingo”

Phoenix Elks Veterans Committee hosted Bingo at the Arizona State Veterans Home on August 3rd. Eight committee members arrived with snacks, drinks and prizes, and provided a few hours of fun.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

Pictured Left to Right: Becky Simons, Sandy Bailey, Cookie Nanni, Diane Sullivan, Darlene Shephard, VA Rec Therapy Nurse Kenda, Eleanor Ybarra and Kathy Allasia.
Second photo Left to Right: Diane Sullivan and Becky Simons.



“Lake Havasu #2399 Expanding”

On August 1st the Elks Lodge # 2399 in Lake Havasu City, AZ hosted a groundbreaking ceremony as long-awaited building renovations began. Gabriel Medley, chairman of the Elks Planning Committee, said the Lodge would be adding 5,000 square feet to its social quarters on the east side of the building.

We're also doing renovation of the bathrooms in the social quarters, and redoing the emergency exit in the back to meet ADA requirements. Medley said the work began Thursday is the beginning of a three-phase plan. *Submitted by; Eva Fox*

Pictured left to right; Planning Committee Chair Gabriele Medley, Arizona Elks Assn Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Jerry Grimes, Elk Lodge # 2399 Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox and Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy.



“Lake Havasu #2399 Distributes Beacon Grant ”

The Elks Lodge used their \$4000 Beacon Grant to support Parks and Recreation After school and Break Camps for Scaled and free tuition for children in need.

Pictured Left to Right; Thom Bradley Chaplain, Chuck Fox Exalted Ruler, Past Exalted Ruler Paulette Nainteau, Parks and Recreation Sarah Ross, Leading Knight Drug Awareness Pam Depweg, and Past Exalted Ruler Youth Activities Debbie Herd.

Featured children in the photo include Serenity McElroy, Adeline Thurman, and Hope Villasenor.

Submitted by; Eva Fox



“Sun City #2559 Back-To-School-Supply Drive”

Sun City AZ is recognized as “The City of Volunteers”. The Sun City Elks Lodge volunteers held a two month long “Back-To-School” supplies program to support three Peoria District elementary schools. Elks knew that in donating school supplies they were helping students obtain the tools they need to learn throughout the school year. They also recognized they would be helping to relieve some of the stress and financial burdens that have fallen on teachers to fill the gap for students who are without the means to purchase necessary supplies. Even the most inventive teachers aren’t effective if their students don’t have the supplies to work.

Using an Elks National Foundation \$3500.00 grant for purchases combined with member donations, boxes of new school supplies, clothing and nutritional snacks were delivered to Ira A. Murphy, Peoria Elementary, and Desert Harbor. District Officials studies have proven that when students have their own school supplies, their grades and classroom behavior improve. They become more excited about school and learning. “The lack of school supplies plays a vital role in a child’s development socially, physically and mentally”.

The Back-To-School Project Chairperson, Mary Sauro, ensured classrooms, music and art departments, the nurses offices, and special education would receive donations. Lodge members demonstrated their motto, Elks Care – Elks Share, helping to provide stability and confidence to functioning classrooms toward overall better learning

Submitted by; Ellie Jenkins



“AEA Jewelry News ”

Arizona Elks, Ladies and friends of the Jewelry Project:

About three years ago the Jewelry Project idea began with a simple donation of a few items of costume, old trinkets that a Grandma or Auntie used to wear and other glittery items no longer being worn to the Arizona Elks Major Projects.

We [the then Major Projects Director Big Jimm & I,] told everyone that we could clean these items up and give them to the children who receive medical services at the Steele Center Hospital and the clinics supported by the Elks of Arizona.

The children would in turn choose from these small but precious gifts to give to their, Moms, Grandmas and many even to their favorite nurse.

So, I stepped in and asked the Lodges to ask their member to donate old jewelry so that we could begin this program in earnest. Over 3,000 pieces and three years later... we are running short of jewelry to give to the children!

We have this Christmas covered, but unless we receive more jewelry donations in the next several months our 2025 Mother's Day and Christmas, will NOT HAPPEN!

We need your help if this program is to continue. Oh, yes, the jewelry program would also welcome some more volunteers as well! We have two programs in the Phoenix area: Glendale at Thunderbird, and Tempe at Dobson Rd.

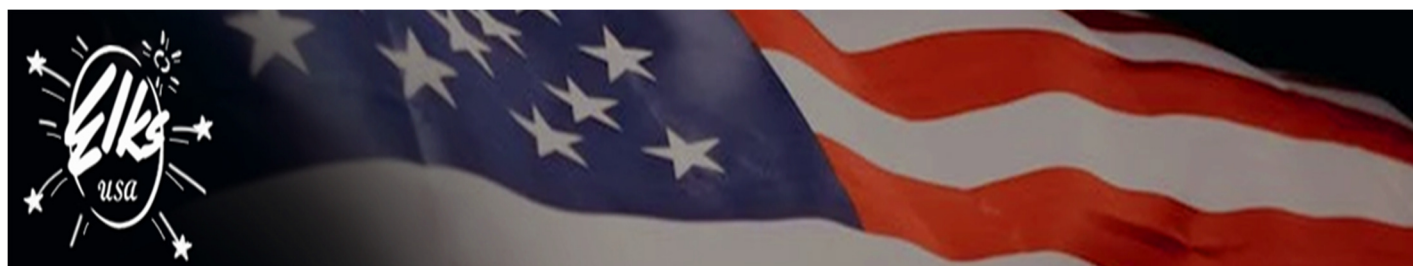
Tucson has three Elk Clinic site, two in the NW and another on Wilmont.

So, do you have a few hours to donate a month? Your assistance is always appreciated!

Diane C. Skorupski, Chr.

Dcskorupski48@gmail.com

AZ Elks Past State President's Spouses Jewelry Project



“Veterans News”



Information and Veterans News
 Mary I Shaffer - Elks National Veterans Service
 ED Chair - Tracy Cabell.....714 587-1070
 ND Chair - John Roush.....719 313-0565
 SD Chair - Linda Seggie.....520 401-3990

Nation of Patriots™ - ARIZONA

About Nation of Patriots™ In Arizona we work on a state level to promote the awareness of and financially support the physical, emotional and economic challenges that our wounded veterans and their families face on a daily basis. We raise money through the Patriot Tour™, an annual motorcycle ride that travels with 1 flag through 48 states in 100+ days. We also raise money through community events, business donations, individual donations and local community group support. We are a recognized 501(c)(3) and all money raised in Arizona stays in Arizona and is distributed to help veterans who are qualified by the Arizona committee. At a national and state level 100% of all donations collected are given back to the veterans in need.

Our History Nation of Patriots™ was formed in 2008 and achieved our exempt status in early 2009. We launched the very first Patriot Tour™ in 2009. Our humble start has led to a huge following across the country and we continue to work on this upward growth. From the beginning, this organization has been fueled by the highest level of respect for America’s military. Our focus has been and always will be this: to provide financial support to those who have served in our Armed Forces and their families.

What is the The Patriot Tour™

Every year Nation of Patriots™ organizes a national effort that pays tribute to, and honors, all of America’s Armed Forces - Past, Present, and Fallen. This united effort is known as The Patriot Tour™.

The Patriot Tour™ traditionally begins during Memorial Day weekend. A massive group of riders escorts one American Flag on the back of a motorcycle to the first of many destinations. Upon arrival, the flag is transferred to the new escort. The next day the Flag is escorted to another designated location...and on and on for over 115 days, through all 50 continental states. The Flag finally makes it full circle and lands right back in it’s hosted state where several thousand Americans gather to honor America's military members and raise support for those wounded in their service. This is The Patriot Tour™.

Veteran Grants

In order for us to provide financial assistance, the following criteria must be met:

1. Must have a VA disability rating of 50% or more
2. Must have been Honorably Discharged
3. Must have at least one (1) legal dependent

Veteran must be willing to provide:

1. Photocopy of their state issued ID (driver’s license or state ID)
2. Contact information to a Military/VA Case Worker/Mental or Physical Health Counselor Point of Contact
3. VA Disability Award Letter
4. Copies of current bills due

To Donate

If you wish to donate you can do so through our website

arizonanationofpatriots.com

or in person at any one of our events. Or simply scan our QR code your smart phone.



with



“Government Relations News”

LET’S BE LOUD AND PROUD..!

The DDGER Clinics have been completed and this is an appropriate time to reinforce the importance of ‘Charitable Reporting.’ Every member who attended their DD Clinic should report their time, mileage and expenses. Every District Chair who prepared a report to present at the clinic should note their time to prepare the report, hours spent at the Clinic, round trip mileage and any expense incurred for or at the Clinic.

Lodge Charitable Activities:

Every lodge committee Chair should report the results of their charitable activities to the lodge Secretary to be uploaded into CLMS. A simple form is available in the Charity Records book as well in the Government Relations Manual. Your lodge Secretary or lodge Government Relations chair has copies of the form. Information to be reported for each lodge event includes:

- (1) Number of Participants
- (2) Number of Elks
- (3) Number of Helpers
- (4) Total Elk Hours
- (5) Total Helper Hours
- (6) Elk Miles
- (7) Helper Miles
- (8) Non-Cash Contributions
- (9) Cash Donations

District Chairs and above:

State Officers, District and State committee Chairs, DDGERs and VPs should report their travels on the arizonaelksassociation.org website. Every official (and unofficial) visit to a lodge should be reported.

Here’s how:

Select ‘Committees, State Committees, Government Relations, and the appropriate District.

Timely reporting of our charitable activities is critical to the future of our Order.

The favorable tax status we enjoy on a national basis is directly tied to the charitable work we do for our communities and our nation.

Your Government Relations District Chairperson can assist you with any questions you might have.

Together we can make Arizona shine as an example for reporting our charitable activities. Last year we were 10th in the nation in reporting.

As Past State President, Al Skorupski says, “we can do more.” Let’s prove him right!

Submitted by Ira Cohen, PDDGER – State Government Relations Chairman

“Grand Lodge News”



September reminders: GER class, notices, awards

With summer coming to an end, now is our opportunity to offer events that give our Members things to do and places to gather. Offer dinners once or twice a week and plan activities that your membership can support and join. Start using these events to promote your Lodge for prospective Members as well as for contacting delinquent Members. It is never too early to start planning your future events.

National Patriotism Week is September 9-15. You still have time to download a proclamation for National Patriotism Week and have your city’s mayor sign it if you were unable to do so last month.

Exalted Rulers, remember the Grand Exalted Ruler class begins this month and runs through October. Let us make it a good one to continue showing “*Elkdom’s Heart for America.*” If you have not done so, visit elks.org. Look under the Grand Lodge Activities



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER

Committee. Then take advantage of the many forms and certificates you can use to recognize program participants and volunteers. Also, make sure to reach out to your committee chairpersons to ensure they are recording and submitting the information to the Lodge Secretary.

Lodge Secretaries, begin sending your six-month dues and delinquent notices. If your Lodge has not signed up for the Membership Billing System, check into it on elks.org (Membership Toolkit, Lodge billinø) or contact your area membership

chair. The cost savings to your Lodge will be significant. Further, once the notices have been sent, have your Membership and Lapsation Committee contact these individuals. You would be surprised what a little personal contact can accomplish.

The Elks Legacy scholarships also open this month. Legacy Awards are available to children and grandchildren of Elks’ Members. Check online for eligibility requirements. It’s also time to start planning your local Hoop Shoot contest. If your Lodge participates in this program, thank you. If it has been awhile since your Lodge has participated, now is a good time to start. If you need help, contact your district Hoop Shoot director for assistance.

Finally, this is the time to submit your Lodge website for judging to receive the Grand Lodge 5-Star Award.

Please see GER, Page 3



Visit & Bookmark ALL OUR SITES!



- Kids Zone** ElksKidsZone.org
- Teen Zone** ElksTeenZone.org
- Marketing Site** ElksDap.org
- Chairperson Training** Training.ElksDap.org
- National Website** Elks.org/DAP

GER From Page 1

State Association websites can also be submitted for judging as well. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate what your Lodge is accomplishing as well as advertise your Lodge to your community.

Remember “*Elks Care - Elks Share*” by showing “*Elkdom’s Heart for America.*”

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