

Arizona Elks News

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

October 2024



“Spreading the Joy”

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aeaneewsletter@arizonaelks.org

AEA Newsletter

Submission deadline:

24 Oct. 2024



Exalted Rulers, how has the first half of your year gone? You've accomplished so much since April. You attended your first District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler clinic and discovered even more responsibilities required as an Officer of your Lodge. Many of you prepared yourself by chairing various committees; thus, showing your members you understood their duties when you asked for help. Were you nervous about saying the 11 O'clock Toast for the first time? Of course not, you know what it means to be Exalted Ruler.



May brought Youth Week and Mother's Day. Congratulations to those of you who completed what we asked. Most importantly, the children of your community thank you for making them feel special. These events emphasized comradery, scouting, education, and love, to name a few. Celebrating these things gave our youth the idea Elks respect their accomplishments. Not only do we respect them, but we also publicly acknowledge the effort.

June gave you some breathing room after the State Convention. Some Lodges began shortening their hours due to members moving to cooler cities. Those in Arizona's northern areas welcomed summer visitors. During my visits, I learned the many ways Lodges kept remaining folks busy during the heat. Hey, we live in sunny Arizona where the t-shirts explain it is a "dry heat." Some of us like to sweat!

The July Grand Lodge Convention in Austin was fabulous. I hope you all had a chance to attend the available seminars. I was so proud to carry the Arizona flag for you during the opening ceremony. Your attention during the meetings showed your commitment to our Order and your Lodges. Then we met in the Hospitality Room. What fun. I enjoyed my time getting to know everyone. Out-of-state guests searched for our room because of our reputation as the place to be. YOU ALL DID GREAT.

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**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

August and September brought you back to preparing for our youth. School started and you all were ready to support them. You put together backpacks full of supplies; made sure to organize weekend food for needy families; bought clothing as part of Christmas in July; etc., etc., etc. What didn't you do? Even at the halfway point, you Exalted Rulers showed your membership it isn't time to slow down.

Come talk to me about your plans for the rest of the year. I will be proud to brag about the things done in the name of Elkdom. I think that is one of my jobs. There aren't any secrets in Elkdom, so let's share ideas.

Now it is October. Many Lodges are holding Oktoberfest events. Please be careful regarding serving alcohol. Remember the law about the last place where someone drank can be responsible in case of an accident. There are enough cabs, lyfts, and ubers around to get people home. It is better to be safe and make drunks mad, than finding out about a tragedy.

Halloween is almost here too. I've heard of Lodges joining their city in Trunk or Treat events. Take some pictures and put them on Facebook (if you have permission) so we can all see the costumes. Send me an email so the First Gentleman can show them to me. I need him to do that because I don't have an account. I LOVE Halloween.

Oh yeah. Before Halloween is the Mid-Year Convention. I am excited to run the meeting. We have several invited guests. Our State Co-Sponsors Past Grands Jim Grillo and Bob Duitsman and their Ladies Lucia and Beth are coming. We also have invited the California State President Marty Mello and his Lady Debra, and the Utah State President Brenda Shaw and her Gentleman Greg will also be here. Make time to say hi and make everyone feel welcome. Look at the schedule as we have a few seminars scheduled for your benefit. Someone from your Lodge should attend. Keep up the good work during the second half of your year. Before you know it, there will be “PER” before your name.

Before closing I want to thank everyone helping the Steele patients to pick out Mother's Day gifts, thank you from the bottom of my heart. This project started as an idea and has grown exponentially. It takes a special person to expect nothing in return except a smile for being able to give a sick child the opportunity to give their mother, grandmother, auntie, or sister a gift. You Past President spouses and friends, and Past Presidents too, are the bomb.

Fraternally,
Sue Krausman, President Arizona Elks Association

“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Freedom Grant Recipients ”

On 9/5 Chad Knutson, Leading Knight, presented Alicia LaBeau from DAV (Disabled American Veterans) a \$1,000 check. This was made possible through our Freedom grant. The money will help establish mobile CSO units (Chapter Service Officers). CSO's are Veteran volunteers who help their fellow Veterans navigate the difficult and stressful process of filing paperwork and disability claims through the VA.

In the past, Veterans have needed to go to the office in Coolidge to meet with the CSO's. These mobile units will allow the CSO's the flexibility of meeting Veterans in other towns and communities throughout Pinal County and now can also help the severely disabled or house bound Veterans in their own homes.

Having that flexibility is vital to DAV to being able to accomplish their mission and goals of helping Veterans and their families.



Submitted by: Debbie Knutson

Pictured Left to Right:

Alicia LaBeau (DAV)

Leading Knight Chad Knutson

“Casa Grande Valley #1957 Community Rewards in Action”

The Casa Grande Elks donated funds to Elks Major Projects last year which enabled them to qualify for a community grant from AEA Major Projects of \$1000. This check was presented to the Boy Scout Troop #948 to use for camp and other expenses incurred by the Scouts.

Pictured: is Brayden Castillo, Gerald Poehlman (Troop Leader), and Leland Poehlman; Donna Johnson, Major Projects Chair 22-23, Grover Ramsey, AZ State Activities Chair; Chris Repass, Exalted Ruler.



Submitted by: Donna Johnson

“Fountain Hills #2846 Supports Fly the Flag Program”

As part of our on-going Americanism program, we presented the Saddle Bronc Grill with a certificate of appreciation. The local restaurant was honored for properly maintaining and flying the U S Flag.

Pictured Left to Right: John Engels, Leading Knight and Americanism Chair, accepting the certificate for the Saddle Bronc, are owners Barb and Brad Tesch. Exalted Ruler Greg Thomas, in the back are three local Veterans in attendance.



Submitted by:

James Beischel

“Fountain Hills #2846 Supports Patriotism”

As part of our on-going Americanism program, we recently presented four U S Flags to our School Board, to be flown at local school sites.

Pictured Left to Right: Leading Knight and Americanism Chair John Engels, Exalted Ruler Greg Thomas, and Fountain Hills Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Cain Jagodzinski.



Submitted by:
James Beischel

“Chandler #2429 Gratitude Grant Recipients”

On September 4th the Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 donated the \$4000 ENF Gratitude Grant to Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods (ICAN). ICAN is an organization that helps our youth, their families and the community. All of ICAN’s programs are completely free and reach over 5,000 individuals in our community each year. There are no fees for registration, being placed on the waitlist, transportation, STEM courses, gardening, art library or sport programs. Most meals are free or reduced through a cooperative program with Chandler Unified School District. ICAN provides free afterschool, break and summer programs in a safe and success promoting atmosphere. Chandler Elks Lodge works with this organization to volunteer and participate helping them with various events. Chandler Lodge helps support ICAN’s mission statement of empowering youth to be productive, self-confident and responsible members of the community. It is estimated that for every \$1 invested in programs such as ICAN can result in a return of \$10 in cost saving by preventing the need for future justice system involvement and behavioral health services for participating youth. Several participants have graduated from high school and have been hired as employees at ICAN. Several of these participants have completed higher education degrees and one is even a firefighter with the Department of Defense.

Submitted by: Taleen Carpenter, PER

Pictured Left to Right: Taleen Carpenter - PER Becky Hinds - ICAN External Affairs/Grant Officer, Jacqueline "JR" Robertson - ICAN Program Engagement Coordinator Jim Theobald - Exalted Ruler, Mark Whitaker - Esteemed Lecturing Knight



“Flagstaff #499 Elk Riders Making a Difference”

We are thrilled to share that our riders have presented a generous check to Hope Cottage Director Vivian! Hope Cottage of Flagstaff is dedicated to providing shelter, support, and resources to families and individuals in need, ensuring they have a safe place to call home and the tools to build a brighter future. Thank you to everyone who made this contribution possible. Your support helps make a real difference in our community!

Pictured Left to Right: are riders Felipe Tijerina, Mark Cheramy, Claire Cheramy, Director Vivian, and riders Charlie Ward and Kelley Thomas .

Submitted by; Kathleen Cothrun



“Bullhead City #2408 Supports Local Swim Team”

In June 2024 The Bullhead City Elks presented the Bullhead City Barracudas Swim team with a \$500 dollar donation. These funds were used to help the Barracudas travel to Utah for the swim meet finals. In Utah the Barracudas won multiple medals and broke many team records! Way to go Barracudas!

Pictured from Left to right: Emily Hamilton, Marissa Brisco, Gavin Gledhill, Chris Fernandez and DJ Saleme.

2nd photo pictured Left to right;

President of the Bullhead City Barracudas James Hamilton, ER Walt Honse and Bullhead City Barracudas Swim Coach Dr. Ryan Proctor

Submitted by; Robin Ayers



“Bullhead City #2408 Back to School Night”

July 31st 2024 Our Drug Awareness Committee Chairman Sarah Valle set up her first Drug Awareness Booth at Mohave Accelerated Learning Center for Back to school night. Over 100 kids attended. Coloring books, crayons and ribbons were handed out along with information brochures. The kids were very attentive and asked a lot of questions which were all addressed.

Pictured Left to right: Lodge Secretary Kathy Honse, Drug Awareness Chairman Sarah Valle and Committee member Toni Dow Martinez.

Submitted by; Robin Ayers



“Prescott #330 Gives to Seniors and Children”

In September, we donated \$6,500 to the CASA Senior Center which provides lunch during the week to local seniors.

Pictured photo on Left: Left to Right Diana Ramsey - Elks Charities, Mary Baker - CASA Acting President, Kathy Hofmeister - Elks Charities, Betty Robinson - CASA Executive Director CEO

We also donated a total of \$5,800 to Yavapai CASA for Kids Foundation which supports the foster kids program with many needs such as clothing, furnishings, school supplies etc. The monies will be focused on kids 12 and up who have the most challenging financial needs.

Pictured photo on Right: Left to Right, Diana Ramsey- Elks Youth Activities, Mona Stephens -Department Director, Kathy Hofmeister - Elks Youth Activities, Janye Zoboski - Program Manager, Yvonne Bartlett - Executive Director

Submitted by: Diana Ramsey



“Ajo #1576 Are Boosters”

Ajo Elks #1576 are now boosters of the newly formed Ajo Knights Youths Basketball League (Athletic Youth Organization) ages 7-9 years.

Receiving the check for \$300 is president Tessa Lesko along with Head Coach David Lesko. Currently it is a co-ed team with 15 members. They have been playing for the last twelve weeks.

Submitted by: Marlene Hinman

Pictured Left to Right: David Lesko,
Tessa Lesko,
Exalted Ruler Michael McBurney



“Ajo #1576 Celebrates First Responders”

We held our annual First Responder Dinner on September 11, 2024 . Lasagna was served to 60 people represented by Pima County Sheriff, Corrections and Sheriff Aid Volunteers, Organ Pipe National Monument, Border Patrol, Ajo/Gibson Fire Department, Ajo Ambulance.

Submitted by; Marlene Hinman

Pictured left to right; Pima County SAV James Grose, Pima County Sargent Michael Seeley, Pima County Lane Skalsky, and Exalted Ruler Michael McBurney.



“Catalina Mountain #2815 Host Paralyzed Veteran Athletes”

On August 17th Catalina Mountain Elks provided a welcome home luncheon for the competing athletes at this years Paralyzed Veterans Games. Each athlete was given \$1000 each by our Veterans committee to help defer costs of their travel. Pictured left to right: Former athlete Joe Chitty and Bella, coach Scott Strzyzewski, Athletes Pam Foley, Steve Hymers, Sam Shivers, Breanna Wharram, Mary Cartter representing Paul Cartter who passed away before event, Steve Obrien.

Submitted by, Marie Starjinski



“Tucson #385 Welcomes the 1st Vice President”

On September 21, 2024, the Tucson Elks Lodge #385 welcomed Arizona Elks Association 1st VP Larry Carver and Lady Michelle to Lodge #385. Lodge officers and committee chairs members meet with VP Carver on the Lodge business. After the business session, VP Carter and Michelle joined us at the Sock Hop Charity Ball fundraiser.

Submitted by; John Aceves

Pictured left to right: 1st Vice President Larry Carver and Michelle Carver, Joyce Bernard and Exalted Ruler Richard Bernard



“Casas Adobes #2663 Honor First Responders”

On September 14, 2024, Casas Adobes Elks Lodge had the privilege of honoring our local first responders with awards, dinner and dj bingo. We also had some amazing guest speakers to solidify the importance that these first responders bring to our community. We’re privileged to have them in our community and to know them. Congrats to Deputy Jeremy Voss, Pima County Sheriff’s Department and Engineer Marvin Snodgrass, who were chosen by their peers for this honor.

Submitted by: James Giacomino, Leading Knight

Pictured photo on Left (Left to Right): Daniel Wesley, Exalted Ruler, Honoree Deputy Jeremy Voss-Pima County Sheriff’s Department and Captain Amy Trueblood, Pima County Sheriff’s Department. Pictured photo on Right (Left to Right): Captain of Northwest Fire, Honoree Snodgrass’ wife; Honoree Marvin Snodgrass and James Giacomino, Leading Knight



“Tucson East #2532 Gives a Community Grant”

We held a pancake breakfast for a U10 wildcat Cheer Team on Sunday September 22nd. This was one of many fundraisers the team performed to advance to Team Competition in California where they also planned a trip to Disneyland. The girls along with their parents worked the breakfast and was assisted by the Exalted Ruler and the PER Association who sponsored the event and provided the product for the breakfast. The actual breakfast raised close to \$600 dollars and then we presented them with a check for \$1000 dollars from the AEMP Community Grant we received.

Pictured left to right: VP South Rocky Davis, Megin Goetz, PER, Exalted Ruler Sally Frankel, PSP Rich Botkin along with members of the Wildcat Cheer Team.



Submitted by: Rich Botkin, PSP

“Tucson East #2532 Honor First Responders”

To commemorate September 11th members along with the Elks Auxiliary prepared and delivered dinners to Tucson Fire station # 16 and the Tucson Police department Eastside station. The dinner consisted of fried chicken, all the trimmings and desert.

Pictured are Members of the Tucson Police Department and Tucson Fire Department along with Auxiliary members Patsy Davis, JoAnn Botkin and Marcy Grover

Submitted by: Rich Botkin, PSP



“Phoenix #335 Visits the Phoenix VA

The Phoenix Elks Veterans Committee and Sue Bushmaker’s quilting circle at Resurrection Lutheran Church worked together to donate several beautiful handmade blankets along with 96 fidget spinners to help Phoenix VA residents with their therapy and relaxation.

Submitted by: Linda Thompson

Pictured left to right: Penny Craft (Phoenix VA), Karen Seaman and Cookie Nanni.



“Yuma #476 Supports the Community”

Through fund raising raffles and members donations, we recently were able to donate \$1,055 to the Crossroads Mission and \$1055.00 to the Yuma Community Food Bank. .

Submitted by: Jim Thompson, Exalted Ruler

Pictured in the left photo left to right: Barbara Rochester, Crossroads Mission’s Public Relations and Special Events Director, and Jim Thompson, Exalted Ruler. Pictured in photo on right left to right: Yuma Community Food Bank Chief Operating Officer Michelle Merkley and their President and CEO Shara Whitehead along with Exalted Ruler Jim Thompson



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes raising money one slice at a time”

The Elkettes contributed \$500 to the H.A.V.E.N. Center's Food 4 Kidz program, funded by pie sales during dinner at the Elks Lodge—one slice at a time. Additionally, the Elkettes gather snack-type foods at their monthly meetings for delivery to the center. This initiative supports homeless and at-risk students who may lack food over the weekends. For further details, visit www.guidestar.org/profile/65-1225164.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured left to right: Elkette Treasurer Donna Pineau, Elkette Pie Chair Lisa Nutt, and H.A.V.E.N. Victim Advocate Kelsey Thurman



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Honors First Responders”

During their annual Law and Order dinner in September made a \$500 donation to Search and Rescue. The Search and Rescue team operates entirely on donations. We also donated \$500 to the Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.). Team Leader Bob McMillion announced that the funds would be allocated for the installation of Knock Boxes around the city. These boxes are installed near the door that hold keys for entry to prevent them from being broken down during emergencies, saving both time and thousands of dollars.

Pictured in photo on left (left to right): Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox, Elks Arizona State President Susan Krausman, Search and Rescue Lieutenant Dana Magana, and Mohave County Sheriff Doug Schuster
Pictured in the phot on the right (left to right): LHC Fire Chief Peter Pilafas, Elks Arizona State President Susan Krausman, C.E.R.T. Team Leader Bob McMillion, and Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox.

Submitted by: Eva Fox



“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



Suicide Prevention

..... Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

How to Recognize When to Ask for Help

Are you, or someone you know, at risk for suicide? Seek help if you notice any of the following warning signs:

- Talking about wanting to hurt or kill oneself
- Trying to get pills, guns, or other means to harm oneself
- Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide
- Feeling hopeless
- Experiencing rage, uncontrolled anger or seeking revenge
- Acting reckless or engaging in risky activities
- Feeling trapped, like there's no way out
- Saying or feeling there's no reason for living
- Abusing drugs or alcohol
- Withdrawing from friends or family
- Having dramatic changes in mood
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Giving away possessions

Veteran specific risks

- Frequent deployments
- Deployments to hostile environments
- Exposure to extreme stress
- Physical/sexual assault while in the service (not limited to women)
- Length of deployments
- Service related injury

If you are experiencing any of these warning signs, the first thing to do is ask for help. Asking for help can be as easy as picking up the phone and calling the Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline at **1-800-273 TALK (8255) and pressing Option 1.** The hotline is staffed around the clock, 365 days a year by trained professionals who know how to get you the help you need.



“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



ENF grants, programs strengthen our communities

The most important program in our Order is the Elks National Foundation. The support we provide makes the Foundation’s work possible. The goal we established for the 2024–2025 fraternal year is \$5.00 per Member.

This year the Foundation has allocated \$16.3 million for Lodge Community Service Grants. This grant program allows our Lodges to do more for your communities. I encourage all Lodges to seriously consider forming an ENF committee to educate themselves on the various grants to assist their communities.

Also, make use of the fundraising program through the ENF Fidelity Club. Any Member can sign up at elks.org to make the automatic recurring donations for as little as \$5 per month or \$15 per quarter. I encourage you to consider joining. I felt good when I joined and knew that it was an easy and efficient way to donate. This is once again a way



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER

for you to show your communities that “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

My theme “Elkdom’s Heart for America” focuses our attention on what we can do outside of the Lodge to help others. Another important program we must focus our attention on is Red Ribbon Week. This is our nation’s oldest and largest drug prevention program, held annually from October 23-31.

There are many ways to celebrate. Have your local elected officials issue a proclamation declaring Red Ribbon Week. Pass

out red ribbons to your local school administrators, government officials, and members of law enforcement. When we wear a red ribbon, it means we are looking to take a stand against the horrible ramifications that drugs can have on our communities. Standing together will have a positive impact on the citizens where you live. The Elks will always lead the charge against the devastation that drugs have on families.

Again, another way to impact your community is by supporting the ENF. This foundation is the backbone of “Elks Care – Elks Share.” This year the Elks will show their generosity by donating a total of \$41.6 million to make a difference in America. You make an impact, and when united with our fellow Elks across the nation, we are making a huge positive change.

Please see GER, Page 2

GER From Page 1

By now, school is in full swing. It’s a good time to introduce the Americanism Essay Contest to your local schools. The deadline for submission is mid-December. There is complete essay information on the Elks website in the GL Fraternal Committee section under Forms and Contests.

It’s time to let our youth be able to express themselves about respecting patriotism and our country’s heritage. These essay-winning students should be recognized by your Local Lodge. Hold an event for them and give these students recognition certificates to administer to the schools. I am always amazed at the wisdom and knowledge that students can express. All Americans would benefit from reading these essays.

God bless you and God bless America.

ELKS
Breast Cancer Awareness Month

SCHEDULE A
BREAST SCREENING
TODAY

Elks Care. Elks Share. *Think Pink!*

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org