



Arizona Elks

Major Projects



November 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**



**THANK YOU, JERRY & LINDA GRIMES,
FOR YOUR YEARS OF DEDICATION TO
THE ARIZONA ELKS ASSOCIATION AND
ARIZONA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS.**



Steele Research Center



**Pictured Left, Center, Right:
Lori Stratton, Wilma U of A Mascot, Lori Castro**

"Meet the unstoppable duo behind the magic at Steele Children's Research Center Lori Stratton, Director of Development and Lori Castro, Volunteer Engagement Manager; they're powerhouses of philanthropy and champions for pediatric medical research. Their tireless dedication and unwavering passion light the way for a healthier future for our little ones. Together, they inspire us all to dream bigger and give back harder.

Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP) has helped fund the crucial work of the Steele Children's Research Center for over 31 years. The Elks of Arizona hold the record being the longest continuous donor to

the Steele Children's Research Center. The Arizona Elks unwavering commitment directly helps children with severe medical issues in our state and throughout the world. Due in part to the support of the Steele Research Center by the Elks, each year over 100 new doctors apply to become residents at the Children's Hospital in Tucson. Approximately 16 Pediatric Residents are chosen each year to undergo training by the Doctors associated with the Steele Center. After they complete their residency about one-third of the Pediatric Specialists stay in Arizona and establish their medical practice.

The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson Department of Surgery and the researchers at the Arizona Elks funded Research Center is proud to announce its historical achievement of performing the first spina bifida fetal surgery in the state of Arizona. The procedure involved a delicate spina bifida repair on a fetus during the 25th week of pregnancy after it was detected at 22 weeks. The successful surgery, completed on February 19, 2024, was performed by co-surgeons, Kenneth Liechty, MD, the division chief of Pediatric Surgery and director of Fetal Medicine at Banner - University Medicine, and Anthony Avellino, MD, the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and their

medical team. Spina bifida is a condition that affects the spine and is present at birth. The term literally means "split spine" in Latin. The condition develops before birth when the neural tube (a group of cells that form the brain and the spinal cord) doesn't close all the way. When that happens, the backbone that protects the spine doesn't form completely. This can cause physical issues and, in some cases, lead to problems with the brain and neurological growth.



**Pictured Left to Right:
Krystina Diaz, Dr Christina Valentina,
Dr. Payez Ghishan, and PSP Richard Botkin
Pea Pod Hard at Work - Dr. Christina Valentine and
the Neonatology team are hard at work measuring**

the growth of a baby's lean mass (muscle) and fat free mass which help determine treatment and leads to healthier children. Purchased by donations from Arizona Elks the Pea Pod is the first in Arizona!!!

Remember to get a true understanding of what these fine Doctors and Staff are doing for the betterment of our Children is to see it yourself! Plan a tour so you can see all the wonderful works that are being accomplished! Remember "Children Laughter, Is What Were After"!

**Jack Warter Jr Arizona Youth Camp
is Closed for the Winter. Reopens in
April. More information to follow.**



Thanks to the financial support to the Arizona Elks Major Projects, over 800 Kids have camped out in new cabins. There are clean facilities with hot and cold running water available, and the use of a complete industrial kitchen, and a mess hall with a covered patio for dining and gathering. Even though they are closed for the winter Camp Committee/AEMP Members are planning for next year's Events. When we open in April, we will get the word out so you can help open and get the Camp ready for 2025!

RESERVATION FOR 2025 BEING TAKEN! CONTACT KRIS FEWELL 480-805-1984

Community Grant Award 2024



San Manuel Elks #2007 presented our 2024 AEMP Community Rewards to the Oracle Oaks 4-H. Exalted Ruler Debbie Rasberry presented AEMP's check for \$1,000 to club President Reese Cruea. Others in attendance were (l to r) Ashlee Hogg, Mom volunteer; Isaac Halbert, member; Morgan Cruea, Secretary; Reese Crue, President; Debbie Rasberry, Elks #2007 ER; Kase Cruea, Sergeant at Arms; and Amber Cruea, Group Leader. Congratulations to a great group of young people and parents.



Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592 hosts a breakfast for representatives of the Amado Youth Center and presents a check for \$1500.

Front Row Holding Check: Jorge Guerrero, Angeleah Haro, Valentina Angelic Middle Row: Debra Woolley, Anthony Haro, Raymundo Guerrero, Giselle Alvarez, Cielo Arochi, Amy Bass Last Row: ER Dottie Allen, Patti Schuler, Angelica Martinez

On Sunday, October 6th during breakfast, coordinators and youth representatives of the Amado Youth Center were presented with a check in the amount of \$1500.

\$1000 was donated by Arizona Elks Major Projects and \$500 by the Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592 for sponsorship of the 14th annual Amado Chili Cook-Off.

Amado Youth Center to help fund their youth programs which focus on drug prevention through education, sports, crafts, and other various activities. The kids spoke during the presentation and expressed their gratitude for the Center calling it “a place of their own” where they can do crafts, play soccer, and learn how to avoid drugs.

Arizona Elks Major Projects Wishes to thank the Crafty Critters for their Hard Work and dedication for AEMP

Arizona Elks Association held the Fall Convention October 17-19. They had two tables and sold \$825 of items and Quilted Wall hanging Raffle sales. The funds all go to Arizona Elks Major Projects. Thanks to ALL the Volunteers for helping make this such a great event! See you Next Convention in May 2025!

NOVEMBER Events

November 5 Election Day

November 11 Veterans Day

**November 15 National Philanthropy
Day 2024 hosted by the Association of
Fundraising Professionals
(Recognition of the Arizona Elks
Association)**

November 28 Thanksgiving Day

The 2024 AEMP Raffle Prize
WINNER WAS JAMIE DYKSTRA



Winning ticket was sold by
Tim Houslet Wilcox #2131

The 2025 AEMP Raffle Prize
MORE INFO PENDING



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](#)

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
Alane	Asp	Catalina Mountain #2815
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 (CM)
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
Ray	Cornelius	Parker #1929
Kathleen	Cothrun	Flagstaff #499
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

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CM denotes a Charter Member

Paul	Ertman	Sun City #2559
Frank	Fieldhouse	Catalina Mountain #2815 (CM)
Daniel	Foley	Show Low #2090
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 (CM)
Megin	Goetz	Tucson East #2532
Brian & Sheri	Gorski	Chandler #2429(CM)
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 (CM)
Leslie	Huerta	Catalina Mountain #2815
Jerry & Sandie	Ingram	Chandler #2429 (CM)
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
Denise	Lefkowitz	Tucson East #2532
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

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Judy	Mooney	Casas Adobes #2663
Lawrence & Virginia	Morrison	Gilbert #2848 (CM)
Travis	Napolitan	Page #2498
Ken	Nelson	Douglas #955
John	Olson	Tucson #2532
Gary	Parsons	Lake Havasu City #2399
Peter	Pervi	Out of State
Zachery	Phillips	Ajo #1576
James	Powell	Kingman #468
Larry & Stephanie	Pratt	Tempe #2251
Ren Dog	Productions	Out of State
James	Pulley	Flagstaff #499
Grover & Deborah	Ramsey	Casa Grande Valley #1957 (CM)
Jim	Ray	Chino Valley #2842
Lisa	Rivers	Wickenburg #2160 (CM)
Aimee	Rogers	Chandler #2429
Richard	Ross	Tucson East #2532
Theodore	Sadlowski	Phoenix #335 (CM)
Terry & Stephanie	Sanders	Parker #1929
Denny	Scanlan	Tucson #385
Mary	Shaffer	Casas Adobes #2663 (CM)
Kathleen	Schellhas	Mesa-Buckhorn #2656 (CM)
Thomas	Seeley	Ajo #1576 (CM)
Katrina	Sharp	Tucson #385
Brigid	Sherbo	Tucson East #2532
Phillip	Shoaf	Lake Havasu City #2399 (CM)
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 (CM)
Jim	Theobald	Out of State
Linda	Thompson	Phoenix #335
Hank	Thonnard	Lake Havasu City #2399
Susan	Trecartin	Tucson #385
Nancy	Turner	Casas Adobes #2663
Sally	Veazey	Flagstaff #499

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Jim	Watkins	Apache Junction #2349
Vicki	Way	Sun City #2559 (CM)
David	Whitmore, Jr	Show Low #2090
Patricia	Willers	Bullhead City #2408
Clinton	Wilkins	Show Low #2090
Ronald	Wilson	Wickenburg #2160 (CM)

THE DIAMOND CLUB needs your support! We have slightly under 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.

Membership is easy! Just go to <https://azelksmp.org/donate/> or use the QR Code and complete the donation form to join us in our support of children in Arizona.



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, PER	Chandler #2429
Treasurer	Larry Bodwell PDDGER	Phoenix #335
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, PER	Casa Grande #1957
North	Richard Kimberly, PDDGER	Sedona #2291
South	John Olson, PER	Tucson East #2532
West	VACANT	

AEMP Camp Advisory Committee

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

AEMP Camp Scholarship Advisor

James Rasmussen	Globe-Miami #489
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