

Arizona Elks News

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

November 2024



"Spreading the Joy"

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aeaneewsletter@arizonaelks.org

AEA Newsletter

Submission deadline:

22 Nov. 2024



November is the month the United States of America honors its veterans. When I visited Payson Lodge 2154 as 1st Vice President South, we discussed their local Veterans Project, Pleasant Valley Veterans Retreat. This year during the Show Low meeting, we again talked about it. Art Schaier, a member of Payson Lodge 2154, sent me more facts about the location. Because he is so passionate about it (especially as we have so many vets needing a bit of peace), I am paraphrasing his article about this project open to Arizona Veterans. His full article was given to the Exalted Rulers at Mid-Year Convention.



Last month, Payson Elks Lodge #2154 gave a \$10,000 check to Pleasant Valley Veterans Retreat (PVVR) at their 2nd annual Gala event. Last year they gave \$5,000. PVVR is an amazing project, and it is starting to receive a lot of state and national attention. State Representative Dave Marshal presented a bill to congress for one-time special funding for the retreat. The bi-partisan bill passed unanimously in the amount of \$3,000,000. There is currently a bi-partisan bill in the Senate that, if successful, will permanently deed the property to Gila County. Gila County Supervisor Woody Cline, Congressman Paul Gosar, Senator Sinema, Senator Mark Kelly, and Congressman Eli Crane passed the bills through committee and are presently waiting for a vote.



The purpose of this Veterans Retreat is to provide a peaceful place for all veterans and their families. During deployment, the whole family is affected by separation, and this retreat was created as a safe, enjoyable space with facilities to restore their union with each other. Part of the PVVR's mission is: When one person serves, the whole family serves.

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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:

Kary Kerr

INNER GUARD:

Anna Mineer

ASST. SECRETARY:

Gary Parsons

ASST TREASURER:

Angela Buso

ORGANIST:

Ira Cohen

“Spreading the Joy”

Continued from Page 1

The Retreat is still in the beginning stage, with plans to expand based on suggestions presented by vets. Taking 5 years, partners Gila County officials, the United States Forest Service, and Federal and State elected officials, this beautiful and peaceful property now provides a retreat for all US veterans and their families in a beautiful 232-acre property in Young, AZ.

The 232 acres include two refurbished houses, fully supplied with dishes, cookware, bed linens, towels, etc. There are also two barrack homes with ten private bedrooms including bedding and towels. The barracks have common areas for these individuals (kitchen, bath, dining room, living room, BBQ and covered decks). RV spots with electric, water, and sewer hookups are also on site at no cost. And yes, donations are always appreciated. Additionally, there are about 19 Ramadas that came from Roosevelt Lake sprinkled about the land with shelter covers for anyone to use. The Administration building can now accept veterans, events, and reservations for meetings.

The Elks’ Veterans Pledge is: “So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” If your Lodge is looking for a (or another) veterans project, PVVR is an established nonprofit organization. It depends on contributions and donations to continue operating. Many of your members are veterans themselves and may have wished for someplace like PVVR upon return from deployment.



Like our Youth Camp in Young is for all AZ children, PVVR is open to all Arizona veterans. Their website is: pleasantvalleyveteransretreat.com. Art truly believes in the PVVR and its healing powers for our veterans and their families. It is a very worthy cause, and it’s just in its beginning stages. Freedom is not FREE and we need patriotism now more than ever. Please contact him with any questions or more information (artschaier@gmail.com or 602-291-9922).

Fraternally,
Sue Krausman, President Arizona Elks Association

“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Focus Grant in Action ”

Humana donated \$2000 to our lodge for a Connex to help support us in our effort to assist homeless and transitional Veterans in our communities.

As part of our Focus grant, we will be utilizing it to store the home kits to get them settled into their new location, as well as emergency services. It sits along Attaway Road by the lodge. In addition to storage, the plan is to paint it and utilize it as a billboard advertising for the lodge.



Submitted by; Debbie Knutson

“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Make A Difference”

In October a few members from the Elks Lodge 2350 Youth Activities Committee spent time collecting new and used bikes from its members and the community. It was a privilege to be a part of Make a Difference Day 2024 for the town of Florence and we are happy to help make a difference in these children’s lives. There were over 220 volunteers that joined together in making a difference this year. Our effort to collect bicycles for the Recycle a Bicycle Program for the Arizona Association for Foster and Adoptive Parents was greatly received! We collected 20 bicycles thanks to our wonderful ELK members.



*Submitted by;
Debbie Knutson*

“Mesa Buckhorn #2656 Supports AEMP”

Mesa Buckhorn Elks Lodge # 2656 dedicated the month of September to raise money for the Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP). The AEA Major Projects support the Jack C. Warter Elks Youth Camp in Young, AZ and the Steele Children’s Research Hospital in Tucson, AZ. The Jack C. Warter Elks Youth Camp is free to any youth group and the Steele Children’s Research Hospital helps youth with all kinds of diseases (cancer, premature births, covid prevention research, etc). To raise money our ER Cathy Hart and her AEMP committee had several fund raising events; gift basket raffle, pancake breakfast, old fashioned Hoe Down, Crazy Slingo and a bake sale to mention a few. By dedicating the entire month our lodge was able to raise a few thousand dollars for AEMP.

Submitted by; Tarrance Marrill

“Kingman #468 Holds Record Blood Drive”

August blood drive was another record for Kingman Elks 468. The projected donation was 20 units, alas with no extra appointments available, we ended up doing 30 units. Our Elk Member really pulled though for this event our Leading Knight, Tory Stradling, managed to give a double unit donation

Submitted by; Tammi Cash

Pictured; Tory Stradling Leading Knight

Red Cross Donation Specialist



“Kingman #468 Hosts Veterans Committee Fundraiser”

Kingman 468 hosts an annual COOK YOUR OWN STEAK night on the big wood fire grill. The Veteran Committee hosted this event and included a BOOZE BASKET RAFFLE, with tickets available for purchase for the 23 bottles of full size alcohol to be raffled at the cook your own steak. This dinner to this event raised 900\$ and the Booze basket raffle raised just about 1400\$ for a total of 2300 in the Veteran Committee Cache'.

Submitted by; Tammi Cash

Pictured Left to Right: Veteran Service Committee, Dallas, Sara Becenti, Jo-Ann Schooch, and Chris Joseph.



“Kingman #468 Spotlight Grant Recipients”

Kingman Elks 468 donated an abundant cache of canned food as well as a \$2000 check which was able to be presented with help of the "Spotlight Grant" to the Kingman Area Food Bank.

Pictured left to Right: Exalted Ruler Dan Jones, PER Richard Joseph and four of the local food bank representatives.

Submitted by; Tami Cash



“Kingman #468 Cooking for Veterans”

Saturday, October 4th, Elks Lodge members BBQed 100 hot dogs for the Veterans Treatment Court softball game at Kingman Centennial park. Kingman Elks Lodge No. 468 is always on hand to support our Veterans. Teams from the Kingman Veterans Treatment Court and Southwest Behavioral enjoyed a great day of fun and friendship. In addition Kingman Mayor Ken Watkins threw out the first pitch and all participants and attendees were encouraged to bring nonperishable food items which will be donated to the Kingman Area Food Bank.

Photo L to R: Elks Nani and Bob Chrimes, VTC Judge Jeff Singer, Clerk of the Court Michelle Amaya, Senior Mentor Coordinator Chris Molnar, and Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator Alexis Tarr.



Submitted by; Nani Chrimes

“Kingman #468 Celebrates 125 Years!”

We celebrated our 125 yr birthday with a beautiful night of dinner, dancing and of course reminiscing of the Lodge of yore. We had quite the turnout, and with that we were lucky enough to have our AZ West VP Ron Wilson and his wife Gail. We also had PER Pat and Carol Riley from the Yuma lodge. Along with our lodge of celebrities, Jerry Grimes PER, and Linda Grimes and Our AZ 1st VP North Larry Carver PER and his wife Michelle Carver *Submitted by; Tami Cash*

Black and White Left to Right: Terri and Exalted Ruler Dan Jones, West VP Ron Wilson and wife Gail

Color Photo Left to Right :1st VP Larry Carver and wife Michelle and Carol and PER Pat Riley



“Flagstaff #499 Supports Local 4H Club”

Flagstaff Lodge 499 donated \$2100 to the Ash Fork AZ Sunset 4H Club to jumpstart a youth archery program at the local school district. The donation was used to purchase compound bows, arrows, accessories and targets to serve 20 students age 8 to 18.

Pictured Left to right: Harper Puisis, Madeline Puisis, Rylin Boyd, Suzie Duarte, Jorge Sotelo-Ayala, Henry Douma, Aliyah Douma, Poppy Staples, Dorian Payne, Ava Carpenter

Submitted by;

Bruce Baldwin



“Bullhead City #2408 Gives Community Grant”

In September the Bullhead City Elks #2408 donated their \$1,000 Community Grant to the Colorado River Concert Association Outreach Program for kids.

These funds will be used to inspire and introduce Elementary school children to the arts by taking them to concerts and also letting them interact with the performers.

Pictured Left to Right - PER Roy Haddick, Julie Hassett from the Colorado Concert Association Exalted Ruler Walt Honse.

Submitted by; Robin Ayers



“Bullhead City #2408 Hosts 1st Annual Fishing Tournament”

On September 28, Bullhead City Elks Lodge #2408 hosted our first annual fishing clinic for the kids in our community. We held this clinic to inspire and mentor children in our community. Each child was taught how to tie a fisherman's knot and to bait a hook. Each child went home with a live fish that they caught. The clinic was held at Bullhead City Rotary Park at the boat dock. The city manager Toby Cotter and the Mayor Steve D'Amico stopped by as well. Fun was had by all! *Submitted by; Robin Ayers*

Picture on Left (Left to Right) Bullhead City Manager Toby Cotter, Exalted Ruler Walt Honse and Bullhead City Mayor Steve D'Amico. Picture on Right: The Children fishing. Permission slips to be photographed were signed and collected.



“Bullhead City #2408 Drug Awareness Booth”

On Saturday October 12th our drug awareness chairman Sarah Valle set up her booth at the Mohave accelerated Learning Center car show! She and Committee member Toni Dow - Martinez handed out coloring books, red ribbons, stickers and bookmarks. They also had pamphlets that contain information on resources for people who want to quit nicotine, alcohol and other substances. She also wanted to show the people who need these resources that there is help and that they feel supported by their community.

Submitted by; Robin Ayers

Pictured in left picture: Drug Awareness Committee member Toni Dow - Martinez on the left and Chairman Sarah Valle. Right Picture: Visitors to their Booth. Signed permission slips received.



“Catalina Mountain #2815 Honors 1st Responders”

Catalina Mountain Elks formed 10 teams to bring home cooked meals to 10 Golder Ranch Firehouses in our Elks district. This project was held to Never Forget those brave souls we lost on 9/11/01 and to honor and celebrate our first responders who are there for us all every day! This project was funded by our Past Exalted Rulers Association.

Submitted by; Marie Starjinski

Pictured left to right
 Firefighters from Station
 373 Matt Peru, Ryan Sather,
 Jan Trudeau Community
 Activities Chair, David
 Sargenti, Joe Capuano



“Catalina Mountain #2815 Holds Fundraiser for Special Olympics”

On October 6th, Catalina Mountain Elks provided breakfast, open to the public, to raise money for Special Olympics. For a \$6 donation, your breakfast included, biscuits and gravy, eggs, sausage and orange juice. This breakfast raised \$550 for Special Olympics.

Submitted by; Marie Starjinski

Pictured left to right; Steve Asp PDDGER ,Alane Asp PER, ER Doug Harpold, Vicky Harpold, Kim McIlonie, Lisa Hensley and in the front Deborah Derting



“Tucson #385 Celebrates their Member”

On October 15th, 2024, Tucson AZ Lodge #385 member and Teacher Bryan Silver of Hawaii was recently named 2025 Teacher of the Year. The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) announced Kalani High School’s science and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher Bryan Silver and received the state's top teaching award from Gov. Josh Green and Superintendent Keith Hayashi during an awards ceremony at Washington Place in Hawaii. Bryan was born in Tucson now, living and teaching in the state of Hawaii for several years. Bryan is the son of current Exalted Ruler Richard Bernard and his wife Joyce. He now goes up against forty-nine other states for Teacher of the Year of the Nation! Bryan will represent Hawaii in the National Teacher of the Year program. A national winner will be named this spring in Washington, D.C. *Submitted by: John Aceves*

Pictured photo on Left; Bryan Silver (pink shirt) receiving this award from Governor Josh Green (Right in suit) Pictured photo on Right; Governor Josh Green (3rd from left on second row-Bryan top right) and others during this highlighted event.



“Tucson #385 Hosts 1st Responders Dinner”

On October 10, 2024, the Tucson Elks Lodge #385 hosted a first responders appreciation dinner. There were seven recipients from various Tucson AZ Law enforcement and Fire Departments. We had Tucson Police Department, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Pima County Sheriff’s Department and Tucson Fire Department, Golder Ranch Fire Department, and two recipients from the Public Safety Communications from the City of Tucson. With family, guests and officials, there were about 37 plus approximately 20 Elk members and their guests. Dinner included Chicken stir Fry Fried Rice, egg rolls and a dessert.

Each recipient and their guests received dinner, a thank you framed certificate with the recipient receiving a \$75.00 dollar gift card.

1st Responders honored pictured top photo:

Tucson AZ Police Department:

1. Sergeant Matt Alexander

Arizona Department of Public Safety:

2. Trooper Tony Villa

Pima County Sheriff’s Department:

3. Tristan Gifford

4. Joseph Philpott (unable to attend)

Tucson City Public Safety Communications Department:

4. Klaudia Altamerano

5. Anais Durazo

Northwest Fire District:

6. Division Chief Collin Wyckoff

Golder Ranch Fire District:

7. Captain James Ryan Hoffman

Drexel Hights Fire District:

8. David Levario

Pictured Bottom Photo: PER Jim Sanford/Law Enforcement Chair, ER Richard Bernard, Denny Scanlan Fire Fighters Chair

Submitted by: John Aceves



“Tucson #385 DAP Event”

On October 15, 2024, we handed out about 60 DAP wristbands, red ribbons, bookmarks coloring books and Halloween candy to kids in attendance.

Submitted by: John Aceves

Pictured Left to Right: Nigel Bigbee, Staffer from Steve Daru Boys and Girls club, Tiler Trudi Sofias, (Elroy) PER Susan Trecartin and member John Sofias



“San Manuel #2007 Presents A Community Reward”

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. These funds are going to be used to enhance the curriculum and acquiring necessary supplies for various projects, including photography, cake decorating, and livestock supplies. This will significantly enrich the learning experience for their members and help them develop valuable skills. Pictured in Left photo left to right: Ashlee Hogg, Mom volunteer; Isaac Halbert, member; Morgan Cruea, Secretary; Reese Crue, President; Debbie Rasberry, ER; Kase Cruea, Sergeant at Arms; and Amber Cruea, Group Leader. Pictured in photo on Right left to right:

Reese Cruea, Exalted Ruler
Debbie Rasberry

*Submitted by: Ruth (Ruthie)
Wentworth*



“Green Valley #2592 Presents A Community Reward and More”

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 which will be Saturday, November 16th at the Amado Territory with all proceeds going to the 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. Youth participation at the Center is constantly expanding and the need for volunteers is ongoing. If you are interested in volunteering, would like to donate, or would like a tour of the Center please contact Angelica Martinez, Prevention Program Coordinator at amartinez@ppep.org. For more information about the Chili Cook Off visit AmadoChiliCookoff.org.

Submitted by: Deb Woolley

Pictured from left to right:
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: Exalted Ruler Dottie Allen, Patti Schuler, Angelica Martinez



“Ajo #1576 Hosts Lodge Soccer Shoot”

On September 26th we held our annual Soccer Shoot. During the soccer shoot all participants were also handed out Drug Awareness material. Thank you to all the participants and we will see the District winners on Nov. 9, 2024 *Submitted by: Marlene Hinman*

Pictured in photo on left: Michael Allen, Kathy MacFarlane, Michael MacFarlane, Bridget Rendon Youth Activities Chair, Michael McBurney Exalted Ruler, Frank Hinman, Diana Ahlm, Debbie Allen Left to right kids only Gibrann Aguiar, Ariadne Aguiar, Abraham Aguiar, Anthony Perriello Jr, Damon Montijo, David Lesko, Kenra Koozer, Wendy Koozer, Auris Alvarez ,Evangelina Fout.

Pictured in photo on right: District Shoot from 10/13/24 Left to right U-10 2nd place Ariadne Aguiar,U-14 2nd place Adan Castanon,U-8 1st place Jordan Lopez Jr, PER Bridget Rendon,U-12 2nd place Mila Ramirez

Not pictured David Lesko 1st place for U-10



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Donates to the Cadet Program”

During their Law and Order night the Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City contributed \$500 to the Lake Havasu City Police Department Cadet Program.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured Left to Right; Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox, Arizona Elks Association State President Susan Krausman, LHC Police Captain Williams, and LHPD Police Cadet Program Trainers Jordan Donahue and Ricky Carroll.



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Kids Day to Fish”

The "Kids Day to Fish" event was a resounding success! On October 5th, hundreds of children took part, with 200 fishing poles and reels distributed. The Elks Fishing Club invested \$600 in Bluegill Fish for the fishing tanks and supervised the activities on Friday and Saturday as the children enjoyed fishing. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the members of the Elk Fishing Club who contributed.

Submitted by; Eva Fox

Pictured are Sabrina Robertson and her Grandpa Charles Robertson enjoying the event.



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Donate to HAVAdopt Children’s Christmas”

The Elkettes of Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City, AZ, contributed \$500 to the HAVAdopt Children's Christmas Project. This donation was raised through pie sales at the lodge, selling one slice at a time during dinner hours.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured Left to Right; Elkette Treasurer Donna Pineau, Pie Chair Lisa Nutt, HAVAdopts Director Merrilyn Thompson, VP of Fundraising Kat Crispino, Secretary Wendy Holloway, and Treasurer Jeannie Chilia.



“Scottsdale #2148 Partners with Wheelchairs for Kids”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 partnered with Wheelchairs for Kids and raised \$3,500 dollars to present this Extra Large Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer to 11-year-old Aneziah, better known by her family and friends as Nezzi who was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome at 1 years old.

Submitted by; Kelly Rich

Pictured Left to Right; Nezzi Gonzales ,
Jessica Gonzales,
Exalted Ruler Kelly Rich,



“Scottsdale #2148 Raises Funds for AEMP and ENF”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 held its 4th annual Shrimp Boil on September 1st, 2024 serving over 120 bags of shrimp, potatoes corn and sausage. We raised over \$1500 which we are splitting between AEMP and ENF.

Submitted by; Kelly Rich

Pictured Left to Right; Beverly Schafman, Tim Hasselhof, Kelly Rich, Patty Soffel, Natalie Putnam,
Mark Soffel, Jeanette Barber



“Scottsdale #2148 School Supply Drive”

With the help from Max Engel requesting School Supplies instead of presents for his birthday the Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 was able to collect 3 boxes of supplies requested from the Hirsch Academy teachers. With help from our members during this month we were also able to donate \$1250 to help fill some of the gaps the school has for supplies present to them on 9/27/24.

Submitted by; Kelly Rich

Pictured; Max & Danielle Engel



“Scottsdale #2148 Welcomes AEA East VP”

On October 12, Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 welcomed AEA VP Steven "Steve" Like and Mary Like to their annual ELKtoberfest celebration. Members enjoyed lively entertainment by the authentic German band Die Liedermäuse, indulged in a pretzel-eating contest, tested their strength with stein-holding competitions, and showed off their best Dirndl and Lederhosen in the costume contest! The event successfully raised \$1,000 for AEMP and ENF, along with collecting canned goods and pet food for our food drive.

Submitted by; Lisa Ramirez

Pictured Left to Right;
Trustee Steve Gallant,
Exalted Ruler Kelly Rich, Mary
Like, and AEA VP Steven "Steve"
Like



“Scottsdale #2148 Gives Community Grant”

Scottsdale Lodge #2148 was so happy to present to Yavapai Elementary the Community Rewards Grant we earned for our support of the Arizona Elks Major Projects. This \$1,000 Community Rewards Grant will be used to support their Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports framework which encourages positive behavior and attendance.

Submitted by; Kelly Rich

Pictured; Exalted Ruler Kelly Rich, Principal Kelley Perry, Community Activities/Projects Chair Beverly Schafman STUCO officers Niehari, Aria, John and Salvador



“Phoenix #335 Hosts Blood Drive”

On October 9th, Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 hosted 30 donors at a Red Cross Blood Drive. The Red Cross collected 30 units of blood, including 22 units of whole blood and 4 power red donations of two units each.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

Pictured Left to Right; Donor/Volunteer Tom Schiavone, and volunteers Esteemed Loyal Knight Becky Simons, and Lodge Inner Guard Corey Dunkirk.



“Phoenix #335 Lends a Hand for Social Welfare Golf Tournament”

The Social Welfare Committee of the Arizona Elks held its annual golf tournament at Continental Golf Course in Scottsdale. The event featured fifteen teams coming together to raise over \$3,500 for the “Clothe-a-Child” program and the annual Children’s Christmas shopping spree for children in need. An awards ceremony and lunch were held at the Scottsdale Lodge #2148.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

Pictured Left to Right; AEA Social Welfare event coordinators
S. District Chair Sally Frankel - ER Tucson East #2532,
State Chairman Gus Noble - PER Phoenix #335,
W District Chair Lynn Youngs - PER Scottsdale #2148 and
E. District Chair Deborah Ramsey - Casa Grande Valley #1957



“Raceway #2852 Honors 1st Responders”

On September 23rd Raceway Elks honored First Responders: Avondale Police Detective Nick Gonzales, Surprise Police Detective Christopher Herrera, Avondale Fire Captain Daniel Guerrero, Goodyear Firefighter Mason Smith, Surprise Firefighter Jon Vasquez, and Tolleson Fire Engineer Ken Fennema. Each recipient was presented with a plaque, a gift bag for themselves and a gift for their spouse. What an honor it was to give special recognition to our hard working First Responders.

Our keynote speaker for the evening was City of Avondale Police Lieutenant Heath Brittan. He spoke words of encouragement to the First Responders and their families who were in attendance.

Submitted by; Robin Cox

Pictured Left to Right: Nick Gonzales, Ken Fennema, Jon Vasquez, Christopher Herrera, Daniel Guerrero, Mason Smith



“Congratulations”

Congratulations to this years 2024 Mid-Year Raffle fundraiser for Arizona Elks Major Projects. On October 19th during the 109th Mid-Year Convention Jamie Dykstra from Gilbert, Arizona was the lucky winner of the 2024 Honda Pioneer Deluxe and Trailer.



“Proclamation”

November is Veterans Remembrance Month

Chicago, IL, October 22, 2024: Elks National President Douglas A. Shiefer has proclaimed November to be Veterans Remembrance Month to honor the men and women who have faithfully served our country as members of the armed forces.

Elks pledge “So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” This month and every month, Elks members give generously of their time, energy and resources to serve veterans and military members in need of support. Last year, the Elks’ time and support of veterans is valued at \$55,654,802.

In VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, and communities across the country, Elks are helping veterans access the healthcare, housing and community connection they need every day.

One way Elks care for veteran is through the Elks Emergency Assistance Fund, which helps veterans prevent or exit homelessness. Recently, we paid a security deposit for a 91-year-old Korean War veteran moving into a new home, when his longtime residence was no longer available for rent. Just a few hundred dollars of assistance offered this veteran a new path.

“Thank you to the Elks team and all supporting members,” his VA Social Worker shared. “The veteran wanted me to share his gratitude for the assistance in a very challenging time. It made a great difference. The funds made rehousing not merely a hope, but made it possible!”

From supporting the children of deployed National Guard members to helping Korean War veterans stay stably housed, veterans and their families know that they can count on the Elks, no matter what stage of their life they are in.

We urge all Americans to join us in service to the veterans in your community. Our nation’s veterans have served their time. Now, it’s our turn to serve.

“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
 WD Chair-

Assistance with Applying for Benefits

Veteran Benefit Counselors

Statutory Citation: A.R.S. §41-603(B)(1-2) ADVS provides Veteran Benefit Counselors (VBC) to assist with applying for state and federal benefits for Veterans and their families.

VBCs assist claimants by:

- Educating them on eligibility requirements for benefits
- Preparing and submitting VA compensation and pension applications
- Appealing VA decisions
- Representing claimants at VA hearings
- Filing for survivor’s benefits
- Referring claimants to other agencies for potential benefits
- Requesting military service records and certifying DD-214s (discharge paperwork)
- Discussing State Veteran Benefits

All VBC staff can assist Veterans and families with in-person and virtual appointments through email and telephone calls. To schedule an appointment visit <http://bit.ly/ADVSBenefits> or call (602) 535-1215.

Did you know? VBCs are accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist Veterans, service members and their families with gaining access to benefits to which they are entitled. As a Veteran of the U.S. military you should never have to pay to gain access to benefits and services you have earned.



VA Regional Office

The VA’s Phoenix Regional Office (VARO) administers a variety of services including compensation, education, insurance, pension, and Veteran readiness and employment for Veterans, service members, and their families in Arizona. Visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/phoenix/> or call (800) 827-1000 to schedule an appointment.

Excerpted from Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services ARIZONA VETERANS’ BENEFITS GUIDE

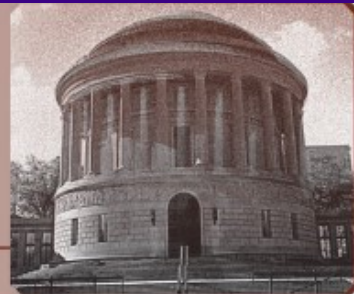


“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



November begins the season of caring and sharing

The Order of the Elks has designated November as Veterans Remembrance Month, the month of Veterans Day. Every Elk should know our solemn pledge of *“So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”*

Veterans are our heroes!

Please find a way to honor veterans in your Lodge and in your community. Some ways to say you care would be by hosting a veterans’ dinner at your Local Lodge, distributing care packages, and attending local events that coincide with your community’s recognition of veterans. Remember, our organization led the



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER

way in 1917 to fund and later establish the first veterans’ hospital.

Thank you to all the state and Lodge veterans chairpersons and the volunteers who help make our program for our veterans a priority and success.

Speaking of recognizing other important people, it’s time to make sure the youth in your local schools are getting the essay contest information they need. Their essays should be submitted for judging by December 15.

November also marks the need to be active citizens by voting in the election, always held the first Tuesday of the month during November.

Thanksgiving is the hallmark of the month, a time for families to come together and fellowship and give thanks to God. I wish you and your loved ones a blessed holiday season as you show *“Elkdom’s Heart For America.”*

Community • Friendship • Charity

ELKS

Let’s Grow Together



LET’S SOAR WITH 4 IN 2024!

Invite your friends!



join.elks.org