

Arizona Elks News

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

January 2025



"Spreading the Joy"

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Wow, HAPPY NEW YEAR to every person reading this page. I hope you all had the Christmas you wished for. Addie Lee Swearingin, my 90 year old Mother and a Sierra Vista 2065 PER, was able to spend several days in Sierra Vista with Jimm and I. She was a hit at our Elks Milk get together on Christmas Eve where we celebrated a late birthday for her with cake and libations. We enjoyed having her with us, but she needed to get back to her home and my sister for the New Year.



Now is the time to get the many brochures put together and sent to the District Vice Chairmen. If you think about it, these are fabulous scrapbooks detailing all the many things done in the first nine months of this Elk Year. I still picture the many Flag Day presentations where we invited an important city official to speak to us about patriotism. Many non-Elks attended this ceremony and many became Elks because of it. Flag Day can go in at least two brochures – Americanism and Community Image. If the local Scouts helped, then those photos can be included in Youth Activities. The project may not be as overwhelming as you thought.

These brochures are also an important part of your Lodge. They contain its history. They can be used during Orientation to show the many things Elks do for the community. Committee chairmen should use them as references for their events. Parties can become stale, and members stop attending. Old pictures may show a previous Lodge Anniversary Ball as a birthday party rather than a formal attired prime rib dinner. Old traditions can be revived. Try it, you may like it!

January is the month our Leading Knight presents the slate of Officers to the PER Association. That way we can organize the February meeting – who will nominate the elected Officers and who gets to be the Tiler. This is an important time as this Leading Knight becomes the next Exalted Ruler.

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AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
25 Jan. 2025



**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 Association’s advisory time formally begins at this meeting. Their Godparent (or mentor) will perform the installation and has been guiding them since their first office.

Just think Exalted Rulers, YOU still have three months to fulfill those promises YOU made when YOU were installed. YOU still have three months to accomplish those Grand Lodge programs put aside for other more visible activities. YOU can invite non-Elks to become part of the Best People on Earth. This sounds like a lot of work, but YOU have your Officers and members to help do everything. Do not do it all yourself. Lead, teach, and guide those around you. But more importantly, SPREAD THE JOY of being an Elk.

I want to thank my 30,000 strong Brothers and Sisters for making my last eight months wonderful. I represented you to the best of my ability and kept smiling everywhere I went. There were official and unofficial visits, and you all showed me many things. Pride in your Lodge, love for your Veterans and First Responders, joy in your families (be them blood or heart). No wonder I smile at all you do; YOU ARE WONDERFUL and you better believe it!

Fraternally,
Sue Krausman, President Arizona Elks Association



“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Hosts 1st Annual Turkey Drive ”

With the help of their members, the Coolidge Florence Elks Lodge initiated their first turkey drive. They worked with the school coordinators to help with identifying families in need. Over 60 turkeys were accumulated and distributed. *Submitted by; Debbie Knutson*



“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Participates in a Parade”

The Coolidge Florence Elks Lodge #2350 and of course Elroy, participated in the Florence AZ 92nd Annual Jr. Parada Parade on November 30th.

It's a wonderful opportunity for all of us to come together and celebrate our community and to hand out Drug awareness coloring books to the children and Elk's flyers to the adults.

Submitted by; Robin Knutson

Pictured: Coolidge-Florence Lodge Members



“Casa Grand Valley #1957 Deliver Welcome Home Kits”

Casa Grande Valley Elks #1957 presented veteran Stephen Garrison and his wife, Jennifer, with a welcome home kit which included an air fryer, bedding, kitchen utensils, and other items to set up housekeeping. 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. Items can be new or used, donated or purchased. 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.

We welcome Stephen and Jennifer to our community and look forward to a continued relationship

Submitted by; Donna Johnson, Secretary

Pictured Left to Right;

Jennifer and Stephen Garrison,

PER Grover Ramsey.



“Casa Grande Valley #1957 Holds Toy Parade”

Casa Grande Valley hosted North District Vice President Larry Carver and his wife, Michelle, over the last weekend of November. An annual event of CGV is the Christmas Toy Parade/Motorcycle Run where the entry fee is an unwrapped toy for children. These toys, along with toys purchased by Casa Grande Elks are presented to the Salvation Army to distribute to community children.

Larry and Michelle were our Elks celebrities and rode in the parade on Sunday, December 1. Following the parade, a lunch was served and donated items from members and businesses were in a silent or live auction. This event raised over \$9000 for the Toy Parade Fund.



Submitted by; Donna Johnson

Pictured Left to Right: North District VP Larry Carver and Michelle Carver

“Tempe #2251 Hold Police and Firefighter Banquet”

On Saturday, November 16th, Tempe Elks Lodge No. 2251 honored two of Tempe’s finest: Officer Andre Couillard of the Tempe Police Department, and EMT Evelyn Lara Echeverry of the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue. After a delicious dinner, both honorees were presented with plaques by ER Chris Turner while Larry Pratt, Jr, DDGER, read statements from their supervisors that attested to the dedication they each have to their profession and to the citizens they serve. Thank you Officer Couillard and EMT Echeverry!! *Submitted by; Connie Shulteians*

Pictured (Left to Right); Officer Andre Couillard, Tempe PD; Chris Turner, ER; and Evelyn Lara Echeverry, EMT.



“Tempe #2251 Feed Families and Have a Shopping Spree ”

This year’s Children’s Shopping Spree was a great success! Through the generosity of our members and an ENF Gratitude Grant, we gifted 22 families with holiday food boxes and 58 children received presents of toys and clothing items. The children and their families also spent time at the craft stations- making ornaments, paper chains, applying temporary holiday “tattoos”, adding tinsel to their hair, or coloring Christmas pictures. They could also have their picture taken with Santa! Oh, and the pancakes were a big hit this year! A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated, shopped, wrapped, brought in food, turkeys and hams, or contributed in any way. Bless you all! *Submitted by; Connie Schulteians*

Pictured Photo on Left; Volunteers and families at crafting tables. Pictured photo on Right; Food boxes and gifts



“Bullhead City #1957 Hosts Annual Shop With A Cop”

On Saturday December 7th Bullhead City held our annual Shop with a Cop event. We made and served breakfast burritos to the kids and first responders, then the kids were teamed up with a policeman and taken to shop at the local Wal-Mart. With 115 people participating a fun day was had by all. *Submitted by; Robin Ayers*

Pictured photo on Left (Left to Right); Shop with a Cop Mascot, Exalted Ruler Walt Honse, Grinch

Pictured photo on right; Attendees and Volunteers of the Shop with a Cop Event



“Bullhead City #1957 Deliver Food Boxes”

On December 21st, 2024 The Bullhead City Elks #2408 in collaboration with the Salvation Army, delivered many boxes of food to the less fortunate in our community. They also presented Salvation Army Captain John Birks with a check for \$2,500.00 to assist them in their mission as well. *Submitted by; Robin Ayers*

Pictured Left to Right;

Leading Knight Deborah Roszi, Salvation Army Captain John Birks and Exalted Ruler Walt Honse.



“Tucson #385 Hosts Bike In A Box”

On December 7th, 2024, Tucson AZ Elks Lodge 385 in conjunction with Lugo Charities - Bike in A Box event was held at Lodge #385. Volunteers helped unload five hundred bicycles to donate to local Tucson AZ under privileged children. Santa & Mrs. Claus and superheroes greeted the excited children. After registration, volunteers from the Tucson AZ Medical Center custom fit each child with a safety helmet. Volunteers from the Amphi High School basketball team assisted kids and carried their new gifted bicycle to take home to assemble by parents or guardians. We had five hundred excited kids who received bicycles as a Christmas gift. Thanks to Tucson AZ KVOA Channel 4 video that covered our event. The link to view the short segment is: http://kvoa.com/.../video_cc63e012-e9aa-5401-b861...

On behalf of Tucson Elks Lodge #385 and <http://LugoCharities.com> we are wishing everyone a Safe and Healthy Holiday Season. Thanks to ALL volunteers, as this year's event was a GRAND success! *Submitted by; John Aceves* Thanks to Lodge #385 Trustee/Lugo Charities Jesse Lugo for his contributions to this article. Pictured Photo on Left (Left to Right); PER Curtis Winters, Trustee/Lugo Charities Jesse Lugo, Mr. and Mrs. Clause, volunteers. Pictured Photo on Right; Kids in line waiting for Bikes and a Christmas Storm Trooper.



“Tucson #385 Holds A Children's Shopping Spree”

On December 14, the Tucson AZ Lodge #385 Elk members and volunteers took twenty-two young students with four teachers and their principal from Walter Douglas Elementary school on a shopping spree to JC Penny's. Each child received \$150.00 in clothing allowance. Back at the lodge more volunteers prepared lunch. To welcome these young students Santa Clause handed out backpacks full of school supplies handmade pillowcases with pillows, blankets, a handmade Christmas stocking full of small toys, gloves, coloring books, sketch pad, crayons, a toothbrush, candy, and an apple. Each child was fitted with a helmet and given a bike-in-box. I offer my personal thanks to each Elk member and volunteer and greatly appreciate all the donations, Charity groups, Clubs and organizations that made this event so successful. *Submitted by; Martha Megerle* *Cloth-A-Child* Chairman Pictured photo on Left (Left to Right); Evelina Ramos, Martha Megerle, and Pat Orr. Pictured photo on Right (Left to Right); PER Joe Jablonski making sure the helmet fits, PER Susan Trecartin and Exalted Ruler Richard Bernard handing out helmets.



“Catalina Mountain #2815 Adopts 20 Kids”

Catalina Mt lodge #2815 “adopted” 20 kids through Impact of So. AZ-our local food bank at Christmastime. We purchased toys, clothing and art supplies for all, hoping to make their holiday season a lot merrier. This awesome project was made possible by a donation of \$500 from our Past Exalted Rulers Association and \$1500 in donations from our generous members.

Submitted by; Marie Starjnski

Pictured Left to Right: Douglas Harpold, Exalted Ruler,
Jan Trudeau, Community Activities Chair,
Sherry Cutrer, Impact Volunteer Coordinator,
Perla Regoyza, Impact Program Coordinator.



“Catalina Mountain #2815 Supplies Thanksgiving Dinner”

On Saturday November 23rd 2024, 25 Catalina Mt Elks gathered to assist our local food bank-Impact of So Az. We helped them create 280 Thanksgiving food bags. These bags included potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, gravy and cranberry sauce. Turkey and pies were added later to provide a full Thanksgiving meal to our less fortunate neighbors.

Submitted by;

Marie Starjnski



“Ajo #1576 Hosts Firefighter Christmas Party”

The Ajo Elks 1576 hosted (no cost for meal, beverages or use of room) the Ajo/Gibson Volunteer Firemen to their annual steak Christmas Dinner Party for them and their families.

Submitted by; Marlene Hinman

Pictured Left to Right; Kattie Allen firefighter, TJ Allen Lieutenant, Chief David Tibbitt and his wife Monica



“Ajo #1576 Hosts Community Breakfast with Santa”

On the first Sunday we had our Memorial Service. We started our Tuesday Bingo Nights in December for the community with proceeds going to Scholarships. We had a gift wrapping party with Santa’s helpers before our Breakfast with Santa. We had about thirty community children and parents attend our complimentary Breakfast With Santa. Each child twelve and under received a light stick, candy cane, and gift from Santa before their breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruit cups, orange juice and hot chocolate.

Submitted by; Marlene Hinman

Pictured photo on Right; Santa’s helpers wrapping presents. Pictured photo on Left; Community members with Santa



“Tucson East #2532 Starts the Holiday Season With Some Bling”

Tucson East #2532 started the 2024 Holiday season by bringing jewelry to the Wilmot Clinic in Tucson. The generosity of the Arizona Elks shines through with the donation of jewelry. Organized by the Past State Presidents spouses this jewelry project allows the patients to pick out gifts for their family members. What an honor and very rewarding experience it is to be there to help the kids. *Submitted by; Megin Goetz, PER*



Pictured photo on Left (Left to Right); Megin Goetz PER, Past State President Richard “Rich” Botkin



Pictured photo on Right (Left to Right); Past State President’s First Lady Joann Botkin, Megin Goetz PER.

“Tucson East #2532 Host Children's Christmas Party”

The Youth Activities Committee, with a generous donation of gifts for all the children, from the Auxiliary hosted a Christmas Party for the children and grandchildren of lodge members. There was a cookie decorating table, arts and crafts. Christmas music played in the background while children and adults waited to get their faces painted. Santa arrived and all the kids received a present and stocking. After gifts were open a lunch was served, with pizza, sub sandwiches, fruit and of course cookies and candy. *Submitted by: Sally Frankel Exalted Ruler*

Photo on Left; Face painting Table

Photo on Right; Members during the party



“Tucson East #2532 Holds Children Shopping Spree”

Tucson East #2532 took 50 children from a neighborhood school on a shopping spree, where they were able to pick out clothes and shoes for Christmas. After the shopping spree they went back to the school and had a pizza/dance party. There were also arts and crafts for them to do. They were then surprised with a toy which the Lodge received from Toys for Tots. A “Merry” time was had by all who participated.

Submitted by; Richard “Rick” Botkin

Top picture; Tucson East Volunteers waiting for the busload of kids



Bottom Left photo (Left to Right); Past State President Richard “Rich” Botkin, Jeffery Botkin PER, South Vice President Rocky Davis, Brian Lambert



Bottom Middle; Shopping cart waiting for more items



Bottom Right; Kristie Heppler



“Tucson East #2532 Feeds Families and Holds 1st Annual Toys for Tots Event”

Saturday October 21st was a busy day at Tucson East #2532. First thing in the morning 65 food boxes were assembled, delivered or put aside for families to pick up. That afternoon we hosted our 1st Annual Toys For Tots event. Toys and gifts were provided for newborns to 16 years of age. Over 100 neighborhood children and their families came by to meet Santa, eat lunch and of course pick out a gift or two. Each child also received a stocking, blanket and gift bag stuffed with goodies. *Submitted by; Megin Goetz PER*
Pictured Photo on Right (Left to Right); aka South VP Rocky Davis, Past State President Richard “Rich” Botkin

Phot On Left; Some of the toys



“Tucson East #2532 Hosts Hoop Shoot”

Saturday October 21st Tucson East #2532 was honored to be the host Lodge for Tucson East #2532 and for Sierra Vista #2065 lodge hoop shoots. The contestants and their families were treated to a picnic lunch afterwards. Congratulations to both 1st place girls U 10 winners.

Submitted by: Sally Frankel Exalted Ruler

Pictured Left to Right;
Sally Frankel Exalted Ruler,
Luna Pahona,
Cecelia Gonzales,
Megin Goetz PER



“Tucson East #2532 Delivers Dictionaries”

During the pizza/dance party held after the Children’s shopping spree dictionaries were also delivered to all the students.

Submitted by; Richard “Rich” Botkin

Pictured Background to the Left; Kim Botkin, Denise Lefkowitz Esteemed Loyal Knight, Back row (Left to Right); Sally Frankel Exalted Ruler, Richard “Rick” Botkin. All children have signed pictures releases.



“Scottsdale #2148 Gives Community Reward Grant”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 Awarded \$1,000 Community Rewards Grant to Yavapai Elementary. The Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 was pleased to present a \$1,000 Community Rewards Grant to Yavapai Elementary School in recognition of our support for the Arizona Elks Major Projects. This grant was used to support the school’s Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) framework, which encourages positive behavior and attendance.

The presentation took place with ER Kelly Rich, Principal Kelley Perry, Community Activities/Projects Chair Beverly Schafman, and STUCO officers Niehari, Aria, John, and Salvador in attendance. The PBIS framework continues to play a critical role in fostering a positive and supportive school environment, and this grant was an important contribution to Yavapai Elementary’s efforts.

At Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148, we are proud of the opportunity to give back to our community. Initiatives like this reflect our commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of local students and schools. We look forward to continuing our support for Yavapai Elementary and other community projects in the future. *Submitted by; Lisa Ramirez*

Pictured Left to Right; Kelly Rich Exalted Ruler, Niehari, Salvador, Kelley Perry, Aria, John, Beverly Schafman



“Scottsdale #2148 Fundraises for Special Olympics”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 Bar Olympics: A Huge Success for Arizona Special Olympics!

A huge shoutout goes to everyone who participated in our Bar Olympics—where the competition was fierce, but the cause was even bigger! Together, we raised an incredible \$1,121 for the Arizona Special Olympics!

The meat raffle champion, Brian Baltzall, took home the steak, while the 50/50 raffle winner, Rob Tinder, cashed in on some serious luck!

Let’s not forget our top-tier teams who participated in darts, ping pong, pool, cornhole and horseshoes.

Steve Gallant & Tyson Shumard from Team Elk Horn Death Machine came in a close 2nd and 3rd place in a photo finish!

Justin McDaniel & Sean Schluter of Team State 48 took home the gold!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined in—because of you, the spirit of competition and community truly won the day!

Submitted by: Lisa Ramirez

“Scottsdale #2148 Helps Build 10 Beds”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 Exalted Ruler Kelly Rich Presents \$2,500 Check to Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Exalted Ruler Kelly Rich had the honor of presenting a \$2,500 check to Sleep in Heavenly Peace and their chapter founder, Joe Genovese. This generous donation will go toward building ten beds for children who currently do not have one.

Stay tuned for future information about Elks Lodge #2148's involvement in a community build for this worthy cause. We are excited to continue our support and make a meaningful impact in the lives of children in need.
Submitted by; Lisa Ramirez

Pictured Left to Right;
Kelly Rich Exalted Ruler,
Joe Genovese

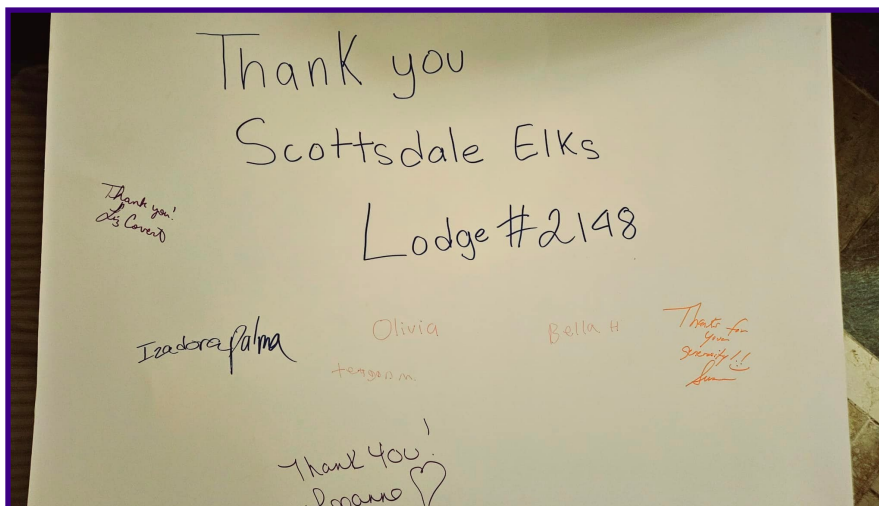


“Scottsdale #2148 Helps Bring Confidence and Self-Worth”

The Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 is proud to support the launch of the Unbridled Pathways Program, which kicked off last month with its first class of scholarship recipients. Thanks to a generous \$5,000 donation, this initiative is taking flight and making a meaningful impact on the lives of local youth. The centerpiece of the program, “Unbridled Confidence,” is a groundbreaking initiative designed to empower middle school-age girls through the unique and profound connection between humans and horses. By focusing on personal growth, self-confidence, improved social skills, and emotional validation, the program helps participants build a strong sense of self-worth. Self-confidence plays a pivotal role in developing healthy boundaries, improving communication, and preventing bullying skills that are essential for navigating today’s challenges.

“The Unbridled Pathways Program provides an incredible opportunity for these young girls to develop life-changing confidence,” said Kelly Rich, Exalted Ruler of Scottsdale Elks Lodge 2148. “We are honored to contribute to such an inspiring and impactful program.” The Scottsdale Elks Lodge extends heartfelt gratitude to all members and supporters whose generosity made this effort possible. Together, we are creating a brighter future for our youth—one step, and one hoof, at a time.

Submitted by: Lisa Ramirez



“Scottsdale #2148 Awards Beacon Grant to Local Food Bank”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge 2148 Awarded Beacon Grant to Support Local Food Bank

Kelly Rich, Exalted Ruler of Scottsdale Elks Lodge 2148, proudly announced that the lodge has been awarded a Beacon Grant. This generous funding will enable the lodge to support a local food bank, Vista del Camino Food Bank, by purchasing a much-needed commercial freezer.

This initiative underscores the Elks' commitment to addressing food insecurity in the Scottsdale community.

The new freezer will increase the food bank's capacity to store and distribute perishable goods, ensuring more families in need have access to fresh and nutritious meals.

“This grant allows us to make a tangible difference in the lives of those struggling with food insecurity,” said Kelly Rich. “We're honored to continue fulfilling the Elks' mission of service and support for our community.”

The Beacon Grant, funded by the Elks National Foundation, empowers local lodges to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Submitted by; Lisa Ramirez

“Scottsdale #2148 Adopts Seniors”

Spreading Holiday Cheer: Scottsdale Elks Lodge 2148 Adopts Seniors for the Season

The holiday spirit was alive and well at Scottsdale Elks Lodge 2148 as members came together to make a difference in the lives of local seniors. Through their "Adopt-a-Senior" program, lodge members adopted 11 seniors and generously selected over 100 items and donations from the “Adopt-a-Senior” tree displayed in the lodge. The efforts of Scottsdale Elks members contributed to a broader initiative that served over 300 seniors in the community, helping them experience a joyful and memorable holiday season. From thoughtful gifts to essential items, the contributions brought smiles and holiday cheer to those in need.

“Our members were thrilled to step up and support this program,” said Kelly Rich, Exalted Ruler of Scottsdale Elks Lodge 2148. “It's all about showing compassion and spreading joy to those who deserve it most, especially during the holiday season.” The event highlighted the lodge's dedication to fostering community and supporting seniors who might be overlooked during this time of year. *Submitted by; Lisa Ramirez Pictured; Exalted Ruler Kelly Rich leading the charge in spreading Holiday cheer*



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Receives Donation For Veterans”

During his performance at the Elks Lodge on November 20th, Terry Hopple donated a basket for a raffle to benefit the VA hospital in Prescott's Christmas program. The raffle, combined with the tips he received, raised \$1,165.00. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Terry Hopple for his wonderful idea and generosity. We eagerly anticipate your return to our stage.

Pictured from Left to Right; ticket sellers and Elks members Kathy Fairbank and Chris Dukey, Veterans Committee Chair and Elk Bud Watts, First Lady and Elk Eva D. Fox, and musician Terry Hopple.

Submitted by; Eva Fox

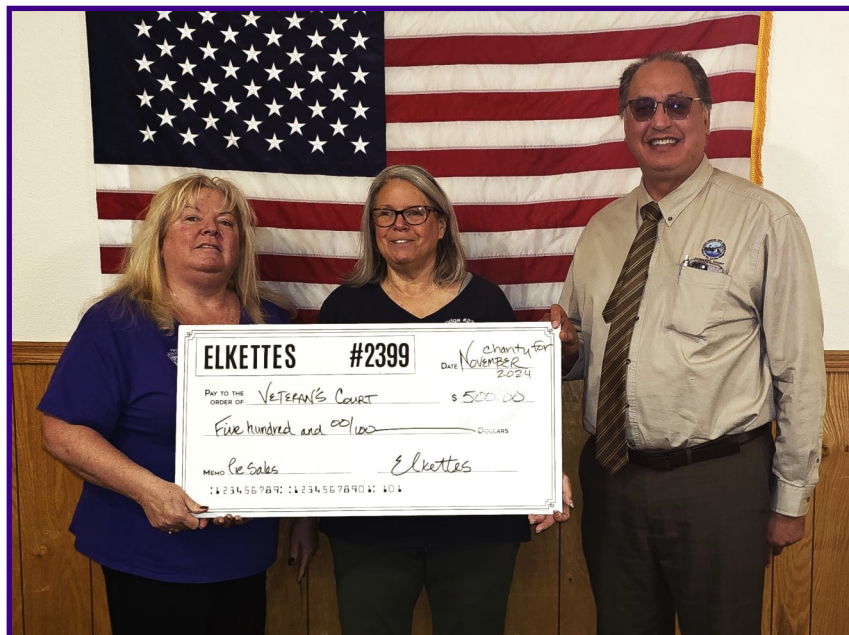


“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Donate To Veterans Court”

The Elkettes contributed \$500 to the Lake Havasu Veterans Court from their pie sales.

Pictured from Left to Right; Ellette Pie Chairperson Lisa Anderson Nutt, Ellette Karen Ford, and Veterans Court Judge Mitchell Kalauli Jr.

Submitted by; Eva Fox



“Buckeye #2686 Served Free Thanksgiving Dinner”

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Lodge member Jeannie Stacy organized a heartwarming meal to those in need. The event, held at the Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686, on Thanksgiving Day 2024. Eighteen volunteers working tirelessly to prepare and serve a feast that included turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, pumpkin pie, and more. The initiative was dedicated to ensuring that Veterans, Homeless, Seniors or First responders in the community did not go hungry on this special day. "It's all about giving back and showing gratitude," said Jeannie Stacy. "I want everyone to feel the warmth and joy of Thanksgiving and not be alone." Some 98 individuals, who were alone on the holiday found a place at Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686, where they were welcomed with open arms and a hot meal. "This was nice," said one attendee. "I can't believe you did this for strangers. It makes my heart warm." The event not only provided nourishment but also a sense of community and togetherness. Volunteers shared stories, laughter, and the joy of helping others. "Seeing the smiles on people's faces that came for the meal makes all the hard work worth it," said a volunteer. As the day came to a close, the organizers expressed their gratitude to everyone who contributed, whether by cooking, serving, donating, or simply showing up to enjoy the meal. "Thank you for making this day special for so many," they said. "Your generosity and kindness are what make our community strong." "Without the support of the following Lodge members this would not have been the huge success it was. Rocco Tito and wife, Hon do and Leatta Jimenez, Tom and Lorelee Giudice, Jay Broadbent, Sheri Gustaveson, Sharon Torres, Jeannie Stacy, Alan and Janice Oberloh (Lodge #2287) and Curtis Scott supported the event. Other volunteers from the community were Tshavia, Arlene, Darion, Daniel, Christine, Alexandria, Ida, Cheryl, and Randy.

Submitted by; Jeannie Stacey



Photo on Left; Volunteers



Photo on Right; The dessert table

“Buckeye #2686 Celebrates 40th Anniversary”

The Buckeye Elks Lodge #2686 was chartered in December 1984 with 90 members. On Friday, December 6, the Lodge celebrated their 40th anniversary with a dinner and live music from the Ain't Misbehavin' band. Exalted Ruler Adam Hardin honored their remaining three charter members Tom Simpson, Bob Strander, and Bill McLaughlin. And they honored Ronnie Henry as a long-time member who donated an elk mount that he shot himself in 1996 near Williams, Arizona. *Submitted by; Leatta McLaughlin*

Pictured photo on Right (Left to Right); Tom Simpson, Exalted Ruler Adam Hardin, Bob Strander, Bill McLaughlin

Pictured photo on Left (Left to Right); Ronnie Henry, Exalted Ruler Adam Hardin with the Elk mount behind them



“2025 Tournament of Roses Parade Preparations”

Arizona Elks Association State President Sue Krausman and First Gentleman Jimm Krausman had the honor of going to California to help with the assembly of the BPOE float for 2025 Rose Parade. First Gentleman Jimm documented the trip and I am privileged to be able to include some of them here. Stay tuned next month for pictures of the finished float. *Submitted by; Megin Goetz AEA State News Chairman*



Photos Above (Photo on Left); AEA President Sue Krausman (Photo on Right); AEA President Sue Krausman behind the scenes. Photos Below (Photo on Left); Volunteers getting the logo ready (Photo on Right); the float in progress



Community • Friendship • Charity

ELKS

PASADENA TOURNAMENT of ROSES®

WATCH FOR OUR 2025 FLOAT
JANUARY 1, 2025!

ROSE PARADE
presented by HONDA

WE LOVE A PARADE!

elks.org

“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- Coming soon

We are still looking for nominations for the honor of Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Know someone who qualifies? Nominate them! Complete the Veteran Volunteer of the Year nomination form and send it to Mary I Shaffer, AEA State Veterans Chair via email mitseazelk@gmail.com by January 31.

State of Arizona Eligibility Requirements for Residency in a State Veteran Home.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMEBERS:

Applicant must be a veteran with an other than dishonorable discharge, the spouse of a veteran, or the surviving spouse of a veteran.

Applicant must be a resident of Arizona.

Application Process

Applicants apply for admission on the form provided by ASVH-P. The form requests demographic and financial data. Applicants must submit a copy of the discharge document or equivalent separation-of-service document. Applicants must submit a certified copy of the applicant’s marriage certificate if the applicant is a spouse or surviving spouse. A certified copy of the veteran’s death certificate must be submitted if the applicant is a surviving spouse. Admissions committee determines final approval of applicant after veteran’s status is verified by a State Veteran’s Service Officer.

Services Provided

Skilled nursing care 24 hours a day. Medicare and sub-acute unit. Alzheimer’s unit. Speech, physical, occupational and respiratory therapy. Hospice services. Respite care, therapeutic meals, recreational therapy and social services. Over-the-counter medications provided at no charge. Personal hygiene items provided at no charge.

Arizona State Veteran Home - Tucson 555 East Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ 85713

Arizona State Veteran Home - Phoenix 4141 North Silvestre Herrera Way, Phoenix, AZ 85012

Arizona State Veteran Home – Yuma 6051 E 34thStreet, Yuma, AZ 85365

Arizona State Veteran Home - Flagstaff 2100 N Gemini Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Admissions Hotline: 602-234-5678



“Media Alert”



MEDIA

ALERT

A Fraternal Organization
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889

Contact: Rick Gathen
Phone: (862) 324-2412

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELKS LOVE A PARADE ELKS TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE 2025 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

Chicago, IL – The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) is gearing up for an unforgettable appearance in the 2025 Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, 2025, in Pasadena, California. In perfect harmony with the parade’s theme, “Best Day Ever!”, the Elks will showcase a dazzling float that celebrates their ongoing commitment to youth development, education, and leadership.

This one-of-a-kind float honors the Elks' nationwide Youth Camps, which offer outdoor education, recreation, and leadership opportunities to young people across the country. It symbolizes the Elks' commitment to shaping the next generation of leaders and community-minded citizens. The float's creation is a testament to the dedication of Elks members and volunteers from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the Panama Canal Zone, who worked together to bring this vision to life. As the float makes its way down the parade route, it will serve as a vibrant reminder of the Elks' profound impact on youth and communities nationwide.

Beyond parades, the Elks' contributions continue to shape communities and lives. With nearly 1,800 lodges and close to 800,000 members nationwide, the Elks made a monumental \$550 million in charitable donations last year alone. From supporting veterans and youth programs to bolstering local community initiatives, the Elks are a powerful force for good.

“We are beyond excited to be part of this historic event and share the spirit of service with millions of viewers,” said Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Director. “Join us as we celebrate the ‘Best Day Ever!’ with a float that exemplifies the Elks' dedication to making a difference in the lives of youth across the country.”

Interested in becoming a part of this incredible organization? Elks membership is open to American citizens aged 21 and older who believe in God. To learn more about joining or getting involved with the Elks' service initiatives, visit Join.Elks.Org.

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“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



New year begins, but Elks year ends soon

Happy 2025 to all our Elks family!

Julia and I want to wish you and your families a healthy and happy new year.

January is the beginning of the last quarter of the Lodge year. Be sure to have your membership retention and arrears program ready to work on having a +1 membership gain for 2025! Have your committee reach out to delinquent Members. This personal contact could very well bring these Members back into our folds.

While we have so many Members who are active and going beyond the call of duty, we unfortunately have those who are delinquent in membership. We need to look over the lapsation list. Our delinquent Members had a reason for joining and they are worth keeping as active Members. Find out what you can do to improve this. Think of the missed



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER

opportunities that these delinquent Members could have had in making a legacy of service.

As we begin 2025, Lodges need to be focusing on several aspects: Our Members and membership, our Lodges and improvements, and our recognition to those who have given beyond the typical role of service.

There is no better way to recognize these people who have gone beyond the

call of duty in their service to Elkdom than to award them with “Elk of the Year,” “Officer of the Year,” and “Citizen of the Year.” The awards form can be accessed in CLMS2Web. They need to be submitted prior to March 31 so that the certificates can be printed and sent back to the Lodges for Officer installations. As an Exalted Ruler, you have an opportunity to recognize those Members who are doing everything without even being asked.

Speaking of legacy, the Legacy Award scholarship is available until February 3, 2025. It provides \$4,000 scholarships to the children and grandchildren of Elks Members. Use the membership of Elkdom to pay it forward to help your children and grandchildren.

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The end of year will be here before you know it. With the FRS system, your Lodge just needs to ensure all entries are current. The nice thing about the FRS system is your Lodge no longer needs to have the annual audit completed. However, you still must submit your 990 and 990T for each corporation in your Lodge. Have them completed by a qualified individual (e.g., CPA) and filed with the IRS and uploaded on Elks.org.

Elkdom’s Heart for America means looking for ways to recognize the value of our Members, membership, and the value of looking forward to the future. Keep up the good work you are doing in your Lodge and community. I want you to know how much I appreciate all that you are doing for Elkdom. God bless you and God bless America.

MAKE GIVING EASY & JOIN THE CLUB!

Sign up for our monthly, sustaining giving program—the ENF Fidelity Club!

- Give automatic, regularly scheduled donations each month from your credit card or bank account.
- Receive special membership benefits and recognition pieces.
- Update, adjust or modify your gift any time online or by calling us.
- Sign up by scanning the QR code and make a sustaining difference in Elks communities today!



Use the QR code to sign up today.



Elks National Foundation, Inc.