

Arizona Elks News

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

February 2025



“Spreading the Joy”

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AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
25 Feb. 2025



January was a busy month and February is shaping up to be the same. While I know this message is supposed to be about the second month of the year, I would be remiss if I did not tell you about the fun I had representing you in Pasadena and the Rose Bowl Parade. The Nevada and Utah State Presidents and I started with working on the Elks Float. Such a dynamic theme about the many camps we support throughout our great nation. Arizona was mentioned in the synopsis; YOU are to thank for that with all the hard work YOU do to make it successful. The process is so organized with a million and ten volunteers in that warehouse. Jimm and I worked in the preparation tent where tables of teams stripped thorns and leaves, measured stems, and placed the roses into little vials. Jimm and I collected the refuse from each station and dumped it into a huge dumpster. Yes, your State President collected garbage in the name of Elkdom! Later that day I helped remove misplaced flowers where the previous day’s crew put the wrong color down. If you remember the tall pine tree next to the Elk, Jimm helped put it there. That evening we attended a special dinner honoring our Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady. They are very nice and every Arizona Elk will have the opportunity to meet them at our May convention. When you do, please welcome them to our wonderful state. It will be after California’s this year, so it will be good for them to relax.



The next day had us back at the Pasadena Elks Lodge for the parade. I must say having a President’s badge helped in our favor, because we sat in the front row. If you were looking, Jimm had his Arizona Red cap on so he could be spotted. I was so excited and waved to everyone passing. The bands, horses, cars, and especially the floats were AWESOME! Ours was so beautiful and everyone in the stands cheered when it was revealed it won the Americana Award. What is so important to remember is this float was paid for with bought pins and donated money; Elks money. Be proud, be happy, and know if you want to work on the float next year, Pasadena Elks Lodge will have a link to the volunteer site. You do not need to be the Arizona State President, only a person proud to be an Elk.

So, February is the month the district Hoop Shoots finish and the resulting State Shoot is held on the 8th in Apache Junction. Two weeks after that, the Regional Hoop Shoot is held in Nevada. We will have one child for each category representing Arizona on the Junk Food Express with their families along for moral support. Past President Kayal had the pleasure to take a winner to Chicago last year and I am crossing my fingers and toes Jimm and I get to experience that trip. Chairman Gregg and his Lady Jeanne work so hard on this committee. Listening to him paint a picture of all things done at the National Shoot makes me drool. Not a very good look for a President!

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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

February also has a statute requirement for our Past Exalted Rulers. YOU run the first meeting of this month and are responsible to nominate next year’s Lodge Officers. This is an important thing you do, as you are showing support to these people. Some of them have no idea what should be done for the upcoming year. Be there for them; become a mentor just like you either had or wanted.

I am going to take this time to plug the First Gentleman’s project. His pin represents Emily Victoria Laaff. Many have already heard his story, but let me synopsisize. Emily’s father was a German Officer attending a course at Fort Huachuca. Jimm’s office supported all the international students there, so he went to pick up Andreas, Debra, and Emily from the Tucson Airport. Emily and Jimm formed an instant bond then and there. Right before Andreas graduated Emily got sick and was diagnosed with leukemia. That is where Steele comes in to play. Jimm called the current Executive Director and then the hospital liaison to get her into the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. His pin is a tracing of the initial picture taken the night she was admitted. Long story short, after rounds of chemo, the doctors diagnosed a second form of cancer, resulting in Emily dying July 2001. I know heart breaking. Jimm asked the Laaff family if he could use Emily’s story to help raise money for Pediatric Cancer Research. So that is the background of his project. Now the plug - on March 22nd, Sergeant-at-Arms Shawnee Carlile is organizing a fundraiser being held at Tucson East Lodge 2532. If you are so inclined, her information is in the directory. Thank you for taking the time to think about this; as he says, one dollar is closer than before.

Happy Valentine Day to all the Elks in Arizona. Jimm and I will be taking a cruise from Galveston, TX down to the Panama Canal (and back) to celebrate our 48th wedding anniversary. Have a great day; I know we will.

Fraternally,
Sue Krausman, President Arizona Elks Association

Community • Friendship • Charity

ELKS Never Forget

We wear red on Fridays
until they all come home.

SINCE 1868
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“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Hosts Dave’s Kids Christmas Party”

On 12/21 the Lodge hosted a Christmas party they refer to as Dave's Kids. Dave's Kids was started by David Aurelius who was the ER of our Lodge 1998-1999. Dave was in the US Army Corp, WWII in 1944. He was also a schoolteacher for 25 years in the Coolidge School System. He passed away on March 14, 2004. Dave saw the need to help children and their families have a Christmas that may have been difficult for them financially. The lodge has continued this tradition in his honor! Each year Lodge 2350 applies for multiple grants from the Elks National Foundation Scholarship Program and uses the money they are awarded from the Beacon Grant & proceeds from their children's fund to pay for the Christmas party and the shopping.

Clothing and Shoes were purchased with the funds for the children. Food boxes and Christmas presents were donated by members of #2350.

Submitted by; Debbie Knutson Pictured; Front Row (Left to Right) Christine Perry, Gail Smith, Deb Reimer, Jerry Zimprich, Judy Tarjeft, Cameron Gilliam, Amy Ross.

Back Row
(Left to Right)
Wanda Smith, Tracy Ridout, Becky Trotter, Jai Orr, Mark Tarjeft, Stephanie Johnson, Angela Tobar, Robin Thompson, Sherry Solverson, Dawn Buckman, Kim Hollingshead, Gwen Beck



“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Supports Local Rodeo Team”

“Preserving western heritage through collegiate rodeo” has been a theme repeated over the course of fifty years. Today these efforts are being made through over 100 college rodeos a year! The NIRA has over 3,500 student members annually from 137 member schools and universities. The Central Arizona College Rodeo Team is proud to be a part of such an elite organization and the Coolidge Florence Elks Lodge 2350 is happy to support them.

Their goal is to promote college rodeo regionally and on a national scale by bringing recognition to their sport and students. They strive to promote the importance of education while encouraging perseverance and good sportsmanship among their athletes. They are creating good citizens who keep western heritage alive in America.

Submitted by; Debbie Knutson

Pictured Left to Right: Debra Neely, Trustee, Kayce Mahoney, Assistant Rodeo Coach, Robert Beck, Exalted Ruler



“Casa Grand Valley #1957 Celebrates Students of The Month”

Ramsey Miller is the son of Kenneth and Kristen Miller. He is an honor roll student, character counts award recipient and demonstrates a positive and caring attitude. He is always willing to lend a hand to his teachers and his peers. He is cheerful, energetic and a great role model for all students. Ramsey plays in the local soccer, basketball and baseball leagues. He also participates in Hip Hop classes at The Studio. Ramsey loves to read and build with Legos. He enjoys arts and crafts and helping his dad with projects around the house.

Jorge Carrera is the son of Jorge and Delia Carrera. He is new to Mary C O'Brien this year. Jorge received the character counts award and is an honor roll student that excels academically. He consistently puts forth his best effort and is a great leader and positive role model. Jorge learned all 50 states at the age of three and has learned his multiplication facts already. He loves to help others in and out of the classroom. Jorge enjoys playing soccer and demonstrates great sportsmanship. He likes to help others learn to play fairly and reminds them of the rules. Jorge also enjoys reading, drawing comics, writing stories and helping his parents out at home.

Submitted by; Donna Johnson, Secretary

Pictured Photo on Left: Ramsey Miller

Pictured photo on Right: Jorge Carrera



“BPO Elks USA Highlight Apache Junction #2349 Making a Difference”

Community • Friendship • Charity

ELKS

Dedicated to **Community**, Driven by **Action**

**Honoring
Heroes, One
Wreath at a
Time**

**Apache Junction
#2349
Arizona**



**ELKDOM'S
HEART FOR AMERICA**



Making a Difference!

elks.org/makingadifference



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“Kingman #468 Holds Food Drive”

The Kingman Elks came through with 75 nearly overflowing baskets with dry and canned goods, snacks, and spiral hams and turkeys for our families in need. Our own “Turquoise Queens” (local softball travel teams for adults and children) and our members collected canned goods from Nov. 1-Dec 20. to fill the 75, 27 Gallon totes with lids, with oranges and apples and bread along with the many canned goods we donated. Our totes this year were donated by the local company American Plastic.

Submitted by: Tami Cash

Pictured: Lodge members assembling boxes



“Kingman #468 Takes Families Christmas Shopping”

The Children’s Shopping Spree was a huge success with 12 children and their families shopping for new clothes at the new Kingman MARSHALLS store on December 21st . Nine ELKS with ER Dan Jones leading the way along with Nani and Bob Chrimes, Tami Cash and Navy Davy, Chrissy Gunther and her mom, Suellen and Rodger Stewart and volunteers were on hand to assist the children and their families with the fun shopping. MARSHALLS was waiting to meet our needs and had a cash register ready to take the sales and our taxes in the end were waived. The children bought everything from shoes, jackets, 2-piece sets, dresses, pants, pj’s, sweaters, underwear, socks, hats, scarfs and more. With your generous donations, each family was allotted \$110 to spend on clothes ONLY. A big THANK YOU to the ELKS, MARSHALLS, volunteers and veteran AI Flower, for your generous donation to the children.

Submitted by; Tami Cash



Pictured Photo on Left; Family with Elks Chrissy and Lori Gunther

Pictured Photo on Right; (Left to Right) Elk Suellen Stewart, Bobbi, Robert, Bob Chrimes



“Kingman #468 Serve Up Smiles For Christmas”

The Kingman Elks #468 teamed up with local car dealer Anderson Auto Group to buy and fulfill children's wishes for the holiday season while having Santa arrive via helicopter. Using our "Rodeo Queens" and many elk volunteers to hand out over 500 toys to over 250 children ages newborn to 13 and get their holiday photo with Santa, who is an Elk as well. Kingman Elks had a first at this event with a marriage proposal, resulting in a yes.

Submitted by; Tami Cash

Pictured (Left to Right);
Santa, Queen Alyssa,
Teen Queen Sydney



“Payson #2154 Uses Spotlight Grant To Supply Food Boxes”

For the past three years Payson Elks Lodge #2154 has put together 100+ Holiday food boxes for the elderly and disadvantaged. The boxes are delivered by our local realtors. This is made possible by the Spotlight Grant, member donations and partnering with our local Bashas'. This year we were also able to donate food to the Strawberry/Pine and Payson Food Distribution Centers, the Warming Center, and the Senior Center. *Submitted by; Lu Anne Frost*

Pictured; Karen Dieken, Ralph Larkin, Shirley Bertram, Larry Bertram, Linda Grau, Marty Otto, Liz Alexander, Rande Kragerud, Karen Sisley, Herb Grau, Sue Werner, Ron Sisley, Pete Werner, Bob Kragerud, Sandy Hollander, James Boswell, Barbara Santopadre, Michael Santopadre, Donna Boswell, Charlene Bosque, Larry Forsythe, Joan Watson, Al Watson, Cynthia Gordon, Danielle, Davidson, Clint Whitney, Michelle Trevino, Heather LeBlanc, Steve Cantrill, Dean Shearer, Phil Hopkins, Mary Springer, Lu Anne Frost, Marie Collier, Barbara Parish, April Rogers and Donna Mead.



“Holbrook #2450 Holds Lodge Hoop Shoot”

The 2024-2025 Holbrook Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot was held on Saturday, December 14th. The Elks Hoop Shoot is a local, district, state and national competition for free throw accuracy. Each participant is allowed 25 free throws. The shooter with the most free throws made out of 25 shots in his or her age division advances to the next level of competition. Age divisions include boys 8-9 year old division, girls 8-9 year old division, boys 10-11 year old division, girls 10-11 year old division, boys 12-13 year old division, and girls 12-13 year old division.

Winners in each division will advance to Camp Verde, AZ to compete in the district competition on January 4, 2025.

The Elks Hoops Shoot Committee would like to thank the following organizations and volunteers that allowed this competition to happen: Holbrook Unified School District, Hulet Elementary, Phil Cobb, Cindy Allen, Beverly Goodnight, Debbie Koerperich, Dan Orton, Josh Johnson, Laverne Joe, Maurice Joe, Jesus Luna, Eldon Thompson and the entire Elks Lodge #2450. Thank you for supporting our youth in Holbrook. *Submitted by; Bev Goodnight*



“Tucson #385 Participates in South District Hoop Shoot”

On January 11, 2025, Rene Cortez shot 22 out of 25 to win the 12-13 boys AZ South District Hoop Shoot Contest for Tucson Elks Lodge #385. This event was held at the Arizona Boys and Girls Club in Tucson Az. Congratulation to Rene! *Submitted by; Wayne Burns Trustee/Hoop Shoot Chairman*

Pictured Photo on Left; Rene Cortez and family with Exalted Ruler Richard Bernard and Wayne Burns Trustee/Hoop Shoot Chairman

Pictured Photo on Right; AEA State President Sue Krausman, Rene Cortez



“Phoenix #335 Continues A 71 Year Old Tradition”

BPOE Lodge #335 has been distributing Thanksgiving baskets annually since 1953 for local veterans and families in need, even during COVID, when grocery gift cards were distributed. This year, we had help from 15 volunteers who worked during the food pickup and setup, 121 Elks, Scouts and other volunteers packing 250 boxes and another 32 Elks who helped to distribute the boxes. Each box contained more than 20 pounds of food staples and \$25 family-friendly WinCo Foods gift card.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

Pictured Left to Right; Esteemed Loyal Knight

Becky Simons (standing)

Don & Luci Sherwood



“Phoenix #335 Holds Christmas Shopping Spree”

Phoenix Elks had 118 volunteers who made the 2024 Children’s Christmas Shopping Spree a great success, giving new clothing, toys, hobbies and sporting goods to 140 community children including 63 children from veterans and military survivor families. Member contributions made this \$25,700 event happen! After shopping at JC Penney, the kids had a visit with Santa and Miss Arizona, K Johnson, and received a gift from their wish list.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

Pictured Left To Right; Miss Arizona K Johnson with Elk volunteer Shannon Herrick and Santa.



“Phoenix #335 Participate in Veterans Day Parade”

On Veterans Day, members of Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 and their families proudly participated in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. A truck, generously provided by member Kief Martin, towed a float adorned with patriotic banners and flags, creating a heartfelt tribute to veterans.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

Pictured Left to Right; (Back row) Elks volunteers Dawn Quinn, Kaelee Bennett, Elks Stephanie and Kenadie Beasley, and Navy Veteran James. Front- Esteemed Leading Knight Karen Seaman and Elk Cheri Christopher.



“Phoenix #335 Rings in The Holidays”

Phoenix Elks were joyful bellringers for the Salvation Army on December 14th at the Fry’s store on 40th Street and Thunderbird. Twelve enthusiastic bellringers spread cheer and collected donations throughout the day. Led by Chair Patricia Stewart, our volunteers were: Kenneth Stewart, Sharon Smith, William Herring, Carol Cauble Rondeau, Linda Thompson, Dale Wilson, Sylvia Carruthers, Cookie Nanni, Elk Karen Seaman, Kathy Papsun and Sheila Dufield. *Submitted by; Linda Thompson*

Pictured photo on Right; (Left to Right) Sharon Smith, Kenneth Stewart Pictured photo on Left; (Left to Right) Kathy Papsun, Cookie Nanni, Karen Seaman



“Phoenix #335 13th Annual Polar Plunge”

Phoenix Elks' 13th annual Polar Plunge was held on New Year's Day and featured 13 brave plungers who took the icy dive to raise money for Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP). Participants ranged in age from just 6 years old to an impressive 82 years old—and all survived! The event has already raised about \$3,600 during this fundraiser. AEMP initiatives include the Steele Children's Research Center and the Jack Warter Jr. Youth Camp, which is free for any youth group in Arizona to use. Thank you to AEMP Executive Director Richard Ross and his wife, Cindy, as well as the President of the Board of Directors for AEMP, Michael Giannetta, and his wife, Paula, for taking the time to support our Lodge during this fundraiser. *Submitted by; Linda Thompson*



Pictured photo on Left; PDDGER Larry Bodwell taking the plunge



Pictured photo on Right; Lecturing Knight Clint Tompkins aping it up.

“Phoenix #335 Holds Hoop Shoot”

Miss Arizona USA and Miss Arizona for America strong have been active in helping in the Phoenix Lodge #335 in their annual shopping spree for children along with the Lodges local Hoop shoot. Both women have been impressed with the Elks efforts in the community as it relates to children and Veterans. Both Miss Arizona USA and Miss Arizona America Strong will be joining Phoenix Lodge in the near future. *Submitted by; Jeff Beasley*

Pictured; (Left to Right) Sharon Dunkirk, Lecturing Knight Clint Tompkins, Matt Thorne, Miss Arizona USA K Johnson, Inner Guard Cory Dunkirk, Miss Arizona for Strong America Hilary Parks, PER Randy Sterling, Past State President, PDDGER Al Kayal, Jack Kerlin, Lakai Torres, Kenadie Beasley.



“Phoenix #335 Honors Public Safety Officers ”

On November 14th, Phoenix Lodge #335 held a Public Safety Appreciation Night dinner, honoring the men and women of the FBI, DEA, AZ Game & Fish, and other offices of public safety. We presented six awards and will be submitting our pick to the State Americanism Committee Chair, Grovers Ramsey, for the Arizona Elks Association Officer of the Year award.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

“Phoenix #335 Donate to California Wildfire Efforts”

On January 16, 2025, Phoenix Lodge #335 approved a \$1,200 donation from their charity urn to Pasadena Elks Lodge #672 to aid their efforts in feeding community members affected by the 2025 California wildfires. The motion, brought by Past Arizona State President Al Kayal, received unanimous support.

If anyone would like to donate financially, please make checks payable to CHEA and in the memo line put "DISASTER RELIEF FUND". In order for the bank to allow us to deposit the check, it must be made out to the CHEA. Mail the checks to the CHEA office: 5450 East Lamona Ave. Fresno, California 93727-2224 Any questions should be directed to the First Vice-President, Scott Stephens scott@scottstephens.com or (714)801-6230

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

“Scottsdale #2148 Donates To Special Olympics”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 was thrilled to present a check for \$1,400 to the Arizona Special Olympics, marking another successful community effort in the spirit of giving. The funds were raised through a creative and exciting Lodge Crawl to Phoenix Lodge #335, Tempe Lodge #2251, and Mesa-Buckhorn Lodge #2656 hosted by Elena Johnson and Jules Sarnoff of Your Platinum Concierge. The event brought together Elk members and friends for a lively day of camaraderie, connection, and charity – all while supporting the incredible athletes of the AZ Special Olympics. The check presentation was a proud moment for all involved. Thanks to the generosity and participation of everyone involved, this donation will help empower and uplift athletes with intellectual disabilities through sports and inclusive activities. A big thank-you to Elena, Jules & Meghan of My Platinum Concierge for organizing this memorable event, and to all the Elks who joined to make a difference. Together, we’re proving that Elks Care – Elks Share!

Submitted by; Lisa Jane Ramirez Pictured; (Left to Right) Kelly Rich, Exalted Ruler; Will Irvin, Special Olympics Chair; Meghan Mullin and Elena Johnson of Your Platinum Concierge.



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Donate To Key Club”

The Elkettes donated \$500 to the Lake Havasu High School Key Club (Kiwana's Educate Youth). The funds came from Pie sales during the dinner hour at the Elks lodge. In the photo are Key Club youth members along with their Key Club teacher Mr. Al Antonio

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured; (Left to Right) Front Row - Al Antonio Key Club teacher, Karen Ford, Pie Chair Lisa Anderson Nutt
Back Row;
Key Club students



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Donate To Hospice of Havasu”

The Elkettes donated \$500 to Hospice of Havasu from Pie sales.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured; (Left to Right) Hospice Executive Director Jenny Tocker excepting check with Elkette Pie Chair Lisa Anderson Nutt and Elkette Donna Pineau



“Special Olympics Update”

Let's start this new year with supporting Special Olympics, at this time the sports that the athletes are training to compete in are Soccer, Basketball, Cheer Leading, Floorball, Flag Football, and Tennis just to name a few. In February and March, they will have Area Meets for some of these sports. The athletes train at least one or two times a week. They could always use water and snacks at the practices or even volunteers. If you do not know if you have Special Olympics in your city's you can look on Special Olympics Arizona website: (<https://specialolympicsarizona.org/>).

Some other ideas that lodges can do are have a dinner for them they love hotdogs, pizza, and spaghetti. Purchase equipment like tennis balls, soccer balls, basketballs and footballs, or how about just a party with music and a cake or cupcakes.

If your lodge does something for Special Olympics in the January, February or March send pictures and a report to your Vice Chairman they will forward them on to me and the first 10 lodges that I receive pics & reports from will get \$100.00 for their Lodge.

Should you have any questions please contact your District Special Olympics Vice Chairman.

Fraternally, Joan Cendejas State Chairman Special Olympics (928) 580-0775

“Past State President's Spouses Jewelry Report”

2024 Report

2024 The 3rd year of the Jewelry Project was outstanding! We had to make a call for more jewelry donations in September and your response was very nice! We have enough now for 2025 and possibly 2026 distributions!

We now have seven distribution sites:

The Steele Center Hospital including the Hematology and Oncology Labs
Dobson Banner Hospital Elks Clinic
Glendale/Thunderbird Banner Hospital Elks Clinic
La Cholla Elks Clinic
North Hills Elks Clinic
Orange Grove Elks Clinic
Wilmot Elks Clinic

In 2024 we held distributions for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Christmas. These are held for two to five days prior to the holiday at each clinic site. A HUGE thank you to the AEMP Board for the donation to assist our original waning budget as we began to run out of finding gold items to swap for money to support our boxes and supplies.

We served 1,158 children.

Volunteers: 43 Elk ladies, including a few neighbor friend of mine who helped to clean, box up, load crates, cut purses, punch holes in bags and cut ribbons for the bags, plus staffed the distribution sites.

Volunteer Hours: Were an amazing 117 hours.

My hours as Chairperson: 156 for a grand total of 273 volunteer hours.

Submitted by: Diane Skorupski Chairperson Past State President's Spouses Jewelry Project

“North District Hoop Shoot”

On January 4th the North District met at the Camp Verde Middle School to hold the District Shoot. Daniel Patterson the North District Hoop Shoot Chairman and his wife Brooke did an outstanding job. Daniel wanted to thank all of the volunteers for donating their time to make this Shoot go so smoothly. He also wanted to thank Jerome Lodge #1361 for hosting.

The winners are as follows:

Pictured; (Top Photo) 8-9 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Annabelle Pfeiffer Kingman Lodge #468, 2nd place Ashleigh Smith Page Lodge #2498 ,1st place Rigley Soloman Show Low Lodge #2090
8-9 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Easton Eggers Kingman Lodge #468 2nd place Kyrie Smith Page Lodge #2498, 1st place Tucker Orton Holbrook Lodge #2450 Back Row; (Left to Right) Daniel Patterson North District Hoop Shoot Chairman, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

Pictured; (Bottom Left Photo) 10-11 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Maegan Lake Page Lodge #2498, 2nd place Amorena Suathojame Kingman Lodge #468,1st place Cecila Cordova Show Low Lodge #2090
10-11 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Spencer Hatch Show Low Lodge #2090, 2nd place Tyren Whitehorse Page Lodge #2498,1st place Jaxon Riese Flagstaff Lodge #499 Back Row; (Left to Right) Daniel Patterson North District Hoop Shoot Chairman, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

Pictured; (Bottom Right Photo)12-13 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Aaliyah Timms Winslow Lodge #536 2nd place Maddison Harmon Payson Lodge #2154, 1st place Abigail Chee Holbrook Lodge # 2450
12-13 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Frederick Colelay Jr. Show Low Lodge #2090, 2nd place Thells Baker Winslow Lodge #536, 1st place Conner Redfern Flagstaff Lodge #499 Back Row; (Left to Right) Daniel Patterson North District Hoop Shoot Chairman, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

The 1st place winners now move on to the State Shoot on February 8th to compete against the winners from the West, South and the East. Good the luck to them all.

Article and pictures submitted by Gregg Boyce, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP



“South District Hoop Shoot”

On January 11th the second round of the Districts was held at the Boys and Girls club in Tucson. Megin Goetz did an outstanding job with this being her first time running a District Shoot. She would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave up their time to make sure that this shoot was a success. The winners are as follows;

Pictured; (Top Photo) 8-9 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Camila Jimenez Green Valley Lodge #2592, 2nd place Carolina Higuera Douglas Lodge #955, 1st place Oaklee Smith Willcox Lodge #2131

8-9 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Emmanuel Escalante Douglas Lodge #955, 2nd place Mino Hancock no Lodge listed, 1st place Bennie Hix Green Valley Lodge #2592 Back Row; (Left to Right) Megin Goetz South District Hoop Shoot Chairman, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

Pictured; (Bottom Left Photo) 10-11 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Ella Alvarado Willcox Lodge #2131, 2nd place Torena Kromer Green Valley Lodge #2592, 1st place Cecelia Gonzales Tucson East Lodge #2532

10-11 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Alonso Barragan San Manuel Lodge #2007, 2nd place Kason Frost Willcox Lodge #2131, 1st place Jovany Gonzalez Green Valley Lodge #2592 Back Row; (Left to Right) Megin Goetz South District Hoop Shoot Chairman, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

Pictured; (Bottom Right Photo) 12-13 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Angel Batista Willcox Lodge #2131, 2nd place Leia Cortes Green Valley Lodge #2592, 1st place Aubrey Lopez Ajo Lodge #1576

12-13 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Lencho Anaja Green Valley Lodge #2592, 2nd place Bryant Whetten Willcox Lodge #2131, 1st place Rene Cortez Tucson Lodge #385 Back Row; (Left to Right) Megin Goetz South District Hoop Shoot Chairman, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

The first place winners will now represent the South District at the State Shoot on February 8th in Apache Junction for a chance to move on to the Regional Shoot in Las Vegas.

Article submitted by Gregg Boyce, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP



“West District Hoop Shoot”

The third round of the Districts is in the books. On January 18th the West District held their shoot at the Vulture Peak Middle School. This shoot was hosted by Wickenburg Lodge #2160. Randy Sterling the West District Chairman wants to thank all of the volunteers that showed up to make this a successful day.

The results are as follows;

Pictured; (Top Photo)8-9 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Miah Douglass Lake Havasu Lodge #2399,2nd place Jayleen Jackovich Yuma Lodge #476, 1st place Arianelly Robledo Parker Lodge #1929 8-9 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Oscar DeAlba Raceway Lodge #2852, 2nd place Cody Frohlich Sun City Lodge #2559,1st place Miguel Porchas Yuma Lodge #476 Back Row; Randy Sterling West District Hoop Shoot Chair, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boye AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

Pictured; (Bottom Left Photo) 10-11 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Rubi Hernandez Yuma Lodge #476, 2nd place Arielle Jourdan Parker Lodge #1929,1st place Bianco Smith Raceway Lodge #2852 10-11 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Robert Gibbs Scottsdale Lodge #2148, 2nd place Cash Lopez Phoenix West Lodge #2729, 1st place Tawn Love JR Raceway Lodge #2852 Back Row; Randy Sterling West District Hoop Shoot Chair, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boye AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

12-13 year old girls L to R; 3rd place Aliya Marsh Raceway Lodge #2852,2nd place Makayla Espinoza Sun City Lodged #2559, 1st place Jayden Mike Parker Lodge #1929 12-13 year old boys R to L; 3rd place Christian Yessith Scottsdale Lodge #2148,2nd place Andrew Valeriano Raceway Lodge #2852, 1st place Conner Stone Sun City Lodge #2559 Back Row; Randy Sterling West District Hoop Shoot Chair, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Gregg Boye AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP

The first place winners will now compete at the State Shoot on February 8th in Apache Junction. They will compete against the winners from the South, North and East Districts. Good luck to all of them.

Article submitted by Gregg Boyce, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP



“East District Hoop Shoot”

We now have our Champions from all 4 districts. On January 25th, the East District held their Shoot to complete the districts. Dennis Appel and his crew of volunteers put on a 1st class competition. Dennis wants to thank all of the volunteers for donating their time.

The results are as follows:

Pictured (Top Photo) 8-9 year old girls R to L; 3rd place Abigail Barton Apache Junction Lodge #2349, 2nd place Nahiku Kalalay Chandler Lodge #2429, 1st place Malia Robinson Fountain Hills Lodge #2846 8-9 year old boys L to R; 3rd place Luke Toy Apache Junction Lodge #2349, 2nd place Jordan His Law III Fountain Hills Lodge #2846, 1st place Billy Bowler Chandler Lodge #2429 Back Row; Dennis Appel East District Hoop Shoot Chair, Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP, AEA State President Sue Krausman, Elroy.

Pictured; (Bottom Left Photo) 10-11 year old girls R to L; 3rd place Audreyana Valenzuela Tempe Lodge #2251, 2nd place Kimiela Kalalau Chandler Lodge #2429, 1st place Yareli Aguero Kearny Lodge #2478 10-11 year old boys L to R; 3rd place Jacob York Mesa Buckhorn Lodge #2656, 2nd place Jack Alvarez Kearny Lodge #2478, 1st place Jovanny Martinez Apache Junction Lodge #2349 Back Row; Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP, Dennis Appel East District Hoop Shoot Chair, AEA State President Sue Krausman

12-13 year old girls R to L; 3rd place Leilani Valenzuela Tempe Lodge #2251, 2nd place Kaulia Bowler Chandler Lodge #2429, 1st place Gianna Mejia Casa Grande Valley Lodge #1957 12-13 year old boys L to R; 3rd place Cole Ledner Mesa Buckhorn Lodge #2656, 2nd place Masen Dvorovy Apache Junction Lodge #2349, 1st place Caleb Skacy Dew Tempe Lodge #2251. Back Row; Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP, Dennis Appel East District Hoop Shoot Chair, AEA State President Sue Krausman

The next step is that the 1st place winners from the North, South, East and the West will compete at the State Shoot on February 8th in Apache Junction for the chance to move on to the Regional Shoot in Boulder City, NV. Good luck to all of our Champions.

Article submitted by Gregg Boyce, AEA Hoop Shoot Director, PDDGER, PSVP



“Save The Date AEA 1st Gentleman Fundraiser”

Superheroes for Steele Research Center: Saturday, 22 March 2025 starting at 5:00pm at Tucson East Elks Lodge #2532. Mark your calendars, and save the date for this first of a kind Kids of Steele fundraiser. Our AEA 1st Gentleman Jimm Krausman, PDDGER, has selected the Steele Research Center: Emily’s Project, for 2024-2025 AEA Elk Year. We are going to throw the fundraising party of a lifetime. Theme: Superhero chic, break out your capes, emblems, and in some cases, your leotards (yay), because we are going to break records to help put a dent in pediatric medical issues (the most villainous villains around). Menu: Salad, Brisket, Ranch Beans, Veggies, Cornbread, and Dessert. Cost: \$25.00 per person. RSVP: 15 February to 15 March 2025. Please call Tucson East Elks Lodge #2532 at 520-886-8120 to reserve & pay. Thank you, Shawnee Carlile



RSVP Information: Signup sheets will be available 15 February to 15 March 2025. Please contact Tucson East Elks Lodge #2532 to sign-up and pay for the event, or pay in person at the Lodge. 520-886-8128 / 615 S. Pantano Road, Tucson, AZ

“Elk Float Wins Americana Award”

January 1, 2025 The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks participated in the 2025 Tournament of Roses Parade. The Float won the American Award. Thank you to all the Volunteers who worked on the float.



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“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

Veterans StandDowns

StandDowns (SD) are typically one- to three-day events providing supplies and services to homeless Veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment and mental health counseling. They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA Medical Centers, the Department of Labor (DOL), other government agencies and community-based homeless service providers.

What is the Arizona Veterans StandDown Alliance (AVSA)

The Arizona Veterans StandDown Alliance, established in 2013, is a program of the Arizona Housing Coalition that holds annual events and resource fairs in 13 of Arizona’s 15 counties, including the nation’s largest event of its kind, the annual Maricopa County StandDown. These events allow veterans and their families who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness to get and stay connected to housing and supportive services.

2025 StandDown Events Currently Planned

Tucson StandDown – Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans (TVSV)

Wednesday & Thursday, March 5-6, 2025
 Ramada Inn [777 W Cushing Street, Tucson, AZ 85745]

Bullhead City StandDown

Friday, March 7, 2025
 Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce [1251 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ 86429]

Maricopa County StandDown

Thursday & Friday, March 13-14, 2025
 Arizona State Fairgrounds [1826 W McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85007]

Parker StandDown

Friday, March 14, 2025 / 9:30am – 1:30pm
 VFW Post 7061 [516 S Hopi Avenue, Parker, AZ 85344]

Verde Valley StandDown

Thursday, March 20, 2025 / 9:00am – 2:00pm
 Location to be determined

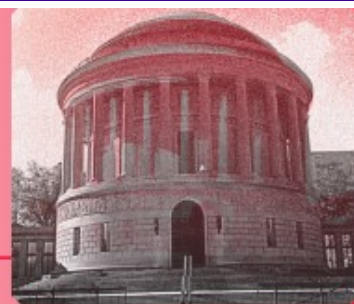


“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Positive energy helps new Officers get settled

Happy birthday to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks! On February 16, we celebrate 157 years of our great organization. On a personal note, my birthday is February 14. I wish everyone a happy Valentine’s Day, especially my beautiful and amazing wife, Julia.

This month is extremely important for Elkdom. First, new Officer elections should be held at your last monthly meeting. Second, you need to make sure those who are nominated and elected for the new Lodge year will be supported.

The new Officers must be encouraged by others. Everyone should be dedicated to making the Lodge an active and effective Lodge internally and externally in the community.

It would be a good time for the current Exalted Ruler to recognize any Member who sponsored or reinstated three Members by awarding them with the Grand Exalted Ruler pin. Please check out the



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER

activities program supported by the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee on other awards that Exalted Rulers can submit. It’s time to recognize and encourage those who have shown a great deal of effort and dedication to what we do as Elks.

February is an important month for Past Exalted Rulers’ perform the ritual during their Lodges’ Past Exalted Rulers Night. PERs deserve to be thanked for all they have done and for what they continue to do for your Lodge.

The Contest ‘A’ - All American Lodge

Contest certification forms are due soon, so it’s a good time to get prepared to show the efforts you have made during the last year. It takes teamwork to achieve this very prestigious award. Honestly, most Lodges would qualify but don’t fill out the form properly. It is important to score your efforts on the form provided. It’s a great way for your Lodge to keep track of what you need to be doing. If you need assistance, contact your local area Fraternal Committee member. There are three winners named in each of the six membership divisions. Why not take the time to plan now and submit your form before the deadline. Be sure to include supporting documentation.

You deserve to be recognized. Continue to demonstrate “Elks Care—Elks Share” and show “Elkdom’s Heart For America.” God bless our great Order and our troops, and God bless America.

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563+

Veterans received financial assistance to prevent homelessness through Elks National Foundation, Inc.



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“Proclamation”

PROCLAMATION

THIS PROCLAMATION MUST BE READ AT THE FIRST LODGE SESSION AFTER ITS RECEIPT AND THEN POSTED ON THE LODGE BULLETIN BOARD.

To All Local Lodges and Members of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

GREETINGS:

The *Grand Exalted Ruler*, by and with the approval of the Board of Grand Trustees of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, acting upon authority given him under Article 3, Section 6, Grand Lodge Constitution, does hereby proclaim that the next session of the membership of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will convene in Kansas City, Missouri with the opening ceremonies and meetings held at the Kansas City Convention Center, 301 West 13th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105 on Sunday, June 29, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. The opening business session will convene in the Kansas City Convention Center at 8:00 Monday morning, June 30, 2025, at which session the election of Officers for the ensuing year will be held. Business sessions will continue thereafter at 8:00 a.m. on July 1, and 2, 2025, until the business to come before the sessions is finished.

The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center on 1 E. Pershing Rd, Kansas City, MO 64108 and the Sheraton Kansas City at Crown Center on 2345 McGee Street, Kansas City, MO 64108 have been selected as Co-Headquarters hotel for the 160th Grand Lodge Session. A room reservation form with a letter outlining the procedure will be sent to Past Grand Exalted Rulers, Board of Grand Trustees, Grand Forum, Special Deputies, Grand Lodge Officers, and Committeemen from the Grand Lodge Convention Office in Chicago, 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889. District Deputies-Designate need to make their room reservations through their State Association Housing Coordinators. All Grand Lodge Officers, Committeemen, and District Deputies-Designate need to make all airline travel arrangements through the Grand Lodge Convention Office.

Room reservations not outlined in the preceding paragraph must be made through each State Association Housing Coordinator. Those planning to attend the Grand Lodge Convention are urged to make that fact known to their State Association Housing Coordinators immediately. Neither the Grand Lodge Convention Office nor the official Kansas City hotels will accept reservations directly from Lodges, individual Elks, or travel agencies.

Registration will be required of all Members and their Guests attending the Convention. This includes the Sunday Afternoon Opening Session, and the Business Sessions for Members. State Ritualistic Teams are required to register before competing in the Grand Lodge contest.

ATTEST:

Bryan R. Klatt
Bryan R. Klatt
Grand Secretary

Douglas A. Schiefer
Douglas A. Schiefer
Grand Exalted Ruler



Dated: March 1, 2025