

# Arizona Elks News

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

March 2025



## *"Spreading the Joy"*

### Inside this edition:

AEA President's Message 1-3

Local Lodges Charitable and Community Contributions 3-15

Special Olympics 16

Hoop Shoot 17-18

Save The Date 19

Veteran's News 20

Grand Lodge News 21

Well, March is here. Exalted Rulers, your job in that position is almost done. I want to thank you for everything you did to make my time with you special. I met many of you at the Leading Knights Clinics and had a wonderful time at Grand Lodge in Austin. Our visits and talks inspired me to be a better President for Arizona. My time at each of your Lodges was fun, full of laughter, and a joy to experience. Please continue to be active in your Lodge and a PER mentor to the upcoming Officers.

I just got back from the Regional Hoop Shoot in Boulder City, Nevada. That Junk Food Express has so much candy and soda on it I'm surprised the sugar rush doesn't fuel it all the way from Tempe 2251. I think Gregg Boyce and Larry Legge must lose 10 pounds each way with all the back and forth walking they did. Both of these men showed how much they care for the Arizona shooters and their families. And I can't forget Jeanne. I don't believe she ever forgets a face or name. Always with a smile, she greeted everyone with excitement. I want to be her when I grow up.

Here are the shooters who represented Arizona. 8-9 Girls: Rigley Solomon from Show Low #2090. 8-9 Boys: Bennie Hix from Green Valley #2592. 10-11 Girls: Bianca Smith from Raceway #2852. 10-11 Boys: Jaxon Riese from Flagstaff #499. 12-13 Girls: Aubrey Lopez from Ajo #1576. 12-13 Boys: Rene Cortez from Tucson #385. I wasn't at the State Hoop Shoot to congratulate them, but I do want to thank PSP Rich Botkin for standing in for me. Giving out trophies is the best part of being a President.

What a joy to present to you the Arizona Hoop Shoot Champions. Every one of these kids represented us with poise and determination. I had the opportunity to score on the Boys side, so my heart was pumping like crazy whenever one of ours shot. So, the 8-9 year olds shot first, just like at our competitions. Rigley Solomon won the 8-9 Girls with 18 baskets. Bennie Hix shot 22 baskets and tied with the boy from California. Bennie shot first in the tie breaker and hit 5, 5; his last ball circled the rim and didn't go in, resulting in 4 in the third set. The boy from California made 5 in the third set, so Bennie came in 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Pictured Photo on Left; (Left to Right) Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Rigley Soloman, AEA State President Sue Krausman  
Pictured Photo on Right; (Left to Right) Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Bennie Hix, AEA State President Sue Krausman



Continued on Page 2

AEA Newsletter  
Submission deadline:  
25 March 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

Next up were the 10-11 kids. This was Bianca Smith's fourth time at Regionals and was definitely calm, and ready to win. She shot 23 baskets to easily win a trip to Chicago. All of the Arizona supporters loudly clapped for her when her score was announced. She has a lot of fans. Jaxon Riese was ready to go, but the other boys did better. He shot 15 and came in 4<sup>th</sup>. He has already committed to practicing for next year. This competition truly is the best of the Region 7 states and he is one of them.



Pictured Photo on Right; (Left to Right) Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Jaxon Riese, AEA State President Sue Krausman.



Last up were the 12-13 champs. Aubrey Lopez was the first champion from Ajo Lodge and was ready for her competitors. Unfortunately, they were also ready for her, resulting in Aubrey bringing home a 4<sup>th</sup> place trophy. It did not matter to any of the Arizona folks; we cheered for her until she left us in Tempe. Rene Cortez was another story. He went up to the line after all the others, shot 9 out of 10, and hit every one of his shots. The next group of 15 had him giving up only 1, resulting in 24 out of 25. It was so exciting to watch.



Pictured Photo on Left; (Left to Right) Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Rene Cortez, AEA State President Sue Krausman



Arizona also swept both trophies for the most completed shots. Bianca and Rene took home a second trophy showing how well they did. Here is a group shot with the Arizona State Director of Hoop Shoot, Gregg Boyce from Show Low Lodge #2090. The kids love him and Jeanne. What a joy to see. I cannot wait to go to Chicago to root them on.

Pictured; (Left to Right) Back Row; Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Rene Cortez, Bianca Smith, Aubrey Lopez, AEA State President Sue Krausman Front Row; Jaxon Reise, Bennie Hix, Rigley Soloman



Continued on Page 3



## *"Spreading The Joy"*

Now on to some very serious news you Exalted Rulers need to be aware of. Arizona has been in third place for membership gain for the past two years. You are NOT doing your job. We are not even in the top ten this year. How many applications are in your Lodge's box waiting to be processed? I read our AEA Membership Chairman's monthly emails encouraging YOU to do YOUR job. Are you really willing to have a decrease in membership on your watch? You have until the end of this month to get your delinquent members to pay their dues. If anyone is in dire condition, you have several options. One, you can pass the hat at a meeting to collect for people without funds to pay. Two, you can go to your PER Association with a list of names. Sometimes they know the delinquent members (especially old-timers) and are willing to help. Three, YOU should have a fund line for helping members. Do not let someone else take responsibility. YOU are the Lodge's leader, so act like it.

Boy, I hate writing things like that last paragraph. The Order is not just fun and games. Our Grand Lodge leaders stress membership being so important. If we do not have the members in the local Lodges, we do not have the money to run the Veterans Program, Children's Shopping Spree, Thanksgiving baskets, Soccer and Hoop Shoots, Americanism Essay Contests; need I go on? Look at these pictures and decide if they are not worth your time.

Fraternally,

Sue Krausman, President Arizona Elks Association

Community • Friendship • Charity

# ELKS

Where neighbors connect in friendship and service

FRIENDSHIP

**VISIT YOUR LODGE**

[join.elks.org](http://join.elks.org)

## ***“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Hosts Networking Event”***

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Coolidge Florence Elks Lodge hosted a business networking event alongside the Florence Chamber of Commerce. They had raffles, appetizers, and about 25 people were in attendance. Chad Knutson, Leading Knight, presented "Who are the Elks" and "What we do for our communities".

*Submitted by; Debbie Knutson* Pictured; Leading Knight Chad Knutson



## ***“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Supports Local Rodeo Team”***

On February 15<sup>th</sup> the Coolidge Florence Elks AZ Lodge used part of their Focus Grant funding to make a substantial purchase for household necessities for a local Veteran's family.

The lodge works in conjunction with HOHP (Honoring/Hiring/Helping Our Heroes of Pinal County) who assist transitional and homeless veterans.

*Submitted by; Debbie Knutson*





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

Jameson Kirk is the son of Richard and Katherine Kirk and is a second grader at Mary C O'Brien school. He has worked incredibly hard and shown a wonderful attitude throughout this year. Jameson has earned Honor Roll every quarter because of his outstanding work ethic and also received the Character Counts Award. He continuously gives his best effort even when something seems difficult. Jameson is a great listener, follows directions, is always respectful and likes to help keep the classroom organized. In the classroom, Jameson is always helping and encouraging his classmates. He makes sure that everyone has a friend to play with at recess and that everyone feels welcome there. His friendly smile and caring attitude brighten everyone's day. Jameson is a joy to be around and is an amazing boy. Outside of school he enjoys soccer, basketball, baseball and spending time with his family.

Paisley Willman is a second grader at Mary C O'Brien and the daughter of Cody and Kayla Willman. Paisley has shown incredible growth and has a positive attitude. She is an Honor Roll recipient and has also received the Character Counts award. Paisley continues to show great effort and enthusiasm and has a true love for learning. No matter how difficult the task, she always tries her best and continues until she succeeds which makes her a wonderful example for others to follow. Paisley is a great role model and stands out because of her kindness. She is always willing to help out a classmate with their work, share materials or just offer a smile and encourage them to do their best and never give up. She understands the importance of being a good friend and she treats others with respect and compassion. Outside of school Paisley enjoys gymnastics, dancing and being a great big sister.

*Submitted by; Donna Johnson, Secretary*

Pictured Photo on Left: Jameson Kirk



Pictured photo on Right: Paisley Willman



## *“Casa Grande Valley #1957 Hosts First Responder Banquet”*

On Saturday, January 19, the Americanism Committee hosted a First Responder Banquet to honor those who go above and beyond the call of duty for our community. We were lucky to have the Honorable John L. Ellsworth serve as Masters of Ceremony and present awards to the following individuals from the listed agencies: Casa Grande Fire Department – Firefighter Jennifer Stevens-Casa Grande Police Department – Officer Jeremy Ybarra Pinal County Sheriff's Department – Deputy Trey Pickett Eloy Police Department – Officer Ana Hughey and Sgt. Violet Maestas Following the awards presentation, the Casa Grande Elks Riders presented \$1000 each to the following entities for their First Responder Program. These funds are raised by the Riders at their motorcycle poker run each year.

*Submitted By; Donna Johnson, Secretary*  
Pictured Left to Right;  
Trey Pickett, PCSO,  
Jennifer Stevens, CG  
Fire, and Jeremy Ybarra,  
CGPD.  
Not pictured was Officer  
Anna Hughey and Sgt.  
Violet Maestas.



## *“Casa Grande Valley #1957 Provides Welcome Home Kit”*

The Casa Grande Valley Elks Lodge provided another Welcome Home Kit to veteran Martin Lapin on Tuesday, February 11. 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.

*Submitted by; Donna Johnson, Secretary*



## *“Payson #2154 Honors Gila County Detective”*

On January 24, 2025, the Payson Lodge recognized Detective Sasa Kuzmanovic from the Gila County Sheriff's Office as the Public Safety Officer of the Year.

*Submitted by; LuAnn Frost*

Pictured ; (Left to Right) Aleksander Kuzmanovic, Anastasija Kuzmanovic, Sladjana Kuzmanovic, Detective Sasa Kuzmanovic, Exalted Ruler Mary Jane Springer



## ***“Bullhead City #2408 Honors Hometown Heros”***

Bullhead City hosted a Hometown Heros dinner and awards ceremony on January 18. This event was to honor some of the first responders in our community.

*Submitted by; Robin Ayers*

Pictured; (Left to Right) back Row- Lodge Esquire AJ Pompeo, Dave Cummings Chairman of Bullhead City Fire District Governing Board, Vice Mayor Bullhead City Dan Alfonzo, Exalted Ruler Walt Honse. Front row (Left to Right)- Hildy Angius District 30 Arizona State Senator , Josh Bakkan Fort Mohave Mesa FD, Nick Wilsey BHC FD, Officer Probst (not in uniform) accepted the award for Officer Riger



## ***“Flagstaff #499 Reading With New Soles Grant”***

Volunteers from Flagstaff Elks Lodge #499 spent a beautiful Saturday with 135 students from Parks Elementary School. The students were gifted with new shoes, socks, toys and a book to take with them. Snacks were provided to all and Reading corners were set up to entertain them as volunteers read them short stories. The funds for this program were provided through a grant applied for and received from Elks National Foundation for \$6000. Pictured below are Elk volunteers handing out shoes to a very happy student. There will be a second RWNS event later at Killups Elementary School in Flagstaff. *Submitted by; Kathleen Cothrun*





## *“Ajo #1576 Celebrates Hoop Shoot State Winner”*

Ajo Elks is sending off to the Elk's Hoop Shoot Regional Competition in Las Vegas NV, Arizona State Winner Age (12-13) Aubrey Lopez along with her family.

Elk members Valerie Simondi and Judy Godwin created the “TeamAubrey” t-shirts. Along with the shirts is a check for incidentals donated by members.

*Submitted by; Marlene Hinman*

Pictured; Front row: Jordan, Vanessa, JJ, Mya, & Aubrey Lopez and Bridget Rendon, Youth Activities Chair. Back: Judy Godwin, Debbie Allen, Valerie Simondi, Mike Allen, Ed Ahlm, Mike McBurney, Ron Ebann, John Clement.



## *“Ajo #1576 Honors Americanism Essay Participant”*

Helaina Sandoval received a \$50 gift card for Fat Cactus for her participation and entry for the Americanism Essay last month. “What Does Patriotism Mean To Me?” Her essay was submitted to the Americanism District Chair for review to move forward in contest. Helaina submitted her essay for her Division IV 8th grade group

*Submitted by; Marlene Hinman*

Pictured Left to Right; Helaina Sandoval, Bridget Rendon Youth Activities Chair



## *“Ajo #1576 Makes Donation for Kids ”*

Ajo Elks #1576 donated \$1050 to cover costs of Pima County basketball traveling league fees for the kids.

*Submitted by; Marlene Hinman*

Pictured Left to Right; Frank Hinman, Debbie Allen, Bridget Rendon Youth Activities, Michael McBurney Exalted Ruler, Erich Ecker Pima Co Park Manager, Ron Ebann, Adrian Rendon



## *“Ajo #1576 Donates for a Scoreboard”*

Ajo Red Raider Booster Club received a Check from Ajo Elks for \$3,000 for one of their scoreboards.

*Submitted by; Marlene Hinman*

Pictured Left To Right; PER Diana Ahlm, Lisa Coyle, Sarah Lewis, ER Michael McBurney, Julianne Koozer, Melissa Moreno, Leading Knight Debbie Allen.



## *“Catalina Mountain #2815 Feeds Seniors”*

On Tuesday February 18th, Catalina Mt Elks created 250 bonus food bags for low income seniors thru our local food bank-Impact of So Az. We combined 2 grants from the grand lodge- a Beacon grant and a Gratitude grant totaling \$8,000.

*Submitted by; Marie Starjnski*

Pictured Left to Right;  
Cody Wilkinson-Impact food bank director,  
Leonard Brown and Mike Orcutt.



## *“Tucson #385 Celebrates Hoop Shoot Winner ”*

Tucson AZ Elks Lodge #385 Hoop Shooter Rene Cortez shot 24 out of 25 to win the 12-13 boys State Hoop Shoot. He recently participated in the AZ State Hoop Shoot contest in Apache Junction AZ. He also won the Bugs Lewis award for best score in the state competition. Rene is pictured with Rich Botkin, Past AZ State President/South District Leader, AZ State Hoop Shoot Chair Gregg Boyce (left) and other AZ State Hoop shoot representatives. Now Rene is off to the regionals in Las Vegas NV on February 22, 2025. Let's all wish Rene happy hoop shooting.

*Submitted by; John Aceves*





## “Buckeye #2686 Hosts Car Show”

### Chief Bob Costello Car Show - A Roaring Success!

On January 25, 2025, the Buckeye Elks #2686 hosted the 4th Annual Chief Bob Costello Car Show, featuring approximately 40 stunning vehicles. The event, which brought together car enthusiasts from around the valley, was a great success, raising funds for the Chief Bob Costello Vocational Scholarship. The show had a variety of categories, with some truly exceptional vehicles on display. The winners of the event included:

#### Best of Show:

- 1st: 1968 Chevy Camaro, Owner - Pete Bruno (picture on left)
- 2nd: 1960 Chevy C-10 Crew Car, Owner - Mike Simington (picture on right)
- 3rd: 1932 Ford Roadster, Owners - Tom & Sharon Costello (bottom left picture)

#### Classic Car Class:

- 1st: 1940 Willy's Coupe, Owner - Bob Wilson
- 2nd: 1967 Ford Mustang, Owner - Kim King
- 3rd: 1932 Ford Coupe, Owner - Steve Gonzales

#### Classic Truck Class:

- 1st: 1965 Chevy C-10 Stepside, Owner - Ricky Guevara Sr.
- 2nd: 1972 w/68 Front Clip Chevy C-10, Owner - Justin Hice
- 3rd: 1985 K10 4x4, Owner - Jose Morales

#### Modern Class:

- 1st: 2019 Dodge Ram 1500, Owner - Rod Fresquez
- 2nd: 1990 Chevy Corvette ZR-1, Owners- Luis & Ann Flores

#### People's Choice:

- 1967 Ford Mustang, Owner - Kim King (bottom right picture)

Guests enjoyed a delicious tri-tip sandwich or hot dog lunch while taking in the sights of these remarkable vehicles. A heartfelt thank you to all those who came out to help and support the show, it was truly a team effort that made the event such a success. Proceeds benefit the Chief Bob Costello Vocational Scholarship, helping to support the next generation of vocational leaders. *Submitted by; Leatta McLaughlin*



## “Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Donate to Dementia Connection”

The Elkettes donated \$1000 to the Dementia Connection in Lake Havasu City from Sees Candy sales during Christmas.

*Submitted by; Eva Fox*

Pictured; (Left to Right) Elkettes Donna Pineau and See's Candy Chair Teresa Bremenour with Dementia Connection staff, Chancity Bryant, Heather Minery, Libbe Gilbert, Jennifer Capovilla, Teresa Elias.



## *“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Donate to Clothes Closet”*

The Elkettes donated \$1000 to the Clothes Closet with funds raised during Sees Candy Sales during Christmas.

*Submitted by; Eva Fox*



## *“Lake Havasu City #2399 Hosts Special Olympics Luncheon”*

The Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City sponsored a luncheon for the Lake Havasu Special Olympics at the Elks. Along with lunch, each athlete spun the prize wheel and selected a prize with an attached praise ribbon that was read aloud to the room. There were 40 athletes in attendance and 16 adult coaches with support staff. All were served meatloaf, potatoes, green beans, and fresh cookies prepared by the Elks Chef. The athletes participate in bowling, bocce ball, basketball, softball, and cheer.

*Submitted by; Eva Fox*

Pictured; (Left to Right) Athlete Lindsey Lehr, PER and Special Olympics Chair Debbie Herd, Athlete Jana Strang, PER Paulette Nainteau, Exalted Ruler Chuck Fox, and Special Olympics Coaches Brenda Johnson and Ronda Standsberry.





## *“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Donate to Cancer Care”*

The Elkettes donated \$500 to Cancer Care Resources in Lake Havasu City from their Pie Sales during the dinner hours at the Elks Lodge. The CCR provides Free Mammograms. No Insurance, No doctor's note, no cost to you. They also have weekly support groups.

*Submitted by: Eva Fox*

Pictured; Volunteers from the Cancer Care Resources with Elkettes Pie Chair Lisa Nutt and Elquette Karen Ford



## *“Phoenix #335 Presents ENF Bronze Award”*

In February, PER Randy Doescher was presented the Bronze Award by Phoenix Elks PER Diane Bodwell on behalf of the Elks National Foundation for his personal contributions to ENF exceeding \$5,000. Randy not only donates regularly and generously, he also promotes ENF donations within Lodge #335

*Submitted by: Linda Thompson*

Pictured; (Left to Right) PER Randy Doescher, PER Diane Bodwell





## “Scottsdale #2148 Hosts Baby Bundle Bash ”

The Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 kicked off its 2025 Military Assistance Mission Baby Bundle Bash with great success, bringing the community together to support our military families. This special quarterly event was held at Whispering Palms Clubhouse and was made possible by the tireless efforts of our dedicated Scottsdale Elks volunteers. With 25 people in attendance, the event provided gifts to 4 military families. The families received a range of essential items including books, diapers, strollers, car seats, portable cribs, baby monitors, blankets, clothes, and basic supplies. In addition to the thoughtful presents, guests enjoyed a delicious lunch featuring sandwiches, sides, and cake. Entertainment was in full swing with shower games played and special prizes awarded to the winners.

*Submitted by: Lisa Jane Ramirez*

Pictured; (Left to Right) Kelly Rich Exalted Ruler, Nicki McDaniel, Sherie Hayes and Bev Schafman



## “Scottsdale #2148 Celebrates Hoop Shoot Contestants”

Congratulations to our young participants, RJ Gibbs and Christian Yesslith, for their impressive performances at the Hoop Shoot contest. Both finished in 3rd place for their age categories, with Christian winning a shootout in two rounds after tying with another participant. RJ Gibbs – 3rd place for 10-11 yr old boys Christian Yesslith – 3rd place for 12-13 yr old boys (after an exciting shootout)  
A special thank you to our Esteemed Leading Knight, Mark Pekarik, for his leadership and support throughout the event. It was a memorable occasion for our youth and their families.

*Submitted by: Lisa Jane Ramirez*

Pictured Photo on Left; (Left to Right) AEA State President Sue Krausman, RJ Gibbs, Randy Sterling  
Pictured Photo on Right; (Left to Right) AEA State President Sue Krausman, Christian Yesslith, Randy Sterling



## “Scottsdale #2148 Makes The Television News ”

Our Esteemed Leading Knight, Mark Pekarik, recently represented the Elks on Arizona's Family 3TV, where he highlighted our upcoming annual "Speakeasy" Charity Ball and the significant support it will provide to the 100 Club of Arizona, benefiting first responders and their families. During the segment, Elks member Jaime Cerreta (an anchor and reporter for Arizona's Family 3TV) conducted an engaging interview with Mark Pekarik about the event. Mark detailed our exciting Speakeasy-themed celebration, emphasizing the positive impact the funds raised will have on the community. He also provided a brief history of the Elks and our lodge, underscoring the longstanding tradition of community service and brotherhood that defines our organization. Jaime Cerreta will serve as the emcee at our Annual Charity Ball, and we are excited to welcome special guest Sheriff Mark Lamb, known as "The American Sheriff," who will join us in celebrating and supporting this important cause.

*Submitted by: Lisa Jane Ramirez*

Pictured;



## “Scottsdale #2148 Promotes DAP”

Mark Pekarik, Esteemed Leading Knight, represented the Elks at a significant Vaping Awareness Event hosted by the Scottsdale Unified School District. Mark distributed pamphlets to students, parents, and SUSD employees, helping to raise awareness about the Elks and our Drug Awareness program. Our gratitude also goes to Lauren Pilato, SUSD Prevention Coach, for her insightful presentation, and to the panel of students and drug awareness experts for leading an impactful discussion.

*Submitted by: Lisa Jane Ramirez*



## *“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 you can look on Special Olympics Arizona website: (<https://specialolympicsarizona.org/>).

Some other ideas that lodges can do is 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

## *“AEMP Diamond Club”*

Are you a member of the Diamond Club?

Help us in supporting the groundbreaking medical research of the Steele Children's Research Center and the Jack C. Warter Jr. Youth Camp



Use the QR code to make a one time, monthly, or yearly donation. Or type link into your browser.

Thank you for your support.

Children's Laughter is what we are after!

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=URFHLT3NMW7LW](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=URFHLT3NMW7LW)





## “State Hoop Shoot”

The six Arizona Champions are now crowned and ready to roll into the Regional Shoot in Boulder City, NV. On February 22nd. On February 8th the State Shoot was held at the Cactus Canyon Junior High School. State director Gregg Boyce wants to Thank everyone that volunteered to put on a great show. Couldn't have done it without all of you. The Champions moving on are as follows; Pictured Top Photo on Right; 8-9 year old girls R to L; 4th place Oaklee Smith Wilcox Lodge #2131. 3rd place Malia Robinson Fountain Hills Lodge #2846. 2nd place Arianelly Robledo Parker Lodge #1929 and 1st place Rigley Solomon Show Low #2090 8-9 year old boys L to R; 4th place Billy Bowler Chandler Lodge #2429 3rd place Miguel Porchas Yuma lodge #476 2nd place Tucker Orton Holbrook Lodge #2450. 1st place Bennie Hix Green Valley Lodge #2592 Pictured Middle Photo on Top; 10-11 year old girls R to L; 4th place Yareli Aguero Kearny Lodge #2478 3rd place Cecelia Gonzales Tucson East Lodge #2532. 2nd place Cecilia Cordova Show Low Lodge #2090 1st place Bianca Smith Raceway Lodge #2852 10-11 year old boys L to R; 4th place Jovanny Martinez Apache Junction Lodge #2349 3rd place Tawan Love Jr Raceway Lodge #2852 2nd place Jovanny Gonzales San Manuel Lodge #2007 and 1st place Jaxon Riese Flagstaff Lodge #499. Pictured Top Photo on Left; 12-13 year old girls R to L; 4th place Gianna Mejia Casa Grande #1957 3rd place Makayla Espinosa Sun City Lodge #2559 2nd place Abigail Chee Holbrook Lodge #2450 and 1st place Aubrey Lopez Ajo Lodge #1576 12-13 year old boys L to R; 4th place Conner Stone Sun City Lodge #2559 3rd place Caleb Skacy-Daw Tempe Lodge #2251 2nd place Conner Redfern Flagstaff Lodge #499 and 1st place Rene Cortez Tucson Lodge #385.

The Bob Benson award for the highest shooting score for the girls went to Bianca Smith Raceway Lodge #2852, making 22 out of 25. Pictured Bottom Photo on Right; (Left to Right) Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Bianca Smith. PSP Rich Botkin

The LeRoy "Bugs" Lewis award for top boy shooter went Rene Cortez Tucson Lodge #385, making 24 out of 25. Pictured Bottom Photo on Left; (Left to Right) Gregg Boyce AEA Hoop Shoot Director, Rene Cortez, PSP Rich Botkin.

A special thanks goes out to Rich Botkin for stepping in for Sue to present the trophies.

Also I would like to thank all of my District Chairman for all of their hard work during the year. You people are awesome.

*Also pictured are Rich Botkin, PSP Tucson East Lodge #2532 and Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, PSVP, AEA Hoop Shoot Director*

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



## *“Regional Hoop Shoot”*

Well its settled. On February 22nd the Arizona Hoop Shoot Champions showed up in Boulder City for the Regional finals. And boy did they show up. We ended up with 3 winners that now will compete at the National Finals on April 26th in Chicago ILL. We had 2 4th place 1 2nd place and 3 winners. The "Junk Food Express" left Tempe Lodge at 8 am on February 21st and stopped at the Kingman Lodge #468 for lunch before continuing on to Henderson. After a meet and greet bowling for the Champions and their families it was early to bed to be ready for the shoot the next day. To say the least, it was a great ride home. Our 8-9 year old girl Rigley Solomon Show Low Lodge #2090 placed 1st. Our 8-9 year old boy Bennie Hix Green Valley Lodge #2592 after an intense shoot out took 2nd missing continuing on by 1 shot. 10-11 year old Bianca Smith took 1st and advanced. 10-11 year old Jaxson Riese Flagstaff Lodge #499 took home a 4th place trophy. 12-13 year old Aubrey Lopez Ajo Lodge #1576 also took home a 4th place trophy. 12-13 year old Rene Cortez Tucson #385 also took home a 1st place and advanced. Bianca Smith and Rene Cortez also took home the Adrian Brubaker awards for the top scoring boy and girl. If you would like to watch the National Championship and cheer them on you can the day of the Shoot by by watching the shot tracker at [enf.org/HSLivestreams](https://enf.org/HSLivestreams). Also you can send them an E-GREETING at <https://www.elks.org/hoopshoot/greetings.cfm>. Good Luck to all of our Champions.

Also pictured are AEA State President Sue Krausman and Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, PSVP, AEA Hoop Shoot Director

*Pictures and article submitted by Gregg Boyce, PDDGER, PSVP, AEA Hoop Shoot Director*





## *“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 the AEMP Office to make reservations at 520-326-0556. Or email at [secretary@azelksmp.org](mailto:secretary@azelksmp.org) Payment can be made at the door that night.

Thank you, Shawnee Carlile



RSVP Information: Signup sheets will be available 15 February to 15 March 2025. Please contact the AEMP office to sign-up and pay for the event, or pay in person at the Lodge. Phone 520-326-0556/ 615 S. Pantano Road, Tucson, AZ



## *“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

### Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries

The Arizona State Veterans' Cemeteries provide a lasting final benefit in honor of Veterans and their families with a final resting place in appreciation and gratitude for their service and sacrifice to our nation.

### About Our Cemeteries

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services runs three cemeteries across the state: Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo in Bellmont, Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana in Marana, and Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista. The three Veterans' Cemeteries provide a lasting, final benefit for our Arizona Veterans and their families. Each cemetery is run and maintained by a caring and supportive staff who are dedicated to making sure those who have been laid to rest are respected and remembered. Veterans and their families have a number of gravesite options: in-ground casket burial, in-ground urn burial and columbarium burial.

Burial in the cemetery includes a gravesite, opening and closing of the gravesite, a concrete liner (casket burials only), government marker and perpetual care at no cost. Spaces are assigned at the time of need and may not be reserved.

### Eligibility for Interment

Burial is open to all members of the Armed Forces, including National Guard and reservists, and Veterans discharged from active duty under Honorable conditions (with certain exceptions).

Their spouses, un-remarried widow or widower, minor children and under certain conditions, unmarried adult dependent children may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses may be buried even if the predecease the Veteran. Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, National Guard and Reserve Officer Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing service, who have 20 years of service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces creditable for retired pay.

For additional information go to

[dvs.az.gov](https://dvs.az.gov) click on the Services tab and then Cemeteries tab to access to the following.

Application of Interment Committal Service

SAVMC Brochure

Protocol for Interment

Camp Navajo Brochure

AVMC Pre-Registration Form

Marana Brochure

Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries

Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries

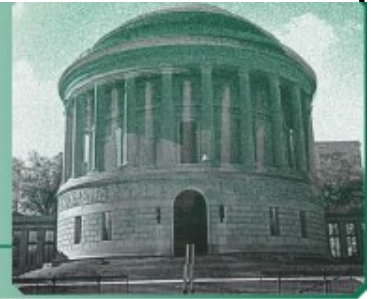


## "Grand Lodge News"



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care — Elks Share*



## Deadlines, programs, training wrap up Lodge year

The Elks Lodge year is coming to a close but now is not the time to sit back and relax. You still have the opportunity to complete some unfinished projects and finish strong.

All of the various programs and awards for your Lodge and Members are due this month. Take the chance to review Elks programs on [elks.org](http://elks.org) to see what awards and certificates of achievement you can give to your Members. One great program is the Contest "A" – All American Lodge Contest. Although you may believe your Lodge does not qualify for this award, you should still submit the application to see where your Lodge stands and where you can make improvements next year to continue showing "Elkdom's Heart for America."

This is also the deadline for all yearly contributions to Elks National



### Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**DOUGLAS A.  
SCHIEFER**

Foundation. I know your Lodge has met, or is close to meeting, the \$5.00 per Member goal. There are also many ENF awards and certificates for your Lodge and Members. These should be applied for and given out. ENF provides money to your State Association, as well as funding many grant programs for your community activities. The most common recommendation from your Grand Lodge Area Auditor is for Lodges to better use

the ENF grants to help improve operations. Most programs funded by your Lodge could be funded by ENF, which creates even more opportunities for your Lodge to have a greater impact.

Best wishes to all our new Lodge Officers who are going to be committed to governing the many practices and traditions that are fundamental to making our Lodges the best they can be. I hope that the transition will be smooth because it's important that the experienced Officers mentor and help the new Officers to make the Lodge year a success.

Please take time to have a training program within the Lodge or district like the Elks College of Knowledge that educates and trains new Officers

Please see GER, Page 2

### GER From Page 1

to do their job. Mentoring new Officers can make a smooth, prepared transition.

New Exalted Rulers you must list your committee appointments and give the list to the Lodge Secretary. Secretaries, please give this information to your District Deputy for the Lodge directory. This information then should be entered into CLMS2.

What would we do without our Secretaries who keep everything in order? Thank you for your service. I know it's a busy time for you as you are preparing the year-end reports.

Leaders of the Lodge, it is time to solidify your budget for the upcoming year and make any adjustments that are needed. This is also a time to evaluate what needs to be fixed. Any successful endeavor takes teamwork.

March is the time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. One thing we all know how to do well is to have fun and fellowship with our Members in Elkdom.

Thank you for your service. God bless you all, God bless our troops, and God bless America!



## Hoop Shoot National Finals April 24-27, 2025 • Chicago, IL

### Elks share their thoughts

Want to discuss the Elks? Check out the Membership Forum. Members use the message board to share constructive information every day.

[elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm](http://elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm)