

Arizona Elks News

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

May 2025



"Spreading the Joy"

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AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
23 May 2025



When I started this year, it seemed 12 months was a very long time. My calendar was full of visitations and celebrations. Jimm and I were trying to fit in as much as possible, while trying to continue our lives as Arizonans. I am sitting here realizing this is the last President's message I will write. Am I sad? You bet. Every Elks in the State of Arizona welcomed us with grace and some trepidation. Who was this woman? Is she kind or stuffy? What are we going to talk about? After all, she is a stranger to most of us.



I've asked a few of you if I represented the President's Office well. After all, this year has been so much fun for me. The answer was yes. I was just me. I went places, laughed, ate great food, watched ceremonies, celebrated anniversaries – what a different reality this last year was for me. I pictured going to stuffy meetings with suited people asking me for serious decisions. Boy, my imagination was off target. I was told I was approachable; I think it was the opposite. You were approachable; I was able to meet with you in a relaxed manner and we talked about all things regarding Elkdom. I think we solved the world's problems several times.

Of course, there were a few problems, most outside the Arizona Elks Association's purview. I was able to contact the appropriate District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler to take the action. It was important to me no issue was ignored, even though this Office had no business in the resolution. As I heard nothing regarding the final outcomes of the problems, I hope things are fixed.

Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas Schiefer and First Lady Julia will be here for our convention. Jimm and I had the privilege to meet them this year, once at the Pasadena Elks Lodge Rose Bowl dinner honoring them and again at the Utah Elks Association Convention. They are wonderful representatives of our Order.

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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

If you get a chance, please introduce yourselves. Tell them some exciting thing happening at your Lodge supporting a Grand Lodge program. Let him know what he believes in is a reality in Arizona.

While I am writing this, your Arizona Elks Association Secretary is working on this year's May Convention agenda. It is important to contact ME if any of your Lodge's Officers cannot come. I will then let Secretary David know to excuse that person from attending. Please do not go straight to him.

When you get a chance in the Hospitality Room, thank the Meetings Committee members who are working so hard to make you feel comfortable while in Tempe. Remember they are volunteers, just like you are at your Lodge. And do not forget the district members working the room with their Vice President. They are taking time to assist the Meetings Committee by working the beer line, checking badges, and cleaning up the room. Remember, that district's Vice President will be performing the 11 O'clock Toast that night. Support is so important.

So, this is my last paragraph. Jimm and I want to say THANK YOU to every Arizona Elk for making this year exceptional. We wanted for nothing, you knew what we needed before we did. Most important in my heart is how you supported your First Gentleman's project. Because of this, Emily Laaff will never be forgotten. Our Arizona, NO, the children of the United States of America, will benefit from the cancer research being performed by the Steele Children's Research Center. You did GREAT!

Fraternally,
Sue Krausman, President Arizona Elks Association



“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Helps Get the Youth Camp Ready ”

Located 40 miles Northeast of Globe, AZ, the Arizona Elks Youth Camp is one of our two Major Projects. The weekend of April 12 was the first of 2 cleanups to the Jack C Warter camp to prepare it for their upcoming season. Representing Coolidge Florence 2350 pictured left to right was Mark Blackwell: Leading Knight and his wife Karen, Chad Knutson: Exalted Ruler and his wife Debbie, and Stephen Hotz: Loyal Knight. Thank you, Dennis and Debbie Appel, for being such great hosts!

Submitted By; Debbie Knutson



“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Holds 1st Easter Event”

On Sunday, April 13th, the Coolidge Florence Elks Lodge's youth committee held their very first free Easter Event for the children in the community. It was attended by 50 children and 28 adults. They had an egg hunt, cookie decorating, games, raffles, and a hotdog & chip lunch. The drug awareness committee, was also there handing out coloring books and crayons as well as a guess the number of candies in the jar. Pictured Left to Right; Stephen Hotz: Loyal Knight, Tricia Hotz: youth committee chairperson, Christine Perry: Drug Awareness Chairperson. Missing in the picture is Kathy Hotz: youth committee.

Submitted By; Debbie Knutson



“Tempe #2251 Hosts Charity Ball”

On March 29, 2025, the Tempe Elks Lodge #2251 held a Disney-themed Charity Ball fundraiser which raised over \$6000 for our designated charity, Lily's Pad. Lily's Pad is a local Tempe nonprofit that provides a hyperclean play space for immunocompromised children (www.lilyspadaz.org). Dawn Garza, Executive Director for Lily's Pad and her husband Frank Garza were our guests of honor (pictured). There were nearly 100 items and services donated by local businesses, members, and friends of members for the Silent Auction. The attendees, some in Disney attire, enjoyed listening to their favorite Disney movie theme songs played by the DJ while they competed to be the highest bidder for the most sought-after auction items! After dinner, the Citizen of the Year was awarded to Gayle Potter for her behind-the-scenes contributions to many of our lodge events and activities. Gayle was unable to attend, but her award was accepted by her sister, Mari Slocum, PDDGER. *Submitted by; Connie Schulteans*
Pictured Left to Right; Dawn Garza, Frank Garza



“Kingman #468 Celebrates Old Timers”

Kingman Elks 468 was lucky enough to be able to celebrate our Old Timers Dinner in the original Elk hall from 125 years ago. Our original building was purchased by long time Elk family, the Dunton family who purchased the building after the fire. The family has agreed to host our Old Timers dinner there for perpetuity and been hosting it AND also serve a night of ranch style BBQ consisting of meats, coleslaw beans rolls and of course cake. Most of our Old Timers were initiated in this building so it holds a key to our hearts. This year we had an amazing Elk, Scott King, as a guest opening speaker - who walked, yes walked, from Maine to the Santa Monica pier in 1976. Of our over 700 members, we squeezed all of the 160 members who came in support of these life members into the Hall. This year was a smaller group in attendance than normal receiving their pins, however monumental nonetheless. Many of our 25 and thirty year recipients got pinned by their ER initiators. Led by PER Jimmy Powell on the microphone we truly got to give them their Hurrahs, Pinned by new ER Tory Stradling. We paid special homage to our longest Elk even though he did not get a pin. He is a very special part of our Lodge. Our annual charity bottle auction rained in \$800 from Nathan Schoolmeester, an Elk.

Submitted By; Tami Cash Pictured; Nathan Schoolmeester

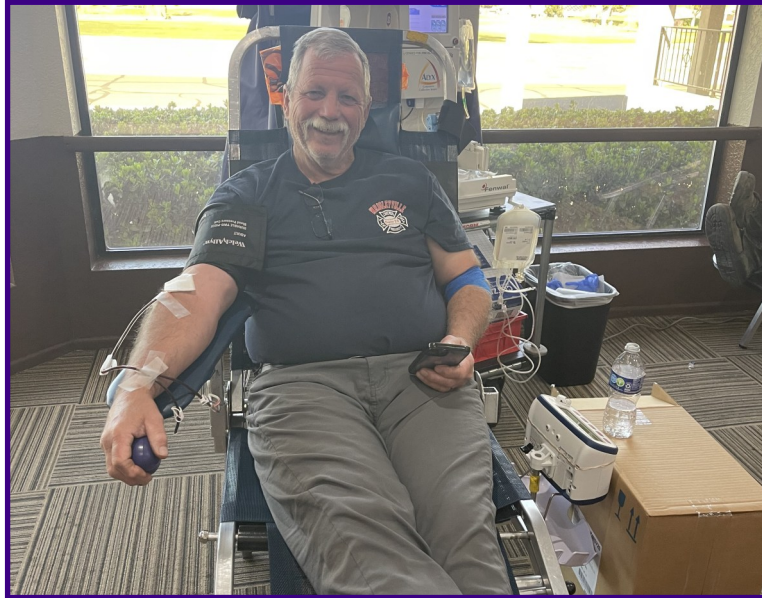


“Kingman #468 Hosts Spring Blood Drive”

Kingman hosts 3 blood drives per year and each one adds more persons donating. Our first of the year, in April, was no exception. Including our members and outside donors we collected from 30 people, including PER Bob Casson

Submitted by; Tami Cash

Pictured; Bob Casson



“Flagstaff #499 Holds Community Easter Egg Hunt”

On Easter morning the Lodge came alive with the arrival of children and parents to participate in the Lodge's annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year, volunteers assembled and hid about 1300 filled plastic eggs in three separate area on the grounds.

There was even a special area for the 0 to 3 year olds to find treasures inside the lodge. Hunt coordinator, Shelly Christiano estimated that approximately 400 children showed up for all the fun.

Before the hunt, the ball room was set up with tables to do crafts and in one corner there was a colorful photo booth where parents could take Easter pictures of their families.

Thank you! To all the volunteers who donated eggs and candy, stuffed the eggs and hid them all on the grounds. Thank you also to the ladies who ran the craft tables, keeping kids busy while they waited to go on their hunts. The community children turned out in droves and the lodge had another successful Easter event for the kids.

The Lodge purchased about \$250 in supplies and the rest of the goodies were donated by members in the amount of about \$210.00.

Submitted By; Kathleen Cothrun

“Payson #2154 Presents Little League with \$2,000”

On April 4, 2025, Payson Lodge #2154 presented Payson Little League with a check for \$2,000.

Submitted By; Lu Anne Frost

Pictured Left to Right; Ben O'Connor, Nicole O'Connor, Camdon O'Connor, Cason O'Connor, ER Irma Bramlet, Barrett Beach, Tucker Goodman, and Lacey Goodman.



“Payson #2154 Donates \$1,000 to Community Kids”

On Friday, April 25, 2025, the Payson Elks Lodge #2154 donated \$1,000 to Payson Community Kids for their summer program

Submitted by; Lu Ann Frost

Pictured Left to Right; Pictured from left to right: Barbara Parish, Trustee, Laura Crossman, Payson Community Kids Co-Director, and Mary Springer, Past Exalted Ruler



“Bullhead City #2408 Host Community Easter Egg Hunt”

Saturday April 19th the Bullhead City Elks #2408 held an Easter Egg hunt for the youth in our community! We put out over 4,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy to find! There were 3 different age groups 0-3, 4-6 and 7-9. Fun was had by all! We had a face painter too! Each child was given their own Easter basket stuffed with toys and candy! We had 70 kids and their families participate

Submitted by; Robin Ayers



“Tucson #385 Takes Children Shopping ”

On March 29, 2025, 17 Elk members and 8 volunteers took 25 young students with four teachers from Nash Elementary School on a shopping spree to JC Penny's. Back at the Lodge, volunteers prepared lunch to welcome these young students! Two 6-year-old little girls lead the Pledge of Allegiance flag. The Easter Bunny handed out backpacks full of school supplies, coloring books, sketch pad, crayons and color pencils; they also received handmade pillowcases with pillows, Easter Baskets full of small toys, a toothbrush/toothpaste, Easter candy, & a stuffed animal. Each child was fitted with a helmet and received a bicycle from the Lodge #385 "Bike-in-Box" program. We also celebrated a 7-year-old's Birthday. Personal thanks to each Tucson Elks Lodge #385 member and Volunteer! I greatly appreciate all the donations, Charity groups, Clubs and organizations that made another event so successful!!

Submitted By; Martha Megerle/Trustee Clothe-A-Child Chairman

Pictured Left to Right; Marisa Lyons Michaels with child



“Tucson #385 Feeds Special Olympians”

On April 5th, 2025, many Tucson AZ Elks Lodge #385 members woke up at 6:00 AM to help make 475 sandwich rolls to support the Tucson local Special Olympics Track and Field Competition. This competition was held at Amphi High School the same day. The lunch sacks also included a fresh baked cookie and an apple. Twenty-two Elks prepared the lunches in 3 hours. The lunches were distributed by Tucson Elks #385 members to the competitors and volunteers at the event.

Submitted By; Wayne Burns Special Olympics Chair



“Tucson East #2532 Hosts Easter Party”

On Saturday April 19th Tucson East held an Easter Party. We had 35 children participate in an Easter Egg Hunt, each child received an Easter Basket stuffed with candy and toys. Egg coloring stations, arts and crafts and movies were shown. Three age groups were set up in different areas outside. Lunch for 80 was served after the egg hunt. Older children in the lodge helped the Easter Bunny hide eggs along with adults. A fantastic time was had by children and adults. True benevolence was shown that day when an older child who was participating in the egg hunt redistributed the eggs he had found to younger children who did not have that many.

Submitted By; Megin Goetz PER/Youth Activities Chair

Pictured Right photo; Easter Baskets Pictured Left Photo; Exalted Ruler Bob Burns, his wife Lisa and his daughter Kailyn.



“Phoenix #335 Youth Activities Update”

It has been an exciting start to the new year organizing our Youth Activities teams and Kids Activities Teams! Dr. Jason Begalke will lead our Hoop Shoot, and we are working directly now with both Paradise Valley Schools and Great Hearts to implement more of our programs.

Kurt Albertson is spearheading our new Junior Golf initiatives, including Golf Shoot, Social Golf, and several innovative future ideas.

Rhonda Houtz, will work with Kids Activity Chair Stephanie Beasley, and is arranging monthly family fun events featuring burgers, hotdogs, movies, and entertainment. Dawn Ferguson is leading our Dictionary Program, with 130 dictionaries already placed for distribution. Damien Speck is continuing to lead our Scouts. We are collaborating with Tony Pantera to direct us in providing prom dresses for local high school students, and we are also working with the Homeless Youth Connection to provide Homeless girls prom dresses. Our Kids Committee is also enthusiastically preparing dessert sales and organizing a fun-filled Easter egg hunt set for April 12.

Finally, Youth Week is quickly approaching, with an exciting recognition event planned for May 2 to celebrate outstanding youth achievements with Miss Arizona K Johnson emceeing.

I look forward to an incredible year! If you would like to join any of these dynamic committees or other teams, please reach out. Hope you have a fantastic month and be sure to during Youth Week praise and recognize the youth and the leaders of our future. Godspeed ahead

Submitted By; Jeff Beasley Lecturing Knight

“Phoenix #335 Partners with Paradise Valley School District”

We are excited to announce our new collaborative relationship with Paradise Valley Unified School District, enabling us to work directly with school principals on various youth initiatives. This partnership has already allowed us to coordinate closely with multiple principals for our Youth Awards, greatly enhancing our community outreach and impact.

Additionally, we've joined the Paradise Valley Schools E-flyer Program, a strategic step forward facilitated by a joint effort between our Public Relations and Youth Activities Committees. This digital partnership helps us effectively communicate our programs and events to families within the school district, significantly expanding our engagement and support opportunities.

We look forward to building upon this promising relationship to further benefit our community's youth!

Paradise Valley Unified School District serves approximately 28,707 students. It is one of Arizona's largest districts, serving a diverse population of students.

Submitted By; Jeff Beasley Lecturing Knight

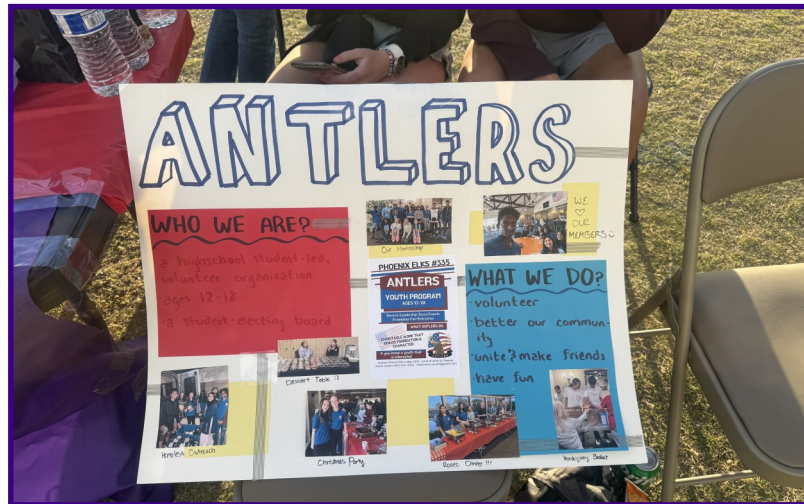
“Phoenix #335 Antlers and Public Relations Spread Enthusiasm”

Great Hearts Community Carnival

The Antlers and Public Relations Committee recently teamed up to host an informational booth at the Great Hearts Carnival, resulting in significant interest in both Antlers membership and general lodge membership. The event was a tremendous success, generating new member sign-ups and considerable enthusiasm among attendees. Our Exalted Ruler, Karen Seaman, alongside myself, had an amazing time interacting with and getting to know our neighbors at Great Hearts. Karen Seaman remarked, "It was wonderful connecting with our community and seeing so much excitement for our lodge!"

Special thanks to Eileen Austin for her dedicated work with the Antlers, Linda Thompson for expertly handling the setup and providing delightful goodies to distribute, Robin McDermott and all the Antlers including Will McDermott for their invaluable assistance throughout the event. Their efforts made the booth inviting and engaging for more than 1000 people in the community, leaving a lasting positive impression on the community.

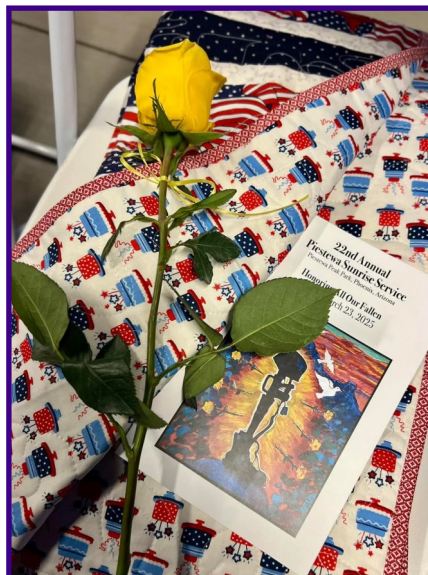
Submitted by; Jeff Beasley



“Phoenix #335 Honors Native American Veterans”

In March, Henry Brown, a retired Army veteran, proud Cherokee, and devoted member of Phoenix Elks Lodge 335, attended the annual Piestewa Event, a heartfelt tribute to the legacy of Lori Piestewa and Native American veterans. Henry delivered 50 beautifully handmade blankets to those most in need. These blankets were lovingly crafted and donated by Sue Bushmaker and the quilting guild of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Submitted by; Linda Thompson



“Phoenix #335 Holds Chocolate Class”

Thirty-five Phoenix Elks chocolatiers attended Linda Thompson's chocolate-making class on March 23 and had a fantastic time and made several varieties of delicious treats. We had wonderful instructors: Linda and PER Randy Doescher, Lisa Gallegos, and PER Carol Brown. Crissy Bos led an effort to create treat bags for our friends at the Phoenix Police Department to share. We raised approximately \$800 for the Children's Christmas Shopping Spree!

Submitted by; Linda Thompson

Pictured Left to Right; Jan Mitchell and Karen Seaman, Exalted Ruler



“Phoenix #335 Deliver Prom Dresses to Homeless Youth”

Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 proudly continues its commitment to community and compassion through a recent donation benefiting Homeless Youth Connection (HYC). Thanks to the generosity of our incredible members, 16 beautiful prom dresses were donated to help high school students experiencing homelessness attend their prom with confidence, dignity, and joy. In addition to the dresses, the Lodge also donated 30 Easter gift bags to youth in transitional housing at HYC's facility—offering hope, smiles, and seasonal cheer to those who need it most.

The dresses and gift bags were delivered to Jesika SanFelippo with Homeless Youth Connection and were graciously handed off by Exalted Ruler Karen Seaman and Esteemed Lecturing Knight Jeff Beasley.

“Every young person deserves to feel seen, celebrated, and valued—especially on prom night,” said Exalted Ruler Karen Seaman. This project reflects the Elks' cardinal principle of Charity, and reminds us that small acts of kindness can bring light and dignity into the lives of those who need it most.

To learn more or get involved with Homeless Youth Connection, visit: <https://hycaz.org>

Submitted By; Jeff Beasley Lecturing Knight

Pictured Photo on Left (Left to Right); Jeff Beasley, Jesika SanFelippo, Karen Seaman



Pictured Photo on Right (Left to Right); Jeff Beasley, Jesika SanFelippo, Karen Seaman



“Scottsdale #2148 Attends Food Bank Ribbon Cutting Ceremony”

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 attended the official opening of the new Scottsdale Food Bank facility (formerly at Vista del Camino) with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. We were honored to have received a Beacon Grant to help fund the much-needed 3 3-door fridge/Freezer for the food bank, and it was a privilege to be part of their celebration.

Submitted by; Lisa Ramirez



“Scottsdale #2148 Celebrates a Golden Ticket”

Exciting News! One of our regular live music artists on the patio Colton Dawson part of Dawson Acoustic is currently shining on American Idol and has earned a golden ticket to Hollywood! Be sure to catch their amazing talent live with us on Sunday, April 20th before they make it big!

Submitted by; Lisa Ramirez

Pictured; Colton Dawson



“Yuma #476 Feeds Special Olympians”

The Yuma Elks Lodge 476 served 154 Special Olympic Athletes and their coaches hotdogs, chips, and drinks during the Yuma County Special Olympics Track and Field Meet.

Submitted by: Jim Thompson

Pictured left to right; Josue Fregoso, Carmen Schoenborn, Special Olympics Athlete Richard Dean, Special Olympics Athlete Santiago Lomeli, ER Dan Schoenborn, PDDGR Pat Riley, PER Jim Thompson, Special Olympics Athlete Conner Smith, PDDGR Joan Cendejas, Special Olympics Athlete William Hoskin, Loyal Knight Jody Brandt, Yvonne Thompson, and Antonio Cendejas.



“Yuma #476 Donates to Circle of Friends”

Yuma Lodge #476 donated a set of KIDSPLAY® 20-Note Combination Hand/Deskbell set with case to the Circle of Friends.

Exalted Ruler Dan Schoenborn, presenting the Hand/Desk Bells to Diana & Adam Flermoen from Circle of Friends.

Submitted by: Jim Thompson

Pictured Left to Right; Dan Schoeborn, Diana Flermoen, Adam Flermoen



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes donate to Havasu Community Health”

The Elkettes with the Elks Lodge # 2399 in Lake Havasu City donated \$1000 to Havasu Community Health Foundation Labs and Screening

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured Left to Right;
Elkette Julie Jackson,
Lab and Screening
Coordinator Launa Robertson
Elkette Crazy Auction Chair,
Heidi Alabrecht.



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Elkettes Puts Pies Sales to Great Cause”

The Elkettes of Elks Lodge # 2399 in Lake Havasu City donated \$500 to LCHF Lab and Screening. The funds come from selling pie in the dining room during the dinner hour.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured; Left to Right; Elkette Pie Chair Lisa Nutt, HCHF lab and screening coordinator Launa Robertson and Elkette Melinda Obradovich



“Sun City #2559 Riders Raise Money for Charity”

On Saturday March 31, 2025 the Sun City Elks Riders hosted their 2nd Anniversary Ride at Sun City Elks Lodge #2559. The event was well attended and raised 5,500.00 to support their lodge charities. The event was attended by other Elk Lodges in the state, Legion Riders representing various post from all over the state and many from the New Founders of Freedom Riders group. The Nation of Patriots Arizona President, Anthony Caniglia, also an Elk Rider from Flagstaff Lodge #499 came with many of their riders show their support to the Sun City Lodge #2559 Elk Riders.

Submitted by: Bill Matthews

Pictured Left to Right; Kevin Clark-Road Captain, Josh Morehart-Past President, Steve Sikorski-Vice President, Linda-Sgt-at-Arms, Sue Ricken-Secretary, Deb Campbell-Chaplain, Janah Morehart-Treasure, Elvis Enriques-President, Bill-Lead Road Captain, Kurt Hodo-Sgt-at-Arms.



“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- Jim Thompson.....929 782-3519

Memorial Day is Monday, May 26, 2025

The day was originally set aside to remember Union soldiers who died during the Civil War, but following World War I, its scope expanded to include those who died in any war or military action. At the end of the Civil War, many US cities held their own memorial observations for their hometown heroes.

Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30 until 1968, when Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, moving 4 holidays — Columbus Day, Presidents' Day, Veterans Day and Memorial Day—to designated Mondays in order to create the ever-popular three-day weekends. (Veterans Day eventually reverted to its traditional November 11 date).

Poppies are associated with those who died during wartime since World War I. In the US people wear the red poppy on Memorial Day to honor those who died trying to protect the country, according to The Department of Veterans Affairs.

The red color is not a symbol of blood, death, or support for war. Instead, poppies were the only flowers that grew in war-torn battlefields. When the country sides were nothing but mud and devastation, poppy flowers sprouted up and flourished. The sight of the red poppies inspired one Canadian soldier, Colonel John McCrae, to pen a poem in May 1915:

In Flanders Field

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

- Colonel John McCrae

- Excerpted from the Farmers' Almanac



“2025 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals”

Congratulations to our 3 National Hoop Shoot Competitors!

**Girls 8-9
Rigley Solomon
Show Low #2090**

**Girls 10-11
Bianca Smith
Raceway #2852**

**Boys 12-13
Rene Cortez Jr.
Tucson #385**

Pictured Left to Right; AEA State President Sue Krausman, AEA 1st Gentleman Jimm Krausman,



“Grand Lodge News”



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



Keep in mind 4 important observances this month

Elkdom's Heart for America has significance in May as we think about Elks National Youth Week, Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, and Mother's Day.

The first week of May is Elks National Youth Week. Honor the youth in your community at the end of their school year. A variety of certificates are available online, including ones for Student/Teenager of the Year/Month and the Elks JROTC Awards Program.

Memorial Day is Monday, May 26. It is a wonderful time when we can recognize and commemorate the men and women of all services for their sacrifices and hard work that kept our country safe and prosperous. Elks have a heart for remembering our departed service members.

Please find ways to acknowledge them by attending or participating in



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**DOUGLAS A.
SCHIEFER**

a Memorial Day parade, working at a cemetery ceremony to put flags at service members' graves, or planning a memorial ceremony at your Lodge. Memorial Day is not the only day that honors veterans.

Many of us may not automatically think of Armed Forces Day, which honors those currently serving in the U.S. military, held this year on Saturday, May 17. It was designated as a day for the unification of the armed forces to be

celebrated together instead of celebrating each branch individually. God bless our troops who served throughout the history of our country.

Happy Mother's Day to the important ladies in our lives. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11. We need to extend our heartfelt thanks to all mothers, the women who have made our world a better place. Find a way to honor the mothers in your life and plan a Lodge activity to let them know how much they mean to us.

Our Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City is just around the corner and we hope that you are able to attend. There's nothing like being together and finding out that we are all one powerful family who loves the Elks.

God bless you, God bless our troops, and God bless America!

Pre-register and acquire badges for convention

Pre-registration for the Kansas City Grand Lodge Convention is available at elks.org/convention/prereg.cfm through June 25.

The online pre-registration fee is \$50 for all Members, while the on-site registration fee will be \$60. A current credit card for

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

PayPal will be needed. There is no fee for a non-Elk spouse or guest.

On-site registration will open on Friday, June 27, from noon to 4 p.m. When you arrive at the Kansas City Convention Center, go to the designated pre-registration line in the Registration area. You will need your e-mail confirmation and current membership card to receive credentials (and voting credentials, if qualified) for you and your spouse or guest. A registration badge will

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be required to enter the exhibit hall and all business sessions.

All non-Elk guests, including widows and widowers of Elks, **must** register at the Guest Registration Station at the convention center to obtain registration badges. Guests need a badge to enter the exhibit hall, see the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, or attend any other events where they are permitted. Be advised exhibits and vendors will not open until 8:00 a.m. Saturday.

Grand Lodge registration and its required fee are **not** included in any State Association's "package" arrangement.



Registration area at the 2023 convention

