

# Arizona Elks News

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

May 2026



## “Taking Care of Business the Elks Way”

### Thank You

As they say, all Good Things Must Come to an End. As this Elk year comes to a close, it is difficult to fully express the emotions in my heart. Serving as your State President has been far more than a title—it has been one of the most meaningful and humbling journeys of my life.



From the very beginning, I was met with kindness, encouragement, and trust. What I did not fully realize then was how deeply this experience would touch me. The handshakes, the laughter, the shared purpose, and the quiet moments of service are memories I will carry with me always.

I am profoundly grateful to each of you—for your support, your friendship, and your unwavering commitment to our principles Across Arizona, I have witnessed the very best of what it means to be an Elk. I have seen compassion without recognition, generosity without hesitation, and a spirit of service that truly defines who we are.

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*Thank You  
Thank You  
Very Much!*

Elvis Presley



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AEA Newsletter  
Submission deadline:  
25 May 2026



**ARIZONA ELKS  
ASSOCIATION 2025-2026  
STATE OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:**

Larry Carver

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:**

East: Frank Buso

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

South: Susan Trecartin

West: Joan Cendejas

North: Larry Legge

**SECRETARY:**

David Dean

**TREASURER:**

Angela Buso

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

South -1 Year:

Richard Botkin, PSP

East – 2 Year:

Mike Weishan, PSP

North – 3 Year:

James R. Casacchia, PSP

West -4 Year:

Albert "Al" Kayal, PSP

South– 5 Year:

Susan Krausman, PSP

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:**

Allen Swope

**CHAPLAIN:**

Randy Sterling

**TILER:**

Erin Moore

**INNER GUARD:**

Jim Theobald

**ASST. SECRETARY:**

Gary Parsons

**ASST TREASURER:**

Diane Bodwell

**ORGANIST:**

Ira Cohen

## *“Taking Care of Business the Elks Way”*

Continued from Page 1

### *However, This Journey Was Not Mine Alone*

To my wife, Michelle, First Lady, there are no words that can fully capture my appreciation. You have been my constant support, my partner in every mile traveled, and my strength through every moment of this year. You embraced this role with grace, warmth, and genuine kindness, leaving a lasting impression on everyone we met. You shared in the sacrifices—the time away from home, the long days, and the many miles—but more importantly, you shared in the joy. The friendships you built and the compassion you showed truly reflect the heart of Elkdom. This year would not have been the same without you by my side, and I am forever grateful and proud. **I LOVE YOU.**

We often speak of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity. This year, I have not only seen those principles in action, but I have also felt them deeply, in every Lodge we visited and in every Member we met.

As I step away from this office, I do so with a full and grateful heart. While this chapter comes to an end, the friendships, the memories, and the inspiration will remain with Michelle and I always. We will forever be proud to have served you.

Thank you for this incredible honor. Thank you for allowing Michelle and I to be part of your lives. And thank you for reminding us, each and every day, of the true meaning of Elkdom.

Keep up the great work of the Benevolent and Protective Order Elks, of the Arizona Elks Association and your own LODGE.

So I will end with how Elvis used to end his concerts *“Elvis Has Left Building, Thank You and Good Night”*

**“Taking Care of Business — The Elks Way”.**

**Thank You, Thank You Very Much  
Larry, State President and Michelle,  
First Lady  
Arizona Elks Association**



## “Government Relations”

### Government Relations Committee – 2026-2027 Reporting

#### Charitable Reporting – Here’s the “WHY”

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court interpreted the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which precludes the government with interfering with private clubs or organization. As a result, the First Amendment established our right to exist as a private organization.

The mission of the Government Relations Committee is to guide the Order, the State Association and the local lodges in protecting and preserving our right to exist as a private, non-profit, charitable organization, a status our Order has enjoyed since our formation in 1868. To do this, we must be ever vigilant in demonstrating our charitable nature. Our Order enjoys a 501(c)8 tax status which exempts our lodges from paying tax on the funds we earn for all our charitable activities.

CHARITABLE REPORTING is essential in maintaining our favorable tax status. Documenting the charitable work we do as a private, non-profit organization is the only tangible proof we have to show the dollar value of the services we provide for our communities. That is why it’s essential that every lodge and the State Association keep complete and accurate records of all the charitable work being done by our members.

Complete instructions regarding who is to report, what information is required to be reported and how to report are contained in the Grand Lodge “Charity Records Book” which is mailed annually to all lodges and available for download at <http://www.elks.org/leadership/manuals.cfm>.

Additionally, the Grand Lodge Government Relations Manual contains instructions and examples of what and how to report charitable lodge activities. Each lodge should have a copy in the office and for the lodge Government Relations Committee Chair. **The Lodge Secretary is directly responsible for reporting the lodge charitable events on a regular basis.**

The Government Relations Committee District Chairs are:

East District, Larry Morrison from Gilbert Lodge; North District, Travis Napolitan from Page Lodge; South District, Randy Kettenhofen from Tucson East Lodge and West District, Randy Sterling from Phoenix Lodge.

These Elks are always happy and willing to assist any lodge for charitable reporting.

Submitted by:

*Ira Cohen, PDDGER*

*State Chairman*

*Government Relations Committee*

## “Tempe #2251 Hosts Charity Ball Fundraiser Correction”

On March 14th, Tempe Elks held their annual Charity Ball & Silent Auction to raise money for our charity, Lily’s Pad, a hyperclean play space for immunocompromised children. This year the theme was the Roaring 20’s and people really got into the spirit of the evening with amazing period attire! And our DJ played a perfect mix of 20’s tunes and great dance music for a fun-filled evening. Esteemed Leading Knight Kelly Borseth announced our Citizen of the Year – PER Marty Laird – a very deserving recipient and the epitome of Elkdom. Congratulations Marty! There were nearly 100 fabulous silent auction items available to bid on during the evening – and while the totals are still being tabulated, it was a very successful evening! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this event a great success.

*Submitted By: Connie Schultejans*

Pictured Photo on Left; (Left to Right) Frank and Dawn Garza Pictured Photo on Right; (Left to Right) Marty PER (Citizen of the Year) and Kathy Laird



## “Apache Junction #2349 Donates to Hope Women’s Center”

On April 15, 2026, a generous \$5,000 donation was proudly presented by Amanda Campopiano (L), Chairperson of the Bingo Committee, on behalf of Apache Junction Elks Lodge #2349, to Linda Rinzel (R), Manager of the Hope Women’s Center and Lead of the Apache Junction Team. This impactful donation supports women’s empowerment initiatives within the local community. The Hope Women’s Center in Apache Junction, a faith-based 501(c)3 organization, stands as a beacon of hope, offering free, confidential support services to at-risk women and teen girls, providing a sanctuary in times of crisis. The center nurtures emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being through mentoring, life skills classes, and material assistance, including a “boutique” stocked with clothing, food boxes, toiletries, and diapers, alongside on-site showers.

*Submitted By: Gloria Leslie*

Pictured Left to Right; Amanda Campopiano, Linda Rinzel



## “Apache Junction #2349 Donates to Genesis Project”

On April 13, 2026, Linda Kilburg (L), a long-time member of the lodge, proudly presented a donation of \$5,000 from the Apache Junction Elks Lodge #2349 through the Bingo Committee. Trinity Cole (R), Executive Director of 'Genesis Project', accepted this generous contribution to support people in our community. The Genesis Project in Apache Junction is a faith-based 501(c)(3) non-profit, acting as the only dedicated soup kitchen in Pinal County, Arizona. It provides free hot meals, clothing, hydration, and social service navigation to the hungry and homeless community. This resource is important for people in need within the area. It often helps those who are impoverished, disabled, or without stable housing

*Submitted by: Gloria Leslie*

Pictured Left to Right: Linda Kilburg, Trinity Cole



## “Apache Junction #2349 Donates Beacon Grant”

On April 9, 2026, Amanda Campopiano, the Chairperson of our Bingo Committee, proudly presented a donation of \$5,000 from the Apache Junction Elks Lodge. Savanna Rose, President of the P&M Arena Board, accepted this generous contribution to support local youth activities. P & M Arena is a non-profit, volunteer-run facility located in Apache Junction, AZ. Their mission is to promote and protect the equestrian way of life in the community. P&M unites the community through the love of horses—hosting youth clinics and events for all ages.

*Submitted By: Gloria Leslie*

Pictured Left to Right: Amanda Campopiano, Savanna Rose



## *“Chandler #2429 Presents Enrique Camarena Award”*

Chandler Elks Lodge #2429 presented the Enrique Camarena Award during the PER Comedy Night event. Per Jim Theobald presented Sergeant Robert Pruitt of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Pruitt was nominated by his supervisor Lieutenant RJ Nevill. There were 100 Elks members present for the presentation.

*Submitted By: Sandy Theobald*

Pictured Left to Right; Jim Theobald Per, Sergeant Robert Pruitt, Ashley Pruitt, Lieutenant RJ Nevill



## *“Payson #2154 Donates to Pine Public Library”*

On April 17, 2026 ER Irma Bramlet presented Julie Smith of the Pine Public Library with a donation of \$1,000 for their Summer Reading Program. Mary Springer stated the monies come from the Bingo account and thanked everyone who participates. Julie Smith said they did not have any money budgeted for this program and said this donation would make the program a success.

*Submitted By: Lu Anne Frost*

Pictured Left to Right; Esteemed Leading Knight Mary Springer, Julie Smith and ER Irma Bramlet



## “Tucson #385 Holds Spring Clothe A Child Event”

On March 28th, 2026, Tucson AZ Elks Lodge #385 held its spring Clothe A Child event. Twenty-five children received \$150 gift cards for shopping at Tucson Mall JC Penney with volunteers, enjoyed a luncheon at the Lodge, and were each given a bicycle and helmet. Thanks to all the members and volunteers!

*Submitted By: Martha Megerle Trustee/Cloth A Child Chair*

Pictured Photo on Right (Left to Right); Volunteer C. Lugo with Child Pictured Center Photo (Left to Right) Trustee/PER W. Burns with child Photo on Right (Left to Right); Member K. Sharp with child



## “Ajo #1576 Host Veterans Breakfast”

Once again the Ajo Elks and Local American Legion hosted a free breakfast for veterans, veteran’s widows and active duty military. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, orange juice and sausage were served to 44 people including 23 Veterans. The event was held at the Ajo Elks Lodge. Every half hour a Ceremonial Veteran’s service hat was awarded as a door prize to Veterans

*Submitted By: Marlene Hinman*

Pictured; Veteran Ferrell Butikofer, is being presented with a hat from Elks member and Post 10 Commander Dennis Kendrick.



## “Ajo #1576 Cleans Highway”

12 members of the Ajo Elks #1576 did trash pickup on Highway 85 at Crater Range north of Ajo cleaning a 1 1/2 mile stretch.

*Submitted By: Marlene Hinman*

Pictured Photo on Left; Left to Right Marty Metheringham, Frank Hinman, Mike Allen and Bob Argyle Pictured Photo on Right; Left to Right Ed Ahlm, Ron Ebann, Marty Metheringham, Mike Euritt, Bob Argyle, Mike Allen, Crystal Durham, Troy Durham, Frank Hinman, Diana Ahlm and Marlene Hinman.



## “Ajo #1576 Donate to Student Athletes”

The Ajo Lodge donated \$500 each to help Aubrey and Mya Lopez with their training and travels in Florida. Two student athletes who have been invited to attend the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI). Eighth grader Aubrey Lopez and senior Mya Lopez have both received invitations to participate in this prestigious event. Training starts June 1 in Florida. June 25-28 is the Native American Junior Nationals Tournament in Mesa, Arizona. They will fly back to Florida and continue training until the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) July 14-18 in Phoenix, Arizona

*Submitted By: Marlene Hinman*

Pictured Left to Right; Exalted Ruler Debbie Allen, Aubrey and Mya Lopez and Past Exalted Ruler Frank Hinman



## “Tucson East #2532 Elk’s Riders Host Poker Run”

On Saturday, April 18th, 2026, the Tucson East Elk Riders held a Poker Run that proved to be fun for all in attendance. The Elk Riders began their ride at our lodge and went on various stops along the way with other motorcycle clubs and benevolent organizations, including the Cowpony bar and grill. The poker run ended at our lodge with live music and The Happy Boy Food cart. There were giveaways and a 50/50 raffle available. Tucson East Elks Lodge wants to thank Rick Botkin and the Elk Riders for hosting a fun event. Stay tuned for more great events and join in.

*Submitted By: Denise Lefkowitz, Exalted Ruler*

## “Lake Havasu City #2399 Donates to Havasu Together”

Havasu Together supports community growth and enrichment through art and entrepreneurship for the youth of Lake Havasu. This donation was made possible from pie sales during dinner hour

*Submitted By: Eva Fox*

Pictured Left to Right; Board Member Jennifer Yeomans, President Regan Ross, and Elkettes members Karen Ford and Lisa Nutt



## “Lake Havasu City #2399 Donates to HAVAdopt”

The Elkettes donated \$1,000 to HAVAdopt in Lake Havasu City, with proceeds coming from pie sales during the dinner hour. The funds will go toward their Children’s Christmas project.

*Submitted By: Eva Fox*

Pictured Left to Right; Scott Pierstorff, Elk and Elkette Donna Pineau, HAVAdopt Treasurer Jeannie Chilia, Director Merrilyn Thompson, Secretary Wendy Sue Holloway, and Elkette President Connie Jones



## “Lake Havasu City #2399 Donate to Key Club”

The Elkettes of Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City, AZ donated \$500 to the Key Club, with the funds raised from pie sales during the dinner hour. These Key Club members had previously helped the Elks with the Kids Turn to Shop event in November 2025

*Submitted By: Eva Fox*

Pictured Left to Right; back row are Key Club President Gabriella Paviglianiti, along with board members Caleb Wincell and Grace Jackson. In the center is Key Club Advisor Al Antonio, joined by board members Jada Hayes, Epic Pascual, and Khushi Patel.

Front row sitting are Elkette Karen Ford and Elkette President Connie Jones.



## “Sun City #2559 Hosts 1st Annual Pet Drive”

Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 is excited to share that our First Annual Pet Drive was a huge success! Thanks to the incredible generosity and support from our community, we were able to collect so many much-needed items for local shelter pets. The donations were delivered to the Maricopa County Animal Care and Control West Valley. Faith Dallas said "It's such a rewarding moment seeing everything come together." "We're thrilled to continue the impact in the community—our rescue partners will be picking up their items later this week. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who donated, shared, and supported this cause. You've made a real difference in the lives of so many animals in need.

*Submitted By: Sandra McLemore*



## “Sun City #2559 Receives Special Citation”

On April 21st, 2026, at Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 regular meeting, Exalted Ruler Josh Morehart was presented with the Grand Lodge Order of Elks 2025-2026 Making a Difference Special Citation and a Special Citation for Lodge #2559 by PER Vicki Way. Congratulations Josh.

*Submitted by: Sandra McLemore*

Pictured Left to Right; Josh Morehart, Exalted Ruler, Vicki Way, PER, Secretary



*Exalted Ruler Josh Morehart was presented with Grand Lodge Order of Elks 2025-2026 Making a Difference Special Citation and a Special Citation for the Lodge*

## “Sun City #2559 Queen Was Found”



### Queen of Hearts

*Submitted by: Chairman, Sue Colletti*  
**Sundays in the Lounge - Drawing at 6:30pm**



**The Queen of Hearts showed up on March 29<sup>th</sup> !!** It was a very exciting night for Robin Fehser from our Lodge. **Congratulations to Robin who won \$53,349.**

From the Lodge portion of the proceeds for Game 7, donations were made to 2 charities. The Hart Pantry, which provides food sacks for at risk teens along with basic supplies to help them stay in school, received \$2,000. U Mom New Day Centers providing emergency shelter, affordable housing and a full array of assistance & support programs to get individuals, as well as families on their feet received \$2,000.

**Game 7**  
**WON on 3/29/26**  
**70% to Winner**  
**\$53,349**

We are in the wrap up phase for Game 7 and will advise when the start date for Game 8 is confirmed.

Thank you to everyone for your support each and every Sunday!

**Looking forward to Game 8!**

*Submitted By; Sandra McLemore*

*Pictured Left to Right; Colin MacDonald, Robin Fehser (Winner), Committee members Sue Colletti, Jeanine Marks, & Dana Marks*



## “Raceway #2852 Present Distinguished Citizen Award”

On March 29, 2026, Raceway Elks 2852 presented "The Distinguished Citizen" award to: Kate Estes, a teacher at Agua Fria High School in Avondale, AZ. Kate goes above and beyond serving the underprivileged students at her school. She operates a program on campus called "Owl's Closet". Owl's Closet is an on-campus resource that provides items needed for day-to-day survival for their students and families such as clothing, household items and food. Congratulations Kate Estes!

*Submitted by: Robin Cox, Exalted Ruler*

Pictured Left to Right; Autumn Daniels, Principal at Agua Fria High School, Kate Estes award recipient and Robin Cox, Exalted Ruler



## “Raceway #2852 Recognize ENF Honoray Founders”

The Elks National Foundation relies on support of its members to continue serving and building stronger communities. In recognition of their support, Elks National Foundation presented two members from Raceway 2852, Steve Cox, PER and Robin Cox, PER with recognition as “Honorary Founders” of Elks National Foundation having donated \$1,000.00 to further its mission and ideas. Congratulations Steve and Robin who are now reaching on to meet the next level of recognition as "Permanent Benefactors."

*Submitted By: Robin Cox, Exalted Ruler*

Pictured Left to Right; Robin Cox, Exalted Ruler, Steve Cox, PER



## “Raceway #2852 Holds Veterans Clothing Drive”

Raceway Elks 2852 found out US Vets of Arizona was in need of business clothing for Veterans at their facility so they could look professional when they went on job interviews. Raceway 2852 members and friends jumped at the opportunity to help Veterans in need and held a clothing drive. On April 17th, Kimberly Martin, Veterans Chairman and her team delivered the clothing. More than \$12,000.00 of suits, ties, dress shirts, dresses, purses and shoes was donated. The clothing will be placed in the clothing room and distributed as needed.

*Submitted by: Robin Cox, Exalted Ruler*

Pictured Left to Right; Kimberly Martin, Veterans Chairman, Mike Lubeski, Gerard Cox, US Vets, Yolande Lubeski, Robin Cox, ER and Steve Cox, PER



## “Phoenix #335 Hosts West District DD Clinic”

Phoenix Elks Lodge #335 proudly hosted the Arizona West District DD Clinic on April 26, led by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler PER Diane Bodwell. The event welcomed strong participation from lodges across the district, including 14 Phoenix members. ER Clint Tompkins greeted attendees, while state and district committee leaders shared valuable updates and insights.

*Submitted By; Jeff Beassley*

Pictured West District DD Clinic attendees



## “Flagstaff #499 Holds Community Easter Party”

On a beautiful Easter morning 200 plus children from the community spent the morning hunting for the 4000 filled eggs hidden on the Lodge property. Members hosted the children at the craft tables, handed out juice boxes and donut holes and all were surprised by a visit from Elroy the Elk.

*Submitted by; Kathleen Cothrun*

Pictured are members helping parents and children at the craft table



## “The Easter Bunny Visits Steele Research Center”

What a truly magical day! Mr. Bunny hopped in for a special visit, bringing smiles, laughter, and a whole lot of joy along the way. From our incredible pediatric patients to our amazing faculty and staff, the happiness was contagious everywhere we went! A heartfelt thank you to Jerry and Linda Grimes for making this fun-filled day possible—we are so grateful! Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter! Thank you for your continued support of pediatric research and for making a difference in the lives of our patients and their families.

*Submitted By; Lori Castro Volunteer Engagement Manager*

Pictured Photo on Left: Dr. Lisa Chamberlain, Easter Bunny Pictured Center Photo: Hematology- Oncology Outpatient Clinic Team, Easter Bunny in center Pictured Photo on Right: Cancer- Immunotherapy Research Team, Easter Bunny



# “Veterans News”

May 2026



## Information and Veterans News

Mary I Shaffer - Elks National Veteran 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

### Elks Members build facilities for veteran support

Sometimes, dreaming big can feel like achieving the impossible. But with help from the Elks and your local community, big dreams can be made a reality.

With the help of a Freedom Grant, Elks at Kingman, AZ Lodge No. 468 are making dreams come true for local veterans. The Lodge partnered with their nearby American Legion chapter to convert their old Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce building into a veterans’ thrift store.

With Freedom Grant funds, Members were able to furnish the thrift store with items like clothing racks, shelves, hangers, and office supplies. Thanks to these efforts, veterans in the community will have the ability to save money on clothing and home goods.

If a veteran comes into the thrift store and can’t afford an item, they are given the opportunity to work at the thrift store to pay for the cost of the items they’d like to purchase.

Project Manager Nani Chrimes shares that the grant project “provided a relationship with the community and veterans to provide household items for veterans moving into permanent housing. Community donated usable items and veterans could shop in the thrift store to save money.”

Even with the success in opening this new thrift store, Kingman Elks aren’t finished with building infrastructure to serve veterans in their community. The Lodge’s next steps are to build a greenhouse adjacent to the thrift store so local veterans will be able to grow their own food.

With community support, Freedom Grants, and a dream, Elks can achieve anything when it comes to uplifting veterans throughout their community.

Does your Lodge have a big idea for veterans? Are there organizations or nonprofits that would make a good partner for your Lodge on a project that serves local veterans?

Freedom Grant applications go online April 1. Every Lodge is eligible to apply for up to \$1,000 to serve local veterans in need.

By EMILY CRUZ  
Programs Associate

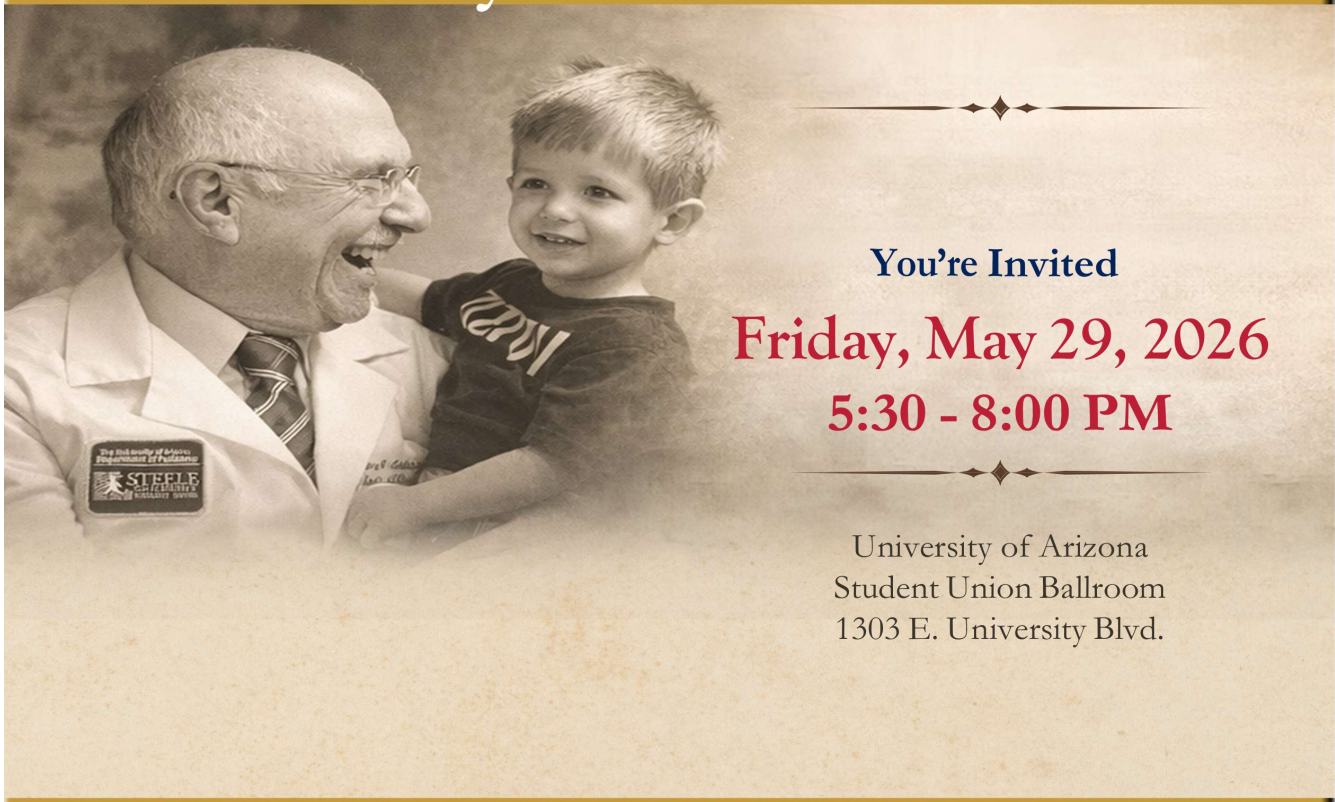
Article from Grand Lodge Newsletter – April 2026



*“A Legacy of Leadership”*

Celebrating  
*A Legacy of Leadership*

# Dr. Fayeze K. Ghishan



**You're Invited**

**Friday, May 29, 2026**

**5:30 - 8:00 PM**

University of Arizona  
Student Union Ballroom  
1303 E. University Blvd.

I/We plan to attend the Leadership celebration to honor Dr. Fayeze Ghishan at the Student Union Ballroom at the U of A. There is no cost to attend this celebration. For more information, please contact Megin Goetz at [secretary@azelksmp.org](mailto:secretary@azelksmp.org) or (520) 326-0556. The Arizona Elks Major Projects will make a donation on behalf of the Elks of Arizona.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge Name & Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_



*“Arizona Elks Red Vest Order Form”*

# Arizona Elks 2026 Red Vest Order Form



**Flashover Graphics**

523 E Andy Devine Ave

928-718-6892

[info@flashovergraphicsaz.com](mailto:info@flashovergraphicsaz.com)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ONE VEST PER ORDER FORM**

Red Vest Bottom Pockets	S	M	L	XL	2XL	\$ 43.98	
Red Vest Bottom Pockets	3XL	4XL	5XL			\$ 45.98	
Name on Left Chest:						included	
Title/Lodge# on Right Chest:						included	

**Please Mark Delivery**

Ship to Customer - USPS Priority Mail	\$ 14.00
---------------------------------------	----------

**Payment**

Cash	\$ _____	Make Checks Payable to: Flashover Graphics	
Check	\$ _____ /CK# _____		
Credit Card#	_____	Exp Date	_____ CVV Code _____
CC Total	\$ _____	Signature	_____

**\*\* Deadline for orders is 30 days PRIOR to convention. Any orders placed after 30 days prior will NOT be guaranteed\*\***

# “Chicago Baseball Game”

## Important Timing & Availability Notice

This game is scheduled for Saturday, July 4th at 1:20 PM against the rival St. Louis Cardinals, making it a premium, high-demand holiday matchup.

As a result:

Tickets may sell out quickly, Prices are expected to increase

Availability is not guaranteed if action is delayed.

Early purchase is critical to securing preferred seating and locking in pricing before public sales begin.

### Important Details:

Tickets are subject to standard pricing and availability

All pricing and availability are subject to change

Early coordination provides the best opportunity for states to secure seats together

Tickets will be available for individual purchase through a dedicated link at a later date. ( Watch Elks.org website for updates)

Community • Friendship • Charity

# ELKS

## Elks Day at Wrigley Field

St. Louis @ Chicago  
July 4, 2026

**National Memorial**  
elks.org/elksday



## *“Spirit of Navy Pier Dinner Cruise”*

### SPIRIT OF NAVY PIER DINNER CRUISE

Mary and I have made arrangements for a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan the evening of July 4 to view the City of Chicago Fireworks display honoring our country’s 250th anniversary. We have guaranteed a minimum of 50 people, but we are sure many others will want to join in this once in a lifetime experience. A link for a virtual tour of the ship is below:

<https://www.cityexperiences.com/chicago/city-cruises/our-fleet/spirit-of-navy-pier/>

The cost is \$230.88 per person and includes a **BUFFET DINNER AND TOP SHELF OPEN BAR!** Our Arizona Elks Group will be seated together. The cruise leaves Navy Pier at 7:15 PM and returns at 10:45 PM. A link to make payment and reserve your space is below:

<https://tix.cityexperiences.com/fea2bd2b-857a-46fe-a5ce-b0f94779682c>

The boat will accommodate over 300 people, so there will be room for all if you get signed up before the boat gets fully booked. This will be a very popular night and only the first 50 currently have guaranteed boarding so please sign up soon. We hope you can join us for this special experience. Call or email with any questions.

Steve and Mary Like

[sklike@msn.com](mailto:sklike@msn.com)

254-652 -3221



## *“Windy City Update For Grand Lodge”*



Elks National Convention Chicago, Illinois  
July 5-July 8, 2026

To all Exalted Rulers congratulations on your appointments. Now the work really begins, but enjoy the year with your attendance at Grand Lodge in Chicago July 5-8, 2026. We will be celebrating our Order's history—the 100 th Anniversary of the Elks National Memorial. For more information on Chicago, visit [www.choosechicago.com](http://www.choosechicago.com). Now on to the business at hand. As exalted ruler of your lodge you are required to attend the convention or appoint an alternate who will need to complete the Alternate Letter which must be signed and have the Lodge Seal. (Any questions, contact us.) If you pre-registered as a delegate and are now your lodge Exalted Ruler we need know since you are now registered for two rooms and we can release one for anyone else wishing to attend. It is the responsibility of the Exalted Ruler to make sure a check is sent for \$100.00 to cover your lodge hospitality fee. Room Reservations: If you pre-registered just for the hotel, and submitted your \$100.00 deposit you still need complete the final registration form and enclose a check for \$88.00. If you wish to order Arizona pins that can be added to your final registration form. The pins will be handed out and sold at the State Convention in May. Any of your lodge members may purchase the pins for \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. The registration needs to be done as soon as possible so we know when to expect you and when you are departing. We have a few rooms available if anyone wishes to attend and we encourage it, please complete the registration form and send a check for the first night's room of \$188.00. The Memorial Ceremony lottery has been completed. Details will be forthcoming and bussing will be available for those lucky enough to attend. Memorial Building Tours bussing to the Elks Memorial Building will be available from the Convention hotels Saturday July 4-Tuesday, July 7 during hours of tour operations. Put this on your agenda to do, you won't be disappointed.

Grand Lodge Schedule Opening Ceremony is July 5th at 4:00 p.m. at the McCormick Place-West Building. All Arizona delegates will sit together and be expected to wear their red vests. General Sessions will be held July 6-8, 2026, starting at 8 a.m. at the McCormick Place-West Building bussing provided. The full seminar schedule will be available May 1, 2026. You must go online to reserve a spot to attend the seminars.

**REGISTRATION** Pre-registration for the convention opens online on April 1, 2026 On-site Registration and credential pick-up will open Friday, July 3 at noon in the McCormick Place -West Building. Friday evening hours will be extended for those picking up tickets for the 100th anniversary celebration. You must have your tickets and credentials to attend the celebration. Registration will be an additional \$20.00 this year to cover the cost of the bussing to the Memorial Building for the tours.

**ARIZONA HOSPITALITY ROOM** The hospitality room will be on the 23rd floor and much bigger than previously. That said we have many more people using the room for more days. We hope to have it open on the 3rd which will be an additional day this year. A schedule for volunteering will be sent to your District Director and they will coordinate your day of volunteering.

**REMINDERS:** Ask your lodge members to donate for the raffle. This helps AEMP and goes toward the bragging rights for most money raised for your district. The West District plans to carry on the tradition as the highest money raiser. Drink responsibly, we are asking all guests to not take any beverages from the hospitality room. All food and drinks must be in concealed luggage or packages to be taken into the hotel. If you take a case of beer, for instance into the hotel in a marked box it will be confiscated.

**NOTE:** We have been told there will not be any flights to Chicago O'Hare on Southwest you must go through Midway. Get your red vests order early. We will provide details as we receive them and report at the May State Convention. Make your plans now. Encourage other members of your lodge to attend. This conference will be like no other.

Time to get started, get the forms in and make your plans.

Fraternally,

Mike and Vickie Burnet

Arizona State Hospitality Co-chairs

[yumaduo@gmail.com](mailto:yumaduo@gmail.com)

“Save The Date”

Save the Date!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2026

ALL DAY EVENT!

Ajo Elks Lodge # 1576



12th and BEST EVER ANNUAL

JEEP RUN / DESERT SCAVENGER HUNT / POKER RUN

CASH PRIZES and Raffles

8 am to 10 am – Jeep Run Registration- \$25.00 per vehicle

(pick up sack lunch, Poker Run Bead, Desert Scavenger Hunt List and NEW Map)

(All Jeep Contestants must be back at the lodge by 2 pm.)

3 pm – Corn Hole Tournament- \$15.00 per person

Cash prize for winner

6 pm – Dinner: \$25.00 per person – Rib Dinner

Pie and Cake Auction

(Out of town participants are welcome to bring auction or raffle item)

50/50 Raffle

JEEP RUN/DESERT SCAVENGER HUNT/POKER RUN

\$25.00 for the first two people in Vehicle.

\$10.00 an additional person(s) (INCLUDES SACK LUNCH FOR ALL)

Cash prize for best Highest and Lowest Poker Hand.

Proceeds donated to A.E.M.P.

DESERT  
SCAVENGER  
HUNT

R.S.V.P with  
Debbie Allen  
[debbie.allen7150@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.allen7150@gmail.com)

*“AEMP 2026 Mid-Year Raffle”*



**2026 Mid-Year Raffle**

**Win this 2026 Chevy Trailblazer**



**ONLY 15000 TICKETS AVAILABLE**

**Get your Tickets at your local Elks Lodges, from the**  
**Arizona Elks Major Projects Office**  
**Or Scan the QR code below**



**Ticket are: \$20 each, 3 tickets for \$50.**

Drawing will be held on October 17, 2026 at the  
AEA Mid-Year Meeting in Tempe AZ.

Must be 21 years of age or older to win. Tickets are not tax deductible. Winners are responsible for any applicable taxes and vehicle registration fee's.

# “Grand Lodge News”

## Grand Lodge Newsletter Not Available At Time Of Publication



A Fraternal Organization

To: All Lodges

### For Immediate Distribution

The Membership Procurement and Retention committee, is proud to announce. Arizona is one of three states picked by Grand Lodge to introduce the new, “Best-in-Class Customer Service.” program. It is a high honor for Arizona to have this opportunity.

This advance release is more than a concept—it is a commitment that will influence every lodge. Elevating every interaction across our organization, from Grand Lodge to your Lodge.

It is imperative that AEA State Officers, AEA State Committee Chairs, District Leaders, District committee chairs, Exalted Rulers, Secretary and members, plan to attend this important and informative session.

This will be an introduction to a new standard of excellence that will be used for years to come. This program will strengthen our new and existing members experience, improve retention, and enhance communications, and how our communities perceive the Elks. Bringing this level of “Best-in-Class Customer Service,” has the potential to be transformative at every level. The formal rollout for this program will take place at the National Convention in Chicago, with Arizona having an early look.

**The “Best-in-Class Customer Service” breakout session, will be on Saturday May 9, 2026, at 1pm in the Ocotillo 1 Room, at the annual meeting.**

See you all there.

Community • Friendship • Charity

# ELKS National Convention

AND NATIONAL MEMORIAL 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**CHICAGO**  
JULY 4 - JULY 8, 2026

elks.org

Community • Friendship • Charity

# ELKS Elevate Your Lodge

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”

Jane Goodall

**Be the Difference**  
join.elks.org

## *“On the Road with AEA State President Larry Carver”*

- 1) AEA State President Larry Carver, Easter Bunny, AEA First Lady Michelle Carver at Show Low Lodge #2090.
- 2) AEA State President Larry Carver and newly installed Officers of Show Low Lodge #2090.
- 3) AEA State President Larry Carver, ER, PER David Whitmore Jr., AEA First Lady Michelle Carver at Show Low #2090.
- 4) Carol and Pat Riley, ER Christine Higgins, AEA First Lady Michelle Carver, AEA State President Larry Carver at Yuma Lodge #476.

Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



## *“On the Road with AEA State President Larry Carver”*

- 1) President Larry being assisted into car by Secret Service Agent AKA PDDGER Larry Pratt
- 2) AEMP President Mike Giannetta, presenting certificate to Exalted ruler Troy Melton Mesa Buckhorn #2656, Randy Appel, AEA State President Larry Carver.
- 3) PDDGER Larry Pratt, AEA State President Larry Carver, Randy Appel, PSP Mike Weishan.
- 4) AEA State President Larry and Frist Lady Michelle at the Chicago Cub's. All the Arizona folks were there.

Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



## *“On the Road with AEA State President Larry Carver”*

- 1) Utah State elks President Glen Smith and his Lady Jeri, AEA First Lady Michelle Carver, AEA State President Larry Carver, and CHEA President Scott Stephens and his Lady May Kay.
- 2) AEA Hoop Shoot Chairman Gregg Boyce and AZ Shooters 8-9 Malia Robinson, and 10-11 Tucker Orton
- 3) Malia Robinson receiving her 3rd place award from Area 7 Regional Director.
- 4) Tucker Orton from Holbrook Lodge #2450.

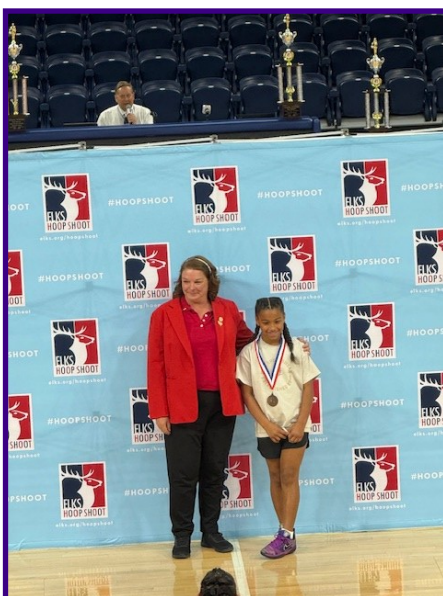
Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4

