

Arizona Elks News

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

August 2026



"Elks - Always Ready to Give "

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aeaneewsletter@arizonaelks.org

AEA Newsletter
Submission deadline:
25 August 2026



Hello everyone,

Hope everyone had a wonderful 4th of July! Well, another month behind us and what a great one it was. Angela and I had the honor of traveling to Chicago for the 162nd Grand Lodge along with the greatest Association of Elks. It was utterly amazing to see so many red vests in one spot. Hope all of you had a wonderful time.



A big thank you to Mike and Vickie Burrnet for hosting the Hospitality Room, Ed, and Janet Leuer for hauling all our stuff to Chicago. What would we do without them?

I can honestly say it was so surreal to carry our flag on to the stage, at that point it hit me you are really doing this. Thank all the Arizona Elks for giving us this honor.

Being able to attend the rededication of the Elks Memorial Building was impressive, seeing pictures of it is one thing but seeing it in person blew me away. Pictures do not do it justice. All of the history in that building is beyond words. A big thank you to the committee for all the hard dedicated work.

Arizona brought home a bunch of awards again, Chandler #2429 bring home the 1st Place All-American Lodge, Scottsdale # 2148 David Saethre for top Recruiter in the Nation, 210 new members. Coolidge – Florence for bring home a top Essay award, we will have a few others to give out at the Mid-Year Convention. PSP Larry Carver and I had the honor of receiving two awards for being #5 in Membership Gain and #8 in Membership percentage gain.

Continued Page 2

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

PRESIDENT:

Frank Buso

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

West: Pat Riley

VICE PRESIDENTS

South: Jack Ponzo

North: David Pulley

East: Giorgio Phillips

SECRETARY:

David Dean

TREASURER:

Angela Buso

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

East -1 Year:

Mike Weishan, PSP

North- 2 Year:

James R. Casacchia, PSP

West- 3 Year:

Albert "Al" Kayal, PSP

South -4 Year:

Susan Krausman, PSP

North- 5 Year:

Larry Carver, PSP

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Sally Frankel

CHAPLAIN:

Renee Higginbotham

TILER:

Steve Cox

Inner Guard:

Joanne Lerma

ASST. SECRETARY:

Allen Swope

ASST TREASURER:

Diane Bodwell

ORGANIST:

Ira Cohen

"Elks - Always Ready to Give"

Continued from Page 1

But the highlight was being part of Grand Exalted Ruler Tim Jager's celebration. Along with the other Area 7 Presidents, Lynn Glick CHEA State President, JJ Lynch Nevada State President and Jesse Gallo Utah State President, PGER's Louis J. Grillo, and Robert Duistman escorting Tim to the stage. A big thank you to all the Arizona Elks that participated in the Rally.

I would like to congratulate the four new District deputies Steve Like East District, Mary Shaffer South District, Charlie Ward North District and Vickie Way West District, which were installed on July 8th. I wish you all a wonderful year and I am here to assist as I can. I am confident you all will be great.

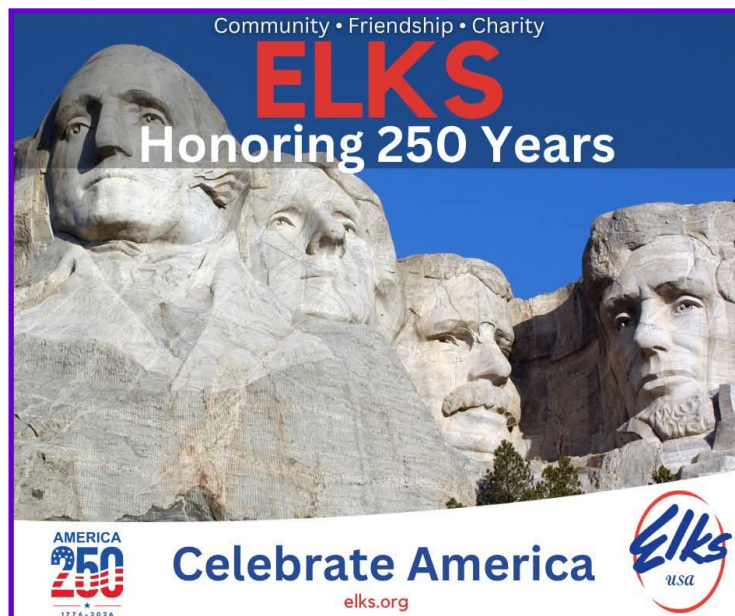
I hope everyone came back inspired to execute the great programs of the BPOE and "Be the Best People on Earth."

Again Angela and myself are so honored to represent all of the Arizona Elks this year.

Wishing everyone the best year going forward and remember "Elks Always Ready to Give"

Remember GER Tim Jager's slogan "Ready Elks - Lets Go"

Fraternally,
Frank Buso
Arizona Elks Association President,
Angela Buso First lady



“Government Relations”

ADVERTISE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Government Relations Committee
Ira Cohen – State Chairman
August, 2026

Timely and consistent reporting of our charitable events is essential to our Order to maintain our favorable tax status. Our goal nationally is \$600 million in charitable reporting and it's up to each of us to help in that endeavor. Last year we fell just short of achieving that goal.

Lodge Secretaries, you are the pivotal person in recording your lodge's charitable endeavors into CLMS and should be proud of sharing the information with your lodge members. All the information you need to report those totals is at the bottom of the CLMS page where you enter the data.

As such, the Government Relations Committee is requesting every lodge secretary provide **year-to-date charitable totals** for publication each month in your lodge bulletin. We suggest you provide total miles, total hours and total cash and non-cash donations. (see example below) Your lodge members will see those totals grow each month and, hopefully, will continue to provide that information for each lodge charitable event. Awards will be given to the lodge in each district that is the most improved in charitable reporting.

Here are the year-to-date totals for all Arizona Elks charitable reporting as of August 1, 2026:

Total Miles driven by Elks and others: 1,589,095
Total hours donated by Elks and others: 421,309
Total Cash donations reported: \$1,762,605
Total non-cash value reported: \$1,263,203

Questions or concerns about this process may be addressed to your district's Government Relations Chair. The procedure is simple and will take only five minutes a month to provide the information to your lodge's newsletter editor. No calculations are needed except to add the hours and miles for one total each. Let's all work together to make Arizona a shining star in charitable reporting.

“Tempe #2251 Holds Christman in July Fundraiser”

On Saturday, July 11, the Tempe Elks Lodge held a Christmas in July event which raised over \$1000 for our annual Children's Shopping Spree. The Social Welfare committee served turkey and ham sliders with funeral potatoes, green bean casserole, and delicious Texas sheet cake for dessert. Raffle baskets, a lottery board and a spirited White Elephant gift exchange were all part of the fun. Canned food was also collected and over 80 cans of food were donated. Congratulations to Bob “Tiger” Kripas, who won the lottery board; and to Ryan Guzy, Charlie Klinefelter, Shirley Torres and Tom Russell who were the winners of the raffle baskets. But the BIG WINNERS will be the children and the families who will be treated to a great Christmas this December! The Tempe Elks Lodge Social Welfare committee would like to thank everyone who came and contributed to this fun event and great cause!

Submitted By; Connie Schulteans

Pictured: Charles Klinefelter, Esteemed Loyal Knight, dressed up for the occasion and posed next to the lottery board “wreath.” And that’s our ER Kelly Borseth in the background (lower right).



“Tempe #2251 Presents Check to Local Elementary School”

On Tuesday, July 21st the Tempe Elks Lodge presented a \$1,000 check to Rover Elementary School in Tempe for their All Abilities Bike Program. This program provides the opportunity for kids of all ages and all abilities to learn to ride a bike that may not have had the opportunity to learn previously. To learn more about the All Abilities Bike Program (AABP), please visit <https://allabilitiesbike.org/>.

Submitted By: Connie Schulteans

Pictured Left to Right; Left to Right: Daniel Merrill (Rover PE teacher), Anne Marie Borseth, Marty Laird PER, Kelly Borseth ER, Dana Lineberger (Rover Principal), Lance Dunlop (AABP District Representative), and school mascot Rocky the Ram.



“Tempe #2251 Hosts Community Drug Awareness Event”

On Saturday, July 11, the Tempe Elks Lodge hosted a Community Connection fentanyl awareness event for Desiray's Voice. Over 50 people attended this indoor event which was part of a nationwide awareness effort in which over 100 cities across America participated. It brought together families, advocates and communities to honor lives lost to fentanyl, provide support and resources, raise awareness and to inspire change. There were several organizations present that provided information on substance use resources, grief support, and other information to educate our communities about the dangers of fentanyl. These organizations included the DEA, including Special Agent in Charge Ruiz and his team, along with Th MASA Project, J&M Walk to Fight, Noah's Ark, Dad's Against Bluez, Billy's Place, Copper Springs, Angel of Grace, and Grand Canyon University, which shared information about its low-cost behavioral health programs. Desiray's Voice, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in memory of Desiray Donna and all lives lost to fentanyl poisoning and overdose. To find out more about Desiray's Voice, please visit their website <https://desiraysvoice.com/> and their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DesiraysVoice>. The Tempe Elks Lodge was honored to provide a venue for this important drug awareness event.

Submitted by: Connie Schulteans

Pictured Left to Right; Photo on Left: Desiray's Voice founder Gina Guzman addressing the event's attendees
Photo on Right DEA Special Agent in Charge Ruiz addressing the event's attendees.



“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Donates to Pappas Kids ”

The Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge is proud to support our community by presenting a \$1,000 Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP) Community Grant to the Pappas Kids Schoolhouse Foundation in support of its No Barriers for Education program. The grant will help provide essential school supplies to local students and will assist in distributing more than 1,600 backpacks filled with school supplies during the Foundation's July 2026 Back-to-School Event. These backpacks will be distributed to children throughout Coolidge, Arizona, helping ensure students begin the new school year prepared, confident, and ready to learn. The Coolidge-Florence Elks are committed to investing in the future of our youth and strengthening our community through partnerships with organizations that make a meaningful difference. We are honored to support the Pappas Kids Schoolhouse Foundation and its dedication to removing barriers to education for local families.

Submitted By: Angela Schenk

Pictured Left to Right:
Deb Neely, Dayna Sandoval, Mark
Blackwell



“Coolidge-Florence #2350 Recognize Outstanding Student”

The Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge is proud to invest in the future of our community by presenting a \$1,000 donation to Camille Gant, an outstanding student leader from Coolidge High School. Camille was recently selected to participate in the 2026 Cybersecurity & Business Consulting Internship through Leadership Initiatives, a prestigious program that provides students with hands-on experience in cybersecurity, business consulting, leadership development, and professional collaboration. A remarkable example of leadership and service, Camille serves as an Arizona FBLA State Officer, holding the position of Vice President of Public Relations & State/National Programs. She is also actively involved in numerous organizations at Coolidge High School and throughout Arizona, including FBLA, FCCLA, National Honor Society, Black Student Union, Students Against Disruptive Decisions (SADD), Students Taking A New Direction (STAND), and the Arizona Department of Education Student Advisory Panel. As she prepares for this incredible opportunity, Camille has been working to raise the remaining tuition and travel expenses needed to participate. After learning about her dedication, accomplishments, and commitment to representing the Coolidge community, the Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge was honored to contribute \$1,000 toward helping make this opportunity possible. The Elks are committed to supporting education, leadership, and the success of young people in our community. We are confident that Camille will represent Coolidge with pride and wish her continued success as she pursues her educational and career goals. Congratulations, Camille! We look forward to seeing all that you accomplish and are proud to be a small part of your journey.

Submitted By: *Angela Schenk*

Pictured Left to Right: Mark Blackwell
Exalter Ruler, Camille Gant



“Coolidge-Florence \$2350 Host Back-to-School Fundraiser”

The Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our incredible volunteers who helped make our Back-to-School Fundraiser and Community Event such a tremendous success. Your time, energy, and generosity made a lasting impact on local families, and we truly couldn't have done it without you. On July 9, more than 200 community members attended our free Back-to-School Event at the Coolidge-Florence Elks Lodge. The event was dedicated to supporting youth ages 5–18 who participate in the McKinney-Vento and Migrant Education Programs of the Coolidge and Florence Unified School Districts. Families had access to backpacks, school supplies, and a variety of free community services designed to help students begin the new school year with confidence. It was inspiring to see so many organizations come together with one common goal—helping local children succeed. We would also like to recognize and thank our outstanding community partners for their generous support: Pappas Kids Schoolhouse Foundation – Backpacks, socks, and school supplies, Nationwide Vision – Free eye exams, Smile Zone – Dental exams, Blue Cross Blue Shield – Health information and resources, Glitz Cosmetology School – Free haircuts, Candy Stewart – Hygiene products Active Family Development, Top CDE, and CAHRA – Family services and community resources HOPE Women's Center National Farmworker Jobs Program Coolidge Fire Department Coolidge Police Department The Coolidge-Florence Elks are proud to serve our community and are grateful for every volunteer, donor, and organization that helped make this event possible. Together, we helped ensure that local students have the tools, resources, and support they need for a successful school year.

Elks Care. Elks Share. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of our local children and families.

Submitted By: Angela Schenk

“Kingman #468 Use Spotlight Grant for Local Food Bank”

Kingman Elks Lodge No. 468 employed the 2026 Elks Spotlight Grant to provide much needed food items to the Kingman Area Food Bank (KAFB) again this year. During the last fiscal year, the KAFB assisted over 26,132 individuals as well as an additional 16,788 households through their partner agencies like the Kingman Elks Lodge. KAFB distributed more than 178,000 pounds of food to those in need. In a friendly competition this year, Kingman Elks Lodge 468 and Kingman Moose Lodge 1704 are collecting as many food items for KAFB as possible during the month of July. The winner gets bragging rights for the year! On July 6, 2026, Kingman Elks members picked up 782 pounds of food from Safeway and delivered the pallet to KAFB. A great start to support our local community's families and veterans.

Submitted By: Nani Chrimes

Pictured Left to Right :(Left Photo) Safeway Manager Jake, Dan Jones, Bob Chrimes, Terri Jones

Pictured Left to Right (Right photo) Dan Jones, Nani Chrimes, KAFB Director Ryan Garcia, Bob Chrimes, Terri Jones



“Payson #2154 ”Donates to Veterans Helping Veterans

On July 10, 2026, Payson Lodge #2154 Veterans Services Committee, donated \$3,000 to the Veterans Helping Veterans organization. Rich Cudlicki said the money would be used for temporary housing and to help get Vets to and from medical appointments at the VA Hospital and other locations in the Phoenix area.

Submitted By: Lu Anne Frost

Pictured Left to Right: Chuck Marinak, Veterans Services Committee, Michelle Cudlicki and Rich “Shaggy” Cudlicki, Veterans Helping Veterans, Rick Owen, Veterans Services Committee Chair, Exalted Ruler Irma Bramlet.



“Bullhead City #2408 Donates to Swim Team”

On July 16th Bullhead City Elks #2408 Exalted Ruler Deborah Rozsi presented a \$500 check to the Bullhead City Barracudas Swim Coach James Hamilton. The funds will be used for travel expenses for the team, equipment and general support.

Submitted By: Robin Ayers

Pictured Left to Right: James Hamilton, Deborah Rozsi Exalted Ruler



“Holbrook #2450 Wins Community Project Award”

During Grand Lodge Holbrook Lodge was awarded Third Place, Division 1 for the 2025-2026 Community Project.

Congratulations, Holbrook Lodge #2450!!

Submitted By: Beverly Goodnight

Pictured PER Cindy Allen proudly displaying award



“Tucson #385 Receives Donation for Clothe-A-Child”

On July 2nd, 2026, the Tucson Street Rod Association donated \$2,500.00 to the Tucson Arizona Elks Lodge #385 Clothe A Child program.

Submitted By: Martha Megerle

Pictured Left to Right: . Sofias, volunteer I. Weddington, member M. Garcia, ER R. Bernard, member/Trustee Martha Megerle (Clothe a Child chair) member Laura Ruiz, volunteer J. Medina, C. Lugo, A. Anaya, R. Pacheco, Y. Brogdon, member S. Mittelstaedt, volunteer C. Shreve. Tucson Street Rod association official handing over donation.



“Tucson #385 Holds Annual ENF Fundraiser”

On June 27, 2026, Tucson Arizona Elks Lodge #385 hosted Laura's annual Elks National Fund (ENF) Hoedown fundraiser. The event drew about 85 members and guests and featured music by Blackjack, a ribs-and-fixings dinner, and a lighthearted jail-and-bail activity for cowboys and cowgirls. We were honored to have Arizona Elks State President Frank Buso and Lady Angela at this event. The fundraiser was a success, raising over \$4,000 for ENF.

Submitted By; John Aceves



“Yuma #476 Congratulates Ritual Team”

The Yuma Elks Lodge #476 Ritual Team won the Arizona State Ritual Championship in May, 2026 at the Arizona Elks Association State Convention and qualified for the Grand Lodge Ritual Contest in Chicago in July at the Grand Lodge Annual Convention.

The Yuma Team was composed of the following:

Coaches Pat Riley and Robert Clark-Both All Americans Exalted Ruler Dan Schoeborn-All American

Esteemed Leading Knight Christine Higgins-All American Esteemed Loyal Knight Jody Brandt

Esteemed Lecturing Knight Will Payne-All American Esquire Stewart Johnson Chaplain Jim Thompson

Inner Guard Bill Ogram Candidate Yvonne Thompson

(All American Awards were based on highest individual scores overall from the West Division Contest) There are two Divisions: East and West. The Team performed Saturday, July 4th and scored 94.6634, higher than any of the other nine states in the West Division.

The Team performed in the Grand Lodge Final Four Contest July 6th for the first time in 76 years, placing fourth overall. Teams 2.3.4 all scored 94+ and were close together. The winning team scored 95.

The Team expresses its sincere appreciation to the Arizona Elks Association; Phoenix Elks Lodge #335; Yuma Past Exalted Rulers Association; Yuma Auxiliary; and the many Yuma Elks who encouraged and supported them throughout the year.

The purpose of ritual is to impress new candidates during monthly initiations and inspire them to become active members.

Submitted By: Jim Thompson

“Yuma #476 Donates to Humane Society”

Yuma Elks Lodge #476 had Music Bingo Disney Themed night and PER Mike Burnet won 1st place in the costume contest. He had the honor of holding Buzz Lightyear. Funds raised were donated to the Humane Society of Yuma and school supplies were collected to be donated to the Yuma schools.

Submitted By: Mike Burnet

Pictured Mike Burnet PER



“Lake Havasu #2399 Elkettes Donate to Band of Brothers”

The Elkettes of Elks Lodge #2399 in Lake Havasu City, AZ, are proud to announce a \$1,000 donation to the ECHO Band of Brothers. These funds were raised through our popular dinner-hour pie sales—proving that we really do help our community one slice at a time.

Submitted by: Eva Fox

Pictured in the back row (left to right) are Elkette President Connie Jones, Jeff Baker and Angel Hendryx from the California Chapter of ECHO Band of Brothers, and Brian Petry of the Arizona Chapter. Seated in the center is Stacy Lee, Co-President of the ECHO Band of Brothers in Lake Havasu City.



“Lake Havasu City #2399 Donate to H.A.V.E.N.S.”

The Elkettes of Elks Lodge # 2399 in Lake Havasu City, AZ donated \$1000 to H.A.V.E.N.S. Food4Kids program.

Submitted By: Eva Fox

Pictured Let to Right: Elkette President Connie Jones, Victim Services Specialist Ashley Buckles and Elkette Cyntia Ann Willson



“Sun City #2559 Participates in Toy Run”

14 Elk Riders from Sun City Elks Lodge #2559 participated in the Christmas in July toy run alongside the Elks Riders from the Show Low Elks Lodge. Despite the inclement weather, the ride successfully raised \$2000.00 to support Santa in providing gifts for children in the local community.

Submitted by; Sandy McLemore



“Raceway #2852 Hosts Flag Day Service”

Many of us gathered on June 14th for the Elks annual Flag Day Ritual. During the ceremony we learned many interesting facts about the history of our beautiful American flag. Steve Cox, PER shared with us the progression of the American flag over the years. As he was telling us the meaning of each flag, a replica of the flag was posted for all to see. Rob Frasier delivered an emotional response where we remembered the War of 1812, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Desert Storm. It was hard to control our emotions as we remembered the terrorist attacks on 9/11. May we always remember and may we always celebrate our “Grand Ol’ Flag”. Following the Ritual dinner was served to those in attendance. A special dessert was sold to raise money for Arizona Elks Major Projects.

Submitted By; Robin Cox



“Veterans News”



August 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

In a suicide crisis, eligible veterans can go to any ER for free. Nearly 50,000 already have.

By **Natalie Oliverio**

Thursday, Jul 23, 2026

Editor's note: This report contains discussion of suicide. Troops, veterans, and family members experiencing suicidal thoughts can call the 24-hour Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 and dial 1, text 838255 or visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net).

The **COMPACT Act** allows eligible veterans and certain former service members to receive Veterans Affairs-funded emergency suicide crisis care at VA and community hospitals, even if they aren't enrolled in VA healthcare...

In 2025, retired Navy Master Chief David Hull's life unraveled after he lost his job during the government shutdown. The transition from military service had been difficult, but he had rebuilt his life. Then when his paycheck disappeared, so did his ability to provide for his three children. "I didn't always consider taking my own life," Hull said. "It wasn't until I felt like I had no one and nowhere to go." ... Hull left his children with a neighbor and drove to Garrett Regional Medical Ctr, a community hospital in Oakland, Maryland.

He wasn't enrolled in VA healthcare. He didn't have health insurance. Until that night, he had never heard of the COMPACT Act or that eligible veterans could receive VA-funded emergency suicide crisis care at a community hospital...

About 40 minutes after arriving, Hull was evaluated by an emergency physician, who assured him he would be taken care of. A hospital social worker then explained that the Department of Veterans Affairs would cover the cost of his emergency treatment and follow-up care.

"I was shocked to find out that I could be seen for free after they identified me as a veteran," Hull said.

In 2020, Congress signed the [COMPACT Act Emergent Suicide Crisis Benefit](#) into law to remove financial and administrative barriers to emergency suicide crisis care. Three years later, it was implemented by the VA, but many eligible veterans remain unaware of the benefit until they need it, veteran advocates and suicide prevention professionals told Military Times.

A lifeline beyond VA's doors

[The Emergency Suicide Crisis Benefit](#) was established under the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, or COMPACT Act. Coverage includes emergency evaluation, treatment, inpatient, or crisis residential care when clinically appropriate, and up to 90 days of outpatient follow-up care.

According to data provided by VA, nearly 50,000 veterans have received the Emergency Suicide Crisis Benefit since fiscal 2023, including just over 10,000 in fiscal 2023. 14,666 received the benefit in fiscal 2024; 15,218 in fiscal 2025; and 9,434 during the first half of fiscal 2026...

According to VA, 72% of veterans who have used the benefit have since enrolled in VA healthcare... "It doesn't matter if you have insurance. It doesn't matter if you're a patient in the VA system. None of that matters. There are no strings attached. No barriers to being seen. This is a gift that every veteran needs to know they're eligible for," said Master Chief Hull.

Excerpted from Military Times © 2026



“Update from Steele Research Center”



Learning, Networking & Growing Together



Many of our faculty and residents attended this year's Pediatrics in the Red Rocks (PIRR) conference in Sedona. From engaging educational sessions to meaningful networking, the conference continues to be a premier opportunity for Arizona's pediatric community to learn, collaborate, and advance pediatric care.

Our department was especially well represented, with six posters presented by faculty and trainees.

Dr. Nathan Price was a featured faculty speaker and quickly became one of the standout presenters of the conference, delivering multiple well-received talks on pediatric infectious disease topics.

PIRR attendees also benefited from inspiring keynote presentations by Dr. Susan Kressly, immediate past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

THANK YOU Arizona Elks Major Projects for making this possible!

Submitted By; Lori Castro

“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.**

"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

"Save The Date"

DOUGLAS ELKS LODGE #955
ARIZONA ELKS
MAJOR PROJECTS
& SPECIAL OLYMPICS
2026

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Supporting Youth, Veterans, & Local Community
Closest to pin prizes

742126 50/50
Raffle 742126



**\$50.00 per player includes: Green Fees,
Golf Cart, & Lunch**

4 MAN SCRAMBLE
8AM REGISTRATION
9AM SHOTGUN START
CONTACT
FOR INFO

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH 2026
AT DOUGLAS COUNTRY CLUB

SPONSOR SIGN
\$25.00

Leave a message at: 520-364-5132
or call after 5pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
Nolan Robert: 520-227-5773
Or Email BPOE955@arizonaelks.org



"Grand Lodge News"

AUGUST 2026

www.elks.org

Volume 62, No. 1



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



New rally cry reminds us to give back to community

Sandy and I are honored and humbled to represent the Order as First Lady and Grand Exalted Ruler for the 2026-2027 fraternal year. My first thank you is to my wife Sandy, for her ongoing support and for always keeping me grounded as we embark on this journey together.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to our friends, family, and fellow Elks—thank you for everything. The tremendous support we received from so many individuals throughout the years has given us the confidence and drive to perform our roles.

My theme for this year is **READY ELKS—LET'S GO!** You will be hearing more about this theme throughout the year as you attend District Deputy clinics. We also shared some of the reasons behind the theme during our discussions at the Grand Lodge Convention and in the Program Manual.



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

**TIMOTHY F.
JAEGER**

The Elks have always been among the first to respond when we see others in need. This ready-to-share attitude is the basis of my theme. When Elks hear about an issue, the rally cry *Ready Elks?* rings out, and we respond *Let's Go!*

This *Let's Go!* attitude carries through to our desire to give back to our local communities. A primary source of funding for many of these programs is the Elks National Foundation, which is known as the *Great Heart of Elkdom*. The ENF

helps build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet needs in the areas where we live and work.

The funding for scholarships has been set at almost \$6 million for 2026-2027. Youth programs have been set at almost \$3 million, and veterans programs have been set at over \$7 million.

The Community Investments Program, a series of grants that have been meeting specific local needs, turns 21 years old in 2026-2027. The CIP grant allocation total has been boosted to \$18.8 million.

The funding for state grants, which help our State Major Projects, is set at almost \$12 million. This level of funding allows the Elks to be a major difference in our communities. The support we provide makes the Foundation's work possible.

Please see GER, Page 2

GER From Page 1

The goal we have established for the 2026-2027 fraternal year is \$5.25 per Member. When you consider the outstanding achievements of this program, I think you will agree this is a small price. I know I feel

good doing my part for these programs.

Thank you for your continued efforts as we grow and improve our Lodges and the great works you are doing for your communities. I know you will all be quick to respond when you hear the call: **READY ELKS—LET'S GO!**

Community • Friendship • Charity

ELKS

Elevate Your Lodge

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Be the Difference
join.elks.org

Community • Friendship • Charity

ELKS

LET'S GO!

Community • Friendship • Charity
join.elks.org

Community • Friendship • Charity

ELKS

Never Forget

SINCE 1868
join.elks.org