



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



October is a month of activity as deadlines loom

As we enter the month of October, we begin to reap the rewards of our September preparations.

Patriotism Week, held this year from September 10-16, is the perfect time to start to introduce the Americanism Essay Contest to your local schools. It is due to your Lodge by December 15 but **NOW** is the time to ask schools to get it into their curriculums. Make sure to pass this message on to your Americanism Chairperson.

Have all of your Lodge Officers donated to ENF, and have you discussed ideas for this year's grant opportunities? If not, make ENF part of your next meeting agenda and get it done. If you're having trouble coming up with grant ideas, why not host a Drug Free



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MICHAEL T. LUHR

Kids Halloween party to fulfill an ENF Promise Grant?

October is also the month of the new GER's "Class," so make every effort to initiate new candidates for membership before November 1. Make this initiation a special night, one that accommodates the schedules of new and established Members alike.

During the last meeting of October, be sure that your secretary and trustees submit their reports to the Lodge. This is also a great time for Exalted Rulers to report on their Grand Lodge experience. Remember that all these reports should be in written format and included in your meeting minutes.

Your Auditing & Accounting Committee is also required to offer their report at the end of the month. Your A&A Committee should plan to meet with the secretary and treasurer to review all finances, ensure budgets are revised, and check that records are being maintained according to statute. The importance of this committee's work cannot be overstated, and every effort

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Filing date nears

November 5 is the automatic filing date of our semi-annual Membership Report via CLMS2Web. Lodge Secretaries must ensure Lodge CLMS2 membership records are current by that date.

A Lodge with a discrepancy in its membership total must file the November Membership Report before a temporary correction can be made. If you have an "ACTIVE" membership total higher than "CLMS," our system will automatically add the difference needed to line 4, Reinstatements.

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

Also, if you have an "ACTIVE" membership total lower than "CLMS," you must submit the report and send the Grand Secretary's office a copy of the last page of the Active Membership Roster showing the correct number of Lodge Members on the day the report was filed. The Secretary must circle this total and sign the document to certify the correct membership total. Once received, staff will make a manual adjustment to line 6, Dropped for Non-payment, thus lowering the membership total.

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DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

9 ways to mark Red Ribbon Week

By **FRANK SCARPINO**
Special Contributor

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program, reaching millions of Americans during the last week of October every year. By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events, young people pledge to live a drug-free lifestyle and pay tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena.

The Elks are proud to be a part of such an important tradition. The murder of Camarena in 1985 prompted a national outcry against the drug cartels that is still heard today. He was kidnapped, tortured, and killed while successfully investigating one of the largest drug trafficking organizations in Mexico.

Teachers, parents, and students in the elementary and secondary school levels across the country banded together and wore red ribbons as a symbol to honor Camarena and his fight against illegal drugs. The ribbons also served to bring drug prevention campaigns and awareness to the schools.

The Elks have kept Camarena's fight going strong by initiating the Red Ribbon campaign in schools and through the Elks National Drug Awareness Program, which teaches children and parents about the dangers of illegal drug use and prevents the abuse of legalized and prescription drugs. It's the largest volunteer drug awareness program in the country. The program relies on state, district, and Lodge volunteers to promote a drug-free lifestyle. By taking pride in America's communities and youth, the Elks' program takes action against youth drug use through education and inspiration.

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GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Take time to tout top teens

By **WAYNE D. COTTERLY**
Committee Member

The new school year is in full swing. Now is an excellent opportunity to reach out to our schools to start a youth recognition program such as the Student of the Month/Year or Teenager of the Month/Year.

The method of selecting a Teenager/Student of the month and year (high school) or Junior Teenager/Student of the month and year (junior high school or middle school) is the responsibility of your Local Lodge Activities Committee.

Work with your community's school officials to name a student nominating committee. This committee would be responsible for screening Teenager and/or Student of the Month nominees in a school. If more than one school exists in your Lodge's area, then an area committee could be appointed to further screen the nominees. As an alternative, it may be desirable to name a Teenager and/or Student of the Month from each school, thus eliminating the need for an area committee.

The point of this program is to seek out teenagers and students whose accomplishments deserve public recognition and praise. Each month, the nominating committee is contacted to inform the Lodge of its choice of Student of the Month, Junior Student of the Month, Teenager of the Month, or Junior Teenager of the Month. The Lodge then works with the school officials to present an award certificate

to recognize the accomplishment.

Each month, when making the presentation, the Lodge and the school officials should put together a newspaper article that will recognize the winner and his or her accomplishments. Make sure that the Elks are included in the newspaper article as sponsors of the program.

At the end of the school year, the nominating committee should select a Student/Teenager of the Year from the pool of monthly award recipients.

Each of the monthly winners and their families are invited to an awards dinner and are recognized for their accomplishment.

At this dinner, the Student/Teenager of the year is announced, and a suitable certificate or plaque is presented to the winner or winners. This dinner could be held in conjunction with National Youth Week during the first week in May, at which all of the youth winners are recognized (Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, Scholarships, Scouts, Antlers, Junior Golf Program, and any other Lodge youth programs).

Information on these programs, including fillable certificates, program guidelines, nomination forms, posters, and news releases, are available on elks.org on the Activities Committee web page.

The Student/Teenager of the Month/Year gives each Lodge an opportunity to reach out into their community, to recognize outstanding young people, and to show your community that *Elks Care – Elks Share*.

The program honors teens whose actions deserve praise

DAP From Page 1

There are many ways to celebrate Red Ribbon Week, and every part of your community can get involved:

1. Contact your elected officials about issuing a proclamation declaring Red Ribbon Week in your community.

2. Distribute red ribbons to schools in your community. Take Elroy along, too.

3. Encourage Members, friends, and family to wear red ribbons.

4. Sponsor a Red Ribbon Week activity such as a fun run or bike-a-thon.

5. Kick off the Elks DAP poster and essay contest. This year's theme is: *"Drugs Take Away _____."*

6. Invite government officials to participate in Red Ribbon Week activities.

7. Submit a public service announcement (PSA) about Red Ribbon Week activities to your local radio station.

8. Post fact sheets and Red Ribbon Week event notices on bulletin boards in libraries, hospitals, churches, grocery stores, parks and recreation departments, health clinics, and other public places.

9. Promote the DEA's National Take Back Day: October 27th from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. (takebackday.dea.gov).

For more information on Red Ribbon Week, visit elks.org/dap/ RedRibbonWeek.org, or redribbon.org.

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All temporary corrections must be submitted to the Grand Secretary's office on or before November 21. No permanent corrections can be made to the Lodge membership total until after the Annual Membership Report has been filed on April 1, 2019.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

New flag certificate lets Lodges connect with communities

By **DUNCAN P. THOMPSON**
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has launched its newest Americanism program, "Certificate of Honor for Properly Flying the United States Flag." The purpose is for Lodges to interact with and honor local businesses for proper display of the United States Flag during the day, and at night with illumination. This program will increase the Elks' presence in our communities and influence growth and survival.

The program is available on the Grand Lodge web site. Lodges can print the certificate, which is a downloadable and

fillable PDF document.

Use the following procedures to complete your award document. Go to elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/, and in the Currently Featured Contests/Programs section is a link for the "Fly the Flag Program & Certificate (PDF)."

Page 2 contains a fillable certificate. It can be filled out in the web browser or in your PDF reader (such as Adobe Acrobat), or it can be printed out and filled in by pen. Include the recipients' business name and address and the date of the presentation. Have your Exalted Ruler and/or Americanism Chairman sign the certificate.

Print the document in a "landscape"

(horizontal) orientation. For the most impressive look, use No. 67 off white card stock in lieu of regular printer paper.

There is no limit as to how many you can award as long as recipients qualify. Deliver the awards any way you want: You can hold a formal ceremony, or just go to the business location and present it personally. As always, media invitations for publicity are welcome. Keep records for your Lodge of the number of certificates you award for reporting purposes.

Let's increase our footprint in our communities with these presentations. We can prove that *"Elks Care – Elks Share"* and show that we are *Working Together to Make a Difference*.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

CIP grant provides a 'reel' good time

By TAYLOR ODISHO
ENF Communications Assistant

Every year, the Elks National Foundation supplies the Elks' mighty army of volunteers with grants to address the needs of their communities. These Community Investments Program grants allow Lodges to uplift, inspire, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Florida Keys, FL Lodge No. 1872 used the grant to fund Vets on Water, which serves veterans dealing with stress, readjustment, injuries, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The event helped James Harvey, a veteran, Elks Member, and avid fisherman. He experienced a fall last year that caused his foot to become severely disabled. Harvey was devastated, but the desire to fish again motivated him through his recovery process.

Harvey's wish came true, thanks in part to the grant. He was thrilled to be on a boat, fishing on the open water. The experience reignited Harvey's passion not only for his favorite hobby, but for life.

CIP grants, and the dedication of the Lodges that use them, have inspired thousands of stories like Harvey's. Those



James Harvey joins a fishing outing for veterans. Florida Keys, FL Lodge No. 1872 utilized an Impact Grant from the Elks National Foundation to host the project.

stories are what ENF Founder John F. Malley envisioned when he talked about uniting "the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind."

The Elks caught on to what Malley was after, and there's no releasing it now.

The ENF allocated \$12.4 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through grants that offer opportunities to serve the community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former Members to return, and attract new Members. To learn more, please visit elks.org/CIP.

PGER b-days exemplify mathematical concept

By MIKE CHAMERNIK
Publications Coordinator

Here's a good fun fact: Two living Past Grand Exalted Rulers, F. Louis Sulsberger and Michael F. Zellen, share the birthday of April 24. What are the odds?

It turns out, there was a better than 50 percent chance of that happening.

Seems a little crazy, right? There are 366 possible birthdays (counting February 29), and there are only 24 living PGERs.

But it's true! In probability theory, this is known as the "birthday problem." If you take a group of 23 people, there's a 50 percent chance that two of the individuals share a birthday. With 24 people, in the case of the PGERs, there is a 53.9 percent chance two of them share a birthday. From there, the probabilities escalate quickly, rising to a 70 percent chance with a group of 30, 90 percent with a group of 40, and 97 percent with a group of 50.

Feel free to delve into the detailed mathematics—which includes terms such as the pigeonhole principle, binomial coefficient, and permutation—on your own. There's a 6,000-word Wikipedia page and everything.

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should be made to swiftly accommodate requests.

Red Ribbon Week runs from October 23-31. This is an opportunity for your Lodge to support the Elks Drug Awareness Program while procuring some positive exposure in your community. Ask local school officials and law enforcement personnel how your Lodge can help spread the word about the dangers of drugs most prevalent in your community.

I would like ask every Exalted Ruler to take a look at the Members of your Lodge who are "*Working Together to Make a Difference.*" Recognize their efforts by awarding them my Special GER Award. It's a small gesture that shows them just how much you and I both appreciate their hard work. Please take the time to thank the Members who are making the Elks stronger because of their selflessness. See page 37 of the Grand Lodge Program book for more information.

My last reminder is an important one: Start planning your Veterans Day program now. Our veterans sacrificed so much on our behalf, and they deserve all the recognition we can bestow upon them. Let's honor veterans in a way befitting of their service to our country as well as remind them that the Elks will never forget them.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

100 percent reporting is next goal

By VERNON R. SAUNDERS
Committee Chairman

The 150th Anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks this year was a huge success. There were nearly 9,000 Members and guests registered at the convention in San Antonio, making it one of the largest attended conventions in recent years. Installed as GER was Michael Luhr and First Lady Barb. Congrats to them.

I would like to say thank you to all of the Lodges that reported their Charity Reports in a timely manner. Last October, we set our goal for \$365 million in donations for 2017-2018, or \$1 million per day. Because of your generous giving and accurate reporting, we greatly surpassed that goal with a total of \$675 million. That's amazing. Congratulations to all of you who made this possible.

Our next meeting will be in Oklahoma City in October, where we will decide what our new goal will be. It's going to be tough to top this year, but with all of our Local Lodges continuing to improve

on more accurate reporting, I think we can do it. I hope you agree.

Your Government Relations Committee is committed to ensuring 100 percent participation in reporting our good deeds. I would expect there would be follow-up letters sent to every state chair outlining what activities can be reported.

The tax on unrelated business income (UBI) applies to most organizations exempt from tax under section 501(a). These organizations include charitable, religious, scientific, and other organizations described in section 501(c) of the federal income tax code. The exemption is currently \$1,500 and we are working to get congress to increase this amount to \$250,000. That is why accurate charity reporting is so necessary.

Any time you have any questions regarding Government Relations, please feel free to call your area Government Relations committeeman. If you don't know who your area committeeman is, you can find that information in the Grand Lodge and State Associations Directory or online at elks.org.

For Adopt-A-Vet volunteers, time helps heal wounds

By **STEWART G. ISRAEL**
National Veterans Programs Chairman

Maya Angelou said “Your legacy is every life you’ve touched.”

What’s your legacy? What’s the legacy of the Elks? What’s the legacy of your Lodge?

The job of Elks who volunteer for veterans is to make veterans’ lives richer, fuller, and more complete.

For the Adopt-A-Veteran program, I like to stress the fact that we take care of the wounded. We care for those wounded in mind, body and spirit. Those who suffer the wounds of war, old age, mental illness, alcohol and drug abuse, homelessness, depression, and loneliness.



The Adopt-A-Vet program addresses all of these wounds. We adopt at VA hospitals, state veteran homes, and local nursing homes. We adopt friends from church, and we even adopt from our

own Lodge.

We see these wounds everywhere. We see them at the VA and in nursing homes. We see it in veterans’ loneliness and physical limitations. We see it in their health diagnosis and the way they struggle to connect.

We see them, and as Elks, as Americans, as believers in God, we act.

We give them our time, the most precious commodity. We are Elks! We don’t forget our debt to those who have served, and most certainly we don’t leave our wounded behind.

Visit elks.org/vets/adoptaveteran.cfm to learn more about the Adopt-A-Vet program.

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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GRAND LODGE MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Membership growth hinges on taking extra steps

By **RICK GATHEN**
Membership and Marketing Manager

From April through August we have added more than 30,000 new Members and reinstatements. We have more than 11,000 candidates anxiously waiting to be initiated.

Keep focused on recruitment, reinstatements, and scheduling frequent initiations. Kick the Door Down and invite friends and family to join our ranks. We must put

membership at the forefront of everything we do. By being focused on membership growth, you are focused on the future of your Lodge and our Order.

All delinquent Members should be called and/or personally visited this month. Please review all delinquent Members who may be worthy of Lodge assistance and kept on the rolls.

We have many deserving Members who are suffering with health setbacks,

advanced age challenges, and severe financial hardships.

Charity is the greatest of all the virtues and Elks charity begins at home. *“Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken.”* Please review every unpaid Member with your Lodges.

Every Member you can save and every Member initiated or reinstated brings us closer to our goal of a membership increase.

 Pledge to say no to drugs
RED RIBBON WEEK
October 23-31 • elks.org/dap 

HAPPY HALLOWEEN
