



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



How to lure back your delinquent Members

It's hard to believe a year is almost over. In a few weeks we hope to see everyone in St. Louis at the Grand Lodge Convention — where we will be ready to celebrate our first Membership gain in 38 years.

While we prepare for the Convention, let us not forget to put on an impressive Flag Day ceremony on the 14th of the month. Just a couple of days later it will be Father's Day. How many of us joined because our parents and grandparents were Members? As we carry on the legacy of the Elks and a great resurgence in our Order, let us all make sure that we work just as diligently next year as we did this year. Perhaps we will have growth in the Order for many years to come.

In order to have growth, we need to address our delinquent Members much



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

MICHAEL T. LUHR

earlier in the year than most of us have done in the past. Have your membership team assemble to work on those in arrears on their dues now. Have great summer activities planned at your Lodge such as Red Ribbon Week, military stand downs, community celebrations, or an event to honor your volunteers. That just might be a way to stir up those Members who haven't paid. Get them to come to the

Lodge for a special event and collect their dues. This will make your task in March much easier!

We should also be certain that our Auditing and Accounting Committee is working so that deadlines are met. You should be looking at budget adjustments at this time, too.

Make certain that when you come to St. Louis you take advantage of all the wonderful seminars that will be put on by our committees and take home the knowledge necessary for you to keep up the momentum in your Lodge. Don't waste the opportunity for learning. Garner as much knowledge as you can and spread the wealth when you return home. You will have a better Lodge, a thankful community, and a sense of great accomplishment.

Lodge bulletins: USPS vs. e-mail

The Grand Secretary's office has seen an increase in inquiries about e-mailing the Lodge bulletin to save money. Per the following Statute and Opinions, yes, a Lodge can e-mail its bulletin to a Member. Consequently, a Lodge cannot mandate that all Members will receive the bulletin electronically if a Member requests a paper copy via regular mail:

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

Section 1.115 "Notice: Except as otherwise directed by Executive Order, any notice required to be sent or mailed to all Members of the Lodge may be included in the Lodge Bulletin or sent electronically to any Member who has given written authorization to receive notices electronically. Notice which is required to be served upon a specific Member must be served personally, by United States Mail or by United States

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DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Speakers announced for DAP seminar

During the St. Louis Convention, the National Drug Awareness Program Seminar will be held on Tuesday, July 2 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Ferrara Theatre at the America's Center Convention Complex.

This is a call to action! We want you! Please join us for an opportunity to learn how the Elks Drug Awareness Program can boost your membership and strengthen your community.

Listen to DAP directors present highlights of this year's program. Speak with Mrs. Geneva Camarena, the wife of slain DEA Agent Enrique S. Camarena. Hear from renowned DAP Spokesperson, Ray Lozano, and learn how you can bring him to your community. Meet Bob Sabouni, the drive behind some of the most viewed drug education videos on social media today.

When you attend, not only will you receive some of the best "swag" available at the Convention, but you will leave with tools and knowledge necessary to have a

strong Drug Awareness Program in your Lodge and in your community. Your children and your grandchildren deserve nothing less. As always, there will be several door prizes awarded throughout the session.



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New contest for Eleven O'Clock Toast

By DOUGLAS M. JONES
Committee Member

The Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee is honored to introduce for 2020 *"The Eleven O'Clock Toast Contest,"* the first new contest since the committee started in 1930.

It will be open to Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers who are certified as winners in their respective state's Eleven O'Clock Toast Contest.

The new contest will use the version listed in the Ritual of Local Lodges Manual (511500), the same version used during the Initiatory Ritual. Complete rules will be sent to State Associations and made available at the Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis.

If a State Association does not hold a State Eleven O'clock Toast Contest, it can still send an individual to the Grand Lodge's contest. Besides meeting requirements, the individual must be approved by the State President and the State Association Ritualist Chairperson.

The first contest will be held at the Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore next summer. The winner will receive the Callicott Award in honor of PGER Ted Callicott, a true supporter of the Ritual.

**GRAND LODGE
RITUALISTIC
COMMITTEE**

VETERANS From Page 4

dark side of isolation. Constantly feeling like we don't have someone to turn to can lead to a crisis moment. A veteran without a strong social network will find themselves alone. A suicidal crisis occurs when a veteran feels as though they are a burden to others, experiences social isolation, and has acquired the ability to inflict self-harm.

Humans are social creatures. When the veteran served, the military handed a social network to him or her. For better or worse, the buddies were inherent in military life. We may have hated some of them, and loved others, but at least they were ours. In post-military life, one of the first needs the veteran has to meet is building another social network. It needs to be as strong or stronger than the one that the veteran had in the military.

The Elks can be that network for veterans. Consider how your Lodge can plan engaging projects for veterans of all ages and experiences. Not sure how to get started? Here are a few examples.

- Marshall, TX Lodge No. 683 partners

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Scouting still helps today's youth

By MARGARET O'POLKA
Committee Member

With summer upon us, has your Lodge reached out to your local Scouting troops? If you have not, I urge you to do so. Scouts can help with many of our Lodge Activities and our ceremonies, especially Flag Day.

Did you know that the Elks have supported Scouting for over 60 years? The mentorship from Elks develops Scouts' potential and helps them become vital members of their communities. Young people today need the skills and values instilled by Scouting. What better way to prove that "*Elks Care – Elks Share*" than to charter a Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, or Girl Scout troop.

As we know, our future lies with our children; all too often, the challenges and problems they face seem insurmountable. Today, more than ever, our young people need the guidance and mentoring of quality adult role models found within our Order. By chartering a Scouting unit, Elks provide a positive alternative to the youth of their community.

Lodges benefit from the Scouting partnership by:

- Strengthening the community
- Gaining visibility in the community by having active Scouting programs linked with the Lodge
- Providing an excellent opportunity for Members to mentor youth
- Participating in the development of more responsible young adults
- Increasing Lodge membership by exposing parents to the beliefs and ideals of our Order.

Please remember that there are certificates and letters from the Grand Exalted Ruler that can be awarded at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor or a Girl Scout Advancement Ceremony. There are also Gold, Silver, and Bronze certificates for Girl Scout Advancement as well as an Arrow of Light certificate of merit for the Cub Scouts, which are fillable and printable under the Grand Lodge Activities Committee at elks.org.

The youth of today are our leaders of tomorrow. Support Scouting today!

Golf program teaches life skills

By BRIAN H. CRAWFORD
Committee Member

Our organization sponsors fun youth activities that help all participants become better individuals. One such program is Junior Golf.

Golf is becoming more and more popular with our younger generation, and it's a perfect time to start a program at your Lodge. Did you know that many of today's professional golfers participated in a Junior Golf Program? Yes, even Tiger Woods. He operates a program, the TGR Foundation, that gives back to our nation's communities. Sounds very similar to the BPOE's mission and goals.

Junior Golf has no structured rules for starting a program. It is up to the individual Lodge to decide which activities

they would like to hold, from full golf tournaments to putting competitions.

The goal is that an event will expose our junior golfers to character development exercises and teach honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship.

So put together a committee of golf enthusiasts at your Lodge who would like to get involved in junior golf. Contact your local golf courses for involvement opportunities and get with the local professionals for their assistance.

Information of the BPOE Junior Golf Program can be found on elks.org under the activities committee link. You may contact me directly at bbcrawf@mchsi.com

Junior Golf is a natural fit for getting kids outside and engaged in a healthy lifelong activity.

with a veterans' shelter to hand out backpacks of hygiene supplies to veterans in need. The Lodge invites those veterans to its monthly veterans breakfast.

- Lordsburg, NM Lodge No. 461 partners with the VA to host dinners for veterans enrolled in community reintegration and rehabilitation program, offering the Lodge as a safe space to help them readjust.

• Bay Pines, FL Lodge No. 1912 holds monthly bowling outings for veterans in residence at the local VA, giving them a chance to be social with Elks and other veterans.

• The Colorado Elks support the Winter Sports Clinic, which helps as many as 400 veterans stay active every year.

Welcome the veterans in your community into the Elks Family.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

There's no doubt they love this land

By DAVID P. CIOE

Americanism Contest Administrator

Final judging of the Americanism Essay Contest for 2018-19 has been completed. The theme was *"What Makes You Proud of America."* A huge round of applause and many thanks go out to all the students, parents, guardians, teachers, Lodges and State Associations who followed through on the process to reach the submittal and judging stages of this contest.

The submissions were excellent and certainly made the job of judging quite difficult. We enjoyed reading all of the essays and all of us in Elkdom are extremely proud of **all** of the contestants.

In all, a total of 79 submissions were received. The results are as follows:

DIVISION I — 5th & 6th Grades (40 submissions)

1st Place: Angeline Todorov, 6th grade, Worcester Preparatory School, Berlin, MD, sponsored by Ocean City, MD Lodge No. 2645.

2nd Place: Isabella Galusha, 6th grade, Abigail Adams Middle School, Weymouth, MA, sponsored by Weymouth/Braintree, MA Lodge No. 2232.

3rd Place: Emma Slattery, 5th grade, St. Joseph's Catholic School, Boise, ID, sponsored by Boise, ID Lodge No. 310.

DIVISION II — 7th & 8th Grades (39 submissions)

1st Place: Emily Scott, 8th grade, Royalton-Hartland Middle School, Middleport, NY, sponsored by Lockport, NY Lodge No. 41.

2nd Place: Isabelle Cummings, 7th grade, Maria Weston Chapman Middle School, Weymouth, MA, sponsored by Weymouth/Braintree, MA Lodge No. 2232.

3rd Place: Carlie Deboer, 7th grade, Hot Springs School District, Hot Springs, SD, sponsored by Hot Springs, SD Lodge No. 1751.

Congratulations to the winners! Your plaques will be displayed at the Fraternal Committee Booth during the Elks National Convention in St. Louis, MO from June 30 to July 3. State Association Presidents, or their designees, may pick up the plaques for presentation after the Convention.

The Americanism Essay Contest Theme for 2019 – 2020 is *"What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?"*

Virtual manual saves time, paper

By RICK GATHEN

Membership and Marketing Manager

The Bricks & Clicks transformation continues with the introduction of the new Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing "Virtual" Manual. It is accessible 24/7 to all Members registered on elks.org.

No more book-form or PDF manual. No more limited access just to Lodge Secretaries. It offers continuous and collective learning opportunities which will help deepen our Members' understanding of their roles and responsibilities. It features dynamic pages with easy to find and easy to use applications. The intuitive navigation options are user-friendly and visually attractive.

The Bricks & Clicks applications are ready to help transform your Lodge. The content will enhance your expertise in Membership & Marketing. Use it to build your Lodge's brand to attract new Members, retain current Members, and motivate your membership to be more active and engaged.

This is all part of the *"Grow by Change"* strategy we have implemented nationwide.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Self-inflicted problems are major threat to Elkdom

By DANIEL J. CAPELLA

Committee Member

Our Government Relations Committee is ever ready to assist our Grand Lodge, State Associations and Local Lodges in protecting and preserving our right to exist as a private organization. Since its conception, this committee has always been vigilant when proposed governmental rules and regulations or perhaps situations have threatened our existence.

Sadly, it must be acknowledged that threats to our organization do not always originate from the outside. It can be argued that in Elkdom, some validity is found in the Pogo comic strip quotation, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Why? It's because some of the difficulties that we encounter, including those that seriously jeopardize our well-being, are self-inflicted.

Consider that we allow our Members or guests to overdrink within our Lodge or on our property because we do not want to limit business or tell a Member

or guest that they have had too much. When this happens, we become our own enemy, the result of which can lead to devastating consequences, both to our reputation and financial situation.

Consider when we allow our social media accounts to publish photos of drinking and other negative behaviors that have happened at Lodge functions, or when we publish negative remarks by Member, should disagreements take place between individual Members or cliques. In both cases, we create a larger problem and embarrass ourselves.

Consider when thoughts and concerns of the Lodge membership are overlooked or minimized because those in charge do not want to stray from the past, or because they do not want to be bothered with new ideas that could be advantageous. New thoughts are not automatically bad; they should be given consideration. Failure to do so limits our potential and can lead to apathy among Members who then become disconnected.

Consider our lack of attention to the financial management of our

Lodges. Perhaps a better term would be mismanagement. We have procedures and protections in place to prevent fiscal problems from occurring, yet monetary dilemmas arise because of a lack of financial knowledge, a refusal to live within a budget, or even a refusal to exert the necessary time and effort to follow set routines. Overlooking our fiscal regulations leads to embarrassment, investigations by Grand Lodge and/or the government, and, at times, closure.

Again, this is not interference from non-Elks. It is our own fault for not taking our financial responsibilities seriously or for not seeking assistance along the way.

Just as the Government Relations Committee needs to be watchful and ready to protect our status as a fraternal organization, each and every Elk must be aware of the harmful situations within their own Lodge. Any negative habits or practices must be taken seriously and corrected because struggling against those on the outside is difficult enough; allowing deterioration to spread from within is a death sentence.

Elks can ensure that veterans never endure alone

By **JOHN D. AMEN, PGER**
NVS Commission Vice-Chairman

Life is not a solo act. It's a huge collaboration, and we all need to assemble around us the people who care about us and support us in times of strife – Tim Gunn

We all need other people in our lives in order to feel complete. When it comes to health and wellness of our veterans, the presence or absence of a social network can make a huge difference in life satisfaction.

Isolation hurts. In the deepest, darkest moments that we experience, we are almost always alone. And I don't mean physically alone, because many veterans feel like they're alone in a crowd. Loneliness is

much more a state of mind than it is a physical state.

Research says that a strong social network—including family, friends, trusted colleagues—and positive social interactions lead to greater life satisfaction.

A veteran who has a strong social network may never get to the point of psychological crisis. But if they do, the network will be there to support them. Relationships matter. Without them, we are in danger. Without some type of social network, post-military life will be much more challenging than it needs to be.

A solid social network will help prevent

a crisis. A “nervous breakdown,” or suicidal inclination, can be averted. Rage, anger, and blowing up, is avoidable with a strong support team.

The presence of a strong social network provides the veteran with more resources to avoid a crisis. Having someone that is always available to talk to, who supports in a non-judgmental way, can reduce the stress that builds and sends one to a breaking point. Just knowing that there's someone there can significantly reduce one's burden.

Then there's the opposite side, the
Please see VETERANS, Page 2



BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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Grant provides brighter days

As the Community Investments Program continues to expand, we remain committed to our primary mission of investing in communities across the country through grants that help Elks meet local needs.

Starting in 2019-20, we are debuting our newest grant offering, the Spotlight Grant! Every Lodge will have the opportunity to use this \$2,000 grant to shine a light on two important issues facing nearly every American community—family literacy and homelessness among



Elks National Foundation, Inc.

our nation's veterans.

All Lodges are encouraged to apply. The Lodge does not need to meet the GER's per-member-giving goal to receive this grant. The CIP hopes to approve more than 1,000 Spotlight Grant applications by the December 31 deadline. Help us reach our goal by applying!

Grant projects must be complete by March 31, 2020. To learn more about the Spotlight Grant visit:

enf.elks.org/SpotlightGrant

BULLETINS From Page 1

Mail, Certified, Return Receipt Requested as specifically provided.”

Section 16.150 Opinion 03: “If a Lodge publishes any magazine, newspaper, bulletin or other periodical devoted to the interests of the Order, every Member of that Lodge is entitled to receive a copy of each such publication, whether by electronic delivery or by regular mail.”

Section 16.150 Opinion 04: “The Lodge Bulletin may be sent electronically to any Member without written authorization from that Member.”

