



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care – Elks Share*



## Elks stay strong, connected during pandemic

The past few months have been a chaotic time in the life of our Order and our nation. There has been an unprecedented amount of suffering, deprivation, hardship, fear, and for some even the loss of life as we collectively deal with the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But through this and other trials we as a nation have faced over the years, we as Elks and as Americans have always stood strong. It is times like these that we should be all the more mindful of the cardinal principles on which our Order was founded. Our Lodges have been closed and activities have been suspended, but we would do well to focus our thoughts and look for ways to help others get through these times.

While the typical focus of newsletter messages is to address business and operational matters within our Lodges, it bears repeating that under



**Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler**

**ROBERT L. DUITSMAN**

our cardinal principle of Brotherly Love we should be looking after our fellow Members and those in our communities who are disadvantaged. Some likely don't have family or support and may need our help. Consider setting up a phone tree so that your officers can make personal contact with Members, especially those who are alone or may need some help with even routine tasks like shopping. A little attention may go a very long way.

It has been fully recognized that we can't

do the work of our Lodges in traditional ways, and flexibility and creativity have been encouraged to take care of Lodge matters the best we can. Hopefully you are finding ways to keep moving until things can return to normal, or at least improve.

This is a time for Elks to do what Elks have always done better than anyone else: Help others, as best we can.

On a more mundane note, remember to submit your Lodge Audit Report by the end of June. It is important information, and timely submission will avoid a \$100.00 fine. If there are problems, talk with your Sponsor to see how they can be addressed. Also, for Members who are eligible for GER membership pins, you need to get your request in by June 15.

May God bless you all as together we move forward to better times.

## 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 the Lodge money. Per the following Statute and Opinions, yes, a Lodge can e-mail the bulletin to a Member. Consequently, a Lodge cannot mandate 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

**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

## Lodges give food, masks, thanks

ENF's Facebook page is sharing posts demonstrating that #ElksAlwaysCare, especially during this uncertain time. Here are some recent highlights.

- Binghamton, NY Lodge No. 70 used their Beacon Grant to assist Knight Pack, which sends food bags home with students for weekends and school breaks. The Lodge planned to dedicate some of the grant funds to an Easter dinner, but "things changed greatly in a blink," said Crystal Stone, the manager of the grant project. "The students went home for a four-day weekend, which has turned into at least a month without school."

The Lodge purchased and packed bags, donated extra bags they had stored, and used funds earmarked for the holiday meal to purchase gift cards to area grocery stores to be distributed to families for immediate relief.

- Tri-County, KY Lodge No. 2826 used a Gratitude Grant to meet two separate needs in their community during the pandemic. The Tri-County Elks used the grant to

support local restaurants when meals are limited to carry-out and business is slower. They also helped White Flag Ministry, a program providing meals and shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness. The Tri-County Lodge purchased food every Wednesday from participating restaurants and delivered them directly to White Flag Ministry to be distributed to patrons-in-need.

- Paula Sochia-Dunham, a Member of Scotia-Glenville, NY Lodge No. 2759, took time to sew masks while sheltering in place. The masks were shipped to vulnerable populations like the elderly and veterans.

- On April 3, Somerville, NJ Lodge 1068 organized and led the Heroes Procession of Thanks to show appreciation to healthcare workers on the front lines of the pandemic. More than 250 cars and police vehicles drove past the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital to express their thanks!

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# Moving forward in Youth Programs (eventually)

By **BRIAN H. CRAWFORD**  
Committee Member

Families across our country have endured many restrictions in these unprecedented times. Normality will return, and soon, so will the availability of the many youth programs of our organization. That will help restore our charitable foundation's fun and entertaining activities.

If you have an active Antlers program, have all members and advisors reorganize and make future plans for when things get back to normal. Remember, the Antlers program uses the same mission and goals as BPOE to address charitable needs in the community. Antlers projects should be fun character-building events that promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members.

If your Lodge does not have an Antlers program and would be interested in starting one, information on the program can be found on the Elks' website's Activities Committee page. This program teaches our young people leadership and decision-making skills in a fun environment with other local youths in the community.

Summer is here and everyone will want to return to outdoor activities. Our youth will be back on the basketball courts honing their free throw skills and on the soccer fields enjoying time with other kids.

Another outdoor Youth Activities Program offered by the Elks is the Junior Golf Program. Golf is a sport that everyone can play, regardless of size and age. There are numerous ways to create a golf program: A Lodge can sponsor

a Golf Day for Junior Golfers at their local course; sponsor a Drive, Chip & Putt competition; or hold a Junior Golf tournament competition sponsored by your Lodge.

Utilize your local golf course's PGA professional to assist you on planning an event. These activities will produce a character-building opportunity in a fun and supportive environment. Information on Junior Golf can also be found in the Grand Lodge website's Activities Committee page. If more information or help is needed, please contact me at [bbcrawf@mchsi.com](mailto:bbcrawf@mchsi.com).

While we think about our future, we will remember that the strength of our family and friends ease the pain we all experience. Use that strength when you continue to Care & Share as all Elks do.

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

# Addiction's surprising new face

By **JACKI SCARPINO**  
Special Contributor

A recent tragedy in the news caught my attention. A couple was found dead in their home when they failed to pick up their children after a weekend with grandparents. This couple held good jobs, were raising children, were active with youth in the community, and were very well liked. After several months of investigation it was determined that their cause of death was acute fentanyl intoxication. These results were a shock to those who knew them. The big question being asked was, "How did this happen?" Unfortunately, we will probably never know.

The new face of heroin use in the U.S. is a white, 20-something man or woman from the suburbs. Over the last few decades, heroin use has shifted dramatically from mostly male teenagers in inner cities to more affluent, young adults in suburban and rural areas. Forget the stereotype of the heroin addict: The reality is that today's heroin user is your suburban neighbor, a close friend, or even your child.

What's driving people to use heroin also has changed. Many users start abusing prescription painkillers but turn to heroin because it's cheaper and easier to get. A study found that 75% of today's heroin users were first addicted to prescription opioids.

Opioids make pain signals to the brain less intense. While they are powerful tools for reducing pain when you use them properly, they are often highly addictive if

you abuse them. It's not uncommon to see addictive behaviors begin after a doctor prescribes pain relievers for legitimate reasons. Some people like the way the medications make them feel mentally, and they get hooked. They subsequently turn to heroin for a better, cheaper, and more accessible high.

Despite federal and state attempts to curb the prescription of painkillers, the country has continued to see an increase in opioid-related deaths—thanks in large part to synthetic fentanyl. Synthetic fentanyl is 50-100 times more potent than heroin, meaning it only takes a very small amount to feel its effects. Unlike the version that is prescribed by doctors, synthetic fentanyl is illegally produced in labs and added to other drugs like heroin and cocaine. Today, synthetic opioids like fentanyl are now the most common drugs involved in overdoses in the U.S. Given the dangers associated with synthetic fentanyl, you may be wondering why your loved one would use the drug at all.

In many cases, people don't always know they're even taking fentanyl. After the crackdown of "pill mills" that offered a source for people to purchase painkillers and with doctors writing less prescriptions, many turned to heroin. Heroin is cheaper, easier to get, and much more powerful, especially when laced with synthetic fentanyl. Taking too much without realizing fentanyl is mixed in has led to the increased death rates we're seeing today.

## VETERANS From Page 4

- Idaho Springs, CO Lodge No. 607 joined their County Veterans Coalition years ago to better serve veterans. They are now able to use those community connections to provide essential support for veterans in the form of a county-wide food drive and food distribution program, ensuring that veterans and their families won't go hungry.

Research and participate in veterans service meetings in your city, county or community to learn about what services are already provided. Consider how the Elks can support successful programs run by other groups, and be sure to invite other groups to support your Lodge's programs. By working together, you can do more to serve veterans like Idaho Springs Lodge.

## 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, unless otherwise requested by the Member."



## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## Upsides to updating city and county officials

By ANTHONY MARKARIAN  
Committee Member

There should be no argument about the importance of updating your community leaders to the noble works we perform.

It's so easy. Start by looking at your 2019-2020 Charity Book summary that totals all categories and reviewing your monthly newsletters for articles that might have been overlooked in reporting. You may want to add them in your report. This will help you form a substantial fiscal year-end rundown for your city, county, and state officials.

Take this as an opportunity to boast about your Lodge membership and management team. Watch how quickly you gain respect while fostering the strength of your Lodge in your community. I'm guessing less than 5% of all Lodges in the Order do this!

Now get ready to send it to the elected officials, city council, school board, county supervisors, and community leaders. You can go to <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials> to get the names of officials in your area.

Your report will establish your important role in the community. Some might add how much their Lodge pays in sales, property, and employment taxes. Include fundraisers you've held for others in the area and your Lodge's ability to expand Membership. Share your goals with them and tell them about potential grants that are available for your city or county projects that the Elks would like to be involved in. Let them know you are counting on their help to assist you in recognizing potential hurdles that might affect the Lodge and the way we do business. They can assist us in finding

out about potential tax increases and your ability to hold fundraisers and raffles.

Once you have formed your report, pay attention to how you deliver it. Individually address it and ensure proper salutations. Make it easy to read and always follow up. Let them know you will be holding an event in the future to honor respected officials and first responders, and that you would love for them to attend. Remind them that we take no sides politically and that it will not be a forum for politics; However, their presence will speak miles to the people in attendance.

Most will recognize the Elks have a prominent place among your community and will fight for our rights to survive. When sending these letters, update your Government Relations Chairmen to keep them in the loop. Let them know about your responses and success!

## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

## Contest winners explain free speech

By DAVID P. CIOE  
Committee Member, Americanism Essay  
Contest Administrator

Final judging of the Americanism Essay Contest for 2019-20 has been completed. The theme was **"What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?"** A huge round of applause and many thanks to all the students, parents, guardians, teachers, Lodges, and State Associations who followed through on the process to reach the submission and judging stages of this contest. Great job everyone!

The submissions were excellent and once again made the job of judging quite difficult. To complicate things, due to the unprecedented pandemic, our challenge was to complete the judging while keeping our team of judges safe. Through the benefits of technology, our team reviewed the entries and judged virtually, meaning all entries were scanned and voted on by our judges via the internet.

In all, 84 submissions were received, compared to 79 last year. The results are as follows:

#### DIVISION I Fifth and Sixth Grades (43 submissions)

**1st Place: Elena Sorkin**, sixth grade, Dennison Elementary School, Lakewood, CO, sponsored by Lakewood, CO Lodge No. 1777.

**2nd Place: Alana Hua**, sixth grade, Christian Heritage Academy, Del City,

OK, sponsored by Midwest City, OK Lodge No. 1890.

**3rd Place: Ava Tocci**, sixth grade, Holy Angels Regional School, Patchogue, NY, sponsored by Patchogue, NY Lodge No. 1323.

#### DIVISION II Seventh and Eighth Grades (41 submissions)

**1st Place: Katelyn Halverson**, eighth grade, Holy Angels Regional School, Patchogue, NY, sponsored by Patchogue, NY Lodge No. 1323.

**2nd Place: Lucy Crosby**, eighth grade, home-schooled, Burlington, WA, sponsored by Mount Vernon, WA Lodge No. 1604.

**3rd Place: Naomi Schroeder**, seventh grade, St. John Lutheran School, Kendallville, IN, sponsored by Kendallville, IN Lodge No. 1194.

Congratulations to all the winners! Your plaques will be on display at the Fraternal Committee Booth during the Elks National Convention in Baltimore, MD from July 3-7, 2020. State Association Presidents or their designees may pick up the plaques after the convention.

The Americanism Essay Contest theme for 2020-2021 is **"How Can Patriotism Be Demonstrated?"**

We enjoyed reading all of the essays on what made students proud of America. All of Elkdom is extremely proud of all of the contestants!

## Spare Jordan

By MIKE CHAMERNIK  
Elks Publications Coordinator

Michael Jordan is an Elk, not a Bull.

A Member of Calhoun, GA Lodge No. 1883 shares a name with the most famous athlete ever.

The Elks' Jordan is well aware of that. He's heard jokes and comments from strangers and acquaintances for years.

"You have to have a ready response, I'll tell you that," Member Jordan said. "Everybody thinks they are the first one to say 'You don't look like Michael Jordan.' I always say it's the lights, puts 100 pounds on you and about 15 years."

Basketball's Jordan and the 1990s Chicago Bulls will never fade away. ESPN released *The Last Dance* documentary about Jordan in April, satiating a sports-starved world during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Member Jordan has embraced his name. He goes by Michael and not Mike, and he has connected with fellow Michael Jordans in real life and on social media. It's a common name: There are nine active Elks with the name Michael Jordan.

"I've always approached it as a positive thing," Member Jordan said. "You would not believe the number of friends and acquaintances I've made by telling someone my last name is 'No Kidding.' It was a much heavier subject throughout his active career, although overall I have had a good time with it."

Jordan, an Elk for nearly five years, knows someone who has a very similar experience. He named his son Michael as well, following a family naming tradition.

# Elks serve veterans during coronavirus crisis

By **MARY K. MORGAN**  
Commission Director

For residents of State Veterans Homes, patients in VA facilities, and those experiencing homelessness, the enforcement of social distancing has made tough situations even tougher.

But even when they physically can't be there, Elks are finding ways to support veterans. Here are a few examples of Elks upholding our pledge, from at least six feet away.

• When veterans learned they had to leave the Fort Thomas VA to make space for COVID-19 patients, they weren't sure where to go. Florence, KY Lodge No. 314 heard about the issue and stepped in.

The Lodge shared the news with the nearby American Legion Post and within hours they had combined forces to raise thousands of dollars to help. Once the veterans were settled in a new place, Elks rallied local restaurants to provide meals and used the funds raised to cover costs and buy supplies for the coming weeks.

Florence Lodge was able to respond so quickly thanks in part to strong local relationships. If your Lodge is wondering how to help veterans now or how to increase your Lodge's support of veterans in general, focus on strengthening and expanding your Lodge's relationships.

• Anitra Butler, Representative at the St. Albans Veterans Home in New York, often visits the facility to spend time with veterans. Now that visits are on hold, Butler is keeping up her visits with veterans, but doing it through Zoom video meetings!

Stay in touch with local facilities like veterans shelters, VA Medical Centers and State Veterans Homes. By calling St. Albans Veterans Home, Butler and the staff were able to work together to find a creative way to keep veterans' spirits up.



Please see **VETERANS**, Page 2

**BRYAN R. KLATT**, Grand Secretary  
**Benevolent and Protective  
ORDER OF ELKS**  
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## GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING

# Virtual guides help grow membership remotely

By **MIKE CHAMERNIK**  
Elks Publications Coordinator

Stuck at home? You can still recruit new Members and spread the word of Elkdom.

Elks.org has two comprehensive virtual resources, the Membership Guide and the Marketing Guide. They are full of templates, videos, scripts, manuals, tip sheets, and other tools that help Members grow the Order.

The Membership Guide contains an annotated road map that details the five stages of membership: invitation to join, orientation and initiation, volunteering, leadership, and revitalization and retention.

The "Invitation" section contains files including an online "invitation to join"

form, a script for contacting Virtual Lodge Members, and Rick Gathen's 50 Recruitment Ideas. Many ideas can be done remotely. Members can call or e-mail prospective Members and ask them to join, share the "Why We Join" video, write to local news outlets to share Lodges' charitable news, and establish or improve a Lodge's website and social media pages.

Informative videos including "Welcome to the Elks" and the "Elks Orientation Video" can be found under the "Initiation & Orientation" section. The "Revitalization & Retention" section contains phone scripts and letter templates that can be used to contact delinquent Members, persuading them to re-join and get engaged.

In addition to traditional "Brick

Marketing" strategies, the Marketing Guide has a section for "Click Marketing" that is done online. It contains several videos about the history and message of the Elks and the Elks National Foundation. The section also has resources for producing e-greetings and making promotional videos, along with links to Elks websites and social media pages.

The guides can be found at the top of the "Manuals" page in the Grand Lodge section of Elks.org. Or, access them directly at:

Membership: <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/membership-guide/>

Marketing: <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/marketing-guide/>