



GRAND LODGE Convention News

TUESDAY ✨ JULY 4, 2023

GER-Elect Shook proclaims ‘We Are THE Elks!’

By Ruth Kellar

Convention News Reporter

The leadership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks got down to business with the first business session of the 158th Grand Lodge Session and elected Randy P. Shook, of Lawrenceburg, TN Lodge No. 2206, as Grand Exalted Ruler for the 2023–2024 year.

Randy P. Shook has been an Elk since 1993, when he joined the Lawrenceburg Lodge. He was an active and dedicated Member, first serving as Esteemed Loyal Knight in 1995–1996 before being elected Exalted Ruler in 1996–1997 and again in 1998–1999. He continued to serve the Lawrenceburg Lodge in numerous capacities, including three years as Trustee and eight years as Treasurer, and he was named Lawrenceburg Elk of the year in 2008–2009.

Among other roles at the state level, Shook was elected Vice President of the Tennessee Elk’s Association in 1999–2000 and State President in 2005–2006. Additionally, he was named the Tennessee Elk of the Year in 2007–2008.

At the Grand Lodge level, Shook served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2001–2002. He further served as a Government Relations Committee member from 2007 to 2009, Grand Treasurer in 2009–2010, a Public Relations and Marketing Committee member from 2014 to 2018, and Grand Trustee from 2018 to 2022, finally serving his last year as Chairman.

The announcement of the election was followed by an exuberant celebration as supporters from Shook’s Area 3 streamed into the hall. Once the celebration subsided, the newly elected Grand Exalted Ruler spoke about his vision for the Order, which is encompassed in his theme “We are THE Elks!” Urging the assembled Elks to help the Order move



GER-Elect Randy P. Shook and First Lady Wanda keep tradition with a celebratory smooch after the Nominations and Election of Grand Lodge Officers. Photo: Coppersmith Photography.

forward, he repeatedly prompted them to finish the phrase, “We are...” and was met with resounding responses of “THE Elks!” He asked the assembled delegates to channel that enthusiasm into a resolution to become known in every community across the country.

Prior to the election of the Grand Exalted Ruler, a number of reports were heard, and other officers were elected and appointed. The business of the session began with the report of Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley. With the approval of the assembled delegates, he appointed John H. Atwood of Houston, TX Lodge No. 151 as a Justice of the Grand Forum.

The Grand Exalted Ruler’s report was followed by the report of Chairman of the Elks National Convention Commission PGER Arthur H. Frost III, of Oak Ridge, TN Lodge No. 1684. Next up were the reports of the National Memorial and Publications Commission and of the Veterans Memorial Restoration Trust. PGER Ronald L. Hicks announced the completed restoration and reopening of the Memorial Building in Chicago and reminded the assembled Elks that the 2026 Grand Lodge Session would be held in Chicago, Illinois, to celebrate

the Memorial’s 100th Anniversary.

This was succeeded by the report of Chairman of the Board of Grand Trustees Allen H. Lenort of Longmont, CO Lodge No. 1055, who announced that a five dollar per Member increase in the annual insurance assessment will be required this year due to anticipated premiums and claims. He also noted the recent reacquisition and ongoing renovation of the Elks National Cemetery and presented GER Hidley with the first US flag to be flown over the cemetery since this reacquisition.

This was followed by the preliminary report of the Committee on Judiciary, during which committee members reviewed the 18 proposed amendments to the laws and constitution of the Order that will be considered during Tuesday’s Grand Lodge session.

Next, Chairman of the Ritualistic Committee Michael W. Iddings of Dayton, OH Lodge No. 58 took the floor, announcing the All-American teams, the top four teams in the Ritualistic Contest, and the four finalists for each of the Flag Charge and Eleven O’Clock

Please see **SHOOK** Page 4

~ ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION ~

More funding available for Welcome Home Kit

By Mary K. Morgan

Director, Elks National Veterans Service Commission

The Welcome Home Kit program grows in popularity every year, and this year we're providing Lodges with even more funding to help welcome veterans into the safe, stable homes they deserve.

Lodges can now apply for up to \$600 in reimbursement for kits that include a bed. Lodges will continue to receive up to \$300 in reimbursement for standard kits that do not include a bed.

Recently, we checked in with Linda Califf of Gainesville, FL Lodge No. 990 to hear about how she and her Lodge got started with the program a few months ago.

As Lodge Secretary, Califf is constantly reviewing elks.org for new programs, which is how she came across several articles about other lodges using the Welcome Home Kit program.

"I was so excited to find this and

couldn't wait to get it started," she said. Califf explained the need for funds to the grant committee and they were on board. She was authorized to use \$1,400 from her state's matching funds to get the Welcome Home Kit Program up and running.

With those funds and the help of enthusiastic Members, including one who works in a furniture store, who were ready to donate items, the Lodge had more than enough to get their first kit out.

Since that first kit, Gainesville Lodge has delivered kits to 33 veterans.

"Our community has a very large population of homeless individuals, a lot of whom are veterans," Califf said. "Most of the homeless veterans who complete the re-entry program through the HUD-VASH/Honor Center need everything to establish their homes. Many move in with simply the clothes they own." Unfortunately, this need is something we see far and

wide throughout the nation.

Since most veterans don't have a means of transportation, the Lodge hand delivers each package, which allows them to have a face-to-face meeting with the veteran. "This gives us the opportunity to get to know them more personally and learn the stories about their service to our country," Califf said. Each trip is different, and some are more emotional than others, but all are grateful for what Elks do for the veteran community.

Califf ends with a challenge to other Lodges. "Why aren't you doing it?" she said. "It only takes a little to start it up, and it doesn't cost a penny as you are reimbursed that money by ENVSC. You can roll the funds over and over again to help even more veterans in need."

For more information on how your Lodge can follow Gainesville's lead, visit elks.org/vets or visit the Elks National Veterans Service booth while you're here!

Young ER offers fresh perspective

By Mike Chamernik

Convention News Reporter

As one of the youngest Exalted Rulers in the Order, Lysie Winstead, 26, brings new energy to her Lodge.

To draw younger Members, Milwaukie-Portland, OR Lodge No. 142 has hosted fun family events such as an Independence Day picnic, a family art night, a Cinco de Mayo party with a piñata, and a Bingo night on May the Fourth, where kids and parents dressed as their favorite Star Wars characters.



Lysie Winstead

Winstead's efforts have bumped down the average Member age of her Lodge—from 87 to into the 50s—and have boosted membership. The Lodge had a gain of 205 in 2022-23, and it recently installed 79 Members.

"We're getting younger," Winstead said. "People like myself, and in their mid-30s to late 40s, have been joining.

A lot more families, which is awesome."

To do all this, Winstead spends more than 30 hours a week performing ER duties - planning events, connecting with nearby Lodges, writing email blasts, and running the Lodge Facebook page and the My Elks app. That's on top of working a normal full-time job.

"Being involved in doing all that," Winstead said, "it's been a lot to juggle."

And she plans to juggle even more. In a few months, Milwaukie-Portland and other Lodges in her district will make a float for the Veterans Day Parade in Portland. It will be the first time the Lodges constructed a float for the event.

"We'll get all the veterans committees together, walk our flag in the Veterans Parade this year," she said. "I'm really excited about that one."



PDDGER FAMILY

A father, mother, and two daughters from Kaukauna, WI Lodge No. 962 have all served as District Deputies.

Pictured from left are PSP Jerry Brien (father), Nicole Bourassa (daughter), Kathy Brien (mother), and Nathalie Kramer (daughter).

"We felt the need to be leaders," Gerald Brien said. "Just to give back to the Elks and to serve in a greater capacity."

How Many in Attendance?

The attendance report for the Grand Lodge Session through Monday has been announced and is as follows:

Grand Exalted Ruler	1
Past Grand Exalted Rulers	20
Grand Lodge Officers	8
Grand Trustees	8
Grand Forum	6
Grand Lodge Committeemen	77
District Deputies-Designate	228
Special Deputies	27
Representatives to Grand Lodge & Alternates	1,436
State Presidents	44
State Secretaries	32
Grand Lodge Members	1,401
Non-Voting Members	1,587
Guests	867
Vendors	34

Combined Totals: 5,776

2ND DAY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

08:00	Call to Order	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
	— Invocation	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Pledge of Allegiance	All
	G/L Resolutions Committee	Bryan M. Lindsay, Chairman
	Registration (<i>final report</i>)	Phil Claiborne, Chairman
	Board of Grand Trustees (<i>final report</i>)	Allen H. Lenort, Chairman
	Grand Forum / Pardon Commission	Francis X. Olivieri, Chief Justice
	Legislative Session (<i>voting</i>)	Robert J. Van Campen, Judiciary Chairman
	Disaster Relief Fund	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Government Relations Committee Report	Anthony Markarian, Chairman
	Auditing & Accounting Committee Report	William J. Chinn, Jr., Chairman
09:32	(estimated) Non-Members Admitted	
	Announcements	John T. Jennings, Grand Esquire
	GER-Elect Program Remarks	Randy P. Shook, GER-Elect
	Activities Committee Report	Michael T. Ohren, Chairman
	Fraternal Committee Report	William J. Lindsey, Chairman
	Ritualistic Committee Report	Michael W. Iddings, Chairman
	Chicago Headquarters Report	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Legislative Results	Robert J. Van Campen, Judiciary Chairman
	Announcements	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Benediction	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
10:50	Grand Lodge Session Recessed	Bruce A. Hidley, GER
11:00	GER Elect Card signing	Randy & Wanda Shook, GER-Elect



Following dad's footsteps

During the Opening Ceremony, West Virginia State President Jeffrey D. Cionni represented his state in the Parade of Flags — 38 years after his father did the same. Joseph Cionni, Sr. served as West Virginia State President in 1985-86.

Hailing from Wellsburg, WV Lodge No. 1553, the Cionni family also includes Jeffrey's brother's Bruce, a current District Deputy. Five members of the family have served as DD.

Jeffrey Cionni said carrying the flag was a great honor. "My dad passed in 2013," he said. "He'd certainly be proud. It was his life, and now it's mine and my brother's."

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SHOOK from Page 1

Toast contests.

The day's reports having concluded, the assembled Elks turned to the election of their leadership for the following year. In addition to GER-elect Shook, the slate of officers that were nominated and unanimously elected included Grand Esteemed Leading Knight Edwin C. Geishert, Jr. of Coldwater, MI No. 1023; Grand Esteemed Loyal Knight Roy R. Newman of Marysville, CA No. 783; Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight Donald E. Chesnel of Rochester, NH No. 1393; Grand Secretary Bryan R. Klatt of DeKalb, IL Lodge No. 765; Grand Inner Guard William H. Buttrill, Jr. of Seaford, DE No. 2458; and Grand Trustees John S. Gross of De Soto, MO No. 689 and Michael T. Ohren of Omaha, NE No. 39.

The appointed Officers for 2023-2024 are Grand Tiler Bruce A. Hayden of Valdosta, GA No. 728; Grand Esquire Steven Weatherly of Fort Worth, TX No. 124; and Grand Chaplain, Father Christopher J. Ford of Naugatuck, CT No. 967. ★

CONVENTION PHOTOS ONLINE



For photographs from the Minneapolis convention, go to: <https://coppersmithphotography.passgallery.com/-ELKS2023>

~ ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION ~

Scholars, Hoop Shoot participants return as advisors

By Abbey Knupp

ENF Communications Manager

Elks know their communities best, just like Hoop Shoot participants and scholars know ENF program recipients the best. That's why the ENF created the Scholar Advisory Board and the Hoop Shoot Alumni Board, aka the BackBoard.

The Scholar Advisory Board is made up of current Elks scholars and alumni who advise the ENF on its scholar relation efforts. Katrina Nakamura, the current president of the SAB and a 2019 Most Valuable Student scholar, has attended several Elks Scholar Service Trips and served as a scholar leader at the 2023 MVS Leadership Weekend.

"Every chance I've had to engage with my Elks family has left me feeling enriched and excited for



Comprised of past Hoop Shoot competitors, the newly formed BackBoard serves as rebounders and role models at the Hoop Shoot National Finals.

the next opportunity," said Nakamura, who is in town this weekend for the SAB Day of Service with Minneapolis Lodge No. 44 and Hopkins Lodge No. 2221.

On Friday, Elks Scholar Fellow Libby Willkomm and CIPster Meaghan Morris led the SAB in packing rescue bags for people in the Minneapolis area. They had

dinner later that night with the members of the BackBoard, who serve as rebounders and role models at the Hoop Shoot National Finals.

An all-star lineup of past participants, the BackBoard knows what it's like to stand at the line and compete for a national title. Chloe Furnstahl, Faith Sjoberg, and Gabby Nunez-Gaskins are here this weekend to interact with Elks at the Hoop Shoot Booth and talk about what the Hoop Shoot meant to them.

Both Furnstahl and Sjoberg now play basketball in college, and Nunez-Gaskins has used the grit she learned in the Hoop Shoot in her studies.

If you see these members of the Elks family around the Exhibit Hall, be sure to say hello!

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Resolution Honoring Retiring Grand Forum Chief Justice

Proposed by Grand Forum Senior Justice Todd E. Deal

Whereas, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** is completing his term as Chief Justice of the Grand Forum; and

Whereas, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism, and was awarded a Juris Doctor Degree from New England School of Law; and

Whereas, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** served as President of his local bar association, and as the City Attorney for Somerville, Massachusetts, for six years; is a charter member of the Massachusetts Volunteer Lawyers Project; was sworn in before the United States Supreme Court in 1969; and has been engaged in the general practice of Law as a sole practitioner for 59 years; and

Whereas, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** has served his community in numerous positions, among them as the founder of the local Head Start Pre-school Program, the local Special Olympics for disabled children and as chairman for 25 years of the Somerville Elks Conquer Cancer 4K Road Race; and

Whereas, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** was initiated into Somerville, Massachusetts, Lodge No. 917 on October 26, 1962, served in all the elk chairs in the Lodge, including Exalted Ruler in 1975-1976; served as the Lodge's Secretary for 27 years; and served for 25 years as the Local Lodge Chairman of its Annual Conquer Cancer Road Race; and

Whereas, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** has served the Massachusetts Elks Association as the Chairman of its Laws & Judiciary Committee for 30 years, and was proclaimed Massachusetts Elk of the Year in 2017; and

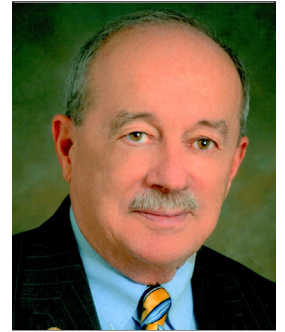
Whereas, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** has rendered dedicated service to the Grand Lodge, serving as a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary from 2011 to 2015; and

Whereas, in July of 2018, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** was elected by the membership to serve a five year term on the Grand Forum; and

Whereas, in July of 2022, the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** was appointed to serve as Chief Justice of the Grand Forum for the following year.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this 158th Session of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, in convention duly convened this 2nd day of July, 2023, does hereby congratulate and commend the **Honorable Francis X. Olivieri** for his exemplary dedication; and directs that he be presented with an appropriate honorarium in keeping with one retiring after many years of worthy service to the Order, along with an engrossed copy of this Resolution, and the admiration, respect, and best wishes of his fellow Justices, colleagues, and the entire membership of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

Passed at the 158th Session of the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America this 4th day of July, 2023, at Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Francis X. Olivieri

Resolution Honoring Retiring BOGT Chairman

Proposed by BOGT Approving Member Richard J. Tabachuk

Whereas, **Allen H. Lenort** was initiated into the Longmont Lodge in June 2002 and became an active and dedicated member, was elected Esteemed Lecturing Knight in 2003, progressed through the chairs and served as Exalted Ruler in 2006-2007 during Longmont Lodge’s 100th anniversary year. He served as Esquire in 2007-2008 and was a member of the Colorado State Ritual Team which competed at the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Contest in Anaheim and finished in the Final Four. He was the All-American Esquire for the Western Division. He has served a 5-year term as Lodge Trustee, the two last years as Head Trustee and is currently the Lodge Secretary. Is a member of the Longmont PER Association, serving as President numerous times. He has held and continues to chair multiple Lodge committees. He was Officer of the Year as Esteemed Loyal Knight in 2004-2005; *and*



Allen H. Lenort

Whereas, **Allen H. Lenort** has served the Colorado Elks Association on numerous Committees and is a certified Ritual Judge. He has served as State Trustee from 2012 - 2015, with the last year plus as Head Trustee. He served as a Colorado Elks Association Vice-President 2017 - 2020 and as the Colorado Elks Association President 2020-2021, and is currently on the CEA Advisory Committee; *and*

Whereas, **Allen H. Lenort** has served the Grand Lodge with distinction as District Deputy in 2007-2008 and served faithfully as the Area 6 Ritualistic Committeeman from 2012 - 2018 and as Chairman 2016 - 2018; appointed as a Special Representative in 2017-2018; and currently the Special Representative / District Leader for Colorado North District No 1440; *and*

Whereas, **Allen H. Lenort** served in the United States Marine Corp from 1987 to 1992 as an Avionics Electrician on CH-46 helicopters serving in Hawaii, Okinawa, and the Philippines. He is employed by a general contractor, having held jobs from laborer, carpenter, foreman, superintendent to his current position as a special projects manager and safety director. He is also a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2601; *and*

Whereas, **Allen H. Lenort** has faithfully served the Board of Grand Trustees as Building Applications - West Member, Pensions Member, Secretary and Chairman of the Board; *and*

Whereas, **Allen H. Lenort** accomplished all of the foregoing with the help, love and support of his wife of almost 30 years Kim; *and*

Whereas, **Allen H. Lenort’s** ability and leadership, demonstrated by a passion for Elkdom, has earned the respect of all Elks, especially the members of the Board of Grand Trustees; *and*

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that in grateful recognition of his valued service to Elkdom and in tribute to his dedication to our Order, the Board of Grand Trustees is hereby authorized and directed by the Grand Lodge in Session to procure and present to **Allen H. Lenort**, a suitable testimonial for his service, together with an embossed copy of this Resolution, thus expressing the gratitude and respect in which he is held by his fellow Members of the Board of Grand Trustees and the entire Membership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

Grand Lodge Budget proposed for 2023-2024

REVENUE

Per Capita Assessments . . .	4,977,604
Interest/Dividend Income . . .	841,000
Merchandise Sales	25,071
Convention Revenue	328,000
Management Fees	52,800
Royalties	162,000
Transfer From Reserves. . .	1,758,922
	<u>8,145,397</u>

EXPENSES

Grand Trustees.	46,350
District Deputies	590,500
Special Deputies	33,450
Special Representatives	42,000
Rose Parade Float	100,000
Grand Lodge Conference. . .	127,200
Grand Lodge Session.	1,862,800
PGER Office and Travel . . .	400,000
Legal Fees	200,000
Audit Fees	39,000
Bank Fees	30,000
General Insurance	79,200
Investment Manager Fees . . .	252,000
Contingency	100,000
Other Grand Lodge	332,308
Grand Exalted Ruler	369,593
Grand Secretary Expenses. .	2,557,981
Committees & Other	983,015
	<u>8,145,397</u>

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Resolution Honoring Retiring BOGT Vice-Chairman

Proposed by Board of Grand Trustees Secretary Joseph C. Basil

Whereas, **Charles R. Campbell**, of Carbondale, IL Lodge No. 1243 is retiring from the Board of Grand Trustees after four years of distinguished service and upon his retirement, the Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America wish to acknowledge this achievement and express their sincere appreciation for his leadership and service; *and*

Whereas, **Charles R. Campbell** graduated from West Frankfort High School in 1967, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry and Mathematics in 1971 from Murray State and followed that with a Master of Arts degree in Information Technology in 1975 also from Murray State and became Associate Director of Network Engineering at Southern Illinois University until his retirement in 2009; *and*

Whereas, **Charles R. Campbell** has been a member of the order for more than 48 years. He was initiated to the order on November 4th, 1975, served his Lodge as Exalted Ruler in 1985-86 and then served as Lodge Trustee and later became Secretary and then Treasurer. He was name Elk of the Year in 1995, is an Honorary Life Member of Carbondale IL 1243; *and*

Whereas, **Charles R. Campbell** has served the Illinois Elks Association in many capacities beginning in 1984 and eventually assuming the position of State President in 2006. He was appointed as a Director of the Illinois Elks Children’s Care Corporation in 1986 serving in that position until 2010 when he became a Director Emeritus; *and*

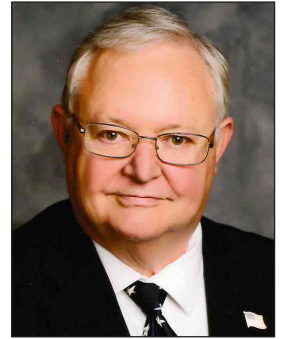
Whereas, **Charles R. Campbell** has served the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks as District Deputy of the South District of Illinois in 1994-95, was on the Grand Lodge Americanism Committee from 2008 to 2012 and also served many years on the Grand Lodge Credentials Committee; *and*

Whereas, **Charles R. Campbell** with dedication has served the Board of Grand Trustees since 2019 in the positions of Building Applications East, Home Member, Approving Member and Vice-Chairman; *and*

Whereas, **Charles R. Campbell** has represented the Grand Lodge, Illinois State Elks Association and Carbondale Lodge No. 1243 with Leadership and Devotion; earning the respect and gratitude of his fellow Elks; *and*

Whereas, **Charles R. Campbell** has accomplished all this with the love and support of his best friend and wife of more than 50 years, Jan Campbell, along with his son Michael Sean and his wife Andrea and with his daughter Kimberly Dawn Opilka and Husband Mark, grandson Dylan Michael and two granddaughters, Madeline Grace and Abigail Jordan, and one great-granddaughter, Stevie Michelle Campbell; *and*

Therefore, **Be It Resolved**, that in grateful recognition of his valued service to Elkdom and in tribute to his character leadership and dedication to our Order, the Board of Grand Trustees is hereby authorized and directed by the Grand Lodge in Session to procure and present to **Charles R. Campbell** a suitable testimonial for his service, together with an embossed copy of this Resolution, thus expressing the high esteem and respect in which he is held by his fellow members of the Board of Grand Trustees and the entire membership of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.



Charles R. Campbell

Elks Lodges celebrate 100-Year Anniversaries

The following Elks Lodges have stood the test of time as they celebrate their 100-Year Anniversary this 2023-2024 fraternal year during GER Randy P. Shook’s term. Here’s to 100 more years in service to humanity, community, our nation and our Order’s noble principles.

<u>LODGE NAME & NO.</u>	<u>INSTITUTED</u>	
Palo Alto, CA No. 1471	September 29, 1923	Westfield-West Springfield, MA No. 1481 March 26, 1924
Pittsburg, CA No. 1474	October 20, 1923	Kelso/Longview, WA No. 1482 April 24, 1924
Orange, CA No. 1475	November 26, 1923	Ossining, NY No. 1486 May 8, 1924
Bergenfield, NJ No. 1477	December 8, 1923	Middlesex, NJ No. 1488 May 22, 1924
Plymouth, MA No. 1476	December 20, 1923	Susanville, CA No. 1487 May 24, 1924
Lancaster, NY No. 1478	December 20, 1923	Brookings, SD No. 1490 June 16, 1924
Breckenridge, TX No. 1480	February 14, 1924	Whitehall, NY No. 1491 June 19, 1924
		Ticonderoga, NY No. 1494 July 1, 1924

LOCAL LODGE ACTIVITY

During Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley's Fraternal Year 2022-2023

CHARTERS GRANTED = NEW LODGES

- Navasota, TX Lodge No. 2888—Instituted 03/25/2023.

CHARTERS SURRENDERED

- Lake Okeechobee, FL Lodge No. 2871
—(EO #22-055) Effective 08/31/2022.
- Fort Mill, SC Lodge No. 2859
—(EO #22-125) Effective 03/01/2023.
- Battle Ground, WA Lodge No. 2589
—(EO #22-134) Effective 03/09/2023.
- Beloit, WI Lodge No. 864
—(EO #22-140) Effective 03/15/2023.
- West St. Lucie, FL Lodge No. 2823
—(EO #22-152) Effective 04/11/2023.

CHARTERS REVOKED

- Weirton, WV Lodge No. 1801
—(EO #22-040F) Effective 10/04/2022.
- Columbia Basin, WA Lodge No. 1930
—(EO #22-065) Effective 10/11/2022.
- Stamford, CT Lodge No. 899
—(EO #22-011F) Effective 11/06/2022.
- Adrian, MO Lodge No. 2864
—(EO #22-069F) Effective 11/28/2022.
- Oakhurst, CA Lodge No. 2724
—(EO #22-081F) Effective 12/13/2022.
- Concord, CA Lodge No. 1994
—(EO #22-088F) Effective 12/19/2022.
- Grants-Milan, NM Lodge No. 2053
—(EO #22-181) Effective 06/02/2023.

LODGE MERGERS

- Syracuse, NY Lodge No. 31 & Camillus, NY Lodge No. 2367, to be known as: Camillus, NY Lodge No. 31. Effective 07/20/2022 by EO #22-006.
- Danville, IL Lodge No. 332 & Champaign-Urbana, IL Lodge 2497, to be known as: Champaign-Urbana, IL Lodge No. 2497. Effective 09/15/2022 by EO #22-050.
- Beacon, NY Lodge No. 1493 & Wappinger, NY Lodge No. 2609, to be known as: Beacon, NY Lodge No. 1493. Effective 10/04/2022 by EO #22-058.
- Mount Clemens, MI Lodge No. 2124 & Warren-Sterling Heights, MI Lodge No. 2292, to be known as: Macomb, MI Lodge No. 2292. Effective 10/31/2022 by EO #22-077.
- Brunswick, GA Lodge No. 691 & Camden County, GA Lodge No. 2820, to be known as: Brunswick, GA Lodge No. 691. Effective 11/01/2022 by EO #22-080.
- Pittsfield, MA Lodge No. 272 & Adams, MA Lodge No. 1335, to be known as: Pittsfield-Adams, MA Lodge No. 272. Effective 12/05/2022 by EO #22-090.
- Melbourne, FL Lodge No. 1744 & Viera, FL Lodge No. 2817, to be known as: Viera, FL Lodge No. 2817. Effective 12/09/2022 by EO #22-092.
- Brookline, MA Lodge No. 886 & Newton, MA Lodge No. 1327, to be known as: Newton-Brookline, MA Lodge No. 1327. Effective 03/14/2023 by EO #22-137.
- Grass Valley, CA Lodge No. 538 & Auburn, CA Lodge No. 1691, to be known as: Auburn-Grass Valley, CA Lodge NO. 538. Effective 03/14/2023 by EO #22-138.
- Allegheny, PA Lodge No. 339 & Carnegie, PA Lodge No. 831, to be known as: Allegheny, PA Lodge No. 339. Effective 03/16/2023 by EO #22-141.

- McPherson, KS Lodge No. 502 & Salina, KS Lodge No. 718, to be known as: Salina, KS Lodge No. 718. Effective 03/27/2023 by EO #22-145.
- Beverly-Salem, MA Lodge No. 1309 & Peabody-Lynn, MA Lodge No. 1409, to be known as: Beverly-Peabody, MA Lodge 1309. Effective 04/11/2023 by EO #22-153.
- Waltham, MA Lodge No. 953 & Lexington, MA Lodge No. 2204, to be known as: Lexington-Waltham, MA Lodge 2204. Effective 05/17/2023 by EO #22-167.

LODGE NAME CHANGE

- Hudson-Concord, MA Lodge No. 959, name changed to: Hudson, MA Lodge No. 959. Effective 07/06/2022 by EO #22-003.
- Douglas County, CO Lodge No. 2873, name changed to: Parker, CO Lodge No. 2873. Became effective at the conclusion of the Minneapolis Convention.

LODGE REDISTRICTING

NORTH CAROLINA ELKS ASSOCIATION

EO #22-008 (Effective 07/21/2022)

North Carolina East District No. 6600 (9 Lodges)

- Goldsboro Lodge No. 139; Wilmington Lodge No. 532; Kinston Lodge No. 740; New Bern Lodge No. 764; Elizabeth City Lodge No. 856; Morehead City-Beaufort Lodge No. 1710; Calabash Lodge No. 2679; Oak Island Lodge No. 2769; and Shallotte Lodge No. 2854.

North Carolina Central District No. 6640 (7 Lodges)

- Raleigh Lodge No. 735; Wilson Lodge No. 840; Rocky Mount Lodge No. 1038; Fayetteville Lodge No. 1081; Sanford Lodge No. 1679; Southern Pines Lodge No. 1692; and Roxboro Lodge No. 2005.

North Carolina West District No. 6680 (8 Lodges)

- Asheville Lodge No. 608; Hendersonville Lodge No. 1616; Hickory Lodge No. 1654; Shelby Lodge No. 1709; Waynesville Lodge No. 1769; North Wilkesboro Lodge No. 1846; Morgantown Lodge No. 1852; and Newton Lodge No. 2042.

North Carolina West Central District No. 6720 (8 Lodges)

- Lake Norman Lodge No. 392; Winston-Salem Lodge No. 449; Greensboro Lodge No. 602; Salisbury Lodge No. 699; High Point Lodge No. 1155; Reidsville Lodge No. 1723; Statesville Lodge No. 1823; and Mount Airy Lodge No. 2061.

MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION

EO #22-083 (Effective 11/15/2022)

Michigan Northwest District No. 4320 (10 Lodges)

- Grand Rapids Lodge No. 48; Manistee Lodge No. 250; Muskegon Lodge No. 274; Traverse City Lodge No. 323; Cadillac Lodge No. 680; Big Rapids Lodge No. 974; Grand Haven Lodge No. 1200; Hastings Lodge No. 1965; Charlevoix Lodge No. 2856; and Beaver Island Lodge No. 2886.

Michigan Southwest District No. 4400 (9 Lodges)

- Kalamazoo Lodge No. 50; Battle Creek Lodge No. 131; St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Lodge No. 541; Dowagiac Lodge No. 889; Three Rivers Lodge No. 1248; Holland Lodge No. 1315; Niles Lodge No. 1322; Sturgis Lodge No. 1381; and South Haven Lodge No. 1509.

**G/L AUDITING
~ AND ACCOUNTING ~
COMMITTEE**

The Auditing and Accounting Committee will be conducting two seminars on Tuesday to assist Lodges in their accounting tasks.

The *Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar* will address the basics of utilizing the recommended software to perform all the basic accounting tasks that a Lodge needs. The session will be conducted using a live session of QuickBooks. It is recommended for all beginners and intermediate Lodge personnel that handle the bookkeeping at the Lodge level. The seminar is scheduled for 2:15-3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Minneapolis Convention Center, meeting room 101G.

The *Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics* session will be addressing six of the most common areas where Lodges have issues with complying with Grand Lodge Statutes or federal and state information return requirements. This session is scheduled for 12:30-1:45 p.m. Tuesday in Minneapolis Convention Center, meeting room 101G.

Each session will also have a question and answers segment. Members are also able to stop by the committee's booth in the exhibits area to meet one on one with a member of the committee to address specific issues. The committee looks forward to meeting you.

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YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

How do I submit to the FRS?

What is the FRS?

How do I use QuickBooks?


What's a Restricted Fund?
How do I handle it?

How do I use QuickBooks Desktop?

WE HAVE ANSWERS

Chat with the experts from the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee and the FRS Applications Specialist

Stop by our booth in the Exhibits Area (Hall C) during Exhibit Hours and pick up your free gift.



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**Exalted Rulers:
Minneapolis
Reports due
in October!**

Exalted Rulers (or alternate delegates) should be reminded that they are required to attend the Annual Session and submit a Report to their Lodge no later than the first regular meeting in October. [GLS §12.120]

A good suggestion would be to save each edition of the *Convention News*, along with a copy of the Resolutions. Also, record how you voted on each resolution and submit to the Lodge with a cover letter. That will complete the obligation of your report to your Lodge.

SHEDDING ALL INVENTORY

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Resolution of Appreciation

Now, Whereas, the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will conclude this 158th Grand Lodge Session in Minneapolis, Minnesota on the 5th day of July, 2023;

And, Whereas, it is appropriate that due note be made, and appreciation expressed, to the many individuals who have contributed their time and effort to the success of this Grand Lodge Session;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Delegates here assembled extend their sincere gratitude and appreciation as follows:

To all Elks, Spouses and Families of the State of Minnesota, for their wonderful hospitality and for giving so unselfishly of their time and talents;

To the Grand Exalted Ruler, Bruce A. Hidley, for the excellent and timely manner in which he conducted the Business Sessions, and for his untiring efforts on behalf of our Order during his term as our Leader.

To our First Lady Helen for the elegant grace with which she endeared herself to all during her tour as First Lady with our Grand Exalted Ruler throughout Elkdom;

To the Aide to the Grand Exalted Ruler, Alan Sunukjian, for the efficiency with which he handled the many support functions required of that position;

To the Elks National Convention Commission, Chairman, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Arthur H. Frost, III Chairman, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Millard C. Pickering, Past Grand Exalter Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Michael F. Smith Past Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm J. McPherson Jr. whose planning and efforts began many months prior to this Convention, and for their attention and supervision during this Session, ensuring its success;

To the Local Support Committee Honorary Chairmen, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Dwayne E. Rumney and Paul R. Ryan for their guidance in the planning and execution of this Convention;

To the 2023 Local Support Committee, Co-Executive Chairs Rick & Gretchen Peterson and the many Elks of the State of Minnesota, who worked tirelessly on the various committees and subcommittees to make this Convention truly outstanding;

To Grand Secretary Bryan R. Klatt and his capable Headquarters staff, for their cooperation and knowledge without which no Grand Lodge Convention would be successful;

To Tina M. Haran, Convention and Meetings Director, and her Associate, Jessica M. Ruiz, Meetings Coordinator for their efforts and dedication in carrying out their many responsibilities and logistical functions at this Convention;

To the Exhibits & Sessions Coordinators, Edgar Manwaring, Roland L. Siebert, James Rice, Scott Kirstein, Michael Clark, Gordon Daniels, Scott Floata and Marcus Kirstein who provide and prepare the exhibits, the sound and visual equipment, the timing, the lighting, and other Convention requirements;

To Phil Claiborne, Chairman of Registration, Spencer Moore, Director of the National Information Services Department, and their team of skilled credentials personnel, for the efficient and pleasant manner with which they welcomed and registered, for another successful year, the thousands of Elks and Guests attending our Convention;

To Avis Thomas, Publications Manager, and her Associate, Mike Chamernik, Publications Coordinator, for their efforts and dedication in producing the Convention Daily Newsletter.

To Chairman William J. Chinn, Jr. of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee, and Johnetta Tyler, Grand Lodge Controller, for their prompt and capable handling of the financial commitments of this Session; to Past Grand Exalted Ruler Robert L. Duitsman for serving as Master of Ceremonies at the Opening Session of this Convention;

To Reverend Father Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain, for his spiritual guidance and prayers of Elks and Elkdom during the past year; and for invoking the Divine Blessing of Almighty God on these proceedings; and sending us forth from this Session to do the good works of Elkdom with his Benediction;

To Virginia Basil for her wonderful and stirring vocal performances during the Opening Ceremony, Memorial Service and our Daily sessions;

To the Louisville 8 Elks Color Guard, for their dignified and impressive presentation of the Colors on Sunday;

To Past Grand Exalted T. Keith Mills, Grand Lodge Memorial Service Coordinator, for his meticulous planning of our moving Memorial Service;

To Past Grand Exalted Ruler Ronald L. Hicks, who rendered Past Grand Exalted Ruler Lester T. Hess, Jr.'s Eulogy;

To National Champion, Callicott Eleven O'Clock Toast or Ritual Committee member for the commitment to render a beautiful Eleven O'Clock Toast at our Memorial Service;

To the First Place Winners of this year's Most Valuable Student Scholarship Awards: Agam Igwe, sponsored by Towson, MD Lodge No. 469 and Diya Jha, sponsored by Frederick, MD Lodge No. 684. In the hands of such immensely talented young people, our American legacy of freedom is guaranteed;

To the Getty Powell Award winners for the highest scoring girl and boy in the 2023 Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals: Tommy Goodelle, sponsored by Utica, NY Lodge No. 33 and Morgan Miehle, sponsored by Wheeling, WV Lodge No. 28 who stood fast and displayed unbelievable grit under the pressure of intense national competition and emerged victorious.

Finally, our deepest appreciation to all the Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, who, with their spouses and families, have pledged allegiance under God to the Flag of the United States, the Emblem of our Order and this great country and the symbol of freedom and liberty throughout the world.

Respectfully submitted by the Grand Lodge Resolutions Committee:

Bryan M. Lindsay, Eveleth, Minnesota Lodge No. 1161 (Area 5)

Joel W. Todd, Red Lodge 'Beartooth', Montana Lodge No. 534 (Area 8)

Robyn Sembenini, San Rafael, California Lodge No. 1108 (Area 7)