



Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia

ELKS ASSOCIATION *News*

A Fraternal Organization - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

www.mddedcelks.org

OCTOBER 2023

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Renee' Rivituso



State President
Renee' Rivituso
Waldorf Elks #2421

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Welcome to the MD, DE, and DC Elks Association Fall Conference. A special welcome goes out to our honored guest State Sponsor PGER Paul Hesel and Jane, Grand Inner Guard Willaim Buttrill, Jr. and Joy, New Jersey State President Joseph Pedone and Beverly and Pennsylvania Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Dennis Kanouff and Jean. Please join Jeff and me in affording our guests a memorable time in Ocean City (OC) spent with the best Association in Elkdom. Returning this year, the 11th Hour Toast & Flag Charge Contests for Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers. Hopefully, we will be blessed with wonderful weather and fun times here at the beach.

Thank You, PSP Mary Cardinal-Vogt, for installing me and all the PSPs helping in the wonderful Installation of Officers at the Wisp Resort. Since then, Jeff and I traveled to Elks Camp Barrett for the annual Pickin-4-troops. The event was well attended, and all had fun. PSP Stu Burgoon, Julie, and all the volunteers outdid themselves this year, as did the Lodges that contributed auction items.

Later in June, we attended the Horseshoe Tournament held at Broadneck Lodge. Congratulations to Deale Lodge for winning the tournament. Then, it was off to Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the 158th Grand Lodge Convention.

I was kept extremely busy during my time in Minneapolis. It was an honor to carry the Maryland Flag in the opening ceremonies. ER Loren Evans did an excellent job carrying the Delaware Flag, as did Todd Misura carrying the District of Columbia Flag. Jeff and I attended all the general sessions. Thank You, Paul, for the honor of the

Assistant to the Grand Esquire title. With the title came new duties and yet another meeting to attend. I had the privilege of getting up before the roosters' crow to aid with distributing and later retrieving the ballots the day we voted on resolutions.

Thank You to Prince George's County & Glen Burnie Lodges for their hospitality and for hosting the Camp Barrett and Trustee Meetings. It is imperative that your Lodge camp representatives attend the camp meeting held on the 1st Saturday of each month. For those unfamiliar with our State Major Project, "Camp Barrett," I encourage you to plan a visit to see all the camp has to offer to the youth and adults. Jeff and I were fortunate to attend all five DDGER Clinics. Excellent information and training were provided at each clinic. Thank You to all the DDGERS and host Lodges for their hospitality.

Embracing my motto this year, "Soar to Greater Heights," encourages membership by implementing the Grand Lodge, Regional, and State Association Programs in your Lodges. Membership has grown in the past two years; let's keep the momentum going for a third year. Soar your Lodge's involvement to Greater Heights with the youth in your community—plan to host the Elks National Hoop Shoot Free-Throw Contest. Involve your local schools and youth organizations in the Americanism Essay and Poster Contest and our Scholarship Program. Incorporate the Drug Awareness Program in all Youth Programs. Invite the winners and their parents back to your Lodge for an awards ceremony.

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**MD, DE & DC ELKS
ASSOCIATION NEWS
2022-2023 OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS STATE
CHAIRPERSON**

Janie Swigert
Kent Island Lodge #2576
Cell: 410-703-1796
Email:
statenewsletter@outlook.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISOR

George W. Hamilton, PGLC
(Janice)
Hagerstown Lodge #378
Phone: 301-739-3778
Email: gwh507@myactv.net

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR &
PUBLISHER**

Janie Swigert
Kent Island Lodge #2576
Cell: 410-703-1796
Email:
statenewsletter@outlook.com

NEWSLETTER ADVISOR

Connie J. deYoung (Brian), PGLC
Dover Lodge #1903
Cell: 302-270-5431
Home: 302-678-5486
Email:
conniedeyoung@gmail.com

DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS:

NORTH CENTRAL

Carolyn M. Riggins (Robert)
Annapolis Lodge #622
Home: 410-269-1888
Cell: 443-604-1341
Email: mriggins@verizon.net

NORTH EAST

Open

SOUTH WEST

Kelley Randolph (Charles
Spadone)
Camp Springs Lodge #2332
Home: 301-449-3449
Cell: 202-439-0399
Email: moms2139@aol.com

SOUTH EAST

Mike Kelly
Kent Island Lodge #2576
Cell: 410-971-3099
Email: mskjwk@aol.com

WEST

Jill Johnson (David)
Hagerstown Lodge #378
Phone: 240-329-7643
Email: jcheezy2@yahoo.com



**GRAND EXALTED RULER'S
MESSAGE**

RANDY P. SHOOK, GER

Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

**ENF GRANTS ALLOW LODGES TO BOOST
THEIR BENEVOLENCE**

October is the birth month of the greatest program of our Order: The Elks National Foundation (ENF), known as the "Great Heart of Elkdom."

Established in 1928, the Foundation helps build stronger communities through programs that support youth, serve veterans, and meet the needs in areas where Elks live and work. The best source for the most current information about the ENF is the Foundation's website at elks.org/enf. Spend some time there. You'll be amazed by what the Foundation is doing.

I especially want to call your attention to the Foundation's Community Investments Program. The Foundation has allocated nearly \$16 million for Lodge community service grants. This grant program allows your Lodge to complete more for your communities.

I urge all Lodges to take the time to educate yourselves about these grant programs. The Beacon, Gratitude, Spotlight, Impact, and Freedom Grants could be very helpful to your community. Each grant has a specific deadline to apply for funding. Find that need in your com



STATE SPONSOR'S MESSAGE
PAUL D. HESEL, PGER

P.O. Box 8173, Newark, DE 19714
(302) 737-4460 | pdhysel@verizon.net

Dear Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia Elks and Friends:

Hope all MD, DE & DC Elks and their families are doing well and that the 37 Elk Lodges across the Association are prospering and on track to make the goals and objectives set at the beginning of this 2023/2024 Lodge year. We are already into the 6th month of this Lodge year, meaning we still have almost seven months left in the year to accomplish our goals and objectives and get things done.

Membership remains our top priority, and we are on track to have another year of overall growth. If so, it would be three years in a row and a fantastic trend we want to repeat again and again. In my message in last fall's newsletter, I mentioned that in the 2021/2022 Lodge

community and get it done with one of these grants. This will ensure people in your community know that "We Are THE Elks." Other programs that ENF funds

include: Scholarships, youth activities, veterans service and remembrance, Elks Veterans Memorial maintenance, and much more. It is very important to let our Members know about the great work ENF does.

I challenge every Member of Elkdom to support the ENF. Be sure to tell new Members about all the incredible things the ENF makes possible on a local, state, and national level. The charitable, educational, and benevolent causes supported by the ENF are the most important financial contributions made by our Order and deserve the continued support of every Member.

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated from October 23-31. There are many ways to celebrate. Have your local elected officials issue a proclamation, have your Members distribute red ribbons to schools, and encourage Members and friends to wear red ribbons.

The struggle to educate our youth about drugs and assist them in making informed decisions must be advanced at the community level. Our national, state, and Local Lodge Drug Awareness Programs encourage volunteers to listen, educate, and mentor, thereby letting our communities know that "We Are THE Elks."

year, our Association had an overall gain of 483 members – the highest gain in 37 years. Well, the 2022/2023 year was even better, and we attained a gain of 549 members – a fantastic job by all who worked so hard to make it happen two years in a row. Right now, we have added (or have gained) 815 members as opposed to a gain of 716 this time last year – almost 100 members better than last year at the same time – great effort to get new members on board!!

However, our delinquency is currently at 2,239 as opposed to 2,048 this time last year – we have work to do here, and it has to be addressed and improvements made on an individual Lodge basis.

While our Association wide delinquency rate (11%) is a bit better than the national average (11.7%), we need to get it in the 3-5% to attain membership growth on an ongoing and routine, year-after-year basis – only three of our Lodges fall into that category today. Seventeen of our Lodges exceed the national delinquency

Continued on page 5

MD, DE & DC ELKS ASSOCIATION FALL WORKSHOP PRINCESS ROYALE HOTEL, OCEAN CITY, MD

Friday Sept. 29	Registration "Palmetto Promenade" (12:00 Noon - 5:00 PM)
12:30 PM	Past Ladies & Gentlemen's Luncheon - OC Lodge (By Invite Only)
1:00 PM	Advisory Meeting
3:30 PM	ECB Executive Committee Meeting
5:00 PM	State Trustees Meeting
Sat. Sept. 30	Registration "Palmetto Promenade" (8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon)
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast (Schooners Restaurant)
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	ECB Representatives Meeting
9:00 AM	Workshop Called to Order "Palmetto Room"
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	Introductions, Invocation, Pledge, Roll Call Etc.
9:30 AM - 11:50 AM	Presentations, Committee Reports
9:30 AM	Americanism - Erin Muscarella
9:40 AM	Soccer Shoot - Dolly Broom
9:50 AM	Auditing & Business Practices - Robert Jordan
10:00 AM	Con-Con - Rob Broom
10:10 AM	Drug Awareness Program - Angela Meyer
10:20 AM	Elks Training - Robert Ennis
10:40 AM	William. J. Jernick Memorial Fund - Susan Caldwell
10:50 AM	Hoop Shoot - Dewayne Wilcher
11:00 AM	ENVSC, Army of Hope - Lou Schmeltzer
11:10 AM	Lodge Activities - Mary Villeneuve
11:20 AM	Elks and Scouting - Tanner Bilbrough
11:30 AM	Membership - John Opitz
11:40 AM	Trustee Report - Kevin Frick
11:50 AM	Announcements & Recess until 9:00 AM, Sunday, October 2
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:30 PM	Ritual Contest ~ 11th Hour Toast & Flag Charge
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	PGER Paul D. Helsel Meeting with DDGERs & PSPs/DLs
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	President & President Elect Meeting with VPs & Committee Chairs
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Social Hour followed by Dinner (Business Casual) "Palmetto Room"

Attention: At the OC Conference there will be a Flag Presentation contest at 1:30 on Saturday afternoon the 30th, followed by an 11th Hour contest (location to be determined). The Flag presentation is open to all ER's and PERs, the 11th Hour contest is open to all members in good standing. There will be sign-up sheets at the Registration table.

I also need three judges.

J, Gordon Alexander, PDD
State Ritual Chair

Sunday, October 1	Registration "Palmetto Promenade" (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM)
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast (Schooner's Restaurant)
9:00 AM	Workshop Called to Order "Palmetto Room"
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Presentations, Committee Reports
9:00 AM	Youth Activities - Donna Curp
9:10 AM	Elks National Foundation - Mary Underwood
9:20 AM	Public Relations / Newsletter - Janie Swigert
9:30 AM	Welcome Home - Carl Robinson
9:40 AM	Elks Camp Barrett - Ben Stone
9:50 AM	Accident Prevention - Mike Ford
10:00 AM	Website - Joe McGeeney
10:10 AM	Government Relations - John Sammons
10:20 AM	Scholarship - Lynn Evans
10:30 AM	Advisory Report - John Loftus
10:40 AM Business Meeting	Secretary's Report - Betty Hardin
	Treasurer's Report - Jackie Phillips
	Unfinished Business / New Business
	Announcements
COMMENTS	GL Committee Member, Mary Cardinal-Vogt & GLIG William Butrill
	Special Guest NJ SP Joseph Pedone & PA SDGER Dennis Kanouff
	President Elect Angela Meyer / President Renee' Rivituso
	Grand Lodge Sponsor, Paul D. Helsel
	Sickness & Distress / Remembrance of Departed Members
ADJOURNMENT	Prayer by Chaplain Judi McKnight
Next Meeting	Spring Conference March 22-24, 2024 at Pocomoke Lodge #1624

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October is ENF Month
- Oct 23-31 Red Ribbon Week
- Oct 28 Drug Take Back Day
- Nov 17-19 Scout Camporee
- **December 15 Next State Newsletter Deadline**
- Jan 13 10:00AM State Soccer Shoot in Jessup, MD
- Feb 24 State Hoop Shoot Oxon Hill High School
- **March 21-24, 2024 Spring Conference Pocomoke City Lodge #1624 (Exalted Ruler Visits)**
- May 11, 2024 State Youth Recognition Day





PRESIDENT-ELECT ANGELA MEYER

Kent Island Lodge #2576
ecbsecretary@outlook.com C) 410-739-5575

Overcome by joyful emotion and "ugly crying" during my acceptance speech, I will attempt to communicate what I was trying to say following the vote in Milford.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone for your confidence in me and electing me as your State President-Elect. I truly love our Elks family and all we do for our communities. My pride in every Lodge and every accomplishment made by our Association is boundless. Thank you, All.

My SPE year began at a frantic pace. I attended three of the five District Deputy Clinics and continue working on the Drug Awareness Program transition. I've overseen the end of another busy camping season while continuing to work with State President Rivituso on matters of her choosing. I am happily heeding the generous amount of direction and mentoring she and many other Past State presidents kindly offer. This is a learning year and a time to clean up loose ends.

I also plan to visit each district for at least one State President visit and one Vice President visit.

September is the month for DAP District trainings, and I will see chairpersons and interested members of each district for those as well. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at Ocean City for the convention.

As we begin the fall season, please remember the Scout Camporee is in November this year, and the camp will need a lot of help with the Scouts that weekend. We do so much for our scouts, and even though our tradition of chartering troops no longer exists, the Elks continue to foster community youth and scouting in so many ways.

Please continue the great work that each of you do in your communities. You do Elkdom in big ways.

Thank you for proudly supporting Elkdom and our great MD, DE, and DC Elks Association.

Warm Regards,
Angela

President's Message Continued

This is your chance to highlight your Lodge in the community. Soar your Veterans' activities to Greater Heights by performing the Veterans Day Ritual on November 11, 2023. If you are serving veterans exiting homelessness, the ENVSC will reimburse up to \$300 for each Welcome Home Kit of supplies provided to a veteran and up to \$600 for each kit that includes a bed.

You can also help Veterans by applying for and receiving an ENF CIP Grant. A Lodge that implements the Grand Lodge, Regional, and State Association Programs and follows fundamental business principles will be a successful Lodge.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION AND ARMY OF HOPE

LOUIS B. SCHMELTZER, JR.

Annapolis Lodge #622 | 410-627-5179 | louschmeltzer@gmail.com



Army of Hope

The Army of Hope has been actively assisting Veterans that are suffering financial difficulties. Since the middle of May we have helped Veterans to the tune of \$13,800.00. This aid comes in many forms but mainly utilities & rent. We have given many Vets some peace of mind in return for their sacrifices to keep us safe. As you may or may not be aware, the Army of Hope is supported solely by donations from the Lodges and the fund raisers that they run. Please keep the Veterans in mind when you have any kind of event and hold a 50/50, lay-down board, etc. & consider donating the proceeds to the Army of Hope.



VAVS

The E.N.V.S.C. has been busy lifting the spirits of our Veterans in the VA hospitals and the USO facilities. These efforts are rapidly getting back on track as the facilities loosen their restrictions caused by the "Virus". The volunteers have donated many dollars and hours giving back to our deserving Veterans. Some of the ways that the volunteers give back are snack food, birthday parties, bingos, gift cards, toiletries, a hot dog machine, a jig saw puzzle table & a pizza party & much more. The Veterans appreciate the efforts of the Reps and the donations. The Elk Reps. Have even taken a group of Veterans to the Pickin' for Troops at Camp Barrett and have brought them to Lodges for meals & even to participate in Flag Day Ceremonies.

Lou Schmeltzer



My visitation schedule has been completed and distributed. Jeff and I look forward to spending time with members in their respective Lodges. I hope this workshop recharges and energizes you to return to your Lodge and do what Elks do best -serve their communities. Our next workshop will be March 22-24, 2024, at Pocomoke City Lodge No. 1624. We will host Grand Exalted Ruler Randy P. Shook and his wife, Wanda. Please mark your calendars and encourage Lodge members to attend.

Renee' Rivituso

"Soaring to Greater Heights"

WEBSITE

JOSEPH MCGEENEY, PDD

State Webmaster/GL VHP Administrator

Cell: 443-610-0935 | joemcgeeney58@gmail.com



Our State Website has been revised to make it user-friendly and easier to navigate. Drop-down menus help save space on the pages and open and close with a click. The Menu is located at the top of every page. Example: Hover your mouse over the word Committees, choose the one you need from the Drop-Down.

Some Menus have Sub-Pages; a simple click will take you directly to that Page/Sub-Page. Click on Conference/Convention at the top, and you will be hyperlinked directly to

that page. Districts/Lodges at the Top will link you to that District Page where all Lodges in that District are listed with Links to the Grand Lodge VHP (Virtual Home Page) for each Lodge.

All Lodges have a VHP provided by the Grand Lodge, and should also have their own Website. Your events may be uploaded, updated, and changed as needed.

If there is a Lodge without a Website, please contact me, and I will help you create one. Have the Exalted Ruler, Cyber Asst. or Webmaster call me at 443-610-0935.

Elks.org has tons of information, Forms, Manuals, Documents, Slideshows, Pics, etc. for all Lodges to utilize. You must log in to the Elks.org Website—when prompted to do so. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at your leisure.

State Sponsor Continued from Page 2

rate, with one over a 25% delinquency. Needless to say, individual Lodges need a major push over the next seven months to get our delinquency in line and not an issue at the end of the year. We are doing a great job getting new members on board but a dismal job keeping them after they have been initiated. Every Lodge must continually make each member feel welcomed, wanted, and needed, giving them positive reasons why they should continue paying dues and maintaining their active status as an ELK.

We currently have 408 candidates in the pipeline to be initiated. When that happens, our gain will stand at 1,223 – every ELK, every Lodge must diligently work on the delinquency issue, and at the same time, Lodges must Initiate, Initiate, Initiate.

ENF donations are another area where the individual Lodge donations add up to give the overall Association numbers and sought-after, high national per capita ranking. Through August 27, 2023, our Association is ranked 13th of the 48 Associations of the Order, with \$90,288.49 donated by our 37 Lodges, yielding a \$4.465 per capita.

At the same time last year, we were ranked 8th with \$117,390.73, having been donated with a per capita of \$5.965. We are about \$27,000 behind where we were a year ago and need to pick up the pace a bit. No one wants to see us regress and go backward in our per capita and total dollars donated to ENF. We have seven months to get back on track and improve our dollars donated and, thus, our overall ranking. Again, this can

only be done by the individual Lodges – each and every Lodge needs to step up their efforts to raise funds for ENF and help get our Association back on track to enjoy a high ranking in per capita donations to ENF – hopefully, a bit higher than last year.

It was good seeing many MD, DE & DC Elks at the National Convention in Minneapolis in July. Thank you to all our Lodge leaders who attended. This Convention, as reported by many, was one of our best and provided ample opportunities for Lodge leaders and members to learn about the Elks, how to do things in their Lodges, what the requirements are to be successful and operate a Lodge properly, and of course, have fun in the process. I am happy to report that only three Lodges were not represented at this Convention.

There are legitimate reasons why a Lodge may not have a representative at the Convention in a given year or at every meeting conducted during the year within the Association. Still, it should be the exception and never the norm. Each Lodge requires responsible leadership who do their very best to fulfill their individual Elks' duties and responsibilities, as well as see that the operational requirements of their Lodge are routinely met.

The norm is and must be that all Lodges are routinely represented at National and State Meetings, District Clinics, and Caucuses. We all must stay informed, know what's happening, and understand what the Elks are about. Routinely attending the National Convention, our State Meetings (Conventions and Con-

ferences), and Clinics are an excellent way to help do that and have fun at the same time. For some of our leadership, it is mandatory that they attend the National Convention and Clinics, but every responsible Lodge leader should want to participate in these meetings, etc., to represent their Lodge, learn through the process, and enjoy the social aspect of the get-together.

I look forward to routinely seeing the majority of our Lodge leadership as well as other Lodge members at our various get-togethers in the Association.

Speaking of get-togethers, at this fall's Conference in Ocean City (September 29 - October 1, 2023), we will be hosting New Jersey Elks State President Joseph Pedone, his wife Beverly, Pennsylvania Special Deputy Dennis Kanouff, his wife Jean, and Grand Inner Guard Bill Buttrill and his wife Joy. Please join Jane and me in extending a warm welcome to all three couples and be sure to let them know how you, your Lodge, and our Association are promoting Elkdom across Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

Stay safe and well, and best wishes to all for a most enjoyable Fall Conference. Jane and I look forward to seeing you all there. Keep up the good work, and thank you to all our MD DE & DC Elk family for your continuing dedicated efforts on behalf of your Lodge, our Association, and our great Order.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor



DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

ANGELA M. MEYER

State Chair Drug Awareness Programs
ecbsecretary@outlook.com | Cell 410-739-5575

THE BPOE DRUG AWARENESS COMMISSION AND OUR CONTINUED RECOGNITION OF RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week encourages our entire community to adopt healthy, drug-free lifestyles. The Elks Red Ribbon Week campaign brings together parents, schools, and businesses as we look for ways to keep kids and communities drug-free.

In 1985, Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique S. "Kiki" Camarena was tortured and killed by drug traffickers. Shortly after his death, citizens from his hometown of Calexico, California, began wearing red ribbons to remember him and commemorate his sacrifice.

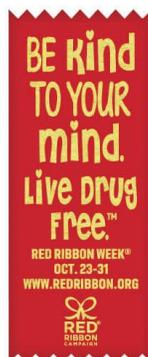
The first official Red Ribbon Week celebration was created by the National Family Partnership in 1988. Soon after its creation, the BPOE joined the NFP and other organizations in promoting the Red Ribbon campaign for families, schools, and communities nationwide each year.

The Elks continue to work within the national drug prevention movement, promoting this special week as part of their ongoing drug abuse awareness programs. For Elks members, the red ribbon symbolizes a continuing commitment to reducing the demand for illicit drugs in our communities. Red Ribbon Week gives us the opportunity to be vocal and visible in our efforts to achieve a drug-free community.

Research shows that children are less likely to use alcohol and other drugs when parents and other role models are clear and consistent in their opposition to drug use and the misuse of prescription drugs.

We encourage every Lodge to participate in this important annual event by planning and sponsoring a Red Ribbon event or distributing Red Ribbons and pamphlets. The DEA has created materials to help your school and community participate in Red Ribbon Week. The online toolkit includes a variety of helpful resources, including downloadable graphics, a fact card, student and parent pledges, and ways to promote Red Ribbon Week in your school or community.

The Elks Drug Awareness Commission has many items and informational resources to assist you with your Lodge Drug Abuse Prevention programs. Go to Elks.org/DAP or contact your State or District DAP chairperson.



AMERICANISM

ERIN MUSCARELLA

State Chair Americanism | Laurel Lodge #2283
Cell: 301-922-5453 | elm.95@verizon.net

First, thank State President Renee Rivituso for the opportunity and last year's Americanism State Chair, Carrie Kane. I hope to build on the foundation they have laid.

A little about me: I am a Girl Scout mom of two, a PER from Laurel Lodge #2283, and I've been an Elk for twenty five years. I have served as the North Central District Chair for Americanism for several years. Though Americanism is not just essay and poster contests, I believe participation in the Americanism program can be as simple as crayons and paper. From poster contests and thank you cards for our veterans to get-out-the-vote banners and welcome home signs for our service men and women, paper and crayons are all you need!

This year, Grand Lodge has chosen the theme "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me" for the essay contest. This contest has been split into 4 divisions 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

For the State Association-sponsored poster contest theme, I have gone back to one of my favorites, "My Favorite American Symbol." This contest is for ages 0-17. I have reached out to all of the district chairs and provided them with all of the essay and poster contest information and some helpful ideas to get Lodges involved in promoting Americanism. I want to thank NE: Fay Lay (Havre de Grace Lodge #1564), SE: Shelley Smith (Salisbury Lodge #817), and SW: Cara Miller (Deale Lodge #2528) for returning this year and welcome to the team NC: Marie Cavey (Essex Lodge #1866) and W: Chris Potter (Hagerstown Lodge #378).

All the essay and poster contest information and rules are available for download on our State Association website.

I anticipate the annual banquet will be held in March 2024; the location is to be determined.

I look forward to another successful program year!

Elks Camp Barrett 2023 Improvement Fund Raffle



Louis B. Schmeltzer, Jr.

Annapolis Lodge #622 | 410-627-5179 | louschmeltzer@gmail.com

As promised; this is the final report for the 2023 Raffle which was held at the Family Picnic at the Camp on May 28th.

Thanks to the generosity of all those who participated, the Improvement Fund netted \$50,000.00.

The Camp Executive Board is very grateful and will find good use for the funds.



MEMBERSHIP

JOHN OPITZ

Abingdon Lodge #2354
410-591-6123 | mtlian@comcast.net

Welcome all to the Fall Conference. It is always a pleasure to spend some time with our friends and Elk Family we see just a few times per year.

We ended our 2022/2023 year on a successful note. We finished 11th in the nation and were rewarded at the Grand Lodge Convention; with a favorable seating location, and an award presented in front of the entire assembled convention.



It was my honor and privilege to accept this award with President Rivituso and PSP Mary Cardinal-Vogt. It is always a great pleasure to attend a Grand Lodge session, much fun was had with new and old friends. We even managed to weather a heinous bird napping incident 😊

Here are some numbers to consider. We started the year with 19,679 members, and we ended our year with 20,222, a gain of 543. This is the final number for last year as the adjustment/reinstatement period has ended.

Our Order added 78,382 new members last year, a new record for us. We have had a positive growth for two years in a row, we are now going for three years in a row, which has not happened since 1977.

So far this year, we have added 1,039 members, including reinstatements and transfers on top of initiations. This will increase before we meet, as I am preparing this article in late August.

Grand Lodge has a goal for each State to add 10% of its starting number as new members. For MD, DE, & DC, that would mean adding 1,968 new members for last year. For the

year we added 2,134 new members, so we have exceeded that goal. For the current year we will need to add 2022 new members to meet this goal, we are well on our way to that performance again.

There is no substitute for an active membership committee. As mentioned in the Grand Lodge "Plus Membership" program, we need our committee to be a "team". Lodge Secretaries, you can give "read" access to CLMS to your Lodge membership chairs, making it easier for them to stay current on who needs to be contacted. Membership committee folks should become familiar with the Membership and Marketing guides, which are part of the "members only" part of Elks.org.

We have a valuable resource available now, it's Join.Elks.Org. Prospective members can learn about our Order, and even apply online through this site. Another program available online is a photo opportunity. Get a group photo of the new members and email it to Rick Gathen (rickg@elks.org). He will send back a photo of the group digitally framed with a picture of our GER Randy Shook giving them a warm welcome. This photo is printable, can be sent to each new member, and can be included in your Lodge communications. Our new Grand Exalted Ruler graciously offered to continue the program, updated with his photo.

Another new benefit was presented at a membership/marketing seminar, and it is the new artwork available on the social sharables page. There are thousands of editable, premade items on this site that can be used by any Lodge in our Order. They cover almost any imaginable event you can have, and also routine Lodge functions such as meetings or initiations. They also have a staff who can make artwork for events not listed on the site, email a request and you will receive a reply within 3-4 days.

If you have never used Elks.org, simply open the webpage, look for the tab to register, and follow the instructions to register, and you'll be all set.

At the end of last year, we left 389 candidates waiting. We currently have 445 folks awaiting initiation. An initiation does not have to be part of a Lodge meeting, it can be held as a stand-alone event at any time. You can invite family members of the candidates to attend and witness the initiation. Have a social event afterward for the group if possible. There are many ways to schedule the initiation as part of a fun day or evening.

Congratulations to our leaders in recruitment and initiations. Our current leaders are Cape Henlopen, Ocean City, Wilmington, and Salisbury. I will report with up-to-date numbers when we meet. Many Lodges are also getting reinstatements and transfers, easy additions, these folks are already Elks.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance, my contact information is in the directory.

John Opitz



See ya at the Elks



**ELKS NATIONAL
FOUNDATION, INC.
MARY UNDERWOOD**

State ENF Chair PER Laurel Lodge #228
301-399-5857 | maryhuj1223@gmail.com

Greetings from ENF! I hope all is well, and I'm glad to see you all here in Ocean City. At the time of the writing of this article, we have 13 Lodges that met Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook's per-member goal of \$4.80 per member. We have six months to get those numbers increased and to submit your donations.

I am holding a special competition between the Districts about meeting the Grand's goal. As stated above, we have some work to do, but I'm sure you will all get it done. During this weekend's conference, I will happily share those numbers and where each Lodge stands on a per-member basis. Thank you for all you do, and I ask that you continue supporting ENF.

October is ENF Month.

Have you considered how you plan to promote the Elks National Foundation at your Lodge? Let's make October one of our best months for donations. Here's an idea: Did you know there's an easy way to promote ENF AND earn Chair Challenge points? Every year, we update brochures, educational cards, and buckslips for you to pass out at your Lodge, educate your members about the ENF, and encourage them to donate! We even have two new supplies this year. The Ways to Give Buckslipt teaches members about all the ways they can support the Foundation, and the Planned Giving Card

teaches donors about leaving their legacy. These supplies are free; ordering the ENF brochure, the Fast Facts cards or the Fidelity Club card gets you 50 points in the Chair Challenge! Now, that's what we call multitasking. Remember, only order as much as you think your Lodge will need this fiscal year because supplies will be updated with new statistics next year!

A reminder of grant submissions: If you qualify for any of the ENF Grants, please make sure to apply for them, get the required documentation along with receipts, and submit them on time. I know that everyday life and its demands sometimes hinder us from completing these tasks. Still, the quicker we can get the grants executed, the better it is for reporting purposes, and the better the chances of being able to apply for grants the following year.

If you need assistance with grant writing or submission, please get in touch with your District Chair, Lodge Chair, or me. We are here to help and guide you along the way. If you have any suggestions on how to raise ENF funds, please share them with those Lodges who may need an extra boost. As a final reminder, it's helpful to submit your donations on a regular basis and not wait until the 11th hour. March 31st is the deadline for ENF donations to count towards this year. We are halfway there, so let's finish this year on a positive note and with higher ENF numbers than last year! Keep up the great work, and I can't wait to see which Lodges shine this year.

Fraternaly yours,

Mary Underwood

Elks Care, Elks Share, Elks Do
WE ARE THE ELKS!!

ELKS Do!

ELKS CAMP BERRETT

ANGELA M. MEYER

Director of Operations Elks Camp Barrett

ecbsecretary@outlook.com | 410-224-2945 (camp) | C) 410-739-5575



With the summer camping season coming to a close, we want to recognize our Camp Representatives, Executive Committee members and acknowledge all the support they and the Lodge members give to our camp.

While our camper numbers were lower this year for our ECB summer camp, overall, our camp was very active for the entire summer season. We were busy with rental and partner camps, including Camp Sunrise, Scout camps, Band camp, Team River Runners, Cops with Kids, and more. We are proud to have such good camps as part of our ECB family.

There is a joy that comes with the end of the summer camp season because we begin planning for the next season by picking up and keeping all the good things and repairing the things that weren't quite right. Keep your eyes open for upcoming announcements. As always, if you can give some time to the State major project, please do.

The camp just hosted our first annual multi-district charity ride fundraiser. We want to thank all who attended the bi-purposed event. Thank you so much to the event organizers, Betsy,

Colleen, Frank, and Jessica. Thanks to the nine Lodges who opened their doors to the riders. The Multi-District aspect of the ride was met with a very positive response to having the ability to plan your own ride. The day finished with the traditional Steak and Ale Dinner. The food was great, and the music was fantastic.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the ride and dinner, some giving the entire weekend to help. Our kitchen and entertainment crew put out a fine meal and some fun games and prizes.

Thank You to Betty, Patti, Ben, Franny, Mark W., Mike F., John M., John O., Stephanie, Cameron, and Steve P., and anyone else I may have missed. Your help made the event a successful and fun day for all.

As always, EC. The Bee and I wish you well and look forward to seeing everyone at the convention in Ocean City.





SOUTH WEST DISTRICT VP

WALTER E. BENSON, SR.

Camp Springs Lodge #2332
Cell: 301-943-2125 | bensonw089@gmail.com

It is my honor to have been selected to serve as your South West Vice President, and I am looking forward to visiting as many Lodges as possible during the coming months.

My Lodge visits have been slightly delayed following my knee replacement surgery. I am progressing well and my visitation schedule is well underway.

The South West Lodges have been busy this summer with cook-outs, horseshoes, corn hole, crab feasts, gun bashes, and many more activities. You will see a sampling of what's going on in this article.

I look forward to visiting all the Lodges in my district and sharing the good works of Elkdom.

Walter



Veterans, including five sight impaired individuals, enjoyed this year's fireworks by kayak. The Calvert Elks also sponsored lunch for the Team on July 29th. The veterans had a great paddle day on the Patuxent River and very much appreciated the Elks support and the delicious lunch.



Pictured left: Camp Springs Lodge #2332 Flag Day ceremony, Pictured are Southwest VP Walter Benson ER Patricia Mcinnis, Leading Knight, Bertha Page, Loyal Knight, Shelva Reed, Leading Knight, Shirley Smith, Chaplin, Ny Harris, Esquire, Gary Rhinehart



Photo left: Joe Beattie from Washington/Rockville Lodge #15 visited Fields -4-Valor, a Veteran run farm. This is our 4th year picking up fresh produce, eggs and

honey weekly through the fall growing season. Medical student volunteers from Walter Reed distribute the food to eligible vets and their families in Montgomery County. Our Gratitude Grant helped purchase these new chickens at the farm.



Prince George's Lodge #1778 Community Day, ER Loren Evans and wife Nicole, SWVP Walter Benson ER, Camp Springs Lodge #2333 ER Patricia Mcinnis, and Ray Manyette, at Selbyville Lodge 2173.



Submitted by Judith Black, Washington-Rockville Lodge \$15

On July 29th Calvert Lodge #2620 provided lunch for Team River Runners, Southern Maryland Chapter as they helped local veterans discover the joy of paddleboarding.

The organization promotes health and healing through Paddlesports; to wounded veterans, and their families with resources in Calvert, St. Mary's, and Charles counties.

Pictured above is Team River Runners Southern Maryland Chapter Co-Coordinator Tim Wiener with the participants

Calvert Elks Lodge #2620 contributed transportation to Team River Runners Southern Maryland Chapter on July 1st 2023.



Above: Waldorf Lodge #2421 sold hats and shirts for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Members attending the SW District Deputy Clinic participated in the fundraiser.

Waldorf Lodge also raised \$13,290 during a benefit for "Finn's Fierce Fight". Finn has been diagnosed with Diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), an aggressive type of childhood cancer that forms in the brainstem. The money will be used for research.



NORTH CENTRAL VP

KEVIN ROSE

Glen Burnie Lodge #2266 | Phone C) 410-984-0079
littlebratzdad@yahoo.com

I want to thank everyone in North Central for your vote of confidence in serving as your Vice President. I am incredibly honored and proud of our organization, and I try to live by my oath.

Although I am not ready for summer to end, I am excited about my visits with our State President. I have visited some of our North Central Lodges for social visits and will see many more Lodges in and out of the district.

Did you know in our State Assoc, we have six Lodges in the top 20 and 3 in the top 10, valued at nearly 9k, in ENF donations? Not too shabby, but we still have a lot of work to do. I also challenge every Lodge officer to join the Fidelity Club. \$10-20 dollars a month direct deposit from your accounts will make a difference.

Looking around, I see many Lodges doing great things for our causes and Lodges. Annapolis had a great event to support Faces of Valor with great food, fun, and representatives.

A huge shout goes to Bowie Lodge; the team there does incredible work with Elks Camp Barrett. The camp would struggle without these amazing Elks.

Glen Burnie Lodge did an excellent presentation for the Jernick Fund. Between the WJFF and Lodge, they were able to present \$4,500 to a little girl who needs a heart transplant, and to top that off, the mother is being treated for breast cancer. Great work, Glen Burnie!

Did you know we have Elks Riders Group based out of Glen Burnie? They do fantastic work to raise funds to donate to local charities, such as Casey Cares, Army of Hope, SPCA, and Faces of Valor, amongst other great charities. If you are interested in becoming a member, ask me how.

Essex Lodge has recently donated school supplies to Sandalwood

Elementary School and continues doing great work in their community.

Towson Lodge made national Headlines; read all about their Cozy Classrooms on the Community page of Elks.org.

Broadneck Hosted a wonderful community picnic and blood drive. A Veterans Poker Run is scheduled for Oct 21. Laurel hosted back-to-school Bingo for the kids and have their weekend turkey shoots scheduled.

Severna Park donated \$2,900 to SPAN, a community-based program helping those in need. They have also been doing great work with people with Special Needs and Disabilities.

We must remember Camp Barrett located right around the corner for most of us. Remember, we have a cabin that needs to be maintained and cleaned, and also put some money in your budget. If each cabin was assigned 4 to 5 Lodges and if each Lodge donated \$500 per year, that's \$2,500 per year in repairs that can be done. Again, I am challenging North Central District to be the leaders who take charge of your cabin and makes it great.

Congratulations to our DDGER Mary Underwood-Frick on your wedding! We are all very excited for you! I also want to congratulate Mary for your appointment to DDGER and thank you for your year as VP; you did a great job, and I look forward to working with you this year.

Thank you PDDGER Ken Chapman. You did a great job and kept our district moving in the right direction. Remember, we can do more as a district, but it starts at the Lodge.

I encourage you all to support our Lodges visits. I always say you will get out of the Elks what you put into it. Make a difference!

The Severna Park Elks #2482 donated \$1,000 to the Katherine Mueller Fund for NET Research, which helps fund grants to scientists with promising research initiatives to advance understanding of neuroendocrine cancer. Matt Mueller does two blood drives a year at our Lodge and continues to raise money for his wife's Fund.



Pictured left: Trustee Jim Cropper, ER Terry Hicks, Elk members Matt Mueller, Krista Latchaw, and Leading Knight Andre Denault

The Severna Park Lodge #2482 used part of the Freedom Grant to deliver nearly 100 bags of clothing for male, female, mother's and babies. The bags will be distributed on July 4th by the VA Hospital in Baltimore, MD. The Severna Park Elks will make 3 more deliveries throughout the year.

Pictured right:

Elk Members Yvonne Bates, Amy Hicks, Keith Bates, VA Representative Dave Sevinsky, VA Volunteer Edwin Jarvis, Elk Member Josh Zimmerman, Trustee Jim McCormick (Veteran)



The Lodge also donated \$2,000 to the 2nd Annual Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser.

Pictured left: Kerri and daughter, Isabella Brooks, along with Leading Knight Andre Denault. Belle's goal is to Defeat Cystic Fibrosis TOGETHER!!



SPAN, a local food pantry, requested money to help with rent and electricity for their clients. At various events during the month, we raised \$970 and the membership approved an additional \$2,000 donation to SPAN.

Pictured right are (front row) Ken Roussey, Richard Bonnett, Ronnie Culotta, along with SPAN Co-directors Maia Grabau and Michele Sabean. On the Deck above are SPAN



Volunteers Michele Besche, Linda Murphy and Linda Abell.

Continued on page 13



NORTH EAST VP

KATHY KING

Dover Lodge #1903
Cell: 302-331-5986 | kking114@comcast.net

I want to thank you for choosing me as your Vice President for this year. My official visits have been scheduled and I am looking forward to meeting with the Officers and members of the North East District.

Our Lodges have been busy this summer with many different events. Newark Lodge #2281 celebrated their 60th anniversary in August. They celebrated it with a family day. Congratulations to Newark Lodge!! They will be hosting a shrimp and chicken feast in September.

Dover Lodge #1903 along with the City of Dover hosted their Annual Fishing Derby with sixty children in attendance. Awards and medals were given to all and special awards for the biggest fish and the most fish caught for each age group. They also hosted a Women's Military Tea to recognize our women in uniform. And most recently, hosted a bike safety course and rodeo for children. Twenty six children received a new bicycle. We also highlighted our Americanism and drug Awareness programs during that event.

Milford #2401 hosted their Annual Crab Feast on July 29th and had a craft fair.

Abingdon Lodge #2354 hosted the 2023 Corn hole Tournament. Congratulations to John Kozak and Rick Russell for winning it. They also hosted a Lifeline screening event at their Lodge.

Havre DeGrace Lodge #1564 hosted their Fishing Derby on June 3rd. They continued to have breakfast on Sundays and their breakfast looks amazing.

Chestertown Lodge #2474 hosted a Golf Tournament. It was a huge fundraiser for their general fund which donates money to the community. They also completed their patio, and it looks great!!

Wilmington Lodge #307 hosted a comedy night on August 4th and will be hosting a car show in October. Keep up the good work!!

I hope all our Lodges are keeping good records of all the volunteer hours that go into these events.

Please, always remember to keep our brothers and sisters who are serving in our military in your prayers.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you all in Ocean City for our fall conference.

Fraternally yours in Elkdom,
Kathy



Dover Lodge #1903 Exalted Ruler, Connie DeYoung and Kathy King, Vice President of the Northeast pose with children who received medals and certificates at their Annual Fishing Derby.



Above: Exalted Ruler Connie DeYoung, Carolyn Courtney, Chairperson and Kathy King, Vice President of the North East District posed with the children who received new bikes at their annual bike derby.

Chestertown Lodge #2474 Lodge Scholarship Awards were presented by Exalted Ruler Basil Wadkovsky and Chairman Mike Jacobs to Rachael Heldmeyer and Natalia Thomas by the Chestertown Elks Lodge #2474.

Rachael will be attending the University of Delaware for Nursing and Rachael Heldmeyer will be attending a 2 Year Program for Equestrian Studies



Photo left: ER Basil Wadkovsky, Chairman Mike Jacobs, and Rachael Heldmeyer



Photo right: ER Basil Wadkovsky, Chairman Mike Jacobs, and Natalia Thomas

Submitted by B.J. Young, PR
Chestertown Lodge #2474



TRAINING

ROBERT ENNIS, State Chair, Washington-Rockville
Lodge #15 | Cell: 301-538-8243 | rennis51@verizon.net

Attention all officers!

On the Elks.org site, there are Grand Lodge training courses, which I encourage all officers to complete at some point this year. In the members-only section, select leadership dashboard and then training. The following courses are available:

Local Lodge Officer training, Board of Directors, Lodge Trustees, and House Committee training course, Lodge Veterans Chair quiz and Lodge Secretary training .

Please review all courses that apply. Grand Lodge keeps track of finished courses. It would be helpful to go through the other training courses offered so that each of us is more aware of the duties and responsibilities of each position.

Upcoming Training Clinic dates will be announced at a later time to be determined.



SOUTH EAST DISTRICT VP

NICOLE EVANS

Kent Island Lodge #2576
Phone: 301-580-0739 | rfrere@gmail.com

Welcome to the South East district. While in Ocean City, I hope you will take some time to visit the Lodges in the area.

I have emailed all 10 Lodges regarding the official visits from State President Renee Rivituso and myself. I have only received one reply to change a date, and it has already been addressed and corrected. If you are still waiting to receive the email, please check your spam and let me know as soon as possible.

At the August DD Clinic, I handed out applications for the state grant to many Lodges in our district. Please utilize this opportunity to do good in your community. Remember, it's more than just writing a check! Get out in the community and show them what Elks can do! If you still need a copy, please let me know.

From what I can tell from newsletters and Facebook, all Lodges have been busy this summer. Between music every weekend, crab feasts, bingo, and much more, it is so nice to see the events Lodges have.

I attended the Backyard BBQ at Cape Henlopen Lodge #2540 at the beginning of August. It was a really nice day, with great food, music, and company. I have a goal to reach at least one event at each Lodge during my office as Vice President. I watch on Facebook for events, but if there is a particular event you would like me to attend, please feel free to contact me, and I will do my best to get there.

I want to Congratulate Salisbury Lodge #817 for celebrating their 120th Elks' anniversary and the 60th anniversary of their pool! What an accomplishment!

With fall approaching and school starting, many Lodges have taken on the task of donating school supplies to local schools and students. Selbyville Lodge #2173 used the gratitude grant to hold their 2nd annual Back to School Day. If you are looking for a way to use a grant or to get out in the community, donating supplies is super easy. As a teacher myself, getting supplies donated after the holidays is needed as well as at the beginning of the year.

Hopefully, your Lodge is participating in the Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, or both! The District Soccer Shoot is being held at Crisfield Lodge #1044 on October 8th. The District Hoop Shoot is in Ocean View, DE, at the Hope Center on February 3rd. Whether your Lodge is utilizing a grant or participating in the Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shoot, they all rely on donations to ENF. We currently have 2 Lodges in the top 5 in our association. Let's keep those donations coming! Our state association had a great last year with donations, Hoop Shoot finalists, and Scholarships. Let's keep the momentum going.

Finally, I ask that we all take the time to thank our volunteers, as without their help, none of our Lodge activities would be possible.



Picture left: ER Loren Evans and Nicole Evans attended the Backyard BBQ at Cape Henlopen. Pictured with Leading Knight and House Committee Chairman Buddy Hall-McBride.

A Back to School event was held and Selbyville Lodge #2173 and they donated 92

bookbags with leftover supplies being donated to the local middle and elementary schools.

Pictured right with the bookbags is Youth Activities Chair Andrea Chamberlin and District Vice President Nicole Evans.

Selbyville Lodge also conducted a Back to School Drug Awareness Exhibit. Pictured with the backpacks is Kathy Getzel, Kinsley Evans, SE Drug Awareness Co-Chair Darlene Harmon-Getzel and Elroy with XI Car to the right.



Cape Henlopen Elks #2540 remains a major sponsor for "The Wings of Hope" celebration was highlighted by a ceremony and release of 250 live butterflies, symbolizing the lives lost to cancer. In its 13th year, this event benefits the Cancer Support Community of DE. The Lodge committed \$2,500 and hung two sheer curtains in the social quarters. Members purchased paper butterflies with any donation amount and wrote on them the names of loved ones. At the end of the campaign, our curtains held 369 butterflies and represented members' generous gifts of \$4,500, making it a total of \$7,000 donated.

Posing in front of the butterfly-laden curtains are, PER Paul Holton, Lecturing Knight Betty Ann Kortlang, Admin & Outreach Assistant Amy Hays with Southern Delaware Cancer Support Community, ER Joy Schreck and Loyal Knight Marty Schreck.



Continued on page 13

North Central Continued From Page 10

Towson Elks Lodge #469 awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to six graduating high school seniors for impressive grade achievements and their incredible service to the community.



Pictured above are four of the scholarship winners and Towson Lodge officers. *Left to right:* ER Chris O'Connell, students Claire Wu Taohan Wang, Agam Igwe, Elks scholarship chairman Sean Priest, outgoing ER and new PER Stacey Peto, student Evan LeVasseur. Missing from the photo are students Erin Patterson, and Hannah Mayne. Congratulations to Agam Igwe, who was also awarded the \$50,000 National Scholarship. He will be attending Stanford University this fall.

Earlier this year, the Towson Lodge donated \$200 each to the MD Food Bank and The MD School For The Blind, \$100 each to Alzheimer's Assoc. of MD, Mission Helpers of Sacred Heart, and St.. Vincent DePaul of Baltimore.

They also sponsored a cornhole board at the inaugural Sons of American Legion tournament in memory of a past SAL President, and retired firefighter who raised money for their local youth programs and Veterans.

Photo right: Congratulations to our local, state, and regional Hoop Shoot winner from Towson Elks #469, Reese Koropecky.

Reese finished 4th place in the national competition for girls ages 10-11.

Thanks again to the Towson Elks Hoop Shoot Coordinator & PER Pete Cline, and all his volunteers for another successful hoop shoot campaign.

Next up was the guest bartender night CVP in Towson to raise money for Caring For K9s, which benefits training for police and first responder units who utilize K9s in a variety of ways, from apprehending to rescue and gives training to the handlers in case the dogs are injured in the line of duty. Towson Elks donated \$250. Elk members volunteered as guest bartenders.



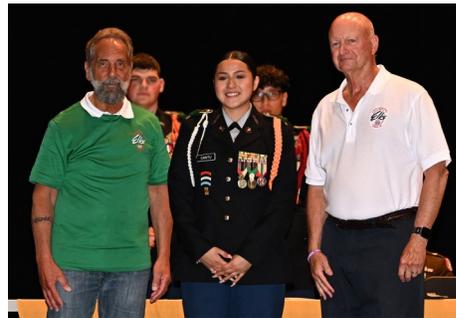
Towson donated \$100 to the following charities: Arts for Learning, Evergreen Heritage Center, the Leukemia Lymphoma Society of MD, and United Way of Central MD.

The Lodge also raised from their giving board (through donations/tips in the Lounge) \$358 for The PAR FUND, which benefits law enforcement and their families who need financial assistance, \$145 to The Yes Foundation, which teaches children the benefits of art and music, and \$128 to Camp Horizon Baltimore, based out of Boys Latin High School, which provides activities for kids with cancer.

Towson Lodge News Submitted PR Chair, Jim Bullington

South East Continued From Page 12

The Veterans Committee of the Cape Henlopen Elks #2540 presented their Distinguished JROTC Cadet Scholarship Award to Ninfa Cantu for her outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and citizenship at Cape Henlopen High School. She will attend Delaware State University and has enlisted in the Delaware National Guard. In addition, Cadet Jayden Taylor was awarded the Elk's Community Service Medal for his overall contribution to the betterment of the community through various volunteer opportunities.



Left photo: Elks Veterans Committee member Dan Celia, JROTC Cadet Ninfa Cantu, and Elks Veterans Committee Chairman Bob Trafton.

Bottom photo: Elks Veterans Committee member Dan Celia with JROTC Cadet Jayden Taylor.

Each year, the Cape Henlopen Elks Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors who plan to seek further education in a community college, vocational, or trade school setting in the fall.



In addition, the Committee seeks students for whom scholarship assistance would offer higher learning opportunities that might not otherwise be available. Another factor in choosing the eligible awardees is the degree to which the student has demonstrated involvement with community, volunteerism, or service in or out of the school setting.



WEST DISTRICT VP

JEFFREY T. SCIRE

Frederick Lodge #684
Cell: 240-674-7920 | dcf0069@sol.vom

Greetings from the West District!.

I am your new VP. My feet hit the ground in June, and I've been running ever since. I'm excited to offer my assistance to all of you, and I'm looking forward to meeting you all at your Lodge meetings and with the State President, Renee Rivituso. I trust everyone enjoyed their summer; I hope to meet many of you at the State Convention in Ocean City, MD, the weekend of September 29-October 1, 2023.

We all know the West is Best, and here are a few highlights of the great things our West District Lodges have been doing:



Frostburg Lodge #0470 held their 46th Annual Soapbox Derby on July 1. They also received a \$500 Gratitude Grant which they donated to the Frostburg Food Pantry.

Frederick Lodge #0684:

Melissa Carpenter, the Drug Awareness Chair, revitalized the Drug Awareness Program and got support from the local radio station Key103 by running local PSAs on "One Pill Can Kill" for several months. The Lodge hosted the National Night Out, welcomed more than 180 community neighbors, and had local vendors, the Independent Hose Company, the police from Frederick City and Frederick County Sheriffs, and the bomb squad and arson dog.

Pictured below: Front - Jeff Scire, Quinton Tolbert; Back row - Vincent Prouty, Derek Winkoff



Frederick Lodge also held a toiletry drive for homeless veterans and local homeless, which yielded \$1,500 in items.

They also had their Sometimes Annual Golf Tournament, which resulted in the Lodge raising \$5,000 to donate to Kline Hospice House.

Hagerstown Lodge #0378: Every year more than 4.4 million referrals are made to child protective services involving more than 7.9 million children. A report of child abuse is made every ten seconds in our country. The Lodge supported the Justices S.A.K.E foundation by donating \$1,000 toward the purchase of T-shirts to sell at the annual "Rock Me Don't Shake Me" Musicians Against Child Abuse concert.



Shown in the picture on the left are volunteers wearing these shirts.

Oakland Lodge #2481 held a National Night Out and a Drug Awareness event with Elroy. They are also planning a Back to School Cash Bash, a Bingo with the Oakland Fire Department, and they have been busy with other local community activities.

Westminster Lodge #2277 was busy helping their local community when a wild storm rolled through their town. They worked with Sergio's, a local pizza place, to donate \$300 worth of pizza to the BGE front line workers as well as clothing and gift cards of \$500 to a local firefighter who lost his home in the storm.



The Lady Hilda of the ECB, who is the kingdom's most active dispenser of all things chocolate, has sent forth a decree...

Hear ye, Hear ye,

In her infinite wisdom, Lady Hilda feels it is time to pass the Chocolate bar baton to the next keeper of the bars, who will be knighted Sir John Chocolot, of the camp table.

Sir John, formerly known as Sir John Fixolot of the kingdom of ECB, has been instructed to begin taking chocolate bar orders from the Lodges of the kingdom.

All citizens and members of the Kingdoms of Elkdom and ECB are encouraged to participate in this hearty event, kicking off at the next gathering in the township of Ocean City - where all Elks gather for the yearly festival of speeches and libations. Sir John will be available to answer queries and toast the fine Lady Hilda for her long service to the kingdoms of ECB and Elkdom—cheers to Lady Hilda and best wishes to Sir John.



ACCIDENT PREVENTION REPORT

Mike Ford, NE State Chair
Abington Lodge #2354
410-977-8230 | rinklrgod26@yahoo.com



“INSURANCE AND MARIJUANA, WE’LL FIGURE IT OUT.”

Welcome back to Ocean City and the 2023-2024 State Convention! Did you have a problem finding the State Accident Prevention guy in this bulletin? Yes, I have updated my picture from 2007 to a 2017 job site. Now you know what to look for next time.

Since returning from Minnesota, I have received many phone calls concerning our insurance increases and how they determine what each Lodge owes for the year. I have been busy via phone and emails with Grand Lodge, trying to get you some answers. I will report on this during our business session this weekend.

News Flash! Marijuana is now legal in the State of Maryland, Delaware, and DC for medical and recreational use. This is limited to consumption inside one’s residence. If you work on a Government Installation, you should notice a big sign that states: “Cannabis is still illegal on this base!” We need to take the same stand as our Lodge.

It is private property, and it is illegal to smoke weed for any medical or recreational purpose. We need to adjust our bylaws and House Rules and post a notice stating that it will not be tolerated at our Lodges. Hall Rental Agreements also need to be revised for this issue.

A violation of this stipulation should result in a loss of the security deposit and immediate termination of the Rental Agreement. No exceptions. We can still be held just as responsible for a stoned driver as an intoxicated driver.

Stay vigilant and enforce these amendments. Again, stay on top of those monthly safety reports, and remember I am in the Directory (and my contact info is above) if you have any questions. Esquires to the DDGERS, I am here for you too. Don’t hesitate to get in touch.

See you in OC!

ELKS SHARABLES

Need help finding Grand Lodge Elks “Sharables” for social media posts? Here is how to locate them, follow this link, <https://virtualmanuals.elks.org/shareables> or take a photo with your phone, of the QR code above. Scroll through the images then copy and paste those you would like to use. If you don’t know how to do that with your device, ask around; someone can assist.

These images may be edited, meaning you can add text to them, such as date, location, and time. If you do not know how to edit, simply type your message beside the picture to describe your event and use the imagery to grab attention.

GL is slowly shifting toward a unified branding theme across the country to eliminate unauthorized graphics and share our message of Charity, Friendship, and Community throughout.

Mary Cardinal Vogt, and Janie Swigert



Audit Report AUDITING AND BUSINESS PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Bob Jordan, Chairperson | Ocean City Lodge #2645
C) 410-908-2434 | K9118@aol.com

I would first like to congratulate the Lodges that have been keeping their filings of reports with the FRS on a timely basis.

We do have some problems with a few Lodges, which I will not name in this newsletter, as they know who they are. But at present, seven (7) Lodges have not filed a 23 / 24 Budget with the FRS, which was due by May 26.

We have six Lodges (6) at least four months (or more) behind on filing their actuals with FRS. The July reports were due on August 18, and the August report is due on September 22. Please get your Lodges up to date with the FRS reports.

I don’t know if everyone is aware that in the 2022 Statutes, in Section 13.040, there is an addition to the Statute that was not there in 2020, which is # 2: Financial Reporting System Local Lodges Requirements and Compliance. I suggest you read this section, as there are now fines for all FRS reports not filed on time, as written into the 13.040 statute.

All Lodges should have filed their 990’s with the FRS, which were due on August 1. If you have not submitted your Lodges 990’s, please do so.

I will be sending out monthly reports to the State District Chairs, and the DDGER’s and with our Advisors and State Sponsor. You may contact me at the above number and email anyone with any questions.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

LYNN EVANS

State Scholarship Chairperson
Kent Island #2576 (C) 410-598-1225
lynnevans6303@gmail.com

The Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest began on August 1, 2023. The deadline for entries is November 13, 2023, at 11:59 pm Pacific Time.

At the conclusion of the national contest in April, ENF will award 500 four-year scholarships. The top male and female winners will receive \$50,000 each, the top 20 finalists will receive \$30,000 each, and the remaining 480 semi-finalists will receive \$4,000.

The top male and female winners for the 2023 Contest were both from Maryland; Diya Jha from Frederick Lodge, and Agam Igwe represented Towson Lodge.

The two eligibility requirements are a high school senior and a citizen of the United States.

Applications are judged on leadership, academic achievements, community involvement, and financial need. ACT and SAT standardized test scores are no longer required.



DANIEL J. NELSON, ESQ.

Committee on Judiciary – Area 2 Phone: (814) 342-2240 • Fax: (814) 342-5318 E-mail: atty.nelson@gmail.com

The Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary (COJ) is a hard-working, dedicated group of Elks leaders. As I enter my third year of service on the COJ, I have a firm understanding of the Committee's work, as well as the time commitment required. These eight (8) attorneys—one from each Grand Lodge Area—are a busy group indeed, working (often daily) to oversee the legal affairs of the Order. Approving by-laws, answering questions, litigating Grand Forum cases, and both proposing and discussing possible changes to statutes, among other things. It is good, challenging work, and I consider it a privilege to continue my service to the Order and assist all of you.

In the off chance that any of you listened to my legislative "preview" in the run-up to the Minneapolis Convention, then you heard me speculate that Minneapolis promised to be a busy convention, legislatively speaking. As it turned out, the 2023 Grand Lodge Convention did not disappoint. A total of eighteen (18) resolutions were proposed and ultimately made it to the floor for final consideration, with ten (10) resolutions coming from the COJ and eight (8) more from Lodges and state associations. Between proposed per capita credits, requiring Treasurers to attend DD Clinics, and redefining the term "spouse", the legislative session in Minneapolis was a weighty one.

In this article, I wish to review a "sampling" of changes that will be of interest to state, district, and local Lodge leaders throughout Area 2. Now, please do not mistake my words or the purpose of this article. All changes to the Laws of the Order are important and a conscientious officer ought to take note, as officers are the best conduit of information to your Lodge's members. However, some legislative outcomes are simply more immediate, impactful, and important, and those changes I wish to discuss with you now.

First, I will discuss one resolution that did NOT pass but, boy, did it catch some attention. Resolution 2023-13 would have provided a credit to Local Lodges for all per capita payments paid to Grand Lodge by a Local Lodge, where that member failed to pay his or her dues during that Lodge year. Whether you agreed with the proposal or not, the outcome means we all continue on status quo ante. Local Lodges must still pay per capita payments to the Grand Lodge, based on the Lodge's membership list as of April 1st.

Second, changes have been made to the requirements for attendance at District Deputy Clinics. As mandated by Resolution 2023-07, Lodge Treasurers must now attend all District Deputy Clinics, just like the Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Secretary, and Trustee Chair. Similarly, Resolutions 2023-05, 06, and 07 (together) clarify that the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler possesses sole responsibility to grant excusals and exclusive authority to determine if "good cause" exists for excusal.

Third, in perhaps the closest vote of the legislative session, Resolution 2023-11 has redefined the term "spouse" to be those legally married (consistent with the laws of your

jurisdiction) or those in domestic partnership who have been cohabitating together for a period in excess of seven (7) years. NOTE: the purpose of this Resolution was NOT to expand the definition for those claiming spousal privilege but simply for use of the terms in publications at the Grand and Local Lodge level.

Fourth, Resolution 2023-10 put Life Membership requirements back on the table. I know many Lodges were surprised last year when the proposal to eliminate the age requirement (65 years) passed and became effective. For some Lodges, the cost of this change was significant and impactful to your bottom line. Resolution 2023-10 permits a Local Lodge to impose an age requirement for life membership, provided that age requirement is adopted in your Lodge by-laws. NOTE: you may NOT eliminate or withdraw a life membership already granted by adopting an age requirement in your Lodge by-laws. A life member now must remain a life member.

Fifth, a pair of proposals (Resolutions 2023-02 & 03) were passed overwhelmingly. These proposals now prohibit a member from using the "resources of the Order" (so Lodge building, membership list, social media pages, symbols/emblems, and the like) to fundraise for the purpose of participating in a Grand or Local Forum matter. If a member organizes or assists with such a fundraiser, that member can now be punished for doing so. In short, no Go Fund Me pages to raise funds to hire a lawyer to fight a Forum case. Don't do that.

Lodge leaders please note that Resolution 2023-01 was a proposed Constitutional Amendment, which did pass and was not controversial, but will require your Lodge to vote as part of the ratification process. The Grand Secretary will provide Lodges this information. You are required to hold a ratification vote (See Art. IX, Sec. 2 of the Constitution of the Order), so please don't forget and kindly follow through.

Some final thoughts before I conclude this article. All Elks should note that ALL—with the exception of Resolution 2023-01, the Constitutional provision—resolutions will become effective in thirty (30) days following passage, so on or about August 3, 2023. There were, of course, other proposals that were passed this year and still others that failed. I have elected to forgo a full discussion and review all legislative items in an effort to shorten this article. Should any member wish to review all the legislative items from the Minneapolis Convention, feel free to reach out to me.

In closing, if I can assist you in any way, do not hesitate to reach out. My contact information is available online (elks.org) and in most state association directories. I thank you all for the myriad ways I watch you—our Lodge leaders—serve your communities, our Lodges and members, and the interests of Order. You continue to do tremendous work.. We are "THE" Elks!

Fraternally yours,

Daniel J. Nelson, Area 2 Member
Grand Lodge Committee on Judiciary