



Renee' Rivotuso
Waldorf, MD Lodge No. 2421
President, Maryland, Delaware and
District of Columbia Elks State Association

State President's Message

Members of the MD, DE, & DC Elks Association, I am honored you have put your trust in me to serve as your State President for the year 2023-2024. Jeff and I will represent our great Elks Association with honor and dignity as we visit the lodges, travel to other State Associations, and attend the National convention. **Soar** to Greater Heights, not by chance but by change.

As members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks we have many challenges to grow the lodges in our State Association and make it better in the year ahead. Embracing my motto this year, "**Soar** to Greater Heights," encourages membership by implementing the Grand Lodge and Regional Programs: Americanism, Drug Awareness, Hoop Shoot, Public Relations, Scholarship, Soccer Shoot, Scouting, Youth and Veterans Service.

Soar your lodge's involvement with Youth to Greater Heights as they are the Elks of tomorrow. Encourage family participation in the lodge. Provide a dedicated room or corner for children to play during lodge dinners and activities. Sponsor a sports team and have the drug awareness trailer on the field. Sponsor children to Elks Camp Barrett to experience a week of group living in outdoor surroundings, recreationally oriented activities emphasizing physical, mental, social, and emotional growth. Please become more involved in our State's Major Project, Elks Camp Barrett. Request a grant from the William J. Jernick Fund to help assist a child with medical needs and equipment. The Association appreciates your continued support for the William J. Jernick Fund.

Soar your community involvement to Great Heights by leading and serving in the community. The Elks National Foundation (ENF) Community Investments Program invests in Elks communities through lodge grants that help Elks meet local needs. **Soar** your lodge donations to Greater Heights by meeting my \$10 per member goal.

Soar your Veterans Programs to Greater Heights. The Elks are committed to their mission, "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." Give aid to the men and women serving today and those who have served with the many Veterans Programs available: Adopt a Vet, Freedom Grant, Voluntary Service, Veterans Leather, and Welcome Home Kits.

It takes a harmonious team to work all Elks Programs and **Soar** Membership to Greater Heights. We have had an increase in Elk's membership over the past two years. Let's keep the momentum going to make tomorrow a better day for all. Orientate proposed members, initiate with an impressive ritual, and make them a part of our family. Be proud that you are an Elk. Jeff and I look forward to your friendship and serving the association.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Renee' J. Rivitusa

Lodges that succeed in retaining current Members, gaining new ones, and thriving in today's social landscape will do so not by chance but by change.