



Arizona Elks

Major Projects



OCTOBER 2025 Newsletter

Please send all written correspondence to AEMP at
P.O. Box 91560, Tucson, AZ 85752



**A Message from the
Executive Director,
Richard Ross PDDGER**



Please welcome Pediatric oncologist Emmanuel Katsanis. He is transforming cancer care for Arizona's youth

Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, still remembers the names of the first children he treated in his initial rotations in hematology oncology pediatrics at the University of Ottawa in Canada.

As a young resident, he found himself caring for children with cancer, particularly acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the most common pediatric malignancy.

“One of those patients, a young, 7-year-old girl, ended up requiring a bone marrow transplant,” he said. “Back then, our children’s hospital was new, so she was one of the first two patients who had a transplant there. Without a pediatric transplant physician on staff, just pediatric oncologists, an adult transplanter guided our team. When I finished my residency, I knew I wanted to specialize in that field.”

Katsanis came to Arizona 28 years ago and has led the University of Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy Program as its program director since 2012. He is also the chief of the University of Arizona and Banner Health Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Division for Tucson and Phoenix.

He holds the Louise Thomas Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer Research, the Peter and Paula Fasseas Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, is a faculty member at the U of A College of Medicine; a member of the Steele Children’s Research Center and BIO5 Institute; and is a faculty mentor in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Cancer Biology and Immunobiology.

“When I came here, the opportunities were great, not only clinically where there was a big need in my field, but also in research,” Katsanis said. “It was a very collaborative environment.”

Launch into hematology-oncology and hemopoietic cell transplantation pediatrics

Katsanis began his medical school experience in Athens, Greece. There, he met many thalassemia patients, which sparked his interest in hematology.

Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder where the body produces an abnormal hemoglobin, which is essential for red blood cells to carry oxygen. This leads to anemia and other health problems and iron overload due to chronic transfusions. “Back then, the patients I saw were both teenagers and young adults requiring many transfusions,” he said. “With all the transfusions they had, they began having organ failure from iron overload, as there were no drugs back then that could help those patients eliminate the iron in their blood.”

Katsanis said thalassemia patients died in their 20s at that time without today’s care options.

“I saw a lot of those patients, and I developed an interest in hematology at that point,” he said.

Following his return to Canada, where he was born, and his exposure to pediatric oncology and bone marrow transplantation during his pediatric residency, he moved to the University of Minnesota in 1987—home to the largest pediatric BMT program at the time—to train in the field.

Strides in transplantation in Arizona

Since 1997, Katsanis has treated children, adolescents and young adults with blood disorders and cancer at Diamond Children’s Center at Banner Health, and he has seen extraordinary changes in the field. For patients with leukemia, treatment is extensive. They may require hematopoietic stem cell transplant, commonly known as a bone marrow transplant, which replaces a cancer patient’s bone marrow with healthy stem cells and a new immune system. They first receive high dose chemotherapy drugs, and possibly total body irradiation, to eliminate the diseased cells in their immune system. They are then administered a dose of donor stem cells, which engraft into the bone marrow and grow to build a healthy system that can fight cancer.

Katsanis said that process is effective because it allows higher doses of chemotherapy, and the patient gets a new immune system from the donor, which may recognize the cancer as foreign and attack it in a process called graft versus leukemia. “The immune system may play a significant role in eliminating any cancer cells surviving chemotherapy,” Katsanis said.

Since 2010, the pediatric transplant program has grown from eight transplants to 31 in the past year, with a greater than 90% one-year survival rate during the last five years.

“Transplant has evolved significantly,” he said. “The outcomes are not what they used to be when I first started in this area. Only about half of the patients survived, and now, for many patients, one can expect cure rates of greater than 80%.”

You can Get the Full Story on this Link Below:

https://cancercenter.arizona.edu/news/2025/09/pediatric-oncologist-emmanuel-katsanis-transforming-cancer-care-arizonas-youth?fbclid=IwZnRzaAM_rYxleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHvRORbHO1aWgc0mrm9i-RXnsF-ySgqxONC79ZdGvz-8vqYmC0xd1kN2kRw6g_aem_dEd9BKW_ZC8VhckpikeCA

We're expanding our strategies to support finding a cure, with all Arizona Lodges involved. Fundraising is growing, and we appreciate everyone's efforts in the Arizona Elks community. Through continued teamwork, we're committed to children's health and well-being.

Reminder: The Side-by-Side Drawing is on October 19th. Submit ticket stubs and payments to the AEMP Office or take them to the AEMP Table at the Conference if needed. Contact the office with any questions.



**Incredible honor of welcoming our Elks friends from Catalina Mountain Lodge #2815. Your generous support fuels vital pediatric research that transforms lives. Together, we're creating a brighter future for our children!
Thank you.**

Jack Warter Jr Arizona Youth Camp



This season has been eventful for our Youth Camp. Due to fires, rain, and the scheduled camp closing in the second week of October for the winter, several updates have occurred. Camp Committee Chairman Appel will provide further details regarding when assistance will be needed. Many events have taken place, and we appreciate the firefighters who helped prevent damage to the camp. However, recent weather conditions have raised some concerns. The heavy rain caused a river to form through the camp, and fortunately, there was no damage. Once additional information is available, it will be sent out as soon as possible.

ATTENTION ALL ARIZONA ELKS LODGES!

Please email me at exdir@azelksmp.org any AEMP fundraiser you will be having this upcoming year. I will make sure that we will send out to all the Arizona Elks Lodges and have AEMP Representation at your Event.

AEMP FUND RAISERS

Thank You Apache Junction, Chandler Lodge, Page for holding Golf Tourney for Arizona Elks Major Project. Also, thanks go to Green Valley for Holding Corn Hole Tourney. With their help and the help of all Arizona Elks we are working to find a cure.



**1st Vice President Frank Buso and AEMP Admin Assist Megan Goetz
at Apache Junction**

Douglas Elks Lodge #955

Douglas Elks Lodge 955

ARIZONA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS & SPECIAL OLYMPICS GOLF TOURNAMENT

SUPPORTING YOUTH, VETERANS & LOCAL COMMUNITY



\$50 per player includes
green fees, cart & lunch.



25
OCT

DOUGLAS COUNTRY CLUB
4 MAN SCRAMBLE
8AM REGISTRATION
9AM SHOTGUN START

CONTACT FELICIA TUCKER
TO RESERVE YOUR TEAM
OR FOR INFO (520) 678-4225



**ELKS 2592 3RD
ANNUAL CHARITY CAR &
MOTORCYCLE SHOW**

BENEFITS STEELE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025
10AM - 2PM**

**Music by
ANGEL PEREZ - NOON TO 3PM**

**\$25.00 Pre-registration
\$35.00 Day of Show
\$20.00 Motorcycles**

2951 S Camino Mercado, Green Valley AZ 85622



FOOD, MUSIC, AND PRIZES FOR BOTH CARS AND MOTORCYCLES

Go to greenvalleyelks.org/car-show/ for complete information

Community Grant Award

2025-2026

The Community Rewards Program (CRP) provides \$1,000 to every lodge that meets the \$8 per capita (p/c) donation amount to AEMP this Elk year. The CRP awarded funds are available to those lodges the following Elk year. All lodge CRP applications are due to the AEMP office by September 30th of each year.

| Lodges | District | Per Capita |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ajo | South | \$9.95 |
| Apache Junction | East | \$37.08 |
| Bullhead City | North | \$9.53 |
| Catalina Mountain | South | \$13.38 |
| Coolidge-Florence | East | \$12.48 |
| Flagstaff | North | \$14.42 |
| Gilbert | East | \$24.29 |
| Globe-Miami | East | \$16.53 |
| Phoenix | West | \$14.02 |
| Scottsdale | West | \$8.82 |
| Sedona | North | \$10.18 |
| Show Low | North | \$9.10 |
| Sierra Vista | South | \$11.80 |
| Tempe | East | \$12.32 |
| Tucson | South | \$12.79 |
| Tucson East | South | \$27.68 |
| Yuma | West | \$9.06 |



Arizona Elks

Major Projects

2025 Mid-Year Raffle

Win this 2025 Honda Pioneer 700-4 Deluxe UTV with
a 14' Carson Trailer or \$10,000 in Cash



The Pioneer has A 675cc liquid cool engine, automatic transmission,
belted seating for 4, the rear seats fold down to create a cargo box.

**Get your Tickets at your local Elks Lodges or from the
Arizona Elks Major Projects Office**

Tickets are: \$10 each, 3 tickets for \$20.

*The drawing will be held on October 19, 2025,
at the AEA Mid-Year Meeting in Tempe AZ.*

Must be 21 years of age or older to win. Tickets are not tax deductible. Winners are
responsible for any applicable taxes and vehicle registration fee's.

2025 Mid-Year Raffle



*Scan QR Code to purchase tickets with a Credit Card, or
PayPal*



Diamond Club

Become a member today to join the cadre of caring individuals that help to support AEMP with a monthly donation.

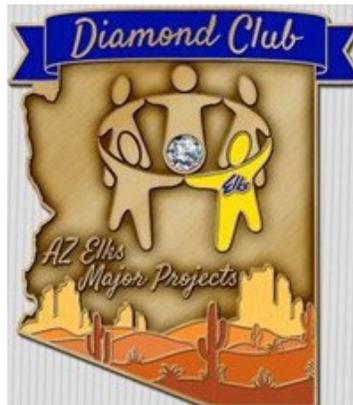
Joining the Diamond Club is easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Go to azelksmp.org

2. Click on yellow the "Your Gift" button  [Your Gift](#) .

3. Fill out the donation form and click on the blue donate button 

All Diamond Club members receive this stunning lapel pin



to proudly display their support for AEMP and all members are recognized in the monthly AEMP newsletter and at our state and Grand Lodge conventions.

Donations to AEMP are tax deductible

AEMP DIAMOND

CLUB MEMBERS

| Ken & Dianna | Adams | Sierra Vista (CM) |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Edward | Ahlm | Ajo |
| Debbie | Allen | Ajo |
| Dennis | Appel | Chandler |
| Janae | Appel | Chandler |
| Alex | Arroyo | Wilcox |
| Alane | Asp | Catalina |
| Robert | Bahr | Sun City |
| Jack | Baillargeon | Catalina #2815 |
| Donald | Baker | Casas Adobes |
| Kurt | Baker | Sun City |
| Vincent & Roseann | Bancroft | Chino Valley |
| Kay | Beachy | Chandler |
| James & Judi | Beischel | Fountain Hills |
| Mark | Blackwell | Coolidge-Florence |
| Larry & Diane | Bodwell | Phoenix (CM) |
| Dewight | Borcherdt | Parker |
| Richard & JoAnn | Botkin | Tucson East (CM) |
| Steve | Bowman | Page |
| Greg & Jeanne | Boyce | Show Low (CM) |
| Daniel | Bradshaw | Catalina Mountain |
| Ventia | Brazier | Sun City |

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|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Clem | Brown | Phoenix (CM) |
| Brandy | Bruffett | Out of State |
| Amy | Buck | Green Valley |
| Dennis | Bulck | Mesa-Buckhorn |
| Carol | Burns | Mesa-Buckhorn |
| Bob & Lisa | Burns | Tucson East (CM) |
| Angela | Buso | Kearny |
| Beth | Butler | Douglas |
| Tracy | Cabell | Chandler |
| Michael & Jodi | Carboni | Gilbert |
| Barry & Shawnee | Carlile | Sierra Vista (CM) |
| Joe & Diane | Carlone | Green Valley |
| Taleen | Carpenter | Chandler |
| Richard | Carsten | Catalina #2815 |
| Gloria | Cisneros | Catalina Mountain |
| Ira | Cohen | Casas Adobes (CM) |
| Michael | Comerford | Casas Adobes |
| Farm Hand | Consulting | Sierra Vista |
| Ray | Cornelius | Parker |
| Kathleen | Cothrun | Flagstaff |
| Bill & Margaret | Darr | Phoenix |
| David & Vicky | Dean | Sierra Vista |
| Pamala | Depweg | Lake Havasu |
| Monty & Deborah | Derting | Catalina Mountain |
| Vickie | DeValle | Out of State |
| Tony | Dixon | Scottsdale |
| Michael | Dood | Chandler |
| Brian & Sharon Thomas | Dooley | Bullhead City |
| Barbara | Eble | Showlow |
| James | Ellis | Sun City |

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|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul | Ertman | Sun City |
| Frank | Fieldhouse | Catalina Mountain (CM) |
| Kathleen | Foley | Catalina #2815 |
| Daniel | Foley | Showlow |
| Calvin | Fong | Casa Grande Valley |
| William | Foucher | Mesa-Buckhorn |
| Eva | Fox | Lake Havasu City |
| Salley | Frankel | Tucson East |
| John & Carol | Fuller | Yuma (CM) |
| Martin | Galchutt | Sun City |
| Michael | Giannetta | Wilcox |
| Gilliam | Evenlyn | Coolidge-Florence |
| Bob & Lisa | Gleason | Sun City |
| David | Gnuschke | Tucson (CM) |
| Chad | Goemans | Out of State |
| Megan | Goetz | Tucson East |
| Brian & Sheri | Gorski | Chandler (CM) |
| Mike | Granholt | Sierra Vista |
| Paul & Verna | Green | Mesa-Buckhorn (CM) |
| Casey | Hackett | Out of State |
| Kim | Haight | Lake Havasu |
| Joan | Hall | Parker |
| Adam | Hardin | Buckeye |
| Douglas & Victoria | Harpold | Catalina Mountain |
| Catherine | Hart | Mesa-Buckhorn |
| Renee | Higginbotham | Show Low |
| Tamara | Hilton | Prescott |
| Frank | Hinman | Ajo |
| John | Holtzapple | Out of State (CM) |
| Steve & Patricia | Hotz | Coolidge-Florence |

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|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Robert | Hone | Catalina |
| Cindi | Hosley | Tempe |
| Timothy | Houslet | Wilcox |
| Leslie | Huerta | Catalina Mountain |
| Ronald | Hunter | Mesa-Buckhorn |
| Jerry & Sandie | Ingram | Chandler |
| Donna | Johnson | Casa Grande Valley |
| Bruce | Kather | Sun City |
| Al & Brenda | Kayal | Phoenix (CM) |
| Richard | Kimberly | Sedona |
| Michelle | Krivanek | Catalina Mountain |
| Zaven | Kulajian | Prescott |
| Elane | Lamm | Casa Grande Valley |
| Larry | Lathrop | Ajo |
| Elizabeth | Ledingham | Lake Havasu City |
| Kristi | Lee | Wilcox |
| Denise | Lefkowitz | Tucson East |
| Larry | Legge | Show Low |
| Jerry | Lennick | Mesa Buckhorn |
| Rokki | Leonard | Gilbert |
| Jerry & Alice | Levesque | Flagstaff |
| Steve & Mary | Like | Chandler |
| Denise | Loth | Out of State |
| John | Lyon | Green Valley |
| Kathleen Ann | MacFarlane | Out Of State |
| Robin | Madson | Show Low |
| Alan | Malott | Winslow |
| Michael | McBurney | Ajo |
| Michael | McGovern | Mesa Buckhorn |
| Tim (In Memory of Charyll) | McKean | Sierra Vista |

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|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Lori | Mentor | Casa Grande Valley |
| Robert | Mertens Sr. | Kingman |
| Michael | Modrak | Fountain Hills |
| Angelique | Mogavero | Wickenburg |
| Louis | Monaco | Out of State |
| Danny | Monroe | Scottsdale |
| Judy | Mooney | Casas Adobes |
| Carmine | Morreale | Out of State |
| Lawrence & Virginia | Morrison | Gilbert (CM) |
| Travis | Napolitan | Page |
| Ken | Nelson | Douglas |
| Alfredo | Nogales | Ajo |
| John | Olson | Tucson East |
| Jeffrey | Oney | Parker |
| Gary | Parsons | Lake Havasu City |
| James | Pell | Yuma (CM) |
| Peter | Pervi | Out of State |
| Zachery(In Memory of Crawford & Ruffin) | Phillips | Ajo |
| James & Sandra | Powell | Kingman |
| Larry & Stephanie | Pratt | Tempe |
| Jeff | Prevey | Phoenix |
| Ren Dog | Productions | Out of State |
| James | Pulley | Flagstaff |
| Grover & Deborah | Ramsey | Casa Grande Valley (CM) |
| Jim | Ray | Chino Valley |
| Fred | Renshaw | Out of State |
| Lisa | Rivers | Wickenburg (CM) |
| Aimee | Rogers | Chandler |
| Peggy | Rogers | Tucson East |
| Michael & Pam | Ross | Catalina #2815 |

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|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Richard | Ross | Tucson East |
| Theodore | Sadlowski | Phoenix (CM) |
| Terry & Stephanie | Sanders | Parker |
| Denny | Scanlan | Tucson |
| Mary | Schaffer | Casas Adobes (CM) |
| Kathlee | Schellhas | Mesa-Buckhorn (CM) |
| Daniel | Schoenborn | Yuma |
| Connie | Schultenjans | Tempe |
| Thomas | Seeley | Ajo (CM) |
| Katrina | Sharp | Tucson |
| Brigid | Sherbo | Tucson East |
| Phillip | Shoaf | Lake Havasu City (CM) |
| Ken | Short | Casas Adobes |
| Anthony | Sichi | Phoenix |
| Bryan | Silver | Tucson |
| Al & Diane | Skorupski | Catalina Mountain (CM) |
| Paul | Slater | Catalina Mountain |
| Mari | Slocum | Tempe |
| Adam | Smith | Mesa Buckhorn |
| Mary (in memory of Dan) | Snyder | Raceway (CM) |
| Mary | Springer | Payson |
| Cheryl | Srafin | Payson |
| Darla | Stacy | Out of State |
| James | Stanley | Chandler |
| Ron & Katherine | Starjnski | Catalina Mountain |
| Barbara & Kevin | Steele | Tempe |
| Tory | Stradling | Kingman |
| Thomas | Strupp | Phoenix (CM) |
| Gary | Sudan | Sun City |
| Jim | Theobald | Chandler |

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|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Gregory | Thomas | Fountain Hills |
| Linda | Thompson | Phoenix |
| Pauline (In Memory of Hank) | Thonnard | Kevin |
| Stradling | Tory | Kingman |
| Susan | Trecartin | Tucson |
| Kenneth | Trumbauer | Mesa-Buckhorn |
| Nancy | Turner | Casas Adobes |
| Sally | Veazey | Flagstaff |
| Kenneth | Walker | Gila Bend |
| Duane & Pat | Washkowiak | Tempe |
| Amy | Wasson | Tempe |
| Jimmy | Watkins | Apache Junction |
| Vicki | Way | Sun City (CM) |
| Michael & Cathy | Weishan | Chandler |
| David | Whitmore, Jr. | Show Low |
| Clinton | Wilkins | Show Low |
| Patricia | Willers | Bullhead City |
| Ronald | Wilson | Wickenburg (CM) |
| Larry | Woll | Bullhead City |
| David | Wright | Yuma (CM) |
| | | |

THE DIAMOND CLUB needs your support! We have slightly under 30,000 AZ Members and to be realistic would like to have a 10% increase or more. Your Donations would help all around in Supporting AEMP! So, join a Great Program that supports our children.

Who's Who in AEMP

AEMP Board of Directors

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Mike Giannetta, PER | Wilcox #2131 |
| Vice President | John Fuller, PER | Yuma #476 |
| Secretary | Randy Appel, PER | Chandler #2429 |
| Treasurer | Larry Bodwell PDDGER | Phoenix #335 |
| East | Steven Like PER | Chandler #2429 |
| South | Al Skorupski PSP | Cat Mountain # 2815 |
| North | Dennis Holt, PDDGER | Jerome #1361 |
| North | Larry Legge, Vice President East | Show Low #2090 |
| Member At Large | Frank Buso 1 st Vice President | Kearny #2478 |
| Ex-Officio Member | Larry Carver AEA State President | Kingman #468 |

AEMP Staff

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Executive Director | Richard Ross, PDDGER | Tucson East #2532 |
| Administrative Assistant | Megan Goetz, PER | Tucson East #2532 |
| Financial Advisor | Bob Burns Exalted Ruler | Tucson East #2532 |
| Statutory Agent | Tom Sylvester | Tucson East #2532 |

AEMP District Representatives

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| East | Grover Ramsey, DDGER | Casa Gran #1957 |
| North | Richard Kimberly, PDDGER | Sedona #2291 |
| South | John Olson, PER | Tucson East #2532 |
| West | Anna Mineer PER | Scottsdale #2148 |

AEMP Camp Advisory Committee

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Chairperson | Dennis Appel, PDDGER | Chandler #2429 |
| East (AEMP SEC) | Randy Appel, PER | Chandler #2429 |
| North | David Whitmore, PER | Show Low #2090 |
| South | Tom Miller, PDDGER | San Man #2007 |
| West | Joe Brown PER | Phoenix #335 |

