



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care – Elks Share



Season of sharing and feeling the reward

'Tis the season we give thanks as the holiday season comes upon us. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you during this special time of year. Take the time to give back to your local veterans as Veterans Day is also upon us. So long as there are veterans, Elks will never forget them.

Set up a dinner for as many local veterans as you can. Help a homeless veteran with finding housing and household goods. Go to your local veterans hospital and bring them something as simple as socks and underwear. Take some Bingo cards and some small winner gifts and play Bingo for a few hours. There are so many things you can do to show your support of your local veterans. No matter what you accomplish to do in your Lodge, or outside your Lodge, to show the support, I am positive the thanks you receive will be worth it.



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**PAUL R.
RYAN**

Thanksgiving is also cherished this month. Many Elks throughout our nation will celebrate by opening their Lodges to a dinner for the homeless, or for those who are less fortunate. Be a part of this if you can: The reward of thanks will warm you as the chill in the air gets cooler. Before sitting down with your family, give thanks for what you have and remember those who have fought to allow you to do so.

Now, this time of year is also a time to start thinking about the end of the Lodge

year. Have you thought about your Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year, or your Citizen of the Year? This is a time to reflect on your Members who have stood out and helped you through your year. Show your appreciation for their hard work and prepare an event for attendance by Members to show them and non-Members what it means to be an Elk.

Stacey and I will travel back to Minnesota to be with our families during the holidays. We will think of all the people we have already met and also the ones who we look forward to meeting. We wish to extend to you a very happy Thanksgiving. We thank you for all your efforts during our year representing you as Elks. With your efforts for now and years to come we are **“Creating Momentum for the Future of Elkdom!”**

Elks Memorial perpetual care

Originally dedicated in 1926 to the memory of our fallen Elks of World War I, the Veterans Memorial Building is at the heart of Elkdom. Magnificently constructed in Chicago, the Memorial is a breathtaking structure representing the values Elks cherish.

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

Through the years, the Memorial has been rededicated to honor the memory of American veterans who have died for our great nation. Our duty is to ensure this Memorial remains an extraordinary symbol of the bravery and patriotism of these veterans.

By making an individual or Lodge 501(c)(3) donation, you will assist in the perpetual care and continued restoration of this beautiful Memorial. Go to elks.org and click “Veterans Memorial” on the home screen. Take a virtual tour, read about the history, plan a visit, make an online donation, or mail a donation today.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

COVID won't slow DAP's mission

By WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Assistant National Director

Everyone's goal is to prioritize the reopening of schools as safely and quickly as possible, considering the many benefits of in-person learning. In order to enable this and assist schools with their day-to-day operations, it is important to adopt and diligently implement actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 inside the school and out in the community.

Vigilance with these actions will lessen the risk of in-school transmission regardless of the underlying community burden—with risk being the lowest if proven mitigation strategies are taken and community transmission is low.

Elks everywhere have been challenged with the proposition of opening, and of how we can assure the safety of our communities and our Members. The DAP is facing the very same issue in how do we best deliver our message to our communities, our schools, and our children.

The CDC has issued many guidelines to schools and among these is to limit or even cease having school assemblies. This posed an obvious roadblock to the DAP, who relies on getting our educational materials into schools and by having our National Spokesperson, Ray Lozano, educate schools throughout the country. The DAP even solicited the help of a second speaker, Heather DeBlasi, to expand these services—and then along came COVID-19!

But the Elks DAP has never allowed a little blip to interrupt their service to children, so work is underway to bring the Virtual Speaking Tour to your community. For more information, contact your State Association's DAP Chairperson.



GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Students to discuss Patriotism for essay contest

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

The Americanism Essay Contest stirs youth pride in America. Grand Lodge once again is pleased to offer this national contest to fifth and sixth graders for Division I, and seventh and eighth graders for Division II. For 2020-2021, the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has selected the theme, “How Can Patriotism Be Demonstrated?”

This very important Patriotic Contest gives school children the chance to express their views on their pride in America. Kindling our youth’s appreciation and respect for patriotism is central to understanding our country’s heritage. Our youth come to understand the symbols that represent what this country stands for, and can get a deep appreciation for the individuals who sacrifice everything so all can enjoy its freedom. The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee and all Elks across the country enthusiastically endorse this program because patriotism is one of the BPOE’s great cornerstones.

Another academic year has begun and students all across our great country are back in classrooms (physically or remotely) to study, learn, and grow into our future leaders. Lodges should have



already contacted local school districts, private schools, home schools, charter schools, and teachers (who may also be Elks) to provide them with the new Americanism Essay Contest to add to their fall curriculums. In this time of distance learning, employing the help of groups like the PTA and hosting Zoom meetings are great tools to spread the word about this contest.

Entry information and contest rules are available for download online, or you can contact your local Lodge Americanism Chair. All Area DDGERS and ERs should have thumb drives with instructions, forms, etc. If you do not have your thumb drive with this information, contact your DDGER immediately to get yours, or have the zip files e-mailed to you. All information is also available online at Elks.org.

This contest is important because it

involves school children in your area, showing them Americanism at its best. Plaques will be awarded by the Grand Lodge for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place for winning essays in Division I and Division II. Winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Tampa, FL, July 4-7, 2021. **Essays must be submitted to local Lodges by December 15, 2020.**

Your action now will influence and shape our country’s youth, which impacts all of our futures. I urge all ERs and Americanism Committee members to implement this contest in your local schools, or follow up on the essays if you already have the contest underway in your local school district. Stay safe, stay healthy. God bless you and God bless America!



Elks share their thoughts

Want to discuss the Elks? Check out the Membership Forum (elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm). Members use the message board to share constructive information every day.

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Charitable reporting serves as historical record

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**
Committee Member

I hope this article finds my brother and sister Elks safe and our Lodges all open. This year has no doubt been tough on all of us. As I write this, two storms in the Gulf threaten many of our Lodges. I bought a 2021 calendar the other day and the clerk said she was impressed by my optimism!

With all the challenges of 2020, some things have changed, but the Elks have not. Our schools and communities need us now more than ever. A change to grant guidelines allowed for direct monetary support of local programs, which coupled with local Lodge efforts can make an even bigger impact. So, I am optimistic!

Of course, this is where we always insert “please remember to submit a charitable report form to your Lodge Secretary.” But it is more important to know why,

and to explore what local Lodges can do with the information.

Last year the Elks contributed over \$381 million worth of time and money—as well as goods and services—to hundreds of worthwhile programs throughout the nation. Tracking this generosity online is one of the key ways we maintain our 501(c)(8) tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service. Fun fact: Last year’s contribution brought the total to over \$8.4 billion since 1878.

I would like to encourage each Lodge to track their annual charitable giving history and use that information for news articles, community presentations, and even a banner! You don’t have to go back to 1878; CLMS has Lodge giving records that go back 16 years. What would your Lodge total in just the last five years?

That should be another source of pride we all have in our organization. The community should know about it, and it

could even start a friendly competition with other Lodges in your district!

Back to the pandemic. In 1918 the country was hit by the Spanish Flu, and it is interesting to read the concerns and issues similar to what we have dealt with. During that time, Elks nationwide gave and supported their communities, just as we are today.

As reported in three issues of the New Orleans Times-Picayune: “Rising to the occasion, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks established a free dispensary to provide medication and food to the poor and organized 18 physicians to provide their services. By October 27, doctors working at the Elks lodge made close to 12,000 medical visits.”

Charitable giving in 1918 increased 30% nationally. Let’s keep track of all we are doing and try to make this year a similar increase with all you are doing.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**ENF staff adds two scholars**

The two newest members of the Elks National Foundation's staff are testaments to one of our guiding tenets: Our program recipients can be champions of the Order. Grace Roebuck and Jessica Carter, Elks scholars who are now ENF Scholarship Office members, are championing the goals of the Foundation—to build stronger communities.

A 2016 MVS National Finalist sponsored by South Kingstown, RI Lodge No. 1899, Grace Roebuck studied psychology and studio art at Vassar College. She graduated in May.

She's the fourth Elks Scholar Fellow, a fellowship position offered to Elks scholars to gain experience working for a nonprofit while overseeing the service trip program. Roebuck is poised and ready to lead service trips when it's safe to do so—she's attended three Elks Scholar Service Trips, including 150 for 150 during the 2018 Elks National Convention.

"I personally grew a ton from service trips and really made great friends and meaningful relationships, so I am ecstatic to help scholars make those connections and grow like I got the chance," Roebuck said. "Being able to connect with people through something as pure and as important as service is really what creates that glue that cements you for life."

Roebuck connected with the other new ENF staff member at 150 for 150, Jessica

Carter. Carter joined Team ENF in June as the Scholarship Office's Programs Coordinator.

Carter is a 2015 MVS National Finalist sponsored by Elgin, IL Lodge No. 737. Carter attended Northwestern University and graduated in 2019.

During her college career, Carter attended the inaugural Elks Scholar Service Trip in Manistique, Michigan, and she served a four-year term on the Scholar Advisory Board.

Before joining the ENF, Carter was slated to teach in Armenia as a member of the Peace Corps, but the pandemic forced the Peace Corps to suspend its volunteer programs indefinitely—which led her to the ENF.

"I wouldn't have been able to go to college without the MVS scholarship, and because of that, it was important to me to work with students after graduation," Carter said. "I'm excited to be able to get to do that through the ENF scholarship department."

For 2020-21, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$2.9 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000. For more information about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, including eligibility and deadlines, visit enf.elks.org/MVS.

MEMBERSHIP From Page 4

enhance your expertise in Membership & Marketing. Use it to build your Lodge brand, which will help attract new Members, retain Members, and motivate them to be more active and engaged. It's all designed for the betterment of our Lodges.

**VETERANS** From Page 4

The Elks Veterans Service Commission stands ready to do everything we can to support the Elks' motto, "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Please also remember the ongoing campaign to support the Pearl Harbor Memorial renovation. Important work is being done, and the Elks are being recognized for their commitment to restoring and improving this national monument that provides all Americans with a focus for remembrance and reflection of a very dark but inspiring time in our nation's history. Please help as you are able. Donations must be received by November 11.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**Elks grants let Lodges focus on community needs**

By **MICHAEL B. BRYANT**
Committee Member

COVID-19 has been a life-changing event for most of us and there does not seem to be an end to the restrictions in the near future. Work has been affected, not only with job losses but also with changes in daily job functions. Social life is different, as many are not able to socialize with friends as they normally would. Going to restaurants, movie theaters, parks, and yes, even the Lodge, has in many cases been eliminated or curtailed greatly.

This has taken a great toll on our local Lodges. Depending on your state, you may not be able to assemble in groups for normal Lodge meetings, gather to plan events, or to meet with the public to collaborate on our community programs. In this difficult time, our programs are even more valuable to our communities.

We can still find ways to work with our communities to provide services and goods unique to your individual community. We may not be able to meet in large groups, but we can still meet the needs of others in many ways. This not only supports our community, making a difference to those who are in need, but also enhances our image in the community, showing we are there to serve even in very difficult times.

The thing I truly love about Elkdom is that we can customize our programs to our individual communities, drilling down to specific needs as best known by the local Lodges. These projects may involve youth, veterans, teachers, homeless, and others in need.

Grand Lodge is providing additional assistance with meeting these community needs. The Beacon Grant this year, as an example, has been increased to \$3,500.

You can merge this grant with the Spotlight Grant and receive an additional \$2,000 to be used for COVID-19 relief. These can supplement local fundraising, which may be limited now, to assist your community and bring positive recognition to your Lodge.

You can participate in the Community Project Contest for these worthy programs. Now is the time to start planning for your entry. The Lodge Community Project Contest form is online at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/communityProjectsContest.pdf>.

All entries must be received by May 1, 2021. There are six divisions based on Lodge size with a first, second, and third place winner in each division. This contest recognizes and rewards your Lodge Members for their hard work and lets them know this work is appreciated by others, including the Grand Lodge.

Veterans Day recognizes military families, too

By **ROBERT L. DUITSMAN, PGER**
Commission Member

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has long committed itself to honoring and supporting our country's military service members and veterans, and in these times that commitment has never been more important.

It was perhaps in the wake of the Second World War that the practice of honoring those who served in our nation's military was most intense. Parades and a variety of other events were staged to recognize those who offered themselves in the defense of our nation and its interests. While that fervor may have diminished for some over the years, the

Elks have stood firm in continuing to recognize the men and women who serve this nation.

But, while as Elks we are familiar with the importance of November 11 as Veterans Day, when special attention is paid to honor our nation's veterans, some may not know that since 2016 November has been recognized as National Veterans and Military Families Month. Indeed, it is important we be mindful of not only the men and women who volunteer to serve in defending our nation, but also of their families who must endure hardship, emotional turmoil

and deprivation while supporting them. As Elks, while concern for our military is a year-round commitment, it is fitting we look for ways to support their families as well. Consider planning an event: Invite the family of service members to an event at your Lodge as circumstances allow, even if their service spouse or family member is unavailable. A little special attention, support and recognition for their special contributions to our nation's defense may go a long way, and heighten awareness in your community of what Elks stand for.



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BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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GRAND LODGE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING

Don't just go through the year—Grow through it

By **RICK GATHEN**
PR and Membership Marketing Manager

Every Exalted Ruler's top priority is membership growth. The Elks' website features our new virtual manuals, including a membership guide, marketing guide, and social media shareables. They are loaded with great information to help your Lodge Membership Committee work up to its fullest ability.

Use these valuable tools and build a better Lodge. View the virtual orientation

experience called "My Journey Begins." Print out the new Member survey. Visit the new online Membership invitations and applications. Visit the printable section and brand your Lodge social quarters with tent cards, placemats, and signs. Learn more about the new GER interactive e-greeting sent to all new Members. Watch both the Orientation and Recruitment videos. Take advantage of the indoor and outdoor branding opportunities we offer. Learn how to attract new Members and

retain your current Members. We have created dynamic pages with easy-to-find and easy-to-use applications. The intuitive navigation options are easy to locate and visually attractive. The new contact features allow you direct access to your Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing Committee. The Bricks & Clicks applications are ready to help transform your Lodge. The content will

Please see **MEMBERSHIP**, Page 3



Dinner + Veterans = Thanksgiving Veterans Service