



Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

Elks Care — Elks Share



ENF grants, programs bolster communities

October brings to us many Elks activities and family fun. Let's start with the most important program in our Order, the Elks National Foundation (ENF). As your Grand Exalted Ruler, I have once again established the goal of \$4.80 per Member per capita. When you do the calculation for this goal, that's just a little over \$.01 a day. For each Lodge dollar donated, ENF could potentially repay hefty dividends for the programs offered.

Your Lodge can and should apply for the various grants to assist your communities: Beacon Grant, Gratitude Grant, Spotlight Grant, Promise Grant, Impact Grant, and Freedom Grant. Each grant has a specific deadline to apply for funding. I encourage all Lodges to take the time to educate yourselves about these grant programs.



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler
BRUCE A.
HIDLEY**

Find some Members who would be willing to dedicate their time to apply for these worthy grants.

Other programs ENF funds include: Scholarships, Youth Activities, Veterans Service, Elks Veterans Memorial maintenance, and much more. It is very important to let our Members know about the great work ENF does. A fine way of *"Promoting Elksdom With Enthusiasm"* is to support the Great

Heart of Elksdom. The Elks' mission is to build stronger communities and ENF provides the resources to fulfill this mission. I charge you to get out into your communities with great pride and show them what the Elks do for them. For more information about the Elks National Foundation, go to elks.org/enf.

Another important program we must focus our attention on is Red Ribbon Week. This is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program. Red Ribbon Week is celebrated annually from October 23 to October 31. There are many ways to celebrate Red Ribbon Week in your communities. Have your local elected officials issue a proclamation declaring a Red Ribbon

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Help is available

Members in need of help can qualify for up to \$1,000 of assistance from the Order under Section 5.070 of the Grand Lodge Statutes.

This assistance would be available to *"worthy and needy Members of the Order who are suffering from diseases of an incurable character or from total disability, and who are without funds or property or relatives able or willing to care for them,"* the Statute states.

The Statute also provides that the Lodge of the assisted Member *"shall contribute toward the relief of the Member an amount not less than one-half of the sum that is contributed by the Order."*

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

The assistance program is administered by the Board of Grand Trustees, which is authorized to appropriate up to \$10,000 annually for the program. The Board, by resolution, may give the Grand Exalted Ruler up to \$1,000 so that authorized payments may be made regularly by him.

"The monies so appropriated shall be administered by the Grand Exalted Ruler with the consent of a majority of the Board of Grand Trustees," the Statute states.

G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

Online tools boost membership growth

By RICK GATHEN

Membership Marketing Manager

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

Use these valuable tools and build a better Lodge. Print out the recently revised new member orientation survey. We also feature a recently revised printable section. Use this to brand your Lodge social quarters with tent cards, placemats, and signs. 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. Please visit the

new recruitment website, join.elks.org.

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

Please ensure you initiate all your candidates promptly. That is the key to growing membership under your watch.

ELKS Do!

GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

States can earn awards for their charitable reporting

By **WALTER S. ICE**
Committee Member

At the annual meeting held during the Elks National Convention in Atlanta in July, the Government Relations Committee established two new awards.

The first award will be given to the states where 100% of the Local Lodges participate and complete their charitable reporting in CLMS. A *100% Participation Certificate*, suitable for framing, will be presented to the State Government Relations Chairperson of each winning state during the Government Relations Training Session, which also takes place annually at the National Convention.

The second award is for recognizing the states that achieve a 10% or greater increase in their total charitable dollars

reported over the prior year. As with the first award, a certificate suitable for framing will be presented to the State Government Relations Committee Chairperson at the Government Relations Training Session.

It is the Government Relations Committee's hope that these awards will encourage all Local Lodges to actively participate in their charitable reporting and to make sure that all Lodge events are accurately reflected in the charitable reporting system.

States and State Government Relations Chairpersons who have won these two awards will be acknowledged in a slide presentation as a part of the Government Relations Committee Report at the National Convention, along with the entire report becoming a part of

the published Grand Lodge Convention Proceedings.

So, what can you do? As an Elks Member, first and foremost participate in the charitable works that your Lodge is doing for the betterment of your communities. During the charitable events, help compile the information needed in order to accurately report the charitable dollars associated with the events (i.e. number of participants, the mileage and hours associated with the participants, etc.). And lastly, make sure the compiled information is immediately turned in to your Local Lodge Government Relations Chairperson or to your Lodge Secretary.

Let us see which states will step up and meet the challenges. Always remember, when it comes to charitable reporting, **report, report, report!!**

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Podcast prepares parents for tough talks

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**
Assistant National Director

In partnership with the DEA, the Elks Drug Awareness Program has launched *Awkward Conversations II*.

This 20 episode, unscripted video podcast is hosted by *Full House* and *Fuller House* star Jodie Sweetin, who is joined by Amy McCarthy, a senior clinical social worker at Boston Children's Hospital. The two will be chatting with celebrity parents and guest experts on how to prepare for the awkward conversations with their kids.

Parenting comes with all sorts of trials and tribulations – particularly when your child reaches his or her teenage years. Join us each week as we cover a wide array of subjects that will help parents learn how to raise kids with the necessary tools they need to stay safe, substance free and make smart decisions.

Each episode will feature expert guests who will help guide parents and answer those tough questions that may come up in the ever-changing world of raising kids. The following are some of the subjects covered in Season 2: Signs of drug use in teens; fake pills; setting positive examples; preventing drug misuse among college students; bullying and peer pressure and their

consequences; helping kids de-stress; Red Ribbon Week; understanding your kids' social media use; and "do's and don'ts" when you talk about drugs, to list a few.

Listeners can find the podcast on their podcast apps by searching "Awkward Conversations," or by going to:

Spotify: open.spotify.com/show/1t9zFm4sxArh8Epy2ZZlve

Apple Podcast: podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/awkward-conversations/id1637649699

Resources for parents, educators, and caregivers wanting to learn more about how to effectively keep an open dialogue with children about drug use, signs of use, and more, visit these pages.

Get Smart About Drugs: getsmartaboutdrugs.gov

Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent's Guide to Substance Use Prevention: dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/growing-up-drug-free-2017.pdf

One Pill Can Kill: dea.gov/onepill
Never Thought I'd Say This with Jodie Sweetin: youtube.com/channel/UCjJjYCxP9w1jN5QTHQNu4Yw

Talk About it! podcast with Greg Grunberg: talkaboutit.org/epilepsy/podcast

Elks Kid Zone: elkskidszone.org



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Week. Have your Members distribute red ribbons to our schools and encourage Members, friends and loved ones to wear red ribbons.

Today, Drug Awareness has become an even greater challenge as we continue to fight the horrors of drug abuse and addiction. The staggering number that comes to mind is that in the United States alone, there have been nearly 71,000 overdose deaths each year. The amount of deaths from drug overdoses is the reason why the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks takes such a hard stand to prevent and educate our youth and adults. The Elks will always be there to support *bugs are better than drugs*. I can't think of any better way of "*Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm*" than to work hard to stop these dreaded drug diseases.

October is also a time when most people enjoy a nice fall holiday with Columbus Day. Finally, October 31 is known as Halloween. A day and night when the ghosts and ghouls come out. Our children get to enjoy putting on their favorite costumes to go trick or treating. Please be safe when going door to door and stay in neighborhoods that you know well.

God bless all of you, God bless our troops past and present, and, most of all, God bless America.

Elks Care – Elks Share

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

7 topics for evaluating a Soccer Shoot program

By **TERENCE P. FORD**

Committee Member

By now, Soccer Shoot should be in full swing. District, state, regional and/or area contests should be upon us. Be proud of your Lodge winners. Follow them to every level they achieve. A friendly face in the audience cheering them on is always a welcoming sight, especially if there is an issue. The family has a recognizable person they can turn to.

Now is also a good time to review the Lodge's local contest. Was it a success? Think about what could be done to make it better for next year while it's fresh on one's mind. Bring the Soccer Shoot Committee together to review and listen to everyone's thoughts. Here are some topics to discuss and possibly improve upon.

1. Did the date for the Lodge contest properly align with the district and state Soccer Shoot contest dates?

2. Was there a scramble to obtain the insurance rider to hold the contest? The rider request should be done about a month before the event, or when the facility requires it, to ensure it is received in time.

3. Did you promote the contest? Many Lodges have had success working with



their local soccer leagues. Contact the league directors and ask them to help promote the event to all their teams. Find out if there are any Lodge Members who are coaching and/or have children in the soccer league. Ask those Members to spread the word. Maybe coordinate with the League to hold the event on the same day and at a location near to the league's team photo day.

4. How was the equipment? Were there enough soccer balls? Were the goals in good condition? What needs to be replaced for next year? What other supplies are needed (measuring tape, paint for lines, clip boards, pens, etc.)?

5. How familiar were the volunteers with rules?

6. Were there enough volunteers? If not, does your Lodge have an Antlers

Program? This is a good program for them to get involved with. If not, check with other Lodges in the area to see if they have an Antlers Programs and are willing to assist. Another option is to contact the local high school soccer teams. It's a great way for them to earn community service hours. If they agree, have them wear their team jerseys so people will know who they are. Whether Antlers or soccer teams, have them actively involved as scorers or judges, not just ball retrievers. The younger participants may feel more at ease with a person closer to their age helping and cheering them on.

7. Did you let your Lodge or community know of the winners? Articles in the Lodge bulletin and in the local newspaper is a great way to promote the event.

Ensure timely submission of all reports and list of winners to the next level of competition. District and/or state chairs need time to properly plan. Last minute submittals do not help anyone.

Please work with the Lodge Exalted Ruler or Secretary to fill out the Charity Records Workbook under 1103-Athletic Programs Soccer Shoot Line.

For more information, please refer to the Grand Lodge Activities Committee website for the manual and brochures.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Celebrating 40 years of Contest 'A' – All American Lodge

By **SANDRA BRANTNER**

Committee Member

In the fraternal year of 1982–1983, Grand Lodge introduced the Contest 'A' – All American Lodge Contest to its Lodges. This was the first opportunity for the Lodges to showcase their year of hard work for Elkdom in their communities, State Associations, and nationally.

As the contest has taken on new changes, some additions and deletions over the years, it is still a great guide for your Lodge to use in helping you to achieve a successful year. The Exalted Ruler, officers, and Members can work together all year long to achieve success.

Just this year a few changes were made to the contest at the many suggestions that were entertained at the Grand Lodge Convention in Tampa, Florida in July 2021. These various items were taken into consideration by the Fraternal Committee

and presented to the advisor of our committee, who then took these ideas to advisory for consideration in February 2022. We are happy to report they were open and excited for these new changes that are in effect starting this year, in hopes that more Lodges will get involved in the contest.

New this year: Elks National Foundation Grants. Receiving grants has always been a part of the contest, but this year is the opportunity to get points for just applying for grants! Also new this year, at the request of the Ritual Committee, points have been increased for each of the Ritual Competitions. Participating in a Certified Competition, 11 O'Clock Toast Contest, or the Grand Lodge Flag Charge have all increased by 10 points each!

Remember, there are six divisions:

I: 1-150 Members;

II: 151-225 Members;

III: 226-300 Members;

IV: 301-450 Members;

V: 451-700 Members;

VI: 701 Members & over.

Also, remember that supporting documentation is required for each asterisked item on the form to validate your submission. The lack of proper supporting documentation can cause your Lodge to be disqualified.

It is time to showcase the great things your Lodge is doing by submitting your application for the Contest 'A' - All American Lodge Contest. The top 10 in each division, 60 lodges total, will be named in the July newsletter. The top three in each division, 18 lodges total, will earn recognition at the Grand Lodge Convention in July 2023 in Minneapolis.

Your Lodge may not win in the contest, but you will definitely be a winner within your Lodge and community. Start working on your submission today.

Emergency Assistance Fund keeps veterans housed

By **NADEZH MULHOLLAND**
ENVSC Programs Associate

The ENVSC's Welcome Home Program has been helping veterans prevent and exit homelessness since 2016. When you think of the Welcome Home Program, what comes to mind?

You might picture a veteran finally moving into a permanent home of their own after living in a shelter or on the street. That's an essential part of our work, but it's not the whole story. The other side of the Welcome Home Program is just as important: helping veterans remain safely housed in times of crisis.

The primary way we prevent

homelessness is through our Emergency Assistance Fund, which helps veterans with housing expenses such as rent and utilities.

As the program name suggests, many veterans who turn to us for help are one emergency away from being served eviction papers. Every veteran has their own story, yet many veterans and their families are united by the looming threat of homelessness and the precarity of living paycheck to paycheck. We provide targeted financial assistance in critical moments. Often, that assistance is the only thing standing

between them and homelessness.

Homelessness prevention is monumental in the lives of veterans. In the past year, we helped a new mom with rent as she worked toward her goal of becoming financially independent after leaving a bad marriage. When a veteran's wife died, we paid utility bills to allow him to grieve while adjusting to the loss of her income. We assisted a veteran who was temporarily out of work following a car accident and had used up his savings to stay afloat.



Continued below

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary
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The old saying "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is true in the case of veteran homelessness. Becoming homeless puts veterans at increased risk of homelessness again in the future. Having an eviction on record or owing debt to a former landlord can make it hard to find new housing, and many landlords don't want to take a chance on a tenant with poor credit.

By preventing veterans from becoming homeless, we are intervening in this cycle before it begins. The Emergency Assistance Fund helps people to overcome hurdles small and large to remain stably housed and save for the future. A veteran in California explained, "Without your assistance I had no other options and would be destitute. Now, I see a way out."



**Red Ribbon Week
October 23-31**

