



# Grand Lodge NEWSLETTER

*Elks Care — Elks Share*



## Dedicated, passionate Elks made this year a success

We celebrate the birth of the greatest nation on earth on the fourth day of this month. It is a time to reflect on all the freedoms we have enjoyed because of the vision of a small group of men and women committed to a cause.

People in this country still enjoy those same freedoms 248 years later. The enthusiasm for the cause of liberty has never been stronger. As Elks our commitment to our nation has never been stronger. Happy birthday, America—the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Time flies when you are having fun. A year ago, Wanda and I began this incredible journey. This was an adventure we never envisioned but we are so glad to



**Message from  
the Grand  
Exalted Ruler**

**RANDY P.  
SHOOK**

have experienced.

The accomplishments we witnessed throughout our travels were truly remarkable. It was great to see your communities recognize that *“Elks Care—Elks Share”* and *“We Are THE Elks.”* We are very proud of your dedication to our Order.

It was great to meet new friends as well as spend time with old friends. The Elks really are one **big happy family**. Please continue to ask that relative or friend to join our family.

Wanda and I will continue to serve you as we move forward into this next Elks year, and for many more, God willing. The past year has been an adventure we will treasure forever. I would like to close by saying **thank you for everything**. We look forward to seeing you at the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas. It will be an exciting time.

God bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

## Net new Members with online invites

*Has your Lodge promoted the online Membership application for signing up new Members?*

Using the Elks website, a current paid-up Member of the Order can forward a membership invitation to family and friends. Invitees can complete and submit the application online.

Lodge Secretaries will be notified of these applications via the “Alerts” screen of CLMS2, then can process the electronic version the same as a paper application.

All data provided by the applicant will be imported into the Lodge’s CLMS2 database with the simple click of a button.

What better way to gain a Member than by using technology to its fullest?

**GRAND SECRETARY**  
Bryan R. Klatt



## G/L PR AND MEMBERSHIP MARKETING COMMITTEE

### Fresh slogans, videos, tools on tap

By **RICK GATHEN**  
Membership Marketing Manager

Get ready for an exhilarating National Convention as we embark on exciting new initiatives curated by the Grand Lodge Public Relations and Membership Marketing Committee! With a lineup of innovative programs, captivating videos, and promising opportunities set to launch, this convention promises to be a game-changer for our organization.

Here’s a sneak peek into what’s in store:

**1. Let’s Soar with Four:** Dive into our new Grand Lodge Membership growth slogan and artwork, igniting a spirit of unity and progress.

**2. Elkdom’s Heart for America:** Discover the power of our new GER slogan, coupled with heartwarming artwork that embodies our commitment to Elkdom and our nation.

**3. Top proposer reports and social media strategy:** Explore our latest tools for boosting membership, including innovative social media tactics and recognition programs designed to celebrate our top recruiters.

**4. Pre-Orientation video and letter:** Unveil our compelling resources crafted to welcome and engage new Members right from the start, setting the stage for active participation and involvement.

**5. Simplified introduction GER e-greeting message:** Delve into our strategic approach for reaching out to potential Members with a clear and compelling message, enticing them to join our thriving community.

**6. Grand Lodge branding guide:** Gain insights into our comprehensive branding guide, ensuring consistency and coherence in our messaging across all platforms.

**7. Social shareables best practices:** Learn how to leverage our engaging social shareables effectively, maximizing our reach and impact in the digital sphere.

By delving into these key areas together, we aim to amplify the effectiveness of our collective efforts, driving significant growth and engagement for our Lodges.

Together, let’s soar to new heights and make a lasting impact on Elkdom!

## GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

# Finalists announced for All American Lodge Contest

By **RANDALL J. SNELLENBERGER**  
Committee Member

It is my pleasure to announce the top 10 Lodges in each of the six divisions for the Contest 'A' - All American Lodge Contest. Here are the top 10 finalists for each division, listed alphabetically.

### Division I (1-150 Members)

Duarte, CA No. 1427  
Grangeville, ID No. 1825  
Green Bay, WI No. 259  
Gulfport, MS No. 978  
Hackensack, NJ No. 658  
La Grange, GA No. 1084  
Los Banos, CA No. 2510  
Norfolk, NE No. 653  
Norfolk, VA No. 38  
Pendleton, SC No. 2861

### Division II (151-225 Members)

Cedar Grove, NJ No. 2237  
Clawson-Troy, MI No. 2169  
Elk Grove, CA No. 2577  
Elmwood Park-Paterson, NJ No. 60  
Lakeport, CA No. 2704  
Livermore-Pleasanton, CA No. 2117  
Greater Spokane, WA No. 228  
Tri-Cities, WA No. 2755  
Waukesha, WI No. 400  
Wheeling, WV No. 28

### Division III (226-300 Members)

Arcadia, CA No. 2025  
Gouverneur, NY No. 2035  
Grand Island, NE No. 604  
Homer, AK No. 2127  
Huntington, WV No. 313  
Kearny-Belleville, NJ No. 1050  
Mena, AR No. 781  
Milwaukee, WI No. 46  
Negaunee, MI No. 1116  
Tucson, AZ No. 385

### Division IV (301-450 Members)

Cynthiana, KY No. 438  
East Stroudsburg, PA No. 319  
Forks, WA No. 2524  
Gainesville, FL No. 990  
Kearney, NE No. 984  
Lynnwood, WA No. 2171  
Middletown, NJ No. 2179  
Oak Harbor, WA No. 2362  
Putnam, CT No. 574  
Tampa, FL No. 708

### Division V (451-700 Members)

Catalina Mountain, AZ No. 2815  
Chandler, AZ No. 2429  
Danielson, CT No. 1706  
Hickory, NC No. 1654

Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782  
Potosi, MO No. 2218  
Roseville, CA No. 2248  
San Rafael, CA No. 1108  
Sierra Vista, AZ No. 2065  
Vancouver, WA No. 823

### Division VI (701+ Members)

Fayetteville-Springdale, AR No. 1987  
Ferndale, MI No. 1588  
Garden Grove, CA No. 1952  
Groton, CT No. 2163  
Manasquan, NJ No. 2534  
Middleboro, MA No. 1274  
Orange, CA No. 1475  
Phoenix, AZ No. 335  
St. Louis, MO No. 9  
Yuma, AZ No. 476

I offer my congratulations to these 60 Lodges from 23 states that made the top 10 for this year. Thank you to all the Lodges that participated. We acknowledge their hard work for this year's contest.

The announcement of the first, second, and third place winning Lodges, in each Division, will occur during the Tuesday morning Business Session at the Grand Lodge Convention. Hope to see everyone in Austin.

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# How to tee up a Junior Golf Program for your Lodge

By **WILLIAM M. WISEMAN**  
Committee Member

Summer is here! School is out. Now is the time for Lodges to promote all our youth programs. We can take advantage of slow times to prepare our programs for the coming year.

Remember, it is never too early to start planning for the fall programs. Our Junior Golf Program is one such outlet that gives the Lodge an opportunity to reach out to the community and make a difference. Planning should start now for the children who are out of school for the summer. They will need an activity in which to participate.

Does your Lodge have such a program? It could sponsor a golf camp or a golf day for junior golfers at a local course. Your Lodge could arrange for time at a driving range or on the putting green for practice, or provide lessons to young people on a one-time or an ongoing basis.

Your Lodge could even sponsor a

Junior Golf tournament or a Junior Golf league. The possibilities are endless. It is up to the individual Lodge to decide which activities they would like to hold, from full golf tournaments to putting competitions. The goal is that an event will expose our junior golfers to character development exercises and teach honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship. Junior Golf is a natural fit for getting kids outside and engaged in a healthy lifelong activity. Perhaps some of your Lodge's golfers would serve on a committee to establish a Junior Golf Program

If the program is aimed at youth in need, your Lodge can apply for an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant or an ENF Promise Grant. Do not miss the opportunity to apply for an ENF grant. Start planning today!

While all our programs are important, remember the times have changed. Make sure all Members and volunteers working with children have received

proper training in the procedures and practices needed to protect the children, the Lodge, and our Members from risk and/or liability issues. We must always keep this in mind.

Be sure to publicize all your youth and community activities. Such publicity enables Elks to gain community support, and in many cases find individuals who want to participate with us in our youth and community activity programs and join the Elks as a result. Information about the Junior Golf Program can be found on [elks.org](http://elks.org) under the Activities Committee link.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our Members, for making this a rewarding past four years. I will continue to help our new committee member in any way I can to further the promotion of the Junior Golf Program. It is an essential program that will continue to grow with the help of you, the Members.

## GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

# Contest winners reach their goals

By **TERENCE P. FORD**  
Committee Member

The 2023-2024 Soccer Shoot Program had growth across this country. Twenty-seven states took part in the National Virtual Contest through area or regional contests or direct state report submittals for consideration. This is an increase in five states from last year. Based on the Charities Records Report as of March 31, 2024, Soccer Shoot had almost 15,000 children taking part this past year. This is a growth of almost double from last year's Charity Records Report.

Thank you to all the Lodges that held a Soccer Shoot, and to all the 27 State Associations for hosting at least a state-level contest. This year there are four area/regional contests: Area 1, Mid-Atlantic, Area 3, and Mid-America.

The first-place winners in the 2023-2024 National Virtual Soccer Shoot Contest:

**U-8 Boys: BENJAMIM D-S.,**

Sponsored by Framingham, MA No. 1264

**U-8 Girls: ALICE R.,** Sponsored by Newport, KY No. 273

**U-10 Boys: URIEL C.,** Sponsored by Amarillo, TX No. 923

**U-10 Girls: ALY H.,** Sponsored by Frackville, PA No. 1533

**U-12 Boys: JACKSON C.,** Sponsored by Denver, CO No. 17

**U-12 Girls: ANGELA S.,** Sponsored by Golden, CO No. 2740

**U-14 Boys: TYSON C.,** Sponsored by Florence, KY No. 314

**U-14 Girls: ELIZA C.,** Sponsored by Lake Hopatcong, NJ No. 782

**U-16 Boys: HOYT G.,** Sponsored by Chambersburg, PA No. 600

**U-16 Girls: LILLY A.,** Sponsored by Madisonville, KY No. 738

The Activities Committee website now has updated forms, downloadable editable flyers, and posters as well as downloadable certificates for use at the local, state, and area/regional contests.

For this program to continually show it is growing, when a Lodge holds a Soccer Shoot, it needs to properly report this event in their respective Charity Records Book under line 1103 – Soccer Shoot Program.

## GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

# Reporting meeting time matters, too

By **ROBERT E. WAMBACH**  
Committee Member

As Elks, we know that every day we are performing extraordinary community service and support for our veterans. Accomplishing these tasks takes extensive planning.

For many of our projects, especially those that are associated with the Elks National Foundation Community Investment Program, a great deal of meeting time is needed. Starting from the time you begin the application process for each grant, please make sure to document all meeting hours your Grant Committee attends to discuss any of the grant programs. Make sure to include mileage to and from your meeting location as well. You may also be meeting with those in your communities who you will be assisting with your programs. This time and mileage should also be included in your reports.

We have scholarship programs on the national, state, and Local Lodge level that require many timely meetings. Document them. We have Members traveling to schools to provide information on our

programs and spending countless hours preparing and judging applications. Are we making sure we are accounting for all the meeting time and mileage that we are using for our scholarship programs?

Motorcycle runs, parades, golf tournaments, safety days, and veteran activities are other events that require many hours to organize. Please include in your charitable report the meeting time at the Lodge and time spent meeting with vendors and other outside sources that are assisting you with your fundraising events and other activities.

Congratulations to our newly appointed District Deputies who will be installed at this year's National Convention. We are hopeful that during your first clinics you will speak about the importance of charitable reporting and the impact it has on our tax-exempt status. Please remind the Exalted Rulers, Lodge Secretaries, and Committee Chairs that, yes, **meeting time matters too!**

*"Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds: it changes the odds."* — Bill Clinton.

# 850 scholarship winners join Elks Family

By **PATRICK ROELOFS**  
ENF Communications Coordinator

In April, the Elks National Foundation awarded more than \$3.9 million to high school seniors entering their freshman year of college, welcoming 850 students to the Elks Family. More than just financial aid, an Elks scholarship is an invitation to a network of service-minded peers.

Out of more than 22,000 applicants for the ENF's Most Valuable Student scholarship, the Top 20 scholars received \$30,000 scholarships and an invitation to Chicago for the Most Valuable Student Leadership Weekend. Four-hundred-and-eighty runners-up received \$4,000 scholarships.

From April 11 to 14 in Chicago, the Leadership Weekend offered panels run by current and former Elks scholars to teach the new class about personal branding, transitioning to college, and finding service opportunities through the Elks.

The Elks also welcomed 350 Legacy Awards scholarship recipients to the #ElksFamily. Exclusively for the children or grandchildren of Elks Members, the Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships

with a requirement that recipients must serve with a Lodge three times during the four years they receive the scholarship.

To see a full list of the scholarship winners and to learn more about the ENF's scholarships, visit [elks.org/scholars](https://elks.org/scholars), follow the ENF on Instagram @ElksScholars, and like the ENF on Facebook @ElksNationalFoundation.

## VETERANS From Page 4

health, identify warning signs, and access resources for veterans in need and those who care about them.

**All convention:** Stop by the ENVSC booth to meet with staff and expert volunteers. Sign your name to our Wall of Service, pick up your "I'm a Veteran" ribbon, and celebrate your state's Veteran Volunteer of the Year winners.

**Before you go:** Don't forget to pack a pair of new socks for the ENF Supply Drive! Collected socks will be donated to veterans visiting the Austin VA Clinic and the Austin Vets Center. Lodges that donate new socks or children's books on Saturday or Sunday will be entered into a raffle to win a bonus CIP grant worth \$2,000!

# ENVSC reveals event schedule for Austin Convention

By **MARY K. MORGAN**  
Commission Director

Are you Texas-bound for the Elks National Convention this summer? Make sure to put these Elks Veterans Service events on your schedule!

**Sunday, June 30, at Noon:** Join us at the Ending Veteran Homelessness seminar in Ballroom B on the 1st floor of the Austin Convention Center. We'll give updates on the state of veteran homelessness, including recent progress and latest trends. We'll review common factors contributing to homelessness while highlighting successful programs and proven solutions. We'll share data showing how Elks programs

are making a difference and illustrate how your Lodge can join in the fight against veteran homelessness.

**Sunday, June 30, at 1 p.m.:** Stick around Ballroom B to see us award the National Veteran Service Volunteer of the Year award to an outstanding Elks volunteer.

After that, stay for our Welcome Home Kit seminar to learn how your Lodge can use this program to help veterans exiting homelessness build stability. We'll hear from a panel of Elks Welcome Home Kit superstars who will share their tips on how to run a successful program, from

recruiting volunteers to building partnerships to getting the best deals.

**Sunday, June 30 at 4 p.m.:** Don't miss the ENVSC's Annual Report at the Opening Ceremony!

**Monday, July 1, at 3 p.m.:** Join us to learn about Suicide Prevention and the Veterans Crisis Line. In Ballroom C at the Austin Convention Center, Veterans Crisis Line Deputy Executive Director Kyle

Inhofe will share tools and resources for veteran suicide prevention. Learn how to talk to veterans about emotional

Please see **VETERANS**, Page 3

BRYAN R. KLATT, Grand Secretary  
**Benevolent and Protective  
ORDER OF ELKS**  
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60614-1889

**July 2024**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
CHICAGO, IL  
Permit No. 5244

## DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

# Be proud of drug awareness victories—but stay vigilant

By **WILLIAM J. BRYAN**  
National Director

July is certainly a month for celebration! We celebrate the birth of our nation; we gather to celebrate a new year in Elkdom; and we celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

Just because we are in a festive mood does not mean we can relax. Illicit drugs don't take a vacation. We must constantly remind and educate our children on the dangers of use and abuse.

Even though fatal overdoses dropped 3% over the past year, there were still more than 100,000 deaths attributed to illicit

drugs. This is twice what it was just four years ago. Although 24 states, along with Washington D.C. and Guam, have acted to legalize recreational marijuana, we still need to warn children of its dangers.

A number of synthetic substances of the benzimidazole structural class are being trafficked and abused for their opioid-like effects. As the United States continues to experience an unprecedented epidemic of opioid misuse and abuse, the continued evolution and increased trafficking and popularity of new and deadly synthetic opioids from a variety of structural

classes, including benzimidazoles with no approved medical use, are a public health concern.

But it's not all bad news. One of the things we can celebrate is that over the last year, law enforcement seized more than 110 million fentanyl pills and removed them from our communities. Another reason to celebrate is that in this past year, the work of the Elks Drug Awareness Commission has set new records in getting information into our communities. This is all due to the hard work of the state, district, and Local Lodge efforts. We celebrate you!