



GRAND LODGE *Newsletter*

<http://www.elks.org>

Elks Care — Elks Share

February 2013

Volume 48 • No. 7

Sprint to the finish line of successful Lodge year

February brings an awareness of the limited time remaining to achieve our goals for the year. It is not too late to complete many of those goals, but it will require a concerted effort if you are going to finish strong before the new Officers are installed.

First, has your Lodge met the per capita goal of \$4.50 for ENF? If not, there is still time to publicize where you are to your Members and make a special push to achieve that goal. Look at having a special event targeted to benefit the ENF. Include a special ENF donation request in your March newsletter with a form that the Members can use to donate. Include the online donation information to make it even easier for them to donate. Make special announcements and pass the hat at your Lodge dinners and meetings. All of this will add up in the long run and help you meet your goal.



Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler

THOMAS S. BRAZIER

This is also the time of year when the membership renewal forms go out. Your lapsation committee should be in high gear to ensure that you don't lose Members during this process. It is unfortunate when a Lodge works so hard to bring in new Members, but then doesn't do the work to keep them nor pay attention to those who are not renewing. Don't let this happen to your Lodge. Make personal contact. Call the Members who have not paid and find out both why they have not renewed and what might be

done to bring them back into the Lodge. Always keep in mind our goal of +1 and work toward that end.

You should also be working to complete next year's budget. Look at where your Lodge was successful this year and expand on areas. Look at where the budget was not sufficient for Lodge needs and adjust accordingly. Finally, work out how you might increase revenues to ensure that your Lodge will have the monies to operate successfully and perhaps even expand its offerings for the upcoming year.

Finally, take time to enjoy the completion of another year. Celebrate the 145th birthday of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on February 16. How lucky we all are to be a part of this great Order. Pat yourselves on the back. You are all "A Beacon of Hope" in this world.

Lodge Committee Chairpersons Report

After the Lodge Officer elections in February and before April 15, you must enter your 2013-2014 Lodge Committee Chairpersons in CLMS2Web and confirm acceptance. You may have or shortly will

GRAND SECRETARY

Bryan R. Klatt

receive a worksheet that will assist in compiling the needed information.

REMEMBER: this information is to be filed online via CLMS2Web. No mailing to Grand Lodge or your District Deputy is required.

As of this writing, 1,989 (98.8%) of Lodges have submitted their November Membership Report; 24 have not. Of those Lodges who have submitted, the Order shows a gain of 18,837 (2.2%) Members, but a delinquency of 81,243 (9.4%) Members. Personal contact is a must in retaining those delinquent Members.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

Lodge Activities Awards near

by JOHN V. MINARCHICK, SR.
Committee Member

Although it is still the beginning of a new calendar year, we are approaching the end of the Lodge year. And one of the year-end duties of the Lodge is the presentation of the Lodge Activities Awards.

Probably the most recognizable are the "Citizen Of The Year", "Elk Of The Year" and "Officer Of The Year" Awards. Although each Lodge probably has a procedure that they utilize in judging these recipients, additional guidelines are available in the Grand Lodge "2012-2013 Lodge Activities Program Contests and Grand Exalted Ruler Awards" brochure.

So that an inscribed citation may be issued to the honoree, the full name (no nicknames) of the person selected should be submitted to the Grand Secretary in

writing. The postmark deadline is March 31, 2013.

There are also Grand Exalted Ruler Awards for Outstanding Members, Exalted Rulers and Local Lodges. The specifics are available on the Grand Lodge Web site and in the Lodge Activities brochure, but here is a brief overview of the awards that are offered:

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GRAND LODGE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Time to report Lodge charitable statistics is now

by **ROBERT A. GUILLEN**
Committee Member

The start of the New Year left us with three months in our Elks Year. All of your Charitable Activities should have been or are about to be placed in CLMS2Web. These numbers are very important in sharing with everyone in our communities the many things Elks have done. It is important to accurately and completely report all activities and maintain these records, which assist us in maintaining our non-profit status.

Help us preserve and protect the Order of Elks' right to exist as a private organization

The Grand Lodge Government Committee has one mission – to assist Grand Lodge, its State Associations and Local Lodges in protecting and preserving the right to exist as a private organization. This Committee serves as a resource for all. If situations arise in your respective State Legislative bodies that may affect our Order, please contact your State Chairman or Area Member in the event assistance or guidance is needed. We gather information nationwide to share with other states that may have similar problems or issues. We always ask, “Why re-invent the wheel?” when we have issues. There may be a State Legislative body that has addressed and clarified a problem, and its solution may be needed in another state.

Importance of knowing your legislators

by **BRUCE A. HIDLEY**
Committee Member

As I am writing this newsletter article our great nation has just completed a very important election cycle. Our elected leaders will all have been installed and already on the job working diligently for all of us. This is where we as Elks come into the picture by having an active and successful Government Relations Program. It is vital that our Lodge Officers meet, greet and welcome both newly elected and re-elected officials.

Each of us as Elks should take the time to send an e-mail, mail a letter, make a phone call or make a stop in person to congratulate these individuals. In turn, it is important to inform our newly elected legislators

on all of the good works done by our Lodges. Make it a point to discuss and highlight the programs of our Grand Lodge Activities and Fraternal Committees.

Remember that our greatest gift is not in having but in sharing. Begin this right at home by inviting your mayor or councilperson to a Lodge function so they may learn what Elks do for their local communities. We can then continue to raise awareness of our county, state and congressional elected officials. All of our elected officials will be better informed about the involvement, the heartfelt commitment and the care that our Officers and Members have for their Lodges and communities.

Please see **LEGISLATORS**, Page 4

Public relations with our elected officials are also a matter of public affairs, a culmination of “Business Communications” to assure our voices are heard. We use our position as constituents in their districts, attempting to influence decisions made in order to protect our wonderful organization. It is up to all of us as Members to exposure our legislators to what we as an Order do. We not only talk about some of our projects requiring donations of money and time, but we go after the problem and do it. We must communicate this

to all of our Members, and that we will maintain the image that our forefathers created. With this knowledge, the Members can also assist when contacting the legislators. Our image is what is important to share with the communities we live in and to share the Benevolence of the Order with those in need.

The fact that we maintain all the Charitable Contributions and use this in our endeavors, assures that we live up to our Grand Exalted Ruler’s motto, “*Elks – A Beacon of Hope.*” Without your help, we cannot keep this up.

DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Elks' Drug Awareness Program is alive and well

by **FRANK SCARPINO**
Missouri State Drug Awareness Chairman

Many Members have asked, which Grand Lodge committee does the Elks Drug Awareness Program belong to? The answer is *none*. The name, Drug Awareness Program, tells the story. It is a stand-alone program. However, at the Local Lodge level, Drug Awareness falls under the Activities Committee.

So each Lodge can become familiar with the DAP objectives, here is our Mission beliefs and principles:

- Elks believe that a civilized society will organize to protect its children.
- Elks support, facilitate, train, and empower individuals and communities to be drug free.
- Elks are committed to prevent the

damaging effects of drug abuse.

- Elks are opposed to legalizing any illegal drugs.

- Elks believe that well-educated parents and children will strive for a society free from illegal drug use.

- Elks believe the first defense against drug abuse is stronger values for families and communities.

- Elks make a difference through innovative partnerships.

- Elks are dedicated to establishing environments conducive to personal growth within our communities.

- Elks believe that if not the Elks Drug Awareness Program, “who” will carry the drug awareness message to our communities? We are a “grass roots” connection!

How does the DAP accomplish this?

Through the Elks Drug Awareness Program, helping to get the youth, parents and our communities involved through our Essay and Poster contests, Red Ribbon Week, Hands Across the Border, Enrique Camerena Award Program, Elks/Marvel comic books, Milton Creagh school visits and the Presidents Volunteer Service Award Program. The Elks also sponsor seminars, workshops and drug-free functions.

Stay tuned! There is still more news to come from your Elks DAP.

For any assistance or questions, you can contact your Local State Drug Awareness Chairman, whose names and contact information can be found at www.elks.org/dap/contact.cfm.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Boost Lodge presence through civic involvement

One way is to help today's youth

by R. DOUGLAS LARSEN
Committee Member

Today's youth – one of our greatest assets – face challenges we never could have imagined as we grew up. We must help our youth meet those challenges by instilling proper values in them. After all, they are our future.

To make sure young people become upstanding citizens, the Grand Lodge Activities Committee has a number of programs. One of them – Youth Activities – embraces a large number of pursuits that can lead to a brighter future.

One pursuit is our outstanding National Foundation Scholarships program, which includes the Most Valuable Student Scholarship, Legacy Awards and Emergency Education Grants. These awards are in addition to those distributed by Local Lodges and State Associations nationwide.

The scholarship program is only one way we can reach out to youth. By sponsoring Boy and Girl Scout Troops we are joining with their parent organization to increase the knowledge and skills of participants. Both organizations provide opportunity for development in a structured environment that protects them from undesirable influences.

One benefit of scouting is that you are taught your duty to God and country. This valuable lesson prepares our young people well as productive citizens instilled with correct values.

These are just a few of the activities sponsored by Lodges nationwide. They also put on speech contests, plays, track meets, essay contests, sober grad nights, junior rodeos, baseball tournaments, children's Christmas parties, Easter egg hunts and many others. The things we do for children is limited only by the imagination of the Local Lodge Members.

Staging these events where our Lodges meet also is highly beneficial. This presents an opportunity for both the children and parents to see we are a wholesome, patriotic organization they should be proud to join.

The purpose of all of these events and programs goes beyond the basic entertainment of the youth of our communities. They are also intended to educate and inform them that there are indeed many worthwhile citizens who care about their well being and futures. They will also show these young people and families that the Elks are a "*Beacon of Hope.*"

And let public know what we do!

by R. DOUGLAS LARSEN
Committee Member

Breaking bad habits, especially old ones, can be difficult – not only for individuals, but for organizations such as the Order of Elks.

One long-standing bad habit of ours has been to go quietly about our good deeds without telling anybody. For a long time we were simply hiding our light under a bushel basket.

This cannot continue. We must let the public know we are indeed a benevolent organization that has been doing wonderful things for many years. The general public is totally unaware that we donated the very first Veterans Hospital in World War I or that we sponsor the largest coeducational youth athletic competition with Hoop Shoot. The reach of our Scholarship Program is unbeknownst to most people. These are just a few outstanding Elks-sponsored programs.

We must make a concerted effort to inform the public about what we do and stand for. We are not simply a group that enjoys a good time, but one that has had a positive impact on the lives of our citizens. This is important when we talk about our youth activities and service to veterans and others. We should proudly proclaim what we do.

One of the newest elements of the Activities Committee – the Community Project – is aimed at informing the public of our good works. This program serves the needs of local communities and at the same time lets them know of our interest and involvement.

This local involvement can help dispel any myths some people may have of our fraternity and encourage them to become Members.

Of course, the Community Project aspect of the Activities Committee is intimately attached to the committee's Public Relations program. We must tell the local media what we do for the community and the importance of it.

To properly work with the local newspapers and radio and TV stations, we must know what they will and will not use. A Lodge representative should meet with them face to face to find out how to conform to their criteria for publication. At that same meeting, we should give them some written material that briefly explains who we are and what we do. Remember, we are taking away part of their work day and that we truly appreciate all that they do.

These simple steps are some of the first ones we need to take to help break the old bad habits.

Awards From Page 1

■ **Outstanding Members** – Two awards are available. One is for a Member who brings in three new or reinstated Members (postmark deadline of June 15, 2013, to Grand Secretary), and the other for two Members who perform outstanding Lodge service (postmark deadline of March 31, 2013 to Area Member of Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee).

■ **Exalted Rulers** – Special Citations

will be awarded to Exalted Rulers who participate in specified programs during the year. Written requests have a postmark deadline of March 31, 2013, to the Area Member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee.

■ **Local Lodges** – Two Special Citations are available. One is for a Lodge that participates in six specified programs, and the other for a Lodge attaining two specified goals. These certificate orders have a postmark deadline of March 31, 2013, and should be sent to your Area Grand Lodge

Fraternal Committee Member.

A GER Special Citation will be determined by the Grand Secretary from the Lodge final membership report for the period ending March 31, 2013. And, although the deadline has passed, there is a Citation available for a Lodge that has a full complement of elected and appointed Officers who are not Past Exalted Rulers.

I encourage you to recognize and reward those Officers and Members who contribute their time and talents to our organization. They are a *Beacon Of Hope* in sustaining our Order.

Lifeline to veterans

by **ROBERT M. HENNINGS**
Commission Director

Anyone who has been hospitalized for a length of time will understand the loneliness and depression experienced by veterans who either live in a facility or are confined to their homes. Visits from family and friends may be infrequent or non-existent. Elks Veterans Volunteers make special efforts to visit, call, send cards, and bring them to special events. This personal contact we call adopting, for these are the actions of a family reaching out to loved ones.

Stewart G Israel, of Plymouth, Michigan Lodge No. 1780 is Chairman of the Adopt-a-Veteran Program. Brother Israel, as a dedicated VAVS Representative, also takes an active part in adopting veterans in hospitals and working closely with the homeless.

It is estimated that almost 200,000 Veterans are part of our Adopt-A-Veteran program nationwide. Adopting a Veteran is our way of saying 'Thank you for your service to



**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS
SERVICE COMMISSION**

this country, and we will always remember you'. We are grateful for the commitment of Brother Israel, and the volunteers at the Lodge, District, and State level who so willingly adopted these men and women.

To find out how your Lodge can take part in this program, including where to find veterans in need of adoption and how to adopt, visit our website at <http://www.elks.org/vets/AdoptAVeteran.cfm> or contact Stewart Israel directly.

Stewart Israel, Chairman
Adopt-A-Veteran Program
40225 Newport Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170-4739
e-mail: stewizzy@yahoo.com

Adopt-A-Veteran certificates are available from the Chicago office at no cost.

**Test
of
time**
Lodges
celebrate
100 years
of Elkdom

Here are the Lodges celebrating their 100-year anniversaries during 2013-14 in service to humanity, our nation and our Order:

<u>Lodge Name</u>	<u>Instituted</u>
Rushville, IN No. 1307	9/25/1913
Thief River Falls, MN No. 1308	8/28/1913
Beverly/Salem, MA No. 1309	10/1/1913
Willimantic, CT No. 1311	3/30/1914
Oneonta, NY No. 1312	4/28/1914
Marinette, WI No. 1313	5/15/1914
Holland, MI No. 1315	5/9/1914

Legislators From Page 2

Inviting our elected officials to an Elks event such as Flag Day, a Veterans function or a youth activities event is a great way to show them that "*Elks Care – Elks Share*" about their communities. Such positive public relations are what creates good image and good feelings as well as cultivates the relationships needed for our communities to remain healthy and vibrant.

Please remember that the important tool that each Lodge needs to actively use is Page 2 of the Annual Charities Record Report, the Government Relations Survey Data. We provide information to our legislators at all levels by providing precise statistics from the Charitable Survey Data. Legislative bodies at every level often consider legislation that impacts our exercise of freedom to exist as a private organization.

Use of this information, coupled with a good working relationship with our officials, may yield favorable results on issues related to our Lodges. Let us strive diligently to build these important relationships through education and awareness so that our Order will continue to shine and be the "*Beacon of Hope*" for our communities.



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