



ALMA ELKS LODGE #1400

'Field of Honor' ceremony set for May 7

Alma Elks Lodge #1400 will dedicate its 13th annual "Field of Honor" on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 2 p.m.

This inspiring field of flags will be displayed at the Lodge located at 610 W. Warwick Drive in Alma, until June 14th. The Field of Honor will be dismantled after our Lodge's Flag Day ceremony on June 14th. The flags will fly in honor or in memory of a loved one or special friend who has touched a life in a special way.

They do not have to be a Veteran, though the majority of the flags represent Veterans.

The Forgotten Eagles will bring in the 10 flags for our Military Field on their motorcycles and hand them to 10 personnel in uniform representing each of the Military Branches, Fire and Police Departments. The Military personnel will be introduced then place their flags in our Military Field as their respective anthems are played. The Alma VFW Post 1454 will then perform their Color Guard's 21 Gun Salute and Taps.

Persons who have purchased a flag will be able to place their flag in the Field with the assistance of an Alma Elks member, local Boy Scout Troops or Veterans from local VFWs and American Legions at the Dedication Ceremony. All branches of the Armed Forces, Firefighters, Police and MIA/POW's will be honored and the names of loved ones will be announced as each flag is placed in the Field. Police and Fire vehicles will be on display along with a jeep (formerly owned by Tom Geisken) signed by thousands of veterans. The ceremony will close with the crowd holding hands and singing "Proud to be an American."

See HONOR, 10



Lodge donates toward medical treatment

At a benefit spaghetti dinner and bake sale, The Ray Carlson Memorial, through the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge #541 presented a check to Erika Haas and her son Devon. Devon suffers from pediatric bladder cancer. The check is to help pay for expenses related to Devon's treatment. Our Superman has radiation therapy and chemotherapy five days a week in Grand Rapids. Pictured below is Mom, Erika, holding her toddler son Colton, our Superman, Devon, Grandmother Alisha and George David Rice, presenting them a check. We are so honored to help Devon and his family.

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NON-PROFIT RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Sturgis, MI
Permit #48

Michigan
newsletter
68838 Broadus, Suite A
Sturgis, MI 49091



Tawas contributes to fitness program

Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525 used \$750 of a \$2,000 Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant to support the Special Olympics Area 31 Fitness Program, which encourages the Special Olympic Athletes to get out and exercise. The funds were used to purchase awards to recognize Athletes that have achieved goals set for them by their coaches. The first award of t-shirts was presented recently to the athletes that walked or ran 150 laps. Future awards will include baseball caps and hooded sweatshirts.

NEWS AND NOTES

Statute addresses unaffiliated spouse

Questions have arisen about a spouse who chooses to take an Absolute Dimit or has been dropped for non-payment. The spouse may enter and stay in the Lodge based on Section 14.190 Opinion 03 of the 2016 Statutes Annotated: "The exception permitting visitation of a Lodge by a nonsuspended spouse, or a delinquent Member spouse, means that the non-suspended or unaffiliated spouse is treated as if he or she were never a Member."

Your annual Membership Report was filed on April 1, but has the Lodge submitted the Annual Charity Report, and paid the Grand Lodge per capita and assessments? April 30 is rapidly approaching.

On another question, when will the Grand Lodge-calculated membership total be lowered to coincide with the Local Lodge total? It's when the Lodge Secretary sends the paperwork to the Grand Secretary, and 2016-17 is closed after June 1.

— Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary

Traverse City Wine Tour

Traverse City Lodge #323 is completing plans for an area wine tour that will cover both the Old Mission Peninsula and the Leelanau Peninsula. The one-price covers all event will include three nights lodging, two days of winery tours, box lunches both days, transportation and a wine-paired dinner on Friday evening.

Each day our guests will be picked up at the hotel and visit five very distinct and separate wineries on each peninsula. Tasting fees at each winery will be included in the price. We are even planning a "Welcome Cocktail Party" the evening of arrival.

This is shaping up to be a first-class event that is limited to 40 people, 20 couples. More details and information/registration forms will be available at the May convention in Sault Ste. Marie as well as sent to each Lodge.

Gaylord lodge helps veterans

Gaylord Elks Lodge #2544 held several benefits for veterans recently.

In December, the lodge hosted a luncheon for 40 veterans.

The lodge provided 40 Christmas gift bags with assorted personal care items to Gaylord Veterans Clinic.

Lodge members donated 24 fleece tops and 18 fleece bottoms to the veterans at Saginaw Veteran's Hospital.

Assistance is available for worthy, needy members

Needy Elks Members can qualify for up to \$1,000 in an emergency 50-50 matching grant from the Order under Section 5.070 of the Grand Lodge Statutes.

The 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."

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.

Thank you for support

On behalf of the 50 million children and adults living with arthritis, thank you for sharing our vision of a world free of arthritis pain.

Thank you for the continued support of Camp Dakota

— Chasity, Arthritis Foundation

What do the coins mean?

YO...Vet. As I go to more and more cemetery, I see this more and more and knowing the reason why I ask the question, What do the coin left on military headstones mean? According to snopes.com these meanings mean different things to different people depending on the denomination of the coin.

A coin left on the headstone of a veteran tells the family that someone stopped by to pay their respects, a penny means you visited, a nickel means that you and the deceased soldier trained together at boot camp, a dime means you and the deceased served together, a quarter means that you were there when that soldier was killed or are personally related. It is a way to show respect without getting into a political discussion.

So now you know also.

— Dean L. Reid

Pick a great committee to boost membership

Incoming exalted rules looking for a membership chairperson should look for someone with various areas of expertise. They include the following:

■ Sales. Working recruitment tables and reinstatements; greeting guests and inviting them to join.

■ Public relations/marketing. Promoting membership on the social media page and lodge website; making sure everyone is aware of the positive impact the lodge has contributed to the community.

■ Orientation. Educating, involving and inspiring new members to recruit and be active; matching their interests and time with a lodge committee or activity.

■ Collections. Assist the lodge secretary with billing, collection letters, phone calls, email and personal visits to delinquents; possess patience and persistence.

— Rick Gathen,
Grand Lodge membership
and public relations manager

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Get Published in the Michigan Elks News!



Send us your articles and pictures and show us what you're proud of at your Lodge!

E-mail address: meanewsletter@mielks.org. Articles and hard copy photos may also be mailed to Karen Cary, Advantage Printing, 68838 Broadus, Suite A, Sturgis MI 49091.

Deadlines for submissions:

March 15 for April publication; June 15 for July publication;
Sept. 15 for October publication; Dec. 15 for January publication

STATE OFFICER MESSAGES

A pleasure to serve Michigan Elks Association

Pam and I feel blessed and appreciative of the many old and new friends who have helped us this year. With your help we have been educated and now know that the Michigan Elks have a core of generous and caring individuals that will do and give anything to help our children, veterans and communities. We are very proud to be members of your group and promise to continue promoting your values and programs.

Congratulations to new Exalted Rulers, Lodge Officers and Lodge Committees. You have accepted positions to manage your Lodge and promote the Elks Programs that help others. To make your job easier you need to maintain and grow your membership with people that want to help others. Luckily for you we have programs that are second to none in helping children, veterans and your community. Unfortunately, not all your members or your community knows what you do.

To succeed in maintaining and growing your membership it is essential that you educate both your members and community about your charitable work. Create an inventory of all the things your Lodge does for the community. Add to that Grand Lodge, State and Gold Key scholarships and Major Project cases and camps given for children in your community.



PETE GADZINSKI

State President

Then, get your members to participate in or donate to these worthy causes.

Having members participate or donate is a great way of making them proud to be an Elk. Proud members stay Elks longer.

A BIG congratulations to all the teams that competed in the District Ritual Contests. I was delighted in the performances given. All those who competed are winners. They are perpetuating our tradition of teaching the principles of our order. Make sure that your Lodge is putting on an impressive initiation and indoctrination. This is the day that you make your first impression on a new member. Make it good.

Spread the word. Be Proud to be a Michigan Elk. In the last three years I have been privileged to help Elks at a Special Olympics kayak race, attend Elks day at Bay Cliff 3 times, play in 16 golf outings for Gold Key, take Big Brothers and Sisters on 3 bus trips, help in 9 Hoop Shoots, helped veterans into Lodges for dinners, listened to essay winners on Flag Day, judged scholarships and essays, passed out dictionaries, attend ritual competitions and in my spare time cooked meals to fund Elks charities. I truly thank the Michigan Elks for giving me the opportunity to serve the State of Michigan and our communities. But most of all I thank all Michigan Elks for what they do for others.

Shortly I will be giving up the reigns and passing on the leadership to a new group of dedicated members. I know Joe as President, Stan as First Vice President and Chuck as Second Vice President will work hard and be diligent for our Association. Pam and I have had a delightful year and thank all of you for your kindness and support. We really did enjoy our 80 bridge crossings because of the people we got to visit and the new friends we made. We look forward to seeing you in Sault Ste. Marie and in our travels in the future. Thank you all for a wonderful 2016-2017 State Elks year.

A great year for Elks

This year has gone by faster than last year. Debi and I wonder what is going to happen next.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hospitality that we received during our travels through this Great State of Michigan this past year. We are looking forward in continuing to help in all our Charities and Lodges throughout this State.

This has been a great year for all of us in the Michigan Elks Association. We are looking forward to many more years ahead of us.

Debi and I have really enjoyed traveling with Pete and Pam, Stan and Cheryl. We are sorry to see Pete and Pam leaving us. We look forward to Chuck and Debbie Oatten joining the four of us on this adventure.

Congratulations to all the teams that competed in their District Ritual Contest. Everyone was a winner and we look forward to seeing who will represent us at the National Convention. Good luck to all the teams in May.

Finally, remember why we joined the Elks. Reach out to your community, let them know that you are there to help others in your community. Give a helping hand to our Veterans and remember that we will never forget



JOE ANTONISHEK

1st Vice President

them. Increase our presents in the community and use all the ENF Grants that are available for community service and awareness.

At the spring convention, will have three Lodges from different parts of this great State, talk about what makes them successful in their Charities, Membership and Communities. This will take place at the ER, Secretary and Members Luncheon.

Stan and Cheryl have been working very hard this past winter gathering the information for the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. Stop by their booth and pick up your information and make your reservations to join us in Reno. While you are there get your Convention Shirt.

See you all in May at the spring convention at the Kewadin in Sault Ste. Marie.

Busy time for travel approaching

Cheryl & I were warned that there will be a bit of travel involved when taking this position.

It wasn't too bad for the first part of our year, but we have now entered that time we were advised of. Now don't take me wrong, as we are enjoying this more than we can say.

We have taken in Presidents Night at Plymouth-Ann Arbor Lodge, Scholarship Judging and the Gold Key Annual Meeting at Houghton-Higgins Lake Lodge, the State Hoop Shoot in Grand Rapids, and the North East Ritual Competition in Bay City where I also met with the Trustees at their Annual Meeting and we enjoyed Presidents Night. These events were followed up by attending the Metro District Ritual Competition at Clawson-Troy Lodge, where we also had a chance to visit the Royal Oak-Detroit Lodge. Then on to Angola, Ind., to assist with the Region 4 Hoop Shoot.

April will give us a chance to visit new areas of the U.P. with trips to Ishpeming and Negaunee for the Major Projects Annual Meeting and the U.P. Spring Round-Up and hope to hit the North West District meeting on our return home.

Now on to an item that has taken over our lives for the past months and will be upon us before we know it! The National Convention in Reno, Nev., is coming up July 16-19. Please take note that the room



STAN CHUBINSKI

2nd Vice President

reservation form and joint Indiana-Michigan banquet form are both online at the state web page, along with other information regarding our stay in Reno. Please complete these and get them to me A-S-A-P, as I have to contact The Nugget, our assigned hotel and Grand Lodge regarding reservations.

I also am requesting again that three Lodge pins be sent to me, or hand delivered at various events, so we can create a couple of raffle items to offset a portion of the Reno Hospitality Room costs.

Other information, such as the Convention Schedule is on line at the National Web Page. It will be in the members-only area of the site.

GRAND LODGE

Progressive leadership builds successful lodge

Exalted Rulers, congratulations upon your election as the leader of your Lodge. Your Members have put their faith and trust in you because of your willingness to volunteer your time and effort. They believe in your leadership to assume the challenges that lie ahead. You must lead with impartiality and perform the duties with which you are charged.

You should set your goals and encourage every Member to become involved in your Lodge and Lodge-sponsored community activities. Local community service programs will stimulate a return to increasing your Lodge membership.

As the leader of your Lodge, you are charged with following the Constitution and Laws of the Order and Lodge Bylaws. Take



MICHAEL F. ZELLEN

Grand Exalted Ruler

advantage of the tools and manuals that are available to help you do so, including the Grand Lodge manuals posted at Elks.Org. These manuals will provide the guidance to ensure that you will have a successful year as the leader of your Lodge.

New Lodge Officers, thank you for accepting the challenge of helping lead the activities aimed at achieving your Lodge goals. You need to be proactive in seeking opportunities to be a vital contributor to the growth and success of your Lodge. As you participate in those activities, remember that your actions speak louder than words. Approach all of your Elks activities with a positive frame of mind, and earn the reputation as an energetic person.

Activities are vital to a successful Lodge. They should focus on family and community involvement when planning activities throughout the year.

Involve new Members and encourage them to become active in Lodge and social functions. New ideas from new Members

will have a positive influence on the future direction of the Lodge.

The pride and knowledge that you embrace – properly cultivated in the hearts of our Members, and keeping the membership informed and involved – are the solutions to our problems.

In closing, I wish you every success, and with hard work, determination and the support from your Members, your Lodge will prosper and grow.

And finally, thank you for being an Elk, and for Caring and Sharing and demonstrating that Elks are Leading the Way.

Follow our travels at <https://travelsofgermikezellen.wordpress.com>

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

A little recognition can go a long way

By Thomas A. Bianco

Grand Lodge Activities Committee Area 4

Have you ever been singled out for doing something outstanding or out of the norm? Most people like a pat on the back or a special recognition from their peers for a job well done.

Way back in my college days and taking education courses prepping to become a school teacher, one concept we heard over and over was to look for and recognize a student for a job well done!

We as Elks do the same thing be it – “Elk of the Year”, “Officer of the Year”, or maybe your lodge was awarded a “Gold, Silver, or Bronze Star Award.” If you were ever involved with any one of these awards you know the feeling of pride in getting such acknowledgment. Fidelity (continuing loyalty and support) is one of the cardinal principles of our order, which Elksdom is all about.

This same idea goes for the local schools in our communities. Recognizing a student for outstanding action goes right along with our Elks teachings. Working with our school leadership in finding and awarding

these special students is our objective. One thing I have noticed in my local district is that in a lot of cases the chosen student (by a teacher or a school administrator) is not the smartest or most athletic student, but one who can always be counted on to do the task and be a positive influence on others.

Now for the big question – How can we start a student recognition program? Or where can I get the printable certificates to give to the students? Just go to the Elks web site (elks.org) > Members only section > Officers & Committees > Grand Lodge Committees > Activities Committee > on the right hand side is a box and the bottom of the list is “Downloads & Printable Certificates > scroll down to “Grand Lodge Student Recognition Program” – click on it and all the information and printable certificates will be there for your use.

Access to this information is easy using the steps above or give me a call I will walk you through.

The outstanding students of our communities deserve recognition and we as Elks know that a little pat on the back can go a long way!

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Access to lodge and club facilities is limited

By Frank Scarpino

Special Contributor

Here we are at the start of a new Lodge year with new Officers and committee chairs. It is extremely important the Lodge year begins with dedicated and hard-working Officers who will keep our great charitable work continuing, and to show our communities that “Elks Care – Elks Share.”

Quality chairpeople are a must for your charitable fundraising events for the year. These people must keep a good record of manpower hours, mileage and all monies raised for each function. This information is to be turned over to the Lodge Secretary for the GL Charity Report. The Secretary should submit this report monthly to Grand Lodge. Their final report is due May 1.

The Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee is providing the following information to help define and clarify the provisions of Section 14.130 of the Laws of our Order dealing with public accommodations.

Consequently, in an attempt to ensure that our Lodges cannot be identified as “places of

public accommodations,”

Section 14.130 was amended on July 9, 1992, to state: “Subject to state and local laws, the use of the Home or Club facilities shall be limited to Members in good standing in the Order, their spouses and guests of Members, and those receiving Identification Cards under Section 14.140, as provided in the House Rules, so as to preserve the privacy of the use of each facility to the Members of the Order. Subordinate Lodges shall take appropriate action to conform to the provisions of this Section.”

The Lodge is a private, fraternal order, not open to the general public. The Lodge does not offer any of its services or activities to the general public, but only to its Members and guests. The Lodge is not a business subject or commercial enterprise, which offers goods and services to the general public. Some of the following general guidelines must be observed:

■ Do not advertise your club/home facilities as “open to the public,” either covertly or overtly.

■ Visiting Elks must be required to show their membership cards and sign the

guest register.

■ All guests must sign the guest register and be accompanied by a Member, who must remain with them.

■ Only Elks and spouses of the Elks with identification cards may pay for food or drinks.

■ Weddings, anniversaries and other social events held in the club facilities must be sponsored contractually by an Elks member, who must be responsible for all charges. The sponsor should not always be the same member.

“Public Accommodations Laws” enacted by the Federal Government and many states (Title 11, Civil Rights Act of 1964) have been used to attack private organizations in this endeavor. Many states have enacted their own “Public Accommodations Laws.”

Grand Lodge Statutes do provide that certain Elks functions can be open to the public. These include Memorial Day, Flag Day, installation of Officers, youth banquets, media or law enforcement nights, Eagle Scout observances and similar ceremonies.

These occasions are restricted to free admissions and a ban on the sale of food and drink to the public.

GRAND LODGE

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Are you a thermometer or a thermostat?

As you are aware, the Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee has expanded into Marketing. This is an effort to provide a positive influence upon our current members in order to retain their memberships and the marketing of our Order to the Public, including those people within our communities that we would like to become part of our Fraternal fraternity.

As we diligently work to make our Lodges a better and more successful place we come to realize that we have two types of members. We have those members who simply go with the status quo and work to keep things as they are. They are completely happy with their current state of being, not taking the time to reflect on just how complacent we are. These members and Officers are satisfied with taking the temperature and keeping everything steady as she goes. It is the opinion of many that it is these very members who are negatively affecting us with their attitudes and effort to keep things as they are, we are destined to continue to repeat our mistakes and will make no effort to improve, to change, to make a positive difference. These are our thermostats. They are not bad members, they are just not inclined to paint the picture of their lodge with a broader brush.

On the contrary, in every lodge we can identify the thermostats. These are the members who look for and who promote change. They are eager for improvements in our members, in our methods and in our results. It is these members, our thermostats, who will cause us to succeed and to improve. These are the members that, as Officers and leaders of our Lodge, we need to identify and to encourage, to support and to celebrate their successes.

Every Officer in every Lodge needs to make a realistic assessment of their position, ability and desire. Are they content to be a thermometer and just record and report the current and sustaining position of the Lodge? Are they a thermostat?

This is a member who looks to the future, a member who wants to see improvement in membership numbers and wants to support and promote change and to work to insure that the change has a positive effect on the Lodge and its members.

It is our job, our responsibility, as a Lodge Officer to identify our thermostats, to encourage them, to support them and to recognize their achievements for these members will dictate our future. All the work by all of the Grand Lodge Committees, all the programs and all the promotion of our programs means nothing if a Lodge fails. A Lodge doesn't fail because of a failure by our Grand Lodge; a lodge most often fails because it doesn't follow the Statutes, Rules and

Regulations of the Order. A Lodge most often fails because it does not look to the future but spends time and effort to revisit the future endlessly.

Grand Lodge Committees and committee members are no more than a resource for you, a means of support to provide your Officers with the information that they need to operate a successful program. Use your support staff. Push your support staff. If your chosen program is not working, be persistent. Get the help and the answers you need. This is true for Public Relations, Youth Activities as well as Membership or any other program associated with the BPOE. If your Lodge is not retaining members, is not adding new members, is not showing a positive gain every year, act now. Ask for, demand help NOW, while you can make a difference. Don't wait like a thermometer and simply report the same failing message at the end of each year. Be a Thermostat, turn the heat up. Seek the help available. Call other Exalted Rulers and talk to them. And, not just an Exalted Ruler that you know. If you're a Michigan Exalted Ruler, call a counterpart in Texas or California. Exchange ideas. Search out successful programs from the Elks Magazine and get the details of what they are doing. Do not be afraid to imitate. Together we can succeed. Together, by sharing, we can become stronger and larger.

Are you a thermometer or are you a thermostat? You are what you want to be. You do not have an easy job. But you owe it to your Lodge, to your members, to your Officers, to the Order and mostly you owe it to yourself to do the best possible job so that your members will remember your activities with deep gratitude and you will have earned an honored place in the records of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Putting lives on the line: Honoring public safety heroes

By Terry R. Liersaph
Committee Member

Your Lodge now has an opportunity to honor those individuals who are putting their lives on the line every day to protect our communities. There are so many incidents of police, firefighters and EMS personnel losing their lives in emergency situations.

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee has commissioned two medals to recognize these public servants. The Medal of Valor is for presentation to the families of police, firefighters and EMS providers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A new medal, the Medal of Service, can be presented to police, firefighters and EMS personnel for service above and beyond the call of duty. Both medals can be engraved on the reverse side. Certificates are available to download from the Activities Committee website at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/downloads.cfm>. These "fillable" certificates can be personalized and presented with the medals.

The medals can be ordered by your Lodge Secretary through the Grand Lodge Supplies/Shipping department using CLMS. The order number for the Medal of Valor is 575100 and 575200 for the Medal of Service. Each medal costs \$9, plus shipping and handling.

Consider hosting a special event at your Lodge to present the medal. This is a perfect opportunity to show your thanks and respect to the families who have lost a loved one and the public servants who protect us daily.

All eyes on newly installed ER's

By James R. Arnold
Committee Member

Congratulations, new Exalted Rulers! You are now the focus of your Lodge and its Members. You should be familiar not only with the Elks Statutes, but with the Grand Lodge Programs.

As you begin the new Lodge year, please remember that every Lodge to some extent reflects the personality of its Exalted Ruler. If you have a positive attitude, are enthusiastic and surround yourself with Members who want to make a difference, your Lodge will be successful.

The best intentions in the world won't do you a bit of good if you don't have the appropriate information. Every person in a responsible position in your Lodge needs to get involved in Officers' training, and needs access to whatever material is available for his or her particular office or committee. Any person who wants to know what's going on can attend the training sessions and come away a good deal wiser.

How do Elks make things happen? Log onto <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm> for the links to activities and subjects that will be of tremendous help.

Exalted Rulers should take a long hard look at two tabs, the "ER Flow Chart" and the "Fraternal Committee Programs." These two items will provide tons of information to achieve your goals, plan how to achieve those goals, and then implement those plans.

Keeping the Lodge at the forefront of your community is vital to the Lodge's image and should be utilized to display the good works of our Order. One good way to do this is through the Elks National Foundation's Beacon Grant program. Select any project to which your Lodge is committed, such as dinners for veterans or the annual veterans Stand Down. The Lodge Secretary then applies for the grant through CLMS2Web at www.elks.org.

Finally, we must strive to keep our membership happy. Remember that all people love to see or hear their name mentioned in a positive manner. One way of doing this is to have a certificate of appreciation given to them.

If an individual or company has done something that benefited the Lodge, why not present them with a certificate that recognizes that deed and offers them our thanks?

Remember, new Officers, that your Lodge needs to be a pro-active force within the community, spreading the news of Elkdom and emphasizing "Elks Care — Elks Share."

GRAND LODGE

VETERANS COMMITTEE

Freedom grants available

By **Mary K. Morgan**
Commission Director

The new Elks year is just around the corner and we can announce the big news: There will be even more Freedom Grants this year!

We received a record number of applications last year, and many people asked us why we didn't have more Freedom Grants. Well, we listened! This year, 200 Lodges will receive Freedom Grants of \$2,000 each. Applications for these competitive grants go online July 1 and are due July 31.

Looking to increase your Lodge's chance of getting a Freedom Grant this year? Here are a few tips. First, remember that Freedom Grant projects must focus on one of these five areas of increased need: employment, homelessness and housing, military families, health and educational support.

These five areas were chosen as a focus because statistically, these are the things that most veterans need assistance with. With more than 45,000 nonprofit organizations registered to serve veterans in the United States, it's important for the Elks to focus on how we can best serve veterans in need, and help them become successful members of the community.

Looking for ideas? Take a cue from Grand Junction, CO, Lodge 575 and do something a little different. Elks at this Lodge used a grant to organize an overnight rafting trip for veterans with disabilities.

Ten veterans attended the trip, getting a chance to spend some time outdoors, work on their physical therapy and relax with other veterans.

Visit elks.org/cip/FreedomGrants. *cfm for more success stories, resources and ideas.*

Tips for filing annual financial report

By **William J. Chinn Jr.**
Committee Member

As the end of the 2016-17 Lodge year approaches, it is time to review the plans for submitting the Lodge's Annual Financial Report.

By now the Lodge's Auditing and Accounting Committee should have negotiated the Lodge's engagement with its licensed accountant and agreed to the terms as outlined in the sample contract on pages 37 and 38 of the Auditing and Accounting Manual.

The proposed contract should be presented to the Lodge for its approval. Please do not wait until the suggested date (June 15) for the report to be submitted back to the Lodge. This submission date should be an integral part of the engagement.

Beginning with the submission of the 2016-17 Annual Financial Report (AFR), Lodges will be required to electronically file the report through the Grand Lodge website. This year's form will no longer be mailed to the Lodges. Each Lodge will be required to download from the Grand Lodge website the current Excel version of the AFR.

After completing the forms, select all the tabs in the workbook before executing the save as command. This is similar to how you print all pages at the same time. Use the built in command to save the file as a pdf (Save As then select PDF or XPS). Save the file where you

can easily access it for the upload. This functionality is available in Excel 2007 and higher. If the Lodge has a version of Excel earlier than 2007 there are several add-ins available such as Cute PDF (www.cutepdf.com), which will provide the necessary capability. Unless the Lodge has the capability of merging pdf files, a separate upload for the Form 990/990-T will be necessary.

To upload the AFR/990/90-T navigate to the Auditing and Accounting Committee page on the Grand Lodge website. Select Upload Your Audit from the options on the right side of the page. (Note: Before April 1 you will see a message similar to "Audit Summary has already been posted for 2016") Once you have selected the Upload Option follow the instructions listed to choose the file for upload and then select the Upload the File button. After your first upload you will see a list of files uploaded.

If a revision or addition is necessary simply follow the same procedure. All files uploaded will be maintained and each is date and time stamped for tracking purposes. This time stamping will also be used for monitoring if a Lodge has met the due date for filing.

In addition to the upload instructions, the Grand Lodge webmaster will post some links to useful articles on converting Excel files to pdf files. Please review these links. Please feel free to contact your Area Committeeman for assistance if needed. Here is to a successful submission.

LODGE NEWS

ENF Impact Grants in Michigan

The Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525 was one of 74 Lodges in the United States, and one of three Elks Lodges in Michigan, that was awarded a 2017 Impact Grant from the Elks National Foundation. Impact Grants are offered to Lodges working to make a significant and meaningful difference in their community through a charitable project.

For their 2017 ENF Impact Grant, the Tawas Elks are working with the Alternative Educational Academy (AEA) of Iosco County to help the AEA students graduate from high school with a diploma and become productive members of their communities. The AEA is a Michigan charter school hosted by Iosco Regional Educational Service Agency. The AEA exists as an alternative school for at-risk students, ages 12-19. Its 150 students live, or have lived, with at least, and often several, stressors, including poverty, neglect, trauma, homelessness, parental divorce,

family violence, and learning and emotional disabilities. Most AEA students are referred to the AEA by one of a dozen area schools that find the student failing in the traditional classroom. Some AEA students are drop-outs who have decided to return to school given a second chance at earning a high school diploma. All are students who, for a multitude of reasons, have fallen outside the educational mainstream.

The Tawas Elks established five new committees to plan, organize, and execute all of their 2017 Impact Grant activities at the AEA:

Food and Hygiene Bank – Delivery of fresh fruit and food to the AEA on a weekly basis.

Student Recognition – Pizza parties to recognize students who achieve learning goals set by the AEA teachers.

Educational Field Trips – Two educational field trips with the AEA students.

Employment, College, and Life Skills – Creation of employment clinics, job shadowing, college counseling, and life skills activities for the AEA students.

Community Service – Work side-by-side with AEA students on a community service project.

AEA also established a student led committee to work with the Tawas Elks on the 2017 Impact Grant. The students named their committee the Impact Team and created their own slogan, "Don't Wait for a Change in the World. Be the Change in the World. Make an Impact." To help educate the overall AEA student body about the Impact Grant activities, the students created a video and posters, and also hosted a survey to gather additional student input.

The Tawas Elks are off to a great start on their 2017 Impact Grant project. Watch for updates on their progress in future issues of the Michigan Elks Newsletter.



Elks wrestling tournament champions

Grayling Vikings won the 17-team 44th annual Elks wrestling tournament, held Jan. 7 at the Esky gym.



Funds to help youth hockey program

St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Elks Lodge 541 presented a check for \$250 to Stacy Porter, president of the Berrien Area Hockey Association during the LSJ Warriors vs. South Bend St. Joseph's hockey game. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the youth introductory hockey program which teaches the young players the fundamentals of the sport. From L- R: Elk Past Exalted Ruler Phil Schuman, Stacy Porter, and Elk Exalted Ruler Dean Carlile.

LODGE NEWS



Honor flight receives donation from lodge

Ken Rogers and Larry Levensgood, on behalf of Charlevoix Elks Lodge #2856 and the V-Twins for Vets Poker Run, presented Beau Vore from the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight a check for \$4,000 at the January 28th Veterans Cup at Centre Ice Arena in Traverse City. The check was presented during the halftime veterans honor of the TC Central and Bay Reps hockey game.



Lodge gives food bags

Using a Freedom Grant, the Traverse City Elks partnered with Oleson's Food Stores in Operation Santa to give out holiday food bags to all of the 224 Northwestern Michigan College Veteran Students. This was our way of expressing our appreciation for their service,

BATTLE CREEK ELKS LODGE #131

Events held to support veterans, people with special

Battle Creek Elks Lodge #131 Holds Events in Support of Veterans and Special Needs Individuals On December 13, 2016, the Lodge hosted a Christmas party for special needs individuals from Alternative Choices, a nonprofit organization in Battle Creek that helps them live richer, more independent and productive lives. Their goal is to build on a person's skills and abilities through positive encouragement, guided repetition, and person-centered planning so that they can be successful in our community. For years, the Lodge has opened its doors to Alternative Choices staff and this group of individuals so they have a safe place to spend time and learn

new skills. It was a very successful event, with over 60 people in attendance.

On December 21, 2016, the Lodge hosted a Veterans' Christmas Luncheon. Over 50 veterans from the Veterans Administration Medical Center were in attendance. Members of Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 provided gifts for all the veterans in attendance.

Funding for both events was obtained through a Gratitude Grant the Lodge received from the Elks National Foundation.

For more information about the Elks Organization, you may contact the Battle Creek Lodge at 269-288-8711.



New members initiated

Above is Exalted Ruler Rochelle Roerig, Charlevoix Elks Lodge #2856 with 33 new members initiated Jan. 21. Right is Honorable James C. Varenhorst, PGER, who helped initiate the large group ... on his birthday. Happy birthday, Jim, and thanks for your shining example of dedication to Elkdom. The lodge has another 39 to be initiated.



STATE COIN UNVEILED



Drug Awareness State Committee Chairman, Dean L. Reid, just unveiled the new State coin at the state hoop shoot. All shooters, in every age class received a lanyard Drug Awareness coin after pledging to all those present, to refrain from using drugs of any kind, including marijuana. This year's hoop shoot was well-attended by many parents and brothers and sisters of those shooters, and this jester from the Elks will be carried on to several generations of kids. "We will only make a difference if we get the word out" and what better way than to have a daily reminder to stay away from drugs. This spring will see a new Chairman for Drug Awareness, please support their efforts for it is one great job and I am proud to be a part of it.



STATE NEWS

TRUSTEES

Mid-term meeting held

By **Chuck Oatten**

Chairman, MEA State Trustees

The Board of Trustee's met on Saturday, March 4th, for their mid-term meeting. We thank the following individuals for attending the meeting, and giving us their opinion and some information needed to guide the organization. President Peet, 1st Vice Joe, 2nd Vice Stan, Treasurer Walt, State Secretary Karen, Howard Deihl, George Sermon, incoming Trustee from Northeast District Tony Bosco, Metro endorsed candidate, Tom Robinson, and member John Kennedy. We truly enjoyed your comments and concerns.

Discussed was the budget, and no major changes were needed, everything is on schedule and to budget. Made a couple adjustments pertaining to National convention budget. Policies and Procedures that are used to govern the Trustee's, no changes. Overall, the State is doing well.

We will hold our next meeting on Friday May 19th, in Kewadin, beginning at 9 am. This meeting we will be setting the budget for the year 2017-2018.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Conclusion to an eye-opening experience

By **James D. Rowland**

Michigan Government Relations Chair

As I write this article, the Lodge fiscal year is coming to a close. Our Government Relations Committee Chairs have been asked to contact all their subordinate Lodges and make a final push to report all charitable amounts. This included both real dollars and in like kind amounts, i.e. miles driven by volunteers and volunteer hours. We hope that all Lodges have reported to CLMS a complete accounting.

We have also asked that any Lodges that have had to pay Non Related Business Tax, to send us an update. We now have a lobbyist working for us in Washington D.C. in hopes of pushing \$1000 limit to \$10,000 or eliminated altogether. Any information you can share will be helpful.

Our goal has been to reach 100% reporting of charitable amounts. As a Nation, we report only about 40%. This is how we maintain our Non-Profit status. It also is a way to display to our local, county, state, and national governments how much we give back to community. This is our leverage when asking for special license, property tax breaks, etc.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your State Government Relations Chairman. It has truly been an eye-opening experience.

March madness for scholarships

By **Jack McClelland**
State Scholarship Chair

The Michigan Elks Association Scholarship Committee held the MVS scholarship judging February 11 at Houghton/Higgins Lake Lodge #1982 wonderful facilities.

A thank you must go to the lodge and especially Jim Deamud for taking care of the team.

We shared some fun times with the Gold Key committee completing their judging also present were 1st VP Joe Antonishek and 2nd VP Stan Chubinski.

I would like to thank the following judges for their help in completing the judging task. They are Tony Bosco, Jeff Burk, Barb Kezyzaniak, Tom Killiany, George Lynch, Audrey Morgan, Pat Morgan, Sue Murtland,

Pam Sebright, John Schulling, Kellie Snyder and Debbie Waltz. This was a thin team this year but with determination they got thru the job and I am looking for the full entourage this coming year.

The following tables will show the winners who have gone on to the national judging, and 62 MEA winners that will be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship.

Boys National Finalist

Boys National Finalist		
First Name	Last Name	Lodge #
Amulya	Pammar	2124
Sven	Wolschlaeger	1731
Pranav	Medepalli	50
Jacob	Redzinski	343
Sam	Bailey	2856
Matthew	Billette	88
Jack	Bell	510
Edward	Thomson	1945

Girls National Finalist

Girls National Finalist		
First Name	Last Name	Lodge #
Alayna	Knarian	2525
Sophia	Kim	810
Camryn	Turner	47
Joana	Lopuri	2169
Mia	McCrum	974
Neha	Paragi	2169
Daniella	Asafa-Adjaye	50
Jeolyna	Chiangong	34

Boys State Finalist

First Name	Last Name	Lodge #
Benjamin	Andrews	1711
Jeffrey	Ostman	2856
Vincent	McNelis	50
Andrew	Smith	2169
John	Trecha	222
Nathen	Foster	48
Logan	Brinks	48
John	Schaefer	250
Gregory	Jacot	2525
Ethan	Rasch	2525
Albert	Carter	34
Alex	DuVall	405
Elijah	Newton	2856
Adam	Coe	1711
Andrew	Ducharme	323
Christian	Stellin	1798
Joshua	Robles	250
Benjamin	Strong	404
Noah	Behm	88
Matthew	Rodeman	2246
Devin	Humphreys	1400
Nick	Rullledge	1575
Clay	Jaskowski	1982
Cody	Sich	2567
Dylan	Catalano	1322
Drake	Roseler	274
Skyler	Manczak	88
Nicholas	Hammond	1731
Andrew	Fernandes	325
Jeffrey	Horbatjuk	2124
Marcus	Maraccini	354

Girls State Finalist

First Name	Last Name	Lodge #
Barbara	Sammur	1986
Mays	Sibar	1705
Kelsey	Postler	325
Katherine	Mental	354
Shea	Walsh	88
Teresa	Pilliant	407
Raquel	Zwick	2246
Kiera	Cushway	974
Alexis	McConnell	1400
Nikki	Sorgl	2124
Kaylee	Montrey	323
Aissa	Kainrath	447
Nicoh	Angus	810
Elizabeth	Mansfield	2544
Natalia	McElrath	2168
Abigail	Schwartz	932
Hannah	Kuperus	1711
Kebi	Churchill	2856
Kyle	Sikoma	680
Shelby	Ankney	1798
Rachel	Hiveley	2525
Taylor	Huggins	1309
Jennifer	Schmidt	1731
Emma	Hammelet	1986
Miranda	Siffer	1791
Elle	Lalonde	974
Hannah	Kerns	2168
Dunja	Blagojevic	2124
Unda	Roynard	552
Katelyn	Thompson	1921

STATE NEWS

GOLD KEY

Results are in for the Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund 2016-17 Scholarship winners

By **Geno Grabinski**

Charitable Grant Fund State Chairman

Results are in for the Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund 2016-17 Scholarship winners.

At our annual meeting in February, your Commissioners granted renewals and new scholarships to 22 kids! This is what you have done for the MEA! These kids will be able to further their education and quite possibly become anything from your neighborhood mechanic, to bedside nurse, to as high as their ambition will take them. The Gold Key, means opportunity. The Charitable Grant Fund, makes it happen. Nowhere else in Elksdom, is there such a targeted mission, to help a thoroughly vetted, group of kids. Your continued enthusiasm and donations will help it continue, long after we are but a memory.

Student	Lodge	District
Dakota Snay	Port Huron	Metro
Johnathon Hoy	Gaylord	Northeast
Troy Miller	Tawas Area	Northeast
Bobbie Sue Reinhardt	Charlevoix	Northwest
Malcom Williams	Charlevoix	Northwest
Hannah Witt	Traverse City	Northwest
Karishma Kleeberger	Dearborn	Southeast
Jayson Leonard	Dearborn	Southeast
Dustin Bland	Paw Paw/Allegan	Southwest
Alexandria Fisk	Battle Creek	Southwest
Kevin Jones	St. Joe/Benton Harbor	Southwest
Rebecca Ritzema	Otsego	Southwest
Grace Hanson	Negaunee	U.P.
Hailee Zambon	Negaunee	U.P.

Renewals:

Samantha Morehouse	Gaylor	Northeast
Rudy Postmaa IV	Grand Rapids	Northwest
Emma Hambleton	Plymouth-Ann Arbor	Southeast
Amanda Rasbaugh	Coldwater	Southeast
Javon Mouton	Battle Creek	Southwest
Jordan E Rose	St. Joe-Benton Harbor	Southwest
Aexandria Turk	Battle Creek	Southwest
Darius Schultz	Iron Mountain	U.P.

Here it is, Exalted Rulers: Bring this article to your first available Lodge meeting and make sure you find that volunteer that will chair this committee for you. Work with that Chairperson and ask for updates to present at your Lodge meetings. Please publish a monthly sentence or two about whom to contact in your Lodge for further happenings and functions to raise awareness and opportunities to fund raise for the Gold Key.

Your District Chairpersons listed below are available to help you with any questions you may have.

Metro: Tom Robinson (Warren-Sterling Heights #2292)

Southeast: Geno Grabinski (Livonia #2246)

Southwest: Sandy High (St. Joseph/Benton Harper #541)

Northeast: Mike Bowman (Tawas Area #2525)

Northwest: Joan Rowland (Traverse City #374)

U.P. District: Mike Ilmonen (Negaunee #1116)

Ask for ideas on holding a function or outing. Make sure coin folders are readily available to your membership. Take advantage of the paraphernalia available to you. We will provide Tri-folds as well as Placemats and Quarter Folders. Secretaries – Please insert a coin folder and tri fold in the new member packets and remember to mention the Gold Key at Indoctrination. Members All – participate! Have fun, play golf in the many District outings. But most of all, find “that kid” in your school district, who would benefit from this scholarship! Remember all the information you need to have a successful Gold Key program is available on our website www.mielksgoldkey.org. We thank you for your tireless efforts.

MAJOR PROJECT

Celebrate 60 years of giving

From Major Project Commission

The Michigan Elks Association Major Project is excited to share with you that we have been conducting Major Project Workshops throughout the state!

Our 54 Lodges all have been invited to attend a 2-hour workshop to help and educate the leadership and membership about our amazing program, one that is THIS YEAR, about to celebrate 60 years of GIVING to special needs children!

This past year, the Commission has undergone many changes – and the changes have been significant! We are a leaner (financially), more expansive (in how we approach each case – finding ways to help), and progressive (in our processes – making things easier!). The Commissioners you have elected have done a tremendous job of overhauling the procedures and policies of the Major Project, and it is all administered with kind-hearted compassion mixed with the reality of running a business!

The Major Project Commission is developing a business plan – and it is being scrutinized by our leadership within the Elks as well outside entities to make sure that we are

hitting all the points necessary!

One of the items we are most proud of is our Major Project Workshops, as mentioned. Our State President Pete suggested a look at how Lodges can benefit from having an engaged Lodge with our Major Project. We took him seriously, and developed an outline, and then went to work scheduling 54 Lodges to attend. We did not approach this on a District level, but rather on a “cluster” level – putting together Lodges in close proximity to reduce drive time.

The Workshops are approximately 2 hours, and we are booked out through April (we began with our first Workshop on February 12th at the Alma Lodge, with members from Alma, Bay City and Tawas in attendance – 2 of those individuals were PSP’s Howard Diehl and George Sermon!)

Every weekend, our Executive Director is driving to the “host” Lodge – and the experience of meeting with, talking with, and sharing our cause and hearing frustrations, or (more importantly) excellent suggestions in this very casual and interactive Workshop has been outstanding!

We are thrilled to meet with you as we renew our

commitment to our special needs children, to be able to provide our members and leadership at the Lodge level with information that will help YOUR Lodge to benefit from having members feel the benefits of helping someone in need.

One of the “take-aways” from the Workshops has been simply sharing the stories of HOW your dollars impact the lives of special needs children! Executive Director Di has shared those stories with those in attendance, and our members are thrilled to HEAR how their dollars make such a huge impact. We are going to get BETTER at sharing those stories!

Our Major Project slogan at our inception (1957) was “Helping the Helpless.” While things have changed in “political correctness”, the spirit of that motto still stands strong ... we, collectively, as Elks, continue to make an impact in children’s lives that cannot be measured, but that have such a profound effect. The Commission remains grateful to our members for their continued gifts of love, compassion, kindness, dollars and unending support. We appreciate you all.

The Major Project Commission 2017-2018. Celebrating 60 Years of Giving!

AMERICANISM

Top finishers in essay contest

By **Nancy Close**

Americanism State Chairman

All Americanism entries were due on February 28th, read and judged on March 1st.

There were SO many that I would have loved to see win honorable mention, but unfortunately, only one in each division can place. Some made me laugh, and some sounded much older than their age. This was my best year yet and I appreciate everyone that had a part in helping out.

The following awards will be given out in May at the state meeting in the Soo.

Essay contest:

■ 1st place in both divisions will receive a plaque and \$130.

■ 2nd place in both divisions will receive a plaque and \$75.

■ 3rd place in both divisions will receive a plaque and \$60.

Division:

1st: Annaka Neetz, Bay City Lodge #88.

2nd: Brooklynn Blair, Manistee Lodge #250.

3rd: Corrina Pollard, Negaunee Lodge #1116.

Division II:

1st: Nick Brownlee, Hasting Lodge #1965.

2nd: Regan Temple, Houghton/Higgins Lodge #1982.

3rd: Alec Zettel,

Houghton/Higgins Lodge #1982.

Coloring contest in both divisions will receive a plaque and a book about Americanism/voting.

Division I:

1st: Jenna Trotter, Twas #2525.

2nd: Terence O’Boyle, Ala Lodge #1400

3rd: Tess Farkas, Alma Lodge #1400.

Division II:

1st: Ryleigh Foster, Houghton/Higgins Lodge #1982.

2nd: Morgan Groleau, Escanaba #354.

3rd: Clark Lux, Alma #1400.

STATE NEWS

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Get familiar with youth programs

By Diana Armstrong
MIELKS Chair Youth

As new Exalted Rulers and officers, it is important for you to familiarize yourself with the Youth Activities Programs.

By understanding and promoting these programs in your communities you will only enhance and hopefully increase your membership. Please utilize the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Manual. This manual is designed to help you not only understand the programs, but to help and assist you to carry them out. If you don't have a manual, ask your Secretary to order one or go online at Elks.org.

As you read the Youth Activities Manual, you will see that some of the programs that are promoted by Grand Lodge include: Hoop Shoot, Scouting, Scholarships, The Antlers Program, The Dictionary Project, Teenager of the Year, Elks National Foundation, Veterans and Americanism and Drug Awareness. There is a lot of information in the manual to help with these programs.

If you do not know about the Dictionary Project, let me tell you about it. The Dictionary Project is a Nationwide Non-Profit program to assist all students in "becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers and resourceful learners by providing third graders with their own personal dictionary". Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn, encouraging sponsors to give dictionaries each year to children in the third grade.

This program is open to all other non-profit organizations but we hope that the Elks do their part in this program. The good news is that the dictionaries cost about \$2.50 each. It is easy to approach a school in your area and tell them that you would like to sponsor this program and provide the dictionaries. Talk about Community Involvement! If you do not know how to start this program, please email, call or write me and ask for information. I will be happy to help. Remember by promoting Youth Activities in your communities, you will show who we are as Elks. If you have someone in your Lodge who works at a school, get their assistance about doing the Dictionary Project, Hoop Shoot and Teenager and or Student of the year programs. Noah Webster's birthday is October 16th and this might be a fun time to promote the Dictionary Project helping the teacher turn it into a literary event. Remember to label the Dictionaries when presenting them to the school with the Elks logo and Lodge number. This will always help them to remember where this book came from. I know that some of you are skeptics in this electronic day and age, but providing the student with their very own dictionary puts a smile on their face and they don't have to wait for screen time to look something up as it is right at their fingertips! Good Luck in providing Youth Activities in your Lodges and remember that I am available to help.

dca131@comast.net
248-496-9670
The Dictionary Project
wordpower@dictionaryproject.org

and Americanism and gives each member of our community a chance to have their own special "Memorial Day".

Flags may be purchased for \$20 before April 1, 2017 or for \$25 after April 1, 2017, and the buyer will receive the flag, tag and flagpole after the flags are taken down on June 14th. Flags must be picked up by July 8 unless arrangements have been made to pick up later. Order forms may be picked up at the Alma Elks Lodge (989) 463-1400.

HONOR

Continued from cover

This is an excellent way to involve our community to assist with many of the B.P.O.E. programs — Youth Activities (Boy and Girl Scouts and school children), Veterans and Active Servicemen and Women, Drug Awareness, Patriots (local Police, Fire and MMR/EMT personnel). This shows the Elk's commitment to Patriotism

LODGE NEWS



The 42nd wild game dinner was held in February by Lapeer Elks Lodge.

LAPEER ELKS LODGE #2567

100 guests attend wild-game dinner

We would like to thank everyone who helped and attended the Lapeer Elks Lodge #2567, 42nd annual wild game dinner on February 11, 2017.

We had approximately 100 guests attend the dinner and it was a big success. We gave

away 4 guns with the card raffles, 1 gun as a door prize and another gun was a door raffle for a total of 6 guns. Preparations for the dinner started on Wednesday with shopping, Thursday starting defrosting the meat, Friday was spent cooking the meat.

Saturday started with breakfast to feed the volunteers followed by 8 hours of work preparing the meal.

We would like to thank the volunteers who helped! It takes a lot of work by all, for things to run as smoothly as they do.



Pictured (from left) Cadillac Elks Lodge long-serving veterans' committee members Duncan "Mick" McDonald, Colin Campbell, Mr. Jeff Wendt, VA-CRT (Certified Recreational Therapist) and Harold Carson.

CADILLAC ELKS LODGE #680

Committee visits hospitalized veterans

Cadillac Elks Lodge #680 long-serving veterans' committee members made their third visit of 2016 to the Aleda Lutz Saginaw VA Medical Center on December 21.

They brought with them \$1,127 worth of items for the hospitalized vets to enjoy during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

These donated items for this trip were: SASO worth of leather kits, which are used by the vets to make belts, handbags and other "stamped" leather goods; SSOO worth of "canteen" books; these are books of coupons the hospitalized veterans may use to purchase food and snack items in the hospital snack shop (canteen), 5200 worth of

various snacks, sweat shirts and knit caps; \$80 worth of embroidered blankets made and donated by the spouse of an Elks member and 5116 in cash for the Vets to use to play the popular bingo games. These Vet Committee members have been Caring and Sharing with the hospitalized Veterans of the Saginaw VAMC for more than 10 years!

MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION

112th Annual Spring Convention

Kewadin Casino & Resort, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
May 18-21, 2017

Agenda and Program

AGENDA

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Ritual Practice.....5:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
Rich Wlosinski, Chairman Spruce/Oak
Registration.....6:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.
George Lascu, Chairman Waters Edge

Friday, May 19, 2017

Registration.....9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.
George Lascu, Chairman 2:30p.m.-8:00p.m.
Waters Edge
Ritual Contest.....8:00a.m.-3:30p.m.
Rich Wlosinski, Chairman Spruce/Oak
PSP Meeting 9:00 am - Noon
Thomas A. Bianco, President Grand Island 1
DDGER Designate Meeting.....2:00pm-4:00pm
James C. Varenhorst, PGER Mackinaw Island
DDGER Meeting.....3:00pm-4:00pm
Join the DDGER Designate Meeting
Mackinaw Island

Board of Trustees Meeting.....9:00am-4:30 pm
Chuck Oatten, Chairman Grand Island 2
Major Project Commission Meeting
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tom Harder, Chairman Grand Island 1
Charitable Grant Fund Meeting
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Geno Grabinski, Chairman Neebish Island
Memorial Service.....5-6:00pm
Ishpeming Lodge # 447 Spruce/Oak
Livonia Lodge #2246
MEA Social/Hospitality Room 7pm-11pm
Meet Old & New Friends Snacks available
Upper/Lower Tahquamenon Falls

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Registration..... 7:00 am-9:00 am
George Lascu, Chairman Waters Edge
Business Session.....8:00am-10:45am
Peter J. Gadzinski, President Dream Makers
Ladies' Luncheon.....Doors Open 8:30am
Tina Deamud, Coordinator Breakfast 9:00 am
Birch-Cedar-Oak
Installation of Officers.....11:00am
Randall Jackson, SDGER Dream Makers
Member's Luncheon 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Featuring Michigan's Best ER's Grand Island 1 & 2
How to raise funds & get things done

Past State Presidents' Luncheon
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Thomas A. Bianco, PSP Woodlands
PGER/Special Rep. Meetings 2:00pm-4:00pm
James C. Varenhorst, PGER Mackinaw Island
Incoming DVP & DVC Joint Meeting.....2:30pm
Joe Antonishek, 1st VP Oak
Indoctrination Workshop 2:00 pm
Edwin Geishert, PSP Birch
Penny Geisher, Trustee
Incoming State Chair Meeting.....3:15pm
Joe Antonishek, 1st VP Oak
President's Banquet.....Cocktails-6:00pm
Lou Roos, Aid to the President Dream Makers
Dinner-6:30pm

Business Session Following Dinner
Peter J. Gadzinski, President Dream Makers
MEA Social/Hospitality Room 7pm-11pm
Meet Old & New Friends Snacks available
Upper/Lower Tahquamenon Falls

Sunday, May 17, 2015

State President Reception 8:00-11:00
Joe & Debi Antonishek Woodlands

BUSINESS SESSION PROGRAM Saturday, May 20, 2017

Call to Order 8:00 a.m Peter J. Gadzinski
President, Negaunee #1116

Introduction of Grand Lodge
Officers and Guests Mary Reid
Sergeant-at-Arms, Traverse City #323

Invocation..... Douglas DuShane
Chaplain, Negaunee #1116

Pledge to the Flag Stan Chubinski
2nd Vice President, Battle Creek #131

Vocal Patrick Morgan
Soloist, Dearborn #1945

Organist Les Thornburg
Traverse City # 323

Welcome Howard Diehl
Convention Director, Bay City # 88

Roll Call of Lodges..... Karen Cary
Roll Call of Officers Secretary, Sturgis #1381

Introduction of
Past State President Thomas A. Bianco
President-PSP, Ishpeming #447

Introduction of District Deputies
Remarks James C. Varenhorst, PGER
Grand Rapids #48

Introduction of
State Assoc. Guests Peter J. Gadzinski
Grand Rapids #48

Sect's Report/ CommunicationKaren Cary
Minutes of PreviousSecretary, Sturgis # 1381

Treasurer's Report Walt Muellenhagen
Treasurer, Traverse City # 323

President's Report Peter G. Gadzinski
Negaunee #1116

1st Vice-President's Report Joe Antonishek
Livonia # 2246

2nd Vice-President's Report..... Stan Chubinski
Battle Creek #131

Trustee's Report Chuck Oatten
Chairman, Alma # 1400

Major Project Commission Tom Harder
Chairman, Flat Rock #1731

Charitable Grant Fund
Commission Geno Grabinski
Chairman, Livonia #2246

Kevin Quinn, PSP
Executive Director, Grand Rapids #48

Announcements Karen Cary
Secretary, Sturgis # 1381

Committee Reports

(3 min. max, full report in writing)

NOTE: All State Chairmen are required to submit a written report to the President, 1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents by April 30, and to the State Secretary at the General Session.

2nd Vice President Stan Chubinski
Introduction of Northwest and Southwest DVP and DVC

Call for reports from:
Americanism Nancy Close, Chairman
Copper Country #404

Business Practice Carlos Montilla, Chairman
Mt. Clemens #2124

Drug Awareness Dean Reid, Chairman
Traverse City #323

Lodge Activities /
Star Lodge Award Al Perry, Chairman
Howell #2168

Ritual Rich Wlosinski, Chairman
Pontiac-Waterford #810

Youth Activities Diana Armstrong, Chairman
Pontac-Waterord #810

1st Vice-President Joe Antonishek
Introduction of the Metro and Southeast DVP and DVC

Call for reports from:
Accident Prevention Mike Bartolotta, Chairman
Warren-Sterling Hts #2292

Adopt-A-Veteran Stewart Israel, Chairman
Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325

Hoop Shoot David Stratton, Chairman
Grand Rapids #48

Mmbrshp/Retention....Kenneth J.Hines, Chairman
Plymouth-Ann Arbor # 325

National Foundation...Kathy Stratton, Chairman
Ishpeming # 447

National Veterans Service...John Schuiling, Chairman
Alma #1400

Scholarship Jack McClelland, Chairman
Bay City #88

Special Events/Community Welfare/
Organ Donor Program...Kimberly Deckard, Chairman
Pontiac-Waterford # 810

President..... Peter J Gadzinski
Introduction of the UP and Northeast DVP and DVC

Call for reports from:
By- Law . Chris Ferguson, Chairman
Rochester-North Oakland 2225

Govt Relations James Rowland, Chairman
Traverse City #323

Law Paul Robinson, Chairman
Flat Rock #1731

Public / Member Relations Bob Burch, Chairman
Niles #1322

State Publication
Michigan Elks News Karen Cary, Publisher
Sturgis # 1381

Web Master Bruce Stark, Chairman
Plymouth-Ann Arbor # 325

Facebook PageGeorge Lynch, Chairman
Bay City #88

Resolutions Doug Mikkelsen, Chairman
St. Joseph-Benton Harbor #541

Convention Howard Diehl, Chairman
Bay City #88

Registration Geoge Lascu, Chairman
Royal Oak-Detroit #34

Unfinished Business
New Business

Good of the Order
Installation of Officers

Suspension of Meeting
Benediction Douglas DuShane, Chaplain
Negaunee #1116

Adjournment

Member Luncheon Grand Island 1&2

Saturday Breakout Sessions ... Birch, Cedar

President's Banquet Dream Makers

Following Dinner/Guest Remarks
Call to Order Peter J. Gadzinski
President, Negaunee #1116

Ritual (Final Report) Rich Wlosinski
Chairman, Pontiac-Waterford #810

President's Remarks Chuck Oatten
2nd Vice President, Alma #1400

Stan Chubinski
1st Vice-President, Battle Creek #131

Closing Joe Antonishek
President, Livonia #2246

Benediction Bruce Stark
Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325

STATE NEWS

Hoop Shoot champions announced

The 45th annual hoop shoot was a great success. The weather was beautiful, but rain or shine or blowing snow, the hoop shoot goes on. This year, the shoot was at Holy Spirit Catholic School, a smaller gym, but everything worked out fine. Next year, the event will take place in Grand Rapids with locations to be determined.



Boys ages 8-9:

Jacob Burtch, 24/25, Manistee #250
 Isiah Mix, 19/25, Dowagiac #889
 Ben Weber, 17/25, Rochester-N-Oakland #2225



Girls ages 8-9

Myley Wymer, 14/25, Pontiac-Waterford #810
 Delaney Gladwell, 13/25, Negaunee#1116
 Stormy Gail, 11/25, Howell #2168



Boys ages 10-11

Nathan Muntean, 23/25, Livonia #2246
 Stefan Dredetean, 18/25, Rochester-N-Oakland #2225
 Caleb Quake, 17/25, Three Rivers #1248



Girls ages 10-11

Mariah Thompson, 19/25, Houghton-Higgins #1982
 Annabelle Besonen, 17/25-8/10, Copper Country #404
 Gabby Charvat, 17/25-7/10, Three Rivers #1248



Boys ages 12-13

Joey McLean, 22/25, Hastings #1965
 Lucas Young, 19/25, Livonia #2246
 Armaan Hussaini, 18/25, Rochester-n-Oakland #2225



Girls ages 12-13

Elise Besonen, 21/25-5/5, Copper Country #404
 Nataile Hackett, 21/25-3/5, Howell #2168
 Haylie Wilson, 20/25, Three Rivers #1248