



FLAT ROCK ELKS LODGE #1731

## Event has impact for ‘special athletes’ and students in the community

Basketball season is very special for “Special Athletes” from Jo-Brighton and ARC Downriver when they play basketball teams from two of our local high schools, Carlson and Woodhaven.

It is not only important for these “special athletes,” but for how much impact it has on the high school students in our community.

Flat Rock Elk members also participate in helping to make these tournaments memorable, by providing lunch and helping during these events.

### 7th annual Warrior Basketball Game

We have now sponsored our 7th ARC Special Athletes and Woodhaven High School Warrior Basketball Games.

See ATHLETES, 7



TAWAS AREA ELKS LODGE #2525

## Lodge joins JEAP program for boat-building project



Tawas Elks Lodge is involved with youth from the JEAP program for a boat-building project.

Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525 is using its \$2,000 Elks National Foundation (ENF) Beacon Grant and \$1,500 ENF Anniversary Grant to hand build a boat with youth involved with the Iosco County Family Court’s Juvenile Enhanced Accountability Program (JEAP), which is for troubled youth that need to complete court mandated community service.

This is the Tawas Elks’ fourth project with the JEAP Youth since

2015. They are partnering with Heritage Coast Sailing and Rowing (HCS&R) for this project.

The project is expected to take approximately 20 weeks to complete.

Tawas Elks and HCS&R meet with JEAP youth every Tuesday evening and alternating Saturday mornings to work on the boat, which will be used this summer during a free Sailing and Water Safety Day Camp that is being sponsored by HCS&R.

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Elks Michigan newsletter

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NEWS AND NOTES

**Sinise's band to play at 150th**

Gary Sinise & the Lt. Dan Band will headline the Elks' 150th anniversary celebration in San Antonio. Named for Sinise's memorable character in Forrest Gump, the Lt. Dan Band has played hundreds of concerts over the past 15 years to raise spirits, funds, and awareness for our nation's disabled veterans and their families. The band is a program of the Gary Sinise Foundation, which serves defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need through unique programs designed to entertain, educate, and inspire.

"While we can never do enough to show gratitude to our nation's defenders," Sinise said, "we can always do a little more."

The band will perform July 1, after the Convention's Opening Ceremony. The performance is sponsored by the Elks National Foundation through a generous donation to the Gary Sinise Foundation.

"Gary's work for veterans and military families aligns so well with the mission and values of the Elks," said PGER Lou Sulsberger, the chairman of the ENF Board of Trustees. "We're happy to support what he's doing, and I can't wait to hear the band!" For more information about the Gary Sinise Foundation, visit GarySiniseFoundation.org. For more information about the anniversary celebration, visit www.elks.org/150.

**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 2017 Statutes Annotated, which states: "The exception permitting visitation of a Lodge by a non-suspended 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 approaching.

To answer another question, when will the Grand Lodge-calculated membership total be lowered to coincide with the Local Lodge total? This will take place when the Lodge Secretary sends the proper paperwork to the Grand Secretary after the 2017-18 Grand Lodge year closes June 1.

**Room reservation sheet for 150th anniversary**

**San Antonino Housing Form**

**LaQuinta Inn & Suites-San Antonio Riverwalk Convention Center**

**303 Blum St. San Antonio, TX 78205**

**July 1<sup>st</sup> –July 4<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Room cost: \$109.00 +16.75% tax=\$127.26

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code for card: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

BEDS: Two Queens \_\_\_\_\_ King: \_\_\_\_\_

Any special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Some information: Grand Lodge will open on Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm.  
 150 year Celebration should begin around 6:30 pm  
 Have limited number of rooms.  
 Microwave and refrigerator in each room  
 Free Breakfast  
 Parking fee is \$25.00 per day  
 Riverwalk is 3 blocks away  
 Alamo is 2 blocks away  
 Convention Center 1 block away  
 Pool and fitness center on site

**REGISTRATION MUST BE IN NO LATER THAN MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2018.**

**HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU RESERVE ROOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Send to: **Chuck Oatten, 514 E. Saginaw St. St. Louis, MI. 48880** or  
 e-mail to [coattenc@gmail.com](mailto:coattenc@gmail.com) or fax at (989) 466-4906

**Kids' Christmas**

On December 14, 2017 Cooper, Otsego, Plainwell and Martin elementary schools bused in 35 under privileged children from their kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd graders unto our Lodge for a Christmas party. There was a magician, craft lady and pizza and soda for the children. We also had a group of our members and volunteers who had gifts for the children to pick out for their parents. When Santa Clause came they all received a Christmas bag of goodies. This was made possible by donations from the community businesses and a super chairperson. After the party they were all bused back to school.

**State officers**

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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](mailto: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

# We saved the best for last: New membership soars

I can't believe three years has gone by so fast. It seems like only yesterday that we just started this journey. Debi and I would like to thank our traveling partners these past three years. We started off with Randy and Christie and Pete Pam. We cannot thank you both, for all your leadership and knowledge of that first year. The journey continued when Stan and Cheryl joined us for our travels. We cannot thank them enough for your organization and input for the National Convention in Houston and Reno. Chuck and Debb joined us this last year and they wanted to see parts of this great state that they have never seen before. The three couples enjoyed traveling together. We tried to take them to Green Bay on one trip across the Upper Peninsula, but I was replaced by a new leader for the caravan.

Summer time is Gold Key golf outings, visiting Bay Cliff the third weekend in July for Elks Day. Visiting Lodges and seeing all the "Great Work" being done around this Great State of ours. Our members of this Association have out done themselves again this year. The donations this year have increased again this year for all our Charities. Charitable Grant increase the number of



**JOE ANTONISHEK**  
State President

Scholarships to Twenty-six this year. Michigan Major Project reinstated Camps that had to be cut the year before, because of budget restrictions. A case is being turned around and approved by the Commissioners within three days. Scholarship committee award 66 scholarships to deserving students in February at the Houghton-Higgins Lake Lodge.

I would like to thank the Southeast District and my Lodge, Livonia Elks # 2246 for all your support that you have shown Debi and I these last few years. I would like to thank all the State Chairmen this year for an excellent job again. The Michigan Elks Association would not be wear it is to day without the support of every Lodge, District and Member working together as one for the continued growth of this organization.

April is the start of a new Elks year. New officers are in place and it time to be thinking, how can we make this a successful year. There is only one answer to that question. Everyone in the Lodge must work together as one. When you don't work together for the betterment of the Lodge you will fail and will not exist as a Lodge. Continue to do your Charitable work and get your new members involved in your Lodge activities. Have your Michigan Major Project and Charitable Grant Commissioners in your Lodge, get involved in sending in more cases and candidates for scholarships. The money is there let's spend it and show our communities what the Elks are all about.

"WE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST." This last year, we started with a membership of 19,741 members statewide. As of this writing, we have initiated 1,263 members, transfer dimit 124, reinstated 241 for a total of 1,628 members. Thru non-pay, expelled, transfer dimit, absolute dimit and death a total of 994 members leaving a net gain of 634 members. For the first time in a long time our membership in the state will be at 20,375 members. We have 16 days left to initiate 167 candidates.

I would like to thank Ken Hines and his committee for all their challenging work in making this a successful year. Also, every member in the state needs a gratitude of thanks also, because without you this would not be possible.

We will have in attendance at the spring convention the State President from Indiana, Donald R. Raderstorf and First Lady Donna L. Schofield. We will also have State President from Ohio, Nevin Taylor and First Lady Deana Taylor. Be sure to stop by and given them both a Big Michigan Welcome.

If you follow Stan Chubinski on Facebook, his ideal job was to be a soldier of fortune. Lucky for us, he will become a General in May.

We are all looking forward to his leadership this next year. We also welcome Jerry and Stephanie Alexie joining Chuck and Debb Oatten. We are leaving the Michigan Elks Association in good hands for years to come.

Finally, I cannot express how much this last year has met to Debi and me. We have made so many new friends. The support throughout this year has been overwhelming. Thank you all once again.

## Travels take us to many new places

Two years down and the "Big One" comes up next. Please believe me; these past two years have gone by faster than expected. Our travels with Joe, Debi, Chuck and Debb have been enjoyable to say the least. Seeing old friends and making new ones during this time is a true joy and Cheryl and I look forward to making more friends during our visits this next year.

Our travels took us to parts of the state which we may never have seen and were a learning experience. Seeing President Joe's photo with the banner Grand Exalted Ruler under it at one of the Lodges was something we never thought we would see. The comradery experienced at the Gold Key Gold Outings, competition at Ritual Contests and the appreciation shown at various Presidents Nights just strengthens the saying that the B.P.O.E. does also stand for that saying that we are the "Best People On Earth".

Our visit to Bay Cliff, which this past year was our first, was something one cannot forget, or can you explain the feeling one has afterwards. It reinforces the evidence that the money spent to assist these kids to attend this camp is well spent. Not to mention the other camps we help fund and the one time grant that come through our State Major Project from your contributions.

Sitting in on the Gold Key Scholarship annual meeting and assisting with the scoring of the E.N.F. Most Valuable Student Scholarships is something close to my heart. The simple idea that you are offering the opportunity to young persons to



**STAN CHUBINSKI**  
1st Vice President

continue their education, who without the Elks, may never be able to attend college or learn a trade via a scholarship from our Charitable Grants Fund. The scholars who receive an E.N.F. scholarship, well their applications speak for themselves.

President Joe was fortunate to have a great slate of Chairpersons, and many of those faces will continue their jobs within the Association as continuing Chairpersons this next year based on the outstanding jobs they have done and also the fact that their job is not yet completed. This next year we need to, as an Association, expand the sharing of information through indoctrination of our new members and use of the assets available on our website.

To the new Exalted Rulers, I hope you have a successful year ahead of you. Keep your Lodge active in all the programs of the Association and your District activities. By doing so, you will help build a strong foundation for you Lodge.

In closing, we look forward to being your President and First Lady and look ahead to seeing you this next year during our travels.

## Reservation sheets for 150th anniversary are due May 21

July 1 thru July 4. the Elks will be celebrating their 150th anniversary at the National convention being held in San Antonio, Texas.

Room reservation sheets MUST be sent to me no later than May 21, 2018. If you plan on attending, Please get these filled out. The celebration will begin with Opening Ceremony on Sunday July 1 at 4 p.m., Dinner will be available immediately after opening ceremonies, after dinner Gary Sinise & the Lt. Dan Band will entertain.

A housing form is included in News and Notes on page 2 of this newsletter.

Need more information? Please contact me. We also will have a booth set up at the Soo during the Spring convention.

We have scheduled Michigan night at Jimmy Buffet's Margaretville on the Riverwalk for Tuesday evening July 3 from 5 p.m. till 7 p.m. A very



**CHUCK OATTEN**  
2nd Vice President

nice selection of food is available for \$25 per person. We hope you will attend this great event. Wear your new yellow shirt.

It is hard to believe this year is almost over. Debb and I have traveled over 13,000 miles this year visiting numerous Lodges and events, it has been very rewarding. We will see you all very soon at the Soo for Spring Convention. Travel safely.

GRAND LODGE

# Youth programs build character and Elks spirit

It's hard to believe that Pat and I are already more than halfway through this journey. We have met so many Members of this outstanding organization and are constantly moved by the great work that you're doing in your states and local communities on behalf of Elks.

As we continue down the road, I want to take another moment to recognize an important part of Elkdom—our youth. As you might know, I got my start in the Elks at a young age, and I hope to inspire others to get involved early and build a foundation for the future.

With the Hoop Shoot National Finals happening in Chicago this month, there's no better time to remind ourselves that the young people in our communities are the future of Elks. More than a free throw basketball contest, the Hoop Shoot challenges kids both mentally and



**MALCOLM J. MCPHERSON**

Grand Exalted Ruler

physically and is a constructive way to teach kids that hard work and practice can lead to reward—qualities that will help kids grow both inside and outside of the Elks. Likewise, the growing Soccer Shoot program is another way to instill these values in our children.

As the school year winds down, I encourage high schoolers to remain focused in their work and to consider applying for the many scholarship opportunities available through the Elks on the national, state, and local levels.

To our youngest Elks Members, it is your fresh perspective, positive outlook, and determination to succeed that will carry this organization into its next 150 years. I encourage all young Elks to get involved in their Lodges as much as possible and actively recruit new members. I can't wait to see the great things they will accomplish.

How will your Lodge invest in your youth this year? From scholarships to Hoop and Soccer Shoots to Antlers and the Youth Recognition Program, there are already so many wonderful national programs in place to support our young people. I look forward to seeing all the new ways you'll do so in your communities. See you out there!

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

## Contest rewards community work

By Steven A. Davis  
Committee Chairman

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee encourages Lodges to become involved in their communities with a community project that focuses on a need in the community and makes a difference to those it serves.

The goal is to enhance community awareness of the good work we do as Elks and to have the community associate that good work directly with the local Elks Lodge. These projects can help the community better understand who we are and what we do as a fraternal organization and as such, develop membership in our Lodges.

To recognize and reward the great community work done throughout Elkdom, the Grand Lodge Activities Committee sponsors the Lodge Community Project Contest. The winning Lodges will be recognized in all six Divisions for their outstanding community project at the Grand Lodge Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

It's easy to enter the contest. After logging on to [elks.org](http://elks.org), click on Grand Lodge, then Committees, then Activities Committee, then Community Project Contest, where you will find the application. Complete the entry form and e-mail or mail it to David B. Lake, Area 3 Member of the Grand Lodge Activities Committee at the e-mail or postal address shown on the application.

Be proud of your Lodge's Community Project and enter this important contest. Please remember that the deadline for entries is May 1, so don't delay. Send in your entry today.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

## Give best students recognition they deserve

By Tom Bianco  
Activities Committee Area 4

*"Praise youth and you will prosper" — Student/Teen of the Month/Year Program*

The above quote was not taken out of a college teachers training course, but is an old Irish proverb over 1,000 years ago! 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.

One more quote, this one from Winston Churchill "Those who fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it." As you can see, I am a history nerd, and I learned that we didn't invent common sense in the last few years. People for many years have been doing like we Elks do, giving people a pat on the back for a good job done! Some of the ways we as Elks say thank you are as follows: "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 Elkdom

is all about.

The 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 special students is our objective. One thing I have noticed in my local district is, 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](http://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.

To the outstanding students of our communities – "Congratulations on your achievements, for you have made us proud."

VETERANS COMMITTEE

## Help those who are in state veterans homes

By Mary K. Morgan  
Commission Director

There are nearly 20 million veterans in the United States, but only a little more than 9 million of them are registered with the VA.

In other words, more than half of veterans in the United States do not receive services at their local VA.

But where can you find these veterans? State Veterans Homes are a good place to start. There are 162 State Veterans Homes in the United States, all of which are independent of the VA.

These facilities are state-run, and often are in need of volunteers and support. Consider expanding any VA-based activities to local State Veterans Homes as well.

Additionally, if your Lodge holds ceremonies for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day or other events, think about holding them at a State Veterans Home so the residents can attend.

Reach out to local nursing homes and senior residences. These facilities usually have a recreation director who can connect you to veteran patients and help plan events.

Don't forget about the younger veteran population. Younger vets are not only less likely to join traditional veterans groups but also less likely to use VA services.

Consider connecting with local groups like The Mission Continues and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

These two fast-growing groups cater mostly to post-9/11 veterans. Their mission of service aligns closely with the Elks. Check their websites to find the local contact in your area.

You can also reach out to student veterans. Community colleges and universities often have student veterans groups or staff members responsible for outreach.

It may take extra effort to reach these veterans, but it is worth it.

STATE NEWS

DRUG AWARENESS

# Participate in, and encourage, community activities

**Ny Kimberly Deckard**  
 PER State Special Events/Community Welfare/Organ Donor Chairperson

Special events that benefit our neighbors go on at Elks Lodges all the time. As Elks,

we should be concerned with our local community's well-being, and actively encourage, plan and participate in local community activities. Sponsoring a Boy Scouts troop, delivering Christmas baskets to the needy, or holding a fundraiser for a

terminally ill child are just a few examples of an endless list of ideas.

Below is a special events spreadsheet that was created by one of the fine Elks lodges from the Great Metro District — Ferndale Lodge #1588.

I thought their hard work should not go unnoticed, and perhaps it will inspire your lodge to do the same! And check out the totals! Look at the hours spent by these Great Elks that helped to make their community a better place to live!

Special Events Grid Ferndale #1588 - Metro District 2017-2018

Activity	Details	Total# elks & helpers	Total # of Participants	Volunteer & Elk hours	Volunteer & Elk Miles	Non-cash Value	Cash Value
Sponsor Sports Team or Scouts	2 Metro Detroit Softball League Teams, Girl Scout Troop #71437 & #75084	35	430	0	0	0	\$1,200.00
Pumpkin Patch	Paired with Warren/Sterling Heights Lodge on 10/27/17 Raised money at our Lodge by purchasing cut outs of halloween characters- the kids would color them for \$1, \$5, or \$10	10	50	30	50	0	\$400.00
Christmas Gifting	Food Baskets Auction 12/19 (\$2,755) Packing up Christmas Food Baskets on 12/16 for 57 Families (Spent \$2,755)	158	183	474	790	0	\$5,510.00
Publish organ donor article	Article in Lodge Hour of 11 Newsletter	2	2	2	0	0	\$0.00
Donate Facility	3 Drag Queen Bingo Events, 2 MDSL Party of the Week, Wake for a Members Mother, Euchre Fundraiser for Preschool, Ties Like Me Networking Group, MDSL Softball League Kick off Party, Member Wedding Party, Pancake Breakfast for local animal shelter	455	1,903	2,780	3,075	0	\$26,350.00
Youth	Easter Egg Hunt, Childrens Christmas Party with visit from Santa, Donation to the Royal Oak Boys Hockey Program	27	71	81	135	0	\$500.00
Needy or handicapped	Took MOIC Ferndale High School Special Need Kids to the Detroit Tiger Game	20	40	90	500	0	\$2,500.00
Law & Order Night	Held on November 9, 2017	23	94	69	115	0	\$700.00
Veterans	Paid for a bus to bring a group of Veterans from Hamilton Nursing Home to our Lodge for Memorial Day Parade & Lunch on 5-29-17 - Took the same group to Detroit Tiger Game on 5/18/17	85	130	270	680	0	\$900.00
Blood Drive/ health fair	Organ Donor Event held on February 2, 2018 - had 8 people sign up during the event for organ donations	60	250	540	300	0	\$6,000.00
Memorial Service	Held at our lodge on Sunday 12/ 4/17	8	20	8	100	0	\$0.00
Flag Day Service	Service held at our lodge on 6-14-17	7	12	7	60	0	\$0.00
March in Parade	Marched in the Memorial Day Parade on May 28, 2017 - member of our lodge brought two horses and entered them into the parade	30	500	120	150	0	\$25.00
Open House	Held an Open House on August 18, 2017	100	200	900	800	0	\$4,000.00
Hoop Shoot	Held at Ferndale High School on Saturday 12/2/17	12	20	36	60	0	\$0.00
Other	Held Elks Appreciation Night 8/17/17-invited all lodges to participate	60	150	480	300	0	\$3,000.00
Other	3 times we held "Send-off" Parties for an active military person or someone going off to Boot-Camp	100	270	300	1000	0	\$1,150.00
Drug Awareness Program	Passed out goodie bags with drug awareness material to kids during Movie Night on Vester Street in Ferndale- 3 times	21	450	63	210	225	\$0.00
Community Service Donation	Mardi Gras Fundraiser Party for Ferndale Pride	15	60	120	75	0	\$1,000.00
Community Service Donation	Drayton Preschool Euchre Tournament Fundraiser	20	50	120	100	0	\$1,000.00
Other	Mother's Day Ceremony and Luncheon	12	16	36	60	0	\$200.00
Grand Totals		370	1716	6526	8360	225	\$54,435.00

## GOLD KEY

# Charitable Grant Fund Scholarship winners

By **Geno Grabinski**  
Charitable Grant Fund,  
State Chairman

Results are in for the Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund 2017-18 scholarship winners.

At our annual meeting in February, your Commissioners granted renewals and new scholarships to 25 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 Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund, makes it happen. Nowhere else in Elkdom, 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.

■ Listing includes student, lodge and district.

■ Wesley Condie, Alma, Northeast.

■ Paige Heron, Charlevoix, Northwest.

■ Jared Mills, Holland, Northwest.

■ Cameron Vasher, Allen Park, Southeast.

■ Dylan Neelis, Battle Creek, Southwest.

■ Robbie Ivey, Negaunee, Upper Peninsula.

■ Zachary Carlson, Negaunee, Upper Peninsula.

■ Nickolas Haferon, Negaunee, Upper Peninsula.

#### Renewals:

■ Dakota Snay, Port Huron, Metro.

■ Samantha Morehouse, Gaylord, Northeast.

■ Rudy Postmaa IV, Grand Rapids, Northwest.

■ Bobbie Sue Reinhardt, Charlevoix, Northwest.

■ Hannah Witte, Traverse City, Northwest.

■ Malcom Williams, Charlevoix, Northwest.

■ Emma Hambleton, Plymouth-Ann Arbor, Southeast.

■ Amanda Rasbaugh, Coldwater, Southeast.

■ Jordan E Rose, St. Joe-Benton Harbor, Southwest.

■ Alexandria Turk, Battle Creek, Southwest.

■ Dustin Bland, Paw Paw/Allegan, Southwest.

■ Kevin Jones, St. Joe/Benton Harbor, Southwest.

■ Rebecca Ritzema, Otsego, Southwest.

■ Brennan Rodriguez, Battle Creek, Southwest.

■ Grace Hanson, Negaunee, Upper Peninsula.

■ Hailee Zambon, Negaunee, Upper Peninsula.

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: Diana Armstrong (Pontiac-Waterford #810)

■ Southeast: Geno Grabinski (Livonia #2246)

■ Southwest: Scott McKenzie (Battle Creek #131)

■ Northeast: Michael HD 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](http://www.mielksgoldkey.org). We thank you for your tireless efforts.

## ENF

# State ENF pins: Get ‘em while they last

By **Brad Saegesser**  
ENF State Chairperson

After eight years, we have decided to end the MEA State President’s ENF Pin program. The Michigan Elks Association started the Pin program in the 2010-11 Elks fiscal year when Tom Bianco was State President. Members of the Michigan Elks who donated \$100 or more to the ENF received that year’s President’s ENF Pin as recognition of their donation and support for the ENF. The goal of the Pin program was to reach \$10 per-member giving within five years.

Since the start of the Pin program, the MEA has average \$5.24 in per-member giving and the biggest was the 2016-17 Elks fiscal year when we were at \$6.37. As of March 2, 2018, the MEA was at \$4.91. I talked with many of the MEA members who donated \$100 or more the ENF over the past eight years and the majority of them said that they donated to support the ENF, not to get a Pin. And, sadly, many of them didn’t even know about the MEA State President’s ENF Pin.

Since we are ending the MEA State President’s ENF Pin program, the remaining Pins will soon become rare collectibles. To help raise money for the ENF in the 2018-19 Elks fiscal year, we will be selling Collector’s Sets of the eight MEA State President’s ENF Pins for a \$125 donation to the ENF. You had better act fast if you want a complete set because there aren’t many Pins left from Presidents Tom Bianco, Keith Alverson, and Ron Zimmerman’s years. We will also be selling individual Pins for a \$25 donation to the ENF.

Pins will be available for sale at the 2018 MEA Spring Convention on May 17-20. You can also contact me directly at [ENF@MIElks.org](mailto:ENF@MIElks.org) to place an order. Get ‘em now before they are gone.

#### Details about grants

Congratulations to the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 for applying for and receiving five Community Investments Program (CIP) Grants from the Elks National Foundation, totaling \$10,500. This Lodge is making a significant and meaningful difference in their community with these CIP Grants. This should be an inspiration to all of us. Think about the difference the Elks could make in Michigan if every one of our Lodges received \$10,500 from the ENF to invest in our communities.

That would be over \$575,000. As of March 1, 2018, the Elks Lodges in Michigan have received \$166,400, only 28% of the FREE MONEY that we could have received. Here is an overview of how the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 is using their ENF CIP Grants. Hopefully this will give your Lodge some ideas for how to use ENF CIP Grant funds in your community.

1. Gratitude and Anniversary Grants (\$2,500 and \$1,500) – Used to fund their Christmas Gift Program where they purchase goods that are put into 880 gifts to be distributed to three VA hospitals and three Veteran homeless shelters. Each gift has 14 items, including special gifts for women Veterans. The Lodge also hands our lap robes when the visit these VA facilities. Gratitude Grants are typically for \$2,000, but the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 received an additional \$500 because more than 15 percent of its members donated at least \$10 to the ENF in 2016-17.

2. Beacon Grant (\$2,000) – Used to purchase items needed by the VA outreach program and VA homeless shelters, including food, shoes, boots, socks, underwear, and personal comfort items.

3. Promise Grant (\$2,500) – Used to finance the Lodge’s Pumpkin Patch project where they set-up nine small plywood houses in the gym of a school that specializes in the most serious of special children who are handicapped with mental and physical disabilities. The Promise Grant buys candy and giveaways for each house. The kids are too handicapped to go out in their own neighborhoods. The Lodge also this Grant to sponsor the Salem High School Wrestling tournament, including naming rights so it is called the Salem Elks Wrestling tournament. The Lodge members work the tables and time matches. The Grant also pays for trophies, medals, and officiating costs.

4. Freedom Grant (\$2,000) – Used to put on two steak luncheons for hospitalized and homeless Veterans, paying for all of the food and beverages. This Grant is also used to help fund the costs of the Lodge’s Christmas Gift Program. Freedom Grants are provided by the Elks National Veteran Service commission and are administered by ENF. Freedom Grants are competitive and are awarded to Lodges whose projects are judged to best serve the needs of veterans and/or active-duty military members. The Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 was one of only 200 Elks Lodges to receive a 2017-18 Freedom Grant.

**Elks Care - Elks Share**

## LODGE NEWS

### ATHLETES

Continued from cover

This event has gone from three quick basketball games to the current day of eight games played, a Skills Clinic and a Dance Party that everyone enjoys. This year, we had a fantastic Elks turnout. I would guess we had about 20 Elk participants on and off throughout the day. We had about 50 athletes from ARC and the same amount from the Woodhaven High School basketball teams.

Both the boys' and girls' varsity and JV teams participated. We saw a lot of familiar faces, and a few new athletes and parents. Again, the Elks were thanked over and over for our participation and help. We were even graced with a few of the Michigan Major Projects Elk State Representatives showing up to the games for a quick view, and meet and greet with the head of ARC and some of the board members. A great day was had by all. Thanks to all the Flat Rock Elks who turned out to support this event.

Here's a letter from a High School student involved:

Smiles were a common sight on the faces of all who attended Gibraltar Carlson's fourth annual Jo Brighton Shooting With The Stars game. Both the Marauders girls and boys basketball programs hosted the Bulldogs of Jo Brighton in an eventful day of fun, friendship, and basketball. Each Carlson player was paired with a Jo Brighton player and the pairs bonded, ate

lunch together, played basketball games, and simply made memories throughout the day. The occasion was kicked off with Jo Brighton's own Maddie Walsh performing the national anthem. Her partner, Carlson senior Julie Hughes, stood beside her proudly as her voice touched the hearts of the whole gym. "Shooting With The Stars is the best day of our season. I am so grateful that through our basketball program I am given so many great opportunities like this one", Hughes said. Julie was not the only one moved by this extraordinary day of the year. All in attendance gave nothing but positive feedback about the interaction between the Carlson and Jo Brighton students. I am a senior at Carlson and have always looked forward to this day each year. The games that our basketball program plays with the stars of Jo Brighton are far more important than any of the 20 games on our schedule. Shooting With The Stars is such a memorable day because the Jo Brighton students are some of the kindest, most radiant people I have ever interacted with. This event is much more than just basketball. It is all of the laughs I share and the lasting memories I have made with the Jo Brighton students. It is the dance parties that the players from both teams enjoy together. It is the smiles on everyone's face as each Jo Brighton athlete is awarded with a medal to conclude the event. Most importantly, though, it is the happiness and gratitude that we all leave the gym with at the end of this remarkable day.



### Annual Christmas party held for handicapped

On December 15, approximately 50 of area handicapped citizens were guests of Manistee Elks Lodge #250. They enjoyed a luncheon of chicken pot-pie with numerous side dishes all topped off with cookies. Dancing followed, with music provided by Tom Zataro and Jalyne Morgan. Balloon artwork/figures provided by Don Olszewski. By far the highlight of the afternoon was a visit from Santa (Fritz Boehm), who provided a gift and candy to all guests. We thank John and Sandy Kuenzli for organizing this event. Assisting were Steve Adamski, Steve and Carol DuVall, Marilyn and Gina Francis, Evelyn Boyle, Mary Lou Racine, Cookie Friedrich, Lori Smith, Tom Maternowski, Nancy Laporte, Betty Griegel and Mary Beth Bowerman. Candy was donated by Bonnie Kenny.

### Negaunee Elks Lodge #1116

#### Lodge helps with fundraiser

Melissa Day from the Negaunee Sports Booster Club accepts a check for \$360 from John Thomas with the Negaunee Elks #1116. The Elks allowed the Negaunee Booster Club to partner with them for their monthly pasty sale in February. The Elks are committed in helping out with our area youth.



#### Elks send two to camp

Caleb Waterman, right, accepts a check for \$180 from John Thomas, Exalted Ruler of Negaunee Elks Lodge. The Elks paid the registration fee for Caleb as well as fellow camper Kalli Gustitus to attend Bay Cliff's Winter Camp which was held the first weekend in March. The Elks are committed in helping out with our area youth. If you would like to become an Elk, please stop by the Negaunee Elks Lodge for an application.



### FLAT ROCK ELKS LODGE #1731

## '10-Pin Takedown' held



Flat Rock Lodge #1731 once again had a full house at Indian Lanes in Wyandotte for the 4th "10-Pin Takedown." About 160 bowlers took part this year: 38 Elks bowlers and supporters, 35 high school bowlers and about 130 bowlers from Arc and Jo Brighton.

Just like the past three years, as soon as we were done bowling we had people asking us what the date is for next year.

This event, just like our basketball and softball events, has now become something all the athletes look forward to each year. Thanks to everyone that helped with the event and thanks to all the bowlers.



## STATE NEWS

## SCHOLARSHIP

# Most valuable scholarships report

By Jack McClelland  
MVS Scholarship Chair

The Michigan Elks Association Scholarship Committee held the MVS scholarship judging February 17 at Houghton/Higgins Lake Lodge #1982.

I would like to thank the following judges for their help in completing the judging task. They are Joe Antonishek MEA President, Stan Chubinski MEA 1st Vice President, Chuck Oatten MEA 2nd Vice President, Pete Gadzinski PSP, Tony Bosco MEA Trustee, George Lynch, Debbie Waltz, Jeff Burk, Sue Burk, Art

Vasold, Gloria DeJonge, Jan DeJonge, Robin Zuverink, Sandy Musial, Casimer Musial, Barb Kezyzaniak, Tom Killiany, Pam Sebright, and John Schuiling.

The first table below shows the winners that went on to the national for judging.

The listed students shown include the lodge that is responsible for the applicant. Each of these students will receive at least a four-year \$1,000.00 scholarship from the Grand Lodge.

The second tables show our MEA 64 winners that will receive a \$1,000 one-time scholarship.

## MEA MVS National winners

### Girl winners

represented by Lodge number	First Name	Last name	represented by Lodge number	First Name	Last name
50	Betty	Barnett	323	Martin	Chown
1985	Phoebe	Black	810	Andrew	Dimmer
680	Mary	Erickson	2169	Quinn	Favret
1315	Aleah	Hahn	47	Daniel	Prestin
1945	Maya	Hamka	1731	Ian	Stewart
325	Krupa	Patel	325	Kevin	Tan
2246	Katharine	Shao	2169	Richard	Yang
1945	Fatima	Taj			

### Boy winners

## MEA MVS State winners

### Girl winners

### Boy winners

represented by Lodge number	First Name	Last name	represented by Lodge number	First Name	Last name
250	Maggie	Blevins	131	Seth	Allred
552	Samantha	Brand	1986	Jack	Block
2856	Jenna	Brown	1711	Isaac	Clemens
88	Sydney	Brown	343	Troy	Distalrath
34	Maya	Castleberry	323	Samuel	Dunlap
1945	Tayebah	Chowdhury	2124	William	Ebel
680	McKinsey	Crozier	88	Aaron	Fahmer
50	Teanne	Davis	2525	Doug	Ferguson
343	MacKenzie	Deedover	541	Salvatore	Guadagni
2525	Morgan	Goodman	250	Jacob	Gustaf
541	Gabriella	Hardy	1986	Christopher	Hamama
2856	Anna	Hemeling	1982	Parker	Hayes
<i>Girl winners</i>			<i>Boy winners</i>		
1798	Catlin	Henne	343	Vaughn	Haynes
2169	Bailey	Jacks	1965	Justin	Halmer
1982	April	Johnson	974	Lorenz	Hoemel
1116	Breanna	Johnson	88	Eric	Kayden
1400	Natalie	Kea	325	Daniel	Khain
88	Halle	Keim	1798	Quinn	Kilian
632	Madison	Kraatz	250	Campbell	Kalk
325	Soumya	Kulkarni	354	Trent	Luff
1400	Ellen	Laurenz	2168	Shayne	Midek
2225	Katherine	Lee	323	Drewel	Noecker
34	Christina	Liu	447	Dominic	Ochiotti
323	Erin	Murphy	1798	Johnvir	Pangli
1588	Shalida	Nishat	1621	Anthony	Reo
1588	Brittney	Okorom- Achuonye	1798	Ross	Schmiedeknecht
323	Abigail	Puckett	2567	Andrew	Schneider
34	Kana	Ratzloff	343	Michael	Sutherland
541	Haley	Rich	47	Tyler	West
47	Sophee	Robinson	2567	Robert	Weaver
810	Jenifer	Smith	1588	Max	Weber
48	Irene	Yi	974	Scott	Whitman

## ACCIDENT PREVENTION

# Check lodge area for winter damage

By Don Smith  
State Accident Prevention –  
Risk Management Chair

It's time to get outside and check for winter damage to your lodge, including roofs, parking lots, and sidewalks, to name a few. Inspect the roof for missing or damaged shingles and inadequate flashing or caulking around vents and chimneys. When the weather changes, parking lots and sidewalks can shift and crack, making a trip hazard that needs to be repaired after a hard winter. Trees also can damage property if they are not maintained properly.

Have tree limbs trimmed away from wires and buildings, and have all trees inspected for rot and age, and removed by a professional if necessary. When opening up outdoor patio or deck areas, make sure all furniture stored over the winter remains sturdy and safe. Also, inspect your lodge grounds for any liability concerns.

I have looked at all self-inspection sheets that your DDGER turned in. Most lodges are in great shape overall, but many still need a "Park at Your Own Risk" sign. This is necessary to protect you lodge from liability.

I was also surprised with the number of fire suppression equipment and exit lights that are outdated or not working. Please rectify this for the protection of your lodge and its members. I will be keeping a copy of all self-inspection sheets so I can compare them and pass the information along to next year's state chairman.

To date, we have 23 claims for the 2017-2018 year, many of which were for wind damage and slip and fall.

Best wishes for a safe spring and summer, and I'll see you at the state convention.

## BYLAWS

# Revisions to state bylaws

By Chris Ferguson  
By-Law Committee Chairman

By now all Lodges should have received from the Secretary the proposed State By-Law Revision which has been proposed through Houghton-Higgins Lake Lodge # 1982. Please take the time to examine these changes in detail and discuss them in your Lodge meetings. Each Lodge needs to vote on the proposal so their delegates to the Spring Convention in Sault Soo Marie in May can vote positively on them when they come to the floor of the Meeting for a vote. These revisions are important to the well-being of our State Association and they also lay the groundwork for a uniform system of governing the Districts in our

state. If any one has any specific questions on these proposals, please contact one of the following members of the Recodification Committee.

■ Metro District: Chris Ferguson, 248-376-2920.

■ Northwest District: Randy Jackson, 616-805-6270.

■ U.P. District: Tom Bianco, 906-485-1343.

■ Southeast District: Joe Antonishek, 248-573-7667.

■ Southwest District: Chad High, 269-429-0073.

■ Northeast District: Howard Diehl, 989-892-6468 or call James R. Deamud, Michigan Special Representative, 989-366-7596.

## STATE NEWS

## AMERICANISM

# Contests help students develop passion about our country

By Randy Boudreau  
MEA Americanism Chair

I hope participation in our Americanism Contests will increase next year, as this is one of the few ways that we as Elks have contact with our young students.

We need to show the students in our communities and their families that the Elks strongly support Americanism and Patriotism.

These contests help the students develop thoughts about how they feel about our great country and what it means to them.

We have completed the final judging for the Americanism Contests.

The winners are:

Coloring Contest Division I (1st or 2nd Grade)  
1st – Saige Zimmerman, Ithaca South, Alma Lodge #1400 – Plaque and \$20

2nd – Mara Anderson, Holy Name, Escanaba Lodge #354 – Plaque and \$15

3rd – Emma Parlato, Holy Name, Escanaba Lodge #354 – Plaque and \$10

Coloring Contest Division II (3rd or 4th Grade)  
1st – Rylie Mannebach, Lemmer Elementary, Escanaba Lodge #354 – Plaque and \$20

2nd – Riley Guild, Ithaca North, Alma Lodge #1400 – Plaque and \$15

3rd – Emma Myers, Nikkari Elementary, St. Louis, Alma Lodge #1400 – Plaque and \$10

Essay Contest Division I (5th or 6th Grade)  
1st – Colin McCrary, All Saints Elementary, Bay City Lodge #88 – Plaque and \$75

2nd – Audrey E. Jados, Manistee Middle School, Manistee Lodge #250 – Plaque and \$50

3rd – Hannah Valley, All Saints Elementary, Bay City Lodge #88 – Plaque and \$25

Essay Contest Division II (7th or 8th Grade)  
1st – EreK Kotcher, Handy Middle School, Bay City #88 – Plaque and \$75

2nd – Aubrey Bischoff, Thornapple Middle School, Hastings #1965 – Plaque and \$50

3rd – Julian Cashen, Holy Name, Escanaba #354 – Plaque and \$25

The Essay Contest Winners will be sent on to Grand Lodge for judging. The Coloring Contest is just for Michigan.

Winners plaques and monetary rewards may be picked up by their respective Lodges at the Spring Convention in Sault Sainte Marie in May.

Keep displaying the American Flag!

Show that you are “Proud to be an American”!  
God Bless the U.S.A.!

## BUSINESS PRACTICES

# A lodge and a river, one and the same

April 1, the start of a new Lodge year. A clean slate, Out with the old and now a fresh start with a brand new shiny Exalted Ruler at the helm. Or is it?

Many members think that April 1st is a magical date where all the Lodge problems and concerns somehow disappear. Hey, the Budget starts at zero; we are not losing money today. All is well in your little part of Elksdom. But in a few days reality sets in and you realize that all the problems the Lodge had on March 31st are now your problems. Just like a river, a lodge continues to flow onward without stopping. We will pass islands (officers), shoot rapids (cash flow issues) and occasionally, a calm spot where we can relax and enjoy that river. But if the boat we are in isn't navigated skillfully, we can find ourselves smashed on the rocks and loss of life can occur.

Now we haven't seen anybody lose their life when a lodge closes, but we have seen too many lodges smash up on those rocks called poor business practices with loss of members when the lodge goes down. But just like the boat, asking a skilled navigator who has been down that river for help can get you through the rough spots to those calm waters.

Business Practices can help you navigate those rough spots in both club and lodge operations. We can come in and give an honest outside opinion on how you can get the club budget back in the black. Most lodges that fail do so because they THINK they are doing everything correct and can't figure out why they still lose money. Sometimes it's as simple as confirming for them that, yes you do need to make those difficult decisions (cut staff, raise prices, enforce no over pour rules) that they don't want to admit they need to make. If the problem is poor P & L sheets, we have programs that can help the lodge treasurer get those needed real and accurate numbers the Board of Directors and House Committee need to keep the lodge in the black. We can also help with inventory control. Par levels, inventory control, waste/loss prevention, over beverage along with marketing and (legal Elks) advertising. Remember \$10,000 in liquor bottles on the shelf means \$30,000 not on your income sheets!

The other half of our name is officers training. We have seen multiple lodges wind up with Special Reps because the officers are clueless as to when their job

starts and stops. Board of Directors think they can dictate to the house committee, secretaries start doing the treasurer's job then say it's not a treasurer's job (when in reality it is). Confusion breeds conflict, conflict breeds infighting, infighting gets you a Special Rep and no say in how your Lodge will be run. Not a fun situation. To stop this, our committee can come and visit your lodge and with all the officers present, can teach everyone their specific jobs in the lodge. Plus, they learn all the other officers and committee chairs jobs so they now know, “Oh, that's the House Committees job not the Board of Directors” or “I always thought the treasurer does that, but it's really the secretaries job.” Everybody knowing what everybody's duties/jobs are will keep conflict to a minimum.

So just like rivers and lodges, the Business Practices Officers Training Committee just keeps flowing along. May 19th is just another day on the calendar for us. Contact us anytime during the Lodge/ State/ Grand Lodge year and we can come out and work to help your lodge improve itself. Of course sooner is better than later always.

Our e-mail is:  
businesspractice@mielks.org

# At the Lodge Programs for Veterans

By Stew Israel  
ENVS Program chairman

Many Elks veteran programs rely on in interaction with VA hospitals. There are many lodges that are not in the area. Here are some suggestions of what you can do to develop a Veteran Program without a VA. Here are some suggestions

1. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) events or welcome home events. Operation New Dawn (OND- the current war in Afghanistan) returnees or send-offs from local guard or reserve units can be held at the Lodge. Have a picnic or party for their families while they are gone.

2. Christmas dinner or party: Cater food or have them at the Lodge.

3. Promote schools/youth to make cards and/or decorations for Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and other holidays. This could be an Antlers project. Work with members who teach to make it a part of their lessons. Offer to deliver the cards and decorations to the Senior residence or nursing home.

4. Sponsor the moving wall. Have it at the Lodge or a community site

5. With county or other veteran service

group sponsor a Veteran Job Fair by working with community or private employment services.

6. Have a collection of gently used clothing for Veteran homeless shelters in metropolitan areas.

7. Help recruit for pet therapy programs where members can visit Senior residences and nursing homes with their pets.

8. Do the Elks Flag Day service at the nursing homes, or senior residences.

9. Donations. Donate ramps for disabled Veterans, as well as other changes to accommodate Vets with disabilities. Honor flights to Washington D.C. for WWII vets, Programs to service dogs to PTSD victims, money to bury veterans who were indigent and had no family. National Cemeteries wreath program, or for flags.

10. Adopt a local cemetery veteran section, or special cemeteries like civil war. Clean headstones and trim grass. Special medallions for headstones can be ordered through VA memorial day flags..

11. Work with Patriot Riders for funeral processions of fallen soldiers killed in action. Feed them and have lodge motorcyclists join them. Present an engraved medallion (from Grand Lodge) to the family.

12. Participate in the Army of Hope by adopting the family of an overseas soldier and provide assistance in mowing, shoveling snow, and general repairs. Invite them to the Lodge for a meal.

13. Participate in the Army of Hope by adopting an overseas unit of member's son, daughter, or grandchild. Send snacks, toiletries, or other comfort items.

14. Sponsoring hunting or fishing trips. Work with sportsman's clubs for skeet or target shooting. Contact them through the internet.

15. Collect and salt down deer hides for the leather program. Videos are available through the State Chairman.

16. Create a worn and old flag burning ceremony, or do one with the American Legion, or scouts.

17. Google “Homeless Veterans” plus city's name to see if there are non-government facilities to support. Use the county veterans coordinator as a resource.

18. Put together welcome home kits for homeless vets moving into housing.

19. Be active in community veteran programs and parades. Offer your facilities to host events. Clean up and restore community veteran memorials.

## STATE NEWS

## MAJOR PROJECT

## Making a difference in lives of youth

On March 10, 2018, the Major Project Commission met at the Flat Rock Elks Lodge for our Annual Meeting.

In attendance were the six District Commissioners: Chairman Tom Harder – SE District, Vice Chairman Bob Antilla – UP District, Treasurer Scot Burns – SW District, Secretary Elaine Helman-Boudreau – NE District, Sergeant at Arms Gary Goodin, Metro District, Chaplain Lori Jackson – NW District, State President Joe Antonishek, 1st Vice President Stan Chubinski, 2nd Vice President Chuck Oatten, Executive Director Diane Dusendang and guest, Jerry Alexie. We had an extremely productive meeting, and we are pleased to report the following;

The Annual Budget for the Fraternal Year 2018-2019 was presented and approved. The major items approved are: CASES: \$60,000. CAMPS: \$189,535. Emergency Fund Grants: \$15,000. These budget amounts reflect 50-60 children for cases, 389 children for camp and approximately 5 Emergency Fund Grants. That totals 454 children's lives being touched. And we can't DO this without you!

At the Spring Convention, we have a fantastically fun statewide fundraiser to announce! We hope every lodge in our state joins in the fun and camaraderie and has some good old-fashioned competition with other lodges along the way in the month of September!

We also will kick off a FIRST TIME EVER fundraising event in August, AND we have teamed with the Masons for a Poker Run in September to benefit kids with autism.

If you are on the EAST side of the state, in an area that has KROGER grocery stores, join in the "passive giving" program we've been doing this past year – sign up and list Major Project as your charity, and then ...SHOP! Each quarter, the Major Project receives a check! It's that simple! We'll have a sign up (on the computer) at the Spring Convention – it takes about 1 minute to complete – but why wait! Do it today! Just visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and log in to your account (or click "Enroll Now" to create one!).

Find and select Michigan Elks Association Major Project Commission (#34735) and click SAVE. That's it!

If you are on the WEST side of the state and have SpartanNash stores – sign up for your YES card and begin saving your grocery receipts. Bring them into the lodge. Done! The Major Project can earn \$1,000 for every \$150,000 in receipts! You have NO work to do other than shop and drop (off your receipts to the lodge)!

We have exciting news on the technology front! The Major Project, along with a very generous gift from Innovative Computers, will be developing our own stand-alone website in the coming weeks. This new platform will allow us to reach outside of Elkdom's walls to tell our story, get the word out about the Michigan Elks Association Major Project, help to make it a household name, and generate donations!

Our FACEBOOK LIVE events are ongoing, and anyone who has a Facebook account can go to our page (Michigan Major Project) and view our videos to see our "classes"; 30 minutes of video on important and helpful topics for our Lodge Chairmen, Exalted Ruler's, Officers, Members and Spouses! Want to learn about Major Project on your timeline? The Facebook "library" is a great way to do it! These "LIVE" events are posted in advance, but if you cannot attend, you can catch up!

We welcome our new Exalted Ruler's to a new year and look forward to working with you as we strengthen the Major Project in our State. We also welcome our Major Project Lodge Chairmen – we thank you for taking on a tough, but wonderful job! We have a toolbox FULL of great information to help you whether you are a NEW Lodge Chairman, or a seasoned Lodge Chairman! Your District Commissioners and this office are HERE TO HELP YOU! We look forward to a fantastic year of making a difference in the lives of hundreds of special needs children again this year!

We look forward to a fantastic year and thank you for your support of special needs children!

## RITUAL

## Lodges have a stake in district contests

By Patrick R Morgan  
State Ritual Chairman

District Contests are completed for the season and the teams have been set for the State Finals at the Soo. Who will have the honor of representing our State at the National Convention? C'mon out and show your support for your district's team.

In that vein, it is always said that this is an expensive proposition for a district team. This does not have to be so. All lodges have a responsibility to ease that perceived pain, whether you participate in a District Contest or not. Lodges have a stake in all of this, by mere inclusion of being a lodge in this great state! Attend one of the district dinners, intended to raise some money for your district team. Have a 50/50 or two and send \$100 to your representative team. These are easy ways to "Help" in a huge way. (2 ways)

Only three districts held actual contests this year. We were hoping

for more, which would have made the Big 3 Amigos happy. While three was a little disappointing, I and the judges who came to visit your district saw the faces of the performers. It truly was a celebration at the banquets. Not only to see who would win, but to talk with those that were proud to be there. We also heard from the lodges that did not participate, "We should have been here." That is a good sign, because there are only (2 ways).

We ALL have that responsibility to make the Induction Night of our new members, a pleasurable and lasting experience. This Committee keeps telling you that we can assist your Lodge with this. We can help your new lodge officers enjoy the experience of being a better performer. You are all a team in your own Lodge. This is an opportunity to learn the most important facet of your tenure. I say "learn" because it is learning experience to become the teacher of your station.

We all believe in this thing we call Elkdom. What notion is preventing you from taking advantage of this opportunity? (2 ways) Our Ritual of Initiation had seen some big changes, all in an effort to accommodate today's active lifestyles. Tuxedo dress to Lodge uniform. Long form to short form. Short form back to long form.

But, there are still only (2 ways). Again and again, the entire purpose of our Initiation Ritual is to impress the candidate and our newest member. A person who, until that night, had no concept of the teachings of our motto. Think what you will, but that person is more anxious than you! This is your opportunity to share the best information about our Order and give them what they need, to become an active member. Give it to 'em! And we'll help you do it! (2ways)

I look forward to hearing from you. Emails or phone calls are always welcome.

## More bang for the buck

By Ruth Hall  
State Veterans Chair

"24/7/365" is a term we are all familiar with, but what does that really mean? To me it reflects our obligation to the Veterans we serve. Each individual that has taken the oath to join the military has given careful thought to the responsibilities it entails. We must live up to our commitment of "For as long as there are Veterans, the BPOE will never forget." Each Lodge year the Lodges of the Michigan Elks Association step up and fulfill the commitment we have to the Veterans in our local area. I'm honored that as the year progresses this organization provides activities, support, goods and services to those who have at times, given the ultimate sacrifice.

We celebrate November as Remembrance Month with dinners and celebrations to acknowledge our Veterans and their families. As we begin a new Lodge year, I encourage you to start some new traditions in your Districts and Local Lodges. We will soon enjoy

Youth Week, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Flag Day, Father's Day, Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and each provides an opportunity to include military personnel, their families and Veterans. During Youth Week it is a good chance to teach students the importance of the role the Veterans have played in shaping their lives. Memorial Day reminds us of our attention to Americanism. Mother's and Father's Day honors our parents and can be a chance to give to the Elks National Foundation in their name which in turn returns more than double what was donated to programs in each of the categories of the Order.

September brings the return of students to school and with that the weekly gathering of sporting events, music concerts and art shows are prime places to recognize those who have faithfully served our country.

By utilizing many of the activities and committees we already participate in, many of the Veteran activities can be intertwined for

double the effect. Your continued support of the Veterans' Hospitals, Clinics and Homes are essential to giving back a small token of what they have given us. A few suggestions to get things started; place several dozen greeting cards out for members to sign and then deliver to a local nursing or assisted living home to a Veteran that may not be getting out. Develop a pen pal for those who are shut in (we often provide holiday meals to them in November and December). Bring them out for a parade or make a video of a parade, your Easter Egg Hunt, or live entertainment you are hosting at your Lodge and provide it to the home to be shown in the recreation room.

In closing, let me ask this of each member today, would you skip a cup of coffee or container of pop and donate that money to the Veterans? We can do many things with over a thousand extra dollars, twice that if you donate your money to ENF first, will you make that small commitment to those who have changed our lives for the better?

# MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION

## 113th Annual Spring Convention

Kewadin Casino & Resort, Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
May 17-20, 2018

### Agenda and Program

#### AGENDA

#### Thursday, May 17, 2018

Ritual Practice.....5:00p.m.-8:00p.m.  
Patrick Morgan, Chairperson Spruce/Oak  
Registration.....6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.  
George Lascu, Chairperson Waters Edge

#### Friday, May 18, 2018

Registration.....9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.  
George Lascu, Chairperson 2:30p.m.-8:00p.m.  
Waters Edge  
Ritual Contest.....8:00a.m.-3:30p.m.  
Patrick Morgan, Chairperson Spruce/Oak  
PSP Meeting ..... 9:00 am - Noon  
Keith Alverson, 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-4:30pm  
Penny Geishert, Chairperson Grand Island 2  
Major Project Commission Meeting  
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Tom Harder, Chairman Whitefish Point  
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  
MEA Social/Hospitality Room ..... 8pm-11pm  
Meet Old & New Friends Snacks available  
Waters Edge / Registration Area

#### Saturday, May 19, 2018

Registration.....7:00am-9:00am  
George Lascu, Chairman Waters Edge  
Business Session.....8:00am-10:45am  
Joe Antonishek, President Dream Makers  
Ladies' Luncheon.....Doors Open 8:30am  
Tina Deamud, Coordinator Breakfast 9:00 am  
Birch-Cedar-Oak  
Installation of Officers.....11:00am  
Keith Alverson, PSP Dream Makers  
Member's Luncheon ..... 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
Michigan Lottery Commission Grand Island 1 & 2  
Past State Presidents' Luncheon  
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm  
Keith Alverson, PSP Woodlands  
PGER/Special Rep. Meetings 2:00pm-4:00pm  
James C. Varenhorst, PGER Mackinaw Island  
Officers Training Workshop.....2:00pm  
Rich Wlosinski, PER Whitefish Point  
Incoming DVP, DVC  
& State Chairperson Meeting ..... 2:30-3:30pm  
Stan Chubinski, 1st VP Woodlands  
President's Banquet.....Cocktails-6:00pm  
Lou Roos, Aid to the President Dinner-6:30pm  
Dream Makers  
Business Session.....Following Dinner  
Joe Antonishek, President Dream Makers  
Slots Tournament ..... 9pm-????  
Sign up at Registration

#### Sunday, May 20, 2018

State President Reception ..... 8:00-11:00  
Stan & Cheryl Chubinski Woodlands

#### BUSINESS SESSION PROGRAM Saturday, May 19, 2018

Call to Order 8:00 a.m. .... Joe Antonishek  
President, Livonia #2246  
Introduction of Grand Lodge  
Officers and Guests ..... David Bibik  
Sergeant-at-Arms, Livonia #2246  
Invocation..... Bruce Stark  
Chaplain, Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325  
Pledge to the Flag ..... Chuck Oatten  
2nd Vice President, Alma #1400  
Vocal ..... Daniel Stewart  
Soloist, Muskegon #274  
Organist ..... Les Thornburg  
Traverse City # 323  
Welcome & Convention Report .. Howard Diehl  
Convention Director, Bay City # 88  
Roll Call of Lodges ..... Karen Cary  
Roll Call of Officers Secretary, Sturgis #1381  
Minutes of Previous Session... Karen Cary  
Secretary, Sturgis # 1381

Introduction of  
Past State President .... Keith E. Alverson  
President-PSP, Howell #2168  
Introduction of  
District Deputies .. James C. Varenhorst, PGER-  
Michigan State Sponsor, Grand Rapids #48  
Introduction of  
State Assoc Guests .. Joe Antonishek, Jr  
Remarks President, Livonia #2246  
Secretary's Report/Communications.. Karen Cary  
Secretary, Sturgis # 1381  
Minutes of Previous Secretary, Sturgis # 1381  
Treasurer's Report ... Walt Muellenhagen  
Treasurer, Traverse City # 323  
President's Report .... Joe Antonishek, Jr.  
Livonia #2246  
1st Vice-President's Report .. Stan Chubinski  
Battle Creek #131  
2nd Vice-President's Report .. Chuck Oatten  
Alma # 1400  
Trustee's Report ..... Penny Geishert  
Chairman, Coldwater # 1023  
Major Project Commission ... Tom Harder  
Chairman, Flat Rock #1731  
Diane Dusendang  
Executive Director, Grand Rapids #48  
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. maximum (full report in writing)  
DVP Report ..... William Ewald  
Cadillac #680  
2nd Vice President ..... Chuck Oatten  
Introduction of Northeast and Upper Peninsula  
DVP and DVC

Call for reports from:  
Americanism .. Randy Boudreau, Chairman  
Alma #1400  
Business Practice ... Rich Wlosinski, Chairman  
Pontiac Waterford #810  
Drug Awareness ... Kathy Stratton, Chairperson  
Ishpeming #447  
Government Relations .. Grace Perry, Chairperson  
Howell #2168  
Lodge Activities /  
Star Lodge Award .. Bill Mascaro, Chairman  
Flat Rock #1731  
Ritual ..... Pat Morgan, Chairman  
Dearborn #1945  
Youth Activities .. Diana Armstrong, Chairperson  
Pontiac-Waterford #810  
6  
1st Vice-President ..... Stan Chubinski  
Introduction of the Southwest and Northwest  
DVP and DVC

Call for reports from:  
Accident Prevention.. Don Smith, Chairman  
Battle Creek #131  
Adopt-A-Veteran .. Stewart Israel, Chairman  
Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325  
Hoop Shoot .... Robert Spelde, Chairman  
Muskegon #274  
Membership / Retention .....  
Kenneth J. Hines, Chairman  
Plymouth-Ann Arbor # 325  
National Foundation .. Brad Saegesser, Chairman  
Tawas #2525  
National Veterans Service .. Ruth Hall, Chairperson  
Alma #1400  
Scholarship .. Jack McClelland, Chairman  
Bay City #88  
Special Events/Community Welfare/  
Organ Donor Program .....  
Kimberly Deckard, Chairman  
Pontiac-Waterford # 810  
President..... Joe Antonishek, Jr.  
Introduction of the Southeast and Metro DVP and DVC

Call for reports from:  
By- Law ..... Chris Ferguson, Chairman  
Rochester-North Oakland #2225  
Government Relations .. Grace Perry, Chairperson  
Howell #2168  
Law ..... Paul Robinson, Chairman  
Flat Rock #1731  
Public/Member Relations .. Phil Boss, Chairman  
South Haven #1509  
State Publication  
Michigan Elks News .. Karen Cary, Publisher  
Sturgis # 1381  
Web Master. .... Bruce Stark, Chairman  
Plymouth-Ann Arbor # 325  
George Lynch  
Bay City #88  
Facebook Page .. George Lynch, Chairman  
Bay City #88  
Resolutions... Doug Mikkelsen, Chairman

Convention ..... Howard Diehl, Chairman  
Bay City #88  
Registration ..... Geoge Lascu, Chairman  
Royal Oak-Detroit #34

Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Election of Officers  
Good of the Order  
Installation of Officers  
Suspension of Meeting  
Benediction ..... Bruce Stark, Chaplain  
Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325

#### Adjournment

Member Luncheon ..... Grand Island 1&2

Saturday Breakout Sessions ... Birch, Cedar

President's Banquet ..... Dream Makers  
Following Dinner/Guest Remarks  
Call to Order .. Joe Antonishek, Jr. President  
Negaunee #1116  
Ritual (Final Report) ..... Pat Morgan  
Chairman, Dearborn #1945  
President's Remarks ..... Jerry Alexie  
2nd Vice President, Warren Sterling Heights #2292  
Chuck Oatten  
1st Vice-President, Alma #1400  
Closing ..... Stan Chubinski  
President, Battle Creek #131  
Benediction ..... Dennis White  
Gaylord Area #2544

## LODGE AND STATE NEWS



### Pasty partnership

Negaunee Elks Lodge #1116 partnered with Negaunee MinerBotics at a pasty sale March 10 and raised more than \$700 to help the team with their project and travels to competitions. Pictured is just part of the Elks and MinerBotics Team that helped in the fundraiser. Students and their parents worked with the Elks to make the delicious pasties. Pictured: first row: Dan Dompierre, Wendy Thomas, second row: Sue Bernier, Dave Lander, Pete Gadzinski, Jim Nestle, Linda Marshall, George Hart-Waara, Jack Mixter, Mary Ann Laukka, Cole Wheeler, third row: Ron Downey, Paul Lakanen, John Thomas, Barb Sicotte.



### Many were served

The Ishpeming Community Christmas Dinner held its 11th annual dinner at the Ishpeming Elks Lodge on Christmas Day. This year's event provided 610 meals, 139 dine in, 101 take out, an amazing 340 deliveries and 30 volunteers. The volunteers are united in feeling this is the true meaning of Christmas.



### Lodge obtains piano for medical center

Clawson-Troy Lodge #2169 purchased a digital piano for the Detroit VA Medical Center with funds received from the Elks ENF Anniversary Grant and funds raised by the lodge Auxiliaire. Pictured in front Jan Petrie, Auxiliaire (seated) and Bill Browning, VA Volunteer Services, with lodge members, from left, Ron Sauger, Jack Hunn, Joe Hopper, Al Schwaller and Stewart Israel.

## STATE SCHOLARSHIP JUDGING



## CIP: Get more lodges involved

By Brad Saegesser  
State ENF Chairperson

Congratulations to the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 for applying for and receiving five Community Investments Program (CIP) Grants from the Elks National Foundation, totaling \$10,500. This Lodge is making a significant and meaningful difference in their community with these CIP Grants. This should be an inspiration to all of us.

Think about the difference the Elks could make in Michigan if every one of our Lodges received \$10,500 from the ENF to invest in our communities. That would be over \$575,000.

As of March 1, 2018, Elks Lodges in Michigan have received \$166,400, only 28 percent of the FREE MONEY that we could have received. Here is an overview of how the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 is using their ENF CIP Grants.

Hopefully, this will give your Lodge some ideas for how to use ENF CIP Grant funds in your community.

1. Gratitude and Anniversary Grants (\$2,500 and \$1,500) – Used to fund their Christmas Gift Program where they purchase goods that are put into 880 gifts to be distributed to three VA hospitals and three Veteran homeless shelters. Each gift has 14 items, including special gifts for women Veterans. The Lodge also hands our lap robes when they visit these VA facilities. Gratitude Grants are typically for \$2,000, but the Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 received an additional \$500 because more than 15 percent of its members donated at least \$10 to the ENF in 2016-17.

2. Beacon Grant (\$2,000) – Used to purchase items needed by the VA outreach program and VA homeless shelters, including food, shoes, boots, socks, underwear, and personal comfort items.

3. Promise Grant (\$2,500) – Used to finance the Lodge's Pumpkin Patch project where they set-up nine small plywood houses in the gym of a school that specializes in the most serious of special children who are handicapped with mental and physical disabilities. The

Promise Grant buys candy and giveaways for each house. The kids are too handicapped to go out in their own neighborhoods. The Lodge also uses this Grant to sponsor the Salem High School Wrestling tournament, including naming rights so it is called the Salem Elks Wrestling tournament. The Lodge members work the tables and time matches. The Grant also pays for trophies, medals, and officiating costs.

4. Freedom Grant (\$2,000) – Used to put on two steak luncheons for hospitalized and homeless Veterans, paying for all of the food and beverages. This Grant is also used to help fund the costs of the Lodge's Christmas Gift Program. Freedom Grants are provided by the Elks National Veteran Service commission and are administered by ENF. Freedom Grants are competitive and are awarded to Lodges whose projects are judged to best serve the needs of veterans and/or active-duty military members. Plymouth-Ann Arbor Elks Lodge #325 was one of only 200 Elks Lodges to receive a 2017-18 Freedom Grant.