



STURGIS ELKS LODGE #1381

Elks and Sturgis High School help to expand veterans kayaking program

On Friday, June 1, 2018, a group of Veterans from the Battle Creek VA gathered at the Sturgis Elks lodge where they were presented with a new trailer and kayaks to enhance the Medical Center kayaking program. Stoney Summey with the Sturgis Elks represented the Michigan Elks Association and worked with Dan Miles (instructor at Southwestern Michigan College) and his Sturgis High School tech class students to create this wonderful gift for our Veterans. Summey did the leg work, coordinated the purchase, and rallied the

group to make this possible. The Michigan Elks Association paid for everything (trailer, supplies for rack, 12 kayaks and paddles). Dan Miles and his students designed and welded the rack from scratch then attached it to the trailer as a class project. After the presentation, the students and Veterans paddled, fished and/or took pontoon boat rides on the lake together. Then they headed into the lodge for dinner and conversation. It is truly awesome to see the different generations laughing and smiling together. "We appreciate the Sturgis High

School class and Elks for their generous contribution to our Veteran kayaking program" said Shannon McManus-Bowers, Recreation Therapy Assistant at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. Kayaking is a great form of Therapeutic Recreation for Veterans. The Battle Creek VA Medical Center uses this and other forms of adaptive sports and recreations as part of the recovery program for Veterans. "This thoughtful donation will go a long way in helping to expand our kayaking program for Veterans, added McManus-Bowers.



Michigan Elks are helping to provide 2-year-old Piper with opportunities to grow and become independent.

MAJOR PROJECT

Major Project: Stories to tell

We ask for donations. All. The. Time. It is what we do, because our mission of helping special needs children counts on those donations. Day. After. Day. Year. After. Year. Decade. After. Decade.

The STORIES we have to tell are our foundation. If you are a follower of our Michigan Major Project Facebook page, you will see that we SHARE those stories of the children we help, so that you can in turn, feel the pride of being a part of a huge organization that makes a difference.

The truth is, we can't "cure" special needs. The gentlemen that established the Michigan Elks Association Major Project knew that.

They knew this need would always be a NEED. So, in their amazing way, they developed a way for Michigan Elks to "pool" their donations to make it possible for those needs to be met with very careful planning.

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Elks Michigan
usa newsletter

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NEWS AND NOTES



Manistique holds chili cookoff

Manistique Elks Lodge #632 held a Chili Cookoff to raise money for ENF.

In addition to 17 chilis to sample, there was also a silent auction and various raffles held. The event raised \$2925 for ENF.

Online membership application

Has your Lodge promoted the online Membership application for signing up new Members? Through elks.org, a current paid-up Member of the Order can forward a membership invitation to family members and friends. Invitees can complete the application and submit their membership application online.

Lodge Secretaries will be notified of these applications via the "Alerts" screen of CLMS2. They then can process the electronic version the same as a paper application. All data provided by the applicant will be imported into the Lodge's CLMS2 database with the simple click of a button. What better way to gain a Member than by using technology to its fullest?

— Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary

How we can be part of the solution

Disaster relief is a very important program that requires the attention of all Elks. The Grand Lodge has a special account with funds contributed by Lodges and individual Members for when a disaster occurs. If you are interested in supporting the program, please send your gift to your Lodge or to the Grand Secretary's office in Chicago. The program will succeed only through the help of all our Members.

Many Elks, or family and friends, have experienced some form of natural disaster. Unfortunately very few were prepared and needed to rely on assistance from charitable organizations, including the Elks.

Hopefully, each Lodge has contacted the leaders in their cities to see how the Members of the Lodge could help, should their participation be needed. Each Lodge should set up a committee to follow through when their area suffers from a natural disaster. This can require storing medical supplies, water, non-perishable food items, and bedding. Also, some Lodges may be able to offer temporary housing for people whose homes are red-flagged.

Thank you for considering how you and your Lodge can be a part of disaster relief.

— James S. Mason, Disaster Relief Coordinator

Picture Rocks Boat Cruise

On June 5, 2018, 15 Jacobetti Home members, five Jacobetti employees, three volunteers, three Elks volunteers and Bob Wellman Veterans Facility Elks Representative participated in the pictured Rocks Boat Cruise.

With the generosity of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission Grant, this trip was made possible.

The weather was a bit chilly, but the members did not complain. They were so appreciative, and it was very magical event.

— Shari M. Smith,
Activity Therapy Manager 13,
D.J. Jacobetti Home For Veterans

Information about Major Project

In September 2017, the Michigan Elks Association Major Project, thoughtfully established an award that is available to all Michigan Elks Lodge Members, for submission of a deserving Member or Group/Committee within the Michigan Lodges.

Nominations are due each year by April 1. The Major Project Commission will select the winners and the Awards will be given each year at the Spring Meeting.

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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

Building foundations: Membership on a strong base

Once heard that if you want a durable and stable house, and in our case our lodges, you need strong foundation.

Our lodges are not meeting places, but our membership. That membership has to be built into a strong base on which we build the virtues and programs of our order. I sincerely believe we can build that foundation thru proper indoctrination, education and involvement.

From the time we first conduct a thorough investigation, we educate ourselves about the prospective member. We also educate the candidate through a detailed indoctrination and meaningful initiation where the candidate learns about the order. We further educate the new member by involvement in lodge activities.

Indoctrination is the time in which we make our greatest impact on a new member. Detailed explanations of our national foundation, how it is funded and the returns we receive which support our state major project, gold key, hoop shoot, scholarships and our veteran programs.

The new member must understand these programs and the importance of supporting all of them.



STAN CHUBINSKI
1st Vice President

This education will take many forms; candidate indoctrination, officer training, effective communication between state chairs, our DVP's, DVC's, and district chairs down to the lodge level.

An asset I have seen poorly used as a communication tool is the Elks Calendar on our web page.

Numerous items that could affect event planning should be posted there to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Events such as golf outings, district meeting dates, veteran events and alike can be posted. We also have an area titled happenings where information in the form of fliers can be posted. Such postings can be made through our web master Bruce Stark.

Over the past years, we have had grand exalted rulers attend our conventions and talk about "being visible" or "tearing down the walls." It is all good and well that we pass articles to the national magazine and state newsletter, but all we are doing is preaching to the choir. Doing this is a goal of mine, however, we need to get this same information to local newspapers, other local publications and social media so that the good work we do are spotlighted for the non-members to see.

Finally there is member involvement. The involvement of the sponsor is important at the time of indoctrination and initiation. If the sponsor isn't involved at these times it can send an unintended message to the membership.

We have all heard many times; we initiated an individual and we have yet to see them back down at the lodge.

There are simple things we can do to bring them into the herd. Following initiation, how welcome is the new member made to feel? Do we invite them to sit with you and find more about them and let them get to know you? When they return to the lodge are they greeted back? Many folks join and just become active on their own accord, but there are others that

should be reached out to have their names been turned over to committee chairs that the new member indicated an interest in? Do the committee chairs ask for the names of new members to get help on events or programs? These are little things we sometimes forget to do.

Finally, remember these three simple words, indoctrination, education and involvement.

We also have to remember ... "The prophecy of our future is what we have done in the past."

On another note, Cheryl and I attended the Indiana state convention several weeks ago. The hospitality extended was wonderful. We had the chance to visit with our Grand Exalted Ruler Malcom McPherson and his wife Pat, who noted that one of their most enjoyable visits this past year was to Michigan!

While there we visited the Indiana University Cancer Research Center and the Indy 500 race track along with Indiana State President Don Raderstorf and Ohio state president Neven "T" Taylor. We also attended the installation of their new state president Randy Snellenberger, who will visit us in May, 2019.

Now on to our next adventure ... Hope to see you in San Antonio!

Convention approaches to mark 150th anniversary of Elks

San Antonio, here we come, to celebrate the 150th year of Elkdom. Currently, we have 86 rooms reserved at the LaQuinta San Antonio Convention Center, and if my numbers add up correctly, Michigan will have 165 Elks, a fantastic showing.

I will be sending Secretary Karen a copy of the events that will be going on, and hopefully she can get them in the magazine for all to review, if not, check out the mielks.org web site for further information.

If you have any questions about the convention, please call or email me and I will do my best to answer them.

Debb and I are looking forward to traveling throughout the State to meet as many Michigan Elks as possible, and to stop by your Lodge and see all the good works you're doing.

I know this may seem early, but if you are having an event next year, please let me know as early as possible. Alma Lodge #1400 will be celebrating its 100th anniversary, and a lot of things are being planned. I would like to get the calendar all set so it can be posted on website



CHUCK OATTEN
1st Vice President

for all to see.

There are a lot of things happening in Elkdom that I we would love to attend, we just need to know about it.

On behalf of my wife Debb, we say thank you for giving us this opportunity to serve you as 1st Vice President of the Michigan Elks Association.

Reservation sheets for 150th anniversary are due May 21

A big thanks to my Lodge Warren-Sterling Heights #2292 for all your support. I am the first member of our Lodge to go thru the steps that lead to becoming the President of Michigan Elks Association. I also would like to thank the Metro District for your support and for your endorsement.

The State convention was great, Very informative sessions were held. Thanks to the Diehl's and Sermon's for taking care of everything. The slot tournament was a lot of fun!

I am looking forward to working with our President Stan and Cheryl Chubinski, and with 1st Vice President Chuck and Debb Oatten. We will be visiting many areas and Lodges during the year. I am interested in seeing how other Lodges operate. First is National Convention in San Antonio where our organization will be celebrating 150 years, with laser show and Lt. Dan Band. It will be a time to remember for both myself and my wife Stephanie. Everyone should have a fun time, meeting and making new friends. After the convention we will be traveling to the Upper Peninsula to Baycliff. We are visiting one day and golfing in the Upper Peninsula District outing the next. Looking forward to that visit.



JERRY ALEXIE
2nd Vice President

I would like to congratulate all the new officers in the Districts and State positions. Please take your chairmanships seriously. Make it a great year for all Elks. Step up and make it meaningful and fun, make everyone take notice. That's how we get new members, by grabbing their attention and getting them involved.

Summer is finally here in Michigan. Time for picnics, parties, graduations, weddings and vacations. Be safe on the roads and don't overdo it. Ask for a ride or have a designated driver or uber. Have a great summer!!

GRAND LODGE

Oh, the places Elks will go over 150 more years

What an extraordinary year it has been! It's hard to believe that my tenure as your Grand Exalted Ruler is coming to an end. Pat and I are extremely humbled and grateful for this experience that allowed us to not only travel the United States, but to meet all of the men and women of the Order and witness the positive work you are doing.

As you know, my theme of the past year was "Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness," and you have far exceeded my expectations. I'm so proud to say that Elks are thriving in every corner of our country. Each and every Lodge we visited is making a tangible difference in their communities in many valuable ways: unique initiatives to support our youth and those with special needs, numerous scholarship awards, and generous donations to our veterans.

It was inspiring to see many Lodges use their 150th Anniversary Grants to further their local causes and respond



MALCOLM J. MCPHERSON

Grand Exalted Ruler

to unexpected tragedies, such as helping the victims of the devastating hurricanes last summer.

I look forward to seeing many of you again this month in San Antonio for my final stop on this adventure, to celebrate your extraordinary accomplishments over the past year and

the 150th birthday of our Order. You have so much to be proud of and I can't wait to raise a glass in your honor.

While I may be closing this chapter of my journey, our journey together as Elks is just beginning. There is much more we can accomplish and give back to our communities as we head into the next 150 years. I encourage you to keep striving for success. As Dr. Seuss wrote in his famous children's book *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*, "You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, So... get on your way!" I truly believe the Elks are on the road to great places, and it is you, our outstanding Members, who will lead us there.

Pat and I are overwhelmed by your generosity, hospitality, and enthusiasm in welcoming us into your lives and Lodges and will forever cherish the lasting memories we have made. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We'll see you out there again soon.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Make your community aware of true meaning of your lodge

By Terry R. Lierspaph
Public Safety Medals of Valor & Service and Assistant Scouting Coordinator

Congratulations to all of our new Exalted Rulers! You are embarking on a very exciting and memorable year of your life.

As Elks, we are guilty of keeping our Order a well-kept secret. It is time for your Lodge to make your Members and your community aware of what an Elks Lodge truly is. This is where your Grand Lodge Activities Committee comes in to lend a helping hand.

By accessing the Grand Lodge web site at elks.org and clicking on the recently updated Activities Committee site, you can find many tools and suggestions to help you achieve greater Lodge recognition. Information about the Medal of Valor and Medal of Service are available. The Medal of Valor is presented to the family of a deceased police officer, EMS, or firefighter who has fallen in the line of duty, and the Medal of Service can be awarded to active public servants who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

This is a perfect opportunity to show your respect and gratitude. Certificates that can be personalized, downloaded,

and printed are available on the Activities Committee web site.

Information on other programs that can help with Lodge participation includes Youth Golf, the recently updated Antlers Program, Elks Student of the Month awards, Elks National Youth Week, the Dictionary Project available to third grade students in your local schools, Elks in Scouting, and the Community Project Contest.

The cost of these programs does not have to be a major concern. Help is available through the Elks National Foundation grants if criteria is met.

The Beacon, Promise, Gratitude Grants, and this year's \$1,500 Anniversary Grant in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of our great Order, are available to qualifying Lodges. The Impact Grant for projects up to \$10,000 is also available.

Let's be loud and proud. The Elks motto is "Care - Share." Let's share our mission and let our communities and Members know how much we care.

New Exalted Rulers please take time to get involved in these worthwhile and meaningful projects. Congratulations again and best wishes on your journey this year.

ENF

Lodge members teach veterans essentials of fly fishing

By Taylor Odisho
ENF Communications Assistant

A day of fly fishing is a time to relax and clear the mind while letting go of stress and, for veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder, the memories of war.

Members of Moscow, Idaho, Lodge No. 249 have gone fishing using an Impact Grant that helps returning Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans with PTSD who attend nearby University of Idaho and Washington State University. Seven Elks set up fly fishing lessons, which the Lodge supplements with a high-quality rod, reel, and line for each of the 16 participating veterans.

The Lodge holds four weekly lessons on the essentials of fly fishing: fly casting, insect morphology, and stream reading. Fly fishing is considered by many enthusiasts to be more challenging than traditional fishing. Casting requires thought and technique, which benefits the bodies and minds of participants.

A dozen Lodge Members were happy to volunteer their time to help teach the veterans about the sport. "This project will give them a life-long hobby that they can relax with and enjoy with friends and family," said Dr. George Paris, the project manager.

In 2009, researchers found that combat veterans who participated in a fly fishing study had significant reductions in stress and PTSD symptoms and improvements in their sleep quality after just one retreat.

The Lodge plans to gather feedback from participants and volunteers and eventually expand the program from 16 to 24 veterans.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

New program to recognize Junior ROTC

By Thomas A. Bianco
Student/Teenager of the Month/Year Coordinator

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee is introducing a new program to recognize outstanding high school students enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Our research shows that 943 high schools throughout the United States offer Junior ROTC classes. Any Lodge in the country that would like to adopt a school should sponsor a program and give a medal and certificate to an outstanding individual chosen by a Junior ROTC representative, much like we do with the Student of the Year Award.

Selection criteria should include the following leadership attributes: academic achievement, community service project work, and maintaining the highest standards of performance in all JROTC fields of endeavor.

The cost of such an award would be around \$10 for a certificate, medal, and display box. If an Elks JROTC award was given to a worthy cadet at each of the 943 participating high schools, the total cost would be approximately \$7,500. We envision that each sponsoring Lodge will cover the cost of the award.

We are asking for your support. Our children, community, and country are the cornerstones of Elkdom.

STATE NEWS

DRUG AWARENESS

Drug awareness program schedule

To help with the planning and scheduling of your Drug Awareness Program and its events the following schedule was developed. It is not designed to contain all Drug Awareness Events, just some of them. Please use this schedule to aid you in growing your Drug Awareness Program. If there is an event you would like to see added, please let me know.

July

- State Drug Awareness Chair Training at Grand Lodge.
- Remind your Districts, Lodges, and all Elks attending Grand Lodge, The National Drug Awareness Program will be having a special session on Tuesday, July 3, from 1:30-3:30 in room C and D at the Convention Center.
- State Drug Awareness Annual Report due to Mr. Gade - September 1.
- Signed DAP Training Vouchers due to Mr. Gade by August 1.
- Start planning for Drug Awareness Month in October.
- Start planning for Red Ribbon Week in October.
- Are you planning for Alcohol Awareness Week in November?

August

- State Drug Awareness Annual Report due to Mr. Gade - September 1.
- Signed DAP Training Vouchers due to Mr. Gade by August 1.
- Start planning for Drug Awareness Month in October.
- Start planning for Red Ribbon Week in October.
- Are you working on your Drug Awareness Poster Contest?
- Are you planning for Alcohol Awareness Week in November?
- Remind your District's and Lodges to enter all DAP information into CLMS.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Planning ahead for fall conference

By Howard Diehl, PSP
MEA Convention Director

The 2018 Michigan Elks Association Fall Conference at the Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites, in Kalamazoo, is fast approaching.

We are in the process of planning a "Great" Convention for the Michigan Delegation of Elks. Room Reservation and Banquet Forms will be available August 1st on the mielks.org website.

Future MEA convention sites are as follows;

- Fall 201: October 18-21, Radisson, Kalamazoo
- Spring 2019: May 16-19, Kewadin, Sault Ste. Marie
- Fall 2019: October 17-20,

Bavarian Lodge, Frankenmuth
Spring 2020: May 14-17, Kewadin, Sault Ste. Marie (week early due To Memorial Day holiday)

Fall 2020: October 15-18, Radisson, Kalamazoo.

Spring 2021: May 20-23 - Kewadin, Sault Ste. Marie.

Fall 2021: October 21-24, Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire.

The Convention Committee is constantly working on future MEA Convention sites. It is a task to find Convention sites that are affordable with enough meeting and banquet requirements for the Michigan Elks delegation. Your ideas, and comments, pertaining to our convention sites are always appreciated.

GOLD KEY

A large round of thank-you's

By Geno Grabinski

Southeast District Gold Key Commissioner

The Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund, better known as Gold Key, would like to thank the membership, Lodges and Districts for all the contributions we received at the State Convention. The Gold Key Commissioners and our State President, Stan Chubinski, look forward to continuing the great work that this program has accomplished in years past.

As we announced at the State Convention, you will be receiving new money containers at your lodges that will replace the quarter folders. Look for these to be in your Lodges by August 1.

Don't forget, if you have an Amazon account you can go to smile.amazon.com in your browser address bar and select Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund as your dedicated charity then Shop & place your order and Amazon donates a portion of your sale to us.

It's summer and time for you to participate in one or more of the six Gold Key Golf Outings that our planned this year. We have already had one of the golf outings hosted by Kalamazoo Lodge #50 in the Southwest District. The Northeast District Golf Outing will be held by Gaylord Lodge #2544 is on June 23rd and will also be played before you read this article. I'm sure a great time was had by all and a GREAT JOB was done by the committees running those events. There are a few more outings going on if you are interested in playing. The UP District is on Sunday July 22nd at Gentz G.C. and hosted by Negaunee Lodge #1116. The Metro District will be on Saturday August 11th at the Port Huron Elks Club. The

Southeast District Golf Outing will be Saturday August 26th at Hilltop Golf Course and Hosted by Plymouth-Ann Arbor Lodge #325. Finally, the Northwest District Golf Outing will be on Saturday September 15th at Oak Ridge G. C. and hosted by Muskegon Lodge #274. If you can't make one of the Golf Outings but would still like to support the Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund join our Gold Key Donor program, just go to our website www.mielksgoldkey.org for details.

Once again, this year we will be sending a letter out to each High School in the State of Michigan in September to let them know about the Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund Scholarship and how their Special Needs students can apply for it. Local lodges can follow up and make sure this information is being distributed to those students and how they can easily go online and fill out the application.

If your lodge needs tri-folds, containers and placemats please contact your district commissioner and we will have them sent to your lodge. Your Gold Key Commissioners are myself Geno Grabinski (Livonia Lodge #2246) from the Southeast District, Scott McKenzie (Battle Creek #131) Southwest District, Michael Bowman (Tawas Area Lodge #2525) Northeast District, Diana Armstrong (Pontiac-Waterford Lodge #810) Metro District, Mike Ilmonen (Negaunee Lodge #1116) U.P. District and Joan Rowland from (Traverse City Lodge #323) Northwest District. The six of us will work together with Executive Director PSP Kevin Quinn (Grand Rapids Lodge #48) to help further the good works of the Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Timely reporting is essential for lodges

By Don Smith

State Government Relations Chair

The Michigan Elks Association has an exciting year ahead of us, and I look forward to serving as this year's Government Relations Chair.

Lodges need to timely report all time, mileage, donations and money spent toward charitable activities during the year. This is very important, as this is how we maintain our status as a non-profit, tax exempt, private charitable

organization. Please refer to the Elks Government Relations Manual, which all lodges receive, for any necessary clarification.

I recommend that lodges become involved with local government relations activities. An example would be an annual Elected Officials event, which would be an excellent way to introduce city and county officials to the lodges and the contribution they make to their areas. Relationships with these officials also opens a line of communication

regarding any pending State and Local legislation that would have a positive or adverse effect on lodges or their ability to provide charitable services to our communities.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that states can legalize sports betting. If and when Michigan moves forward to legalize this, I am going to remain vigilant to see if any legislation ties sports betting in with charitable gaming. Lodges use charitable gaming fundraisers to further their charitable missions.

Elks Care - *Elks* Share

LODGE NEWS



Flag ceremonies held

Flag Day Ceremonies and Flag Retirement Ceremony, due to the rain, was held at the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Elks #541 Lodge instead of the World War II Monument on Bluff Park. The Officers held Services in the Lodge Room and the Boy Scouts 623 sponsored and lead the Flag Retirement Ceremony. Past State President, Chad High and Sandi, lead the processional with the first Flag to be retired. Over 30 tattered and torn, faded and destroyed American Flags were reverently retired.



NEGAUNEE ELKS LODGE #1116

Negaunee Elks go snow-tubing and bowling with Big Brothers Big Sisters

TUBING: On March 16th Negaunee Lodge #1116 treated the Big Brothers and Sisters of Marquette & Alger County to downhill snow tubing at the Al Quall tube slide in Ishpeming Michigan.

The event was attended by 9 BIGS and their 9 LITTLES along with 5 Elks and children waiting for a BIG. Funds for the event were provided by the ENF Beacon Grant. A big thanks to Dave Lander, Mike Ilmonen, Craig Ilmonen, Jim Nestell and Pete Gadzinski for participating in the event.

BOWLING: On March 22nd Dave Lander and Sue Bernier bowled with unmatched children at the Bowl For Kids Sake event held at the Superior Lanes in Marquette Michigan. These 2 functions used up the balance of our ENF Beacon Grant. The first \$1,700 of the Grant was used for the Shipwreck tour event held last September. Negaunee Elks use the Beacon Grant to participate with Big Brothers to provide a fun and safe event and to help find BIGS for children without one. At any point in time, there are 100,000 children in the U.S.A. waiting for at Big Brother or Big Sister.



Lodge holds scholarship dinner

Cadillac Elks Lodge #680 held a scholarship dinner. Our thanks to Cindy and Bill Kelley and Marie Linn of the lodge scholarship committee. This event was well -attended by our members. If you were not able to attend, please know that was an "outstanding" presentation to these gifted high school college-bound seniors. It is the first time the lodge has been able to congratulate an Elks National Foundation winner (\$4,000), a Michigan Elks Association winner (\$1,000) and six Lodge #680 \$500 winners during one event.



LODGE NEWS

TAWAS AREA ELKS LODGE #2525

Lodge takes academy students to plant tour



From left, Bob Turner of Tawas Tool and AEA students Seth Carter, Steven Davis, Caleb McDonald and AJ Buttacavoli.

Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525 recently took 15 students from the Alternative Education Academy of Iosco County to Tawas Tool for plant tour to learn about their business and job opportunities.

The students saw how the raw steel and carbide comes into Plant #1 and observed how the employees at Tawas Tool manufacture it into cutting hobs that are used in a variety of industries.

Students also learned at Plant #2 how the hobs are custom designed to meet client specifications and then quality tested before being shipped out.

This event was funded by an Impact Grant that the Tawas Area Elks received from the Elks National Foundation. Tawas Elks want to thank Matt Mochty and Mark Timreck for helping to organize this event and all of the employees at Tawas Tool for explaining and demonstrating their operations.



From left: Jack Block, Steve Luce ER, Phoebe Block, Ray Okonski, Todd Block, Holly Block and State Rep. Christine Greig. Each student received \$2,500 from our lodge



From left: Officer Hadir Saad, Christine Greig, Ray Okonski, Steve Luce ER, Tom Bozek Leading Knight, Lt. John Piggott and Bob Michela Trustee.

FARMINGTON ELKS LODGE #1986

Awards to scholarship winners and police honor guard

On May 12, 2018, Farmington Elks Lodge #1986 held an Open house at the Lodge. Our scholarship winners, Jack and Phoebe Block, along with their parents, Todd and Holly Block, were in attendance to receive their

MVS scholarship awards of \$1500.00 each from our Lodge.

Ray Okonski, our biggest scholarship fan and donor, did a bang-up job keeping everyone entertained for a bit.

Our State Representative Christine Greig came to show support for all of the above. We also had Farmington Hills Public Safety officers Piggott and Hsaad in attendance, and Exalted Ruler Steve Luce presented them

with a \$1,500 Anniversary grant for the Police Department to use to purchase Honor Guard uniforms and accessories. The \$1500.00 came from a grant offered through Grand Lodge.

STATE NEWS

ENF GIVING

ENF: Uniting community service

By Brad Saegesser

MEA ENF State Chairperson

In 1928, one man's dream became a reality for all Elks and the communities we serve. Then-National President John F. Malley envisioned a plan that would "unite the forces of the Order into a mighty army for the service of mankind."

During the annual Grand Lodge Convention in Miami that year, Malley's call to service inspired delegates to take action by voting to establish the Elks National Foundation with an initial \$100,000 grant. Nearly 90 years after Malley shared his vision with the Order, the ENF continues to unite all Elks in service to their communities.

Since inception, the ENF has contributed \$453.9 million toward Elks charitable projects nationwide and distributed \$33.14 million during the 2017-18 Elks fiscal year (<http://www.elks.org/ENF/ourgrants.cfm>). That's a pretty incredible return on an initial investment of \$100,000.

The mission of ENF is to help Elks build stronger communities. We fulfill this pledge by investing in communities where Elks live and work.

We help youth develop lifelong skills, send students to college, meet the needs of today's veterans, support the charitable work of the state Elks associations, and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities.

It is our donations to the ENF that support these activities.

During the 2017-18 Elks fiscal year, the members of the Michigan Elks Association donated a total of \$128,871 to the ENF. That's \$1,656 more than last year and an increase of 1.3%. This is the most that the MEA has donated to the ENF since 2009-10 (the earliest year that I have records).

Even though our membership has declined by 29% since then, our donations to the ENF have increased by 8%. With 19,741 members during 2017-18, this translates to \$6.53 in per-member giving, which means we exceeded the Grand Exalted Rulers goal of \$4.75 in per-member giving. Congratulations to all the District and Lodge ENF Chairpersons that contributed to this achievement.

As shown in the following table, every District exceeded the GER's \$4.75 per-member giving goal. Congratulations to the Upper Peninsula District for taking first place in Michigan in per-member giving.

District	Members	Donations	Per Member	% Donated
Upper Peninsula	2,546	\$18,293	\$7.18	15.20%
Southeast	2,787	\$19,322	\$6.93	20.81%
Northwest	4,485	\$29,719	\$6.63	23.46%
Northeast	3,193	\$20,730	\$6.49	9.68%
Metro	3,773	\$22,111	\$5.86	11.95%
Southwest	2,957	\$15,906	\$5.38	9.54%
Michigan Elks		\$2,792		
Total	19,741	\$128,871	\$6.53	15.53%

A big congratulations as well to the Manistique Elks Lodge #632 for taking first place in Michigan with \$20.90 in per-member giving.

Unfortunately, Michigan's \$6.53 in per-member giving placed us 38th in the country. Nevada was #1 with \$19.75. Let's see if we can't get into the Top 25 in the 2018-19 Elks fiscal year. Based on last year's results, we would need to exceed \$8.33 in per member giving to get into the Top 25. That should be really easy. All we need is for every Elks member in the great state of Michigan to donate \$8.33 this year to the ENF. Think about it. That's just a couple of Starbucks coffees or a few candy bars. Most of us probably have way more than \$8.33 in change just sitting in a jar at home. Let's put that money to good use. For every \$1 donated to the ENF, \$4.29 came back to us in 2017-18 in the form of Community Investments Program Grants, Scholarships, and State Association Grants. As noted above, in 2017-18, the Michigan Elks donated \$128,921 to the ENF and we got back \$552,570. That's a 329% return on our investment.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Michigan Donations to ENF	122,949	127,285	128,921
ENF Give-Backs to Michigan			
State Charities Grants	100,810	105,700	106,950
Special Projects Grants	106,900	108,250	110,150
Bonus Grant	21,730	22,120	21,720
MVS Scholarship	64,000	60,000	60,000
Legacy Scholarship	20,000	20,000	20,000
Veterans	13,890	13,960	13,860
CIP Grants	211,830	198,583	219,900
Total ENF Give-Backs	539,130	528,513	552,570
Give-Back / Donations	4.38	4.15	4.29
Return on Investment	338%	315%	329%

To the left is a recap of the past three years.

I challenge everyone reading the July 2018 issue of the Michigan Elks News to help us get into the Top 25. As State Officers, State Chairpersons, Lodge Trustees, and Lodge Officers, we should all already be donating at least \$10 to the ENF every year. It's easy, just go on-line and make a one-time donation, www.elks.org/ENF/supportENF.cfm.

Or, better yet, sign-up for a monthly giving plan. Then, encourage all of your fellow Elks members to make their \$10 (or more) donation to the ENF.

SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship mailing underway

By Jack McClelland

MEA Scholarship Chairman

The MEA Scholarship Program is currently in the process of sending letters to the 64 MEA Scholarship recipients to enable the \$1,000 scholarship payment.

A college verification form will be included with the communication. The student must complete their part of the form and then sent it on to their attending college for completion of the form. After receiving the form, the MEA check will be forwarded to the college and applied to the students account.

Get ready for the fall scholarship activities Exalted Rulers and or Lodge Secretaries make sure you have selected a lodge scholarship chairperson and registered them with the Grand Lodge via CLEMS. The registration will cause the scholarship materials to go directly to the chairperson this fall. The registration

will also enable the scholarship chairperson into the Grand Lodge Scholarship Dashboard for scholar's entries in the judging process.

For those that did not attend the spring convention we were fortunate to hear from our Michigan fourth place national winner category. Richard Yang from Troy, MI he impressed us with his accomplishments and goals. We wish him well as he will be attending Princeton University pursuing a degree within the scientific research field.

We are doubly excited that we will have with us at the fall convention in Kalamazoo the national girl's second place winner of \$40,000. Her name is Aleah Hahn from West Olive, MI and sponsored by the Holland Lodge. She plans to attend Michigan State University majoring in engineering. Be there to meet Aleah and hear about her background and plans for the future.

RITUAL

To all lodges: Review and renew commitment

By Pat Morgan

The goals of the Ritual Committee for this year remain unchanged. We would be proud to see that every lodge has reviewed and renewed their commitment, to indoctrinating and initiating our new members impressively.

That means digging deep and getting dirty. That sounds awful and hard to do. It's not!

If you are a new Officer, you may not even know what I am talking about. You may not even see this article, or any of the articles, though there are enough magazines for every Officer in every lodge, every publication. The seasoned Officers may not even see these magazines and read the articles.

We will continue to offer our services to you, in the form of training and materials, necessary to become that Ritual Performer, we know you can be.

The Howell Lodge 2168 Officers will have spent the dedication time necessary to perform at the Grand

Lodge Contest in Texas. They will have represented our great State against the rest of the Country. I hope that most of the Exalted Rulers will have taken notice and perhaps witnessed their performance.

Speak to them. Ask them how it felt to perform on the highest stage level. Bring that enthusiasm back to your lodge and use it.

Between now and September, I will be sending information to your lodges about how you can get some of that. Your DVC's, DVP's, DD's and Ritual Chairpersons will be coming to you to explain how this whole program works. I ask that your lodge takes advantage of the opportunity and asks questions.

We are at your service, by phone, email and in person. The choice is yours. 2 ways, every day!

State President Stan and his entourage will be proud to watch you all perform, come the Ritual Season of 2019.

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

STATE NEWS

ENF GRANT

Free money: A roundup of grants

By Brad Saegesser
MEA ENF State Chairperson

If someone walked up to you on the street and offered to give you \$20,000 to help improve your community, would you ignore them and just keep on walking? Or would you stop and listen?

I hope your answer is that you would stop and listen because that's exactly what the Elks National Foundation does every year through the Community Investments Program (CIP).

For the 2018-19 Elks Year, ENF designated over \$12.3 million to fund CIP Grants to support the mission of the ENF – Helping Elks to Build Stronger Communities.

Starting on July 1, 2018, Elks Lodges can apply for six different CIP Grants.

I encourage all Elks Lodges in Michigan to apply for one or all of these CIP Grants. There is lots of information about all of the CIP Grants on the ENF website at <http://www.elks.org/cip>, but here is a short overview. The applications aren't very long or difficult and the result is FREE MONEY. If you have any questions or would like help completing a CIP Grant application, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Gratitude Grant: Elks Lodges that met the GER's per-member giving goal in the 2017-18 fiscal year have already qualified for a 2018-19 Gratitude Grant in the amount of \$2,000. Based on the 2017-18 donations to the ENF, 45 Elks Lodges in Michigan have already qualified for their 2018-19 Gratitude Grant.

All you have to do is apply. Gratitude Grants can be used to support local, charitable activities. Lodges use Gratitude Grants to do things like partner with students to hold a community clean-up day, purchase supplies for a homeless shelter, provide meals to veterans experiencing homelessness at a Stand Down, or host recreational events for youth in foster care. Gratitude Grants can be used to make monetary donations to support other charitable groups, but the

ENF highly encourage Lodges to use Gratitude Grants in an active way. The ENF wants us to serve our communities in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing big things.

Anniversary Grant: This was supposed to be a one-time CIP Grant to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Elks, but the ENF decided to offer this for a second year. This \$1,500 grant will offer an opportunity for Lodges to do even more charitable work. All Lodges will be eligible for an Anniversary Grant, regardless of meeting the ENF per-member-giving goal. Much like the Gratitude Grant, the Anniversary Grant will have flexible guidelines. Anniversary Grants are the ENF's way of celebrating every Lodge's commitment to their community. The ENF will allow Lodges to supersize their Beacon, Promise or Gratitude Grant budgets by adding on the \$1,500 Anniversary Grant to those projects, without having to fill out a separate Anniversary Grant application.

Beacon Grant: All Elks Lodges are eligible for this \$2,000 grant, regardless of meeting the ENF per-member-giving goal. This grant is an opportunity to help your Lodge become a beacon of hope to the community. Beacon Grants are designed to be used for an on-going, Elks-led charitable project. If your Lodge has not applied for a Beacon Grant in the past, it must be used to start a project that the Lodge has never previously funded. If your Lodge received a Beacon Grant in the past, it should continue that project. Ideally, your Lodge will continue to use the Beacon Grant for the same successful project year after year. Beacon Grants are for active projects and cannot be used as donations of funds and supplies. Elks should be actively serving the community. If people see Elks doing good things, they'll be inspired to join!

Promise Grant: This \$2,500 grant is available to the first 500 Lodges that apply with an eligible Elks-led charitable youth activity. Lodges do not need to meet the GER's per-member-giving goal to apply. Promise Grants require active Elk member involvement in the planning and execution of the project. Projects should give youth and Elks a chance to come together, and should focus on serving youth who are at-risk or underserved. Promise Grants are a great opportunity for Lodges to act as a positive influence in their communities by hosting projects that build the character and competence of local youth.

Freedom Grant – This \$2,000 grant must be used for projects that serve veterans and active-duty military members. Freedom Grants are competitive and will be awarded to 300 Lodges (100 more than last year) whose projects are judged to best serve the needs of veterans and/or active-duty military members. Meaningful Elks involvement is strongly encouraged and increases chance of approval. Freedom Grants must focus on one of these five areas of increased need: 1) Employment, 2) Homelessness and Housing, 3) Military Families, 4) Health, and 5) Educational Support.

Impact Grant: This grant is offered to Lodges working to make a significant and meaningful difference in their community through a charitable project. These competitive grants of up to \$10,000 inspire Elks to dedicate themselves to service and volunteerism. 2018 was a recording breaking year for Impact Grants with the ENF awarding \$600,000 to 77 Lodges for Impact Grant projects, including two in Michigan — Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525 and Traverse City Elks Lodge #323.

What could your Lodge do with \$10,000 to serve the community?

Get ideas by reading about the 2018 Impact Grant projects at www.elks.org/SharedElksOrg/enf/files/2018ImpactGrantRecipients.pdf.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Dictionary project made simple

By Diana Armstrong
Michigan Elks State Youth Activities
Chairman

Dictionary project instructions:

1. Contact Diana Armstrong or The Dictionary Project directly or go to the webpage (see below)

2. Contact the school or schools of your choice. The Dictionary Web Page has every school in Michigan listed and you can find if they have been involved.

3. Arrange for delivery to the school or ask the school to come to your Lodge and provide a light lunch or snack.

4. Make sure that you send the names of the schools to The Dictionary Project so that they will come off the list.

The Dictionary Project

P. O. Box 1845

Charleston, SC 29402

(843) 856-2706

(843) 388-8375

843-654-9285 fax

www.dictionaryproject.org

Mary French, Director:
wordpower@dictionaryproject.org

Send a list of schools and/or programs where you donate books to students:
schoolinfo@dictionaryproject.org

For the year 2017-2018 there was about 35% estimated school coverage from all the sponsors. That means that only 719 out of 2,057 public schools were offered dictionaries. This means that there were over 1,338 unsponsored schools in Michigan. Let's help get that number higher!

There are several fundraising ideas on the Dictionary Project web page in case you need ideas to raise money.

One fundraiser that I noticed was having an adult spelling bee! I thought that this looked like it could be made into a fun event.

1. If you're new to the project, please visit the section of the website called 'Projects' to find out which schools in your area not on the list. You will want to contact the school to discuss your idea with them and get permission to visit the schools. (See the 'Sponsors' Resources' section for help with this.)

2. Once you've made contact with the schools and know how many books you will need for the students and the teachers, it's time to choose a book. You can look at the bookshelf on the webpage to see the dictionaries and other reference books that are offered. Click on the books to see inside them. Or if you prefer, you can order a sample kit with a selection of books.

Start planning now for the new school year and thinking about doing this great event bringing dictionaries to the kids. Remember this project is geared towards all 3rd graders!! The internet is not like having a book in hand and they only cost \$2.50 per dictionary!

Please contact me if you need help getting started!

248-496-9670

248-673-9511 fax

dca131@comcast.net

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Is your community aware of Elks 150th anniversary?

By James D. Rowland
State Public Relations Chair

News flash: It's the 150 Anniversary of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks!! Is your community aware of this? Do they know the good works that we have performed? Are they aware of the amount we have given back to our neighborhoods? Do they have any idea that we send special needs kids to camps and give Scholarships to trade schools? Have they heard of the events we hold for our Vets and the support we give? IS YOUR LODGE LOUD AND PROUD?

As summer is upon us it's time to spread the good news. Reach out to the

News Papers in your area. Ask your local radio stations to use Public Service Announcements to promote your events. Take pictures, use Facebook, and your Lodge web sites. Your District Public Relations Chair has guidelines for Press Releases, use these as an aid to get in the paper. Every Golf outing for Charity, Independence Day Parade Float, every Labor Day Picnic, every Day of Fishing for Vets, should be publicized.

Our number one Goal is to promote Local Media coverage of our Lodge activities to improve our image, increase membership and educate the public about our programs.

PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE.

STATE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP

Maintain the momentum in 2018

By Kenneth Hines

Membership Retention Chair

First, I would like to congratulate the lodges that make up this great state and pushed so hard right up to the final deadline.

It was fantastic to see everyone put forth the effort to making us plus this year. It was refreshing to see the desire and fire to make this happen. We need to start this now for 2018-19, instead of waiting until the last minute, though.

Unfortunately, we missed a plus year by 51 members. So close that it hurts. BUT STILL VERY POSITIVE! So let's look at the positive.

Positive:

■ The best year in membership in the last 14 years, since 2005 and that is only because of the last records that I can see are from 2005! Nice Job!

■ We reinstated 264 members last year and 90 more so far this fraternal year. Nice job!!!

■ We had 1104 "No-Pays" this year...FAR TO MANY, but the best year in 14 years. However, you have to ask the question: Is it because as a lodge we did not engage our new members and they left, or was it the quality of the member we initiated? Did we really do our due diligence to make sure this was really a member that understands what the Elks stand for and joined for that reason? If they are, we will work hard to have them stay forever!

Now we need to get to work and crush the membership numbers for this year! I know that we can do this; I am so excited and can't wait.

We are 65 days into the 2018-19 lodge year, it is time to start and keep this momentum moving forward.

First, we have 3150 members that HAVE NOT paid their dues. If you sent out letters, that's fine, but there is nothing better than a good personal phone call to each and every one of those members that have not paid. Some will say they forgot and thank you, some will have a complaint and say thank you, and some will have a major issue and will say they are not coming back. This particular phone call will provide you the opportunity to do (2) things:

1. Identify an issue that needs attention at your lodge and may need to be fixed.

2. Give you the personal opportunity to apologize and ask them to give your lodge another chance, letting them know that you care and value their participation in this organization.

3. Assure them that you can be their contact as they return.

Then there will be the person that we initiated because it was going to help your numbers and was never going to be a true member understanding what Elks really do. Please do not drop these members until the end of the lodge year.

Lodges that made these calls saw an average 56% reduction in their delinquent members!

Second, Indoctrination is the first step to membership retention. The quality of new candidate is what keeps them coming back. If they are truly joining to be a part of our programs and the fun we have doing it, they will be back. If not, it will be harder to retain them as members.

Get your new members involved as soon as you can. At the Indoctrination, gather their interests. Give the new members contact information to the committee head that best suits their interests. Get them involved! THEY WILL STAY A MEMBER FOREVER!

I have PDF files I can send for your review. I have sent them to each Lodge Secretary in the beginning of June. It includes the following documents:

■ Call Package: This includes "Call Bullet Points," an outline to make calling members more comfortable, call sheet, our charitable hours information from YOUR charitable report, the fun we have in Plymouth-Ann Arbor (substitute your fun!), Charitable and Community Involvement, what are programs are, what we did in this lodge year and who we helped, our annual reports (a snapshot of everything you did last year). When you make a call, you are armed with a lot of information for how the call goes, you will never go through all of this information, but you have it at your fingertips.

■ Membership Package: Membership and Retention Committee outline, Orientation tips, Sample Dues Letter.

I want to congratulate the Ferndale Lodge #1588 for leading the State again this year with a positive growth of 119. Nice job, as they worked very hard at all aspects of membership. Second place goes to South Haven Lodge #1509 with a +79 and Port Huron Lodge #343 at 3rd with a +59.

Michigan Top 10 Lodges 2017-18:

1. Ferndale 1588, +119.
2. South Haven 1,509, + 74.
3. Port Huron 343, + 59.
4. Traverse City 32, + 43.
5. Charlevoix 2,856, + 42.
6. Grand Haven 1,200, + 41.
7. Gaylord 2,544, + 28.
8. Howell 2,168, + 22.
9. Holland 1,315, + 21.
10. Warren-Sterling 2,292, +12.

Please contact myself, your DVC, your DVP, your DDGER for help, everyone has my number, if not is in my contact information is below.

Let's think of membership every day, week and month. Without members we cannot survive.

Thank you for your efforts. It is truly appreciated.

AMERICANISM

Flag Day, 4th of July and Field of Honor: Reminders

By Randy Boudreau

MEA State Chair

As summer commences, I hope all our Lodges have performed the mandatory Flag Day Ceremony at their Lodges or in their communities.

On August 3, 1949 Congress approved the National Observance of Flag Day on June 14 and President Harry Truman, an Elk himself, signed it into law. We, as Elks, use this ceremony to proclaim our respect for our nation's flag and what it stands for. The entire community should be invited to observe this event to share with us in celebrating our Patriotism.

If possible, each Lodge should enter their float in their communities Fourth of July parade and other community parades. This is a wonderful way to "advertise" Elkdom.

Don't forget to present letters of appreciation to local residents and businesses for displaying their Flag. These certificates can be found on the mielks.org website on the Americanism Committee page. My Lodge had recipients of these certificates become members, because they believed in our message about promoting Americanism.

Please make sure that your Lodge Americanism Chairperson actively participates in the National American Essay and State Americanism Coloring Contest in the fall. These contests are one of the few

interactions that the Elks have with young school children, so make it count.

The Dedication of the 15th Annual Field of Honor at the Alma Elks Lodge will be held September 8, 2019. This will coincide with Alma Lodge's 100th Anniversary and Chuck Oatten's year as Michigan Elks Association State President. The Grand Exalted Ruler will visit Alma Lodge on his way to the State Convention and the Michigan Elks would like him to view this magnificent event. I would like every Lodge in Michigan to be represented by a flag purchased by them to be placed in the "Field". Flags purchased for a Lodge will be \$20 (all other flags will cost \$25). When the Field of Honor is dismantled on October 22, 2019, each Lodge that purchased a flag can pick up their flag with pole and tag to display at their Lodge. The special honorees for the 2019 Field of Honor will be Vietnam Veterans.

If you have never attended this event, please try to attend next year to experience the emotions created by this event. More information will be available as we get closer to this event.

I hope to see you at the National Convention over the Fourth of July in San Antonio, Texas to help celebrate the Elks 150th Anniversary and our Nation's Birthday.

Be Proud to be an American and God Bless the U.S.A!

STORIES

Continued from cover

We all owe them, and those that followed, a debt of gratitude.

Our latest case at this writing was submitted by Flat Rock Elks Lodge No. 1731. The request was to purchase a posterior walker to help a 2-year-old (adorable Piper!) strengthen her muscles to be able to stand and walk independently. Piper was born premature and faced many health challenges. Today, with the purchase of this walker that will be used with her ongoing therapy, Michigan Elks are helping to provide Piper with opportunities to grow and become independent.

This gift was provided by each and every person who puts coins in the 365 banks, wrote checks, worked on a fundraiser at their lodge or supported Major Project in a wide variety of ways. YOU made the difference in a child (and family's) LIFE!

Each year, we start ALL over again to raise money and keep the legacy of the Michigan Elks Major Project a reality. This year, we WILL help approximately 450-

500+ special needs children. If you let that sink in; the amount of lives we ALL impact, it is truly amazing! One child, one case, one camp at a time.

Yes, together we MAKE IT HAPPEN, and as an Elk, you should be proud. All of us at the Major Project Commission thank you for your continued support and kindness.

If you want to know more about the impact we make together, visit our Facebook page "Michigan Major Project" and check out the posts called "Ten Minutes of Happy". They will make you smile. Additionally, we look forward to the upcoming release of our stand-alone website. This new tool (made possible with a generous in-kind donation from Computer Innovations) will enable us to reach out beyond Elkdom's walls for donations to make the Major Project "known" in our state, as well as our members to be able to interact with us! YOUR Lodge can and should be a shining beacon for families in your community. Together, with fresh thoughts, commitment and a can-do attitude, we will continue to make the lives of the special needs children in Michigan our continued priority!

STATE NEWS

ORGAN DONATION

How organ and tissue donation can change lives

By Kimberly Deckard
State Special Events,
Community Welfare, Organ
Donor Chairperson

Many people have heard that organ donation can change lives, and we've likely all heard an inspiring organ donation story. Statistics tell us that one person can donate eight life-saving organs, as well as tissue and corneas that can drastically improve the lives of another 75 people. But do you understand how significant of an impact each gift can truly make?

Heart Donation: A donated heart helps people struggling with life-threatening heart failure, including congenital defects and valve dysfunctions. Heart recipients have a five-year survival rate of 70 percent or more, and can enjoy a considerable improvement to their quality of life. For example, one-year-old Maggie McLaren received a life-saving heart transplant after her one working heart ventricle left her so weak she could not even crawl. Maggie's donated heart gave her a new chance at life and allows her to run and swim. Her parents are grateful for the gift she was given and are determined to help her understand its impact.

Kidney Donation: A donated kidney can make all the difference in the life of someone with kidney failure. Instead of spending several hours in dialysis three or four times a week, a kidney recipient can enjoy a healthier, happier life with a working kidney that lasts an average of 12 years. Melissa Tuff "hit the ground running" after her kidney transplant, which put an end to nine years of in-center dialysis. Melissa was diagnosed at age 16 with Rapidly Progressive Glomerulonephritis, and it wasn't until she received her new kidney that she realized how sick she was, and how much of a difference a healthy kidney made!

Liver Donation: A donated liver can save the life of someone with liver failure, which can happen suddenly or over time due to long-term illness or disease. Over 70 percent of transplanted livers last

over five years, and half are still functioning after 20 years. Katie Amson, for example, received her liver at four months old after being diagnosed with Biliary atresia as an infant, and is now in her 20s. The liver she received brought her back from the brink of death and has allowed her to be a healthy college student who thinks about her donor's gift every day.

Lung Donation: A donated lung (or lungs) can be a life-saving gift to someone with unhealthy or damaged lungs. Damage can be caused by a range of diseases, including cystic fibrosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); a single or double-lung transplant may become someone's only hope for survival. Ben Hayes was dying of a rare lung disease at just 28 years old when he received his lung transplant. The transplanted lungs replaced his failing ones and allowed him to travel, hunt, spend time with his family — and volunteer for Gift of Life.

Pancreas Donation: If someone has trouble controlling blood sugar, a transplanted pancreas may be used to restore normal insulin production and drastically improve their quality of life. A pancreas transplant is often done simultaneously with a kidney transplant if the patient is at risk for future kidney damage. A transplanted pancreas can last 10+ years, on average. One person who benefited from this gift is Andrea S, whose Type 1 diabetes created health problems that forced her to drop out of school and go on disability. After receiving a kidney from her mother and a pancreas from a stranger, Andrea works full time, pursues her love of photography, and encourages others to become organ donors.

Intestine: Intestinal transplants are used for patients with intestinal failure that cause life-threatening complications. Intestinal failure can be caused by a range of diseases, so both children and adults can be effected.

Recipients like 10-year-old Matisse Reid are able to enjoy happier and healthier lives after their transplants; prior to her

transplant, Matisse had been fed intravenously her entire life because of a rare medical condition. The condition caused her a great deal of pain, and her body would not allow her to digest food. After her transplant, however, Matisse is able to eat and explore her love of cooking!

Corneas: The most common and successful transplant, cornea transplants can restore vision after other approaches have failed to relieve painful swelling or to correct vision. Gina G, for example, needed a cornea transplant after she developed an ulcerated cornea, which is an open sore causing intense pain. Receiving a donated cornea restored her vision and allowed her to continue her dream of playing basketball.

Other Tissue: Tissue donation (including tendons, skin, and bones) restores hope and mobility for tens of thousands of men and women each year. Tissue can be used to repair combat wounds for veterans, save patients with life-threatening burns, and rebuild joints.

Becoming an organ and tissue donor

Tissue and organ donors are treated with the utmost care and respect, so families can still have open casket funerals if they wish. Their gifts are gratefully accepted by recipients like Nicole Carlton, who was at risk for paralysis after slipping a disc in her neck. A tissue donation stopped her pain and prevented her from becoming paralyzed from the waist down.

Organ and tissue donation is a gift of life that can help people like Maggie, Ben, and Gina live healthy, happy lives; unfortunately, a shortage of donors results in an average of 22 people in the United States dying each day while waiting for a transplant. There are many misconceptions about becoming an organ donor that prevent people from signing up, which we try to dispel through our common questions page. Registering to be an organ donor is a safe and thoughtful decision that can be done despite medical conditions or age (the oldest cornea donor was over 100!)

LODGE NEWS



'Food for Faith'

On April 29, 150 needy people gathered at the Trinity Episcopal Church for a luncheon sponsored by the Food for Faith program and assisted by the Bay City Elks #88. The attendees were treated to BBQ pork on a bun with sides of macaroni and cheese and baked beans. Deserts and beverages were also provided. The serving and clean up crew for this event from Lodge #88 were Debbie Waltz, George Lynch, Art Vasold, Casimer (Scrap) Musial, Howard Diehl and Jack McClelland. Heartfelt thanks to those who gave up their Sunday to help the needy of Bay County.



Bingo event for veterans

By City Elks Lodge #88 hosted its semi-annual bingo at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Med Center on Wednesday, April 4. Fifteen veterans from various branches enjoyed an evening of fun and winnings. On hand to host the event were Bill Boucher, Casimer (Scrap) and Sandy Musial, Art Vasold, Tony Bosco and Barb Krzyzaniak. BINGO, BINGO, BINGO was the magical word as the veterans counted their winnings. An enjoyable evening that brought smiles and big thank you's to the Bay City Lodge.

LODGE NEWS



Lodge holds award ceremony

On Friday May 4, Bay City Elks #88 gathered to honor the counties youngest and brightest. The honorees, families and teachers were treated to a dinner of Beef tips over noodles with sides and beverages. Scholarship Awards were presented by Anthony (Tony) Bosco to the following candidates: \$500.00 to Eric Kayden (Midland) and Halle Keim (Bay Port), \$300.00 to Spencer James (Midland) and Sydney Brown (Bad Axe), \$200.00 to Aaron Fahrner (Sebewaing) and Emily Bojo (Saginaw). Scholarship Chair, Jack McClelland, acknowledged that four of the local recipients also received State scholarships each in the amount of \$1,000. Also on hand were the award winners for the Elks sponsored Hoop Shoot and the Americanism Essay contest. Bay City Elks Lodge #88 has played a tremendous part in the lives of these upcoming elite.



Cadillac highway cleanup

Saturday morning (5-5-18) was perfect working conditions for the Lodge 680 Hi-Way clean up crew. We cleaned 2 miles of U.S. 131 from just north of the Cadillac Grill to just south of the Rest area; both side and median of that beautiful (now more so) stretch of highway. This is our 17th year of this civic work!



Copper Country contributes to scholarship fund

Copper Country 404 ER Amy Tarvis, presents a check to Steve Vairo to give to the Vario Scholarship fund at the Calumet Laurium Keweenaw schools, in memory of his dad Gerald Vairo Life Member of the 404. Money was collected from lodge members and a pancake breakfast.



TAWAS AREA ELKS LODGE #2525

Tawas helps award scholarships

Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525, Michigan Elks Association, and the Elks National Foundation awarded \$15,500 to nine area students as part of the 2018 Most Valuable Student, Legacy Awards, Community College, and Gold Key scholarship competitions.

The scholarship awards were presented to the students during the Elks Flag Day Ceremony on June 14 at the Iosco County Veterans Recognition Plaza.

Assisting with the Flag Day Ceremony were representatives from the United States Coast Guard.

From left to right in the front row:

■ Justine Griffis (Tawas Area High School, \$750 – Tawas Elks)

■ Nathaniel Templeton (Hale High School, \$1,000 – Tawas Elks)

■ Ashtyn Erickson (Whittemore-Prescott High School, \$1,000 – Tawas Elks)

■ Morgan Goodman (Standish-Sterling High School, \$1,000 – Tawas Elks; \$1,000 – Michigan Elks Association)

From left, back row are:
■ Mike Lightfoot (US Coast Guard, Seaman)

■ Brad Saegesser (Tawas Area Elks Lodge Scholarship Chairperson)

■ Mason Buresh (Tawas Area

High School, \$1,000 – Tawas Elks)

■ Doug Ferguson (Tawas Area High School, \$750 – Tawas Elks; \$1,000 – Michigan Elks Association; \$4,000 – Elks National Foundation)

■ Cody Schram (Lincoln-Alcona High School, \$1,000 – Tawas Elks)

■ Nolan Raymond (Standish-Sterling High School, \$1,000 – Tawas Elks)

■ Troy Miller (Delta Community College, \$2,000 – Michigan Elks Association)

■ Lou Hadley (Tawas Area Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler)

■ Johan Russel (US Coast Guard, Seaman Apprentice)



Lady Elks raise funds for health camp

Negaunee Lady Elks held its annual Wine & Cheese fundraiser for Bay Cliff Health Camp for the sixth year and presented a \$2,000 check to Bay Cliff Director Tim Bennett. In the picture shown from left to right at the presentation: Lady Elks Chris Harlock, Heidi Argall, Bay Cliff Director Tim Bennett, Lady Elks Sue Bernier and Nancy Fosco.