



ALMA LODGE #1400

Have your lodge represented at ‘Field of Honor’

The number of flags in the Michigan Elks Field of Honor at Alma Lodge #1400 increased by 112 from 176 in 2018 to 288 in 2019. This is the most flags in the 15 year history of the Field. This was due mainly by inviting all the Lodges in Michigan to participate in the renamed Michigan Elks Field of Honor at Alma Lodge. Sixteen Lodges were represented with a flag honoring their Lodge. Ferndale Lodge purchased a flag in honor of 10 of their members who were veterans.

Last year’s Field was dedicated on September 8 because the Grand Exalted Ruler, Robert Duitsman and wife Beth visited the Alma Lodge on September 16 on their way to the Elk State Convention in Frankenmuth, MI. This year’s Field of Honor will be dedicated on Sunday May 3, 2020 at 2pm.

When the Michigan Elks Field of Honor is dedicated on May 3, 2020 we hope the number of flags to increase again. Members of Alma Lodge #1400 invite all Michigan Elk Lodges to have a flag represented in the Field to show Elks dedication to Americanism, Veterans and those who are loved by displaying these flags in honor or in memory of these people. The special Honorees this year will be First Responders. The flags do not need to be for those who have served our country or who are currently serving. They are also for anyone who is loved or



Members of Alma Lodge #1400 invite all Michigan Elk Lodges to have a flag represented in the Field to show Elks dedication to Americanism,

have touched our hearts in a special way.

We request that every Lodge petition their members for \$20 to have a flag honoring their Lodge in the Michigan Elks Field of Honor at Alma. This will be the 16th year for the Field of Honor. When the Field is dismantled on June 14th each flag, pole and tag will be the property of the purchaser. The order form can be found online at

mielks.com under Americanism or by contacting Randy Boudreau at rand1b@yahoo.com or 989-506-6332.

Please put May 3, 2020 on your calendar to attend the dedication of the Field. The events of the day include the Forgotten Eagles bringing in the Military field flags and the Military anthems will be played as the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine

Corps flags are placed in the Field. Rodney Woodring, from Traverse City Lodge #323, will play the bagpipes as the National Guard, We Support Our Troops, First Responders, Paramedics and MIA/POW flags are placed in the Field. There will be Military, Fire and Police vehicles on site and the Alma VFW Color Guard will perform the 21 Gun Salute and Taps. During the finale, all present

will hold hands as God Bless the USA is played. It is truly an indescribable event that will sincerely deeply touch you.

Flags will continue to be \$25 for individuals and \$20 for flags honoring a Lodge.

Alma Lodge looks forward to seeing you at the Dedication of the Michigan Elks Field of Honor at Alma Lodge #1400 on May 3, 2020 at 2pm. God Bless America!

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NEWS AND NOTES

Expect quarterly invoices for dues, fees, assessments

Per Sections 14.150 and 16.010 Opinion 03 of the 2019 Statutes Annotated and continuing in April 2020, the Grand Lodge will be invoicing each Lodge, on a quarterly basis, the pro-rated Grand Lodge per capita dues and assessments and, when authorized by the State Association, their associated dues and fees for new and reinstated Members.

On a quarterly basis, the Chicago Lodge Membership System (CLMS2) will calculate the prorated amounts for each new or reinstated Member for payment for submission to Grand Lodge.

Also, when collected, the State Associations' portion will be forwarded to the respective State Association on a quarterly basis.

Otsego Elks visit VA Hospital

On November 16, 2019 Otsego Elks #1711 went to Battle Creek VA Hospital for an evening out for an evening of Bingo, Snacks and Music. We had a band named

Don't Pass Out play for the Vets before Bingo. We had 83 Vets for the Music and Bingo and during bingo they all received subs, chips and home made cookies before the evening was done. We had 4

Elks and 4 Non elks and 6 band members, help out for the evening, all the winners of bingo received PX Chits as their prize for winning at bingo.

Veterans bused to lodge for activities

On November 18, 2019 The Battle Creek VA bused 30 Veterans to the Otsego, MI Lodger #1711 for a Home cooked meal with dessert and a evening of bingo where the prize for winning bingo was PX Chits after bingo as the Vets were leaving to go back to the VA Hospital they all received a Christmas bag full of gifts. We had 7 Elks and 5 Non Elks help out for the evening.

In other news, the lodge provided Thanksgiving turkey dinner for 94 veterans.

Gaylord Lodge provides Christmas dinner

Gaylord Area Lodge provided a Christmas ham dinner for 38 veterans.

Christmas packages containing personal hygiene products and holiday cookies were given to 50 veterans. Also, \$300 worth of sweat shirts and pants were donated to the Veterans Hospital in Saginaw, Michigan.

The January meatloaf dinner was attended by 42 veterans.

Lodge receives proclamations

Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 was presented two Port Huron City Proclamations during this past year. Mayor, Pauline M. Repp presented Lodge #343 with a plaque recognizing our 123 years of existence and support for local charities and organizations in our community. Mayor Repp also recognized Lodge #343 for our continued support and youth activities we bring into the community throughout the year with a plaque for Youth week.

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152nd anniversary of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

ELKS WERE FOUNDED ON FEBRUARY 16, 1868

Local Elks Lodges throughout the United States and in Guam, Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal will be celebrating 152 years of community service on February 16, 2020.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has made more than 12 Billion in donations since we first started 152 years ago.

Last year alone, the Elks donated approximately \$350 million in cash, gifts and time to make our communities better places to live.

The Elks are one of the premier patriotic and charitable organizations in the United

States of America.

Elk volunteers will visit thousands of hospitalized Veterans that have protected our freedoms. The Elks vow "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." The Elks support both active military forces and retired veterans. Elks furnish food, comfort care items, therapeutic items and gifts, host holiday celebrations and recreational activities at bases and hospitals and stand ready to fulfill any need when called upon.

Last year alone, the value of Elks' contributions to the nation's heroes

provided more than \$50 million to more than 300 Veterans Administration Medical Centers, clinics, and state care facilities.

Annually, the Elks award college scholarships across the nation totaling more than \$4.5 million.

The Elks Community Investment Program will award nearly \$48 million towards enriching our communities.

There are more than 1,900 Elks Lodges across the country with a total membership nearing 800,000. Elks' members must be American citizens who are at least 21 years of age and must believe in God.

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

**CHUCK OATTEN**

President

Time as president draws to a close

Members of the Michigan Elks Association:

Well, my time as President of the Michigan Elks is coming to an end, and this is not easy. For the last three years, Debb and I had the pleasure of traveling throughout our great State, and the country as a representative of our association. I cannot thank you enough for this opportunity. We have seen some wonderful sights, and met great people who we have become good friends with. Being able to share the

Overall, I think we had a pretty good year. We did not accomplish everything we set out to do, but we gave our best effort, and that is

all I can ask for. Moving forward, I would like to see Lodges do a better job at retaining members, and installing members. Membership needs to be a priority. I am proud of the fact we were able to do a Membership program and Officer training. Thanks, to Rick Gathen, Grand Lodge Membership committeeman, and SDGER James Deamud, and PSP Ed Geishert for their knowledge and assistance in putting together these programs.

I have to Thank everyone who worked with me this year, your hard work and dedication to Elkdom was greatly appreciated. Special thanks goes out to the Northeast District and to my Lodge, Alma

#1400 for having the confidence to select me for this prestige's position.

The Michigan Elks Association is very fortunate to have incoming President Jerry Alexie and his wife Stephanie, 1st Vice President Jim Rowland and his wife Joan, and 2nd Vice President Dave Sladek and wife Pam. They will be great ambassadors for the Michigan.

It is hard to believe, that this year is almost over, and this is my last article for the newsletter. I have truly enjoyed my tenure as your President, and I thank each of you for welcoming Debb and I into your lodges and lives. I now know we Elks are called the Best People on Earth. See you at the Soo.

We are experiencing trying times now with the Coronavirus. Please keep a close eye on Facebook and your email for updates as they come in.

We need to consider the safety of all our Members and guest. Consider helping out your community with food drives, or donating your kitchen for hot meals for anyone in need.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me and I will get you the answers. Best of health to all.

My Presidency was supported by my beautiful wife Debb. I cannot thank her enough for everything she has done for me. You are awesome and I Love you.

**JERRY ALEXIE**

1st Vice President

Be diligent: 'Membership Matters'

Welcome to the 115th Spring Convention of the Michigan Elks Association in Sault Ste. Marie. Stephanie and I, along with President Chuck, First Lady Debb, our Second V.P. Jim and wife Joan hope your stay here at the Soo is an enjoyable one.

We welcome our friends from Indiana, and Ohio. We hope you enjoy your stay with us and pick up some useful ideas to take back

home with you.

To the incoming State Chairpersons, District Vice-Presidents and District Vice-Chairpersons, take your position seriously. You will be our eyes and ears on the ground. Please work hard with the Lodges to help them meet the goals of the Association. This also goes to the Officers at the Lodge level. Be diligent to see that your Lodge Chairpersons are doing their accepted jobs,

and always remember "Membership Matters."

This past year has flown by quickly, soon we will be in Baltimore, Maryland, for our National Convention in July; celebrating over 150 years of Elkdom. The new Exalted Rulers should have made their plans to attend the convention by now, if not get moving we only have a limited amount of rooms. Remember the National Convention is open

to ALL members.

Finally, we want to thank President Chuck and First Lady Debb for the outstanding job they did representing the State Association. As for Stephanie and myself, we have some big shoes to fill, and with help, we will do our best to do so. We also want to thank the Lodges we visited during our travels for the hospitality shown these past two years and look forward to this next year's travels.

**JAMES ROWLAND**

2nd Vice President

Hoop Shoot, Ritual, etc.: A busy start to 2020

Greetings All. We have had a busy beginning of 2020, from State Hoop Shoot, to SE and Metro District Ritual Competition, Scholarship Judging, to implementing a few new programs.

On January 25th the State, District, and Lodge membership chairpersons were invited to Flint Lodge #222 to attend a Membership Seminar held by Grand Lodge Membership Chairman Rick Gathen. Rick presented us with an abundance of new information and resources. He talked us through the use of facebook, twitter, eegreetings, etc. He also gave us a quick education on the use of the new Virtual Manuals, Membership, and Marketing Guides found on the Grand

Lodge web site. Rick is scheduled to speak at the State Spring Convention to all the attendees Saturday morning during the business session. This is valuable information that should help all of us in attaining higher membership and diminishing our delinquency numbers.

On February 29th all officers were invited to Houghton Lake Lodge #1982 to attend the inaugural Officers Training Session, presented by State and Grand Lodge Officers. We held a general session in the morning and had break-out sessions after lunch for more specific training. The feed-back was very positive and with over 125 participants many suggestions were forwarded for next year's training session. Please plan on attending next spring, the

date will be near the end of February again. This date allows the elections for Lodge Officers to conclude, and we encourage the newly elected Lodge Officers to attend.

For all of you attending the Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore, we will be staying at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel, the link is on the MIELKS web page under conventions. We have limited space available, so the sooner you reserve the better. The Michigan Hospitality Room will be an information center for your visit, please come by and check out the board for times of seminars, events, tourist attractions, etc. As we did last year in St Louis, the

hospitality room will be open for breakfast for Michigan delegates from 6am until 8am, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be a continental breakfast setup and a few snacks to take for the session. The schedule of the evening hours will be posted on the door. There will also be a raffle of items brought from your Lodges to help defray costs. This was very successful last year, so please bring something along from your Lodge. Finally, Michigan Night will be Monday night held at Lew Gambino's, in Little Italy, just a few blocks away.

As always Joan and I are looking forward to seeing you at the State Convention in May and many of you again in Baltimore.

GRAND LODGE



ROBERT L. DUITSMAN

Grand Exalted Ruler

The game plan for incoming Lodge leaders

Welcome to a new fraternal year. April is a busy time filled with items of business that need to be tended to, some for the year gone by as well as for the year just starting.

I hope that the installations of officers are going well. They can instill a sense of deep pride not only in the incoming officers but in the Members and guests who attend. Everyone likes to be recognized, and a dignified installation will set the stage for dedicated service for the coming year.

If it hasn't been done yet, make sure to get all committees appointed. Past practice for

some Lodges has been to just put names on paper, without the appointee caring—or in some cases even knowing—what the responsibilities are. Many Lodges have developed ways to ensure all committees are being supported and their Members made to understand that duties need to be carried out. One model involves assigning Lodge committees to the various chair officers so that periodic review can be made, ensuring that the duties and requirements of each committee are being taken seriously.

Lodge Secretaries, I hope you have been mindful of the annual report to the Grand

Lodge and to the Lodge membership as required under Section 12.050 of the Statutes.

Lodge Trustees, or Board of Directors if the Lodge is incorporated, please be mindful of your responsibilities concerning the finances of the Lodge. A detailed, separated budget must be submitted to the membership for adoption no later than the last regular meeting in April, or the following regular meeting. In recent years increased scrutiny has pushed Lodges to maintain a strong financial footing, meaning that budgets are balanced and taken seriously. It isn't always easy to keep an eye on the Lodge's purse

strings, but through your diligent efforts the financial viability of your Lodge can be maintained for the years to come.

Finally, I hope all Lodges have implemented the new Financial Reporting System approved by the Grand Lodge at its 2019 session. It was designed to allow for the timely review of Lodge finances, to identify unhealthy trends, and to help Lodges remain viable.

All state associations have been developing a network of specialists to assist Lodges that are still having challenges.

CHARITABLE REPORTS

Charitable reports ensure smooth sailing

By **Kenneth N. Bruckner**
Committee Member

April begins a new Lodge year so we as Elks Members need to review our accomplishments and shortcomings from the previous year. What have we accomplished for our Lodge, and what have we done to assist less fortunate individuals within our communities?

During a previous meeting of the Government Relations Area Committee-men, a brochure was presented entitled, "BPOE U.S.S. Elks Lodge," and on this brochure it was noted that it takes volunteers to travel and donate money and time to keep the ship afloat.

Listed on this brochure were just some of the examples of charitable works we are involved in within our Lodges. This brochure should have been passed on to each state chairperson, who in turn passed

it on to each Lodge within their state. It should be posted for the Members to review and understand that their charitable activities are truly recognized in their Lodges and communities, and at the federal government level.

For some Lodges, the activities they perform are purely done out of pride and devotion to the organization and are forgotten to be considered charitable work. The chairperson of these activities needs to compile a report: The proper form is easy to fill out and can be obtained from the Lodge Secretary. It is then sent to the Secretary when the form is complete.

We as an organization are involved with the federal government on the various legislative items which may affect us in some manner. At the Lodge level, we must forward our charitable activity results to the Lodge Secretary to complete

and forward to Grand Lodge, which in turn forwards this information to the federal government.

In the past several years our charitable reporting has greatly improved thanks to the awareness of the Charitable Activity Committee chairs in compiling the reports, and the Lodge Secretaries for the proper reporting of the activities in CLMS. Lest we not forget to thank all the Members and families involved with donating time, talents and dedication in the name of a great organization.

With the start of a new year comes new leadership, new ideas, devoted Members, new Members, and non-active Members. The opportunity to improve is always positive. It takes committed Members, donated time and energy, and many great programs to generate success in your Lodges and communities.

GRANTS

Veterans appreciate good deeds from grants

By **Hannah Graber**
ENVSC Programs Coordinator

Each year, hundreds of Elks Lodges around the country use Freedom Grants to fund projects that serve veterans and military families in need. Is there something you've always wanted to do for veterans in your community? This grant provides a great opportunity for your Lodge to try a new project or expand an existing program. Looking for ideas? Take a cue from these two Lodges.

Last year, Saratoga-Wilton, New York Lodge No. 161 used a Freedom Grant to provide winter coats, boots, and other cold weather supplies at a local Stand Down for veterans experiencing homelessness. They even provided some handmade hats and scarves created by Elks family members.

The Edison Park, New Jersey Lodge No. 1488 used a Freedom Grant to host several barbecues for veterans at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home and

the Lyons VA Hospital.

Describing their experience at these barbecues, Edison Park Lodge Members said, "We believe that the more the Elks are physically present, the more people will acknowledge our good deeds and perhaps want to join us and become more involved in their community."

This is what Freedom Grants are all about! We encourage Lodges to get involved with veterans in their communities and create active programs to meet their needs.

Freedom Grant applications open on April 1 and can be accessed on the Grants Dashboard at elks.org/enf/grants. As you fill out the application, keep in mind that grants may not be used as donations. Budgets should be specific: Avoid general categories like "supplies" or "gifts." Explain how your Lodge plans to use the grant and what Elks Members will be doing to support the project. If you have questions, please e-mail vets@elks.org or call 773-755-4736.



GRAND LODGE

MEMBERSHIP

Practicing sales skills can lead to a boost in membership

By Rick Gathen

PR and Membership Marketing Manager

Lodges skilled with promoting membership know the key to attracting new Members is a great membership committee that applies good business management practices. These committees know to emphasize a business approach that will always improve the condition of their Lodge.

Like any service business, we must not only make the original sale, but also keep the customer sold.

Committee responsibilities include recruitment, orientation of new Members, public relations, and dues collection. Think in business terms – sales, customer relations, public relations and credit collections.

The membership chairperson needs committee members with various skills. Responsibilities for the committee include:

- Sales. Work recruitment tables, working reinstatements, greeting guests and inviting them to join.
- Public Relations/Marketing. Promote membership on social media and the Lodge website. Make sure everyone inside and outside is aware of the positive impact the Lodge has contributed toward the community.
- Orientation. Educate, involve, and inspire new Members to recruit and be active. Match their interests and time with a Lodge committee or activity.
- Collection Department. Assist the Lodge Secretary with billing, collection letters, phone calls, e-mails, and visits to delinquents.
- Agendas for Lodge membership committee meetings. Meet regularly (such as weekly from April through June, then monthly) and set goals to initiate 10 percent more Members. The collection goal: No more than 5 percent of the Members dropped for non-payment of dues.
- Publicize membership classes. Discuss incentives and contests. Discuss reinstatement opportunities and strategies. Review delinquents and discuss collection strategies.
- Review and evaluate the Orientation program. Review membership numbers and compare to goals.

- Awards. Members initiating or reinstating three Members into the Order will receive the prestigious GER Award Pin. Members initiating or reinstating 11 or more Members into the Order will receive an attractive Elks watch available to both men and women.

- Top recruiter incentive ideas. Make posters that thank recruiters by name and possibly even show a picture of them in action. Hand out thank you tickets each time a recruiter brings in a new Member. Each ticket offers the chance for a monthly drawing for something as simple as a \$25 gift card. List your recruiters in your Lodge newsletter/website and social media page, and thank them. Create a recruiter of the month parking space (or two) at your Lodge.

- Recruiting. Note what we do and how to join. All community events should include a strong public relations and membership presence. Set up a table with handouts.

- Other precursors for gaining membership. Earn a reputation as a premier charitable organization in your community. Provide a family- and Member-friendly environment. Have a good understanding of the Order's programs and ENF grant opportunities.

- Invite prospects to become new Members. Develop a brochure to have available for open house guests. Include contact information, state major projects, community projects, hours and dining menu, Elks mission, and national programs including scholarship information and grants. Put a positive spin on everything and avoid anything negative. Be sure to have a sign-in sheet for guests' names and contact information.

- Image. Portray your Lodge to be friendly, modern, and fun. Incorporate stories from those who have benefited from the Lodge's charity.

- Expectations. Outline what we expect and what they can expect from the Elks.

- Financial Responsibility. Spell out the dues and responsibilities of membership.

- And I thought you'd never ask. Don't forget to ask them to join!

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Compete for an award by helping your community

By David B. Lake

Committee Chairman

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee encourages Lodges to enter the Grand Lodge Community Project Contest. This contest is designed to recognize Lodges for their projects that focus on meeting a need in their community.

These projects enhance the awareness of the good work we do as Elks. They also help the community better understand who we are and what we do as a fraternal organization. It can also help us to find others in our community who would like to join our Order because of what we are doing in the community.

The winning Lodges will be recognized in all six Divisions at the upcoming Grand Lodge Session in Baltimore.

It's easy to enter the contest. After logging onto elks.org, click on Grand Lodge, then Committees, then Activities, then Dashboard. Under Dashboard you will see "Currently Featured Contests/Programs". Under that heading you will click on "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 Chairman 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.

STATE NEWS

My Life As An Elk

By Bob DeVries

Northwest District Vice President

Many times, in my travels as an Elk, I am asked, "why are you an Elk?" and, "why do you do what you do?" and "what DO you do as an Elk?"

I did not join the Elks until 2006. I was always plenty busy raising a family, and serving in a variety of volunteer opportunities along the way.

Seems like it's true – look for someone busy to help get things done. By the time I joined the Elks, my children were grown, my retirement years were getting closer, and I thought I was through with my life as an active volunteer. Funny stuff.

I began serving as chaplain under PER Ray Bowens, a volunteer activity I enjoyed. Fast forward a few years, and I was elected to E.R., a position I held for 2 ½ years. By that time, Sara and I had been attending District, State, and National Elks meetings and conventions as part of our responsibilities to Holland Lodge #1315. We have made incredible, special friendships along the way. Some of our dearest friends we share Elkdom in common. It is so gratifying and rewarding, I feel compelled to share part of my story.

As Northwest District Vice President, I have spent the last 2 years visiting Lodges in our district in an "official" capacity, representing the Michigan Elks Association, and our State Presidents. Again, meeting fantastic people along the way that share the passion, enthusiasm, patriotism, and commitment to the core principles of Elkdom.

There is nothing to compare with standing with over 200 Elks from the Midwest under the St. Louis Arch and reciting the 11th Hour, and singing God Bless America.

There is an amazing fellowship when you stand with over 7,000 Elks as every State Flag is raised; reciting the Pledge of Allegiance; and then singing "I'm Proud To Be An American" loudly and proudly with Elks from all over our great country. There is an awesome sense of pride, when you visit another local Lodge, and hear of the good works being done in their community. It's a great American adventure to visit Elks Lodges all over the country in our travels. We proudly show our Membership Card, and before you know it, we've made new friends, and are exchanging Elks Life experiences!

I could go on and on. Stop and chat sometime, and I'd love to share more stories about what a privilege and honor it is to part of the Best People On Earth, the premiere volunteer organization known as the Elks.

So if you are ever asked to volunteer of your time and talents, to consider a position in our local Lodge that will change your life when you already think your life is pretty good, don't be afraid to step out and step up – let your servant heart emerge, and come along for the ride!

If God can use someone like me in a place like the Elks, imagine what He can do with you!

LODGE/STATE NEWS

CHARLEVOIX ELKS LODGE #2856

Thanksgiving Day Memorial Swim raises funds for veterans

Charlevoix Elks sponsored the Douglas Meredith McNabb Thanksgiving Day Memorial Swim in Lake Michigan.

The lodge raised \$3,245.00 for local Veterans of which \$1,700 was personally raised by Elks Stacey Skeel and Jessica Bell.

In addition, Charlevoix Elks were able to donate 78 Christmas baskets worth \$3,120 and \$2,500 from the Beacon Grant to the Charlevoix Community Christmas Project which provides meals to those less fortunate in the community and gifts of

clothes and toys for children.

We donated approximately \$60,000 this year in our community. At the December members meeting we voted to give \$4000 to local veterans (sending two members and their companions on Honor Flight to Washington DC and are helping someone who could use some assistance at the holidays). We also voted to give \$500 each to Relay for Life and Operation Injured Soldier. We also helped disabled children with devices and camp experiences to improve their lives and viability.



The lodge raised \$3,245.00 for local Veterans of which \$1,700 was personally raised by Elks Stacey Skeel and Jessica Bell.

Polar Plunge

This photo is from "Polar Plunge 2020," hosted at Holland Elks Lodge #1315. This was our third year hosting the Michigan Special Olympics fundraiser on our property. We surpassed the projected goal, and raised over \$50,000 for Special Olympics. Over 100 people donned costumes and jumped into the only "Dumpster Plunge" in the State! Shown is Elks member and past trustee Dr. Joe Shuluga, in his 1st place costume as "American Eagle Joe."

[COURTESY OF HOLLAND SENTINEL]



Negaunee Elks used part of this year's ENF Beacon Grant to treat Big Brothers and Sisters to tubing at the Al Quaal Tube Slide in Ishpeming.

NEGAUNEE ELKS LODGE #1116

Lodge treats Big Brothers Big Sisters

Negaunee Elks used part of this year's ENF Beacon Grant to treat Big Brothers and Sisters to tubing at the Al Quaal Tube Slide in Ishpeming Michigan.

Six BIGS and their LITTLES attended. Also four Negaunee Elks took the time to enjoy unmatched children waiting for a BIG to be matched with.

A BIG THANKS to Kellie Joki, Charlie Enright, Mike Ilmonen and Pete Gadzinski for helping Big Brothers & Sisters. At any point in time there are 100,000 children in the U.S. waiting to be matched with a Big Brother or Sister. Your donations to ENF help us help children from single parent and troubled homes.



AMERICANISM

Contests are complete, but opportunities remain to promote

By Jay Erickson
MEA State Americanism Chair

This year's Americanism essays and coloring contest entries have been judged at the district level, and the entries sent on for state judging. I received 24 coloring contest entries from nine lodges, spread across four of our six districts. Northeast, Metro, Northwest and Southeast districts all had enough youth participation in the contest to send the top three entries for each age group. Essay contest entries were scarcer, with submissions coming from only five lodges across two districts. My thanks go out to Mary Ellen Yost of the Northeast District and Jennifer Chinn of the Metro District for your work promoting this

program and receiving such support from your lodges. Children represent the future of both our country and our Order, and therefore we work to foster love of our nation within the Fraternal Committee.

I have said before that this committee represents more than just an essay and coloring contest, with our goal being to identify examples of patriotism for recognition and support. This winter, Janna Sierens, Exalted Ruler of Allen Park Lodge #2194, provided a great example of this principle in action. She presented Certificates of Honor to an area elementary school, and recognized three fifth grade students for their work raising

See CONTESTS, 8

LODGE NEWS



Newberry Elks donate sleighs

Students at Tahquamenon Area School wood shop (Olivia Price, Steven Brown, Ivan Oswald, Eric Edwards and Kraig Bodi) built 3 sleighs to be donated to the Tahquamenon Falls State Park to transport handicapped individuals from the parking lot to view the falls over a 1/4 mile pathway. During the winter months these sleighs can replace wheelchairs. Newberry Elks Lodge #1705 used Beacon Grant award to help support this project.



Elks Hoop Shoot Niles Finals winners/runner up

NILES ELKS ELKS LODGE #1322

Niles ‘Hoop Shoot’ is ‘best ever’

December 14 at the Buchanan Michigan gym. We had 32 participants, an almost equal number of kids from each school of Brandywine, Buchanan & Niles! We also had participants in each of the categories.

A huge thank you to Reid McBeth and Buchanan High School for Hosting! Also thanks to Danny Balos Derrick Balos David Schiele Monty Ort, Timmy Anglin, Liz Green and Leonard Dalenberg for all their help today!



PORT HURON ELKS LODGE #343

Results from 16th consecutive blood drive

The results below are for the Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 (16th Consecutive) Blood Drive which occurred on MONDAY, February 17, 2020.

The Elks Blood Drive Committee would like to thank those you donated, the volunteers and Elks Staff for making this Blood Drive another success!

Results of our 16th blood drive:

- 30 presented (arrived to donate)
- 31 pints collected (3 double reds = 6 pints)
- 2 deferred

- 36 pints was our goal to collect

- 100% of goal was attained

Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 sponsorship has helped the Red Cross correct over 711 pints of blood since our 1st blood drive took place back on Monday, January 7, 2013. Another great blood drive.

The 17th Consecutive Blood Drive is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020 (confirmation of that date will follow)

Thank you all for helping to save lives by helping others, and sharing the “Gift of Life”!

PORT HURON LODGE #343

Donation of handmade fleece blankets to local veterans

Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 recently donated 25 handmade fleece blankets to the Veterans Clinic at the Yale Community Health Center.

The blankets are made weekly by Sue Hudy, Sandy Lashbrook, Shelley Murdick, Lee Reaume and Vicki Heino.

This donation went to local Vietnam Veterans that have extreme PTSD and live in a group home who were at the clinic during this delivery.

Each Veteran received one, it was like Christmas all over again as they were so excited to receive them.

Over the last two-plus years Lodge #343 has donated over 100 handmade blankets, clothing, hats, gloves, disposable undergarments, and toiletries to our local Veterans facilities in Yale and Port Huron. We truly appreciate that you remember our Veterans and their service, proving once again Elks Care, Elks Share!



Pictured receiving the Handmade Blankets: Ms. Geraldine M. Armstrong, Director VA - Veterans Clinic and Lodge #343 PER, Scott R. Harris.

STATE NEWS

GOLD KEY

Scholarship recipients, renewals

By **Geno Grabinski**

State Chairman, Charitable Grant Fund

Results are in for the Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund 2019-20 Scholarship Recipients.

This year we held our annual meeting on Saturday, February 15th in Bay City, MI, during this meeting the Commissioners awarded new scholarships and renewals to 26 students! These students will be able to begin or continue their education and become a productive citizens within our community. The Gold Key, means opportunity. The Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund, makes this happen. Nowhere else in Elkdom, is there such a targeted mission such as this, to help a thoroughly vetted, group of young people. Your continued efforts in activities, donations, and support will help build these young people to a more productive life.

New Students, Lodge, District

Ally Leatherman, Traverse City, NW
Courtney Leatherman, Traverse City, NW
Mary Outrequin-Palmer, Charlevoix, NW
Makenzie Reed, Manistee, NW
Morgan Garman, Sturgis, SW
Alysia Morrissette, Battle Creek, SW
Dayton Kuelh, Ishpeming, UP
Allie Mahoski, Negaunee, UP

Renewals

Miracle Johnson, Grand Rapids, Metro
Wesley Condie, Alma, NE
Samantha Morehouse, Gaylord, NE
Emma Helsel, Cadillac, NW
Robert Hunt, Cadillac, NW
Russell Lux, Manistee, NW
Cayla McCormick, Holland, NW
Jared Mills, Holland, NW
Hannah Witte, Traverse City, NW
Emma Hambleton, Plymouth -Ann Arbor, SE
Cameron Vasher, Allen Park, SE
Dustin Bland, Paw Paw/Allegan, SW
Kevin Jones, St. Joe/Benton Harbor, SW
Dylan Neelis, Battle Creek, SW
Rebecca Ritzema, Otsego, SW
Robert Ivey, Negaunee, UP
Christina Tregillis, Negaunee, UP
Hailee Zambon, Negaunee, UP

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. You can also add in our golf outing dates:

Date, District, Location

June 8th, Southwest, Kalamazoo
TBD, Northeast, TBD
July 19th, Upper Peninsula, Gentz's GC (Marquette)
August 8th, Metro, Port Huron Elks
August 22th, Southeast, TBD
August 29th, Northwest, Muskegon Elks
Your District Chairpersons listed below are available to help you with any questions you may have.
Metro, Diana Armstrong (Pontiac-Waterford #810), goldkeyme@mielks.org
Southeast, Geno Grabinski (Livonia #2246), goldkeyse@mielks.org
Southwest, Don Smith (Battle Creek #131), goldkeysw@mielks.org
Northeast, Michael HD Bowman (Tawas Area #2525), goldkeyne@mielks.org
Northwest, Joan Rowland (Traverse City #374), goldkeynw@mielks.org
U.P., Mike Ilmonen (Negaunee #1116), goldkeyup@mielks.org

Ask any of us for ideas on holding a function or outing. Make sure that the credit unions are readily available to your membership. We will provide trifolds as well as placemats to your lodges...contact your commissioner so they can get these orders in and to you quickly. Secretaries ~ please insert a credit Union and tri fold in your new member packet and remember to mention our Gold Key during all your indoctrination meetings. People want to help young adults succeed so in your communities, find "that student", who fits our criteria, within your local school district, who would benefit from our scholarship! Remember all the information you need to have a successful Gold Key recipient is available on our website www.mielksgoldkey.org and will soon be on the State website also. We thank you for your effort and time.

CONTESTS, from page 6

and lowering the flag every day for school. Opportunities like this remind our youth that their efforts have been noticed, and that we as Elks thank them and share their pride in this great country. Thank you, Janna, for your work promoting Americanism in your community.

This May, in addition to the winners of the state Americanism coloring and essay contests, we will have forms for those wishing to fly a flag over the Field of Honor in Alma. This field is much more than a display by a single lodge, and it has become a point of pride for our entire state. I encourage each lodge to sponsor a flag and show your support for this symbol of national and fraternal unity.

The order form is on the mielks.org website, and can be found by clicking News/Events, and then selecting Michigan Elks Field of

Honor at Alma Lodge #1400. You can open the order form on the right of the article, or stop by the Americanism booth at the convention for a paper copy of the form.

Over the past year several lodges have shared their ideas for promoting patriotism and Elkdom in your communities.

In this age of rapid communication and online footprints, I encourage you to make full use of your lodge websites, Facebook pages, digital newsletters, and any other means you have of reaching out to members and the public.

The Order of Elks is distinctively American, and we need to tell that story where people will hear it. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Americanism Chair, and I look forward to sharing ideas with you in Kewadin this May.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Reminder: Get a youth activities chairman

By **Diana Armstrong**

MEA Youth Activities Chair

This is a reminder that each Lodge should have a Youth Activities Chairman! New Exalted Rulers, please add Youth Activities to your list of chairs for the new Elk year! Please let your District Youth Activities Chairperson know who that person is. All Lodges should remember to include the District Youth Activities Chair in all the activities going on in your Lodges that fall under Youth Activities. Are you doing a Hoop

Shoot? Boy and Girl Scout Programs? Holiday parties such as Easter, Christmas and Halloween? Dictionary Project? What about Pumpkin Patch? These are just a few of the activities that fall under Youth Activities. It is important to know who the District Chair is so that you can relay that information to them, and they can report on what is going on!!

If anyone is interested in starting a Soccer Shoot in your Lodge or District, let me know as there is a lot of information from Grand Lodge to help you get started!

I am looking forward to attending the Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore this July. I have been told that Grand Lodge is looking at a new project that will have to do with Literacy, and Library activity! It sounds like this could be very exciting for us to participate in! As I learn more, I will forward all the information to each Lodge!!

I want to thank Bill LaMarch from Escanaba Lodge #354 who provided a very detailed and wonderful report about The Dictionary Project! 408 Dictionaries were dispensed with over 631

participants! He had a committee who volunteered time and help with their project! He noted the following Volunteers and we want to thank you for your assistance in getting this worthwhile project completed: Andrea Tourangeau, Steve Victorson, George Peterson, Ron Ericksen, Eric Patmythes, Janet LaMarch, Jim Boniface, Ray Gardner, Dave Wilson, Matt Johnson Reeves and Gary Rivard. Thanks so much for your help! We appreciate you!

Remember: The Youth of Today are the Elks of Tomorrow.

STATE NEWS

MAJOR PROJECT

Opportunity for a workshop

By Diane Dusendang
Executive Director

The Workshop Series started with a BANG....and with the current events of the state and world have unfortunately (out of an abundance of caution) been delayed. But, thanks to State President Chuck, the Major Project has been granted an opportunity to hold a Major Project Workshop at the Spring Convention (hopefully the pandemic situation is under control and we are all feeling better about things!). This session....will be offered as well, later in the year, hoping to hit all of the lodges we had to cancel.

WHO should be attending the Major Project Workshop and WHY???? Because you WILL learn about your State Major Project in a way that you can go BACK to your lodge and promote it! WHY do you want to promote Major Project as a member of the Michigan Elks Association? Simple; when YOUR lodge is engaged with helping our special needs children in Michigan, the opportunities for your lodge to GROW, feel PRIDE, engage your Membership AND Community is a stepping stone to increasing membership! Additionally, and most important, is that there are community members that YOUR lodge will directly impact in a positive way!

Think about it. You find a case (and someone in your Lodge knows SOMEONE, who knows SOMEONE, who needs our help to lighten the load and help a child), you now have an opportunity to bring them into the lodge to fill out the Request for Assistance, or for you to deliver a product/equipment to them.

They, in turn get to see what YOUR Lodge is all about! Your MEMBERS get to feel a sense of pride being part of our State Major Project making an impact and being a part of almost 20,000 Michigan Elks coming together to realize dreams and helping with a basic need, where there was a financial hurdle. Bonus to everyone involved, and again, in particular, to the child that we collectively help.

So, hopefully, we will see you in "da SOO" for a rousing, fun and interactive Workshop!

And finally, with much thought, discussion between our Major Project Board leadership and State President Chuck, it was determined that we should cancel our Annual Meeting (set for March 28th in Alma).

We are saddened, but we just switched to PLAN B, which is to meet via conference call to attend to our most pressing issue of the approval of our Annual Budget. Much of our work depends on setting the budget, and camperships is a huge part of that. We are supporting more than 20 camps, and this is a critical piece of our "pie". The Commission hopes to accomplish our goals, and finalize our other business items as well at this conference call, but can defer regular business items until the May Convention.

We are focused on the KIDS, and are doing everything possible to keep things moving with a positive heart, spirit, energy for our special needs children that have come to the Michigan Elks Association Major Project Commission for more than 63 years....helping one child at a time. Be proud of your Commissioners for working through this, and getting the results on behalf of the children!

Convention information

The Michigan Elks 2020 Annual Spring Convention is scheduled for May 14-17 at Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste. Marie.

Committee Exhibits and Displays, Member's Reception, Memorial Service, Ritual Competition, MEA General Business Session, Installation of Officers, Ladies Breakfast, Member Luncheon, Member Training Sessions and Breakouts, Committee Meetings, Presidents Banquet, and a Meet & Greet with the New State President should keep everyone busy.

Room, Banquet Reservation, and Convention Registration Information is available on the Michigan Elks website - mielks.org

Future Michigan Elks Association conventions are scheduled to be held at the following locations and dates;

- Fall 2020 – Oct. 15-18; Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo
- Spring 2021 – May 20-23; Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste. Marie
- Fall 2021 – Oct. 21 – 24; Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire
- Spring 2022 – May 19-22; Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste. Marie
- Fall 2022 – Oct. 19 – 23; Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire
- Spring 2023 – May 18-21; Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste. Marie
- Fall 2023 – Oct. 18 – 22; Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo
- Spring 2024 – May 16-19; Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste. Marie

Future Convention Locations are always being investigated. Please contact one of the Convention Committee Members should you have questions or suggestions for future planning of convention sites.

MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION MVS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Averett	Isaac	Boy	No. 1945	Beaver	Erica	Girl	No. 222
Andreas	Corbin	Boy	No. 1400	Bennetot	Rita	Girl	No. 88
Apfel	Nathan	Boy	No. 2223	Brewley	Marne	Girl	No. 680
Basil	Abraham	Boy	No. 680	Britton	Emma	Girl	No. 343
Bovee	Isaac	Boy	No. 1986	Cherven	Hannah	Girl	No. 2544
Bradley	Alexander	Boy	No. 2544	Corinth	Kesha	Girl	No. 325
Carney	Audth	Boy	No. 88	Dewey	Kathryn	girl	No. 2292
Harney	Harney			Doboyh	Heaghan	Girl	No. 2856
Ebers	Jonah	Boy	No. 343	Fox	Olivia	Girl	No. 2168
Feathering	Julian	Boy	No. 131	Halphen	Camille	Girl	No. 34
Fleming-Ditender	Luke	Boy	No. 447	Horan	Anna	Girl	No. 1023
Gray	Ethan	Boy	No. 2525	Johnson	Shariene	Girl	No. 1986
Haire	Jacob	Boy	No. 323	Lashbrook	Madison	Girl	No. 632
Hudson	Melachi	Boy	No. 325	Leira	Chloe	Girl	No. 2856
Kimmerer	Sean	Boy	No. 2856	McLuttry	Jodie	Girl	No. 2547
Lindquist	Brendan	Boy	No. 1988	Moore	Willow	Girl	No. 1322
Majors	Logan	Boy	No. 1986	Ooch	Hailey	Girl	No. 1945
Mitchell	Andrew	Boy	No. 1965	Patel	Antoinette	Girl	No. 1116
Powers	Maxhav	Boy	No. 2169	Rhoades	Hogan	Girl	No. 131
Ramach	Steven	Boy	No. 2169	Richards	Samantha	Girl	No. 974
Richards	Noah	Boy	No. 1711	Rogalski	Joselyn	Girl	No. 889
Rohoe	Jeremiah	Boy	No. 1988	Schulman	Carlee	Girl	No. 1705
Seel	Carvin	Boy	No. 974	Schwartz	Hboelynn	Girl	No. 250
Shoot	Anson	Boy	No. 1575	Siddiqui	Liberty	Girl	No. 131
Smith	Jared	Boy	No. 1705	Smith	Harlam	Girl	No. 1945
Sturm	Steven	Boy	No. 2168	Smith	Aeshah	Girl	No. 2225
Tuckola	Tyler	Boy	No. 680	Spry-Talner	Hannah	Girl	No. 323
Umlaub	Vedley	Boy	No. 2168	Toth	Emma	Girl	No. 974
Wallace	Ronald	Boy	No. 2567	Verheek	Delaney	Girl	No. 1909
Wang	Joseph	Boy	No. 2525	Wells	Rebecca	Girl	No. 680
Wanner	William	Boy	No. 250				
Wong	Joel	Boy	No. 2525				

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

MVS scholarship judging

Michigan Elks Association Scholarship Committee held the MVS scholarship judging at Bay City Elks Lodge #88 on February 15.

I would like to thank the following for their help judging: Tony Bosco MEA Trustee, George Lynch DDGER, Debbie Waltz, Jeff Burk, Sue Burk, Art Vasold, Robin Zuverink, Sandy Musial, Casimer Musial, Barb Kezyzaniak, Tom Killiany, Jen Chinn, Marty Chinn, Kellie Snider, Ed Rodda also attending was next year's MEA MVS scholarship chairman Randy Stewart.

We also had the privilege of a visit from our State President Chuck Oatten, Jerry Alexia MEA 1st Vice President and James Rowland MEA 2nd Vice President.

The table above shows 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 table shows our MEA 61 winners that will receive a Michigan Elks \$1,000 one-time scholarship.

MEA MVS NATIOAL WINNERS

Brown	Matthew	Boy	No. 1986	Gargapati	Aishani	Girl	No. 2169
Converse	Suchir	Boy	No. 48	Hawken	Ashlyn	Girl	No. 343
Elliott	Terry	Boy	No. 2194	Johnson	Hannah	Girl	No. 1955
Erneigh	Hunter	Boy	No. 48	O'Driscoll	Elisabeth	Girl	No. 2856
Gupta	Colin	Boy	No. 1315	Petrosky	Addy	Girl	No. 88
Sharma	Chance	Boy	No. 88	Rakozy	Allison	Girl	No. 88
Wilczynski	Gunsh	Boy	No. 2169	Robinson	Brianna	Girl	No. 354
				Stuever	Audry	Girl	No. 2292
				Battel			

STATE/LODGE NEWS

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Looking forward to the state ritual contest at the convention

By Bruce A Stark
State Ritual Chairman

District Ritual Contests have completed and the contest is set for the State Convention in May Teams have been practicing and getting ready for a great competition I invite you all to come and see the contest at the Convention Friday May 15 You might see something that you can take back to your Lodge and help initiate your new members I look forward to seeing you all there.

Added to this year at the Grand Lodge Ritual contest in Baltimore is the 11 O’Clock Toast Contest One member from each state will be invited to compete in the Grand Lodge Contest. Two members from each District are invited to compete in the State Contest in Sault Ste Marie at our State Convention. Although anyone can compete in the District and State contest, in order to advance to the Grand Lodge contest you must be an ER or PER Contact your District Vice President or District Ritual Chairman to find out how to be selected to compete at the State Contest.

Why do we compete in the Ritual Contests? It’s not just because we want you to work harder as officers but we want to help you make your initiation more impressive for your new members.

This is their first impression your new members have of your officers and it helps to put your best foot forward. Second, the time you spend doing practices as a team builds a bond between your officers that will last forever. Friendships are created doing Ritual that will stick with you from year to year Next you gain friendships when you go to District Contests between the other Lodges in your District.

I remember when I went through the chairs the first time I would always find out who held the same chair in other Lodges and turn it into a friendly competition between us in addition to the team contest. Your Lodge and your officers stand a lot to gain by competing at the District besides making your initiation and better and more impressive ceremony.

Hopefully, I will see you at the State Ritual contest at the State Convention May 15, 2020, and you will see the friendly but aggressive competition I’m sure will be there.



TRAVERSE CITY ELKS LODGE #32

Club supports homeless veterans

Volunteers gathered at the Traverse City Elks Lodge #323 on Sunday, November 24 at 10:00 a.m. to put together more than 40 “welcome home” baskets for Veterans experiencing homelessness in northern Michigan. Organizer Joan Rowland, a member of the Elks who designated a grant she wrote and received to Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) in support of the veterans they serve through their Supportive Services for

Veteran Families program.

“The baskets are filled with cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products and additional items that will get a veteran started in a new apartment,” said Rowland. “It’s important that we support veterans and help them feel at home in their new place, she added.”

In addition, Elks Lodge volunteers assembled 100 Thanksgiving baskets for area needy families and toiletry bags for youth that The Salvation Army will

distribute during the holiday season. NMCAA Supportive Services for Veteran Families program assists veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness and help them locate housing, support them through their housing crisis and connect them to appropriate VA and community resources in northern Michigan.

For more information, contact Joan Rowland at 231-632-7711.



Funding for food pantry

South Haven Elks Lodge donated \$2,500 in grant money to the We Care Food Pantry which serves South Haven and surrounding areas. The picture attached shows James “Scotty” Mears who helped to fill holiday bags.

Lodge holds monthly euchre tournament

Port Huron Elks Lodge 343 held their monthly Club 343 Euchre Tournament on Saturday, March 7.

A great time was had by all in attendance with this event being open to Elk members and guest.

Proceeds from these events help fund many Elk charities throughout the year.

With the major focus and assistance going towards the Elks Veterans Blankets, our Lodge Easter Egg Hunt, the Lodge Special Needs and Children Christmas parties.

Club 343 Committee is chaired by Lodge Secretary, PER, Gregory C. & Susan Hudy.

Together with help of co-chairs Steven & Tammy Peters, Jeffrey & Lori Malinowski and other Elks members assisting this group has made our Club 343 one of our most profitable committees assisting local charities in our Lodge. The next Club 343 Euchre Tournament will be April 25. Save the date and bring your family and friends out to play some Euchre.

Call the Lodge at 982-8531 for details or if you have questions.



Pool tournament, other events featured

The annual Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 PER “King of the Hill” pool tournament, “horse” racing and Super Bowl party was once again a success. All totaled the PER Association brought in \$561.00 toward our PER scholarship fund with a pay out from those funds of \$190.00 to the tournament winners. 1st place Herb Falk, 2nd place Mike Easton, 3rd place Dennis “Santa” Handler & 4th place Tim Conroy. Thank you to PER Joe & Kay Barbe, Brenda Fritch & Jennifer Torres with handling the “Horse” Racing. Thank you to PER Bob Fritch & PER Scott R. Harris for handling the pool tournament with 32 members participating and keeping things moving along. Thank you to PER Greg Hudy for assisting where needed and Lodge member Mike Duncan for his donation of an additional \$20.00 to the PER association. Thank you to all who participated.

MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION

115th Annual Spring Convention

Kewadin Casino & Resort, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
May 14-17, 2020

Agenda and Program

AGENDA

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Ritual Practice.....5:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
Bruce Stark, Chairperson Spruce/Oak
Registration.....6:00p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Jeff Burke, Chairperson Waters Edge

Friday, May 15, 2020

Registration.....9:00a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Jeff Burke, Chairperson 2:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Waters Edge
Ritual Contest.....8:00a.m.-3:30p.m.
Bruce Stark, Chairperson Spruce/Oak
PSP Meeting 9:00 am - Noon
George Sermon, President Grand Island 1
DDGER Designate Meeting.....3:00pm-4:00pm
Ronald Hicks PGER Mackinaw Island
DDGER Meeting.....3:00pm-4:00pm
Join the DDGER Designate Meeting
Mackinaw Island
Board of Trustees Meeting.....8:00am-4:30 pm
Mike Bartolotta, Chairperson Grand Island 2
Major Project Commission Meeting
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Bob Antilla, Chairman Woodlands
Charitable Grant Fund Meeting
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Geno Grabinski, Chairman Neebish Island
Memorial Service 5:00 pm-6:00 pm
Spruce/Oak
MEAMember Hospitality Room.....8pm-11pm
Meet Old & New Friends Waters Edge

Saturday, May 16, 2020

Registration.....7:00 am - 9:00 am
Jeff Burke, Chairperson 2:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Waters Edge
Business Session.....8:00 am - 9:45 am
Chuck Oatten, President Dream Makers
Membership Seminar.....9:45-11:00am
Rick Gathen, GL Membership Dream Makers I
Installation of Officers.....11:00am
Dream Makers
Ladies' Breakfast.....Doors Open 8:30 am
Tina Deamud, Coordinator Breakfast 9:00 am
Birch-Cedar-Oak
PSP/Member's Luncheon 12:30 pm - 2:00pm
Birch-Cedar-Oak
PGER/Special Rep. Meetings 2:00pm-4:00pm
Ronald Hicks, PGER Mackinaw Island
Major Project Workshop .. 2:00pm-3pm
Diane Dusendang Exec Director...Grand Island II
Incoming DVP, DVC
& State Chairperson Meeting 2:30-3:30pm
Jerry Alexie 1s VP
James Rowland 2nd VP Grand Island I
President's Banquet.....Cocktails-6:00pm
& Ritual Awards Dinner - 6:30 pm
Howard Diehl, PSP Dream Makers
Business Session.....Following Dinner
Chuck Oatten, President Dream Makers

Sunday, May 17, 2020

State President Reception 8:00-11:00
Jerry & Stephanie Alexie Woodland

BUSINESS SESSION PROGRAM

Saturday, May 16, 2020

Call to Order 8:00 a.m sharp!
Chuck Oatten, President, Alma #1400
Introduction of Grand Lodge
Officers and Guests Pat Morgan
Sergeant-at-Arms, Dearborn #1945
Invocation..... Richard Gauthier
Chaplain, Traverse City #323
Pledge to the Flag James Rowland
2nd Vice President, Traverse City #323
Vocal Randy Boudreau
Soloist, Alma #1400
Organist Les Thornburg
Traverse City # 323
Bagpiper Rodney Woodring
Traverse City #323
Welcome Howard Diehl
Convention Director, Bay City # 88
Roll Call of Lodges Karen Cary
Secretary, Sturgis #1381
Roll Call of Officers
Introduction of
Past State President George Sermon
President-PSP, Tawas Area #2525
Introduction of
District Deputies Ronald Hicks, PGER
Michigan State Sponsor, Fredericksburg, VA #875
Introduction of
State Assoc Guests Chuck Oatten
Remarks President, Alma #1400
Secretary's Report/Communications..Karen Cary
Minutes of Previous Secretary, Sturgis #1381
Treasurer's Report
Keith Alverson, PSP
Treasurer, Howell #2168
President's Report Chuck Oatten
Alma #1400
1st Vice-President's Report .. Jerry Alexie
Warren-Sterling Heights #2292
2nd Vice-President's Report..James Rowland
Traverse City #323
Trustee's Report Mike Bartolotta
Chairman, Warren-Sterling Heights #2292
Major Project Commission ... Bob Antilla
Chairman, Ishpeming #447
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 Bob Devries
Holland #1315
2nd Vice President.....James Rowland
Call for reports from:
Americanism ... Jay Erickson, Chairman
Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325
Business Practice ... Dennis White, Chairman
Gaylo Dr #2544
Drug Awareness...Kathy Stratton, Chairperson
Ishpeming #447
Lodge Activities /
Star Lodge Award .. Jason Manke, Chairman
Albion #1798
Ritual Bruce Stark, Chairman
Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325
Youth Activities..Diana Armstrong, Chairperson
Pontac-Waterord #810
1st Vice-President Jerry Alexie
Warren-Sterling Heights #2292
Call for reports from:
Accident Prevention .. Al Perry , Chairman
Howell #2168
Adopt-A-Veteran Stewart Israel, Chair-
man
Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325
Hoop Shoot Lori Spelde, Chairman
Muskegon #274
Membership / Retention
Hugh Hall, Chairman
Traverse City #323
National Foundation..Brad Saegesser, Chairman
Tawas #2525
Natl Veterans Service..Robin Bailey, Chairperson
Holland #1315
Scholarship..Jack McClelland, Chairman
Bay City #88
Special Events/Community Welfare/
Organ Donor Program
Kimberly Deckard, Chairman
Pontiac-Waterford # 810
President Chuck Oatten.
Alma #1400
Call for reports from:
By- Law Chris Ferguson, Chairman
Rochester-North Oakland #2225
Government Relations ... Don Smith, Chairman
Battle Creek #131
Law Paul Robinson, Chairman
Flat Rock #1731

Public/Mbr Relations .. Brent Allen, Chairman
Traverse City #323
State Publication
Michigan Elks News ... Karen Cary, Publisher
Sturgis # 1381
Webmaster ... Bruce Stark, Chairman
Plymouth-Ann Arbor Lodge
Ellen Marckovich
Alma #1400
Resolutions .. Ed Graham, Chairman
Traverse City #323
Convention Howard Diehl, Chairman
Bay City #88
Registration Jeff Burke, Chairman
Gaylo Dr #2544
Unfinished Business
New Business
Election of Officers - Nomination State
Secretary - Vote
Good of the Order
Installation of Officers ,
Suspension of Meeting
Benediction Richard Gauthier Chaplain
Traverse City #323
Adjournment
Member Luncheon ... Birch/Cedar/Oak
Saturday Breakout Sessions ...
Grand Island II
President's Banquet Dream Makers
Following Dinner/Guest Remarks
Call to Order Chuck Oatten
President, Alma #1400
Ritual (Final Report) Bruce Stark
Chairman, Plymouth-Ann Arbor #323
President's Remarks Jim Rowland
2nd Vice President, Traverse City #323
Jerry Alexie
1st Vice-President, Warren-Sterling Heights #2292
Chuck Oatten
President, Alma #1400
Closing Jerry Alexie
President, Warren-Sterling Heights #2292
Benediction

LODGE NEWS



PORT HURON LODGE #343

Special needs Christmas party

Port Huron Elk Lodge #343 held its annual Special Needs Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8th from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

We were able to host eight group homes and entertain over 60 clients and support staff with music, dancing, beverages, snacks, pizza and cake all while waiting for Santa and his helpers to arrive to hand out early Christmas

presents. Long time Lodge #343 member David Crimmins

Santa paid a special visit to those in attendance with support from his helpers Kaylee Harris ("Jingles"), Daniel J. Moore, Caroline Moore and Liberty Proctor. Elk #343 member Sandy Korich provided the committee a great deal on his Jets pizzas while Kevin

Batchelder provided the Christmas music. Event Hosts Butch & Judy Hills and David & Rose Howard, Committee Co-Chairs were assisted by Otis Watson, Jeffrey & Lori Malinowski and PER, Scott R. Harris. This annual event was once again a huge success and enjoyed by all in attendance. Next year's event will take place on Sunday, December 13, 2020.



Bowling tournament

Charlevoix Elks Lodge #2856 had a good turnout for its inaugural "Northern MI Bowling Tournament." Bowling took place at BC Lanes in Boyne City and prime rib dinner was at the lodge in Charlevoix. A total of 16 teams participated. Bowlers from Lapeer, Dearborn, Alma, Albion, Flatrock and, of course, Charlevoix. Members had a great time and the lodge hopes to draw more bowlers every year.



Food basket drive

Port Huron Elk Lodge #343 participated in its annual PER Christmas Food Baskets for those in need program on December 21st. The PER association was able to deliver and provide (32) baskets to (3) different Church groups, and (10) private residences in St. Clair County. Many Lodge #343 Elk members assisted in this annual program by donating turkey, ham, potatoes, bread, cooking needs, canned goods, dry goods, beverages and monetary donations in helping the PER's assist those in need. All local families and groups were extremely appreciative while receiving the food baskets.



Special initiation

Copper Country Elks #404 had a special initiation March 13. Three of the five new members were a grandmother, daughter and grandson. Since April 1, 2019, the lodge has 20 new members.

Freedom of speech essay winners

Lapeer Area Lodge #2567 had 37 students submit their essays on "What Freedom of Speech Means to Me." The winners were awarded monetary prizes from our Lodge and their essays will move on to the State and hopefully national levels. Americanism Essay Winners: (Jo Grossbauer/Chairman), Albanie McKenzie, Breanna Garcia, Xane Clemens and Will Anderson. Not pictured: Sophia Lyons and Ireland Doyle.

