



## FARMINGTON ELKS LODGE #1765

### Lodge donates toward distance learning

Beech Elementary School (Redford Union District) is the benefactor of one \$2000 grant from the

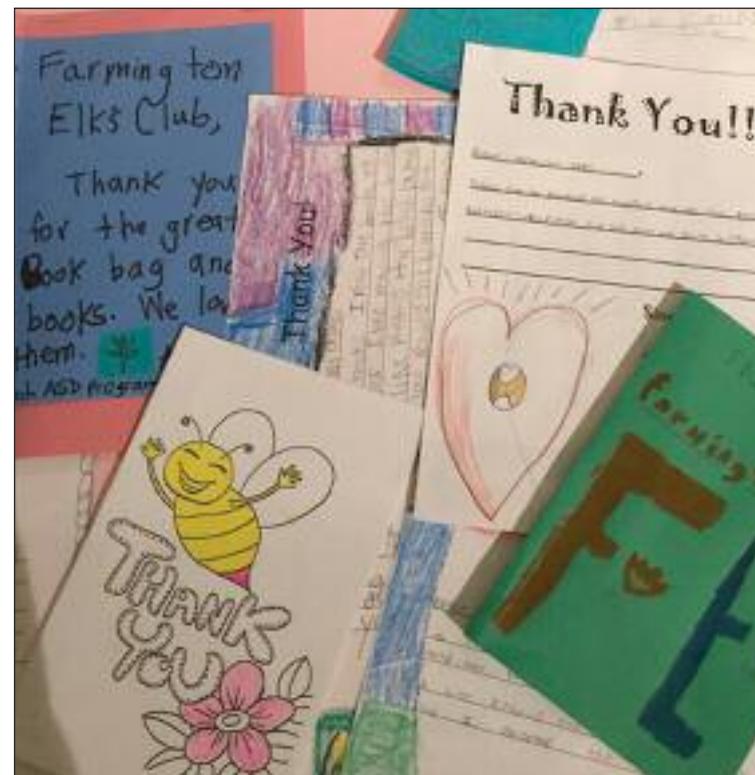
Farmington Elks Organization to give their students access to equipment in order to engage in distance learning. In addition, the Redford Union School District provides 'Mobile Math Kits' to the students at Beech Elementary. These kits contain learning aides such as: counting beads, dice, variously shaped tiles and measuring tools for at home learning

Last year, Farmington Elks received a similar grant and purchased books needed by the Beech

Elementary students in order to help students engage in learning through reading! Appreciative students made Thank You notes which were sent to the Farmington Elks.

The Volunteers of America (VOA) is the beneficiary of the second \$2000 Spotlight Grant. The funds will be used to assist veterans in getting needed furniture and household goods when moving from temporary to permanent housing. The grant should assist 3 veterans in this effort.

Members of the Farmington Elks will accompany a member of the VOA staff in selecting the items at the Fifth Avenue Furniture location in Detroit. The store is partnering with the



VOA and the Farmington Elks in an effort to maximize the funds and show gratitude to our veterans.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a 152-year-old organization founded for the purpose of serving the people in the local community.

Farmington Elks has been active in many ways in the community providing Thanksgiving and Christmas

family food baskets, Christmas gifts for local families and providing scholarships to two local high school seniors aspiring to attend college, for example. Further information about the National organization is available at Elks.org and for the Farmington Elks at [elks1986.weebly.com](http://elks1986.weebly.com).

For further information about the Farmington Elks and their community involvement call 248-476-1986.

## NEGAUNEE ELKS LODGE #1116

### Lodge cooks throughout summer

Because of COVID-19, Negaunee Lodge missed their usual April and May Pasty sales. To catch up on our charitable works the decision was made to hold one a month throughout the summer.

With the proceeds we raised \$452 for the Negaunee City Firemen and \$1,144 for the Negaunee Township firemen. We

also donated \$900 worth of pasty in 3 months to our local St. Vincent DePaul to feed needy families in our area. Negaunee is using \$1,000 of their Beacon Grant to buy supplies to make \$3,000 worth of pasty meals to be donated to St. Vincent over a 10 month period. Pictured is the bulk of our Pasty Crew. We would give you names but they are all wearing masks!

## INSIDE

News and Notes

2

Officer messages

3

Grand Lodge

4-6

State News

6-11

Lodge News

12



Honors for Patriotism Week

12



68838 Broadus, Suite A  
Sturgis, MI 49091

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

## NEWS AND NOTES



### Three membership campaigns launched

Check out the new sharable recruitment campaigns, which target young and diverse Americans. This is the first phase of three recruitment campaigns coming in 2020. It features a new recruitment website, videos, sharable artwork, and a sharable platform for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram that are easy and fun to use.

Help us grow by sharing these social media posts. These shareables are focused on attracting younger Members. Direct your friends to [join.elks.org](http://join.elks.org) to sign up for membership.

We have three campaigns: "New Generation of Elks," "Join The Herd," and "Charity with Friends for Those We Love."

For more information on the new campaigns, visit [virtualmanuals.elks.org/social-shareables/](http://virtualmanuals.elks.org/social-shareables/)

— Rick Gathen, PR and Membership Marketing Manager

### Calling all writers!

Writers in the 5th through 8th grades are invited to enter the Americanism Essay Contest. The Elks national organization and the Farmington Elks are sponsoring this contest focusing on the core theme, 'How Can Patriotism be Demonstrated.' Essays are not to exceed 300 words in length and must be written by the student. The deadline for submitting essays is December 15, 2020.

Plaques for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place will be awarded for national winning essays. Eligible students can access contest information and instructions regarding submitting the essay at [elks.org/Americanism Essay Contest](http://elks.org/Americanism-Essay-Contest).

### 'Most Valuable Student' applications accepted

The 2021 Most Valuable Student scholarship contest is now accepting applications from high school seniors who are U.S. Citizens. The Elks National Foundation (ENF) is proud to invest \$4.2 million for this opportunity and will be judging applicants on academics, leadership, service and financial need.

The 500 national winners will be announced in April 2021, after the top 20 finalists participate in the Leadership Weekend and interview for the top awards. The ENF will award 20 top scholarships ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000. The remaining 480 runners-up will receive \$4,000 scholarships. ENF has been awarding these life-changing scholarships since 1931. The application is completed online and must be submitted by the November 15, 2020 deadline.

Applications and details for the 2021 contest are available on the Elks National Foundation's website [elks.org/scholars](http://elks.org/scholars) or [enf.elks.org/MVS](http://enf.elks.org/MVS)

### Financial assistance available for worthy, needy Elks Members

Needy Members can qualify for up to \$1,000 of assistance from the Order under Section 5.070 of the Grand Lodge Statutes.

The assistance would be available to "worthy and needy Members of the Order who are suffering from diseases of an incurable character or from total disability, and who are without funds or property or relatives able or willing to care for them," the Statute states.

The Statute also provides that the Lodge of the assisted Member "shall contribute toward the relief of the Member an amount not less than one-half of the sum that is contributed by the Order."

The assistance program is administered by the Board of Grand Trustees, which is authorized to appropriate up to \$10,000 annually for the program. The board by resolution may give the Grand Exalted Ruler up to \$1,000 so that authorized payments may be made regularly by him. "The monies so appropriated shall be administered by the Grand Exalted Ruler with the consent of a majority of the Board of Grand Trustees," the Statute states.

— Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary

### Blood drives scheduled

Port Huron Elks Lodge #343: The 20th Consecutive Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020, noon to 6:00 pm.

The 21st Consecutive Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, November 16, noon-6 p.m.

The 22nd Consecutive Blood Drive has been scheduled for Thursday, December 17, noon-6 p.m.

Promote your lodge activities on your Michigan Elks webpage, [MIElks.org](http://MIElks.org).  
Send your monthly newsletters to [webmaster@mielks.org](mailto:webmaster@mielks.org).

### State officers President

Jerry Alexie (Stephanie)  
32980 Redbud Pkwy  
Chesterfield, MI 48047  
Home: 586-725-5567  
Cell: 586-915-8104  
E-mail: [sp@mielks.org](mailto:sp@mielks.org)  
Warren-Sterling Heights Lodge #2292

### First Vice-President

Jim Rowland (Joan)  
19395 Whispering Trail  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
Cell: 231-218-5390  
E-mail: [1vp@mielks.org](mailto:1vp@mielks.org)  
Traverse City Lodge #323

### Second Vice-President

David Sladek (Pam)  
57140 Mine St.  
Cell: 906-369-9353  
Calumet, MI 49913  
E-mail: [2vp@mielks.org](mailto:2vp@mielks.org)  
Copper Country Lodge #404

### Secretary

Karen Cary (Mark)  
69410 St. Joseph Road  
Burr Oak, MI 49030  
Cell: 269-358-0838  
Office: 269-651-5858  
E-mail: [secretary@mielks.org](mailto:secretary@mielks.org)  
Sturgis Lodge #1381  
Mail: MEA State Secretary,  
PO Box 793, Sturgis, MI 49091

### Treasurer

Keith E. Alverson  
403 Cumberland #304  
Howell, MI 48855  
Cell: 810-623-2439  
E-mail: [treasurer@mielks.org](mailto:treasurer@mielks.org)  
Howell Lodge #2168

### Chaplain

Richard Gauthier (Wendy)  
10545 S. Walnut Dr.  
Traverse City, MI. 49684  
Cell: 231-642-0207  
[chaplain@mielks.org](mailto:chaplain@mielks.org)  
Traverse City Lodge #323

### Sergeant at Arms

Mike Thibo (Candie)  
6436 E. Maple Ave  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
Home: 810-715-4453  
E-Mail: [mthibo@aol.com](mailto:mthibo@aol.com)  
[dvcne@mielks.org](mailto:dvcne@mielks.org)  
Flint Lodge #222

### Tiler

Barbara Dotson  
717 Bailey Ave.  
South Haven, MI 49090  
Cell: 269-944-9509  
Email: [bdotson@entergy.com](mailto:bdotson@entergy.com)  
[tiler@mielks.org](mailto:tiler@mielks.org)  
South Haven Lodge #1509

## Get Published in the Michigan Elks News!



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

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

**Deadlines for submissions:** March 15 for April publication; June 15 for July publication; Sept. 15 for October publication; Dec. 15 for January publication

## STATE OFFICER MESSAGES

**JERRY ALEXIE**

President

# Try to remain positive

Can you believe how much has changed since COVID-19 hit Michigan nearly six months ago. Although things are not going the way we had envisioned, we are trying to stay positive and make the most of it. I would like to thank all the Michigan Elks Lodges, ER's and members who have stepped up during these unprecedented and challenging times. It doesn't go unnoticed and we are grateful for so many of you who have had to think outside the box to make it happen. Many lodges have had carry-out dinners, food drives, gift card distribution and so much more. With every story I hear, I become more proud of our Lodges in Michigan.

Stephanie and I have been very busy traveling just about every weekend and have already had the opportunity to visit 35 Lodges. Unfortunately, all the Gold Key

golf outings were cancelled this year but we were still able to play a few rounds of golf that were put together by some of the Lodges. It has been a pleasure visiting everyone this year so far and have been welcomed with open arms. Our goal is to try and make it to all 52 Lodges across our beautiful state. I will continue to update my MI Elks State President Facebook page as to where we are headed.

It has been quite a challenge getting all three presidents together at the same time with the many cancelled programs but we have managed to visit a few Lodges together. We all made it to Traverse City where I was honored to throw out the first pitch at the Pit Spitters baseball game. Thanks to Exalted Ruler Richard Gauthier of Traverse City for making that happen. Although the ball barely grazed the plate, it sure was a memorable time.

We have to address our Membership dilemma. As of September 2, we have 19,317 members in Michigan with 2,876 being delinquent. Every year we lose more and more. If your Lodge has not done so already, each needs to put a team together to address this situation. By now you should have sent out notices, called the delinquent members, invited them to come in and discuss their membership but most importantly, remind them of the good work we do. Elks Care Elks Share. In order to continue to be on mission, we all need to do our part to value membership and gets these dues paid.

The District Vice Presidents and District Vice Chairman are beginning their Lodge visitations. Please welcome them into your Lodge as graciously as you have welcomed Stephanie and I. Please cooperate with their questions and have their paperwork filled

out ahead of time. They are coming as the President's eyes and ears and to help fix problems before they spiral into something that can't be fixed, which has unfortunately happened in the past. The information we receive from them is vital, so I urge you to be honest when answering their questions.

In closing, I am sorry we had to cancel our fall convention in Kalamazoo but we couldn't guarantee the participation. The convention would cost the association many dollars paid to the Hotel in penalties. The advisory board decided to cancel but we are still having a Business Meeting at the Soaring Eagle Casino on October 17th at 11 am to take care of business.

We have only seven short months before our Lodge year will be over. I am confident that in 2021 we can start fresh. I am proud to be an Elk and even prouder to be a Michigan Elk!

**JAMES ROWLAND**

1st Vice President

# Commending all our lodges

As we continue to work through closures and reopening, I would like to commend all of our Lodges for hanging in there and working their way through this troubled time. We have been able to visit a number of Lodges over the last month and are looking forward to hitting many more. It has been interesting to see how each Lodge has handled distancing and safety.

I would like to thank the State Committee Chairs that have reached out to their respective district chairs via Zoom, our community and Lodge endeavors continue in spite of the Covid setbacks. Remember our Veterans that are in homes, send them a card. We still have kids with special needs attending virtual camps, support Major Project. As colleges reopen the Charitable Grant "Gold Key" Commission continues to

back kids with continued education, donate. If any Committee Chairs have yet to reach out, get on it!

Congratulations to Ferndale #1588 for reaching All American Status, keep up the good work.

Even though we are not going to Kalamazoo for a week-end Convention, we are going to Soaring Eagle for a Saturday afternoon business session. If you are part

of the group that needs to attend for you Lodge, please do. We will be voting on State Secretary and officially installing the State Officers. We will also be voting on accepting some minor changes to the State By Laws. Check in will be at 11 am with the session beginning at 12 noon. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

Stay safe, WASH YOUR HANDS AND DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE.

**DAVID SLADEK**

2nd Vice President

# Many accolades to extend

It has been an interesting summer. First I would like to commend the Ferndale Lodge for their animal, air costume parades through their town. And for making top honors in the Elks Magazine, great job. I am sure you brought smiles to all those that saw you.

Pam and I made it to the Charlevoix

lodge along with Jerry /Stephanie and Jim /Joan. We had some of their famous hamburgers, and watched the Queen of hearts drawing.

They have a fantastic new location for many years of growth. We then went to the Traverse City Lodge Golf outing, what an experience, first time using a golf club to actually hit a ball.

Sorry for my teammate Stan who had to put up with my tree shots and barely getting the ball close to the hole. It was fun. I could not believe the turnout for this event, 25th year too.

Pam had a fun time helping at the air gun booth.

The Lodge provided some good hospitality after the golf outing. We met a

lot of good Elks. The next day we were treated to a Baseball game. TC pit spitters, good time had by all. We even had the furry mascot come over for pictures.

Next up is our again scheduled state meeting in October. Hope to see all of you again.

Working Together We Can Make A Difference.

GRAND LODGE



**PAUL RYAN**

Grand Exalted Ruler

# Half is good... with parts of the budget

Is your Lodge only doing half with income? Well, it might be good but could be better. Is half where your expenses are? If it is, that is good, but less is better. This is the month where half is a target for your budget, but for everything else it is always good to give 100%.

I know it is hard to believe, but now is the time to take a serious look at your budget. I know the new Financial Reporting System (FRS) is informing your District Deputies and State Sponsors of what is happening, but it is you as a Lodge Member who should be looking at your budget and realize that your budget percentage should be at 50%.

Is something in your budget out of whack? Are you running way higher than 50%? Then your Board of Trustees/Directors should take a serious look at the budget and figure out what to do to make sure that it gets back in line, or how you will make it through the rest of the year.

Now, if you are one of the Lodges that rely on your accountant to be doing this for you, then put someone in charge to have a conversation with your accountant and report back to the Lodge or your accountant.

So where is it good to give 100%? Membership! This year's GER Class should be based on the motto, Creating Momentum for the Future of Elkdom. Get out there and recruit Members. But, recruit with the following things in mind:

- 1) The future of Elkdom relies on the age of our Members.
- 2) The future of Elkdom relies on future leaders.
- 3) The future of Elkdom relies on volunteers.
- 4) The future of Elkdom is dependent on us to create new and future Members. Give 100% to the best GER Class ever.

Another place to give 100%: ENF. This is

ENF Month and with the raise in the amount of my goal to \$4.80, this is a great time to give 100%. How about giving 100% more than you did last year? This is the year to have an event for ENF in order to recruit Members to become a part of the Fidelity Club. This is a club where a monthly donation is given to ENF. See how many Members are in your Lodge and then plan on doubling it—That is giving 100%.

This is the time for the Americanism Essay Contest. This year my goal is to get the Elks Magazine to publish the two winning essays. I've had many years of pressure from a Member in my state and I hope to achieve it for him. The student that writes it deserves the recognition, and we deserve to be able to read the winners.

Don't forget that Red Ribbon week is October 23-31. And now is the time to prepare for all of your veterans activities for

the month of November. Lastly, our Hoop Shoot programs should now be ramping up and getting prepared for ENF in order to recruit Members to become a part of the Fidelity Club. This is a club where a monthly donation is given to ENF. See how many Members are in your Lodge and then plan on doubling it—That is giving 100%. This is the time for the Americanism Essay Contest. This year my goal is to get the Elks Magazine to publish the two winning essays. I've had many years of pressure from a Member in my state and I hope to achieve it for him. The student that writes it deserves the recognition, and we deserve to be able to read the winners. Don't forget that Red Ribbon week is October 23-31. And now is the time to prepare for all of your veterans activities for the month of November. Lastly, our Hoop Shoot programs should now be ramping up and getting prepared.

## BIOGRAPHY OF PAUL R. RYAN GRAND EXALTED RULER 2020-2021

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A. Paul R. Ryan was born in Elgin, Ill., and moved to Minnesota as an infant.

Over the years he has resided in Redwood Falls, Spicer and New London, his current home.

Paul graduated from New London Spicer High School and attended Southwest Minnesota State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree with a business management emphasis.

Paul has been a dedicated Member of our Fraternal Order since 2004, when he joined Willmar (Minn.) Lodge No. 952. He served on the Board of Directors for 11 years and was chairman from 2009 to 2018. He served as Esteemed Leading Knight on three different occasions in 2010, 2017 and 2018, and served as Exalted Ruler in 2011. He received the Dedicated Service Award in 2009 and was named Officer of the Year in 2010. He received the Exalted Ruler Appreciation Award for Outstanding Service and Dedication in 2017 and 2018. He earned All State American Ritual honors for Leading Knight, helping his Lodge win the Minnesota State Ritual contest. He participated in the National Ritual contest at the Grand Lodge Convention in 2011. Paul has also been on his Lodge's Penny-A-Day program committee and was chairman from 2017 to 2019.

Until being installed as GER, Paul served as his Lodge's chairman of the PER committee and served the Minnesota Elks State Association on the Laws and Resolutions committee. He has served on his Lodge's Hoop Shoot committee, and for the last few years was its chairman.

Paul has been distinguished by his Lodge as an "Honorary Lifetime Member." He was installed by his State Sponsor Dwayne E. Rumney for his first term as District Deputy in 2012 when the current District Deputy could not fulfill the term. He finished that year under Grand Exalted Ruler Thomas Brazier and was installed into a second term by GER Millard Pickering. In 2015, Paul's sponsor approached him about being nominated to the Board of Grand Trustees. It was an honor that brought him to his current position.

Paul has taken a vested interest in many aspects of the organization.

He participated on a national ritual team and in the national ritual contest. He also won the state contest (before it became a national contest) with his rendition of the 11 A' Clock Toast. He has taken part in many Disabled American Veterans deer and turkey hunts.

Paul has been a Realtor for 25 years. He assisted with running his father's company until recently, when he purchased it from his father.

He participated as a member of his community's version of a chamber of commerce, where he was in charge of the city's community celebration. For many years, he also served as the group's treasurer and president. Paul has sat on many committees for the local Realtor Association and was a chair of one of those committees. He joined the local board of directors, serving intermittently over 17 years, and was the president of the local Association of Realtors for a year. After his stint as president he served on his state's Realtor Association for two terms, but then decided to focus his efforts on the Elks.

Paul and his wife Stacey have been friends since 1987. Paul, Stacey, and her son Jordan became a family in 2003. They have since been blessed with two more children, Cassaundra (16) and Jackson (13). Paul enjoys many pastimes, including golf, ice fishing, and boating. He loves nearly all film genres. Stacey and Paul share a passion of football and they support the Minnesota Vikings.



## GRAND LODGE

ENF

## ENF phases in grant year

Every year on April 1, Lodges eagerly apply for Elks National Foundation Community Investments Program grants. On April 1 this year, the pandemic was unfolding across the country, making grant projects—and planning for the future of them—virtually impossible.

The CIP wasn't exempt from uncertainty, challenge, and change. Instead of opening applications for all five CIP grants on April 1, only Gratitude Grants were available to eligible Lodges.

Lodges stepped up across the country by donating their Gratitude Grant funds to organizations working on the front line of the pandemic. Those funds helped meet the most pressing needs across the country, especially food insecurity.

On June 1, the ENF opened the application for the Spotlight Grant. Lodges had the option to donate the funds directly to an organization equipped to serve populations in need affected by the pandemic.

On August 1, the Beacon Grant application launched. Available to every Lodge, the Beacon Grants increased to \$3,500—a 40 percent increase over last year—and the funds could be donated.

West Palm Beach, FL Lodge No. 1352 was able to carry out their Beacon Grant ENF phases in grant year project this year. The Lodge maintains and supports the Loaves and Fishes community garden. The garden supplies organic produce for schoolchildren in the after-care programs the Lodge partners with—more than 70 percent of whom live at or below the poverty level—and four soup kitchens in their community.

Since the pandemic began, Lodge Members adapted the project to include mask requirements and social distancing in the garden space. Their hope is to increase production to meet growing needs in their community related to the pandemic.

Through Beacon Grants, the Elks National Foundation gives Lodges the opportunity to develop an ongoing, charitable, Elks-driven community project. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lodges are able to donate Beacon Grant funds this year. These \$3,500 grants are available to all Lodges. To find out more about Beacon Grants and the Community Investments Program, visit [enf.elks.org/BeaconGrants](http://enf.elks.org/BeaconGrants).

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## A tough question could lead to more good Elks

By Daniel J. Capella  
Committee Member

Throughout our history, Americans have experienced wars of many types: Revolutionary, 1812, Civil, World (I and II), Korean, Vietnam, Cold, Trade, and others. We have endured the 1918 pandemic, recessions, the Depression, strikes, assassinations, poverty and concerns relative to civil liberties, and child labor, plus other life changing conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for all of us to the point where our resolve has been truly tested. Perhaps because of our living situation, frustrations at work, the lack of employment, overall financial status, the need for social contact, or especially our health and the health of family and friends, we have had to endure difficulties we never thought possible.

Fact is, despite the many tragic realities that our country has faced since our inception, America has emerged as, and has continued to be, a world power and the leader of the Free World. This includes our being at the forefront of science, medicine, and so many other discoveries and breakthroughs. Even with our difficulties, America remains a great country, just as the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been, and continues to be, a great organization of which each of us can be very proud.

Elkdom has been in existence for over a century and a half. During that time, our Lodges have provided millions upon A tough question could lead to more good Elks millions of dollars to residents of our cities, towns, and villages in the form of activities, scholarships, and donations to worthy causes that seek to help those in need and those who are suffering from illness. We value and remember our veterans and make donations to hundreds of organizations to assist those groups in carrying out their own objectives and programs. We stand ready to donate time and effort to our communities wherever or however it is needed. We provide space for blood drives, elections, and to groups with lesser means for their own purposes. Elks take the lead in patriotic programs such as Flag Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. In many ways, our Elks Lodges are the backbone of many American communities.

What we continue to accomplish within our communities and across the nation makes it rewarding to belong to the B.P.O.E. Yet, if we enjoy the Elks and are proud of our record of service to our communities, why is it that our membership numbers are not where they once were? That begs the question, when was the last time you sponsored a friend, a coworker, or a relative for membership in our Order? For any organization to prosper and make an impression upon society, it is necessary to expand its membership.

Granted, many individuals do not feel comfortable asking others to join a club or association. We may feel it is some sort of an intrusion, especially since it involves the cost of initiation and dues. Some do not want to take the chance that the individual they sponsor will not be acceptable to the rest of the membership. Whatever the reason, it is presumptuous for us to make this type of determination, because it prevents our prospective candidate from having a chance to join. Who knows, our choice could very well become an excellent Elk who fulfills the spirit and responsibilities of being an Elk. In other words, a good Elk.

If our Lodges are going to survive, it is imperative that we build our membership. Much good work has been accomplished in recent years but there is so much more to be done. Let those whom you know, or work with, or are related to, receive the opportunity to become a Member of our great organization. Let them experience the enjoyment and pride of Elkdom. Just ask the question, "Would you like to become an Elk?"

FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

## All American Lodges get attention, earn respect

By James Stewart  
Committee Member

Is your community aware of the great deeds your Lodge does to promote charity and support our veterans? Do they know about our youth programs offered through Hoop Shoot, scholarships, etc.? The best way to answer these questions is to participate in the Contest "A" – All American Lodge Contest! This year's contest form has been revised and the due date has been extended by two weeks – April 1, 2021.

The application is only one page. Points really add up when you participate in the numerous programs of our Order. Point values range from 5 to 100 and are easily attained. The form has been redesigned this year to address more programs and activities performed by the Lodge throughout the Lodge year. It is a great way to measure the success of your Lodge and to compete against other Lodges in your membership division. The contest is designed to let your Lodge shine and All American Lodges get attention, earn respect Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee receive the recognition so deserved of your Members' hard work all year long!

Letters are distributed to Exalted Rulers, District Deputies, and State Association Lodge Activities Chairs introducing them to the contest and explaining their duties. Contest applications must be signed by the Exalted Ruler and Secretary prior to sending to the District Deputy by the deadline date of April 1, 2021. The District Deputy will score district submissions and forward the winners in each membership division to the State Lodge Activities Chair, who will select the top three state winners in each membership division and forward them for national judging.

Does your Lodge participate in the Americanism Contest, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness, CIP grants, Flag Day, and Mother's Day, just to name a few? All of these qualify for entry into the contest!

The contest is grouped into six membership divisions and first, second, and third place winners in each division are recognized. Recipients are announced at the Grand Lodge Convention.

For more information, go to [elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/default.cfm](http://elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/default.cfm)

All American Lodge Contest administrator:

JAMES STEWART  
1157 Old Crellin Road  
Oakland, MD 21550-3044  
[jimstewart11@verizon.net](mailto:jimstewart11@verizon.net)

## GRAND LODGE

## VETERANS

# Volunteers step up when Stand Downs are nixed

By Hannah Graber

ENVSC Programs Coordinator

Elks are always ready to serve veterans in their communities. For Elks volunteers who are used to being involved in veteran activities regularly, it has been difficult to stay home while facilities are closed to visitors and events have been canceled.

Stand Downs, often one of the year's main events where veterans gather to access resources, have been cancelled or postponed all over the country. But just because large gatherings can't be held doesn't mean Elks can't help. As an alternative way to distribute much-needed items that veterans would access at a Stand Down, some Lodges are putting together kits of survival items, clothing, or packages of food to distribute to veterans in their community.

Your Lodge can start a similar project by contacting the VA or other organizations that were involved in organizing a cancelled Stand Down to come up with ways to reach the veterans who need these supplies. You may be able to distribute through a central pickup location like a food bank or a clinic where veterans will visit for medical appointments. Or, find places near veteran residences where Elks could drop off items for distribution.

Some activities may still be possible if they can be done outdoors. Voluntary

Service Reps for ENVSC have reported holding brief meetings with their facility's Volunteer Coordinators in the parking lot. Some volunteers have created vegetable and flower gardens or improved recreation equipment for veterans at residential facilities. Others have provided bird feeders and seed for veterans to enjoy nature from indoors. Letter writing isn't always popular these days when we have faster ways to communicate. Now could be a great time to slow down and give more traditional forms of communication a try again. Many veterans in hospitals or nursing homes appreciate receiving mail when they can't receive visitors.

If you'd rather stick with newer technology, you may consider providing iPads, laptops, or phones for veterans who can only see their friends and family through video communication. Enabling electronic communication can also give veterans a way to stay in touch with their health care provider when an in-person visit is not necessary. Video calls can also be a great way for Elks volunteers to stay in touch with the veterans they're used to visiting.

With a little bit of planning you may come up with even better ways to serve your community's veterans. Who knows, maybe you'll discover something that your Lodge will continue even after things get back to normal.

## DRUG AWARENESS

# Elks DAP is Zooming along

By William J. Bryan

Assistant National Director

After a very successful on-line training for Elks Drug Awareness Program State Chairs, the directors of the program have decided that virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic are the way to go.

While the CDC and various states are working to reopen, the work of the DAP needs to continue. According to National Director, Kent Gade: "The DAP has always been on the cutting edge of technology and recent events have made it necessary for us to communicate now more than ever."

Gade said that he and Frank Burr, Tim Jaeger, and Bill Bryan have established Zoom accounts and meet on a weekly

basis. "Communications has always been the key to our success and now with Zoom we can have regular discussions with our State Chairs, their District Chairs, and even Lodge Chairs."

He further advised that the DAP is putting together programs for District Deputies as well. "The virus has changed a great deal of things, but we have decided that it is not going to change our mission," Gade said.

In other news, the DAP has been very busy creating virtual lesson plans for teachers to use in school regarding drug and alcohol education. A manual is being produced to assist teachers and Elks for how to use this newly developed program. Many thanks to Elks Members Donna and John McEntire for working on the manual. Keep an eye on this spot for a rollout announcement.

## STATE NEWS

# ENF Throw Down Challenge to MEA Leadership

By Brad Saegesser

MEA ENF State Chairperson

The mission of the 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. Our new Grand Exalted Ruler, Paul Ryan from Minnesota, has set the Elks National Foundation per-member giving goal for 2020-21 at \$4.80, up just one nickel from last year. As of September 7, 2020, Michigan is at \$2.34, based on \$44,395 in donations to the ENF. Unfortunately, this is down \$9,434 from the same time last year, but we still have plenty of time left in the 2020-21 Elks fiscal year to make up the deficit.

Congratulations to the following eight Lodges that have already exceeded the GER's goal of \$4.80 per-member giving and another six that are within shouting distance:

1. Muskegon Lodge #274 – \$8.84
2. Bay City Lodge #88 – \$6.42
3. Lapeer Area Lodge #2567 – \$6.17
4. Dowagiac Lodge #889 – \$6.06
5. Livonia Lodge #2246 – \$5.87
6. Mount Clemens Lodge #2124 – \$5.32
7. Port Huron Lodge #343 – \$5.08
8. Ishpeming Lodge #447 – \$4.93
9. Allen Park Lodge #2194

– \$4.73

10. Tawas Area Lodge #2525 – \$4.59

11. Ferndale Lodge #1588 – \$4.56

12. Negaunee Lodge #1116 – \$4.36

13. Sault Ste. Marie Lodge #552 – \$4.22

14. Manistee Lodge #250 – \$4.15

I am issuing a Throw Down Challenge to the leadership of the Michigan Elks Association. If your name is listed in the State Directory for the 2020-21 Elks fiscal year, I am challenging you to raise at least \$100 for the ENF. You can do that by donating \$100 yourself or by donating \$10 and getting nine other Elks to donate \$10 each. Ideally, if you encourage other Elks to donate to the ENF, you are getting new donors – Elks that have never donated to the ENF before. Last year, only 17% of the members of the Michigan Elks Association donated to the ENF, so there are lots of potential new donors out there. As leaders in the MEA, we need to get the word out and encourage all members to help Elks build stronger communities.

I often hear from Elks that the ENF already has enough money, so why should I donate. My response is that a donation to the ENF provides one of the best returns on investment that you can find anywhere. During the 2019-2020 Elks fiscal year, for every \$1 donated to the ENF by a Michigan Elk, the state of Michigan got back \$4.21 from the ENF. That is a 321% ROI. I challenge anyone to find a better way to invest in your community.

(<https://www.elks.org/ENF/YourState.cfm>)

Donating to the ENF is easy. Just go on-line at <http://www.elks.org/ENF/supportENF.cfm> to make a one-time donation. Or, better yet,

join the ENF Fidelity Club by signing up to make an automatic monthly donation of just \$5 a month. The ENF can automatically debit a donor's bank account or charge a credit card on a recurring basis for a set donation amount. There are no checks to write or coupons to mail. It is safe, reliable, and allows the ENF to spend less time on administration and more time on our charitable mission. Save time, stamps and even check charges by joining the ENF Fidelity Club today.

On March 31, 2021, the ENF will be making the biggest change to their cumulative recognition program since 2001. On that day, the ENF will discontinue the three cumulative recognition levels below \$1,000: Participating Member (\$100), Sustaining Member (\$250), and Distinguished Member (\$500).

With the rising cost of postage and materials, it now costs the ENF more than \$6.25 for each pin mailed, and that does not include staff processing time. Many donors achieve these levels with a gift of \$10. Consider that the Participating Member program began in the 1930's. A \$100 donation in 1935 is equivalent to a \$1,875 donation today. It simply does not make sense for the ENF to continue recognizing cumulative giving at these levels.

Donors who wish to attain one of these levels will have until March 31, 2021, to do so. In Spring 2021, the ENF will mail recognition for these levels for the last time, with each qualifying donor receiving a pin for the highest level attained. For more information about the ENF's Individual Recognition Programs, please visit <https://www.elks.org/ENF/IndividualPrograms.cfm>.

## STATE NEWS

## AMERICANISM

## Time to keep momentum going forward

By **Jeremy Smolka**  
MEA State Chair

Our State Americanism efforts are moving forward. All members, districts, and lodges can now access the 2020-2021 essay contest and flag flying certificates on the MI Elks website. The 2020-2021 coloring contest coloring sheet will also be added to the site soon. Since Fall Convention was canceled, this will allow lodges across the State to print these out and distribute them to contestants in their areas. The Flag Flying Certificates are to be distributed to businesses in your areas that are flying flags properly. When distributing them, don't forget your camera. What a great way to show your communities that, even in these trying times, you're still involved. As we head into Fall, I hope all lodges across the State were able to let the Police, Fire Departments, EMT's, and 911 operators know that we support them on Patriot's Day.

Let's take a minute to talk about Heritage Corners. These corners are small areas set aside in permanent tribute to our basic freedoms. Items to be displayed and more information on Heritage Corners can also be found on the MI Elks website in the Americanism Manual. One of our goals this year is to have every lodge State wide establish a Heritage Corner. Please speak with your lodge's Americanism Committee about setting up a Heritage Corner in your lodge. I know our State President would love to see a Heritage Corner in your lodge if he steps in to visit.

I hope you all have a great Fall enjoying pumpkins, cider/donuts, falling leaves, and a warm campfire with family and great friends.

Best wishes and God Bless

Essay Contest, Flag Flying Certificates, and Americanism Manual are all ready for download on MI Elks website under Member Information, Forms/Downloads/Manuals, All Members, then under the Americanism Heading.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

## Find ways to keep youth engaged

By **Diana Armstrong**

I looked back at my last report which was June and realized that not a lot has changed. The Corona Virus has changed our lives. So many Lodges remain closed and it has become increasing difficult to provide Youth Activities in your Lodges. Many schools remain closed and are only doing virtual education.

Our lives have changed! We must find a way to engage our kids in other activities. I am suggesting that your Lodges do some zoom meetings with the kids, picking a topic and providing either education or fun. Virtual Games might be something to think about. The kids not being able to go back to school can cause depression and mental health issues. A few of my friends are mental health specialists and they are reporting that they cannot keep up with the demand for help in dealing with the pandemic. If it is affecting adults in this way, it is surely affecting the kids. So many of our Elk Youth Activities are on hold for now. Our State Hoop Shoot has been canceled this year. What about pumpkin patch events? My Lodge provides trick or treating in a local school for mentally and physically challenged kids. The schools are not open, so we will not be able to hold this event. Drug Awareness events are most likely canceled due to social distancing. At this time in Michigan, you cannot even hold a meeting with more than 10 people inside.

Some of our programs are going to be difficult to do during this pandemic such as the teenager of the month etc. So, let us think outside the Box and try and come up with ideas to engage our Youth during these trying times. Contact your schools and let them know of this program and even virtually they can nominate students for these awards. This is one way to get the Elks in the forefront and letting communities know that we are here to help.

Take a minute to go to Michigan.gov Covid 19 and look at guidelines that need to be followed and then from there come up with activities that will work in these trying times.

Think about doing the Dictionary Project. Check out the schools in your communities that might be open such as private schools.

Dictionary Project-contact information. [www.dictionaryproject.org](http://www.dictionaryproject.org)

When logging onto the website, please go to the information page and order page to get more ideas. There is also a spot that has fund raising ideas that is helpful.

A new Youth Activities Contest Form will be out by the end of the year and I am hoping that it will reflect on the changes that we are facing. The new contest forms will be available for the Winter District Meetings. Start thinking about ways that we can add Youth Activities in our Lodges during these trying times.

## GOLD KEY

## Notify schools of Gold Key Scholarship availability

By **Geno Grabinski**  
Gold Key Commissioner

In these uncertain times the Gold Key Commissioners would like to thank all the individual members and lodges who have sent donations in to help the Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund further their missions helping young adults with special needs further their education after high school.

Letters to every high school in the State of Michigan notifying the Special Education Departments that the Gold Key Scholarship is available for qualifying students will be going out October 1. If you know of any educators in or around you lodge, let them know this information is coming to their

schools. We have found this to be successful and hope it continues to bring us new applicants this year so we can help a larger number of students have a chance to further their education.

Applications are now available online. Students now have to fill these forms out completely online. Applications will not be accepted online unless they are completely filled out. Deadline for the applications to be filled out and filed online is December 1. They will then be reviewed and judging will take place in February. Winners will be contacted by March 1.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your lodge gold key chairman or district commissioner.

## MAJOR PROJECT

## COVID-19 creates a bumpy road for camps

By **Lori Jackson**  
Major Project NW District Commissioner

This year continues to present unusual times for all of us. The Commission has been busy this summer assisting the Camps that were able to hold a virtual camp. Our original Awards were approved for \$226,000 for 20 different camps throughout the state. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many camps made the heartbreaking decision to cancel camp for the season. We did have a few camps who developed "virtual" camps so that the children could participate in activities, make goals, develop friendships and have connections during a scary and isolating time.

Realizing that the funding would be different, the Commission offered a revised Award to those camps, offering 50% of their original award. The camps that participated were: Bay Cliff Health camp, CMU Specialty Clinic (a combination of in person and virtual teaching), Camp fish Tales (partial), Camp Midicha, Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind and Camp Discovery.

We do not have all of camp responses yet, and some camps are working on utilizing funds later in the year as conditions improve.

Those camps are Indian Trails (offering a combination of day respite camp as well as looking to do a few weekends later this fall), Conductive Learning and Camp TEC. The camps that cancelled their programs

completely were: AG Bell, Bloomfield Scamp, Clarkston Scamp, Camp Dakota, Camp Fowler, Camp Coleman and Camp Tall Tree.

We were able to fully fund the year-round SLD camp. The number of camperships awarded is still to be determined. But it looks like we will be well below our normal annual numbers.

This year has certainly been bumpy so far, but we kept the children as our focus. September 1st kicked off our "Coins for Kids" fundraiser. Thank you to every lodge should you participated, it was greatly appreciated.

The Commission met for our required meetings via conference call and Zoom, and in July, the Commission met in person in Gaylord for the first time. Thank you, Gaylord Lodge, for your hospitality. It was amazing how much more energized we all left that meeting. While we still have the challenges ahead (since Covid does not seem to want to leave), we as a Commission we still work as hard as ever for the special needs' students in Michigan.

With our lodges being closed, our donations are obviously impacted severely. The Commission remains committed and focused on helping the best we can through CASES, so that we will continue to impact the children's lives in a positive way. We will get through this together and be back to helping as many children as possible.

We look forward to continue working with all of you in the 2020-2021 Lodge year.

## STATE NEWS

**MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING  
SOARING EAGLE CASINO/RESORT MOUNT PLEASANT  
OCTOBER 17, 2020 - 12 NOON**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the regular Michigan Elks Fall Conference scheduled to be held in Kalamazoo had to be cancelled.

Please join the Michigan Elks Fall Meeting to be held at Soaring Eagle Resort in Mount Pleasant, MI. This shortened regular Fall Convention, Saturday Business Session, will be held to conform with the MEA By-Laws as well as to accomplish the much needed business of the State Association.

Scheduled Events include a revised, shortened, 2-3 Hour, Michigan Elks Business Session "ONLY". No Lunches or Banquets. Room Reservations, if required, can be made directly with the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.

For the safety of all attendees, and in compliance with Coronavirus Pandemic Government Executive Orders, plans are made with social distancing, specified meeting occupancy directives, and face mask/shield rules enforced.

## BUSINESS SESSION PROGRAM

### Saturday, October 17, 2020

<b>Call to Order at Noon.</b>	<b>Jerry Alexie</b>	State President, Warren-Sterling Hgts #2292
<b>Invocation</b>	<b>Richard Gauthier</b>	Chaplain, Traverse City #323
<b>Pledge to the Flag</b>	<b>Dave Sladek</b>	2nd Vice President, Copper Ctry Ldge #404
<b>Roll Call of Lodges</b>	<b>Karen Cary</b>	Secretary, Sturgis Lodge # 1381
<b>Roll Call of Officers</b>	<b>Karen Cary</b>	Secretary, Sturgis Lodge # 1381
<b>Comments</b>	<b>Jim Deamud</b>	Special Deputy, Houghton-Higgins #1982

#### New Business

- Nomination for 2021-2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, SE District Penny Geishert – *Floor Election*
- Election of Nominated Candidate for State Secretary, Scot Burns (St. Joe-Benton Harbor #541)  
*Floor Election (Note: Bill Ewald has withdrawn his nomination)*
- By-law Amendments as proposed by Advisory Committee *Floor Vote*

#### Unfinished Business

- Affirmation of Officers Appointed at Joint Meeting (May 16, 2020)
- District Vice Presidents and District Vice Chairpersons from Metro, SE, SW, NE, NW, UP
- Major Project Commissioners –  
Wendi Thomas (6-year term end 2026) and Russell Holove (Partial term end 2022)
- Charitable Grant Commissioners) –  
Michael Ilmonen (6-year term end 2026) and Don Smith (Partial term end 2022)

State Trustee	<b>Bob Antilla</b>	Ishpeming Lodge #447
State 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	<b>Dave Sladek</b>	Copper Country Lodge #404
State 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	<b>Jim Rowland</b>	Traverse City Lodge #323
State President	<b>Jerry Alexie</b>	Warren-Sterling Heights Lodge #2292

<b>Welcome and Convention Report</b>	<b>Howard Diehl, PSP</b>	Convention Director, Bay City Lodge # 88
<b>Minutes of Previous Session</b>	<b>Karen Cary</b>	Secretary, Sturgis Lodge # 1381
<b>Secretary's Report/Comm.</b>	<b>Karen Cary</b>	Secretary, Sturgis Lodge # 1381
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>Keith Alverson</b>	Howell Lodge # 2168
<b>Trustee's Report</b>	<b>Mike Bartolotta</b>	Warren/Sterling Heights Lodge #2292
Approval of Budget		
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Karen Cary</b>	Secretary, Sturgis Lodge # 1381
<b>Sickness and Distress</b>	In Memoriam:	Al Festa PSP Clawson-Troy #2169, Jerry Olli, PDDGER Ferndale #1588

#### Comments:

State Sponsor	<b>Ron Hicks PGER</b>	Fredericksburg VA Lodge #875
2nd Vice-President	<b>Dave Sladek</b>	Copper Country Lodge #404
1st Vice-President	<b>James Rowland</b>	Traverse City Lodge #323
State President	<b>Jerry Alexie</b>	Warren-Sterling Heights #2292

#### Convention

#### Registration

#### Suspend Meeting

*Invite Guests to Enter*

#### Installation of Officers

<b>Trustee Presentation (Chairman)</b>	<b>Mike Bartolotta</b>	Warren/Sterling Heights Lodge #2292
--	------------------------	-------------------------------------

#### Good of the Order

#### Benediction

Richard Gauthier, Chaplain  
Traverse City Lodge #343

#### Adjourn

## Convention handout

MEA Convention Committee

Welcome to the 2020 Michigan Elks Association Fall Meeting. The Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort has welcomed our arrival and wish us a great meeting.

This location was chosen as one that is central to lower Michigan and is also large enough to accommodate our meeting delegates with social distancing safety standards.

We are sorry to have cancelled our Fall Convention at Radisson in Kalamazoo. Due to the social distancing mandated by the Michigan Government, meeting and banquet room seating reductions would no longer allow safe accommodations for our delegation.

No place in Michigan is safe against the spread of COVID-19. The Convention Committee has planned this Fall Business Meeting with the safety of the Michigan Elks Delegates foremost in our plans. Please help keep everyone safe and healthy by complying with the state mandated safety regulations!

Our next full weekend State Convention will be May 20-23, 2021, at Kewadin Resort in Sault Ste. Marie. Stay safe so we can all meet in May!

- Future MEA Conventions;
- 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 20-23 – Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire
  - Spring 2023 – May 18-21 – Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste Marie
  - Fall 2023 – Oct. 19-22 – Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo
  - Spring 2024 – May 16-19 – Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste Marie
  - Fall 2024 – Oct. 17-20 – Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo
- MEA Convention Committee;
- Howard Diehl, PSP — diehlpsp@mielks.org
  - George Sermon, PSP — sermonpsp@mielks.org
  - Penny Geishert — pfgteach@hotmail.com

## Future National Conventions, dates and sites

2021: July 4-7, Tampa, FL  
 2022: July 3-July 6, Atlanta, GA  
 2023: July 2-5, Minneapolis, MN  
 2024: June 30-July 3, Austin, TX  
 2025: June 29-July 2, Kansas City, MO

## STATE NEWS

# 4 tales of organ donors and recipients

**By Kimberly Deckard**

Secretary Pontiac-Waterford Elks Lodge #810  
State Special Events/Organ  
Donor/Community Welfare Chairperson

Brittany is a confident young girl with goals and promise, thanks to the gift of life. But her young life has been filled with challenges. Since birth, Brittany has experienced many serious health issues. Born with a congenital heart defect, she had open-heart surgery at the age of two, and again at the age of four. The surgeries had limited success and her health continued to deteriorate. By the time Brittany was eight years old, she would often become tired, without enough energy to make it through the day. Doctors told her family that Brittany's heart was enlarged and she would need a transplant to survive. Brittany was placed on the national transplant waiting list for a heart. When she was nine, Brittany was taken to the hospital for a cauterization procedure, however, she ended up being admitted for six months, waiting for a donor heart. While she was there, a donor heart became available. A 13-year-old girl had passed away after being hit by a car. Brittany does not know her donor's family. However, if she had the opportunity to speak with her donor, she would say, "Thank you. I know that I am not just reaching my goals, but your goals as well." Brittany comments that her family is very proud of her. "Any situation where they have to introduce me or my story, they love it," says Brittany.

In 2004, 20-year-old Alvin began to feel unusually tired for no apparent

reason. He also started to lose weight and everyday tasks like walking to class felt like a chore. Alvin managed to finish his first semester before heading to Albany Medical Center, where he was diagnosed with a serious heart muscle disease and was put on drug therapy. Nonetheless, his condition worsened, and in January he returned to the hospital instead of school. Alvin was placed on the transplant waiting list in February 2005. "After my decision, the only thing to do was to wait," said Alvin. Fortunately, he didn't have long to wait. Three months later, Alvin got "the call" from a nurse practitioner: a suitable donor had been found. "When I awoke from surgery, I knew the operation had been a success," said Alvin. "I had a long road ahead of me, but I was just so thankful for everyone who was instrumental in getting me to this point. This included the nursing staff, the transplant team, friends and family, and of course, the donor who so graciously decided to donate his/her organs." Alvin is currently finishing college and preparing for a career as a graphic designer. He was a rider on the "Stars of Life Float" in the 2009 Rose Parade®. He is also doing his part in encouraging people to register as donors. He expresses, "hopefully, by sharing my story and being a float rider, I can educate people on the importance of donation and how making the decision to donate can save lives."

"BJ" had a smile that was contagious and a heart that was bigger than he was. The youngest of five brothers, he was a gentle giant at 6'3". BJ loved music, but football was his passion. His favorite team was the Oakland Raiders. There is no doubt that BJ would have

made it to college playing football, said his mother, Marilyn, and his dream was to play professionally. On Halloween night in 2005, 14-year-old BJ went trick-or-treating with family members. The next morning, he woke up for school but complained of being dizzy and said his head hurt. When he fell down, his mother called 911, and he was rushed to the hospital. After an emergency craniotomy, BJ was put on a ventilator for 7 days, but tests revealed that he was brain dead. Knowing this, his family made the decision to remove the ventilator surrounded by his family and friends. What was not known until after his death was that BJ was born with an arteriovenous malformation, an abnormal connection between artery and vein in his brain that caused a cerebral hemorrhage. Through BJ's death, he gave life to 4 other people with the donation of his heart, liver, kidneys, and pancreas. And his high school retired his jersey number, 58, at the home game dedicated to BJ on the night of his organ donation surgery.

Brandon's parents donated his organs at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, in February 2007. But according to his mother, Brandon himself made that decision years earlier. While at the dinner table, Brandon's mother Constance recalls, "I expressed my desire to donate my organs upon my death. At that time, my husband was totally against it. However, Brandon agreed with me. As a result of our conversation that evening, Virgil and I were clear that Brandon would want us to donate his organs." "From a very early age, he always felt it was his duty to come to someone's aid or assistance. Brandon was a giving person. This was his last gift."

## MEMBERSHIP

## Reinvigorate – Initiate – Activate! Membership is a collective task

**By Erik K. Buckstad**

Membership/Retention Chairman

Membership is a collective job at the Elks. That is why Elkdom is so strong. These 3 words "Reinvigorate - Initiate - Activate" are the process to a healthy membership program. We are all seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Lodges are opening up. Members miss each other and want to get together safely to help the many that are in need in our area. So this is the perfect time to reduce delinquency and expand membership.

REINVIGORATE your membership! We still need to collect the outstanding dues and fire up our members. There is no magic bullet to this process, just working smarter not harder to get it done. Remember the basics and use what you know and why you joined! Get your current members to help to collect dues. Reach out to members you know on the delinquent list. Not just for payment but to see how they are and their current situation. Tell them you are open and doing the great work of Elkdom. Help them remember why they became an elk. Note that there is a Standing Relief Committee that could help those members that indicate a financial issue as why they have not paid their dues. Especially be aware of our older members. This time has been very scary and financially difficult for them. Please don't let a long term member fall by the wayside from this pandemic or any other problem. They are why we are here to carry on in Elkdom.

INITIATE outstanding candidates and seek out new members to initiate. This will ensure that our future continues to expand! Again, this is not just for the membership team. All Elks are members of the membership team in this day and age. Two to five people can't do it all and provide the assurance of growing membership to the extent that is needed for the future. So, back to basics! Everyone who is an ELK has Friends, business associates and family members that know what we do here at the Elks. As an Elk, I know you can't stop yourself from showing others the great work of Elkdom or the great bonds and times you have had as an Elk. So think on it. Who have you bragged to about us? Who have you brought to your lodge? If you did either of those 2 things it means that you think that person would be interested in the Elks and would be a benefit to our lodges. My challenge to you! Find one or two people that you know and ask them to apply to become an Elk. If that happened we could double our ranks in one year! Again the basics.

ACTIVATE – Get your new members involved immediately. Add them to a committee. Get them to volunteer for an event. Also, listen to their new ideas or new take on an old idea. So many new members can be put off on "this is how we always do this event. New and different is not bad it allows us to evolve for the future. Also, it is never too late to get an existing member involved, See REINVIGORATE and the cycle starts over. Reinvigorate - Initiate - Activate.

## OFFICER TRAINING

## Training available to fit needs of any lodge

**By Jim Rowland**

1vp MEA

Greeting from the officer training team. We have begun to present in house officer training in recent weeks. Please reach out to us so we can help your newer officers and committee chairs as well as some of the old guard in

understanding the tools that are available to them to help your Lodge and community.

We are tailoring the training to fit the needs of any given Lodge or group of Lodges. This is not the same old shtick and we actually listen while we there and try to help in any way we can.

We can be reached at [1vp@mielks.org](mailto:1vp@mielks.org).

STATE NEWS

## Make community aware: Elkdom is alive and well

By Bill Ewald  
District PR Chair

The impact of COVID-19 on our Lodge and Clubroom operations has dramatically and adversely affected these activities and therefore has also adversely affected our efforts to Keep Elkdom alive and well in the eyes of the public through our local newspaper, using Facebook, articles included in our Lodge monthly newsletter. We know that this COVID-19 Social Distancing Will End, but until it does, we will be required to be patient and do our best to accommodate our “new normal” Clubroom social meetings/gatherings with keen planning and prudent in-Club procedures. It is Important that we, as Lodge Public Relations Chairs, do all that we can to make the Public aware that Elks are Alive and will be Back to our “regular-normal” activities soon. Remember that we have our award-winning quarterly Michigan Elks Newsletter, with Karen Cary, our MEA Secretary as the editor. If you need some help or friendly suggestions, please give me or Karen a call or email. We also have the The Elks Magazine. Details for submitting any Fraternal news article can be found on-line at [magnews@elks.org](mailto:magnews@elks.org). It is great to have your Lodge members read about what they have done in our community and what a great way to say to our Lodge members that our Lodge is performing Elkdom actions that merit the attention of fellow Elks throughout our great Nation.

The Elks National Foundation Community Improvement Program (aka ENF Grants) is one of the Best methods of projecting the reality of the “Elks Care & Elks Share motto” into our communities. These CIP programs, as designed by your Lodge CIP Coordinator and supported by your Lodge members are real opportunities waiting to showcase your Lodge with your fellow citizens – outstanding Public Relations actions. We all have the opportunity to take pictures of Elks “doing our Elks thing” during these funded public events. Write-ups of these events in your own Lodge newsletter will keep those Elk members who don't often participate fully informed of the ongoing acts of Elkdom being conducted by your active Lodge members. Sharing your Lodge Newsletter with other District Lodges helps to spread the word that Elkdom is alive and well in your Lodge.

We know that Elks Care and Share and that we can each help to “Create Momentum for the Future of Elkdom” (GER Paul Ryan's Motto) through our efforts as Lodge Public Relations Chairs by taking that little extra time and effort to “tell” our story and keep our Communities informed. I offer my assistance to any Lodge PR Chair or concerned Lodge Officer; give me a call and/or email.

## \$263,000 of unclaimed free money – do you want some?

By Brad Saegesser  
MEA ENF State Chairperson

As of September 11, 2020, Elks Lodges in Michigan are ignoring \$263,000 in FREE MONEY from the Elks National Foundation's 2020-21 Community Investments Program (CIP) Grants:

- Gratitude Grants – \$38,500
- Beacon Grants – \$150,500
- Spotlight Grants – \$74,000

Gratitude Grants are available to Lodges that met the GER's per-member giving goal last year. 42 of the 52 Elks Lodges in Michigan are currently eligible for a 2020-21 ENF Gratitude Grant, but only 25 of them have submitted an application. That means 17 Elks Lodges in Michigan are passing up \$38,500 in FREE MONEY!! What are you waiting for?!?! Don't pass up this opportunity for FREE MONEY!!

Every single Elks Lodge in Michigan is eligible for a \$3,500 Beacon Grant. That is \$1,000 more than last year and no strings attached. You do not have to meet the ENF per-capita giving goal. All you have to do is come up with an idea and the ENF will help your Lodge become a Beacon of Hope to your community. The Beacon Grant application is amazingly easy to complete. Currently, only nine Elks Lodges in Michigan have been approved for a Beacon Grant. That means 43 Elks Lodges in Michigan are passing up \$150,500 in FREE MONEY!! What are you waiting for? Don't pass up this opportunity for FREE MONEY!!

Every single Elks Lodge in Michigan is also eligible for a \$2,000 Spotlight Grant to shine a light on COVID-19 relief, for there is no more pressing issue facing American communities than the response to the pandemic. But the needs will look different in different communities, so the ENF has built in more flexibility this year. In normal times, donating a Spotlight Grant would not be permissible. These are not normal times, so the ENF has adapted that approach this year. A Lodge can consider a more active use of funds, e.g. purchasing food and supplies and delivering items to a shelter or food pantry. However, if donating directly to an organization in

the community that is better equipped to serve populations in need affected by the pandemic, it will be allowed. The funds must go to directly support pandemic relief and cannot be split between multiple projects. Currently, only 15 Elks in Michigan have been approved for a Spotlight Grant. That means 37 Elks Lodges in Michigan are passing up \$74,000 in FREE MONEY! What are you waiting for? Don't pass up this opportunity for FREE MONEY!

On the bright side, 29 Elks Lodges in Michigan have been approved for 54 CIP Grants totaling \$130,500. Congratulations to the following 14 Lodges that have already been approved for more than \$4,000 in ENF CIP Grants:

1. Muskegon Elks Lodge #274 – \$10,500
2. Dowagiac Elks Lodge #889 – \$10,500
3. Lapeer Area Elks Lodge #2567 – \$8,500
4. Negaunee Elks Lodge #1116 – \$8,000
5. Sturgis Elks Lodge #1381 – \$8,000
6. Flat Rock Elks Lodge #1731 – \$8,000
7. Alma Elks Lodge #1400 – \$7,500
8. Farmington Elks Lodge #1986 – \$7,500
9. Coldwater Elks Lodge #1023 – \$7,000
10. Manistique Elks Lodge #632 – \$4,500
11. Hillsdale Elks Lodge #1575 – \$4,500
12. Warren-Sterling Hts Elks Lodge #2292 – \$4,500
13. Gaylord Area Elks Lodge #2544 – \$4,000
14. Charlevoix Elks Lodge #2856 – \$4,000

Everything you need to know about all of the CIP grants can be found on the ENF website at <https://www.elks.org/cip>. All applications must be submitted by December 31, 2020. Don't miss this deadline and miss out on FREE MONEY from the Elks National Foundation.

If you have any questions or would like help writing an ENF CIP Grant application, please don't hesitate to contact me at [ENF@MIElks.org](mailto:ENF@MIElks.org) or 989-820-7171.

## RITUAL

## Looking toward a positive future for Ritual

By Bruce A Stark  
State Ritual Chairman 20/21

So we didn't have a Spring Convention or a Grand Lodge Convention last year for our teams to move on to show their stuff. Northeast and Metro Districts did a great job with District Contests before the shutdown and they should be proud of the job they did.

Hopefully we will all be back together so this year can be the best ever for Ritual. Even if we can't get back together to practice as teams yet, we can always spend time learning our parts to impress the Candidates as they get initiated.

What are we doing in our Lodges to impress new members and candidates? Are we putting our best foot forward? What is the status of you Officer Team when it comes to Ritual?

Learning the Initiation Ceremony as a team will help your team work well together and create a bond for your officers that will last forever. This also helps impress the new members as they join us.

District Ritual Contests are coming up and we hope to see you there. Contact your District Ritual Chairman to find out when and where your contest will be. It's always a great time to compete against other Lodges in your District and you'll go away with many new friends.

Keep in mind that not only are there team contests but individuals can compete in The Flag Presentation and the 11 o'clock contests as well. You can do this... If you win the 11 O'clock contest at the State Contest you can move on and compete in the 1st ever Grand Lodge 11 O'clock contest. The Grand Lodge are working on a Grand Lodge Flag Presentation contest as well and as that happens I will keep you informed.

I'm counting on everyone getting involved in Ritual this year. You won't regret it.

STATE NEWS

BUSINESS PRACTICE

# Pricing Goods (Beer, Liquor, Draft)

When a lodge house committee assembles, usually it is just a volunteer some have experience, and some do not.

Please always remember the Lodge is a business and needs to be treated as such. It is not an easy job to be on the House Committee and it is particularly important to take it seriously. A bad house committee has a trickle-down effect on the lodge.

With the current situation, now is the perfect time to readjust and realign your lounge. Below you will find an example of a pricing schedule. This schedule is just an example.

Some lodges in our state do something a little different that increases their COGS to 30% or less. You can do that as well by changing glass sizes to a smaller glass and/or reducing the amount of liquor pour.

You also want to be aware of the costs of drinks around your area.

For example, if a bottle of beer is cheaper at a bar a few doors down you are going to want to lower your beer prices and offset it by raising your liquor prices. At the end of the day - Beer COGS + Liquor COGS should equal 35% or less.

Step 1 is to always use the guide below as a reference manual. It can be found at: [https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/Auditing and Accounting Manual Version Dec 2019](https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/Auditing%20and%20Accounting%20Manual%20Version%20Dec%202019)

Page 9 section- 2-102 Refers to the COGS (Cost of Goods Sold)

a. Good business practice requires that management pay close attention to the COST OF SALES RATIO for the bar and food

service. When ratios exceed the guidelines given below, management should review existing practices on over-pouring, spillage, waste, pricing policies, purchasing functions, inventory control, etc.

Improvements should be implemented and selling prices should be increased where necessary. It is simply good common sense that the club should make sufficient gross profit to support itself.

1. Cost of Goods Sold Should Not Exceed 35% of Sales. Ratio determined by the formula: Cost of sales divided by sales = ratio. (See Ratio Examples below)

2. Employee Expenses Should Not Exceed 35% of Sales. Ratio determined by the formula: Total salaries and wages + employee meals + payroll taxes and benefits divided by

sales = ratio.

If you need help with pricing or questions about any other aspect of running your lodge, I will be glad to help.

MEA Business Practices Chairman - Chuck Pankey-Fanning, email: [businesspractices@mielks.org](mailto:businesspractices@mielks.org) / Phone: (248) 854-1626

3 Entertainment Cost Should Not Exceed 6% of Sales. Ratio determined by the formula: Total entertainment cost of bar and/or dining area (depending upon whether one or both receive benefit) divided by sales = ratio. It is emphasized that these ratios are maximums.

Individual Lodges, depending upon volume of sales and other circumstances, may wish to establish their own goals at less than these maximums.

## Ratio Examples

(Please note this is an Example of the minimum of 35% COGS)

### Liquor

(Based on a 1.5-ounce pour)

These costs are based on the May 3, 2020 MLCC Price book

750 ml= 17 drinks 1000ml (1L) = 22 drinks.

Per drink cost equation - bottle price divided by drinks per bottle +6% sales tax = per drink cost x 3 rounded up to the nearest quarter = member price

If you have any sort of happy hour - price it accordingly so you still maintain minimum pricing. (I.e. \$.25 off Titos Vodka price at \$4.00 so when on happy hr. it will be \$3.75)

Name	Size	Bottle Cost	Per pour cost plus 6% sales tax	Member Price should be 3 times your cost rounded to the nearest quarter
Jack Daniels	750ml	\$22.32	\$1.39	\$4.25
Jack Daniels	1000ml (1 liter)	\$29.45	\$1.42	\$4.50
Canadian Club	750ml	\$12.49	\$0.78	\$2.50
Canadian Club	1000ml (1 liter)	\$16.07	\$0.77	\$2.50
Titos	1000ml (1 Liter)	\$24.11	\$1.16	\$3.75
Captain Morgan	750ml	\$14.24	\$0.89	\$2.75
Captain Morgan	1000ml (1 liter)	\$17.86	\$0.86	\$2.75
Jameson	750ml	\$24.99	\$1.56	\$4.75
Jameson	1000ml (1 liter)	\$33.91	\$1.63	\$5.00

Name	Case Cost	Per beer cost plus 6% sales tax plus bottle deposit*	Member Price should be 3 times your cost rounded to the nearest quarter
Bud light	\$18.65	\$0.92	\$3.00
Miller lite	\$16.50	\$0.83	\$2.75
White Claw	\$25.15	\$1.21	\$3.75
Michelob Ultra	\$25.15	\$1.21	\$3.75
PBR	\$16.10	\$0.81	\$2.50
Miller High Life	\$12.75	\$0.66	\$2.25
Corona	\$25.15	\$1.21	\$3.75
Shorts Local Light	\$18.95	\$0.94	\$3.00

### Beer

Based on prices from Fabiano, Tri County Beverage, Imperial Beverage, Powers Distributing. Per beer cost equation- case cost divided by 24 bottles +6% sales tax plus \$.10= per beer cost x 3 rounded up to the nearest quarter = member price.

The reason I added the bottle deposit is because beer bottles get thrown away and sometimes donated. If you have any sort of happy hour price it accordingly so you still maintain minimum pricing. (I.e. \$.25 off Miller Lite price at \$3.00 so when on happy hr. it will be \$2.75)

Name	Keg Size	Cost per barrel	Price per ounce plus 6% sales tax	Member Price should be the price per ounce times 3 multiplied by the amount of ounces.
Bud light	½ barrel	\$98.00	\$0.05	16oz- \$2.50
Bud light	¼ barrel	\$58.25	\$0.06	16oz- \$3.00
Miller lite	½ barrel	\$93.00	\$0.05	16oz- \$2.50
Miller lite	¼ barrel	\$50.00	\$0.06	16oz- \$3.00
PBR	½ barrel	\$75.00	\$0.04	16oz-\$2.00
Labatt Blue	½ barrel	\$99.75	\$0.05	16oz- \$2.50
Labatt Blue	¼ barrel	\$58.50	\$0.06	16oz-\$3.00
Guinness	½ barrel	\$159.00	\$0.09	16oz- \$4.50
Bells Oberon	½ barrel	\$80.00	\$0.09	16oz- \$4.50
Bells Oberon	¼ barrel	\$138.00	\$0.08	16oz- \$4.00
Shorts Local Light	½ barrel	\$118.00	\$0.06	16oz- \$3.00

### Draft Beer

½ barrel= 1984 ounces, ¼ barrel= 990 ounces, 1/6 barrel= 660 ounces

Per beer cost equation: cost of the barrel divided by the number of ounces for barrel +6% sales tax = per ounce cost x number of ounces in the glass being sold x 3 rounded up to the nearest quarter = member cost

If you have any sort of happy hour price it accordingly so you still maintain minimum pricing. (I.e. \$.25 off bud light 16oz price at \$2.75 so when on happy hr. it will be \$2.50)

LODGE NEWS

PORT HURON ELKS LODGE #343

# Results from August blood drive

The results for the Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 (19th Consecutive) Blood Drive occurred on TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 appear below, another great event!

The Elks Blood Drive Committee would like to thank those you arrived to donate, the Red Cross Staff, the volunteers from the Fort Gratiot/Burchville Lions Club and Elks Staff for making this Blood Drive another success!

Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 sponsorship has helped the Red Cross collect over 778 pints of blood since our 1st blood drive which took place on Monday, January 7, 2013.

Results of our 19th blood drive:

- 33 presented (arrived to donate)
- 30 pints collected (2 power reds = 4 pints )
- 3 deferred
- 37 pints was our goal to collect
- 91% of goal was attained

A REMINDER: The Port Huron Elks Lodge #343 – The 19th Consecutive Blood Drive is scheduled for MONDAY OCTOBER 19, 2020 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm.

The 20th Consecutive Blood Drive is scheduled for MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm AND The 21st Consecutive Blood Drive has been scheduled for THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm

You can view the Digital Asset Library for the drive at

<https://arcontent.bottomlineink.net/Content/Orders/1061906>.

You can hold the power to save lives in the palm of your hand with the FREE Red Cross Blood Donor App! Text “BLOODAPP” to 90999 or download it from the App StoreSM or the Google PlayTM store today!

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



## Holland Elks charity golf

Holland Lodge #1315 held its “first Annual” Charity Golf Event in July. Even with the Covid-related restrictions, 72 generous Elks golfers raised \$3,000 for ENF, Gold Key, Michigan Major Projects and Veterans.

## Honors for National Patriotism Week



Menards, DeNooyer Chevrolet and Barber Ford were recognized during National Patriotism Week in September for their display of the American flag. PER Bob DeVries had the honor of presenting the awards.



### Lodge donates to food pantry

Copper Country 404 trustee Kendra Coppo presents a check to Laurium Shining Light Church Food Pantry director. Thanks to the ENF spotlight grant.