

Mount Pleasant, Michigan

Saturday, October 17, 2020

12:00 p.m.

STATE PRESIDENT JERRY ALEXIE

(Warren-Sterling Heights (#2292): Everyone, please take a seat. We have a couple rules today. Can everybody hear me? You must wear your mask at all times, even when you're sitting. The other thing that we need to do is make sure your phones are on vibrate or off, please.

Anyway, good morning. I'm about to open the 64th Fall Convention of the Michigan Elks Association. As you can see, things may be a little different than you're used to but we still need to take care of business.

Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Thibo, from Flint Lodge 222, with the assistance of Tiler Barb Dotson from South Haven Lodge 1509, invite all delegates and members to enter the meeting room and then close the doors, please.

Thank you, Mike and Barb. It's our honor and pleasure to have all of you present today. Our state Chaplain, Richard Gauthier, from Traverse City Lodge 323, will lead us in prayer.

STATE CHAPLAIN RICHARD GAUTHIER (Traverse City #323): Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we ask You

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for Your blessings and guidance for the officers,
delegates and guests that have gathered here for this
session. With Your help and direction, we hope to
accomplish the goals, good deeds and good works of
Elkdom at this meeting today. We ask this in Your name.
Amen.

DELEGATES: Amen.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you.
Remain standing, please. Our Second Vice President,
Dave Sladek, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT DAVE SLADEK (Copper
Country #404): "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the
United States of America, and to the Republic for which
it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with
liberty and justice for all."

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Dave.

It is my pleasure to introduce
Michigan Elks Association State Secretary Karen Cary for
her last meeting as Secretary of the Michigan Elks
Association for the Roll Call of Lodges.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Tell me how many
members you have here. Albion 1798?

ALBION: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Allen Park?

ALLEN PARK: (No response.)

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STATE SECRETARY CARY: Alma?

ALMA: Twelve.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Battle Creek?

BATTLE CREEK: Five.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Bay City?

BAY CITY: We have four.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Big Rapids?

BIG RAPIDS: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Cadillac?

CADILLAC: Four.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Charlevoix?

CHARLEVOIX: Three.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Clawson-Troy?

CLAWSON-TROY: (No response.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Coldwater?

COLDWATER: Four.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Copper Country?

COPPER COUNTRY: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Dearborn?

DEARBORN: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Dowagiac?

DOWAGIAC: Four.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Escanaba?

ESCANABA: (No response.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Farmington?

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FARMINGTON: One.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Ferndale?
FERNDALE: Two.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Flat Rock?
FLAT ROCK: Three.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Flint?
FLINT: One.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Gaylord Area?
GAYLORD AREA: Seven.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Grand Haven?
GRAND HAVEN: Five.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Grand Rapids?
GRAND RAPIDS: Five.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Hastings?
HASTINGS: Six.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Hillsdale?
HILLSDALE: One.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Holland?
HOLLAND: Three.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Houghton-Higgins?
HOUGHTON-HIGGINS: Seven.
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Howell?
HOWELL: (No response.)
STATE SECRETARY CARY: Ishpeming?
ISHPEMING: (No response.)

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STATE SECRETARY CARY: Kalamazoo?

KALAMAZOO: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Lapeer Area?

LAPEER AREA: (No response.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Livonia?

LIVONIA: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Manistee?

MANISTEE: Three.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Manistique?

MANISTIQUE: (No response.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Marquette?

MARQUETTE: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Mount Clemens?

MOUNT CLEMENS: (No response.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Muskegon?

MUSKEGON: Four.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Negaunee?

NEGAUNEE: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Newberry?

NEWBERRY: (No response.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Niles?

NILES: Three.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Otsego?

OTSEGO: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Plymouth-Ann Arbor?

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PLYMOUTH-ANN ARBOR: Two.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Pontiac-Waterford?

PONTIAC-WATERFORD: Three.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Port Huron?

PORT HURON: (No response.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Rochester-North

Oakland?

ROCHESTER-NORTH OAKLAND: Four.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Royal Oak-Detroit?

ROYAL OAK-DETROIT: Two present and

accounted for.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: St. Joe-Benton

Harbor?

ST. JOE-BENTON HARBOR: Six.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Sault Ste. Marie?

SAULT STE. MARIE: (No response.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: South Haven?

SOUTH HAVEN: One.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Sturgis?

STURGIS: You and me make two, Karen.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Tawas Area?

TAWAS AREA: Two.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Three Rivers?

THREE RIVERS: Four.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Traverse City?

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TRAVERSE CITY: Six.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Warren-Sterling Heights?

WARREN-STERLING HEIGHTS: Three.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: That concludes Roll Call of Lodges.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Roll Call of Officers.

SECRETARY CARY: President Jerry Alexie?

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: First Vice President Jim Rowland?

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ROWLAND: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Second Vice President Dave Sladek?

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT SLADEK: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Karen Cary, Secretary. Treasurer Keith Alverson?

STATE TREASURER ALVERSON: (No response.)

SECRETARY CARY: Chaplain Richard Gauthier?

STATE CHAPLAIN GAUTHIER: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Thibo?

STATE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS THIBO: Present.

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SECRETARY CARY: Tiler Barb Dotson?

STATE TILER DOTSON: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Soloist Kim Deckard?

STATE SOLOIST DECKARD: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Organist?

STATE ORGANIST THORNBURG: (No response.)

SECRETARY CARY: Aide to the President

John Kennedy?

AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT KENNEDY: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Trustees. Metro, Mike

Bartolotta? Absent.

Dave Cashbaugh, Northwest?

TRUSTEE CASHBAUGH: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Upper Peninsula, Robert

Antilla? Did I say that right?

TRUSTEE ANTILLA: Yes.

SECRETARY CARY: Southeast, Ken Hines?

TRUSTEE HINE: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Southwest, Terry Greer?

TRUSTEE GREER: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Northeast, Anthony Bosco?

TRUSTEE BOSCO: Hurrah.

SECRETARY CARY: Major Project Commission.

Metro, Gary Goodin?

COMMISSIONER GOODIN: Present.

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SECRETARY CARY: Northwest, Lori Jackson.

COMMISSIONER JACKSON: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Upper Peninsula, Wendi

Thomas? (No response.)

Southeast, John Truskowski? (No
response.)

Southwest, Scot Burns?

COMMISSIONER BURNS: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Northeast, Russel Holove?

(No response.)

Executive Director, Diane

Dusendang?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUSENDANG: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Charitable Grant

Commission. Metro, Diana Armstrong?

COMMISSIONER ARMSTRONG: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Northwest, Joan Rowland?

COMMISSIONER ROWLAND: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Upper Peninsula, Mike

Ilmonen?

COMMISSIONER ILMONEN: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Southeast, Geno

Grabinski?

COMMISSIONER GRABINSKI: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Southwest, Don Smith?

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COMMISSIONER SMITH: Hurrah.

SECRETARY CARY: Northeast, Michael

Bowman?

COMMISSIONER BOWMAN: Here.

SECRETARY CARY: Executive Director, Kevin

Quinn? (No response.)

Are you doing the DVPs and DVCs?

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Go ahead with

those.

SECRETARY CARY: Metro, Chuck Pankey

Fanning? Absent.

Northwest, Amy Loftis?

DVP LOFTIS: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Upper Peninsula, John

Thomas? (No response.)

Southeast, Patrick Morgan? (No

Response.)

Southwest, James Woermbke?

DVP WOERMBKE: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Northeast, John Kennedy?

DVP KENNEDY: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: DVCs. Metro, Jamie

Kurtz? (No response.)

Northwest, Dan Clark?

DVP CLARK: Present.

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SECRETARY CARY: Upper Peninsula, Eric
Patmythes? (No response.)

Southeast, Joe Morgan?

DVP MORGAN: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Southwest, Dan Poll?

DVP POLL: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: Northeast, Mike Thibo?

DVP THIBO: Present.

SECRETARY CARY: That concludes roll call.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you.

At this time I would call on Mr.
Jim Deamud, Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, from
Houghton-Higgins Lake 1982, for a few comments.

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER (Houghton-Higgins Lake
1982): Nobody has ever known me to make just a few
comments.

Somebody observed the other day
that they're really happy we're having this kind of a
convention because it's been a long time since we've
been able to get together as a group and actually
discuss things face-to-face. We thought it was
important for us to do that today, so we made headway by
finding a venue that could house us at this level.
There aren't very many of them around. Howard Diehl did
a great job locating Soaring Eagle. They have been

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6 extraordinarily cooperative and helpful in this regard
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8 and so we are very thankful for that.
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10 This whole thing about masks is
11 very important. I know that they are a pain, but my
12 mask is here to protect you and your mask is here to
13 protect me and that's what we're in this for, is to
14 protect each other. I'm going to say that even under
15 the governor's orders if you're standing at the
16 microphone to talk you can take your mask off but you
17 have to put it on just as soon as you leave there. It
18 makes it a lot easier for you to hear us.
19

20 Wearing a mask involves wearing it,
21 not just hanging it on your body someplace. It needs to
22 cover your nose, your mouth and so forth. Again, I know
23 they're hot and I know they're uncomfortable, and I know
24 that wearing them off your nose is not giving anybody
25 any protection.
26

27 So we are going to try and move
28 through the agenda today and minimize the contact.
29 Afterwards, when we adjourn, you go to the casino here
30 and places you can go to converse probably a little more
31 comfortably, although within the casino they're very
32 meticulous about making sure you're keeping your masks
33 on. We had security guards come up to us when we were
34 sitting at the bar last night having cocktails and had
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6 our masks off like normally we do. No, no, no, you have
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8 to wear them. If you are taking a drink you take it and
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10 lift it up and then put it back on. That's their rule
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12 here and we just try and follow that. Frankly, it does
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14 make some degree of sense.

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16 At any rate, I'm going to move on
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18 through and we're going to start with the matters on the
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20 agenda that have to do with some of the business that we
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22 just weren't able to attend to when we first approached
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24 last spring, like the Election of Officers. We had to
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26 take and do it a little bit differently and we did it by
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28 appointing people to the positions, but we need to elect
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30 them today. We also have a number of by-law revisions
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32 that we need to address and get those enacted, and so
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34 we're going to start with that.

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36 Right now we're getting ready to
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38 move into the nomination of officers and Mr. Alexie,
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40 President Alexie, was gracious enough to accept my offer
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42 to handle this part of itm mostly because I thought it
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44 would be a little strange for him to stand up here and
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46 ask for nominations for him to be president.

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48 The first actual nomination we're
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50 going to undertake has to do with a vice president for
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52 next year. This is the time when we take care of that
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54 and do that nomination. Right now I believe that we
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6 have one candidate. The Southeast District is the
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8 district that will put the next Second Vice President in
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10 the rotation. And I would have called for nominations
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12 for that position but the person that was going to
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14 nominate that person had to take his wife home this
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16 morning because she was having some severe problems with
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18 her back and she's in a great deal of pain and so I'm
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20 going to read that nomination.

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22 This is from Keith Alverson, our
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24 Auditing and Accounting Member of the Grand Lodge
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26 Auditing and Accounting Committee, and he is also from
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28 the Southeast District, a Past State President. His
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30 words.

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32 "A few years ago some of you may
33
34 recall that PSP Ed Geishert was called upon to nominate
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36 now PSP Joe Antonishek to the position of Second Vice
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38 President of the Michigan Elks Association from the
39
40 Great Southeast District. It was, to say the least, the
41
42 most unique nomination I've ever heard.

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44 Well, the time has come around
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46 again for a nomination from the Southeast District and I
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48 have been asked and am honored to forward the name of a
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50 long-time friend to the same position as Ed did a few
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52 years ago. This person is probably one of the most
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54 qualified individuals to move into this position that I
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6 can remember, certainly more qualified than I was when I
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8 was nominated.
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10 At her local Lodge she has been the
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12 secretary for 20 years, two terms as Exalted Ruler,
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14 Scholarship Chairwoman for 20 years, etcetera, etcetera,
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16 etcetera. I say that because I was told to keep it
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18 short. She was the District Secretary for 12 years,
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20 District Scholarship Chairwoman for six years, Elks
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22 Training Chairwoman for three years and currently ended
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24 her stint as the District Deputy from the Southeast
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26 District.
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28 At the Michigan Elks Association
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30 she chaired the Elks Training for three years. She was
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32 a State Trustee for six years with her final year
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34 sitting as the Chairwoman of the Trustees. She's been a
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36 CLMS Coordinator for 11 years and a Super Coordinator
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38 for Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Virginia for the last
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40 three years. She has planned, set up and conducted
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42 Lodge Secretary Workshops and Public Relations Workshops
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44 in the majority of the States in Area 4 of the BPOE.
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46 She also was a staff person on the Grand Lodge
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48 Convention daily newspaper for 12 years under the
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50 direction of our Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt.
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52 One other thing. She also is a
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54 Past First Lady of the MEA from back in 1999-2000.
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That's probably the only bad thing you can say about her. She stands on her own two feet, has her own opinions and her own convictions. Make no mistake about it: This will be her time in the sun and no one else's. I can go on longer but I think I made my point.

At this time I would be honored to put forth the name of one outstanding Elk, Penny Geishert, for the position of Second Vice President of the Michigan Elks Association."

(Applause.)

I now call upon PSP Ron Zimmerman to second the nomination.

As he's moving toward the mic, if there are people that know they are going to talk before this assembly, it would be good if you kind of think ahead a little bit, bring yourself forward, gather over there so it's not quite so long a walk to get to the microphone when you're called upon.

PSP RONALD ZIMMERMAN (Sturgis #1381):

Thank you, Jim.

Good afternoon, everyone. It sure is nice to see everybody.

I agree with Keith's statement, that Penny is one of the most qualified individuals for the position of the Second Vice President. There's no

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need for me to repeat what she has given of herself to our great organization. Her credentials speak loudly for themselves and they are quite impressive to say the least. I have known Penny for over 30 years and have worked with her and observed her ethic from afar.

The Michigan Elks Association has been lucky to have such a dedicated member working on its behalf at various levels of Elkdom. Without hesitation or reserve, but with enthusiasm and pride, it is my honor to second the nomination of my friend and yours, Penny Geishert, for Second Vice President of the Michigan Elks Association.

(Applause.)

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: You have now heard the nomination for Penny Geishert as Second Vice President for the year 2021-2022. I ask if there are any other nominations?

Seeing none, all those in favor if you would by raising your hand.

In opposition.

My condolences to you, Penny. I'll send you a card soon. There she is, our incoming Second Vice President.

(Applause.)

So with that behind us, we have

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6 another opening on our officer corp at the Michigan Elks
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8 level and that is State Secretary. This would be the
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10 time to elect a new State Secretary because our State
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12 Secretary, Karen Cary, has decided she's getting off
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14 this ship because who knows what is going to happen
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16 next.

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18 So we kind of had a little slip.
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20 The nominations for that opening were supposed to have
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22 been done at our last meeting, but obviously that was a
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24 little bit -- excuse me -- a year ago at this time it
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26 was supposed to have been done. It got overlooked so we
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28 opened nominations by notices to the Lodges and we
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30 received two nominations for that position. One of whom
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32 was Bill Ewald, from Cadillac Lodge, and the other one
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34 is Scott Burns, St. Joe-Benton Harbor Lodge, and also a
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36 member of the Major Project Commission. Bill Ewald
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38 withdrew his nomination, which leaves us with Scott
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40 Burns to come into that position. We had to wait until
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42 this meeting to take any action.

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44 So what I would do since there's
45
46 only one candidate and the nominations are closed, I
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48 would invite a motion to elect him by acclamation and a
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50 single vote be cast for him by the State Secretary.

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52 UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: So moved.

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54 JAMES DEAMUD, SPGER: Is there a second to
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that motion?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Support.

JAMES DEAMUD, SPGER: A motion has been made and seconded. All those in favor voting sign.

All opposed.

Karen, if you would cast that ballot and we would declare Scott Burns elected to State Secretary.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: I vote for Scott.

(Applause.)

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: One more time, another condolence card I'll have to purchase, but, Scott, congratulations, and we look forward to your tenure in that illustrious position.

I'm going to skip over the By-Laws and move into the Unfinished Business. We have a number of officers that we appointed last spring in lieu of an election because we weren't able to conduct the election. So we have a number of officers that have been appointed as District Vice Presidents and District Vice Chairpersons from the Metro, Southeast, Southwest, Northeast, Northwest and the UP. There's not a nomination process here. We simply need to affirm their appointments and declare them elected to those offices. I'm going to move through because there's a number of

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things here. I think we can handle them all at one time.

Major Project Commissioners.

Wendi Thomas was appointed as a six year Major Project Commissioner with her term ending in 2026 and Russell Holove was appointed to a partial term ending in 2022.

Under Charitable Grant

Commissioners, Mike Ilmonen was appointed as a six year term and Don Smith as a partial term with his term ending in 2022.

And then there was one additional person appointed as a State Trustee and that was Bob Antilla from Ishpeming Lodge 447. He was filling in a vacant position.

So I would entertain a single motion to affirm each of those appointments and declare those individuals elected to the positions that they were appointed to.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'll make a motion.

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: So moved.

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: Is there any further discussion?

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All those in favor of the motion.

In opposition.

Seeing none, I declare that each of those individuals is now elected into their respective office.

Now we get down to the big guys. We also appointed a Second Vice President, Dave Sladek, and we appointed a First Vice President, Jim Rowland, and last, but not least, our State President, Jerry Alexie.

I would entertain a motion again to affirm those appointments and declare each of those people elected to their respective office.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I make the motion.

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: We have a motion made. Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Support.

JAMES DEAMUD: I heard support. Is there any discussion?

Any opposition?

Mr. Alexie, you are now officially our elected State President.

(Applause.)

Now we've got to grind through one more little set of stuff here.

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We circulated to the Past State Presidents some proposed by-law revisions to the most recent Michigan Elks Association By-Laws. Those were reviewed by the Past State Presidents and they now, under the provisions of the amendment statute in the By-Laws, are proposing that the By-Laws be amended accordingly. There are a number of those that have been proposed. Those were all sent to each Lodge a month and a half, month ago, along with kind of a summary of those, and I'm not certain, because I haven't heard anything back, where we're at on those.

But those of you who have hopefully had an opportunity to review it, right now I'd ask is there opposition to the passage of the by-law revisions as they have been presented? Anybody in opposition?

Seeing none, I would entertain a motion to approve the proposed by-law revisions to the Michigan Elks Association By-Laws and I would ask that we do that by acclamation. If I could have that motion.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: So moved.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Second.

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: Is there anyone in opposition to that?

So, again, I would ask the State Secretary to come forward and cast a ballot to approve

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the proposed revisions to the By-Laws of the Michigan Elks Association.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: The Organization votes in favor of the By-Law amendments.

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: So I declare those By-Law amendments adopted.

I have a word from the Committee on Judiciary, that will be Paul Robinson, that he's already reviewed those and he said when he's presented he will approve those. Once that's been accomplished, those By-Law provisions will then be in effect and the By-Laws will be amended accordingly.

I think that that concludes most things that be needed to be taken care of. I now return the mic back to President Alexie and go forward from there. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Jim.

First up we'd like to have a report from our Convention Committee, a welcome from Howard Diehl, Bay City Lodge 88.

HOWARD DIEHL, PSP, CONVENTION DIRECTOR (Bay City #88): Greetings to everyone out there this afternoon. We would like to welcome you to the 2020 Michigan Elks Association Fall Meeting here at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. We are sorry to have

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canceled our Fall Convention at the Radisson in Kalamazoo but due to the social distancing mandates by the Michigan government, meeting and banquet room seating reductions would no longer allow safe accommodations for our delegation.

It is great that we are able to get together with the pandemic conditions. With the help and guidance of the Soaring Eagle staff, all precautionary measures and safeguards have been put in place to assure your safety. Please help keep everyone safe and healthy by complying with the safety regulations.

Attendance today of approximately 160 members is certainly appreciated. The good works of our Association and the business matters associated with it continue, especially because of these trying times in our communities.

Our next full weekend State Convention will be May 20 to 23, 2021 at Kewadin Resort in Sault Ste Marie. Future dates and locations are listed in the October Michigan Elks News and on the Michigan Elks Website.

Stay safe so we can all meet in May. Fraternaly, Howard Diehl, George Sermon and Penny Geishert, MEA Convention Committee.

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(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Howard.

Next is the minutes of the previous session.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Minutes of the fall meeting held in Frankenmuth in October 2019 have been recorded and provided digitally. The minutes are titled the 63rd Annual Fall Convention of the Michigan Elks Association and a copy was e-mailed to all Lodges, State Officers and Chairs.

Assuming that all recipients have reviewed the minutes of the former meeting, at this time I ask if there are any corrections or deletions.

Having heard none, I ask the assembly for approval of above-mentioned minutes.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: So moved.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Support.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: All in favor the usual sign.

Opposed the same.

Additional copies of the minutes may be requested via phone or e-mail to me. That's it.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Next is the Secretary's report, communications.

STATE SECRETARY CARY: In accordance with the requirements of the By-Laws of the Michigan Elks

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Association, the following report of the MEA is submitted for the period of June 1st until today.

All current warrants have been processed and bills paid. Treasurer's report to follow with income and expense amounts.

Scholarships are still coming in.

All Lodge dues and assessments are paid.

No outstanding warrants to be discussed.

Proceedings from the Fall 2019 meeting were received and distributed electronically.

Correspondence:

Thank you letter from Bob Duitsman for the hospitality and Waterford clock.

Thank you letter from Grand Secretary Bryan Klatt for donation to the Elks National Disaster Relief Program in the name of GER Duitsman.

Committee Chairs, please be aware of your budget which has been established by the Trustees. Any amount exceeding the budget without prior approval will be rejected. All expenses must be supported with copies of bills and invoices, and you will not charge anything directly to the Michigan Elks Association.

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An expense voucher is located on the State Website to be used to request payment. If you can't find that voucher, a short note with receipts attached will be accepted. You will be reimbursed after the Trustee Approving Member has authorized your request.

All advanced funds must be justified and substantiated by receipts, otherwise IRS rules may require the Association to report advances as personal income for tax purposes.

All checks of income must be sent to the State Secretary for documentation and deposit.

Remember, any correspondence and all vouchers are to be submitted to the Michigan Elks Association. My PO Box is on there. That's going to change with the new Secretary soon.

President Jerry, Officers and Trustees, it's been a pleasure working with you all these years and I appreciate all your input and help.

Your Secretary, Karen Cary.

(Applause.)

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Karen.

Next we will have the State Treasurer's report. Since Keith Alverson is not here, Jim Deamud will be presenting.

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JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: As I indicated, with Keith having to take Greer home this morning, he left me his Treasurer's report and this is what he was going to present.

"Good morning. Before getting into the report I want to commend Mike Bartolotta, Chairman of our State Trustees, and the rest of the Trustees for having the foresight to bring forth the idea to issue \$1000 checks to each and every Lodge in the state to help with the effect of the Corona virus on all of our Lodges. This was very forward thinking on the Trustees part and they should be commended and thanked for their efforts on this issue.

All warrants issued by our Secretary and approved by the Approving Member of our Trustees received by Friday, October 9, 2020, have been paid. Also, all funds received from the Secretary as of the same date have been deposited with Huntington Bank.

In my last report I mentioned that we had opened a PayPal account to be used to make paying for the convention a bit more 21st century. It has also been used to collect funds for the National Convention shirt sales. Funds are transferred from PayPal to our bank account at Huntington Bank on a regular basis. This system appears to be working very well.

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6 Funds in all of our checking
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8 accounts are kept to a minimum to maximize the interest
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10 earned in our money market accounts.

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12 According to our wonderful
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14 Secretary, the dues of all of our Lodges are currently
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16 paid for the year.

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18 This past summer I had arranged for
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20 a teleconference between our investment advisor from
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22 Ameriprise and the State Trustees to go over our
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24 investments and the investment strategy of the MEA.
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26 Shortly after this meeting the charitable fund strategy
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28 was moved from a very conservative approach to a
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30 moderate approach. This has been the same investment
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32 strategy used by the general fund for years. None of
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34 the MEA investments are invested in anything that is
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36 high risk.

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38 The one CD that had been held at
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40 Horizon Bank was closed and moved into our Ameriprise
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42 charitable investment account. We had a very small
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44 early termination fee but the earnings generated today
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46 are more than four times the interest we lost and the
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48 penalty we incurred.

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50 All accounts are reflected in the
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52 books of the Michigan Elks Association. All accounts
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54 are reconciled monthly.
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Monthly financial statements and comparison to our budgets in both the General Account and the Charitable Account are now being forwarded to our Presidents, the State Trustees and the State Secretary on an approximately monthly basis so they may track our status on an ongoing basis.

Finally, I must say thank you to our outgoing State Secretary, Karen Cary. Six plus years of dedication to the MEA, and a huge help to me in my transition as the new State Treasurer. She's been a pleasure to work with and I'll miss having her around on a regular basis. Safe travels, my friend.

President Jerry and the members of the Michigan Elks Association, I appreciate your attention, and this concludes my report.

Keith E. Alverson, PSP, Treasurer of the Michigan Elks Association."

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thanks, Jim, and thanks, Keith.

Next up we have the Trustee report. Ken Hines is going to present it, from Plymouth-Ann Arbor.

KEN HINES, TRUSTEE (Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325): So I'm an Approving Member of the Michigan State

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Trustees. We have two budgets to approve here today.

I'm going to go through those real quick here for us.

I'm going to start with the General Account income. We budgeted per capita of \$19,316. Registration funds from the first convention of \$5,000.

State Convention income from the first convention coming back to us \$7,000.

Interest and dividends of \$3,400.

Per capita assessment fee of \$3.00, which is \$57,948.

Miscellaneous income \$1,500.

National Convention Refund of \$5,018.27.

For a total in \$99,182.27.

Our expenditures proposed for 2021 Covid-adjusted.

State Officers, 45 percent come out of this fund, \$12,600.

Postage and printing \$120.

Trustees office \$2,400.

DVP expense, 45 percent out of this fund, \$810.

Audit expense of \$1,350.

Badge expense of \$400.

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Bonding/insurance \$1,100.
Conference proceedings \$4,000.
Printing and stationery \$1,000.
Publication, the state bulletin, 45 percent, that's a \$3,000 expenditure.
Sickness and distress \$100.
Business Practice Committee \$2,000.
Convention Committee \$15,000.
First Lady convention expenses of \$1,000.
Government Relations Committee \$100.
New Lodge Development Committee \$500.
The Law Committee \$100.
Membership/Lapsation Committee \$3,000.
Officers Training \$2,500.
State Photographer \$250.
Lodge Activities Committee \$750.
Website/Internet/Go To Meeting \$1400, which would be Zoom now.
Registration Committee \$600.
Ritual Committee \$2,500.
DVC expense, 45 percent comes out

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of this account, \$810.

National Convention Host Expense
\$2,000.

Secretary computer, we needed a new
computer, \$500 out of this budget here.

Ritual travel expense zero.

National Contest 11th Hour Toast
zero.

Grand Lodge Visits and Gift zero.

President's Gift \$1,300.

Special Assessment zero.

Michigan/Pin/Convention zero.

Risk Management Committee zero.

Public Relations Committee \$100.

Lodge Relief Fund has a zero

balance on that.

Miscellaneous \$100.

GER Candidacy Fund is \$100.

Contingency Fund of \$37,692.27.

For a total of a balanced budget of
\$99,182.27. That's the general budget.

President Jerry, I need to see if
we can get this approved.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: I'm looking for a
motion to approve the budget.

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UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: So moved.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Second.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Any discussion?

Seeing none, vote by the sign of an
Elk.

Hands down.

Against.

Motion carried.

KEN HINES, TRUSTEE: I'll go through the
Charitable Account now.

Our income on that budget was from
the National Foundation State Charities Grant of
\$110,000.

ENF Special Project Grant was
\$115,000.

Interest/Dividends \$3,200.
National Foundation Bonus Grant
\$22,210.

For a total income of \$250,410.
Our expenditures from that account:
Drug Awareness Committee \$9000.
Hoop Shoot Committee \$8000.
Adopt A Veteran Committee \$500.
Michigan Elks Charitable Grant Fund

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\$50,000.

National Foundation Grant Major
Project \$52,500.

Scholarships Awarded \$60,000.

Scholarship Committee \$1,500.

The appearance for our candidate is
down to zero. It comes out of the other account.

Special Events/Organ Donor \$100.

Veterans Committee \$12,500.

Youth Activities Committee \$350.

Postage and printing \$500.

Audit expense nothing.

Bonding/Insurance \$1,562.

Charitable Project Management zero.

State Officers get 55 percent out
of this fund for \$15,400.

DVP expense, 55 percent out of this
fund, \$990.

DVC expense out of this fund is 55
percent, \$990.

Publications, the State Bulletin,
55 percent out of this account, \$3,600.

Americanism Committee gets \$1000.

National Foundation Committee zero.

National Foundation Pledge \$1,000.

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Meeting expense \$250.

Sickness and Distress \$1,500.

Charitable Raffle expense zero.

Secretary Computer, the other half
out of this, there's a budget line there for \$600 but I
believe we only spent \$600 on the total computer.

Natural Disasters \$1000.

Miscellaneous \$1700.

And a Contingency fund of \$25,868.

For a balanced budget of
\$250,410.00.

President Jerry, can we get this
one approved?

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: We need that
approved. I'm looking for a motion to approve.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I'll make a
motion.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Any second?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Support.

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Is there any
discussion? We have a motion and a second.

Please vote by the sign of an Elk.

Hands down.

Those against.

Motion carried.

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KEN HINES, TRUSTEE: I'd like to say from the Board of Trustees, thank you, Karen. It's been a pleasure.

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Ken Hines, from Plymouth-Ann Arbor.

(Applause.)

Karen, do you have any announcements or anybody's badges or anything?

STATE SECRETARY CARY: I do not.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Do you have anybody's badges or anything?

SECRETARY CARY: I wish I did. Nothing.

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Next we have sickness and distress.

It is my sad duty to announce the death of Brothers Al Festa, Past State President, from Clawson-Troy number 2169, he was the Past State President in 1994-1995, and Jerry Olli, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, from Ferndale Lodge 1588 and to add to the official record thereof made in proceedings of this session. Please stand.

Not only those two, but in our Michigan Elks organization this year we lost 152 members, from all the Lodges in Michigan 152.

Please bow your head for a moment

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of silence for all the members who have passed.

(A Moment of Silence was observed for the departed members.)

Thank you. There will be a memorial in May at Kewadin. Hopefully we won't have to add anybody to that list.

Jim would like to say something.

JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: Some of you may not have known Al Festa but Al Festa was our oldest surviving Past State President. He had hoped to be at Grand Lodge on his 100th birthday and he didn't make it. He was 98 and a half when he passed away. He was energetic and he was a joy to be around right until the end. Personally, we're going to miss him a lot.

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you. Keep everyone in your prayers, especially the 152 members we lost this year.

I will now call on our Presidents for a few, and I really mean a few, words. Second Vice President Dave Sladek, Copper Country Lodge 404.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT DAVE SLADEK (Copper Country #404): Good afternoon, everyone. My wife Pam and I are looking forward to hosting the National Convention in Tampa, one of my old stomping grounds when I was young and foolish. We hope to have a record

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amount of people there seeing as we didn't have a convention this year. It should turn out to be a good time. We hope to have in the spring at the Soo some real fine gifts and items of interest to raffle off to help raise money for that event.

Looking forward to everyone signing up and hope to see you all there. Thank you.

(Applause.)

STATE PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Dave. Now our First Vice President, Jim Rowland, from Traverse City Lodge number 323.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT JAMES ROWLAND

(Traverse City #323): Good morning, everyone. As we continue to work through the closure and reopening, I want to commend all of our Lodges for hanging in there and working their way through these troubled times. We haven't lost any Lodges during this and that's really cool.

We may not have put the miles on that we have in the past in visiting, but over the last few months we have been able to get out to a lot of Lodges and got to meet many of you and spend some quality time. It's been interesting to see how each Lodge has handled the distancing and safety concerns in the different areas of the state.

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I'd 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 the homes. Send them a card. We still have kids with special needs attending virtual camps. Support Major Project. As colleges have reopened, the Charitable Grant and Gold Key Commission continues to back kids for continued education. Donate to them.

If any committee chairs have yet to reach out to their committeemen, shame on you. Get on it and get it done.

Congratulations Ferndale 1588 for reaching an All American status by keeping in the forefront of your community. The dinoaur parade you guys had was a gas. Keep up the good work.

Thank you for attending today. Hopefully we'll be back normal in the spring. Stay safe, wash your hands, don't touch your face.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thanks, Jim.

Next is me, the President's report. I have a few pages anyway.

Can you believe how much has

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changed since Covid-19 hit Michigan nearly six months ago. Although things are not the way we had envisioned, we are trying to stay positive and make the most of it, as you can see today in this meeting.

I would like to thank all of the Michigan Elks Lodges, the ERs and members who have stepped up during these unprecedented times and challenging times. It doesn't go unnoticed. 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, that's my wife, Stephanie, have been very busy traveling almost every weekend and have already had the opportunity to visit 40 different Lodges in the state of Michigan. Most of you in this room, I think I've met almost every ER. Anyways, 40 Lodges, and it has been a pleasure visiting everybody. We've got 12 more to go and hopefully we'll get that done in the next six months. Everyone this year so far has welcomed us with open arms. Our goal is try to hit the 52 Lodges across our beautiful state.

Stephanie will continue to update my Michigan Elks State President Facebook page as to

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6 where we are heading and we will call ahead to make sure
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8 your Lodge is open. It has been quite a challenge
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10 getting all three presidents together at the same time
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12 with all of the many canceled programs, but we have
13
14 managed to visit a number of Lodges together. We still
15
16 have time to visit the remaining 12, all three of us.
17

18 On a serious note, we have to
19
20 address our membership dilemma. As of October 2nd,
21
22 these numbers are from our Membership Chairman, Eric
23
24 Buckstad. We have 19,382 members in Michigan. We have
25
26 added 674 so far this year. Sadly, like I mentioned,
27
28 152 members have passed away. Currently the state of
29
30 Michigan, out of all them, have 2618 delinquent members.
31
32 Every year we lose more and more to delinquency.
33

34 If your Lodge has not done so
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36 already, each needs to put a team together to address
37
38 the situation. By now you should have sent out notices,
39
40 called the delinquents and invited them to the Lodge,
41
42 have them sit down with the secretary. If there's a
43
44 problem, they don't want to pay their dues, let us know
45
46 what it is. Most importantly remind them of the good
47
48 works we do, Elks care, Elks share. In order to
49
50 continue to be on our mission, we all need to do our
51
52 part to value membership and get these dues paid.
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54 The District Vice Presidents and
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6 District Vice Chairmen have begun their Lodge visits,
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8 and please welcome them into your Lodge as graciously as
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10 you have welcomed Stephanie and I. Please cooperate
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12 with their questions and have the paperwork filled out
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14 before they get there. They are coming as the
15
16 President's eyes and ears and to help fix problems
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18 before they spiral into something that can't be fixed,
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20 which unfortunately has happened in the past. The
21
22 information we receive from them is vital. So I urge
23
24 you to be honest when answering their questions.

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26 In closing, I'm sorry we had to
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28 cancel our fall convention, like Howard said, in
29
30 Kalamazoo but we just couldn't guarantee the
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32 participation and the safety of our members, which was
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34 key, so we did the best that we could. And I thank the
35
36 Convention Committee for making this happen in such
37
38 short notice here at the Soaring Eagle.

39
40 We have only seven short months
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42 before our Lodge year will be over and I'm confident
43
44 that in 2021 we can start fresh and I am proud to be an
45
46 Elk and even prouder to be a Michigan Elk.

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48 Thank you. Jerry Alexie, State
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50 President.

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52 (Applause.)

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54 Jim Deamud will have a few words in
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6 Ron Hicks' place, our State Sponsor.
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8 JAMES DEAMUD, SDGER: Ron had been making
9
10 preparations and plans to visit this meeting today. He
11
12 and his wife Nancy were planning to be here and every
13
14 effort was being made to get him here. However, he
15
16 recently had just a routine health checkup and as part
17
18 of that there were some tests he needed to take. He's
19
20 been waiting over two months for those tests to occur.
21
22 They're scheduled for this coming week.
23

24 The rules out there are you can't
25
26 get into the clinic if you answer a question have you
27
28 been outside the state of Virginia in the past two weeks
29
30 and if you say yes to that then you have to quarantine
31
32 for 14 days and that 14 days would have taken up the
33
34 time he would have been doing these tests next week.
35
36 Since he's been waiting so long, he felt he needed to
37
38 get that done and that's why he's not here today.
39

40 I know he is thinking of us. Most
41
42 of you have had some contact with him indirectly. Every
43
44 report that comes out of the State Association and
45
46 crosses his desk he responds to it. He is constantly
47
48 thinking about how we're doing. He is very supportive
49
50 of our efforts here. I know he feels very badly he
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52 can't be here. But, at any rate, on his behalf
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54 greetings and he probably would say "It's a great day to
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be an Elk". Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Any other
announcements, Karen?

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Not that I'm aware.

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: I now call on Jeff Burk
for Registration, or Sue Burk, either one.

JEFF BURK, REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN (Gaylord
#2544): This has been an interesting weekend to try and
do the registration, to figure out exactly what we're
doing compared to what we used to do.

President Jerry, Members All: This
is the final registration totals for the 2020 Fall
Convention held at Mount Pleasant, Soaring Eagle, and it
goes as follows:

- 1 Special Deputy Grand Exalted
Ruler.
 - We have 1 Grand Lodge Committeeman.
 - 1 State President.
 - 1 First Vice President.
 - 1 Second Vice President.
 - 8 Past State Presidents.
 - 8 State Officers.
 - State Chairman and Committeemen,
- because of the way the registration has come out I don't

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have all that information.

PDDGERS we have 7.

DDGERS have 5.

Past Exalted Rulers 43.

Exalted Rulers, 24.

Chairman of Trustees 11.

Secretaries 17.

Total voting delegates 117.

Total non-voting delegates 15.

For a total in attendance of 132.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Burk.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Jeff. Jeff

is from the Gaylord Lodge 2544.

At this time we're going to suspend the meeting for a few minutes and invite anyone that wants to come in to see the Installation of Officers, which will probably be my wife and Dave's wife.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Mike Thibo, please invite anyone that wants to come in to witness the Installation of Officers.

We will now have the official Installation of Officers by Past State President Chris Ferguson from the Metro District, Rochester-North Oakland Lodge number 2225.

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INSTALLING PRESIDENT FERGUSON: Thank you,
Jerry.

Members and guests, we are present
for Installing the Officers of the Michigan Elks
Association for the fraternal year 2020-2021. It gives
me great pleasure to introduce to you the Installing
Officers of our Association.

The Installing Chaplain will be
Past State President Chuck Oatten from Alma Lodge 1400.

The Installing Secretary will be
Past State President Stan Chubinski from Battle Creek
Lodge 131.

I will be presiding as Installing
President and I was just introduced as Past State
President Chris Ferguson from Rochester-North Oakland
Lodge 2225.

Brother Secretary, you will call
the names of the Appointed Officers, Elected and
Designate. As each name is called, the respective
Officer will please stand at their chair and we will
administer the ceremony from here.

INSTALLING SECRETARY CHUBINSKI: State
President, Jerry Alexie, Warren-Sterling Heights Lodge
2292.

First Vice President, James

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Rowland, Traverse City Lodge 323.

Second Vice President, Dave Sladek,

Copper Country Lodge 404.

State Secretary, Scott Burns, St.

Joe-Benton Harbor Lodge 541.

State Trustee, Bob Antilla,

Ishpeming Lodge 447.

Chaplain, Richard Gauthier,

Traverse City Lodge 323.

Sergeant-at-Arms, Mike Thibo, Flint

Lodge 222.

Tiler, Barbara Dotson, South Haven

Lodge 1509.

Soloist, Kimberly Deckard,

Pontiac-Waterford Lodge 810.

Organist, Les Thornburg, Traverse

City Lodge 323.

District Vice Presidents:

Metro District, Chuck

Pankey-Fanning, from Ferndale Lodge 1588.

Northwest District, Amy Loftis,

Manistee Lodge 250.

Upper Peninsula District, John

Thomas, Negaunee Lodge 1116.

Southeast District, Patrick Morgan,

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Dearborn Lodge 1945.

Northeast District, John Kennedy,

Alma Lodge 1400.

Southwest District, James Woermbke,

Three Rivers Lodge 1248.

District Vice Chairman:

Metro District, Jamie Kurtz, III,

Ferndale Lodge 1588.

Northwest District, Dan Clark,

Grand Haven Lodge 1200.

Upper Peninsula District, Eric

Patmythes, Escanaba Lodge 354.

Southeast District, Joe Morgan,

Dearborn Lodge 1945.

Northeast District, Michael Thibo,

Flint Lodge 222.

Southwest District, Dan Poll,

Battle Creek Lodge 131.

Major Project Commissioner:

Northeast District, Russell Holove,

Flint Lodge 222.

Major Project Commissioner: Upper

Peninsula, Wendi Thomas, Negaunee Lodge 1116.

Gold Key Commissioner: Southwest

District, Don Smith, Battle Creek Lodge 131.

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INSTALLING PRESIDENT FERGUSON: Thank
you, Brother Secretary.

My Brothers and Sisters, you have
been chosen by the members of this Association to fill
positions of trust and responsibility for the ensuing
year. Do you each accept the office for which you have
been chosen?

OFFICER-ELECT AND DESIGNATE: I do.

INSTALLING PRESIDENT FERGUSON: Please
raise your right hand. Do you each, under your the
obligation of an Elk, solemnly promise and swear to
support the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association
and to further its interests, promote its welfare and
advance the work for which this organization was
organized?

OFFICER-ELECT AND DESIGNATE: I do.

INSTALLING PRESIDENT FERGUSON: The
Chaplain will invoke the devine blessing.

INSTALLING CHAPLAIN OATTEN: Exalted Ruler
of the universe, grant, we beseech Thee, Thy special
favor upon the Officers of this Association. Invest
them with the power and desire to exemplify the
principles of charity, justice, brotherly love and
fidelity so that under their direction the work of our
Order through this Association may redound to the credit

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of Him who in Thy name taught us to "Do unto others as we would have them do unto us," and thine shall be the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

DELEGATION: Amen.

INSTALLING PRESIDENT FERGUSON: My Brothers and Sisters, you have been selected by the members of this Association to fill the various offices for the ensuing year. This action on their part is a result of their confidence reposed in you, their belief in your particular fitness and their knowledge of your interest in the welfare of Elkdom and the practicing of its principles.

Let me impress upon you your responsibilities and the opportunities presented to you to further the work for which our Order was founded. You shall ever acknowledge and protect the sovereignty of the Grand Lodge and it shall be your duty first to discourage and prevent any action by this Association that will in any manner conflict with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Lodge.

Officers, you may be seated.

Brother Second Vice President, I now invest you with the jewel of your office. May you serve the Association with distinction and ever be ready to assist the President in his duties. Congratulations.

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(Applause.)

Brother First Vice President, it gives me great pleasure to invest you with this jewel of your office. May you ever be ready to serve your Association and assist the President in the performance of his duties. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

Mr. President, I'm going to go off script for a minute here and say I think everyone in this room is extremely grateful for the courage and performance that you've shown thus far through this year.

It now gives me great pleasure to officially invest you with the jewel of your office and present you with your gavel of authority. Use it with firmness and discretion, together with such admonition and teachings of the Order, as will ever keep alive the principles of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. Congratulations, Jerry.

(Applause, Standing Ovation.)

I now declare the Officers of this Association for the ensuing year duly installed. I now present your officially installed President, Jerry Alexie.

(Applause.)

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PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Chris. I wanted everyone to know that I am wearing Rod Bellman's jewels. I asked if I could wear them to become President. Dee let me use them.

I have a couple things I would like to say. I would like to say thanks to Chris, Stan and Chuck. This is much better than getting appointed on a Zoom call. Now it's formal and official for all of us. I have a few people I need to thank.

First the one and only, my First Lady, I got to thank my bride, Stephanie, who has put up with me for the last 46 years. Actually, my daughters call her St. Stephanie. She keeps me from getting in trouble, getting myself in trouble.

I did want to say we enjoyed visiting all the Lodges and meeting so many new members. Thanks for all the hospitality. Also thanks, Stephanie, for the mask lanyards that everybody has around their neck. That was her idea. She bought them with her own Social Security check.

Thank you to Jim Rowland and Joan for the companionship of traveling with us to many Lodges, and Dave and Pam Sladek for inviting us into your home and also letting us meet your alligator. Thanks for the offer to hold it anyway. I didn't do it.

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I looked at it and I said I don't think so.

Thanks to Jim Deamud for all the advice, the Trustees for funding our programs, the DVPs, DVCs for stepping into the positions. You are all doing a great job. Thanks to all of them.

Thank you to all of my State Chairmen for all you do and for thinking outside the box and still promote our programs. I know during these times you got to think a different way and hopefully by next May things will go back to normal.

Most of all I would like to thank all of our members. Without you we would not be the Michigan Elks Association. You are the Michigan Elks Association. I am only the President. Thank you.

(Applause.)

Moving right along, Good of the Order. Any Good of the Order? Chris.

INSTALLING PRESIDENT FERGUSON: Thank you, President Jerry.

This is a little bit personal for me. I don't know what else you've planned, but our present State Secretary Karen Cary served her first year as Secretary the year I was State President and I just can't tell you there would ever be a more enjoyable person to work with or more efficient at her job and

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we're all going to miss her in her official capacity. I would just like to say thank you, Karen, for six wonderful years of duty and obligation to this Association and good luck in all your future endeavors.

(Applause, Standing Ovation.)

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: At this time I would like to call Ken Hines up for a special presentation.

KEN HINES (Plymouth-Ann Arbor #325): Chris he stole our thunder but he's got it all right. Karen, come on up and see us.

On behalf of the MEA, all the Trustees, the State Officers, our whole membership, thank you, thank you, thank you for six years of unprecedented service. We sure enjoyed working with you.

(Applause.)

STATE SECRETARY CARY: Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Karen.

Our First Vice President would like to say something.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ROWLAND (Traverse City #323): I broke it.

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: All right. Dave, go first, our Second Vice President.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT SLADEK (Copper

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6 Country #404): Greetings again, everyone. Glad to be up
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8 here. I couldn't do it without my wife helping me along
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10 the way. I look forward to meeting all of you in the
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12 years to come. It should be a good time. Hope to see
13
14 you in Tampa also. Thank you.

15
16 (Applause.)

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18 FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ROWLAND (Traverse
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20 City #323): I'll read it off the little one. I just
21
22 want to take a minute. I want to thank a few people,
23
24 too.

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26 I want to thank Chuck Oatten
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28 face-to-face for the job he did last year as President.

29
30 (Applause.)

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32 The hurdles you faced were very
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34 personal but you were able to steer the ship ahead.
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36 Joan and I appreciate the time we got to spend with you
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38 and Deb. Those are lasting memories. Always remember
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40 know where the tiger is on a rainy day.

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42 We've been fortunate enough to
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44 spend quality time with Jerry and Stephanie for the last
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46 18 months and are looking forward to many more
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48 adventures. Jerry has taken over as President at a
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50 rough time in all of our lives but is carrying the Elks
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52 banner high and preaching our causes. They covered
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54 three-quarters of the state now, spreading good words
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6 and bolstering the enthusiasm of all.

7
8 We're also looking forward to
9
10 spending more time with Dave and Pam over the next 18
11
12 months, and I've been told the gator is eager to tangle
13
14 with me.

15
16 What a mess the first half of this
17
18 year has been and I want to thank all the Lodges for
19
20 hanging in there one more time. As larger groups are
21
22 being able to get back together at facilities, please
23
24 stay cautious and safe. We don't need to go backwards.

25
26 I want to take a second to throw on
27
28 my other hat. As Officer Training Chairman, this
29
30 committee is alive and well and preaching a new gospel.
31
32 We're tailoring presentations to each Lodge based on
33
34 their individual concerns. Please reach out to us,
35
36 share your needs. We go from the structure of the Order
37
38 right down to how we put budgets together. We're
39
40 currently scheduled with six Lodges in putting dates
41
42 together with them, so if you have any interest please
43
44 reach out to us so we can get you on that schedule.

45
46 Finally, I'd like to thank
47
48 everybody that's helped me along through the years from
49
50 the State, especially my District, Northwest, and
51
52 specifically my Lodge, Traverse City 323.

53
54 Lastly, thank you to my wife Joan
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for being willing to ride this roller coaster ride with me.

Again, stay safe, wash your hands, don't touch your face.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Any other Good of the Order? Mr. Paul, Mr. Paul Robinson.

PAUL ROBINSON, LAW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

(Flat Rock #1731): Actually, I have two items I wanted to mention.

First I wanted to thank Howard Diehl for all the work he put in this year as it related to not just planning a convention in Kalamazoo then all of the legal aspects of getting us out of all of those contracts for that convention and re-planning it again. He really did a bang-up job, three different, separate functions this year, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

(Applause.)

But I also want to mention that in the months coming ahead we don't know if the Covid-19 is going to go away, if it's going to stay at a certain level or if it's going to get worse. What we're going to do is put the most current health department guidelines on the State Web Page and ask every Lodge to,

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6 whether it's once a week or once every two weeks,
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8 periodically check to see what the current guidelines
9
10 are and to make sure we follow them because many of our
11
12 members are in high risk groups and we want to be able
13
14 to protect them. Even if we feel comfortable at a
15
16 level, we have to look out for those most vulnerable
17
18 among us. That's what brotherhood and sisterhood
19
20 requires of us. I ask you to please stay current with
21
22 the guidelines. Thank you.

23
24 PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you, Paul. Any
25
26 other Good of the Order? In the back of the room I see
27
28 there are still some koozies there, a couple shirts
29
30 still for sale for \$25. If anyone didn't get a lanyard,
31
32 see Stephanie after the meeting.

33
34 Is there anything else? Howard was
35
36 there anything else you wanted say about the convention?

37
38 PSP HOWARD DIEHL: I have nothing else.

39
40 PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Seeing nothing, we will
41
42 call for benediction. Mr. Gauthier.

43
44 STATE CHAPLAIN GAUTHIER: Let us pray.
45
46 Father, as we come to the close of another session, we
47
48 thank You for Your guidance in completing the good works
49
50 of another successful meeting and the greater goals for
51
52 rest of this year. May goodness always lead our way,
53
54 may we respect our fellow man and the love of this Order
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always fill our hearts. Amen.

DELEGATION: Amen.

PRESIDENT ALEXIE: Thank you. I now
declare this business session closed.

(At 1:26 p.m., October 17, 2020, the 64th
Annual Fall Convention of the Michigan Elks Association
was adjourned sine die.)