 STATE SPONSOR’S MESSAGE

Ron Hicks, PGER

My first year as State Sponsor of the Pennsylvania Elks has been very rewarding and a great learning experience, as I got a real sense of “Who the PA Elks Are and What You Do.” I have enjoyed meeting so many dedicated Pennsylvania Elks and have been impressed by your support for the State Major Project the Elks National Foundation, and the many programs that support our youth and veterans. These Programs prove that the Pennsylvania Elks are a reliable partner for the Community, and that every Pennsylvania Elk has a right to be very proud!!

I am also impressed with the many social activities that you provide for your Members. These activities help bring Members together and create a sense of unity and pride in your Lodge. Once you have developed Lodge pride, it is easy to take that pride into the streets in service to your Community. This, in turn, helps strengthen your Lodge for the future and helps it grow for long-term success.

I look forward to meeting even more great Elks at the Pennsylvania State Convention in May. Please plan to be with us, as we celebrate our past accomplishments, plan for the coming year and discuss the various topics that should be of great interest and importance to each of you.

(State Sponsor - continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Glenn Foster

Brother and Sister Elks, as I begin to type this for “The Pennsylvania Elk”, I cannot help but reflect on my year as State President. Words cannot express the great times Bonnie and I had while visiting the Districts in our State Association, and the wonderful people we had the opportunity to meet and to socialize with at different lodges.

As I had said in a previous message, the Fall Convention was really well attended and the Committee reports were full of accomplishments and were done with great enthusiasm. I hope this trend will continue during our Spring Convention. It was evident that each of you enjoyed the weekend and it was a great success because of the excitement each of you showed. Again, I believe in getting the job done but having fun doing it.

There has been a big Membership awareness push to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Our Order. We cannot allow our Membership recruiting to fall apart in the new Lodge year. Our Order thrives on new, active members. Yes, we are all volunteers and yes, our society has changed over the years making it more difficult to bring new members into our Lodges. Please continue to stress the good deeds the Elks do for the Youth, the Veterans, and the communities in which we live. Once a new member is initiated, please go out of your way to make him or her feel welcome. Induction, Initiation, and Retention of new members are very important ideas we must constantly keep in mind. Induction: an informative Induction will teach new members what the Elks do for their community. Initiation: when done impressively will further peak the interest of new members. Officers, please know what you are saying during an Initiation; practice, practice, practice. Retention: once a new member has been initiated, we must make them feel welcome and make them want to come back and be a part of the Lodge.

I am hopeful that every Lodge in our State Association will be able to make a contribution to the Home Services Program during the March of The Lodges on Saturday afternoon at the convention.

I look forward to seeing you and hearing great reports in May. Come prepared to welcome your new State President Steve, and his wife Cindy, during the dinner Saturday night. I know they will be great ambassadors for the Pennsylvania Elks State Association everywhere they go.

I would like to thank each of you for allowing me to represent you as your State President this year. It has truly been an honor, one that both Bonnie and I will cherish forever.

Some of you have asked, so now here is the answer. Since the Spring Convention in April, 2017, to the end of the calendar year, the total Elk miles driven, which includes our trip to and from the Grand Lodge Convention in Reno, totals 11,536 miles. And yes, Bonnie and I still talk to one another.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Glenn E. Foster,
PA Elks State President
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
David “Pete” Byron, Chairperson

We need to get all lodges to submit their charity reports asap. We need this information to help us let our law makers know what we do for the community and all that we give for charities.

Keep in mind this is the Elks 150th anniversary and our goal is to meet the $1 million dollars a day in service and monies for our projects.

There is a lot of talk going around about the PA games of Skill and the games that are not considered hybrids.

Vendors along with retired Liquor Control Officers are holding meetings and seminars at clubs saying that their machines are legal because they can’t be adjusted like a slot machine.

I have contacted the Liquor Control enforcement officers and they told me they know this is going on and they are incorrect and the machines are illegal. The one who will take the hit is the establishment the machine is in and the officers of the club. The punishment will depend on how many prior convictions the club has. (which may include non renewal of the license).

There is still proposed legislation that would lower the cost of the surcharge on your liquor license. The cost is currently $700.00. We are working on getting this approved.

Our committee will also be holding another seminar at the spring convention on Friday, May 4th from 2:30 to 3:30 with guest speakers. Please mark your calendar and try to attend this session.

Ronald L. Hicks, PGER
State Sponsor

SCHOLARSHIP/LEADERSHIP
Joe Butrymowicz, Chairperson

Currently the Most Valuable Student Scholarship (MVS) program is nearing the final stages of the judging and scoring process. Through ENF, the MVS program awards up to $2.44 Million in scholarships to 500 worthy and deserving young students across the US. As some of you know, and have been involved with, high school seniors from across our state have submitted their applications all on-line and have been judged and scored at the local and district levels already. The application, judging and scoring process were completely converted to an on-line process last year. That transformation was not without problems, but, sensing from the feedback thus far, many of the initial bugs have been worked out and this year seems to be progressing better.

From Pennsylvania, 163 boys and girls have made it to the state judging level, which is presently underway. However, from these applicants, only 16 will move onward to the National level for further judging. The 500 students (including our 16) making it to the National judging level will win a $4000 Scholarship and have a chance to win up to a $50,000 Scholarship.

Additionally, the Pennsylvania Elks Association will give out our own scholarship awards to those applicants that have made it to the state level through the MVS program. The top 26 scoring boys and top 26 scoring girls will each win a $1200 scholarship award. This award is for one time this year and given out in their freshman year as they begin their studies. These winners will be announced sometime in March along with the applicants moving on to the National level.

As I become aware of how well our Pennsylvania candidates do, and if they move forward, I will notify all District Chairpersons accordingly. Thank you all, at the District and Local levels, for your hard work in processing these applicants this year. Incidentally, I am planning to hold a seminar at the Fall Convention this year to “walk-thru” the on-line process and answer any questions or concerns going into the next Scholarship season. Watch for details on that in upcoming newsletters.

STATE ASSOCIATION
Carol M. Hutson, Chairperson

Our State Vice-President Steve Kempff has selected the winning pin design for 2018-2019 from the 13 entries that were submitted. We have a repeat winner this year and it is Kathleen Dabbs from Johnstown Lodge # 175. Kathleen submitted a total of 8 different pin designs, Carol Lee Carlin submitted 3 and Roni Sue Stevens submitted two. The pin is currently in production and will be available at the Spring Convention with the cost remaining at $2.00.

Our committees proposed fund raiser to help increase our donations to the Elks National Foundation has not progressed as quickly as anticipated. We are currently working on having the Collegiate and Professional sports organizations donate tickets for this fund raiser. Anyone who could help with this donation please let me know, it would be greatly appreciated. You can email me at hutson@ptd.net or call 570-73-3117. Thank you for your support.
Meet One of the Children You Help

Margie Wood RN, Grant Projects Director

James Nock is an eight-year old boy who lives with his mother and siblings in Westmoreland County. He was born with a disability that is making him progressively weaker. Recently, his Elks Home Service Nurse, Kathy DiRinaldo worked with his mother and Seating Unlimited, so James could learn to use a power wheelchair. Kathy also helped them with getting their home more accessible by finding someone to widen the doorway and build a ramp.

Kathy referred the family to the new Accessible Housing Program through the local Redevelopment Authority. They funded a stairlift for James. He is finally able to go upstairs to play and sleep in his own bedroom. He was very proud to show the stairlift off in the picture.

James’ mother Paula wrote, “If Kathy did not think about us and be there for us we would not be getting any help. She visits and cares about me AND my kids, not just one of the children.....I believe we all have a mission and I am happy we are part of the Elks Home Service Program.....Thank you for this great program to help me and my family live in our own home.”

When you donate to the PA Elks Home Service Program, you help James and many other children, youth and adults find the support and help they need to live as independently as possible. Thank you for all you do!

Your Facebook Page

John Neetz — PA Elks Public Relations

It is great to see so many of the Pennsylvania Elks Lodges using Facebook Pages to help spread the word of Elkdom throughout the state. Most lodges are doing a fantastic job promoting their lodges. There are still a few lodges that have not taken advantage of the least expensive advertising opportunity that the Facebook social media platform offers. We encourage all lodges to have a Facebook Page and use it to promote your lodge.

In creating a Facebook page, we need to keep in mind that Facebook has several different forms of profiles. First is the User page, which is meant for individual people or users. Some lodges mistakenly create User page, which is not the best use of the Facebook profiles. Facebook also has groups, which is a group of individuals that have a like subject matter. The Facebook Group is also not recommended for Pennsylvania Elks Lodges. The Facebook PAGE is the best way to promote your Lodge. This page, if used effectively, can be seen by all 2.2 billion active users of Facebook.

A Facebook page is first created by an individual. That individual then becomes the Page Administrator. The page administrator can assign other Facebook users as administrators or editors. It is important that any user with administrative rights, be a trusted member of your lodge. Facebook administrators can assign other people roles to the page, take complete control of the Page, and even remove the page entirely. The lodge secretary, if they have a Facebook user account, should at least be one of the Page administrators. I personally recommend that each Page have at least 2 Page Administrators. Along with the page administrator, each Facebook page should have at least 3 Editors. These editors are given rights to post images, events, and status updates on the Facebook Page. The Editors again should be trusted members of the lodge, familiar with Facebook and also familiar with the Grand Lodge guidelines regarding Facebook use for Elks Lodges. Between the administrators and editors, a good policing of the Facebook page can be accomplished to insure no unauthorized content be displayed on your lodge’s Facebook page.

As with any images, Lodges should never post images with members or guests drinking alcohol or smoking. Not only is this a Grand Lodge guideline, but these type images do not project a good image of your Lodge. We need to keep in mind that we are an Elks Lodge with a bar for its members to enjoy, not a bar that contains an Elks Lodge. Portraying a good image of your lodge, will encourage new membership to join your lodge for the “right reasons” and not to join a bar. After all, anyone can walk into a bar, but not just anyone can be a member of the most charitable organization in the United States. It is important that before posting an image, that you ask yourself if that image best describes what your lodge is all about.

Many lodges post events, bingo, and dinner specials on their lodge Facebook Page. That is a great way to get information out to your membership and the community of what is happening at your lodge. Please keep in mind the many other great things your lodge does for your community and post those images to your Facebook Page as well. This shows the visitors to your Lodge’s Facebook page that your lodge helps its community and has fun doing it. Images of your ENF Grant projects are always a great way to show your community that your lodge is not just another corner bar.

As a general rule Grand Lodge Public Relations has developed a list of prohibited posting for your lodge’s social media pages that include posts that:

- are hateful or mean-spirited.
- are potentially libelous, obscene or sexually explicit
- are personal attacks, or involve profanity or insults.
- are private or public information published without Lodge consent.
- violate any law or promote the violation of any law.
- contribute to or encourage discrimination or harassment
- display photos of Members drinking or smoking, or considered harmful to the Elks’ image and reputation
- contain the names of minors.
- divulge Lodge business that may violate your Obligation.
- are not positive and informative

We ask that all lodge’s conform to these standards and continue to promote all of the good works that we do along with the fun that we have.
ENF Trip To Mexico
A Huge Success

Only eleven members participated in the ENF fund raising trip to Riviera Maya in January, but all had a wonderful time. The weather was perfect and a much-needed break from the sub-freezing temperatures that were plaguing Pennsylvania. Days were spent on the beach or around the pool. Late afternoon provided time for a siesta before cocktails and dinner. Evenings were spent enjoying the shows, music, and conversations with fellow Elks. When we arrived home, we were tanned, relaxed, a wee bit heavier, but ENF gained even more. The efforts of the group raised nearly $1700 for ENF.


46th Annual State Hoop Shoot Results
Saturday, March 3, 2018

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<tr>
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<th>District</th>
<th>Lodge</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Ava Baker</td>
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Emile J. Brady Team Award

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Elks Pride Through
Community Focus
Terry Liersaph – GL Activities Committee Member

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

As Elks we are guilty of keeping our Order a “well-kept secret”. It is time for your Lodge to make your Community and your members aware of what an Elks Lodge truly is. This is where your Grand Lodge Activities Committee comes in to lend a helping hand. By accessing the Grand Lodge web site at elk.org, clicking on the recently updated Activities Committee site, there are many tools and suggestions to help you achieve greater Lodge recognition. Information about the Medal of Valor and Medal of Service is available. The Medal of Valor for presentation to the family of a deceased police officer, EMS or firefighter who have fallen in the line of duty and the Medal of Service can be presented to active public servants who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. This is a perfect opportunity to show your respect and gratitude. Certificates that can be personalized, downloaded and printed are available in the Activities Committee website also.

Other information that is available to help with Lodge participation includes: Youth Golf, the recently updated Antlers Program, Elks Student of the Month awards, Elks National Youth Week, the Dictionary Program available to 3rd grade students in your local schools, Elks in Scouting and the newest Community Project contest.

Cost of these programs need not be a major concern. Help is available through the Elks National Foundation grants if criteria is met. The Beacon, Promise, Gratitude and this year’s one-time $1500 Anniversary Grant in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of our great Order are available to qualifying Lodges. In addition, the Impact Grant for larger projects up to $10,000 is also available. Let’s be “Loud and Proud”. The Elks motto is “Elks Care-Elks Share”. Let’s share our mission and let our communities and members know how much we care.

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

ENF NOTES
Dick Miller, Chairperson

All donations for ENF must be received by March 31, 2018. ENF will be closed on March 30, 2018, but if the donation is in the mailbox on March 31, 2018, the donations will count for this year. I might suggest that you donate directly to ENF. For example, your online banking serves well as a way to donate directly to ENF. Simply, enter your ENF giving number and the address in Chicago, and then begin giving at whatever rate you might choose.

Then of course is the Fidelity Club. This giving process uses either a credit card or uses a bank account to withdraw the contribution to ENF. It’s also a safe, reliable program that allows everyone to put their energy into fulfilling the ENF’s mission rather than focusing on donations. After members are signed up, their work is done! Remember Pennsylvania’s membership goals are as important as our ENF giving record. Let’s GO ENF and MEMBERSHIP for the Grand Lodge 150 Anniversary Convention.

There remains another possibility for your ENF donations to rapidly contribute to ENF. There are companies and other employers that will match a donations gift to a nonprofit organization. You might ask your employer or search the ENF website to locate your employer. In the case of an employer the impact of your ENF donation may be doubled or even tripled. Either examine the ENF website or call ENF in Chicago for their advice and information on Workplace giving and Matching gifts from your workplace.

It appears that our state will remain the forties again this year. Please consider that your ENF donation might the gift that breaks the paradigm of Pennsylvania and the forties. Hopefully this year our combined efforts will achieve this goal and exceed the Grand Exalted Ruler’s giving goal of $4.75.

I wish to thank each of the members who provided great assistance at the October 2017 State Convention. All of the members attending achieved a new goal with the baskets of $2,525.00. I know I have said it before, but it still is a great achievement for our Fall Convention of 2017.

My best to you all in giving and supporting the great programs of Elkdom.

Southeast District News

Pottstown Lodge #814

Pottstown Elks Lodge #814 66th Annual Charity Ball raises $6,800 for the Lodge’s Charitable Trust Fund.

Kenneth Cusamano, Chairperson, his wife Carol and their dedicated committee prepared and hosted this Red-Carpet Event themed “Puttin’ on the Ritz” and raised the funds through Member and Guest patronage and advertising sponsors. The evening was filled with a fine buffet dinner, dancing to a fabulous band, and exquisite desserts, all for a wonderful cause.

The Pottstown Elks Charitable Trust funds a 4-year College scholarship annually, along with regular donations to deserving charities in the greater Pottstown region at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Lodge Member Kevin Kraus and his wife Amber in front of the Marquis at the 66th Annual Pottstown Elks #814 Charity Ball.
BPO Elks Celebrating 150th Year!

Ten of the 15 originators of BPO Elks, 1868

First Exalted Ruler - 1868
George W. Thompson was the first Exalted Ruler of New York Elks Lodge #1. This was in the early years of Elkdom when the New York Lodge wore Elks aprons during there state meetings and degree work. He wrote and assisted in many different parts of the early degree work, that the Elks used before voting out the use of 2 degrees of initiation. Some of his original writing is still part of the initiation ritual used in today's Lodges.

– West District News –

Allegheny #339
It was a day to celebrate when PDDGER, George Martin turned 90. Not only did Allegheny County Council Member Rich Fitzgerald declare February 2nd as George Martin Day in Allegheny County, but George reached his goal of serving ninety drinks, one for each year of his life, to members of Allegheny Lodge # 339 who came to help George celebrate.

George has been a member of Allegheny Lodge for 67 years. He has served as Exalted Ruler several times and currently serves as Chaplain. But George is most proud of the four decades he has spent as entertainment chairman. He says he, “likes to make people happy and see a smile on each and every face.” And with that, at his celebration, he led the group in the singing of “God Bless America” in the Key of “G” ... I might add.

Carnegie #831
Donald Urbanic, West District PDDGER, was honored for his many years of service to his lodge and the community it serves. At a ceremony held in Carnegie on July 29, 2018, Mayor Jack Kobisstek declared July 29th as Donald Urbanic Day in Carnegie. Besides the decree by Mayor Kobisstek, Don received Honorary Life Membership at Carnegie Lodge #831 and a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Oakmont #1668
ENF Grants received at Oakmont Lodge #1668 continue to help the lodge serve the Community. The Beacon Grant of $2000 allows the lodge to serve lunch to our hospitalized veterans who come to the lodge the third Friday of every month. Besides paying for the food that is served, the grant provides canteen books and prizes for the Bingo which is played after lunch. In addition, our guests are provided entertainment and a Christmas gift bag filled with personal care items, clothing, and fruit.

The Gratitude Grant of $2500 was piggy backed with the Anniversary Grant of $1500 to allow the lodge partner with the Riverview Athletic Association to erect an electronic scoreboard at one of the community’s recreational facilities. This facility, called Cribbs Field, will be used for baseball, softball, and soccer games for the local community and the eastern suburbs.
Wilkins #577

Wilkins Veterans Committee received the outstanding partnership award from the Veterans Place for our dedication to the Homeless Veterans Programs. We assist veterans in moving to permanent housing after completion of the Transition program. The lodge provides gift cards and necessities for the move, collecting furniture, housewares, blankets and anything else members donate.

Norm Johnson (vets Chairman), Barry Rauzenhan, Barry Driscoll, Rich Raible, Veteran, Jim Anweiler and Dave Diffucia.

Freedom Grant: Dedicated to the veteran our committee cooks and delivers monthly lunches and much needed thermal underwear to the homeless veterans still in shelters. They transport these vets to the Veterans Place every morning where they can get warm, have a hot lunch and they give them a doggie bag to go for later in the day. December was very cold, the committee had a thermal underwear drive in which our Bar Bingo had a bonus night for donations of thermals or money donations. We collected $200(to purchase more) and 20 thermal items for distribution.

Drug Awareness: Debbie Raible (State Drug Awareness Chairman and Richard Raible) Presents the children at Sr Thea Bowman Catholic Academy with certificates and gift cards for their participation in the Drug Awareness Poster Contest.

Wilkins Lodge Activities kicked it back in with a New Year's Eve Dinner and comedy/music show raising $500.00 for Home Service.

Caring and Sharing: Upon receiving a call that over 30 pallets of Pretzels were going to be discarded, Wilkins members took as many members and trucks as possible and started delivering pretzels to every food pantry, church, day program, Veterans clubs, local organizations and Braddock Free Store. Total they delivered over $30,000 in product.

Wilkins Trustee Joe Zedek, free Store Volunteer, Craig Stevens DDGER

Wilkins Veterans Committee and Lodge has had a busy Veterans Remembrance month. The DAV mobile unit was at the Elks Oct 20th helping over 25 Veterans get benefits and help, they held a dance and family fun day to raise money for the Veterans committee. Our Veterans committee supports the District and a Christmas party at the Oakland VA every year. The committee reaches out to veterans in need providing whatever they need.

Beginning in September, we had our Honor Wall Dedication a tribute to Veterans Past and Present. The wall represents Elks members and families that have served or are still serving. It was a great ceremony well attended by members and the community.

Freedom Grant- Our Thanksgiving monthly luncheon was well attended as the temperatures drop we see more homeless Veterans coming in to stay warm. They are welcome at the Veterans Place to stay warm during the day when shelters are closed. The committee has recently purchased yoga mats for the veterans to lay on when they come in to the center so they do not have to lay on the floor.

(Back) Richard Raible, Norman Johnson Chairman, Tom Worrall, Cheryl Bridge Clyde
For our Veterans Day celebration we had the Veteran Residents from Hamilton Hills Nursing home and LGAR home join us at the Lodge for lunch and entertainment by Jerry De Maria singing all the patriotic favorites and vets favorites. The luncheon and entertainment was also well attended by Veterans of the Lodge.

ENF MONTH - Wilkins members raised over $1000 for ENF MONTH in October with raffles, a dance and 50/50’s. The CIP grant are the key to increasing membership and Wilkins knows the value of the ENF.

Youth Activities – Supporting the Soccer shoot Program Wilkins sent 8 kids and their families to Penn State representing the West Central District. The kids and families had a great time. Special thanks to Steele Valley Soccer Club. (A-4).

Kittanning #203

The Kittanning Elks Lodge #203 Kids Club were excited to decorate 60 Christmas cards to brighten up the holidays for the veterans at the local Mechling/Shakley Veterans Center in Cowansville. Dan Gallagher PER will personally hand deliver the cards and wish all a Merry Christmas.

Johnstown #175

ELKS LODGE AID S LOCAL VETERANS

Johnstown Elks Lodge #175 held their annual “Rally for Valor” motorcycle run on August 12, 2017 raising $5,000 to aid local Veterans. A check was presented on Tuesday to the Veteran Community Initiatives, Inc. (VCI) by the Officers and Committee members. Tom Caulfield, President/Director of VCI, noted that a large portion of the funds would be used for the Veterans Assistance Outreach Program (VAOP) which provides emergency financial assistance in hardship situations for expenses such as utilities & rent.

The event is one of the Lodge’s largest fundraisers and benefits local Veterans in the Cambria/Somerset area. More than 50 bikes and nearly 100 people turned out for this year’s event. There is a lot of need in this area and, as Elks and communities members, we want to support our Veterans and their families. We are grateful for the opportunity to show our appreciation to those who gave so much and we thank them for their service to our Country. Next year’s Rally is scheduled for August 11, 2018.

Left to Right: David Edwards - State/Lodge Secretary, Kathleen Dabbs – Exalted Ruler, Tom Caulfield – President/Director of VCI, Dennis McKolosky – Rally Chairman, John Dietz – Committee Member

Johnstown Lodge recently held its annual car cruise for the PA ELKS Home Service nursing program. This year over 100 cars were registered for the event. Three home service nurses were on hand to distribute material and talk about the program. A flag raising took place honoring our fallen veterans and first responders. Local veterans along with VFW Post #155 color guard participated in the flag raising with Conemaugh Volunteer Fire company who donated the use of their ladder truck for the flag raising. The National Anthem was sung by 11 year old Ruby Korenoski. The event raised over $1000.00 for Elks Major Projects.
Yenser places 1st & Ties Record in the South Central District Elks Hoop Shoot Competition

On January 28th, 2018 at the “Kathy Snyder Kendall” Gym in McConnellsburg, Pa. Ethan Yenser placed 1st in the South Central District Hoop Shoot. Yenser shooting in the 8-9 boys division represented the West Shore Elks Lodge # 2257 and shot 23 out of 25 foul shots to attain 1st place. Ethan tied the South Central District Record with his 23/25 score. Ethan will represent the West Shore Lodge and the South Central District at the Pennsylvania State Hoop Shoot finals on Saturday, March 3rd.

West Shore Elks Lodge # 2257 would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2018 District Elks Hoop Shoot possible and congratulate the following winners & wish them luck in the 2018 Pa. State Competition on Sat., March 4th

8-9 yr. old girls – Leah Himes – Carlisle Elks Lodge # 578 -16/25
8-9 year old boys – Ethan Yenser – West Shore Elks Lodge # 2257– 23/25, scoring a New S.C. District Record
10-11 year old girls–Isabelle Hoffeditz - Chambersburg Elks Lodge # 600 -20/25
10-11 yr. old boys – Calvin Hagen – Columbia/Middletown Lodge # 1074 -20/25
12-13 year old girls – Drew Kile York Elks Lodge # 213 -19/25
12-13 year old boys –Trenton Miller – Chambersburg Elks Lodge # 600 -19/25 & 4/5

For information about the Elks Hoop Shoot and other Youth Activities that the Elks sponsor please contact your local Elks Lodge.

Left to right: 8-9 Girls Div. – 5th Olivia Miller, 3rd place - Brynn Bigler, 1st place CHAMPION - Leah Himes, 2nd Place - Kendyl Stoner. 4th - Kaila Francis

Left to right: 8-9 Yr. Old Boys: 7th - Chris Cabrera, 5th - Avery Hoffeditz, 3rd Place Isaiah Ogurcak, 1st place Champion Ethan Yenser, 2nd place Owen Cook, 4th -Phoenix House & 6th - Ryan Piersol, Jr.

Left to right: 10-11 Yr. Old Girls – 3rd - Taryn Liester, 1st place Champion -Isabelle Hoffeditz, 2nd - Megan Donley, & 4th - Alaina Neil

Left to right: 10-11 Yr. Old Boys: 5th Place - Jeron Fletcher, 3rd Place - Noah Cunningham, 1st Place Champion, Calvin Hagen, 2nd Place - Gabriel Clemens, 4th - Jacob Shaffer, 6th -Nicholas Silcox


Left to right: 12-13 Yr. Old Boys – 5th - Brayden Fake, 3rd - Bryson Gordon, 1st Place Champion - Trenton Miller, 2nd – Bennet Ohrel, 4th - Braylon Roberts

——— South Central District News ———
Columbia-Middletown #1074

Columbia-Middletown Elks #1074 participates in local Christmas Food Box Delivery – two local Columbia organizations sponsor a Christmas Food Box Delivery every year to provide families in need with food for a Christmas dinner. The Columbia-Middletown #1074 lodge provides the re-usable bags that are used to carry the apples, oranges and potatoes for the meal. The Ladies Auxiliary organizes and manages the Toy Give-Away so families with children receive toys. Members also volunteer to help pack and deliver the boxes. On Sunday, December 17th, 2017 over 700 food boxes were delivered to families in the Columbia and surrounding areas.

Columbia-Middletown Elks #1074 Hosts Local Heroes Dinner - "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear". Every day First Responders show their Courage! Every day First Responders sacrifice! Every day First Responders serve their community! EVERY DAY!!! Columbia-Middletown #1074 provided the first responders in Columbia with a dinner on February 10th as a small token of appreciation for their Service and Sacrifice. The first responders were treated to a Barbecue dinner, along with music and fellowship. They also had the pleasure of hearing from Judge David L. Ashworth from the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas, who told them about his experiences with the Lancaster County Drug Court and the opioid epidemic that the first responders deal with on a daily basis. The first responders were very appreciative that they were recognized for their service and sacrifices.

West Shore #2257

The West Shore Lodge #2257 continues their support of two local homeless veterans shelters. The lodge contributes supplies and meals for Just for Today Recovery Services which supports the needs of veterans struggling with substance abuse and other disorders. They provide living space in their recovery houses for veterans, as well as recovery groups and meetings focusing on the unique challenges facing them.

In addition, the West Shore Lodge #2257 sponsors the Robert M. Jackson veterans center in Harrisburg. Their mission is to assist homeless veterans and their families in need of services to develop a resilient, self-sufficient lifestyle essential to succeeding in today’s environment and to give honor to those who defended our country but never received the proper recognition that is “owed to them” in addition to improving their quality of life.
Erie #67

For over 25 years the Auxiliary of Erie Lodge #67 has sponsored a Christmas Angle Tree for the Sarah Reed Children’s Center. The Children’s Center was founded in 1871, in Erie, Pennsylvania by a group of women interested in helping orphaned and homeless children. The Auxiliary decorates a Christmas Tree with “Angels”. Each Angel has a Christmas gift wish from each of the Children at the Center. Lodge Members select an Angel and purchase the gift request for that Angel Child at the Center. The Auxiliary wraps the gifts with Love and Hope and delivers the gifts to the Center. This year almost 100 Angels will have a better Christmas with lots of Love from Lodge #67.

On December 10th Erie Lodge #67 hosted the annual Christmas party for the Erie Homes for Children and Adults. EHCA and Erie Lodge have a longstanding partnership and we host and support many events each year. The Christmas party was attended by over 50 guests, along with 31 of their aides and 23 Lodge members who volunteered. Oh yeah, one very special guest from the North Pole, Santa Claus himself! The party included gifts, prizes, food and a DJ, along with special time with Santa.

On Saturday, December 16th, Erie Lodge #67 set a record with our Holiday food drive. This year over 80 volunteers distributed over 195 Holiday food baskets to those in need in our community. The baskets were purchased by Erie Lodge while working with our longtime partner, Tops Friendly Markets, who packed the boxes with complete fixings for a ham dinner and other staples, then delivered the boxes to our Lodge. From there, the volunteers loaded their vehicles and went out, on a very snowy day, spreading holiday cheer to those less fortunate. An extra 20 boxes were donated to a local Veterans shelter.

Beginning Christmas Eve, Erie, PA received the largest snowfall in 24 hours. We received over 63.5” of the fluffy stuff. Another storm hit just days after bringing the total to over 85” for a record total of 123” in December alone. Team Rubicon was deployed and many volunteers from within a 400-mile radius descended on Erie to assist residents. They shoveled and used snow blowers to clear driveways, sidewalks and steps, for residents of the community. Team Rubicon’s primary mission is providing disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters, be they domestic or international. By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders, medical professionals, and technology solutions, Team Rubicon aims to provide the greatest service and impact possible. Erie Lodge #67 was proud to host Team Rubicon’s approximately 24 members to a home cooked meal. Lodge members passed the hat that evening and collected over $300 to support Team Rubicon’s travel expenses. The Team was introduced to the lodge members, and a heartwarming standing ovation filled the Lodge with a huge sense of pride. Lodge #67 will not forget Team Rubicon and the impact they had on our community.

Kane Lodge #329

Girl Scout Troop #26521, sponsored by Kane Lodge #329, are displaying the Valentines they made for the Veterans of Erie. The lodge also collected and donated recreational items, items of personal hygiene and games for these veterans. Lodge #329, Veterans Chairperson, PER, Tonia Hartzell delivered the Valentines and donated items to the appreciative veterans.
East Stroudsburg #319

Members of the award winning Ritual Team of Bridgeport Lodge # 714 held a ritual judging clinic on Saturday, January 20th with 50 Elks in attendance from the Northeast District.

Members of the East Stroudsburg Lodge hosted a Community Meal for the less fortunate at the Stroudsburg Methodist Church on January 21 and served 49 deserving individuals a warm meal.

East Stroudsburg Lodge sponsored a float in the Veterans Day Parade and distributed American flags to the children along the parade route. They also had a Veteran’s luncheon and served 80 Veterans and their families.

For 52 years the East Stroudsburg Lodge has sponsored a Christmas Party for the clients of Burnley Workshop. An organization that employs and empowers individuals with disabilities. A dinner was served at the Lodge followed by dancing to the bands of Snake Oil Willie, Cramer Brothers, Nauman Brothers and McWilliams. The evening concluded with a visit from Santa and gifts.

For the first time the East Stroudsburg Lodge adopted the Veterans residing on the "Hero’s Haven" floor of the Wilkes-Barre V/A hospital for Christmas. They received a wish list from the Veterans, purchased the gifts, and held a party for them at the hospital. In addition, each Veteran received a lap blanket handmade and donated by the Wooddale Church.

East Stroudsburg Lodge # 319 participated in the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign and rang the bell at Wal-Mart on December 16th at both entrances. The Huffman family was stationed at the food entrance. This event is organized each year by Dave Merklin and our organization had the most donation given than any other organization raising $5,800.21.

Bangor #1106

On Saturday December 16, Bangor Lodge #1106 hosted over 60 less than fortunate Slate Belt residents for their annual Christmas Luncheon. Santa was available for all children to get their pictures taken along with his elf helper and Elroy the Elk.
Each family was treated to a great meal, gifts for the children, and a take home bag of household goods. The entire event was funded by a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

**Hazelton #200**

Hazelton Elks Lodge #200 Exalted Ruler Linda Farley presented an Eagle Scout Certificate and an American Flag on behalf of Hazelton Elks Lodge 200 to Ryan Hunter Steiner of Sugarloaf, PA. Ryan obtained his highest rank in Scouting of Eagle Scout from Boys Scout of America Troop 207 on 9-14-2017 by building a 3 "cat trees" for the Hazleton Animal Shelter. As part of the Eagle project, he himself obtained the materials, either by donation or through a fund-raising project, and obtained "labor help" to direct him in the proper work methods.

Hazleton Elks Lodge #200 received a donated Flag Retirement Mail Box Drop Off which will be mounted in front of the Hazleton Elks Lodge for the public to retire their tethered flags. The project was initiated by the Hazleton Firemen Veteran Committee along with assistance of the Hazleton Post Office. The unveiling was performed as part of the lodge's annual Veterans Dinner which included the first Thanksgiving Dinner for all veterans and their families.

Left to right are Charles Palermo, Retired Navy Chief Petty Officer and Veterans committee member, Linda Farley, Exalted Ruler, Tony Colombo, Hazleton Firemen Department Veterans Chairperson and Don Leshko, Hazleton Fire Chief.

**Danville #754**

Danville Lodge #754 participated in a Halloween Parade in October with the Pennsylvania Elks Drug Awareness Trailer. All Participants who visited the trailer after the parade were treated to hot chocolate and Elroy the Elk.

**Sayre #1148**

Sayre Elks Lodge 1148 Veterans Committee has been busy from October through December lavishing attention on the Veterans adopted in two of our local nursing homes. On Veterans Day each of the nursing homes Veterans are treated to a beautiful celebration and ceremony. At the ceremony, each veteran was presented a beautiful framed certificate, thanking them for their service, an American Flag pin, and a copy of the printed program.

When each of the Veterans name was announced, a brief story is told about their tour of duty; Some humorous, some sad, and others just interesting. The Valley Color Guard opened the ceremony by presenting the colors and saying the Veterans Prayer. The program ended with a a member of Sayre Lodge playing 'Taps' on the trumpet followed by another member playing 'Amazing Grace' on the bag pipes. Following the ceremony, each group of Veterans is treated to a huge decorated sheet cake and ice cream that is provided and served by Sayre Lodge members.
The Pennsylvania Elk

**Bellefonte #1094**

Veterans and Bellefonte Elks members, front row from left Eric Fromm, Larry Cramer, and Tom Noffsger, rear Jack Zimmerman.

The Bellefonte Elks Lodge # 1094 provided a Veterans Day brunch for members and guests, following a Veterans Day Service at the Bellefonte Court House.

The Bellefonte Elks Lodge # 1094 recently conducted its annual Local Lodge Hoop Shoot, for boys and girls in ages 8 through 13. A banquet for the winners took place, with the following shooters being recognized at the event.

Elks representative back row - David Van Buskirk, Bellefonte Elks Lodge #1094 Officer and Bucky Quici, Bellefonte Elks Local Hoop Shoot Director. Front row First place girl - Riley Housel and second place boy - Braylon Litzinger.

**State College Lodge #1600**

The State College Elks Lodge # 1600 recently hosted a Children’s Christmas Party, which included a visit with Santa.

Shown here are, Emma Heckman and Charlie Romig

The State College Elks Lodge #1600 announced the selection of February 2018 Male and Female Students of the Month from the Penns Valley Area High School. Emma Heckman, daughter of Daniel and Kimberly Heckman, of Spring Mills, Pa, has been selected as the February 2018 Female Student of the Month. Emma, a senior at Penns Valley, is a member of the National Honor Society and is on the Distinguished Honor Roll. In addition to her role as a member of the Student Council, Emma is extremely active with musical programs, having served as a member of the Senior High Choir, Chamber Choir, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Band Festivals. She also is a member of the girls’ soccer team.

Charles Romig, son of Charles and Laura Romig, of Centre Hall, PA, has been chosen as Male Student of the Month for February 2018. Charles is a senior at Penns Valley Area High School, and is a member of the Honor Roll, as well as a member of the National Honor Society. He is a member of the Varsity Club, and was a member of the Cross Country team, Basketball team, and Baseball team.

Shown left to right in the back row are Local Lodge Hoop Shoot Director Van Arvin, Elks Lodge volunteer W. F. Reiber, and Lodge Officer Shelly Wike. Girls ages 8-9 Lila Franklin, Girls ages 10-11 Annika Bechtel, Girls ages 12-13 Paige Dobson, Boys ages 10-11 Derrick Moriarta, and Boys ages 8-9 Kade Cramer.

Shown here with David Immel, PER are Adeyson Pontzer, Greyson Pontzer, Terri and Dave Pontzer
The State College Elks recently held its Local Lodge Hoop Shoot competition at the Mt. Nittany Middle School in Boalsburg, PA. The Lodge winners now advance to the North Central District competition in Philipsburg, PA on February 10, 2018.

Shown left to right Chris Dobson, Bill Asbury, Dave Will, Dann Cornali, W. F. Reiber, Kathy Flannery, Lydia Gilmore, Wayne Bickle, April Harris, Chip Fogelman, David Harry, Shelly Wike, Chuck Pavloski, Kim Aiello, Dan Aiello, and Scott Frey.

Recently the State College Elks Local Lodge held their annual Hoop Shoot event. Shown in the photo are all the volunteers who assisted with this wonderful event.

Mya Good and Nathaniel Gillespie

The State College Elks Students of the Month for January 2018, have been announced. Mya Good and Nathaniel Gillespie, seniors at the Penns Valley Area High School have been named for January 2018. Mya Good, a member of the senior class, daughter of Miracle Good of Millheim, PA, is a member of the National Honor Society, and is on the Distinguished Honor Roll. She has been extremely interested and involved in music at a variety of levels throughout her high school years, including Musicals, produced at the School. Included in her musical interests are playing and composing music. She is a member of SADD, and has been a member of the Track and Field team.

Nathaniel Gillespie, a member of the senior class, is the son of Robert and Carrie Gillespie of Spring Mills, PA. Nathan is a member of the National Honor Society, received the President’s Award for Educational Excellence, as well as the Citizenship Award. He has served as President of the Varsity Club in 2017, and President of the French Club, as well as serving on the Student Council. Nathaniel has played varsity Baseball and Soccer at Penns Valley, and enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time.

Philipsburg #1173

Daniel J. Nelson, DDGER, PER and Exalted Ruler John A. Frank

The Philipsburg Elks Lodge #1173 presented a check in the amount of $1,000 to the local Food Bank during the Valley Voices Christmas Concert.

Left to right are Larry Thompson and Frank Guyer

Philipsburg Elks BPOE Lodge #1173 delivered Christmas gifts to MacArthur Hall Hollidaysburg Veterans home on Tuesday, December 19th. Some of the items that were delivered included stamps, batteries, zip-up hoodies, pajamas, flannel shirts, watches, headphones, hair conditioner and body wash. Over $2,000 funds were generated by lodge members from a hoagie sale which was held in September.
ATTENTION: NEW ADDRESS
PA ELLKS STATE ASSOCIATION address is
703 Georgian Place, Somerset, PA 15501
Phone 814-444-1954, fax 814-444-1495,
email: paelks@elkspa.com
We no longer have our post office box. Some lodges are still sending donations and mailings to the P.O. box.

The PA Elks License Plates have now increased in price to $31.50. The increase in price came from the Department of Corrections.

Please continue to submit your forms as usual for the plates and make all checks out to the "PA Elks State Assoc." and enclose it with your application when you send it to me for my signature.

If you have any questions please contact me directly at (610) 247-9244.

Fraternally,
Mark A. Shepperd
PA Elks Special License Plate Coordinator

The application is available on line at: www.paelks.com/files/elklicplate2.pdf