PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
David J. Edwards
“PA ELKS-EXTENDING A HAND TO OUR COMMUNITIES” is the State Motto for 2019-2020.

The PA Elks have worked countless acts of kindness and charity to those in need in PA communities. From our Home Nursing program, to our youth, our veterans, our police, fire and first responders, to our schools, libraries, food banks, help centers, where ever there is a need you will find a PA Elk involved. It is the dedication of our members that make our lodges strong and help them grow in their communities.

Our first priority should always be for those in need. All our programs are there to help relieve the burdens of others and/or help them become self sufficient. What a great organization to belong to with such ideals. We do not look at how we can benefit from the Elks. We encourage our members to look at how we can benefit our fellow man. One of the greatest virtues of the Elks is that we do not just help a select group of individuals but we are open to help all ages of people and needs in our communities.

The local lodge officers should always be on the lookout for members that can offer support to our fund raising events. Every member has a passion, talent or skill that can be tapped to further our causes. A simple invitation to a new member to help assist with a project or event can go a long way to insure a positive experience and a feeling of accomplishment that keeps our members satisfied and involved.

The same should hold true on the District level also. Members that show an interest should be given a chance and mentored for success. The PDDGERs of the lodges should be recommending proven leaders for District chairs and offices. By the time a member gets involved on the District level they should have been successful in their local lodge. We need strong, proven leaders in our districts to promote our programs to a higher level. The lodges in the district should participate with each other

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needed program is continually dependent on the financial support provided by the individual lodges of Pennsylvania, all the lodges of Pennsylvania. Please be sure your lodge is pulling its fair share of the load!!

Obviously one of our most note worthy efforts and accomplishments of the 2018/2019 year was the work done to stem the 41 year trend of membership loss across this Association. We won’t know the final numbers for about another week, but we do know the results will be a very small loss or a very small gain – we are so close! Sufficient to say, whether we end up slightly negative or slightly positive, this will have been the very best yearly results of any and all of those 41 years and that in itself makes the Pennsylvania Elks a winner in the membership arena. Congratulations and thank you to the Pennsylvania Membership Committee, its Chairman Jim DeStefano, the District Chairmen, the Lodge Chairmen, and each and every Elk in each and every lodge that helped to attain these results. Membership management is everyone’s job and it requires the attention of everyone, every day no matter where we are with the numbers. Again congratulations on how far you’ve come – the results are positive - keep the effort going and it can only get better!

While we can always strive for improvement and find things to do better, the 2018/2019 year was in fact a great year in many ways for the Pennsylvania Elks. Congratulations and thank you to Past State President Steve Kempff, former First Lady Cindy, Steve’s team of officers and committee personnel, and all the Elks throughout the lodges of the Association for all the accomplishments attained this past year. You all served your Lodges, your Association, and our Order with dedication and distinction and though your combined efforts the Pennsylvania Elks are and will continue to be a force to be reckoned with within our Order.

As I’ve mentioned many times in my verbal and written messages my focus is and your focus must be on Membership growth, financial stability of the lodges, and following the rules. Actually there is a fourth area that I also believe is absolutely necessary for the long term viability and success of a lodge and that is “community involvement”. As you might expect, I along with State and District leadership will be continually stressing that each individual lodge address these areas and become the very best “Elks Lodge” they can possibly be.

Congratulations to Dave Edwards, State President and First Lady Linda-Raye, as well as all of Dave’s officers and committee personnel. I am sure that under your most capable leadership the Pennsylvania Elks State Association and its 87 lodges will continue to grow and prosper and become the shining star it deserves to be.

Again thank you to all the dedicated Pennsylvania Elks who continue to work tirelessly for the success of their individual Lodge and this Association. Thank you also for the warm reception you extend to Jane and me as we travel around the State, as well as, for the many kindnesses and courtesies extended to us during our visits. Best wishes to all for a prosperous and successful 2019/2020 year. Safe travels and we look forward to seeing many of you in St. Louis in just a few weeks.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor

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to help promote our good works. It benefits all when we work together. It establishes friendships and bonds that cannot be broken. We are here for each other.

All our programs are designed to help the local lodge stay strong and promote our good works to our communities.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

The Accident Prevention committee is there to help insure that our lodges can be accessed safely and are maintained as not to expose our members or visitors to harm. All lodges need to have a committee to do monthly checks and make repairs or recommendations on safety. A well lit and maintained lodge helps make the lodge inviting for all. We need to have our buildings stand out in the community.

AMERICANISM

The Order of Elks is distinctly American. We were the first to use the American flag in our rituals. All our lodges fly the flag. On June 14th, Flag Day, our lodges tell the history of our Flag. Flag Day is an opportunity to involve our youth and Veterans in this reverent ceremony. Contact your local scout and youth groups to participate or witness this beautiful display. Involve your communities’ youth in our Americanism Essay contests. Who else is better qualified than the Elks to promote Americanism and to teach, serve and defend all our Flag represents.

DRUG AWARENESS

Not a day goes by that we do not hear about the opioid epidemic in this country. There are not any communities left untouched by the evil of drugs. The Elks Drug Awareness Program is a valuable tool to use to help teach and spread the word against drugs. We are fortunate to have an active Drug Awareness committee in the state. We have trailers available for use by the lodges during community events such as parades and carnivals. Make use of these trailers, they have handouts for students, teachers, parents and interested parties. Invite your law enforcement officers into the schools to talk to students. A little prevention now will go a long way. Our children are our future. We must protect them at all cost.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Our Government relations committee keeps the local lodges updated on laws that affect our day to day operations. They follow changes to LCE and small games laws and share any information that could affect our lodges. It is important to keep track of our charitable works to help keep our 501C3 status. District chairs should be giving out current proposed legislation at your district meetings so that you may contact your legislators and encourage them to vote on the laws that help our order.

HOME SERVICE

Our state’s Major Project is the PA ELKS HOME SERVICE PROGRAM. It is the jewel of our state’s charitable works. Our Home Service nurses promote “Hope and Independence for Tomorrow” for their clients without ever charging a fee for these services. Our nurses advocate the need of their clients to help them make life a little easier. Life is tough enough without having special needs. Our nurses are dedicated to providing these services to those in need. They travel thousands of miles each year and cover every county in Pennsylvania. Their success is evident in the stories from the families they serve. Invite a nurse or nurses to your lodge meeting or events and have them speak of the families they care for. The

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The Pennsylvania Elk

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stories will touch your heart. We ask that each lodge donate $10.00 per member to keep our program going strong. The money can come from donations with a line on your dues statement or through various fund raisers at the lodge. The fund raisers keep our members involved and keep our Home Service program visible. Visit and share our Home Service website for more information on this nurturing program: www.paelkshomeservice.org or the Home Nursing facebook page. There you can share your fund raising activities and also get ideas for many ways to donate to the program. The local lodges should be sharing their fundraising activities with the district chair so that all may see and hear about our works.

LEGACY TRUST

The Legacy Trust Fund was developed to help subsidize our Home Service Program. Only the interest from the money donated is used to offset our programs costs. The principal is never touched. Our Home Service Program cannot survive just on lodge donations alone. It relies on outside funding also. It is the hope that someday the Legacy Trust would be able to fund the Home Service program itself. But for now we need donations. There is a brochure available from the PA ELKS State Office that comes with a donation form. Donations can be made in memory of a deceased loved one or in the name of the donor. Certificates of recognition and pins are available for donations of $100.00 or more. Many lodges donate to the fund in the name of their deceased members. Get the brochure out to the members by including the brochure with your indoctrinations and keep a handful available in your lodge’s social quarters.

LODGE ACTIVITIES

Lodge Activities are the backbone of everything we do. It helps members become involved and feel a sense of belonging. Your lodge activities are a great way to get the word out or work with your communities. Parades, carnivals, picnics, any local event is a chance to get the word out about the Elks. We can share and help in these events and get a chance to draw in new memberships. The local lodge can promote our Drug Awareness Program, our Home Service Nursing Program, and our youth activities such as Hoop Shoot or Soccer Shoot. It is also a good way to show support with our veterans by having local veterans groups participate in activities such as Flag Day. Members need a sense of belonging. They look for fellowship. None of this can happen unless you have activities in your lodge and communities.

MEMBERSHIP/LAPSATION

Only with membership can our lodges and their charitable works grow. Good members are the backbone to our success. A good membership experience starts with a well presented indoctrination. The indoctrination explains who we are as Elks, it gives a brief history of our order and programs. It shows our dedication to those less fortunate. The local lodge operation and activities should be explained to the new member. Encourage them to become active. Our activities outside the Elk's Lodge are a great opportunity to show our communities what we are about and to attract new members. When the community sees us at the Hoop and Soccer shoots or a Veterans outing, that presents an opportunity for attracting new members. Once we have the new member we must keep them engaged. Remind them of upcoming events and ask them for their help with the activities. The new member must feel they are a part of the family in order to ensure they stay a member. Lodges where the members feel welcomed are the lodges that are growing and not going backwards with membership.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Elks National Foundation is the backbone of ALL our charitable works. It is truly “The Great Heart of Elksdom”! Through the generosity of our members this Foundation has been able to help support our youth hoop shoot and soccer shoot programs. It has helped thousands of students with the financial burden of higher education. It helps with our State Major Projects and our nations veterans. Through the use of the ENF Grants we have been able to invest in our communities. The grants have become easier to apply for and there is no reason not to apply for them. Across Pennsylvania these grants have been used by local lodges to help veterans, students, community food banks, help centers, homeless shelters, youth sports teams and community beautification just to name a few. We are extremely fortunate to have the resources available to us. Use these grants and let the communities know we care and want to make a positive impact in our cities and towns.

NATIONAL SERVICE

Since the First World War the Elks have been taking care of our nation’s veterans. No matter if active duty, retired disabled or homeless, the Elks have pledged “That so long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will always remember them.” These men and women of our military give selflessly of themselves to protect and serve our nation and its interests. What a great honor it is to be able to pay them back for their service. Invite local vets to be a part of your Flag Day and Memorial programs. Reach out to any Veterans Hospitals or Homes in your communities. Sponsor dinners or outings for them. Let them and the community knows we are available to support our veterans.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Your public relations committee is the best way to promote your lodge and its works. An active committee can help grow interest and promote a positive image of the lodge. Our District and State Chairman have been diligently getting the word out through our state newspaper and national magazine. Many lodges have facebook pages and websites. Post your activities and charitable works often. Keep these sites up-to-date so that your members have current information of upcoming events. Do not forget to contact your local newspaper, radio and TV stations with your events and contributions to local charities.

RITUAL

Our Ritual is what makes us different than most fraternal organizations. It is our heritage, our tie to our founding members of the Elks. An initiation ritual performed impressively shows the pride we have for our order and will leave a lasting impression on a new member. How many Lodges still stop at 11 O’clock and recite the toast? This is another example of how we stand out among other organizations. Every Exalted Ruler should be able to recite the toast. Reciting the toast at the lodge at 11 O’clock when we have events with family and guests is a great opportunity to show our respect for our members who have passed. Remind your members of the Funeral Service available to Elks. It is a short, sweet, respectful ceremonial tribute to the absent member. There is also no more patriotic ritual than our Flag Day Service. Who better than the Elks to tell the story of the American Flag? We were the first Frater-

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nal organization to use the Flag in the rituals. We were the first to recognize Flag Day. Invite a local service man or woman to speak at your Flag Day service. Impress upon the community our love of the flag with this ritual. Remind members throughout the year of our Funeral service. It truly speaks kind words of our passed member and again reminds everyone that Elks are never forgotten. Our Funeral service leads us to our Memorial Ritual the first Sunday in December. Invite the family members of those who have passed to the ritual. The Memorial Ritual is our final farewell to our departed members. Show them the respect we have for them for being a part of the Elks.

SCHOLARSHIP/LEADERSHIP

Our Order’s dedication to our nation’s youth is best exemplified by the Scholarship program. Each year high school seniors that apply may be awarded scholarships from $1,200 to $15,000.00 a year. Our State Association through the Elks National Foundation awards fifty two high school seniors (twenty six girls and twenty six boys) scholarships. The students must write an essay and submit the application on line. It takes work but our winners are well deserving of the awards. These awards help invest in the future. Promote this program throughout your communities and local schools. It shows another example of how the Elks care about our nation’s youth.

STATE ASSOCIATION

The State Association Committee is to concern itself with the promotion of our State Association, its welfare, through attendance at its meetings and conventions. It is the duty of the Exalted Ruler and interested officers and members to attend the conventions and meetings. Through your attendance you can learn firsthand about our Order and charitable works in the state. These conventions also give the new officers a chance to network with their peers and share stories of success and seek out answers to areas of problems. The meetings give you a chance to recharge your enthusiasm for the Order. There is a wealth of information available to you outside the local lodge. Come and see what you may have been missing and use the opportunity to build new friendships.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Promoting our youth through our programs can only help make for a stronger future. Someday these will be our service men and women, first responders, civic and community leaders. Our youth programs teach commitment. Our Hoop Shoot and Soccer Shoot show there is a reward for practice. It also teaches them how to deal with the disappointments in life and look for ways to overcome the failure. Our Drug Awareness poster/essay and video contests makes them think about the scourges of drugs and the consequences of abuse. The Americanism Essay contest helps them think about topics unique to being an American and how blessed we are with our freedom. When our lodges sponsor scout troops and ball teams we show our commitment in the community to guiding our youth in the right direction. The future of our nation and the Elks lies with our children. We must help to instill in them a sense of right and show them how to be upstanding citizens who love their fellow man.

STATE ASSOCIATION

We received five entries for the 2019-2020 pin contest. Four from Carol Lee Carlin from Oakmont Lodge # 1668 in the West District and one from Jim Stubenbordt from Canonsburg Lodge # 846 in the Southwest District. Awards were presented at the Spring Convention in Harrisburg. Dennis Kanouff, PSP accepted Carol Lee’s award and presented it to her at the West District Meeting in June. We will be accepted new designs for the 2020-2021 year until November 15, 2019. We encourage all members and lodges to submit entries. State Vice President Steven Lucas will be judging these entries.

The Sports Ticket raffle is underway with some of the Lodges returning the ticket stubs and money to Teresa in the State Office already. Teresa is keeping a record of all the raffle tickets so when your lodge has sold the tickets please mail them to her with a check. If you are unable to sell your tickets please contact your district committee member so they can redirect the tickets. All the tickets need to be accounted for, so please do not discard them. Committee members are Dale Moor-NC, Lynn Smith-NW, Dennis Hose-SC, Mark McHugh-SW, Ron Mead-W, Roni Sue Stevens-WC, Patricia Maccolini-SE and Carol M. Hutson-NE.

To date we have donated tickets for 4 Penn State home Football games by DSVP Lee McRillis, Penn State Wrestling donated by Steve Lucas, Pittsburgh Steelers football donated by Ron Mead and Mark McHugh, Pittsburgh Penguins Hockey donated by Mark McHugh, 76er’s donated by Bridgeport Lodge # 714 and Pitt Basketball tickets by Chris Luke. The drawing will be based on the PA State Lottery Evening Pick-3 on August 1, 2019. If no ticket purchased matches the PA State Lottery Evening Pick-3 a random drawing from ALL SOLD tickets will determine the winner. All proceeds benefit ENF & Home Service program. ENF Chair Aquilia Helling will credit each lodge for their donations and hopefully elevate our State out of 47th position for ENF contributions.

The Augusta Green Blazer is still available from North-east Uniforms and Blazer Boutique with the cost ranging from $115 to $160. Northeast email is tmiller@neuniforms.com or call 412-322-2500. Blazer Boutique is www.BlazerBoutique.com or call 412-805-0450

Jim Stubenbordt, Carol Lee Carlin, and Dennis Knaoulf, PSP
Activities Committee
Jeanette Miller, Activities Committee Chairperson

As I read what’s going on in your newsletters, both Local Lodges and the state magazines I can say we should ALL be proud of our activities both in our Lodges and maybe even more important out in our communities.

Warmer weather is here and for some reason this always makes me feel more patriotic, from hearing of Lodges marching in Memorial Day parades, our Flag Day service, holding family picnics and picnics for Veterans at our Lodges. No one is born patriotic; patriotism must be instilled through habitual practice. The cross and the flag are two symbols we Elks share regardless of how large or small your Lodge is, regardless of your gender, regardless of your political views. When I place my hand over my heart as our flag is raised or passes by, I feel nearer to God, and that is a very good position to take in these troubled days. I’m sure it was by no accident that our ritual has the chaplain say a prayer right after we pledge allegiance to our flag.

This leads me to The Lodge Activities All American Contest. Which were given out at the spring convention,
For 1-300 membership Division I
1st place East Stroudsburg #319
2nd place was a tie between Mahanoy City #695 and Rochester #283
3rd place Beaver Falls #348

301-500 members Division II
1st place Frackville #1533
2nd place York #213
3rd place Oakmont #1668

501-700 members Division III
1st place Allegheny #339

700-1100 members Division IV
1st place Wilkins #577
2nd place Bellfonte #1094

1,101-1,500 members Division V
1st place Kittanning #203

Over 1,500 members Division VI
1st place Erie #67

Lodges who also participated and received my thank you along with certificates were Butler Lodge #170, Cranberry #2249, Berwick #1138, Carnegie #831, Leechburg #377, Coraopolis #1090, Aliquippa #1221, Pittsburgh South Hills #2213 and Sharon #103.

Once again, I will be passing out the 2019/2020 contest forms at the fall convention, if you would like to see your Lodge being honored please make sure to find out who your district Lodge activities chairman is and ask for the contest form.

I ask you to read the contest carefully to avoid any disqualified forms. I will be including my phone number if you have any questions.

Thank you again to all the Lodges who took part.

Legacy Trust Fund Challenge!
Laura L. Scotty, Chairperson

We are again challenging each Lodge in Pennsylvania to be a helping hand to our Major Projects by becoming a part of the Helping Hand Project. Give $20 for each finger on a helping hand. If we had 10 donations from each of our 80 plus lodges, we would raise over $16,000 per year. If the Officers would pool $10 donations and send in $100 from the Lodge, it would be an additional $8,000.

FACT: all the money deposited into the Legacy Trust Fund stays in Pennsylvania and is never spent. Only the interest from those funds is spent to supplement the money needed to operate our Home Services Program. This year’s goal is 100% participation by all the Lodges in Pennsylvania. Let’s lead the way in Major Projects by living “Elks Care – Elks Share!”

ONLINE SHOPPERS: I would like to see an increase in members using the IGive program on the internet where stores give a portion of the sale to Legacy Trust at no additional cost to the shopper. If you already shop online, just take a few minutes to sign up at www.igive.com and choose PA Elks Legacy Trust Fund as your selected charity. In addition, we are registered with the Amazon Prime program to give a portion of purchases to our charity. When you are buying online it only takes a second to add a donation to the Legacy Trust Fund.

Visit the Legacy Trust Fund Page on the Pennsylvania Elks website at www.paelks.com and learn other ways you can help Legacy Trust Fund become a stronger support for our nurses and their clients.

PA Elks Home Service Donations
Margie Wood, RN, Grant Projects Director

Thank you to the Home Service Fundraising Committee and to all the Elks in Pennsylvania for your tremendous effort to raise a grand total of $526,117.79 for Home Service in 2018 - 2019!!!

Once again, we are participating in the WCCF Day of Giving on September 12, 2019.

On September 12th, go to www.wccfgives.org from 8 AM to 8 PM and donate to Pennsylvania Elks Major Projects. Be sure to include your lodge name so your lodge will get credit for the donation. All donations will be increased from a Bonus Pool.

There will be a special form for anyone who wishes to donate by check. Please contact me at mwood@paelkshomeservice.org or 412-997-2723 and I will be happy to send you the form to mail with your check. Any donations using that form must be received at WCCF before September 12th.

Your Home Service Nurses are helping over 4,000 families receive the support they need to improve their health and enjoy a better quality of life. Your donation makes a real difference in the life of a child or adult with special needs.
Leechburg Lodge #377

The Leechburg Elks Lodge was one of 4 organizations in the Leechburg Community that joined hands to hold an Easter Egg Hunt for the community. Over 3000 eggs were stuffed and scattered at the local Leechburg-Gilpin Community Park. Three bicycles were given away, and entertainment from local clown and balloon artist Popcorn the Clown was there. The participating clubs along with the Elks were the Moose, Sokal and Marconi Club.

Among the District Deputies to serve their districts for 2018-19, Leechburg PER Steve Harker was one of those. Steve has served his lodge as a PER, Lodge Secretary, and now as a District Deputy.

Congratulations to the newest class of PDDs initiated into the Past District Deputy Association at the May Convention in Harrisburg.

At a recent lodge meeting, the Officers of Leechburg Lodge recognized its 1st Place Drug Awareness Essay contest winner Chasity Stitt. Chasity’s essay took 1st place at the Lodge, District and State. Her essay has been sent off to the National Level for judging. Chasity’s essay was written on real life experiences as her mother was and is currently a recovering heroin addict. Her story has touched many, and the officers at Leechburg are proud to have her representing our lodge.

Congratulations to: Keith Hilling, Brenda Spence, Harvey Smith, Steve Harker, Keith Olash and Gerry Kufrovich

Chasity’s Essay

Drugs Take Away...

Drugs take away, what a strong phrase. This phrase can mean several things: drugs can take away families, friends, jobs, and lives. Within this essay I will share some personal experiences from how drugs can take away.

My mother is a former Heroin addict. She has went through a lot to recover and get her life back together. Fortunately, she has been clean for about two years now. My mom being an addict has affected the two of us in many ways.

For one my mom and my dad split up when I was five. For a five year old, that was a lot to take in, but I hid my emotions and kept strong. My first encounter with my mom’s addiction was when I was seven. I was laying in my bed and I heard a thump. I went running and I saw my mom laying on the floor in the bathroom. For being a seven year old, that was hard because I didn’t understand what was going on. As the years went on, it got worse which led to my mom and dad fighting for custody. Hence, my dad was awarded full custody of both me and my brother. She lost her job and could not find another one because of her criminal record with drugs.

In conclusion, drugs can take away so many things: families (especially a parent), friends, and jobs. I can speak from personal experience!

Wilkins Lodge #577

PA DAP State Winners

Congratulations to the 6 state winners for the Drug Awareness Poster, Essay and Video contests.

Peter Ducret, Chasity Stitt, Malory Morath, Makaylah Brown, Anushka, Kumar and Tyler Hawk. Winners came from the Fairless Hills, Leechburg and Wilkins Lodges.

Recently the lodge’s Veteran’s Committee took local veterans on a fishing trip. Over 70 veterans were there, as lodge volunteers worked with the Morningside VFW during their 7th Annual Fishing Rodeo.

The Veterans Committee Chairman Norm Johnson was awarded the PA Volunteer Veterans Service Award at the Spring Convention in Harrisburg. His dedication to the Veterans logging over 1700 hours of service is commendable. Norm has a great committee that is very active in the community. Our monthly Luncheons at the Veterans Place for the homeless veterans is growing every month.

Giving back to the community is how our lodge has grown over the last 7 years. In January we held a super bingo for the Woodland Hills High School Band raising over $6000 for a new band trailer.

Everyone had a great time at the Hoop Shoot in Penn State especially Elroy. Craig Stevens PER donned the costume and was having a good time with the kids and adults.

Wilkins was the recipient of All PA Lodge 701-1100 members at the State Convention in Harrisburg. The key to our success is in our members and having fun. Challenge all committee members to get one new member to help out at an event. Once you ask they will gladly give back.
Kittanning Lodge #203

Kittanning, PA Lodge #203 held their Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, March 15 to recognize several individuals for their outstanding work and commitment to their community. Also recognized were several students from the Armstrong School District who participated in and were the local lodge winners of the Drug Awareness and Americanism contests. All recipients received a certificate of recognition along with a gift card for the Drug Awareness and Americanism contests winners. A total of 74 people attended the banquet.

front row: Roisie Harmon, Gracie Slovinsky, Meliah Mellish, Aubrey Reefer, Haylee Young, Ellie Reefer, Emma Orr
back row: Brooklyn Kotora, E. Kevin Luke, Ava Rose Carbajal

In addition to these students, the following were awarded in addition Nadeen Miller (Elk member of the Year), Jack Bennett (Citizen of the Year), Dennis Kline (Lodge Officer of the Year), Chris Robbins (Police Officer of the Year)

Armstrong High School Rifle Team invited the officers of Kittanning Lodge #203 to their end of the year banquet to thank them for their generous donation of $3200 to purchase two team rifles. Each rifle was engraved with the name of the lodge.

Blairsville Lodge #406

On March 31st, the lodge officers held a special banquet to honor its Ladies Auxiliary that has disbanded. The auxiliary was formed in 1967, and has helped the lodge over the years with many different events. Special guests in attendance included David Edwards PA Elks State President, and Jason Cook PA State Vice-Chair Public Relations who took photos to remember the day. Esteemed Leading Knight Von Ramsden and Secretary John Spencer worked together to give these ladies a fantastic meal and ceremony, and thanking each and every single lady for 52 years of service to the lodge and community.

West Central District

This year the state president for the association is from the WC District. Dave Edwards is from Johnstown Lodge #175. He and his wife Linda, will be traveling the state this year. Dave's message is "Extending a Hand to our Communities". His Daughter Melisa Barbus, and wife Linda Edwards each gave a nomination speech for Dave at the recent convention. The members of the WC District are excited to have Dave serve the state from our district.
North Central District Group Event

Chris Shuey, Bellefonte Lodge #1094, Exalted Ruler, Bucky Quici, Hoop Shoot Director, Paul Helsel, Past Grand Exalted Ruler and Pennsylvania Elks State Sponsor, and Dan Nelson, State Elks Hoop Shoot Director and PER of Philipsburg Lodge #182.

At the 2019 Pennsylvania State Elks Hoop Shoot Contest, Bucky Quici, Bellefonte Elks Local Lodge Hoop Shoot Director was honored for serving in that capacity for nearly forty (40) years.

Following the 2019 Elks Hoop Shoot events, Mr. Quici retired as the Bellefonte Elks Local Lodge Hoop Shoot Director. We would like to thank Mr. Quici for his 40 years of service and dedication.

Back row: Bryan Benson, Zeke Cohenour, Helen Marden, Rich Davis, Ellen Davis, Jessica Weaverling, Erin Mills, Kate Hughes, Brianne Sharpless, Ronin Sharpless, and Andrew Sharpless

Front row: Helen Cohenour, Rebecca Lechner, Sue Bartles, Bob Bartles, Dawson McGinnis, Amira Sharpless

Helen Cohenour, April Harris, and Brenda Kephart

The “unofficial” running team from the North Central District participated and raised funds for another worthy cause. Helen Cohenour, Huntingdon Lodge #976, served as team captain and organized a large group of 31 participants, from various lodges within the district, for the Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run in support of PA Special Olympics. The event took place at Beaver Stadium on 14 April. The group raised $1297 for this event.

David Holmes, Philipsburg Lodge #1173 and Peter Ducret, Wilkins Lodge #577

Dave Holmes, PA Americanism chairman from the Philipsburg Lodge #1173 presented Peter Ducret of the Wilkins Lodge #577 with the first place award for the PA Elks Americanism contest. This award was presented to Peter at the spring Elks convention held in Harrisburg, PA on May 4.

Bellefonte Lodge #1094

The Bellefonte Elks Lodge #1094 recently assisted Joey Swentosky, a fourth grader reach his goal for the Bellefonte community based food drive entitled “Ready, Set, Give”. Donations received went to the Faith Center Food Bank located in Bellefonte, PA. With the help of Bellefonte Elks members, Joey exceeded his goal and collected over 600 pounds of non-perishable food items.

Bellefonte Elks Lodge #1094 representative Dale Moore, Trustee; and Joey Swentosky.

The Bellefonte Elks Lodge #1094 recently assisted Joey Swentosky, a fourth grader reach his goal for the Bellefonte community based food drive entitled “Ready, Set, Give”. Donations received went to the Faith Center Food Bank located in Bellefonte, PA. With the help of Bellefonte Elks members, Joey exceeded his goal and collected over 600 pounds of non-perishable food items.

Bellefonte Elks Lodge #1094 representative Patrick Corbett and Brandon Snook, Boy Scout Troop #370.

Brandon Snook was presented with his Eagle Scout Award on 31 March, 2019. Brandon is a member of the Bellefonte Boy Scout Troop #370. Brandon earned a total of 43 merit badges and only 14 are required for the Eagle Scout award. For his Eagle Scout service project, Brandon restored an old cast iron bell owned by the Pleasant Gap Fire Company and built a structure to house the bell. The structure was then installed on the property of the Pleasant Gap Fire Company.
The Bellefonte Elks Lodge #1094 donated $7,200 to the Centre County Grange Fair committee. The funds were provided to replace the children’s playground sandboxes at the Grange Fairgrounds. The Grange fair is a Centre County establishment that has been around for over 100 years and the Bellefonte Elks have a booth at the fair each year.

The Bellefonte Elks Lodge #1094 donated $10,000 to the Juniata Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. The contribution will be used towards the John M. Kriner II lodge improvements at the Seven Mountains Scout Camp. The camp is a year-round outdoor education and recreational center, annually hosting more than 15,000 scouts, volunteer leaders, parents and community organizations. To meet the demands of increased usage over the past ten years the Scouts must upgrade and expand functional, and accessible sleeping accommodations, restroom facilities, and meeting space.

The Huntingdon Elks Lodge #976 recently participated in the first road clean up session in the Huntingdon area. Helen Cohenour was in charge of this community service event held on 11, May 2019. The group was responsible to clean from the Huntingdon Fairgrounds to route 26 for a total of 3 miles. The lodge voluntarily cleans this section of road at least 3 times minimally.

Philipsburg Lodge #182

Faith Bordes-McGuire, John A. Frank Philipsburg Elks Exalted Ruler and PER, and Georgia Demchak, PER.

John Frank, Lodge #1173 Exalted Ruler, presented Faith Bordes-McGuire the Citizen of the Year award and Georgia Demchak with the Officer of the Year award. These awards were presented as part of the installation of officers on 30 March.
Philipsburg Elks Lodge #182 successfully initiated 9 new members on 27 March, 2019 under the leadership of Sandy Hassinger, Exalted Ruler and PER.

State College Lodge #1600

The State College Elks Lodge #1600 recently participated in the Patton Township Children’s Safety Fair and distributed information related to the Elks Drug Awareness program. The event was held on Saturday 11 May. Each year, hundreds of children and their parents attend the event.

Members of State College Lodge #1600 celebrated the 101st birthday of State College Elks member, Paul Homan who is a resident of the Salem Hill Senior Adult facility in Spring Mills, PA. Paul served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, with 36 months in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre, as a radio operator.

Tyrone Lodge #212

Under the direction of Dan McClain, Tyrone Lodge #212, five new members were initiated on 17 May.
Red Lion Lodge #1592

Our Lodge used our Anniversary Grant to support the South Central PA Search and Rescue. They were in need of a FLIR Thermal Imaging Camera. The camera will help greatly to provide safer night time operations. The camera will check dangerous low light or no visibility areas before sending in human and K9 searchers. This is a 100% volunteer organization that provides an important service in emergency situations and we are very appreciative of the work they do.

On May 11, the Red Lion Elks Riders #1592 participated in an event ride for Veterans. Four buses of Veterans were treated to a breakfast at Northeastern High School then traveled to Washington DC for a day of touring the Military Monuments. Red Lion Elks Riders #1592, together with other motorcycle associations escorted the buses from the High School to the Maryland line. Over 80 motorcycles then lined the side of the highway and saluted the veterans as the buses passed on their way to DC. Our riders were very proud to take part in this event.

On May 18, the Golf Committee hosted a Scholarship Luncheon/Award Presentation for five graduating Seniors and their parents. These students will be continuing their education in the upcoming summer or fall semester. Thanks to a golf outing and various raffles we awarded each student a certificate and a check for $1000.00. Presenting the awards ER Darryl Rider and Scholarship Chair/ Chaplain Dianne Poff (L) Recipients: Megan Gilbert - Red Lion High School, Megan Thomas - Kennard-Dale High School, Jacob Plowman - Red Lion High School. Absent from the picture are recipients Dalton Orwig and Cameron Smith from Dallastown High School.

Chambersburg Lodge #600

16th Annual Eagle Scout Award Recognition Banquet

This annual event recognizes all the fine young adults who have reached the outstanding rank of Eagle Scout during 2018 in the Southern Conococheague District of the New Birth of Freedom Council, BSA. This year we recognized twenty-one Scouts, eleven were in attendance. After a delicious meal, the Hon. Robert Kauffman, 89th District PA House of Representatives presented each Scout with a State citation of achievement. ER, Scott Szabo then presented them with an American flag and a framed Elks certificate of accomplishment. The Scouts gave a brief description of their Eagle Scout community impact project. Dennis Hose PDP,SEC (L) ER Scott Szabo (C)

ENF ANNIVERSARY GRANT

ER Scott Szabo (L) presents member, Kathy Kendall Lodge #600 Youth Activities Director (R) a $1500 check to make improvements to the teen center at the Kathy Kendall Community Alumni Gym in McConnellsburg. The lodge holds our Soccer and Hoop Shoot competitions at this gym.

ELKS JR. ROTC AWARD

Our Lodge recently presented the newly established B.P.O. Elks Jr. ROTC award to Cadet Thomas (L) and Cadet McCullough from the Chambersburg Area High School Navy Jr. ROTC unit. The certificate and ribbon/medal set were presented at a formal pass in review ceremony by PSP, Gary Shenk (C) and PDD, Phil Helsel (R)
The Pennsylvania Elk

Coraopolis Lodge #1090

All over the country, Elks are known for their care and concern for our veterans through visits, gifts, and programs. On Friday, May 17th, Exalted Ruler Linda Sivak, Lodge Treasurer Terry Holland, and Lodge Secretary Walter Wieczorak, all from Coraopolis Lodge #1090, visited the Community Living Center at the Butler VA Hospital to bring residents personal and recreational items.

The VA Butler’s CLC provides individual care plans for Veterans in all stages of care, from temporary to hospice; centered around each Veteran’s needs, preferences, and life-long habits. VA Butler’s mission is to restore the Veteran to maximum function and independence while providing them safety and comfort.

A $1500 Anniversary Grant from Grand Lodge helped fund the personal grooming items and new clothes, including zippered sweatshirts and pants, laundry products, adult coloring books, assorted craft items, and Walmart gift cards that were given to the sixty Veterans that now reside at the Center.

Cranberry Lodge #2249

In March 2019, Cranberry Lodge used their ENF Gratitude Grant to purchase $2000 worth of food and cleaning products which they donated and delivered to the Cranberry Township Gleaners Food Bank, a nonprofit, non-denominational group that serves residents in need.

In addition, the Lodge hosted its biannual luncheon for 25 veterans and staff from the Butler VA Hospital on April 10, 2019. Guests enjoyed a homemade lunch and played Bingo; they were given gifts of canteen books, clothing and toiletries. During 2018-19, the Lodge has donated over $11,000 to local charities and the community.

Oakmont Lodge #1668

Oakmont Lodge #1668 and Pennsylvania were proudly represented by Allison Porter and Gage Adinolfi, at the Regional Soccer Shoot in Frederick MD on March 2. Allison and Gage took first place in the Girls’ and Boys’ U-12 Division, respectively. Allison also received an additional trophy for having the highest number of points scored (on the grid) for the girls. Overall, Pennsylvania did very well in the competition. As the state with the highest total of points scored, Pennsylvania was awarded the traveling trophy for this year’s competition.

Also, from Oakmont Lodge: The beautiful lapel pin pictured here, was presented at the May State Convention in Harrisburg. Carol Lee Carlin PER submitted the prize-winning entry in this year’s PA State Elks Association Official Pin competition!! Congratulations, Carol for your creative design!!

Erie Lodge #67

Chili Cook Off

On Sunday, March 10th, a Chili Cook Off was held to benefit PA Elks State Major Project Home Services. Fourteen Lodge Members competed for “bragging rights” of preparing the top chili in the Lodge. Lodge Members donated $5 to sample and judge the entries for the “Members Favorite Chili”.

Three impartial judges had the difficult challenge of selecting the top three from all the entries. In addition, Lodge volunteers ran games throughout the afternoon. This year’s Cook Off was a huge success, earning $1,089 which will place Erie Lodge very close to our pledge of $46,000 for the year. A huge thank you to the committee, the cooks and the membership for a very successful day!

St. Patrick’s Day

Great food, live entertainment and a wee bit of Shenanigans made for a successful St. Patrick’s Day event to support our PA State Major Project Home Services Program. Chair and Committee Members used the festive day to fund raise one last time for the fiscal year. The fund raiser brought in $2,496, pushing the total raised for the entire year above our pledge of $46,000. This is the second year in a row the committee raised 100% of their goal. Congratulations!
Girl Scout Cookie Donations

One hundred boxes of Girl Scout cookies from local Girl Scout Troops were purchased and sent to our active duty service men and women across the globe. Labels were placed on each box thanking them for their service while asking them to stay safe. We feel the least we can do is provide them with a sweet taste of home.

Blood Drive

A very successful blood drive was held on April 29th with the American Red Cross of NWPA. In five hours the Red Cross collected eighteen units of blood! Great job Lodge 67! Did you know that the American Red Cross collects over 40% of the total blood across the country? Did you know that the American Red Cross is the primary supplier of blood to our military?

Second Harvest Food Bank

On May 7th, Fourteen Members volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank for two hours. The team was led by Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Bob Westgate and Exalted Ruler Les Owens. Food was packed for the local school’s backpack program. These backpacks go home with students over the weekend, providing them nutritious food that they would not have received. In addition, the team separated and packed fresh cabbage to be refrigerated and distributed at a later date. The team once again out preformed the expectations of our partner, Second Harvest Food Bank of NWPA. Great job all!

Franklin Lodge #110

Second Harvest Food Bank of Venango County

On April 2, Lodge Officers and Members assisted other volunteers at the Franklin VFW with the Second Harvest Food Bank food distribution to needy Veterans and their families. It was the first of its kind in Venango county and Franklin Elks were there to help! Veterans were supplied with free vegetables, dairy products, meat, bread and fruit.

Thirty five families were assisted in the effort! The Franklin Elks made a generous donation of $500 to assist the Food Bank for the continuation of the much needed service in the area.

Americanism Essay Contest

Katie Boal, an 11-year-old 6th grade student from Sandy Creek Elementary in Franklin, PA was selected as 2nd place winner in the Pennsylvania Elks annual “Americanism” essay contest. The topic this year was “What makes you proud to be an American”. Katie’s entry placed second out of thousands of entries across the state. Katie is the daughter of Bob and Stacy Boal of Franklin. In her spare time, Katie loves all sports, art and reading. For her efforts, Katie received a certificate and a gift card. In addition, the Lodge treated all the 5th and 6th grade participating students to a coupon for an ice cream cone at a local ice cream parlor. Congratulations Katie!
The Lodge Members enjoyed the fresh air and sunshine while assisting the Girl Scout Troops that we sponsor, #26521 and #90008, with litter pick up in our area.

Meadville Lodge #219

It’s been a roller rink, a manufacturing center and a separate club location, but the building at 14420 Baldwin St. Ext. is seeing another life as the home of Meadville Elks Lodge opens today.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge 219 will open, beginning at 11 am. Lunch will be served from 11 am to 2 pm and the building will remain open until 11 pm, according to Exalted Ruler Dan Trace. Smoking will not be permitted.

Trace said the grand opening for the new Lodge will take place “in a couple weeks,” though no official date has been set.

The Lodge secured the building, once the location of the Meadville Sertoma Club, in March 2018 when the West Mead board of supervisors supported a conditional use for the building to conduct social and recreational activities. The fraternal organization waited to open until approval was granted from the Liquor Control Board, the Pennsylvania Health Department and the Department of Environmental Protection.

“We completely rebuilt the old Sertoma Club. Everything’s new in it. We got a new bar, the kitchen will be open and when we’re up and running, we’ll be able to do our community service projects.” Said Trace.

The Elks Lodge sold its property on Route 86 in Woodcock Township in July 2017. The Lodge had purchased the 14.4 acre property for $27,000 in 1970, and with membership decreasing, found that property taxes were becoming too burdensome, according to Trace. In the meantime, the Lodge held meetings in the Multi-Tool building in Saegertown for a year and a half while renovations and licensing took place at the new location.

East Stroudsburg Lodge #319

East Stroudsburg Lodge #319 distributed over 380 dictionaries to the entire 3rd grade classes of Stroudsburg Elementary Schools. Four schools where recipients including Chipperfield pictured here and Morey, Hamilton and Arlington. Each student received a dictionary with drug awareness bookmark, pencil and American flag. Exalted Ruler Ralph Bush assisted with the distribution at every school. The Dictionary program was made possible through the Gratitude grant from Elks National Foundation.

East Stroudsburg Lodge #319 participated in the Drug Awareness Poster contest with the Tobyhanna Elementary school. Exalted Ruler Jerry Richardson and Program Chair Randy Polinski presented Anais Alexis Nisha, the fifth grade winner with a framed certificate, gift card and American flag. She was the winner with 48 entries submitted from her grade. The fourth grade winner was Mya Aragona-Young. She competed with 66 other students and won first place. Emma Covino was the third grade winner. She competed with
73 other student and won first place. All winners received a gift card, certificate and American flag.

East Stroudsburg Lodge # 319 had four (4) students win "Most Valuable Student" scholarships. All four will receive $1,000.00 per year for four years. A total of $4,000.00 each from ENF. The students were recognized by Exalted Ruler Jerry Richardson and Scholarship Program Chair Randy Polinski. They are from left Marco Poliment, Rocco Poliment, Matthew Medaugh and Michael Olsen. All four students were from Pocono Mountain East High School. Also winning a "Most Valuable Student" scholarship from the state for $1,200.00 each is Philippa Eshun and Samantha Sands.

Harold Litts PDD presented Eagle Scout Roger W. Perkowski III of Troop 85 with the Eagle Scout pin set, framed certificate and congratulatory letter from Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Luhr. Roger III is the grandson of lodge member Roger W. Perkowski Sr. The Court of Honor was held at the Lodge. Other Eagle Scout presentations included Calvin Leon of Troop 84 presented by Exalted Ruler Jerry Richardson. Jonas Rivera of Troop 89 presented by Exalted Ruler Jerry Richardson. Jake Oravec of Troop 84 presented by Richard Laverdure Trustee. Steve Bevilacqua, Anthony Ward, Bradley Buzzard of troop 555 presented by Harold Litts PDD.

On May 4, 2019, Bloomsburg Lodge #436 had their yearly fishing derby and meal for veterans. The Lodge hosted 21 Veteran’s, including eleven disabled veterans. Twenty-two Lodge members assisted the veterans. Bloomsburg Lodge #436 Americanism Essay winners.

Tamaqua Lodge #592

On Saturday, April 6, Tamaqua Lodge #592 Exalted Ruler Billy Fritzinger and Esteemed Lecturing Knight Anthony McGeehan attended the American Cancer Society Telethon and presented a check for $2369.50. The money was raised at the Lodge’s Annual American Cancer Society fundraiser (Bike Run, Pig Roast and Silent Auction) and the sale of phone placards.

Frackville Lodge #1533

On Sunday May 12, Frackville Lodge #1533 held a special Mother’s Day Ceremony recognizing mothers.


Back row – Lance Nelson, Robert Yutko, Albert Gricoski, Ron Bane, Pat Bane, and Janet Moyer.

On Friday December 21st at the Broad Mountain Nursing Home in Frackville, 27 Veterans were visited and served by Elks members including: Bill Mack, Lodge Secretary, Lance Nelson, Esquire; Bill Begis, member and Santa Claus (Ann Ray Begis, Elks Veterans Service Chairperson.)
The Pennsylvania Elk Subscription Form

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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