



CT ELKS ASSOCIATION

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A 5 Star GL Award Publication

Greeting my fellow Elks and Friends,

I hope all are well and healthy. The 2020-2021 Association year certainly did not start out as expected. Due to the Coronavirus, our 91st State Convention was canceled. I was installed along with my fellow officers in a very simple and impressive ceremony.

I would like to thank the Northwest Past State Presidents, Robert Hansen Past Grand Lodge Chairman of the Board of Trustees and his installing suite James Desmaris, PGLC and Terry Ford. Also, a thank you to Wallingford Lodge for allowing us to use their hall for this very special day. As a complete surprise following my installation a covert group including Mike, Dotty, Linda, the Elks of Wallingford, my family, and my fellow Elks organized a drive thru event to honor and congratulate me on becoming the 91st State President. This, I will never forget. Thanks to all who made this a special day.

A very special thank you to outgoing Past State President Mike Bonini and Dottie for their friendship and guidance to Linda and myself leading up to this special day.

Our Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore, MD was canceled. Elks Lodges closed in March and some are still closed as of this writing. But we are Elks and we do what Elks do best. We have come together in our communities to assist those in need during these trying times. We will get through this and continue to help our veterans, our youth, the less fortunate, and our communities.

Although Connecticut is

small geographically, we are large in commitment to serving our communities through local charitable works, state association sponsored programs and involvement with all Grand Lodge programs. It is with great pride to hear Connecticut recognized at Grand Lodge Conventions for our achievements. Connecticut has won many Local, State and Grand Lodge awards over the years and we strive every day to continue down that path. We are extremely proud of the fact that Connecticut has had an annual gain in membership for the past 6 consecutive years!

The Connecticut Children's Medical Center and their "Safe Kids Program" is our state major project. For over 60 years we have enjoyed our relationship with the CCMC, and the Safe Kids Program assisting them with keeping children safe through education in the use of bicycle helmets, child car seats, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. In September, Past State President Mike Bonini and I presented a check for \$100,000 to continue our support of Connecticut Children's Medical Center and their "Safe Kids Program".

Our association is also proud of our affiliation with Connecticut Special Olympics and the Holiday Classic Event held in November each year. We serve as the Title Sponsor bringing over 100 Elk Volunteers to assist these special athletes during the Volleyball, Power Lifting, Bowling and

Basketball competition. Although the Holiday Classic event will be for the most part a virtual game. In September Past State President Mike Bonini and I presented a check for \$30,000 to continue our support to the Connecticut Special Olympics.



Due to Covid-19 we have had to cancel the following events this year: State & district Chairmen's Meeting, our National President Paul R. Ryan's visit to Connecticut, State and Area 1 Soccer Shoot

contest, State and Regional Hoop Shoot contest.

We were able to have 2 virtual combined District Deputy meetings which did work and were well attended.

I along with our drug awareness Chair Lisa Berthiaume and her committee attended a virtual Grand Lodge training program, my take away is DRUG abuse is still a major problem and we need to continue our push on educating and fighting this problem.

As a follow up, due to travel restrictions for Ray Lozano's annual visit to CT and his school visits, our State Chair Lisa was able to orchestrate a virtual meeting for Lodges Exalted Rulers, Lodge Drug Awareness Chairs and State District Chairs. We were able to hear from not only Ray but also from the National director,

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."

- President John F. Kennedy

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED

Kent Gade and Assistant Director William Bryan. Thru the fore thought of Ray and his organization they have created a virtual national platform that can be used in schools as a group or at home for schools that are teaching online. We were able to see what a great tool they have created to get the word out to all age levels.

This is the time for our District Deputy visits to our lodges. This has been a challenge due to Phase 2 requirements of only 25 people for an indoor event. I was able to attend a number of DD visits at the lodges that made room for me to attend.

I am very pleased at how many of the lodges have stepped up to help their communities during this covid-19 pandemic. They have made donations to food banks, have had drive thru food collections, used their lodges for blood drives, donated their kitchen, donated the use of outside facilities for drive thru donation to the communities for much needed supplies. This is Elkdom at its best. A personal thank you to all the lodges of Connecticut.

Now to a serious problem our Lodges are having. Many lodges have been closed since April. Dues cannot pay all of the required expenses that lodges need to pay. While some lodges got creative by opening outside dining, takeout food only, and trying to open indoors following all CT reopen rules. Bars continue to be closed and will be for a while. This is the time for all lodges to pay very close attention to expenses a lodge incurs, every expense no matter how small needs to be addressed. Board of Directors along with the Secretary and Treasurer must meet on a regular basis if a lodge is going to survive. This is also the time that long-term planning is needed.

As phase 3 has just been put into effect, hopefully it may help lodges financially as long as we follow all guideline and the percentage of positive cases stay at acceptable levels. Now is the time to follow the covid-19 rules and not become laxed. We need to move forward and not back to what it was like in April, May, and June.

Elks are known as an organization that cares and shares. We can accomplish this through the virtue of Charity and volunteering our time and resources to achieve the goals of our great Order. The success of any association depends on the involvement of its members. Connecticut Elks have always gone above and beyond to continually move our programs in a positive direction.

To everyone please stay safe and healthy. "Remember, We Are Stronger Together"

Fraternally,

James Sabio, PGLC, PDD
Connecticut State President

PGER David R. Carr's Placemat Program
You can find your set of GL Placemats on ELKS.ORG/ Grand Lodge/Committees/Fraternal Committee/Forms&Downloads. They can be used at your next event, breakfast, dinner, and more to promote your Lodge and

It is the intent of the State Public Relations Committee to publish this newsletter quarterly. All Grand Lodge & State Officers, committee persons & local Lodges are encouraged to submit any articles & information to the State or District Public Relations Chair. Chair: Steve Maheu, PER stemahart@gmail.com. Central: Richard Poole, PER, richpoole15@gmail.com; Coastal: Sheila Parizo, sparizo@sbcglobal.net; East: John Espada, PER trustee2163@tvconnect.net; Northwest: Jenn Maheu, jennmaheu@gmail.com

2020-21 CT ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Organist,
Joshua Gray, PER

A MESSAGE FROM GRAND EXALTED RULER

HALF IS GOOD....WITH PARTS OF THE BUDGET BY GER, PAUL R. RYAN

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

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

Is something in your budget out of whack? Are you running way higher than 50%? Then your Board of Trustees/Directors should take a serious look at the budget and figure out what to do to make sure that it gets back in line, or how you will make it through the rest of the year. Now, if you are one of the Lodges that rely on your accountant to be doing this for you, then put someone in charge to have a conversation with your accountant and report back to the Lodge or your accountant.

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

1) The future of Elkdom relies on the age of our Members.

2) The future of Elkdom relies on future leaders.

3) The future of Elkdom relies on volunteers.

4) The future of Elkdom is dependent on us to create new and future Members. Give 100% to the best GER Class ever.

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

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

Don't forget that Red Ribbon week is October 23-31. And now is the time to prepare for all of your veterans activities for the month of November. Lastly, our Hoop Shoot programs should now be ramping up and getting prepared.

2020-21 GRAND LODGE OFFICERS & COMMITTEEMEN

State Sponsor,
David R. Carr, PGER

*Past Grand Lodge
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Gerald Eisenman, PCJGF
Robert W. Hansen,
PGLIG, PGLCC, PSP,
PDD

Special Deputy GER,
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*Grand Lodge
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*District Deputy GER
Central District*
Seth Miller, DDGER

*District Deputy GER
Coastal District*
Robert Magowan,
DDGER

*District Deputy GER
East District,*
Bruce Edward DelMastro
DDGER

*District Deputy GER
Northwest District*
Donald Joseph McCurdy,
Sr., DDGER

CTELKS Association is on



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Connecticut, let's increase
our numbers! **FIND US AT**
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All proceeds benefit CCMC
Our State Major Project

VETERANS DAY RECOGNIZES MILITARY FAMILIES, TOO

By ROBERT L. DUITSMAN, PGER

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has long committed itself to honoring and supporting our country's military service members and veterans, and in these times that commitment has never been more important.

It was perhaps in the wake of the Second World War that the practice of honoring those who served in our nation's military was most intense. Parades and a variety of other events were staged to recognize those who offered themselves in the defense of our nation and its interests. While that fervor may have diminished for some over the years, the Elks have stood firm in continuing to recognize the men and women who serve this nation.

But, while as Elks we are familiar with the importance of November 11 as Veterans Day, when special attention is paid to honor our nation's veterans, some may not know that since 2016 November has been recognized as National Veterans and Military Families Month. Indeed, it is important we be mindful of not only the men and women who volunteer to serve in defending our nation, but also of their families who must endure hardship, emotional turmoil and deprivation while supporting them.

As Elks, while concern for our military is a year-round commitment, it is fitting we look for ways to support their families as well. Consider planning an event: Invite the family of service members to an event at your Lodge as circumstances allow, even if their service spouse or family member is unavailable. A little special attention, support and recognition for their special contributions to our nation's defense may go a long way, and heighten awareness in your community of what Elks stand for.

The Elks Veterans Service Commission stands ready to do everything we can to support the Elks' motto, "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Please also remember the ongoing campaign to support the Pearl Harbor Memorial renovation. Important work is being done, and the Elks are being recognized for their commitment to restoring and improving this national monument that provides all Americans with a focus for remembrance and reflection of a very dark but inspiring time in our nation's history. Please help as you are able. Donations must be received by November 11.

West Haven Lodge #1537

West Haven Elks Lodge 1537 has been collecting food and monetary donations



to support The West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce (WHEAT). The non-profit organization serves West Haven residents in crisis by providing a place to go for food, shelter, clothing and more.

The Lodge raised \$2,000 in monetary donations and delivered over 7,000 pounds of food to WHEAT.

Tremendous community support for the project included Yale Cardiothoracic residents and the Girl Scouts. In addition, the Lodge received support from Lodge members as well as provided membership applications.

Introducing NEW Online Membership Application

The new online application for membership is easy to use. The proposer clicks on the hyperlink at the top left corner of elks.org and gives the information on the potential member. The potential member gets instructions on how to apply and the information is all cc'd to the Lodge Secretary. Take a look at the form! You do need an elks.org login to do this.

2020-2021 GRAND LODGE AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

By ROBERT R. HINKLE, CHAIRMAN, GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

“How can Patriotism be Demonstrated?”

I am pleased to announce that Members of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee have selected the theme, “How can Patriotism be Demonstrated” for the 2020-2021 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Tampa, FL in July 2021. This very important Patriotic Contest gives school children in grades 5-8 the opportunity to express views on their pride in America.

Nationally, first-place, second-place and third-place winners in each division will receive bronze plaques. Many Lodges, Districts and State Associations also may offer different types of awards to their winners.

Now is the time for all Lodges to contact their local school districts and provide them with the new topic. Ask them to add the essay contest to their fall curriculum. The same material accompanying this letter, and also a fillable Certificate of Participation for schools that participated in the contest, may be found at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/fraternal/downloads.cfm>.

This contest is most important because it involves school children in your area, showing them Americanism at its best. The contest also demonstrates that Members of your Lodge are proud to be Americans, proud to be Elks and proud to participate in the Americanism programs of Grand Lodge.

Your Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is committed to serving and assisting you as we all show pride in America.

May God continue to bless America. God bless the Elks and may God bless each of you.

Groton Elks Lodge #2163

The Groton Elks Lodge has a long standing relationship with the CT Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill. This year, we asked the staff, what can we do to help the residents improve their quality of life during this time of COVID? We used our Freedom Grant to give them everything they asked for. This included bottles of water and Gatorade, coffee pods, laundry detergent pods, fishing gear, canvas for painting, half barrel planters, soil, mulch, electric toothbrushes, oversized rocking camp chairs and Walmart Gift cards. A group of our members recently drove up to deliver all the donations and visit briefly with a few of the residents. They promised to send photos of flowers in bloom, fish that they catch, and paintings they create!

Wallingford Elks Lodge presented Tri Circle, Inc. with a donation of \$2500.

Tri-Circle Inc is a non-profit organization counseling in substance abuse and addiction struggle. They have created the diverse resources and relationships that will support long-term recovery. They also offer educational training on the use of Narcan and a paraphernalia presentation.

This is part of the ENF Grant opportunities which our lodge was awarded. Featured Thomas Smith PER, Bernie Staggers, ER Mary Smith, Ana Gopian, and PER Julie Goode.



ELKS GRANTS LET LODGES FOCUS ON COMMUNITY NEEDS

By MICHAEL B. BRYANT, COMMITTEE MEMBER

COVID-19 has been a life-changing event for most of us and there does not seem to be an end to the restrictions in the near future. Work has been affected, not only with job losses but also with changes in daily job functions. Social life is different, as many are not able to socialize with friends as they normally would. Going to restaurants, movie theaters, parks, and yes, even the Lodge, has in many cases been eliminated or curtailed greatly.

This has taken a great toll on our local Lodges. Depending on your state, you may not be able to assemble in groups for normal Lodge meetings, gather to plan events, or to meet with the public to collaborate on our community programs. In this difficult time, our programs are even more valuable to our communities.

We can still find ways to work with our communities to provide services and goods unique to your individual community. We may not be able to meet in large groups, but we can still meet the needs of others in many ways. This not only supports our community, making a difference to those who are in need, but also enhances our image in the community, showing we are there to serve even in very difficult times.

The thing I truly love about Elksdom is that we can customize our programs to our individual communities, drilling down to specific needs as best known by the local Lodges. These projects may involve youth, veterans, teachers, homeless, and others in need.

Grand Lodge is providing additional assistance with meeting these community needs. The Beacon Grant this year, as an example, has been increased to \$3,500. You can merge this grant with the Spotlight Grant and receive an additional \$2,000 to be used for COVID-19 relief. These can supplement local fundraising, which may be limited now, to assist your community and bring positive recognition to your Lodge.

You can participate in the Community Project Contest for these worthy programs. Now is the time to start planning for your entry. The Lodge Community Project Contest form is online at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/files/communityProjectsContest.pdf>.

All entries must be received by May 1, 2021. There are six divisions based on Lodge size with a first, second, and third place winner in each division. This contest recognizes and rewards your Lodge Members for their hard work and lets them know this work is appreciated by others, including the Grand Lodge.