

APRIL 2019

LOUISIANA ELK'S NEWSLETTER



A News Publication of the
LOUISIANA ELK'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

A Five Star Publication

Hon. Millard Pickering PGER, sponsor

*Published on behalf of Louisiana Elks, in support of Louisiana Elks and for
Elks*

Published by:
Editor:
Reporters:

Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle
Exalted Rulers and LEA Chairman



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2018/2019 LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS	1.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND LODGE DIRECTORY	2.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3.
SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE	3-4.
LEA SECRETARY MESSAGE	4-5.
GRAND LODGE CORNER	5-7.
ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION	7-8.
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION	8-9.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	9-10.
LODGE NEWS	10-11.
ARE YOU READY FOR THE STORM	11.
MEMORIALS	11.
CONVENTION LETTER	12.
CONVENTION REGISTRATION	13.
SAVE THE DATES	14.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This bulletin will only be as good as the information submitted by you, a member of the Louisiana Elks Association. Articles for the July bulletin are due by June 10, 2019.

Please send them to:

mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com or elksoflouisiana@hotmail.com

OFFICERS 2018-2019:

PRESIDENT:

Beulah Rodrigue (Rod)
PDD, Houma #1193

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jim Cade (Lisa)
PDD, Shreveport #122

TREASURER

Richard M. Jones (Frances)
PGEsq, Shreveport #122

TILER

Warren Michel (Anne)
PER, Houma #1193

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Armand Buuck (Debbie)
PDD, New Orleans #30

SECRETARY

Buddy Hartle (Judy)
PDD, New Orleans #30

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Kenneth Lafleur (Pat)
PSP, Opelousas #1048

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Samuel Authement (Angela)
PER, Houma #1193

CHAPLAIN

KelleyRodrigue (Kelly)
Houma #1193

LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES:

1-YEAR:

James "Butch" Barron (JoAnn)
PSP, Opelousas #1048

3-YEAR:

Greg Taylor
PSP, Shreveport #122

2-YEAR

Terry Bruno (Vicki)
PSP, New Orleans #30

4-YEAR

Randy Bergeron (Lynn)
PSP, Slidell #2321

5-YEAR:

Henry Daigle (Toni)
PSP, Plaquemine #1398



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**Accident Prevention Safety,
Insurance & Risk Management**
Wm, "Bill Boudreaux, PSP
New Orleans #30

Advisory Chairman
Herb Hostler, PSP
Slidell #2321

Americanism
Randy Bergeron, PSP
Slidell #2321

Business Practices
Mastin Scott
Shreveport #122

CLMS
Buddy Hartle, PDD
New Orleans #30

Disaster Relief
Warren Michel, PER
Houma #1193

Drug Awareness
Armand Buuck, PDD
New Orleans #30

Elks National Foundation
Angelo Mancuso, PSP
Plaquemine #139

**Elks National
Veterans Service**
Terry Bruno, PSP
New Orleans #30

Elks & Scouting
Kelly Rodrigue, PER
Houma #1193

Government Relations
Don Baye, PER
New Orleans #30

Hoop Shoot
Ed Chandler
Shreveport #122

Lodge Activities
Betsy Ibos
New Orleans #30

Major Projects
Terry Bruno, PSP
New Orleans #30

Membership
Henry Daigle, PDD
Plaquemine #1398

New Lodge Development
Henry Daigle, PSP
Plaquemine #1398

Public Relations
Rene Pelanne, PER
New Orleans #30

Resolutions
Sam Echols, PGEsquire/PSP
Shreveport #122

Ritualistic
Herb Hostler, PSP
Slidell #2321

Scholarship
Brenda Babin
Houma #1193

State Convention
Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Training
Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Webmaster
Richard Conran, SDGER/PG Tiler
Plaquemine #1398

Youth Activities
Brian Baye, PER
New Orleans #30

LODGE DIRECTORY

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STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Greetings and a great big hug from your state President. I am so proud and thankful for the opportunity to serve the Louisiana Elks Association (LEA) as state President. The experience was beyond comparison. Rod and I got the chance to meet all of the great Elks throughout that state as well as represent the LEA throughout our region, which includes the states of Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado. Rod and I also had the honor of visiting with the Grand Exalted Ruler Michael Luhr and his wife, Barb. We were always welcomed every place that we visited. I want to thank everyone that contributed to our endeavors. Without everyone's help, we would not have achieved the level of success that we did. The LEA Officers, committee chairs and LEA members all worked diligently to get things done. Without their efforts, Louisiana Elks Association would not be as great as it is.

My main goal when I took office was to improve communication and collaboration with all the Lodges in the state of Louisiana. I can adamantly say that we achieved that goal. The Exalted Rulers with the members of their Lodges were all cooperative when contacted and participated in the Mid-season Conference and the Extravaganza. It was the largest turnout we

have had in the last decade. I feel that everyone that attended had a great time.

I would like to commend the success of all the Lodges throughout the state. Membership is in the plus. Our Veterans are being recognized and helped. Americanism, Drug Awareness, Scholarship, Scouting and Hoop Shoot are thriving. We financially assisted Elks in disaster-stricken areas. In addition, the Louisiana Lodges are running strong in supporting the Elks National Foundation (ENF).

In closing, I look forward to seeing each of you at the LEA State Convention in Lafayette, Louisiana. I have expectation that we can have record-breaking attendance like the Mid-season conference. Let us give the next state President a warm reception as they take the reins.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Beulah Rodrigue
LEA State President

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Members;

April starts a new chapter in our Lodges. We have said good-bye to our 2018-19 Lodge Officers, and I hope that all of you thanked them for their leadership during the past year.

Congratulations are in order to all our newly elected Lodge Offices who have stepped up and accepted the challenge to lead our Lodges for the year of 2019-20. Each and every one of them made a pledge before God and the Lodge members when they were installed that they would uphold the Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the By-Laws of their Lodge. They know that it is their duty to promote the programs of the GL, and to encourage participation by the members of their Lodge in our charitable works. (Continued Page 4)

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE

continued:

I know that all of them are ready to get started with the task ahead of them, so please pitch in and help them to complete the goals they have set.

ER's, by now you should have appointed all of your Committees Chairperson or Coordinators and if you have not then you must do so now. A good leader will not just appoint someone to chair a committee and then forget about them. He/she must be in constant touch with them to see that they are doing the job you assigned to them. Most of the time that means the ER will have to pitch in and help do the work and if not, then at the end of the year if the committee has done nothing then he/she cannot blame anyone except themselves. Please remember that a good leader leads by example and never asks anyone to do something that they would not do themselves.

The first quarter of our new year has many events that will keep us busy. Below is a list of them.

Mother's Day is May 12th, and all Lodges should have a special dinner for all of our mothers and wives. There is a wonderful Ritual that can be done to honor our mothers.

The LEA Sate Convention will be held at the Garden Plaza Convention Center in Lafayette, LA., on May 17th, 18th and 19th, 2019

Memorial Day is May 27th a day that represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. We should also remember to honor our men and women who are serving in the armed forces now and those who served to ensure that we continue to have the many freedoms we continue to enjoy.

Flag Day is June 14th it is the duty of each Lodge to hold the service known as "Flag Day Services" in the manner prescribed by, the Ritual of the Order.

Rituals for Mother's Day and Flag Day can be found in the B. P. O. Elks Rituals of Special Service Manual (Code 511601) revised February 2018.

The GL Session will be held in Saint Louis, MO, starting June 30th and ending July 3rd. Remember that all Lodges are required to send the Exalted Ruler to it. If he/she cannot attend it, then a Past Exalted Ruler holding an office in the Lodge may be an alternate representative of the Lodge.

As we all know membership is the life line of our Order and Lodges and we must continue to bring in new members so both will continue to prosper.

Having said all of the above, it is now time for the members to pledge their support to the new Lodge Officers. Without the members support, the Officers will not be able to accomplish the goals they set to ensure that you're Lodge has a successful year. I ask all of you to remember that we must work as a team to be successful and if we do then the Lodge will have a productive year that everyone will be proud of.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year and if I can be of help to any of you, please feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,



Richard F. Conran, SDGER~PG Tiler

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

I want to thank all the retiring officers that served this past Elk year and welcome our newly elected and appointed officers for the 2019-2020 Elk year. This year we will have three new Lodge Secretaries. They are Jo Ann Aldridge (Opelousas 1048); Heather Dore (Donaldsonville 1153) and Puddy Gondrella (New Orleans West Bank 2496). I look forward to working with you this year.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE continued:

The April membership report for all lodges has been filed with Grand Lodge. We began this past Elk Year with 2,079 members but ended the year with 2,150, a gain of 71 members. This is a great accomplishment. Before we can begin the celebration, we must deal with our delinquent members. Of the 2,150 members, 1,217 are delinquent. This is a major problem. Over the next several weeks, the lapsation committee needs to contact these members and remind them to pay their dues. It might also be that the Lodge Secretaries need to send out another dues statement. This should be the number 1 priority in all Lodges.

The Lodge Charity reports are due by May 1. Again, this year some lodges have done an excellent job in reporting the charity work, but several Lodges are not reporting the great work they are doing. You can refer to the Government Relations Manual on what can be reported. Did you know that you can also claim members attending a Lodge meeting in your charity report? Check how to do it in the Government Relations Manual.

Our state convention will be held in Lafayette, LA May 17-19, 2019. Prior to the convention, I will e-mail the voting delegate form to the Lodge Exalted Ruler and Secretary. I need one of you to complete the form and return it to me at the Exalted Ruler/Secretary meeting held on Saturday morning during our meeting with our State Sponsor and Special Deputy. At this same meeting, I will distribute the State President's Pins that your Lodge purchased and your request for pins for next year.

Exalted Rulers you should meet with the outgoing Exalted Ruler to ensure that all information for the Annual Financial Report has been turned over to the Lodge Accountant. This includes bar and food inventories, bar salaries, etc. The accountant shall deliver the complete report to the Lodge by June 15. **The auditing and accounting committee shall present the report to the membership by the last meeting in June.** The report must be postmarked by June 30 or the Lodge will be fined. Mail your report

to Steven Weatherly (Auditing and Accounting Chairman for Area 6); Richard Conran, SDGER and Wayne Landry, District Deputy-Designate.

Have a Super Elk Day!!
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Buddy Hartle, LEA State Secretary

GRAND LODGE CORNER

Diligent reporting can help set a new Elks record by Stanley J. Welsh:

It is the end of the 2018-2019 Lodge year, and it is a very busy time for secretaries. Dues are coming in, and notices to delinquents and lapsed Members are being mailed. Secretaries are busy getting information together for the audit, trying to get those last few Members initiated and finishing up their **Charity Reports**.

Charity Reporting is essential to the wellbeing of our Order. It protects the status of your Lodge, and Grand Lodge, with the IRS. The Charity Report is the only tangible report of what we do, and it can be used to grow your Lodge by letting everyone know how much it contributes to your community.

Now is the time to take a long hard look at those entries. Do you have everything entered? Has all of your Committee Chairs reported? Did you include Lodge and District Meeting hours and miles? Convention hours and miles? State Projects? Now is the time to get out the Government Relations Manual and check the list of everything you can report and see if you may have missed something.

We hope that 100 percent of our Lodges report this year. Last year we had some that failed to report, many of which listed items but simply failed to hit the submit icon. If you take the time to enter the data, then why not submit it? If you are an outgoing secretary, go over the reporting with the new incoming secretary. (Continued Page 6)

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

Last year we reported \$675,985, 245. Can we beat that number? I believe we can. The ground work was laid and there is much more we can report. Start now, because the submission date is coming up and we don't know if that date will be extended. Why wait? Finish your report and get it submitted as soon as possible. If you have any questions, download the Government Relations Manual at elks.org or contact your District or State Government Relations Chairperson.

If you have not been filing a 990T with your 990 to the IRS, **please take the time to speak with your accountant regarding Unrelated Business Income Reporting.** It is in the best interest of your Lodge to report this income. The information is in the Grand Lodge Government Relations Manual.

Lastly, a big thank you to all those Officers who worked so hard to make the 2018-2019 a success in your Lodges, Districts, and State Associations. Your service and hard work is appreciated.

To those newly elected Officers who will soon be taking over the reins of leaderships, thank you for stepping up. We wish each of you a successful Elks year.

Charity is at the Heart of Elkdom by Kenneth N. Bruckner:

Though it's the shortest month, February is packed with many important events. The month's signature holiday, Valentine's Day, reminds all of us of the importance of sharing our God-given talents to those less fortunate. This very important day is symbolized by the hearts on the cards

Take the time to rethink this symbol of joy and the friendship that we as Elks can provide as we give time and money and volunteer assistance to others.

H – Helping the Lodge commit programs is extremely important. They provide a service within your Lodge, to the less fortunate, to our

youth, to our veterans, and to our local communities by providing programs, personnel assistance, and awareness of who we are as Elks.

E – Effort that is put forth by each Elks Member, family member, or friend provides the support to the many programs provided within our communities. Many times, volunteers do not even stop to think as to why they are doing so. It's out of pure heartfelt volunteerism and individual pride to provide an enriched life to others.

A – Arouse interest in fellow Members, family members, and friends to become Members and get involved with fellow committee volunteers within our great Order. It is amazing what can be accomplished with a program through individual involvement.

R – Report these accomplishments of time, travel, and monetary donations to your Lodge Secretary. After completing a project or event, a very simple form can be obtained from your Lodge Secretary or your Lodge Government Relations Committee Chairperson. Complete and return the form to your Lodge Secretary so they can report the activity in CLMS to be accumulated by Grand Lodge. The compiled information is submitted to the Federal Government to inform Senators and Representatives in Congress the amount of charitable time, money, and travel that Elks provide.

T – Thank each Member that is or was involved on a committee or event, whether it may be an ongoing project, an annual project, or event that has been completed. Recognition gives a volunteer a great deal of satisfaction and makes them feel accepted and appreciated within your Lodge and in the organization.

ELKS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS:

Want to discuss the Elks?

Check out the Membership Forum (elks.org/messageboard/orms.cfm)

Members use the message board to share constructive information every day.

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

Lodges will get monthly invoice starting in April by Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary:

Per section 14.150 and 16.010, Opinion 03 of the 2018 Statutes Annotated, beginning in April 2019, the Grand Lodge will be invoicing each Lodge, on a monthly basis, the pro-rated Grand Lodge per-capita dues and assessments, plus State Association dues for new and reinstated members.

To facilitate this action, the Chicago Lodge Membership System (CLMS2) will be updated to calculate the pro-rated payment amounts for each new or reinstated Member. Collections will be submitted to Grand Lodge on a monthly basis.

The State Association portion will be collected by Grand Lodge, then forwarded to the respective State Association on a monthly basis.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

How your Lodge can win, and use, a Freedom Grant by David R. Carr, PGER:

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission will award \$2,000.00 Freedom Grants to Lodges providing programs that meet the needs of veterans and active military personnel in their communities.

The first 300 Lodges submitting qualifying applications will receive these grants. Grants usually go fast, so here are a few tips to help your Lodge's chances.

First, please note that the Freedom Grant calendar has changed. Freedom Grants are available online on April 1. Applications will be assessed on their expected impact on veterans and the quality of support provided by the Lodge. The Lodge Secretary or ENF grants coordinator can process, complete, and submit the online application starting April 1.

Be prepared! Lodges are encouraged to plan projects that serve veterans and/or active duty military personnel and involve Elks as much as possible. Before submitting an application, be ready to describe your program, its expected impact (the need or needs you hope to meet), and a projected budget. Be as detailed as possible on how the funds are spent and how the project meets a local need. Donations do not qualify, and meaningful involvement is required.

Know your project's goal. Remember that projects must focus on one of these five areas: employment, homelessness and housing, military families, health, and education.

Looking for inspiration? Middletown, NY Lodge No. 1097 split its Freedom Grant between two projects. Members distributed backpacks full of personal supplies, outdoor gear, food, and sleeping bags to homeless veterans. Middletown Elks joined the Hudson Valley Veterans Task Force to determine which supplies would be most useful. During their annual Christmas caroling visit, Elks also gave gifts and supplies to veterans living at the Montrose VA Hospital.

Guidelines for Freedom Grant applications can be found at [enf.elks.org/Freedom Grant](http://enf.elks.org/FreedomGrant). Thank you for your support of our nation's veterans and active duty personnel!

Elks EAF fund gives single mother a fresh start by Taylor Odisho:

The Emergency Assistance Fund, a part of the Elks' Welcome Home program, has helped more than 1,422 veterans exit or avoid homelessness through emergency assistance.

Rose, a single mother to 11-year-old twin daughters from Washington, D.C., is one of those veterans. She has struggled with PTSD since serving in the Marine Corps from 2003 to 2007.

Rose worked every day to keep the rent paid, the lights on, and her children fed, but couldn't make ends meet. (Continued Page 8)

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

When she was forced to choose between feeding her daughters and paying the electricity bill, Rose turned to the VA.

She was able to apply for the Elks Emergency Assistance Fund through her HUD-VASH Social Worker. The Elks accepted Rose’s application and paid her rent. That assistance gave her the stability she needed.

“Your whole mind opens up because you’re not stressing out,” Rose said. “I was able to be a better mom. I could live again.”

Rose recalled having the gas shut off three times in a year. It cost her \$700 in additional fees to have it turned back on. Those days are behind her, thanks to the Elks. She was recently accepted into the Service to CEO Program through The Rosie Network, a nonprofit dedicated to building a network of military entrepreneurs.

“I’m excited to learn how to be a successful entrepreneur around other vets who are trying to do the same thing,” Rose said.

Rose plans to open an empowerment center that will help other single moms navigate the obstacles she has faced-like finding childcare-by giving them the skills to take their jobs anywhere.

She attributes the timely assistance from the Elks for giving her the opportunity to pursue this next step in her life.

**LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION
MAY 17-19, 2019
LAFAYETTE, LA**

PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

As of March 31, 2019

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Houma	\$1,942.00	\$14.82
2	Plaquemine	\$ 547.00	\$ 9.43
3.	Slidell	\$1,934.40	\$ 9.30
4.	N.O. West Bank	\$ 503.18	\$ 6.71
5.	New Orleans	\$2,174.00	\$ 6.56
6	Shreveport	\$5,030.00	\$ 5.91
7	Opelousas	\$1,614.00	\$ 5.36
8.	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Lodge feeds hungry students by Taylor Odisho:

The lunch bell is the signal for kids to get up, grab their lunchboxes, and run to the cafeteria. For 22 million kids in America, it means it’s time to stand in line for a free or reduced lunch-possibly their only meal of the day. One in six of those children doesn’t know if another meal is guaranteed.

Members of Hickory, NC Lodge No. 1654 don’t want to see kids from their community go hungry after school or on the weekend. The Lodge used a Gratitude Grant to team up with Catawba County Backpack Program, which distributes backpacks filled with nutritious food to students who are at risk of hunger during weekends and holidays.

The program relies on nonprofits, volunteers, and private donors to help restock backpacks each week. As the largest supporter to the program, the Lodge has helped shorten the program’s waiting list, serving 1,382 students at two schools in Catawba County. The program distributed more that 422,000 meals in 2017-18 school year, but the need continues to grow.

“We were so fortunate to receive the Gratitude Grant,” said Valerie Arbogast, the project manager at the Lodge. “We were able to raise community awareness about the need to fight hunger for our local children.” (Continued Page 9)

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

continued:

The Lodge's support goes beyond the grant: 325 members held a silent auction at the Lodge. It raised an additional \$31,000 to address food insecurity in Hickory.

The community showed the Elks how much it appreciates their hard work and dedication to the project. The project led to major community outreach for the Lodge and five new Members joined.

"As well as doing a world of good for our local children, this program garners positive recognition for Hickory Elks Lodge," Arbogast said. "Everyone is very proud of what our backpack event provides for our community."

The Elks National Foundation helps Lodges serve their community by offering Gratitude Grants of up to \$2,500. To find out more about Gratitude Grants and the Community Investments Program, visit [enf.elks.org/Gratitude Grants](http://enf.elks.org/Gratitude%20Grants).

COMMITTEE NEWS:

Government Relations:

To all Exalted Rulers and Lodge Secretaries, now that the Elk year has come to an end, PLEASE make sure that all your committee reports are entered into CLMS. This keeps us in compliance with Grand Lodge and helps to keep our non-profit status. So PLEASE get those reports entered into CLMS.

As another Elk year ends, we need to look back at all the accomplishments your Lodge has made. Please continue to move forward with your programs into the 2019/2020 Elk year. Let's go out into our communities and share all the good work we do as Elks.

Newly elected Exalted Rulers congratulations to you and all the new officers of your Lodge. If you go on line to elks.org, go to Government Relations and click on Government Relations Manual. There is a workbook in the manual with pointers

for new Exalted Rulers. These pointers will help you get your new Elk year going in the right direction. Exalted Rulers as you appoint someone to chair a committee, please take a few minutes to cover their committee responsibility with them, and let that chairperson know what your expectations are for that committee. So many times, we put someone in charge of things without giving them any guidance or direction, that makes us all fail on what we set out to accomplish.

Don Baye, Chairman

Lodge Activities:

Working together to make a difference as stated by Michael Luhansk, GER, can ensure that 2019-2020 will be a great year for our order and all our Lodges. There are some great Lodge activities on the horizon that are about to happen. The Initiation of the new officers, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Fish Fry's, Crawfish Boils, Mother's Day & Flag Day. Hoops Shoot was in January and February and all the lodges have been very successful getting the kids in our community involved with this great program.

Among the many other wonderful programs that our order has, is The Emergency Assistance Fund, which is part of the Elks Welcome Home program for veterans. This program has helped more than 1400 veteran exit or avoid homelessness through emergency assistance. A veteran can apply for the EAF through their local HUD-VASH Social Worker. Getting involved with the veterans and all the many different veteran's programs is a great way to show your support to the Elks and to our community.

As a reminder charity Reporting is essential to the wellbeing of our order, it helps grow your Lodge by letting everyone know how much the Lodge has contributed to your community. All the activities that your Lodge has conducted throughout the year need to be accounted for and included in this report. With that being said, all Lodges should be working on their Lodge Activity Book. (Continued Page 10)

COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

It is a great way to show what your Lodge has done throughout the Elk year and to show to potential new members. The State conventions is in May and I will be looking forward to seeing your Lodge Activities Book.

Have a Safe and successful year.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

Business Practice:

This is a reminder of the need for the Business Practices committee of each lodge to review lodge operations to help ensure they are using proper business practices. Section 13.040(i) of the Statutes sets forth the requirement for three reviews per year during the months of July, October, and January. A good question is what do you look at when you review Lodge activities? You should consider:

- How cash receipts and lodge revenues come in and how to minimize cases of one-person handling cash without being reviewed.
- How expenditures are in agreement with the lodge's budget, how they get approved, and how well records are kept of what the expenditures accomplish.
- How lodge assets, including cash, are properly secured, protected, and insured against loss and how liabilities are minimized.

A great source for information on this subject is the Auditing & Accounting Manual, available on-line at Elks.org. It includes chapters on Accounting and Bookkeeping, Internal Controls, Internal Auditing, including a Guide for Reviews by Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee as Exhibit B, and the Annual Financial Report. Let me know if you have questions or comments about this information.

Thanks

Mastin Scott, Chairman

LODGE NEWS:

Houma Lodge 1193:

The Houma Elks Lodge #1193 started the year 2019 with a bang. On the weekend of January 18th, 19th and 20th, the Houma Elks Lodge hosted the Louisiana Elks Association Mid-Season Conference with a Mardi Gras Extravaganza. It was our vision for the event to have every visiting Elk have a great time. Locally, on behalf of the Houma Elks Lodge, we thanked all of the organizations and volunteers that made the event a tremendous success. However, we wanted to go one step further and issue a sincere thank you to each and every visiting Elk from around the great state of Louisiana for taking the time out of your busy schedule to visit us in Houma, Louisiana. It was a pleasure to see and visit with everyone and it proves beyond a shadow of doubt how Elkdom lives in the fraternal lives of the LEA membership.

On January 26th, the Houma Elks Lodge held its Annual Hoop Shoot Competition at Bayou Blue Middle School, 196 Mazerac Street, Houma, Louisiana. Although, there was a modest turnout the participants had a great time. We had two boys, one from the Age 11 to 12 group and one from the Age 12 to 13 group win and advance to the state competition in Opelousas, Louisiana. The Houma Elks Lodge is starting to gear up for next year's competition.

The Houma Elks Lodge supports our Veterans by bringing groceries every week to the Veterans Homeless Shelter and meeting with them every morning on the Lodge patio with coffee and biscuits. We are sincere in our appreciation for the dedicated and unwavering service our Veterans have contributed to protecting our American values and ideals.

Mardi Gras in Houma was in full swing. Houma Elks Lodge opened its front windows selling food and drink to the downtown crowds. At the same time Houma Elk members, families and guests enjoyed the Downtown Main Street Lodge as a place to relax and entertain while waiting for the parades to come. We even had out of state visiting Elks come and socialize with us. (Continued Page 11)

LODGE NEWS continued:

On January 9th, the Houma Elks Lodge presented a \$2,500 check from the Gratitude Grant to the Terrebonne Food Bank to help purchase food for the less fortunate of the community. On March 22nd, Houma Elks Lodge is hosting a dance for the Terrebonne ARC residents and a Snowball day with Beacon Grant of \$2,000. And, the Houma Elks Lodge will be completing the Anniversary Grant of \$1,500 by sponsoring the Terrebonne LEGO Robotics League as they compete in competition at the World War II Museum. All of these charitable events were made possible by our Lodge applying and receiving grants from the National Elks Foundation (ENF).

In conclusion, the Houma Lodge #1193 is thriving and will continue to pursue the four pillars of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity as we embark on a new Lodge year with hope and vigor that we may continue to strive to support our youth, community and Veterans.

Are You Ready for the Storm:

Hurricane season begins on June 1. Will you be ready? According to FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a branch of the United States Department of Homeland Security, "A well-thought-out plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering from any storm affecting your home." "The best emergency plans are those that are easy to remember."

Maintaining a link to the outside can be crucial. Keep a battery-operated radio and extra batteries on hand.

Identify family meeting places in case you are separated. Choose a place in a building or a park outside your neighborhood. Everyone should be clear about this location.

Develop an emergency communication plan. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the family's contact. Make sure everyone knows the telephone number of this contact.

Below is a partial list of emergency supplies, or, items that you will need other than food and water (it is now recommended to have 5 to 7 days supply and food and water for each member of your family, including pets):

Flashlights with extra batteries.
Battery operated lanterns with extra batteries.
Waterproof matches.
Fire extinguisher.
Battery operated radio.
Battery operated fan.
Hand operated can opener.
30-day supply of prescription medication.
First aid kit
Clean containers for storing drinking water.
Waterproof container for important documents.
Cash.



To Our Absent Members:

In vain we call. He has passed into the light which is beyond the valley of the shadow of death. The places that have known him shall know him no more; but his virtues are written upon the tables of love and memory.

Lynn Brennan, New Orleans 30
Octave Courrage, New Orleans 30
Clarence Jacobs, New Orleans 30
JM Fant, Shreveport 122
Leonard G. Freitas, Shreveport 122
Jack A. Williams, Shreveport 122
Harold Dupre, Opelousas 1048
William H. Jarrell, Jr Opelousas 1048
Vernon H. Simpson, Opelousas 1048
Larry L. Angeron, Houma 1193
Remuis J. Dubois, Houma 1193
Judith Clark, Slidell 2321
Frank Glass, Slidell 2321
Edward L. Stevenson, Slidell 2321



Louisiana Elks Association, Inc.
Convention Chairman – Richard F. Conran, Grand Tiler/ SDGER
11992 Comal Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70816-8622
Phone: 225-275-7118 - Cell: 225-938-9213
E-mail: rconran39@aol.com

A Fraternal Origination

April 1, 2019

Members,

On behalf of the Louisiana Elks Association, State President Beulah Rodrigue, and Houma Lodge 1193, I invite you, your lodge members and guests to attend the 83rd Louisiana Elks State Convention in Lafayette, LA on May 17-19, 2019.

The Convention will be held at the Garden Plaza Hotel Conference Center. The Garden Plaza is located at 2032 N. E. Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA 70501.

The Registration Fee is \$50.00 per Person. All registrations should be mailed to Richard Jones, Registration Chairman, 5018 Rosedown Lane, Bossier City, LA 71112-4590, no later than, April 30, 2019. **Registration received after April 30, 2019 will have a \$10.00 per person late registration fee.** **Friday night Social tickets are \$12 each and must be ordered and paid for with convention registration. Tickets are required.** There will be plenty of good food, refreshment and fun, and we are looking forward to seeing you there. Enclosed is a 2019 Convention Registration Form.

The Ramada will honor reservations for Louisiana Elks and guests until 3:00 P.M. April 15, 2019. Room rates are \$92.00 for single/ double plus 13% tax per night. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel, direct (337) 233-6815 or if you have any problems with making your reservations call Mr. Shawn Johnson Monday through Friday from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. at (337)-408-2809.

Please keep in mind that check-in time is 3P.M. if you arrive early your room may not be ready.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Home: (225) 275-7118 Cell: (225) 938-9213 - e-mail: rconran39@aol.com.

Fraternally yours,

Richard Conran, SDGER/PGTiler
Chairman 2019 LEA State Convention



Louisiana Elks Association, Inc.
83rd Annual State Convention – May 17-19, 2019

Garden Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, Lafayette LA

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

Lodge Name and Number _____

Member Name _____ Present Title _____ \$ _____

Member's Significant Past Titles (To be shown on Badge, space permitting) _____ \$ _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____ \$ _____

Note: If you are your spouse/guest will be attending the Friday Night Social at Opelousas Lodge, tickets at \$12 each are required.

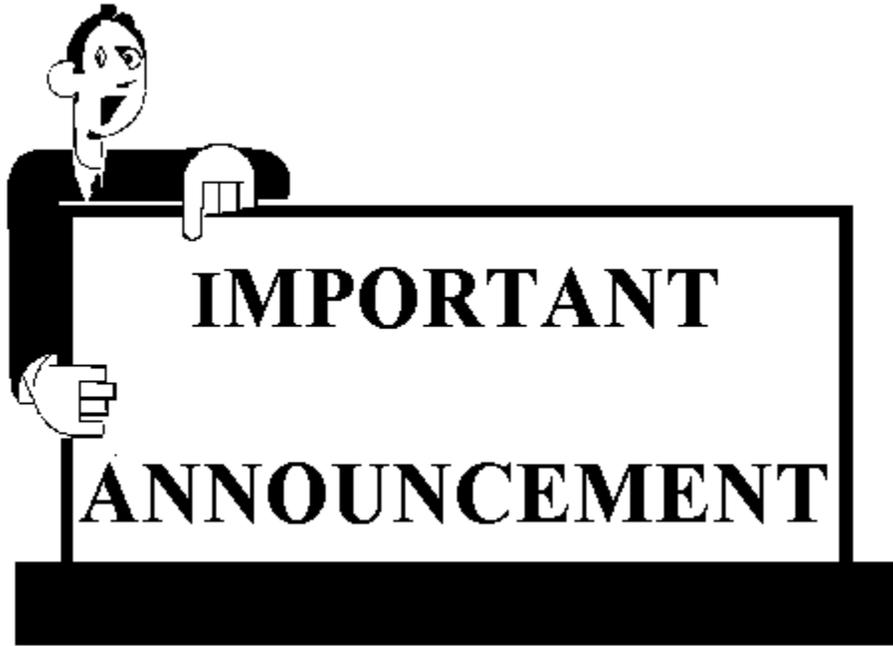
No. of Tickets Wanted _____ x \$12 each \$ _____

Paying by Cash Check # _____ **Total Paid** \$ _____

Make checks payable to *Louisiana Elks Association*. Attach payment by paper clip to top of form.

- This form may be used either for pre-registration or for registration at the desk on convention dates.
- The lodge member registering as an individual (rather than as part of a lodge group registration) shall complete this form. Include spouses and guests.
- Show member's name and lodge title, as each is to appear on the convention badge, spouse/guest's name, and applicable registration amounts on the line spaces provided.
- **Convention registrations are \$50/ member, \$50 spouse/guest.** Registration fees include the Saturday evening banquet meal, Saturdays 1st Gentlemen's brunch "**Saturday 1st Gentlemen's Brunch is only for spouses and guests who are not Elks**" and Saturday's Night Dance is for members, spouses and guests.
- **Friday Social tickets are \$12 each and must be ordered and paid for with registration. Tickets are required.**
- **A late registration fee of \$10 per person applies after April 30, 2019.**

⇒ **Mail pre-registrations with Friday Social ticket orders (if wanted) NOT LATER THAN**
April 30, 2019 to
Richard M. Jones 5018 Rosedown Lane - Bossier City, LA 71112-4590



SAVE THE DATES:

LEA STATE CONVENTION—MAY 17-19, 2019

GRAND LODGE CONVENTION—JUNE 30 TO JULY 3, 2019

DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC—AUGUST 10, 2019

MID-SEASON CONFERENCE—JANUARY 17-18, 2020

DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC—APRIL 18, 2020

PLEASE POST ME ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD