

JULY 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**



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## **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 October bulletin are due by September 10, 2019.

Please send them to:

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# OFFICERS 2019-2020:

## **PRESIDENT:**

Armand Buuck (Debbie)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Charlesray Neight (Cathy)  
PDD, Slidell #2321

## **TREASURER**

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

## **TILER**

E.J. Ward (Gwen)  
New Orleans #30

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Jim Cade (Lisa)  
PDD, Shreveport #122

## **SECRETARY**

Buddy Hartle (Judy)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Kenneth Lafleur (Pat)  
PSP, Opelousas #1048

## **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Kenneth Buuck (Tammy)  
New Orleans #30

## **CHAPLAIN**

Brian Baye  
PER, New Orleans #30

## **LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES:**

### **1-YEAR:**

Terry Bruno (Vicki)  
PSP, New Orleans #30

### **3-YEAR:**

Randy Bergeron (Lynn)  
PSP, Slidell #2321

### **2-YEAR**

Sam Echols  
PSP, Shreveport #122

### **4-YEAR**

Henry Daigle (Toni)  
PSP, Plaquemine #1398

### **5-YEAR:**

Beulah Rodrigue (Rod)  
PSP, Houma #1193



# COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

**Advisory Chairman**  
Herb Hostler, PSP  
Slidell #2321

**Americanism**  
James Hester, PER  
New Orleans #30

**Business Practices**  
Mastin Scott  
Shreveport #122

**CLMS**  
Buddy Hartle, PDD  
New Orleans #30

**Disaster Relief**  
Warren Michel, PER  
Houma #1193

**Drug Awareness**  
Armand Buuck, SP  
New Orleans #30

**Elks National Foundation**  
Brian Baye, PER  
New Orleans #30

**Elks National  
Veterans Service**  
Don Baye, PER  
New Orleans #30

**Elks & Scouting**  
Sam Authement, PER  
Houma #1193

**Government Relations**  
Don Baye, PER  
New Orleans #30

**Hoop Shoot**  
Ed Chandler, ER  
Shreveport #122

**Lodge Activities**  
Betsy Ibos  
New Orleans #30

**Major Projects**  
Terry Bruno, PSP  
New Orleans #30

**Membership**  
Jo Ann Aldridge, PSP  
Opelousas #1048

**New Lodge Development**  
Armand Buuck, SP  
New Orleans #30

**Public Relations**  
Rene Pelanne, PER  
New Orleans #30

**Resolutions**  
Sam Echols, PGEsquire/PSP  
Shreveport #122

**Ritualistic**  
Herb Hostler, PSP  
Slidell #2321

**Scholarship**  
Gail Millet  
New Orleans #30

**State Convention**  
Richard Conran, SDGER  
Plaquemine #1398

**Training**  
Richard Conran, SDGER  
Plaquemine #1398

**Webmaster**  
Richard Conran, PGTiler/SDGER  
Plaquemine #1398

**Youth Activities**  
Brian Baye, PER  
New Orleans #30

## LODGE DIRECTORY

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Shreveport, LA 71105-5303  
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Opelousas Lodge #1048, 207 N Union St  
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## STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Hello Elks,

I would like to thank each of you for your confidence in electing me LEA State President. I would also like to congratulate all 2018-2019 LEA Officers and Committee Chairpersons for a successful year. We will strive to do our best for you this year and if we all work together, this year can be a huge success.

To all my Committee Chairpersons, the State Newsletter is your opportunity to get the word out about upcoming events and what the membership can do to help.

I would like to charge each state committee chair to contact their respective Lodge committee chairs to find out what's happening in each of the Lodges, helping if needed and providing collaboration across the entire state to promote and encourage Elkdom.

Exalted Rulers please put me on your mailing list so I will know when you have events and if my schedule permits, I will try to be there.

Remember, always to keep our ailing members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.  
***Elks Care ... Elks Share***

Armand Buuck  
LEA President

## SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Members,

July 4<sup>th</sup> is our country's 243<sup>rd</sup> birthday and as you celebrated it, I want to remind all of you to remember what our forefathers had in mind when they wrote The Declaration of Independence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable enable rights that among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." (The Declaration of Independence)

This month we recall the eloquence with which our ancestors articulated our national identity and the thought which must have gone into the formulation of this credo to be inherited by so many succeeding generations.

It is interesting that the signers of this document and the founders of our order were in agreement that the sources of our most cherished values namely life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, is not just for one person, but for all people. This is why we as Elks must speak up for Elkdom even as we fulfill our duty to our country.

We as Elks also have the right to work and dream about happiness, regardless of our social standing or intellectual capabilities. We as members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks who are so richly blessed in so many ways have a special responsibility to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, aid those in distress and to prove ourselves friends to all in need.

The Grand Lodge Session will be held in Saint Louis, MO June 29 through July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, and opening ceremony is set for Sunday, June 30, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. (Continued Page 4)

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## **SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE**

### **continued:**

A celebration will follow the Opening Ceremony on Sunday June 30. This event will offer free entertainment by America's premier band, the "Party Crashers" plus food and drink for purchase. Dress code for opening ceremony is casual for LA Elks but no shorts, tee shirts and sandals.

**Grand Lodge Business sessions are Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 and all Exalted Rulers are required to attend all business sessions.** Dress code for the business session is red coats, ties are not required no shorts tee shirts or sandals. Exalted Rulers you are to meet with Wayne Landry, DDGER-designate, in the Hotel Lobby at 7:30 AM and go as a group to the business sessions. Wayne will be taking two roll calls during each session and he will have to give a report after the GL Session to Hon. Millard Pickering, PGER~ State Sponsor, and me. There are no excuses for missing any of the business sessions.

Membership is the lifeline of our Order and Lodges and last year we had an increase of 77 members, and I congratulate all of you for this. Now as we all know retention of membership plays a big part in whether we have an increase or not. And, as I reviewed the CLMS II membership reports through June 11, 2019, I see that we have 626 members who have not paid their due as of June 11<sup>th</sup>, which is very disturbing, as last year we did not have that many delinquent members at this time of our Lodge year.

Following is the number of delinquent members each Lodge has and whether they are six (6) twelve (12) eighteen (18) months in arrears:

N. O. Lodge 30, 59 members 6 months in arrears.  
Shreveport Lodge 122, 298 members 6 months 12 months and 2 18 months in arrears.  
Opelousas Lodge 1048, 97 members 12 months in arrears.

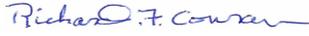
Donaldsonville Lodge 1153, 108 members 12 months in arrears.  
Houma Lodge 1193, 11 members 38 months in arrears.  
Plaquemine Lodge 1398, 5 members 2 months in arrears.  
Slidell Lodge 2321, 50 members 12 months in arrears.  
N. O. West Bank 2496, 13 members 12 months in arrears.

I ask everyone to work with the Lodge Lapsation Committee and see if we cannot reduce this to zero members in arrears.

August 10, 2019, is our next DDGER Clinic and it will be held at Opelousas Lodge 1048 starting at 10:00 AM, please remember the Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Lodge Secretary and Chairman of the Board of Directors are required to attend this clinic. All other Elks are welcome to attend it. Let's have a great turn out for Wayne Landry's DDGER first clinic.

Please keep all of our armed service members and their families in your prayers and hope that those members serving overseas return home safe.

Fraternally,

  
Richard F. Conran, SDGER~PG Tiler

## **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:**

Greetings,

WOW!! The Louisiana Elks had an increase of 77 members for the 2018/2019 Elk Year. That is great news, but we cannot celebrate this accomplishment, as we have 626 DELINQUENT MEMBERS: Exalted Rulers you need to schedule a meeting with your Lapsation Committee and Lodge Secretary and plan a strategy on how to handle this problem. (Continued Page 5)

## **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE continued:**

The longer you wait to tackle this problem, the less chance you have of changing the status of these delinquent members. This should be your number one priority in your Lodge today.

Exalted Rulers when you attended the Grand Lodge Convention in St. Louis, you should have received a flash drive when you picked up your credentials. This flash drive has all of the Grand Lodge manuals on it. You need to download the flash drive to your Lodge computer. When the District Deputy visits your Lodge later this year, he will be checking to see if the flash drive was downloaded to the Lodge Computer. If you did not receive the flash drive at the convention, please let me know.

By now, Grand Lodge should have activated the Charity Reporting System in CLMS. Lodge Secretaries now is the time to transfer the data you entered into the charity workbook, into CLMS. Once all your information has been transferred, you need to stay current with your reporting. Committee chairman should turn their reports over to you no later than two weeks after the event. Please do not wait until March of 2020 to enter the date. If you do, the chances that you will miss some reports is greatly increased.

Please remember that in April Grand Lodge began 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. Upon receiving this invoice, please pay promptly.

Next year, the Grand Lodge Convention will be headed North to Baltimore, Maryland. The dates for the convention will be July 5-8, 2020. As in past years, I will be required to submit my room block to the Grand Lodge Convention Bureau the last week of August. I will be sending information to the Lodges in early July with a room registration form. If you plan on attending the national convention next year, you will need to complete a room registration form. The deadline for returning the room registration form

will be August 10, at the District Deputy Clinic. I will not know the name of our hotel in Baltimore until mid-October. Hope you will join us next year in Baltimore.

Have a Super Elk Day!!  
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Buddy Hartle, LEA State Secretary

## **WE MOVING-WE ARE MOVING!!**

Have you heard; the Louisiana Elks Association has pulled a double move for next year's State Convention? We are saying goodbye to the third week in May and hello to the last week in April. The dates for next years convention will be April 24-26, 2020.

We also will be changing the hotel from the Garden Plaza Hotel Conference Center (formally the Holiday Inn and Ramada Lafayette Conference Center) to the Wyndham Hotel. We will leave behind the beautiful waterfalls and gourmet dinner at the Garden Plaza. The Wyndham is located at 1801 West Pinhook Road, in Lafayette.

On a more serious note, our attendance at the State Convention has been declining for many years. Many of you refused to attend the convention if it was held at the same hotel. Some had conflicts with graduations and other end of school functions. Now there should be no more excuses. Please make plans to take this new and exciting journey with the Louisiana Elks Association as we embark on a new venue. Richard Conran, the State Convention Coordinator will have additional information at the District Deputy Clinic and in the months to come.

**NEW CONVENTION DATE:**

**APRIL 24-26, 2020**

**NEW HOTEL:**

**WYNDHAM HOTEL**

## **LOUISIANA ELK OF THE YEAR:**

### **DON BAYE, PER**



Don has been a member of New Orleans Lodge 30 for 25 years. Don was elected as a Trustee shortly after being initiated in the Lodge. He served in that position from 1994 to 1997. Don was then elected Lecturing Knight in 1997. He then progressed through the chairs being elected Exalted Ruler in 2003. Don is presently serving as a Lodge Trustee for the 2019-2020 Elk year.

Over his 25 years, he has received numerous awards: Officer of the Year (1996-1997); Outstanding Service Commendation (2009-2010); Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award (2016-2017); and the Veterans Volunteer Award (2016-2017).

Don remains active in the Lodge serving on numerous committees. To name a few: Organizing and cooking the Annual Homeless Veterans Christmas Meal, which serves about 200 people. Don is also chairman of the Lodge's Holiday Food Basket Program. Over this past year, he raised over \$5,000.00 in additional

funds, which allowed him to deliver 56 food baskets to needy families in our community. Don has also chaired the Lodge GUMBO committee since 1996.

Don has been married to his lovely wife, Karen for 50 years. They have three children, all who have become members of the Lodge. Don also served his country as a member of the United States Navy from 1968-1973, obtaining the rank of Petty Officer Second Class.

Congratulations Don on winning the Louisiana Elk of the Year.

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER**

### **Self-inflicted problems are major threat to Elksdom by Daniel J. Capella:**

Our Government Relations Committee is ever ready to assist our Grand Lodge, State Associations and Local Lodges in protecting and preserving our right to exist as a private organization. Since its conception, this committee has always been vigilant when proposed governmental rules and regulations or perhaps situations have threatened our existence.

Sadly, it must be acknowledged that threats to our organization do not always originate from the outside. It can be argued that in Elksdom, some validity is found in the Pogo comic strip quotation, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Why? It's because some of the difficulties that we encounter, including those that seriously jeopardize our well-being, are self-inflicted.

Consider that we allow our Members or guests to overdrink within our Lodge or on our property because we do not want to limit business or tell a Member or guest that they have had to much. When this happens, we become our own enemy, the result of which can lead to devastating consequences, both to our reputation and financial situation. (Continued Page 7)

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## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

Consider when we allow our social media accounts to publish photos of drinking and other negative behaviors that have happened at Lodge functions, or when we publish negative remarks by Member, should disagreements take place between individual Members or cliques. In both cases, we create a larger problem and embarrass ourselves.

Consider when thoughts and concerns of the Lodge membership are overlooked or minimized because those in charge do not want to stray from the past, or because they do not want to be bothered with new ideas that could be advantageous. New thoughts are not automatically bad; they should be given consideration. Failure to do so limits our potential and can lead to apathy among Members who then become disconnected.

Consider our lack of attention to the financial management of our Lodges. Perhaps a better term would be mismanagement. We have procedures and protections in place to prevent fiscal problems from occurring, yet monetary dilemmas arise because of a lack of financial knowledge, a refusal to live within a budget, or even a refusal to exert the necessary time and effort to follow set routines. Overlooking our fiscal regulations leads to embarrassment, investigations by Grand Lodge and/or the government, and, at times, closure.

Again, this is not interference from non-Elks. It is our own fault for not taking our financial responsibilities seriously or for not seeking assistance along the way.

Just as the Government Relations Committee needs to be watchful and ready to protect our status as a fraternal organization, each and every Elk must be aware of the harmful situations within their own Lodge. Any negative habits or practices must be taken seriously and corrected because struggling against those on the outside is difficult enough; allowing deterioration to spread from within is a death sentence.

## **Virtual manual saves time, paper by Rick Gathen:**

The Brick and Clicks transformation continues with the introduction of the **new** Grand Lodge Membership & Marketing “Virtual” Manual. It is accessible 24/7 to all Members registered on elks.org.

No more book form or PDF manual. No more limited access just to Lodge Secretaries. It offers continuous and collective learning opportunities which will help deepen our Members’ understanding of their roles and responsibilities. It features dynamic pages with easy to find and easy to use applications. The intuitive navigation options are user-friendly and visually attractive.

The Bricks & Clicks applications are ready to transform your Lodge. The content will enhance your expertise in Membership & Marketing. Use it to build your Lodge’s brand to attract new members, retain current Members, and motivate your membership to the more active and engaged.

This is all part of the “*Grow by Change*” strategy we have implemented nationwide.

## **Detailed reporting helps Elks reach new records by Vernon R. Saunders.**

If you are a new Exalted Ruler or Secretary, it is necessary to keep in mind your charitable reporting activities. By now, Lodges should have completed and submitted their Annual Lodge charity reports.

The 2018 Lodge year was a great success. It is apparent that a lot of time and thought was given to charity reporting. As you know Lodges submitted reports totaling an all-time high of \$675 million in charity reporting.

We are confident 2019 will be even better. As of the date of this writing, the numbers have not yet been published. (Continued Page 8)

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

So many volunteers have given so much of their time and efforts to help make our order the most charitable fraternal organization in the entire country.

Consider this if you haven't already: One volunteer working for one hour and driving 10 miles round-trip could equal over \$27 in non-cash reportable contributions. Now think of your Lodge's many charity functions, the number of volunteers who participate, and their mileage to and from an event. As you can see, the amount of charity reporting can be huge.

Please don't forget to review the list of items you can report. It makes a huge difference once you realize what you can report. If you have questions regarding reporting, talk to your state chairperson, or call your area representative resources.

Your Government Relations Committee will continue to help you achieve your goals. People often ask, "What is the purpose of all this reporting?" The work we do as a government relations committee is essential to maintaining our status as a nonprofit, tax-exempt private, charitable organization. By reporting the things we do, can prove to the IRS that we are a charitable organization and maintain our status.

I encourage all Officers to work closely with their Lodge Secretaries to maintain accurate and complete reporting. We hope you have a successful new Lodge year.

## **ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:**

### **Behind every veteran is a supportive military family by Ronald L. Hicks, PGER:**

*"As long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks will never forget them"---Simple words, but the Order of Elks honors this solemn pledge every day through our selfless volunteer service.*

Our support for veterans and active military members through national and Local Lodge programs, and individual effort is well known. However, as we continue our efforts to end homelessness and meet the needs of our veterans and military members, it is important that we also recognize the sacrifices of the military family and the role it plays in a strong and successful military. Military families are central to the health and capability of the all-volunteer force and are assets to our national defense.

When an individual joins the military, their entire family is affected by frequent moves and deployments. The stress of separation makes it challenging for military families to set down roots, make friends, find new employment, and care for basic needs. This stress and the impact of being away from family is listed as a major reason why military leave military service.

Fortunately, the Order of Elks is uniquely positioned with the programs and resources to welcome military families and help ease their burdens.

In February 2013, the Elks announced the Army of Hope Program, which assists families with fathers or mothers called to active duty. Today, the annual value of cash and non-cash contributions provided through the Army of Hope totals over \$3.5 million, supporting approximately 35,000 families of the patriots called to serve our nation, one home at a time.

The Army of Hope is the ideal vehicle to help Lodges reach out and actively engage a military family, invite them to Lodge events, share resources and expertise, and expand existing projects to include military spouses and children through the use of ENF and ENVSP Grants.

To initiate or expand support for military families in your Lodge, put together a committee to brainstorm ideas, organize plans, delegate responsibilities, set goals, and solicit volunteers. (Continued Page 9)

## **ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:**

The next step can be as easy as contacting a local Reserve or National Guard Unit, or a Family Readiness Group that provides support for military families. Or you can simply introduce yourself to the military families in your community, offer thanks, and ask what they need and how your Lodge can help meet those needs.

God bless our active military and our veterans, and God bless their families.

### **Elks can ensure that veterans never endure alone, by John D Amen, PGER:**

*Life is not a solo act. It's a huge collaboration, and we all need to assemble around us the people who care about us and support us in times of strife---Tim Gunn.*

We all need other people in our lives in order to feel complete. When it comes to health and wellness or our veterans, the presence or absence of a social network can make a huge difference in life satisfaction.

Isolation hurts. In the deepest, darkest moments that we experience, we are almost always alone. And I don't mean physically alone, because many veterans feel like they're alone in a crowd. Loneliness is much more a state of mind than it is a physical state.

Research says that a strong social network—including family, friends, trusted colleagues---and positive social interactions lead to greater life satisfaction.

A veteran who has a strong social network may never get to the point of psychological crisis. But if they do, the network will be there to support them. Relationships matter. Without them, we are in danger. Without some type of social network, post-military life will be much more challenging than it needs to be.

A solid social network will help prevent a crisis. A “nervous breakdown,” or suicidal inclination,

can be averted. Rage, anger, and blowing up, is avoidable with a strong support team.

The presence of a strong social network provides the veteran with more resources to avoid a crisis. Having someone that is always available to talk to, who supports in a non-judgmental way, can reduce the stress that builds and sends one to a breaking point. Just knowing that there's someone there can significantly reduce one's burden.

Then there's the opposite side, the dark side of isolation. Constantly feeling like we don't have someone to turn to can lead to a crisis moment. A veteran without a strong social network will find themselves alone. A suicidal crisis occurs when a veteran feels as though they are a burden to others, experiences social isolation, and has acquired the ability to inflict self-harm.

Humans are social creatures. When the veteran served, the military handed a social network to him or her. For better or worse, the buddies were inherent in military life. WE may have hated some of them, and loved others, but at least they were ours. In post-military life, one of the first needs the veteran has to meet is building another social network. It needs to be as strong or stronger than the one that the veteran had in the military.

The Elks can be that network for veterans. Consider how your Lodge can plan engaging projects for veterans of all ages and experiences. Not sure how to get started? Here are a few examples.

\*Marshall, TX Lodge No. 683 partners with a veterans' shelter to hand out backpacks of hygiene supplies to veterans in need. The Lodge invites those veterans to its monthly breakfast.

\*Lordsburg, NM Lodge No. 461 partners with the VA to host dinners for veterans enrolled in community reintegration and rehabilitation program, offering the Lodge as a safe space to help them readjust. (Continued Page 10)

## **ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:**

\*Bay Pines, FL Lodge No. 1912 holds monthly bowling outings for veterans in residence at the local VA, giving them a chance to be social with Elks and other veterans.

\*The Colorado Elks support the Winter Sports Clinic, which helps as many as 400 veterans stay active every year.

Welcome the veterans in your community into the Elks Family.

## **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:**

As of June 17, 2019

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Houma	\$1,180.00	\$ 8.42
2	N.O. West Bank	\$ 466.05	\$ 6.21
3	Slidell	\$ 827.75	\$ 4.03
4	Opelousas	\$1,013.00	\$ 3.27
5	New Orleans	\$ 517.00	\$ 1.43
6	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
7	Plaquemine	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
8	Shreveport	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

## **STATE CONVENTION NEWS:**

The Louisiana Elks recently held their 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Convention, in Lafayette, LA. An election was held for the 2019-2020 officers. Armand Buuck was elected President; Jim Cade, President Elect; Charlesray Neight, Vice-President, Beulah Rodrigue Five year LEA Trustee and Butch Barron, Four year LEF Trustee. Buddy Hartle and Richard Jones were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

During the business meeting, the membership voted to add two new programs for the upcoming Elk Year. The programs are Adopt-A-School and Assist the local food banks.

The following awards were presented during the banquet:

New Orleans Lodge 30 was the recipient of the Willis Mc Donald (PGER) award. This award is presented to the Lodge donating the most funds to the LEF.

Don Baye received the Steve Jenkinson, Elk of the Year award.

New Orleans Lodge 30 and Slidell Lodge 2321 were tied for first place in the lodge activities brochure contest.

Warren Hoffmann was named outstanding male veterans volunteer and Sonya Belgard was the outstanding female volunteer.

Ritualistic awards were presented to Brian Baye, for Exalted Ruler; Lindsey Lee, for Tribute to the Flag; Ed Chandler, Eleven-hour toast for Exalted Rulers and Steve Daigle, the open Eleventh-hour toast.

## **COMMITTEE NEWS:**

### **ADOPT-A-SCHOOL:**

Hi Everyone,

At our LEA State Convention, I proposed, and it was voted on and approved, to have an "Adopt-a-School" State project. Each Lodge has the opportunity to contribute up to \$1500 in school supplies to a Public School of their choice in their area. This is a great way to show your community what the Elks are all about. We have a vested interest in the future of our Youth and want to help make a difference, and all at no cost to your lodge.

Information on the guidelines for participation will be heading to your lodge shortly. Participation is easy. Pick a chairman from your Lodge. Pick a school (or schools) to contribute to. Shop for the much-needed supplies. Gather some Elks and deliver the supplies to the Schools. Take pictures of their happy faces. Send in the receipts. Get reimbursed (up to \$1500). (Continued Page 11)

## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

The process is simple. The rewards are immense. I hope all of our Lodges will participate in this Project. There is no reason not to!

Randy Bergeron, Chairman

## **DRUG AWARENESS:**

A new Lodge year is upon us and I would like to thank Karen Baye for working so hard last year and was the only one to participate in the poster contest. I know this is a very busy time of year for everyone. As you set your Lodge Calendars for the next year try and find time to add one more Drug Awareness activity to your busy schedules.

It is never too early to start talking to your local schools in an attempt to get on their schedule. If your community still has a DARE or similar program, reach out to the coordinator and see if there is a way to work together on a project or provide literature to help the program.

The Drug Awareness program includes a variety of chances to participate – if your Lodge is already participating in all of these congratulations, if not, think about adding at least one new activity during the next year. Drug Awareness activities include:

- Poster Contest (3rd – 5th)
- Red Ribbon Week (October 23 – 31)
- Enrique Camarena Award
- Prescription Drug Take back days
- Literature (Free within program limits)

Armand Buuck, Chairman

## **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:**

Hello fellow Elks,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying their summer. As the newly appointed ENF Chairman for the State of Louisiana I wanted to provide some information about a new grant named the Spotlight Grant. I've included information on

this brand new grant along with the websight so that each Lodge ENF Chairperson and Grant Coordinator can apply for the grant.

In the near future, I will be emailing each Lodge ENF Chairperson along with the ER's valuable information they can use to promote ENF along with all the other programs the ENF supports. Information on the Spotlight Grant is below.

### **Step Into the Spotlight**

The Community Investments Program, the largest funded by the Elks National Foundation, just got a little bigger! It's now offering the brand-new Spotlight Grant.

Every Lodge can use this \$2,000 grant to shine a light on two important issues facing nearly every community—family literacy and homelessness among our nation's veterans.

The Spotlight Grant offers seven “projects in a box.” These project plans are meant to remove the barrier of having to plan effective projects. The need for the Spotlight Grant is clear. The National Bureau of Economic Research has shown that children whose parents have low literacy levels have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves. There are four Spotlight Grant project plans to target literacy: Warm Welcome to the Library, Suds & Stories, Imagination Library, and Community Baby Shower.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on any given night, nearly 38,000 veterans are homeless. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks has pledged to help end veteran homelessness and ensure that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve. One of these three Spotlight Grant project plans will combat veteran homelessness in your community:

Welcome Home, Stand Down and Adopt-A-Haven. (Continued Page 12).

## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

All Lodges are encouraged to apply for the Spotlight Grant. The Lodge does not need to meet the GER's per-member-giving goal to receive this grant. Applications for 2019-20 Spotlight Grants are now open and will close December 31, 2019.

To learn more about the Spotlight Grant visit, [enf.elks.org/Spotlight Grant](http://enf.elks.org/Spotlight Grant)

*The Elks National Foundation allocated \$13.7 million this year to fund the Community Investments Program. Lodges meet local needs through grants that offer Elks opportunities to serve their community in ways that will raise the Lodge's profile, energize the membership, encourage former members to return to the fold, and gain the notice of people who want to be part of an organization that's doing great things. To learn more about the Community Investments Program, please visit [elks.org/CIP](http://elks.org/CIP).*

Brian Baye, Chairman

## **LODGE ACTIVITIES:**

I would like to thank the New Orleans and the Slidell lodges for participating and taking the time to create the Activities Book for their lodge. These two lodge will be receiving a \$25.00 visa gift card. Going through these books gave me a lot of pride being a member of the Elks organization. Both lodges along with all the other lodges put forth a lot of effort in coming up with and conducting activities so that they are successful and show what the true meaning of what Elkdome is all about.

The 2019-2020 year has started and there are many activities that have been planned or are in the process of being planned; Flag Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Luau's by the pool, Drug Awareness events and the countless activities that help support out Veterans.

With this being said, I would like to remind all of the lodges about the many grants that are available to help support some of these ongoing activities. The newest one is the Spotlight Grant. This is a \$2000.00 Grant to shine light on two important

issues facing American communities, family literacy and homelessness among our Veterans. This is free money that your lodge can be apply for online at Elks.Org. It is a great way to get you members involved with community events and to promote Elkdom, along with recruiting new members into our organization.

By the time you read this, summer will be in full swing. For those lodges with swimming pools, remember safety comes first.

Have a safe and fun filled summer.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Lodges that succeed in retaining current Members, gaining new ones, and thriving in today's social landscape will do so not by chance but by change. Did you know that you can go to [elks.org](http://elks.org) and then go to the Virtual Membership page? Its under Grand Lodge Manuals. Check it out! It has great ideas from recruiting new members to keeping your members. If you have and questions, please feel free to call me or email me.

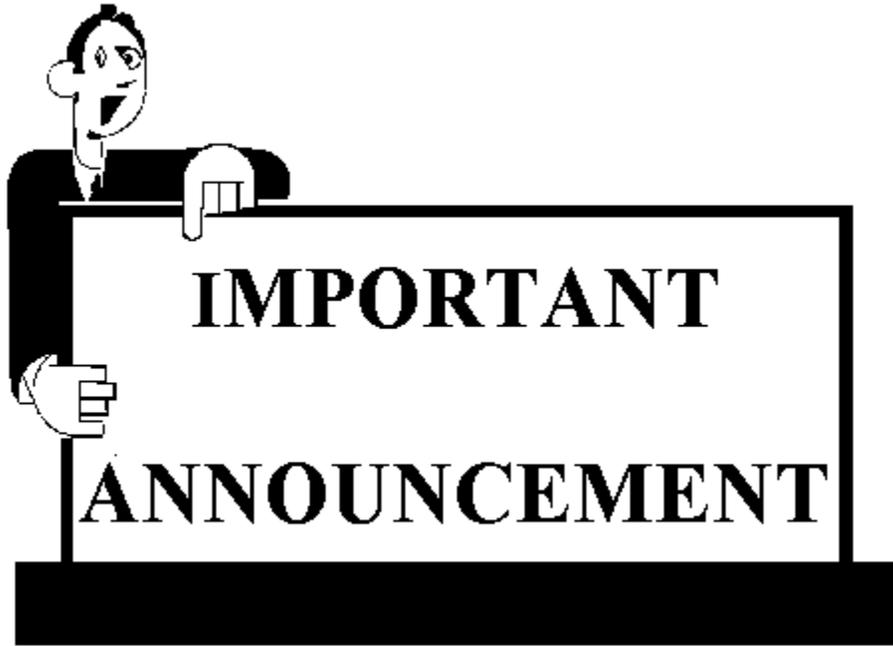
Jo Ann Aldridge, Chairman



### ***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.

*Allen Clapp PSP, New Orleans 30  
Samuel Barlow, Shreveport 122  
James Perry, Opelousas 1048*



# **SAVE THE DATES:**

**DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC—AUGUST 10, 2019**

**MID-SEASON CONFERENCE—JANUARY 17-18, 2020**

**DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC—APRIL 4, 2020**

**LEA STATE CONVENTION---APRIL 24-26, 2020**

**GRAND LODGE CONVENTION (BALTIMORE) JULY 5-8. 2020**

**PLEASE POST ME ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD**