

OCTOBER 2018

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 January bulletin are due by December 10, 2018.

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

Kelley Rodrigue (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
Dr. Brenda Babin
Houma #1193

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

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MEET OUR NEW GRAND:

MICHAEL T. LUHR



Michael T. Luhr was born in Petersburg, Alaska on August 22 to Donald H. Luhr and Beulah E. (Reid) Luhr. Michael has one brother, Robert, and two sisters, Donna and Joyce. He attended elementary and high school in Petersburg, graduating in 1974.

Michael started his working career at the age of 9. He served as a janitor at a Ben Franklin store for two years, shelved boxes at a grocery store for two years, and worked at a fish cannery for another year. Through a school work program at the age of 15, Michael worked at a machine shop during the summers until graduation.

Upon graduating from high school, Mike worked with a logging company, a mining company, and a road construction company. In 1980, he purchased the floating machine shop where he worked as a teenager, becoming the fourth owner of the business.

In June of 1984, Michael met his wife Barbara (Barb) at the local daycare facility where their respective children were enrolled. Mike and Barb had their first child, Bradee, in 1989, and were married on January 8, 1991. Together they have

four children, Sabrina, Francis IV (John), Justin, and Bradee, and five grandchildren.

Also, in 1984, Barb joined Michael to operate the machine shop. They worked together as sole proprietors until 2011, when a group of fishermen approached them with an offer they could not refuse. With the support of 25 local fishermen, Mike and Barb bought the shipyard in Petersburg which had closed the previous year. Today, the business employs 17 people and provides a full-service ship store with vessel haul out, engine service, and machine shop facilities.

Michael was proposed and initiated into Petersburg Lodge No. 1615 in November 1977 by his father, Exalted Ruler Donald, along with ten of his lifelong school friends.

He served as a Trustee from 1990 to 1998 and was appointed as Esquire in 1998. He continued through the Chairs and was named Exalted Ruler in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. He was elected to the Trustees again, serving from 2003 to 2008. He has served as the Lodge Treasurer since 2008.

Michael began his service at the State level in 2004 when he was elected as Trustee. He was elected and served as President of the Alaska State Elks Association in 2009-2010 and continues to serve as Chair of the ASEA's Charitable Trust Fund, Advisory Committee Chair, and on the Lodge Development Board.

At the Grand Lodge level, Michael was appointed District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of Alaska's East District in 2005-2006, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009. He was appointed to the Grand Lodge Activities/State Association Committee from 2010-2012. He was appointed as Special Representative to the Alaska East District in 2011, serving through December 2017.

In 2012, Michael was elected to represent Area 8 on the Board of Grand Trustees, serving as Building Applications-West Member in 2012-2013, as Secretary of the Board from 2013-2015, and Vice Chairman in 2015-2016.

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MEET OUR NEW GRAND continued:

He was appointed as Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for the State of Alaska from 2016 to the present. At the Grand Lodge Convention in Reno, Michael was elected and installed as Grand Esteemed Leading Knight and served in that capacity for the 2017-2018 fraternal year.

On a personal level, Mike was very active in baseball growing up and is in the Little League Hall of Fame. He coached women's softball and Little League for many years until the Elks became his passion. Children John and Bradee, as well as son-in-law Adam, are all Members of the Elks and were initiated by Michael.

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Beulah carrying the Louisiana Flag at the National Convention in San Antonio.



It is that time of the Lodge year to leave the past in the past and look to the future. Our Lodges are actively engaged in charitable works and assisting our Veterans. However, we have a long road ahead of us. Lodges should be actively recruiting new members and improving their retention. We

can't continue thriving in Elksdom without new members coming in the fold. Our Lodges should be warm and welcoming to past and future members.

We are going into our third quarter for the 2018-2019 Lodge year. I established a goal when I took over as State President to improve communication and cooperation with all our Lodges. I am still adamant on achieving that goal. I have been in communication with all Exalted Rulers encouraging active communication with their committee chairs and committees. Lodges are only successful to the level their committees are successful. Lodges will not thrive long without active committees.

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 Elksdom.

The Mid-Season Conference is right around the corner. I have a vision that we come together to learn and grow so that Lodge officers and committee chairs can go back to all corners of the state and make a difference carrying out the four (4) pillars of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks – Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

This year we will be expanding the Mid-Season Conference to include more from a fraternal aspect to allow Elks from across the state to get to know each other better outside of the formal business session. We are having a Mid-Season Conference Extravaganza to include a Barbeque / Karaoke Night and a Mardi Gras Ball. We are also planning a Ladies Social on Saturday morning while the Elks are having their Business Meeting. As State President, I appreciate all of the work that is being put in on the Mid-Season Conference and I highly encourage all Louisiana Elks to actively participate. It will be a party you don't want to miss.

Continued on Page 5.

STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued:

Over the next couple of months, Rod and I plan to visit all the Lodges in the state. I am eager to hear about all your successes, ideas and concerns. It is the time to move forward and have each one of our Lodges thrive in Elkdom. Working together we can make a difference.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Beulah Rodrigue
LEA State President

SPECIAL DEPUTY'S MESSAGE:

Members,

We are now half through with our 2018-19 Elk year and must concentrate on the next six months and make any changes necessary to accomplish the goals we set for our Lodge April 1, 2018.

The following reports must be given to the Lodge in October:

Secretary must present a written report of the transactions of his/her office to the Lodge at the first session in October; this must also be done in April. See Section 12.050 (L).

Board of Directors must give a written report of all its transactions at the first regular meeting.

This must be done monthly not just in October.
See section 12.070.

Auditing and Accounting Committee must review lodge books and report at the last meeting of October, this must also be done at the last meeting in January and July. See section 13.040.

November Membership Report:

November 5 is the automatic filing date of our semi-annual Membership Report via CLMS2Web. Lodge Secretaries must ensure Lodge CLMS2 membership records are current by that date. Most important is that the November Report be accurate, complete so that a true picture of the

Lodge members may be reflected in the November Report.

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11TH



November 11th is Veterans Day and I ask all of you to remember our motto, "So long as there are veterans the B. P. O. Elks will never forget them". Every day, Elks are meeting the needs of our veterans in more than 300 VA Medical centers, outpatient clinics, USOs, veterans Homes and Hospitals, and other care facilities. I asks all LEA Lodges to please make sure your Lodge honor and thank the veterans in your Lodge as well as in your community. Your Lodge can make Veterans day even better by hosting a veteran's dinner for all veterans at the Lodge, visit or give goods to your local VA center and can also volunteer at a VA Center.

Thanksgiving is Thursday November 22th. What a fantastic way for your Lodge to practice the virtue of Charity and Brotherly Love, by giving food baskets to the less fortunate, supplying food to your local food bank or have a dinner in your lodge for the needy.

Elks Memorial Day is Sunday December 2th and shall be a commemorated to the memories of our departed Members. Every Lodge shall hold Memorial Services (section 2.020).

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SPECIAL DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

continued:

The DDGER can grant permission to two are more lodges to hold a joint service on a designated day during the week immediately preceding or following the first Sunday in December.

Christmas falls on Tuesday this year and I ask that all Lodges plan on doing the same thing they did to help the less fortunate for Thanksgiving and if it did nothing then do it for Christmas. Remember to include some sort of gifts for them in your Christmas baskets or dinner if the Lodge has one, as many of the children and their parents will not receive one.

The LEA Mid-Season Conference will be held at Houma #1193 on Friday and Saturday January 18 and 19, 2019 and I hope to see many of our dedicated Elks there. Buddy Hartle, LEA Secretary has posted the details of it in this Newsletter.

Finally, Exalted Rulers and Lodge Secretaries, please remember that the Charity Records Report has been online since July and you should be making sure that all lodge committees are turning in their report as soon as their function is through and not wait until next March to turn it in. ER's remember it is your duty to see to it that all committees turn in their reports to the Lodge Secretary.

Remember, we as Elks must do everything we can to help our communities be a better place to live in and by practicing "*Elks Care- Elks Share*" we can accomplish that.

Sue and I hope that all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Richard F. Couran

**PLEASE REMEMBER
OUR VETERANS**

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

If your Lodge accepts semi-annual dues payments, the statements should have been mailed by now. Lodge Secretaries if you have not completed this task, please do so at once.

Delinquent members are still a problem that we must try to resolve. At present there are 276 delinquent members in the state (157-6 month; 112-12 month and 7-18 month). The lapsation committee and Lodge Secretary should be contacting these delinquent members in an effort to change their status to active.

On October 1, CLMS will activate the tab to drop members for non-payment of dues. I personally believe that we should not drop any of the delinquent members until March 31, 2018. We cannot afford to lose these members. This will give you several more months to contact these members and persuade them to become active members. After all, the Lodge has already paid the Grand Lodge and State Per Capita on these members back in April and May of this year. There is an exception to this rule. If you receive written notice from a delinquent member who states he/she no longer desires to be an Elk, then drop him/her on October 1.

At the August District Deputy Clinic, I discussed the proper procedure for adding candidates and tracking their progress through CLMS. As soon as an application is received and read on the floor, the Lodge Secretary is to enter it in CLMS. The same procedure should apply once the candidate is investigated, voted on, indoctrinated and initiated. **By no means should a Lodge Secretary enter the candidate's information on the night of initiation.** Please make sure that your membership records are accurate prior to the November Membership Report being filed with Grand Lodge.

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SECRETARY'S MESSAGE continued:

During the month of October, the Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee shall review the required record keeping of the financial affairs of the Lodge, Club and other entities of the Lodge and compliance with the approved budget and report to the membership at the last meeting of October. This is to ensure that the Lodge and its Board of Directors/Trustees are staying within the budgeted expense, and to meet with them if the income sources are not meeting or the expenses are exceeding expectations. This review will allow the Board of Directors to take corrective action to increase revenues or reduce expenses to maintain the overall financial health of the lodge. This procedure shall be duplicated in the month of January. See section 13.040 of Grand Lodge statutes for additional information.

Our Mid-Season Conference will be held in Houma, Louisiana on January 18-19, 2019. Please mark your calendars so you may be in attendance. I will have additional information regarding Mid-Season later in this bulleting.

Judy and I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Have a Super Elk Day!!
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Buddy Hartle, State Secretary

GRAND LODGE CORNER:

Do you know your state alcohol management laws? By Stanley J. Welsh:

Laws regarding business operations, legal gambling, and alcohol sales vary by state. Knowing the laws and regulations in your city and state are important to your operation.

Because of continuing problems regarding alcohol sales and service, Lodges need to know about responsible alcohol management and the law regarding not serving **Visibly Intoxicated**

Persons, also know by bartenders and servers as VIPs.

Every Lodge should have a written policy instructing servers and managers how to handle most situations that may come up regarding the serving of alcohol. Rules regarding Visibly intoxicated Person could help reduce your risk of liability.

First and foremost, servers and managers need to know that it I against the law to serve people who are visibly intoxicated. If a Visibly Intoxicated Person gets into or causes an accident, the server and the Lodge could be held accountable.

Recognizing a person who is visibly intoxicated is not difficult when servers and managers know what to look for. Some signs to notice if someone is intoxicated:

- **Acting loud and boastful
- **Drinking alone and fast
- **Ordering doubles
- **Buying round after round for friends
- **Crude behavior
- **Slurred speech
- **Stumbling and bumping into things
- **Falling asleep at the bar

There are some of the signs of visible intoxication. As soon as any of these are noticed the service of alcohol should be stopped **immediately.**

By knowing your customers and talking with them you may be able to find out that they are having a bad day. If so, a server might try to slow down their drinking by putting a glass of water in front of them between rounds, getting busy with some task to slow down service, or inviting them to have something to eat.

You should make your policy part of new and continuing employee training. Also, your policy should include filling out Incident Reports for fighting, intoxication, falls, anything your employee did to get the intoxicated person home safely (accepted or not), and anything else that could cause your Lodge a problem in the future.

(Continued on Page 8).

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued :

All reports should have a date, time, witnesses, and signature. They should be kept on file for two years.

We are all paying more for insurance coverage because of various problems caused by irresponsible alcohol service. This is a problem we can control through education and responsible alcohol management programs.

Last year's donations well surpass \$1 million a day by Robert A. Guillen:

At the convention in San Antonio in July, I reported \$675,985,245 as the final total for our fraternal year 2017-2018 on our Survey of Volunteer, Youth, Charitable and Community Service Programs. This is up from the 2016-2017-year end of \$334,292,982.

We had set a goal of \$365 million so that we would report more than \$1 million a day in donations. Well, that total is \$1,852,014 a day and worth sharing. Post this in your Lodge bulletin and web site.

Reporting the figures is crucial. We must continue to maintain our statistics to remain a non-profit organization.

Our goal in the Government Relations Committee is to assist the Lodges with matters regarding government entities. When we are able to explain to members of the different Government Agencies, Senators, Representatives, Congress, and licensing and regulating departments, we can show them statistics of our charitable donations and work.

Our representative in Washington, D.C. can use all of this information to continue our attempts to change and improve the UBIT (Unrelated Business Income Tax), which would benefit all Lodges. We will continue to take our issue to the IRS and others to eventually make the changes necessary.

Our committee's goal and objectives are in our Grand Lodge manual, which can be downloaded

from the Grand Lodge web site. Print a copy and follow the suggestions in it in dealing with government entities, with sample letters to legislators and public officials.

The section about using the internet to find and monitor legislation that may affect our Order is essential. Every state government has different rules to guide you through that process, but once you deal with the entity that produces the documents for the legislators, monitoring is simple. Excel spreadsheets are also available for Lodge and State Association Secretaries to make their reporting easier and more effective.

Other issues involving our Lodges and membership is responsible service of alcohol at our Lodges and to guests. Adhering to all state laws and regulations keeps us safe and maintains the integrity of our membership. IRS audits of some of our Lodges and other non-profit organizations are still occurring. If your Lodge is contacted for an audit, contact your District Deputy, your State Sponsor and the office of the Grand Secretary. There are procedures in place to assist you in these matters.

In the manual, there is also a section in educating members on Public Accommodations and other laws that directly affect day-to-day operations and how to comply with these laws.

Follow the leader by reaching out by Andrew Costello:

Our Grand Exalted Ruler is among the first to communicate with our new Members, sending out a personalized welcome letter to every person who joins the Order. He also spends an entire year touring the nation, visiting Associations, and communicating personally with Members. Our Association Presidents, District Deputies, and Vice-Presidents follow that example when visiting Districts and Lodges and communicating with officers and members.

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GRAND LODGE CORNER continued :

Disseminating information and establishing personal connections with the officers and Members are crucial to these dedicated ambassadors of our Order. The key to success lays in the powers of good communication.

It is equally important for us as Lodge officers and committee chairpersons to communicate with our chair people and Lodge members. Although we are challenged to keep an eye on the big picture, we must not forget that the key figures are our Members.

The success of a Lodge depends on the frequent communication between its officers and Members. The success of a committee chairperson depends on how well he or she communicates with the people serving on that committee.

So, we must ask ourselves how well we are communicating. Why not follow our Grand Exalted Ruler's example? Be out and about among your Members. Send a personal welcome letter to every new Member. Place positive messages in newsletters and e-mail distributions. Be a communicator.

Are we communicating with the people of our committees? Phone a new Member to invite him or her to participate in your upcoming committee event, or just to say thanks again for having helped on a completed committee project. How about communicating with our communities? Have a presence in your area by participating in civic events and by sending a Lodge representative to city council meetings. Broadcast the news of your Lodge's wonderful charitable programs on your building's signage. Communicate the good news of your Lodge on social media and in community newspapers.

Whatever your role in Elksdom, remember that good communications are essential in all that we do.

**VETERANS DAY IS
NOVEMBER 11**

Permanent records must stay that way by Bryan Klatt, Grand Secretary:

Each year, many of our Local Lodges have new and inexperienced Lodge Secretaries. As such, there is a learning curve every new and continuing Secretary must navigate in order to manage this important responsibility, as well as the continuing education of our Constitution, Statutes, plus our CLMS2Web and PC membership programs.

A word to the wise: **NEVER** destroy or discard paper membership application and records. Those documents are the only records available. It is the responsibility of the Local Lodge to maintain the records indefinitely.

Sure, there is CLMS2, which launched 10 years ago this fall, but a vast majority of the pre-2008 membership records were never entered into the program. These records need to be maintained in case a former Member requests a Reinstatement, a Certificate of Release, or other membership information.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

As of September 9, 2018

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Houma	\$1,574.00	\$12.02
2	Plaquemine	\$ 547.00	\$ 9.43
3	N.O. West Bank	\$ 503.18	\$ 6.71
4.	Slidell	\$1,347.56	\$ 6.48
5	Shreveport	\$4,545.00	\$ 5.34
6	Opelousas	\$1,097.00	\$ 3.64
7.	New Orleans	\$ 554.00	\$ 1.67
8.	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Grand Exalted Ruler Luhr has set the ENF donation goal at \$4.75 per Member.

Most Valuable Student Scholarship by Taylor Odisho:

Every year, the Elks National Foundation awards the Most Valuable Student scholarship to 500 of the most intelligent, service-minded leaders who are embarking on their college career.

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ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

continued:

The application opened online on August 15. All high school seniors who are United State Citizens are welcome to apply. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need. The top 20 finalists will participate in an all-expense paid Leadership Weekend in Chicago April 11-14, 2019.

Throughout the weekend, the finalists will engage, serve, and interview with national judges for the top prizes. Two first-place awards of \$50,000, two second-place awards of \$40,000, and two third-place awards of \$30,000. The 480 runners-up will receive fifth-place scholarships of \$4,000.

The deadline to apply for the MVS scholarship is November 15. This is a great opportunity for students to join the #Elks Family and be part of a lifelong network. If you know someone who is eligible to apply, visit enf.elks.org/MVS for more information.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

Local Veterans will not take the Elks for granted by Hannah Graber:

Freedom Grants may be going fast, but don't forget about the other Lodge grants available! If your Lodge would like to use a grant to serve veterans and military members in need this year, here are a few ideas to get you started.

Consider getting involved with a local Stand Down for veterans. A Stand Down event provides a central location to distribute supplies and services to veterans experiencing homelessness. Veterans come to Stand Downs to receive food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, haircuts, and dental exams. At some events, providers also offer referrals to additional assistance such as health care, housing, employment, and counseling.

To get started, contact your nearest VA and other community veteran organizations to find out if a

Stand Down is planned in your area. If an event is not already planned, look for a location where your Lodge can establish one. Determine what supplies or services your Lodge could provide. To offer continued support, include invitations to meals or other events that your Lodge will give to veterans in need.

Your Lodge could focus on assisting veterans and transitioning service members with their employment search by holding a job fair. Find partner organizations and service providers that can offer a variety of resources that relate to veterans who are seeking employment. Search for companies that have made a commitment to hiring veterans. In addition to offering information about job openings, make the most of the event by providing concrete resources such as clothing appropriate for employment, assistance with transportations, and job interview practice sessions.

Don't forget about supporting military families. Many families could use a hand collecting supplies for new babies or kids going back to school. Activities at the Lodge are a great time to welcome them into the Elks family and distribute these supplies. To begin, get acquainted with the military families in your area to find out what kind of supplies are needed. Contact local service organizations, and if you live near military base, contact the Family Readiness Group to ask about what type of support Elks can provide.

If there are families with children in your Lodge, host a field day or an art project where they can interact with military kids in the community. If you're providing school supplies or meals try to gather a list from families before shopping so that you can personalize your selections.

Partnerships are important for all of these projects, so be sure to talk to other veterans and social service organizations to make the most of resources. To learn more, visit elks.org/cip.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

Nearly 16,000 hides produce 3,336 gloves for veterans by Dennis McAleese:

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission reports that the Leather Program this year has topped the million-dollar mark in value. We had 15,983 hides donated by 16 states. With the donated hides, we were able to distribute 3,336 fingerless gloves to our most deserving veterans.

Full-fingered gloves are available for purchase through the Leather Program Chair. Craft kits are available to order by your Lodge Veterans Chair for helping veterans in your community. Voluntary service representatives can order gloves for the veterans at the facilities they serve.

Congratulations to the top three states in donating deer and elk hides in 2017-18. Missouri donated 6,665 hides; Iowa donated 3,472 hides; and Arkansas donated 2,458 hides.

Full program statistics are listed below:

Total hides donated: 15,983
Veterans wheelchair gloves distributed: 3,336.
At \$25 each, sales earned \$83,400.
Crafting leather distributed, hospitals and clinics: 4,854 square feet. At \$4.50 per square foot for \$21,843.
Crafting leather donated to help hospitalized veterans: 104,160 square feet. At \$4.50 per square foot for \$468,720.
Crafting kits manufactured / distributed by (HHV): 44,964. Exact value unknown.
Crafting kits distributed by Elks: 3,074.
Valued at \$102,473.13.

Mid-Season Conference:

The Louisiana Elks Association will hold their Mid-Season Conference January 18-19, 2019 and Houma Lodge 1193 will be the Host Lodge.

Lodging for this event will be at the Homewood Suites by Hilton, located at 142 Citi Place Drive, Houma, LA. The room rate is \$85.00. To make

reservations please call the hotel at 985-262-0145. The hotel will honor this rate through December 18, 2018.

On Friday, the Advisors will hold their meetings. All Advisors meetings will be held at the Homewood Suites. Listed below are the times for the Advisor Meetings:

LEA/LEF Advisors 2:00 to 3:00 P.M.
LEA Advisors 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.
District Advisors 4:00 to 5:00 P.M.

On Saturday morning the Business Meetings will begin at 9:00 A.M. The Business Meetings will be held at the Houma Lodge.

All Lodges have received information about the planned Extravaganza sponsored by the Houma Lodge. If you have any questions regarding this event, please check with your Exalted Ruler or any Houma Lodge Officer.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

DRUG AWARENESS:

I have recently finished Drug Awareness Training at Grand Lodge. The Drug Awareness Program (DAP) is alive and well and is truthfully getting a renewed focus from Grand Lodge. This is great news in light of the direction so many of the other programs seem to be headed. There are some very good things already completed, and more improvements coming.

Video, Essay and Poster Contest theme is: **“Drugs Take Away.....”**- State Deadline for all three contests is January 15, 2019.

Red Ribbon Week is October 23rd through the 31st (I know that is 9 days, but they still call it a week). This is a great chance to get involved with local schools or other service groups.

(Continued on Page 12)

DRUG AWARENESS continued:

The Enrique Camarena Award nomination form is due to Grand Lodge by November 1st – our state deadline is October 15th. Remember we do have a State winner annually. This is a great way to reward someone in Law Enforcement for their efforts – Local and District winners can be honored as well. Nomination forms are posted on the Elks Website.

Literature - The first and most consistent message that we received at training was that what we have historically focused on for success (handing out literature) is not where our focus should be today. Grand Lodge has entered into a number of partnerships with other groups and they are assisting with online and interactive information that is much timelier and in-line with the way the youth of today communicate. However, the pamphlets, coloring books, bookmarks etc. are all still available to order and the order form is posted on the STATE website. All orders must be sent to me as State Chairman – if you include an e-mail address, I can have an alert sent to you automatically when your order is processed.

Training for Parents and Grandparents – the most influential persons in a child's life are typically his or her parents. The Elks have developed educational materials for Parents that can assist them in reaching their children and spotting the danger signs of substance abuse earlier.

Armand Buuck, Chairman

LODGE ACTIVITIES:

Greetings:

As the summer season is about to end, it was great to see that there were numerous pool parties throughout our Lodges that have pools. It was good to see that many of these parties were kids only. At one lodge the children not only enjoyed swimming, but they had a chance to cook their own hotdogs and hamburgers. They even decorated their own cupcakes and had a book reading. This was all at one children's pool party!!

Now that the fall season is knocking on our Lodges doorsteps I am starting to read about some great upcoming Lodge activities being planned throughout our State. Halloween parties for the kids and adults, murder mystery dinners, craft shows, Karaoke and there is also Veterans Day in November. This is a few of the many activities that can be planned. Getting members involved by maybe hosting a corn hole tournament at a Tailgate party before your favorite team kicks off is a great group fun activity. Don't forget about the distribution of Dictionaries to 3rd graders at various schools throughout the State. While all of this is occurring, Christmas parties and the Hoop Shoot will be in the planning stages. And before you realize it the Mardi Gras season will be upon us!!

The activities that your lodge plans can be endless, getting your members involved, and having them invite their friends, is a great way to grow membership. If there is a specific function that you would like to chair, don't be afraid to step up and ask. You will be shocked at the amount of help and support that your fellow Elk members will give you. All in all, it is proven that fun activities will help grow your lodge.

I also mentioned in the last write up, The Elks National foundation budgets \$12.4 million to lodges and community Grants. Applying for these different Grants that are available is a great way to increase your lodge activities and show our charitable giving to our communities, and it also another way to increase membership. Hopefully all of the lodges in the state are taking advantage of these grants that are available to us.

School is in session now, so be sure to drive safely and obey the school zone signs.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

**MID-SEASON
CONFERENCE
JANUARY 18-19, 2019**

LODGE NEWS:

DONALDSONVILLE 1153:

The Lodge donated to the Ascension Catholic School for their Youth Sports Program.

Pictured below is Troy LeBoeuf, Lodge Secretary and an Administrator for the School.



Kneeling left to right are firefighters Charles Digiovanno, Alison Digiovanno, Lambert Rome, Michele Ramagos, Frankie Favrot, and Adam Odiorne. Standing left to right: Willie Blank, Henry Daigle (PSP). J. Merlin Banta, Russell Gerace (PSP), John Sasser, III (Exalted Ruler), Fire Chief Darren Ramirez, Jim Tennyson, Kelly Adams, Tom Boggs, Gary Legendre and Ed Tylendia (PSP)



PLAQUEMINE LODGE 1398:

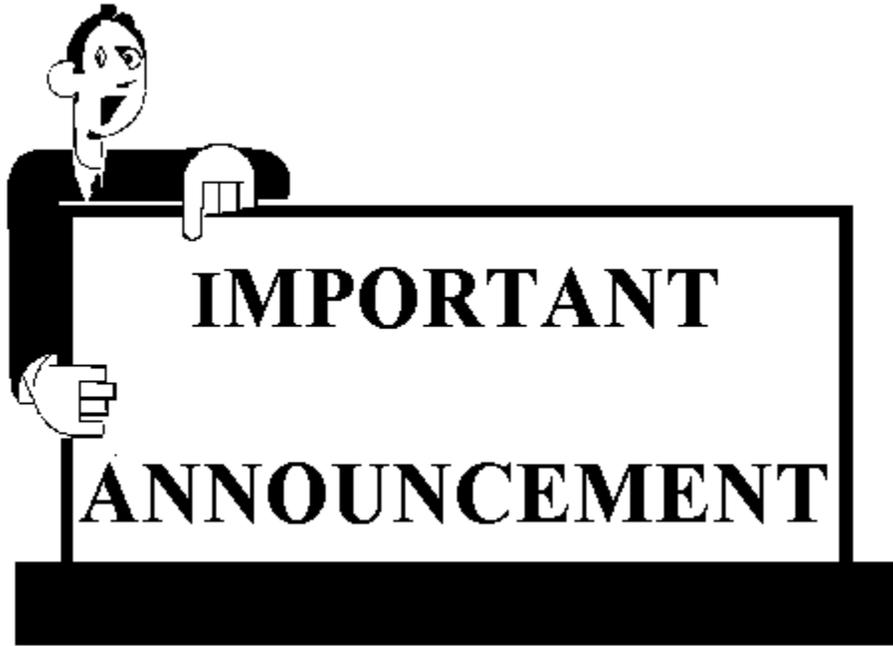
The members of Plaquemine Lodge #1398 donated bullet-proof vests to City of Plaquemine Fire Department.

“These vests will be very helpful to us,” stated firefighter Michele Ramagos, “because we never know these days what situation we are going into when we receive an emergency call. The vests will play a vital role in protecting our First Responders during violent calls as well as Active Shooter situations. The purchase of the vests was made possible through an ENF grant.

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.

- Michael R. Brown, New Orleans 30*
- Gary J. Hebert, New Orleans 30*
- Donald E. Satterberg, Shreveport 122*
- Robert H. Lichenstein, Houma 1193*
- Bernard A. Warren, Slidell 2321*



SAVE THE DATES:

MID-SEASON CONFERENCE—JANUARY 18-19, 2019

DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC—APRIL 13, 2019

LEA STATE CONVENTION—MAY 17-19, 2019

GRAND LODGE CONVENTION—JUNE 30 TO JULY 3, 2019

PLEASE POST ME ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD