

OCTOBER 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 January bulletin are due by December 10, 2019.

Please send them to:

mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com or elksoulouisiana@hotmail.com

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

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New Orleans #30

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Jim Cade (Lisa)
PDD, Shreveport #122

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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:

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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

New Orleans Lodge #30, 2215 Cleary Ave.,
Metairie, LA 70001-1628
504-888-8152 noelkslodge30@yahoo.com

Shreveport Lodge #122, 310 E. Preston,
Shreveport, LA 71105-5303
318-868-5301 elkslodge122@gmail.com

Opelousas Lodge #1048, 207 N Union St
Opelousas, LA 70570-1146, 337-942-2341
chickiealdrige@gmail.com

Donaldsonville Lodge #1153, 115 Railroad Ave
Donaldsonville, LA 70346-0545, 225-715-7389
Lee.melancon@cox.net

Houma Lodge #1193, 7883 Main St, Houma,
LA. 70364-0348, 985-232-4248,
julie_jeansonne@yahoo.com

Plaquemine Lodge #1398, 55195 Belleview
Rd, Plaquemine, LA 70764, 225-687-6626
henryj1050@live.com

Slidell Lodge #2321, 34212 Elks Road,
Slidell, LA. 70460, 985-641-1266
bpoe2321@aol.com

New Orleans West Bank #2496, 900 Monroe
St., Gretna, LA 70053, 504-367-8793
elks2496nowb@gmail.com

Louisiana Elks Association
P.O. Box 409
Hahnville, LA 70057-0409
elksoulouisiana@hotmail.com

MEET OUR NEW GRAND:

ROBERT L. DUITSMAN



Robert “Bob” Duitsman was born in Inglewood, California and attended local schools, including Inglewood High School, the University of Southern California, and Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, receiving a Juris Doctor degree in 1981.

Bob joined the Culver City Elks Lodge in 1989. Moving through the chairs, he was elected Exalted Ruler for 1993-1994 and again in 1995-1996. He was Association Vice-President in 2001-2002 during the presidency of John Carvalho and his wife Sandy and was then District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2005-2006 during the national presidency of the Honorable Louis J. “Jim” Grillo and his wife Lucia. Bob served on several district committees but developed a particular interest in the ritual program. He has been a ritual judge since 1995 and served in a number of positions in the ritual community leading to CHEA (California-Hawaii Elks Association) Ritual Training Chair and finally CHEA Ritual Contest Chair in 2007-2008. He also served on the CHEA Major Project Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2016, the last year s its Chair. He served as President of the California-Hawaii Elks Association in 2018-2019.

On the Grand Lodge level, Bob served on the Committee on Judiciary for six years, 2009 to 2015, the last two as Chair, and is currently in his

fourth year as a Justice of the Grand Forum, in effect the Supreme Court of the Order. For two years he served on the Grand Lodge Pardon Commission.

For over thirty-five years, Bob has been an attorney in private practice in the Culver City area, with emphases in the areas of estate planning and parole revocation defense.

He is a Past Chair of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, a Past President of the Culver City Lions Club, and a Past President of the Inglewood District Bar Association. For over twenty years, he was a Temporary Judge of the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior Courts. For more than thirty years, he has been a volunteer at the Culver City Senior Center, helping its members with their legal problems on a volunteer basis. What little he knows about speaking before groups he owes in large part to the Toastmasters organization, of which he is a thirty-year member with a designation of Distinguished Toastmaster. He also knows a little about parliamentary procedure, having attained the designation of Professional Registered Parliamentarian through the National Association of Parliamentarians. He is an ordained elder at Know Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles.

Bob met the love of his life, Beth, in 1982, and they married in 1987. They do not have any children, unless you count their dog, Winston. Together they live in the Ladera Heights area of Los Angeles County.

Bob enjoys gardening, putting around the house, spending time with his dog, and is one of only 131 people on earth who have finished all 34 editions of the Los Angeles Marathon, with a best time of 3:52.

Bob and Beth are proud and excited to have the opportunity to serve as National President and First Lady of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America; meeting and making friends during their travels, and talking about their slogan, “*Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future.*”

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Hello Elks,

One of the focus areas this year should be our Elks Image. When the Elks were originally formed, we were primarily a men's club that in many ways was a getaway spot for the men, and only on rare occasions were the Wives and children welcome in the club.

That is not the Elks of today as an increasing percentage of our active members are women, and more and more of our activities are designed to support the youth of our communities. We as Elks should all be ambassadors spreading the word of what the Elks of today are all about.

In today's busy world, time is at a premium and your commitment to our Order means a lot. Now if you are like me, you will hear comments about the Elks as an Old man's drinking club, or something similar. Most people are shocked to hear the good things that Elks do.

Do you know what an Elevator pitch is – it is the story you would tell about yourself if you had 3 floors in an elevator to convince someone to hire you, buy your product etc.

When someone asks me about the Elks, I have my elevator pitch ready – especially if they just said something about it being an “Old man's drinking club”.

I usually lead with something like:

Well the Elks Lodge does have a bar and dining room, and it is a friendly place (kind of like the Cheers sitcom) everybody knows your name, and I have met many lifelong friends through the Elks. If I go to a Lodge anywhere in the country, we are welcomed just like it is our home Lodge.

But even better than the social club, if you think that our veterans, our youth, honoring the flag and showing that you are patriotic are important, then the Elks programs are something you would really enjoy. The Elks are:

- The largest non-governmental provider of Scholarships in the US. Only the US Government provides more scholarship dollars to our youth.
- The Elks donated the first Veterans hospital ever established during WWI and have made a pledge that as long as there are veterans in need, the Elks will not forget them.
- The Elks honor our Law enforcement officers, firemen and other community groups.
- Elks established Flag Day and worked with the government to make this a recognized holiday.
- The Elks Drug Awareness Effort is the largest of its kind in the country.

So, while it is true that we have a good time at our social club, it is the shared vision that truly makes the Elks unique and an organization you and anyone should be proud to be a part of.

Now, the next time you hear someone talking about the Elks as an old man's drinking club, pull out your “Elevator pitch” and help improve the image of Elkdom. You just may be surprised when the person stops before they get off the elevator and asks how they can be part of the Elks.

Armand Buuck
LEA President

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Members,

The Elks National Foundation MVS and Legacy contest kicked off on September 1st. Scholarship Chairpersons please inform your lodge members of this. For more information please contact Gail Millet, LEA Scholarship Chairperson, gmmillet@bellsouth.net or visit Grand Lodge Web-site www.elks.org/scholars for all the details.

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

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

Board of Directors must give a written report of all its transactions at the first regular meeting of October. **This must be done monthly not just in October.** See Statues Annotated Section 12.070.

Auditing and Accounting Committee must review lodge books and report at the last meeting of October, **this must also be done in January and July.** See Statues Annotated Section 13.040 (I).

Secretaries, if your Lodge allows dues to be paid twice a year, you should have already mailed out your dues notice for the last half of the year.

The Lodge Lapsation Committee should be working hard at contacting the members who are in arrears on their dues trying to collect their dues and most of all keep from losing them as a member. Remember, Membership is the Lifeline of our order.

Secretaries remember that the GL Membership Report is due by November 5th. The Grand Secretary will automatically upload it from CLMSII, so please make sure your records are up to date by 10-31-19

November 11th is Veterans Day. If at all possible, visit your local Veterans Medical Center or Veterans Home if you have one in your area, or plan a function at your lodge to honor our servicemen and women who are serving in the armed forces or who have served.

Thanksgiving is Thursday November 28th. This is a great chance to practice the virtue of Charity, 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.

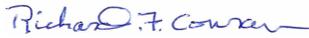
Sunday December 1st is our Elks Memorial Day and shall be a commemorated to the memories of our departed Members. Every Lodge shall hold Memorial Services (Statues Annotated Section 2.020). The DDGER can grant permission to two or more lodges to hold a joint service on a designated day during the week immediately preceding or following the first Sunday in December.

Christmas falls on Wednesday this year and I hope that all lodges have some kind of a party for its members during the holiday season, to thank them for all their hard work this year. Also try to adopt some needy families so they will have a Merry Christmas as all of us do.

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

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

Fraternally,


Richard F. Conran, SDGER~PG Tiler

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 391 delinquent members in the state (221-6 month; 168-12 month and 2-18 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, 2020. 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.

Charity reporting is still a problem. Some Lodges do an outstanding job on reporting their Charity Events, but others are very weak in this area. At the present time, one Lodge has yet to make any entries in their Charity reporting and one Lodge has only one entry. There have been many events held since April 1, such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Youth Week; Memorial Day, July 4 just to name a few. If you are in doubt of what to report, please refer to the Government Relations Handbook. There is a chapter dedicated to Charity Reporting.

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.

The Grand Lodge Membership report will be filed automatically by the Grand Secretary on November 5. Please make sure that your membership reports in CLMS are up to date, prior to the report being filed.

Our Mid-Season Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 17-18, 2020. Please mark your calendars so you may be in attendance. I will have additional information regarding Mid-Season later in this newsletter.

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

Social Media gaffes sully Lodges' public image by Tony Markarian:

Your Government Relations Committee's goal is to help advance important and pending information that can impact our Order. In our work, we seek to be the leading voice that you can rely on; however, each state has their own legislation, and our state chairman help keep us updated by doing their part. (Continued on Page 7)

GRAND LODGE CORNER **continued:**

There might be an upcoming local city or county change that does not favor the nonprofit way of doing business. Stay focused and keep your eyes open for any changes that can alter the way your Lodge operates.

Now that your charity records are in order, you can let your city and county officials know how much your Lodge does in your community, state, and nation. Trust me, you will be taken seriously. Keep those charity books full of everything your Lodge do, an accident in which a fracture or even a severe sprain occurs, or oral surgery to remove wisdom teeth. es to stay afloat. Remember, if your Lodge us having a function, there are volunteer hours and miles somewhere and it most likely needs to be added to your charity book! Last year's charity report was down substantially, so let's try and do a better job at reporting this Lodge year.

Social media is becoming more prominent every year, and the way we share information can be compromising. Often times we share events, birthdays, and other personal information from someone without realizing---it only takes one photo to sully a Member, guest, or Lodge's reputation.

We need to police the information being posted. Your social media chairman should be aware of what we want and do not want to be shared. The committee should know anything posted might be shared publicly (outside the Lodge) and always keep in mind "*One man's trash is another man's treasure.*" A Member might want to post something they feel is a moment to treasure, but others could be embarrassed to be associated with the posting.

As expected, I say that those types of comments and pictures should not be posted or shared. It is important that pictures of children must be approved by parents, with written approval, before posting on social media. Exalted Rulers, I suggest you think wisely here and don't just go to a young member because they know

computers. It takes a special person who can see both sides of the story, appeal to all crowds, and has a good sense of judgement to be your social media chairman.

Choose carefully! If you pick no one then you might be subjected to random uncontrolled comments about your Lodge and membership. Claim your Lodge's social media page and govern it!

Much more attention needs to be places on your charity reports and your Lodge's social media. Let's work together to make sure our Lodges are taken seriously.

FAQ: Opioid pain reliver prescriptions by Jack Scarpino:

Used appropriately, medicines improved our lives. When misused and abused, however, the consequences can be devastating. The overprescribing and misuse of prescription pain relievers has been a major cause of today's epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths, with four out of five heroin users reporting that they misused prescription opioids before using heroin.

This overview is intended to help you know what questions to ask when a healthcare provider recommends or prescribes a pain reliver for your child, and how to be sure that your child takes the medication as prescribed without misusing it or sharing it with others.

Why would a young person be prescribed an opioid pain reliever?

Opioid pain relievers are most often prescribed following surgery or to treat cancer pain ---- so many young people will not be in a position to be prescribed opioids. But opioids may be prescribed for young people in the event of accidental injury, such as a sports-related injury, an accident in which a fracture or even a severe sprain occurs, or oral surgery to remove wisdom teeth. Additionally, there are other ailments for which opioids may be recommended. (Continued on Page 8)

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GRAND LODGE CORNER **continued:**

Paper membership applications and records. healthcare provider when an opioid pain reliver is recommended or prescribed?

****Is a prescription opioid necessary to treat my child's pain?**

****How many pills are being prescribed, and over how long a period?**

****What are the risks of misuse?**

****Should my child be screened to determine risk of substances use disorder before this medication is prescribed? (Common risk factors include ADHD, mental health disorders such as depression, a family history of addiction, and a recent trauma such as a death in the family or divorce.)**

What should you do if an opioid pain reliever has been prescribed for your child?

****Safeguard medication at home. Don't leave it in the medicine cabinet where anyone, family or visitors, can access it.**

****Supervise the dispensing of the medication, counting the pills in the bottle to be sure they are being taken as prescribed. Clearly document when the prescription was filled and when a refill will be needed and be suspicious of any missing medication.**

****Communicate with your child about the risks of misuse and be very clear that the medication is not to be shared with others.**

****Communicate regularly with your child about the level of pain he or she is feeling. Make sure the pain is diminishing with time and stay alert for any signs that your child is growing dependent on the medication.**

What signs of misuse or dependence should a person be alert for?

****Signs of misuse can include drowsiness, nausea, constipation, slowed breathing, and slurred speech.**

****Be concerned if your child is asking for pain medication more frequently than prescribed, or if he or she is insistent on refilling the prescription.**

****Signs of withdrawal, which would occur if a child has become dependent on an opioid and then stops taking it, include anxiety, irritability, loss of appetite, craving for the drug, runny nose, swearing, vomiting and diarrhea.**

If you are concerned that your child may be dependent on pain medication, consult the prescriber.

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

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 applications 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, but a vast majority of the pre-2008 membership records were never entered into the program. Those records need to be maintained in case a former Member requests a Reinstatement, a Certificate of Release, or other membership information.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

For veteran help, stay informed to stay relevant by Mary K. Morgan:

Who do you think of when you think of a veteran? A senior citizen in a “Vietnam Veteran” hat? A woman with young children? A young man in need of housing? There are an estimated 22 million veterans in the United States, and they all have different needs. As Elks, we need to stay informed of those needs to ensure our programs stay relevant.

The post-9/11 veteran population is expected to increase 22% between 2016 and 2021. Today’s military is 14% female, and that’s expected to increase to 20% in the next 10-20 years. About 55% of veterans are aged 65 or younger. More than half of veterans don’t use any VA services. Many traditional veterans’ organizations are losing members. That means we must work smarter to connect with veterans.

Here are some tips on how to do that. Start by thinking locally. For example, it’s estimated that one-fifth of homeless veterans live in California, making the Welcome Home program especially effective in that state. Alaska has the highest percentage of veterans aged 20-34 at 17 percent, so active, outdoor activities could be more popular. And in many rural areas, the biggest issue facing veterans may be transportation and access to medical care.

Once you’ve identified a need in your community, find partners. Build relationships with veterans, facility staff, and volunteers directly in your community. You may be familiar with the adage, “if you’ve been to one VA, you’ve been to one VA.” That’s true of many veterans’ programs. You will likely need to adapt project ideas and processes To work best in your community.

Finally, when in doubt, listen. Every generation, every community and every person has different challenges.

Famous advice for veterans service volunteers by Mary K. Morgan:

President Harry S. Truman reportedly said, “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” That’s particularly good advice for volunteers looking to serve veterans.

According to the IRS, there are more than 45,000 non-profits in veterans service in the United States today. Working together may be the only way to solve problems for our nation’s veterans.

For advice on how to start and build good partnerships, we sought advice from Darrell Quinley, a Member of Grandview-Hickman Mills, MO Lodge No. 2088. As a representative at both the Kansas City VA Medical Center and the St. Michaels Center (which provides veterans with safe, stable housing), Quinley knows that partnerships are key to accomplishing goals.

Here is his wisdom, gleaned from years of volunteering for veterans and working as a funeral director.

- Smile. Be upbeat. Find as much common ground as you can with family, children, activities, veterans in the family, etc.
- Don’t take up a great deal of their time at the onset. Ask for their business card and follow up a few days later.
- Don’t give up! First or even second impressions may not be a true indication of future working relationships.
- Be truthful, be consistent, and be prepared.
- Try to always take the high road on any contentious discussion, or better yet, avoid it completely.
- Be complimentary. Thank them for what they do. Find no fault in their operation.
- Tell them you have Elks Members just waiting to help veterans.

Above all, go in with a positive attitude. Your heart shares their heart in the love of service to veterans.

GRAND LODGE CONVENTION:

At the recent Grand Lodge Convention held in St. Louis, MO, the delegation voted on 15 resolutions. Listed below are the voting results:

1. To authorize the merger of two or more State Associations, 2,477 Yes -- 436 No.
2. To provide a procedure for the merger of State Associations, 2,413 Yes--555 No
3. To require the Officers of the Lodge to perform the Ritual during the official visit of the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, 1,156 Yes—1,811 No.
4. To make sure that no jewels or regalia are worn outside the Lodge room except during special ceremonies, 2,478 Yes—490 No.
5. To allow Lodges to amend their By-Laws to provide a different rate of dues for married couples residing at the same address, 834 Yes—2,126 No.
6. To add the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors, 1,363 For—1,595 No.
7. To allow caregivers and/or drivers of disabled Members to remain in Social Quarters during a meeting, 2,527 Yes—440 No.
8. To define a Member in Good Standing and confirm that an Elk who is suspended from Club privileges is still a member in Good Standing, 2,128 Yes—840 No.
9. To move the definition of an Unaffiliated Elk to the Definition Chapter and confirm that an Elk whose Membership is suspended in any manner is an Unaffiliated Elk, 2,671 Yes—295 No.
10. To transfer the responsibilities for Membership marketing from the Fraternal committee to the Committee on Public Relations and Membership Marketing, 2,678 Yes—291 No.
11. To codify that an Executive Order issued by the Grand Exalted Ruler may suspend a Member's social privileges in the Order, 2,682 Yes—293 No.
12. To require Lodges to meet at least twice in February, March and April and

to provide an alternative method of Notice for special meetings called for the sole purpose of initiation, 1,813 Yes—1,140 No.

13. To allow District Deputies to be appointed to Districts other than their home District, 1,399 Yes—1,577 No.
14. To replace the requirement of an Annual Financial Report (audit, review or compilation) with a standardized on-line financial reporting system, 1,776 Yes—1,181 No.
15. To provide how the Board of Director positions in a for profit corporation shall be constituted, 2,155 Yes ---775 No.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

As of September 23, 2019

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Houma	\$1,686.00	\$ 12.04
2	N.O. West Bank	\$ 838.05	\$ 11.17
3	Slidell	\$1,262.75	\$ 6.16
4	Plaquemine	\$ 325.00	\$ 5.70
5	Shreveport	\$4,525.00	\$ 5.03
6	Opelousas	\$1,309.00	\$ 4.23
7	New Orleans	\$ 723.00	\$ 2.00
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE:

In 1971, the cost of living was as followed:

A new house \$25,200.00
 Average income \$10,622.00 per year
 A new car \$3,560.00
 Average rent \$150.00 per month
 Tuition to Harvard University \$2,600.00 a year
 Movie Ticket \$1.50
 Gasoline 40 cents per gallon
 United States Postal Stamp 8 cents
 Granulated sugar 62 cents for 5 pounds
 Vitamin D Milk \$1.17 per gallon
 Ground coffee 98 cents a pound
 Eggs 45 cents per dozen

Does were the days

10.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

Activities:

The calendar year is nearly over, and it is great to see that our Louisiana Elks are helping to assist with so many great programs within our communities. The Adopt a School Program has been a huge success especially for its first year. It is very heartwarming to hear that the Elks have made a big impact on so many schools in our communities. Congrats to all.

Who doesn't like to spend Money? Especially if it's not yours!!!! The Elks National Foundation has a variety of grants that can very easily applied for. With the money that is received your lodge can use it in your community to support organizations in need, and to assist those that may have run short of the funds that are needed to help make them successful. It's a way to help those in your community without costing your local lodge a cent. Just APPLY.

September 9 – 15 was National Patriotism week. Red Ribbon was started by Nancy Reagan and was formalized by Congress in 1988. This Red Ribbon Week is followed in October by our Elks Say No to Drugs Day. The Elks have many resources that can be used to promote these programs and many more like them.

Our Lodges have done a fantastic job of recording Elks and non- Elks volunteer hours and miles. The recording of these hours and miles is how our State and its lodges are recognized for the good that we do in our communities. All of these activities would not be possible without our members. Remember to get your newly installed members involved. This not only adds life to your lodges but keeps them as active members as well.

I'm sure that all our Lodges are in the planning stages for their Fall and winter activities. Dictionaries, Drug Awareness, Football games, Christmas baskets, Veterans functions, are just a few that I have heard about. Please be sure to visit **Elks.org** website for all your upcoming

activities. This is a very resourceful site to start planning your upcoming Elks activities. Please remember to plan accordingly, involve your new members, and as always stay safe and healthy.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

Americanism:

I am pleased to announce that Members of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee have selected the theme, "What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me" for the 2019-2020 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through the State level, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Baltimore, Maryland in July 2020.

This very important Patriotic Contest gives school children in grades 5-8 the opportunity to express views on their pride in America. Nationally, first-place, second place and third-place winners in each division will receive bronze plaques. Our State Associations also offers technology awards to our winners. We have in the past had a National winner and I would very much like to see another one this year.

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

This contest is most important because it involves school children in your area, showing them Americanism at its best. The contest also demonstrates that Members of your Lodge are proud to be Americans, proud to be Elks and proud to participate in the Americanism programs of Grand Lodge. (Continued Page 12)

COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

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

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

James Hester, Chairman

Business Practice:

All Elks Lodges nationwide have been given the requirement of using the new Financial Reporting System (FRS) to report their financial transactions and balances. We've been given until March 31, 2020 for each lodge to put it in place and make full use of it. Transactions for the entire 2023 fiscal year ending on that date must be entered into the FRS for each lodge. In Louisiana, we had our DD Clinic in Opelousas on 8/10/19 and went over some details of how FRS operates, and I've sent some written instructions to all the designated users from each lodge.

I've communicated with most lodges to find out what kind of progress we're making with the system. We have some users fully in compliance with the new system. By October I plan to contact each state lodge and be sure they are starting to use the system as intended. The system is straightforward and requires basic knowledge of double entry bookkeeping and Excel spreadsheets. I'll be sending out more information on it soon and hope each lodge is becoming educated about the process. Let me know if you have questions, concerns, or problems. Thank you

Mastin Scott, Chairman

Drug Awareness:

I like to think of the Drug Awareness Program much like O negative blood – we are the universal donor of Elk programs. It is always quite easy to incorporate some phase of the program into other programs by including

literature, coloring books, putting an anti-drug theme on Soccer or Basketballs etc.

What does that mean to you as an ER or Lodge Drug Awareness chair? MOST IMPORTANTLY – you need to record your activity in the Charity Book using Form 1801 at your Lodge or on whatever form your Lodge Secretary requires in order to enter items in CLMS. It is OK to enter time for multiple committees – IE if you have a hoop shoot and use Drug Awareness theme balls, the time and contacted children can count for both programs. Feel free to send me updates on successful programs so we can share those throughout the State.

Armand Buuck, Chairman

Elks National Veterans Service:

Greetings,

For those of you that heard me state this at the DD clinic, I apologize but I'm going to repeat it once again. I would like to thank all VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives for all of their hard work and dedication they give to our veterans. So many of us don't realize what's involved in completing these tasks every month. I know I didn't until this year, so again thanks for everything you all do and keep up the good work.

There are an estimated 22million veterans in the United States and they all have different needs. If you go online to <https://www.elks.org/vets/welcomehome.cfm> you can download a brochure titled (More than 140 ways your lodge can support veterans and military members in your community.)

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COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

This brochure has excellent information that your lodge and your members can use to benefit our veterans. November 11th is Veterans Day it would be great if every lodge would hold an event that week. IE (lunch, dinner, movie day, or anything to show our veterans how much they mean to us. In 2018-2019 Elks used more than 1,172 grants to serve veterans and Military members totaling more than \$2.15 million in support.

We are looking for a few good Elks to become VAVS Deputy Representatives. Please contact me by e-mail at dlbaye1949@gmail.com if you are interested. Once again let us all remember November 11th Veterans Day and show our Veterans and Military personal what they mean to us.

Don Baye, Chairman

Government Relations:

Greetings,

Your Government Relations committee's goal is to help advance important and pending information that can impact our order. In October we will hold City, Parish, and State elections. Please look for any legislation that does not favor the nonprofit way of doing business and vote against it. As Elks we need to stay focused, keep our eyes open for any changes that can alter the way our lodges operate. The best way to accomplish this task is to exercise your right to vote

Don Baye, Chairman

Membership:

WHY DO SOME MEMBERS QUIT?

The answer is simple. Many quit because they feel neglected! Whether perception or reality, many Elks fail to return to the Lodge because they feel their fellow Members were indifferent or without courtesy toward them. We failed to impress upon them how important their membership was to us.

Even if we replace these Members with new ones, we're still far behind. More time and effort go into getting a new member than holding onto present members. And we're losing the members that they might have sponsored. We all yearn to be appreciated. We love individual attention, to be recognized. This won't change when we join an Elks Lodge. A Member wants to feel important and valued. Let your Members know — especially new Members and Stray Elks — that the Lodge is thinking about and appreciates them.

A few reasons why members quit

1. The Elder Members don't like change and do not want the new members input.
2. There are too many Clicks.
3. Arguing Amongst the Members drive them away.
4. Backbiting
5. Members are not kept involved or even ask to be involved.
6. They are not personally contacted when they are delinquent. Maybe an email or letter but rarely a phone call.

These are just some of the reasons why we lose members! If we are going to keep our lodges alive, we need to work together! Not against each other!

Jo Ann Aldridge, Chairman

LODGE NEWS:

New Orleans Lodge 30:

On behalf of the members of New Orleans Lodge #30, I would like to extend an invitation to all Louisiana Elks and their spouses to join us on Friday, January 17, 2020, at New Orleans Lodge #30, located at 2215 Cleary Avenue, Metairie, LA, 70001, for a Friday Night Social. As you all know the Mid-Season Conference will be held at New Orleans Lodge #30 January 17 – 18, 2020. The doors will open at 5PM on Friday, January 17th, we will have drink specials, music, karaoke, and we will also be selling food (menu to be determined). (Continued Page 14)

LODGE NEWS continued:

On Saturday, January 18th, the business session will take place at the Lodge in the Antler Room; Lodge #30 will provide a breakfast for all those attending the business sessions. At the conclusion of the business session we will also be selling plate lunches of pulled pork sandwiches with coleslaw and dessert for \$8.00 per plate. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Season Conference.

Brian Baye, ER

Donaldsonville Lodge 1153:

Donation of School Supplies:



The Donaldsonville Elks Lodge made a contribution to Head Start. With their goal of assisting the community, the impacts of this donation will continue for these kids for years to come.

“This particular project came through the Louisiana Elks Association and it allowed us to contribute school supplies...so we decided to choose Ascension Parish’s Head Start Program to make that donation,” said Lee Melancon, Exalted Ruler.

Kathryn Hebert, the Leading Knight of the Lodge, was previously in education for 46 years. She stated that when teachers are not worrying about supplies, they are able to focus more energy on the children in their classroom.

Donaldsonville Lodge also made a \$1,500.00 donation toward the Ascension Catholic Church food pantry. Their donation will impact many families in need throughout the area.

As part of their regular donations, this step toward improving the lives of others is regular business for the Elks Lodge. With many programs coming up in the future, Exalted Ruler Melancon emphasized that the true mission of the Elks Lodge is helping the community.

Plaquemine Lodge 1398

Elks of Plaquemine Lodge 1398 recently presented Our Brothers Keeper of Plaquemine with a donation of \$1,500.00 to be used for families who require assistance in feeding their families. The funding is provided through the Elks National Foundation which grants funds to local lodges for community projects that serve individuals/families who need assistance.

John W. Sasser, III, Exalted Ruler of the local Elks lodge, presented the funds to Amy Flatau who manages the Our Brothers Keeper Food Bank. In response to the presentation, Flatau expressed her thanks and added “This money will be used for food for our community of people who don’t have funds to buy food for their families.



(Continued Page 15)

LODGE NEWS continued:

On hand to accept the donation from the Plaquemine Elks Lodge were other Food Bank volunteers Laura Badeux, Donna Carville, and Margaret Businelle. There are 18 volunteers who donate their time to work in the Food Bank stocking, bagging, or distributing the food items to local families.



MID-SEASON CONFERENCE:

The Louisiana Elks Association Mid-Season Conference will be held January 17-18, 2020 at New Orleans Lodge 30.

On Friday, January 17, the LEA/LEF Trustees will meet at 3:00 PM. Following that meeting at approximately 4:00 PM, the Advisors will conduct their meeting. The District Advisors will meet immediately after the advisors meeting concludes.

The Lodge will host a social on Friday night with the doors opening at 5PM. There will be drink specials, music, karaoke, and they will also be selling food (menu to be determined).

On Saturday, January 18, the Lodge will provide breakfast for the members attending beginning at 8:00 AM. The business meetings will begin at 9:30 AM.

Lodge will also be selling plate lunches of pulled pork sandwiches with coleslaw and dessert for \$8.00 per plate.

For our out of town guests, arrangements have been made with the Sheraton Hotel to furnish rooms for your stay. The hotel is located at Four

Galleria Boulevard, Metairie, LA. To make reservations please call 1-504-837-6707 and tell the clerk you are with the Louisiana Elks Association to get the special room rate of \$119.00 per night plus tax. The hotel will honor this rate through December 18, 2019.

TODAY'S CHUCKLE:

First Day of Kindergarten

Mom: How was your first day of school?

Child: I think I need a new teacher.

Mom: Do you not like your teacher?

Child: I like my teacher very much!

Mom: Then why do you think you need a new teacher?

Child: My teacher doesn't know anything!

Mom: I don't understand

Child: She keeps asking us for all of the answers. She doesn't even know her colors! She had to ask the class to name them for her.



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.

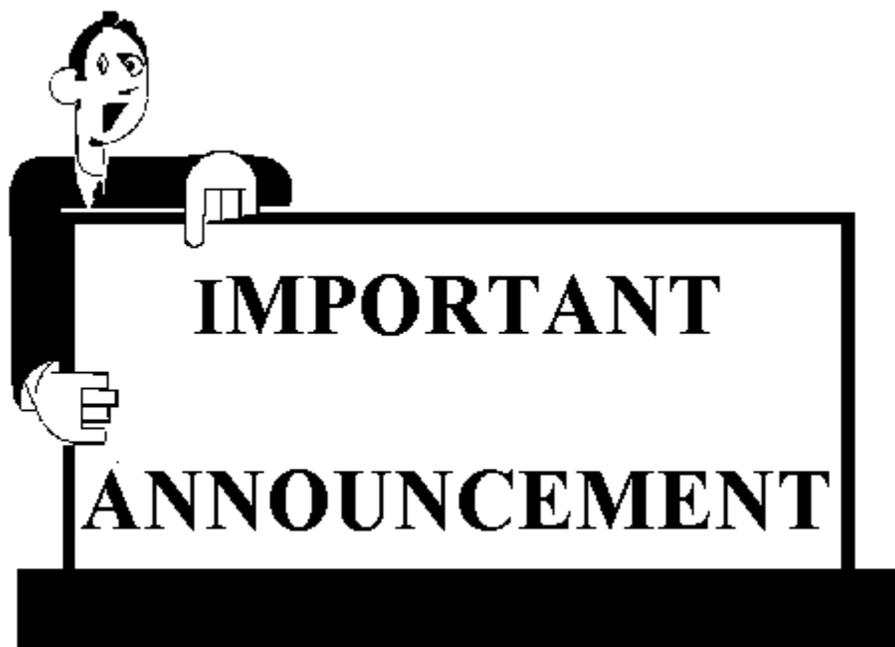
Charles R. Eilers, New Orleans 30

Robert R. Graves, Shreveport 122

Freddie Theriot, Opelousas 1048

Allen Dupont, Houma 1193

John Goubler, Slidell 2321



SAVE THE DATES:

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