

APRIL 2020

LOUISIANA ELK'S NEWSLETTER



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

A Five Star Publication

Hon. Millard Pickering PGER, sponsor

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

Published by:
Editor:
Reporters:

Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle
Exalted Rulers and LEA Chairman



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2019/2020 LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS	1.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND LODGE DIRECTORY	2.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3.
SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE	3-4.
LEA SECRETARY MESSAGE	4-5.
GRAND LODGE CORNER	5-7.
ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION	7-8.
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION	8-9.
STATE ASSOCIATION	9.
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT MESSAGE	9-10.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	10-12
TODAY'S CHUCKLE	12.
MEMORIALS	12.
CONVENTION LETTER	13.
CONVENTION REGISTRATION	14.
SAVE THE DATES	15.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This bulletin will only be as good as the information submitted by you, a member of the Louisiana Elks Association. Articles for the July bulletin are due by June 10, 2020.

Please send them to:

mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com or elksoflouisiana@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

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
Ken Lafleur, PSP
Opelousas #1048

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

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



My journey as Louisiana State President has come to an end and I want to thank the members of Louisiana for their vote of confidence in electing me as your President. Since our journey began, we encountered many bumps in the road, but we were able to solve the problems with some good Louisiana Elks and continued on with the journey.

The job of President is a very demanding job, but when you have great Chairpersons and super ELK members it made my job a lot easier. I also want to thank my State Chairpersons for a job well done. Please ask your Lodge Chairpersons to submit the reports to their Lodge Secretary so it can be entered into CLMS Charity Report and submit your Reports to the State Secretary.

We implemented two new programs. The Adopt a School and Food Bank programs. We also laid the foundation for our Veterans Program and Scholarship Program.

Again, I want to thank the great Louisiana Elk members and if we give Jim Cade the same support you gave me, he will also have a successful year.

Fraternally,

Armand Buuck

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Members,

April starts a new chapter in our Lodges. We have said good-bye to our 2019-20 Lodge Officers, and I hope that all of you thanked them for their leadership during the past year.

Congratulations are in order to all of our newly elected Lodge Offices who have stepped up and accepted the challenge to lead our Lodges for the year of 2020-21. Each and every one of them made a pledge before God and the Lodge members when they were installed that they would uphold the Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the By-Laws of their Lodge. They know that it is their duty to promote the programs of the GL, and to encourage participation by the members of their Lodge in our charitable works. I know that all of them are ready to get started with the task ahead of them, so please pitch in and help them to complete the goals they have set.

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

Mother's Day is May 10th, and all Lodges should have a special dinner for all of our mothers and wives. There is a wonderful Ritual that can be done to honor our mothers. (Continued on Page 4)

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE

continued:

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

The LEA Sate Convention will be held at the Wyndam Garden in Lafayette, LA., on June 12th 13th and 14th, 2020. Located at 1801 W. Pinhook Rd, Lafayette, LA. Phone# (33) 233-8120. **If you have any problems making your room reservation contact Ms. Elisabeth Francisco, Sales Manager at (337)768-9425.** More information and a registration form can be found in this newsletter.

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

Father's Day is the 21st of June and the Lodge should also plan a special dinner to honor all fathers.

The GL Session will be held in Baltimore, MD, starting July 5th and ending July 8th. Remember that all Lodges are required to send the Exalted Ruler to it. If he/she cannot attend it, then a Past Exalted Ruler holding an office in the Lodge may be an alternate representative of the Lodge.

I ask all of you to remember that Membership is the lifeline of our Order and Lodges, and we must continue to bring in new members so both will continue to prosper.

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

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

Fraternally,
Richard F. Conran, SDGER~PG Tiler

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

I want to thank all the retiring officers that served this past Elk year and welcome our newly elected and appointed officers for the 2020-2021 Elk year. This year we will have two new Lodge Secretaries. They are Brian Baye (New Orleans 30), and Lee Melancon (Donaldsonville 1153) I look forward to working with you this year.

The April membership report for all lodges is being processed at this time with Grand Lodge. We began this past Elk Year with 2,156 members but ended the year with 2,062, a loss of 94 members (Please keep in mind that this is not the official count but fairly close as Grand Lodge is still processing the report). We are faced with a far serious problem of **DELINQUENT MEMBERS**) Over fifty (50) percent of our membership is Delinquent. Of the estimated 2,062 members, 1,241 are delinquent. This is a major problem. Over the next several weeks, the lapsation committee needs to contact these members and remind them to pay their dues. It might also be that the Lodge Secretaries needs to send out another dues statement. This should be the number 1 priority in all Lodges.

The Lodge Charity reports are due by May 1. Again, this year some lodges have done an excellent job in reporting the charity work, but several Lodges are not reporting the great work they are doing. You can refer to the Government Relations Manual on what can be reported. Did you know that you can also claim members attending a Lodge meeting in your charity report? Check how to do it in the Government Relations Manual. (Continued on Page 5)

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE continued:

Our state convention will be held in Lafayette, LA June 12-14, 2020. Prior to the convention, I will e-mail the voting delegate form to the Lodge Exalted Ruler and Secretary. I need one of you to complete the form and return it to me at the Exalted Ruler/Secretary meeting held on Saturday morning during our meeting with our State Sponsor and Special Deputy. At this same meeting, I will distribute the State President's Pins that your Lodge purchased and your request for pins for next year.

Every year on January 1st, we make a New Year's Resolution. The same should be true for the new Elk Year. I think our resolution should be better communications. Webster defines communication as *a sending, giving or exchanging of information*. When you receive correspondence from either a Grand Lodge Officer, State Officer of Committee Person, please respond to that communication. They should not have to send numerous reminders to you.

Have a Super Elk Day!!
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Buddy Hartle, State Secretary

GRAND LODGE CORNER

How to protect your Lodge in case of an audit by Glenn E. Foster:

What do you do if your Lodge ever receives a notification letter from the IRS of their intent to audit your books?

Stay calm. It isn't the end of the world. The IRS audits Lodges to close the tax gap between actual income and reported income.

Why the Elks? Some Members are also civic leaders. If the IRS examines the books of an Elks Lodge, those Members will start cleaning the books of other organizations, too. Elks are trained to do it a certain way because that is how it was always done---often, that is not the right

way. And, the Government needs money. Also, they want to locate any incorrect uses of tax-exempt organizations that are not reporting payments properly.

The most common notification is by a letter. Rarely by a phone call. It is very unusual for agents with guns and badges to knock on your door. If this happens, call your attorney, not the accountant.

Your first step is to notify the Grand Lodge and ask for an IRS packet to be sent to your Lodge. For the audit you will have to prove the Lodge is a 501 (c) (8) instead of a (c) (10). This packet does that. Look at the IRS information request to see what they are seeking.

The examiners will help you obey the law. They understand the problems that untrained volunteers may have in an organization. They will work with you to the extent allowed by law unless you do not work with them.

When getting ready for the audit, buy three bankers' boxes and 30 hanging folders. Label the hanging folders for each item on the information request. Put the required documents in the various folders and check off each item listed. Have your accountant there to represent you. You should also have a Power of Attorney (POA) representing you. Schedule a walk through with your POA so he/she can see every room, closet, storage area, and outside area. Remember, gambling items draw the attention of the auditors.

A normal audit will take one to two days. It is usually held at the Lodge but sometimes the accountant's office. Some questions asked are: Is it a fraternal organization and does it provide insurance benefits? What service does the Lodge perform? Be familiar with the information in the Grand Lodge IRS packet. It may help you with questions during the audit. Questions may include Lodge activities such as scholarships, veterans, drug awareness programs, and fundraising events. (Continued on Page 6).

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

Look out for questions that could be traps. Do you have more than one class of Members? Do you pay officers or trustees? Are non-Members allowed in the Lodge? Do you have a guest sign in book? Guests must be accompanied by a Member. The Members pays for each guest brought into the Lodge. Non-Members who pay their own costs for food, drinks, games, etc. are always potential problems. Some state laws prohibit non-members may be Taxable Unrelated Business Income (UBIT). Depending on your state gaming laws, non-member gambling proceeds may trigger unexpected license and tax issues and UBIT and exemption questions.

Engage an accountant in this interview and Lodge walk through. This is another way to gather information. Let your accountant answer the questions. Your wrong answer may cost you.

The evidence gathering questions during an audit are too numerous to mention in this article, but your best guide is the Grand Lodge IRS packet. Mainly, the UBIT, your financial records, 990s and 990T's, income to bank deposits, and actual expenses to actual checks are just some of the items closely reviewed. They also check for payroll tax compliance, looking at salaries compared to W-2 totals among other things related to payrolls.

Can a Lodge have more than one class of Members? IRS rules allow it but our Order does not, and doing so can cause large problems.

What are non-members? Anyone who has not been investigated, indoctrinated and initiated into our Order, nor has paid dues, or has no membership card.

Charitable use of your facilities requires a 501 (c) (3) determination letter before the first use. If you allow an organization to use the Lodge facility for fundraising events, and the people they bring in are not Members of the Lodge, then the Lodge could lose its tax-exempt status

because of being declared a place of public accommodation.

When the audit is done the examiners will review the items that you are to prepare and send to them. Later they may require additional information by mail or phone call. Be on time with this information. If they find you owe money they will ask if you can pay it now. Do so if possible.

If you do not understand something, ask them. They will take the time to explain it to you. They understand volunteerism and will work with you. If you try to intimidate them with your lawyer or you have an attitude, they will assume you have something to hide and will look harder to find any problems.

Charity reporting protects our valuable status by Carl R. Ledig, Sr:

The ability to operate as a nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable organization is a blessing and a right worth protecting. It allows the Elks to increase disposable revenue for its charitable program rather than pay taxes.

Who monitors and protects this nonprofit status for the Elks?

The Grand Lodge Government Relations Committee's primary mission is to guide the Grand Lodge, its State Association, and its Local Lodges, in protecting and preserving the right to exist as a private, nonprofit, charitable organization.

Where do the Elks get the right to exist as a private, nonprofit, charitable organization, and what do we have to do to keep that right?

Years ago, the Grand Lodge filed with the IRS to become a 501 (c) (8) tax exempt organization and qualified. To maintain tax-exempt status, first the Elks must continue our charity programs. We have to give time, give money, give service, and give what we can. (Continued on Page 7)

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

Second and equally important, we must record every act of charity that we can identify, including details such as number of people; number of Elks; number of hours; mileage, and money spent; and value of items and/or service donated for each and every charity act in which we engage. We then report the details of these programs to the IRS, using the appropriate forms.

What can you do to help the process?

1. It is important to know what should be reported and where to report it.
2. Start by being sure that you are giving all new and existing members a charity reporting form so they can track their charity work and contributions. (Find the forms here: Government Relations Manual—Code 511000 at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals>, page 18, Appendix page 7.
3. Make sure Members know what to do with this information once it is on the form and the deadline for doing it.
4. Assign a Lodge Member the task to remind other Members to report.
5. Ensure the Lodge Secretary correctly handles the recording and reports timely to the Grand Lodge.
6. Be sure your Lodge has a system in place for accountability to be sure the correct forms are filed with the IRS.

All of this information can be found in the Government Relations Manual and Charity Records Workbook in Chapter 2, pages 2-5.

The lifeblood of the Elks is charity, so it is critical that each Lodge ensures it has the proper

forms available and procedures in place together with the people to handle charity reporting. Without it, we cannot maintain our tax-exempt status, and without that, we cannot continue to do the amazing work we do as Elks.

You can change a life with your charity, but you may find that the life changed is your own!

For official IRS rules and more details, see: <https://www.stayexempt.irs.gov/home/existing-organizations/maintaining-501-c3-tax-exempt-status>.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

Passion creates passion for volunteer projects by Hannah Graber:

Over the past few months, we've asked volunteers to share stories and advice about serving veterans in their community. We recently contacted Minnesota State Veterans Chair Thomas Kramin to ask how he and his state volunteers get so much done. His simple answer was "Passion creates passion."

"To get started, approach the Members with a project that you have a heartfelt passion for," Kramin said. "Make sure you have a fluid plan on how to accomplish the project. When you ask for help, you open the door for outside opinions on how to do it. Be open. You cannot do it alone. Find quality people to help with the project, lay out the fluid plan to them, and delegate tasks to them without micromanaging. Present a task that needs to be accomplished and let them do the rest."

As State Veteran Chair, Kramin helps oversee 20 volunteers at 13 voluntary service facilities and helps with dozens of local and state projects. Partnerships and working with the community are key to his success, so be sure to ask for assistance. Once these volunteers are involved, it's important to be flexible and understanding. (Continued on Page 8)

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

“Remember that everyone is a volunteer, working on a volunteer income,” Kramin said. “Life gets in the way sometimes and you must remember the volunteers have families and bills to take care of first. Gentle nudges for reminders work better than dropping the hammer on them for being late in the reporting.”

When pressed as to why he spends so much of his time volunteering, Kramin said “Helping veterans is more addictive than any drug available on the market. The sense of life accomplishment and self-worth you feel in your soul afterwards is so overpowering that you want to do more.”

Have you thanked your Lodge’s volunteers today? By Ronald L. Hicks, PGER:

When it comes to serving America’s veterans, the Elks have a long and cherished history of always being there to meet their ever-changing needs and to honor our pledge that, “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

Our pledge has proven successful because of the thousands of Elks volunteers---just like you---who continue to find significant ways to give back to our veterans and active military members through the programs established and funded by the Elks National Veterans Service Commission and the activities and events supported by all Elks Lodges.

Each of our volunteers is finding purpose making a difference and realizing the satisfaction that comes from working to help meet the needs of more than 636,000 veterans in 343 VA medical centers, veteran’s homes and hospitals, USO’s, and other care facilities. Our volunteers also work to assist military families and to help end homelessness for the nearly 40,000 homeless veterans through our “Welcome Home Project.”

With so many volunteers contributing their time, talents, and energy, as well as their hearts, to this

worthy cause, appreciation should be made an important part of the volunteer experience in every Lodge.

Please take the time to recognize and thank the volunteers who demonstrate the passion and commitment to provide outstanding service to our veterans and military members. These expressions of gratitude will help boost self-esteem and confidence in your volunteers and make them feel all the more valued by the Lodge. It is also a great way to build new relationships within your Lodge and encourage involvement from even more Members.

Appreciation can be expressed by an article in your Lodge newsletter, website, or through social media; delivering a simple heartfelt, handwritten note; or holding a special event for your volunteers. Your Lodge can even nominate that very special volunteer for the State and National Veterans of the Year Award, one of the most prestigious awards in all of Elkdom.

All Elks have a desire to help others, and another meaningful way to show your appreciation is by finding your own passion and volunteering to join the cause. Sometimes the first step is the hardest, but it is never too late to express your interest, reach out, and get started. Whatever your interest or talents, your involvement will be more than welcomed.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

Civil engineer reps Elks well:

Nearly a decade after he was named a 2010 Most Valuable Student scholarship recipient by the Elks National Foundation, Sean Pringle earned another award: 2019 Alum of the Year.

While earning both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering at Cal Poly, Pringle embraced the Elks and his fellow Elks scholars. He joined the Scholar Advisory Board and began building a bridge between Elks scholars and Lodges, leading to his next journey into Elkdom. (Continued on Page 9).

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

continued:

“After serving on the advisory board, going on service trips, and seeing all the projects the Elks were doing, it really inspired me,” Pringle said. He joined Oceano/Five Cities, CA Lodge No. 2504 soon after.

The Elks helped make Pringle’s dream of becoming a civil engineer come true; he’s currently a Journey Engineer at the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. In turn, Pringle is a vocal supporter of the Elks and the Order. He serves as the Scholarship Chair for his Lodge and District, and he also gives back to the ENF as a member of the Fidelity Club.

As of March 23, 2020

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Houma	\$1,686.00	\$ 12.04
2	N.O. West Bank	\$ 838.05	\$ 11.17
3	Slidell	\$1,673.32	\$ 8.16
4	Plaquemine	\$ 325.00	\$ 5.70
5	Opelousas	\$1,705.00	\$ 5.52
6	New Orleans	\$1,895.00	\$ 5.26
7	Shreveport	\$4,525.00	\$ 5.04
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00



The 84th Louisiana Elks State Convention has been postponed due to the corona virus. The new dates for the convention are ***June 12-14, 2020***

The Convention will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel Lafayette. The Wyndham Garden

is located at 1801 W. Pinhook Rd, Lafayette, LA 70508. Also, if you made your room reservations prior to March 18th you need to call the hotel and make sure they have cancelled that registration and then re-book the new registration.

The Wyndham will honor reservations for Louisiana Elks and guests until 3:00 P.M. June 1, 2020. Room rates are \$92.00 for single/double plus 13% tax per night. **Reservations can be made by calling the hotel, direct (337) 233-8120** Monday through Friday from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. If you have a problem registering call Ms. Elisabeth Francisco at (337) 769-94 25 Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P. M.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT:



Service of Alcohol to members and guests

The service of alcohol is a privilege the Lodge extends to Members and their guests, not a means of revenue for the Lodge.

* Cutting off a Member or guest is better than defending a lawsuit.

- Never serve anyone approaching intoxication.

(Continued on Page 10).

MESSAGE FROM THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT continued:

- Do not let others buy drinks for anyone who might be close to intoxication.
- No beer kegs, no pitchers and no coolers
- Remind Members/guests not to drink and drive.
- Be observant while serving alcohol.
- Encourage designated drivers.
- Never permit BYOB.
- Do not allow games/contests involving alcohol consumption.
- An outdoor tent/bar must have a server.
- Do not hold a “Happy Hour”.
- Never discount prices to promote liquor sales.
- “Last call” should be well before closing.
- Insist on a taxi or a ride for anyone who drank too much
- Members that have a problem need our help, now!

COMMITTEE NEWS:

AMERICANISM:

It is my pleasure to announce the 2019-2020

Division 1

1st Place John P Fontenot Opelousas Catholic
2nd Place Delvom Fontenot II Opelousas Catholic
3rd Place Bella Blancard Opelousas Catholic

All winners were from Opelousas Lodge #1048

Division 2

1st Place Nathan Hester Matas Elementary (New Orleans #30)
2nd Place Alexis Lafleur Opelousas Catholic (Opelousas Lodge #1048)
3rd Place Andrew Fay Opelousas Catholic (Opelousas Lodge #1048)

James Hester, Chairman

BUSINESS PRACTICE:

All of our lodges are working to get the new Financial Reporting System (FRS) working and the due date for set-up is March 31, 2020. Most of our lodges are either set up or close to getting fully set up. But we have some lodges still needing most of their data entered. Since we are ending FY 2020 and beginning FY 2021 on 4/1/20, we will all be entering the March 2020 monthly data after that date. There will be fines to lodges if FRS is not set up and working, so all of us need to get it working.

The annual cost for a lodge to use FRS is \$165 and the FY 2020 cost for all lodges was paid by the Grand Lodge. Each lodge should have received their FY 2021 assessment for this \$165 amount. FRS is meant to provide more timely and viewable financial reporting and is meant to save or reduce the cost of an accountant compiling year-end financial statements. Lodges will still need to prepare a Form 990 tax return and there are accounting considerations such as depreciation. So, you'll probably need to keep up the relationship with the accountant you used last year.

We also found the cost for each lodge to view their FRS balances is \$380 for a fiscal year. We can get by FY 2020 without paying this fee since we are not looking at FY 2020 month to month and I can provide you with reports of your balances as needed. But for FY 2021, we will need to see how frequently and how closely the FRS reports will be viewed, it might be worthwhile to have the viewing at each lodge, and we can discuss this at our DD Clinic in Opelousas on April 4.

And let's all remember to correctly record prepaid dues. Dues paid before 4/1/20 for FY 2021 dues are not credited to revenue but credited to a deferred revenue / prepaid dues liability. This liability and the cash collected is reported on the 3/31/20 balance sheet and after FY 2021 has started, each lodge will close that liability with a debit and record an offsetting credit to FY 2021 dues revenue. Let me know if you have questions, concerns, or problems. Thank you

Mastin Scott, Chairman

COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

DRUG AWARENESS:

A new Lodge year is upon us and the State Convention is fast approaching. 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:

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

To learn more about the variety of programs that are supported by the Drug Awareness Program, visit the National websites, they have information and are great resources.

WWW.ELKS.ORG/DAP,
WWW.elkskidszone.org or
<http://elksdrugquizshow.com>

Remember the DAP is not an annual event, but rather a continual opportunity to improve your community and your Lodge. If you can make a difference in the life of even one child in your community, we have succeeded.

Armand Buuck, Chairman

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

When it comes to serving America's Veterans, I'm proud to say NO ONE does it better than the LOUISIANA ELKS.

Elks across our state are always ready to meet the ever-changing needs of our veterans and to honor the Elks Pledge, "So long as there are Veterans the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks will Never Forget them".

I would like to express my utmost appreciation and offer everyone a heartfelt THANK YOU for volunteering your services to help our Louisiana Veterans and Active Military members.

Over 636,000 veterans in 343 VA medical centers, veteran's homes and hospitals are helped by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and I would like to give a SPECIAL THANK YOU to our seven VAVS Representatives and our eleven Deputy Representatives for their passion, hard work, long hours and commitment to our Louisiana Veterans whom are part of the 636,000 being helped.

Fraternally, Don Baye, Chairman

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:

Greetings,

First, I would like to congratulate all of the newly elected Exalted Ruler's and lodge officers for the 2020/2021 Elk year.

Exalted Ruler's as you select individuals to fill your committees, please try and choose an individual who will be passionate and committed to chair that committee, this will make your role as Exalted Ruler a lot easier.

(Continued on Page 12)

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS continued:

At the Mid-Season conference in New Orleans I reported that the Louisiana Elks had 100% of the lodges reporting on their charitable works, I would like to thank everyone from every lodge for all of their hard work.

By all of our lodges reporting on the charitable works we do, this helps us maintain our tax-exempt status. I'm hoping to see all of you at the State Convention June 12th.

Fraternally,
Don Baye, Chairman

LODGE ACTIVITIES:

The 2019-2020 Elks year has ended, and I hope all Elks and the Lodges had a prosperous and fun year. With all the activities that each lodge has conducted it is imperative that each lodge completed a volunteer Survey Report listing the number of participants, Elks and Non-Elks, Helpers, Hours Spent, Miles Traveled., Cash and Non-Cash Contribution. This is how each lodge get credit for ALL the good work that we do for our communities. These surveys and committee reports can be acquired through your lodge secretary.

With the new Elks year starting, I hope all the lodges, the new officers and the committee are in the process of developing their Lodge Activities for the year. The activities that can be had are endless. Lodge Activities encompass almost everything the Lodge does. This is what makes and helps your lodge be successful. Having these activities and committees offers good fellowship, community support and builds new membership involvement. The type of activities your lodge can conduct are endless, Quiz Night, Bingo, Murder mystery night, Fish Fry's, Crawfish Boils or fund raiser to support you favorite local or national charity. Karaoke has become a huge success at Lodge 30. Because of this success we have acquired many new members, and they have gotten involved and supported all the other activities that we have. There are also the mandatory activities that each lodge is required

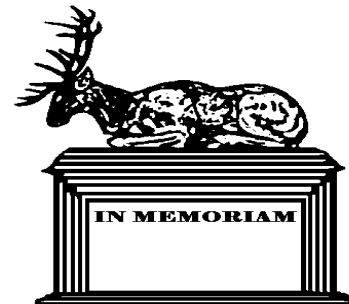
to have: Hoop Shoot, Flag Day, Mother's Day, Veterans Day, & Drug Awareness.

Last year a \$25.00 Gift Card was awarded to the lodge that participated and contributed their lodge activities book. It very rewarding to see the work and time that goes into these books along with all of the wonderful activities that the lodges had. With this being said, I will be looking forward to seeing all the lodge Activities Books at the Louisiana Elks State Convention, June 12-14, 2020. Have a fun filled year planning your activities.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

TODAY'S CHUCKLE:

Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning...
"Windows frozen; won't open"
Husband texts back, "Pour warm water over it and gently tap edges with hammer"
Five minutes later wife texts back, "Computer really messed up now."



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.

Jacob Bergren, Shreveport 122

Rob A. Roy, Shreveport 122

James H. Bertrand, Opelousas 1048

Harry Hebert, Plaquemine 1398

Wade Dufrene, Sr, Slidell 2321

David Todd, Slidell 2321

Louisiana Elks Association, Inc.

Convention Chairman – Richard F. Conran, SDGER/PG Tiler
11992 Comal Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70816-8622

Phone: 225-275-7118 - Cell: 225-938-9213

E-mail: rconran39@aol.com

Members,

On behalf of the Louisiana Elks Association, State President Armand Buuck, and New Orleans Lodge 30, I invite you, your lodge members and guests to attend the 84th Louisiana Elks State Convention in Lafayette, LA on June 12-14, 2020.

The Convention will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel Lafayette. The Wyndham Garden is located at 1801 W. Pinhook Rd, Lafayette, LA 70508.

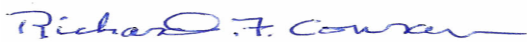
The Registration Fee is \$50.00 per Person. All registrations should be mailed to Richard Jones, Registration Chairman, 5018 Rosedown Lane, Bossier City, LA 71112-4590, no later than, June 7, 2020. **Friday night Social tickets are \$12 each and must be ordered and paid for with convention registration. Tickets are required.** There will be plenty of good food, refreshment and fun, and we are looking forward to seeing you there. Attached is a 2020 Convention Registration Form.

The Wyndham will honor reservations for Louisiana Elks and guests until 3:00 P.M. June 1, 2020. Room rates are \$92.00 for single/ double plus 13% tax per night. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel, direct (337) 233-8120 Monday through Friday from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. at (337)-408-2809. If you have a problem registering call Ms. Elizabeth Francisco at (337) 769-9425 Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M, TO 4:00 P.M.

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

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

Fraternally yours,



Richard Conran, SDGER/PG Tiler
Chairman 2020 LEA State Convention



Louisiana Elks Association, Inc.
84th Annual State Convention – June 12-14, 2020

Wyndam Garden Hotel , Lafayette LA

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

_____ Lodge Name and Number

_____ \$ _____

Member Name _____ Present Title _____

_____ \$ _____

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

_____ \$ _____

_____ Spouse/Guest Name

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

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

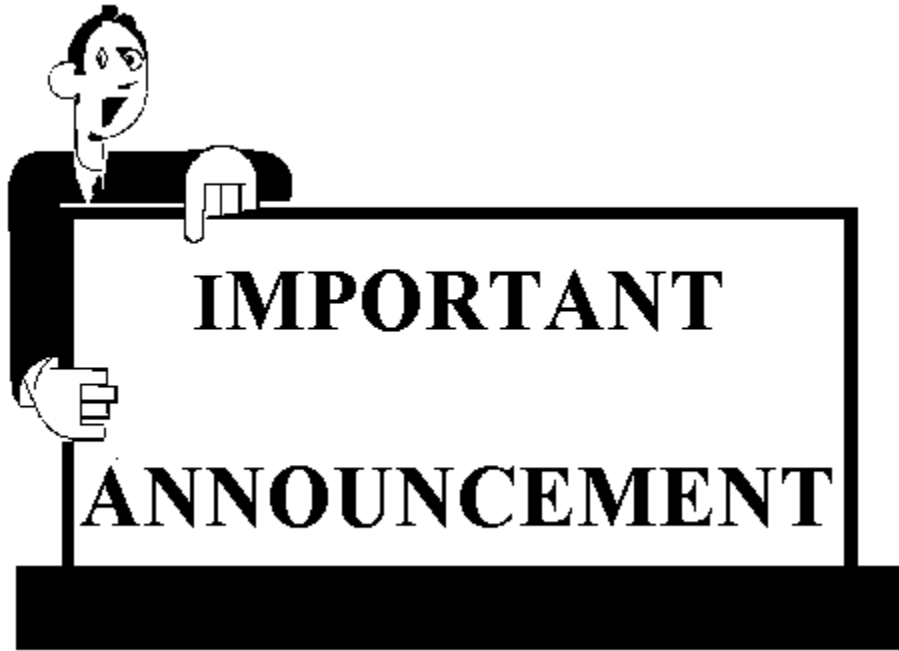
Paying by Cash Check # _____ Total Paid \$ _____

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

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



Mail pre-registrations with Friday Social ticket orders (if wanted) NOT LATER THAN
June 7, 2020 to
Richard M. Jones 5018 Rosedown Lane - Bossier City, LA 71112-4590



SAVE THE DATES:

LEA STATE CONVENTION---JUNE 12-14, 2020

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

DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC---AUGUST 15, 2020

MID-SEASON CONFERENCE---TO BE ANNOUNCED

DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINIC—MARCH 20, 2021

PLEASE POST ME ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD