

APRIL 2021

# **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*

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**Reporters:**

**Louisiana Elks Association**  
**Buddy Hartle**  
**Exalted Rulers and LEA Chairman**



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>2020/2021 LOUISIANA ELK'S ASSOCIATION OFFICERS</b>	<b>1.</b>
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND LODGE DIRECTORY</b>	<b>2.</b>
<b>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</b>	<b>3.</b>
<b>SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE</b>	<b>3-4.</b>
<b>LEA SECRETARY MESSAGE</b>	<b>4-5.</b>
<b>GRAND LODGE CORNER</b>	<b>5-7.</b>
<b>ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION</b>	<b>7-9.</b>
<b>ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION</b>	<b>9.</b>
<b>STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS</b>	<b>10-11.</b>
<b>DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE</b>	<b>11.</b>
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>MEMORIALS</b>	<b>13.</b>

## **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 15, 2021.**

**Please send them to:**

**[mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com](mailto:mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com) or [elksoflouisiana@hotmail.com](mailto:elksoflouisiana@hotmail.com)**

# OFFICERS 2020-2021:

## **PRESIDENT:**

Jim Cade (Lisa)  
PDD, Shreveport #122

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Rene Pelanne (Laurie)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **TREASURER**

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

## **TILER**

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

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Charlesray Neight (Cathy)  
PDD, Slidell #2321

## **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**  
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Houma #1193

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

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

**Elks National  
Veterans Service**  
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New Orleans #30

**Elks & Scouting**  
Sonya Belgard,  
New Orleans West Bank #2496

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

**Hoop Shoot**  
Ken Lafleur, PSP  
Opelousas #1048

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

**Major Projects**

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

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

**Public Relations**  
Don Baye, DDGER  
New Orleans #30

**Resolutions**  
Sam Echols, <sup>PGEsquire/PSP</sup>  
Shreveport #122

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

**Scholarship**  
Gail Millet  
New Orleans #30

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

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

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

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

## LODGE DIRECTORY

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Metairie, LA 70001-1628  
504-888-8152 [noelkslodge30@yahoo.com](mailto:noelkslodge30@yahoo.com)

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Shreveport, LA 71105-5303  
318-868-5301 [elkslodge122@gmail.com](mailto:elkslodge122@gmail.com)

Opelousas Lodge #1048, 207 N Union St  
Opelousas, LA 70570-1146, 337-942-2341  
[chickiealdrige@gmail.com](mailto:chickiealdrige@gmail.com)

Donaldsonville Lodge #1153, 115 Railroad Ave  
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[elksoulouisiana@hotmail.com](mailto:elksoulouisiana@hotmail.com)

## **STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

Greetings brothers and sister,

As the COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed I feel like it is time to begin the think about getting back to normal. Sounds like I am too early you say. Maybe, but I think it is time to assess where the shutdown put us and how it affected our Lodges and all of us personally. It hit home when we lost members of our Lodges and people we knew. It certainly effected Lodges monetarily if they were used to being open. But it has done my heart well to see the strength of Elkdom doing what we do during the fight to help with the food banks, schools, our vets, community outreach programs all over our state. Great stories will be told in our future of the COVID year. Let us tell these stories by the deeds we continue to do and the lives we affect, even our own.

Jim Cade, LEA President

## **SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:**

Members,

April starts a new chapter in our Lodges, and I hope it is much better that the year that just ended. As we have said good-bye to a year from hell, I hope that all of you thanked all of last year's officers for their leadership during this very unusually year.

Congratulations to all our newly elected Lodge Offices who have stepped up and accepted the challenge to lead our Lodges for the year of 2021-22. 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 your Committees Chairperson or Coordinators and if you have not then you must do so now. A good leader will not just appoint someone to chair a committee and then forget about them. He/she must be in constant touch with them to see that they are doing the job you assigned to them. Most of the time that means the ER will have to pitch in and help do the work and if not, then at the end of the year if the committee has done nothing then he/she cannot blame anyone except themselves. Please remember that a good leader leads by example and never asks anyone to do something that they would not do themselves.

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

The 2021 LEA Sate Convention dates and site of it is still being worked on. As of now I am looking at holding the convention either the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in June or the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July site is still unknown. Hopefully, I will have a date and site for it by the time you read this. All Lodges will be notified of the dates and site as soon as they are confirmed.

Mother's Day is May 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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

Rituals for Mother's Day and Flag Day can be found in the B. P. O. Elks Rituals of Special Service Manual (Code 511601) revised April 10, 2018.

(Continued on page 4)

## **SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE**

### **continued:**

The GL Session will be held in Tampa, starting July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and ending July 7th. Remember that all Lodges are required to send the Exalted Ruler to it. If ER cannot attend it, then a Past Exalted Ruler holding an office in the Lodge may be an alternate representative of the Lodge, see Statutes Annotated Section 12.120 Opinion (01).

As we all know membership is the lifeline of our Order and Lodges and we must continue to bring in new members so both will continue to prosper. For the last couple of years, the LEA has had a decrease in membership and now is the time to change that, so let us get the ball rolling and have an increase in membership this year.

Having said all of the above, it is now time for the members to pledge their support to the new Lodge Officers. Without the members support, the Officers will not be able to accomplish the goals they set to ensure that your 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 seeing and 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. Email [rconran39@aol.com](mailto:rconran39@aol.com) Cell (225) 938-9213.

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 2021-2022 Elk year. This year we will have three new Lodge Secretaries. They are Andy Austin (Shreveport 122), Ramona Rhodes Malbrough (Houma 1193) and Russel Madere (Plaquemine

1398). I look forward to working with you this year.

2020, what a horrific year it was. A year that we want to forget. The year brought many changes; stores closed, reduced hours, social distancing, mask wearing, **lodges closed** for weeks and major unemployment. I ask the question did the virus affect our membership? Looking at the annual membership report, I would have to answer the question yes, but on the flip side did we fail to do our job. On April 1, 2020, the membership for the Louisiana Elks was 2,075 members, but on April 1, 2021 we had 1,945 members, **a loss of 121 members.** Congratulations to New Orleans West Bank Lodge No. 2496 as the only Lodge in Louisiana with a plus (9) in membership.

I wish that was the only bad news that the report depicted. **Of the 1,945 members, we have 954 delinquent members.** WE HAVE A REAL PROBLEM. Exalted Rulers you need to have a meeting with your Lodge Secretary, Membership Chairman and Lapsation Chairman to formalize a plan on how to convert the delinquent members into active members of your Lodge and our Order.

Each year, we know that we are going to lose a few members, that is why we need to bring in new members on a regular basis. Membership is the lifeline of our organization. We cannot go years without initiating new members as one Lodge in this state has done. If we are to survive, we need to get the membership problem corrected NOW.



(Continued on page 5)

**4.**

## **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

### **continued:**

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)

As State Secretary for the Louisiana Elks Association, I am also required to file a Charity Report for the association. I am asking all State Committee Chairman to submit their reports to me by April 15. If anyone has any questions, please contact me.

Have a Super Elk Day!!  
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Buddy Hartle, State Secretary

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER**

### **How to thank heroes on the home front by Duane D. Heldenbrand:**

Valor. A word we commonly associate with the heroic acts of men and women on battlefields in distant lands. However, the term can also be applied to those heroes found closer to home.

These individuals may not be answering the call of service by marching into unknown enemy territory but responding to emergencies within their local communities. You can find them dashing from the back of ambulances, entering homes roaring with flames without a moment's hesitation, or calmly facing apparent danger many others would shirk away from.

As Elks, we have the privilege and opportunity to respect and honor those who have given all to ensure the wellbeing of this nation's citizens, and those who continue to do so on a daily basis. For

those unsung acts of service, your Lodge at the local level may award those individuals who persist in their efforts helping their communities with the Medal of service. Unfortunately, we are not always able to thank those who have performed their final act of heroism. Therefore, you can honor their ultimate sacrifice by presenting their deserving families with the Medal of Valor.

The medals mentioned can easily be obtained by placing an order through Grand Lodge Supplies by your Lodge Secretary, please use code #575100 for the Medal of Valor and code # 575200 to order the Medal of Service. Both medals are \$9.00 each, plus shipping and handling. Personalized certificates pertaining to both awards are also available for download at [elks.org](http://elks.org) to accompany these medals. Just click on the Members section followed by the Activities' Committee webpage to access these certificates.

Please give your Lodge the opportunity to thank those heroes within your own community who represent the truest meanings of service and valor with these humble recognitions.

### **15 Business skills that grow membership by Rick Gathen:**

Local Lodges that re strong in promoting membership know that a great Membership Committee is the key to attracting new Members. The committee emphasizes a business approach that improves the condition of your Lodge.

Like any service business, we must not only make the original sale, but also keep the customer sold.

Committee responsibilities include recruitment, orientation of new Members, public relations, and dues collection. Think in business terms— sales, customer relations, public relations, and credit collections.

(Continued on page 6)

**5.**

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

The three key individuals are the Exalted Ruler, Lodge Secretary, and Membership Committee Chairperson. The Exalted Ruler should provide continuous supervision, and the Lodge Secretary runs the “Collection Department.”

The Membership Chairperson needs committee members with various skills. Those skills include:

**Sales.** Work recruitment tables, work reinstatements, greet guests, and invite them to join.

**Public Relations/Marketing.** Promote membership on social media and the Lodge website. Make sure everyone inside and outside is aware of the positive impact the Lodge has contributed toward the community.

**Orientation:** Educate, involve, and inspire new Members to recruit and be active. Match their interests and time with a Lodge committee or activity.

**Collection Department.** Assist the Lodge Secretary with billing, collection letters, phone calls, e-mails, and visits to delinquents. Practice patience and persistence.

### **Set an effective agenda for Lodge**

**Membership Committee meetings.** Set goals to initiate 10% more Members. The goal: No more than 5% of the Members dropped for nonpayment of dues. Must meet regularly (I suggest weekly from April through June, then monthly).

**Publicize membership classes.** Discuss incentives and contests. Discuss reinstatement opportunities and strategies. Review stray Elks. Review delinquent and discuss collection strategies.

**Evaluate the Orientation program.** Review membership numbers and compare to goals.

**Initiation and reinstatement.** Members who initiate or reinstate three Members into the Order will receive the prestigious GER Award Pin. Members who initiate or reinstate 11 or more Members into the order will receive an attractive Elks watch.

**Recruiter incentive ideas.** Make posters thanking recruiters by name, or even showing a picture of them in action. Hand out “thank you” tickets each time a recruiter brings in a new Member. Each ticket offers the chance for a monthly drawing for something as simple as a \$25 gift card. List your recruiters in your Lodge newsletter or website and social media page. Create a “Recruiter of the Month” parking space at your Lodge. Create a special recognition program for great recruiters.

**Recruit in the community.** Show what we do and how to join. All community events should include a strong public relations and membership presence. Set up a table with handouts.

**Other precursors for gaining membership.** Earn a good reputation as a premier charitable organization in your community. Provide a family, and Member-friendly environment. Have a good understanding of the Order’s programs and ENF grant opportunities.

### **Invite prospects to become new Members.**

Develop a brochure for open house guests. Include contact information, state major projects, community projects, hours and dining menu, the Elks mission, and national programs including scholarship information and grants. Put a positive spin on everything. Be sure to have a sign-in sheet for guests’ names and contact information.

**Have fun.** Image matters. Portray your Lodge to be friendly, modern, and festive. Incorporate stories from those who have benefited from the Lodge’s charity. The open house is a sales event. Have presentations, stations, tables for display boards, videos, overheads, etc.

(Continued on page 7)

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

**Expectations.** Outline what we expect and what potential Members can expect from the Elks. Spell out the dues and responsibilities of membership.

**Ask the question.** Don't forget to ask them to join!

### **Useful apps help with issues including stress, vaping by William J. Bryan:**

Although Elks range in age from 21 to triple digits, many of us who are technically challenged haven't quite mastered the cell phone. Phones can be a nuisance---such as at family gatherings, where everyone is staring at their phones and not socializing---but also beneficial. Did you know that you can use your phone to stay healthy?

There are apps to help you start and keep up healthy habits, like exercising and eating a balanced diet. Other apps are intended to assist with avoiding or quitting unhealthy habits, like smoking or using other drugs.

Here's just a sample of the health-oriented apps and online programs out there. All of these are endorsed by the Elks Drug Awareness Program, and they are all free.

### **Reducing stress:**

Breath2Relax---The United States military designed this app, which offers breathing exercises that have been shown to reduce stress and help with managing anger and anxiety.

### **Stopping vaping:**

This is Quitting---The Truth Initiative's text messaging program helps young people (ages 13 to 24) quit vaping. The program is tailored based on age.

### **Addressing bullying:**

Know Bullying---This one, from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, has resources for parents and caregivers who want to help build their children's confidence and discuss effective strategies for facing bullying.

The next time you see someone staring at their cell phone, oblivious to their surroundings, maybe they're just seeking to reduce the stress in their life...let's hope so!

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

### **Welcome Home Kits offer a new beginning by Nadezh Mulholland:**

You probably heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Here at the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, we believe it takes a village to keep our veterans safe, housed, and cared for. One tangible way the Elks village cares for veterans in need is through the Welcome Home Kit program.

Welcome Home Kits are designed to help veterans transition to permanent homes after exiting homelessness. We reimburse Elks Lodges for purchasing kits of household supplies for local veterans. Kits contain a range of essential household supplies, including kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and cleaning items.

It is a joyous occasion when a veteran finds housing, but it is not the end of the story. Rather, it signifies a new beginning. Many veterans need help getting off to a strong start, and that is where the Elks come in. Veterans frequently enter permanent housing directly from shelters and may have no belongings other than the clothes on their backs. As we all know, a home is more than just four walls and a roof.

(Continued on page 8)

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

Through the Welcome Home Kit program, Elks help veterans around the country feel at home in their new residences.

Many volunteers find fulfillment in continuing to support veterans even after they are settled. Veterans often benefit from help with tasks like budgeting, planning meals, searching for jobs, and communicating with landlords. While these kinds of in-person connections are wonderful, you don't have to wait until after the pandemic to put together your first kit. In fact, kits are of special importance right now. Because many veterans are isolated in their homes, making their living space comfortable is crucial.

Lodges have found creative ways to serve veterans from a distance, including scheduling online order deliveries or arranging for veterans' case managers to pick up orders from the store to take to veterans.

Every veteran has their own story as to how they became homeless. Similarly, every veteran has unique hopes and dreams. A stable home provides security and can be the first step for veterans to achieve bright futures. Thanks to the dedication of Elks far and wide, the Welcome Home Kit program recently surpassed 5,000 total veterans served! With your help, the upcoming year can be our biggest yet. Together we can do great things.



### **Tips for a successful Freedom Grant project by Hannah Graber:**

It's almost time to apply for Freedom grants! Is your Lodge planning to apply on April 1? What kind of project would get your Members excited

to participate? How could your Lodge make the biggest impact on veterans' needs in your community?

The number of Freedom Grants is limited, so it's a good idea to prepare your project ideas to give your Lodge the best chance of receiving one.

We asked Lodge Grant Coordinators to share ideas about the successful grant projects they completed last year. Here is what they had to say.

While considering this year's grant project, Janice Klocke of Manasota, FL Lodge No. 2734 hopes to continue working with residents at Veterans Village, where her Lodge served a Thanksgiving meal and provided household supplies in November.

Three years ago, when the Manasota Lodge started working with Veterans Village, many Elks didn't know that this transitional housing service existed in their community. Now, they look forward to enjoying the holiday with some of the same families each time they return.

Homer, NY Lodge No. 2506 hosted Veterans Service Fair to help veterans connect with available resources and benefits. Matt Barnes reflected on the event, saying "Members were excited to see the results of the event and strengthen the bond between local veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families."

Fort Worth, TX Lodge No. 124 used its Freedom Grant to serve a meal and provide personal supplies for veterans at Patriot House, a transitional housing shelter. Stacy Lahue described her favorite part of the Lodge's project this way: "This project showed the veterans that someone out there didn't forget about them; that there were people that cared enough to spend the time and the effort to ensure they had a good holiday."

(Continued on page 9)

**8.**

**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continu**

As your Lodge plans ways to support veterans in need during the upcoming year, consider applying for a Freedom Grant! For information about guidelines and how to apply, visit [elks.org/vets/freedom.grants](http://elks.org/vets/freedom.grants).

**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:**

When R.A. and Margy Pickett were married, they dealt with plenty of paperwork needed to start their new life together. One item they were sure to mark off their list was a will.

Since then, the Picketts joined Santa Monica, CA Lodge No. 906 and began donating to the Elks National Foundation. Through he Picketts appreciate all of the Foundation’s work, two of the programs are particularly dear to their hearts: veterans service and scholarships.

The Picketts’ generous hearts led them to include the ENF’s John F. Malley Society, a recognition program for donors who have planned a gift to the ENF.

“We joined the Malley Society because we want to leave a legacy behind for future kids to enjoy a healthier America,” R.A. said. “We want veterans to remember that they are not forgotten.”

A will ensures that your personal wishes will be carried out after you are gone. Without one, the state will decide how your assets are distributed. The Picketts have encouraged many Members of their Lodge to support the ENF, both through regular donations and planned gifts. R.A. said that talking to fellow Members is the best way to ask.

“Find a program that is the most meaningful to you or to the person with whom you are chatting.” R.A. said. “Let them see the importance of continuing that program through the ENF with their help after they’ve gone to that Happy Elks Lodge in the sky.”

R.A. said he likes knowing there other Members who have planned gifts to secure the future of the ENF.

I’m so happy to know that there are more people leaving the Foundation something to help our nation’s heroes and children of tomorrow,” R.A. said.

Designated gifts to the Foundation make an immediate impact on the communities the ENF serves, and planned gifts help ensure the sustained future of these programs. When drafting your will, please consider including the Elks National Foundation.

“Remember the reason you joined the Elks,” R.A. said. “That should be sufficient enough reason to include the ENF in your estate plans.”

For additional information about ENF planned giving, please visit [ENFPlannedGiving.org](http://ENFPlannedGiving.org). To discuss planning a gift to the Elks National Foundation, contact Kate Keating Edsey at [KateE@elks.org](mailto:KateE@elks.org) or (773) 755-4866.

As of March 26, 2021

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Houma	\$ 997.63	\$ 7.44
2	Slidell	\$ 1,577.51	\$ 7.40
3	Plaquemine	\$ 350.50	\$ 7.15
4	N.O. West Bank	\$ 516.12	\$ 6.21
5	Shreveport	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 5.51
6	New Orleans	\$ 1,410.00	\$ 3.91
7	Opelousas	\$ 508.80	\$ 1.81
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00





## **LOUISIANA ELKS OF THE YEAR:**

Each year, the Exalted Rulers from the Louisiana Lodges are asked to nominate a member for the prestigious Steve G. Jenkinson, Elk of the Year award. The nominees are then presented to the Past State Presidents to vote on. For the first time in the history of this award there was a tie. I am happy to announce the names of the Co-Elk of the Year Award.

### **RANDY BERGERON**



Randy Bergeron has been a member of Slidell Lodge 2321 for thirty-nine years. As a member of the Lodge, he has served in all officer positions, except Secretary and Treasurer. He served as Exalted Ruler twice, in 1991 and 2013. Under his leadership in 1991, Slidell Lodge 2321 was named an All-American Lodge. Randy has also served on numerous committees over the years and was also a member of the Lodge ritual

team. Randy later became a certified Ritual Judge, officiating at Ritual contest in Louisiana and Mississippi.

On the state level, Randy served as President of the Louisiana Elks Association during the Elk Year 2016-2017. He has also chaired several state committees. He is presently the chairman of the Adopt-A-School program, a concept he introduced several years ago at the Mid-Season Conference in Houma, LA.

Randy served his country in the United States Army, reaching the rank of E-5 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. As a civilian Randy was a volunteer fireman for 15 years and an Emergency Medical Technician for 10 of the 15 years.

Randy has been married to his wife, Lynn for 56 years, and they raised two children and four foster children. They have fourteen grand and great grandchildren.

Randy contributions over the years reflects his selfless nature and dedication to the principles of Elkdom; he is a true example of the values that this important award represents.

### **ANGELO MANCUSO**

Angelo Mancuso has been an Elk for over 50 years. He is a member of Plaquemine Lodge 1398. Angelo has served as an officer of the lodge and has been Exalted Ruler multiple times.

Angelo served as President of the Louisiana Elks Association during the Elk Year of 2002-2003. He has also chaired several state committees.

Angelo has gone above and beyond the duty as a dedicated Elk member and is deserving of this prestige award.

### **CONGRATULATIONS RANDY AND ANGELO**

**10.**

## **STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **continued:**

#### **STATE CONVENTION:**

As you know the Louisiana Elks State Convention was originally scheduled for April 23-25, 2021. The convention was canceled due to problems with the hotel caused by the Covid Virus.

Richard Conran, Convention Chairman has worked diligently to find another venue. He is presently working with the Sheraton Galleria in Metairie, LA to host the convention June 11-13, 2021. Once the arrangements are finalized, he will notify the membership.

#### **DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE:**

Greetings,

Let me start by saying how much of an honor it is to be serving as your District Deputy for a second term, myself and my team are looking forward to visiting all of your lodges again.

The following information is vital to each lodge in complying with Grand Lodge Statute 13.040, using the Financial Reporting System (FRS), and closing out the financial data for the 2020-2021 Lodge year.

1. The Lodge should have its preliminary March 2021 FRS data submitted by the third Friday in April.
2. Final Lodge year 2020 – 2021 FRS data to be submitted by the third Friday in May.
3. Lodges must file their Form 990, 990-T and State returns by August 1<sup>st</sup>. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS AND FINES WILL BE IMPOSED FOR LATE FILING.** Extensions of time requested or filed with the Internal Revenue Service **WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED BY Grand Lodge.**
4. At our 2021 – 2022 District Deputy Lodge visits we will be checking the Lodge records during the audit portion specifically looking for the following:

- A. Did the Lodge properly enter the adjusting journal entries prepared by the Lodge's tax return preparer and were the journal entries entered into the correct year?
- B. Did the Lodge update the FRS for the time periods impacted by the accountant's adjustments from item (A) above?
- C. Has the Lodge Auditing & Accounting committee met as required by Grand Lodge Statutes and did they file the required reports with the Lodge?
- D. Did the Lodge submit a budget to the FRS that includes depreciation for all fixed assets and amortization when required.

If you have any questions related to the above information or other questions pertaining to the FRS Program, please contact Mastin Scott, Don Baye, or the Area member of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting committee.

Let me remind all Lodges that communications sent via any "SOCIAL MEDIA" platform should not be posted for public access. All Lodge social media communications should be accessible to **MEMBERS ONLY.**

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, I'm here to help anyway I can.

Don L. Baye DDGER

#### **UPCOMING DISTRICT DEPUTY CLINICS:**

**AUGUST 21, 2021**  
**MARCH 19, 2022**

## **COMMITTEE NEWS:**

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

I just want to thank all the Lodges that have participated in this year's Adopt-A-School Program. Despite the difficult situation with Covid, we had a tremendous response with 7 of the 8 Lodges responding thus far, and the other still working on completion. That will give us 100% Lodge participation in this worthy cause!

I know our contributions are much needed and greatly appreciated by the teachers and students, especially with all the other obstacles this year. I hope this program will continue in years to come, to show our community what the Elks are all about.

Randy Bergeron, Chairman

### **AMERICANISM:**

I am pleased to announce the 2020-2021 Americanism Essay Contest winners. This year's topic was "How can Patriotism be Demonstrated."

As a result of the COVID outbreak many of our usual trips to schools and other programs we do were affected. This is more than likely the reason only 1 lodge participated in the program this year and only one division was represented.

Winners are as follows along with their award amount.

Division 1  
1st Place Alice Meche Opelousas Catholic \$175 Best Buy Gift Card  
2nd Place Rhyn Sylvester Opelousas Catholic \$75 Best Buy Gift Card  
3rd Place Marlee Zeringue Opelousas Catholic \$50 Best Buy Gift Card

James Hester, Chairman

## **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:**

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all the newly elected officers for the 2021/2022 Elk year.

As your new year begins and you start your charitable and community service activities please make sure that you submit your report to the Lodge Secretary. The Lodge Secretary will record your information into the charity workbook, until that report becomes available in CLMS.

Proper fiscal management its essential for a successful Lodge. Financial stability and solvency form the foundation for any Lodge. The solvency is predicated upon the proper budgeting and accounting procedure of the Lodge.

Each Lodge enjoys local autonomy to managing its financial affairs, limited only by the laws of the Order. Remember, the Lodge enjoys the privilege of its existence only because it is chartered as an integral part of the order by the Grand Lodge as the parent organization. Every officer and member are obligated to obey the statutes, rules, and regulations of the Order.

Fraternally,  
Don Baye, Chairman

## **LODGE ACTIVITIES:**

The 2021-2022 Elks year has just begun. With the easing of some of the COVID-19 restrictions throughout the state, I hope that all of the lodges are in the process of planning their Lodge Activities for the year. The COVID -19 pandemic in 2020 made it difficult for our lodges to promote the many programs and activities that our organization has to offer. However, moving forward the activities that lodge can have are endless. Lodge Activities can encompass almost anything your Lodge does. (Continued on page 13)

## **LODGE ACTIVITIES continued:**

These activities are what makes and helps your lodge be successful. They are also a great way to recruit new members and show off to our communities what Elkdom is all about. They offer good fellowship, community support, as well as building new membership involvement. Again, the type of activities that your lodge can conduct are endless. Quiz Nights, Kentucky Derby Parties, Bingos, Tailgate Parties, Murder Mystery Nights, Fish Fry's, Football Pools, Karaoke, and Crawfish Boils are just to name a few. It is important to remember that when your lodge is having a social activity that this is a particularly good way of recruiting new candidates for membership. It is equally important to offer newer members ways to keep involved in your lodges. Happy and active newer members recruit more new members.

I hope that all our lodges can have a prosperous and successful year. Please do not forget that there are also the mandatory activities that each lodge is required to have during the year: Hoop Shoot, Flag Day, Mother's Day, Veterans Day, & Drug Awareness. Finally, take pictures, report your hours and Have Fun!

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

## **VETERANS SERVICE:**

In this issue of the L.E.A. newsletter, I would like to pay tribute to a Louisiana Elk hero, Brother Edmund (Ed) Tylenda. Ed was a Past Exalted Ruler, Past District Deputy and Past State President. But most importantly Ed was the VAVS Representative for the Jackson Louisiana Veterans Home.

Ed was the longest serving VAVS Representative for the Louisiana Elks Association. He served as a state Chairman and VAVS Representative for over thirty years. Unfortunately, Ed passed away this February.

Several Weeks before Ed passed away, he stepped down as the VAVS Representative to the Jackson Home. When I informed Mary Morgan, Director of the Elks National Veterans Service

Commission, she sent Ed a genuinely nice letter thanking Ed for all his years of service.

I recently had a conversation with the Director of Activities for the Jackson Home, she expressed her deepest sympathy and stated that she had no idea how we were going to be able to get anyone to replace Ed and do what he did for the veterans.

I would like to take this opportunity to say we appreciated and are grateful to have had someone of Ed's caliber representing the Louisiana Elks as our VAVS Representative.

(WE SHALL MEET, BUT WE SHALL MISS HIM, THERE WILL BE THE VACANT CHAIR, BUT THOUGH WE NO MORE POSSESS HIM, STILL OUR HEARTS HIS MEMORY BEAR.)

Fraternally,  
Don L. Baye, Chairman



### *To Our Absent Members:*

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

*Betty Thompson, New Orleans 30*  
*Jules (Jay) Yambra, New Orleans 30*  
*Keith M. Whipple, Houma 1193*  
*Edmund (Ed) Tylenda, PSP, Plaquemine 1398*  
*Lawrence Hanrahan, Slidell 2321*