

APRIL 2022

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 July bulletin are due by June 10, 2022.

Please send them to:

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

OFFICERS 2021-2022:

PRESIDENT:

Charlesray Neight (Cathy)
PDD, Slidell #2321

VICE-PRESIDENT

Don Baye (Karen)
PDD, New Orleans #30

TREASURER

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

TILER

Wayne Landry (Bella)
PDD, Slidell #2321

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Rene Pelanne (Laurie)
PDD, New Orleans #30

SECRETARY

Buddy Hartle (Judy)
PDD, New Orleans #30

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Kenneth Lafleur (Pat)
PSP, Opelousas #1048

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Greg Hanrahan (Judy)
Slidell #2321

CHAPLAIN

Randy Bergeron (Lynn)
PSP, Slidell #2321

LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES:

1-YEAR:

Wayne Landry (Bella)
PDD, Slidell #2321

3-YEAR:

Beulah Rodrigue
PSP, Houma #1193

2-YEAR

Henry Daigle (Toni)
PSP, Plaquemine #1398

4-YEAR

Armand Buuck (Debbie)
PSP, New Orleans #30

5-YEAR:

Jim Cade (Lisa)
PSP, Shreveport #122



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, PSP
New Orleans #30

Elks National Foundation
Brian Baye, PER
New Orleans #30

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

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

Government Relations
Don Baye, DDGER
New Orleans #30

Hoop Shoot
Greg Hanrahan
Slidell #2321

Lodge Activities
Betsy Ibos, PER
New Orleans #30

Major Projects
Adopt-A-School
Randy Bergeron, PSP
Slidell, #2321

Membership
Wayne Landry, PDD
Slidell #2321

New Lodge Development
Armand Buuck PSP
New Orleans #30

Public Relations
Don Baye, DDGER
New Orleans #30

Resolutions
Randy Bergeron, PSP
Slidell #2321

Ritualistic
Herb Hostler, PSP
Slidell #2321

Scholarship
Charlesray Neight, SP
Slidell #2321

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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STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Hello Louisiana Elks,

It's hard to believe this year is coming to an end. I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the Louisiana Elks for allowing me to serve as your President this past year. We've had our challenges this year with Covid restrictions and Storm damage, illness, loss of family and friends and fellow Elks, but together we made it through and hopefully we'll come back stronger. Despite the odds, we were able to add new Elks to our Lodge memberships, and implement many of our programs, contributing to our local communities. Our Veterans and our Youth were not forgotten as we carried on and found a way to make a difference. I want to thank all my officers and committee chairpersons for all of your help and commitment. Without you, I could not have succeeded.

It was a fun-filled year as Cathy & I traveled to Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas State conventions earlier in the year and the National Convention in Tampa in July. We attended the State Hoop Shoot in Opelousas to cheer on those talented kids, and Thanks to Lodge 30, I was able to ride in the Elks New Orleans Mardi Gras parade with Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills. We made new friends and lasting memories. I'd like to congratulate Rene Pelanne as he takes the reign this new year and wish him and Laurie a

very productive, fun year ahead. Thank you all for a wonderful ELK year!

Charlesray Neight-LEA President

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Members,

April starts a new chapter in our Lodges, and we no longer have the COVID Virus restriction that we have had for the last year and half and can now plan on running our Lodges as we did before the COVID Virus.

We have said good-bye to our 2021-22 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 2022-23. 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.

ERs, if you have not appointed your Committee Chairpersons or Coordinators already, 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. (Continued Page 4)

3.

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE

continued:

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 LEA State Convention will be held at the Double Tree in Lafayette, LA., on May 20, 21, and 22, 2022. The registration fee is \$60.00 per person. Enclosed in this newsletter is a 2022 LEA State Convention registration form for you to use when registering for the State Convention.

Mother's Day is May 8th, 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. 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 August 2005.

Memorial Day is May 30th a day that represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. We should also remember to honor our men and women who are serving in the armed forces now and those who served to ensure that we continue to have the many freedoms we continue to enjoy.

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.

The GL Session will be held in Atlanta, GA, starting July 3rd and ending July 6th. 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.

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.

Having said all 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.

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 2022-2023 Elk year. This year we will have three new Lodge Secretaries. They are Debbie Krepak (Shreveport 122), Francis Garrard (Opelousas 1048) and Russell Gerace (Plaquemine 1398). I look forward to working with you this year.

As I write my article for this publication, there are approximately 11 days left in this Elk year, and our state is on the verge of having an increase in membership for the first time in several years. We presently have 2,041 members with 44 members being delinquent. Thus, we should end the year with 1,997 members and increase of 44 members. WELL, DONE LOUISIANA ELKS.



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

continued:

On April 1, the Grand Secretary will file the Lodges Membership report automatically. Once the report is filed, you will receive a notice of the Grand Lodge per capita due, which amounts to \$24.00 per member. On or about May 1, you will receive an invoice for the state per capita from Richard Jones, the LEA Treasurer. The state per capita is \$8.50 per member. Please pay both of these invoices in a timely manner.

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.

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 Chairmen to submit their reports to me by April 15. If anyone has any questions, please contact me.

If you haven't done so, please circle the dates of May 20-22, 2022, on your calendar. These are the dates for our annual state convention in Lafayette, LA. It is no secret that we need to increase our attendance for this convention. I am asking the Lodge Officers to make this their number one priority to help us increase the attendance. Please talk to the new members of your Lodge and invite them to attend this convention. This would be an excellent opportunity for the newer members to learn what we do and to meet the great Elks from our state. You will find a registration form later in this newsletter. Feel free to make additional copies of this form.

Have a Super Elk Day!!
Sincerely and Fraternally,

Buddy Hartle, State Secretary

DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE:

The Elk year is winding down, and so is my term as District Deputy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to serve as your District Deputy for the last two years.

It was a pleasure to visit every lodge and to meet with my old friends and all the new friends I made last year.

The purpose of my second term was to ensure that all Louisiana lodges were able to upload their financial information onto the new Financial Reporting System, and I'm proud to announce that was accomplished at the end of this February. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and effort they put forward accomplishing this monumental task.

A special thanks goes out to Chris Hymel who worked with several of the lodges to help get their lodges onto the FRS System.

Now let me give Special recognition to my District Deputy Auditor and Esquire to the District Deputy. Brian L. Baye served as my Esquire both years. The Auditor for my first year was Darren LaBarthe, and James Hester the second year. The secretary to the District Deputy both years was Donell Baye. Without these individuals I would not have been able to have two successful years that we had.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's state convention to be held this coming May. Until then please continue promoting ELKDOM throughout our communities and please stay safe and well.

Respectfully and Fraternally

Don L. Baye, D.D.G.E.R.

GRAND LODGE CORNER

Momentum builds for membership gain as year closes by Rick Gathen:

The last two years have been a serious test of the Order's resilience—but based on the results so far in the 2021-2022 Lodge year, we have more successful than we could have hoped.

Throughout the fraternal year, we respond, recovered, and renewed, and we have generated some remarkable momentum toward a gain in membership. We are in the final stretch of the year: the final numbers for the 2021-2022 Lodge year will be recorded on May 31. We are projecting 85,000 members will be added to the rolls this fraternal year, combined with lower-than average cancelations. Our new Grand Lodge Billing System has also made it easier than ever for people to pay their dues. If this all pans out, we will be in a strong position for a gain in membership.

Part of this success is owed to the membership tools available at elks.org and join.elks.org, which provide helpful, positive messages for reaching out to new Members and retaining the Members we have. However, growth in

Numbers doesn't come from any one special marketing trick. Instead, it reflects the way Elks have made their Lodges attractive places for people to join.

We can achieve growth by continuing to be loud and proud about Elksdom, by ensuring our Lodges are inviting to all visitors, and most importantly, by continuing to be the Best People On Earth.

Medals honor heroic first responders by Duane D. Heldenbrand:

We all see and hear about it every day. Wildfires out west, flooding in the east. Hurricanes, building collapses, and, as I write this article, destructive tornadoes in the heartland. Although the tragedies listed happened at different times and places, they do have something in common.

Law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, and any other person working as a first responder answered the calls for help.

These men and women place themselves in harm's way for our communities every day. For this reason, our Order has the Medal of Valor and Medal of Service Program. This allows us, as Elks, to honor and thank those who work to keep our homes and communities safe.

Your local Lodge can help meet the challenge in your area by participating in this program. The Medal of Service can be awarded to any deserving person working to maintain public safety. Sadly, not all who protect us with their service get to go home when the workday is finished. They've lost their lives while performing their duties. For this sacrifice, your Members can give thanks to the families of these fallen heroes with the Medal of Valor.

The medals can be ordered from the Grand Lodge Supplies department by your Lodge Secretary. The order code #575100 will get you the Medal of Valor and #575200 is the code for the Medal of Service. Cost is \$9.00 per medal plus shipping and handling, and you may order as many of each as your Lodge feels appropriate. The medals come encased in a clear top plastic display and have space on the back for personalization engraving.

I urge your Lodge to take up this program if you aren't currently participating. It is very simple to do and has a high impact return for the public face of the Lodge and the membership.

For more information, please go to the Activities tab of the elks.org website and always know your Area Grand Lodge Activities committee members is only a phone call or email away to assist.

Grand Lodge corner continued page 7

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

DAP issues simple challenge for Exalted Rulers by William J. Bryan:

Recently, the directors of the Elks Drug Awareness Program cold called 100 Exalted Rulers from across the country. Each director contacted 25 Exalted Rulers, none of whom were from the director's state. After a brief greeting and discussion, we explained the reason we called. We asked the Exalted Rulers, "Do you know who your Lodge's Drug Awareness Chairman is?"

We were pleased that 37% of the Exalted Rulers knew the name off the top of their heads. A few responses we got were:

**"I guess I am"*

**"She just quit, so I'm looking for a replacement."*

**"We don't have a Drug Awareness Program in our Lodge."*

**"The D.A.R.E. officer at our school is."*

However, that means 63% did not know. Exalted Rulers are winding their year down in the next few months, but drug and substance abuse never winds down! If we learned one thing during this COVID pandemic, it's that drug abuse increased. Now is not the time to let our foot off the gas.

Thus, the directors of the DAP are issuing Exalted Rulers the following challenge: "Do you know who your Lodge DAP Chairman is, and do you know their contact information?" If you do, take a few minutes and e-mail us your Lodge DAP Chairman's name and contact information (i.e., e-mail address, mailing address, and home/cell telephone numbers.)

The directors are in the process of creating an expanded contact list (that will remain private, secure, and only within the DAP).

Are you ready to take up the challenge? If so, please e-mail the information to:

winkbryan@comcast.net. You will be placed in a drawing for a nice gift.

Thank you for your service to the Elks and your commitment to the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

Chairperson report due via CLMS2Web by Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary.

The Lodge Secretary must complete the 2022-2023 Lodge Committee Chairperson Report in CLMS2Web and confirm acceptance before April 15, 2022.

The worksheet was mailed to all Lodge Secretaries in January to assist in compiling the needed information.

Remember: The information is to be filed via CLMS2Web. Please, do not mail to Grand Lodge or your District Deputy.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

New program virtually links volunteers with veterans by Hannah Graber:

Each year in February, VA hospitals celebrate National Salute to Veterans week with special events to pay tribute and express appreciation to veterans. It is also a time when citizens are encouraged to become involved as volunteers and visit veterans in hospitals.

But with Covid restrictions, opportunities to get involved at hospitals have been limited. Elks volunteers have struggled with the inability to serve veterans in the same ways they usually do with meals and interactive events. Staff members for the Center for Development and Civil Engagement (formerly VA Voluntary Service) recognized that veterans have become even more isolated and decided to create a new program to address that problem. (Continued page 8)

7.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

Compassionate Contact Corps is a program that connects volunteers with veterans and facilitates socially distanced conversations on a regular basis. Clinicians give a “social prescription” to veterans who may benefit from those phone or video conversations. Volunteers are trained and carefully screened to be matched with veterans who share interests and experiences.

CDCE partnered with VA Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Caregiver Support, Whole Health, and others to create the training that volunteers must complete to participate in this program. Training topics include confidentiality, privacy, customer service, empathy, and boundaries. Volunteers do not provide clinical, spiritual, or financial advice to veterans or their caregivers.

Veterans who have participated in Compassionate Contact Corps so far have responded positively about their experiences. Over 80% of the veterans surveyed by VA said the regular visits helped them to feel less lonely, and 77% said the experience increased their overall well-being. Volunteers also said they loved having this opportunity to connect with veterans.

Compassionate Contact Corps has already been initiated in several places across the country, and VA is gradually expanding to include more locations. Veterans who would like to be matched with a volunteer can ask a clinician or advocate for a referral to get started. Volunteers who want to get involved should contact their local VA to find out when training is available.

If your area doesn't have training scheduled for Compassionate Contact Corps yet, let VA staff know that you are interested in helping bring this program to your community. In the meantime, consider other ways to serve veterans at a distance in February. Lodges could sponsor a Super Bowl party, collaborate with a classroom or Scouting troop to create Valentine's Day cards

for veterans, or initiate an Adopt-a-Veteran program in your Lodge.

Don't let our treasured veterans suffer chronic hunger by John Amen, PGER:

As you know, the Elks support of our veterans goes back over one hundred years, even preceding the formation of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission 75 years ago. While we have achieved great success in helping those who have served, we still have much more to accomplish before we can rest on our laurels.

One area that receives little publicity is chronic hunger among our veterans. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) defines food insecurity as a lack of access to sufficient food to support and sustain a healthy lifestyle. A study completed in 2021 by another federal agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, found that from 2015 through 2019 more than 11% of all “working age” veterans—that is vets between the ages of 18 and 64—live in food insecure households. It is clear that food security is critical for the well-being of our veterans.

Our government has stated that food insecurity is a problem that impacts 1 in 8 people in our country. Furthermore, one-fourth of active-duty military and reserve members have had to rely on food bank donations to help feed their families. A recent survey by the Blue Star Families organization identified that 14% of active-duty household respondents reported facing difficulty putting adequate food on the table during the previous year.

What can we as Elks do? We can implement programs that many Lodges are already doing in their communities. Here are a few suggestions as to how our Elks Members can help.

****Support your local food pantry to help veterans get access to healthy food.**

(ELNVS continued page 9)

8.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

**Initiate or expand your local food basket program to be especially diligent in including community veterans this year.

**Volunteer at VA food pantries. Be sure to wear Elks apparel when you do.

**Donate food and proceeds of your fundraisers to veterans housing facilities and shelters.

These are only a few of the many things we do to support our long-standing tradition of living up to our motto: *“So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”*

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

As of March 14, 2022

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Slidell	\$2,438.59	\$ 12.01
2	Houma	\$ 852.13	\$ 7.89
3	Shreveport	\$6,046.00	\$ 7.18
4	Plaquemine	\$ 310.00	\$ 6.73
5	N.O. West Bank	\$ 460.00	\$ 5.00
6	New Orleans	\$ 950.00	\$ 2.64
7	Opelousas	\$ 310.00	\$ 1.33
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

**GRAND EXALTED RULER
T. KEITH MILLS**

**ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOAL THIS
YEAR FOR THE
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

WILL BE \$4.80 PER MEMBER



The big event is coming! The 86th Annual State Convention of the Louisiana Elks Association on May 20-22, 2022, at the Doubletree Hotel, located at 1521 W. Pinhook Road, Lafayette, LA. Don't delay, make your reservations TODAY.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

AMERICANISM:

It is my pleasure to announce the winners of the Louisiana State Americanism Essay Contest.

- Division 1
- 1st Place Marlee Zeringue Opelousas Catholic
- 2nd Place Caroline Courville Opelousas Catholic
- 3rd Place Carter Thompson Opelousas Catholic

(Continued page 10)

AMERICANISM continued:

Division 2

1st Place Brady (Bailey) Melancon Opelousas Catholic

2nd Place Ella Borne Opelousas Catholic

3rd Place Audrina Rider Opelousas Catholic

The First-Place winners will advance to the National phase of the contest.

James Hester, Chairman

DRUG AWARENESS:

Our partners at the DEA have asked us to share this message with all our members as part of their “One Pill Can Kill” campaign.

Here are some facts:

- Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public.
- Counterfeit pills are widely available and easy to purchase. They often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine and can be deadly.
- Fake prescription pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them available to anyone with a smartphone, including minors.
- Many counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription opioids such as oxycodone (Oxytocin, Percocet), Hydrocodone (Vicodin), and Alprazolam (Xanax); r stimulants like amphetamines (Adderall).

“When we know the facts, we become educated. When we become educated, we are able to make informed decisions” said the National Director Kent Gade.

He went on to state: “that is why our partnership with the DEA is so important. Because they are

on top of the issue, we can pass it on to our membership faster than anyone.

“I encourage each and every Elk Member to visit the following websites: www.justthinktwice.com (for teens); www.elksteenzone.com (for teens); www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com (for parents, caregivers and teachers); www.campusdrugprevention.gov (for teachers and college campus advisors); and join the already two thousand plus individuals who have subscribed to the new Elks Drug Awareness YouTube Channel.”

Lodge chairs (or any concerned member) should visit www.dea.gov/onepill for your own tool kit.

Members are encouraged to visit all of the Elks Drug Awareness Programs websites so that you may educate yourself on the works of the Drug Awareness Program. If you are interested in becoming an Elks Drug Awareness Ambassador, contact your Lodge chair and or your state chair for additional information.

Armand Buuck, Chairman

LODGE ACTIVITIES:

The 2022-2023 Elks year has just begun, and I would like to congratulate all the new Exalted Rulers and officers and hope that they have a fantastic year.

It is great to see that we are moving forward after the Covid pandemic. We are coming off having a fabulous Mardi Gras season. If you couldn't make the Lodge #30 Grands dinner you missed an awesome time. We had a wonderful dinner with Keith Mills, Grand Exalted Rule, and his wife Amy. He gave a fabulous speech that all enjoyed. St. Patrick's Day came along with the luck of the Irish, more parades, and enough corn beef and cabbage to keep us happy till next year. Just a reminder this too is a great activity to introduce new members into your Lodge.

(Continued Page 11)

LODGE ACTIVITIES continued:

Moving forward, all lodges should have received their Grand Lodge Program Guide for the 2022-2023 year. This guide is a great reference to all the many programs and activities that we can have. Activities are what makes and helps your lodge be successful. They are also a great way to recruit new members and to show your communities what Elkdom is all about. They offer good fellowship, community support, as well as building new membership involvement. 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, Crawfish Boils are just to name a few. These functions are fun ways to recruit new members. It is equally important to offer our newer members ways to get involved in your lodge's activities. If they ask to help with a committee project or fund raiser, let them get involved. Happy and active newer members recruit more new members.

I hope that all our lodges can have a prosperous and successful year. Hopefully your lodge has been able to do an activities book to show case the hard work that your lodge had done and accomplished. I will be looking forward to seeing the activities books at the Louisiana State Convention May 20th, in Lafayette.

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 lots of pictures, keep track of your hours, report them and Have Fun!

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP:

Of the many scholarship applications submitted across the state, we had 34 applicants to judge at the State level. I'd like to thank the lodge chairpersons for judging your scholarships. By manually judging the applications, the applicants have a better chance of advancing. We will be

awarding 14 scholarships at the state level, 7 male and 7 female.

Of those, one boy and one girl were selected to advance to the National level. I am excited and proud to announce that BOTH were selected to the top 20 finalists on the National Level. Congratulations to Kaden Oqueli-White from Slidell and Anita Zahiri from New Orleans who will each receive a \$20,000 ENF Scholarship and a chance for a possible \$30,000, \$40,000 or \$50,000. These students have shown exceptional academic and social skills to achieve this honor. It is such an honor to have them represent Louisiana in such a prestigious position.

Charlesray Neight-Chairman

VETERANS:

Now that Covid restrictions are slowly being lifted it is time for us toas Elks to get back involved with our veterans. The VA hospitals and homes in dire need of volunteers to become involved, by visiting veterans in these facilities. It's time for Elks and None Elks (FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS) to step up an become involved as volunteers to work with and support our veterans.

Elk volunteers have struggled with the inability to serve veterans in the same ways they usually do with meals and interactive events. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement recognized that veterans have become even more isolated and decided to create a new program to address that problem



(Continued Page 12)

VETERANS continued:

Compassionate Contact Corps is a program that connects volunteers with veterans and facilitates socially distanced conversations on a regular basis.

Volunteers who want to get involved should contact their local VA to find out when training is available.

Another area that needs to be addressed is chronic hunger among our veterans. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs defines food insecurity as a lack of access to sufficient food to support and sustain a healthy lifestyle.

Our government has stated that food insecurity is a problem that impacts 1 in 8 people in our country. Furthermore, one-fourth of active-duty military and reserve members have had to rely on food bank donations to help feed their families.

What can we do as Elks to help with this situation?

Support your local food pantry to help veterans get access to healthy food, Initiate or expand your local food basket program to be especially diligent in including community veterans this year, volunteer at VA food pantries, be sure to wear your ELKS apparel, donate food and proceeds from your fundraisers to veterans housing facilities and shelters.

Remember our Veterans fight and protect our country, so let us stand up and fight to help feed the ones protect us and who has protected us in the past our VETERANS.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Don L. Baye, Chairman



LODGE NEWS:

What is your Lodge doing? Please tell us about upcoming events that your Lodge has planned. This space is devoted to Lodge news.

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 20-22, 2022—86th State Convention of the Louisiana Elks Association.

July 3-6, 2022—Elks National Convention, Atlanta, GA.

August 13, 2022—District Deputy Clinic

January 20-21, 2023--Tentative date for Mid-Season

March 18, 2023—District Deputy Clinic



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.

Jerry C. Ducote Sr, New Orleans 30

Rene F. Landry, New Orleans 30

James T. Caillouet, Opelousas 1048

Wm Clifford Smith, Houma 1193



Louisiana Elks Association, Inc.

86th Annual State Convention – May 20 – 22, 2022

Double Tree, 1521 W. Pinhook Road, Lafayette, LA

Lodge Name and Number _____

Member Name _____ Present Title _____ \$ _____

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

Spouse/Guest Name (Indicate if Spouse/Guest is a Member) _____ \$ _____

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 shall complete this form. Include spouses and/or 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 \$60/member, \$60 spouse/guest.** Registration fees include the Saturday evening banquet and the Saturday First Lady's Brunch. ***The Saturday 1st Lady's Brunch is only for spouses and guests who are not Elks.*** The Saturday 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 May 7, 2022 to Richard M. Jones, 5018 Rosedown Ln, Bossier City, LA 71112-4590**