

APRIL 2023

# **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**

<b>2022/2023 LOUISIANA ELKS 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.</b>
<b>LEA SECRETARY MESSAGE</b>	<b>3-4.</b>
<b>DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE</b>	<b>4.</b>
<b>GRAND LODGE CORNER</b>	<b>4-6.</b>
<b>ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION</b>	<b>6-8.</b>
<b>ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION</b>	<b>8.</b>
<b>STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS</b>	<b>8.</b>
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<b>9-11</b>
<b>LODGE NEWS</b>	<b>11-12.</b>
<b>MEMORIALS</b>	<b>12.</b>
<b>CONVENTION LETTER</b>	<b>13.</b>
<b>CONVENTION REGISTRATION</b>	<b>14.</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 10, 2023.**

**Please send them to:**

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

# OFFICERS 2022-2023:

## **PRESIDENT:**

Rene Pelanne (Laurie)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Wayne Landry (Bella)  
PDD, Slidell #2321

## **TREASURER**

Andy Austin (Rebecca)  
Shreveport #122

## **TILER**

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

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Don Baye (Karen)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **SECRETARY**

Buddy Hartle (Judy)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Kenneth Lafleur (Pat)  
PSP, Opelousas #1048

## **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Sharrieff Armstead (Connie)  
New Orleans #30

## **CHAPLAIN**

Lyman Ryan  
New Orleans #30

## **LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES:**

### **1-YEAR:**

Henry Daigle (Toni)  
PSP, Plaquemine #1398

### **3-YEAR:**

Armand Buuck (Debbie)  
PSP, New Orleans #30

### **2-YEAR**

Beulah Rodrigue  
PSP, Houma #1193

### **4-YEAR**

Jim Cade (Lisa)  
PSP, Shreveport #122

### **5-YEAR:**

Charlesray Neight (Cathy)  
PSP, Slidell #2321



# COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

## **Accident Prevention Safet, Insurance & Risk Management**

William Boudreaux, PSP  
New Orleans #30

## **Advisory Chairman**

Bernie Mathais, PSP  
Shreveport #122

## **Adopt-A-School**

Randy Bergeron, PSP  
Shreveport #122

## **Americanism**

James Hester, PSP  
New Orleans #30

## **Business Practices**

Chris Hymel  
New Orleans #30

## **CLMS**

Buddy Hartle, PDD  
New Orleans #30

## **Disaster Relief**

Puddy Gondrella, PER  
N.O. Westbank #2496

## **Drug Awareness**

Armand Buuck, PSP  
New Orleans #30

## **Elks National Foundation**

Brian Baye, PER  
New Orleans #30

## **Elks National Veterans Service**

Don Baye, PDD  
New Orleans #30

## **Elks & Scouting**

Sonya Belgard  
N.O. Westbank #2496

## **Food Bank**

Richard Conran, SDGER  
Plaquemine #1398

## **Government Relations**

Puddy Gondrella, PER  
N.O. Westbank #2496

## **Hoop Shoot**

Greg Hanrahan  
Slidell #2321

## **Lodge Activities**

Betsy Ibos, PER  
New Orleans #30

## **Membership**

Wayne Landry, PDD  
Slidell #2321

## **Newsletter**

Buddy Hartle, PDD  
New Orleans #30

## **New Lodge Development**

Armand Buuck, PSP  
New Orleans #30

## **Public Relations**

Tom Cressionne  
New Orleans #30

## **Resolutions**

Armand Buuck, PSP  
New Orleans #30

## **Ritualistic**

Randy Bergeron, PSP  
Slidell #2321

## **Scholarship**

Charlesray Neight, PSP  
Slidell #2321

## **State Convention**

Buddy Hartle, PDD  
New Orleans #30

## **Elks Training**

Richard Conran, SDGER  
Plaquemine #1398

## **Webmaster**

Richard Conran, 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](mailto:noelkslodge30@yahoo.com)

Shreveport Lodge #122, 310 E. Preston,  
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  
[elks1048@gmail.com](mailto:elks1048@gmail.com)

Donaldsonville Lodge #1153, 115 Railroad Ave  
Donaldsonville, LA 70346-0545, 225-715-7389  
[info@elksdonaldsonville.org](mailto:info@elksdonaldsonville.org)

Houma Lodge #1193, 7883 Main St, Houma,  
LA. 70364-0348, 985-232-4248,  
[houmaelks@gmail.com](mailto:houmaelks@gmail.com)

Plaquemine Lodge #1398, 23420 Railroad Ave  
Plaquemine, LA 70764, 225-921-5525  
[hdaigle23060@loutlook.com](mailto:hdaigle23060@loutlook.com)

Slidell Lodge #2321, 34212 Elks Road,  
Slidell, LA. 70460, 985-641-1266  
[bpoe2321@aol.com](mailto:bpoe2321@aol.com)

New Orleans West Bank #2496, 900 Monroe  
St., Gretna, LA 70053, 504-367-8793  
[elks2496nowb@gmail.com](mailto:elks2496nowb@gmail.com)

Louisiana Elks Association  
P.O. Box 409  
Hahnville, LA 70057-0409  
[elksoulouisiana@hotmail.com](mailto:elksoulouisiana@hotmail.com)

## **STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**



Hello all,

As my year is coming to an end, it's been exciting for me. We as a state have made our membership plus 1 but we need to continue to work on our delinquent members so we can stay a plus one. I am still in the process of completing my visits before my term is over. I again would like to thank all of you for having the confidence in me and electing me as your state president.

I will be taking over the Adopt a School Program and I thank Randy Bergeron for starting this fine endeavor. I look forward to seeing you all at the state convention in a June! Until then be safe and careful.

Rene J Pelanne Jr.  
LEA State President

## **SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:**

Congratulations to all elected and appointed Lodge Officers for the year of 2023/2024. At your installation, you made a commitment to guide your lodge for the coming year and your dedication to the principles of our order will lay a foundation for a successful year. It is up to all officers, committee persons and members to maintain the strength and vigor of your lodge and to enhance the programs of our order, as well as state programs and other special programs that your lodge may have. At the same time, concentrate on serving the community of

which your lodge is a vital part. You cannot accomplish these goals that you have set without working as a team. Do so and your lodge will flourish.

The Grand Secretary will automaticity upload the Lodges annual report at 1201am April 1, 2023. So, Lodge Secretaries, you must make sure your Lodge's Membership Report is updated prior to March 31, 2023. Grand Secretary will accept no hard copies of the reports sent by mail.

The Lodge BOD/Trustees shall present a segregated budget for Lodge year 2023-24 no later than the final regular meeting of the Lodge in April 2023, making appropriations for each of the several objects for which the Lodge must or may provide out of monies known to be in possession of the Lodge or estimated to come into it during the ensuing Lodge year. A budget either in its original or modified form must be adopted at that meeting or no later than the first regular meeting May 1, 2023.

I thank everyone who has worked so hard this year to see to it that his or her Lodge had a successful year. In doing that, you helped to implement the Elks motto "Elks Care – Elks Share".

Fraternally,

  
Richard Conran, S.D.G.E.R. ~La

## **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 2023-2024 Elk year. I look forward to working with you this year.

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 \$29.00 per member. (Continued on Page 4)

**3.**

## **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

### **continued:**

On or about May 1, you will receive an invoice for the state per capita from Andy Austin, the LEA Treasurer. The state per capita is \$13.50 per member. Please pay both 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 Chairman 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 June 16-18, 2023, 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. Please remember that a late fee will be imposed for registrations received after June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Have a Super Elk Day!!  
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Buddy Hartle, State Secretary

## **DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE:**

Puddy Gondrella, District Deputy-Designate has announced her schedule for Lodge visits and her District Deputy clinics.

New Orleans Lodge 30.....September 8, 2023  
Houma Lodge 1193.....September 13, 2023  
Slidell Lodge 2321.....September 19, 2023  
Plaquemine Lodge 1398.....October 4, 2023  
Opelousas Lodge 1048.....October 17, 2023  
N.O. Westbank Lodge 2496..November 6, 2023  
Shreveport Lodge 122.....November 9, 2023  
Donaldsonville Lodge 1153..November 15, 2023

The clinics will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2023 and Saturday March 16, 2024.

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER**

### **Basic preparations now for annual financial reporting by William J Chinn, Jr:**

Lodges should begin preparations for closing out the Lodge year financial reporting.

Appendix K of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Manual contains a comprehensive list of steps that should be completed each year.

These are a few steps that can be accomplished prior to the March 31 year end date. These include:

- Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee should review the requirements of Section 13.040 of the Grand Lodge Statutes for the Lodge's annual reporting.
- Review prior year financial evaluation and ensure required changes have been implemented.
- Ensure the Lodge's agreement with its Form 990 preparer is signed by both parties.
- Confirm that the preparer will complete all services prior to the Form 990 due date to Grand Lodge by August 1.

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

- Prepare for the final physical inventory of Lodge supplies, club, food service and any other inventoriable items.
- Review the most recent Financial Reporting System (FRS) reports received from the District Deputy and verify agreement with the Lodge records. This includes making sure all prior years have been properly reconciled.

As a reminder, all annual reporting is now completed by submitting data into the FRS and uploading the required reports (Comparative Balance Sheet from the Lodge's accounting software and Form 990) using the link of [elks.org](http://elks.org). Paper copies of any reports are no longer accepted and should not be mailed to the Area Committee Member.

To assist Lodges in the preparation of the required financial data, the Committee has approved two Excel based aids. There is now an Excel Macro along with instructions that will simplify the formatting of the monthly csv file submission. In addition, there is now an Excel file that can be used to close out the Restricted Funds at year end. Both the Macro and the Restricted Fund Closing file can found on [elks.org](http://elks.org) under the Lodge Accounting/Financial Reporting/Training area or using this link:

<https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/auditing/documents.cfm>

All Lodges should review the FRS reports provided by the District Deputy every month to ensure the data in the FRS reconciles to the Lodge's accounting records. If there are discrepancies, now is the time to investigate and resolve these issues. This will assist in allowing for the prompt issuance of the annual Financial Evaluation by the Area Committee Member.

Your Area Member of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee and your State FRS Coordinator stand ready to provide assistance to any Lodge.

## **Chairperson report due via CLMS2Web by Bryan R. Klatt.**

After the election of Lodge Officers this February and before April 15, the Secretary must complete the 2023-2024 Lodge Committee Chairperson Report in CLMS2Web and confirm acceptance.

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

## **Have you visited DAP's You Tube channel? By William J. Bryan.**

If you have not visited the Elks Drug Awareness You Tube channel, you're really missing out on some great information.

The DAP and our partners at DEA have produced high-quality podcasts, featuring the second season of **Awkward Conversations**. Hosted by Jodie Sweetin, (best known for her role as Stephanie Tanner in the ABC series Full House and the Netflix sequel series Fuller House) these 20-minute podcasts cover a variety of topics that range from "Helping Kids De-Stress" to "Building Family Relationships." In addition, you can watch the original **Awkward Conversations**, a three-part series released in 2021. And while you're there, please consider subscribing. The DAP You Tube channel can be found at:

[Youtube.com/@elksdap/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@elksdap/videos).

Did you also know we're on TikTok? Because that's where the kids are at. Find us at [tiktok.com/@elksdap](https://www.tiktok.com/@elksdap).

Want to be involved in the Drug Awareness Program but don't have the time to commit 24/7? Think about becoming a DAP Ambassador. If you need more information about the innovative way of giving back to your community, contact your State Chairman. This program allows for volunteers to become involved, but not overly so. (Continued on Page 6)



## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

Exalted Rulers, as your year winds down, remember that drug and substance use and abuse by our youth does not wind down unless they are informed and made aware of their dangers. A wonderful resource available to you is the 2022 edition of DEA's Drugs of Abuse, currently available in digital form here:

[dea.gov/documents/2022/2022-12/2022-12-02/drugs-abuse-2022](https://dea.gov/documents/2022/2022-12/2022-12-02/drugs-abuse-2022).

Used as the flagship outreach publication by the DEA for decades, Drugs of Abuse is updated biennially with the latest statistics, trends, and information. Please share this publication with adults in your community outreach efforts. The 2020 edition is now out of date and should no longer be distributed. It is available in both English and Spanish. If you would like a hard copy of this informative publication, please feel free to contact the DEA's outreach office at [community.outreach@dea.gov](mailto:community.outreach@dea.gov) for a free copy.

### **Safely discard old meds, e-cigs on Drug Take Back Day by William J. Bryan:**

The DEA will be continuing its efforts to properly dispose of prescription drugs by holding the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at various locations throughout the nation.

To find a location in your area, go to this website:

[apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1](https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1).

You may also dispose of electronic smoking devices at the locations, but they do have some rules to follow:

*DEA will also collect vape pens or other e-cigarette devices from individual consumers only after the batteries are removed from the devices. It is important to stress that the DEA is not responsible for removing the batteries from the devices.*

*If the battery cannot be removed, individual consumers can check with large electronic chain stores who may accept the vape pen or e-cigarette devices for proper disposal.*

*Individual consumers may also contact their local hazardous materials management facility to determine if they accept these devices, and for guidance regarding proper disposal.*

ERs should encourage their Members to participate in this successful attempt to properly dispose of medications. It's better for the environment and makes your community safer.

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

### **Finding veterans in need is a few calls or clicks away by Mary K. Morgan:**

"Our Lodge wants to help, but we can't find any veterans in need." Sound familiar? Our office fields this question from time to time, particularly in areas without a VA facility nearby. Here's how to get started.

First, the VA operates thousands of facilities, and not all are hospitals. They run housing facilities for formerly homeless veterans, offsite clinics, benefits offices, and Vets Centers. Many of these facilities, especially Vets Centers, are located away from traditional VA campuses. Contact the staff at these facilities and ask how the Elks can help.

Additionally, the VA has dozens of outreach programs in each facility, from adaptive sports programs to skills-based classes to financial counseling and more. Keep an open mind, and research where the needs are, even if it means leaving your comfort zone and changing what your Lodge has done in the past.

(Continued on Page 7)



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

Then, search online for veterans' organizations in your area. There are more than 45,000 veterans' nonprofits registered in the United States. There may be some just around the corner that you don't know about.

You can also search for city, county, regional, or state veterans offices and let them know the Elks are there to serve veterans in need. Check for veterans meeting and gatherings on community calendars and ask if you can stop by to discuss the Elks' support for veterans.

Many large nonprofits, like the Salvation Army, Volunteers of America, and even the YMCA, have programs specifically for veterans, military members, and their families. Reach out to these groups and see how your Lodge can work together with them.

Don't forget about more traditional outreach organizations, like Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS, to name just a few.

Be aware that younger veterans are less likely to be a part of traditional veterans groups and may be harder to connect with. Groups like the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. The Mission Continues, and Team Rubicon rally younger veterans to meet in their communities for service activities and social gatherings. Check their websites to find the local contact in your area. You can also reach out to student veterans near you. If there is a community college or university in your area, they may have a student veterans group or staff member responsible for veterans outreach.

Finally, work with what you have. Because of privacy laws, many organizations may not be able to share names. They can, however, share needs or ideas. And once your Lodge has built up some trust, they may be more willing to connect you with veterans directly.

Visit the Volunteer Resource Center at [elks.org/vets](http://elks.org/vets) for more information.

### **Army of Hope eases life's stresses for military members by Stewart G. Israel:**

In February 2003, the Elks announced the Army of Hope program to assist military members, including active-duty military personnel, deployed units, military reservists, the Coast Guard, the National Guard, and their families.

The Army of Hope allows the military member to safely concentrate on his or her duties without worrying about the family at home.

It has many facets and can be easily adapted to the needs of local families. Lodges partner with local and state organizations, VFW's, churches, and scout groups to adopt unites and families to help them through these trying times.

The first step, like with many projects, is to gather some volunteers. After you have established your Army of Hope volunteers, contact local groups like Reserve and National Guard units, Blue Star Family groups, and other groups for military members. Ask what their biggest struggles are, and offer examples of things your Lodge can do to help. Military families may contact the Lodge or volunteers directly, depending on how you set up the program.

Examples of aid assistance include:

- School lunches
- Medical and dental emergencies not covered by insurance.
- Minor home repairs (plumbing, electrical, painting, etc.)
- Auto repairs or transportation when needed.
- Full-time or back-up babysitting.
- Lawn mowing, snow shoveling, landscaping, sprinkler repairs.
- Clothing and shoes.
- Dinners at the Lodge.
- Children's books and school supplies.

**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS  
SERVICE COMMISSION continued:**

These may seem like small things, but for struggling families, their impact could be much larger. And you may even gain some future Members.

**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:**

As of March 18, 2023

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Slidell	\$ 1,737.73	\$ 8.23
2	N.O. West Bank	\$ 585.00	\$ 6.35
3	Houma	\$ 659.00	\$ 6.27
4	Plaquemine	\$ 280.00	\$ 6.08
5	Opelousas	\$ 1,306.00	\$ 5.67
6	New Orleans	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 3.94
7	Shreveport	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.52
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

**GRAND EXALTED RULER  
BRUCE A. HIDLEY**

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

**WILL BE \$4.80 PER MEMBER**



**5-STAR AWARD:**

Congratulations to Richard Conran, the Web-Master for the Louisiana Elks Association on winning a 5-star award for webpage.

**87<sup>th</sup> LEA STATE CONVENTION:**

The LEA Convention will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana June 16-18, 2023. The registration fee is \$60.00 per person through June 1<sup>st</sup>. A late registration fee of \$15.00 per person applies after June 1, 2023. All registration forms should be mailed to Andy Austin, Registration Chairman, 2006 Bermuda St, Shreveport, LA 71105-3802, no later than June 1, 2023.

The Double Tree has established a room block for the Louisiana Elks that will be available until **June 1, 2023**, with a discounted room rate. The rate for a double is \$139.00 and a king is \$159.00 per night plus 12.45% tax per night.

**Reservations must be made by calling 1-800-222-8733. Tell the reservation clerk you are with the Louisiana Elks Association and the group code is ELK. You can also make your hotel registration by using the hotel link under state convention on the LEA webpage.**

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

An informational letter and registration form can be found on pages 13 and 14 of this newsletter.

## **COMMITTEE NEWS:**

### **DRUG AWARENESS**

A new Lodge year is upon us and 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:

- Elks Kidszone.org
- Poster Contest March 1, 2024
- Essay Contest March 1st
- Video Contest March 1, 2024
- Drug Quiz Show
- Red Ribbon Week (October 23 – 31)
- Enrique Camarena Award Dec. 1, 2024
- Elks Speaking Tour
- Prescription Drug Take back day (April 22, 2023)
- Literature (Free within program limits)

To learn more about the variety of programs that are supported by the Drug Awareness Program, visit either the STATE or National websites, both have good information and are great resources. [www.Laelks.org](http://www.Laelks.org), and [www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org).

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

## **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:**

Now that we are starting another year of Elksdom, I would like to remind everyone of one of the most important committees that each lodge has and that's your Government Relations Committee. Each lodge's Government Relations chairperson has the responsibility of informing all of the other committee chairpersons of their Lodge the importance of completing a report on the hours, miles, and dollars spent on every event they hold. The reason for this is for us to be able to track all the charitable work we perform and to let others know exactly what Elks do.

It is also the responsibility of the lodge's Government Relations chairperson to contact the elected officials in their area to let them know about all of the wonderful charitable work we as Elks do. It is far more effective if your elected officials know about the Elks and the charitable work we do before we request their support for legislation.

It's strongly recommended that your lodge invites their elected officials to lodge events such as youth banquets, award presentations, Flag Day ceremonies, holiday food basket distributions, and events honoring active military and veterans.

All Lodges perform amazing amounts of charity for our youth, our special-needs children, our soldiers, our veterans, and those less fortunate. These are the things we are most proud of, the reason we all became Elks. So it's simple, make sure these non-Members public officials know about all of the great work we do. In other words, **BRAG ABOUT OUR CHARITY!**

Now I would like to thank each and every one of the Louisiana Elks for allowing me to serve as their Government Relations State Chairman for the last eight years. It was an honor and pleasure to serve you in this capacity, but it's time to move on. (Continued on Page 10)

## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

It's my pleasure to announce that Past Exalted Ruler, and our New District Deputy Designate Charleste Gondrella (better known as PUDDY) will be replacing me as your New State Chairperson for Government Relations. Please join me in Congratulating Puddy on her new positions both as D.D.D. and G.R. Chairperson, I know Puddy will do an excellent job with both.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Don L. Baye, Chairman

## **LODGE ACTIVITIES:**

Greetings.

The 2022 2023 Elks year has flown by and now we are about to start a new year. I would like to congratulate and thank all of the new officers that have been elected and All of those that have been asked to be a lodge committee chairman or on a committee. Whether it is a ongoing activities committee or a new committee, all are vital to the success of your lodge.

We have been seeing some great results with recruiting new members, and getting them involved with organization. The Elks organization has a lot to offer and to give back to your community. With that being said, please remember to apply for all the grants the Elks National Foundation has to offer. These funds can be used to help offset the cost of the many programs that you lodge has. Such as helping out the local food pantry, supporting and contributing to a local school. Having a resource fair for high school kids aging out of the foster care system, and then there is the many Veterans programs that need assistance. The money is there!

All lodges will be receiving there new Grand Lodge Program Guide. This guide is a great reference to the many programs and activities that the Elks have to offer. Please be sure the reference it for your needs along with elks.org.

I will be looking forward to seeing you all at the state convention in Lafayette, June 16th-18th and seeing your Activities Book with all of your wonderful accomplishments you have had over the past year, and worked hard for.

Stay safe and be sure to have fun planning your next activity.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

## **VETERANS:**

We have some great news to start out with, Starting April 1 st every State Veterans Home will receive at least \$150 a month, and every VA Medical Center will receive at least \$175 a month. These two types of facilities comprise 73% of the facilities in the Voluntary Service Program. (VAMCs and State Veterans Homes that already receive this amount or higher will not receive any increases this year.)

ENVSC received a record number of Boost Grant applications this year! LEA had four of our VAVS representatives apply for the Boost Grant this year. They are being evaluating now and as soon as I receive the results, I will let everyone know.

Now for ALL lodges to Apply for, Freedom Grants will be opened April 1st . Your lodge will have two options when applying for a Freedom Grant. Lodges can apply for a \$3,000 grant to hold an active project that directly serves veterans in need, or Lodges can apply for a \$1,000 grant to hold a smaller project with more flexibility. There will be 200 Freedom Grants available for the Classic option, and 400 available for the spark option. (Continued on Page 11)



## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

Freedom Grants applications will become available online April 1, 2023, at 12:01 AM Central Time. Applications will close on April 20th at 11:59 PM Central Time. Recipients will be announced in mid-May. Applications must be detailed, complete and follow all grant guidelines. Freedom Grants are available for use between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, Final Report Forms are due one month after your Freedom Grant projects are completed. Your Lodge Secretary or Grant Coordinator is able to process, complete and submit the online application.

As always to help our veterans, Freedom Grant projects must focus on one of these five areas:

1. Employment
2. Homelessness and housing
3. Military families
4. Health
5. Educational support

If you have any questions about the Freedom Grants as your Lodge is planning a project and preparing to apply, please contact the ENVSC office at Vets@elks.org or at 773-755-4736 with any questions.

Thanks again for your continuous support and dedication to serving our Nations Veterans.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Don L. Baye, Chairman

## **LODGE NEWS:**

### **HOUMA LODGE 1193:**

#### **Lodge Repair Update**

On March 8, 2023, the Houma, Lodge #1193 was thrilled to meet in our lodge again for the first time since Hurricane Ida took off its roof causing water damage to all of the upstairs and the back of the building downstairs in August 2021. It has been a long slow process. It took

forever to find roofers and finally in the summer of 2022, the roof stopped taking in water. Shortly after that the entire building was gutted and remediated for the water damage. Several of the memorial plaques that hung in our meeting room were broken due to water damage making them more brittle. We are still awaiting the monument company's repairs to those. In December of 2022, we finally found a contractor willing to do the work, but upon closer inspection of our building realized that the building needed to be leveled. None of the major shoring companies returned our calls, so we found a local guy who was able to shore up our building just before Mardi Gras. Thanks to a visiting Elk from Indiana, we put our bathrooms back together enough to host a great Houma Mardi Gras Extravaganza. And now the work continues on repairs to the building as we still look for a contractor to finish the work.

The Houma Elks Lodge #1193 would like to thank Louisiana Elks Association for their generous donation of \$5,000.00 for Hurricane Ida Relief. This money went a long way to cover the repair expenses that were not covered by the insurance and is very much appreciated. We are also grateful to the Texas Elks Association for their generous donation to our lodge and to the North Little Rock Lodge #1004 who not only raised money for our Hurricane relief fund but came down to Houma two years in a row to help us raise money while having a great time for Mardi Gras.

#### **One Special ENF Grants**

Houma Lodge #1193 received an essay submission for the Americanism Essay Contest from 5th grader Kameron Zachary of Covenant Christian Academy where he would like to see an end to child hunger in America. It warmed our hearts to see this young man's dream similar to our own mission for helping our community, so we would like to take action on Kameron's dream by offering much-needed support to the Good Samaritan Food Bank of Thibodaux located in Kamron's hometown of Thibodaux, LA, and to Mom's Pantry also located in Thibodaux, LA servicing the community of Nicholls State University. (Continued on Page 12)

## **LODGE NEWS continued:**

### **HOUMA LODGE 1193:**

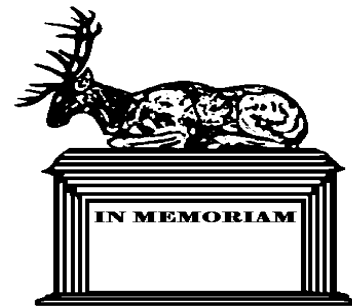
The mission of Mom's Pantry at Nicholls State University is to implement a program that addresses the high rates of food insecurity on university campuses and within the community. The Mom's Pantry is providing direct relief of food and supplies to students and families who are having a difficult time making ends meet. We will also partner with Kameron's school Covenant Christian Academy to volunteer at these two food banks. The Houma Elks received this grant giving \$4000 to the Good Samaritan Food Bank and \$2500 to Mom's Pantry. Kameron Zachary and his teacher were on hand before our meeting on February 8, 2023, to assist the Exalted Ruler, Brenda Leroux Babin in presenting the check to Chamon Williams of Catholic Charities.



### **Mardi Gras Extravaganza:**

Even in the midst of making lodge repairs, we were able to host Mardi Gras at the lodge. This year, we were visited by Elks from Arkansas, Texas, Indiana, Florida, and Rhode Island. The Arkansas Lodge graciously donated \$511.00 to our lodge for Hurricane Ida relief. Because the Arkansas Lodge planned last year to again come this year, the Houma Lodge provided them with special activities Mardi Gras weekend like entertainment on Friday night, a special Sunday brunch, and a party bus on Mardi Gras Day morning to ride and enjoy what the actual float riders do the day they ride. If you remember

Mid-Season in 2019, think mid-season times 10. The Elks that participated said they had a blast and want to do it again next year. We are already planning for the Houma Krewe of Jolly Corks Mardi Gras Extravaganza and all Elks are welcome to join us. Next year our RV lots should be in full swing again and we will provide transportation to and from the RV lots and the hotel to the Lodge for the parades.



### ***To Our Absent Members:***

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

*Michael Fonseca, New Orleans 30*  
*Jerry T. Baxter, Shreveport 122*  
*Christopher G. Sumner., Shreveport 122*  
*Howard J Thibodeaux, Opelousas 1048*



A Fraternal Organization

**Louisiana Elks Association**  
*Buddy Hartle, Convention Chairman*  
105 General Taylor Drive, Hahnville, LA 70057  
Phone: (504)615-7921

January 1, 2023

Members,

On behalf of the Louisiana Elks Association, State President Rene Pelanne, Jr., and New Orleans Lodge #30, I invite you and your Lodge Members and guests to attend the 87<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Elks State Convention in Lafayette, LA on June 16-18, 2023.

The convention will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, located at 1521 West Pinhook Road, Lafayette, LA. The registration fee is \$60.00 per person through June 1<sup>st</sup>. A late registration fee of \$15.00 per person applies after June 1, 2023. All registration forms should be mailed to Andy Austin, Registration Chairman, 2006 Bermuda St, Shreveport, LA 71105-3802, no later than June 1, 2023.

The Double Tree has established a room block for the Louisiana Elks that will be available until **June 1, 2023**, with a discounted room rate. The rate for a double is \$139.00 and a king is \$159.00 per night plus 12.45% tax per night. **Reservations must be made by calling 1-800-222-8733. Tell the reservation clerk you are with the Louisiana Elks Association and the group code is ELK.** Please keep in mind that check-in time is 3 PM. If you arrive early your room may not be ready.

Opelousas Lodge #1048 will hold a Friday Night Social. The cost for this event is \$15.00 per person and the tickets must be ordered and paid for on the convention registration form. There will be plenty of good food, refreshments, and camaraderie. We hope to see you there.

Please advise your members of the upcoming convention, perhaps include a notice in your Lodge bulletin, and make and distribute copies of the enclosed registration form to those interested in attending.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (h) 985-308-0004 or (c) 504-615-7921 or via e-mail [mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com](mailto:mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com).

Have a Super Elk Day!!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Buddy Hartle, PDD  
State Secretary, and 2023 Convention Chairman





A Fraternal Organization

**Louisiana Elks Association**  
Buddy Hartle, Convention Chairman  
105 General Taylor Drive, Hahnville, LA 70057  
Phone: (504)615-7921

**87<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention – June 16-18, 2023**  
**INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM**

This form may be used either for pre-registration or for registration at the desk on convention dates.

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 spaces provided.

**Convention registrations are \$60/member, \$60 spouse/guest:** Registration fees include the Saturday evening banquet meal; Brunch for non-Elks; entertainment for members, spouses and guests.

**Friday Social tickets are \$15 each and must be ordered and paid for with this registration.**

**A LATE REGISTRATION FEE OF \$15 PER PERSON APPLIES AFTER JUNE 1st, 2023**

Lodge name and number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Member name and present title

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/Guest

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of other guest

\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Number of convention tickets at \$60.00 each		
Number of Friday night social at \$15.00 each		
Late fee at \$15.00 each if applicable		
<b>TOTAL</b>		
PAID BY CASH:	PAID BY CHECK #	
<b>PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION AND MAIL TO ANDY AUSTIN, 2006 BERMUDA ST—SHREVEPORT, LA 71105-3802</b>		

SIGNATURE

DATE