

JANUARY 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*

Published by:
Editor:
Reporters:

Louisiana Elks Association
Buddy Hartle
Exalted Rulers and LEA Chairman



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2020/2021 LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS	1.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND LODGE DIRECTORY	2.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3.
SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE	3.
DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE	4.
LEA SECRETARY MESSAGE	4-5.
GRAND LODGE CORNER	5-7.
ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION	7-8.
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION	9.
STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS	9.
COMMITTEE REPORTS	9-12
LODGE NEWS	12.
MEMORIALS	12.

OFFICERS 2020-2021:

PRESIDENT:

Jim Cade (Lisa)
PDD, Shreveport #122

VICE-PRESIDENT

Charlesray Neight (Cathy)
PDD, Slidell #2321

TREASURER

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

TILER

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

PRESIDENT-ELECT

SECRETARY

Buddy Hartle (Judy)
PDD, New Orleans #30

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Kenneth Lafleur (Pat)
PSP, Opelousas #1048

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Kenneth Buuck (Tammy)
New Orleans #30

CHAPLAIN

Brian Baye
PER, New Orleans #30

LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES:

1-YEAR:

Terry Bruno (Vicki)
PSP, New Orleans #30

3-YEAR:

Randy Bergeron (Lynn)
PSP, Slidell #2321

2-YEAR

Sam Echols
PSP, Shreveport #122

4-YEAR

Henry Daigle (Toni)
PSP, Plaquemine #1398

5-YEAR:

Beulah Rodrigue (Rod)
PSP, Houma #1193



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**Accident Prevention Safety,
Insurance & Risk Management**
Wm, "Bill Boudreaux, PSP
New Orleans #30

Advisory Chairman
Herb Hostler, PSP
Slidell #2321

Americanism
James Hester, PER
New Orleans #30

Business Practices
Mastin Scott
Shreveport #122

CLMS
Buddy Hartle, PDD
New Orleans #30

Disaster Relief
Warren Michel, PER
Houma #1193

Drug Awareness
Armand Buuck, SP
New Orleans #30

Elks National Foundation
Brian Baye, PER
New Orleans #30

**Elks National
Veterans Service**
Don Baye, DDGER
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, ^{PGEsquire/PSP}
Shreveport #122

Ritualistic
Herb Hostler, PSP
Slidell #2321

Scholarship
Gail Millet
New Orleans #30

State Convention
Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Training
Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Webmaster
Richard Conran, PGTiler/SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Youth Activities
Brian Baye, PER
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STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

No article was submitted for this edition of the newsletter.

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Members,

Sue and I hope that all of you and your families had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we all know 2020 has been unlike any year we have ever seen. The Covid-19 virus has really been hard on all of us as well as our Lodges. In March of 2020 all of our Lodges had to shut down and remain closed through May and then were allowed to open on a limited schedule and some of the restrictions are still in effect. So, we had to cancel our 2020 April DD Clinic and our 2020 State Convention and many other functions we usually conduct throughout the year and, as we enter 2021, we do not know what the effects the Covid-19 virus will have in store for us. So, we will all have to follow whatever restrictions will be placed on us and our Lodges and hope that the vaccine will slow down the virus and let us get back to some sort of normal life and activities.

We are now entering into the final three months of our 2020/2021 Elks year, and there is still plenty of work we must do before March 31, 2021.

In January, all PERs should meet with all Elks who are being considered to be nominated as new officers and leaders of the lodge for the year of 2021/2021. When meeting with them, please make sure that they are not only dedicated Elks but are willing to spend the extra time that will be expected of them to help the lodge accomplish all of the goals that will be set by the newly elected ER for the year of 2021/2022, to assure that the Lodge will have a successful year.

All lodges must hold nomination of officers at its first regular meeting in February and election of them at the second regular meeting of the month. Lodges must follow the procedures that are

outlined in GL Annotated Statutes Section 3.080 Nominations and 3.090 Elections. Lodges that meet only once a month will have to hold two meetings in the months of February, March, and April.

February 16th is the 153rd birthday of our order and I urge all lodges to hold a birthday celebration to commemorate it, if possible.

March 20, 2021, a DD Clinic will be held at Opelousas Elks Lodge #1048 starting at 10:00 AM. The following 2021/2022 Officers are required to attend the clinic, Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Lodge Secretary and Chairman of the BOD or Trustees. If you are unable to attend it, you must notify Don Baye, DDGER, in writing the reason you cannot attend it prior to the day of the Clinic.

There is still time for the Lapsation Committee to contact all members who are still in arrears on their dues and try to convince them to pay them so they can retain their membership in the greatest fraternal origination on the earth the, B. P. O. Elks.

I also want to remind everyone that the LEA State Convention is scheduled to be held April 23, 24 and 25, 2021, in Lafayette, LA. at the Wyndham Hotel. As the dates and location might have to be changed, I will send out more information about the convention in late January or early February 2021.

Fraternally,
Richard F. Conran, SDGER/PGTiler



DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Greetings to all,

I would like to start out by thanking all of the Lodges for the warm welcome that they extended to my audit team and myself doing our official visits.

It was truly a pleasure to travel across the state meetings and visiting with the officers and members of each Lodge. As of now I have one more Lodge to perform an audit on, but it is on hold due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As we approach the New Year, I hope we can get back to some sort of normalcy. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Mid-Season Conference in Shreveport on January 15 and 16, 2021.

The March District Deputy Clinic will be held on March 20, 2021, at this time it will be held at the Opelousas Lodge 1048.

I'm hoping to see everyone at the District Deputy Clinic.

Fraternally,
Don Baye, DDGER

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

With three months left in this Elk year, we must begin preparing to close out this year. Listed below are some reminders to assist you with this process.

AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE:

During the month of January, the Auditing and Accounting Committee shall review the required record-keeping of the financial affairs of the Lodge and Club and compliance with the

approved budget. The Committee shall report their findings at the last meeting in January. Remember this is your last chance to make adjustments to avoid a deficit budget on March 31. Please refer to Statutes Annotated 13.040 for additional information.

EXALTED RULERS:

Now is the time to review your Lodge's accomplishments and recognize those members who made a significant contribution this past year. The three most cherished tokens of recognition are the Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year and Citizen of the Year awards.

If you had several members who assisted you during this year, you can award the Grand Exalted Ruler Special Citation Award to two members who displayed extraordinary effort during the Lodge year.

These awards are available upon requests from the Grand Lodge Secretary.

Also, as Exalted Ruler, you need to ensure that all of your committee chairman have or will submit their reports to the Lodge Secretary, so they may be entered in the charity section in CLMS.

LODGE SECRETARY:

Have you ordered your 2021/2022 Membership Cards?

If your Lodge is not using the billing renewal system, you need to print out and mail your 2021/2022 dues statement.

In accordance with Statutes Annotated 14.160 the Secretary is responsible for sending a written notice to the delinquent members informing them that if they fail to pay their dues within 30 days of the mailing notice, they will be dropped from the membership of the Lodge. Be sure to include a dues statement in the letter to all delinquent members. All delinquent members must be dropped by March 31, 2021. (Continued on page 5)

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

continued:

Need to ensure that your records in CLMS are up to date and accurate. This includes the progression of candidates through his/her membership journey; process any pending transfer dimitts. If you had any deceased member (s) make sure their information has been entered. Also update all information listed under the Grand Lodge Submissions tab in CLMS.

Enter all committee reports that you received in the charity section in CLMS.

EXALTED RULER-ELECT:

One of the most important tasks as Exalted Ruler-Elect is to select Lodge members for the various committees. Be sure to select members who are willing to do the job and not glory seekers. You will need to provide the name of your committee chairman to the Lodge Secretary by the end of February. **Thus, the Lodge Secretary can update the Lodge Committees in CLMS and complete the directory information form and return it to the State Secretary by March 15.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Upon completion of the annual Lodge Elections, you shall meet and elect a Chairman and Secretary for the Board of Directors. If you elect the Exalted Ruler as Chairman of the Board, you must also elect another board member who will be required to attend all District Deputy Clinics.

Have a Super Elk Day!
Fraternally

Buddy Hartle, LEA State Secretary



GRAND LODGE CORNER:

Maintain balance with Transfer Dimitts by Bryan Klatt, Grand Secretary:

Secretaries: Transfer Dimitts must be processed in a timely manner. Currently there are more than 2,000 incomplete Transfer Dimitts.

The CLMS2Web program automatically transfers the Member's information from the outgoing Lodge computer to the incoming Lodge computer, with no typing required. Keep in mind, a Transfer Dimit started during the current Lodge year must be approved by the accepting Lodge before March 31. If not, that Member remains on your membership roll. Any variance from the procedure will cause your membership total to become out of balance.

Reminder: Year-end membership information must be updated and completed in CLMS2Web by 11:59 p.m. on March 31.

Lodges that accept card? Priceless by Rick Gathen:

It's very easy to accept the status quo. Many Lodges operate under the old "that's the way it's always been done, so there is no reason to change it" attitude. That method of thinking is never going to grow your membership--or profits. Make it easy for Members to pay dues, make donations, rent your hall, and purchase food and beverages.

There are times I don't purchase something because the process is too awkward or complicated. I suspect many of you would agree with me. Some airlines, for example, only accept credit cards on board, whereas others only accept cash. When I don't have the specific payment method they demand, they lose me as a customer. These policies are for their own benefit, without thought for their customer.

(Continued on Page 6)

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

Does your Lodge only accept cash, when Members only have a credit card. Do you only do business in person, via postal mail, or over the phone, even though it's clear that some Members may prefer to pay online. It may be Time to analyze your business so your Lodge can make more money. When credit cards were first invented, they had a big impact because there was no longer a need to remember to carry a lot of cash. Plus, plastic is mentally disconnected from real money, so people tend to spend more.

Not for one moment am I suggesting you discourage cash. My point is to make it easy for Members to pay you and they will spend more at your Lodge. We all want happy Members who keep coming back. Every new Member starts as a guest. It's important we do what we do so well that our Members will want to come back often to the Lodge and bring friends. Growing membership and revenue can benefit every Lodge. Make sure your payment policies are for the Members' benefit.

Charity continues no matter what by Robert L. Cornsack:

This past year has truly been unbelievable. A year most of us would like to forget. It presented extraordinary and challenging times for all of us, especially as Elks.

Our new Lodge year began in quarantine. Who would have thought that would ever happen, not to mention the cancelling of conferences and conventions? Even Grand Lodge was not exempt from the efforts of the virus. And yet the new officers in our Lodges have risen to the occasion and shown their resilience and their ability to think outside the box. They carried on with charitable projects in spite of quarantines and government lockdowns. Now with Lodges reopening in whatever manner permissible in their respective states, it becomes imperative to continue charitable giving.

We have just celebrated the seasons of

Thanksgiving and Christmas, two of the most Charitable times of the year. Many Lodges celebrated by helping the less fortunate in their communities through their clothing drives, Adopt a Family, Christmas basket and food pantry programs. As Elks, the daily gifts we bestow increases our own riches. The help we extend to those in need is added to our own strength. The real benefactors of mankind count their in store in what is given, not what is saved.

In Addition, meaningful Memorial Services were Held following CDC guidelines. This is an Important part of our service to Members and Their families. *"Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken."*

Even in these challenging times we have been Increasing our volunteer hours---not only in actuality, also in our reporting. We continue to monitor the agendas of state and federal governments to collect information important to the Order. Our mission as the Government Relations Committee is to guide the Grand Lodge, State Associations and Lodges in preserving the right to exist as a private, non-profit, charitable organization. Reporting charitable hours is greatly important in assisting Grand Lodge with maintain our federal tax Status. Far too often we forget about all the activities with which we are involved on a community level. Not to mention the hosting of events as mentioned previously.

Report these hours to your Lodge Secretary to Enable him/her to complete the reporting in CLMS. This information is passed on to the Federal government, making them aware of our charitable works across the nation. All this helps to improve our non-profit status.

One last important item: Please take the time to Individually thank all the volunteers in your Lodge who participates in charity events. This simple act will make them feel appreciated and will remind them that they are part of a great organization.

GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:

Help young readers define success by Wayne D Cotterly:

The Dictionary Project is a great way to help students become good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners. The program is targeted for students in the third grade because educators see this grade level as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn. The program is also a great way to get Elks out into the community to show that we support our youth. The Dictionary Project is a 501 © 3 organization that began in 1992 and has grown tremendously over the years. While it is not an exclusive Elks program, our Order does support the project through the Activities Committee.

Information on how to run the program is readily Available at the project's website at dictionaryproject.org. The steps are simple: Select a school or schools in your community to sponsor: choose the books you wish to donate (including not only dictionaries, but thesauruses And reference books as well); place the order and send the donation to the Dictionary Project, and coordinate with the school to deliver the books in person to the students.

It is recommended that you work with the Schools and the third-grade teachers first to determine which books work best for their students before ordering. The students love receiving their books, and the Elks have enjoyed delivering them. These books are a personal gift to each student to be used throughout their school years.

Several other organizations also participate in the Dictionary Project, and you may find that those organizations may have already donated to that school. Should this happen, use this opportunity to find out what other needs might be filled at the school and how your Lodge can help.

Also, while there, don't forget to tell them about

our other programs, such as the Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Student Recognition Program, Drug Awareness Program, Antlers Program, and Junior Golf Program, or whatever local program your Lodge does for its youth. Bring some Elks brochures to share with the administration and teachers to tell them more about our Order. Additional information on the programs listed above are found in the Youth Activities Program Seminar booklet found on the Activities Committee page of elks.org.

If your Lodge has not yet participated in this project, we encourage you to consider joining. The Dictionary Project is a great opportunity to work with the schools and show that ***ELKS CARE---ELKS SHARE.***

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

Recognition greases the wheels of Elkdom by John D. Amen, PGER:

The Elks have a long and storied history of serving the community. We operate with only a handful of paid positions among our hundreds of thousands of Members nationwide. We accomplish our mission with volunteers. How do we accomplish the great things that we do and keep our hard-working volunteers coming back for more? We do not pay them with money. We pay them with gratitude for the jobs well done. If volunteerism is the engine that drives our organization, then recognition for worthy and diligent Members is the fuel for meritorious accomplishments.

We don't perform our charitable services to seek recognition. But when a job well done is recognized by our peers and leaders it becomes an unsought reward that helps validate the time, work, and passion that we have invested.

7.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

Recognition is extremely important in all phases of what we do. Veterans service is no exception. We are motivated by love of country and the desire to help and serve those who have defended our beloved freedoms. Our nation owes an unpayable debt to our servicemen and women: a helping hand from an Elks volunteer goes a long way toward making a veteran feel that they are truly thanked for their service.

It is now time to ponder a most appropriate form of recognition for outstanding service to veterans. I am talking about the Veterans Volunteer of the Year Awards. You can write your own letter to nominate a worthy candidate, or you can use the nomination form available in the Volunteer Resource Center at elks.org/vets. There is meaningful recognition in simply being nominated for the prestigious award. Who knows? You may be the one who nominates your State's winner!

National Salute gives extra love to veterans by Ronald L Hicks, PGER:

There are approximately 18.8 million veterans in the United States. More than 98,000 veterans are service every day, and over 9 million veterans are served annually, by the Department of Veterans Affairs in hospitals, medical centers, clinics, nursing homes and other VA facilities, receiving the care they have earned. Volunteers play a significant role in this service and the Department of Veterans Affairs greatly appreciates and values the contribution of every volunteer.

The National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, also known as National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, provides a special opportunity to honor both inpatient and outpatient veterans and encourages everyone to find a way to volunteer at their local VA medical facilities. This year the Salute, which always takes place during the week of Valentine's Day, will be observed from Sunday, February 14 through Saturday, February 20, 2021. It is a great time to get to know your

VA facilities and the veterans who receive care from the VA.

In keeping with the Elks' pledge to our veterans and ensuring that our heroes will never be forgotten, this special week offers yet another opportunity for Elks to join with other VA volunteers to increase community awareness and involvement, and to join forces to give thanks and show appreciation for the sacrifices of our men and women veterans.

During the National Salute, the VA typically invites participation in a variety of activities at the VA medical centers. While in-person activities may be limited this year, the VA will still be excited to welcome the involvement of our volunteers in many different ways. Going forward, as the pandemic eases, this involvement can be expanded to sustain and grow more personal relationships, viable strategic partnerships, and other meaningful volunteer engagements with our veterans.

There are many hospitalized veterans with special needs and challenges who are often separated from their homes, family, and friends. Our involvement can do so much to lift their spirits and help make a positive difference. These heroes must not be left to feel alone, and with the continued help and support of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and a grateful nation, they never will be.

America cares deeply for its veterans. I encourage all readers to take the time during this year's National Salute to honor our veterans by volunteering for a visit, sending Valentine cards or letters of thanks, and/or holding a veteran's event at your Lodge.

If you or your Lodge wishes to begin or expand its programs to honor the sacrifice and service of America's veterans during the National Salute (and throughout the year) please visit your nearest VA medical facility or contact Voluntary Service online at www.volunteer.va.gov.

8.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

As of December 28, 2020

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Houma	\$ 947.63	\$ 7.07
2	Plaquemine	\$ 325.50	\$ 6.64
3	N.O. West Bank	\$ 516.12	\$ 6.21
4	Slidell	\$ 1,256.00	\$ 5.89
5	Shreveport	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5.22
6	New Orleans	\$ 784.00	\$ 2.17
7	Opelousas	\$ 220.00	\$.78
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

**WE STILL HAVE THREE LODGES
THAT HAS NOT MET THE GOAL OF
\$4.80 PER MEMBER**



We were recently contacted by the management of the Wyndham Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana, the site of our State Convention scheduled for April 23-25, 2021. According to the management the hotel was closing on January 1, 2021.

Our Special Deputy, Richard Conran will begin a search for a new hotel. Once a new hotel is selected, he will provide that information to the members, as well as any change in dates.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

Business Practices:

Each of our Lodges needs to keep up with operation of the Financial Reporting System (FRS) we are all required to use in reporting our financial balances and revenues and expenses. The entry format for FRS changed a few months ago and I've been having trouble with getting Lodge balances reported accurately. The Grand Lodge has now hired an individual who works directly with FRS and he can help a lodge directly with a problem you might have. If you're having any specific problems with your accounting or with FRS, please contact me and hopefully I can help with getting your problems solved.

For members involved with your Lodge's finances, getting on your Lodge's Auditing & Accounting Committee and becoming more familiar with good bookkeeping and accounting practices is a great idea. A great source of information on this subject is the Auditing and Accounting Manual, available on-line on the Elks website, www.elks.org. To ensure your Lodge is following good practices, the Manual has checklist that can be reviewed to see areas needing correction and improvement. Those checklists include the one used by our District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler when he visited each of our state Lodges in recent months. It is important for each Lodge's Audit and Accounting Committee to keep up with details of how things work with collecting, recording, and depositing revenue. Situations where one individual collects, records, and secures receipts without someone else observing or reviewing it should be avoided. And it is important for the Committee to be making the reports at your Lodge meetings as required by G/L Statutes Section 13.040.

Mastin Scott
Business Practices Chairman

COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

Drug Awareness:

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

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

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

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

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

I usually lead with something like:

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more about the variety of programs that are supported by the Drug Awareness Program, visit either laelks.org or elks.org, both have good information and are great resources.

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

COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

Elks National Veterans Service:

I hope that everyone had a happy and blessed holiday season and that everyone is safe and well.

I would like to remind everyone that it is the time of the year to send in your nominations for the male and female Veterans Volunteer of the Year.

Recognition is extremely important in all phases of what we do, so if you have anyone that you would like to nominate please write a bio of at least two hundred words on the individual. Please state what the nominee does to support our veterans. Send the bios to me, and like last year I will have a committee review them. And choose the winners. I would like to have all nominations turned in to me by mid-January, but no later than the end of January. 2020 was most unfortunate year for everyone, but more so for our veterans who were locked down in the VA Facilities across our country. They were unable to have any family members or guests visit and spend time with them. With that being said it is very important to keep sending those cards and letters to our Veterans. I would like to request from everyone, that as soon as the Veterans are allowed visitors again make it a point to spend some of your time with our Veterans who spent their time for us.

There are 1,900 Elk Lodges across the country with a total membership nearing 800,000. Louisiana Elks are a small part of that total number, but we rank second to none when it comes to supporting Veterans.

Fraternally,

Don Baye, Chairman

Government Relations:

Now that the holidays are over and we are in a new year, let us see what we as Elks can do to get our communities back on track.

As Elks, we are generous throughout the year. We gather food for the needy, help financially struggling families, visit the veterans who are hospitalized, and furnish comfort care items to those less fortunate. Now more than ever the Elks need to go out into our communities, band with our state and local officials, police, sheriff, fire department and first responders to get 2021 started off on the right track helping those who are less fortunate.

Please do not forget to track and turn in a Charity Report making sure to include the volunteer hours and miles. It all counts for us to keep our nonprofit status and use more of our money for all the charitable works we do. We must document and report all our activities.

The service of alcohol is a privilege that the Lodge extends to its members and guests, not a means of revenue for the Lodge. Cutting off a member or a guest who is approaching intoxication is better than defending a multi-million-dollar lawsuit. Familiarize yourself with all state and local liquor laws and never serve anyone approaching intoxication.

Fraternally,

Don Baye, Chairman

Lodge Activities:

Greeting Louisiana Elks.

I am sure that by the time everyone has read this newsletter that you all have had a very happy, safe, prosperous holiday season, and that everyone has been able to stay healthy and well, during the pandemic.

This past year has given us many challenges, to say the least. It has been nice to see that some of our lodges have still been able to carry out some of their yearly activities. One of the activities has been to support our First Responders by having a breakfast, lunch, or dinner. This is a great way to meet and recruit new members, while giving back to our community. (Continued on page 12)

COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

In my last newsletter, I also talked about involving newer members in our lodge to help with activities. By doing so it will help lead to a larger and stronger lodge membership. New members can bring new life and ideas to events. Sometimes hopefully these ideas will lead to amazing results.

Its been unfortunate that the Mardi Gras Parades have been cancelled in most of our communities. However, it is still possible to carry out and to have a safe Hoop Shoot Contest, Super Bowl gathering, Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, or First Responders Day gatherings. These activities are just a few of the many ways we can invite potential future Elks to see how we have fun doing wonderful things for the community.

The end of the Elks Year is not far off. With this being said, please remember to document all of your activities in CLMS. Start gathering your yearend activities reports so that I can have them by March 31, 2021. This is how our State gets recognition for the wonderful work we do.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Season Conference in Shreveport on January 15/16, 2021.

Have fun and as always be safe and healthy.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

LODGE NEWS:

PLEASE SEND ANY PLANNED LODGE ACTIVITIES, SO WE CAN SHARE WITH OUR OTHER LODGES.



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.

Keith Paul Bourque, PER, Opelousas 1048

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 April bulletin are due by March 10, 2021.

Please send them to:

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