

JANUARY 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 April bulletin are due by March 10, 2022.**

**Please send them to:**

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

**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**  
Randy Bergeron, 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

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, 55195 Belleview  
Rd, Plaquemine, LA 70764, 225-687-6626  
[henryj1050@live.com](mailto:henryj1050@live.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  
[elksolouisiana@hotmail.com](mailto:elksolouisiana@hotmail.com)

## **STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**



Happy New Year!

Here's to 2022 and all the great things in store for us! There's lots to do in the coming months to keep us busy in the Elk world.

Our Mid-Season Conference will be held on January 21 -22 at the Slidell Lodge. The Lodge is looking forward to welcoming all of you and hope you will enjoy our hospitality. We will have dinner Friday night, \$10 per person, Complimentary donuts and coffee on Saturday morning, Lunch on Saturday, \$10 per person, and dinner Saturday night, \$20 per person including entertainment by "Overboard". Rooms are available at nearby hotels and some campground spots are still available at the Lodge. Cathy will have a Morning Social for the ladies to enjoy. Please RSVP to me if you plan to attend so we can get a tentative headcount.

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, the Louisiana Hoop Shoot State Contest will be held at the Westminster Christian Academy in Opelousas. Registration will begin at 8:30am and the Shoot will begin at 10am. Please contact Greg Hanrahan, State Hoop Shoot Chairman, 504-577-8529, to confirm your Lodge's participation and attendance.

There is still time to get your \$1000 reimbursement for the Adopt-A-School Program. Get those receipts in to Randy Bergeron!

Our continued prayers are with the Houma and Donaldsonville Lodges and their members as they try to rebuild after the devastation of the storm.

I am still looking forward to visiting all of the Lodges before the end of my term. Please let me know of any fun upcoming events!

Charlesray Neight  
LEA State President

## **SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:**

Members,

Sue and I hope that all of you and your families had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are now entering into the final three months of our 2021/2022 Elks year, and there is still much, work we must do before March 31, 2022.

In January, all members of the Board of Directors should meet with all Elks who are being considered to be nominated as new officers and leaders of the lodge for the year of 2022/2023. 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 2022/23, 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.

## **SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE**

**continued:**

*Please remember that all Lodges that only hold one meeting a month must hold two meetings in February, March, and April. See Statutes Annotated Section 15.070*

February 16<sup>th</sup> is the 154<sup>th</sup> birthday of our order and I urge all lodges to hold a birthday celebration to commemorate it.

March 19, 2022, a DD Clinic will be held at Opelousas Elks Lodge #1048 starting at 10:00 AM. The 2022/23 Exalted Ruler, Leading Knight, Lodge Secretary and Chairman of the BOD are required to attend this clinic. If you are unable to attend the clinic you must notified DD Don Baye a couple of days before the clinic that you will not be able to attend the clinic and give him your reason that you will not be able to attend it. All other Elks who want to attend the DD Clinic are welcome.

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.

Fraternally,

Richard F. Conran, SDGER

## **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 2022/2023 Membership Cards?

If your Lodge is not using the billing renewal system, you need to print out and mail your 2022/2023 dues statement. (Continued page 5)

## **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE**

### **continued:**

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, 2022. 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 dimits. 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

### **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**

### **Efficient new billing system dates saves Lodges money by Rick Gathen:**

Lodges in the new billing system are doing better in terms of retention than Lodges not in the system. The stats are also clear that the new billing system has made a major difference with only 8% delinquency nationwide.

Further, the cost savings are even better now that USPS has increased its postal rate by 28% for the new year. The new billing system will remain at \$0.32 per mailing, thus saving our Lodges an average of \$0.80 per Members' dues invoice mailing.

We have also resolved all the issues that were identified by the Lodge Secretaries in 2020-2021. The new billing system is more effective, more efficient, and will save the Lodges more money in 2022.

To learn more about the billing system, go to <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/membership/billing.cfm>.

### **Honor the locals who make a difference by Robert R. Hinkle:**

Exalted Rulers should review their Lodge's accomplishments and recognize those who make significant contributions to their Lodge and community.

The three most valued awards are the Elk, Officer and Citizen of the Year Awards. Certificates are available upon request from the Grand Lodge Secretary. Applications must be postmarked or e-mailed by March 31. Forms may be downloaded at [elks.org/clms2web/files/AwardRequestForm.pdf](https://elks.org/clms2web/files/AwardRequestForm.pdf).

**Elk of the Year.** For a member who demonstrated devotion, dedication, and loyalty to the Lodge. This award cannot be presented to an Officer. (Continued page 6)

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

**Officer of the Year.** For an outstanding current officer who exhibited extraordinary leadership and voluntary service to the Lodge.

**Citizen of the Year.** This award is not limited to Elks. It presents an opportunity for Lodges to recognize an individual for significant community effort. It is a useful tool for community outreach and membership recruitment.

The following four awards are available by request directly from the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee. Applications are submitted to your Area Member

Of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee by March 31. Online fillable PDF forms which facilitate processing and reduce error are available online: [elks.org/grandlodge/ger/files/](https://elks.org/grandlodge/ger/files/)

**The GER Special Citation Award.** Exalted Rulers are authorized to issue citations to two (2) Members who displayed extraordinary effort during the Lodge year.

**Making a Difference – Exalted Ruler.** This Special Citation is available to recognize Exalted Rulers who participated in at least six (6) of the nine (9) listed programs and contests during the Lodge year.

**Making a Difference – Lodge.** This Special Citation is available for Lodges that participated in at least six (6) of the eleven (11) listed programs.

Stay connected with your Fraternal Committee. Do not hesitate to ask questions and forward suggestions! Together, we are making a difference in all we do as “**Elks Care –Elks Share!**”

### **Per capita and fees set for 2022-2023 by Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary.**

For the 2022/2023 fraternal year, of April 1, 2022, the following per capita and fees will be

due from each Member: Grand Lodge per capita-\$6.50; Insurance assessment - \$12.00\*; and the Elks Magazine assessment - \$5.50, for a total of \$24.00

*\*This amount represents a \$5.00 per Member increase from last year.*

### **Updated guide explains substance use, risk factors by William J. Bryan:**

As part of commemorations of Red Ribbon Week and National Youth Substance Use Prevention Month, our partners at the Drug Enforcement Administration are excited to announce the release of the updated edition of *Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent’s Guide to Substance Use Prevention*. The publication was written by the DEA in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education.

This guide includes an overview of substance use among children and young adults; descriptions of some substances young people may use; a look at risk factors that may make children and young adults try alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs; and protective factors that help offset those risks, along with suggestions for how to talk to young people about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

This 64-page publication is packed with information and is available at no cost. Every Lodge DAP Chair should have this resource. Although this is not a companion piece to *Awkward Conversations*, our collaborative video which premiered on November 15, it is a great resource for parents or anyone who deals with youth.

The DAP encourages you to share this resource with your colleagues and community partners. This publication is available on [getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/publications](https://getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/publications).

This year has got to be better than 2021. The directors of the Drug Awareness Program wish the very best to all Elks. (Continued page 7)



## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

As we look forward to the New Year, we thank all Elks who, despite the problems we all faced with COVID-19, worked diligently to make the Elks Drug Awareness Program the largest all volunteer drug education program in the county. Thank you one and all and Happy New Year!

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

### **Emergency Assistance helps hundreds of veterans by Nadezh Mulholland:**

A father with a heart condition is anxious to move his family to a safe, smoke-free home. A man worries he will be evicted from his apartment while receiving impatient mental health treatment. After learning that her abuser is scheduled to be released from prison, a mom moves her children out of state on short notice.

If you're wondering what these people have in common, the answer is simple. All three are veterans, and all three turned to the Elks in their time of need.

The ENVSC's Emergency Assistance Fund was created to help veterans prevent and exit homelessness. In 2015, in partnership with the VA, we pledged to help eradicate veteran homelessness. The Emergency Assistance Fund is one way we are making good on that promise.

Last year, the Emergency Assistance Fund helped more than 400 veterans with essential housing expenses such as security deposits, rent, and utilities. For most of those veterans, Elks assistance was the only thing standing between them and homelessness.

Many people, including veterans, are one emergency away from the threat of eviction: a job loss, an illness, a death in the family. Working at the ENVSC, I have witnessed firsthand the pivotal role of timely financial support in shaping a veteran's future. Even a

seemingly small amount of money can help to keep a veteran safely housed.

Our Emergency Assistance Fund gives veterans the support they need and deserve to rebuild after homelessness or a financial emergency. The fund does something else, too: it shows veterans that they are not alone. "You have given me a renewed hope for humanity," said a Miami veteran whom we assisted with rental arrears. "Sometimes it's not easy to reach out for help. No one likes to be turned down. On behalf of all the veterans and service men and women you have given so many reasons to look forward to the future, I am eternally grateful."

When a military member's service to our country ends, we say they are "coming home." But the truth is, far too many veterans have no place to call home. We dream of a future when that member is zero, but until then, we soldier on.

### **Selfless volunteers make ENVSC programs possible by David R. Carr, Pger:**

As the Elks National Veterans Service Commission celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> year of service to our veterans, we wish to say "thank you" to all of our dedicated volunteers who strive to help our veterans in need. Without them, none of our programs—Adopt-A-Vet, Freedom Grants, Voluntary Service, Veterans Leather, and Welcome Home—would be possible.

In the past year alone, tens of thousands of hours have been donated by our volunteers to serve our veterans. What an honor and a privilege it is to give back to those men and women who have defended our freedom at the risk of their own lives!

We therefore encourage each Lodge throughout this great country of ours to nominate their special veterans' volunteers to receive recognition as their State Veteran Volunteer of the Year. (Continued on page 8)

**ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:**

Perhaps they have built a wheelchair ramp, served dinners to veterans, helped out at the local VA hospital, given transportation to and from medical appointments, shoveled snow, or assisted with home repairs. There are countless situations where our deserving veterans have been aided by these selfless individuals.

Lodges, in recognition of these volunteers, please note that applications are available on [elks.org/vets](http://elks.org/vets) and can be submitted to your State Veterans Chairperson. Lodges can also submit to the State Veterans Chairperson a letter of nomination which includes the person’s name, Lodge name and number, and why they should receive the award.

In addition, please note that nominations are due to your State Veterans Chair by January 31, 2022.

**ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:**

As of December 26, 2021

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Slidell	\$1,739.87	\$ 8.57
2	Houma	\$ 817.13	\$ 7.56
3	Plaquemine	\$ 310.00	\$ 6.73
4	N.O. West Bank	\$ 460.00	\$ 5.00
5	New Orleans	\$ 720.00	\$ 2.00
6	Opelousas	\$ 260.00	\$ 1.11
7	Shreveport	\$ 836.00	\$ 0.99
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

**GRAND EXALTED RULER PAUL RYAN  
ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOAL THIS  
YEAR FOR THE  
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION  
WILL BE \$4.80 PER MEMBER**

**DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE:**

Greetings,

I hope everyone is well and had a safe and happy holiday season. On December 9th my audit team and I completed the last lodge audit for this Elk year. It was so great to visit with all of you and spend some time at your lodges.

Please continue to keep up the outstanding work all of you are conducting, and most importantly continue to grow our membership across the state. Don’t forget about the Mid-season Conference scheduled at the Slidell Elks Lodge #2321 on January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> hope to see everyone at the Friday Night Social, till then stay safe and well.

Sincerely and Fraternaly  
Don L. Baye DDGER, .



The Mid-Season conference will be held at Slidell Lodge 2321 on January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The tentative schedule is listed below:

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 21**  
3:00 PM--LEA TRUSTEES  
3:30 PM--LEF TRUSTEES  
4:00 PM--ADVISORY  
5:00 PM--DISTRICT ADVISORS

**SATURDAY-JANUARY 22**  
9:30 AM--BUSINESS MEETING

## **COMMITTEE NEWS:**

### **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 U.S. Only the U.S. 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 never 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](http://laelks.org) or [elks.org](http://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:**

As the L.E.A. State chairman for the E.N.V.S.C. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the family of brother Wayne Berthelot from N.O. Lodge #30. Wayne was a VAVS Deputy representative for the Veterans war home in Reserve, LA.

Soon after Wayne became an elk, he got involved with the veteran's home and became a shining star with the veterans. When he would walk through the doors every veteran knew he was there and the good times were getting ready to start.

Wayne will be deeply missed by all of us, but most of all by all the Veterans. When it comes to serving veterans, the Elks have a long tradition of being there when needed most. Today, we let our history guide and inspire us.

Elks National Veterans Service Commission programs are focused on meeting the needs of today's veterans.

In 2020-2021, the total value of support of veterans, including their time, energy, and financial resources is more than \$35 million. Here are some of the ways Elks make an impact on the lives of veterans.

We award millions of dollars in grants directly to Elks lodges to serve veterans and military members in need. Elks know their communities best, so we give funds directly to our members to meet the needs of their local veterans. These grass-roots projects serve veterans in many ways. We station hundreds of volunteers in more than 350 VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, clinics and housing facilities across the country, providing ongoing support, training and funding to serve veterans.

The Elks are committed to ending veteran homelessness, and ensuring that every veteran has the safe, stable home they deserve. We

partner with the national VA, and local partners across the country to accomplish this. We have committed \$1.6 million to end veteran homelessness.

Our State VAVS representatives and Deputy representatives work endlessly to make sure all our veterans at the VA facilities in our state have everything they need. This lets ALL OUR VETERANS KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE WHAT THEY DID FOR US AND OUR COUNTRY. Please don't forget the (Elks Pledge) "So long as there are veterans the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Fraternally,

Don L. Baye Chairman

### **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:**

Charitable Reporting cannot be stressed enough. Now that the holiday season is over and we're moving into the New year, its time to catch up with our charitable reporting.

A few of our lodges have not turned in any charitable hours or reports in several months, please get your reports turned in get them up to date.

Reporting charitable activities is one of the most important activities we can do as an organization to continue to qualify for our federal tax-exempt status.

Record the countless hours, not only Elk hours, but time spent by family and friends who worked alongside the Elks. The miles driven to buy and deliver food and supplies.

The money, the clothes, everyday necessities, the grants that were used to provide for our veterans and families in need.

Continued page 11

## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

We must report it and record it, so PLEASE turn in your reports to your lodge secretary, who will then enter all data into CLMS and summed up at the end of the lodge year to be reported to the federal government, this will maintain our 501-C (8) tax exempt classification.

Anyone who knows of any events that has not been reported, should prompt the appropriate person to record and report all volunteer time, miles and /or money. It is your duty as a member in good standing

Sincerely and Fraternally  
Don L. 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.

It has been nice to see that our lodges have made a “big come back” and are able to carry out some of wonderful activities this year. There is so many activities that your lodge can have to help promote Elkdom. The Elks website features all kinds of virtual manual, guides, and social media sharables and is loaded with all kinds of helpful information. Visit Elks.org. In my past newsletters, I 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.

If you would like to know how much your lodge has given back to your community, you can always contact the Elks National PR/ Membership Director at the Grand Lodge. Provide them with the date/ year that your lodge was chartered (Michael Gleason, bpoelkpublicrelations@gmail.com). They will send back to you your Lodge the Charitable Giving History Amount since inception and how much of an impact your lodge has made to your community. From there you can have a

banner printed up letting the community know how much has been donated by your lodge since inception and the financial Impact it has made in the community. Having a banner will improve the image and awareness in the community, help boost lodge membership, and will make your members very proud of all the hard work that has been done. This is a great way to meet and recruit new members, while showing them what your lodge has giving back to your community

The end of the Elks Year is not far off. With this being said, please remember to document all of your activities and time in CLMS. Start gathering your yearend activities reports so that I can have them by March 31, 2022. 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 Slidell on January 20/21, 2022. Have fun and as always be safe and healthy.

Betsy Ibos, Chairman



### *To Our Absent Members:*

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

*Frank Ballero, New Orleans 30*  
*Leo W. Berthelot, New Orleans 30*  
*Cathy Weaver., Shreveport 122*  
*Charles Pellegrin, Houma 1193*  
*Herb Hostler, PSP, Slidell 2321*  
*Thornton Kraft, Slidell 2321*  
*Robert A. Meyer, Slidell 2321*  
*Donald Roth, Slidell 2321*