

OCTOBER 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



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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 January bulletin are due by December 10, 2021.

Please send them to:

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PSP, Slidell #2321

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Wayne Landry, (Bella)
PDD Slidell #2321

3-YEAR:

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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



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Advisory Chairman
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Slidell #2321

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Business Practices
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Drug Awareness
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Hoop Shoot
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Lodge Activities
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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
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Resolutions
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Ritualistic
Herb Hostler, PSP
Slidell #2321

Scholarship
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Slidell #2321

State Convention
Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

Training
Richard Conran, SDGER
Plaquemine #1398

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Richard Conran, PGTiler/SDGER
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MEET OUR NEW GRAND:

T “Keith” Mills



Keith Mills was born on October 17, 1968, in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Justin and Ruth Mills, the youngest of five children. Keith has three brothers, Randy, Butch, the late Devon, and his sister Cheryl. Keith grew up on the family farm outside Hollister, Idaho. The rural elementary school had about 50 students enrolled through sixth grade. High school was spent in the neighboring town of Filer where Keith participated in almost every sport, football, basketball, track, and rodeo. In 1987, he graduated from Filer High School. Congressman Stallings was instrumental in Keith receiving an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point for academics and football. Unfortunately, an injury meant Keith returned home in 1989 where he attended the College of Southern Idaho and met Amy Jane Rutherford, his best friend and true love. They both received their Associates Degree. They were married in 1990 and Keith transferred to University of Idaho where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

For over 31 years Amy has encouraged and supported his dreams. Keith and Amy have two children: Cassie and Justin. Cassie has two boys, Clark, and Karson, and she is attending nursing school. Justin is a senior at Bise State University

and will be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Business.

Growing up on a farm, Keith developed a strong work ethic and as he grew older, the value of a hard day's work. His family farmed 350 acres and operated a Custom Farming business. They also raised prize winning Duroc hogs for breeding which Keith showed in 4-H and Future Farmers of America, as well as sold breeding stock across the United States.

After college his career began at Applied Materials where he worked for more than 10 years in the Semiconductor Industry with extensive travel in the United States, Asia and Europe.

Keith returned to Twin Falls to be with family where he owned and operated several construction and trucking companies. Keith currently works as the Director for a County Highway District.

In 1990, Keith was proposed for membership by his father and initiated as a Member of the Twin Falls, Idaho Elks Lodge No. 1183. He continued his membership there all through college. Upon graduating, they moved to Nampa, just down the street from his brother Devon. With Devon already an Elks Member Keith transferred his membership to Caldwell Lodge No. 1448 where he is still involved today.

Keith began as Tiler for the Twin Falls Elks Lodge for two years before leaving for college, then upon his transfer to Caldwell in 1994, was appointed Inner Guard and installed in 1995 and progressed through every office chair, serving as Exalted Ruler 2001-2002. He then served the next five years on the Board of Trustees, with the last as Chairman. Keith was a member of five Idaho State Champion Ritual teams, each competing at Grand Lodge. He is excellent at performing the ritual and is a six-time State All-American. Keith has been recognized for his outstanding dedication to Caldwell Lodge multiple times. (Continued on page 4)

MEET OUR NEW GRAND continued:

In 2008, he was voted Caldwell's "Elk of the Year," as well as Idaho State's "Elk of the Year." Keith has the distinguished honor of being the first ever to be elected to Honorary Life Membership to Caldwell Lodge No. 1448.

Keith was elected and served three years as Idaho Vice President South, subsequently being elected and serving as Idaho State President in 2006-2007. The next six years were on the Idaho state major project, the Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital Board with the last two years as Chairman. In 2016, he was inducted in the "Idaho Elks Hall of Honor." He continued to serve the Idaho State Association and is on the Advisory Committee with the Past State Presidents.

Keith's service to the Grand Lodge has included two terms as District Deputy for Idaho South District and then served six years as a Special Representative for various Lodges in Idaho. During this time, Keith also served as Idaho State Hoop Shoot Chairman for 18 years and Northwest Regional Director from 2011 to 2016. The region included Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Keith and Amy truly enjoyed being with the children, watching them grow and getting to know the families. He was appointed Senior Special Representative for Idaho and Oregon in 2019 and continues to serve in both positions.

At the 2016 Grand Lodge Convention, Keith was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Grand Trustees, subsequently serving as Building Applications-West Member, Approving Member, Secretary, and most recently as Chairman. In 2020, he was appointed Oregon Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.

The passion Keith has for our Fraternal Order is shown by his enthusiasm, commitment, and devotion.

Keith's theme for this year is:

"MEETING THE CHALLENGE"

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Greetings Louisiana Elks,

Our year is progressing along and despite all the "outside interferences", we will remain strong and united and get past it. My thoughts are with those who endured the ravages of Hurricane Ida and pray for a speedy recovery.

I am optimistic that many of our annual events will take place this year as we hopefully leave Covid behind. I'd like to remind all of you of the Mid-Season Conference to be held at the Slidell Lodge on January 21-22, 2022. We plan to have activities scheduled for the evenings and for the ladies on Saturday morning. I would like to get a head count of those tentatively planning to attend so we can finalize our plans.

The Adopt-A-School Program is underway giving each lodge the opportunity to be reimbursed up to \$1,000.00 for school supplies donated to local schools. If you have not done this yet, now is a great time as many of the children are in need of replacements lost in the storm. Please send your receipts to Randy Bergeron for reimbursements. (Continued on Page 5).

4.

STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

continued:

Hoop Shoot will be live this year and we are hoping to proudly represent Louisiana at the National Finals. Please contact Greg Hanrahan, our State Hoop Shoot Coordinator, with your lodge information. Greg can be reached at gregorslidell@yahoo.com or by cell 504-577-8529.

As proposed at the State Convention, we are forming a committee to choose and adopt a State Motto. I would like this committee to include a representative from each lodge. Please appoint a member of your lodge to this position and send me their contact information.

The ENF Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest has opened online, and applications will be accepted until November 15th. Please spread the word in your lodge area for graduating Seniors to apply for these scholarship opportunities. By applying online, the students are also eligible for local and state scholarship awards.

Thanks to all of you who have continued to support our lodges and volunteer your time and talents for the good of our youth and veterans in our communities. Your efforts are noteworthy, and you are much appreciated.

Charlesray Neight, LEA President

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Members,

Hurricane Ida came into our State and left us in a very bad way. We have lots of our members who had major damage to their homes. Houma Elks Lodge 1193 had major damage to it, and it will be a while before the repairs can be completed. New Orleans Lodge 30, Donaldsonville Lodge 1153, Slidell Lodge 2321, and New Orleans Westbank Lodge 2496 also had damage done to their Lodge.

The Louisiana Elks Association Disaster Relief Committee Chairman Warren Michel is in the process of putting together a list of our members who had damage to their home and once it is completed, he will present it to his committee members, and they will decide how much help the LEA will be able to give those who had damages to their home. On a happy note our Grand Lodge has sent \$25,000 to help our disaster relief committee be able to supply more help to our members as well as help out those in our community that need help.

The Elks National Foundation MVS and Legacy contest kicked off on September 1st. Scholarship Chairpersons please inform your lodge members of this. For more information, please contact Charlesray Neight, SP, and LEA Scholarship Chairperson email: crwdad42@aol.com, Phone: (504) 669-5679 or visit Grand Lodge Web-site www.elks.org/scholars for all the details.

The following reports must be given to the Lodge in October.

Secretary must present a written report of the transactions of his office to the Lodge at the first session in October; this must also be done in April. See Statues Annotated Section 12.050 (M).

Board of Directors must give a written report of all its transactions at the first regular meeting. This must be done monthly not just in October. See Statues Annotated Section 12.070.

Auditing and Accounting Committee must review lodge books and report at the last meeting of the month, this must also be done in January and July. See Statues Annotated Section 13.040 (I)

Secretaries, whose lodge allows dues to be paid twice a year, you should have already mailed out your dues notice for the last half of the year.

(Continued on page 6)

SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE **continued:**

The Lodge Lapsation Committee should be working hard at contacting the members who are in arrears on their dues trying to collect their dues and most of all keep from losing them as a member. Remember, Membership is the Lifeline of our order.

Secretaries remember that the Grand Secretary will fill the Lodge's GL November Membership Report on November 1, 2021, so please have your CLMS II records up to date.

November 11th is Veterans Day. If at all possible, visit your local Veterans Medical Center or Veterans Home if you have one in your area, or plan a function at your lodge to honor our servicemen and women who are serving in the armed forces or who have served.

Thanksgiving is Thursday November 25th. This is a great chance to practice the virtue of Charity, by giving food baskets to the less fortunate, supplying food to your local food bank or have a dinner in your lodge for the needy.

Sunday December 5th is our Elks Memorial Day and shall be commemorated to the memories of our departed Members. (Continued on Page 6).

Every Lodge shall hold Memorial Services (Statutes Annotated Section 2.020). The DDGER can grant permission to two or more lodges to hold a joint service on a designated day during the week immediately preceding or following the first Sunday in December.

Christmas falls on Saturday this year and I hope that all lodges have a party for its members during the holiday season, to thank them for all their hard work this year. Also try to adopt some needy families so they will have a Merry Christmas as all of us do.

Exalted Rulers and Lodge Secretaries, the Charity Records Report has been online since July, and you should be making sure that all lodge committees are turning in their report as

soon as their function is through and not wait until next March to turn it in.

Sue and I hope that all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Richard F. Conran, SDGER/PGTiler

TREASURE'S MESSAGE:

This is my first contribution to the LEA Newsletter in several years. Perhaps it is about time that I do so.

First, I sincerely hope our brothers and sisters residing in South Louisiana have been able to return to their homes and begin the long and difficult process of restoring damaged houses and property. Richard Conran has been very good at getting in touch with those who have been adversely affected by the storm and then passing the information on to many of us and especially to Warren Michel, Chairman of the Disaster Relief Committee, who himself had damage to his home. When all information has been accumulated, the committee will likely approve some financial assistance to those most affected.

The LEA is again fortunate to have received State Charities, Special Projects and Bonus Grants from the ENF. These are tax exempt grant funds that enable us to maintain our scholarship program. This year we paid out a total of \$22,700 in scholarships.

This past month we began sending \$1,000 donations to each of eight Food Banks located in the communities of our local lodges. Soon we will begin reimbursing lodges that have purchased school supplies up to \$1,000 in conjunction with the Adopt-A-School program. No doubt Hurricane Ida has delayed this part of the program as many schools were so heavily damaged that children have been unable to get back to school. But we'll be ready when this part of the program is needed. (Continued on Page 7)

TREASURE'S MESSAGE continued:

At this year's state convention, the LEF Trustees approved making funds available for extraordinary support of veteran's programs. State ENVSC Chairman Don Baye oversees and approves the program requests that can only be used to support veterans' needs not being met by any other service or source.

I'll close with a personal note. I have learned quite a bit about bookkeeping over the past years. It never occurred to me that I might serve this long when I was elected State Treasurer in 1986. But it turned out to be a growth opportunity for me that I could never have envisioned. In the early years I kept the Association's books by hand on green ledger paper just as was done by my predecessor C. W. McGill of Slidell Lodge. Income and expenses were small amounts in those days, but ENF Grants soon began along with other funding sources, and our assets grew. And then technology appeared, the basics of which I learned in conjunction with my employment in the parish school system. This led to financial record keeping by way of Excel spreadsheets and then over to formal accounting by QuickBooks.

Finally, I'd like to say that when I became an Elk in 1972, I had not thought of moving up in my lodge, but I did—Exalted Ruler in 1978-79, District Deputy in 1981-82, State President in 1984-85 and Grand Esquire in 1988-89. Each one has been a highlight and a genuine pleasure to have been so involved in the Order of Elks. Thank you for the privilege to be of service.

Richard Jones, State Treasurer

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:

Greetings,

Well, what else can we expect? Over the past year, we went through the Covid pandemic, just when we thought life was returning to normal, the Delta variant (a form of Covid) broke out affecting our communities again. Then the unthinkable happened, Hurricane Ida hit

southeast Louisiana, causing devastating damage to our communities. It is believed that Hurricane Ida is the strongest storm ever to come ashore in Louisiana. So, what is next? With six months left in this Elk year, the Officers of our Lodges need to evaluate their programs and finish the year on a strong note. This includes adjusting the budget if needed, continue making contributions to the Elks National Foundation, and participate in the Scholarship, Americanism Essay and Hoop Shoot programs. If we work together as a team, we can end the year on a positive note.

On October 1, the tab to drop members for non-payment of dues was activated in CLMS. I personally believe that we should not drop any of the delinquent members until March 31, 2022. We cannot afford to lose these members. This will give you several more months to contact these members and persuade them to become active members. After all, the Lodge has already paid the Grand Lodge and State Per Capita on these members back in April and May of this year. There is an exception to this rule. If you receive written notice from a delinquent member who states he/she no longer desires to be an Elk, then drop him/her on October 1.

Our present membership count is 2,186 members but we still have 238 delinquent members. If the year ended today our membership count for the state would be 1,948, which is five (5) less than our beginning count of 1,953. We need to reduce the lapsation and initiate as many members as possible over the next six months.

Speaking of membership, on November 1, the Grand Secretary will file the (November) membership report automatically. Lodge Secretaries please ensure that your membership records in CLMS are accurate. On or about October 15, you will be able to preview the report.

Judy and I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Have a Super Elk Day!!
Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Buddy Hartle, State Secretary

GRAND LODGE CORNER

Understanding UBI is crucial for good status with IRS by Glenn E. Foster:

Unrelated Business Income (UBI), as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, is any trade or business which is not related to the organization's performance of its charitable, educational, or other functional income found under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The income from dues, fees, charges for goods, or services for members or their dependents or guests is an exempt function income as long as the member pays for everything. Income from members is not UBI.

The IRS states that guests are persons invited by a member to an activity and the member pays all the expenses. Liquor laws in states differ, as in Pennsylvania, only members are allowed to purchase alcoholic beverages. Be sure you know the liquor laws in your state.

The IRS will assume sales of goods and services to non-members to be taxable. However, there are exceptions. Check with your accountant as to the definition of these laws.

If you receive a letter from the IRS saying that your Lodge is going to be audited, contact your State Sponsor and the Grand Lodge Secretary. The office of the Grand Lodge Secretary has packets of information to help you prepare for the audit. Also contact your accountant to let him or her know you would appreciate their help during this audit. Do not try to do this alone unless you are an accountant.

The IRS says that solicitation by the club/lodge advertising for public patronage of its facilities is clear evidence the club/lodge is engaged in business to the public. This could cause a Lodge to lose its 501 status.

A Lodge may provide bingo games to the public without having UBI, provided the bingo games are in compliance with the IRS requirements. Bingo games must be legal under state law and

not be in competition with similar games conducted by a for-profit organization.

New DAP theme: "The Better Me is Drug Free" by William J. Bryan:

At the recent Grand Lodge Session held in Tampa, the Elks DAP announced this year's theme: *The Better Me is Drug Free*. The theme is used for the poster contest (open to third, fourth, and fifth graders), and video contest (open to pre-high school, high school and post-graduate students).

All Elks are encouraged to visit the new and improved website for teens at elksteenzone.org. State Chairmen are making this website the premiere initiative for the coming year. Schools, whether fully open, virtual, or hybrid will appreciate the effective, evidence-based educational strategies contained in the Lesson Plan section. Kids will have fun with all the interactive activities on the website.

Exalted Rulers, District Deputies and State Association Officers are encouraged to contact State DAP Chairs to learn about webinars, conducted by our National Spokesperson, Ray Lozano, and to also learn about our new elementary school speaker, "Dr. Heather" DiBlasi.

Red Ribbon Week (scheduled October 23-31) and Lodges should begin planning activities to celebrate now. If your Lodge is looking for ways to enhance its standing within your community, Red Ribbon is a great way to do so. Your State DP Chair has many great ideas on how to utilize this initiative.

During this time, Director Kent Gade and Assistant Director Bill Bryan will be traveling to North Carolina to present the Enrique S. Camarena National Award to Officer Ricky V. Hughes of the Roxboro (NC) Police Department. Roxboro Lodge No. 2005 will also be presented with a bronze plaque for nominating Officer Hughes.

8.

GRAND LODGE CORNER **continued:**

DAP to honor NC officer during Red Ribbon month by William J. Bryan:

October is recognized by all Americans as Red Ribbon Month, a time where we remember and celebrate the sacrifice made by DEA Agent Enrique S. Camarena in his attempt to live up to his own motto that one person can make a difference. His story and his history is well known by many Elks.

Later this month, the Elks Drug Awareness Program will travel to Atlantic Beach, North Carolina to present Officer Ricky V. Hughes with the prestigious Enrique S. Camarena Award. Officer Hughes was nominated by Roxboro, NC Lodge No. 2005, and they too will be recognized for their contributions in the Drug Awareness effort.

Lt. Hughes is a 24-year law enforcement veteran who spent several years undercover to make his community safe. He has spent countless hours mentoring at-risk youth in efforts to break the cycle of family violence, drug use, and gang activity. When his selection was shared with Geneva “Mika” Camarena, widow of the slain DEA Agent, she simply said: “I think my husband would have been proud to serve with Lt. Hughes.” Nothing more needs to be said.

If your Lodge is looking for low-cost ideas on how to celebrate Red Ribbon within your community, contact your State Chair of the Elks Drug Awareness Program for ideas. Your chairs are well equipped to assist you. Wear your red ribbon with pride, during Red Ribbon week. If your Lodge sponsors a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, remember that the DEA has a Red Ribbon Patch for Scouts. More information about this patch can be obtained at:

www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/get-involved/red-ribbon-week-patch-program.

Remember: ***“One person can make a difference.”***

Legacy Awards contest, MVS scholarships are open by Cathleen Draper:

It seems like it was just yesterday that we welcomed a new class of Elks scholars to the #Elks Family. But a new scholarship season has already begun.

The 2022 Most Valuable Student scholarship contest opened in August. The MVS scholarship is open to high school seniors who are U.S. citizens. The 500 four-year scholarships are awarded based on academics, service, leadership, and financial need.

The top 20 finalists will attend the 2022 Leadership Weekend in Chicago to learn about the Order and to serve in the name of the Elks. That same weekend, the top 20 will also interview for the top awards, ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000. The remaining 480 runners-up will receive \$4,000 scholarships. Spread the word to the high school seniors in your life to apply by November 15, 2021. Learn more about the MVS contest and find the application link at enf.org/MVS.

The 2022 Legacy Awards contest launched in September. Legacy Awards are \$4,000 scholarships for high school seniors who are children and/or grandchildren of dues-paying Elks.

Any child or grandchild (or stepchild, step-grandchild, or legal ward) of an Elk who joined the Order on or before April 1, 2019, is eligible to apply. Legacy scholars are required to serve with a Lodge every year. Legacy Awards applications are due on or before February 7, 2022. Visit enf.elks.org/Leg to learn more about the Legacy contest.

In 2021-2022, the Elks National Foundation will award \$4.6 million in college scholarships, ensuring a bright future for our nation’s youth. As important members of the Elks family, Elks scholars have many social and service opportunities to connect with the Elks and one another. For more information about our scholarship programs, and for ways Lodges can get involved with Elks scholars, visit elks.org/scholars.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION:

NVS Volunteer of the Year navigated a busy 2020-2021 by Mary K. Morgan:

The past year and a half have been tumultuous, to say the least. Longstanding projects were shaken up, canceled, or reworked entirely. Lodges scrambled to navigate ever-changing guidelines, trying to serve veterans while ensuring everyone's safety.

One woman who handled the roller coaster of last year with grace and determination is Emma Pletz of Milwaukie-Portland, OR Lodge No. 142. From serving National Guard families to helping veterans shelters open for business, Pletz found a way to keep contributing.

That's why she is the 2021 National Veterans Service Volunteer of the Year!

Pletz wears many hats. As the State Secretary for the Oregon Elks Association, she makes sure the Voluntary Service Representatives receive the funds they need every month to serve veterans in facilities across the state.

As Grants Coordinator for her Lodge, she secures the Freedom Grant every year, using the funds to serve local National Guard families. The Lodge goes above and beyond with this project, working closely with battalion leadership to identify families in need and tailor the food boxes to meet the needs of those families.

They partner with local business to include fresh bread, produce, and toys for children. They host a food drive at the Lodge to supplement the boxes. This year, the food baskets were as essential as ever, with many Guard members coming back from deployment, unsure if their usual jobs were still there. "Many had no idea how they were going to have a Christmas and then they saw what they were receiving and were awestruck that all of that food was for them," Pletz said. "There were tears. It was hard at times to make sure that they understood they

could take as many toys as they needed to make sure their kids had a nice Christmas."

Thanks to the Lodge's advocacy, the amount of donated supplies, and thrifty spending, they even had funds left over, which was used to buy fresh produce for the veterans food bank. Not a penny was wasted!

Pletz doesn't stop at one issue though. She and her Lodge are active in the Welcome Home Kit program and have provided 57 kits of needed home supplies to newly housed veterans since February 2020. It was through this program that the Lodge learned about a new veterans housing unit opening in Portland that needed community support.

The Lodge wasted no time in connecting with the staff for the new Robert J. Breitung Veterans Building, who were thrilled to receive the call. "The director declared the Elks 'angels from heaven' and said she had no idea how she was going to furnish all the apartments."

Using Spotlight Grant funds, state funds, the Welcome Home Kit programs, and a truckload of donated supplies, the Lodge was able to completely furnish all 28 units at the newly opening housing facility.

When the pandemic delayed construction, Pletz's home became the storage space. "There were boxes all over my house! My living room and hallway became a warehouse, with just a path to get through for 4 months," she said. When construction was completed and the shelter opened, each veteran received a full kit of home supplies and a new bed.

The Lodge can rest assured that their efforts were certainly appreciated. "The veterans were so excited," she said. "We could hardly get the items stacked in the commons room before they wanted to start snooping. A few helped us sort and deliver to each room of the facility. We brought flags, balloons, and cupcakes to make it a celebration. (Continued on page 11)

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION continued:

The veterans enjoyed not only the new additions to their apartments but visiting with the Elk Members. They couldn't wait to take their items inside their rooms and start enjoying them."

When we called Pletz to share the news, she was thrilled and shared part of her motivation for serving veterans. "My dad was a World War II veteran, and I'm from the Vietnam era. It's been very gratifying to help veterans."

When we asked her how she pulled it off, she shared, "Honestly, I'm exhausted."

Well, we know why.

Elks named Help Heal Veterans' Partner of the Year by Mary K. Morgan:

For the past 20 years, Elks have been working closely with the nonprofit Help Heal Veterans, which helps veterans recover and thrive by providing free therapeutic arts and crafts kits to hospitalized and homebound veterans.

Every year, hard working Elks collect and donate thousands of hides to the Elks National Leather Program. These hides are used for three main purposes:

*Wheelchair gloves, many of which are distributed directly to veterans at annual VA Adaptive Sports Events.

*Donations directly to VA Recreation Therapists, for use in local projects.

*Donations to Help Heal Veterans, for use in therapeutic arts and crafts kits for recovering veterans.

Over the past 20 years, Elk's leather has been used to make 600,000 craft kits, for a total estimated value of more than \$15 million.

Help Heal Veterans, a nonprofit dedicated to serving military veterans by supplying them with

free therapeutic craft kits, has chosen the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks as its 2021 Partner of the Year. As a partner for over 20 years, the Elks have donated more than 923,280 square feet of leather to Help Heal Veterans to create craft kits for veterans.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Elks, we have been able to provide much-needed therapy to so many veterans," said Joe McClain, retired Navy captain and Help Heal Veterans CEO. "Through this partnership we are reducing our partner's overall environmental impact while fulfilling our mission to help veterans heal."

By supporting organizations like Help Heal Veterans that truly invest in their communities through programs that improve quality of life for today's veterans, we are able to further the Elks mission of promoting the welfare and enhancing the health of our nation's veterans.

Thanks to all the Elks Leather Program volunteers for their work supporting this unique and innovative program!

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:

As of September 20, 2021

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	Slidell	\$ 1,339.10	\$ 6.59
2	N.O. West Bank	\$ 460.00	\$ 5.00
3	Shreveport	\$ 836.00	\$.93
4	New Orleans	\$ 320.00	\$.89
5	Houma	\$ 60.00	\$.55
6	Opelousas	\$ 85.00	\$.36
7	Plaquemine	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

**GRAND EXALTED RULER
T. KEITH MILLS
ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GOAL THIS YEAR
FOR THE
ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION
WILL BE \$4.80 PER MEMBER**

DISTRICT DEPUTY MESSAGE:

Don Baye, District Deputy for the Grand Exalted Ruler has rescheduled the District Deputy Clinic. The new date for the clinic is Saturday, October 30, 2021, beginning at 10:00 AM. The clinic will be held at Opelousas Lodge 1048. Please mark this date on your calendar and make every attempt to attend this clinic.



The Mid-Season Conference will be held January 21-22, 2022. All meetings will take place at Slidell Lodge 2321.

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

Unlike previous years, there is no designated hotel for our out-of-town members. Please contact Charlesray Neight, LEA President and he can provide you with information on local hotels.

Social events are still being planned by members of Slidell Lodge 2321. The Lodge members are planning a Friday night social and possibly a dance on Saturday night.

Please make plans to attend the Mid-Season Conference.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

DRUG AWARENESS:



At the annual training of Drug Awareness Chairs, that took place during the recent national convention in Tampa, FL, the chairman of the year was named. Armand Buuck, a member of New Orleans Lodge 30 and the state Drug Awareness Chairman for the Louisiana Elks Association was named **THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YEAR FOR 2021.**

Armand began his involvement with the Drug Awareness Program in 2013. Through the years, Armand has built a solid program in Louisiana and has several active Lodge Chairs. Armand really came through this year, and despite COVID-19, he was able to have several webinars featuring Ray Lozano, National Spokesperson for the DAP, speaking to many schools in Louisiana's parishes. Armand was presented the Crystal Elk, the highest award given to anyone in the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

CONGRATULATIONS ARMAND!!

LODGE ACTIVITIES:

Believe it or not the Elks calendar year is nearly over, and we have all experienced some very challenging times. Especially over the past month. Hurricane Ida put a damper on many of our end of the summer and fall activities.

COMMITTEE NEWS continued:

However even in these times it's been great to see that our Louisiana Elks were able to step up and aid and assist those that were affected by Hurricane Ida. Good work fellow Elks

As most of you know, the Elks National Foundation has a variety of grants that can be applied for. With the money received, your lodge can use it in your community to support organizations in need or use it to assist programs that may have run short of the funding that they may need to be successful. We have seen a lot of hardships lately, and many of the small food pantries, schools, or recreational programs could greatly benefit from these funds.

With October upon us, we are entering into the Elks Drug Awareness month. Red Ribbon Day, Say No to Drugs are all part of the Elks Drug Awareness program. Red Ribbon week starts Saturday October 23rd and goes through October 31st. This is when all lodges should be promoting this program. Whether your lodge has a Drug Bring Back Day, or if you are dropping off literature at the school, this should be one of the activities that your lodge promotes. The program was formalized by the residence of California and former first lady, Mrs. Nancy Reagan. Congress officially established Red Ribbon Week in 1988. The Elks have many tools that can be used to promote this program throughout your community and at the lodge.

With all our newly installed members, remember to keep them involved and engage. They can and will add excitement and new life to your lodge, and they want to be involved. Be sure to ask them to help, as they may feel shy or to intimidated to ask! An active member is a long-term member.

I am sure all our lodges are in the process of planning Fall and winter activities. This being said, be sure to visit: **Elks.org** website for all your fund raising and activities planning needs. The website will help you to promoting the Elks Scholarship & Veterans Programs and the many

other programs that we are so proud to have. It is a very resourceful site, and your Lodge will get credit for using the site as well.

Please remember to plan accordingly, involve your new members, and stay safe.

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.

Robert F. Hereford, New Orleans 30

Robert E. Johnson, New Orleans 30

Robert Goode, Shreveport 122

Matthew J. Stroker., Shreveport 122

Scott J. Willmes, Shreveport 122

Warren Basco, Opelousas 1048

Paul Ballard, Opelousas 1048

Joey Fremin, Jr, Plaquemine 1398

Angelo F. Mancuso, PSP, Plaquemine 1398

Michael A. Entwistle, Sr, PER, New Orleans

West Bank 2496