

OCTOBER 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**



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>2022/2023 LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS</b>	<b>1.</b>
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND LODGE DIRECTORY</b>	<b>2.</b>
<b>MEET OUR NEW GRAND</b>	<b>3.</b>
<b>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</b>	<b>4.</b>
<b>PRESIDENT-ELECT MESSAGE</b>	<b>4-5.</b>
<b>SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE</b>	<b>5-6.</b>
<b>LEA SECRETARY MESSAGE</b>	<b>6.</b>
<b>GRAND LODGE CORNER</b>	<b>7-8.</b>
<b>ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION</b>	<b>8-9.</b>
<b>ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION</b>	<b>9-11.</b>
<b>STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS</b>	<b>11.</b>
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<b>11-15</b>
<b>LODGE NEWS</b>	<b>15-16.</b>
<b>LODGE VISITATION SCHEDULE</b>	<b>16.</b>
<b>GRAND LODGE CONVENTION SCHEDULE</b>	<b>16.</b>
<b>MEMORIALS</b>	<b>16.</b>

# OFFICERS 2022-2023:

## **PRESIDENT:**

Rene Pelanne (Laurie)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Wayne Landry (Bella)  
PDD, Slidell #2321

## **TREASURER**

Andy Austin (Rebecca)  
Shreveport #122

## **TILER**

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

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Don Baye (Karen)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **SECRETARY**

Buddy Hartle (Judy)  
PDD, New Orleans #30

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Kenneth Lafleur (Pat)  
PSP, Opelousas #1048

## **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Sharrieff Armstead (Connie)  
New Orleans #30

## **CHAPLAIN**

Lyman Ryan  
New Orleans #30

## **LOUISIANA ELKS ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES:**

### **1-YEAR:**

Henry Daigle (Toni)  
PSP, Plaquemine #1398

### **2-YEAR**

Beulah Rodrigue  
PSP, Houma #1193

### **3-YEAR:**

Armand Buuck (Debbie)  
PSP, New Orleans #30

### **4-YEAR**

Jim Cade (Lisa)  
PSP, Shreveport #122

### **5-YEAR:**

Charlesray Neight (Cathy)  
PSP, Slidell #2321



**1**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

**Accident Prevention Safety,  
Insurance & Risk Management**  
William Boudreaux, PSP  
New Orleans #30

**Advisory Chairman**  
Bernie Mathais, PSP  
Shreveport #122

**Adopt-A-School**  
Randy Bergeron, PSP  
Shreveport #122

**Americanism**  
James Hester, PSP  
New Orleans #30

**Business Practices**  
Chris Hymel  
New Orleans #30

**CLMS**  
Buddy Hartle, PDD  
New Orleans #30

**Disaster Relief**  
Puddy Gondrella, PER  
N.O. Westbank #2496

**Drug Awareness**  
Armand Buuck, PSP  
New Orleans #30

**Elks National Foundation**  
Brian Baye, PER  
New Orleans #30

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

**Elks & Scouting**  
Sonya Belgard  
N.O. Westbank #2496

**Food Bank**  
Richard Conran, SDGER  
Plaquemine #1398

**Government Relations**  
Don Baye, PDD  
New Orleans #3

**Hoop Shoot**  
Greg Hanrahan  
Slidell #2321

**Lodge Activities**  
Betsy Ibos, PER  
New Orleans #30

**Membership**  
Wayne Landry, PDD  
Slidell #2321

**Newsletter**  
Buddy Hartle, PDD  
New Orleans #30

**New Lodge Development**  
Armand Buuck, PSP  
New Orleans #30

**Public Relations**  
Tom Cressionne  
New Orleans #30

**Resolutions**  
Armand Buuck, PSP  
New Orleans #30

**Ritualistic**  
Randy Bergeron, PSP  
Slidell #2321

**Scholarship**  
Charlesray Neight, PSP  
Slidell #2321

**State Convention**  
Buddy Hartle, PDD  
New Orleans #30

**Elks Training**  
Richard Conran, SDGER  
Plaquemine #1398

**Webmaster**  
Richard Conran, SDGER  
Plaquemine #1398

**Youth Activities**  
Brian Baye, PER  
New Orleans #30

## LODGE DIRECTORY

New Orleans Lodge #30, 2215 Cleary Ave.,  
Metairie, LA 70001-1628  
504-888-8152 [noelkslodge30@yahoo.com](mailto:noelkslodge30@yahoo.com)

Shreveport Lodge #122, 310 E. Preston,  
Shreveport, LA 71105-5303  
318-868-5301 [elkslodge122@gmail.com](mailto:elkslodge122@gmail.com)

Opelousas Lodge #1048, 207 N Union St  
Opelousas, LA 70570-1146, 337-942-2341  
[elks1048@gmail.com](mailto:elks1048@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2.**

**MEET OUR NEW GRAND:**

**Bruce A. Hidley**  
Grand Exalted Ruler 2022-2023



Bruce A. Hidley was born and raised in Albany, New York. Bruce graduated from Cardinal McCloskey High School, and then attended Hudson Valley Community College, earning an A.A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice in 1979. Bruce worked as an Auditor for the New York State Comptroller's Office for 11 years, and as the City Clerk for the City of Watervliet for over 22 years. Bruce was elected Albany County Clerk in 2013, re-elected in 2017 and currently serves in that position.

Bruce joined the Guilderland Elks Lodge No. 2480 in 1980. In September of 1985, Bruce transferred his membership to Watervliet Lodge No. 1500 and served as Chaplain, Lecturing Knight, Loyal Knight, Leading Knight and then proudly served as the 65th Exalted Ruler from 1991-1992. Following that, Bruce was a Lodge Trustee from 1993-1997 where he served as the Chairman of the Board from 1996-1997. In 2002, Bruce served as the President of the State Capital District's Past Exalted Ruler Association. Bruce remains a very active Member serving on many Lodge committees.

On the State level, in 1996, Bruce was appointed to be the Director on the Conference of Private Organization (CONPOR) serving as Vice President and President. From 1997- 2007, Bruce was honored to serve as the New York State Elks Association Government Relations Chairman. In 2000, Bruce was appointed as a member of the Steering Committee for Amsterdam Lodge No. 101. Bruce served as the New York State Elks Association President in 2007-2008. He then served as the Area 1 Government Relations Chairman from 2011-2017. On the Grand Lodge level, Bruce served as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 2001-2002. He was installed to the Board of Grand Trustees from 2018-2022. He served as Buildings Applications East Member, Home Member, Approving Member and Vice Chairman.

Bruce is also active with many community activities that include The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Albany County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Columbus No. 3394, North Albany Limericks, Board of Directors Watervliet Civic Chest, Watervliet Senior Citizens and as a social member of the C.R.A.B. VFW Post.

Bruce and Helen reside in Watervliet, New York. They enjoy camping in the Adirondacks and spending time with their numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. They will be celebrating 40 wonderful years of marriage.

Bruce and Helen are excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, making new friends during their travels, and talking about their motto, "*Promoting Elkdom With Enthusiasm.*" They are honored and proud to work and promote all of the programs in the Elks with great enthusiasm

### **3. STATE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**



Hello all,

I hope this finds everyone well. It's been three months since becoming your state president and I have been busy traveling to surrounding states. Laurie and I visited Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas for their state conventions. We were treated like royalty and had a great time. In July we traveled to the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta. I attended the business sessions where all resolutions were passed. We elected Bruce Hidley as our Grand Exalted Ruler for the 22-23 fraternal year. After the convention GER Hidley had some medical issues which required surgery. He seems to be healing well and hopefully will be given the ok to start his travels again. Please keep him in your prayers.

Our Mid-season conference will be held in Opelousas on Saturday January 21, 2023. The schedule is being worked out at this time. Since it is now a one-day event the LEA Trustees/Advisory meeting will be held earlier in the day. A lunch will be served and then the conference meeting will start.

I will be making local lodge visits between now and the conference. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Until then be safe and careful.

Fraternaly yours,

Rene J Pelanne Jr  
LEA State President

**PRESIDENT-ELECT MESSAGE:**

Louisiana Elks, I would like to thank each and every one of you for affording me the opportunity to serve as the 2022-2023 President Elect of the Louisiana Elks Association.

I can't begin to tell you how much of an honor it is to have this title bestowed upon me. I will do my utmost best to perform the duties of this office to the best of my ability and treat each and every one with dignity and respect.

I would like to ask the Exalted Rulers and lodge Securities to make sure to send me a copy of your lodge bulletin each month, so I can try and attend any fund raisers or other functions your lodge maybe planning. I may not be able to attend each one, but I promise I'll attend everyone that I possibly can.

Thanks again for your confidence in me and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Don L. Baye President Elect

*(NOTE: The above article was omitted from the July edition of the Louisiana Elks Newsletter).*

Greetings.

I hope every one of you had a great and safe summer. Hopefully I will be able to start visiting your Lodges soon, Exalted Rulers if you would please keep me informed of any upcoming events at your lodges. I would really like to spend some time visiting with you and the other members of your Lodge.

Soon we will be entering the holiday season, and we all know that is when the Elks become their busiest. We start out with October and Halloween, where a lot of our Lodges hold trunk a treat, spook trails, or haunted houses for the children in our communities. (Continued page 5)

**4.**

**PRESIDENT-ELECT MESSAGE**  
**continued:**

November is up next this is where Elks honor our veterans all month long, but especially on November 11th Veteran's Day. Also, at the end of November we celebrate Thanksgiving, many of our lodges serve meals for the needy on this day, and other lodges prepare and deliver food or fruit baskets to the needy.

Now December is the month that the Elks can really make a difference working with and helping those less fortunate in our communities. These individuals will all be blessed by what you and your lodge can do for them during the holiday season. So please don't hesitate to get involved this holiday season helping the needy individuals in your community. Remember (Elks Care, Elks Share) and you will be Blessed as well.

Finally, Karen and I would like to take this opportunity, to wish all of you and your family a safe and blessed Holiday Season.

Sincerely and fraternally  
Don L. Baye President Elect

### **SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE:**

Members,

The Elks National Foundation MVS and Legacy contest kicked off on August 1st. The deadline to turn them in is November 14, 2022, at 11:59 pm. Scholarship Chairpersons please inform your lodge members of this. For more information, please contact PSP Charlesray Neight, LEA Scholarship Chairperson, Email: [crwdad42@aol.com](mailto:crwdad42@aol.com), Cell: (504) 669-5679 or visit Grand Lodge Website [www.elks.org/scholars](http://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 of October. 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 October, this must also be done in January and July. See Statues Annotated Section 13.040 (I).

Secretaries, if your 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.

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 GL Membership Report is due by November 5th. The Grand Secretary will automatically upload it from CLMSII, so please make sure your records are up to date by 10-30-2022

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 24th. 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.

(Continued page 6)

**5.**

## **SPECIAL DEPUTY MESSAGE**

### **continued:**

Sunday December 4th is our Elks Memorial Day and shall be commemorated to the memories of our departed Members. Every Lodge shall hold Memorial Services (Statues 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 Sunday 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 coordinators are turning in their report to the Lodge Secretary 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

## **SECRETARY'S MESSAGE:**

Greetings,

On October 1<sup>st</sup> we will reach the halfway point of this Elk Year. At half time football coaches review their game plan and make adjustments for the second half of the games. Exalted Rulers you also need to review your Lodge operations and make changes for the second half of the Elk year. 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.

Also, on October 1, the tab to drop members for non-payment of dues will be activated in CLMS. I personally believe that we should not drop any of the delinquent members until March 31, 2023. 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 fees 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 2,299 members but we still have 313 delinquent members. If the year ended today our membership count for the state would be 1,986, which is 103 less than our beginning count of 2,089. We need to reduce the lapsation and initiate as many members as possible over the next six months. Remember our goal is to end the year with a **plus 1**.

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 in CLMS.

On January 21, we will hold our Mid-Season Conference at Opelousas Lodge 1048. The agenda for the conference is listed under the State Association Tab in this newsletter.

At this year's state convention, the membership voted to increase the state per capita from \$8.50 to \$13.50 per member. This will increase your Lodge dues by \$5.00 per member for the 2023-2024 Elk Year.

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 fraternally,  
Buddy Hartle, State Secretary

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER**

### **SEEKING FEEDBACK: What would make reporting easier? By Carl R. Ledig, Sr.**

In 1951, the Elks received its tax-exempt status under a very important provision of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (8).

Having tax-exempt status is a huge deal and very important to the Elks as a whole. It allows all Lodges to have more funding for charitable work, which is the cornerstone and foundation of the Elks' very existence.

So, how do we as an organization make sure we continue to qualify for this treasured tax-exempt status?

The answer is simple: by recording and reporting each and every Elk and non-Elk volunteer hour, dollar, and mile.

It sounds simple, but it's not. It's difficult to get each Member to actually record their time and money in writing, and then turn the form in to each Lodge Secretary. The current system is just not working like we need it to.

We need some fresh thinking and new ideas on how to solve the reporting problem. We are going to the source---you, our Members. We're asking for your input on developing new procedures that might make reporting easier.

At a recent brainstorming session, a group of Elks came up with the idea of creating an app for reporting. What do you think?

Would a friendly cell phone and computer app containing the Volunteer Tracking form increase your willingness to report?

What about a Volunteer Tracking form with a pre-set list of activities where filing becomes a quick click of pre-existing boxes, followed by another easy step, a digital signature, then a final click for easy delivery of the form to the Secretary's inbox set up specifically to receive the reporting? Would that increase your willingness to report?

Let us know what you think about the cell phone and computer app idea by e-mailing your Government Relations Committee Area Member. See Committee Members at: [elks.org/leadership/directory/grandlodge.cfm?GroupID=GLGovernment](http://elks.org/leadership/directory/grandlodge.cfm?GroupID=GLGovernment).

This app idea came from just one brainstorming session at one Lodge. Maybe you could have a brainstorming session at your Lodge and give us any additional suggestions you or your Lodge Members may have. Send them to us.

We need and want to make reporting as easy as possible. It is a critical requirement---without sufficient reporting, we could jeopardize our tax-exempt status. No one wants that, so let's put our heads together and solve this!

### **A playbook for adding new Members by Rick Gathen:**

1. Ask every Member to submit three prospects to the membership chair and receive the GER Award Pin.
2. Assign every Chair Officer to a five-person recruitment team, and each team brings in at least five new Members.
3. Pass out M&M candy to remind Members that "Membership Matters" and that we need "More Members."
4. Distribute extra copies of the Elks Magazine to waiting rooms, etc.
5. Hold wine and cheese receptions for prospective Members.
6. Build a Lodge website and social media page.
7. Create more fun at your Lodge.
8. Lead by example. How many Members have you recruited?
9. Hold recruiting events with the entire district.
10. Place an invitation card in the hand of every Member to remind them to bring a guest.

(Continued page 8)

## **GRAND LODGE CORNER continued:**

11. Produce Lodge flyers and have available in the Lodge. Hand to non-members during community events.
12. In your Exalted Ruler message, encourage Members to bring guests every month.
13. Ask your Lodge Secretary to run a list of all former Members dropped for non-payment over the past five years.
14. Give guests Lodge pins and make them feel welcome.
15. Approach corporations and businesses. Some businesses look for community involvement opportunities.
16. Place pamphlets in doctors' offices, hospitals, cafeterias, libraries, etc.
17. Send letters to people in the news with an invitation to visit the Lodge.
18. Have a special guest day. Free food always works!
19. Write letters to the newspaper about the campaigns your Lodge is working on.
20. Honor outstanding community members with awards.
21. Wear your Lodge's pin in public, and people will ask you questions.
22. Send your Lodge newsletter to guests.
23. Contact your chamber of commerce to help you advertise your events.
24. Rent out your Lodge to civic, benevolent and fraternal groups such as Rotary International, Lions Club, and Knights of Columbus.
25. Open your Lodge to community organizations that need a place to meet.
26. Encourage your members to "just ask" friends, family, neighbors, business associations etc., to join the Order.
27. Sponsor a community workday.
28. Ask to be invited into a local school. Parents and teachers are the prospects. Sponsor a presentation.
29. Arrange to speak at homeowners' association meetings and give a presentation about the Elks.
30. Use the reinstatement letter from the Membership Manual.

## **Busy charitable season begins now by W.J. "Bill" Bryan:**

I hope each and every one of you had a good summer. In front of us is the busiest charitable season for Elks Lodges.

Already, many Lodges have completed back to school backpacks and are getting ready for essays and Drug Awareness, followed by veterans in November...and Christmas giving already in sight.

This is the season we really shine! Every committee and project chairman should know how and who to report these activities to. There is a simple form and either your secretary or Government Relations person will input those into CLMS. How many trios to the store (mileage, hours, and dollars) went into your project? Let's account for all the efforts to make these wonderful things happen.

Additionally, during this period are general elections. Government Relations Chairs should be aware of those that affect your Local Lodge. Plan to send a congratulatory letter with some number of what you contribute to the community. While you are at it, get that information to your local officials and invite them to come visit.

Have a great Giving Season!!

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

### **Rural veterans face housing, travel, connection issues by Hannah Graber:**

For Elks in rural areas, identifying and connecting with veterans can be a challenge. Before starting a project, learn more about the obstacles and conditions that veterans in the community face.

(Continued page 9)

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

VA reports show that almost a quarter of United States veterans live in rural communities where there are higher levels of poverty, more elderly residents, and fewer healthcare resources. More than half of rural veterans are over the age of 65 and have at least one service-connected condition.

While these veterans may be farther away from VA resources, they are enrolled in the VA healthcare system at higher rates than veterans living in urban communities. Transportation is a major challenge for these veterans who must travel to receive services.

Veterans in rural communities who experience housing insecurity may not be homeless. Instead, their homes may be in poor or dangerous condition, or they may be staying temporarily at a series of places with friends and family. These veterans can have difficulty accessing housing assistance that is available for veterans living outdoors or in shelters.

Often, information about serving veterans is focused on those living in urban settings. Identifying veterans in rural areas is not easy when there are not as many organized resources or settings for veterans to seek assistance.

How can Elks identify veterans in need in rural Areas? In addition to VA clinics or hospitals, you may be able to identify veterans through other community groups you're a part of like churches, schools, or local nonprofit organizations. Focus your outreach effort on both public places (like post offices, libraries, town halls), and private businesses (grocery stores, laundromats). Clearly communicate the type of service or resource you're offering to reach veterans who will benefit most.

Here are a few ways to get started serving veterans in rural areas:

- Create long term support through networking with other organizations for job and housing searches.
- Use ENVSC's Welcome Home Kit reimbursement program to support veterans who are exiting homelessness.
- Volunteer to drive veterans to a hospital, clinic, or shopping center on a regular basis. One way to do this is by working with the DAV.
- Distribute gas cards or other transportation assistance to veterans in need.
- Offer tech support by providing phone charging stations at local clinics. If you're internet savvy, offer your assistance and logging in for veterans to access healthcare providers remotely.
- Find local Veterans Service Officers to build partnerships and refer veterans.

Wherever veterans are, they can count on the Elks. Visit [elks.org/vets](http://elks.org/vets) for more information about supporting veterans in rural areas.

## **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION:**

### **Top MVS winners teach for the stars by Abbey Knupp:**

Every student who received one of the 504 Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarships in 2021-2022 is a star, brightening their communities through passion, service and knowledge. One of last year's top winners, sponsored by Slidell, LA Lodge No. 2321, has truly astronomical aspirations.

"My dreams are fed by celestial wonder," Kaden Oqueli-White said, "compelling me toward astrophysics as a means to serve to make our universe a bit less unexplained and a bit more knowable to all." Oqueli-White plans on attending Columbia University to study astrophysics and pursue a career in academia. (Continued page 10)

## **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION** **continued:**

Though he is focused on the vastness of the cosmos, he seeks to have an impact much closer to home by using his education and experiences to engage diverse populations, specifically encouraging Latino students to pursue STEM careers.

Breana Fowler, sponsored by Salisbury, NC Lodge No. 699, also dreams of furthering the education of others, and she has already started by creating a peer mediation program at her high school. The program allows students, who have been suspended or received other disciplinary action access to a safe space led by trained mediators before or after an altercation occurs.

“The program allows students to come to peace with their past and recognize their feelings, not ignore them,” Fowler said, “I am proud to say that more than three dozen students have completed the program so far, and it will be implemented into various schools, district-wide, this year.”

Fowler will start at Spelman College this fall, where she will study education. She hopes to open her own boarding school and to influence education policy and curriculum by becoming the secretary of education, but that is a dream for the future.

Fowler and Oqueli-White both earned \$50,000 scholarships toward college by winning the top MVS awards.

*For 2022-2023, the Elks National Foundation allocated \$2.8 million to fund the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, which includes 500 four-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000. For more information about the Most Valuable Student scholarship program, including eligibility and deadlines, visit [enf.elks.org/MVS](http://enf.elks.org/MVS).*

## **Planned gifts leave an ENF legacy by Abbey Knupp:**

Do you have a legal will? If you don't, you're not alone. According to AARP, 60% of Americans do not have legal wills, leaving their legacy and their family's future in the hands of the courts.

It is hard to make time for things, especially when their impact seems so far away. But, wills are the foundation of the future. When you create a will, you are protecting all that you love, gaining peace of mind, and ensuring a stronger, brighter tomorrow for all.

When you take the time to secure your legacy, you think about the things that are important to you. As an Elk, we know you value fidelity, justice, brotherly love, and charity, so consider leaving a gift to your favorite charity. Not only do charitable gifts offer tax benefits, but they can ensure your community is supported long in to the future.

The John F. Malley Society recognizes individuals who plan gifts to the Elks National Foundation. A planned gift can be a bequest, gift of appreciated stock, gift of life insurance, or other life income gifts.

Members of the Malley Society are visionaries who dream of the future where Elks continue to build stronger communities---much like Malley himself, the Grand Exalted Ruler who founded the ENF and envisioned a permanent endowment fund.

Malley Society members also receive special recognition benefits, including a Malley Society pin and medallion, a sticker for their membership card, their name listed in the ENF's donor newsletter, and an invitation to a special donor recognition event each year at the Elks National Convention. *Leave your legacy. Build for your future. To discuss planning a gift to the Elks National Foundation, please contact Development Manager Kate Keating Edsey at [KateE@elks.org](mailto:KateE@elks.org) or (773) 755-4866.*

## **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

**continued:**

**As of September 4, 2022**

Rank	Lodge	Donation	Per Capita
1	N.O. West Bank	\$ 585.00	\$ 6.35
2	Slidell	\$1,257.25	\$ 5.95
3	Houma	\$ 365.00	\$ 3.47
4	New Orleans	\$ 535.00	\$ 1.39
5	Shreveport	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.26
3	Opelousas	\$ 50.00	\$ .21
6	Plaquemine	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
8	Donaldsonville	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

**GRAND EXALTED RULER BRUCE HIDLEY**

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

**WILL BE \$4.80 PER MEMBER**



### **A CHANGE IS COMING:**

Effective January 1, 2023, the Louisiana Elks Association will have a new mailing address. The new address will be **105 General Taylor Drive, Hahnville, Louisiana 70057-2026.**

The Post Office Box will still be available until March 31, 2023, at which time it will be closed

The reason for the change was a cost-effective measure. In 2014, when I opened the P.O. Box the annual rental was \$114.00. When I renewed the rental in March of this year, the rental cost was \$312.00.

### **MID-SEASON CONFERENCE:**

The Mid-Season Conference will be held at the Opelousas Lodge on Saturday January 21, 2023.

Listed below is the agenda for the conference.

LEF Trustees 10:00 to 10:20 AM

LEA Trustees 10:20 to 10:40 AM

LEA Advisors 10:40 to 11:00 AM

District Advisory 11:00 to 11:15 AM

**Lunch 11:15 AM to 12:00 Noon**

Business meeting begins at 12:15 PM

**Please make plans to attend the conference.**

### **COMMITTEE NEWS:**

#### **AMERICANISM:**

The 2022-2023 Americanism Essay contest is in full swing now. At the DD clinic held in August each lodge got a package of the contest rules, application, theme (What is Your American Dream) to take back to their lodges and communities.

This year the Grand Lodge has changed some of the rules and adjusted the divisions. There are now 4 divisions each with a cash prize at the National level of 1st Place \$1000, 2nd Place \$500, and 3rd Place \$250. I am in the process of seeking additional dollars from the LEA to increase our payouts. We currently have a budget of only \$600 for the winners being split between the divisions. I will update you as soon as I gain approval or other outcome from the LEA and other state officers. (Continued page 12)

## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

### **AMERICANISM:**

Please make it a point to get to the schools as soon as you can to get this information to them. Have them treat the contest as an extra grade/credit assignment that you can win prizes for. I am sure that your lodge has a budget for this program and can offer acknowledgement to the young scholars in your respective communities. You can honor these winners at your annual youth program held in May.

If you need additional information, please visit [ELKS.ORG](http://ELKS.ORG) and search Americanism Essay contest. You will find all the needed materials to distribute. I ask that you please make this a key effort this year as Grand Lodge has finally put some money behind the effort and as you saw last year, we have top tier scholars in Louisiana. We had a national winner a few years ago so let's try to get back on the leaderboard and showcase out talented writers.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. I can be reached at 504-491-6291 or better via email at [jameshnola@gmail.com](mailto:jameshnola@gmail.com)

Good Luck & God Bless America

James Hester, Chairman

### **DRUG AWARENESS:**

DEA Warns of Brightly Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans



WASHINGTON – The Drug Enforcement Administration is advising the public of an alarming emerging trend of colorful fentanyl available across the United States.

In August 2022, DEA and our law enforcement partners seized brightly colored fentanyl and fentanyl pills in 18 states. Dubbed “rainbow fentanyl” in the media, this trend appears to be a new method used by drug cartels to sell highly addictive and potentially deadly fentanyl made to look like candy to children and young people.

“Rainbow fentanyl—fentanyl pills and powder that come in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes—is a deliberate effort by drug traffickers to drive addiction amongst kids and young adults,” said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. “The men and women of the DEA are relentlessly working to stop the trafficking of rainbow fentanyl and defeat the Mexican drug cartels that are responsible for the vast majority of the fentanyl that is being trafficked in the United States.”

Brightly colored fentanyl is being seized in multiple forms, including pills, powder, and blocks that resembles sidewalk chalk. Despite claims that certain colors may be more potent than others, there is no indication through DEA’s laboratory testing that this is the case. Every color, shape, and size of fentanyl should be considered extremely dangerous.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Just two milligrams of fentanyl, which is equal to 10-15 grains of table salt, is considered a lethal dose. Without laboratory testing, there is no way to know how much fentanyl is concentrated in a pill or powder.

Fentanyl remains the deadliest drug threat facing this country. According to the CDC, 107,622 Americans died of drug overdoses in 2021, with 66 percent of those deaths related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl. Drug poisonings are the leading killer of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. Fentanyl available in the United States is primarily supplied by two criminal drug networks, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG). (Continued page 13)

## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

### **DRUG AWARENESS:**

In September 2021, DEA launched the One Pill Can Kill Public Awareness Campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of fake pills. Additional resources for parents and the community can be found on DEA's Fentanyl Awareness page.

If you encounter fentanyl in any form, do not handle it and call 911 immediately.

Here are some links for The DAP Program.

Drug Awareness Home Page Elks Drug Awareness Program ([elksdap.org](http://elksdap.org))

DAP Videos and POD Casts  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/elksdap>

EDUCATION Elks Teen Drug Awareness ([elksteenzone.org](http://elksteenzone.org))

Armand Buuck, Chairman

### **LODGE ACTIVITIES:**

Greetings.

Wow, I cannot believe summer has come to an end and the kids have made their way back to school and the New Orleans Saints and LSU are gearing up for this year's football season. With the kids returning to school, I would like to remind the members with children about the scholarships that the Elks give out each year. If you know of any High School Senior students this year, please be sure to spread the word about the Elks Scholarship programs. If any of our members have a child or grandchild that is college bound, they can apply for the Legacy Award Scholarship which opened on September 1, 2022. These scholarship programs are for High School seniors that will be graduating and entering college.

There is also the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is "What is your Dream". The

contest starts with the Local Lodges, progresses through District and State levels, and ends with the naming of our National Winners at the Grand Lodge Session in Minneapolis MN in July 2023. This very important Patriotic Contest that gives school children in grades 5-8 the opportunity to express views on their pride in America.

Fall is on the horizon; it is time to let All know about The Elks Dug Awareness program and all the educational programs that it encompasses. A few examples of these programs are The Poster Contest, Red Ribbon week and the Enrique Camarena Award. 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.

I have seen some wonderful activities being promoted by many of our lodges; Themed Dance Nights, Adopt a School, Murder Mystery Dinners, Bunco, Tail Gate Parties, Bingo, Luau's, Karaoke, Garage Sales, Veterans programs, Soccer Shoot, Hoop Shoot, Halloween & New Year's Eve Parties. The list could go on and on. Be sure to visit: Elks.org website for all your fund raising and activities planning needs. The website can help you to promote the Elks Scholarship, Activities, Veterans & Drug Awareness Programs, and the many other programs that we are so proud to have.

Our state is at a plus for membership, you all have worked hard at recruiting members into the order. With all our newly installed members, please remember to keep them involved and engage.

They can and will add excitement and new life to your lodge, they want to be involved, and have asked to be involved. Be sure to let them help. We have so many wonderful activities, that everyone should be involved with and show support.  
(Continued page 14)

## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

### **LODGE ACTIVITIES:**

Lastly, remember to plan accordingly, involve your new members, and stay safe. An active member is a long-term member. "Promoting Elkdom with Enthusiasm" is how Bruce Hidley, Grand Exalted Ruler, would want us to do so!

Betsy Ibos, Chairman

### **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:**

Greetings all, I would like to first take this opportunity to address the Government Relations chairperson of your lodge. We will soon have general elections coming up. As the Government Relations chairperson you should be aware of those that affect your local lodge. Plan to send a congratulatory letter with some numbers of what your lodge contributed to the community. Also get that information to your local officials and invite them to come visit your lodge when you are holding a community event.

Last year L.E.A. had a 38 percent increase in charitable giving/reporting, this year we should be able to improve that by a mile. We have the holiday season in front of us, this is one of the busiest times of the year for Elks.

First, we can start collecting hours working with the schools on the Drug Awareness essays, make sure you count every trip you make to the schools any time copying materials and sorting them. From there we move into November (VETERANS Month) we have standdown at the VA Hospitals, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, December Christmas, January New Years.

We have individuals in our communities that are going to need help with each one of the abovementioned holidays, and our lodges should and can help while helping to account for efforts it takes to make these wonderful things happen.

Every committee and project chairperson should know that they must report these activities to the Lodge Secretary to have them input the

information into CLMS. How many trips to the store, the VA Facilities, retirement homes, count your (mileage, hours, and dollars) that went into your project. Remember if you have anyone with you everyone gets the same mileage and hours. Please make sure to get all your reports turned in and let's make our communities proud to say they have an ELKS Lodge near them. Have a Blessed Holiday Season,

Sincerely and fraternally  
Don L. Baye Chairman

### **VETERANS:**

Each night, as many as 40,000 veterans are living on the streets. Each with a different story, they all share a common pledge: to support and defend this country. Their Service is done. Now it's the Elk's turn to serve.

The Welcome Home Program has been helping veterans prevent and exit homelessness since 2016. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission has pledged to help end veteran homelessness, and ensure that veterans has the safe, stable home they deserve

The Primary way we prevent homelessness is through our Emergency Assistance Fund, which helps veterans with Housing expenses such as utilities. As the program name suggest, many veterans who turn to us for help are one emergency away from being served eviction papers.

When you think of the Welcome Home Program, you might picture a veteran finally getting out of a shelter or off the streets into their own home. That's a big piece of the picture, but it's not all that we do. The other side of the Welcome Home Program is just as important: helping veterans remain safely housed in times of crisis.

(Continued page 15)

## **COMMITTEE NEWS continued:**

### **VETERANS:**

You've heard the saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". That has never been truer than now. We have witnessed firsthand how becoming homeless puts veterans at increased risk of homelessness in the future.

By preventing veterans from becoming homeless in the first place, we are intervening in the cycle before it begins. The Emergency Assistance Fund helps people to overcome hurdles small and large to remain stably housed and safe for the future.

Please get in touch with the VA Facilities in your area, let them know about these programs that we have in place. If we can keep one veteran and their family from becoming homeless, we are doing what ELKS are supposed to do. Also inform them about our other Elks Veterans Programs (Learn about the Adopt-a-Veteran, Veterans Leather and Elks VA Voluntary Service Programs, and Freedom Grants. Email or call 1-773-755-4736.

The month of November is for Elks to honor our veterans, we should all celebrate and be thankful for what these individuals have given us and this great nation (FREEDOM). When you see a Veteran take time to thank them, let that individual or individuals know what their service meant to you.

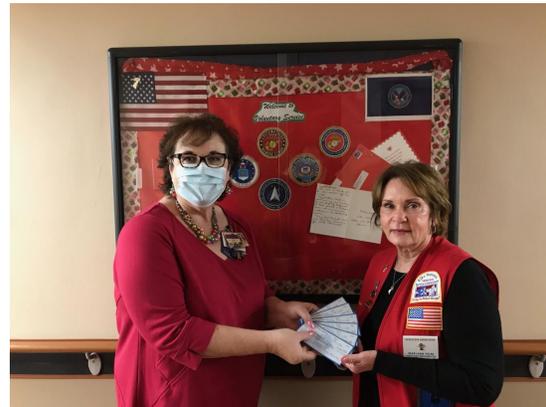
On Friday November 11th we will celebrate VETERANS DAY please try to spend some time with a veteran. A lot of the nursing homes and retirement homes in the area house veterans who do not have any family and would be thrilled to have visitors especially on veterans' day. AS we get passed Veterans Day, we go directly into the holiday season. This is when our veterans living at VA War homes, nursing homes, retirement homes, and especially the homeless veterans need your help. Please try and visit a veteran during the holiday season, you'll be amazed at what this will do for your spirits and theirs.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Don L. Baye Chairman

## **LODGE NEWS:**

### **Opelousas Lodge 1048**



Elks National VAVS Deputy Representative Maryann Yelm presented six checks totaling \$2400.00. She is pictured with Tammy Arnold, Chief of Volunteer Services. The checks were for the six on going Veterans Programs we support at the Alexandria VA Health Care System. Maryann is a member of the Opelousas Lodge.



Elks National VAVS Deputy Representative Tommy McGinty presented the \$815.00 Electronic Purchases for the 2022 Boost Grant. He is pictured with Terro Celestine, VA Volunteer Service Representative. The items will be used as part of Therapy in the VA Nursing Home and other wards in the hospital. Tommy is a member of the Opelousas Lodge

**LODGE NEWS continued:**

**Slidell Lodge 2321:**

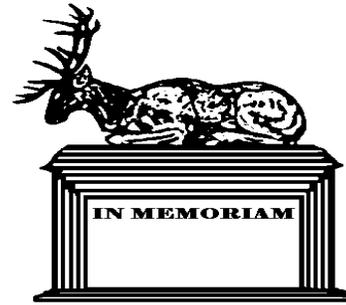
Slidell Lodge 2321 will hold its Hoop Shoot Contest December 3, 2022 at the United Methodist Church in Slidell.

**DISTRICT DEPUTY VISITATION SCHEDULE:**

- October 5, 2022, Donaldsonville 1153
- October 26, 2022, Houma 1193
- November 2, 2022, Plaquemine 1398
- November 11, 2022, New Orleans 30
- December 5, 2022, N.O. Westbank 2496
- December 8, 2022, Shreveport 122

**GRAND LODGE CONVENTION SCHEDULE:**

- Minneapolis, MN July 2-5, 2023
- Austin, TX June 30-July 3, 2024
- Kansas City, MO June 29-July 2, 2025



*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.

- Karen Kersten, Shreveport 122*
- Louis "Buddy" Mowry., Shreveport 122*
- Leroy Terrys, Shreveport 122*
- Hollis Ray Waller, Shreveport 122*

- Bayard Lott, Slidell 2321*
- Dorothy L Olson, Slidell 2321*

**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, 2022.

Please send them to:  
[mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com](mailto:mrb.hartle3574@hotmail.com) or  
[elksoflouisiana@hotmail.com](mailto:elksoflouisiana@hotmail.com)

