



Missouri Elks Association Merry Christmas ESHOZEM



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EShozem Issue 6 Fall 2014



*As the year winds down I reflect on the joys
Betsy and I have experienced over the last
eight months. We have seen many great
charitable workings performed by all the
Missouri Lodges. I am proud of our
Elks team and am assured that we
will keep on performing to the
standards we've set.*

*As we celebrate this Holiday Season
remember those in need and do
what you can to improve their
livelihood. I believe there is no
better feeling that the warmth of
giving. Betsy and I would like to wish
you all a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.*

State President

Brian Crawford

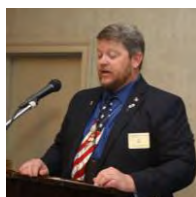
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David Solomon

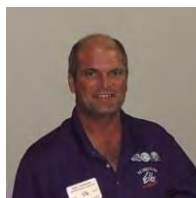
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Missouri State Officers

Vice President

Northeast

Rhonda Bruno
Warrenton #2662

Director

Joyce Gentry
Columbia 594

East Central

Joe Love
Meramec-Arnold

John A. Devous
Cedar Hill #2678

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Afton #2635

Bill De Larber
Afton #2635

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Cape Girardeau #639

Randy Northington
Dexter #2439

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Webb City #861

Gene Lamb
Kimberling Cy #2505

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Nevada #564

Kathy Baron
Sedalia #125

Marshall

Jason Ledure
Cape Girardeau #639

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Dena Wolfe
Christian Cty #2777

Chancellor

Nathan Agnew
Bates Cty #2653

At Large

Chaplain

Steve Green
Jefferson City #513

Esquire

Linda Dierker
Oakville #2726

Inner Guard

Steve Still
St Charles #690

Sergeant at Arms
Garry Bockes
Warrensburg #673

Tiler

Lee VanDusseldorp
Milan #2819

Missouri Lodges by District

EAST CENTRAL

De Soto #689
Festus-Crystal City #1721
Potosi #2218
Meramec -Arnold #2372

High Ridge #2455
Eureka-Pacific #2644
Ste. Genevieve #2674
Cedar Hill #2678
Oakville #2726

NORTHEAST

Jefferson City #513
Columbia #594
Louisiana #791
Mexico #919
Macon 999
Hannibal #1198
Washington #1559
O'Fallon #2587
St. Clair #2651
Warrenton #2662

SOUTHWEST

Springfield #409
Joplin #501
Webb City #861
West Plains #2418
Rolla #2461
Kimberling City #2505
Alton-Thayer #2545
Lebanon #2557
Lake Taneycomo #2597
Christian County #2777
Lake Stockton #2858
Adrian #2864

METRO EAST

St. Louis #9
St. Charles #690
Manchester #2058
Florissant #2316

Crestwood #2503
Affton #2635
Ellisville #2664
Troy #2805

NORTHWEST

Chillicothe #656
Maryville #760
Trenton #801
Brookfield #874
Excelsior Spgs #1001
Cameron #2615
Milan #2819

WEST CENTRAL

Sedalia #125
Nevada #564
Clinton #1034
Lake of the Ozarks #2517
Bates County #2653
Osage Community #2705
Benton County #2783
Lamar #2800
Bolivar #2828
Greenview #2857

METRO WEST

Kansas City #26
Warrensburg #673
Lexington #749
Grandview-Hickman Mills #2088

Kansas City North. #2376
Blue Springs #2509
Cass County #2791

SOUTHEAST

Cape Girardeau #639
Farmington #1765
Chaffee #1810
Sikeston #2319
Arcadia Valley #2330
Dexter #2439
Poplar Bluff #2452
Mineral Area #2583
Jackson #2652
Perryville #2701
Fredericktown #2812



Grand Lodge Missouri Sponsor

Ted Callicott
Past Grand Exalted Ruler
POB 760
Paris TN 38242

2014-2015 Grand Lodge Officers

DISTRICT DEPUTY

ESQUIRE TO DISTRICT DEPUTY

EAST CENTRAL

TIMOTHYJ.STEDELIN
Festus-Crystal City #1721

SELENA K. LAMBRICH
Cedar Hill #2678

METRO EAST

CAROL MEATTE
Manchester #2058

JOE MCCARTHY
Troy #2805

METRO WEST

FRANK KERBY
Blue Springs #2509

MICHEAL GRINNELL
Kansas City #26

NORTHEAST

MIKE HEIMANN
Washington #1559

RANDY PRINGER
Jefferson City #513

NORTHWEST

LOWRY FORD
Excelsior Springs #1001

DENNIS CANNELL
Chillicothe #656

SOUTHEAST

RICHARD L. PYATT
Farmington #1765

BUD CLARKSON
Arcadia Valley #2330

SOUTHWEST

TERRY MCCULLUM
Joplin #501

NATHAN E. BROOKS
Lake Taneycomo #2597

WEST CENTRAL

KEVIN YOUNG
Clinton #1034

TERRY EMO
Sedalia #125

Living Past State Presidents

WILLIAM F. GILL 1966-67
DONALD CONRAD 1972-73
KENNETH P. MCNELL 1982-83
ROBERT TODD 1983-84
GARRY SLOAN 1986-87
CARL SIMPSON 1988-89
ROSS JENNINGS 1990-91
JAMES HAHN 1991-92
MARC BECKMAN 1992-93
LARRY ROBERTSON 1994-95
HARRY HENNEMANN 1996-97
ROLAND A. SEAL 1998-99
RUSSELL A. WILLIAMS* 1999-2000
GARY BALLINGER 2000-2001
OTTO SAYLES 2002-2003
MIKE HAYES 2003-2004
ROGER REDFEARN 2004-2005
ROGER TRIPLETT 2005-2006
CARROLL SCHLEETER 2006-2007
RICHARD TECHAU 2007-2008
ED COHOON 2008-2009
BILL WALTER 2009-2010
ROBERT D "BOB" WIKOFF 2010-2011
TOM SHELTON 2011-2012
DENNIS "SKIP" BELL 2012-2013
RICH LARKIN 2013-2014

Benton County Christmas

On Thursday, December 18th, nine members from Benton County Elks Lodge #2783 delivered gift bags to each resident (approximately 80) at the Lincoln, MO Nursing Home. The gift bags included socks, tissues, lotion and other personal items useful to residents in the nursing home. Pictured in number 6351 are eight of the attendees, including Santa and Mrs. Santa. The Elk missing in the picture is our photographer, Joe Lowry. Included in the picture is Trustee, Tom Morgason, Johnny Sullivan, Beverly Simms, Secretary, Pam Watts, Trustee, Bettie Morgason, Trustee, Tuffy Watts, Cindy Sullivan, aka Mrs. Santa and Bill Davidson, aka Santa



DREAM HUNT OF A LIFETIME

Kit Grimes

WINNER!



Jim Hahn, PGE/PSP, Dream Hunt Chairman for Mineral Area Lodge is shown greeting Dream Hunt Winner Kit Grimes from Oldfield, Missouri at Oak Creek Whitetail Ranch, Bland Missouri.

The Lodge raised over \$4,300 with the Deer Hunt raffle. Kit and his wife won a three day hunt with four nights of Lodging at Oak Creek. Oak Creek owner, Donald Hill worked closely with the Lodge and became personally involved in the Elks Veteran Leather Program.

Donald offered to the Elks, excess deer and Elk hides not used by clients in mounting their trophies. As of December 4th, the day of Kits hunt, a total of over 50 hides had been donated. Pictured is Kit with his buck taken the first evening of the hunt. Kit was very proud of his mainframe ten pointer which also carried five non-typical points.





Cass County

450 pounds of pulled pork is on its way to the KCVA Medical Center to feed the Vets. Why do we seem to do this on the coldest day of the year? Last year Cass County 2791 fed over 900 vets in just under an hour. Thanks to our Vets! We are able to do this each year because of our ENF grant. Thanks to [Mark Wansing](#), [Jordan Love](#), and all the others helping with this project.

Ellisville Elks Lodge #2664

After two hours of fishing, the **Ellisville Elks Lodge #2664** handed out the awards, and along with the Trophies for Most fish caught, Largest Fish, and smallest fish, we handed out multiple attendance prizes to the kids that didn't catch any fish, or that weren't in the running.

In conjunction with our Fishing Derby, the Ellisville Elks handed out D.A.R.E Comic Books to all the kids that participated in our Youth Fishing Derby



Largest fish caught

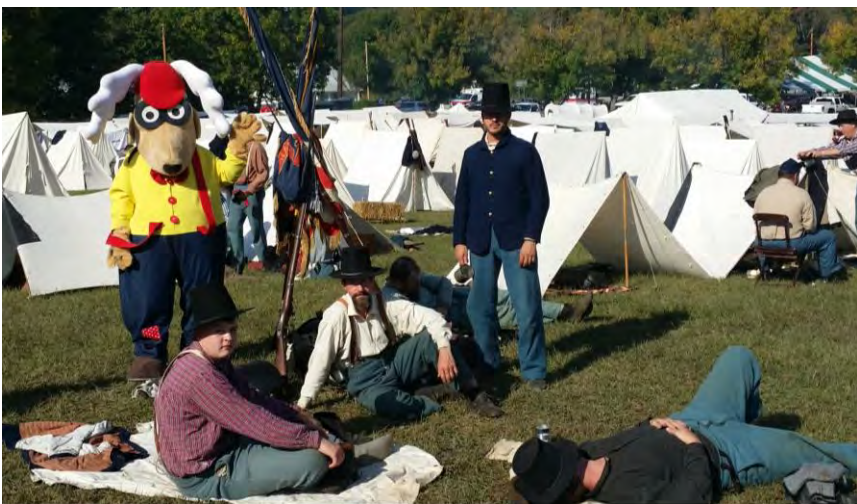


Comic Books



Union Army re-enactors participate in the Saturday afternoon recreation of the Battle of Pilot Knob fought 150 years ago at Fort Davidson in the Arcadia Valley. Despite facing incredible odds, Union forces were able to fight off an attack by thousands of Confederate soldiers while suffering a minimum of casualties.

The Arcadia Valley Elks Lodge #2330 is located directly across the street from Fort Davidson. The Veterans committee fired up the grill and Elroy visited the park. The Civil War reenactment typically takes place every 3 years in September. An estimated 30,000 people were in attendance.



Elroy Visits with the troops



Exalted Ruler Jim Barron and wife Laura Barron



Getting ready for action



**Arcadia
Valley
#2330**



Fall Convention 2014
Hospitality Room
District Decoration Contest
Winner
West Central



Joplin Elks Lodge

Christmas food basket prep begins. Thanks to generosity of Joplin 501 Elk members and their families, Christmas will be better for over 250 families in the Joplin area.

Joplin 501 Elks Care

Joplin 501 Elks Share





Louisiana Elks Annual Christmas Shopping Program Benefits 385 Local Kids

APRIL M. FRONICK • EDITOR
april@thepeopletribune.com

Every year the Louisiana Elks Lodge 791 provides money to local kids through the George Trimble Fund to assist families in need.

This year a total of 385 children from the Bowling Green, Clopton, BONCL and Louisiana school districts were selected to participate. Each child received \$80 to shop at Walmart.

"The kids are able to buy clothes," explained Bob Kilby, who heads up the program. "They can get shoes, coats, hats, gloves, and anything of that nature."

The program has changed over

the years and the amount of money the kids receive and how many kids are selected depends on the amount the trust generates that particular year.

Kilby said the schools help select the kids who are in need.

"I take the applications to the schools. Teachers identify those who may be in the most need," Kilby remarked.

The Elks go over all of the applications and select those who will participate.

Kilby has handled the program since 1984. He noted that a great deal of good comes from the trust left behind by George Trimble including this important program.

Trimble Fund Helps Provide For Local Families

A great deal of positive comes from the trust left behind by George Trimble. One of the programs overseen by the Louisiana Elks Lodge 791 is the annual Christmas shopping program. This year the Elks were able to provide 385 local kids with \$80 each to purchase clothing at Walmart in Bowling Green. Above, Elks member Richie Minor signs off on each order that comes through.

Trib photo by April M. Fronick



Brookfield Elks Lodge had a Veterans Day celebration with free food and drink for all Veteran's. Those in attendance are pictured with VA and VFW Representatives who were there to offer services and the Lodge's Officers prior to their regular meeting featuring a Flag Retirement Ceremony.



Metro West 4709

The Missouri Elks Metro West District #4709 participated in the 89th American Royal Parade with a float honoring all 5 branches of the military. The theme of the parade was "A Star Spangled Salute" paid tribute to our military, retired and active. The combined effort was led by the Blue Springs Lodge. Other participating lodges included Cass County, Grandview-Hickman Mills, Kansas City, Kansas City Northland, Lexington and Warrensburg.

Pictured Rita Feller, Kenda Smith, Bob Cheatham, Melissa Smith, Joe Wyatt, and Forrest Taylor. Facing back are Tom Wolf and Richard McKiddy.



President Brian Crawford giving a helping hand at the Potosi Dec. 6th Christmas Auction.



Jackson Lodge Charlie Wilde receives ENF Honors for achieving \$1000 + in Donations. Presented by SE District DD Rick Pyatt



Brian and Louisiana ER Porter Elliot visting with men at the Trimble House



The Greenview Elks Lodge No. 2857 recently donated \$300 to West Central Missouri Veterans Assistance League to benefit the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg.

Members Jerry and Dee Hamman pictured right are shown presenting check to Latisha Koetting, Volunteer Services, Warrensburg, on left.



FALL BOUTIQUE



Lake Taneycomo Elks Lodge 2597 hosts 26th Annual Taney County Toy Distribution

Written by Terri Williams



The 26th Annual Taney County Toy Distribution was held on Saturday December 13th at the Lake Taneycomo Elks Lodge 2597.

There were over 260 children who registered for the event. Our

Bingo room was decked out with all of the tables full of toys, coats, hats, gloves and hand made stockings. Parents were able to pick out Christmas gifts for their



children. All of this was possible through the generosity of the Freedom of the Road Riders chapter 15 of Branson and their annual toy run that was held

at the Lodge on November 2nd, 2014. It was the first time that the Lodge had hosted an event like this and they are looking forward to doing it again next year. Terri Williams, organizer for the Toy Run and Toy Distribution, would like to thank all the



volunteers for their hard work in making this event a success. It takes a great team to make events like this a success.



Warrensburg Homecoming Parade



Warrensburg Home Coming Parade. We joined together with our Veterans Home and was able to get a bus full to ride in the parade and a couple on their wheel chairs. It was a Beautiful Day to be in a Parade.

Meramec-Arnold Elks Lodge 2372

Attached are some photos of our Lodge preparing our Christmas Baskets for needy families on December 21st. This is an annual event for Meramec-Arnold Elks Lodge 2372 in Imperial, MO.

Funds for the Christmas Basket Program are raised through out the year at various events. This year thanks to the efforts of the Lodge Members and our Ladies Auxiliary we were able to distribute over \$6,000 worth of food and gifts to 60 needy families. Each family received 3 to 4 boxes, depending on family size, of canned goods, staples, a turkey ground beef and gifts if children involved. This is just one of the many Charitable works the Elks support in our Community on an annual basis.





The Washington Lodge welcomed eleven new members on September 2nd. Pictured front left: Tim Brinkmann, Crystal Collins, Richard Franklin, Robert Halsted, Ashley Harper. Standing: Tony Huxel, Nathan Kozemski, Peter Lohman, Kurtis Oshe and Darlene Weir.



Jefferson City Elks Lodge members enjoyed a day away visiting Blue Springs, Warrensburg, Clinton and Sedalia Lodges. Members are pictured outside Warrensburg Lodge #693.



Jefferson City Lodge members, with the help from Lincoln University and Helias High School students, put together and delivered 65 food baskets to those in need in the community with the aid of the Gratitude Grant.



Diana Hughs – Tiler and Maria Tucci from Six String Hero's pose with 8 G guitars

The Ellisville Elks, with the use of the Freedom Grant, purchased 8 acoustic guitars for the Six String Hero's Veterans Graduation Class, which helps Veterans cope with post-traumatic stress syndrome. The Ellisville Elks also provided a pizza dinner at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis for the Six String Hero's Veterans Graduation Class.

Ladies Luncheon Fall 2014



Washington Elk's Lodge #1559



The Washington Lodge received a Gratitude Grant from ENF and used the funds to aid area veterans with food, personal items and gas cards. Pictured: Exalted Rule Nicholas Mueller and Veterans' Chairperson Brian Lick.



Lots of smiles from the committee members and participants of the Annual Washington Lodge Fishing Derby held on Saturday, September 13th.



Pictured: Director Amanda Jones; Board Member Carla Poepfel; Esquire Barbara Delleart and Exalted Ruler Nicholas Mueller.

The Lodge donated to Grace's Place an Emergency Shelter for Children.



Drug Awareness Committee Members shared some time with Flmo and passed out Anti-Drug literature



The Washington Elks Lodge took 1st Place at the Washington Town and Country Fair Outhouse Race. Team members are Casey Stick, Inner Guard; Leslie Albright, member; Nicholas Mueller, Exalted Ruler; and Patrick Feldmann, Tiler. The Outhouse was designed and built by PER Gary Barnes who passed away a year ago.



The Washington Lodge welcomed eleven new members on September 2nd. Pictured front left: Tim Brinkmann, Crystal Collins, Richard Franklin, Robert Halsted, Ashley Harper. Standing: Tony Huxel, Nathan Kozemski, Peter Lohman, Kurtis Oshe and Darlene Weir.

**Washington Elk's Lodge #1559
Fall Activities 2014**

September Family Picnic



Jeri Nowak, Martha Berry and Nancy Mittendorf enjoyed a nice day of socializing.



Tom Michels, Eric Dobelmann and Jim Yount.



John Compton, Bob Sack and Jim Eli enjoying the social time at the Family Picnic.

Washington Elks' Chili Cook-Off Team



Team members representing the Washington Elk's Lodge:
Leslie Albright, Cass Yeary Cathy Morgan., Donna Desmond,
Jim Desmond and Ali Smith

**Washington Lodge /St. Clair Lodge Combined
Activity: A Day At The Park**

The Washington & St. Clair Lodge joined together to sponsor a day in the park for area residents. There was a Kickball Tournament, various activities, food and refreshments. Pictured below are Elk member s and guest enjoying "A Day In The Park."



Lodge Halloween Party



Emmett Kelly aka Tom Michels may look sad, but the Washington Elks' Lodge Halloween party was a howling good time.

New Member Initiated into the Washington Lodge in October



Front/Left: Thomas Buescher, Nicholas Frankenberg, Joseph Kapustka, Cathleen Manley
Back row: Exalted Ruler-Nicholas Mueller, Julie Moss, Chris Stiers, Christopher Weable and James Withers.

Drug Awareness Red Ribbon Week School Assemblies



The Washington Elk's Lodge sponsored Red Ribbon Assemblies at 10 Washington/Union Elementary Schools during Red Ribbon Week. Ribbons were distributed to area school and speakers presented "Say NO To Drug" Speeches and activities to the students.

Ice Cream Social at the Missouri Veterans' Home in St. Louis



Members of the Washington Lodge ventured to St. Louis Veterans' Home on Saturday, November 19 for an Ice Cream Social with home residents. Residents received gifts of clothing and a monetary donation to put toward activities. A good time and many interesting stories were shared.



Annual Christmas Box Food/Toy Donation



Community organizations recognized for contributing toys for the boxes: Vicki Russel of Dollar General; Jill Straatmann Elks Leading Knight; Leslie Edward, Sarah Kurtz Washington Teachers UEA and Susan Cozza – St. Gertrude School



State President Brian Crawford and Betsy lending a hand.



The Washington Lodge gathered on December 5th to assemble 350 Christmas Boxes that held food and toys to be distributed to families throughout the community. A good time was had by members who participated in the event.



Washington Lodge Annual Hoop Shoot

The Washington Lodge held its annual Hoop Shoot on Saturday, December 6. There many participants and the competition stiff. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Winners of each age bracket are shown in the following picture.



Girls 8-9 (FL) Molly Schroeder 1st, Amanda Dorpinhaus, Jillian Hullinghoff; 10-11yrs Hope Ramsey 1st, Elizabeth Sinnott, Chloe Shoutz; 12-13 Isabel Beumer 1st, Nicole Luko



Boys 8-9 (FL) Heath Landwehr 1st, Matthew Blomberg, Cooper Thiemann; 10-11 yrs Josh Kopp 1st, Sam Holtmeyer, Weston Meyer and 12-13 yrs. Zack Unnerstall 1st, Mark Maquire, Will Gleeson

Washington Lodge Children's Christmas Party



There were lots of games and activities for children at the Elks Christmas Party held on Sunday, December 7th. Santa made the rounds checking on whose been "Naughty or Nice" spreading cheer and taking Christmas requests.

Christmas Prom for Developmental Services Clients



Prom King & Queen were all smiles at the prom held at the Washington Lodge #1559 on Sunday, December 14. There were approximately 100 guests dressed in their best to enjoy an afternoon of food,



Even Santa made an appearance that made the day even more exciting and fun for our guests.



Front: Exalted Ruler, Nicholas Mueller, Guest Katie Weaver, Nick Kreftmeyer and Cindy Montgomery. Back: Chairperson Cindy Heimann and Franklin County Developmental Services Coordinator, Barbara Laberer.

RETURN TO: Elaine Todd
2223 E. Bennett
Springfield, MO 65804
Phone (417) 881-8596



HOTEL PREFERENCE IF CAPITOL PLAZA FULL
BAYMONT \$67_____
HOLIDAY INN \$79_____
HOTELS WILL COLLECT TAX & CHARGE
OVER THE \$67 DEPOSIT

MISSOURI ELKS STATE CONVENTION

Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty Street, Jefferson City, Missouri

March 13, 14, 15, 2015

ROOM CUTOFF DATE - February 20, 2015

ROOM RATES

Single or Double \$67.00

ARRIVAL DATE _____

DEPARTURE DATE _____

1. Name _____
2. Address _____
3. City _____ Zip Code _____
4. Telephone _____
5. Present Office _____
6. Spouse's Name _____
(If Spouse or Significant Other is Elk, please complete additional form.)
7. Lodge Name & Number _____
8. Title to be on badge _____

- ☐ Single Room - 1 Bed
- ☐ Single Room - 2 Beds
- ☐ Other
- ☐ \$67.00 Room Deposit Required

HANDICAP REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ Handicap _____
- TOTAL DEPOSIT & REGISTRATION
ENCLOSED

NOTE: CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MARCH 2 TO RECEIVE FOOD TICKETS

- ☐ Delegate and spouse _____ \$100.00
- ☐ Delegate(s) only _____ \$50.00 each
(Pd. pre-registration required to reserve room)
- ☐ ER's Luncheon _____ \$14.00
(Exalted Rulers & Leading Knights only)
- ☐ PER's Luncheon _____ \$14.00

Please print or type information.
REGISTRATION FEE AND
ROOM DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO
RESERVE ROOM.
No refund of registration for any
cancellation after March 6.

\$ _____
PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
MISSOURI ELKS ASSOCIATION



Hey Elks.....Did You Know?

December 2014

Missouri Shozem E-Page

Assistance is available for worthy, needy Members

Needy Elks Members can qualify for up to \$1,000 in an emergency 50-50 matching grant from the Order under Section 5.070 of the Grand Lodge Statutes.

The assistance would be available to “worthy and needy Members of the Order who are suffering from diseases of an incurable character or from total disability, and who are without funds or property or relatives able or willing to care for them,” the Statute states.

The Statute also provides that the Lodge of the assisted Member “shall contribute toward the relief of the Member an amount not less than one-half of the sum that is contributed by the Order.”

The assistance program is administered by the Board of Grand Trustees, which is authorized to appropriate up to \$10,000 annually for the program. The board by resolution may give the Grand Exalted Ruler up to \$1,000 so that authorized payments may be made regularly by him.

"The monies so appropriated shall be administered by the Grand Exalted Ruler with the consent of a majority of the Board of Grand Trustees," the Statute states.



From the Grand Lodge

Government Relations Committee

December 2014

Missouri Shozem E-Page

Liquor liability laws that Lodges need to know

By THOMAS M. ZISA, Committee Member

You are all aware that last year one of our Lodges was sued by the victims of a car accident in which two people lost their lives and others were injured. The jury returned a verdict of \$28 million in favor of the victims and their families, and held the Lodge responsible for the entire amount for allowing the driver that caused the accident to leave the Lodge intoxicated.

The consequences of such an event are devastating. The lives of the victims and their families were immeasurably changed forever; the community image of the affected Lodge was destroyed; the event had substantial financial impact on the Lodge; and the reputation of our entire Order was damaged.

When such events occur state and federal legislators enact more stringent laws to protect the public and prevent such occurrences. This legislation can affect how we perform our great charitable work. Local officials look at a Lodge where these events occur as a problem, not an asset.

Our Grand Secretary spoke about this incident at the Grand Lodge Convention in New Orleans, and Grand Exalted Ruler John Amen notified Lodges about it. In addition, the Grand Lodge Insurance Department has issued a manual to Lodges titled, "Responsible Beverage Service" containing guidelines for safe service of alcoholic beverages.

Despite these preventative actions, our committee feels this issue cannot be addressed enough. Lodges need to be aware that every state has liquor liability or "Dram Shop Act" laws; and that a Lodge can be liable for injuries or damages resulting from allowing a person to leave the premises intoxicated. Even drinking-and-driving laws and penalties nationwide are stricter than ever. The loss of license and financial penalties can be devastating to an individual or family. Penalties range from fines, civil penalties and even criminal prosecution, depending on jurisdiction.

Lodges must take measures to ensure that any person who serves alcohol in your Lodge must read and understand the "Responsible Beverage Service" Manual guidelines. Servers of alcohol should be trained by a qualified organization such as TAM, TIPS and ServeSafe. They should know to cut off service to any Member or guest approaching intoxication; to properly check IDs; and to take steps to prevent underage drinking. If a Member or guest becomes intoxicated, get him or her a ride and do everything you can to make sure they get home safe. But more properly, never serve a person approaching intoxication.

Keep an events book in your social parlor where each server is required to make daily entries of any unusual events such as refusing service to a Member or guest. If nothing unusual occurs on a given day, note that fact too.

A great deal more information is contained in the manual so make sure your Lodges read it and abide by it.

We are the nation's premier charitable organization and we can prove it, thanks to our charitable statistics. Jealously guard that public image and safety of our Members and guests by serving alcohol responsibly.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 2015 GRAND LODGE NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

ADOPT-A-VETERAN PROGRAM

For over thirty years the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been actively involved in our Adopt-A-Veteran-Program. The Elks' commitment, "*So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them*", is as relevant today as it was many years ago. We must not ignore the needs of our Veterans, especially those who are without family and friends close by. We can help brighten their lonely days by adopting them and involving them in Lodge activities, providing outings and dinners and making them feel special and honored for their sacrifices.

Lodges can become involved by following these five simple steps:

1. The VAVS Representative (or chairman at a state facility) secures the names of Veterans without family or friends nearby and forwards the list to the State Elks National Veterans Service Commission Chairman.
2. The State Elks National Veterans Service Commission Chairman will divide the list among the Lodges in close proximity to the facility and forward the names to the appropriate District Chairman.
3. The District Chairman will determine how many Veterans each Lodge wishes to adopt. He will then provide the Lodges with a like amount of names.
4. The Lodge should publish the names and birthdays (without year) of its adopted Veterans in its bulletin each month and encourage members and their families to schedule visits with our deserving Veterans. You can talk about their service, sports and current events, etc. Calling them occasionally would also be very much appreciated.
5. Gifts for Veterans should consist of personal care items, reading material, games and similar items of nominal cost. Luncheons and dinners at a restaurant or the Lodge are also recommended.

Let us make sure our Veterans are never forgotten, Adopt-A-Veteran today!

For more information about how your Lodge can get involved contact:

Stewart G. Israel, Chairman
Adopt-A-Veteran Program
40225 Newport Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170-4739
(734) 455-4567
E-Mail: stewizzy@yahoo.com

Soccer ... The real impact

By STEVEN A. DAVIS, Committee Member

Earlier this fall my wife and I spent a weekend in Grand Forks, North Dakota, attending the state boys high school soccer tournament. I was impressed on many levels with the quality of the event overall. The backdrop of the stadium was rich with beautiful colors of autumn, and the weather was fully cooperative with a pleasant, warming sun.

The teams that competed were from all corners of the state with very different backgrounds. The individual skills of the players, and quality of the team play, were exceptional.

Most of the games were very competitive, some going into overtime. More impressive was the sportsmanship I observed on the field. Watching these young men compete at such a high level, yet with the utmost consideration and respect for each other, was truly a joy. I couldn't help but feel that the Elks Soccer Shoot Program has played a role in building the character of these young competitors.

At the core of the Elks Soccer Shoot Program, and all Elks Youth Activities, is providing fun-filled, productive, character-building activities for our youth. It doesn't take long to truly appreciate the impact these programs have on youngsters.

At the time of this publication, successful Soccer Shoots will have already been held in Lodges, Districts, States and, in some cases, regions nationwide. Wouldn't it be great to see a national Elks Soccer Shoot? Someday soon we will see a contest modeled after the very successful Elks Hoop Shoot.

The Elks Soccer Shoot is a two-stage program designed to match the skills of ages 7 & under (U-8), 8-9 (U-10), 10-11 (U-12) and 12-13 (U-14). U-8 and U-10 compete in the five-goal contest, and U-12 and U-14 in the grid-goal contest.

If your Lodge doesn't currently participate in Soccer Shoot, I encourage you to get started. It's easy to implement at very little expense. For information, please refer to the Elks Soccer Shoot Program Manual at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/manuals/default.cfm>?

I hope all dedicated men and women of Elkdom get to witness the impact of their hard work and dedication...as I did most recently on the soccer fields in northeast North Dakota.