



Missouri Elks Association Shozem

Published Semi-Annually by the Missouri State Elks Association
Shozem Issue 23 Spring 2023
shozem2@gmail.com moelks.org Missouri Elks Association on Facebook



Grand Exalted Ruler

Bruce A. Hidley and wife Helen will be unable to attend our Spring State Convention due to scheduling conflicts but we will look forward to seeing them in the near future.

Greetings Missouri Elks,

What an amazing year full of wonderful memories. We enjoyed every lodge visit and the fun times we had at all the state functions and special events. In addition to lodge visits we were able to visit several Historical sites, Veterans, Memorials, Museums, and scenic sites around the state.

Missouri once again reached 100% participation in the Elks National Foundation, we awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving students. We held our State Soccer Shoot and State Hoop Shoot contests. Lodges all across the state used grants to support our Veterans, Schools, and many other community needs.

My Super Bowl "State Presidents Challenge" for ENF was a fun way to promote the charitable arm of our great order. I want to thank Pennsylvania President William Mack for accepting the challenge. Thank you to all who donated to this challenge. The real winners are those we serve through our great programs supported by ENF.

Donna and I, along with Matt and Nancy were so blessed by your generosity and hospitality this year.

We have met so many Elks across the state, we made new friends, and enjoyed the fellowship of our long-time friends.

Thank You Missouri Elks, and may God Bless you all.

Steven Green

MEA State President

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Greetings Everyone –

Welcome to the Spring Convention of the Missouri Elks Association! The Missouri Elks traditionally welcomes our Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady to our Spring Convention for their official visit. Unfortunately, this year's Grand and First Lady, Bruce and Helen Hidley from the State of New York will be unable to attend our Convention due to a Grand Lodge scheduling conflict. Please know that this did not occur due to any issue on the part of the Missouri Convention Committee or the capable members that serve on this hardworking committee. GER Hidley is disappointed, as are we about this development but it can't be helped and please be assured that we will have Bruce and Helen join us at a later time, hopefully at this Falls Convention. Beth and I have known GER Hidley and First Lady Helen since 2007 when I was serving as Grand Exalted Ruler. Bruce and Helen were the State President and First Lady of the New York Elks Association that year. They are a wonderful and dedicated couple and are excellent ambassadors representing the Order this year. I hope many of you that attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta this past summer had a chance to meet the Hidley's when they made a stop at the Missouri hospitality room. You can be sure GER Bruce and First Lady Helen look forward to the time when they make their official visit to the Show-Me State!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this past Lodge year a successful one. As you may have heard, Missouri is completing another year with a gain in membership! Good job everyone and let's keep that ball rolling! Beth and I would like to congratulate Missouri State President Steve Green and First Lady Donna for the wonderful job they did in serving our State Association. We thank them for their dedication and friendship. We extend our well wishes and good luck to President Elect Lance Evans and Connie as they begin their year serving the Missouri Elks.

As many of us get ready for the Grand Lodge Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to all the incoming Exalted Rulers, please make all of the sessions and take back to your Lodges ideas that may enhance the operation of your Lodge. For many of you, this will be your first Grand Lodge Convention. I remember fondly my first Convention so many, many years ago and I am sure your experience will be as good as mine was.

Beth and I look forward to being with all of you this month in Jefferson City. Until then, stay safe and God Bless.

F. Louis Sulsberger, Past Grand Exalted Ruler

Missouri State Sponsor

Missouri State Officers for 2023-2024

State President
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Significant other: Connie
PO Box 342
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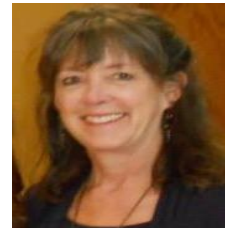
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Vice President
Ben Flatt
Mineral Area #2583

Theresa Carter Hess
Springfield #409

Mona Brown
Louisiana #791

Allan Eimer
Desoto #689

Greg Peterson
Manchester #2058

Patrick Monks
Kansas City #26

Samantha Barrett
Excelsior Spgs #1001

Anna Emerson
Greenview #2587

Director
Southeast
Paul LeDure
Cape Girardeau #639
Southwest
Paula Richardson
Alton-Thayer #2545
Northeast
Jennifer Foster
Hannibal #1198
East Central
Tom Boulch
St Charles #690
Metro East
Patrick Dolan
Affton #2635
Metro West
John Carmody
Kansas City #26
Northwest
Danny Curley
Brookfield #846
West Central
Doug Alden
Benton County #2783

At Large
Marshall
Joe Boyer
Jackson #2652
Chancellor
Chase Emory
Webb City #861
Sergeant At Arms
Shannon Reese
Louisiana #791
Sergeant At Arms
Debbie Belavich
Meramac-Arnold #2372
Esquire
Albert J Ford
St Louis #9
Tiler
Steve Solomon
Blue Springs #2509
Chaplain
Dan Sylvester
Milan #2819
Inner Guard
Dusty Devasher
Clinton #1034



Grand Lodge Missouri Sponsor
Louis Sulsberger
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louger@frontier.com

2022 2023 Grand Lodge Officers
Grand Exalted Ruler 2022-2023

Bruce Hidley
Watervliet-Colonie #1500
Special Deputy, Grand Exalted Ruler
PSP John S. Gross DeSoto #689
DISTRICT DEPUTY **ESQUIRE**

EAST CENTRAL	EAST CENTRAL
Ron Kurtz	Dave Davis
Eureka-Pacific #2644	Festus-Crystal Cy 1721
METRO EAST	METRO EAST
Mike Polson	Robert Dixon
Ellisville #2664	Stl #9
METRO WEST	METRO WEST
Lynda Grinnell	RD Mallams
Kansas City #26	KC Northland #2376
NORTHEAST	NORTHEAST
Eileen Scrivner	Eric Dobelmann
Jefferson City #513	Washington #1559
NORTHWEST	NORTHWEST
Brett Romeiser	Herbert (Jr) Boyce
Chillicothe #656	Excelsior Springs #1001
SOUTHEAST	SOUTHEAST
Chuck Reed	Terry Young
Jackson #2652	Jackson #2652
SOUTHWEST	SOUTHWEST
Dennis (Skip) Bell	Jeremiah Cook
Christian County #2777	Joplin #501
WEST CENTRAL	WEST CENTRAL
Zac Maggi	Bill Lutman
Clinton #1034	Greenview #2857

Living Past State Presidents

ROBERT TODD	1983-1984
CARL SIMPSON	1988-1989
ROSS JENNINGS	1990-1991
JAMES HAHN	1991-1992
MARC BECKMAN	1992-1993
LARRY ROBERTSON	1994-1995
ROLAND A. SEAL	1998-1999
OTTO SAYLES	2002-2003
CARROLL SCHLEETER	2006-2007
RICHARD TECHAU	2007-2008
TOM SHELTON	2011-2012
DENNIS "SKIP" BELL	2012-2013
RICH LARKIN	2013-2014
BRIAN CRAWFORD	2014-2015
DUANE HELDENBRAND	2015-2016
JOHN GROSS	2016-2017
PETE NASH	2017-2018
WM "BILL" DELARBER	2018-2019
DON COOK	2019-2020
RON BOLLINGER	2020-2021
JOHN RINEHART	2021-2022
STEVEN GREEN	2022-2023

Missouri Lodges by District

EAST CENTRAL	METRO EAST	METRO WEST
De Soto #689	St. Louis #9	Kansas City #26
Festus-Crystal City #1721	St. Charles #690	Warrensburg #673
Potosi #2218	Manchester #2058	Lexington #749
Meramec -Arnold #2372	Florissant #2316	Kansas City North #2376
High Ridge #2455	Crestwood #2503	Blue Springs #2509
Eureka-Pacific #2644	Affton #2635	Cass County #2791
Ste. Genevieve #2674	Ellisville #2664	Grandview Hickman Mills #2088
Cedar Hill #2678	Troy #2805	
Oakville #2726		
NORTHEAST	NORTHWEST	SOUTHEAST
Jefferson City #513	Chillicothe #656	Cape Girardeau #639
Columbia #594	Maryville #760	Farmington #1765
Louisiana #791	Trenton #801	Chaffee #1810
Mexico #919	Brookfield #874	Sikeston #2319
Macon 999	Cameron #2615	Arcadia Valley #2330
Hannibal #1198	Milan #2619	Dexter #2439
Washington #1559	Excelsior Springs #1001	Poplar Bluff #2452
O'Fallon #2587		Mineral Area #2583
St. Clair #2651		Jackson #2652
Warrenton #2662		Perryville #2701
Southwest	West Central	
Springfield #409	Sedalia #125	Lake Stockton #2857
Joplin #501	Nevada #564	
Webb City #861	Clinton #1034	
West Plains #2418	Lake of the Ozarks #2517	
Kimberling City #2505	Bates County #2653	
Alton-Thayer #2545	Osage Community #2705	
Lebanon #2557	Benton County #2783	
Lake Tanneycomo #2597	Lamar #2800	
Christian County #2777	Bolivar #2828	
	Greenview #2857	



**The Shozem
Missouri State Paper**

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Congratulations to all of the new State Officers who are being sworn in at this convention. I hope you all have a productive and exciting year.

I wish to remind everyone to share your many events in the Shozem.

Thank you Steven and Donna for a great and productive year. We are looking forward to 2023-2024 and eager to welcome President Elect Lance Evans.

Joy Clarkson

District Editors

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Thanks Rich and Ruthie for the great job on the Directory

(Note from Shozem Editor: I absolutely love this picture!)

MEA State Directory

Send information to

Rich Larkin
rrlarkin@swbell.net
Or call 816-824-8484



In order to meet our deadline for distribution in a timely manner, all lodges must have their information for the MO Elks State Directory submitted by **April 10th.**

**2023—2024
Missouri Elks Association
State President
Lance Evans**



Greetings Missouri Elk's

Connie, Sue, Kevin, and I are looking forward to visiting with you and making new friends this coming year.

My goals this year are to get our lapsation rates down and to always get one more Member and help ourselves out by reporting all of our hours and donations we do to Government Relations. You will hear more about all of this and some more as the year goes on.

Let's have fun and Drive ELKdom Forward!

Lance Evans
President Elect 2021-2022
State President 2022-2023
(660)734-5416

**2023 Annual Ladies
Fall Boutique Fundraiser**

Saturday, October 14, 2023
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Live Auction to begin at 1:15 PM
Located in the Atrium of the Capital Plaza Hotel

Proceeds from the Fall Boutique will be divided equally between the Missouri Benevolent Trust Fund and the Elks National Foundation.

I am asking each Lodge to donate an item or two for these great charities. The boutique will consist of silent auction items, raffle items and a live auction. More detailed information will be mailed to all Lodges in June.

I will be hosting this event in the Fall and look forward to everyone's participation.

Kathy Ross
314-471-3326
kfridmyer09@gmail.com





“Veterans, you have done your duty--to your families, to your communities, to your fallen comrades, and to your country. You have honorably served your nation with great distinction. And we can never say it enough--for your (the Veterans') service in war and in peace--thank you and God bless you.”

On Friday evening November 11 **Christian County Elks #2777** hosted their annual Veterans Day Dinner honoring all that served. Boy Scouts Carter and Alex Sweet led the Pledge of Allegiance, Trustee Charlie Hopkins said a prayer then the quartet JAZZ! sang the Star-Spangled Banner. Dinner was served . Our Veterans program continued with

Americanism Chairman, Steve Buttruss acknowledging a local citizen, Gary Schreiner, for flying his American Flag 24-7 and receiving an Americanism Certificate. Steve then read a poem his grandson had written titled, “Names upon Black Granite.” Veteran Gene Ward also recited one of his poems. He has written many poems in his five books of poetry. All Veterans were recognized with a group photo and members of the Springfield Metro Chorus closed out the evening with upbeat military medleys.

The Elks Veteran’s Thanksgiving Dinner was again an enormous success. We had 44 Veterans with their families and friends attending. There were thirty-one volunteers that showed up to help prepare and serve our wonderful dinner. The Springfield Metro Chorus decorated the Lodge in a beautiful red, white and blue theme with an American flag covering each chair. Veterans Rex Krasche gave the invocation, Gene Ward recited two poems, and Chris McQuay & Serenity presented an update on her charity. All the Thanksgiving dinner food was donated by Serenity’s charity from her “Food Drive for Veterans” in October. Thank you to local businesses, Village Inn, and Apple Market, each donated eight pies for the Thanksgiving event. The Elks never let anything go to waste, left-over pies were auctioned off at our next Lodge dinner, raising \$250 for the future Veteran events. A BIG thank you goes out to all the volunteers that made our Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner and Veterans Day event a success and especially to our Veterans. Elks will never forget them. For 28 years the Elks have served our community with events like this. If you would like to be part if this great organization, the Elks, and support children, veterans and our community, email joinccelks@gmail.com for more information. Elks Care, Elks Share



Spring Elk’s State Convention 2023-2024
Elks In Service To Veterans

“As long as there are veterans, we will never forget them”, as Elks we hold to that pledge. At our state convention the opening ceremony is our presentation of colors.

The first two flags presented to our membership; the American flag accompanied by the POW MIA Flag.

Friends In Elkdom, it is my responsibility and good fortune to inform you we have, Missouri Veterans Home Representatives, VAVS and Deputy VAVS as well as eight District Veterans Chairman in the state of Missouri. These dedicated men and women cover 18 veteran facilities, 7 Missouri Veterans Nursing Homes, 3 Fisher Houses, 2 USO’s, 5 VA Medical Centers, 1 Veteran Campus with 110 veteran residents and another 65 units in 2024. To facilitate our commitment to these veteran locations and our Elk Representatives who donate their time and energy I have distributed financial support generated through ENF, my state budget allotment, and stipends from the Elks National Veterans Service Commission. Make no mistake, although this funding is well received the real supporters of these facilities is you our Elks, and the generosity of your lodges. As we move forward toward this next fiscal year consider making room in your lodge budgets for veteran projects. Work with your lodge and district veteran’s chairman for activities and fundraisers, You will be glad you did.

Individually we can do a great deal, together we can do a great deal more. Feel good about your Elk veteran participation, then we stand a little taller, hold our heads up a little higher, say our Pledge of Allegiance with a little more enthusiasm, because we know, through our dedication to Elkdom and veterans we are doing what counts.

Thank You, fellow Elks.

PER Darrell Quinley VAVS
MEA Veterans Chairman

The Foundation’s budget for program services in the 2022-23 fiscal year totals \$39.8 million.

Community Investments Program \$16 million

- State Elks Association Grants \$10.5 million
- Scholarship Programs \$5 million
- Elks National Veterans Service Program \$4.6 million
- Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw Contest \$1.4 million
- Elks Drug Awareness Program \$1 million
- Elks Memorial Building Maintenance \$938,870



Membership 2023-2024

As we are starting a new year of Elkdom, we are still facing the same barriers in gaining membership that we faced last year. How do we grow? Well, there is no one answer for every Lodge or every situation. That is for your Lodge to determine. However, one thing that all Lodges need is a strong, active Membership Committee. A group of individuals that are willing to work together to grow your membership.

To help with this have your Membership Committee go to elks.org. Once on the Grand Lodge website go to MEMBERS ONLY, MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT, MEMBERSHIP GUIDE, AND then LODGE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE TIPS. This will take a little hunting around at first but will become easier every time you enter. This will give your membership committee a good outline of what steps to take to formulate a plan of action to gain and retain members.

In the months of April and May, your Lodge will still have a chance to increase your year-end membership number. Section 14.180 allows an unaffiliated member to reinstate with no loss of continuous service if application is made within a 60-day period of being dropped. This means that members who are dropped for nonpayment of dues in March can reinstate in April or May and not loss their continuous time as a member and still count on your year-end membership numbers. A great opportunity to grow your Lodge and Missouri.

Remember, Effort = Results!!

Finally, I encourage all Lodges to use the Grand Lodge Automatic Billing System. It saves you time and money. For less than the price of the stamp alone, you can have notices sent to your members. All the Lodge Secretary has to do is collect the money and issue membership cards. Very simple to sign up too. Just go to elks.org, Members Only, Membership Toolkit, Lodge Billing and Opt-In Registration Form. Then follow the instructions. Quick, easy and saves money and time for your Lodge.

Jim Ross MEA Membership Chairman



**Leadership Training
Missouri Elks Association
Spring 2023**

The Officer Training Committee is happy to announce we will be conducting two training sessions in 2023 with one session being hosted by St. Clair Lodge #2651 on April



22nd , and the other session hosted by Springfield Lodge #409 on May 6th. We try to either hold a single, centrally-located session or two sessions when we can identify Lodges with a willingness to host. Although we do want to ensure we have a broad membership base that wouldn't have to travel too far to attend.

Last year we had 147 participants take the training at either the Osage Community Lodge or the O'Fallon Lodge. As always, there was active participation and many members came with good questions and a desire to learn. We ask that everyone please submit their participant headcount to me no later than Friday, April 14, 2023 for the St. Clair session and April 28th for the Springfield session to ensure proper material and food can be planned and prepared in advance. If your Lodge is interested in hosting a session please contact PSP Roland Seal, PSP, John Gross, or one of the Committee members.

Respectfully submitted, John Gross, Co-Chairman



Missouri Elks State Youth Activities

As the weather warms up and spring time starts, it is a great time to start planning for your Lodge's Youth Activities for the year. There are so many great opportunities to engage with our youth and their families. Easter Egg Hunts, Fishing Derbies, Youth Golf and Student Recognitions are just a few ideas for spring!

It is also never too late to start thinking about Youth Week that takes place during the first week of May, which gives us a wonderful opportunity to take part in youth programs and to recognize our youth for their accomplishments throughout the year. This could be

accomplished by holding a banquet or other event to recognize your soccer shoot winners, hoop shoot winners, scholarship winners, student of the month winner, etc.... In my experience as an educator and in working with youth over many years the main secret to success with youth programs is to plan, plan, plan- then communicate, communicate, communicate!

Get your Lodge involved and excited- remember that our youth will eventually become new members to our Lodges in the future!

Also, please give us the opportunity to recognize your Lodge for all of its hard work this year in Youth Activities. Remember that the Missouri Elks Youth Brochure Contest deadline is April 30th , 2023. Please mail these to my home: John Israel, 631 Oregon Trail Ct. St. Charles, MO 63304.

Faternally,
Dr. John Israel Missouri State Youth Activities Chairman

Mona Brown, Lodge Activities Chairman



20 Lodges submitted entries for the Bulletin Contest "D" this year. Division IV and VI had 5 and 6 entries respectively so a 1st and 2nd place was determined. Divisions are determined by membership number as of April 1, 2022.

- Division I Manchester #2508
- Division II Troy #2805
- Division III Mineral Area #2583
- Division IV Louisiana #791 1st Place
- Division IV Crestwood #2503 2nd Place
- Division V Dexter #2439
- Division VI Springfield #409 1st Place
- Division VI St. Louis #9 2nd Place
- Highest Overall Points goes to **Springfield #409**



*Missouri Elks Association – Officer Training
2023-2024*

*St. Clair Lodge #2651, Saturday, April 22, 9 AM to 3 PM
Springfield Lodge #409, Saturday, May 6, 9 AM to 3 PM*

*Registration deadline is April 14th for the St. Clair session and April 28th for the Springfield session. Mail the below registration form to
PSP John Gross, 7099 Whitewater Drive, Dittmer, MO 63023 or email to jgross68@att.net. You may call (314) 477-8061 if you need additional details.*

-----CUT & MAIL-----

_____ Lodge will have _____ Members attending
the St. Clair / Springfield (circle one) session

LODGE CONTACT INFORMATION:

_____ (Print name/title)
_____ (phone/e-mail)

DEADLINE: April 14th for St. Clair and April 28th for Springfield



The Missouri State Hoop Shoot was held on February 4th 2023 at the Eureka High School. The banquet and awards was held at the Eureka Pacific Elks Lodge that evening following the event. I want to first off thank all the lodge and district directors for supporting the program. I really want to extend a big thank you to all the people that showed up to help work the State Contest. I would also like to thank the Eureka Pacific Elks Lodge for another job well done on the meal and hospitality extended to myself and everyone there. The 2024 State Hoop Shoot will be on February 3rd. We will plan to hold the shoot in Eureka as we did this year but the location will be confirmed closer to the shoot. Now for the winners from the State contest.

8-9 Girls Division

- 1st Riley Stuart SW
- 2nd Layla Livengood NW
- 3rd Addison Kirby EC

10-11 Girls Division

- 1st Presley Henderson WC
- 2nd Amelia Land EC
- 3rd Jordan Duffing NE

12-13 Girls Division

- 1st Annalee Livengood NW
- 2nd Kimber Stuart SW
- 3rd Bristol Sanders MW

8-9 Boys Division

- 1st Jaxson Grounds SE
- 2nd Micah Eubank MW
- 3rd Emmett Meyer NE

10-11 Boys Division

- 1st Graysyn Loggerst EC
- 2nd Ryder Creek NE
- 3rd Issac Holding SW

12-13 Boys Division

- 1st Tucker Dawson EC
- 2nd Carter St. Gemme SE
- 3rd Eathan Holding SW

Thank you again to everyone who helped making this a success this year.

Eric Seyer
State Hoopshoot Director

Hoop Shoot, Benevolent Trust, Auditing and Accounting

The Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust has a long history of providing dental care in our communities across this great state. For over 60 years, we have been able to provide free dental care to handicapped children and adults that need our services. These individuals are the reason we work so hard to raise these funds each year. Without everyone’s continued support, we could not do what we do to help these individuals.

Thank you all for your fundraising throughout the year to raise these funds to keep our program going.

With your support, I have no doubt that our program will continue to grow and provide dental care for years to come.

You are the reason these individuals have a bright smile.

Larry Page, Director Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust



Welcome to Spring Convention! It is always good to see “old” friends and to make new ones. Spring Convention is also a reminder that the Lodge year is about to end. There are important steps you can take to facilitate closing the financial year for your Lodge.

Your Lodge Auditing & Accounting committee should be reviewing your financial statements and comparing them to the FRS reports sent monthly by your District Deputy. Any discrepancies should be investigated and resolved prior to March 31.

Please make certain your accountant (or whomever prepares your Lodge tax return) understands that the return MUST be completed by the 08/01/2023 deadline to upload the form to Grand Lodge. Getting an extension from the IRS will not release you from the August 1 deadline to Grand Lodge. And requesting an “extension” from your Area 5 Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting member is no longer an option. That “extension” expired when the FRS was voted into acceptance at Grand Lodge in St. Louis in 2019. Sorry, folks; that’s just the facts.

As with last year, each Lodge will need to complete the online “transmittal” form. Once the form is completed, a Lodge balance sheet (from the Lodge accounting software and after any year-end adjustments for depreciation and/or inventory change) should be uploaded to the Grand Lodge site. Form 990 can then be uploaded to elks.org. Please do not upload blank pages and do not upload one page at a time.

Please make sure that the 990/990EZ is uploaded in its entirety. This includes everything from page 1 through page whatever and includes the 990-T, if that applies for your Lodge. The year you are uploading will be 2023 (as in fiscal year ended 03/31/2023).

If your Lodge files a 990-N (the “postcard”), please upload a copy of your Lodge balance sheet and income statement (after making the appropriate year-end adjustments) with your 990-N. Without that information, I have nothing to compare to the FRS.

When you upload your files to Grand Lodge, please do not protect them with a password. Your files are secure on the Grand Lodge site without the added password protection.

Many Lodges make the year-end adjustments in their accounting software and do not remember to upload the adjusted financials to FRS. This can result in your FRS information not reconciling to the Lodge balance sheet or your tax return.

Please pass along the following to your Lodge accountant or whomever prepares your Form 990 or 990-EZ. The Group Exemption number is 1156 and can be found in the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Manual. The numbers reported on line 3 and line 4 of Form 990 cannot exceed eleven. This is the maximum number of Chair Officers and Trustees in a Lodge and includes the Lodge Secretary and Lodge Treasurer. Also, please give your tax preparer the total number of volunteers you submitted on your Charitable Summary to Grand Lodge. This number goes on Line 6 of Form 990 and helps to support our status as a charitable organization to the IRS.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Jeff City and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Susan Cook, Area 5 member

Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting committee

susancookmo1975@gmail.com (417-825-7651)





Drug Awareness

Greetings,

As we move into the new Elk year, I want to remind all new incoming Exalted Rulers the importance of having a lodge Drug Awareness Chairperson. The Elks have the largest volunteer Drug Awareness Program in the country and this couldn't be done without the cooperation of all the lodges and volunteers that work hard and promote the DAP. The

Elks are committed to eliminating the use and abuse of illegal drugs by all members of society and believe that in order to ensure a bright future for our country, it is essential that our children be raised in a drug-free environment.

We are in the midst of a drug epidemic of historic proportions. The number of deaths due to illicit drugs over the last three years has increased 35%. The chief cause is synthetic opioids, primarily illicit fentanyl. Fentanyl has invaded our schools, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, and even our playgrounds. That is why it is so important for us as Elk Members to get involved. Let's teach all kids and young adults the dangers of these horrible drugs. Get the Drug Awareness Program active in your lodge and from there it will spread to your town, to your school, and to their playgrounds. Our goal is kids will learn how dangerous this stuff is and maybe we can start winning this battle.

Fraternally,
Doug Jordan, PDDGER
Drug Awareness Program
Missouri Elks Association, 816-868-9802

Drug Awareness Bass Tournament Secretary

Missouri Elks State Bass Tournament



Saturday,
October 14th

Take off at Robin's Resort
6:30 AM on Saturday

State President

Steven Green rolls
out the first ball for
the MEA Bowling
Tournament. Good
luck to all those
competing



From the State Secretary—As we begin the 2023 2024 lodge year let me reach out to the lodge secretaries and the lodge Exalted Rulers to prepare your Grand Lodge and Missouri Elks Association per capita payments. You should receive a notice by email and possibly by mail with your Grand Lodge bill for next year. That bill will show your membership as of April 1st. It will be multiplied times \$29 that will be your Grand lodge bill. From that same statement take your membership number and multiply that times \$2.50 that will be what you owe the Missouri Elks association. Mail you check to Missouri Elks Association, 108 S College St. Arcadia MO, 63621.

Corporate Treasurer Pat Dierker and I do our best to help maintain the budget and the state's finances. I need to remind all MEA committee chairman that as of March 31st Pat and I will close the books. It will be too late to use the balance of your budgets. If you need to know how much you have remaining please contact me after the meeting. The National Foundation bases how much the state association receives based on your budget requests. I am asking you to work with Richard Techau, MEA Budget Chairman, on your budget. If you need more, talk to Richard if you need less talk to Richard. The state is doing the best we can do to make sure that we use our grants from the Elks National Foundation where it's needed.

As many of you know I originally started in the Arcadia Valley Elks lodge before transferring to Mineral Area Community Elks where I'm now the lodge secretary. On Monday February 20th I was at the lodge doing my secretarial duties when I received a phone call from my wife, Joy. She told me the house next door was burning and that she'd heard several explosions and she was very nervous. I went back to work and a few minutes later Joy called me and said Bud you better get home the fire is in our yard and is up against our house. I jumped in the car and headed home. When I got home there were 2 volunteer firemen standing in my yard hosing down the grass and spraying my house that had actually been touched by the fire.

After things calm down I talked to the 2 firemen. One of them was Don McClanahan and the other one was Jeremy Haynes. They were both volunteer firemen and they were both members of the Arcadia Valley Elks lodge. When I talked to them they said they realized when they got there that the building next to my fence was going to be a gonner but they were going to save my house...and they did.

I received a lot of damage but the house remained intact. Don and Jeremy are volunteers and they did this on their own time without pay. The more I thought about it the more proud it made me. This is just one more example of what Elks do and why I am proud to be an Elk.

Bud Clarkson, Corporate Secretary

Missouri Elks
Are Invited To Attend
The 55th Annual Missouri Elks State Golf Association State Tournament
August 12th and 13th, 2023
Hosted by Joplin Lodge #501

Briarbrook Golf Course
502 Briarbrook Dr
Carl Junction, Mo. 64834
417-649-6777 (Golf Shop)
nbenedict@briarbrookgolfcourse.com

Schiffendecker G.C
506 S. Schiffendecker Ave
Joplin Mo. 64801
417-624-3553 (Golf Shop)
Joplingolf.org

Format - 2 Person Scramble - Shotgun Start - 7:00 AM and 1:00 PM (Both courses, both days)
No entries will be accepted after July 25th
Limited to the first 260 teams - Number of flights determined by number of entries. Equal prizes for all flight
Entry Fee includes green fees, skins and carts for both days of the tournament.
You must make your own reservations for practice rounds - cost not included with entry fees.
Practice rounds available for both Thursday and Friday at both courses. Briar - \$32 - Schiff - \$30 w/cart
Call the course for a practice round tee time.

\$260 Per Team Entry Fee
\$30 late fee applied after July 20.

Tournament tee times will be confirmed by email before Juy 24th to Player 1.
Cancellations received after July 1st will receive a 50% refund of entry fee.
Cancellations received after July 20th will not receive a refund of entry fee.

Tournament Dress Code: No jeans or jean shorts. Shirts must be worn and have a collar. Soft spikes only.
Entrants must be Elk members in good standing and present current membership card at registration.
Flights will be determined after two days of play. The flight breaks will be made to insure an equal number of teams per flight as possible. Tournament prize and skin money will be awarded by mail to your respective lodge. Your lodge will contact you to claim any winnings. Skins will be paid for each flight.

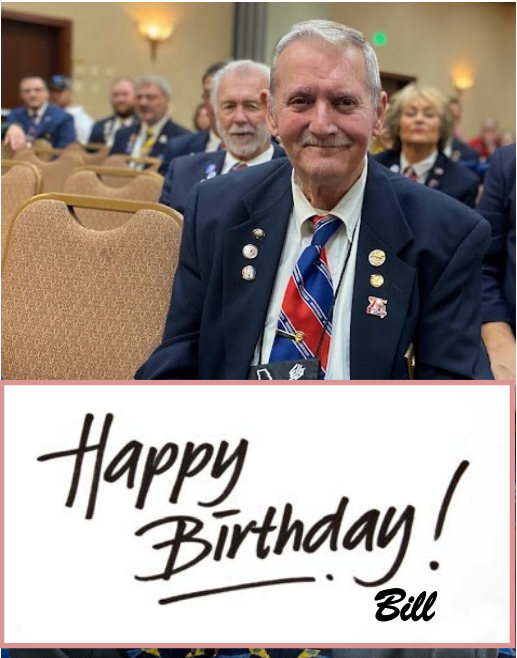
From the Scholarship Committee.

The 2022-23 MVS Scholarship results are in, and I want to Thank the Scholarship Committee for the work they have done for their districts and the State. This year 1,127 students submitted applications for scholarships. After judging from the lodges, districts, and the state committees, this number has given us 9 National Finalists (\$1000 for 4 years) and 40 State winners (\$1000 1 year). These students have worked very hard during their High School years, and we look forward to hearing from the 9 National Finalists at the Spring Convention.



The top 9 National Finalist students are eligible for the \$50,000 given to the Top 2 winners of the Elks MVS Award. Scholarship Chairman, Keith Huck

		State Winners					
		Females	District	Lodge	Males	District	Lodge
National Finalists	Lodge	Lillian Cassidy	4790	Blue springs 2509	Ryan Davis	4940	Lamar 2800
		Lily Black	4920	Joplin 501	Peter Roth	4760	Ste. Genevieve 2674
		Elise Zeigler	4780	St. Louis 9	Matthew Scott	4920	Lebanon 2557
		Rowan Hendren	4840	Trenton 801	Kalyan Krish	478	St. Louis 9
		Abigail Dunker	4790	Cass County 2791	Troy Gounev	4790	Kansas City 26
		Savannah Reinke	4840	Chillicothe 656	Alan Meyer	4800	O'Fallon 2587
		Olivia Truesdale	4790	Kansas City 26	Michael Kloeppel	4800	Jefferson City 513
		Abigail Murphy	4880	Poplar Bluff 2452	William Herbst	4800	Washington 1559
		Kelsey Miller	4800	Warrenton 2662	Hunter Lamb	4920	Kimberling City 2505
		Morgan Broombaugh	4760	Festus-Crystal 1721	Brock Schofield	4800	Jefferson City 513
		Ashlynn Howlett	4800	Hannibal 1198	Evan Swoboda	4800	Washington 1559
		Madeline Weber	4780	St. Charles 690	Brett Winingar	4790	Blue Springs 2509
		Anna Rivera	4800	Macon 999	Royce Haynes	4760	Cedar Hill 2678
		Gentry Perkins	4800	Macon 999	Wyatt Hensley	4920	Joplin 501
		Diep Phan	4880	Farmington 1765	Lucas Kristof	4760	High Ridge 2455
		Skyler Sundy	4920	Webb City 861	John Bellingshausen	4790	Blue Springs 2509
		Marissa Heins	4790	Lexington 749	Tanner Martinez	4880	Farmington 1765
		Trendi Howell	4840	Cameron 2615	Korbyn Broyles	4840	Chillicothe 656
		Emma Briggs	4800	Washington 1559	James Wortham	4780	St. Charles 690
		Anushka Rawat	4780	Manchester 2058	Michael Jones	4780	Crestwood 2503



Best Hospitality Room



So darn cute, yet so Presidential



President Steven presented a few "strangely useful" gifts.



Lance and Connie are ready to "Drive ELKdom Forward!" WE are ready for the ride



Each Convention East Central holds a fun fund raiser for Benevolent Trust, It is an amazing time for a good cause. Thank you for providing this excellent source of entertainment and good will.

Below are just a few of the many people who help make the Shozem available on time. All I do is mention We need help and I see a herd of Elks. Unloading, Distributing, Contributing articles, taking pictures, going to the printers. You all are amazing!



Awesome Looking Head Table





Rick sluder	Joplin 501	PER
John Edgeller	West Plains 2418	PER
Betty Watts	Benton County 2783	PER
(Betty was the first Mo. Woman Exalted Ruler)		
Sharron Hennessey-Balmer	Blue springs 2509	PER
Charles Hull	Clinton 1034	PER
Edward Hines	Mexico 0919	PER
MichaelHejnal	High Ridge 2455	PER
Robert Kalfofen	Mexico 0919	PER

Soccer Shoot, Absent Members, #9

Missouri State Soccer Shoot

U8 Girls

- 1st Jordyn Dixon NWD
- 2nd Sienna Yates ECD
- 3rd Adalyn Brooks MED

U10 Girls

- 1st Braelynn Tucker NWD
- 2nd Chelsea Behrens MED
- 3rd Alaina Renner ECD

U12 Girls

- 1st Lexi Johns ECD
- 2nd Emma Sanders MED
- 3rd Ana Fortel SED

U14 Girls

- 1st Jayden Morgan SED

U16 Girls

- Ashlee Olson NWD

U8 Boys

- 1st Freddie Brown MED
- 2nd Tate Milyard ECD
- 3rd Oliver Johnson NWD

U10 Boys

- 1st Creighton Wilkerson NWD
- 2nd Noah Schellhorn ECD
- 3rd Jack Mudd MED

U12 Boys

- 1st Keagon Mueller SED
- 2nd Roxem McCune NWD
- 3rd Patrich Sheppard MED

U14 Boys

- 1st Ronnie Sharp NWD

U16 Boys

- Isaac Dixon NWD **2nd PL**

Missouri Regional Soccer Shoot Winners

U8 Girls

- 2nd Place Jordyn Dixon NWD

U10 Girls

- Qual. Braelynn Tucker NWD

U12 Girls

- 2nd Place Lexi Johns ECD

U 14 Girls

- 1st Place Jayden Morgan SED

U 16 Girls

- 2nd Place Ashlee Olson NWD

U 8 Boys

- Qual. Oliver Johnson

U 10 Boys

- 2nd Place Creighton Wilkerson NWD

U 12 Boys

- 1st Place Keagon Mueller SED

U 14 Boys

- 2nd Place Ronnie Sharp NWD

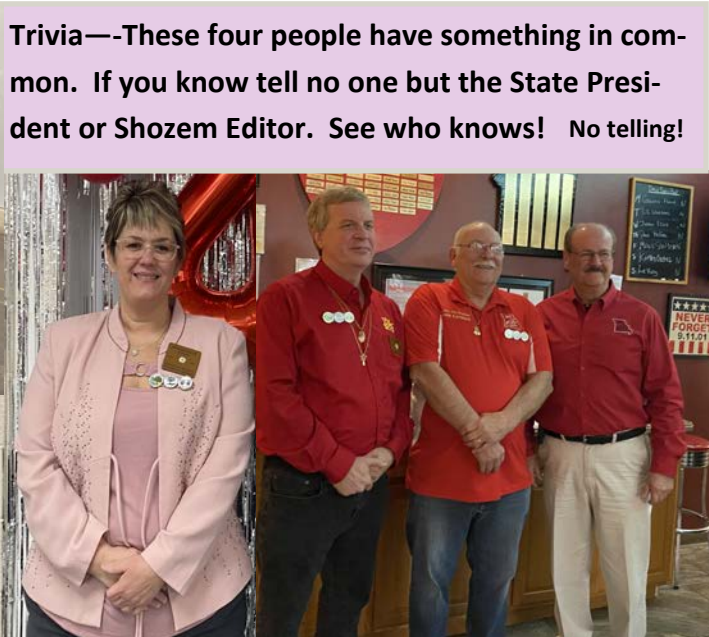
U16 Boys

- 2nd Place Isaac Dixon

Missouri won the overall points with 21



St. Louis #9 holds it's annual coat drive



Trivia—These four people have something in common. If you know tell no one but the State President or Shozem Editor. See who knows! No telling!



The Desoto Elks are well represented at this years Veterans Day Parade.... !!!!



State President Steven Green and other state dignitaries are pictured at the Oakville Lodge #2726 to participate in a horse race. These wild horses look really dangerous. However, it looks like President Steven has a firm grip on his wild stallion.



Meramec-Arnold Lodge 2372

packed Christmas Baskets for needy families in our community. We took care of 83 families this year. Each family received 5 boxes of food along with toys, diapers, wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, etc. The boxes are custom packed according to family size and include a turkey, hot dogs, hamburger, milk, bread, buns, eggs, and all kinds of non-perishable food as well.



The Throwback Extravaganza was a huge success! Sold out crowd and a lot of fun! On behalf of AJ's family, thank you for your generosity and support! **Potosi Lodge #2218**



Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit was hosted by **Cedar Hill 2678**. They had raffles, free chili and chicken & dumplings. This Free Event was open to all ages especially our Veterans and Active Duty. Raffles were held to help raise funds for Wreaths for Veterans graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

Oakville # 2726 Oakville Lodge used the \$2000 Spotlight Grant to support Logan's Community Playground, a playground being built to allow all children, regardless of their abilities, to play together. Oakville's contribution will purchase a Fun Wheel Overhead piece of playground equipment. Oakville also used the \$4000 Beacon grant to continue the lodge's support the Veteran's Community Project (VCP). VCP is building a village of "tiny houses" in north St Louis to assist veterans experiencing homelessness and to provide support to any veteran.

Since last convention, Oakville held its annual Night Golf Tournament which resulted in a \$4383 contribution to the ENF and its annual Casino Night with proceeds going to support the Benevolent Trust and the lodge activities.



High Ridge 2455 delivered Christmas Baskets to over 30 families in our community. This year, the boxes not only included enough food for Christmas meal and for a week (while kids are off school), but we were ALSO able to include one outfit including shoes for each kid! Kids were able to open gifts this year including clothes and toys!

Also, the High Ridge Elks Lodge held a Kids Christmas Party. We had over 100 kids in attendance! They were able to make crafts, play games, and even visit and take a picture with Santa! There was fun cookie decorating and reindeer ring toss! It was truly a spectacular event!

We held our **East Central District** Hoop Shoot yesterday and our winners that are advancing to State are:

8-9 yr old Boys: Waylon Basler from **Ste Gen Lodge #2674**

8-9 yr old Girls: Addison Kirby from **Eureka-Pacific Lodge #2644**

10-11 yr old Boys: Grayson Joggerst from **Eureka-Pacific Lodge #2644**

10-11 yr old Girls: Amelia Land from **Potosi Lodge #2218**

12-13 yr old Boys: Tucker Dawson from **Eureka-Pacific Lodge #2644**

12-13 yr old Girls: Hallie Payne from **Potosi 2218**

Congratulations to all of our winners and to their respective Lodges.



President elect 2023-2024 !!!
Jim Ross
Festus-Crystal 1721



ELKS FISHING DERBY- Osage Community 2705

Recently, the Laurie Elks Lodge #2705 held a fishing derby for kids, at the pond on lodge property. There were 29 boys and girls, ages 5 to 11. All fishing equipment was provided, including rod and reel, hooks, sinkers, bobbers, and bait. Fish caught were weighed and entered into contests for trophies, for total weight and several biggest of species caught, for both boys and girls. There was also a casting competition. Numerous kids took up the offer to have their fish cleaned and cooked on site, for them to enjoy eating.

After 2 hours of fishing, a hot dog lunch, with water and sodas, was provided in the Elks Lodge for all kids and accompanying adults. Trophies and prizes were awarded, and each child was given a rod and reel and a tackle box to take home.

The event was funded with a Gratitude Grant that Lodge 2705 received from the Elks National Foundation. Chairman Jay Roark was assisted by numerous Elk volunteers, with special assistance from Bryant's Osage Outdoors in Laurie. The Gravois Fire Protection District also brought a fire truck to entertain and enlighten the kids.



The Nevada Elks lodge 564 hosted the local national guard unit! The lodge provided a BBQ meal with all the trimmings. Santa showed up for the kids and the lodge provided music.



Bates County Elks #2653 served approximately 80 veterans a free turkey dinner today in appreciation of their service. We had help from the local Boy Scouts and Little Miss Bates co Agricultural. Thank you Veterans!!



Clinton Elks Lodge #1034 has donated to the Henry Elementary for their milk money fund. This fund provides afternoon milk for students in need.

We're proud as a lodge to be able to donate yearly to this. Pictured are Exalted Ruler Dusty DeVasher and Assistant Principal Jordan Townsend.

For the 20th year Clinton Lodge will take special needs kids for a day at the Dickerson Park Zoo.



State President Steven Green and Donna , Administration Assistant Matt Wideman and Nancy visiting the Historic City of Sedalia and Sedalia Elks Lodge



Greenview Elks 2857 donated \$1000 to support the Camdenton Lakers Youth Football League...Lil' Hogs!!! Thanks for your support of youth football in our community! You truly make the difference in the lives of our community children!!!



Benton County Lodge #2783—Hoop Shoot

These winners and other participants attended Warsaw, Cole Camp, and Skyline Schools in Benton County.

Congratulations to all the Winners and wishing each of you good luck at the district competition. Thank you to all who participated .



2517 Lake of the Ozarks Christmas For Kids Auction.

We had our auction and we were so blessed when the day was over. Approximately \$20,000 was raised for our annual Christmas for Kids program. There were so many beautiful gifts donated from businesses and folks from all over the Lake area. Rick Bryant, who owns Bryant Auctions here at the Lake, has donated his time for years auctioning off everything in the Live Auction. We would never reach the amounts we do if it weren't for his expertise in what he does. A special "Thank You" to Ruth Ann Yarbrough who spends so much time from start to end of this project. . . and to Joan Bex. There are so many Elks and friends that commit to this Fundraiser I could never mention them all in fear that I would forget some. There were over 900 gifts purchased for 215 kids to have a Christmas that would not be possible without this program. "Thank You" to all who were a part of it.



Perryville lodge 2701 held a free breakfast to support our veterans. We had 128 guests , 12 volunteers, and signed up 1 new member.

Farmington Elks #1765 hosted a Banquet for the Franklin County Honor Flight last Saturday in honor of Veterans Day. 1 Korean and 18 Vietnam War veterans, their spouses and Guardians 40 total were served. Doing our part.



Happy 122nd Birthday #639
On this day, way back in 1901, the Elks tradition started in this community and we carry it forward yet today. Countless hours of charity and countless dollars of donations have been poured back into our local community in the last 122 years thanks to the Elks at 639.

Congratulations
Cape Girardeau 639!!



The Southeast District Hoop Shoot was hosted by **Sikeston Lodge 2319**. They provided food and drink for all participants. Pictured above is our State Hoop Shoot Director Eric Seyer from **Chaffee Lodge 1810** and daughter Kaycee who won the contest for the girls 12-13.



Dexter Lodge 2439 hosted Veterans from Poplar Bluff VA Hospital CLC (LibertyVille) at the lodge for pulled pork dinner and a fun afternoon of Bingo. Dexter lodge thanks those who served for our right to Freedom, we pray for all the ones who paid the supreme sacrifice in their fight for Freedom and prayers for the families left behind.



We initiated 7 new members Sunday evening. Please welcome Brandie Wright, Kelly Roberts, **Jeremy Haynes**, Benjamin Miller, **Sean Copeland**, Steven Creek and Robyn Pipkin to **Arcadia Valley Elks Lodge 2330**.
(A note from the editor: Linda, this is great to see the growth of this lodge and all the hard work you guys are doing in the community. I am a little prejudice to the handsome young man in the center in the back row, Sean Benjamin Copeland, as he is my grandson. Good job! as well as Firefighter Jeremy Haynes!)



During State President Steven Green’s visit to **Jackson Lodge 2652** he presented Alex Hahs with his Eagle Scout Award. L-R: Past Scout Master Mark Hahs, Charter Org. Rep. Bruce Sells, Eagle Scout Alex Hahs, and State President Steven Green



The Long and Short of it!
Hospitality room
Fun



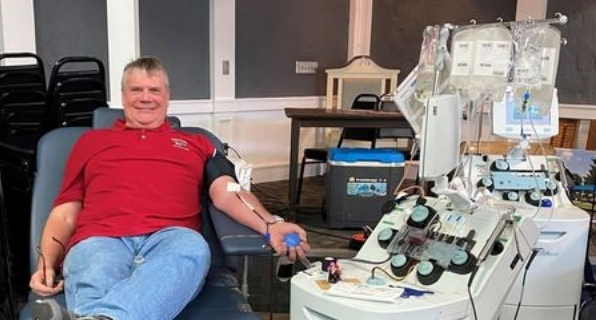
Timmy, Bryan & Robert Gibson children of Buttons Gibson, long time member & Army veteran of **Mineral Area 2583** who cooked breakfast Saturday mornings with the funds dedicated to the Veterans Fund. He is remembered by naming the kitchen the "Buttons Gibson Mess Hall".
Gone but not Forgotten



MDC Lieutenant Kevin Eulinger recently donated a deer hide to Josh Lenk with the **Troy Elks #2805** in Lincoln County. The Elks National Veterans Service Commission coordinates the Veterans Leather Program, which processes donated hides from hunters and processors into free leather gloves for veterans in wheelchairs. The leather is also used in craft kits to help veterans develop new skills and provide enrichment while living in veterans' homes.



Thanks to everyone at the **Aftton Elks Lodge #2635** that helped make this year's NEW coat drive for Friends of Kids with Cancer a success! 202 NEW coats were distributed to pediatric cancer patients at local children's hospitals! Jackie Kohler won the \$50 Missouri Holiday scratcher drawing for her contribution. Happy new year friends!



Blood Drive at **St. Louis #9**. Thank you for your gift of life!

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to **Troy, Manchester and Aftton Lodges** for hosting **Crestwood Lodge #2503** yesterday for our Lodge Hop. Each of you made us feel so welcome and everyone enjoyed themselves so so much. Thank you again for the fabulous food, cocktails and wonderful friendship! Barb Burke

Thank You



MEA Scholarship Judging



Florissant Lodge 2316 hosted 2 Shop with a Cop events this year. First with Florissant Police on Dec. 11, and again on Dec. 18, with St. Louis County Police.



Our Aftton Southwest Precinct officers had a great time at Shop With A Cop last weekend. This wonderful program, funded by the **Crestwood Elks Lodge 2503**, helped provide a special holiday treat for 30 kids in need.



Metro East District Hoop Shoot

The Metro East District held its annual District Hoop Shoot on Saturday, January 7th at **Troy Middle School**. We had 14 participants that did an amazing job and our top 1st place winners represented our District at the State Hoop Shoot on Saturday, February 4th at Eureka High School. I want to thank all of our participants, their families, and all of our volunteers that made the event such a success!! We also held our Scholarship Judging at **Crestwood Lodge** on Saturday, January 8th. Thank you so much to all of our judges and help...what a wonderful weekend for Youth Activities!! Dr. John (St. Charles)



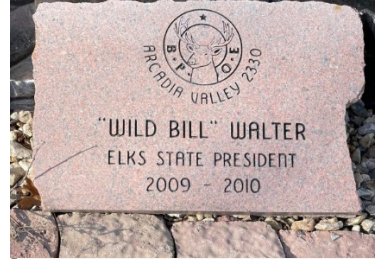
The Kimberling City Elks 2505 golf league has some great news to share - at the end of the golf season the league members decided to share the money they raised (league fees and weekly prize money given back to the league by the winners) with three local food banks: A \$500 check was given to the Southern Stone County Food Pantry, presenting the check to Stan Scheppman are Dalene Bauer, Paul Bauer and Doug Mayhew. A \$500 check was given to Christian Associates, presenting the check to Larry Leek are Dalene Bauer, Jim Irvin, Joan Irvin, Greg Heckler and Paul Bauer. A \$500 check was given to Ignite Food Pantry/OACAC, presenting the check to Debbie Uhrig are Paul & Dalene Bauer, Jim & Joan Irvin and Greg Heckler. But that's not all, the Golf League also donated \$1,000 to the scholarship fund which means the scholarships awarded to seniors from Blue Eye and Reeds Springs will be \$2,000 each this year.



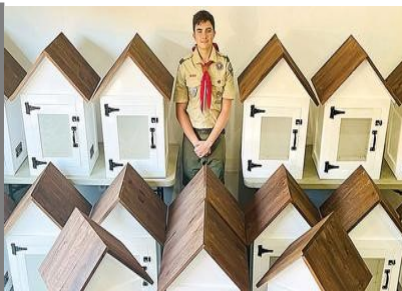
Osage Community (Laurie), MO Lodge 2705 recently completed our 33rd annual Christmas Basket/Tree of Joy program, spending 1,207 hours and driving 11,436 miles preparing for and delivering Christmas to 105 families with 288 children. Each family received food consisting of meats, potatoes, milk, eggs, and numerous other groceries approximating a 2-week supply. Each child received a blanket and two gifts and some special clothing needs. They also received toiletries/personal items. This is a joint effort of Elks and the Lady Elks Auxiliary, with numerous fundraisers throughout the year and support from local area businesses.



We enjoyed Saturday evening with **Bolivar 2828**. Got to see the fabulous display they put together for their children's party and did a little karaoke. (Steve, Donna, Matt, Nancy)



Great picture Steven and Matt. I love that Sedalia used the granite rock as a memorial for "Wild Bill". It is special to me on a personal level as I was Exalted Ruler at Arcadia Valley the year Bill was State President and what an honor it was to have him and Rich Larkin and Ruthie as our guests. It was the beginning of friendships that have lasted for many years. "Wild Bill" will be in the hearts of many Missouri Elks for years to come. Thank you **Sedalia Elks Lodge #125** for this tribute. Joy Clarkson, editor



We will be sending our winners to the District competition. Thank you Jeanne McDonald for your time and organizing this event. Thanks to the volunteers that came out to help. Tom and Linda Hrdlicka, Larry Smith, Wayde Daragowski, Nolan Moody, and Dex Poindexter. It was a great event!

ON left-Karter Reese is shown with the lending library houses he built for an Eagle Scout Project. He is sponsored by the Festus Crystal City lodge 1721. Each house is 4x2 ft.

We held a "Guns n Hoses" watch party fundraiser at our Lodge on Wed Nov 23rd. Guns N Hoses is boxing event between Firefighters and Police officers providing a significant fundraiser for Backstoppers, an organization who provide aide to families of First responders who died in the line of duty. Our lodge watch party was a huge success, watching the fights on our big screen, with 50/50s, games, and raffles between bouts plus various donations made in memory of Rick Dieckman. We were proud to present a check to the executives of Guns n Hoses and Backstoppers in the amount of \$11,500. Photo of the check presentation attached.

O'Fallon #2587



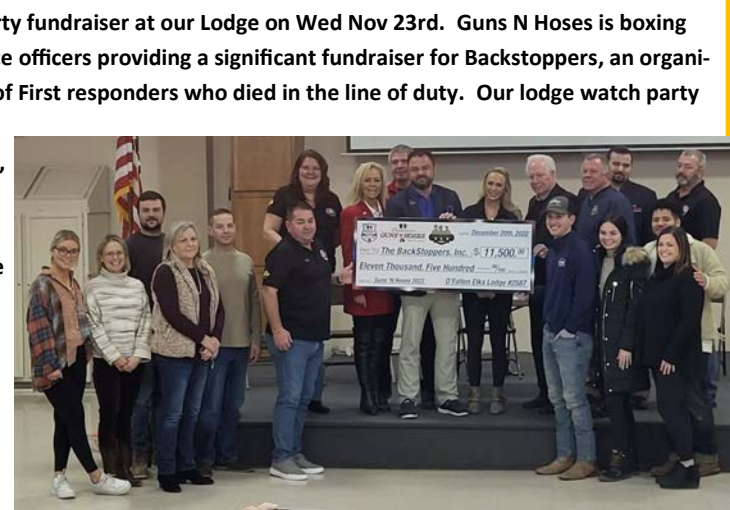
The **Crestwood Lodge #2503** held a "Can-Can & Salute To Veterans" dance. ER Don Freeman delivered the collected food items to the Jefferson Barracks Food Pantry on November 25th. Linda Ferguson, Director of Food for Forces and a member of Affton Elks Lodge, accepted the donation.



Springfield 409 had 16 participants at our 2022-23 Elks Hoop Shoot.

We will be sending our winners to the District competition. Thank you Jeanne McDonald for your time and organizing this event. Thanks to the volunteers that came out to help. Tom and Linda Hrdlicka, Larry Smith, Wayde Daragowski, Nolan Moody, and Dex Poindexter. It was a great event!

ON left-Karter Reese is shown with the lending library houses he built for an Eagle Scout Project. He is sponsored by the Festus Crystal City lodge 1721. Each house is 4x2 ft.





The Taney County Community showed up at the **Lake Taneycomo Elks Lodge 2597** in Forsyth to support a local first responder who was seriously injured in a car accident . Casper Hopkins was headed home from work when, through no fault of his own, he was involved in a head on collision. He is currently an EMT but has also worked as a volunteer for the Forsyth Fire Department. Local organizations teamed up to host a pancake breakfast with. The breakfast raised over **\$3,800** and the raffle continued through the next Saturday, at the Harvest Moon Festival in Forsyth.



Great times at our annual Purple Ball. Despite all the hiccups we made it happen and had a Wonderful time. Prayers to the lead sing and family of Short Notice Band. West Plains 2418



The Kimberling City Elks Lodge 2505 hosted the local Freedom of the Road Riders Motorcycle Club after their annual Toy Run. The lodge served a fried chicken meal to the riders. Freedom of the Road Riders donated \$3925.00 to the lodge for our Elks Lodge Christmas program. Pictured L-R Santa (aka Randy Stovall/ FOTRR), Elks Chairman of the Board Grant Beasley, FOTRR member Cyndi Barker and FOTRR member Les Morris.



Webb City Elks Lodge 861

It's that time of the year! We are very excited to be able to continue supporting our local Shop-with-a-Cop programs! This week we presented \$500 checks to each department: Webb City Police, Carl Junction Police, and Jasper County Sheriff. The donations are shown in the two pictures above and one to the left.



The **Alton Thayer Elks 2545** had their first Trunk or Treat and provided candy, hotdogs, chips and water to over 80 littles monsters, cowboys and space aliens. It was a great turn out and we can't wait to do it next year. We also handed out 56 drug awareness bags filled with pamphlets, coloring books, bracelets and dictionaries.



The **Joplin Elks Lodge 501** Christmas Basket Delivery 2022. We delivered 220 baskets with food and toys for these less fortunate families. ELKS CARE ELKS SHARE.



The Girls (Steve and Matt are somewhere) We started our weekend in the Southwest district with a great day of exploring. We visited several springs, an old mill, saw some bald eagles hunting fish out of the river, visited some local restaurants and met some wonderful people .



There was an Elroy sighting at **Brookfield's** first ever Trunk or Treat - it went well enough; there were multiple candy runs to the store that had to be made - we'll be better stocked next year.



The Excelsior Springs Elks Lodge #1001 honored 11 veterans with a QUILT of VALOR. What an honor for our lodge!!



Santa made a stop at the **Chillicothe Lodge #656** to make sure all of us boys and girls were on the nice list.



Such a great visit to Trenton #801. We got to be part of the Missouri Days parade and visit with some awesome elks! What fabulous history. Steve and Donna



Incoming State President Lance Evans (Brookfield) and Connie being chauffeured by current Administrative Assistant Matt



Maryville Lodge 760 Exalted Ruler James Richardson and State President Steven



State President visit to **Milan 2819**. The best breakfast Casserole ever!



Visiting with Veterans in Cameron Mo. The Veteran in the middle was in WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. Great guy – Steven Green



We hit the half way mark with visit #36 at **Columbia lodge #594**. Always great to visit with this wonderful lodge and the Music Bingo was so much fun!



Louisiana 791 Hoop Shoot! Great group of kids, congrats to the winners and well done by all. Next step is District January 7th. Thank you all who helped put the shoot together today; Elks, family, friends and even a couple of parents.



On Christmas Day, **Warrenton Lodge #2662** had 52 volunteers, (40 Elks and 12 Non-members) gather at our lodge to prepare, cook, delivery a complete Christmas dinner. The dinner consisted of turkey, ham, potatoes, corn, green beans, stuffing and a roll. In total we provided 413 meals! 373 meals were delivered by our volunteers and 40 meals were served to community members at our lodge. We open our hall to provide a warm, friendly environment for anyone to

enjoy a hot meal.
We do not classify this as a fund-raising event. We budget this to ensure we can provide this service to our community. We accepted donations and this year we received \$878.00 from grateful community members. We do not charge for this meal as it is a service for our community.



Here is Jefferson City 513 Elks District Hoop Shoot winner 12-year-old boy Chett Bassett with Jimmy Reed and Mandy Foreman.



Celebrating St. Clair 2651 40th Anniversary

Top picture: PSP Brian Crawford, Special Deputy GER and PSP John Gross, State President Steven Green, PSP Mark Beckman, State Secretary Bud Clarkson, Adm. Asst. Matt Wideman.

Bottom picture: Exalted Ruler Bill Voyles and State President Steven Green



Mexico Elks Lodge

We had a great time at Trunk or Treat.

We promoted Drug Awareness with the DAP Trailer and handed out a lot of candy!



Hannibal Elks Lodge 1198 doing their part giving back to the youth and children in need. In our Community.

Washington Elks

Lodge #1559

Veterans Hide Program

Deer or Elks Hides to Help Veterans

The lodge collects deer hides and gives them to our Elks Veterans Leather Program. The hides are tanned, cut, and sewn into gloves which are distributed to our Veterans in wheelchairs to protect their hands. It is an easy and simple way to help our Nation's Veterans

Place the hide in a trash bag and keep cool or frozen
Drop it off at one of our locations:

- * Washington Elks Lodge, 1459 W 5th St, Washington
- * Harvey's Body Shop, 403 Sawmill Road, Hermann
- * VFW Post 6133, 604 W Jefferson Ave, Owensville



Lexington Lodge #749 Exalted Ruler, Jonathan Morris, is pictured above with State President Steven Green. Jonathan is the 5th generation of his family to be The Exalted Ruler at the Lexington Lodge.

The Lexington Lodge received it's Charter in 1902 and D.C. Morris became Exalted Ruler in 1914. His son, L.I. Morris, joined the lodge in 1914 and became The Exalter Ruler in 1923. L.I.'s son, John I. Morris, following in their footsteps joined the lodge in 1978 and was Exalted Ruler in 1984. John I.'s son, William Morris, joined the lodge in 1984 and also later became the Exalted Ruler. William Morris is the father of the current Exalted Ruler Jonathan.

Jonathan was Exalted Ruler in 2022-2023 and will be again in FY 2023-2024.

Congratulation for the continued dedication of this family to the **Lexington #749 Lodge**.



Top picture: photo of police officers from Gladstone joining us for the Veterans and First Responders Veteran's Day Dinner.

The bottom photo is from Elks volunteers packing boxes of food items for the Giving Hearts initiative. 40 of the boxes were delivered to income eligible senior citizens from the Northland Shepherd Center. This insured the families had food items for the holiday season.

Kansas City Northland 2376



Blue Springs 2509 packed and delivered Christmas gifts and food to 203 families and 550 children.



CASS COUNTY ELKS LODGE 2791 DELIVERED 2,831 ON THE GO SNACKS TO THE VA FISHER HOUSE .

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED MAKE THIS HAPPEN.



Warrensburg #673 L-R Administrative Assistant Matt Wideman, Exalted Ruler David Hamilton, Past State President Otto Sayles, State President Steven Green, and Vice President Debby Aliff

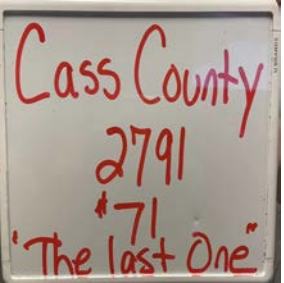
HUGE Shout Out and Congratulations to Blue Springs #2509 for being chosen to receive one of 12 ENF Impact Grants worth \$10,000.



Giving Hearts
K.C. Northland 2376



Karaoke at Cass County
(Sounds like the name of a song)



Metro West District and Blue Springs 2509 member, Logan Sousley, treated local Veterans to an afternoon of bowling and lunch.



President Steven, Exalted Ruler Daniel Reker, AA Matt Wideman and officers of **Kansas City 26 Lodge**



Steven receives a Proclamation from the Mayor of **Grandview-Hickman Mills** (Lodge #2088)

Elks National Foundation
What we get back!

Raised in 2021-2022 **\$167,785**
Paid back to MO 2020-2021 **\$315,770**

- State Charity \$128,330
- Special Projects Grant \$79,110
- Bonus Grant \$23,630
- Most Valuable Student \$40,000
- Legacy Award \$24,000
- NVSC \$20,700

Total Paid back- **\$315,770**
to 70 Missouri Lodges in CIP Grants
\$439,000more than paid in!!



Randy Northington, Chairman
Missouri State Elks Association
Totals 30,420 Members
Contributions \$167,785
Per Capita Average \$5.51

Convention Committee
I Welcome you all to our 2022 Fall convention here at Capital Plaza. If you weren't able to make it we missed you.

If you did attend the convention I hope that your accommodations were to your liking and your convention experience exceeded your expectations. We again this spring used all rooms available at Capital Plaza and Baymont hotels with Marriot and Quality Inn hotels being utilized for reservations also.

Future dates for State Convention are as follows:



(2023 Fall State Convention at Capital Plaza. September 29th-October 1st. \$79 per night +

tax.) (2024 Spring State Convention at Capital Plaza. March15-17. \$81 per night + tax.) (2024 Fall State Convention at Capital Plaza. October 4-6. Also \$81 per night + tax.) (2025 Spring State Convention at Capital Plaza. March 11-13. \$84 per night + tax.)

2025 Fall State Convention will not be held at Capital Plaza. That is right it will not be held here. I am very pleased to announce that we will be holding our Fall Convention in 2025 at the Margaritaville Lake Resort at Lake Of The Ozarks. This is a change that in talking with many of you should be well accepted and appreciated among everyone. Fall convention dates are October 3-5 with room rates at \$138 per night + tax. I believe the new experience at Margaritaville will be well worth the increase in housing costs. Also, we will only be housing at one location with all attendees within covered walkways to access all functions of convention.

(2026 Spring State Convention will be back at Capital Plaza on March 13-15 with room rates at \$84 per night + tax.) (2026 Fall State Convention will be at Margaritaville on October 2-4 with room rates staying at \$139 per night + tax.)

2023 Fall registration information will go out to all lodges on Monday July 10th right after GL convention.

Future GL conventions are:

2023 Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Minneapolis Minnesota July 2-5. We will be housed in the Marquette Hotel by Hilton. Nebraska State Elks association will be the only other State sharing this hotel with us. This hotel has a triple A , 4 Diamond rating and has had a complete overhaul renovation done in 2019.

Other future GL conventions:

2024 Austin TX, June 30-July 3. 2025 Kansas City MO, June 29-July 2. 2026 Chicago IL. Date TBD

I will be sending registration information for Grand Lodge convention in Minneapolis to all lodge secretaries in the next couple of weeks. I also have registration copies with me and available on the Benevolent Trust and ENF table in the back of the room today and tomorrow. Lodge Secretaries, please post a copy at your lodge and make sure that your ER receives a copy of this form for his use. Please return all registrations to me and not the Grand Lodge.

Betsy and I visited the hotel in January and were very impressed with the accommodations and staff. Our hospitality room in the hotel although smaller than Atlanta will fully accommodate our delegation. We will be on the top floor with 270 degrees of downtown views. Hope to see you there. It is always great to see old friends and make new ones.

Respectfully Submitted

Brian Crawford, Convention Chairman



Once Again, Missouri has ranked #1 in the nation with 4,598 deer hides collected and sent to the tannery. Iowa ranked #2 with 3900+ hides.

Up until the end I feared we had accomplished a feat we had never done before by receiving a #2 finish. But the last stop in West Central netted over 1,100 hides and put us over the top. Washington Lodge #1559 led the state again with over 1500 hides.

On a sad note, before Covid 19 was sprung upon us we had collected over 9,700 hides. This means we have seen a 50% drop in productivity. With the growing needs of "Help Heal Veterans" for leather for their kits , this is not a good trend. With the current health problems the requests for crafting kits has increased tremendously. This is why I am urging you to assist in additional collections. During one my hide demonstrations one gentleman commented "This is easier than I thought". All you need is a pair of rubber gloves, A good

sharp knife, some salt and a little bit of ambition.

If you are thinking about starting the program in your lodge, please contact me or if you need help with speeding up your process, I will be glad to help out.

Respectfully Submitted Chuck Mudge

Vice Chairman Veteran Leather Program

(Picture-Chuck, Joan and Granddaughter holding an awesome pair of leather gloves)

*
* **STEVEN, Donna, MATT AND NANCY-** *
*
* **MISSOURI THANKS YOU.** *
* **IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR!!** *
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