



Missouri Elks Association

Shozem

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Shozem Issue 26 Fall 2024

shozem2@gmail.com moelks.org Missouri Elks Association on Facebook



DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER
GRAND EXALTED RULER
2024-2025

Douglas Allen Schiefer was born in Bucyrus, Ohio, on February 14th, "Valentine baby" to Richard A. Schiefer and Alice A. (Acton) Schiefer. In June of 1975, Doug met his future wife, Julia Sponseller, a California girl new from a local high school. Doug married his high school sweetheart Julia on September 11, 1976. They have three children: Heather, Lesley and Robert; sons-in-law, Erik and Joel, and four wonderful grandchildren: Ethan, Evan, Owen, and Jane.

In August of 1977, Doug moved his new family to Berea, Ohio to attend Baldwin-Wallace College to pursue his education and play football for the "Yellow Jackets" head coach Dr. Lee Tressel. During his four years at B-W, Doug played football as a punter, was a Four-year Letterman and Four-year All Conference Punter; 1978 NCAA Division III National Champions; and 2018 Baldwin-Wallace Athletics Hall of Fame Award. In 1981, Doug received his Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. Doug enjoyed a thirty-four year career with the Ohio Adult Parole Authority, starting in 1983 as a probation/parole officer. He

received Parole Officer of the Year award in 1997, and was then promoted to Parole Services Supervisor until his retirement in 2017.

Doug was initiated into Bucyrus Elks Lodge No. 156 on May 10, 1984. Doug is a third generation Elk. He chaired or served on numerous Lodge committees and progressed through the chairs. Doug served the Ohio Elks Association as Assistant State Drug Awareness Chairman, State President, as Chairman of the advisory committee, and as Chairman of the Elks Leadership Kollege. Doug served the Grand Lodge with distinction as District Deputy.

Doug and Julia are thankful and humbled to represent our great Order of Elks as Grand Exalted Ruler and First Lady and promote their Theme..... "Elkdom's Heart For America"

Shozem Fall 2024

In the first half of our year as your first couple, Kathy and I have traveled across Missouri and enjoyed a fantastic time visiting with our fellow Missouri Elks and their families. The hospitality, compassion and love we have felt is greatly appreciated. Thank you for the good times and opening your Lodge doors to us. Now on to the other half!

As we progress thorough this year, we need to remember that our Fraternal Organization was founded on Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. We need to remember these four cornerstones in everything we do and say as we are judged by our words as well as our actions. Keep spreading the word of the good deeds we do.

Keep up our charitable work in our communities. Keep living by our virtues. Keep our fellow members and their families in your hearts and in your prayers.

Please raise your efforts in support of the Elks National Foundation and the Missouri Benevolent Trust Fund. Each of these charities depend on your support. Last year Missouri managed to have 112 % support of our ENF goal and 114% of the BT goal. Both great numbers but not supported by all Lodges. Let us all give our fair share this year and show that Missouri Elks Care and Missouri Elks Share.

As Kathy and I enter into our second half of the year, please remember how important your participation in our order is and where you can volunteer to prove that we are the Best People On Earth.

Until we meet again travel safely and "Lets Soar with 4 in 2024"!!!

Jim Ross...MEA State President



Greetings everyone -

For those of you who attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Austin, Texas, I hope it was an enjoyable and informative convention for you, despite the triple digit temps! The final business session culminated in the swearing in of our new Grand Exalted Ruler, Douglas A. Schiefer. GER Doug and his wife Julia hail from the Buckeye State of Ohio and will be excellent ambassadors representing the Order this year. We look forward to their official visit to Missouri in March of 2025.

There were many exciting things at the National Convention, and one I was most pleased about was celebrating Missouri's gain in membership once again. This is the third year in a row for the Association! The Elks Order took a hit with the pandemic and you can be sure Missouri rebounded with a bang! I want to congratulate everyone for this. Keep up the good work!

I would like to thank the Past District Deputies who served last year for a job well done. You all made a great effort to keep me informed of the activities of the Lodges in your Districts and I appreciated that. To our newly installed District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers, congratulations on this achievement and best of luck to you. This will be a year of hard work, but I can assure you that the experience will be one that you will enjoy and not soon forget.

As I write this message, plans are being completed for the Missouri Elks Association Fall State Convention. I encourage you to make the trip to our State Capitol so that we can enjoy a full weekend of Elkdom together. We will be welcoming to the Convention as guests of the Missouri Elks Association, Past Grand Trustee Charles Campbell and his wife Jan. Charlie and Jan are from Carbondale, Illinois and served on the Board the four years prior to John and Sarah Gross going on. They are looking forward to being with everyone and learning about the good works of the Missouri Elks Association. I know you will give them a Show-Me State welcome!

Beth and I look forward to being with you at Jefferson City!

God Bless -

F. Louis Sulsberger, Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Missouri State Sponsor

The Cover

2. Officers 2024-2025
3. Shozem, Direct., Pres. Elect.,PER
4. Nat. Conv.
5. Veterans
6. Leadership. A&A, All Amer.
7. Elks at Ball Park, Choir, Golf
8. Drug Awareness
9. Spring Convention Memories
10. Necrology, Elks History

11. East Central
12. West Central
13. Southeast
14. Metro East
15. Mixed Dist.

16. Southwest
17. Northwest
18. Northeast
19. Metro West
20. Back page



Missouri State Officers for 2024-2025

State President

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Shozem

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108 S College
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Vice President

Paul LeDure
Cape Girardeau #639

Paula Richardson
Alton-Thayer #2545

Jennifer Foster
Hannibal #1198

Joe Oaks
Festus-Crystal 1721

Tom Boulch
St. Charles #690

John Carmody
Kansas City #26

Mark Moser
Brookfield #874

Doug Alden
Benton County #2783

Director Southeast

Joe Boyer
Jackson #2652

Southwest
Chase Emery
Webb City #861

Northeast
David Williams
Jefferson city #513

East Central
Debbie Belavich
Meramec-Arn. 2372

Metro East
Albert J Ford
St Louis #9

Metro West
Steve Solomon
Blue Springs #2509

Northwest
Dan Sylvester
Milan #2819

West Central
Steve Schmidt
Lake of the Ozarks #2517

At Large Esquire

Alicha Young
Jackson #2652

Marshall
Larry Tuck
Christian CTY #2777

Chancellor
Danny Heimann
Washington #1559

Chaplain
Kevin Brock
Festus-Crystal 1721

TILER
Kelly Mitchell
Troy #2805

Sergeant at Arms
Larry King
Lexington #2376

Inner Guard
Melanie Selmon
Brookfield #874

Sergeant at Arms
Carla Scott
Sedalia #125



Grand Lodge Missouri Sponsor

Louis Sulsberger
PO Box 537
Flora, IL 62839

louger@frontier.com

2024- 2025 Grand Lodge Officers
Grand Exalted Ruler 2024- 2025

Douglas A. Schiefer

PO Box 123

Elyria, OH 44036-0123

Special Deputy, Grand Exalted Ruler

PSP John S. Gross DeSoto #689

DISTRICT DEPUTY

ESQUIRE

EAST CENTRAL

Charles Grissom, Jr.
Potosi #2218

John Yeager
Oakville #2726

METRO EAST

Patrick Dolan
Affton #2635

Greg Peterson
Manchester #2058

METRO WEST

Deborah Aliff
Blue Springs #2509

Frank Kerby
Blue Springs 2509

NORTHEAST

Paul Love
Columbia #594

Mona Brown
Louisiana #791

NORTHWEST

John Nelson
Maryville #760

Samantha Barrett
Excelsior Springs #1001

SOUTHEAST

Dennis Carmack
Dexter 2439

Ben Flatt
Mineral Area #2583

SOUTHWEST

Richard Shertz
West Plains #2418

Theresa Suda
Springfield #409

WEST CENTRAL

John Calvert
Lake of the Ozarks #2517

Anna Lutman
Greenville #2857

Living Past State Presidents

ROBERT TODD	1983-1984
CARL SIMPSON	1988-1989
ROSS JENNINGS	1990-1991
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
WM "BILL" DELARBER	2018-2019
DON COOK	2019-2020
RON BOLLINGER	2020-2021
JOHN RINEHART	2021-2022
STEVEN GREEN	2022-2023
LANCE EVANS	2023-2024

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
Kimberling City #2505
Alton-Thayer #2545
Lebanon #2557
Lake Tanneycomo #2597
Christian County #2777

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
Cameron #2615
Milan #2619
Excelsior Springs #1001

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
Greenville #2857

METRO WEST

Kansas City #26
Warrensburg #673
Lexington #749
Kansas City North #2376
Blue Springs #2509
Cass County #2791
Grandview Hickman Mills #2088

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

Lake Stockton #2857



**The Shozem
Missouri Elk’s State Paper**

State Editor Joy Clarkson
shozem2@gmail.com

Home 573 546 7297
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Missouri State Elks, as you will see in this publication, are busy as always reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need. We strive to live our lives in such a manner as to promote our God, our country and our communities with honor and dignity. We give and the return is far greater than we ever hoped or will even know. For this reason, I ask that you retain your memberships and reach out to others to join our great organization and become committed in joining our Grand Exalted Ruler in sharing *“Elkdom’s Heart for America.”*

District Editors

- East Central**, Larry Page, larrypagejrr@gmail.com, 314-261-3828
- Metro West**, Maria Stiles, mariastiles@hotmail.com 816-255-0861
- Southeast** Paul Ledure, ledures@sbcglobal.net 573-576-1945
- Northeast**, Betsy Crawford, brianbetsycrawford@gmail.com 573- 821- 0467
- Southwest**, Don and Susan Cook, cookteam7560@gmail.com 417- 825 7560
- Metro East**, Mike Polson, pocat_58@yahoo.com 314- 422-5770
- Northwest**, Kevin Judas, kevinjudas2@icloud.com 660– 412– 3366
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**2024—2025
Missouri Elks Association
State President Elect
Jason Meisenheimer**



In my first official capacity as President Elect in the Shozem, I would like to thank the Members of the West Central District for honoring me with this position. I will work hard to warrant the trust you have placed in me. In that, I will strive to live up to the expectations in serving our entire State Association.

Heather and I look forward to visiting each Lodge this upcoming Elk year. We have been fortunate to become acquainted with many of you at the State Conventions, but would love to meet more of our wonderful Members at your home Lodges. As for missing visits this year, I would like to apologize for my absence, but health concerns limited my travel. I hope to make it up soon!

In our visits, Heather and I will be sharing our goals for the year. My proposed motto for the 2025-26 year is "Never Forget, Thank a Vet"; and my goal is to increase Veteran Suicide Awareness. Heather's motto will be "Elks Care, Save a Pair" in hopes of continuing to raise breast cancer awareness. We will spend more time on these issues during our year, and share some potential new partnerships in hopes of meeting those goals. We will work with the MEA PER Association to proudly embody that "Elks Heed the Cry of Affliction" in response to both of these concerns.

Thank you once again to all for allowing me this honor. And we hope to see you soon!

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.**

The Directory is a very useful tool. Please help by submitting your lodge’s information in a timely manner. Thank you.

Ladies Fall Boutique - We want to thank everyone for the gracious support of this year's Ladies Fall Boutique. Although we had some issues with mailing the raffle tickets, the replies of understanding on the Missouri Elks Facebook page were very much appreciated! Since this has happened on a few occasions now, not sure how we could recommend improving that process other than just being patient. But, being around Elks for these years has taught us one thing, everything will be alright because "Elks Care, Elks Share"!! Thank you once again for all of the support, it has meant the world.

Heather Meisenheimer, 2024 Ladies Boutique Chair

MEA Past Exalted Rulers Association

Since our March meeting, during our Spring State Convention, our officers have been working on several items to help our association continue to grow and make a difference in Elkdom. These items include: - Donating money to various charitable organizations; including the Missouri Benevolent Trust, Drug Awareness and the Elks National Foundation



- Running a successful booth at our Grand Lodge Convention; netting around 5.4k in Kick Ass Pin sales; holding two successful raffles as well.
- Continuing to update our membership database and the creation of an online dues paying system through google forms
- Continuing to promote membership and collection of dues - Already surpassing last year’s total income
- Securing quotes for the re-order of Kick Ass pins and looking towards adding a new Kick Ass Pin

These are just a few of the things that have been put into place to continue improving our association and to meet the needs of our Past Exalted Rulers. We will be meeting during our Fall Convention at noon on Saturday, October 5th at the Capital Plaza. We will be holding elections for a new Vice President, which will carry a two-year term- with the Vice President moving up to President during the second year.

As always, please let us know if we can do anything to help your Past Exalted Ruler Associations in your Lodge. We are always here to support you! Thank you all for your support! John, Greg and I appreciate it so!

Fraternally, Dr. John Israel, MEA Past Exalted Rulers Assn. Sec./Trea.



Missouri's very own PSP Larry Robertson being installed as Grand Esquire for 2024-2025. Congratulations Larry.



Way To Go Number 9



Missouri's State Bulletin receives Five Star Award!! (Editor Joy Clarkson Mineral Area 2583) Our own Susan Cook Joplin 501 being recognized for her work for Area 5's Auditing & Accounting Committee.



Special presentation at our hospitality room Congratulations Missouri Elks Association on 6th in the Nation for Membership gain! According to Area 5 Membership Chairman and our State President, Jim Ross, we missed a 5th place tie by only 2 members!! Thank you Matt Wide-man for your hard work and dedication! Pictured with Matt is PGER and our State Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and PSP Lance Evans.



Way to Display-Mo. Elks



Jim Ross representing Missouri Elks at the National Convention held in Austin, Tx. Way to go Mr. President!



Congratulations Chuck Mudge



Top: President Elect Jason Meisenheimer and Heather
Right: Pres. Jim Ross and Kathy



Pictured below are the 2024-2025 Missouri District Deputies Grand Exalted Ruler. From L-R: John Calvert-West Central, Patrick Dolan-Metro East, Charles Grissom-East Central, Dennis Carmack-Southeast, Richard Shertz - Southwest, Paul Love-Northeast, John Nelson- Northwest, Deborah Aliff- Metro West



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Festus-Crystal City Elks Lodge 1721 Ritual Team received 1st place for District 5 and 12th in the Nation!!! (Austin, TX 2024 National Convention) Pictured below from left to right: Jamie Jones, Johnny Walker, Tim Wade, Paul Skinner, Jake Lunsford, Mike Wilson, Adam Hall, Dave Davis and Larry Robertson





Missouri Elks, all 32,000 of you in 71 Lodges and 8 Districts throughout our great state of Missouri; your Lodge and District Veteran's projects arw making a difference in the lives of our veterans.

You provide Welcome Home Kits, \$400 to \$600 for a veteran, any veteran, moving in to his or her own apartment, and it's reimbursable. With receipts and the reimbursable form you get your money back in less than 2 weeks.

A special thank you to **St.Louis Lodge #9**, and their Lodge Veteran's Chairman Mike Fleishour for inviting me and Lois to their very sucessful "Kayak with a Veteran" event. You did a great job Mike, thank you.

By now our District Veteran Representatives have introduced you to our Missouri State Veteran's Coin. It's beautiful! To order coins call Debbie Belavich at 314-814-3859. They cost \$10.00 each and make the perfect award for your lodge, district, and community veterans.

Thank you, Missouri Elks,

Darrell Quinley PER VAVS

MEA State Veteran's Chairman



The Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust is a program that is close to my heart. Since I have been involved with the program, I have had the opportunity to meet so many great people from around our state and around our country as well. The people that volunteer, promote, and help raise funds to keep our program going are some of the most special people I have had the opportunity to work with. Because of their continued support, we have been able to provide free dental care to our most at need population. (Special needs and handicapped children and adults.) for over 60 years.

A short time ago, it was brought to our attention that some of our Veterans were having a difficult time getting proper dental care. This started the discussion about what our program could possibly do for those that have served our country. The board of management got to work formulating a plan to expand our program. Working with our partners at University Health, a plan was put into place to do just that.

With the expansion of our program to now include qualifying Veterans...It is an exciting time to be involved in our program. We're not only treating our traditional patients, but we are now actively treating those that have served our country.

Thank You for your continued support of our State Major Project...The Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust.

Larry Page

Director, Missouri Benevolent Trust



These beautiful coins are currently on order and we hope to have them soon. What a great way to honor your community Veterans by presenting these to deserving Veterans. These coins will be sold to the Missouri Elks Lodges for a cost of \$10 each, with pre-sales starting now. To order yours, fill out the form below and mail it with a check payable to:

Missouri Elks Association (M.E.A.)

To: Debbie Belavich
c/o Meramec Arnold Elks #2372
1515 Miller Rd
Imperial, MO 63052
314-814-3859

Lodge Name & Number _____ District _____

Name of Person Ordering _____

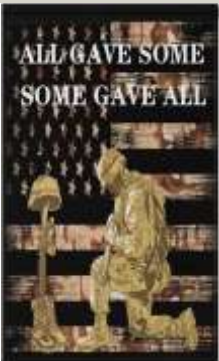
Mailing Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone Number _____

of Coins ____ X \$10.00 = \$ ____ + \$ ____ * per coin for Shipping & handling Total Purchase Amount \$ ____

*In an effort to reduce/eliminate shipping costs, please call Debbie Belavich at 314-814-3859 **BEFORE** mailing your order form.



Celebrating Flag Day at
St. Clair 2651



Veterans Leather Program



Springfield 409
Elks and
Veterans



St. Louis #9 Aux.—Donated \$500 for Dogs For Our Brave



Leadership Training Missouri Elks Association Fall 2024

Since 2018, with the exception of the 2020 Covid year, we have gained in the number of people who have attended the Officer Training. In 2018 we had 97 participants and 24 Lodges represented. In 2019 we jumped to 118 participants with 30 Lodges represented. Then we took a covid break in 2020 but we rebounded nicely in 2021 with 129 participants. In 2022 we had 147 participants with 36 lodges represented. That's more than half the Lodges in Missouri. In 2023 we had a good year with 185 participants and 40 Lodges represented. This



year the number of participants jumped all the way to 210 with 42 Lodges represented. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I wish to Sincerely thank Florissant Lodge #2316 and Blue Springs Lodge #2509 for their accommodations and their hospitality. Blue Springs Lodge hosted our Officer Training session then later that evening celebrated their Fiftieth Anniversary.

The success of the Officer Training program is a direct result of the willingness of Lodges to open their facilities to other Members throughout the State and because of the Officers who truly want to lead their Lodges in the right manner. Every time we ask, we have Lodges willing to step up. This is a true testament to what we are as an organization and to who we are as Elks.

We are currently seeking Lodges willing to host the Officer Training in the Spring of 2025. It is the desire of the committee to conduct sessions early in the year to bring the most value to new Officers and members who are interested in attending. We try to hold either 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.

The one thing about our sessions is there is always active participation and many members come with good questions and a desire to learn. This is also a perfect opportunity for Exalted Rulers to put together a team building event and get away from your home lodge.

We are doing our best to try to improve the Officer Training experience. This year we were able to stay within our budget and purchase a projector and screen that we hope will improve the sessions.

If your Lodge is interested in hosting a session please contact PSP Roland Seal, PSP John Gross, or one of the Committee members.

John Gross Officer Training Co-Chairman

Auditing and Accounting

Hello and welcome back to Jefferson City!

It is an honor to serve another year on the Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting committee, and I thank PGER Lou Sulsberger and SD/Grand Trustee John Gross for the opportunity to continue serving our Order.

I commend the District Deputies this year for becoming involved and literally hitting the ground running. They have a thankless job, but I am grateful for their commitment to our Order. They have many duties, including sending the monthly FRS reports to the Lodges in their Districts.

When you receive the FRS reports from your District Deputy, please remember to forward them to the responsible parties in your Lodge (e.g., Lodge Secretary, Lodge Treasurer). Be sure to include your Lodge Auditing & Accounting committee. If the District Deputy tells you nothing was submitted for a particular month, please do not argue with them. In this respect, the numbers do not lie. Please be aware that Adaptive always sends an email verifying receipt of the FRS file. That email does not guarantee that the file was accepted at Adaptive. Nonacceptance of a file is often caused by incorrect or missing account numbers. If your file is not appearing in the FRS, please contact Patrick Weber at Grand Lodge. (PatrickW@elks.org) Patrick can look "behind the scenes" and potentially determine why the file errored out.

When your Lodge needs to add an account number, please reference the Grand Lodge Chart of Accounts (Chapter 4, Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting manual). The Chart of Accounts will tell you the classification of an account and you should use this same classification in Quickbooks. For example, a Lodge recently used account 28000 "Deferred Income" and classified the account in Quickbooks as "Other Current Asset". While the account appeared in the Asset section of their Lodge Balance Sheet, the FRS balance sheet properly classified the account as a Long-Term Liability. If the Lodge had been reviewing their FRS reports monthly, this problem might have been corrected prior to the end of the year.

Additionally, if your Lodge accountant and/or tax preparer can make entries into your Quickbooks account, please make sure they have a copy of the current Grand Lodge Chart of Accounts. This can prevent future problems if they need to add accounts.

A prompt review and response to questions from your District Deputy (or myself) can also preclude having to deal with problems at year-end. Certainly, if you do not understand an email or question, please reach out to someone—either your District Deputy or me.

Lastly, at the Grand Lodge session in Austin, the Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting committee made the recommendation to allow Lodges not in compliance with FRS to use the Lodge balance sheet balances as of 3/31/2023 as new "beginning" balances in FRS, providing certain conditions are met. Knowing this, please do not upload new balances to the FRS until you hear from me. Certain steps must be taken before new balances can be uploaded, otherwise your FRS balance sheet will be overstated. I will contact your Lodge if you meet the criteria, with detailed instructions for the upload.

Thank you all for your dedication to our Order, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Susan Cook
susancookmo1975@gmail.com
417-825-7651



MISSOURI
2023-24
ALL AMERICAN LODGE
FINALISTS

Division II
Troy #2805, Metro East 4780

Division III
Warrenton #2662, Northeast 4800

Division IV
Potosi #2218, East Central 4760
KC Northland #2376, Metro West 4790
Louisiana #791, Northeast 4800

Division V *O'Fallon #2587, Northeast 4800*

Division VI
St. Louis #9, Metro East 4780
Lake of the Ozarks #2517, West Central 4940
Eureka-Pacific #2644, East Central 4760

The top three scoring Lodges in each Division within the State
are sent to the Grand Lodge for the National Contest

Mona Brown
Missouri State Lodge Activities



Great day at the Cardinals game. Too bad we lost. Your State President with PGER Lou Sulsberger and his brother Bob. Over 280 MEA members and guest in attendance.



Pictured from left to right : **Todd Johnson Oakville Lodge # 2726, Jimmy Presson Oakville Lodge #2726, Billy Young ST. Charles Lodge #690, Mike Polsen Ellisville Lodge #2664, Metro East VP Thomas Boulch St. Charles Lodge #690, James Green Lodge #690, Kim Page DeSoto Lodge #689, Rick Seratti Affton Lodge #2635.** [\(Go Cards\)](#)



All hands on deck to make the State Golf Tournament which was held at Farmington 1765 a day and evening of fun and fellowship.

Meet the Jim Hahn Memorial Choir



L-R: **John Israel-St. Charles, Alichia Young-Jackson, Susan Freeman-Crestwood, Samantha Barrett-Excelsior Springs, Eileen Scrivner-Jefferson City, Ross Jennings-Lebanon, Susan Cook-Joplin, Zach Maggi-Clinton, Mike Lane-Dexter.**

This was a dream of Jim's that became a reality. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Below are scenes from the State Golf tournament which was held at beautiful Crown Pointe in Farmington

Thanks Mike Mills-Great Job!



State President Jim Ross tees off



First Golf—then good times. Farmington 1765



State Golf Report

We had a great turnout for our golf tournament this year with 236 teams participating. Farmington Lodge did an outstanding job hosting this huge event. I just can't give enough compliments on the fine job they did.

The Championship Golfers Were Andy Buchanan and Tony Polis II from Farmington. These guys absolutely torched the course, winning by 6 strokes with a two-day score of 119. Second place was a tie between the teams of Jeff Derrick/Steve Miller and PSP Brian Crawford/Danny Goodman with a fine 125.

We have changed the payout to a "split ties" format and eliminated the score card playoff. Both the committee and golfers polled thought this was a much better way to pay out. We always have a bunch of ties, and it didn't seem fair for two teams shooting the same score not to get the same payoff. I figured if it's good enough for the pro's, it's good enough for us! It increased the number of places paid from 56 to 72.

My thanks to the committee for all their support, and to all the fine Elks at Farmington Lodge that absolutely busted their butts to make the S.E District proud.

And a special thanks to all the golfers that support this event, I hope to see you all again next year!

Mike Mills
State Golf Chairman



When Administrative Assistants are put out to pasture what do they do?? Apparently play golf! Dave Hudson-Oakville, Dan Lockhart-Warrensburg, Richard Larkin-Brookfield, Bud Clarkson-Mineral Area, Russ Suda-Meramec Arnold. Farmington State Golf Tournament.



Elks converge from all around the State of Missouri to enjoy the company, food and hospitality and GOLF



The Elks Drug Awareness Program (DAP) prioritizes conveying to its audience the importance of prevention, the wide-reaching effects of drug abuse, the real dangers of addiction, the availability of support, the empowerment of youth, parental role, and community responsibility in battling drug abuse. These key messages underline the program’s mission, emphasizing everyone’s role in tackling drug abuse for a drug-free society.

The Elks Drug Awareness Program (DAP) seeks to consistently communicate clear, effective, and impactful messages that resonate with its broad audience. Here are our key messages: Our central message revolves around prevention through education, as we believe that informed individuals can make wise decisions to stay away from drugs. We emphasize that substance abuse doesn’t only impact the user, but also their loved ones and communities. Everyone plays a part in creating a drug-free society. We stress the severe physical, mental, and social consequences that come with drug addiction. We aim to make people aware that the stakes are real and high. To those who may be struggling, we stress that there’s always help available, whether it’s trusted friends, family, educators, or professional organizations.

We underline the power and potential of young people to make sound decisions regarding their health and the importance of peer influence in keeping each other away from drugs. We highlight the crucial role that parents play in their children’s upbringing and the significance of open conversations about the risks of drug use. These key messages drive our communication strategy, reinforcing our mission and ensuring that our audiences, from students to parents to community leaders, understand the urgency, gravity, and their role in combating drug abuse for a drug-free society.

Doug Jordan, PDDGER
Drug Awareness Program, Missouri Elks Assoc.

1st place DA Video contest was won by Liberal which was sponsored by Lamar Elks #2800. The students were awarded the \$300 prize for their winning video.



The picture on the left was taken at a ceremony held at North County Intermediate School in Southeast Dist. Joy Clarkson, Dist. DA Chairman, presented awards for the Drug Awareness Poster Contest. Kaylee Mosier sponsored by Mineral Area 2583 lodge standing beside Elroy (Ben Platt-SE Dist. Esquire) won 1st place in the State Poster Contest. After winning local, Dist. and State contests Kaylee won a total of \$450. Congrats to all winners.



Bonnie Hagler (Bitsey), Secretary for Sikeston 2319, accepts the \$300 1st place in the state award for the DA Essay Contest to present to the student sponsored by the Sikeston Lodge. Congratulations!



The Video “Free Your Mind” submitted by Richland R1 School in Essex and sponsored through Dexter 2439 took 2nd place in state and earned \$200 for them. Pictured L-R: Hunter Sanders, Lucas Cline, Dexter DA Chairman Terry Carmack, Ashland Wheeler and Lila Corlew. Congrats!

Cape Girardeau School sponsored by the Cape Girardeau Lodge 639 took 3rd place in the state video contest. The students earned the \$100 prize for their very informative and touching video. Congratulations students and Cape local DA Chairman Stephanie Ledure for a job well done!



The 2023-24 State Scholarship winners going to Nationals were awarded \$1000 for 4 years. Speaking at the Spring Convention were

Name	Lodge
Chloe Lin	Sikeston #2319
Lillyan Johnson	Sikeston #2319
Allison Gentry	Kansas City #26
Alyson Klug	KC Northland #2376
Jiyu Zhang	Florissant #2316
Michael Tang	Cameron #2615
Nicholas Van Schyndel	Mexico #919
Tyler Thompson	Joplin #501
Chase Montgomery	St. Charles #690

The Winners are pictured with PSP Lance Evans and State Scholarship Chairman Keith Huck on the far left and on the far right Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook.



The 2024-25 Most Valuable Student Scholarships has begun and High School Seniors across Missouri will again compete for scholarships. Local lodge judging will be completed in December, Districts in January, State judging in February, and National winners to be decided in April. Legacy Scholarships have also opened for students and will be awarded in April. This \$4,000 scholarship opportunity is offered exclusively to children and grandchildren of dues paying elks. Make sure everyone in your Lodge knows about this opportunities. There will be 65 MO High School seniors who will receive college/trade school assistance from the Most Valuable Student and Legacy scholarships totaling \$168,000.

Get the message out to your schools and thank you. Keith Huck-State Scholarship Chairman

573-631-4687 Kandl83@att.net



Brian (Elk of the Year) and Betsy Dine and Roses Hi Angie



It was so nice to have the honor of GER Randy Shook and 1st Lady Wanda attend our convention



PSP Lance Evans is given the gift of Time!



Alllan Eimer , DeSoto 689, takes 1st place in the State Exalter Ruler's Flag Charge Contest. GER Randy Shook presents Allan with the trophy.

Allan went on to the GL Convention in Austin, TX. and received 4th place in the nation with a score of 97.5016.

Congratulations Allan! You make Missouri proud!



It is always an honor to have our State Sponsor and PGER Lou Sulsberger and Beth at our State Conventions.



Sarah and John



ENF Expert Randy



The Three Wise Men?



Kathy and Jim



Beautiful, Happy Smiling Faces



1st place 11 o'clock toast



Rich and Ruthie



iWanda Shook and Connie



Mona earns Officer of the year



2024-2025 state officers



Richard Craft donating to Archives



Larry Page giving Be-nevolent Trust Presentation

<div><div><div></div><div>IN MEMORY OF OUR ABSENT MEMBERS</div><div></div></div></div>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
Allen D. Nichols (Helen)	Columbia	0594	PER
Allen W. Hilbus (Dana)	Bates County	2653	PER
Brent Bockman (Pat)	Perryville	2701	PER, Charter, Life
Linus F. Emmendorfer (Wanda)	Perryville	2701	Charter, Life
Nick S. Blackford (Mary)	DeSoto	0689	PER
James Ross (Gail)	Lake of the Ozarks	2517	Charter Member
Steve Cummings (Terri)	Clinton	1034	PDDGER, PER
Cecil Arnett (Shawn)	Macon	0999	PER

The Real History of Elroy the Elk

Elroy The Elk began as an idea from Gary Hamby. Gary is a member of the **Festus-Crystal City elks #1721** and felt that there should be something to appeal to children that would help with drug awareness and alcohol abuse.

Gary was the drug awareness chairman for the Missouri Elks ssociation and he believed that possibly a cartoon character would peak their interest!

He began drawing different characters and eventually came up with the concept of Elroy Elk. This elk was larger than life who had a huge pair of glasses, a pair of trousers with suspenders, a bow tie and a bright yellow shirt.

He thought that his drawing was just that, a drawing. He believed that it would go no further. But two of his friends, Lee Womack and Larry Johnson felt differently.

They took the drawings to the Kincaid Karacter company and had them develop a complete Elroy Elk Mascot costume that could be worn to demonstrate something that children and adults alike would relate to.

Once the costume was made, Larry Johnson wore it to a lodge meeting in 1987 and surprised Gary with the real life Elroy Elk.



This is the original phototype of the Elk’s National Foundation Mascot.

(Editor's notation: Thank you State President Jim Ross for sharing this very interesting bit of Elk History with us! Joy Clarkson)

More Elks History and vital information

The following was taken from the 1987 Fall Edition of the Shozem and was shared with me by the 1987 Shozem Editor a member of the Farmington 1765 lodge, Stephen Chapman.

Proclamation

Whereas: The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks made a Solemn Pledge!

“So long as there are veterans in our hospitals, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

Whereas, The fulfillment of this Pledge is the Obligation of every Elk, as set forth in Section 13.130 of the Grand Lodge Statutes, and

Whereas: Service to hospitalized Veterans is an expression of patriotism in its purest sense;

NOW THEREFORE: By virtue of the authority of the office of Grand Exalted Ruler, I hereby proclaim the month of November as “National Veterans Remembrance Month” and request all lodges to observe this month of recollection of the debt we owe to hospitalized veterans in the manner which has been recommended by the Elks National Service Commission in its communication to all lodges.

(This was signed)

Ted Callicot, Grand Exalted Ruler, 1987-1988



After four shopping days in July and August, **Christian County Elks #2777** was able to help 225 kids start school with new clothes with the their annual "Back to School Shopping with Kids" program. CC Elks received donations and grants throughout the year totaling \$22,500 to support this charitable cause.



Record breaking donation!! \$16,225.34. Today, members of the **Festus-Crystal City Elks #1721** made the single largest donation in our organization’s history!! These generous people have been raising money for us for months, and today they gifted us a check of \$16,225.34!! (Shop with a Cop)

This lodge has a great history of donating and giving back to our organization and to other clubs/organizations in our community. This wouldn’t be possible without the hard work and kindness of members like these! Thank you to everyone that contributed to this record breaking donation!



What a day. I do believe fun was had by all on the Riding for Smiles poker run. We had around 120 bike, jeeps, and motorcycles participate in the ride. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this day a super success! Again thanks to all that came out to enjoy the day and to support our **Missouri Benevolent Trust**. Also, congrats to the winner of the poker hand Carol Caruthers. Carol won with a straight. Great job Carol!!!! **DeSoto Lodge 689**



Festus-Crystal City Elks #1721 is proud to announce that Art Frey a member of 39 years took the Greater St. Louis Honor Flight. He is a World War II Veteran! We thank him for all his service as both a Veteran and an Elk!



A huge shout out goes to the East Central District lodges! Two weeks ago, we posted that Forces for Food, the food pantry at Jefferson Barracks, was in dire need of donations. You all stepped up to the plate and hit it out of the park! This week, our lodges donated OVER \$5,000 in cash donations PLUS a huge amount of non perishable food and personal care items. And, other lodges are still in the process of collecting donations. Thanks to each and every member who helped out in this great effort! We are the ELKS!



Ste Genevieve Elks Lodge 2674 welcomes President Jim Ross and 1st Lady Kathy.



Beautiful, emotional and a very American day for our **East Central District and Cedar Hill Elks Lodge #2678**... Writing history by reading about history! There are no other flags in this world more loved and honored as ours is... From children to veterans, we are the proudest nation, the most patriotic country, and that is why we call ourselves AMERICANS!

Thank you to all that took part in this beautiful Ceremony!



Congratulations East Central District Deputy **Charles Grissom Jr.** From **Potosi Lodge 2218**.



Great job Cedar Hill 2678
Congratulations on your Membership Growth!
Uncle Johnny is so happy!!



Fred Waldrop was presented the first ever “Ray Dierker Award of Americanism.” Fred is a member of **Festus-Crystal City Elks Lodge #1721**. The Ray Dierker Award is given in honor of Ray. The recipient will be someone who exemplifies the spirit of American patriotism. We would like to Congratulate Fred and thank him for all he does and will continue to do. Pictured from left to right: **Joe Oaks, E C District Vice President and Fred Waldrop**





JAN, the Laurie Canine Police Officer
Osage Community Elks Lodge #2705 in Laurie recently hosted a Youth Drug Awareness Event. Laurie Police Officer Nick Shoemate was there with his K-9 Unit dog, Jan, (pronounced Yawn), as well as other Laurie Officers, plus personnel from Sunrise Beach Police, and the Gravois Fire Protection District. The Lodge presented Laurie Police with a \$6000.00 donation in support of the K-9 program, with funding support through a Beacon Grant from the Elks National Foundation. Invited children and their families were given items and information about avoiding harmful drugs, and served refreshments and lunch. Then Officer Shoemate took Jan outside for a demonstration of his abilities which include drug searches, finding missing persons, and catching persons fleeing from the law. Jan quickly found illegal substances “planted” in a nearby truck, and chased down an officer dressed in a “bite suit” pretending to be a fleeing criminal. Jan trains daily, and lives with his handler, Officer Shoemate. The Elks Lodge participation is part of the Elks National Drug Awareness Program, which is committed to “eliminating illegal drugs to ensure a bright future for our country.”



Congratulations West Central DD-John Calvert from Lake of the Ozarks Lodge 2517



Lamar 2800
This year's theme for the Drug Awareness Program was "Be Kind to Your Mind."
Poster Contest Winners :
Chloe Strahm from Liberal Elementary, who placed 3rd at the local level.
Tripp Wolf from Liberal Elementary, who placed 2nd at the local level.
Harper Wolf from Liberal Elementary, who placed 1st at the local level and 3rd at the district level.



State President Jim Ross visiting Sedalia #125 Elks Lodge



Kathy and I had the privilege of attending **Lake of the Ozarks Lodge #2517** 50th Anniversary last night. Congratulations to them and thank you for a wonderful time. Great job done by all.



Elroy struts his stuff around **Clinton** to educate against the use of illegal drugs.

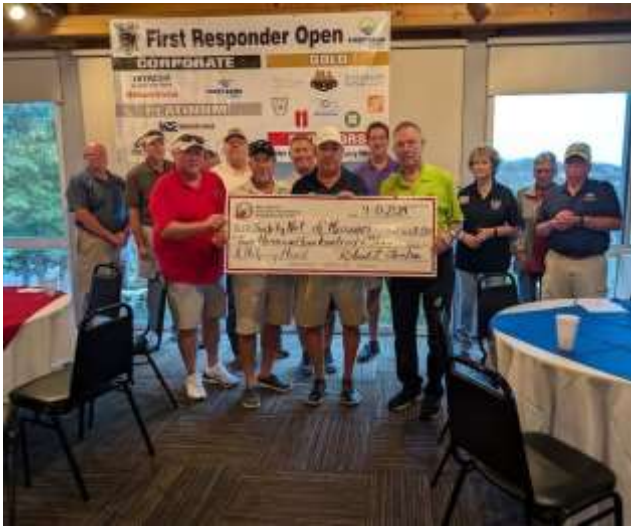


The **Nevada Elks Lodge 564** sold fresh corn on the cob in their parking lot. This project will help the Little League baseball program in Nevada and the veterans home in Mount Vernon. They will split the money equally.



Elks Host Adults with Disabilities Bowling Party. **Benton County Elk's Lodge #2783** recently partnered with The Center for Human Services and Jesters Bowling Center to provide a fun filled afternoon for over 60 clients from the workshop. They enjoyed a couple of games of bowling that was filled with prizes and then were served pizza. The Elks rented the bowling center, purchased the pizza, and provided funding to CHS for refreshments and prizes. This was all made possible by a Beacon

Grant from The Elk's National Foundation. The Elk's would really like to thank Jesters Bowling Center for all their courtesy throughout this project. (Pictured are officers and members of the Elks Lodge and staff from CHS)



Lake of the Ozarks Lodge 2517 donated \$2500 to Safety-net of Missouri. This donation was made possible from Sunday afternoon bingo profits.



The **Jackson Red 2652** recently donated over \$1,500 for new books to the Jackson R 2 Schools.

Once again this was made possible by our members who donate to the Elks National Foundation (ENF). Please consider donating. This with many other donations to our community is possible through our ENF grants.

Elks Care, Elks Share! What a great thing it is to be a Jackson Elk!



Arcadia Valley 2330 Exalted Ruler Jason Moise riding to raise money for local charities. Administrative Assistant Russ Suda shaking hands with Jason. In background holding the flag is President Jim Ross and Theresa Suda taking pictures.



Cape Girardeau 639 had a nice turn out at their 2024 Kids fishing Derby. The winner was Spiderman aka Little K with a 13" Grass Carp. Spidey is pictured in the middle with his fishing gear and plaque presented by George Budde.



PGER and our State Sponsor Lou Sulsberger presents the ENF plaque Bronze Circle of Giving to **Farmington PER Jeff Burnette** for his contribution of \$5000 or more to ENF. Congratulations Jeff and thank you for all the many other contributions you make to promote Elkdom.



Mineral Area #2583's Exalted Gene Thomas, his wife Debbie on his left and PERs Anna Kleiner and Vickie Murray enjoy a fun filled evening celebrating the **Farmington Lodge 1765's** 75th anniversary.

The Perryville Elks 2701 has applied and received 4 Grants this year: With the Freedom Grant they got supplies for the Marion Cliff Manor The Beacon Grant helps Family Day at the Veterans Home in Cape Girardeau and will help with Christmas gifts. With the Gratitude Grand they did 140 back to school backpacks. And the Spotlight Grant will be used for baby supplies for our Health Department. They also had an American essay winner.



VP Paul, Director Joe and OAL Alisha make their final visit! Great job



Dennis Carmack from Dexter 2439 is the District Deputy for the Southeast District. We are proud of you Dennis and know you will do a great job!



State President Jim Rose and 1st Lady Kathy greeted with Southern Hospitality at **Sikeston Elks #2319**



Spencer Wilson , grandson of Dickie Scott was awarded the Elk's W.C. Porter scholarship by exalted ruler Donnie Trout. Thanks to everyone for recognizing this outstanding young man who has a great future awaiting him. **Poplar Bluff 2452**



Troy Lodge #2805 presentation of monetary donation of \$1000.00 to the Youth Fishing Days for elementary schools in the Lincoln County area. Several of our Elks will be assisting them in catching the BIG one.

Don Freeman, Crestwood Lodge Board President, along with Past Exalted Rulers Tom Sontheimer and Trustee Mike Wood delivered \$2150.00 of food items to the Jefferson Barracks Food Pantry on Wednesday, 6/12/2024. The food was collected by the



Crestwood Lodge 2503

**Afton Elks Lodge #2 635
Contratulations Milica**



We have an award-winning writer at Bayles Elementary! Fifth grader Milica Mitrovic placed first in the State of Missouri for the Elks Lodge Americanism Essay Contest! Milica wrote an essay on what the Bill of Rights meant to her, which was chosen as the best by all fifth graders across the state. Members of the Afton Elks Lodge, Bobbie Moon, Exalted Ruler and Harry Proffitt, Americanism Chairman presented her with a plaque and a check for \$150. Her essay has been entered in the national competition against fifth graders nationwide! #BringTheStampede

ST. CHARLES LODGE #690

Missouri Elks State President Jim Ross had his Official Visit #26 at St Charles Elks #690! Great day for a car show with beautiful Mustangs on display!



The **St. Charles Elks #690** continue to work hard to support our Community, Veterans, and Youth!
Since the last edition of the Shozem, we held another successful fish fry and Easter Egg Hunt for our youth! The Lodge continues to work hard in meeting and exceeding Missouri Benevolent Trust and Elks National Foundations per capita, while also securing over \$10,500 in Community investment Program grants to support our continual community activities of our Bare Necessities Program (providing food to school students on weekends/holidays) and Christmas Basket Program. The Veterans committee also constructed a Veterans Wall in our Clubroom that looks amazing, which has the U.S. Flag

and many, many pictures of veterans of our Lodge and families. We are also still selling our Lodge's Challenge Coin for \$10/\$5 for Veterans.
The Lodge held its annual soccer shoot in August and will be sending three winners to our District Soccer Shoot in September. The Lodge will be looking forward to holding our Rock and Roll Bingo on October 12th and golf tournament on September 15th ! We were also honored to have State President Jim Ross and Kathy, as well as Russ and Theresa Suda, visit our Lodge in August. This visit included hosting a Mustang Car Show. In September we'll also have some lodge hop stops and we'll be looking forward to holding our annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 26th . As always, lot of great things going on at Club 690!

FLORISSANT. LODGE #2316

The Veteran's Retirement Home cannon Located on hi-way 367 was in dire need of maintenance. The Florissant Elks Lodge were asked to have the wheels repaired, with the repair costs estimated to be \$2850.00. The Florissant Elks Members stepped up and rose to the occasion. The Members picked up the refurbished wheels Saturday in Arcola, Illinois. They were refurbished by the Amish, Central Wheel Com-



Congratulations Patrick Dolan (**Affton 2635**) on your appointment as DDGER for the Metro East District!



MANCHESTER LODGE #2058

The Manchester Elks held their Annual Soccer Shoot on August 9th and 10th

Ellisville Elks supported Six String Hero's by providing pizza for the Veterans and staying around to listen to the Veterans play their guitars at the Graduation Ceremony on June 10th



Ellisville 2664



On Monday, August 5th **High Ridge Elks Lodge #2455** was honored to be a part of the recognition of Savannah Strother, a 15 year old babysitter, who acted with courage when saving two young children and the family dog from a fire that broke out in the home where she was babysitting.

Along with the High Ridge Fire Protection District and the North Jefferson Ambulance District, our lodge

recognized Savannah for her acts of heroism and bravery. Our members awarded Savannah with the Citizenship Award and a check for \$500.00. Our local first responders additionally recognized her with the Heroism Award. Our community is so proud of her selfless acts that day and we are encouraged to see the youth in our community making a difference!

Pictured: Mr. Ron Woehrle - Head Trustee, High Ridge Elks Lodge (in the suit)
Mr. Brian Feldewerth - Exalted Ruler, High Ridge Elks Lodge
Mr. Chris Robinson - Esteemed Leading Knight, High Ridge Elks Lodge
Savannah Strother - Recipient



Blue Springs 2509 hosts lunch for the Patriot Express Riders who raise money for the Fisher Houses. The Fisher Houses provide lodging for families of our veterans in need of medical help. Thank You!



Oakville Lodge # 2726 members, friends and a hard-working group of newly initiated Riders helped local veterans and active duty military families by raising \$2300 in gift cards and 7 pallets of food which they delivered to the Forces for Food/Jefferson Barracks Food Pantry. A job well-done by old and new Elks!

The **East Central District's Veterans Committee** held their 2nd Veterans Resource Fair on Saturday, September 14th at **Meramec (Arnold) #2372**. This year's fair was very well attended, serving over 70 Veterans by 35 vendors. Veteran Service Officers were on hand to help Veterans receive benefits that they are entitled to and wrote 22 service orders. The highlight of the day was the dogs brought in by the Dogs That Help organization. Two Boy Scout Troops and one Girl Scout Troop were on hand to assist with serving food and beverages, parking and helping Veterans get around.



Pictured on the left: The Youth Activities Committee of the St. Louis #9 Lodge fielded a swim team of 90 kids who competed in 6 meets over the summer!

Great idea #9



Farmington Elks Celebrates 75 years

Farmington, MO. July 13, 2024 – Farmington Lodge #1765 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) celebrated 75 years of service to each other and the community. The anniversary was marked with a banquet and recognition event held for all Elk members and guests. Highlights of the moment included a proclamation from Missouri Governor Parson, which was presented by Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe. Farmington Mayor Larry Forsythe also presented the members with a proclamation from the city. Other attendees included Missouri Representative Mike Henderson and Dale Wright, Missouri Speaker of the House Dean Plocher. Also in attendance were several B.P.O.E. leaders from State and National offices including current Missouri State President Jim Ross, twelve past State Presidents, Vice Presidents, District Deputies, over twenty past Exalted Rulers, and their distinguished guests.

Farmington Lodge #1765 has served the community with many projects over the 75 years. Annually, the membership provides more than \$25,000 in youth academic and trade school scholarships, supports our local Veterans through clothing and food programs, provides groceries to needful families during Christmas, and promotes Americanism and good Citizenship with various community activities. Since 2016, Farmington Elks have donated more than \$2.2 million in charitable contributions. Farmington has and will continue to embody the Elks saying: Elks Care – Elks Share!

For more information about the Elks and great work that the organization does, please visit www.elks.org.

Great job Exalter Ruler Sam Hahn and Farmington 1765. 75 Years!!



**ELKS CHRISTIAN COUNTY 'JEEPIN' FOR
CASA PLATINUM SPONSOR**

Elks Lodges bring so much more to their communities than just a building, golf course or pool. They are places where neighbors come together, families share meals, and children grow up.

Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of today's veterans, and improve the quality of life.

We are proud to be a Jeepin' for CASA Platinum Sponsor!



Over two years ago the **Lake Taneycomo Lodge 2597** Veterans Wall of Honor was taken down to remodel. Finally, thanks to many, especially Terri Williams, Craig, and Holly Smith, it was resurrected just before Memorial Day. Thanks to all for honoring our veterans. If we have any member that wishes to add their loved ones to this wall you are welcome to bring a picture to share.



Congratulations Southwest District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Richard Shertz member of West Plains 2418



Service Dog Sponsorship

On Saturday, July 27, 2024, the **Webb City Elks #861**, along with community partners American Legion Post 322, American Legion Auxiliary Post 322, VFW Post 7630, and Heartland Canines for Veterans celebrated the graduation of Service Dog Nova and her veteran Jeremy at the Webb City Elks Lodge. Together with our partners, we have sponsored three service dogs in the last year: Elke, sponsored in September 2023 will be graduating in a few weeks; Willow (Elke's little sister, sponsored in June 2024 and is just beginning her training; and Nova. The total cost of the program is \$19,000 per dog and Webb City Elks, the American Legion, and VFW together contributed \$40,400 – ensuring there is no cost to the veteran! All three dogs were present for Nova's graduation as a celebration of her accomplishment and a demonstration of Elks working for our community.

Pictured L to R: Veteran Mike with Willow, Veteran Jeremy with Nova, Trainer Morgan with Elke (her veteran is Scott and was unable to attend)



State President Jim Ross enjoys visiting West Plains Lodge 2418 and a tour of Hodgson Water Mill



2024, Springfield Lodge 409 Father's Day is in the books. Thanks to those that were able to attend. Thanks to ALL that volunteered to make this possible.



The Springfield, Mo. Elks Lodge #409 Veterans Committee hosted its annual fishing tournament at the Missouri Conservation Department stocked lake In Bois D'Arc. Eleven Veterans Committee members greeted veterans and staff members from the Mt. Vernon Veterans Home with loaded poles, helping hands and a picnic dinner on a gorgeous, 75-degree day in the Ozarks.

After the picnic, trophies were presented for the First Fish Caught, Largest Fish Caught, Smallest Fish Caught and "It Got Away." The yearly fishing trip has become a tradition for Lodge #409, and this year's was its sixth.



Jim Ross, Offical Visit #34 to Alton/Thayer Elks Lodge #2545! Thank you ER Mike for making this Luau a memorable experience for us all! Dinner was awesome and Karaoke was a blast!



Cameron Elks Lodge 2615 presented a \$500 Donation to the Mirabile Elementary School. The Grant was made possible by the Elks Beacon Grant. Pictured is Jared Hardman, Superintendent (L) and Scott Lee (R) Elks Member/Tiler.



Maryville Elks recently partnered with Maryville Eagles Bearcat Aerie and Auxiliary and Pappi's Place for the 13th annual Pappi's Palooza Benefit. Together we were able to raise \$60,000 for a local family in need. Pictured are Elks that were able to help with the event and all of the team with the family.

#maryvilleelks760



Congratulations
John Nelson
DDGER
Northwest
District
Maryville
Lodge 760



We are so grateful to our incredible sponsors for supporting the 2024 BTC Bank Tractor Cruise this Friday! Your generosity helps us make a difference in the lives of youth in our local communities.

(Cameron Elks Lodge #2615 was proud to help sponsor this function.)

Thank you to Angel Oder and the Milan Elks for their donation of water to the Milan Fire Departments!!



Fun times at National Convention visiting Elks from other States
Shown above Missouri elks visit the
Minnesota Vikings



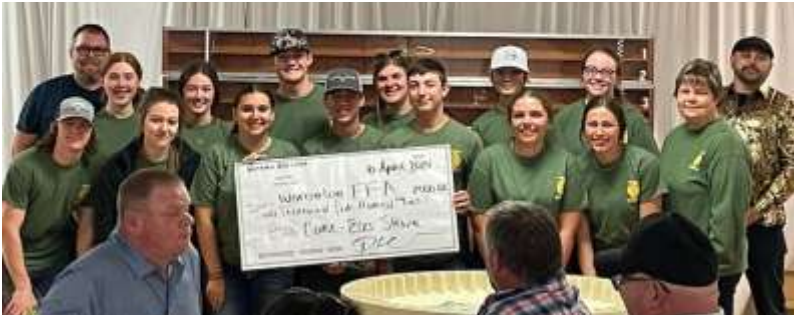
While in Austin
PSP Rich Larkin,
PSP Richard
Techau (Brookfield #874) and PSP John
Rinehart (Cass County #2791)
found time to socialize with Greg
Flesvig, Wyoming
Elks State President from Casper
Lodge #1353



If Chad Taylor can give blood so can you
Excelsior Springs #1001



Cameron Lodge #2615 celebrated its first Purple Ball in years last night. Amanda Hedgpeth and crew did a fantastic job!



Northeast District Fall 2024

Warrenton Lodge #2662 Big thanks to this crew for giving their Saturday evening to serve their community at the Elks dinner! We greatly appreciate the Elks generous donation to our FFA Chapter!

Louisiana lodge #791

Louisiana Elks Lodge #791 presented \$23,000 in Scholarships today to 17 High School Seniors from area schools. Congratulations to all students and job well done!



It was a great pleasure to present this \$200 donation to help out with the Macon Baseball Associations end of the year tournament again this year! It's always great to see **Macon Elks 999** being involved in our community. This is what makes our lodge so great!!



Jefferson City Lodge 513



Mexico Lodge 919

This is picture of Kings Daughters home supplies



Congratulations Paul Love (**Columbia 594**) on your appointment as DDGER for the Northeast District.



The Flag Day ceremony conducted at the **St. Clair #2651 Elks Lodge** was awesome and inspiring.



Gave out 15 scholarships totaling \$14,500 this past May for graduating seniors (**St. Clair 2651**)

DDGER **Paul Love's** 6th Lodge visit, **Washington #1559.**



District Officers, Director Dave Williams (Jefferson City #513), Vice President Jennifer L Foster (Hannibal #1198) and Chancellor Danny Heimann (Washington 1559)



Jefferson City 513 held their 125th Anniversary celebration on June 1st. State Sponsor Lou Sulsberger and Beth, State President Jim Ross and Kathy, along with other state dignitaries and members attended a

dinner, anniversary program and dance. Pics of Lou/Beth, Jim/Kathy, our master of ceremony PER Larry Case/Carol, PSP Steven/Donna and state officers.

Congratulations



State Officers Were also present



Collected and delivered 600 plus pounds of food for local food pantry.

Warrensburg 673



Thank you John Younghanz, Chair, for this year's Americanism Essay Contest for **Kansas City Northland Elks Lodge # 2376**. We had two state finalists moving on to the National competition with over 700 entries, a wonderful dinner with parents, school administrators and the Superintendent of Schools for the North Kansas City School District.



Helping Hands assist the residents of Tremont Place, Senior Living Center in Kansas City, with small repairs, cleaning, and moving furniture. Thank you members of **Kansas City Northland Elks Lodge #2376** for demonstrating Elks Care and Elks Share! Pictured L to R are State Treasurer and PER Pat Dierker, Helen Murch, Shirley Santos, Kim Murch, Belenda Harrison, Marva Cox, Larry King, PER, Toni Mallams, Leading Knight, and Annette Calabrese.



Kansas City 26

A great night. Elks 26 gave out 10 Scholarships this year. Thank you to all that participated.



Huge THANK YOU to the **GVHM Elks Lodge #2088 Grandview MO** for your continued support of GAP's mission. This donation will allow us to offer families visiting our monthly food pantry personal hygiene items for the next 6 months!#elksrock #gapcares



Congratulations Deborah Aliff, Blue Springs Lodge 2509, for your appointment as Metro West District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler.



Cass County 2791 holds a youth fishing derby



Missouri Elks State President, Jim Ross went golfing with his Administrative Assistant, Russ Suda in the Metro West Golf Tournament.



State President Jim Ross visits with the members of **Lexington 749**. The fish fry was amazing!

Elks National Foundation
What we get back!

Raised in 2024-2025 116,644
Paid back to MO 365,460

State Charity \$142,430
Special Projects Grant \$101,640
Bonus Grant \$30,690
Most Valuable Student \$40,000
Legacy Award \$24,000
VAWS Volunteers \$26,700

Total Paid back- **\$365,460**
to 61 Missouri Lodges in CIP Grants
\$500,000 more than paid in



Randy Northington, Chairman
Missouri State Elks Association
Totals 31,823 Members
Contributions \$104,100
Per Capita Average \$5.00



Mo. Elks are proud of and would like to thank all of our hard working state officers.

I hope that all who attended our fall convention found your stay enjoyable. If there were any issues please send to me so I can discuss with the appropriate hotel staff.

Convention next Spring will be held in Jefferson City with Capitol Plaza as the host hotel. The conference will be held on March 11-13. With approximately 350 rooms required we will utilize Capitol Plaza, Baymont, Quality Inn and Marriot as our hotel choices.

We were hoping to roll out online credit card registration at this 2024 fall convention, but due to a few stumbling blocks we had to delay until the spring

2025 conference.

The 2025 National Convention will be held in Kansas City, MO.

The convention dates are June 29 th to July 2nd . Grand Lodge has not given us information on our hotel assignment to date. Further information will be made available when received.

And now, for what I believe most of you have been waiting for, our 2025 Fall Convention will be held at Margaritaville, at the Lake of the Ozarks, October 3rd to 5th . Yes, it is true and time. This venue will accommodate all attendees, thus no need for vehicle transportation to attend any MEA functions. I will relay more information in the future.

Please remember that ALL attendees need to pay their registration fee of \$60.00 and pick up their credentials at the registration tables. Without this you will not be allowed to enter ANY hospitality rooms and other conference functions.

As always Betsy and I are looking at ways of making your convention experience easier on you and a more enjoyable one. For more information contact Brian or Betsy Crawford at 573-547-8909.



Wow! Who is this super hot couple? Could it be our own Convention King and Queen Brian and Betsy Crawford?



Celebrating Flag Day with President Jim Ross



First ladies celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Farmington Lodge 1765



Hurry and get well Joan. We miss you.



State President Jim Ross and 1st Lady Kathy along with Administrative Assistant Russ Suda and Theresa.



Jason Meisenheimer
President elect-Nevada

Community • Friendship • Charity

ELKS

LET'S SOAR WITH 4 IN 2024!

- 1 Follow-up with candidates
- 2 Ask them to join the Elks
- 3 Review the applications
- 4 Schedule a Special Initiation!
- 5 Initiate them!

Don't keep your **CANDIDATES** waiting!

Let's **INITIATE** Our New Members Promptly

 join.elks.org