

September 2013

To: Missouri Elks Association

From: Jim Hahn PGE/PSP, Chairman Officer Training

Two Officer Training Sessions were held this past May. Crestwood Lodge and Blue Springs Lodge offered the use of their facilities. I am proud to announce that 102 members attended these sessions, representing 23 individual lodges. Not bad.....

The accommodations were great at both Lodges, lunches were wonderful and more importantly attendance was better than expected. Although President Larkin promised me 100 members in attendance at Blue Springs, once the membership found out he and Taco would be in attendance, participation dropped by 50%. Seriously, we appreciated their attendance and participation. Would members of both Crestwood and Blue Springs please stand. Now, show them your appreciation for hosting this years training! Will the following committee members please stand: PSP Larry Robertson, PSP Harry Hennemann, (special recognition) PSP Roland Seal, PDD Tom Jackson, Vice President Randy Pringer, PDD Paul Rogers, PER Bill Howell, and PVP Terri Emo. Please show them your appreciation.

As we prepare for training, we announce the dates during the Spring Convention, we address those in attendance during the ER's luncheon (providing registration forms) and set the deadline for notification so training materials can be made and a food amounts can be determined on time. Still, lateness in meeting these deadlines prevails. If I had not called Frank Kerby advising him we were canceling the Blue Springs session two days before the deadline, the session would not have happened. Tom West, VP also was instrumental in communicating with local lodges. Thank you Tom and Frank for gathering the Indians. Deadlines are just that, deadlines for the above mentioned reasons, food and preparation of training materials. As of the date, over 50% of those Lodges who attended, never sent the registration form to me. Who am I to contact in case we have to cancel or an emergency arises? Common courtesy needs addressing.

There will be changes for next year. In talking to committee members, we have decided to go back to our original format; one session held centrally. Thanks to the work by Randy Pringer, Committeeman and VP of the NE District, he has secured the use of Jefferson City Lodge for next years session. The session will be held on May 17, 2014 ✓ beginning at 8 AM. This will also reduce the cost to our State Association, eliminating an overnight stay for various committee members. Registration forms will be available during the Spring Convention.

Food for thought, we have over 30,000 Elks, 30 State Officers, a lot more committee members and we cannot get 1% of those members to attend our Training yearly. You dedicate one day out of 365 to attend a 6 hour session. Most of those who attend are repeat members, not the new officer who should be interested in attending. We are not

fancy, no power point program (cost reasons) just handouts and good ole benchmarking and honest discussions among those who have the same interest, problems and motivations to be better Elks. Maybe in 2014, we will see more of you in attendance. Remember, the Committee may be called Officer Training, but is not solely for Officers, it is open to all members. Yes, we add new portions each year, attempting to keep our material fresh and of better help to those who attend. The training session is for your benefit. Believe me, twenty years of traveling with Roland wears a lot on you, same stories, same jokes and same routes. However, Roland and I do our part for you. Do your part, register on time, participate in your training session, enjoy fellow Elks with common problems, receive the gracious hospitality the host Lodges offers and leave our session with a better understanding of Elkdom. Try it in 2014, you just might like it.

Thanks again to President Larkin and Taco for their attendance at Blue Springs.

Respectfully submitted;