

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS  
FALL CONVENTION SEPT. 14, 2013  
BUSINESS MEETING

As Ruth & I have traveled across this great state of MO, we have made our official visit to 38 MO lodges as well as attended the Elks National Convention, MO Golf and MO Softball Tournaments. Accompanied by Dan & Babe Lockhart, we have noticed that, even though lodges are widely different, they are the same in one aspect-we have been treated with utmost hospitality and respect.

It was my honor to represent Missouri during the National Convention in Reno. I cannot tell you how very humbled and honored I felt carrying our state flag across that stage. Looking out and seeing the Missouri delegation clad in their blues and grays made me proud to be an Elk! I wish to commend the Blue Springs Elks Lodge #2509 on their ritual performance. They competed very admirably in spite of the changes they had to make due to the health of some of their members.

My slogan for the year of "Hole In One Fore Membership" has been related through the my visits and the visits of our Vice Presidents. We are happy to report that we are now ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation surpassing Illinois! Keep up the good work of getting new members while working on giving those delinquent a reason to return.

I have learned that our lodges are making good use of the grant money. Continue to do so as this money can help everyone involved. If you still have questions regarding receiving these grants, please contact me or your Vice President and we will assist you in getting these forms filled out and programs started.

The Benevolent Trust continues to assist in the funding of our dental units. I have noticed a growing interest in the Benevolent Trust but we still need more participation. Remember, this is our Missouri State Project and we should be more proactive supporting and promoting it! I can't think of any better feeling than helping those who cannot help themselves.

I wish to thank our current slate of officers who have worked very diligently getting the word of Elkdom out to all their respective districts. They have been a great source of help for me.

Remember that teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. Let's set our vision on furthering the virtues of BPOE not only within our state but also within ourselves.

Thank you, Rich Larkin, MEA President

