

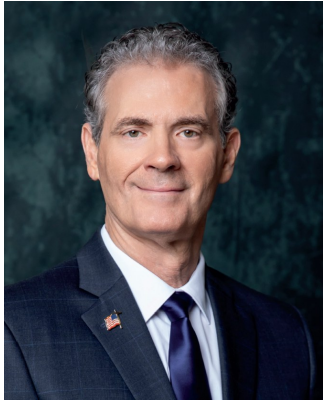


Missouri Elks Association Shozem

Published Semi-Annually by the Missouri State Elks Association

Shozem Issue 27 Spring 2025

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



DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER
GRAND EXALTED RULER
2024-2025

We are looking forward to the opportunity to meet and spend time with our Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas Schiefer and First Lady Julia at this convention.

We would also like to wish him a Happy Belated Birthday and Valentine's Day since his birthday was Feb. 14th.

This will be our chance to show Grand Exalted Ruler Schiefer and First Lady Julia that Missouri Elks live by his theme "Elkdom's Heart For America."

We welcome you to Missouri.



Greetings everyone –

As I write this message, plans are being completed for the Missouri Elks Association Spring Convention in March. In addition to the regular business we will tend to that weekend, we are most fortunate to have our Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer and First Lady Julia here for their official visit. GER Doug and Julia hail from the Buckeye State of Ohio and Beth and I have known them for many years. A slate of activities will keep them busy as they witness the commitment and dedication the Missouri Elks have for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. We know they

will take away with them many good thoughts and lasting memories from their visit with us. We are excited for them to join us, and I know you will all give them a warm and wonderful Missouri Show-Me-State welcome!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this past Lodge year a successful one. Beth and I would like to congratulate Missouri State President Jim Ross and First Lady Kathy for the wonderful job they have done in serving our State Association. We thank them for their dedication and friendship. We extend our well wishes and good luck to President Elect Jason Meisenheimer and his wife Heather as they begin their year as President and First Lady.

Lastly, I am sure I don't need to say how excited everyone is about the Missouri Elks hosting this year's Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City in July! The Local Support Committee, under the direction of PSP Richard Techau, have been working hard to assist in making this a great Grand Lodge Convention. Please be sure to offer your help in any way they need, as hosting a successful Grand Lodge Convention requires the help of many volunteers. In advance, thank you!

Beth and I look forward to being with all of you in Jefferson City at the Convention!

God Bless,

F. Louis Sulsberger

Past Grand Exalted Ruler

Missouri State Sponsor

Hello Missouri Elks! What a pleasure it has been for Kathy and I to serve as your First Couple for the 2024-2025 Fraternal Year and what a ride it has been. It is impossible to mention everything we were able to do and see but it is all etched in our memories forever. Thank you one and all for all the fun and memories.

In our travels I talked about the importance of Membership, the Elks National Foundation and our own Benevolent Trust Fund. The three mainstays of our Association. Without membership we don't exist. I hear from time to time that it seems that the Elks are only interested in increasing the number of members and not the quality of those members. The number of members drives our budgets and makes it possible to do all the charitable work we do. More members mean more income. Which means more charitable work in our community. The quality of your members is the responsibility of your lodge's investigating committee and the Proposers in your lodge. It is up to your current members to choose and vote for who you want in your Lodge. Please take this responsibility serious.

The Elks National Foundation and Benevolent Trust provides us with the opportunity to give back to our communities. Please donate yearly to both and provide funding for our CIP Programs, our Veterans, our Hoop and Soccer Shoots, Youth Scholarships and more. Remember that the Benevolent Trust Fund is the MEA State Major Project. A charity that belongs to us, the Missouri Elks. However, there are still Lodges in our State that do not donate to the Benevolent Trust. Ask yourself this, is a yearly donation of \$10 worth seeing a smile on a young child's face? Who otherwise will not receive dental care if it weren't for the Benevolent Trust. It does to me. How about you?

My moto for the year is "Pulling Together for Elkdom" and is symbolized by my pin set, the train. It is important for all parts of a train to work TOGETHER to successfully get from point A to point B. Much like our Lodges, it is important for our Leadership (Locomotive), Members (Passenger Car), and the PER Association (Caboose) to work TOGETHER to reach a common goal, success. If any part of that train breaks down, the train crashes and it takes a lot of people working together to repair it. Please remember the importance of working together and making your Lodge stronger.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to serve as your State President for the past year. A year that I will never forget. A year full of fun, friendship and learning how great Missouri is. I am proud to be an Elk and will continue to serve and support the Missouri Elks Association with pride. Continue to support your local Lodges and remember that "Pulling Together for Elkdom" accomplishes more.

Jim Ross

MEA State President

The Cover

- Officers 2025-2026
- Shozem, Direct., Pres. Elect.
- Veterans, Members, Boutique
- Fall State Conv.
- Hoop Shoot, Auditing Acct.
- Leadership, Lodge Activities
- Drug Awareness, Scholarship
- PER, Youth, Bowling, BT
- Necrology

- East Central
- West Central
- Southeast
- Metro East
- Mixed Districts
- Southwest
- Northwest
- Northeast
- Metro West
- Last Page



Missouri State Officers for 2025-2026

State President

Jason Meisenheimer
Spouse Heather
1229 E Austin Blvd
Nevada MO 64772
417 684 0623
drmsnhmr@gmail.com



President-Elect

Michael Polson
Spouse Julie
10211 Burdeau LN
St. Louis MO 63114
314 422 5770
Pocat_58@yahoo.com



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Steve Brooks
Spouse: Sherill
17213 S 1900 RD
Nevada MO
417 667 4642
sa-
brooks621@sbcglobal.net



CORPORATE SECRETARY

Bud Clarkon
Spouse-Joy
108 S College St
Arcadia Mo 63621
573 546 7297 C 561.4165
moelksec@gmail.com
Mineral Area #2583



CORPORATE TREASURER

Pat Dierker
1005 NE 87th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64155
816.468.8319
pdierker@att.net
K C Northland #2376



National Foundation
Randy Northington
Dexter #2439
1029 S. Woodland Drive
Dexter, MO 63841
573 421 2502.
randyenf@gmail.com



Benevolent Trust

Larry Page
Spouse Kim
310 Briarwood Terrace
DeSoto Mo 63020
314-261-3828
larrypagejrr@gmail.com
Desoto #689



HISTORIAN

Richard Craft
Spouse-Fran
442 Grand Canyon DR
Farmington Mo 63640
573 330 4640
richardcraft@att.net
Farmington #1765



Shozem

Joy Clarkson
Spouse-Bud
108 S College
Arcadia MO 63621
Mineral Area #2583
573 783 9217



Vice President

Joe Boyer
Jackson #2652

Chase Emery
Webb City #861

David Williams
Jefferson city #513

Debbie Belavich
Meramec-Arn. #2372

Albert J Ford
St Louis #9

Steve Solomon
Blue Springs #2509

Dan Sylvester
Milan #2819

Steve Schmidt
Lake of the Ozarks 2517

Director

Southeast
Alicha Young
Jackson #2652

Southwest
Larry Tuck
Springfield #409

Northeast
Danny Heimann
Washington #1559

East Central
Kevin Brock
Festus-Crystal 1721

Metro East
Kelly Mitchell
Troy #2805

Metro West
Larry King
Northland #2376

Northwest
Jerimey Thompson
Maryville #760

West Central
Carla Scott
Sedalia #125

At Large

Esquire
Sam Hahn
Farmington 1765

Marshall
Danny Cobb
West Plains #2418

Chancellor
Amy Roberts
O'Fallon #2587

Sargent at Arms
Roger Fortner
High Ridge 2455

TILER
Bobbie Moon
Affton #2635

Sergeant at Arms
Grant Karriker
Kansas City #26

Inner Guard
Randy Hammett
Trenton #801

Chaplain
Jon Martin
Clinton #1034



Grand Lodge
Missouri Sponsor

Louis Sulsberger
PO Box 537

2025- 2026 Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Exalted Ruler 2025-2026

Douglas A. Schiefer
PO Box 123

Elyria, OH 44036-0123

Grand Trustee and Special Deputy

PSP John S. Gross DeSoto #689

Grand Esquire

PSP Larry Robertson Festus Crystal City

District Deputies

EAST CENTRAL

Charles Grissom, Jr. John Yeager
Potosi #2218 Oakville #2726

METRO EAST

Patrick Dolan Greg Peterson
Affton #2635 Manchester #2058

METRO WEST

Deborah Aliff Frank Kerby
Blue Springs #2509 Blue Springs 2509

NORTHEAST

Paul Love Mona Brown
Columbia #594 Louisiana #791

NORTHWEST

John Nelson Samantha Barrett
Maryville #760 Excelsior Springs #1001

SOUTHEAST

Dennis Carmack Ben Flatt
Dexter 2439 Mineral Area #2583

SOUTHWEST

Richard Shertz Theresa Suda
West Plains #2418 Springfield #409

WEST CENTRAL

John Calvert Anna Lutman
Lake of the Ozarks #2517 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
JIM ROSS	2024-2025

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
Cell 573 783 9217



Well Team, we did it! Five Star award for our 2024 editions of Shozem. Missouri Elks rock! You show everyday why we are referred to as The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Thank you for all your work in your communities and Thank You for sharing that work in our State Paper. People see what it means to be an elk and want to be part of this organization. More Elks equals more service to our communities. As our Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas Schiefer says we are “Elkdom’s Heart for America.” Thank you for your commitment. (PSP Lance Evans presents award) (For the fifteen years that Bud or I have been editing this paper our dog Izzy has been hiding in it. I don’t think everyone knew that, but she is again playing “Finding Elmo” and is lost. Let me know if you see her.) Keep Smiling!

District Editors:

- East Central, Russ Suda, rjsuda@gmail.com, 314-341-0411
 - Metro West, Angela Jordon, amjordon.cpc@gmail.com 816-510– 8841
 - Southeast Joy Clarkson, shozem2@gmail.com 573 783 9217
 - Northeast, Betsy Crawford, bbcrawf@mchsi.com 573 821 0467
 - Southwest, Susan Cook, susancookmo1975@gmail.com 417 825 7651
 - Metro East, Kathi Rike, kathire58@gmail.com 314 420 5040
 - Northwest, Kevin Judas, kjudas@snydenstricker.com 660 247 5601
 - West Central, Judy Youngs jyoungs@centurylink.net 660-428-1174
- Photographer: Mona Brown**

Our District Editors are very important for completing the Shozem in a timely manner. Thank you all for your help. It is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you Mona for the awesome job that you do as photographer.

Shozem, Directory, President Elect

Greetings Missouri Elks

Donna and I will be taking on the duties of the MEA State Directory. I want to thank PSP Rich Larkin and Ruthie for their hard work and dedication the last ten years.

To meet our deadline for distribution in a timely manner, all Committee Chairman and Lodges must have their information for the MEA State Directory for submittal by April 10th. Send information to: PSP Steven Green, at email address meadirectorysg@gmail.com or call 573-645-2323.



At each convention on Saturday morning this group of people show up early and help distribute the Shozems. They save us money and make my job so much easier. Thank you Mike and Cheryl Lane, Dennis and Terry Carmack, Don and Susan Cook, and Jeremiah Cook.



Steve Chapman, Farmington Lodge 1765
Steve was the editor of the Shozem for many years. He has been very helpful to me with his suggestions and by sharing his copies of past editions of the Shozem. Thank you Steve for your most welcome input.

2025–2026 Missouri Elks Association State President Jason Meisenheimer



I cannot believe it is already Spring 2025 and that I have the honor of serving as MEA State President for the next year! Trust me when I say that life has been a roller coaster of nerves since that election a year and a half ago!

But I digress. It is time to quit thinking about the past and plan for the future. In this article, I want to share some of my goals for the next 12 months.

My initial focus will be on Veterans Awareness issues. I know that all of our great Lodges have amazing Veterans Programs. And our committees work hard to ensure that Veterans needs are met in a wide variety of ways.

Unfortunately, there is one program that I feel must be highlighted—Veteran Suicide Awareness. It is a staggering fact that there were an average 131.2 suicides per day among U.S. adults in 2022, including 17.6 per day among Veterans and 113.7 per day among non-Veteran adults. Friends, that is way too many. So I am requesting each Lodge do one more program to support your area Veterans. It does not have to be grand in scale, just do something to support our Veterans. It can be something as simple as hosting a dinner for area veterans, visiting veterans in area nursing homes, or simply providing them with home cleaning supplies. You never know when that one thing you do will save the life of a Veteran or non-Veteran. If you have any questions about what you can do, please reach out to Darrel Quinley, MEA Veterans Services Chairman; he has some great ideas!

I apologize for hitting hard with the first punch, so I will take it a little easier going forward. Membership is a constant battle for most Elks Lodges. I want to build on the foundation that Jim Ross, MEA State President 2024-25, and Matt Wideman, MEA Membership Chairman, have worked hard to construct. Missouri has consistently ranked in the Top 10 for many years, and I know we can keep up that pace.

I believe a major factor in our growth is lowering our delinquency/lapsation rates. We cannot keep fighting out of a deficit to see a positive gain. How do we do that? We need to actively engage our New Initiates and that starts with reviewing our Indoctrination Procedures. I have challenged Matt to do some research as to what can possibly be done to improve in that area. There are obviously some Lodges that are succeeding while others are struggling. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. We can capitalize on successful practices and share that information.

Another way to improve our Membership is to toot our own horns a little bit more. We are guilty of hiding the lamp of Elkdom under bushel baskets, instead of letting it blaze forth for all to see. Jeremiah Cook, MEA Public Relations Chairman, will be reaching out to our Lodges with plans on just how to do that. His information will cover how to connect with news media in your area. He will also focus on ways to recognize those Lodge Members and our community volunteers for the work that they do in service to others. We hope to make this as seamless as possible for maximum effect.

In closing, I thank each of you who work tirelessly to see our Lodges grow. None of us would be where we are without the selfless acts that each of you do on a regular basis to help others in need. I look forward to visiting each Lodge to see the great things that you do. Never forget, **Thank a Vet. Elks Care, Save a Pair. Elks Heed the Cry of Affliction.**



Veterans

It's been an exceptional year for veteran's programs. The ENVSC., Elks National Veterans Service Commissions annual report speaks to the success of the Welcome Home Kits and Freedom Grants. There have been 3,412 kits distributed which is a 41% increase from last year. As you know these are from \$400.00 to \$600.00 reimbursable to your lodge. There were 595 Freedom Grants approved that served 86,673 veterans with over 9,000 Elks involved.

Nationwide we have 670 Elk VAVSs and Deputy VAVSs in over 390 facilities serving 480,000 veterans. The ENVSC appropriated over 5 million dollars.

In Missouri we have 18 VA facilities that are served by Elk VAVSs and Deputy VA(VSs. We also have 25 CBOCs, Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the state.

Your Districts and lodges continue to serve veteran's and their families at the grass root level. That's what we do best. We offer veteran's a hand up, not a hand out. When called on, we ensure a veteran coming out of homelessness has new clothes, dignity products, a safe place to lay his or her head at night, and food for the next day and weeks to come. Fellow Elks, we make a difference. Once this former homeless veteran starts feeling better about himself personal progress follows shortly after.

Thank you brothers and sisters, you are the Elks that do the work, and it's alright to stand up and take a bow.

God Bless America, and those who served,

Darrell Quinley PER VAVS, MEA State Veteran Chairman

Crestwood Elks Lodge #2503 men braving the wind and cold to feed our Veterans at Jefferson Barracks Hospital - Thanks to Tom Sontheimer, Jim Queathem , Darryll Weil and Tony Dohr. Inside the ladies made sure everyone was fed - Thanks Angie Fusco, Peggy Gorden, Susan Wobbe Freeman , Susan Hill, Georgeanne Zarrineli and Barb Burke. (men on right)



Thanks to all our Metro East District members that showed up to support the St. Louis Veterans Day parade!

Grandview-Hickman Mills #2088

Hosting a Christmas Dinner at St. Michael's Veteran



Membership



With the end of the year quickly approaching, we find ourselves in an unfamiliar position with our membership numbers. For the first time in several years, we have struggled to attain the success we are accustomed to. This is a stark reminder that we must never take our past accomplishments for granted and we must continue to work hard to achieve our goals. However, there is still time, and I have every confidence we can still be successful once again this year. After all, we are Missouri! We have proven time and again that we are leaders, we set the bar, and we are always up to the challenge.

So, here is what we need to do. First and foremost, initiate those candidates who are patiently waiting to become members. This is a quick and easy way to increase our numbers. As the year winds down and lodges have only a few meetings left, you need to remember that you do have the option of special initiations. These can be done at short notice with no other lodge business required.

Delinquency has hit us hard this year. We need to reach out to those valued members, ask about their membership, remind them they are cherished and that we would love to keep them as members.

Also, as a reminder, we have the 60-day reinstatement period in which members dropped before April 1, 2025, can reinstate by May 31, 2025. These restatements will count towards this year's numbers, so don't forget about them after they are dropped!

Keep working hard, we can do this!! I look forward to seeing you at Convention.

Please stop by the membership booth for more information.

Matt Wideman

Missouri Elks State Membership Chairman



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

I invite each Lodge to donate an item or two for this event, which will include silent and live auctions, as well as raffle items.

More details will be sent to all Lodges in June. I look forward to everyone's participation!

Sincerely,

Julie Ray Polson
(314) 497-3794 (text friendly)
imrayja@yahoo.com





Metro East District wins the award for best hospitality room and our state sponsor Lou Sulsberger and Beth enjoy a little quality time in the Flintstone's Mobile.



Membership Awards



Special guests at the Fall Convention were Charles and Jan Campbell.



♥♥♥♥♥ Benevolent Trust Director Larry Page practicing a new method of presenting awards. The winner of this award is... Kim Page. (His wife) ♥♥♥♥♥



Time to get busy



State President Jim Ross and First Lady Kathy



Lou and Beth congratulating Randy Northington on another great ENF year!



Hoop Shoot

It was another successful State Hoop Shoot with help from my team Jerry , who has always been there in my endeavors that I have done in Elkdome, Linda DeGeare, and Michele Holt. There were also three District Directors there to help- John Israel, Mona Brown and Terry Young JR that helped a lot and I was very happy with their presence. Also, I can't forget Theresa Suda who helped with the program hand outs and Patrick Grimshaw who helped with all the gym arrangements. **Eureka-Pacific Lodge 2644** hosted the banquet and were most hospitable.

It was a good day at the gym with President Jim Ross shooting the 1st air ball of the day. There were a lot of tie shoot offs that shows that it was tight competition in girls 12-13, boys 8-9, boys 10-11 and boys 12-13.

Sincerely
Jeffrey Holt PDDGER
State Hoop Shoot Director

Congratulations Hoop Shooters



Winners of the State Hoop Shoot ages 10-11. **Boys L-R** 3rd place-Jaxson Grounds **Farmington 1765**; 2nd-August Lazar **Osage Community 2705**; 1st place-Emmett Meyer from **Washington 1559**.
Girls R-L 3rd place Allie Rhodes from **Troy 2805**; 2nd Avery Egan **Benton County 2783**; 1st place Gibson Berendt from **Webb City 861**.



Hoop Shoot State Winners ages 12-13: **Boys- L-R** 3rd place Landon Boyer **Jackson 2652**; 2nd place Wyatt Brant **Warrensburg 673**; 1st place Parker McBrayer **Washington 1559**. **Girls- R-L** 3rd place Blair Clifton **Arcadia Valley 2330**; 2nd place Tenly Griffith **Trenton 801**; 1st place Presley Henderson **Benton County 2783**.



We were honored to have Reginal Hoop Shoot Director Terry McMichael and Angie at our state shoot.



State Hoop Shoot Director Jeff Holt with the 8-9 age state hoop shoot winners. **Boys L-R**: 3rd place Jay Huber from **Troy Lodge 2805**; 2nd Laryn Stokes **Benton County 2783**; 1st place Chase Rawson-**Mineral Area 2583**.
Girls R-L 3rd place Hazel Meyer from **Washington 1559**; 2nd Brylee Whitehead from **Mineral Area 2583**; 1st place Makinley Parks From **Benton County 2783**.

Auditing and Accounting



Hello friends, and welcome to the 2025 MEA Spring Convention. Spring Convention brings together friends and “family” that see each other twice a year and also brings the reminder that the end of the Lodge year is almost upon us.

The end-of-year submission requirements to elks.org are unchanged. The online “Transmittal Letter” must be completed, followed by the upload to elks.org of the Lodge balance sheet (from Quickbooks, Sage, etc.) and complete Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N. These actions are required to be completed no later than August 1. Please remember that the uploaded Lodge balance sheet should reconcile to the 990 or 990-EZ. Simply stated, the Lodge balance sheet uploaded to elks.org should include any adjusting journal entries recommended by your tax preparer (e.g., depreciation, inventory change, etc.), and the total assets reported on the balance sheet should be the same as the reported total assets on the tax return.

Please remember that you should not be reporting zero or no volunteers on line 6 of Form 990. It is difficult to substantiate your status as a charitable organization if you do not have any volunteers. At a minimum, your uncompensated Lodge officers and committee chairpersons are considered volunteers.

This time last year, Missouri was at 13% compliance with the FRS. Currently (the second week of February), we are at 73% compliance. This means that 52 of our 71 Lodges have FRS balance sheets that reconciled to their Lodge balance sheet (and the 990) as of 3/31/2024. The increased compliance is representative of the dedication and perseverance of many individuals, and I thank them for their assistance in this endeavor. I will continue to work with the remaining 19 Lodges until Missouri is 100%.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

If I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does.

Fraternally,
Susan Cook

Area 5 member, Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting committee



Leadership Training
Missouri Elks Association
Spring 2025



One request we get year after year at our Officer Training sessions is for more specific training for Exalted Rulers. This year, we are going to offer just that. On Saturday, March 22nd only, Exalted Rulers Elect and Leading Knights Elect are invited to attend our very first ER University Training at **Jefferson City Lodge #513**. Only those elected to serve as Exalted Ruler or Leading Knight for the ensuing fraternal year will be allowed to attend. The session will start at 9:00 a.m. and go no later than 3:00p.m. There is no sign-up. Seating will be limited, which is why the session is limited to ERs and Leading Knights Elect.

I am also happy to announce that we will be offering two Officer Training sessions in April 2025 and ask that you mark your calendars with these important dates. On Saturday April 12th, we will conduct our first training session at **Farmington #1765** and we will conduct a second session at **Lake of the Ozarks Lodge #2517** on April 26th. Although we have more specific training for ERs and Leading Knights on March 22, we are encouraging all to attend one of these sessions as well.

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.

Officer Training sessions are coordinated so as not to interfere with District Deputy Clinics so please make every effort to attend.

John Gross
Officer Training Co-Chairman

Leadership, Lodge activities



Missouri Elks Association – Officer Training
2025-2026

Farmington Lodge #1765, Saturday, April 12, 9 AM to 3 PM
Lake of the Ozarks Lodge #2517, Saturday, April 26, 9 AM to 3 PM

Registration deadline is April 4th for the Farmington session and April 18th for the Lake of the Ozarks 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. Please print legibly.

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

_____ Lodge will have _____ Members attending
the Farmington / Lake of the Ozarks (circle one) session

LODGE CONTACT INFORMATION:

_____ (Print name/title)

_____ (phone/e-mail)

DEADLINE: April 4th for Farmington and April 18th for Lake of the Ozarks



Mona Brown-Lodge Activities

The Missouri Star Lodge Program entries are due to your Lodge Activities District Chairman by April 15th. This is not to be confused with the All American Lodge CONTEST which is a Grand Lodge program. The All American Lodge Contest submissions are due to your DDGER by April 1st.

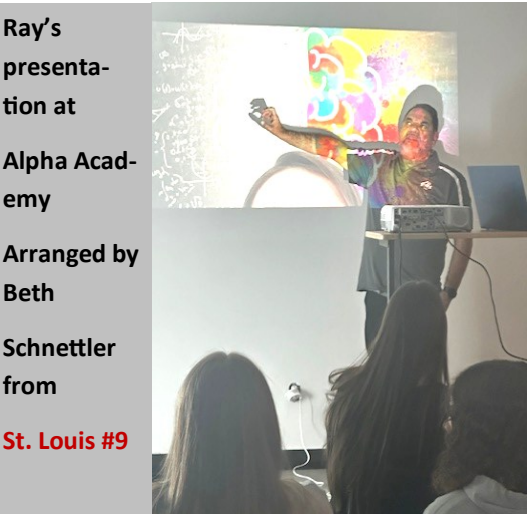
Newsletter/Bulletin Contest entries were scored on February 16th with the following results by Division: Division I--No Entries; Division II--First Place **Troy #2805**, Second Place **Ellisville #2664**, Third Place **Manchester #2058**;

Division III--First Place **Crestwood #2503**, Second Place **Louisiana #791**; Division IV--First Place **High Ridge #2455**; Division V--First Place **Dexter #2439**, Second Place **Columbia #594**, Third Place **O'Fallon #2587**; Division VI--First Place **Jefferson City #513**, Second Place **Meramec Arnold #2372**

Congratulations to all and we hope to see many entries for the All American Lodge Contest and the Missouri Star Lodge Program.



Doug Jordon
State Drug
Awareness
Chairman



Ray's
presenta-
tion at
Alpha Acad-
emy

Arranged by
Beth
Schnettler
from
St. Louis #9



This group along with the Metro East and Southeast District Elks were instrumental in bringing International Speaker Ray Lozano to the Jackson Mo. School District. Ray gave a very informative talk on the consequences of drug abuse. Pictured are Ray Lozano, Jackson Lodge 2652 PER and Trustee Kim Anello, PER and Jackson Drug Awareness Chairman Alichia Young, retired teacher and member of the Jackson Lodge Greg Clippard, Dexter Lodge 2439 Drug Awareness Chairman Terry Carmack, State Secretary Bud Clarkson, and District Deputy, PER and Trustee from Dexter Lodge Dennis Carmack. Thank you Ray and all who made this possible.



Brentwood High School
Presentation

On left



International Drug Awareness Speaker Ray Lozano spoke on the dangers of using nicotine and vaping to the students at the Arcadia Valley Schools. Pictured L-R: Metro East Drug Awareness Chairman Beth Schnettler, Southeast Drug Awareness Chairman Joy Clarkson, Speaker Ray Lozano, Missouri State Secretary Bud Clarkson, Arcadia Valley 2330 Exalted Ruler Jason Moise, Arcadia Valley Principal Jacob Sutton, and Arcadia Valley Drug Awareness Chairman Tammy Numerosi. The students were very attentive and gave positive feed back to Ray.



Scholarships

The 2024-25 Most Valuable Student Scholarships has begun and High School Seniors across Missouri will again compete for scholarships. Local lodge judging was 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

Name Lodge

Females

- Gianna Horning Springfield #409/4920
- Mia Gandalovics Lebanon #2557 /4920
- Audrey Howerton Lebanon #2557/4920

- Clare Staley Maryville #760/4840
- McKenna Claborn Troy #2805/4780

Males

- Dulina Dias Cape Girardeau #639/4880
- Ray Rao Manchester #2058/4780
- Matthew Austin Cape Girardeau #639/4880
- Brandon Watts Lake Stockton #2858/4940

2025 Students Advancing to Nationals
Are listed on the left with their lodges
and District Numbers. Congratulations
to all Students and sponsoring
Lodges!

Ray Lozano's visit to Missouri was a great success .

He received several letters from the schools where he spoke expressing the positive influence his message had on the students.

This was sponsored by both

Metro East and Southeast Districts.

Thank you Beth Schnettler for your coordination of this event.

Ray's presentation at St. Louis #9.
Back Row: Ken Hoogem, Kurt Eggerding, Jim Ross

Front Row: Bob Dixon, Doug Reuther, Ray Lozano, Beth Schnettler, Ryan Jennings



This photo was taken at Ray's presentation at the Saxony Lutheran High School. Pictured are Terry Carmack-Drug Awareness Chairman from Dexter 2439, Mark Ruark-principal of Saxony Lutheran and Exalted Ruler at Cape Girardeau #639, Ray Lozano-international speaker against drug abuse, Beth Schnettler DA Chairman from Metro East District, Joy Clarkson- DA Chairman for Southeast District and Stephanie Ledure DA Chairman for Cape Girardeau Lodge 639.





MEA Past Exalted Rulers Association

Since our September meeting, during our Fall State Convention, our officers and I have been working on several items to help our Association continue to grow and make a difference in Elkdome, which include:

Collecting more membership dues than the Association has done in the previous few years.

Continuing to build our email list; and working on adding lodges to this email

list as well.

Updating our database of PERs

Continuing to donate funds to the ENF, Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust, and Drug Awareness, Doubling those donations.

Creating a new Kick- Ass Pin....Autism Awareness Pin, which will be making an appearance at our State Spring Convention and Grand Lodge Convention in Kansas City this summer!

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 Spring Convention at Noon on Saturday, March 15 th at the Capital Plaza. We will be discussing upcoming donations and transitioning our officer positions, as well as honoring our Past Exalted Rulers that have passed since the Fall Convention.

As always, please let us know if we can do anything to help your Past Exalted Ruler Association in your Lodge.

I want to thank John Devous for his great leadership of our Association as-President and I'm looking forward to our new President, Greg Peterson and Vice-President, Mona Brown getting started with their duties in March!

Faternally,

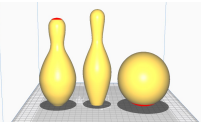
Dr. John Israel

MEA Past Exalted Rulers Assn Secretary/Treasurer

BOWLING



Missouri Elks Association Annual **Bowling Tournament** started off with Missouri Elks State President, Jim Ross! Mr. President, that was a mighty fine STRIKE!!!



Missouri Elks State Youth Activities

As the weather warms up and spring time begins, 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 part during the first week of May, which gives us a wonderful opportunity 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.... Get your Lodge involved and excited- remember that our youth will eventually become new members to our Lodges in the future!

Remember that the Missouri Elks Youth Brochure Contest deadline is April 30 th , 2025. Please mail these to my home: John Israel, 631 Oregon Trail Ct. St. Charles, MO 63304 or share electronically to johnlindenwood@juno.com Let's get more Lodges involved and celebrate our successes in Youth Activities at the Fall Convention!

Faternally,

Dr. John Israel

Missouri State Youth Activities Chairman



Benevolent Trust

Since 1962, Mobile Dental Units, purchased and equipped by the Elks have served the dental needs of eligible physically challenged children and mentally challenged/developmentally disabled adults and children.

In 2024, the program saw another group that could benefit from our sponsorship. In the past year qualifying Veterans are now being treated by our program as well.

Since 1962, the Elks have worked hard to raise the funds required to keep the Benevolent Trust funded. The Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust Mobil dental program could not continue to provide these services to our at need population without your support. Every individual can make a difference...by making a pledge of \$ 100.00 paid at \$ 10.00 a year for ten years, your helping further our cause. I encourage everyone to consider making the pledge to keep our program going.

With your continued support, I'm sure we will be able to provide our services for many years to come.

Larry Page

Director

Missouri Elks Benevolent Trust

- For the second year in a row the **Missouri Dental RV** was stationed at the Overland VFW Post #3944 from February 3rd through February 18th during which Dr. Beck provided 31 appointments. Specifically, total number of patients was 25 (some were more than once), and of those; 10 were returning, 15 were new and of those; 7 were special needs (3 of those were children), 16 Veterans, and 2 Elk referrals.

- This was due to a collaboration between Saint Louis

For more information on our program call 816-404-6904

Pictured L to R - Tim Luby (Saint Louis Elks Lodge #9 - Past Exalted Ruler + Youth Chair, Dr. Robert Beck (MEA - Dentist), Stephanie Scott (MEA - Dental Hygienist), Wayne Kaufman (Kaufman Fund - Founder & President), Bill Wallace (Missouri Veterans Endeavor - President), Steve Roseblum (Kaufman Fund - Vice President).



NAME	LODGE	NUMBER	TITLE
Alvin C. Knappmiller	Eureka-Pacific	2644	PER
Edward C Thompson	Christian County	2777	PER
Gary W. Nelson	Joplin	0501	PER
James W. Moore	Kansas City Northland	2376	PER
Michael J. Gay	Arcadia Valley	2330	PER
Richard E. Crump	Florissant	2316	PER
Ronald J Rupe	Osage Community	2705	PER
Troy Hillis	Meramec Arnold	2372	PDDGER, PER
Fred Rudolf	Meramec Arnold	2372	PER, PAA
Don Mattingly	Cedar Hill	2678	PER
Rus Russell	Cedar Hill	2678	PER
Bob J. McGeheew	Kansas City	0026	PER

Don G. Mattingly was an active member of the **Cedar Hill Lodge #2678** and served as Exalted Ruler in 2022.

He served on the East Central District Veterans Committee from 2019-2024. In late 2022 he had a vision to create a Missouri Elks Veterans Challenge Coin and enlisted Miky Balta, the Esteemed Leading Knight of the Cedar Hill Elks Lodge #2678, to bring his vision to life. Mike and Debbie Belavich, from Meramec Arnold Elks Lodge #2372 helped with the protocol details. It was presented to the State Association and received final approval for the design in March 2024. The first Coin was presented to the State President, Jim Ross, in June 2024. Don was a Veteran of the US Air Force. Rest in Peace Don.

It is with great sorrow that I share the passing of our member, our first Exalted Ruler who helped to Charter our lodge (**Cedar Hill 2678**) in 1984, Russ Russell. Russ was initiated into our order on October 17, 1982 and affiliated to our lodge when we received our Charter in February 1984. Russ later received a letter of recognition from the Grand Lodge for having the largest initiation ceremony on record at that time in the state of Missouri when our lodge was chartered, which still stands up. We knew and loved "Orville Russell" as Russ, #1, or Booker. He was

I am sure in every lodge when the members suffer the loss of a PER or other leader the empty chair tugs on the heartstrings of the men and women of that lodge. The two tributes above were such great examples of what a caring leader means to the organization that the lodge members of Cedar Hill 2678 thoughtfully shared their loss with other Missouri Elks.

If a lodge feels the need to share a tribute of an Elk Hero I will be honored to include it in our paper as long as space permits. Elks Care-Elks Share. Joy Clarkson, Editor



While Celebrating at Jim’s last State President visit hosted by **Festus Lodge 1721** we were discussing the honor of serving as Vice Presidents to Past State President Pete Nash. Pictured L-R: Past State President Don Cook, Shozem Editor Joy Clarkson, State President Jim Ross , and Membership Chairman Matt Wideman .

Also Vice Presidents for Pete were: Virgil Bevens , John Taylor , Eric Farmer , and Matt Roberts.

Festus Lodge did an amazing job honoring State President Ross. The theme, the food, the hospitality, and the entertainment were outstanding!





Meramec Arnold Elks #2372 presented a check for \$5,000.00 to Toys For Tots.



Look who walked with our State President and **Festus-Crystal City Elks Lodge #1721's**
ER Paul Skinner.... **ELROY ELK!**
What a fun, COLD night for the Twin City Christmas Parade!
(Thanks to the Sunday Funday Crew & all that helped make 1721's float AWESOME!)
Christmas Season has officially kicked off



Riders from **Cedar Hill # 2678** patched in Riders from **Oakville #2726**. A wonderful and impressive ceremony was conducted and it was something that truly meant something to each Rider and to all the members and guests who attended the ceremony. This demonstrates the cooperative and family spirit that exists within the East Central District and amongst the various Rider groups.

Oakville Elks Lodge #2726 hosted our annual Thanksgiving for Veteran's with a plus one guest. [Thank You Veterans!](#)

"Thank you for your service! Our **Cedar Hill Elks Lodge's** name and actions are again mentioned in the local paper, "The Leader". It was our honor to present the MISSOURI ELKS ASSOCIATION COIN, the very first and only one in the State of Missouri, depicting the strong relationship between the Veterans and the Elks, to the ones that fought for our freedom and for what we have today, the Veterans that are now residents of the nursing home in Cedar Hill.
Tears, pride, respect and gratitude!..... Thank you to all of our members who joined us that day!



Missouri Elks State President, Jim Ross, Official Visit #53 to **Desoto Elks #689!** Thank you Desoto Elks for your hospitality, fellowship and chicken dinner! The chicken was awesome! We really appreciated the gifts too! Fun was had by all! Great job.

Christmas Party
Ste. Genevieve #2674
A picture from our Christmas Party. We had Horse Races Queen For The Day, Human Slot Machines -
!!!! Good times !!!!

The picture on the right was taken at the State Hoop Shoot. L-R (**Eureka Pacific 2644**) Exalted Ruler Kip Hill, State President Jim Ross (**Festus 1721**), State Hoop Shoot Director Jeff Holt (**Christian County 2777**) and Administrative Assistant Russ Suda (**Meramec-Arnold 2372**). Great job Eureka Pacific hosting this very important event for the youth of our state! Every participant received a basket ball and enjoyed a pool party.



Missouri Elks State President, Jim Ross, Official Visit #54 **Potosi Elks Lodge #2218!** Great hospitality in the midst of their biggest fundraiser in over 30 years! Money is used in their local community to take local kiddos shopping for needs during the holiday season! All items are donated from local businesses! Excellent demonstration of community collaboration!! East Central District Missouri Elks Assoc. rocks!! Thanks again VP Joe Oaks , Director Debbie Belavich and State Chaplain Kevin Brock!

#MEMBERSHIPMONDAY

ELK FUN FACT

The Elks were the only civilian organization asked to help recruit construction workers for the military, a task completed 3 months ahead of schedule with 97,000 suitable men. This became the front-runner of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Navy SeaBees.

High Ridge Elks Lodge #2455



Eureka Pacific #2644 hosted the State Hoop Shoot Contest. The food was great and the Elks Amazing!



Nevada Elks Lodge 564 held its Thanksgiving dinner and benefit auction to raise money for the Christmas Baskets. With all the donations and money raised from the auction the lodge raised over \$30,000 Dollars for the Christmas baskets.



Elks Donated Over 1 Ton of Sliced Ham to The Benton County Food Pantry. Benton County Elks Lodge 2783 in cooperation with G&W Foods and the Elks sponsored Channel Hop recently purchased 2130 lbs. of sliced ham for the food pantry. This will help provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner to over 800 families this Holiday season. This was all made possible by funding from a Spotlight Grant and a portion of a Gratitude Grant from the Elks National Foundation and proceeds from the Channel Hop Fundraiser held this summer. With the help from the meat department at G&W Foods they were able to find a quality product at a reasonable cost to provide meals for as many families as possible this Holiday season.

Pictured from left to right: Curt Prue (Food Pantry Volunteer, Elks Member), Ron Hux (Elks Member), Tim Fink (Elks Grant Coordinator), Susan Sullivan (Food Pantry President), Jeannie Arnold (Food Pantry Manager), and Chuck Alcorn (Channel Hop Director, Food Pantry Vice President, Elks Member).



Lake Stockton #2858 Visit 37



Lake of the Ozarks 2517 presented a check to Front Porch Village Collective for \$1,500. This will provide Thanksgiving Dinner for 23 single parents and their children. Pictured from the left are Bob Chester, Keri Major and Rich Carter.



Bates County, Mo., Lodge No. 2653 used its Beacon Grant to host Safety Village, a weeklong event that taught preschoolers about real-world safety. Throughout the week, 28 kids participated in fun activities and listened to guest speakers, which included a police officer and fire fighter.

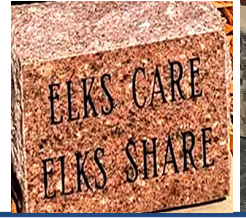


Lamar Elks Lodge 2800 donates \$2500 to the Shop with a Hero project. We hope this helps bring some holiday cheer this year.



As usual on the visits to the lodges you could find Russ Suda Working in the kitchen. Here wearing the Boliver Lodge 2828 apron he is once again lending a helping hand.

President Jim Ross enjoys his 38th lodge visit. Here he is at the Osage Community Lodge #2705



Pictured on left is State Hoop Shoot Champion for the girls 8-9 age bracket Makinley Parks from the Benton County lodge 2783.

Pictured on right is Hoop Shoot State Champion for the girls age 12-13 Presley Henderson also from Benton County Lodge 2783.

Both girls will now compete at the Regional shoot . Good luck Girls! (Pictured with both girls is state hoop shoot chairman Jeff Holt.)



Fifteen from the Clinton Elks Lodge #1034 serving ice cream to veterans at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg. Three are not shown in the picture.



State President Ross and Entourage enjoy a brisket dinner and karaoke with the members of the Greenview Lodge #2857



Cape Elks Lodge 639 held it Veteran’s Appreciation Dinner. Over 30 Vets came out, including 13 residents of the Missouri Veteran’s Home, for a night of food, fun, and fellowship. We couldn’t get them all in the picture but this group photo is still one of my favorites from the night. So long as there are Veterans, the Elks will never forget them!



What a great night to honor a Veteran! Thank you for your service! Acadia Valley 2330 prepared a great dinner for the local Veterans and the Scouts conducted a beautiful Flag Ceremony.
Happy Veterans Day from the Arcadia Valley Elks!



This group sponsored by **Dexter Elks Lodge #2439** won 2nd place in the state for their entry in the video category of the Drug Awareness Contest. Pictured L-R: Hunter Sanders, Lucas Cline, Terry Carmack-Dexter Elks Drug Awareness Chairman, Ashland Wheeler, and Lila Corleh.

Congratulations Chase Rawson from **Mineral Area 2583** for placing first at the State Hoop Shoot! Good luck at Regionals! (see p 15)



Southeast District working and having a great time at the State Hoop Shoot. Joy Clarkson Shozem Editori (**Mineral Area**), Bud Clarkson State Secretary(**Arcadia Valley**), Terry Young District Hoop Shoot Director (**Jackson**), Alisha Young Officer at Large (**Jackson**) and Dennis Carmack District Deputy (**Dexter**).



Sikeston Elks Lodge #2319 donated \$6000 to food bank with grants we got from Grand Lodge. They serve several surrounding counties plus weekly to Cape Girardeau and Poplar Bluff Veterans homes.



Chaffee Elks Lodge 1810 hosted the Southeast District Scholarship judging. Pictured above are sixteen elks from across the district who met to evaluate the applications. Fourth from the right is State Scholarship chairman Keith Huck, **Farmington 1765**, and to the left of Keith is Southeast District Scholarship Chairman Sherri Prysock, **Jackson Lodge 2652**. Thank you to all of you for serving on this very worthy project.



Jerry Weems, Secretary for **Farmington Lodge # 1765**, congratulating his grandson, Jaxson Grounds.



Jaxson Placed 1st at the District Hoop Shoot in the 10-11 age bracket. He then earned 3rd place at the State Hoop Shoot Competition.

Poplar Bluff 2452
Students from Poplar Bluff, East Carter, and Doniphan schools were represented tonight for the February 2025 Elks Students of the Mo. CELEBRATION. Congratulations!

Congratulations Jaxson and Jerry



Troy Elks Lodge #2805 gave back to the community this year in a special way. They collected personal hygiene items, OTC medications, cleaning supplies and then rounded it out with ER Challenge presenting a check to buy additional supplies for their pantry. Then wrapped it up with a bow by delivering it as part of Christmas Basket Delivery to The Key. THE KEY Youth Center is a community-driven, community-funded and a community-managed project established to serve homeless youth in Lincoln County, including all four county school districts (Troy, Winfield, Elsberry and Silex) of Lincoln County.

Members of Crestwood Lodge #2503 visited the VCP (Veterans Community Project) Tiny Homes installation on October 29, 2024 and presented household goods totaling \$1,320 to help furnish the homes, which will be populated by homeless veterans. The lodge's donation was comprised of a Freedom Grant in addition to funds donated by lodge members.



and toiletries for the holiday season. The Lodge was able to assemble the baskets, had breakfast together and then delivered the baskets to our families in need. This program was supported with an ENF Gratitude Grant.

Other activities included providing snacks and food items for our Bare Necessities program, which is supported by an ENF Beacon Grant which provides much needed food for students on weekends and holidays when school is not in session.

Jim Presson and our Veterans Committee installed a new "Wall of Honor" that has gotten a lot of attention by our members and visitors!

The Lodge will be looking forward to our fish fry's coming up during lent and Spring activities!

St. Charles Elks Lodge #690

The St. Charles Elks have been busy with several projects to support our community, youth and veterans! In October, our Lodge held its annual hoop shoot contest.

We were also able to host our annual Trunk or Treat in October with many families from around our community in attendance.

Our annual Christmas Basket program supplied over 32 families with much needed groceries



MEA State Convention was held from Oct 4th through the 6th

The Metro East District brought home the coveted Hospitality Room Contest Award.

Our theme was The Flintstones.

YABBA DABBA DOO



The Ellisville Elks Lodge 2664

supported the Six String Heroes Organization by purchasing two guitars for Graduating Veteran students.

Our Lodge also provided pizza, drinks, and dessert for the evening.



The Manchester Elks Lodge 2058 hosted our Annual Youth Hoop Shoot Contest at St. Johns School – Ellisville. It was a small turnout, but all the contestants had a great time.



The Affton Elks #2635 served dinner at Fisher House to our Veteran's and their families.



**Meramec
Arnold Elks
#2372**

presented a
check to Back-
stoppers for
\$25,000.00.



Backstoppers of Jefferson County were given a \$1500 donation to-night by **Festus -Crystal City ER** Paul Skinner bringing our contributions to this great program to over \$25000 dollars. What a great program, thanks BackStoppers for all that you do. Pictured below from left to right: Dave Davis, Rusty Ridge, Kevin Brock, Paul Skinner, Caleb Noce, Jake Lunsford and David Solomon.
Great Job Festus Crystal City #1721



**St. Clair
#2651**
donated
\$12,000 for
their
graduating
Seniors.
**Congratula-
tions
Seniors!**

Thank You Lodge #2651



Chase Rawson from **Mineral Area 2583** won the State Championship for the boy's 8-9 age bracket.. He will now compete in Paducah, KY. At the Regional Hoop Shoot. Congratulations Chase!

Front: Bud Clarkson, Hoop Shoot Director, Chase Rawson Shooter, Exalted Ruler Gene Thomas Jr.. Back: Chuck Eaves and Trustee Tom Hall.



The Christian County Elks Lodge 2777 of Ozark brought holiday hope and support to local veterans through their annual Veterans Christmas Food Drive. This cherished tradition reflects the Elks' unwavering commitment to giving back to the community and honoring those who have served our country.

With food generously donated by Elks members, their families, and community partners—including Apple Market, Serenity Honors, Village Inn along with year-long Veterans fundraising by Elks (Tee-Off for Veterans Golf Tournament and Tara Rose Memorial Golf Tournament) —volunteers assembled food baskets overflowing with holiday essentials. Each delivery, valued at over \$400, was packed with care and love by members of Scout Troop 201 of Ozark, who worked tirelessly to ensure everything was perfectly arranged for the families receiving them.



The **Florissant Lodge 2316** hosted two **Shop with a Cop** events! One event was Florissant Police and our older family members from Community Christmas. And in another room we hosted St. Louis County First Precinct Shop with a Cop.
BACK THE BLUE!!!



O'Fallon #2587
partnered with employees of Global Medical Response in a holiday food drive. Together we were proud to present Hope Ministries Food Pantry with a very large amount of groceries to fill their shelves for serving our community.



The end of 2024 and beginning of 2025 found **Oakville #2726** busy showing how Elks Care/Elks Share. The lodge held its annual Breakfast with Santa for the community and had 150 children meeting with Jolly Old St. Nick. Oakville also opened its hall to the Dream Factory for them to hold Breakfast with Santa for their special needs children. After the holidays, our Mardi Gras committee held a music trivia night raising about \$5,000 for the Benevolent Trust.



PSP Rich Larkin used to be an elf- now he thinks he is Santa Claus. Just not sure what PSP John Rinehart is asking for. Maybe a great National Convention in Kansas City. Robert and Bud are calling 911.



State President Jim Ross at the State Bowling tournament visiting with National-Leather Man Chuck Mudge. In the front is our hard working friend Joan Mudge. It is so good to see you both feeling better. (from Perryville 2701)



Today's rain didn't stop the FORR Local #15 from joining members of the **Lake Taneycomo Elks Lodge 2597** from holding our 35th annual Toy Run! This annual event helps bring Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in Taney County. Want to make a difference? Become an Elk! Contact us today!



Webb City Lodge 861 presented \$500 to Jasper County's Shop-With-A-Deputy program. Their program focuses on kids that live outside city limits of the local city department programs. We also presented \$500 checks (no pictures) to Webb City Shop-With-A-Cop and Carl Junction Shop-With-A-Cop programs. That's 15 kids sponsored for Christmas shopping! Elks Care ~ Elks Share



Missouri Elks State President, Jim Ross, Official Visit #49 to **Lebanon Elks Lodge #2557**! Special shoutout to Gayle for preparing lunch.



Missouri Elks State President, Jim Ross, Official Visit #48 to Elks Lodge **Springfield Mo #409**!

Another great visit with the SW District Missouri Elks! Jim and Kathleen enjoyed themselves as we all did! We are grateful for the hospitality shown to us all! We enjoyed visiting with officers and membership, bonfire and the Flag Retirement Ceremony. What does our flag mean to you? Great job Springfield!!



While visiting **West Plains 2418** State President Jim Ross and Kathy enjoyed a trip to Hodgeson Water Mill. They also stopped by the "Touch the Truck" event for local kids with autism.



Webb City girl crowned Missouri Elks Hoop Shoot champion for the 10-11 age bracket!

Gibson Berendt shot 23-25 and became **Webb City # 861's** first State Hoop Shoot Champion!

She will now compete at the Regional Shoot in Paducah, KY.

Go Gibson!



In a heartwarming annual tradition, members of the **Christian County Elks** brought smiles to the faces of Christian County third graders by distributing free dictionaries to students in local schools. This initiative, part of a nationwide project led by Elks Lodges across the country, aims to promote literacy and provide young learners with a resource to support their education.



Elks Mobile Dental Unit brings free care to Veterans in **Joplin!!** Take a few moments and look at this news story! Thank you Jeremiah Cook for getting the Elks and our program out to such a large audience. Elks-Your Benevolent Trust Funds at Work!



John Nelson, District Deputy,
Had his official visit to
The Maryville Elks Lodge #760



The Cameron Elks Lodge 2615 hosted our annual Veterans Day dinner today, serving over 200 guests! A big thank you to all our volunteers, sponsors, and especially to the veterans who joined us. We're grateful for your service and proud to celebrate you.



Chillicothe Elks Lodge 656 Trunk or Treat



We had another successful Christmas Angels - Trenton Elks Lodge #1279 distribution day! We have the absolute best group of "Angels." They all put in so much hard work and dedication!! We also have an amazing community that comes together and gives of their time and money to make this such an amazing event every year!!Special thanks to Welch Packaging for donating the boxes, Trenton CO-OP for storing the gifts and helping us distribute them today, Humboldt Walmart for helping us with checking out, Shoe Carnival for being so gracious with selecting our shoes and providing the best customer service, and Dyer Food Rite for packaging our food boxes.



State President Jim Ross
presents Benevolent Trust
award to
Brookfield #874



Thanks everyone who donated to our lodge families for Christmas. Also a big shoutout to Jeannette , Junior and Wendy for their behind the scenes coordination and involvement to oversee this amazing day. All family items were delivered to the school. God bless and Merry Christmas .
Excelsior Springs Lodge #1001



Cameron Elks Lodge #2615 host annual Special Prom, funded by The Beacon Grant to celebrate those in Northwest Missouri!



President Ross receives a very warm welcome at Milan 2819



Brookfield #874 initiates four new members



President Ross attends the State Bowling Tournament hosted by Chillicothe #656.



Warrenton Lodge 2662 organized a Helene Hurricane Relief Drive

The goal was to fill 1 - 20' box trailer of hygiene and cleaning kits and personally deliver to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Conover, North Carolina. The extreme generosity of the neighboring rural communities evolved the drive into 3 - 24' box trailers, 1- 16' box trailer and 1 - 35' flatbed trailer of supplies including chainsaws, cleaning and hygiene products, clothing, diapers, water and canned goods. All five drivers are Warrenton Lodge members and graciously donated their time to make the 1,750 mile round trip to deliver the supplies. Pictured from left to right are Warrenton Lodge members Bob Bray (driver), Megan Pohl, Ashleigh Williams, Cameron Schwab (driver), Jeff Scanlon (driver), Bobbie Rodeheaver, (event organizer), Joann Watts, Tom Watts (driver) and Huey Rodeheaver (event organizer and driver).



Louisiana Elks Lodge #791 contributed \$5,000 to the Angel Tree program administered by North East Community Action Corp (NECAC). The funds will be used to fulfill the needs of the families and children with their "wishes" on the tree (located at Bowling Green Walmart). Elks Care ~ Elks Share (tree



Pres. Ross Visiting Hannibal Mo.

It is such a historical and fascinating place to visit. Lodge 1198 is also amazing.



On December 24th the St. Clair Elks Lodge 2651

donated \$5000 toward the Franklin County DARE Program. We would like to thank everyone that made this possible for their generosity and dedication to the children in our community!

In November, Jefferson City Lodge #513 hosted a thanksgiving meal which served over 250 people, with 100 being Veterans who ate for free. They also with the funds from their Beacon Grant delivered 75 Thanksgiving meals to community families in need with the help of 38 Lodge members.

The Lodge Freedom and Spotlight Grants were used to purchase over 100 coats for Veterans and their families. In mid-December Lodge members, assisted by VA hospital staff, distributed the coats to the Veterans and their families.

The Lodge donated \$3,000 to the Jefferson City Police Department for their annual Operation T.O.Y.S. On December 14th, numerous Police Officers assisted 84 children from the community to shop for family Christmas gifts at the local Wal Mart who opened early for this event. The children then had their gifts wrapped by JC Elks Lodge volunteers.

Pictured is Officer Seth Wigle and Jefferson City Elks 513 member and coordinator Eileen Scrivner. The Police Department has approved this article. Following is a post from the Jefferson City Police Department.

A huge THANK YOU to Elks Lodge Post 513 for their generous \$3000 donation to Operations T.O.Y.S.! Your support helps us make a big impact, and we couldn't do it without you. Together, we're spreading joy and making a difference this holiday season!



Emmitt Meyer on right is the State Hoop Shoot Champion for the 10-11 age boys. Next to him is State Champion for the 12-13 age boys Parker McBrayer. Both boys are from Washington #1559 and they will both be competing in the Regional Shoot in Paducah, KY. Congratulations!



Emmitt and Parker

O'Fallon #2587 held our annual Car Show with proceeds going to the local AmVets. The event was a great success for a total donation of \$3,410.00.





State President Jim Ross visits **Kansas City #26**

On December 16th, **Cass County Elks Lodge 2791** delivered over \$5,820 in new clothing and supplies to the Veterans Community Project.

On December 20th, Cass County will be participating in the Cars4Heroes Christmas event. Cars4Heroes will be giving away 30 cars to deserving Veterans. Cass County Elks will be providing each of the 30 Veterans with a \$50 gas card.



Members from **Kansas City Northland Elks Lodge #2376** participated in preparing 50 boxes of food and hygiene items for clients of the Northland Shepherd Center.



R.D. and Toni Mallams from **K.C. Northland 2376** and Lois Cavanaugh from **Grandview Hickman Mills 2088** working at the KC Veterans Hospital for National Salute to Veterans Week providing tasty treats to vets and family members. (Pictured on left.)



Grandview-Hickman 2088 State President Visit/Veterans Appreciation Dinner.

State President Jim Ross presenting an award to a 99 year old vet.



Visiting friends like Taco is one of the great reasons to go to **Warrensburg Lodge 673.**



IF you come to the Historical town of Lexington don't forget to visit the **Lexington #749** Elks lodge and meet some of the Greatest People on Earth.



Elks National Foundation
What we get back!

Raised in 2024-2025
Paid back to MO 2024 **\$365,460**

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

Total Paid back- **\$365,460**
to 61 Missouri Lodges in CIP Grants
\$more than paid in!! \$505,500



Randy Northington, Chairman
Missouri State Elks Association
Totals 31,823 Members
Contributions \$194,126
Per Capita Average \$6.10



The Dynamic Trio
Center-State President Jim Ross
Left-Incoming SP-Jason Meisenheimer
Right-President Elect-Mike Polson



L-R: State President Jim Ross,
Grand Trustee, Special Deputy John Gross
Grand Esquire Larry Robertson



Purple

Practices Brotherly Love

Always Smiling

World Traveler

Missouri
Shozem

Thanks for the Memories
What A Great Year!



Convention Committee

Future dates for State Convention
are as follows:

- 2025 Spring - Capital Plaza - March 14-16
- 2025 Fall-Margaritaville Lake Resort at the Lake of The Ozarks - October 3-5
- 2026 Spring- Capital Plaza - March 13-15
- 2026 Fall - Margaritaville Lake Resort – October 2-4
- 2027-To be announced.

Future GL conventions are:

- 2025 Kansas City MO- June 29-July 2.
- 2026 Chicago IL. - July 5-8
- 2027 Denver CO -Date to be announced

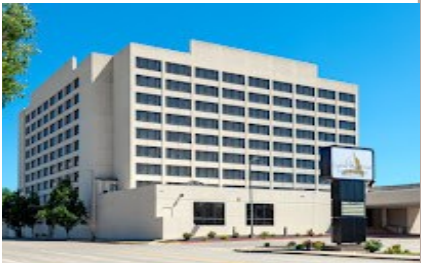
Respectfully Submitted
PSP Brian Crawford
Convention Chairman



Brian and Betsy Crawford

For more information contact

Brian or Betsy at 573-821-0468



The 2025 Grand Lodge Convention will be in **Kansas City, MO**, June 29 th – July 2nd. The Missouri Elks Association will be housed in the Hotel Phillips, Curio Collection. Convention registration forms will be mailed to all Lodge Secretaries on March 17th and posted on the MEA Website.

For our 2025 Spring Convention we tested an Online Registration trial run with about 60 officers. The process went extremely well. With a few tweaks we will utilize this Online Registration for ALL future convention registrations. More information will come at a later date.

MARGARITAVILLE HERE WE COME. Our 2025 Fall Convention will convene October 3rd–5th at the Margaritaville Lake Resort Lake of the Ozarks. Registration information will be made available July 7th . Lodge secretaries will be mailed information on the registration process, with it also being posted on our MEA website.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 573-821-0468.

Yours in Elkdome,
Brian Crawford

“We’re Going to Kansa City
Kansas City here We Come!”



JIM
And
PSP
Bill

