Greetings to all Pa Elks and Friends,

I hope all of you and your families are doing well at this time. Through a twist of events due to the COVID 19 outbreak causing the cancellation of our Spring Convention, I am staying on as PA Elks State Association President until October. At our Fall Convention in October, Steve Lucas will be sworn in as your new State President. Steve and I are working together with our DSVPs and Committee Chairs during this interim period. The DSVPs have been sworn in and the new State Committee chairs have started their work for the new fiscal year.

As Elks, we have to learn to adapt to the new situations that we are facing today. We still need to carry on business at the local lodge level as we have utility bills, taxes, assessment, insurances, mortgage and possibly some payroll expenses that we are obligated to pay during this lack of regular income. Our PA Elks State Association has recently given a one-time grant to help ease the burden on the local lodges. Some lodges have met in small groups while practicing “social distancing” while others have had virtual meetings through the use of ZOOM. Lodge officers have also conducted business through emails and also by telephone. Some Districts have met through the use of ZOOM also. We encourage the lodges to work the best they can to conduct their necessary business until we are allowed to meet and gather in groups again.

One of our challenges this year will be retaining membership. Some of your members may question why should I pay my dues when I cannot utilize the lodge? Your lodge dues are helping keep your lodge afloat. Now more than ever it is essential to your lodge that you pay your dues as soon as possible. Income at the local lodges has all but stopped and your dues may be the only source of income to help your lodge survive for the future. You, our members, are the lifeblood of our local lodges, our charities and the Order of Elks.

With the lodges mandated to cease business starting...
into the new “normal” when this Pandemic subsides. Thank you to all who have stepped up to help their lodge, their District, the Association, and our Order weather this storm! I am confident we will emerge from this stronger and with new ideas, new tools, and a better appreciation of the value of working together in our efforts to perform the important work of Elkdom at all levels.

It has been encouraging to see many lodges, during these difficult times, continue to support their communities and those in need. Their dedicated efforts for those in need is a true testament to what Elks and Elkdom is all about. Thank you to those Elks and lodges that are making it happen and truly making a difference under difficult circumstances!!

Again, we are in the hunt for showing a membership gain for the 2019/2020 year. While the numbers won’t be final for a couple weeks, we are very close to having an overall Association membership gain – we stand at about a -60 right now, the closest we’ve been a long long time. It will be difficult under the current conditions but 61 reinstatements (less than 1 per lodge) would get us there. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to improve our numbers, keep it up – the goal of a plus 1 is getting ever closer and well within our reach.

Thank you to President Dave Edwards and his Officers and Committee personnel for another great year for our Association and thanks to Dave and Linda for the fine and distinguished manner in which they represented our Association in all they have done and everywhere they have traveled on our behalf – an outstanding and dedicated Elk couple!!

These are unprecedented times and with the cancellation of our Spring Convention and the National Convention, Pennsylvania leadership has decided to not install our next President until the Fall Convention in October. As such Dave Edward will continue as President until the Fall Convention and Steve Lucas will continue as State Vice President until that time as well – the new DSVPs and the new Trustee have already been installed. This and next year will be sort of hybrid years from a leadership standpoint and like pretty much everything happening today, not what we would call “normal” – we are doing what needs to be done and what we believe is in the best interest of our Association and those that make it function.

The 2020/2021 year is under way, but not under the best of circumstances and with a lot of uncertainties. I am confident we will weather these uncertain times and that the Pennsylvania Elk State Association will continue to grow, prosper, and have another outstanding year in spite of the obstacles and uncertainties.

Best wishes to each and every Pennsylvania Elks for continued good health and prosperity and best wishes to our 86 lodges in their efforts to get through these troubled times and take the work of Elkdom into their communities. Look forward to seeing you all in October at our Fall Convention.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Paul D. Helsel, PGER & Sponsor

(Sponsor’s Message - continued from page 1)

in March, many of the local lodges lost March and April for their final fundraisers for our Major Project Home Service program. Our donations took a turn downward these last two months. Normally our donations would be presented at the march of Lodges at the spring convention. For those of you who have ever witnessed this event, it cannot but help touch your heart. Usually our Major Project’s poster child and family are there on stage while the lodges present their donations. Our nurses are all in attendance and introduced. While the march will not happen, our nurses are still out there working with our clients. They are working from home because our clients are frail and very susceptible to contracting the virus. Our nurses are not taking any chances with direct contact with the clients. While practicing social distancing, the nurses are still in contact daily with our clients. They are still making sure the clients are receiving the services needed in their daily lives. You will see an article on one of our nurses and client in the newsletter. These clients rely tremendously on the expertise and resources of our nurses. It is only through your continued financial support that these people are able to thrive in today’s world. It is our responsibility as Elks to help the less fortunate. I am asking you to still do your part and contribute as best you can through your local lodge. God blesses and remembers those who do good deeds. Any gift is better than none at all. The smallest gift given from the heart is worth more to someone in need than to our selves. Please open your hearts and do not forget our clients and their needs.

Please do not forget your donations to Elks National Foundation. Your donations support all our programs. ENF provides a grant for 52 scholarships worth $1,200.00 each to 26 young men and 26 young ladies across our state. Many of these students would not be able to continue their education without the scholarships. While many of the student’s families are struggling now, these scholarships become even more important in their lives. We need to give these young people the tools they need to become the new leaders of our future. Your donations to ENF help secure an investment to our nation’s future.

Another group of people that may be struggling these days are our veterans in our veteran nursing homes. These facilities are also not open to visitations. Families and visitors provide great comfort to our hospitalized men and women veterans. The live entertainment has also stopped for now. I cannot imagine the isolation those men and women in the homes must feel. We can still offer support through letters or cards to the veteran’s home. Just a simple thank you or thinking of you card shows that people still care and think of them. Your district National Service Veteran’s chairman can give you the name and contacts at the facilities in your area. As Elks as long as there are Veterans, we the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will not forget them.

While everything in our daily lives has changed, we as Elks have always found a way to overcome adversity. We do this through each other. The bonds and friendships we have made add to our strength. Through each other, we give strength and support to all the frail and less fortunate in society. The willingness to help in times of need is what has made our order one the strongest fraternal organizations in this country. Please continue to do your part as Elks. May God bless each and every one of you and let His grace shine down and protect your families. Stay safe and well my friends until we can come to spend time with each other once again. Hope to see you all soon!

(President’s Message - continued from page 1)
Greetings All,

I know life and the world is nothing like it used to be, however, ELKS National Foundation stays constant. The mission of the Elks National Foundation is to help Elks build stronger communities. We fulfill this pledge by investing in communities where Elks live and work. We help youth develop lifelong skills, send students to college, meet the needs of today’s veterans, support the charitable work of the state Elks associations, and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities. Like all Elks, the Foundation values the belief that charity is the greatest of all virtues and that by sharing and giving, we have the power to replace sorrow and despair with hope and confidence. We really can use the consistency right now.

Let me share some of Pennsylvania’s achievements of last year. PA Elks had donations to ENF totaling $222,861.05. That amount is 118.072% to GER’s Goal. We had a total of 52 Lodges met or exceeded the GER’s giving goal of $4.75 per member. That is 19 more Lodges than last year. 50 Lodges in PA received $223,000 in grants through the Community Investments Program. Pennsylvania ELKS be Proud for a job well done!!!

Exciting news about Gratitude Grants! Gratitude Grants ranging from $2,000 to $3,000. Every Lodge that met the GER’s per-member-giving goal in the prior fiscal year is eligible for a $2,000 grant. Lodges in which more than 15 percent of its members donated at least $10 will be eligible for a bonus of $500. Lodges with 10 percent of its members in the Fidelity Club will be eligible for an additional $500 bonus. BOOM $3000.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are now experiencing a new normal together. Everything has changed, and the Community Investments Program must change this year, too. The new CIP grant year opened on April 1, with only the Gratitude Grant. Gratitude Grants are the only grant that can be used for a donation to another organization. Normally, we encourage Lodges to use their Gratitude Grants to plan an active project. Instead, given current restrictions on public gatherings and events, consider using the Gratitude Grant to support a food pantry or other organizations in your community that are better equipped to directly serve the people who need help most as we work our way through this pandemic.

On June 1, ENF released $3.7 million for the Spotlight Grants. These $2,000 grants are available to every Lodge to shine the light on COVID-19 relief. We are adapting Spotlight guidelines this year. A Lodge can consider a more active use of funds, e.g. purchasing food and supplies and delivering items to a shelter or food pantry. However, if donating directly to an organization in the community like a homeless shelter or food pantry, it will be allowed. The funds must go to directly support pandemic relief and cannot be split between multiple projects. Watch for information on other Grants to be available August 1st.

So yes, life is different, and it will never be as we knew it before. However, our goal is the same. We believe that charity is the greatest of all virtues and that by sharing and giving, we have the power to replace sorrow and despair with hope and confidence.

MEETING THE LEGACY TRUST GOAL!

Laura L. Scotty, Chairman, Legacy Trust Fund

In this time of uncertainty, we need every Lodge in every District to pick up the WE CAN ATTITUDE. We CAN continue to supplement the money needed to run the Home Services Program. If each of the lodges would raise $200 the result would be over $16,000. If the Officers would pool $10 donations that would achieve half of the $200 or $8,000.

FACT: all the money deposited into the Legacy Trust Fund stays in Pennsylvania and is never spent. Only the interest from those funds is spent to supplement the money needed to operate our Home Services Program. This year’s goal of 100% participation by all the Lodges in Pennsylvania is not unattainable. Let’s lead the way in Major Projects by living “Elks Care – Elks Share!”

ONLINE SHOPPERS: I would like to see an increase in members using the iGive program on the internet where stores give a portion of the sale to Legacy Trust at no additional cost to the shopper. If you already shop online, just take a few minutes to sign up at www.iGive.com and choose PA Elks Legacy Trust Fund as your selected charity. In addition, we are registered with the Amazon Prime program to give a portion of purchases to our charity. When you are buying online it only takes a second to add a donation to the Legacy Trust Fund.

Visit the Legacy Trust Fund Page on the Pennsylvania Elks website at www.paelks.com and learn other ways you can help Legacy Trust Fund become a stronger support for our nurses and their clients.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION
Aquilla Hilling, ENF State Chair

Contributing Lodges

Aquila Hilling, ENF State Chair

PA Lodges

- Alagam, PA, #1221
- Allegheny, PA, #339
- Apollo, PA, #386
- Bangor, PA, #1106
- Beaver Falls, PA, #348
- Bellefonte, PA, #1094
- Berwick, PA, #1138
- Bloomsburg, PA, #436
- Braddock, PA, #883
- Bridgeport, PA, #714
- Bristol, PA, #970
- Butler, PA, #170
- Canonsburg, PA, #846
- Carnegie, PA, #831
- Clearfield, PA, #540
- Connellsville, PA, #503
- Coraopolis, PA, #1080
- Cranberry, PA, #2249
- East Stroudsburg, PA, #319
- Ephrata, PA, #1933
- Erie, PA, #57
- Fairless Hills, PA, #2023
- Frackville, PA, #1533
- Huntington, PA, #976
- Indiana, PA, #531
- Johnstown, PA, #175
- Lancaster, PA, #134
- Lebanon, PA, #631
- Leechburg, PA, #377
- Mahanoy City, PA, #695
- New Castle, PA, #69
- North Penn, PA, #1979
- Norwin, PA, #2313
- Oakmont, PA, #1688
- Pittsburgh (South Hills), PA, #2213
- Pottstown, PA, #814
- Reading, PA, #115
- Red Lion, PA, #1592
- Reynoldsville, PA, #519
- Rochester, PA, #283
- Sayre, PA, #1148
- Scottsdale, PA, #777
- Sharon, PA, #103
- Tarentum, PA, #644
- Titusville, PA, #264
- Tyrone, PA, #212
- Uniontown, PA, #370
- West Chester, PA, #853
- West Shore, PA, #2257
- Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, PA, #109
- Wilkins, PA, #577
- York, PA, #213

Meet the Legacy Trust Goal!

Laura L. Scotty, Chairman, Legacy Trust Fund

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Visit the Legacy Trust Fund Page on the Pennsylvania Elks website at www.paelks.com and learn other ways you can help Legacy Trust Fund become a stronger support for our nurses and their clients.
DRUG AWARENESS COMMITTEE
Debbie Raible, DAP Chairman

With the cancellation of the Spring and National Convention, we are being asked to find new and creative ways to communicate, but rest assured to keep our programs marching forward.

The DAP Trailers are not being used much in this climate of social distancing, with schools closed, and no community days or parades. But we are ready for the fall, when hopefully those activities will be able to resume. Please reach out to our 2 DAP Trailer coordinators to schedule a date for fall. Karen Hacker for the East and David Holmes for the West.

Another sign of the times changing is the way I will receive my annual DAP training. It appears the DAP Directors are working on an online version of training instead of our 2-day session that happens Saturday and Sunday before the convention. So, I will still be able to pass on to all of you after that training, the information on the DAP contest themes, and new programs for kids and teens.

With no State Convention, I was not able to bring in the State DAP Contest Winners and their families to Harrisburg to enjoy our hospitality and receive their awards. I have spoken to all of them and I mailed them each their awards. They were all very excited but disappointed in missing out on a trip to Harrisburg.

The winners are: Kloe Mitchell-Wilkins, Collin Yurkanin- Hazelton, Monique Girard – East Stroudsburg, Giana Furnier- Uniontown, Ann Kania-Uniontown, DJ Johnson- Wilkins, Arian Perella and Kayleigh Rodriguez – Kittanning. Thanks to all the District Chairman that got the information on the DAP Contests out to the lodges and for getting all entries into me on time. I am very proud to say that we had participation from all 8 Districts.

Brighter days are coming, please keep thinking about how to advance your lodge’s Drug Awareness Program so you are ready when the doors open again. Take Care, Stay Safe and Follow the Rules.

HOME SERVICE
Maureen DeStefano PER
Home Service Chairman
PA State Home Service Chairperson

The Pennsylvania State Home Service Committee would like to express how proud we are of all the lodges for the effort they put into fund raising throughout the year.

It does not have the same effect as being in the March and everyone cheering for each other, no drum roll, no noise makers annoying those around us. While losing the last 2 months of our fund-raising year and without a spring convention, hospitality room auctions and basket raffles, our lodges still manage to raise...

$433,302.92

All the plaques and awards will be given out at the Fall convention.

The District with the highest per capita goes to the Southeast District with a per Capita of $22.03

The District with the highest dollar amount goes to the Northwest District with a total of $106,018.66

The West District awards the highest per capita in their district which goes to Cranberry Lodge #2249

Our nurses are still working and helping clients in anyway possible. We also need to be creative in how to raise money this year in support of our Major Projects Home Service program. Some of the lodges have breakfast, dinners, baskets raffles, golf outings, 50/50 raffles and even a weekend long campground event throughout the year to raise funds. I am always looking for new and creative ways that lodges can raise money. If you have a unique idea share it with me so we can pass it on to the other lodges. Margie Woods article has the outline for this year’s participation in the WCCF day of giving fund raising that will take place on September 10th. Reminder there is a fee if you use your credit card. However, WCCF will cover the first $50,000 in credit card fees this year. The posters for the lodges will be sent out to each district representative and will be distributed at your district meeting.

PENNSYLVANIA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS
Margie Woods, RN • Grant Projects Director

Once again, we are participating in the WCCF Day of Giving on September 10, 2020.

On September 10th, go to www.wccfgives.org from 8AM to 8PM and donate to Pennsylvania Elks Major Projects. Be sure to include your lodge name so your lodge will get credit for the donation. Each donation is subject to a 3% credit card fee. All donations up to $10,000 will be increased from a Bonus Pool.

There is a special form for anyone who wishes to donate by check. Please contact me at mwood@paelkshomeservice.org or 412-997-2723 and I will be happy to send you the form to mail with your check. Any donations using that form must be received at WCCF before September 10th.

Funds are needed now more than ever since many fundraising events have had to be canceled. The nurses continue to work with families from their home offices. Here is a note we received from the mother of one of little boys we serve:

“I just wanted to say a really grateful and appreciative note about what wonderful services PA Elks has done during this COVID-19 crisis. Our nurse, Tanya Fable, she has been wonderful with checking in on my son Riley and making sure we are okay and have everything we need. Riley has been continuing his therapies via Zoom and his speech therapist has recommended a proximity switch to use for him. Upon telling this to Tanya she immediately found an agency that will reimburse us for the switch and instructed me on how to do so. It was practically the same day! I am very appreciative of all her efforts to ensure we have everything we need to make Riley’s life better even in the midst of a crisis such as this. I believe that in times like this you really see who is serious about their work and who is not. Our family is very impressed and so grateful for all of the help you have given us. Thank you very much!”

Your Home Service Nurses are helping over 3,700 families receive the support they need to improve their health and enjoy a better quality of life. Your donation makes a real difference in the life of a child or adult with special needs.
With the onset of the coronavirus situation, the Scholarship program for 2020 came quietly to an end. The main judging duties at the Local and District levels were completed before lockdowns began, and final judging at the National level was then completed on time. However, the pandemic did put a constraint on final activities and award ceremonies. The following is an update of the Elks Scholarship Programs for 2020:

**Most Valuable Student (MVS)**

The Elks National Foundation will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2020 competition. Ranging from $1,000 per year to $12,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are for any students, who are US citizens, pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis, in a U.S. college or university.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Most Valuable Student (MVS) Leadership Weekend looked different this year; instead of gathering in Chicago, the brand-new Elks scholars gathered virtually. But the socially distanced atmosphere did not stop the scholars from connecting with one another and forming new friendships with their fellow Elks family. These activities led up to the final interview stage, closing with sharing of parting comments and observations. The following are the 2020 Most Valuable Student Top Winners:

3rd Place - Madison Johnson, sponsored by Selbyville, Del., Lodge No. 2173, and Tanner Christensen, sponsored by Provo, Utah, Lodge No. 849, will each receive $30,000 toward their college education.

2nd Place - Irissa Machetta, sponsored by Clear Lake (Kemah), Texas, Lodge No. 2322, and Daniel Ardit, sponsored by Pompano Beach, Fla., Lodge No. 1898, will each receive $40,000.

And in 1st Place, the recipients of $50,000 scholarships are Sarah Harper, sponsored by Athens, Tenn., Lodge No. 1927, and Santiago Alvillar, sponsored by Montebello, Calif., Lodge No. 2051.

Additionally, there are 14 more students who will receive a, 4th Place $20,000 Scholarship, and another 480 runner up students that will receive a $4000 Scholarship.

Congratulations to all the MVS Finalists and the 2020 Top Winners!

Even though Pennsylvania did not have anyone reach the top 20 level, we did have 16 students who won a $4000 Scholarship. The PA Most Valuable Student Award Winners, along with sponsoring Lodge’s, are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge No.</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harrison Bernhard</td>
<td>#592</td>
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<td>Ryan Elkins</td>
<td>#970</td>
<td>Bristol PA</td>
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<td>Marquita Flynn</td>
<td>#109</td>
<td>Wilkes-Barre/Scranton PA</td>
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<td>Alexander Hoang</td>
<td>#631</td>
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<td>Declan Johnson</td>
<td>#370</td>
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<td>Victoria Keefauver</td>
<td>#763</td>
<td>Hanover PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Lookenbill</td>
<td>#763</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Lukacz</td>
<td>#1533</td>
<td>Frackville PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn Maxwell</td>
<td>#1707</td>
<td>Bedford PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Murin</td>
<td>#175</td>
<td>Johnstown PA</td>
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<td>Conor Savage</td>
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<td>Meghan Smitherman</td>
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<td>Gage Traugh</td>
<td>#1138</td>
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<td>Jennifer Wang</td>
<td>#219</td>
<td>Meadeville PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chloe Wegrynnowicz</td>
<td>#436</td>
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<td>Andrew Wittermann</td>
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For a complete listing of this past year’s scholarship winners, in all programs, please log into www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships.

**Legacy Awards**

Legacy Awards are $4,000 scholarships available to children and grandchildren of Elks members. The Elks National Foundation has announced its 2020 ENF Legacy Awards recipients. The PA winners, along with their sponsoring Lodge’s, of $4000 Scholarships each, are:

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**PA State Association Awards**

Every year, the PA State Elks Association gives out their own $1200 Scholarships to next top 36 boys and the top 36 girls (in scores) from the MVS applications as well. To obtain a list of these winners (which is too long to list here), you may contact your District Scholarship Chairperson, or myself.

**Local Lodge Scholarships**

And many of our local Lodges each year, based on their abilities, give out several hundreds and thousands of dollars each year in individual scholarship money, directly to their members college bound children. Please check with your Local Lodge’s Scholarship Chairperson for details on the winners of these Scholarships.

And now, we can begin thinking about the start of the 2021 Scholarship Programs. In August, the application process will be open, on-line, for the Most Valuable Student (MVS) contest. Deadline to enter the MVS Scholarship will be in early November, open to any graduating Senior High School Student in the U.S.A.

The application process for the Legacy Awards begins on September 1, 2020 and the deadline is February 1, 2021, open only to high school seniors of Elks members and their families.

Also available is the Emergency Educational Grant, which provides assistance for children of deceased or totally disabled Elks.

A comprehensive list of programs, guidelines, eligibility requirements, application requirements, and important enrolling and deadline dates can be found on the National Elks website, under the ENF/Scholarship section. The information available there will easily inform and guide you through the application process and can answer your many questions and concerns. It is a well worth resource that should be checked out! By end of July your Lodges will receive their Scholarship Information packets and your Scholarship Chairpersons and Committees should distribute that information to local area schools. If you do not receive it or have any questions or concerns, please contact your Local and/or District Scholarship Chairpersons.

And as a reminder to all Scholarship Chairpersons and their committees, please check and review the Grand Lodge website for information and instructions pertaining to your Judging duties, noting especially all deadlines to get your applicants judged and processed in required timeframes. You will also be getting additional information to help you in these processes within the next couple of weeks from the International Scholarship Testing Service (ISTS). Please watch for these emails. Their service will have persons who you can contact for help as needed during the Scholarship season.

I hope you all have a great safe and healthy Summer and upcoming Scholarship season! See you in the Fall!
The Pennsylvania Elk

During this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it would be a good time for Lodges to go through the Monthly Accident Prevention Check sheet and correct any deficiencies before DSVP and District Deputy visits are made. This can be accomplished by checking emergency exit lights, change batteries in smoke detectors and perform any maintenance issues that are needed.

When the Lodges are allowed to open up for members, we will need to adhere to the guidelines set by the PLCB and CDC on social distancing and cleaning practices. The Lodges might have to buy more cleaning supplies, hand sanitizers, provide masks for all employees and set up a cleaning schedule to be followed, if required.

Lodge Accident Prevention Program Section 12.070 of the Laws of the Order requires all Lodges to establish an Accident Prevention Program and to designate a Trustee as Accident Prevention Manager.

State Activities

Jeanette Miller • State Activities Chairman

Winners for the 2019-2020 All-American Lodge Contest are:

For 1-300 membership Division I
1st place Bridgeport #714
2nd place Coraopolis #1090
3rd place East Stroudsburg # 319

501-700 members Division III
1st place Pottstown Lodge #814
2nd place Ridgeway #872

700-1100 members Division IV
1st place Wilkins #577
2nd place Kittanning #203

1,101-1,500 members Division V
No Entries
Over 1,500 members Division VI
1st place Erie #67

All 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners were sent on to the national level to be judged. Thank you to all Lodges who entered the contest.

Once again, I will be passing out the 2020/2021 contest forms at the fall convention. If you would like to see your Lodge being honored, please make sure to find out who your district Lodge activities chairman is and ask for the contest form. I ask you to read the contest carefully to avoid any disqualified forms, as I did receive a few late entries. I will be including my phone number, if you have any questions. Thank you again to all the Lodges who took part.

Holding activities has been challenging during this quarantine, but I know several Lodges have found new ways to help their communities, youth and Veterans such as donating to food banks; sending money to the VA facilities for recreation supplies and pizza parties; and decorating the Lodge's front yards with congratulations signs for graduating seniors. Think outside our usual boxes and I'm sure your Lodge will come up with something to show we Elks still care and share.

Americanism

Dave Smith
PA State Americanism Chairman

Without any doubt our Americanism essay contest shows the pride and talent that lies within our young American citizens. Every year we offer Pennsylvania school students an opportunity to participate in this national contest. The objective of the contest is to allow our young school aged Americans a chance to express their pride in America, and to showcase their writing talents.

The contest is divided into two categories: Division I (5th & 6th grade) and Division II (7th & 8th grade) students. The theme that was showcased was: “What does freedom of speech mean to me?” I must say we had some very well written patriotic essays submitted this year from across the State. As I personally read these essays I could feel the pride that surrounds America, the State of PA, and its youth. I am looking forward to this year’s contest and reading all the submissions.

Since we did not have our spring convention I am planning on traveling to meet with the winners to present them with their award. Once the pandemic precautions lighten, and more counties move to yellow and green phases I will be contacting the District Chairperson. Collaboratively we will set up a date to meet, and to include the winner at their respected Lodge.

I want to personally thank the Lodge and District Chairpersons for their assistance in making this contest a success, and most importantly to all the students who submitted entries.

It is my honor to announce the following winners; Congratulations to the below students on their winning essays:

**Div I: 5th or 6th grade**
1) Sophia Overdorff - Blairsville Lodge #406
2) Allison Sullivan - Oakmont Lodge #1668
3) Manuel Dieguez -Fairless Hills Lodge #2023

**Div II: 7th or 8th grade**
1) Lauren Dugan - Philipsburg Lodge # 1173
2) Jackson Schaeber - Canonsburg Lodge #846
3) Ella Amell - Tyrone Lodge #212

Accident Prevention/Insurance Risk

Stephen Harker • Chairman Accident Prevention/Insurance Risk

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Be responsible, follow rules and guidelines.
I am excited to be your new Ritual Chairman of Pennsylvania. I am looking forward to expanding Ritual with your help. My thanks, to Bridgeport Lodge #714, for representing Pennsylvania year after year. I know they would welcome competition from other Lodges in the state. Any Lodge that is interested in competing, please know, that I am here to help. You can reach me at carl.smith76@yahoo.com.

How many Lodges still stop at 11 O’clock and recite the toast?? This is an example of how we stand out among other organizations. Every Exalted Ruler should be able to recite the toast from memory. Remind your members of the funeral service that is available to Elks. It’s a ceremonial tribute to the absent member and their loved ones.

We are the first Fraternal Organization to have a Flag Day Service. Impress upon the community, our love of the flag with this ritual. The Memorial Ritual on the first Sunday in December, is our final farewell for our departed members. Invite the family members of those who have passed to the ritual. Always remember to leave a good, lasting impression with our Members and guests.

Leading Knights and Exalted Rulers need to work on their Flag Charge and 11Th Hour Toast, for the 2021 Spring Convention. Also at this year’s Fall Convention, we will be holding our State Competition for the Flag Charge and 11th Hour Toast. This was to be held at the 2020 Spring Convention which was cancelled. Hopefully all Districts will have a representative for these contests.
Chambersburg Lodge #600

Awards presented to Cadets in CASHS Navy JROTC Program

With the Grand Lodge initiating the BPOE JROTC awards program last year, our lodge was quick to jump to the opportunity. We reached out to the Chambersburg Area High School Senior Military Science instructor and were quickly welcomed into their annual formal Pass-in-Review awards program. Watching the dedicated young women and men who accepted the challenge of the JROTC program was amazing.

When we participated last year, the award was well received by the community and the JROTC Senior Military Science instructors. This year was no different as we joined the ranks of other distinguished presenters, from the local Legislative Representative to a number of Veteran organizations.

This year, the awards were presented by Chambersburg Lodge Exalted Ruler, John Wardzinski. The recipients were Cadet Ethan Baker and Cadet Silsa Quintanilla. From conversation with the Area Director for Region 4 of the JROTC, we are one, if not the only lodge presenting this award regionally.

Red Lion Lodge #1592

State Hoop Shoot Champion

On March 7, our district Hoop Shoot winner, Molly Bailer, traveled to the State Shoot in State College. Molly’s parents and ER Darryl Rider cheered her on to another victory. We are proud to announce Molly is the State Champion in the girls 12-13 age group for PA. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the remaining Hoop Shoots had to be cancelled and Molly’s victory run was cut short.

On March 12, ER Darryl Rider made two special presentations at our Lodge meeting. Brook Anderson was presented with the Distinguished Citizen Award. Brook, a high school senior works in our Grill Room kitchen. She helps with food prep, cleaning up, doing dishes and wherever she can. Brook also does a great job at the craft and game stations during our community Santa and Easter Bunny Breakfasts. This year she was Santa’s Elf, greeting all our visiting children. Brook will be attending Kutztown University in the fall and will be missed greatly. Tim Poff, our Esteemed Leading Knight, was presented with the Officer of the Year Award. Along with his Leading Knight duties, Tim wears many hats and puts in many hours to benefit our club. Tim has been on our House Committee and helps at our Lodge and Grill Room events. He cooks for our Community Breakfast’s, helps with sprucing up and fixing leaks throughout the lodge and grill room. He is on the Golf Committee and is the Treasurer/Secretary of our Elks Riders. Tim has also been Elroy in our annual Halloween Parade promoting Drug Awareness. This year, Tim will be adding to his list of activities as our new ER.

Distinguished Citizen Award recipient - Brook Anderson and ER, Darryl Rider

Officer of the Year Recipient - Leading Knight, Tim Poff and ER, Darryl Rider

Hoop Shoot Champion, Molly Bailer and ER, Darryl Rider

Cadet Ethan Baker proudly wears the Elks JROTC medal on his pocket flap.

Cadet Silsa Quintanilla proudly displays the Elks JROTC certificate presented by ER, John Wardzinski. Not pictured Cadet Ethan Baker.

Distinguished Citizen Award recipient - Brook Anderson and ER, Darryl Rider
GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY

Many Elks Lodges conduct Lenten Fish Frys and South Hills is no exception. And, like other Lodges, South Hills was faced with an abundance of fish and as well as the other food and materials once COVID-19 interrupted this seasonal event. Bonnie Filyo ER suggested that, since they had the fish, they ought to simply do a colossal free Good Friday event. The result was a Lodge effort that served 502 residents; some of whom ordered by phone and drove to the Lodge, others who walked up, to collect their free dinners of fish, french fries, and coleslaw; homemade banana nut bread, with flour supplied by Giant Eagle and Walmart; and mini Easter baskets each containing a colored egg, jelly beans, and a chocolate bunny, donated by Sarris Candies and Walmart. Among those assisting members were Bethel Park Jack Allen, Councilman Mark O’Brien and police officers.

GRATITUDE Grant AT WORK

On May 16, South Hills Lodge #2213 held a free dinner for people in need. Lodge members and friends served chicken dinners, complete with desserts, to community residents. Some of our neighbors picked up their meals at the lodge; shut-ins and elderly neighbors had their dinners delivered to them, courtesy of members and public servants. Additionally, more than 200 dinners were delivered to the Light of Life Mission on the North Side, where many of the residents are homeless veterans. Lots of happy faces at the Mission!!

Bonnie Filyo, West District Veterans’ representative, was notified that the Oakland and John Heinz VA Hospitals and Southwest Veterans’ Center needed face masks for patients. South Hills Lodge went to work purchasing materials; with the help of lodge members and several groups of women they produced and delivered 1500 face masks to these facilities. The Lodge was also informed that coffee for the staff and visitors’ lounges at the three facilities was in short supply; accordingly, members quickly conducted a coffee drive and collected and delivered to them 200 pounds of ground roast coffee.

Cranberry Lodge #2249

GRATITUDE Grant

During the pandemic, Cranberry Lodge has continued to do what we do best by “giving back” and helping the community during this time of need.

A $2000 check from the Lodge was given to the Gleaners, a local community Food Bank. During these unprecedented times, the food bank was in desperate need of additional food for families trying to stretch their budgets for essentials. The donation was made possible by the ENF Gratitude Grant.

In addition, Lodge members solicited donations from local businesses and prepared over 40 pizzas and delivered to the local first responders and health care workers including the EMS, Cranberry Police Department, Volum-
The Pennsylvania Elk

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Teer Fire Department and Med Express to express our gratitude to these as "heroes" and show our support.

Oakmont Lodge #1668

GRATITUDE GRANT

Oakmont Lodge donated $750 each to Riverview Community Action Corporation’s Food Pantry and Home Delivered Meals Programs. Carol Mimm, ER presented the checks to RCAC program managers. The center serves the senior residents of the Oakmont-Verona communities, providing food and household items as well as social activities and health-related programs. These funds will be particularly useful as the current pandemic places more strain on their supply chain.

Verona Food Pantry, an outreach program of the Verona United Methodist Church faces similar challenges. Ken Bertel, PER presented a check for $1000 to key volunteers of the program on behalf of Lodge #1668. The contribution will enable the program to replenish food supplies for the community as the need becomes critical.

These contributions were made possible by the Elks National Foundation’s Gratitude Grant, which help fund community services like the RCAC and Verona Food Pantry. Local Lodges, such as Oakmont Lodge #1668, serve as the ENF’s eyes and ears to identify and assist community organizations. "Elks Care, Elks Share”

Beaver Falls Lodge #348

FLAGS FOR OUR FALLEN HEROES

Today a community of people came together to place flags on the graves of veterans resting at the Beaver Falls Cemetery. Elks, their spouses, and their friends came, as well as Veterans and people who simply saw a Facebook post. We don’t have a single picture to post of the people who helped place these flags, because they didn’t do it for the acclaim. They did it because each and every one of them has the heart of an Elk - compassion for their fellow man, respect for the sacrifices of our veterans and their families, and love for their community. It’s what brought this wonderful group of caring and generous people out this morning.

To our Veterans: thank you. Thanks to each and every one of you. Especially now, during this difficult time in our lives, you are a beacon lighting our journey through this life; showing us how to be the best that we can be. Thank you from the Beaver Falls Elks and to those who stop by to pay their respects, thank you on behalf of our fallen heroes.

Beaver Falls Cemetery
Veterans’ Walking Trail

Flags placed by Beaver Falls Elks and friends
East Stroudsburg Lodge # 319

East Stroudsburg Lodge was not able to have the last phase of the Beacon grant held at the Lodge due to the Corona virus. The Beacon Grant was used to host lunches and distribute gift cards and bus passes for the homeless in cooperation with the Street 2 Feet organization.

East Stroudsburg Lodge # 319 distributed 363 dictionaries, American flags and drug awareness bookmarks and pencils to the entire 3rd grade class in the Stroudsburg School District. Members Joe & Judy Catanzaro assisted with the distribution at Morey Elementary School. This was possible through Gratitude Grant.

East Stroudsburg Lodge in conjunction with the American Cancer Society held a Spaghetti dinner fund raiser for a 16 year old diagnosed with bone cancer just days before the "stay at home" order from the Governor. Leading Knight Tom Fisch and Exalted Ruler Gerald Richardson were assisted by Sheila Richardson and Jackie Kitt at the check in station. Over $4,500.00 was raised.

East Stroudsburg Lodge #319 honored Rachael Moyer as the "Citizen of the Year". Selected by Exalted Ruler Gerald Richardson for her tireless effort in educating American high school students and teachers in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and the proper CPR techniques. Rachael and her husband John started Gregory W. Moyer Defibrillator fund after they lost their son who died at the age of fifteen after experiencing sudden cardiac arrest playing high school basketball. As a result of her efforts 39 states now require high school students learn how to administer CPR and use the AED machine. The fund has donated 6,500 machines in the past 20 years.

East Stroudsburg Lodge #319 distributed the Gratitude Grant to various food pantries in the community. Leading Knight Anthony Mistretta presented Pastor Antal Dana with a check in the amount of $500.00. Over 200 cars drive through the distribution site twice a week at the church since COVID-19.

East Stroudsburg Lodge #319 distributed the Gratitude Grant to the local food banks in the community. Member Jill Jones presents a check in the amount of $500.00 to Deacon Virginia Sodano of the Shawnee Presbyterian Church. The Church supplies several families in the community with food and hygiene products.

East Stroudsburg Lodge #319 used the Gratitude Grant to help local food banks during the COVID 19 pandemic. Exalted Ruler Tom Fisch and Leading Knight Anthony Mistretta present Joe Ballestrieri President of the Bushkill Outreach with a check in the amount of $500.00. Since the outbreak the number receiving aid from the has doubled from 200 to over 400.

Frackville Lodge #1533

Members of the Frackville Elks Lodge No. 1533 Antler's Program volunteer at a recent Mackerel Breakfast as part of the community service aspect of the program. These boys and girls look forward to someday becoming official Elks members and maybe even Lodge officers!

Left to right: Kamryn Mengel, Mya Conti, Megan Bane, Joey Noraka, and Caden Mengel.
Mahanoy City Lodge #695

In April, the Mahanoy City Elks Lodge 695 donated $2,500 to local charities to fund programs for food pantries and feed those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds were secured from a grant supported through the Elks National Foundation (ENF). Their way of saying thank you to a lodge that meets their per-member goal for donating to ENF each year.

(LtoR): Mahanoy City BPOE 695 Exalted Ruler and ENF Chairperson, Linda Fetter; Harry Roberts, Finance Officer and Neal Pascoe Commander, American Legion Post 74, Mahanoy City; Sylvia Burke, Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Mahanoy City; Jason Schally, Shenandoah Food Pantry sponsored by Schuylkill Community Action.

Bloomsburg Lodge #436

Bloomsburg, PA Lodge 436 presented $580.00 to high school graduating seniors from seven schools in their area. Also, $500.00 was donated to the Salvation Army for activities to occupy people's time during the coronavirus stay at home orders. Also, meat was donated for senior citizens. In addition, $2000.00 was given to Agape, a local food and shelter organization from the Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant.

Hazelton Lodge #200

Hazelton Elks Lodge #200 along with members from West Hazleton Fire Dept and Hazleton City Council member Tony Columbo placed flags on veteran's graves at St Gabriel's Cemetery for Memorial Day. Over 300 flags were placed.

On May 13th and May 20th, Hazelton Lodge #200 along with Mayor of Hazleton and UNICO organization fed the Hazelton community over 800 meals for COVID 19. On May 27 Hazelton Elks also donated 225 pasta and meatball dinners families in Hazelton who were affected by COVID 19.

Franklin Lodge #110

National Emergency Medical Service Week

In recognition of National Emergency Medical Service Week, our lodge donated 115 Franklin Retail Gift Certificates to local Emergency Medical Service personnel. Agencies included: Community Ambulance Service, Franklin Police Department, Franklin Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department.

Erie Lodge 67

Elks Care Elks Share

During this time of pandemic and shelter in place mandates, lodges have been limited to activities in their communities. This did not stop our lodge! On April 1st we applied for and we were awarded the Elks National Foundation Community Involvement Program Gratitude Grant. This is a $2,000.00 grant and is available to any lodge meeting their Elks National Foundation per capita of $4.75 per member. It is the only Grant that can be used as a donation. We have consistently met our Elks National Foundation per capita over the years thru our yearlong fund raising. During the pandemic and social distancing, the Erie City Mission stayed true to their mission but in quite a different manner. Normally the City Mission served 150 lunches in their cafeteria, today that number has escalated to over 200 individuals being served. These lunches in many cases are the only true meal these community members have per day. In order to serve, all meals are prepared and distributed in to go containers. The additional meals and the containers have added significant cost to their operating budget. In addition, the City Mission provides shelter for 56 men. The additional protections for sheltering have also added costs that are stretching the funding available. Lodge Members even though we are not “Open” for business, we continue to support our mission “To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.”
The Bedford Elks Lodge #1707 used the $2000 Spotlight Grant from the Elks National Foundation to hold a successful Imagination Library sign up day in March. The event was held from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. at the Bedford County Library. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a program that mails children a free book each month from birth up until 5 years of age. This was open to all Bedford County children. These are high-quality books that are chosen by experts in the education and writing field and are based on the child's age with no cost to families regardless of economic status. 109 children were signed up during the 2-hour event. One student to sign up for the program was Emerson Hartrampf (picture) 20 months of age, who is being held by mother Lindsay.

The Bedford Lodge #1707 was proud to announce that Kaitlyn Maxwell of Everett Area High School received the most valuable student award presented by the Elks National Foundation. Kaitlyn was one of 16 students in the state to receive this award. Kaitlyn will receive $1000 a year for the next 4 years. She will be attending St. Francis College and will major in engineering with a concentration on mechanical engineering. Kaitlyn has also been chosen to play basketball for the university.

NOTE: The Most Valuable Student Scholarships are for students pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university.

The Huntingdon Elks Lodge #976 partnered with Muddy Run Tavern and distributed $15 gift cards to first responders in the community dealing with Covid-19 and to fireman that battled the Blair building fire. Gift cards were also distributed to the Huntingdon Sheriff Department, Huntingdon Borough Police department, Huntingdon first responders and 911 center, and the local hospital. Gift cards were made available thanks to the $2000 grant provided by the Elks National Foundation.
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North Central District News

Jersey Shore Elks Lodge #1057

Jacob Simms of Jersey Shore Elks Lodge #1057 was the proud recipient of the Legacy Scholarship in the amount of $4000 courtesy of the Elks National Foundation. The Elks National Foundation awards 250 Legacy scholarships to the highest applicants yearly. The Legacy scholarship is available to children and grandchildren of Elks members. Jacob will be required, per the grant guidelines, to perform service once a year with an Elks Lodge during the four-year period. Jacob Simms is the grandson of John Simms, who has been a long-term member of the Jersey Shore Elks.

State College Lodge #1600

The State College Elks Lodge #1600 recently participated in a Boy Scout Eagle Court of Honor, Troop 32 for William Newcomb, Jonathan Inman, and Zane Taylor. Newcomb achieved 22 merit badges and served as the Troop Guide and Bugler of his Troop. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Newcomb built a bridge at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, which connects bridges that were built by other Troop 32 Eagle Scouts. Inman earned 24 merit badges and served as Den Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Instructor for his Troop. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Inman made sixteen squirrel boxes for Centre Wildlife Care. Saylor received 22 merit badges and served as Quartermaster, Historian, Order of the Arrow Representative, and Junior Leadership Training. For his Eagle Service Project, Saylor replaced five trail signs along the Mid State Trail.

Philipsburg Lodge #334

The Philipsburg Elks Lodge Easter Bunny and Exalted Ruler, Jonathan McNelis, along with the Hope Fire Company promotes smiles in community during COVID-19.

Sophia Gerhart and Quinn Baughman
West Central District News

West Central District Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2 National Winners from Johnstown Lodge: Meghan Smitherman and Melissa Murin. Both girls will receive $4,000.

In addition the following lodges had PA Scholarship winners that will receive $1200 in their freshman year:

William Gustafason – Tarentum; Joseph Burke – Wilkins; Joseph Senetkoskey - Indiana; Jordan Delatte - Indiana; Lien Ferry – Latrobe; Emily Jumba – Wilkins

The Members of the West Central District are excited to have these winners and wish them the very best in the future endeavors.

Johnstown Lodge #175

Johnstown Lodge used a $2000.00 Gratitude Grant for the Cambria County Backpack Project (CCBP). The project is designed to alleviate childhood hunger throughout the county during non-school periods such as weekends and holidays. The funds were distributed to the Cambria County Learning Lamp which oversees the CCBP program. Learning Lamp used the funds to purchase an assortment of nutritional food items for children. The food will be distributed to 500-550 children throughout the county.

Johnstown Lodge members usually have an Easter food drive for Home Serve Nurse, Carol Prybocki to distribute to her Home Service families. Due to the shut-down mandated by the Governor of PA, the lodge reached out to members for gift cards that Carol can distribute to help the families with food and household supplies. The lodge members donated $400.00 in gift cards.

Johnstown Lodge members did a submarine sandwich and pizza drive to raise funds for a local Eagle Scout Badge project. The Eagle Scout project is building a pavilion at a local neighborhood park.

Tarentum Lodge #644

Members and officers visited the Rosebrook Personal Care home in Sarver, Pennsylvania in March to spend an evening with veterans who are housed at the facility. They worked with them to create some arts and crafts.

Ben Weaver, Dana Deli, Kim Cuneo, Terry Hendrickson, ER, Shelly DeLancey Ang Greg Prohaska, organizer

Tarentum Elks Lodge #644 used their Gratitude Grant and donated $2,500 to local food banks to help with the pandemic; $1,250 to Allegheny Valley Associate of Churches, Natrona Heights and $1,250 to Lower Valley Community Food Bank in Springdale.

Congratulations to William Gustafson from Tarentum Lodge on receiving a $4000 Legacy Scholarship from the Elks National Foundation.

Latrobe Lodge #907

Latrobe Elks Lodge 907 honored 17 of its members for their lifetime commitment to the BPOE. The ONCE AN ELK ALWAYS AN ELK PROGRAM has been initiated to thank those members that have reached milestones in the Elks organization based on age or years of service. The loyalty and commitment demonstrated by these men and those that were unable to attend is a testament to the Elk principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. The Lodge is currently constructing its new building, which will be the 5th home of the 907 in its 160 year existence in the Latrobe/Derry communities. Leading the activities was the recognition of 94 yr. old Alton Goodwin who has been a member of the Lodge for the past 73 years. Alton was the founder and owner of the Corner Restaurant in New Alexandria.

(I to r) Mario Battaglia, Ron Hasnauer, Alton Goodwin, Tom Pattis, Bill Kral, (standing l-r) Ralph Shearer, Ron Bisi, Tom Madey, Bill Smith, Ron Bell, Chuck Gray, Leroy Myers, Don Paul, Ron Cinibulk, Walt Brisky

Wilkins Lodge #577

On Armed Forces Day, A group of dedicated Elks lead by Cheryl Hunsberger, member of the Veterans Committee, took on the annual task of replacing all the flags on Veterans Graves at the Churchill Cemetery. All old flags will be burned in a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Recently the Lodge visited the Veterans Place in Pittsburgh, practicing social distancing. Wilkins Elks 577 very generously donated much-needed blankets, underwear, and hygiene items to Veterans Place.
The Pennsylvania Elk Subscription Form

Complete this form and mail the information to the address above to receive The Pennsylvania Elk via US Mail.

NAME ____________________________________________________

ADDRESS _________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

Address Service Requested

The PA Elks License Plates have now increased in price to $31.50. The increase in price came from the Department of Corrections.

Please continue to submit your forms as usual for the plates and make all checks out to the "PA Elks State Assoc." and enclose it with your application when you send it to me for my signature.

If you have any questions please contact me directly at (610) 247-9244.

Fraternally,
Mark A. Shepperd
PA Elks Special License Plate Coordinator

The application is available online at:
www.paelks.com/files/elklicplate2.pdf