

GRAND EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE

Successful Lodges offer a variety of Lodge and Community Activities, making good use of Lodge facilities, fostering fellowship among Members, and demonstrating that the Lodge is a reliable partner in the Community. The Contests sponsored by the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee and outlined in this brochure provide an excellent means for recognizing these programs and rewarding Lodge Members and individuals from the Community, thereby enhancing Member support and Community awareness.

My theme this year is **"ELKS PRIDE – COMMUNITY FOCUS."** Having a variety of Lodge and Community Programs and Activities, and recognizing those who take the time to make these Programs and Activities successful, helps drive Elks Pride, leads to an even greater focus for Community Service, and helps promote membership growth.

Ronald L. Hicks
Grand Exalted Ruler 2015-2016



For Certificates, submit names of **"Citizen ...," "Elk ..."** and/or **"Officer of the Year"** in writing to the Grand Secretary by **March 31, 2016.**

Elks Care – Elks Share

2015-2016

LODGE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM CONTESTS and GRAND EXALTED RULER AWARDS



Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee

★ **FRATERNAL COMMITTEE** ★
★★★ **OF GRAND LODGE** ★★★
★★★★★ **2015-2016** ★★★★★

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CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Each Lodge is encouraged to select a citizen, not necessarily an Elk, who has contributed to improving the community. This individual should have shown leadership, volunteered in the community, and been recognized as an all-around good citizen.

After the selection, honor him or her by presenting the award at a Lodge-sponsored dinner, or in conjunction with a community-night program sponsored by a local civic organization.

The full name (*no nicknames*) of the person selected should be submitted to the Grand Secretary in writing so that an inscribed citation may be issued to the “**Citizen of the Year.**” (Not issued before January 1, 2016; *Postmark Deadline is between January 1 and March 31, 2016.*)

ELK OF THE YEAR

The “**Elk of the Year**” Award enables a Lodge to recognize a Member who is always willing to get things done. Qualifications should be stringent as it would be far better not to designate an “**Elk of the Year**” than to select a less-than-worthy Member. Nominees should be weighed carefully. Every involvement should exemplify “*Elks Care – Elks Share.*”

An anonymous committee should be appointed by the Exalted Ruler in time to evaluate candidates. The committee should remain anonymous throughout the selection process. And, preferably in February, the award should be announced at a dinner or other special event. If properly promoted, this can be an outstanding annual event. STRIVE TO MAKE IT SO!

Keep in mind these rules for selecting “**Elk of the Year**”:

- **CANNOT** be a Lodge Officer.
- Only **ONE ELK** can be chosen.

The full name (*no nicknames*) of the individual selected should be submitted to the Grand Secretary in writing so that an inscribed citation may be issued to the honoree. (Not issued before January 1, 2016; *Postmark Deadline is between January 1 and March 31, 2016.*)

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

This award enables a Lodge to recognize a current Officer who has shown leadership, volunteered for committees and is considered an outstanding Elk among Members.

This award will reward an Officer who is always willing to be relied upon to help get things done. Qualifications should be stringent; it would be far better not to designate an “**Officer of the Year**” than to select a less than worthy Officer.

The Exalted Ruler shall direct the Lodge’s Past Exalted Rulers’ Association to select the “**Officer of the Year.**” The award should be announced, preferably in February, at a dinner or other special event. In making their selection, Past Exalted Rulers should keep in mind:

- **Recipient must be a Lodge Officer.**
- Only **One Officer** can be chosen.

The Officer’s full name (*no nicknames*) and title should be submitted to the Grand Secretary in writing so that an inscribed citation may be issued to the honoree (Not issued before January 1, 2016; *Postmark Deadline is between January 1 and March 31, 2016.*)

★ ★ ★ AWARDS ★ ★ ★

★★ GRAND EXALTED RULER’S ★★ ★★★ AWARDS ★★★

EDITOR’S NOTE: Please refer to the criteria listed here for the GER Awards. They correct the criteria listed on pages 34-36 on the 2015-16 Grand Lodge Program booklet.

FOR OUTSTANDING MEMBERS

A. A personal message of thanks and a GER Award Pin will be issued by the Grand Exalted Ruler in recognition of individual Members who bring in a total of THREE new or reinstated Members.

NOTE: Lodge Secretaries should forward to the Grand Secretary notices in writing of eligibility for Member recognition. (*Postmark Deadline is June 15, 2016.*)

B. Each Exalted Ruler is authorized to issue TWO Grand “Exalted Ruler’s Outstanding Service Commendation” Certificates to Members performing outstanding Lodge service.

NOTE: An order form and instructions may be downloaded at <http://www.elks.org/grandlodge/ger/files/GERAwardCertificationForms.pdf>; or, from the Thumb Drive that was distributed to Exalted Rulers at the Grand Lodge Session in Indianapolis. Click on “GER Special Citation Awards” in the “Keys to 2015-16 Program Year” listed in the Table of Contents. (*Requests should be postmarked by March 31, 2016.*)

FOR EXALTED RULERS

“Making A Difference Special Citations” will be awarded to Exalted Rulers who participate in SIX of the following programs during the year:

1. Elks “Hoop Shoot®” Program
2. Youth Scholarship Program
3. Achieve \$4.65 Elks National Foundation per capita
4. Entry into the All-American Lodge Contest
5. Drug Awareness Program
6. Elks National Youth Week
7. Ritualistic Contest
8. Student/Teenager of the Month/Year Program
9. Veterans Service and/or Adopt-A-Vet Program

Special Citations are available through your Area Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member upon receipt of a formal written request from the Exalted Ruler, supported with dated copies of cover letters, programs, news releases, bulletin notices, etc. attesting to participation by the Lodge family in the appropriate activities. (*This request should be postmarked no later than March 31, 2016.*)

FOR LOCAL LODGES

A. A “Making A Difference Special Citation” will be awarded to each Lodge that participates in at least SIX of the following programs. These certificates should be ordered in writing from the Area Member of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee. (*This request should be postmarked no later than March 31, 2016.*)

1. Elks “Hoop Shoot®” Contest
2. Ritualistic Contest
3. Youth Scholarship Program
4. Veterans Service and/or Adopt-A-Vet Program
5. Drug Awareness Program
6. Every Officer a subscribing member of the Elks National Foundation
7. Mother’s Day Program
8. Raises \$4.65 per Member in donations to the Elks National Foundation.
9. Achieves a net membership gain of at least ONE.
10. Achieves a level at or below TWO PERCENT lapsation (*to be determined as noted in Section B below.*)
11. Every Officer, elected and appointed (15), sponsor a New/Reinstated Member.

B. A Grand Exalted Ruler’s Citation will be awarded to each Lodge with a lapsation rate of TWO PERCENT or less as of March 31, 2016. Entitlement to this award shall be determined by the Office of the Grand Secretary based on Lodges’ final membership report for the period ending March 31, 2016.

C. A Grand Exalted Ruler’s Citation will be awarded to each Lodge which has, as of September 1, 2015, a full complement of elected and appointed Officers who are **not Past Exalted Rulers (EXCLUDE Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee, Organist, Presiding Justice and Alternate Delegate positions).**

This Award encourages recruitment of new Officer talent, and builds continuity by progression through the chairs. *The request should include the list of current Lodge Officers, notated as verified and approved by the District Deputy.* Send entry to the Grand Secretary *postmarked no later than October 31, 2015.*

2015 “Elks Care – Elks Share” 2016

Presented by the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee
JOSEPH C. BASIL, *Chairman*

READ AND USE GRAND LODGE PROGRAM MANUAL

ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA has joined forces with DONATE LIFE AMERICA to increase donations of organs, eyes and life-saving tissue.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee is asking Elks Lodges nationwide to promote the Organ Donor Program in their Lodge Bulletins and Lodge websites to help inspire Members and citizens in their communities to make these life-saving donations.

The need is paramount. More than 124,000 patients were waiting for organ transplants as of April 2015, according to the Donate Life America website, donatelife.net. Only 28,953 organ transplants had been performed in 2013, and even fewer – 14,257 – organ donations had been made in 2013.

We Elks Members can help close the gap! The effort of Lodges to promote the program through their Bulletins and Web sites can gain them five points in their quests to be named an All American Lodge. More incentives will be announced in coming years as the program takes shape throughout Elksdom.

For information, log onto the website, donatelife.net.

PLAN  ...WORK
YOUR YOUR
WORK... PLAN!

Elks

CONTESTS

Awards are presented by the Grand Lodge for recognition of excellence in various categories.

For Contests “A, E & F,” first-, second- and third-place awards are given in six divisions, based on the Annual Membership Report of March 31, 2015.

- DIVISION 1:** Lodges under 301 Members.
- DIVISION 2:** Lodges with 301 thru 500 Members.
- DIVISION 3:** Lodges with 501 thru 700 Members.
- DIVISION 4:** Lodges with 701 thru 1,100 Members.
- DIVISION 5:** Lodges with 1,101 thru 1,500 Members.
- DIVISION 6:** Lodges with over 1,500 Members.

Entries for Contests A, E & F must be received by the designated Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member and ENF at the specified place, postmarked by the deadline indicated in the contest rules. All program/contest entries must be accompanied by a letter from the Lodge Secretary certifying the Lodge membership as of March 31, 2015.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS STAR AWARDS

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STATE ASSOCIATION MAJOR PROJECT DISPLAY AWARD

Awards are presented to State Associations that exhibit their Major Projects in the exhibit area at the Grand Lodge Session each year. State Associations can earn up to “Five Stars” for their displays. Exhibits are judged on content, graphics, pictorial, overall appearance and special effects.

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STATE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE AWARD

This award is presented to State Associations for their efforts in keeping Members informed and active in state and local projects through a State Association website. Websites are judged on content, layout, design and effectiveness in telling the Elks story. Websites can earn from *one to five star awards*. **Registration must be before October 1, 2015** to participate. **(NOTE: State Association contest due date may differ.)**

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LOCAL LODGE WEBSITE AWARD

This award is presented to a Local Lodge that has won its State’s Local Lodge Website contest, based on keeping their Members informed in local projects. Web sites are judged on content, design, news, virtual home page and Lodge promotion, and can earn from *one to five star awards*. State Associations must register their winners with the Grand Lodge **before October 1, 2015** to participate. **(NOTE: State Association contest due date may differ.)**

State Association and Local Lodge websites will be accessed and judged up to three times a year. Mail inquiries or registrations to: **KEVIN L. BROUSE**, 202 Elysburg Road, Danville, PA 17821-7824; kevin17821@gmail.com.

CONTEST “A” — ALL-AMERICAN LODGE

Elkdom’s All-American Lodge Award – the most coveted of Grand Lodge awards – demonstrates membership involvement. Competition is based on District, State and Grand Lodge levels. Points are earned by competing Lodges, based upon participation in 44 categories, including sponsoring a new Lodge, posting a gain in membership and participation in Grand Lodge contests and programs, such as the Elks National Foundation, Hoop Shoot®, Grand Exalted Ruler Awards and Youth Scholarship programs. Final entries are judged by the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee.

Entrants must submit a form that will be mailed to Lodges with the November Grand Lodge Newsletter and is to be **completed and sent to the District Deputy by March 15, 2016.** (NOTE: State Association contest due date may differ.) Look for details in the Grand Lodge Newsletter in January.

The District Deputy will select winners by membership division for the district. These are then submitted to the State Lodge Activities (or Fraternal) Chairman by April 1, 2016. (The designated State Chairman will review entries, sign and submit them to the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member for the All-American Lodge Contest by April 15, 2016.)

Address inquiries to: **DOUGLAS A. SCHIEFER**, 108 Brookside Drive, Bucyrus, OH 44820-2000; dschiefer@columbus.rr.com.

CONTEST “E” — PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION TO THE ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

This award is granted for the largest per-member contributions made by the Lodges to the Elks National Foundation and is based upon Elks National Foundation records. (Deadline for contributions: Received no later than March 31, 2016.)

Direct inquiries to: **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**, at: enf@elks.org or 773-755-4762.

CONTEST “F” — ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION LODGE CHAIR CHALLENGE

The Chair Challenge contest rewards Lodges for having a broad-based ENF fundraising program, including recruiting new donors, retaining recent donors and reactivating lapsed donors. Participation points may be earned for meeting additional goals such as reporting on an ENF month fundraiser and earning an ENF Fundraising Chair Certificate. The Elks National Foundation determines scores.

Direct inquiries to the **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION** at: enf@elks.org or 773-755-4762.

CONTEST “G” — STATE ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION PER CAPITA DONATION

This award is for the largest per-member contributions made by States to the Elks National Foundation, based upon Foundation records. (Deadline for contributions: Received no later than March 31, 2016.)

Direct inquiries to: **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**, at: enf@elks.org or 773-755-4762.

CONTEST “H” — ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION STATE CHAIR CHALLENGE

Rewards states with Lodges that have a broad-based fund-raising program. Each Lodge receives a score in the Lodge Chairman Challenge Contest. The state’s score is based on the total of the state’s Lodge scores divided by the number of its Lodges. The Elks National Foundation determines scores.

Direct inquiries to the **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION** at: enf@elks.org or 773-755-4762.

CONTEST “I” — STATE ASSOCIATION BULLETIN CONTEST

Just as Lodge Bulletins communicate to Members, State Publications can communicate what other Lodges are doing and provide ideas for activities.

Contest rules are:

1. Enclose three copies of any two issues of your state bulletin, newspaper or newsletter published in the calendar year 2015. (January 1 to December 31.)
2. Judging will be based on:

Content:	0 - 100 points
Layout & typography:	0 - 50 points
Pictorial:	0 - 25 points
General:	0 - 25 points
3. Please do not submit your entries in bulky notebooks or binders.

Awards will be Five, Four and Three Stars, mailed to the State President for presentation at a State meeting or function. (Submissions must be postmarked by January 15, 2016. NOTE: State Association contest due date may differ.)

Mail entries to: **CARROLL L. SCHLEETER**, 10180 Splice Creek Drive, Prairie Home, MO 65068-2322; papacarroll1@gmail.com.

CONTEST “J” — SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

Awards recognize specific groups for outstanding contributions to the Elks National Foundation based on Elks National Foundation records. Categories include:

1. Top Grand Lodge Area.
2. Best New Lodge.

(Deadline for contributions: Received no later than March 31, 2016.) Mail inquiries to: **ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION**, 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-2256; enf@elks.org or 773-755-4762.