



Michigan **Elks** Association

**106th Annual Spring Convention
Radisson Convention Center
May 19-22, 2011**

***“Proud to be a Michigan Elk”
Committee Reports***

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State President's report – Thomas Bianco, Ishpeming #447



Members all:

Emily and I have driven well over 20,000 miles around our great state for Elks doings in the last year. I think I could drive from Ishpeming to the Big Mack Bridge (180 miles) blind folded, knowing every bump and curve. A lot of you are thinking that is a ton of miles! True but it was worth ever gallon of gas and once we reached our destination, it was ancient history.

Each visit was unique, be it Calumet in the north to Sturgis in the south, Port Huron in the east, and in Traverse City in the west, Elks are Elks and we were treated with respect and as if we were part of their lodge. As we leave office this weekend we keep with us the many friendships we have made in the last 3 years.

We all have been hearing rumors about the possible changes in store in Elkdom for the near future, be it in ritual, changes at our lodge meetings, combination of committees and even eliminating some. One thing I am sure that will not change is "Elks helping people in need".

Where have the last 12 months gone, time really goes by quick when you are doing things you treasure. Some brief highlights as your state president are as follows: What a honor the bringing in the Michigan state flag at the opening ceremonies in Orlando; Visiting Bay Cliff Health Camp and seeing your Major Project \$\$ working miracles with our special needs children; Being part of the scholarship judging at Houghton Lake Lodge and giving out over \$230,000 of Elks money to our Michigan high school graduating students to further their education; Being part of the Alma Lodges "Field of Flags", and seeing 100's and 100's of flags waving to honor the men and women that served our nation in our time of need. This is why "I am proud to be a Michigan Elk".

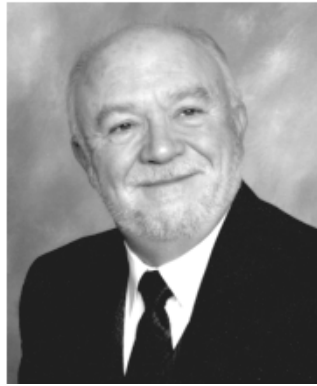
As Emily and I step down as your state representatives to spend more time at our little log cabin in northern Marquette County, the Michigan Elks are in good hands for years to come for our association has some excellent leaders stepping forward. Keith and Greer Alverson will take the Michigan Elks Association to the next level of success. Ron and Jean Zimmerman have great week planned for our Michigan delegation at the National Convention in Phoenix. We welcome the new kids on the block, George and Shelley Sermon, you are entering a three year term that will change your life forever (on the positive side, of course), for I know Emily and I loved every moment of it!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Tom Bianco, MEA President

Proud to be a Michigan Elk!

First Vice President's report – Keith Alverson, Howell #2168



As we put another year of Michigan Elks in the history book we begin another chapter. I would like to congratulate all of the incoming DVP's, DVC's, State Officers and State Chairmen for their willingness to serve the Michigan Elks Association. At the same time I would like to thank all of those who served our Association this past year and recognize all of you for a job well done. Our President, Tom Bianco, has done an excellent job, and it has been my pleasure to serve with him the past two years. Greer and I will miss traveling with Tom and Emily next year.

As the incoming President I have set goals for the Lodges in Michigan that will be attainable by most Lodges. They haven't been set to be easy, but every one of them is doable. Please take the time to go over the goals. I will measure and report at the Spring and Fall conventions as to how the Lodges are doing in regards to these goals.

To all of the new Exalted Rulers, I have included a copy of the Star Award program in your packet. I urge you to use this form as a guide for your year. Most Lodges are already doing many of the programs on the form. With just a little more effort or awareness your Lodge would probably qualify for either a bronze, silver or gold Star Award. You would also have done most things for the majority of the contests sponsored by Grand Lodge.

Our State Chairmen should send information out to all of the District Chairmen on a regular basis. Should you find that a District Chairman is not following through and communicating with the Lodges in their District send the information directly to the Lodges. I have heard too many times that the Lodges have not received a particular piece of information. We cannot accept lack of achievement because of lack of communication.

Lastly, I want to make sure that all of us know that we are ELKS LODGES. I'm sure everyone is wondering what I am talking about. My point is that we are Lodges that happen to have a social club as a benefit. We are not a bar that happens to do some charitable work. The Lodge is priority #1. That is why we call ourselves ELKS.

Fraternally,

Keith E. Alverson, 1st V-P

Elks Care - *Elks* Share

Second Vice President's report – Ron Zimmerman, Sturgis #1381



Members All,

Where did the time go. This has been a very exciting year as Jean and I have traveled throughout Michigan as your 2nd VP representative. We have enjoyed all the travel with Tom, Emily, Keith and Greer and meeting all of you. The hospitality we have received from our districts is second to none.

Seeing all of the good we do across the state is inspiring to say the least. The camps sponsored through Major projects, Gold Key and Most Valuable Student Scholarships, our work with our Vets, Communities, and Youth with Soccer Shoots and Hoops Shoots, all that we do is good! Stealing Tom's tag I too "Am proud to be a Michigan Elk".

I was a bit disappointed in the ritual participation. This problem is not just a Michigan problem it is a problem that persists in the lodges across our nation. That is why the Grand Lodge is addressing this issue at our convention in Phoenix. There are many things that they will be addressing this July. It is important that all of our lodges know what is at stake and have a representative there to exercise a vote on your Lodges behalf.

I am looking forward to this coming year as 1st Vice President I welcome George and Shelly to our group. My position will be a bit different from the 1st VP of the past. I am going to be working with the District Vice Chairs as they make their inspections on the lodges.

So far I have had several communications with our DVC's, trying to establish a line of communication for our State Accident Prevention Chair. The information Frank has is very important to the well being of our facilities and the contact information is the only way to communicate this important information. The DVC's continually hit a wall trying to gather the info that is needed. Unreturned letters, ignored e-mails and unanswered telephone calls. Nothing irritates me more. I find it very disrespectful. ER's, Trustees and Lodge officers you have been elected by your membership to represent your lodge at the best of your ability on their behalf. Ignoring a request for information to help you do your job is not only disrespectful to the person requesting the information it is disrespectful to your members.

PSP Kevin had a slogan along the lines of participation through communication. This is a two way street. Accident Prevention Chair Frank would love to communicate and has expressed the desire to do so. But he is ignored by the lack of communication from the lodges regarding where to send his communications. Please be mindful when someone seeks information from you. Don't be the weak link.

As Tom winds down his last meeting here this weekend Jean and I want to thank him and Emily for their friendship over this last year and look forward to many years ahead. Tom has done a fabulous job at the helm of our ship this last year. The insight and direction he has relayed to me has proved to be very valuable. Thanks Tom and this concludes my report.

Ron Zimmerman
2nd VP MEA

Accident Prevention/Risk Management report – Frank C. Zsalako, State Chairman

I would like to dedicate this report to all of our Lodge's and my friends, Also, to all of our D.V.C.'s, present and past. It has been a wonderful 7 years as your Accident Prevention Chairman. You have made me proud of your accomplishments in Accident Prevention & Risk Management. Your Interest and accomplishments in Safety, and the protection of your Lodge and members has been outstanding, because of this, our insurance premiums have been keep down, But most of all, we have less members and guest getting hurt and filing claims. There is a few Lodge's that are still costing us problems with their slip and fall claims. They don't realize that they are not only hurting their members, but every Lodge in the State, because of their slip and fall claims, and all of the Lodges are paying for it in their insurance premiums. If we did not have these claims, it could affect our insurance premiums. I will not give the names of the Lodges, but, they know who they are, and I think it is high time they did something about it.

State President Bianco, I wish to thank you for the opportunity of serving as your State Accident Prevent Chairman. I would like to close by saying we had a perfect year in Lodge inspections and reports. Which is a rarity. Congratulations to you and your District Vice Chairmen.

Frank C. Zsalako, PDDGER, ACP

Adopt-A-Veteran report – Stewart Israel, State Chairman

Adopt a Vet by Volunteering at the VA!

Make the most of your retirement or spare time and volunteer to make life better for our Veteran heroes. Volunteering at a VA is not a complicated process. The first thing to do is call The hospitals Chief of Voluntary services. The Elk Hospital Chairman can also arrange a meeting. When you meet the Chief of Voluntary Services you will fill out the Volunteer application. You will discuss the opportunities available for you to serve. You will be tested for TB and will receive a photo ID badge. In some cases finger prints are taken for back ground checks for certain assignments. You will receive information on Patient privacy, Patient safety and hospital rules and procedures.

Possible Assignments could include: Information Desk, Patient Escort, Van Drivers, Golf Cart driver, Office Assistant, Patient Reminder caller, Magazine/Book cart, Mail room, Coffee cart, Pharmacy, and other areas as deemed by the Chief of Voluntary services.

Benefits of Volunteering

Benefit your health by increasing your Physical and mental activity, and thereby extending your life. Social benefits would include making new friends, being part of a team, and feeling needed as you make an impact on peoples lives. You will gain a sense of pride, satisfaction and achievement. Civic benefits by sharing your skills, giving back to society, doing your civic duty, and serving those who have served our country. You will be setting an example for your family and friends. Younger people can explore career paths, learn new skills, and build a resume. This is also a way of putting your religious, and patriotic values into practice.

Ann Arbor VA	Beverly Leneski	734-845-3467
Battle Creek VA	Nancy Babcock	269-966-5600 Ext 33337
Detroit VA	William Browning	313-576-3332
Saginaw VA	Jason Christianson	989-497-2500 Ext13363
Iron Mountain VA	Gregory Weiss	906-774-3300 Ext13363
Marquette	Ken Arseneau	906-226-3576 Ext 396
Grand Rapids Volunteer Service		616-364-3515

Americanism Committee Report – Chris Ferguson, State Chairman

President Tom, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Americanism Committee Chairman for the past year.

While two members of the Committee resigned during the year, and replacements were not easy to find, we did manage to complete our program, even though we did not achieve 100% participation. I am sorry to report that our program, much like our membership in general, suffered from lower entries this year than in previous years. I would like to thank the Committee members who worked so hard to achieve what success we managed to show. They are:

Metro District	Bill Dyda from Royal Oak Lodge # 1523
Northeast District	Anthony Bosco from Bay City Lodge # 88
Northwest District	David Cashbaugh Jr., from Muskegon Lodge # 274
Southeast District	Dave Burley from Plymouth Lodge # 1780
Southwest District	Karen Cary from Sturgis Lodge # 1381
Upper Peninsula	Jeb Hasenjaeger from Iron Mountain Lodge # 700

Now for the Contests and Winners. All awards are available at the back of the room. Please see me after the meeting to pick up the awards for your Lodge and your winning entries.

Grand Lodge Essay Contest: “Why I am Proud to be an American”

Division I (5th or 6th grade)

- 1st place (forwarded to Grand Lodge) – Winner of a \$200.00 Savings Bond
Quinten Prieur – Centreville Elementary sponsored by Sturgis Lodge # 1381
- 2nd place – Winner of a \$100.00 Savings Bond
Andrew Splan – Cooley Elementary sponsored by Pontiac-Waterford Lodge # 810
- 3rd place – Winner of a \$50.00 Savings Bond
Ryan Christensen – Cramer Junior High sponsored by Bay City Lodge # 88

Division II (7th or 8th grade)

- 1st place (forwarded to Grand Lodge) – Winner of a \$200.00 Savings Bond
Shane Ryan – Dryden High School sponsored by Lapeer Area Lodge # 2567
- 2nd place – Winner of a \$100.00 Savings Bond
Jessica Hurley – Cramer Junior High sponsored by Bay City Lodge # 88
- 3rd place – Winner of a \$50.00 Savings Bond
Erika Ellis – Bishop Baraga Catholic School sponsored by Iron Mountain Lodge # 700

State Coloring Contest – “The Pledge of Allegiance”

Division I (2nd or 3rd grade)

Unfortunately, there were no entries for this division.

Division II (4th or 5th grade)

- 1st place – Winner of a \$100.00 Savings Bond
Quinten Prieur – Centreville Elementary sponsored by Sturgis Lodge # 1381
- 2nd place – Winner of a \$75.00 Savings Bond
Joshua Eicher – Centreville Elementary sponsored by Sturgis Lodge # 1381
- 3rd place – Winner of a \$50.00 Savings Bond
Alysa Putnam – Nikkari Elementary sponsored by Alma Lodge # 1400

State Poster Contest

Unfortunately, there were no entries for this contest in either division.

(Americanism Report continued)

Lodge Americanism Contest.

I want to thank all of the Lodges that submitted an entry in this contest. It shows that Americanism is still alive and flourishing in our Lodges. The winners of the three categories are:

5 Star Awards (top 6 Lodges)

Escanaba Lodge # 354 with 2779 points
Alma Lodge # 1400 with 1239 points
Lapeer Area Lodge # 2567 with 1230 points
Sturgis Lodge # 1381 with 1170 points
Plymouth Lodge # 1780 with 1010 points
Paw Paw Lodge # 2511 with 983 points.

4 Star Awards (next 6 Lodges)

South Haven Lodge # 1509 with 824 points
Flat Rock Lodge # 1731 with 718 points
Livonia Lodge # 2246 with 665 points
Hillsdale Lodge # 1575 with 630 points
Coldwater Lodge # 1023 with 600 points
Tawas Area Lodge # 2525 with 530 points

3 Star Awards (next 6 Lodges)

Holland Lodge # 1315 with 470 points
Allen Park Lodge # 2194 with 445 points
Mount Clemens Lodge # 2124 with 394 points
Owosso-Saginaw Lodge # 47 with 391 points
Bay City Lodge # 88 with 385 points
Flint Lodge # 222 with 340 points

And again this year, Number 1 Lodge in the State with 2779 Points is Escanaba Lodge # 354.

Please pick up your awards at the back of the room after the meeting, and, GOD BLESS AMERICA !

This concludes my report.
Chris Ferguson, PDDGER
Rochester Lodge # 2225

Business Practices report – Dan Cyrus, State Chairman

The Committee has not received any request for assistance during the 2010-2011 State year. The Committee consisted of Dan Cyrus, Chairman from Holland Lodge #1315 and Committee Members Joe Antonishek from Livonia Lodge #2246, Peter Gadzinski from Negaunee Lodge #1116. The Committee wants to thank you for allowing us to serve on your team.

Dan Cyrus

Calendar Committee report – Larry Kelly, State Chairman

This report will be short and sweet; District Vice-Chairmen, you need to see me during this meeting as I have your Districts check for profit sharing of Calendar revenue. Second, Lodges your 2012 Calendars are in the back of the room, please have a representative see me to collect your Calendars and sign for them. Remember, you sign; you are responsible for the Calendars. If you need ideas on selling Calendars, please feel free to approach me and we will talk. If you have any questions or concerns about the Calendar Program, please see me or contact me at your convenience.

Convention Committee report – Deak Watters

No advance written report

Drug Awareness report – John Potacka, State Chairman

This is my final report as Lucy Dewitt will be our new State Drug Awareness Chairman. Please afford her the same courtesies you have shown me. It is imperative to her that you turn in a report to her for every Drug Awareness Activity that is held in your Lodge or District.

Drug use in our young people is still a prevalent problem. With legalized medical marijuana use, there are abusers, which trickles back to the streets. We have more avenues for young people to obtain marijuana. This is a problem that is not going away.

As always there are literature items available from Grand Lodge, but the limit of items being sent to individual lodges has decreased. Therefore, please order wisely, or buddy up with a neighboring Lodge and share a shipment. Items do come in smaller increments now (500 instead of 1000) of each item. We still have items available through our State Association. We want Lodges to have what they need to hold Drug Awareness events, but again order wisely so we may stay within our financial means.

In any event, whether you order from your State Chairman directly or through your District Chairman, I would ask that you always keep your District Chairman informed of your events and items you have ordered. It is as important for the District Chairman to be aware of all activities within the Lodges, as it is for the State Chairman. We are all responsible to report all activities at the end of the year. We need to know of every activity and how many participants, workers, hours, miles, etc. The best and only way to do this is by communication and you must complete a "Date Collection Survey of Volunteer, Youth, Charitable and Community Service Program" form for every activity and send it to the State Chairman.

I thank your for the great honor to serve as your State Drug Awareness Chairman for the past three years. Keep up the good work and remember as always, every child we can encourage to be drug free helps them and our order.

Thank you President Bianco. This concludes my report.

John Potacka, PER
Alma Lodge #1400
MEA Drug Awareness Chairman

Elks Training report – Carlos Montilla, State Chairman

Hello President Tom and Members All,

It is with great pleasure that I announce that with the great assistance from the Lodges, DVP's, District Chairman, and State VP's we have attained 100% state participation in Elks Training for the Lodge year 2010-2011.

It took all lodges with small and large quantities to reach the State Presidents goal. The fact that all lodges participated shows strong unity within the Michigan Elks Association, something which we can all be proud of.

I would like to thank the Farmington and Coldwater lodge for their participation in the 'Are you Smarter Than a DD' project. I had suggested that all lodges add this to their Lodge meetings at the beginning of the lodge year. I urge, once again, that all lodges add this to their lodge program at every lodge meeting. It helps ALL members learn more about our organization, and how we hope to operate as one. Although we need all our members to participate, the leaders this year in participation were Farmington, Coldwater, Flat Rock and Escanaba.

State President Tom, I thank you for the opportunity to Chair this committee. I enjoyed working with all the lodges in our GREAT State. It has been an experience.

Fraternally,

Carlos Montilla, PDVP

Gold Key/Charitable Grant Fund Commission report – Dennis White, State Chairman

Mr. President and Members all,

The Michigan Elks State Commissioners say thank you for all your support of our program. This year you are sponsoring 31 Special Needs Young Adults to further their education. As far as I know the Gold Key is the only commission that is required to keep enough funds in our account to pay for these scholarships fully if our funding should disappear. Lodges and individuals have heard our cry for support and have promised support donations for as much as 5 years. We thank you for that. Each district has special fund raisers and we thank you for that. The lodges have taken our quarter folders and is helping with this program. We have only had this program for 3 months so it is hard to make an assessment of how successful this will be. Please make a notation on your check that indicates these funds are from the quarter folders.

If I had to guess, I would say that we are only reaching 1% of the special needs young adults in the state. We do realize that we will not be able to help every kid that applies but eventually we hope to reach more and as more donations came to us we will. 4 years ago we were sponsoring 39 kids but due to our need to keep enough funds for pay for each kid for 4 years each year we have to evaluate our funds and increase or cut back our sponsorships. Please remember that this is a volunteer organization and no one on the Gold Key receives payment for our services.

At this time I would like to introduce our Executive Director PSP Kevin Quinn

Government Relations report - Chuck Oatten, State Chairman

Members All:

As of April 19, 2011, we still have 16 Lodges who have not submitted their Charitable Records report. This is included in your Annual report which is due in May. Charitable reports are vital to our organization. These are the numbers used to let everyone know what Elks are doing and help us maintain our not for profit status. When your Lodge hosts a function, have the Chairman fill out a report and turn it into the Secretary so the information can be placed in CLMS. It is that simple. This will help you get credit for the good works you do. Too often we wait and wait, then try to remember what we did and something gets missed.

Some interesting facts pertaining to the State budget proposed by our Governor. Cut school funding by \$450.00 per student. Take six weeks off Unemployment benefits. Benefits would be good for twenty weeks instead of twenty six weeks. Federal benefits would not be affected. He would like you to pay taxes on your pension. This has been revised twice now. A bill was signed to remove price stickers on merchandise. It was stated that businesses spend over two billion dollars a year placing price stickers on merchandise due to the cost of stickers and employing people to do this job. Removed the tax breaks for the Movie industry. Last week nine movies in production or ready to start production pulled out of Michigan, along with one television series. These movies would have brought in over 1.5 million dollars in revenue. The tax break would have been sixty thousand dollars. The number of jobs lost due to this 4700. These are just some of things that are taking place already. The State budget is to be voted on and in effect by the end of May. If you would like more information on the proposed budget, you can go to the State of Michigan website.

President Tom, Thank you for allowing me to serve as your State Chairman for Government Relations.

This concludes my report.

Fraternally,

Chuck Oatten

Hoop Shoot Report – Craig Gould, State Chairman

Members All,

The 2011 State Finals were held on February 26, 2011 at East Grand Rapids High School. Thirty six shooters were present representing all 6 Districts.

Winners as Follows:

	Boys	Girls
8-9	Dane Smitz, Houghton Higgins #1982 19/25	Olivia Eubank, Dowagiac #889 14/25
10-11	Andrew Gilpin, Howell #2168 23/25	Destiny Pitts, Detroit #34 21/25
12-13	Jacob Schmitter, Howell #2168 23/25	Logan Hutek, Houghton Higgins #2168 23/25

Andrew Gilpin beat Jacob Schmitter in a shoot off to win Most Outstanding Male Shooter. Logan Hutek won Most Outstanding Female Shooter.

(Hoop Shoot report continued)

The winners competed in the Great Lakes Regional in Angola, IN. on March 19, 2011. Andrew Gilpin, Logan Hutek, and Jacob Schmitter each finished second. Olivia Eubank, Dane Smitz, and Destiny Pitts each finished third.

Our 2012 State Finals will be held February 25, 2012 at East Grand Rapids High School.

Local and District Directors should be planning their 2012 school programs and competitions NOW!!!!

SAY YES TO HOOP SHOOT, SAY NO TO DRUGS!!

Faternally,

Craig N. Gould

Craig Gould
State Hoop Shoot Chairman

Law report – James “Doc” Burdick, State Chairman

Members All,

If at any time a member of a lodge will not pledge allegiance, and will not salute our country's flag, even if it is because of religious or other beliefs, he cannot remain a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. When a person is initiated he pledges allegiance to the rules of our Order. Our flag holds a high position in our ritual and is a very patriotic order deserving full allegiance.

In the very near future we will be faced with many changes to our Order. These changes are very encompassing, and reach every corner of the Order in the United States. The committee that was convened by the Grand Lodge has studiously poured over each proposed change, making certain that each change rebounds to the well-being of every member and lodge. You may be in favor of certain changes, and against others, however, they are made with our benefit in mind. We, therefore, look forward to full compliance thereto.

Ant that concludes my report.

James P Burdick
State Law Chairman



Lodge Activities/Star Lodge Award report – Allen Anttila, State Chairman

President Tom and members all:

First the All American Lodge “Contest A” Winners.

As your Lodges name is called please send a representative of your Lodge to the back of the room to receive the award and wait for photos.

- Division 5 Pontiac Waterford Lodge # 810
- Division 4 Plymouth Lodge # 1780
- Division 3 Escanaba Lodge # 354
- Division 2 Sturgis Lodge # 1381
- Division 1 Lapeer Lodge # 2567

Congratulations to these Lodges for a job well done.

Now the Lodge Activities Star Award winners. President Tom it is with great pride that I announce we had 100% participation for the 2nd straight year. Thank you to the Lodges of Michigan for your cooperation. As your Lodges name is called please send a representative of your Lodge to the back of the room to receive the award and wait for photos.

Bronze Stars

Grand Haven Lodge # 1200
Lapeer Lodge # 2567
Tawas Area Lodge # 2525

Calumet Lodge # 404
Rochester Lodge # 2225
Dowagiac Lodge # 889

Negaunee Lodge # 1116:
Mt Clemens Lodge # 2124:
Niles Lodge # 1322

Silver Stars

Alma Lodge # 1400
Detroit Lodge # 34
Allegan Paw Paw Lodge # 1621

Ferndale Lodge # 1588
Flat Rock Lodge # 1731
Livonia Lodge # 2248

Pontiac Waterford Lodge # 810
Plymouth Lodge # 1780;

Gold Stars

Ishpeming Lodge # 447
South Haven Lodge # 1509

Escanaba Lodge # 354

Sturgis Lodge # 1381;

This concludes my report.

Allen Anttila
Lodge Activities Star Awards State Chair

Major Project Commission report – Thomas Robinson, State Chairman

Members All,

GOOD MORNING, It is good to see so many alert faces.

Well we have had a pretty busy year, we have some new face joining Major Project and we sadly have to say goodbye to two very dedicated members of our commission.

Let me start by introducing our current commission members, Gari Baracy from Alma Lodge. Gari is our current treasurer and will continue in that position; Karen Palomaki from Negaunee Lodge, Karen is our current Secretary and next year will be Vice Chairman; Lisa Baron, Jackson Lodge, Lisa is our current Vice Chairman and has served a number of years as our Secretary. Lisa is leaving the commission after six years of service.

(Major Project Commission Report continued)

Craig Carlson, St. Joseph Lodge, Craig is also leaving the commission and will be greatly missed. We have Barb Versendaal from Holland Lodge who is commission Chaplain. I am Tom Robinson currently Chairman of the commission. I will be entering my sixth and final year on the commission and will be serving again as chairman.

Our two new members, who will be installed tomorrow are; Ken McNichols from South Haven Lodge and John Truskowski from Plymouth Lodge. Gentlemen welcome.

Last but not least is our Executive Director, Lynn Cook from Big Rapids Lodge.

Your commission met yesterday to finalize our budget and review our programs such as camps and case loads. We sponsored a new program this year called Friendship Circle. Friendship Circle is an occupational therapy program that puts cognitively impaired children in real life situations where each student has to manage money and make day to day decisions. This is one of the most unique programs I have seen. Stop by the Major Project booth and check it out.

Lisa, it has been a real pleasure working with you these past few years. We will miss your Input, hard work and dedication to our special kids.

Craig, You brought some innovative ideas to the commission, your input and drive will be missed. I wish both of you good luck in your future endeavors.

President Tom, it has been a great year. Thank You.

Respectfully,

Thomas Robinson
Chairman, MEA Major Project Commission

I will now turn over the microphone to our Executive Director, Lynn Cook.

Membership/Lapsation report – Rich Wlosinski, State Chairman

Membership, Membership, Membership.

Talk about it. Work on it. Increase it. Other than the proposed changes to be presented at Phoenix, there is no other subject that generates more conversation among Elks.

I have a little secret to share with you. We are actually doing a fairly good job at recruiting new members in Michigan. One lodge has actually initiated over 140 new members this year. When it comes to keeping members from lapsing their membership, in the words of our 20 something aged members....We suck. Collectively we spend a huge amount of energy, time, and money trying to talk people into paying their dues. We can't stop asking them to come back, but maybe we need to take a page out of the book on health care and practice preventive medicine.

In the Elks that is to get the new member so excited, welcomed and comfortable in their lodge, that they will make dues payment a top priority for them. Grand Lodge calls it a "new members welcoming committee". The Membership Committee would like to introduce "The Second Step" program.

(Membership/Lapsation report continued)

The Second Step Program was developed by San Francisco Lodge as a way to stop new members from dropping their membership after just a few years. They have a 83% success rate. The details of the program are presented in the convention report booklet. It is a blueprint for a lodge to get members active, feel wanted and productive in their new lodge. It involves getting the new member assigned to work on a project, activity, or committee immediately after initiation. The new member is told at investigation, but no later than indoctrination, that they will be expected to participate in these activities for the first 3,4,6 months. This is a fast and easy way for current members to meet the new member, the new member to start friendships with current members and have them establish a feeling of being wanted, needed and appreciated by their new lodge.

National Foundation report – Peter Gadzinski, State Chairman

Members All:

I thank everyone who has helped to make this another successful year for ENF. Michigan finally reached the GER goal of \$4.50 by giving \$4.578. That's a \$.24 increase of the prior year. Nationally we had a record breaking year with donations increasing by \$.30 per member. Michigan is still ranked 42nd in per capita compared to other States.

Our donations of \$119,995 in the 2010-11 year have earned Michigan \$230,588 in grants to our State Association for distribution to charities. ENF will also award \$88,000 in scholarships in Michigan as well as provide \$13,860 in aid to Michigan Veterans. That means we are receiving \$342,930 for donations of \$119,995. That's \$2.858 back for every \$1.00 donated.

I give special thanks to my District Chairmen whose hard work helps us maintain our standing and return on investment in ENF. They are:

Mike Lowe	Pontiac/Waterford #810	Metro	2.41/capita
Laurel Hadley	Tawas #2525	Northeast	4.285/capita
Geno Grabinski	Livonia #2246	Southeast	5.65/capita
Lynn Lego	Sturgis #1381	Southwest	3.457/capita
Walt Hayward	Cadillac #680	Northwest	6.271/capita
Pete Gadzinski	Negaunee #1116	Upper Peninsula	4.848/capita

Walt Hayward, Geno Grabinski and I have earned a leadership pin for our efforts in our Districts by reaching the GER goal.

The year we have 32 lodges that have exceeded the Grand Exalted Rulers goal of \$4.50 per member. That's 2 more than last year The lodges are:

Royal Oak \$5.252	Tawas Area \$5.976	Warren-Sterling \$4.988,
Bay City \$6.439	Alma \$5.771	Midland \$5.329
Gaylord \$5.403	Calumet \$6.536	Ishpeming \$8.463
Grand Rapids 8.769	Muskegon \$7.518	Traverse City \$8.162
Cadillac \$6.351	Grand Haven \$5.368	Holland \$6.250
Hillsdale \$4.748	Plymouth \$5.131	Allen Park \$8.495
Battle Creek \$4.602	Dowagiac \$5.422	Sturgis \$5.000
South Haven \$7.080	Paw Paw \$5.071	Flat Rock \$6.403
Escanaba \$5.399	Lapeer Area \$5.259	Lansing \$4.50

We have 5 lodges that have exceeded \$10/capita. They are:

Livonia with \$10.911 is # 5 in the state. Coldwater with \$11.846 is #4 in the state. Charlevoix with \$13.325 is #3 in the state. Negaunee with \$13.461 is #2 in the state. And finally that brings us to Manistique with \$15.280 is #1 in the state in per capita with donations of \$3,606.

(National Foundation report contined)

Manistique went from \$2.38 the previous year to \$15.28 this year. Congratulations to their chairman, Bob Carlson. So, how did he do it? He educated himself through the national office, he asked for donations, talk to people about the program, put on a chili cook-off in conjunction with a raffle. He did this all in the last 3 months of the year. Maybe this year he could work at it all year. So how important is one person's effort? Or one lodges effort? Think about this. We beat the GER goal by \$.078. Michigan has 26,213 members times \$.078 means we beat our goal by \$2045. This year Manistique increased their donations from the previous year by \$3,086 or from \$520 to \$3606.

All lodges who reached the GER goal are eligible for the \$1,000 gratitude grant to be used in your communities. Make sure you grant application is in by May 31, 2011. You have until July 31, 2011 to use the funds.

In the up-coming year, the GER goal will still be \$4.50. This new year, both the Promise Grant and the Gratitude Grant will be increased to \$2,000 each. What does Michigan get back from ENF? Think about this: Our average lodge has 400 members. If a lodge donates \$1,800 to ENF, they get in return \$2,000 in the Gratitude Grand to spend in their community. And then the State gets back \$2.86 for every one of those \$1,800 donated.

We have a new pin for the up coming year. It still has the Michigan 100 race car theme for us to get ahead in the ENF race with other States. Michigan is still in 42nd place. This year again it will also honor State President Keith with his name on the pin along with an adding machine to remind him of work all the time. For only \$100 given during the year you can have one of these beautiful pins. The pin is a tool to promote ENF. But remember that every donation is important. If we have 500 members that donate \$100, we have \$50,000. If 40% of our members or 10,000 members donate just \$20, we have \$200,000.

I thank Tom for allowing me to be your Chairman this past year and I look forward to working with all of you next year and ask for all your help in achieving more in the future.

Would Walt Hayward & Geno Grabinski please come forward to receive their Leadership Pins for their District achieving the GER goal of \$4.50.

And lastly would the ER or a representative from every Lodge meet me in the back of the room to receive Michigan's new ENF for the up coming year. And at the same time any lodge we will also pass out certificates form Grand Lodge for those lodges achieving the GER goal last year.

Keep up the excellent work!

National Home Coordinator report – Jack Oliphant, State Chairman

President Tom, members of the dais, distinguished guest and members all.

My year as national home coordinator has bee very educational for me. My duties included a trip to the home at Christmas time and to view the lighting of the outside decorations. Watching the many guest driving thru the grounds to see the display was more than satisfying. Meeting the residents and the honored guest ,including the Grand uplifting and did well for the image of Elkdom. I accompanied the Southeast District Vice President on her visitation in the district and discussed what could be done at the local Lodges. Raised some monies thru raffles and donations, although a more structure State Program has to be started so that every Lodge has a member responsible for answering inquires about the home and raising monies for same.

President Tom ,thank yopu for the opportunity to serve on your team, I am also looking forward to serving next year with VP Keith.

Fraternally,

Jack Oliphant PDDGER , Southeast District, MEA

National Veterans Service report – Robert Wellman, State Coordinator

Governor Snyder has replaced the leaders of the Michigan Department of Military Affairs. Generals Cutler and Fausone have been replaced by Major General Gregory J. Vadnais as the Adjunct General and Director of Military and Veterans Affairs. Jason Allan, former state Senator from Traverse City is the senior deputy director of veterans affairs.

On April 14th I attended the Board of Directors meeting for the Jacobetti and Grand Rapids Homes. Mr Allen was in attendance and gave a report on Veterans in Michigan. It appears that with our present wars being fought by National Guard and Reserve troops we will have less Veterans. This is due to the fact that these troops are serving more then one term in combat whereas in other wars the soldiers served only one term. However these new Veterans are returning with many more needs. In order to address this issue Mr Allan was set up a small group to review and create a plan for State Veterans Homes in Michigan for the next generation. The group will include some of the Home's Board members, staff and the general public. They are to report to Mr. Allan by November 11, 2011. I have also posted on the Veterans display copies of Mr Allan's hand outs on Veterans in Michigan and Michigan's status in the FY 10 GDX Report. Please take the time to review this material.

The winners of the Veterans Remembrance are as follows: Category under 300 members: Allan Park lodge #2194, 301-500 members: Clawson-Troy Lodge #2169, 501-700 members Escanaba Lodge #354, 701-1100 members Plymouth Lodge #1780, and 1101-1500 members Pontiac-Waterford #810. Again this year we did not have 100% in reporting. Congratulations to the Metro District, they were the only district to be 100%. However the Northwest, Southeast and the UP districts were close. Please pick up your plaques and certificates at the back of the room. The winning entries have been forwarded to grand Lodge for National Judging, with those winners announced at the Grand Lodge Session in July. With the upcoming changes with Grand Lodge I have heard that this program may be eliminated. I would like to thank all lodges who have submitted entries in the Remembrance Report thought out the years. I feel it is a great way for the lodges to show what we do as Elks in support of our Veterans.

The winners for the male and female volunteer of the year award are Mr. and Mrs. Rick Sage from the Ferndale Lodge. They are being recognized for their work in the Honor Flight Program. This program takes World War II Veterans to Europe to tour sites that they fought. This couple has done many other events in honoring our Veterans. However they could not be with us today due other commitments to receive their award. Jerry Olli will make the presentation for me at a latter date. Thank You Jerry.

In closing I would like to thank President Tom and Past State Presidents Diehl, Dill and Quinn for allowing me to serve as your National Veterans Service State Coordinator the past 4 years. It has been an honor. Thank you all. And now I would like to introduce your new state coordinator Stony Summey.

Bob Wellman

Public Relations report – Mary Younglas, State Chairman

Our Michigan Elks have been very busy in the last ensuing year, as the State Public Relations Chairman I have received more than ever, filed reports and photos of events that have gone on.

In May of 2010 I sent to all Public Relations Chairman in each lodge and to every District Public Relations Chairman, a copy of what is expected in their positions. I found out as I did last year that the communications between lodges and District Public Relations Chairman is barely in existence. However; I pursued my position and created a new report system to make it easier for those to send in reports. This system worked better than the past by eliminating monthly reports and sending quarterly reports to me. I found new and growing PR personnel in several lodges and they faithfully continued their responsibilities through out the year. This is a great success to me.

(Public Relations report continued)

Each month individual lodges have reported to the State Magazine and the National Magazine with reports of their successes. They are strong and Proud Elks, I unfortunately received no reports from 98% of those lodges. So I felt bad when I had to tell the National Public Relations Chairman that I wasn't as successful as I wanted to be for the state. The promising note however, is, Sturgis Lodge, Albion Lodge, Ishpeming Lodge, Gaylord Lodge, Howell Lodge, and Traverse City Lodge were in touch with me this year and I was successful in reporting on them. Many others reported directly to the State Magazine or National Magazine with pride but without notifying me. Those lodges that were successful in being in the National Magazine are: Detroit Lodge, Three Rivers Lodge, Sturgis Lodge, Ishpeming Lodge, Three Rivers Lodge, Flat Rock Lodge, Traverse City a, Lapeer Area Lodge and Muskegon Lodge. To this I say thank you! Some of these lodges are in the National Magazine every time they are published!

My goal this year was to ensure that each lodge in Michigan understood what public Relations are, and to encourage them to show their faith in Elkdom by using every Public Relations key that we have. I wanted to inspire each and every PR chairman to do their very best in getting their lodge out there.

President Bianco, it is a tough tightrope to walk out there sometimes and I know it is sometimes boring to file reports, but I must thank each and everyone that has participated in our Public Relations reports this year, you truly are an inspiration to me, when I can see all the work going into your projects and reports, some of which get filed to my computer after midnight at times! You are striving to help keep Elkdom alive and well, and for that I Thank You. I know Michigan ELKS can't thank enough those of you who bare yourselves during the cold months in Michigan and do the Polar Bear plunge, ARE YOU NUTS?.. You raised money the hard way and I know it will be put to a very good use. All the lodges that had golf outings are always successful and to every Lodge that did something wonderful for the military personnel that are active, National Guard and retired. This is our country and our lodges. Let's keep shining that star of fidelity for all, fly your banners and keep close to your heart our flag, preserve it and maintain it. Show the country the faith we have in all we do through your Public Relations, I know I am a proud Elk, how about you?

President Tom, this is my final report, I thank you for a great year and all of your successes. It has been a true pleasure to be at your side.

Fraternally,
Mary Younglas
State Public Relations Chairman

Registration report – Bernard Vaughn, State Chairman
No advance written report

Ritual report – Bruce Stark, State Chairman

22 teams in 6 Districts competed in the District Contests this year. Competition was excellent this year and Michigan can be proud that of the 22 teams and all their officers, not a single officer needed to use a book and not a single officer read their part. I would be proud to have any one of the competing teams initiate a new member in my Lodge.

Yesterday, the six top teams, one from each District, competed for the honor of representing Michigan at the Grand Lodge Convention in Phoenix this July. All the teams can be proud of their performances.

High scores will be announced at the Banquet tonight and I will give my final report at the Business session tomorrow morning.

Fraternally, Bruce A Stark PDDGER
State Ritual Chairman

Scholarship report – Brad Saegesser, State Chairman

\$209,975

That's how much was awarded to students from Michigan as part of the 2011 Elks National Foundation Scholarship programs:

ENF MVS National 4 th Place Winner	16,000	(award to 1 student)
ENF MVS National Finalists	68,000	(\$4,000 awards to 17 students)
Michigan Elks Association	60,000	(\$1,000 awards to 60 students)
Local Lodge Awards	43,225	(various amounts)
ENF Legacy Awards	20,000	(\$4,000 awards to 5 students)
Emergency Educational Grants	2,750	(award to 1 student)

The Michigan Elks Association Scholarship Judging Committee completed the ENF Most Valuable Student (MVS) scholarship judging on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at the Houghton-Higgins Elks Lodge #1982.

Participating in the judging were 32 people, including:

- 21 ENF Scholarship judges representing all Districts
- 6 Gold Key Commissioners
- 1 Former Gold Key Commissioner (Al Spear)
- 1 Soon-to-Be Gold Key Commissioner (Gary Beeson)
- 3 State Officers (Tom Bianco, Keith Alverson, and Ron Zimmerman)

A very special thank you goes out to all of the ENF Scholarship judges, Gold Key Commissioners, and the others listed above for their help judging the scholarship applications. These persons volunteered their time, and their own travel expenses, to participate in this event.

Penny Geishart	Gloria DeJonge	Bob Hill	Dennis White
Jan DeJonge	Audrey Morgan	Jeff Burk	Nelson Englund
Jerry Alexie	Brenda Cimbale	Sue Burk	Robert Wellman
Stan Cimbale	Sheryl Wescott	Bill Browne	Pat Morgan
Jack Schnepf	Ed Geishart	Pam Sebright	Stan Chubinski
Tom Miller	Jack McClelland	Barbara Collison	Randy Jackson
Bob Suits	Brian Otswald	Fred Dill	

We had 138 applications at the Michigan Elks Association State judging. And, based on the information provided by the District and Lodge Scholarship Chairpersons, we received a total of 728 applications from high school seniors in Michigan, a slight increase over the 692 applications that we received for the 2010 competition. Here is a breakdown by District of the applications we received this year:

District	Applications Sent to State Judging			Total Applications Received by Lodges in District		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Metro	24	12	12	176	51	125
Northeast	18	9	9	161	43	118
Upper Peninsula	24	12	12	75	22	53
Southeast	24	12	12	132	40	92
Southwest	24	12	12	66	24	42
Northwest	24	12	12	118	39	79
Total	138	69	69	728	219	509

The top 18 students from the Michigan Elks Association State judging were advanced to the National level of competition:

(Scholarship report continued)

NATIONAL FINALISTS			
GIRLS		BOYS	
Name of Student	Lodge	Name of Student	Lodge
Sarah Surna	50	Alexander Quinn	48
Carissa Drum	131	Alex Kokaly	88
Courtney Terryn	274	Jordan Smith	405
Corrie Noah	323	Lucas Smyk	1315
Emily Lint	323	Christopher Barnes	1523
Alexa Bakker	1315	Joshua Commans	1621
Sneha Goswami	1315	Robert Hsu	1780
Disha Bora	1523	Mason Liang	2169
Makayla McCoskey	1986	Ryan Toussaint	2169

By advancing to the National level, these students were guaranteed a scholarship of at least \$4,000 (\$1,000 a year for four years). These students, and the other 482 National Finalists, completed a secondary application in March that was used in the National judging to determine the winners of the 18 Major National Awards:

- 1st Place (2 awards): \$60,000 scholarship (\$15,000 per year)
- 2nd Place (2 awards): \$40,000 scholarship (\$10,000 per year)
- 3rd Place (2 awards): \$20,000 scholarship (\$5,000 per year)
- 4th Place (2 awards): \$16,000 scholarship (\$4,000 per year)
- 5th Place (2 awards): \$12,000 scholarship (\$3,000 per year)
- 6th Place (4 awards): \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500 per year)
- 7th Place (4 awards): \$8,000 scholarship (\$2,000 per year)

The ENF announced the Major National Award winners on April 15, 2011 and I pleased to report that a student from Michigan took 4th place in the National judging. Congratulations to Alexa Bakker, sponsored by the Holland Elks Lodge #1315. This represents the biggest National Scholarship level award ever for the State of Michigan. We should all be proud of our efforts. This is a great accomplishment for not only this student, but the Michigan Elks Association and all of our Scholarship Chairperson. The complete list of the National Winners can be found on the Elks website at <http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars/MVSwinner.cfm>.

The next highest scoring 60 students from the State judging are Michigan Elks Association State scholarship winners. Each of these students will receive a \$1,000 one-year scholarship from the Michigan Elks Association,



(Scholarship report continued)

MICHIGAN ELKS ASSOCIATION WINNERS			
GIRLS		BOYS	
Name of Student	Lodge	Name of Student	Lodge
Ashley Williams	88	John Becker	48
Amanda DeSimpelare	88	Patrick Wilson	323
Emily Francis	222	Craig Send	323
Amanda Bigalke	250	Colin Koester	343
Jamie Barnes	274	Nicholas Olesak	354
Lauren Risetter	541	Christopher Doig	404
Kelsey VanAmberg	632	Thomas Ryberg	541
Emily Lawton	700	Spencer Dugan	552
Caitlyn Cookenmaster	736	Brian Daniels	810
Chloe Smiley	810	Wade Wells	974
Cassandra McCullen	974	Ryan Richert	1200
Chennah Heroor	974	Christopher Henneman	1248
Colleen Pastunink	1315	Luke Eichorn	1381
Brianna Fuller	1400	Jacob Sherwood	1400
Lucy Holland	1523	Samuel Linstrom	1509
Katie Priestley	1705	Joseph Wiles	1523
Hannah Dake	1705	Christopher Templeton	1575
Marisa Kaugars	1711	William LeAnnais	1588
Kalli Bates	1731	Scott Hoelsema	1621
Ishani Shah	1780	Zachary Howarth	1731
Erin Roney	1780	Joseph Porcari	1780
Amanda Bazzi	1945	Jaleel Salhi	1945
Hanna Cheriyan	1986	Ghassan Fadlallah	1945
Lauren Larsen	2168	Adam Thelen	1965
Jacklyn Horsell	2246	Evan Linskey	1982
Madeline Price	2511	Eric Goodwin	1982
Elizabeth Pauly	2525	Kevin Tebbe	2225
Ann Hamlin	2544	Kevin Bain	2246
Sharon Champion	2827	Alexander Cole	2525
Hannah Poulson	2827	Adam Stewart	2827

The Elks National Foundation announced the winners of the 2010 Legacy Awards on April 18, 2011. Legacy Awards are available to high school seniors that are the child or grandchild of an active Elk member. In 2011, 250 Legacy Awards of \$4,000 (\$1,000 a year for four years) were awarded nationwide with five allocated to Michigan:

(Scholarship report continued)

Legacy Awards	
Name of Student	Lodge
Cortney Blair	274
Sydney Cooper	354
Kenneth Baker	1315
Casey Overway	1315
Jacqueline Cosme	1400

The entire list of Legacy Award winners from all states can be found on the Elks website at <http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars/legacywinners.cfm>.

The number of Legacy Awards allocated to Michigan is directly related to our ENF contributions. Unfortunately, we lost one of our Legacy Awards in 2011 due to a decline in ENF contributions from Michigan. There were six Legacy Awards winners in 2010. While I don't know what state picked up our lost Legacy Award, hopefully we will get it back in the future if our ENF contributions increase in the coming years.

The ENF announced the recipients of the Emergency Educational Grants (EEG) on April 15, 2011. The EEG program was established in 1944 to help the children of Elks members who lost their life or became incapacitated as a result of serving in the armed forces during World War II. Since that time, the EEG program has been expanded to include all children from families where an Elk member is deceased or totally disabled. The EEG program provides college financial assistance to these children who wish to obtain or further their college education. EEG awards can be up to \$4,000 and are for one-year, but they can be renewed for up to three succeeding years as long as the student continues to meet all eligibility requirements. For 2011, Michigan had one EEG recipients, Rachel Griffith, sponsored by the Big Rapids Elks Lodge #974. Rachel received a \$2,750 EEG award for the 2010-11 school year.

In my Fall 2010 Convention report, I announced three goals for the 2011 ENF Scholarship program and I would like to update the membership on how we did with those goals:

1. Frequent communication at all levels – State, District and Lodge
I worked very hard this year to keep the District Scholarship Chairpersons and District Officers informed about the ENF Scholarship programs, the responsibilities of the District and Lodge Scholarship Chairpersons, and the deadlines for each of the contests. I think the District Scholarship Chairpersons probably got sick of getting e-mail messages from me. From the start of the 2011 ENF scholarship program in July through the writing of this report, I have sent over 20 messages to the District Scholarship Chairpersons and District Officers.

For the 2012 ENF Scholarship program, I hope to continue this level of communication from the State to the Districts, and I plan to better monitor the communication from the Districts to the Lodges. I also hope that we will improve the communication about our Elks Scholarships to our Lodge members as well as our communities.

2. 100% participation by all Lodges in Michigan
Based on the information provided to me by the District and Lodge Scholarship Chairpersons, 65 of the 68 Lodges in Michigan participated in the 2011 ENF Scholarship program. That is one more than last year and I really hope that we can get 100% participation by all Lodges in Michigan for the 2012 ENF Scholarship program. The first step is to have an active Lodge Scholarship Chairperson. The ENF will be sending a postcard to all of the Lodges in June to identify your Chairperson. Please make sure you return this card promptly to the ENF.

(Scholarship report continued)

3. Receive at least one application from every high school in Michigan
Based on the information provided to me by the District and Lodge Scholarship Chairpersons, we received ENF MVS applications from 270 high schools in Michigan – 3 more than last year. But, based on my list of the high schools in Michigan (public, private, and charter), we only hit 23% of the 1,186 high schools in Michigan. We need to work on getting the word out in our Lodge communities about our Elks Scholarships.

Finally, I want to thank all of District and Lodge Scholarship Chairpersons for volunteering to play an important role in one of the Elk's most important programs. The Elks could not benefit all of these students without the efforts of these people. I really appreciated all of their hard work during the 2011 ENF Scholarship program. I think we ran a very successful program and I look forward to working with all of them again next year.

If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Fraternally,

Brad Saegesser, State Scholarship Chairperson

Special Events/Organ Donor Program Committee – Lucy Dewitt, State Chairman

I want to start by saying Thank You to everyone for getting the word out about Organ Donation, approximately 75 Elks signed up as new Organ Donors. That is incredible! I would like to thank Robb Chabie from the Michigan Eye Bank/Organ Donor who came to the Fall Convention and spoke at the Exalted Ruler/Secretary luncheon. He had a lot of information about the process of organ donation. I know I talked to some lodges about having a blood drive along with organ donation sign up, but I never heard whether this happened. If your lodge had an event of this sort, please let your district chairman know. The district chairman cannot report on what they don't know. I have asked Bruce Stark if he could add a link to the state web site as this would make it easier for Elks to sign up.

Burt Knickerbocker will be the new Special Events Organ Donor Chairman; I know he will have new ideas on how to promote this, so please give him your full support.

Pumpkin Patch also was a great success this year. I have 32 Certificates of Appreciation for the Lodges that held a party for the special needs children. Some lodges had over a thousand kids; some had only a few, but I am sure all of the children had a great time. Not to mention the party planners and volunteers that helped out. I sent a letter to all the lodges that held a Pumpkin Patch party. Could the Exalted Ruler's or someone from those lodges meet me in the back of the room to receive your certificate?

The following lodges received Certificates:

Metro District

Clawson Troy #2169
Detroit #34
Farmington #1986
Lapeer Area #2567
Mount Clemens #2124
North Oakland #2716
Pontiac-Waterford #810
Port Huron #343
Redford #2097
Rochester #2225
Royal Oak #1523

Warren Sterling Heights#2292

North East District

Alma #1400
Bay City #88
Flint #222
Gaylord #2544
Houghton-Higgins #1982
Midland #1610
Tawas Area #2525

(Special Events/Organ Donor Program continued)

North West District
Big Rapids #974
Holland #1315
Muskegon #274
Traverse City # 323

South East District
Allen Park #2194
Howell #2168

South West District
Otsego #1711
Pawpaw #2511

Upper Peninsula District
Escanaba # 354
Iron Mountain # 700
Ishpeming #447
Marquette #405
Negaunee #1116

Let's continue to show that Elks Care Elks Share by supporting these two worthwhile causes.

Respectfully Submitted
Lucy M Dewitt
Chairman Special Events/Organ Donation

State Publication report – Karen Carey & Kathryn McArdle, State Co-Chairs

Members All:

We are getting good feedback as to the last couple of issues on brighter newsprint. We hope you take the time to let us know what you think of your Michigan Elks publication.

One concern we have is that the quarterly issues mailed to your lodges are being offered at your lodge for members to read. Please, don't just throw them in the trash. Make your Secretary and Club Manager aware that they contain valuable information about your State organization and lodges, and hopefully your own lodge. If you are receiving too few or too many copies of the newsletter, please contact us and let us know that.

Both the State Publication and National Magazine are INVALUABLE sources for getting ideas for your own lodge ... read them ... take note of what other lodges are doing successfully!

Every lodge is encouraged to submit information about any event at their lodge or in the community in which your lodge is involved. Email submissions to michiganelksnews@frontier.com , or mail copy to Karen Cary, 68838 Broadus, Suite A, Sturgis MI 49091. Please include contact information with your submissions in case we have any questions about your article

If your lodge has not been published in the State newsletter, make it a goal for the year. An easy "rule of thumb" for writing of articles is "Who, What, When, Where, Why". Along that same line, we are happy to edit your article for you if needed to include those criteria. The deadlines for submission throughout the year are as follows: March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15.

Input and constructive criticism regarding the format and information in the newsletter is always welcome. Again, this is your Michigan Elks newsletter and we want it to be a valuable tool for communicating with the membership of the State. Please contact us anytime. Share the spirit of Elkdom and the good news about happenings at your lodge!

Fraternally,
Karen Cary, Publisher, and Kathryn McArdle, Editor
MEA Publication Co-Chairs

Youth Activities report – Geno Grabinski, State Chairman

President Tom & Members All:

I would first like to thank President Tom for allowing me this opportunity to be your State Youth Activities Chairman. We as Elks have a civic duty to the youth in our community to provide guidance and support for our future leaders.

Two districts the Metro (Chairman Diana Armstrong), and Upper Peninsula (Chairman Allen Anttila) had 100% participation. I would like to congratulate them both on a job well done.

The State Youth Activities contest itself only had 33 out of 72 Lodges participate. I would like to thank all the Lodges that participated and hope we can get even more Lodges to participate in the upcoming year.

The results of this year's contest are as follows:

5 Star Lodges

Escanaba #354 -1725
Livonia #2246 – 1385
Clawson-Troy #2169 – 1027
Ishpeming #447 – 800
Plymouth #1780 – 770

4 Star Lodges

Pont.-Waterford #810 –725
Lapeer #2567- 705
Ferndale #1588 - 615
Farmington #1986 – 595
Sault Ste. Marie #552 – 580

3 Star Lodges

Calumet #404 – 495
Newberry #1705 – 475
Holland #1315 – 450
Negaunee #1116 – 420
Allen Park #2194 – 370 (tie)
Hillsdale #1575 – 370 (tie)

Next year's contest will be available on the State website in the upcoming weeks.

Fraternally Submitted,

Geno Grabinski

Geno Grabinski, P.E.R.
State Youth Activities Chairman

Soccer Shoot report – Dave Fisher, State Co-Chairman

Members All,

On April 25th I mailed to each lodge a letter requesting your participation in the MEA Elks "Soccer Shoot" program. I'm requesting that all lodges conduct their contest during the months of June and July. Your District "Soccer Shoot" Chairperson will be contacting your lodge advising the date, time, and location of the district contest. I have requested that all District contests be completed no later than August 31, 2011. The Michigan Elks Association "Soccer Shoot" contest has been scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2011. Location and time will be announced in a later communication.

I have prepared for each lodge a packet of information regarding conducting a successful "Soccer Shoot" contest. Exalted Rulers/Lodge Secretaries please pickup this packet at the conclusion of the meeting. Please make sure that this packet is delivered to your "Soccer Shoot"/Youth Activities Chairperson.

President Keith's goal is to have all Lodges in the state participate in the Elks "Soccer Shoot" program. Working together we can accomplish this goal.

Fraternally,

Dave Fisher

“Get a KICK out of LIFE not DRUGS”

Webmaster report - Bruce Stark, Co-Webmaster

In December of 2010 The Michigan Elks Association lost a great Elk. Jack McDaniel, DDGER of the Northeast District, MEA Webmaster, and PER from Bay City Lodge #88 passed away. Jack was the webmaster for the Michigan Elks Association for 2010/2011. Jack will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

At that time President Tom asked me to fill in as Co- Webmaster and I considered it a great honor to do so. The web page has been changed from before and there are more changes coming up. One of the changes will be adding the web page of the Lodges back on to our page. Another will be an accurate email address for each lodge. I've seen many lists of email addresses with out of date or incorrect email addresses and web page URLs so even if you think I have the correct information, i will be contacting you to make sure.

As the internet becomes more and more popular and more people have access to it, it is ever so important that the correct information is posted.

Lodge and district events can also be placed on the web page. Send me a flyer, preferably in PDF format so everyone can open it and we will post it.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve President Tom and I look forward to working with incoming President-Elect Keith as well

Fraternally,

Bruce A. Stark ER/PDDGER
Co-Webmaster Cell - 313-909-0981

Resolutions report – John Wilson

no advance written report

Editors Notes: *All advance written reports received were reproduced to common Word documents using the same font size and similar editing style. Every effort has been made to make this publication an accurate reproduction of the author's intent. If you have any questions about the content of this publication please direct those to the respective Committee Chairperson. President Tom thanks you all for your outstanding efforts!*

Reminder Notes: _____

“Proud to be a Michigan Elk”!