



Students from the Alternative Education Academy of Iosco County joined Tawas Area Elks Lodge members to build adventure therapy stations at Ingalls Forest.

TAWAS AREA ELKS LODGE #2525

Lodge, students build adventure therapy stations

On October 4, Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525 and 11 students from the Alternative Education Academy of Iosco County partnered with the Iosco Conservation District and Helping 2 Overcome to build seven Adventure Therapy Stations at Ingalls Forest in Baldwin Township.

Adventure Therapy is an experiential approach to group and family counseling that utilizes cooperative group games, confidence courses, and outdoor expeditions.

AEA students have been the recipients of community service from Tawas Elks as part of their ENF Impact Grant and this inspired the students to want to give back to their community. The students worked hard and learned valuable construction and team work skills.



Elks members help with hurricane relief



On September 21, 2017, Howell Elks Lodge #2168 partnered with DRAW (Disaster Relief At Work) and Howell American Legion Deveraux Post to collect money and donations for Hurricane relief victims. The event, coordinated in less than 10 days, by members and friends was a success. Music, food, door prizes and auction items were donated. More than \$5,000 in cash, personal hygiene and cleaning products were collected and delivered to Houston to help those in need.

INSIDE

Officer messages
3

Grand Lodge
4

State News
5, 8, 9, 10

Lodge News
6, 7, 10-12



Lodges hold
'Pumpkin
Patch'
parties

6

Elks Michigan
usa newsletter

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NEWS AND NOTES

Don't push limits of Transfer Dimits

Secretaries, Transfer Dimits must be processed in a timely manner.

Currently, there are more than 2,000 incomplete Transfer Dimits.

Via CLMS2Web, Transfer Dimits have become paperless and easier to process. The program automatically transfers the member's information from the outgoing Lodge computer to the incoming Lodge computer, with no typing required.

Keep in mind, a Transfer Dimit started during the current Lodge year must be approved by the accepting Lodge before March 31. If not, that member remains on your membership roll. Any variance from this procedure will cause your totals to become out of balance.

As a reminder, all year-end membership information must be updated and completed in CLMS2Web by 11:59 p.m. on March 31. Failure to do so can cause discrepancies in your totals.

— Bryan R. Klatt,
Grand Secretary

Elks share their thoughts

Do you have a question, comment or concern about your Lodge or the Order? Leave a message at elks.org/messageboard/forum.cfm. Everyone from new members to Exalted Rulers use the board to discuss issues every day. Chime in and share what's on your mind!

Donation, adoption in Gaylord

Gaylord-area lodge donated \$500 to the Salvation Army Red Kettle luncheon event.

Also, we adopted six area families who are need at Christmas. Each family will receive \$500 for Christmas dinner and presents for their children. The lodge also held a thanksgiving turkey dinner for 70 veterans and family members.

Upcoming convention sites and dates established

Upcoming schedule for Michigan Elks Association conventions:

■ Spring 2018:
May 17-20: Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste. Marie.

■ Fall 2018: Oct. 18-21:
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo.

■ Spring 2019: May 16-19: Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste. Marie.

■ Fall 2019: Oct. 17-20:
Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth.

■ Spring 2020: May 14-17:
Kewadin Resort, Sault Ste. Marie

Room and Banquet Reservation Forms will be available at the Michigan Elks website March 1, 2018.

Future Convention Locations are always being investigated. Room reservation and banquet

facility availability, and pricing, to fit the needs and price range of our delegation are always our foremost concern. Please contact one of the Convention Committee Members below if you have questions or suggestions for future planning of convention sites.

Howard Diehl, PSP
George Sermon, PSP
Jerry Alexie, State Trustee

Lodges, VA hospitals show care for Michigan's veterans

Michigan BPOE Lodges and VA hospitals showed the Veterans of Michigan how much BPOEElks care about them during the past few months. Veterans committees have been busy. Lodges recognized the area Veterans with dinners, outings and special visits.

Twenty winter coats have been donated to keep the Saginaw VA hospital Veterans warm this season. Ann Arbor packed more than 800 holiday packages and baskets and sending 850 cards to make the holidays brighter. Christmas cards decorated and signed by the students at Ithaca Elementary were delivered to the Jacobetti VA Home in Marquette by Ruth Hall and Bob Wellman, VAVS representative during the Thanksgiving holiday.

A special night in Saginaw was observed when the Saginaw Spirit teamed with the Bay City Lodge and held Military appreciation Night. Over 3000 attended the hockey game and had the pleasure of seeing the Wounded Warriors hockey team play the First Responders in the warm up game. Bay City Lodge served veterans and active duty military personnel by sponsoring a day of seminars, music, speakers and booths set up by local veterans service organizations to help our veterans and active duty military personnel sign up for benefits, educational opportunities, employment opportunities as well as family support groups.

Traverse City Lodge adopted the Coast Guard

Station and will provide holiday support and fellowship to the "Coastees" and their families. Hastings Lodge recognized their Veteran of the Year, a Vietnam Veteran who has worked tirelessly for fellow Vets.

We thank June Sembariski and Battle Creek Lodge for continued support of our Veterans at the Battle Creek VA Facility. June took over when her husband Anthony passed. They have worked tirelessly over the years. Stoney Summey from Sturgis Lodge and Dan Poll from Battle Creek Lodge have step into the VAVS positions. We hope area Lodges will continue to support this facility and the Veterans.

Thank a Veteran every chance you get. They make everything we have possible.

Special occasions with VA Hospital veterans

On November 25, 2017, 6 Elks and 3 Non-Elks traveled to the Battle Creek VA Hospital to host a night of bingo for 49 Vets. After bingo, they were all treated to a sub-sandwich and cookies.

On November 27, 2017,

the Battle Creek VA Hospital brought 25 Vets from the VA hospital to the Otsego #1711 Lodge. They were treated to a home-cooked meal and after they ate they played bingo and as prizes they received PX chits.

Before they left to go back

to the VA Hospital, each received a Christmas gift.

This was all made possible by donations from our members and their family. The Otsego Elks and their families are thankful to the veterans for all they have done for us!

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Get Published in the Michigan Elks News!



Send us your articles and pictures and show us what you're proud of at your Lodge!

E-mail address: meanewsletter@mielks.org. Articles and hard copy photos may also be mailed to Karen Cary, Advantage Printing, 68838 Broadus, Suite A, Sturgis MI 49091.

Deadlines for submissions:

March 15 for April publication; June 15 for July publication;
Sept. 15 for October publication; Dec. 15 for January publication

STATE OFFICER MESSAGES

We are in the final stretch of the Elks Year

Debi and I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Holiday. May 2018 bring everyone joy and happiness in the coming year.

We are in the second half of our Lodge year. Congratulations to the 17 Lodges that have met the \$4.75 goal for ENF. The rest of the Lodges need to try to meet the \$4.75 ENF Goal.

Don't leave that free money on the table. You can do so much more for your community. Donations to Major Projects and Gold Key have increased this pass year and we thank everyone for their support.

We cannot stop here, but we need to continue to support our Charities, ENF, Major Projects and Gold Key.

The Commissioners continue to work all year long for the MEA and we as Elks in the State of Michigan can also continue to work hard for the kids that they assist with Summer Camps, therapy, and Scholarships for College.

January also is the start of the Winter District meetings with the Election of our District Officers for next year and the selection of District Committee Chairpersons. Select the best qualified person for these committees and make them proud of their selection.

After they are selected to represent your District, continue to stay in contact with them and offer your



**JOE
ANTONISHEK**

State President

This past year, 1254 member were initiation, transfer dimit or were reinstatements. We still have a total 1407 delinquent members. Each and everyone of us need to assist our Membership Chairperson in our Lodges to lower the delinquency. Let's strive for that plus in Membership.

assistance all year long. These Committees work all year long not just one month.

The month of February starts with the nomination and

finishes with the election of Lodge Officers. Exalted Ruler – elect again I would like to remind you to select Committee Chairpersons that will be enthusiastic about being selected as Chairperson and give them your support and guidance all year long.

Ritual season is alive and well. We have three Districts having a contest so far.

What about the other three Districts? Let's have 100 percent participation this year.

On January 14, 2018, Debi and I will be attending the Northeast District Winter meeting in Bay City. On April 15, 2018, we will be visiting the Southwest District Spring Meeting in Sturgis.

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at both meeting.

Please check the Web Site for other travels of the Presidents and their First Ladies.

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We still have a total 1407 delinquent members.

Each and every one of us need to assist our Membership Chairperson in our Lodges to lower the delinquency. Let's strive for that plus in Membership.

Thank you for all your support this past year.

And now, the work begins

First, Cheryl and I hope all had an enjoyable Holiday Season gathering with family and friends.

Now with the New Year upon us, our work begins anew with the elections of District Officers for those Districts with January meetings and the elections of Lodge Officers in February. Incoming District Vice Presidents need to get in place their District Chairpersons. Take the time to make personal contact to verify with your people that they are willing to accept the positions and know the duties that come along with their Chairmanships. I will be sending you excel forms to be completed, so that I can assemble the State Directory.

Incoming Exalted Rulers should be doing the same at the Lodge level. Please do not place a name in a chairmanship without asking the individual if they will accept the position. I found it somewhat odd in this past years' travels, and hear someone say, "I'm the Chairman for that committee, but didn't know it until I started getting emails from someone at the state." Not a good practice.

The balance of our year will be busy traveling to the State & Regional Hoop Shoot finals. Several Districts will hold Ritual Competition which is enjoyable to attend. As well as the Scholarship judging, annual meetings of the Gold Key Commission, Major Project Commission and State Trustees.

Finally, there is still plenty of time to help fulfill the charitable works of our order. Every



STAN CHUBINSKI
1st Vice President

member has been instructed that charity is "the cornerstone of every Elk structure, the highest virtue of every Elk creed," and this should never be forgotten. Our Grand Exalted Ruler has made a goal of \$4.75 per member to ENF which I believe is attainable if each Lodge makes a real effort to do so.

Our giving to ENF is returned to us to help our State Charities fund various scholarships, send children to specialized camps, help veterans, and provide grants to all lodges that qualify.

Please make sure your Lodge has collected funds sent out prior to year-end, as credit is only given when the funds are received by Grand Lodge.

That brings us to our State Raffle which brings funds to both Major Project and Gold Key. Commissioners from both Gold key and Major Project have split up the Lodges within their Home Districts. These folks are your contacts regarding the Raffle.

Cheryl and I look forward to seeing many of you in the next few months during our continuing travels.

Plan set for national convention

I have completed the pre-visit to San Antonio for 150th National convention to be held July 1st thru July 4th.

We will be staying at the LaQuinta San Antonio Convention Center. They are extremely happy to have us. This hotel has been completely renovated and it is nice.

Thank you to Jerry and Stephanie Alexie and John Kennedy, travel companions for this trip, and they worked hard, as we looked for things to do and set up various events, such as Michigan night, to be held at Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, discount prices on Riverwalk boat tour, discounts on other attractions still pending.

Room rates are \$109 per night single or double occupancy with \$16.75% tax.

The hotel is located one block from the convention center were all activities will take place for the convention, four to five blocks from the Riverwalk, and two blocks from the Alamo. Many other sights to see very close by also.



CHUCK OATTEN
2nd Vice President

Parking will be reduced to \$25.00 per day, at the hotel, there is a parking garage by the hotel, which we are trying to get discounted prices on. Several things still being worked on.

I will be posting the Hotel registration form on the Michigan Elks website. Please get your reservations in as soon as possible. We are allowed only a certain number of rooms and it will be first come first served.

Debb and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Safe travels over your holiday.

GRAND LODGE

Forget resolutions: Set one Elks goal for 2018

The new year brings an opportunity to start fresh. We make resolutions to stop procrastinating, eat healthier, exercise more, act nicer to others, and so on.

Yet many of us set unachievable expectations and are left wondering why we abandon our resolutions by February.

Let's resolve to get rid of resolutions this year and instead set goals that we can realistically attain. I challenge you to choose just one actionable goal that you can execute this calendar year within your Lodge, community, or the greater Order. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Share your pride in being an Elk by recruiting and installing a new member.
- Volunteer to chair a committee or event within your Lodge.



MALCOLM J. MCPHERSON

Grand Exalted Ruler

- Run for an officer position within your Lodge this coming March.
- Seek out a new charitable initiative for your Lodge to

support in your community.

■ Master the Elks ritual process and help strengthen your Lodge's ritual performance.

I hope these ideas spark a desire to make a difference in your community and work together with fellow members. If we give ourselves realistic goals, then we're more likely to stick to them and ultimately become a stronger Lodge.

As Pat and I get back on the road again this month, another one of my goals for the remaining year is to promote our 150 years of Elksdom. As we get closer to our annual reunion in July in San Antonio, Texas, I challenge each of you to bring your great works of Elksdom into your local communities.

I look forward to hearing about the ways you are strengthening Elksdom as we continue this journey together.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The future of our lodges depends on youth activities

By Paul A. Galarneau
Committee Member

Being an Exalted Ruler can be overwhelming, but evaluating what your Lodge participates in is one of your most important duties. Sponsoring youth programs is a vital area that should not be taken lightly.

The youth of today are our most precious resource. We must find ways for our Lodges to include them in Lodge activities.

We must provide opportunities and organized pastimes that will enhance their future. There are many youth related programs that the Grand Lodge Activities Committee suggests that you implement at your Lodge.

Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Scouting groups for both boys and girls, the Antlers Program, Student/Teenager of the Month, the Dictionary Project, and the Junior Golf Program are some of the options that are available to you through the Grand Lodge Activities

Committee. You can create your own program, such as a bicycle rodeo or a dodgeball tournament. You may also consider sponsoring an after party at your Lodge.

Any youth activity that will entertain our children and expose them and their families to what the Elks stand for and do for our communities will enhance our local presence.

Now is a good time to start preparing for the Soccer Shoot Program. Soccer is becoming more popular with the youth, so this is a program that your Lodge is encouraged to participate in. Getting your area schools involved to help run the program will enhance participation.

All youth activities sponsored by your Lodge should be well-planned. Selecting a qualified chairperson for the particular activity you are conducting is crucial to that program's success.

Promoting all of these programs will make your community more aware of what the Elks stand for.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

14 tips for how to post online and share on social media

By Phillip B. Johnson
Committee Member

We all need to realize that everything we put on the internet, especially on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, is there forever.

We are not as good as we think we are about how we use the internet.

Here are some tips, pointers, and reminders for posting items to Elks websites and social media accounts.

1. People pay attention to Facebook. More people are now getting their news from Facebook than all other sources of news, so be very careful with what is put out there.
2. Unsure of what to do when using the internet? Check your

membership and find a member that knows how to properly navigate the net.

3. Get approval of anything that is published, posted, or tweeted.

4. Don't show a picture that displays any alcohol or tobacco use.

5. Get written permission from parents before posting pictures of any children. Never mention the kids' names.

6. Get written permission from anyone's picture that you post.

7. If someone puts something on your site, respond to it as quickly as possible.

8. If possible, limit who can post on to the Lodge's site.

9. Don't put anything on the site that is political in nature.

10. Respect copyrights. The use of anything that is copyrighted could lead to the Lodge being taken to court.

11. Be careful that all pictures don't have anything in the background that could constitute an advertisement of alcohol or tobacco.

12. Always show a positive image of your Lodge and the Order.

13. Don't put the Lodge bulletin on the internet.

14. Put the use of the internet in your house rules.

Sound complicated? Here's a good rule of thumb: If it can't be printed on the front page of the local newspaper, don't put it online.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING COMMITTEE

Download auditing forms online

For your convenience, the forms required for submission to the Grand Lodge Auditing Committee are now available for download.

Note that the Excel forms need to be saved to your computer and then prepared with your financial information.

New for 2017: Your completed Audit Forms should be converted to Adobe PDF format, and then uploaded to the Auditing and Accounting Committee through the elks.org website.

Audit Forms uploaded in this way do not need to be mailed to the

Auditing and Accounting Committee via postal mail. Supplementary data such as your Accountant's Recommendations and Suggestions, and any and all 990(s) filed on behalf of the Lodge, should also be uploaded in Adobe PDF format.

STATE NEWS

RITUAL

Opportunities abound for Ritual

By Pat Morgan
State Ritual Chairman

This article now turns to Ritual. We are obviously near the end of the Fraternal Year and I know that some Districts are indeed holding Ritual Contests and State President Nights. This is great! Is your lodge one of those that will be fielding a team and celebrating the work of being a Lodge Officer?

It is not a requirement to enter a team in the contest. It is your lodge's right, to enter a team. Every lodge pays their district fees, for which a budgeted line item is dedicated for Ritual Expenses in that district. Is your lodge grabbing the opportunity to participate? You still can!

This committee brings you the following opportunities.

- It will help train you to be a more confident Officer in your lodge.
- You can share in the experience of doing your best for the new candidates initiated.
- You can make the candidate's experience more meaningful and thus they become a more valued member sooner.
- They may even ask you to explain what it takes to be an Officer of your lodge.
- You can interact with other lodges and form bonds of friendship with their Officers as you progress through the chairs.
- You will personally feel more gratified, when you have finally reached your goal of becoming the Exalted Ruler of your lodge.
- It is a team effort that allows every one in the suits, an opportunity to do better things for your lodge.

The enthusiasm is always an attractant. Never is it a detriment. People will see what you do as a team and applaud you for it. Especially if your lodge has not participated in a while.

The good, far outweighs the effort. This isn't supposed to be perceived as a chore. Somebody is or has been giving you the wrong information. If you haven't tried it, how would you know that it is not an enjoyable experience for you?

There is still time to put a team together. A lot can be accomplished in one month! You would be amazed at what you Officers are capable of. Again, it is not "just about" winning a contest. It can be that and more. It will help build confidence in your term as an Officer, be an exciting experience for you and allow the opportunity to celebrate with your District peers and friends.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. E mails or phone calls are always welcomed.

SCHOLARSHIP

Judging for scholarship is in the plan

By Jack McClelland
State Scholarship Chair

Students who are applying for the Most Valuable Student (MVS) scholarships have completed their applications on line to the Grand Lodge's web site. Lodges received student applications for judging December 5 to 20th on the International Scholarship and Tuition Services (ISTS) selection site.

The lodge's Scholarship coordinators received a password to the site to complete the evaluations and were asked to be finished by Dec. 21, 2017. The applications need to be judged from the ISTS dashboard or printed as a PDF, then scored on the ISTS dashboard.

The established evaluation steps to better align with current standards in applicant selection and will comprise up to 450 judging points.

All applications submitted by the deadline will be scored and ranked using a proprietary standardized scoring process.

If a Lodge does not take action on the applications assigned to their Lodge by the judging deadline, the ISTS scoring rubric on the applications and will determine which applications advance to the next level of

competition. The top 6 boys and 6 girls applications will be forwarded to the district level.

The district judging needs completion online by Jan. 15, 2018. I need to have copies of the PDFs, if available, of the winning applications from the districts in my hands by Jan. 25, 2017 so that I might complete my preparations for the state judging.

We will again hold the state judging at Houghton/Higgins Lake Lodge 1982 on Feb. 17, 2018 starting at 9am.

The Grand Lodge has from \$4000.00 to \$440,000.00 available for the Michigan winning eight boys and girls high school seniors that go on to Grand Lodge for judging. The MEA will have available another sixty-four \$1,000 scholarships amounting to \$64,000 for 32 boys and 32 girls that do not go on to nationals.

Just a heads up, the Elks Legacy Awards are due online, ONLY, by 11:59 p.m. CST Feb. 2, 2018.

I will send out additional information to our State Judges in the coming days. If there are interested persons wishing to help in the process, they may reach me at 989-684-5544 or jmccl823@hotmail.com my email.

DRUG AWARENESS

Drug awareness program schedule

To help with the planning and scheduling of your Drug Awareness Program and its events the following schedule was developed. It is not designed to contain all Drug Awareness Events, just some of them. Please use this schedule to aid you in growing your Drug Awareness Program. If there is an event you would like to see added, please let me know.

January 2018

■ Remind your Districts and Lodges to enter all DAP information into CLMS

■ Are you working to nominate someone for the President Volunteer Service Award?

■ Start planning for the National Alcohol Awareness Month in April.

■ Are you Promoting the Drug Quiz Show?



SPECIAL EVENTS

It's time for lodges to shine

By Kim Deckard

State Special Events/Community Welfare/
Organ Donor Chairperson

Elks are well-known for their charitable good deeds.

One activity that takes place in all Elks Lodges across our great state in late October is Pumpkin Patch.

This is a time for Michigan lodges to shine as we add some extra fun to the lives of the special kids in our community.

Did your lodge host a pumpkin patch event? If so, you deserve a special certificate to hang in your lobby and/or give to the person in your lodge who planned it.

This simple certificate shows appreciation for the efforts of all that participated in your pumpkin patch, on behalf of the MEA.

I sent emails in October to each of the district chairpersons for the Special Events/Community Welfare/ Organ Donor committee that included the sample certificate that you see here. So you say you did not receive this info?

Don't worry, I can still create your lodge certificate. Just send me an email with your lodge name and number, the date and location of the event, and the name of the children's group that benefitted from this event. I then will email it back to you for printing.

So far, I have made certificates for Pontiac-Waterford #810, Ferndale #1588, Cadillac #680, Negaunee #1116, Port Huron #343, Clawson-Troy #2169, Warren-Sterling Hts. #2292 and Rochester-North Oakland #2225.

That is only 8 out of almost 60... what are you waiting for? Email me today! kdeckard3@comcast.net.

LODGE NEWS

PUMPKIN PATCH PARTIES HELD



Hundreds attend Gaylord-area event

Gaylord area Lodge held the annual Pumpkin Patch Party on October 14. A total of 676 children attended, with a total attendance of 1,158. The kids were treated to 1200 pumpkins. The event included face-painting, a coloring contest, and hayride. The lodge provided a lunch of 1500 hot dogs, donut holes, cookies, s'mores, pop and cider. Pictured is Audrey Hathaway face-painting Collin Berlin.



Lunch and trick-or-treat

Sturgis Elks Lodge #1381 hosted its annual Pumpkin Patch party for kids from the county Pathfinder Center program for handicapped children. Lunch was served to approximately 25 children and young adults, and their staff. The kids also treated to indoor trick-or-treating and live music overseen by the Sturgis High School Peer Assistance program, and a pumpkin patch where they chose a pumpkin to take home.



Party for early-start children

On October 27, 2017, Negaunee Elks held a Halloween party in conjunction with the Negaunee Schools Early Start Children. Teachers provided songs and snacks for the group. Elks provided the Haunted Houses and safe indoor trick or treating for the children. 40 children, their parents and grandparents were in attendance. Thanks to Karen Palomaki, Doug DuShane, Mike Ilmonen, Heidi Argall, Jim Nestell, Pete and Pam Gadzinski and Clare Young for participating and helping put on this event.

NEGAUNEE ELKS LODGE #1116

Beacon grant helps fund Big Brothers outing at Shipwreck Tour

On September 16, part of Negaunee's Beacon Grant was used to help the Big Brothers and Big Sisters create a fun and educational event.

We bused eight Bigs and their Littles along with seven Elks and eight children waiting for a Big to the Munising Shipwreck Boat Tour and two waterfalls.

The grant was used to fund the bus, pay

for the tour and buy lunch and snacks.

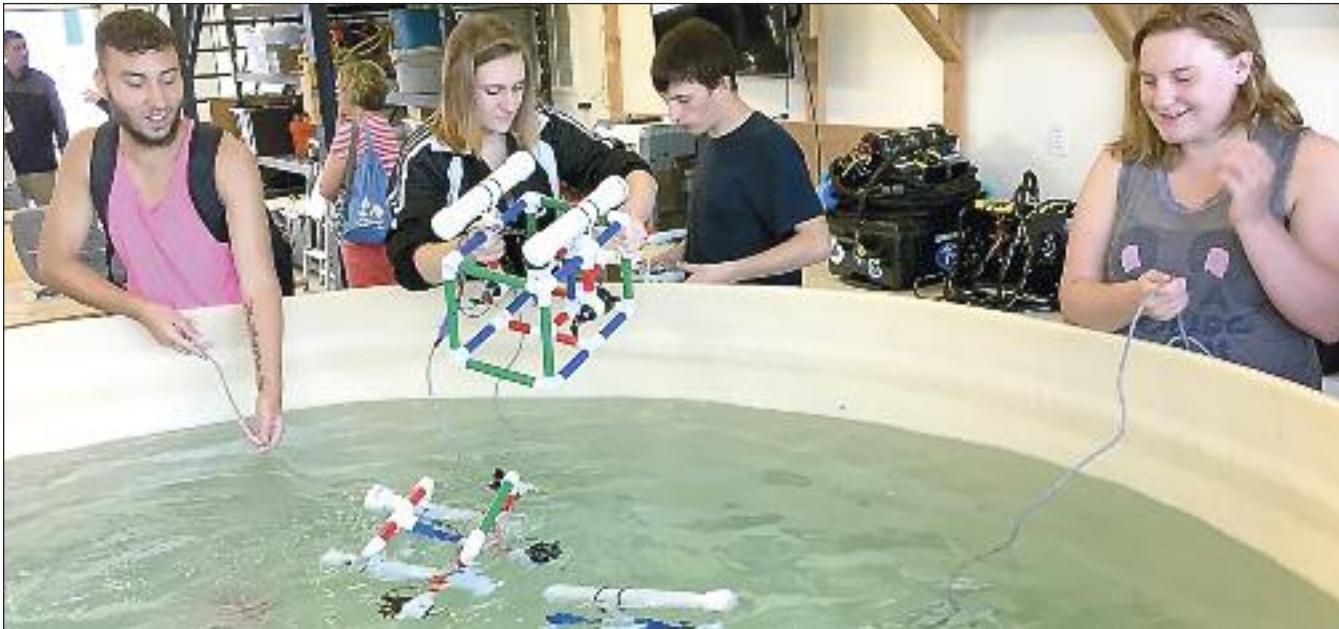
The Elks are matched with children waiting for a Big Brother or Sister.

The Elks get a chance to mentor a child for a day.

The children come from single parent and troubled homes. At any point in time there are 100,000 children in the U.S. waiting for a Big.



LODGE NEWS



Field trip to Thunder Bay

The Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525 took 24 students from the Alternative Education Academy of Iosco County to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena. Students built their underwater remote operated vehicles (ROVs) and operated them on recovery missions. They also explored shipwrecks in the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary aboard a glass bottom boat and explored the museum as part of a scavenger hunt. This event was funded by an Impact Grant that the Tawas Area Elks received from the Elks National Foundation.

Thanksgiving dinner is a tradition for lodge

For the 25th consecutive year, Lapeer Elks Lodge #2567 served a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to 269 people from our community free of charge. The event was held November 23. We want to thank all of our Elk members and friends that contributed all the food and worked so hard to make this an eventful day. Elks Care, Elks Share.



Students entertain veterans

Musical Instructor Cathy Moilanen and six young ladies from the Negaunee Middle and High Schools entertain veterans from the Jacobetti Home for Veterans prior to a turkey dinner at the Negaunee Elks Lodge #1116 on November 15, 2017.

COPPER COUNTRY LODGE #404 Lodge holds youth Christmas party

From Upper Michigan Source.com

Copper Country Elks Lodge #404 hosted a Christmas party for area kids December 10.

The lodge has been hosting this party for decades, and children from all around the Calumet and Houghton area came to eat pizza, get presents, and take home treats.

"We're doing a holiday Christmas party for the children of the area and we're going to have about 80 kids," Copper Country Elks Lodge 404's Dave Sladek said.

"We're going to have them playing games for the first hour and at 3:00 we're going to have a whole bunch of pizza delivered and we're going to have lunch," Elks Lodge #404 member Jeannie LaBonte said.

According to organizers, they open their doors to any area kid who signs up, but they especially invite kids who may need a little more this Christmas season, to meet someone special.

"Santa comes around 4:00 p.m. and we have a gift for all the kids that come," Sladek said.

"So they get all excited, and we send them home with goodie bags with fresh fruit and cookies and candy and things," LaBonte said. "We try to make a difference in their lives as much as we can."

The members of the club help out for the party, serving food, setting up and cleaning after the event.

Some of the members even get their kids to dress as elves to help pass out the gifts from Santa.

All the kids say they look forward to getting presents from Santa, but some enjoy the party for the things they only get to enjoy on occasion.

"I usually look forward to eating pizza," 4th grader and Santa's helper Lillian Fritz said. "I just do this every year so I end up like coming back and getting like a new really cool present."

The Elks club is able to provide this kind of party, as well as community projects and scholarships through their Elks National Foundation.

"People donate to the Elks National Foundation and then through those grants we have community investment programs," Sladek said. "We build parks, swing sets and put on parties like this."



Copper Country Elks Lodge #404 hosted a Christmas party for area youth in December.

STATE NEWS

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Important details about snow removal

By Donald Smith

State Accident Prevention —
Risk Management chair

Now that winter has arrived, lodges will be dealing with snow removal on their walkways, steps and parking lots.

Shovels and salt should be kept on hand. Use mats inside the lodge to reduce tracked-in water. If a lodge chooses to use a contractor for snow removal, it is important to remember the following:

- Obtain a written contract.
- Make sure that a contractor has insurance for snow removal operations.
- Have the contractor provide an insurance certificate confirming insurance coverage.
- Request that the lodge be named as an additional insured on the insurance certificate.

During the cold-weather months, lodges must maintain adequate heat in buildings to prevent freezing pipes.

Insulation near plumbing fixtures will also help to prevent this problem as well as letting water drip from faucets.

Other measures that can be used to prevent frozen pipes are wrapping pipes with insulation and opening cabinet doors below sinks to allow air to circulate.

If pipes freeze, a blow dryer can be used to gradually thaw them. NEVER use blowtorches, open flames, or propane heaters to thaw frozen pipes. Call a licensed and insured plumber if the pipes are damaged due to freezing.

It is important for a lodge to properly maintain its roof to avoid claims for water leakage and damage to contents.

All roofs experience wear and tear, no matter what type of roofing materials, but its lifespan can be extended by annual proper maintenance. Snow and ice accumulation can accelerate the need for repairs and/or replacement of the roof.

The Property Plus Program will only pay for unexpected losses, not normal wear and tear due to a roof's age.

Best wishes for a safe 2018!

AMERICANISM

Give thanks, thoughts for veterans

By Randy Boudreau

State Americanism Chairman

As we celebrate the holidays and new year, may we reflect upon December 7, 1941, a day that President Roosevelt said was "a date that will live in infamy."

Recall the efforts and sacrifices of the citizens of the United States to come together to preserve the freedoms and way of life we are fortunate to have today.

Though we continue to be the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave, please give your thanks and thoughts to our Veterans and enlisted personnel and families for their sacrifices to enable us to enjoy these rights and privileges.

Every Lodge should have received their entries for the Essay and Coloring Contests by December 15. Each division of each contest should be judged and have three of the top entries (not ranked) sent to their respective District Americanism Chairs by no later than January 31, 2018. The District Chairs will then send their top three entries (not ranked) to me for State judging. I will then send these to National for judging.

I hope every Lodge has participated in these contests, as this is one of the few contacts we have with younger children and their families. It shows our commitment to Americanism and Patriotism. If possible, each Lodge should

invite their winners to their Lodge to honor them. My Lodge invites them for our Flag Day Ceremony, so these children and their families can experience what Elks do to honor our Flag and Country.

Hope your Holidays were special and continue to honor our Country and its Flag.

God Bless America!

Every Lodge Americanism Chair should be sending their District Americanism Chair a report that states what your Lodge has been doing to promote Americanism. This gives the District chair information to construct his or her District Americanism report for your District meeting to inform your District members of the

activities that are being done and hopefully giving the other Lodges ideas of how they may add to their programs to promote Americanism. The District American Chairs will then send me their reports with the information the Lodges have given them so I can create an informative report for all of the members in our State.

Please contact your Lodge Americanism Chairman and remind them of this in case they didn't read this Newsletter.

Please assist me so I can perform my duties as well as possible. I thank you in advance.

Please contact me with any questions that you may have.

BUSINESS PRACTICES AND OFFICERS TRAINING

Get back into the black

By Rich Wlosinski

State Chairman

By this time in the Lodge year, you know if your Lodge is operating in the black or not. You have time to get in the black, but time is limited!

Now is the time to contact Business Practices to help get your budget back in order. We are not miracle workers, but we do have experience in getting Lodges back on the right path to profitability. We have several different programs that are available to Lodges to help get inventory, daily bar reconciliation, and monthly purchase programs in line with your needs. We just need to come and talk with you to see what you need.

In the past, if we lost a Lodge, or two Lodges had to merge to save one or both, you might have heard "that's really too bad we lost XXX Lodge this year." Not anymore. The attitude at Grand Lodge and the State Association is not to let another Lodge fail. Period. That means where before they let the lodge try and figure out how to save themselves, today they are assigned help much earlier than before. If your annual audit report shows budget issues, or your District

Deputy feels the Lodge needs help with its financials, the first step today is to ask Business Practices to go in for a visit. We conduct an interview with Lodge and Committee leaders and develop a plan for the Lodge to use as a guide to turn them around. A copy is sent to the DD who will monitor the Lodges progress. At that point the DD can ask for a Special Rep be assigned to the Lodge if the turnaround for a Lodge is just not happening. No Lodge really likes having a Special Rep assigned to them, so Business Practices is the last step before that happens.

The second half of our name is Officers Training. Lodge elections will be coming up very soon, so now is the time to think about having new officers training. This can happen at the District level or Lodge Level.

But please schedule your training as soon as possible. The ideal is to have the incoming officers trained before they get sworn into office, which is only about 30 days after elections.

So please call as soon as possible to schedule a training session with the State Associations Officers Training committee.

GOLD KEY

Let's get down to business!

By Geno Grabinski

S.E. District Gold Key Commissioner

The Charitable Grant Fund Commissioners would like to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. This is now our 2nd year of having students submit their applications online along with all the necessary paperwork that must accompany the application.

I am happy to announce we had 58 applications successfully submitted on line. This is 36 more applications than last year. We believe this is due to sending a letter out this year to the special education department in every secondary school in the state. This is a very important time of year for us. We will hold our annual meeting February 3rd in Gaylord where we will be judging all the applications. Other areas of discussion during this meeting will be our golf outings, fundraiser's and other calendar events. We also will reaffirm our mission to help our special needs kids and further their education.

Please let your Commissioners know if you need any promotional materials, so that we may accommodate you in the very best way possible. We have tri-folds and place mats, ready to be sent out at your request. Also, just a reminder don't forget the donor program applications are on the back of our tri-folds. It is through your efforts, energy and participation that we get our energy to be at the top of our game to serve the needs of our special kids and their chance to be productive citizens.

STATE NEWS



MAJOR PROJECT

Giving from the heart

By Diane Dusendang
Executive Director,
Major Project Commission

Benevolence. "Disposition to do good. An act of kindness. A generous gift".

What we do at the Major Project may sometimes seem like it is all about the money. While that is true in many regards because we must operate as a business and have that pesky budget to work with, please know that it is so much more than that. We are also educators to those who know no better. We offer compassion and a chance where there is none. We offer opportunities to children who bear unbearable life circumstances, yet have more heart and grit than those with so much. These children make us aware and proud to be a small part of their lives! The Major Project is so much more than a checkbook and a balance sheet, yet we must (and do!) take the responsibility of your gifts very seriously.

One of the most helpful things you can do is give of your time by joining in the conversation, taking advantage of opportunities (like this past year's workshop), joining in conference calls if you are a Lodge Chairman, an Exalted Ruler or a member who WANTS to connect with us, becoming educated about the Major Project Commission, and being an ambassador for those that want to learn and share how we help kids right in your own community! Cost? Zero dollars!

Taking the few moments to share our story (especially outside of Elkdom), helps to legitimize our 60-year-old Commission! We are very serious about seeking donation support outside of the Lodge walls, but we cannot succeed if our communities don't "know" what Major Project "is"! When you are scrolling through your Facebook, take a minute and read the stories we are posting! "Like" the posts, better yet, COMMENT on the post, and share it on YOUR page! This is how you can help to make the leap outside of Elkdom's walls! Cost? Zero dollars!

Another relatively untapped

resource is to seek out programs at your place of employment for matching contributions for hours of charitable service! We have 3 very special people in our Michigan Elks Association who have worked this HARD! We have received checks this year from ExxonMobil, GM Dollars for Doers and State Farm; all because these three individuals took the time to document and submit an application to their corporation to take advantage of a program that was already in place! These are serious dollars and we are SO grateful to Terry, Jeff and Art for going the extra mile to direct these dollars to the Major Project! Check it out at your place of employment and see if there are opportunities for you to do the same! Cost? Zero dollars (unless matching funds, which is something you may be able to tie into a fundraiser!).

We have TWO Passive Giving programs underway in the lower peninsula (we've got to work on the UP!); Kroger Community Rewards and Spartan Nash Direct your Dollars! These are both gaining strength and emails regarding the details have been sent to your Lodge Major Project Chairman and Exalted Rulers! Both require nothing of you other than signing up (takes about a minute for Kroger), or turning your grocery receipt into your Lodge with Spartan Nash (must be a YES card member...again, easy to sign up for!). You shop – kids get \$\$\$\$! Simple! Cost: Zero dollars because you are shopping anyway!

Now, let's talk about dollar donations.

Pink Banks – if your Lodge doesn't have these on your social quarter tables and at the bar, talk about it! This is a serious fundraiser for Major Project! That spare change at the end of the day? Drop it in a bank! Get change back from the bartender? Stuff it in a bank on the bar/table! I know of several people who keep a bank in their cup holder in their car and every time they go through a drive-thru, the change goes in the bank!

SEE GIVING, 10

ENF UPDATE

Numbers up for member giving

As of December 6, 2017, Michigan was ranked #38 with \$3.87 in per member giving. That's a 56% improvement from my last report in the October MEA Newsletter when we were at \$2.48. Thank you to everyone that is supporting the ENF with your donations. Unfortunately, we aren't keeping pace with the other states as we dropped four places in our rankings. We are gaining a little ground against Kentucky in my \$10 Challenge with Kentucky. Their ENF donations only rose 36% since October, but they are still way ahead of us at \$7.66. There is still time to catch-up and we can do it very easily. If ever member of the Michigan Elks Association donated just \$10 to the ENF, we would raise over \$58,000. And remember, for every \$1 donated to the ENF, more than \$4 comes back to Michigan in the form of Community Investments Program Grants, Scholarships, and State Association Grants. Do the math – a \$10 donation from every member of the Michigan Elks would mean more than \$200,000 coming back to Michigan. If you have already donated \$10 or more to the ENF, thank you and keep encouraging others to do the same. If you haven't, what are you waiting for?

I also want to give you an update on the ENF Community Investment Program (CIP) grants. As of December 15, 2017, Elks Lodges in Michigan have received over \$109,000 from the ENF via CIP grants.

That's great, but it should be a whole lot more. If every Elks Lodge in Michigan applied for a \$2,000 Beacon Grant and supersized it with the \$1,500 Anniversary Grant, it would add up to \$189,000 of FREE Money coming to Michigan.

As everyone should know, every single Elks Lodge in Michigan is eligible for a \$2,000 Beacon Grant – no strings attached. You don't have to meet the ENF per-capita giving goal. All you have to do is come up with an idea and the ENF will help your Lodge become a beacon of hope to the community.

As of December 15, 2017, 13 of the 54 Elks Lodges in Michigan have been applied for and been approved for a Beacon Grant. That's more than twice what we had back in October, so we are moving in the right direction. But, this means that there are still 41 Elks Lodges in Michigan that are passing up \$2,000 of FREE MONEY. You are also passing up another \$1,500 of FREE MONEY if you don't check the box and add-on the Anniversary Grant.

There are 10 Lodges in Michigan that have qualified for \$2,000 of FREE MONEY via an ENF Gratitude Grant by meeting the National President's per-capita giving goal of \$4.75, but who haven't submitted an application yet. That's \$20,000 worth of FREE MONEY that we don't want to leave on the table. ENF Community Investment Program grant applications are fairly simple to complete.

CONVENTION

Birdhouse raffle nets \$825

Doug DuShane of Negaunee Lodge #1116 is a former Major Project Commissioner from the Upper Peninsula. He still helps our Major Project Commission by spending countless hours constructing bird houses out of wine corks.

The unique and beautiful houses are given to the Major Project Commission to raise funds to help special needs

children. With the help of the dynamic salesman, Lou Roos, Doug's bird house was raffled off at the Grand Rapids fall convention of the Michigan Elks Association on October 22nd.

The \$825 earned will help special needs children through the Michigan Elks Association Major Project. A big thanks to Doug, Lou and all those who donated to the cause.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Elks National Youth Week is set for May 2018

By Diana Armstrong
State Youth Activities Chair

Elks National Youth Week has been proclaimed to always be the first week in May (1-7). This week is dedicated to the Youth of the country. Special ceremonies should be planned in each Lodge to recognize the Youth of our Lodges and Communities. Prior planning is necessary for this program as it occurs so early in the newly elected Lodge Officers year. If you are a Leading Knight this would be a good time to think about this program as it will come up fast after elections and the beginning of the new Elks year. If there is a mayor or elected official in your community, approach them and ask them to Proclaim Elks National Youth Week! I have request forms for you to use if you want help to do that. Ask to have this publicized in a community and/or Lodge newsletter.

What can you do? In many communities there are Youth Leaders who stand out! Find out who those leaders are and provide a ceremony recognizing them during Youth Week! Go to local schools and provide the Student of the Week and Year Certificates and let them pick winners.

Plan a pizza party or spaghetti dinner recognizing those kids! Plan a supervised teen dance or other fun night! Show a movie in your Lodge and serve pop and popcorn. These events do not need to be elaborate, just fun for the kids.

So, put your thinking caps on and start planning your Elks National Youth Week Activity! Remember that the youth of today are the Elks of tomorrow. Please contact me if you have any questions.

There is information located in the Youth Activities Committee Manual also.

STATE NEWS

New tools available to address opioid crisis

Continuing to follow President Trump's strong leadership on combatting the deadly opioid crisis, Attorney General Sessions today announced new resources and stepped up efforts to address the drug and opioid crisis.

Joined by Acting DEA Administrator Robert Patterson, Attorney General Sessions announced the following efforts during a press conference at the Department of Justice: over \$12 million in grant funding to assist law enforcement in combating illegal manufacturing and distribution of methamphetamine, heroin, and prescription opioids; the establishment of a new DEA Field Division in Louisville, Kentucky, which will include Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, a move meant to better align DEA enforcement efforts within the Appalachian mountain region; and a directive to all U.S. Attorneys to designate an Opioid Coordinator to work closely with prosecutors, and with other federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement to coordinate and optimize federal opioid prosecutions in every district.

"Today we are facing the worst drug crisis in American history, with one American dying of a drug overdose every nine minutes," said Attorney General Jeff Sessions. "That's why, under President

Trump's strong leadership, the Department of Justice has been taking action to make our drug law enforcement efforts more effective. Today we announce three new initiatives to do just that. First, we will invest \$12 million in funding for our state and local law enforcement partners to take heroin and methamphetamine off of our streets. Second, we will restructure DEA's Field Divisions for the first time in nearly 20 years. Third, we will require all of our federal prosecutors' offices to designate an Opioid Coordinator who will customize our anti-opioid strategy in every district in America. These steps will make our law enforcement efforts smarter and more effective—and ultimately they will save American lives."

"DEA continually looks for ways to improve operations and interagency cooperation and more efficiently leverage resources," said Acting DEA Administrator Robert W. Patterson. "By creating a new division in the region, this restructuring places DEA in lockstep with our partners in the area to do just that. This change will produce more effective investigations on heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid trafficking, all of which have a significant impact on the region."

COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Grants and Anti-Meth Program

The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office is awarding a total of \$7.19 million in FY 2017 funding through the Anti-Heroin Task Force Program (AHTF). AHTF provides two years of funding directly to law enforcement agencies in states with high per capita levels of primary treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids. This funding will support the location or investigation of illicit activities related to the distribution of heroin or the unlawful distribution of prescription opioids.

The COPS Office will also award a total of \$5.03 million in FY 2017 funding through the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP). The state agencies receiving funding today have demonstrated numerous seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures.

State agencies will be awarded two years of funding through CAMP to support the investigation of illicit activities related to the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine.

The complete list of Anti-Heroin Task Force Program (AHTF) award recipients, including funding amounts, can be found here.

The complete list of COPS Anti-

Methamphetamine Program (CAMP) award recipients, including funding amounts, can be found here

Establishment of DEA Louisville Field Division

The DEA will establish the Louisville Field Division - its 22nd division office in the United States - on Jan. 1, 2018. It will include Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. This action converts the existing Louisville District Office into a field division in an effort to enhance DEA enforcement efforts within the Appalachian mountain region and unify drug trafficking investigations under a single Special Agent in Charge. DEA anticipates that this change will produce more effective investigations on heroin, fentanyl and prescription opioid trafficking, all of which have a significant impact on the region.

The division will also better align DEA with the U.S. Attorney's Office districts in those areas, similar to current ATF and FBI offices, and also to the Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program.

The Louisville Division will be led by Special Agent in Charge D. Christopher Evans, who comes from the Detroit Field Division where he served as Associate Special Agent in Charge.

anniversary's and birthday's where folks wanted to celebrate with donations in lieu of gifts! Utilizing on-line fundraising by individuals on their birthday has also resulted in checks received by Major Project! How cool is that!

Annual Fundraisers by Lodges are also a very important way of giving that we are always impressed by! The creative ways that funds are raised are absolutely incredible! The fundraiser can be as simple as a dinner with a portion of the proceeds earmarked to benefit Major Project, or a 50/50! What is most important is that you schedule something so that your Members can be engaged! If your Lodge has something planned, please let me know! I will post your event on Facebook! Let's get the ideas flowing to share among other Lodges! Want to know how to raise \$5,000 for Major Project in one night at one event? Give me a call!

The Major Project Annual Fundraising Mini-Magazine - Since the demise of the Christmas Card program, we have been trying to find something that gives you a taste of the Major Project Commission and what we do 365 days a year to help special needs children! This is our second year of producing this and as always, we hope for your contributions. That said, we will always look for the most economical way to share the news and raise funds. This is an ongoing effort to meet YOUR needs for understanding, support, compassion and giving, and we assure you that we will constantly review this to make sure we are doing the best we can to get the word out and raise funds at the same time.

Finally, another way of giving has to do with legacy and estate planning. If you are invested in special needs children, we hope that you will consider including the

Major Project in that planning. We urge you to speak with your financial advisor on doing what is best for you, and know that these funds can be designated how you wish. If you have questions, we'd love to hear from you.

Giving. It is what we do as Elks. All of us at the Major Project thank you for your support of our programs, the opportunities that together we all help to provide. We cannot do it without each and every one of you; it is what the Elks who created this in 1957 intended; the Major Project as a place to bring together our efforts as Michigan Elks and our collective funds to make a difference in the lives of special needs children! One Lodge cannot do it alone, but together, we CAN!

If you would like the opportunity to have us join you at your Lodge for an awareness event or a fundraising event, please contact the office: 616-723-2763.

LODGE NEWS

TRAVERSE CITY #323

Volunteers work to feed kids in need

Courtesy of WPBN/WGTU

Each year, youth in northern Michigan have to wonder where their next meal is coming from.

A group of volunteers at the Elks Lodge in Traverse City is working to help fix that problem.

For the last five years, the lodge has been running the Care Pack 4 Kids program during the school year.

Each week, volunteers meet at the Elks Lodge and fill up 50 bags with easy-to-prepare foods. Then they discreetly pass them out to 50 students from Traverse Heights Elementary School.

This year they were able to extend the program into the summer.

"It just provides the extra that they need for the weekend or right now for the summer," said CARE PACK 4 KIDS Chair Cathy Cook.

"There is a lot of children in our own backyard that probably go to bed hungry at night," said CARE PACK 4 KIDS Volunteer Katrina Huffman. "I felt that this was a great program that the elks provides to children."

For the program to continue to provide to children, it needs donations and grants.

Most recently, it received \$10,000 when the National Elks Foundation awarded them the Impact Grant.

"If we didn't have the grants we would not have been able to provide meals for the kids during the summer," said Cook.

"Kathy and her crew are amazing," said Joan Rowland with the Traverse City Elks Lodge. "They turn out every week all year long to do this for these kids and we know that they are appreciated."

But it seems everyone seems to agree that the best part of this program is getting to see the difference it can make.

"It's just so gratifying to see the kids smile when you drop off the tubs of food," said Cook.

"They send us notes on Christmas and thank us," said Huffman. "That's just the icing on the cake for us as volunteers."

Cook said this summer they were able to deliver more than 500 meals to kids in need.

She also said they plan to apply for the Impact Grant next year so they can provide these meals next summer, too.

GIVING

From Page 9

It is also a great way to talk about giving with young people! Give them a bank and then give them opportunities to earn coins and make a decision about sharing with others. We have lots of people that always put their coins they find on the ground into the bank! Every bit of change makes a difference!

Memorial Donations and more - The old "yellow" Memorial Donation envelope was updated last year to reflect donations of all kinds. Memorial Donations are an amazing way to honor someone who has passed away, and each of us at the Commission is very honored when the Major Project is chosen by a family for this special remembrance. We have also seen an increase in members celebrating

LODGE NEWS



Androids donated to veterans home

Negaunee Elks Lodge #1116 Veterans Committee recently donated four Android tablets to the Jacobetti Veterans Home Special Needs Unit. The presentation was made at a turkey dinner at the Lodge for 25 Veterans on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. In the attached photo are shown, L-R, Ron Downey, Negaunee Lodge #1116 Veterans Committee Chairman, Jim Faulkner, US Navy Veteran, Memory Care Unit; Krystal Burns, Jacobetti Home Activity Therapy Aide and Tim Roth, Negaunee Lodge #1116 Secretary.



Impact Award

Michigan Elks Major Project created a new award (Impact Award) for members who are able to find funding from outside sources such as a current or former employer. Terry Barrett (PER) and his wife, Sally, were presented with this first time award at the Flat Rock Elks 70th Anniversary Party. Terry has been able to secure funding of \$500 per year for the past 18 years from his former employer, Exxon Mobil, who are very charity minded. The money that has been donated has helped numerous Special Needs Children throughout our state.



South Haven Elks Lodge hosted a veterans reception in November.

SOUTH HAVEN ELKS LODGE #1509

Reception held to honor veterans

On November 10, 2017, South Haven Elks Lodge #1509 held a reception in honor of Veterans Day for all Veterans and to provide them dinner with James McCloughan, recent Medal of Honor recipient.

In attendance were Gerald Sherman, a 69-year member of the South Haven Lodge and a WWII Veteran, James "Scotty" Mears, a 61-year member of South Haven Lodge and long-time Lodge Secretary, as well as 19 other incredible men.

Veterans and their families were treated to a nice dinner buffet, dinner music by the South Haven High School jazz band, and dancing music by DJ Decker.

Speeches honoring the men included Mary Judnich, representing Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Fred Upton, Representative Beth Griffin, South Haven Incumbent Mayor, Scott Smith, and a moving tribute by James McCloughan himself.

A donation can on the buffet table raised over \$700 for the Veteran's organization Section 1776 for the holiday "Section Collection."

This event was made possible by the Anniversary Grant.

For more pictures and the full story, check our Facebook page, Elks Lodge #1509.



Promoting Americanism

Cadillac Lodge #680 continues in its fourth year of promoting Americanism by presenting Certificates of Recognition to area business which fly the US flag and/or otherwise publicly promote Americanism. Pictured are Lodge 680 Americanism Chairman Lars Persson presenting Certificates to Tina Godfrey, owner of Abbies First Cut Barber Shop and Dr. Tim Reaume, DDS of the Cadillac Dental Health Professionals.

LODGE NEWS



Local middle school students made this banner, to honor veterans.

TRAVERSE CITY ELKS LODGE #323

Free veterans dinner offered

On Sunday, November 5, Traverse City Lodge #323 hosted a free buffet dinner for all veterans and active duty personnel in the area.

One-hundred-forty veterans dinners were served along with 120 guest dinners and 30 volunteer dinners.

This is greater than a 100 percent increase over the number served last year in our first year.

Helping to serve the veterans and keep the dining area clean and appealing were 47 volunteers from the lodge.

Our chef volunteered his time to the event and prepared the entire meal.

Our club manager and one of the bartenders also volunteered their time to help make the event comfortable for our guests.

We owe Ruth Hall, State

Veteran's Chairman, a special thank you for granting us some funding to assist us in putting on this event. Two of the volunteers are teachers at one of the local middle schools and had their eighth-grade students make a thank-you banner to show appreciation for veterans.

We look forward to again doubling our numbers again next year.



Impact grant pumps-up cardio drumming

As part of their ENF Impact Grant, Tawas Area Elks Lodge #2525 sponsored cardio drumming exercise classes this fall at the Alternative Education Academy of Iosco County. More than 20 students took a break from their studies to get some exercise outdoors. The Tawas Elks also provided drinks and lunch for the students to help them recover from their workouts.



COURTESY OF STURGIS JOURNAL

Todd Maynard, owner of Willer's Shoes in downtown Sturgis, fits a child for a new pair of boots during the annual "Boots & Shoes" event in December.

STURGIS ELKS LODGE #1381

Lodge again collaborates for 'Boots & Shoes'

Courtesy Sturgis Journal

About 75 youth received footwear in December at the annual "Boots & Shoes" giveaway in Sturgis.

It involves a couple of Sturgis clubs coming together. Sturgis Elks Lodge #1381 and Kiwanis clubs, along with members of Key Club, an arm of Kiwanis Club at Sturgis High School, join forces to make it all happen.

It starts before Thanksgiving with a list of children provided by Sturgis K-2 teachers, said Elks member Scott Boland, who organizes the Elks side of the event along with his wife, Natalie.

The kids are invited to come downtown to Willer's Shoes where they are fitted for a new pair of either boots or shoes. Willer's provides the footwear at or below cost to Sturgis Elks, said owner Todd Maynard.

"We try to give them the best deal we can," he said.

Also at Willer's, students received a free pack of socks, courtesy of Ayres Insurance.

Then, it was off to St. John's Episcopal Church where Kiwanis members oversee a pizza party complete with visits with Santa, including a gift.



'Burger Bash' helps with decorations

Newberry Elks Lodge #1705 recently held a fundraising event at the club to support a community initiative to refurbish the downtown Christmas decorations. The "Burger Bash" raised nearly \$1,000 to help with this endeavor. Pictured is PER Gary Stephenson (tie) along with Save the Bells Committee persons.