

Ohio Elks News

Volume 3, Issue 2

April 2012



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to represent the Ohio Elks Association as your State President for 2012-2013. I am grateful for the confidence you have placed in me and look forward to working with the members of this outstanding organization as we continue **BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES** across the state of Ohio.

Members of the Elks in this great state of Ohio have always been united in a common goal. To continue to grow in the ability to help and provide for others. Traveling throughout this State the past 6 years in preparation for becoming President I have witnessed again and again the outstanding accomplishments and investments that your lodges have made in **BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES**.

..With this years motto of Ohio Elks "Building Stronger Communities" in mind. I would suggest that the most essential part of any building process is a plan.

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NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS

2012 Ohio Elk's Association Officers

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Jim Schank

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Jon Brough

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Lee Young

**" Elks Care
Elks Share "**

Marion #32

In February we distributed over \$13,000 to eleven area charities via our instant bingo proceeds. Portions of these proceeds also went to ENF, CP and the Ohio Veterans Home. We also have our own scholarship fund administered through the Marion Community Foundation, and we are going to provide two area students with a \$500 scholarship this year. We installed Wi-Fi in the clubroom, along with a new jukebox. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a day-long party, and we provided a Community Service Grant of \$750 to our Lincoln Park Family Aquatic Center to purchase 49 life jackets. Finally, to cut down on costs we are asking members again this year to pick up their new cards at the Lodge versus mailing them out this year, as all of our local members were asked to pick up their dues notices at the Lodge as well.

Mt. Vernon #140

In February we had a Valentine Day Celebration and a Mardi Gras Party. We have euchre every Monday night at seven, and pool playing on Wednesday nights at 7:30.

Bucyrus #156

We have a very successful Pancake Breakfast as an open-to-the-public ENF fundraiser in late January. All members who bought an Elks calendar were entered in a drawing to win an amount to pay for their 2012 membership fee. Every Tuesday night we host family activities. We had a Valentines Surf & Turf Dinner in February and a St. Patrick's party in March. Kids Easter party preceded our annual Elks Invitational Track Meet. We will be having a reverse raffle in April and holding our soccer shoot in May.

Sandusky #285

In January we were the proud host of the state bowling tournament. Then in February we had our famous (40th annual) Muskrat Feed to raise money for Youth Activities. We had a Valentines Dinner, and had our first Daytona 500 Party (sandwiches served, members asked to bring a dish). Members-only 100% payout Texas Hold 'em tournaments were held on select Saturdays this past winter. In April we are planning our Installation of Officers, Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast, and our 285 Club Party.

Elyria #465

March was the month for a Poker Run bus trip, a Calcutta (with 14 teams), PER Bingo, a Member/Sponsor Dinner and a great St. Patrick's Day complete with bagpipers at 11 am and 6 m. April was busy, too, with the Children's Easter Party, our 150 Club Dinner and our Ritual Team competing at the State Convention in Columbus. In May we'll be having a Mother's Day Celebration, Men's Bowling Banquet, Derby Day (armchair races) and the startup of our Co-ed Golf League.

Norwalk #730

Norwalk 730 recognizes a Student of the Month from one of our area high schools. In February we had a Super Bowl Party, a Valentine's Day dinner, and a Chili Cook-off. March was highlighted by a St. Patty's Day Party and our PER Reverse Raffle and Awards Night when the ER handed out the Officer, Elk and Citizen of the Year awards. In April we are having a Kids and an Adults Easter Egg Hunt.

Bellevue #1013

On February 3rd the band Crusin' played. Other February events were an all-you-can-eat brunch and drink specials on Leap Year Day. In March we had a Chili Cook-off and the PERs served corned beef and cabbage for St. Patrick's Day. April events will include Installation of new officers and Friday night dinners. Our bingo continues every Tuesday evening.

Galion #1191

Our Euchre League started in January, and we continue to have member Texas Hold 'em on Tuesday nights. In February we had a Valentines Dinner, a Super Bowl event and our annual PER dinner. In March we had our annual Dues Payer's dinner and a St. Patty's Day party as well as a Corn Hole Tournament. In April our new officers were installed and a Pancake Breakfast is planned. We are in planning mode as we are hosting the 2012 Ohio Elks State Golf tournament.

Lorain #1301

In February we had a Super Bowl Party and our Annual Steak and Lobster Reverse Raffle, which doubled as our Valentines Party. Lorain 1301 offered a fish fry every Friday night thru Lent. In March we had our golf league organizational meeting and our 4th annual St. Patrick's Day Blow-out (14 hours of sheer McLuncay). April brought our ER Ball, Bowling League banquet and a Texas Hold 'Em tournament. In May we are hosting the North Central District meeting, built around a Cinco de Mayo" theme. While all of our district friends are here, on Saturday May 5th, we will be dedicating our new patio in the name of Hap Wagner by unveiling a sign which depicts his interest and good nature, the "HAP"py Hour Patio.

Wooster #1346

In February our "Quick Fix" committee painted and fixed up the dining room, getting it ready for the Annual Officers Ball and PER's Irish Night in March. In April we'll be having a Kid's Easter party (lunch with the Easer Bunny), starting our Golf league, and having a Comedy Night with two comedians who will present "Laugh Off Your Triskaidekaphobia".

Ashland #1360

January started with a New Years Day Party and then on the 13th we had a Fish Fry, and Monte Carlo night on three Saturday nights, coinciding with our hosting of the North Central District Bowling Tournament. February brought our Super Bowl Party, Browns 100 Club dinner, a Daytona 500 Potluck and a Valentine's Day Dinner and Wine Tasting. In March we had a Jimmy Buffet Party, a Red Solo Cup Party, a Texas Hold 'em Tournament, and celebrated St. Patty's Day with green beer.

Lexington/Shelby #2554

We have a monthly PER's FREE dinner (asking members to bring a side dish) that coincides with our monthly drawings. We also have euchre on Thursday nights and Bar Bingo Potlucks on Tuesday nights. In February we had a Super Bowl Party. March was a cook your own: Steak Fry and we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with corned beef and cabbage. In April we are having an Easter Egg Hunt, and we are starting to make concrete improvements in our parking lot. In May we are having our Fourth Annual Sports Raffle, which has become our largest fund raiser with prizes that are better than ever.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - continued

. And I would recommend to the leaders of every lodge in the state to organize and formulate a 1year, 3year, and 5year plan for the future of your Lodge. In that plan you might investigate the needs not being met in your communities. Formulate a way to support that charity or program better than anyone else, and you become a name brand in your hometown. Membership should also be a vital part of your planning. Do you have a committee, a chairperson, a plan to bring in or bring back 50 or 100 members? Planning for your lodge's future is not wishful thinking. Planning is a crucial step and a plan of action that will insure the success and the future of your lodge.

A special goal of mine this year is to help establish a renewed commitment to our State Major Project Cerebral Palsy. I am requesting that every lodge hold one additional fundraiser for CP this year and earmark those funds for the CP Endowment. With your support of this Fund we can ensure our ability to grant the requests for financial assistance from the organizations specializing in helping those with Cerebral Palsy.

The Ohio Elks Association and its officers are here to assist you, your Lodge, And you're District. Please visit the OEA website often for an abundance of updated information.

Let's all make a plan for the future, continue working together, and have a Great Year doing the work of Elks and **BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.**

Comfort Care Kits are not just for Veterans

by JAMES L. NICHELSON, PGER Commission Member

Remembering Veterans is central to our Order. However, there is a war being fought in Afghanistan. Our troops there are also worthy of our utmost concern. The wounded soldiers in VA Hospitals are very special to all Americans. So, we Elks have lots to do! We will not forget our Veterans; we cannot forget our troops, and woe to us if we forget our wounded soldiers. Let's give Comfort Care Kits to all of them!

Comfort Care Kits are available for purchase from our Elks National Veterans Service Commission partner, Federated Wholesale, Inc., at www.federatedcares.com. Lodges can also make up their own kits of personal hygiene items and amenities, hold a packing party and distribute them to Veterans and troops.

Consider doing what one Lodge did. Enlist the aid of local schools to assist in the collection of phone cards, hygiene items, socks, DVD's, puzzle books and personal messages from the school children. Pack a number of USPS one-rate boxes (reduced rate available for APO and FPO addresses) and large plastic bags for local distribution.

Invite several of the school children to accompany Members to a local nursing home (be sure to ask first) to meet Veterans and to distribute to them the Comfort Care Kits. Take a picture for your local newspaper and your Lodge Bulletin. Finally, contact your state's National Veterans Service Commission Chairperson to coordinate furnishing a generous share of your Comfort Care Kits to VA Hospitals.

Please tell our Veterans, our troops and our wounded soldiers that Elks care. Give the small gift of a Comfort Care Kit. It is the least we can do for those who serve and for those who have served.

ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION



SERVING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT NEWS

East Liverpool #258 - In October, the lodge hosted the SE District meeting. On the 25th of October the Children's Christmas Charities Committee held a fund raising pasta/lasagna dinner. On November 12th, the Committee held it's annual "Night at the Races". The Wine Fest Committee held their annual "Wild West Wine Fest" and raised over \$800 for the CP fund.

The Lodge Christmas party for the children of the community was held on Sunday, December 25th. Lodge Officer of the Year is Richey Mackall, Rick Wolfe is Elk of the Year and Jeannie Ryan is Citizen of the Year.

Marietta #477 - The lodge held a soup bean dinner for Veterans Day. The Children's Christmas Party was held on December 17th. The ENF Chairman announced that during the year, \$9800 of ENF funds were distributed in Marietta.

Newcomerstown #1555 - On October 18th, the lodge held a dinner honoring Life Members. Christmas food baskets were delivered on December 17th.

New Philadelphia #510 - The lodge is selling cookbooks with recipes from lodge members for only \$10. Proceeds go to the ENF. On November 19th, the lodge held their 4th Annual Craft Fair with proceeds benefiting CP. The lodge carried the flag in two Christmas Parades; one on December 2nd in New Philadelphia and one on the 3rd in Dover. The Old Timers Christmas Party was held on the 11th. Christmas baskets were delivered to over 60 families on the 18th. A Christmas lunch for those in need was held on Christmas Day where 12 Elks and 5 helpers served 70 meals buffet style. The lodge also graciously donated \$100 to the Ohio Elks NVSC for Christmas.

The lodge donated over \$22,300 to various charities last year. Included were: \$2000 each to the Dover/New Philadelphia Food Bank, the Harbor House battered spouse shelter and the Tuscarawas County Free Clinic. More than \$3000 was given to support local school academic and athletic programs, \$650 to the Salvation Army, \$500 to support local senior transportation services and the largest item of all, more than \$9500 distributed in individual college scholarships in the Dover - New Philadelphia area.

Coshocton #376 - The lodge held a "Feed the Team" luncheon on November 5th. Thanks to a grant from the ENF, 75 team members and coaches had a spaghetti lunch before heading off to the Championship game. The Veterans Committee hosted a free dinner to all area vets on November 10th. One hundred twenty one vets and spouses attended the baked steak dinner. Transportation for vets in convalescent homes was provided by the lodge. On December 18th, 7 elks and one high school student put together 100 gift bags for the veterans for Christmas. Twelve Elks volunteered to deliver the gift bags. Twenty-three more veterans received a hand quilted lap robe made by the Coshocton Canal Quilters. The 100 veterans who received the gift bags had all received lap robes in the past 5 years. Christmas with Santa breakfast was held on Saturday, December 17th.



Gift bags for local vets for Christmas. Holding up one of the 23 lap robes are, from left, Jackie Farmer, HS student Katie Snider, Becky Bell, Paulla Emery, NVSC State Chairman Marilyn Griffis. Volunteers in back row, from left, Mona Eick, Greg Eick and Zach Bush. The lodge also donated \$500 to the Ohio Elks Assc. NVSC for the veterans in state facilities.

Urichsville #424 - Members Beth Kopp, Jim Golec and PER Robert Cerana passed out 192 dictionaries to 3r graders at Claymont Elementary School on November 15th abd 18th. Beth and Robert also spoke to students about the various programs for youth offered by the Elks. Applications are available starting January 2nd for the Tom R. Morris Scholarship Award. This is awarded to a graduating Senior of Claymont High School and based upon financial need, leadership and scholastics. Children’s Christmas Party was held on December 18th where 28 children got their photos taken with Santa. The Hoop Shoot was held on December 17th at Claymont Junior High in Urichsville. All contestants received a t-shirt courtesy of the lodge. The lodge graciously donated \$100 to the Ohio Elks NVSC for Christmas and also \$1000 to the Twin City Food Pantry. Elk of the Year is Virginia Cale, a 6 year member, a Trustee and active on many committees. The lodge continues to hold Teen Dances twice a month.

Ohio River Valley #231 - The lodge donated \$100 to the Ohio Elks NVSC for Christmas for the veterans in the state.

Submitted by Marilyn Griffis, Coshocton 376



Van Wert Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently donated \$50.00 to the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. The monies will be used to sponsor a child for their 2012 Bowl for Kid's Sake Event held on March 4th at the Olympic Lanes in Van Wert.

Each year the Big Brothers Big Sisters hosts this event for the kids in our community.

Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197 is proud to be able to assist this important program.



Van Wert Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks made a donation to the Van Wert County Historical Society in the amount of \$50.00. The monies will help support the “Railroad Heritage Weekend” to be held on July 14 & 15, 2012.

The 7th annual weekend will be held in the Commercial Building at the Van Wert County Fair Ground with more model Railroad Vendors this year. There will also be operating model railroad layouts O/HO/N gauge.

As always, this event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to visit the event.

Pictured, left to right is Charles White, representing the Historical Society accepting the check from Exalted Ruler Keith S. Rydell.

Messages from the GER

GL Newsletter, March 2012 GER Message: Compliance is a key part of Lodge success

A Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
Hon. David R. Carr

In today's economy, many Lodges are experiencing financial and other difficulties. The cost of supplies, utilities and taxes continues to increase while dues income continues to decrease with the loss of Members. Too often problems arise from poor business practices and/or a disregard for proper or required procedures.

Successful Lodges are those that comply with the requirements spelled out in the statutes and manuals of the Order. A lack of success is often a result of Officers being inexperienced, unaware of the requirements and/or purposely disregarding the statutes and rules.

Lodges are encouraged to adhere to sound business practices, comply with our manuals and statutes, and follow the requirements of state and local governments where Lodges reside. Lodges operating properly are generally better run, making them stronger – thereby ensuring the long-term viability of both the Lodge and our Order.

Each Lodge should have an independent accountant under contract to prepare the Lodge's Annual Financial Report for the year ending March 31, 2012. The accountant should be either a Certified Public Accountant or Public Accountant, who performs work for the general public and is knowledgeable of accounting for not-for-profit organizations. He or she should also be independent of the Lodge in order to render impartial opinions as to the Lodge's financial condition and be familiar with filing IRS tax forms applicable to non-profits.

Thank you for "Giving from the Heart" your talent, time and financial support to help your Lodge programs achieve success. You have helped make a difference in the lives of many youngsters, victims of disaster, veterans, children and adults with disabilities, and others who look to us for assistance. Your continued dedication demonstrates that *"Elks Care - Elks Share."*

GL Newsletter, April 2012 GER Message: Family, community participation make a difference

A Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
Hon. David R. Carr

Our Order was originally founded to provide community service and to help those less fortunate in time of need. As Elks, we serve as faithful servants to the communities in which we reside. In our changing society, with so many one-parent or two working-parent families, offering family activities can make a positive difference in attracting Members.

It's important for the new Lodge leaders to focus on family and community involvement when planning Lodge activities throughout the year. Try conducting a monthly informal activities meeting with the Lodge Officers and invite the Trustees and House and Lodge Committee Members. Extend an open invitation for all Members and their families to attend.

Also, invite representatives from any organization soliciting Lodge support to attend this meeting to explain the purpose of their request. Explore the possibilities that their members can work with Elks Members to help meet their goal. During each activity meeting, discuss the Lodge activities planned for the next several weeks. Open the meeting so everyone can express opinions and concerns regarding planned activities and potential new ones. This will give you more time to focus on other agendas for your regular meetings.

Involving the family and community in our many programs, as well as offering family activities, helps to generate Member and public confidence and support of our Lodges and programs. Family activities will help in procuring new Members and keeping existing Members by giving families "together time" to better utilize the continually shrinking hours families have in a fast-moving society.

Family involvement can make a difference in the success of our Lodges because those parents and children who visit and learn about our programs today will be the Members and leaders of our Lodges tomorrow. And involving community leaders from other organizations can certainly help the general public better understand our purposes and programs that fully demonstrate our motto, *"Elks Care - Elks Share."*



Van Wert Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently donated \$100.00 to the Van Wert Peony Festival Committee.

The monies are to go towards the Peony Festival Scholarship Program. The Elks, nationally, are only second to the United States Government in the number of scholarships that are given out each year. Van Wert Elks Lodge is proud to be a contributor each year to this important scholarship program.

Pictured, left to right are: Robert L. Exline, Van Wert Peony Festival Committee Member accepting the check from Exalted Ruler Keith S. Rydell.



Van Wert Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks have selected Sabrina Barnhart, Senior at Lincolnview High School and Jenna Waterman, Senior at Van Wert High School as the recipients of the Students of the Month for April.

Students are nominated by their high schools to receive this award. Each Student of the Month receives a monetary donation along with a certificate from the Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197 with the possibility to be named the Student of the Year. Students are judged on the basis of multiple achievements – Volunteerism, Character, Leadership, Service, Citizenship and Scholastic.

This program is designed to recognize outstanding young men and women for their achievements in school and community. The Elks wish to recognize and praise those students for their accomplishments, their activities, and their contributions to society through this program.

Pictured left to right is: Jenna Waterman accepting her certificate from Linda Stanley, Student of the Month Chairperson.

Pictured left to right is: Linda Stanley, Student of the Month Chairperson presenting the certificate to Sabrina Barnhart

Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, recently donated \$750.00 to the Convoy Volunteer Fire Department. The monies were used by the fire department towards the purchase of a light bar for their new grass truck.

The monies are distributed by the Ohio Elks Association in the form of a Community Service Grant. The Ohio Elks Association receives monies each year from the Elks National Foundation, a perpetual trust fund established many years ago by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Contributions to the Foundation are made each year by more than one million Elks and their families and friends from more than 2,000 Elks Lodges across the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

To date, thru the Community Service Grants, Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197 has distributed over \$27,000.00 back into Van Wert County to assist the city, county and villages.

Van Wert Elks Lodge is proud to be able to assist the Convoy Volunteer Fire Department with this important project.



Pictured, left to right are: Lodge Exalted Ruler Fred Fisher with Convoy Fire Chief Don Wilson.

MARION, OH (April 2, 2012) – The Marion Elks Lodge 32 donated \$750 for the purchase of 49 life jackets, in adult, youth, child and infant sizes, for the Lincoln Park Family Aquatic Center. The contribution was made possible by the Ohio Elks Association, as part of their Community Service Grant program.

The life vests will be used by the Family Aquatic Center primarily to help educate non-swimmers and keep people safe. Jeannie Brewer, aquatic director, said “We plan to use the National Note & Float guidelines, which will encourage non-swimmers twelve years of age and under to wear a United States Coast Guard approved Type III lifejacket. Those little water wings or floaties are not safe and parents need to be aware of that. The purchase of the 49 life vests will help us educate and keep little ones safe. People may bring their own life jackets, or ours will be available to use on a first come first serve basis. Safety is our number one goal, and we can’t thank the Marion Elks enough for helping us with this program!”



ELKS PURCHASE 49 LIFE JACKETS FOR NEW FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

Pictured in the stainless steel pool at the Aquatic Center now under construction are Rex Coldwell, Exalted Ruler of the Marion Elks, and Jeannie Brewer, Aquatic Director of the Lincoln Park Aquatic Center, holding some of the life jackets purchased via a donation by the local fraternal organization.



Donations to the Volunteers of America:

Parma Lodge received a thank you note from the Volunteers of America for their efforts on behalf of the men and women served by the Volunteers of American of Greater Ohio. The donations of food and clothing were most helpful in providing the ability to distribute them to those in need. The Lodge's Veterans Committee devotes their time and energy to helping those in need and are deserving of the recognition for their efforts.



Veterans Honor Flight:

The Parma Elks are working to sponsor a deserving Veteran for this trip. Honor Flight is a program which allows our Veterans to tour the Veterans Memorials in Washington DC. Honor Flight allows Veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to take a one day trip to Washington DC. There is never a cost to the Veteran. The cost to sponsor a Veteran is \$250.00, and flights take place between March and October. The Veterans Committee has placed a collection bin in the Lounge for donations and hope to sponsor more than one Veteran.



Recognition Program:

The Parma Elks Lodge Sixth Annual Recognition Program was held on March 21, 2012 to recognize the Citizen, Outstanding Student, Volunteer, Firefighter, and Police Officer of the Year for the communities of Brooklyn Heights, Parma and Parma Heights. The Recognition Program was co-sponsored by the local Sun Newspapers and Champps. The dinner was catered by Champps, and the Mayors from the three communities donated the dessert. The Parma Police Department's Honor Guard posted the colors, and the Parma Fire Chaplain gave the Invocation. Brooklyn Heights Mayor Mike Procuk (Parma PER), Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter (Lodge member), and Parma Heights Mayor Michael Byrne presented the awards. Photos from each community are below.

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