



Under the Spreading Antlers

Indiana **Elks** State Newsletter

From the State President JUNE 2006

Fran and I had a wonderful time at the convention in Clarksville. I would like to commend the convention committee for doing such a great job in finding a location that would work for the Indiana Elks in such a short time. Yes, it was not French Lick, but the Holiday Inn Lakeview employees did a great job in taking care of our needs.

I am looking forward to visiting as many lodges this year as possible. If you have a special program of function that you would like for me to visit, please let me know ASAP. Fran and I are so happy to be able to represent the Indiana Elks for the coming year. We have looked forward to this year with much anticipation.

My theme for this year is "Elks people helping people." In applying this theme in our local lodges, I would like to see the lodges increase their charitable contributions not only in dollars but also by getting involved in your local communities and let people see that Elks are there to help others. As I stated in my acceptance speech, we as Elks have a great product and we must advertise this to our own members of what we are doing and also to the members of the public within our own communities. I do believe that if we get the word out about what Elks can do we can increase our membership and retain the members we have.

VOLUNTEER

A person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service: as **a**: one who enters into military service voluntarily **b** (1): one who renders a service or takes part in a transaction while having no legal concern or interest (2): one who receives a conveyance or transfer of property without giving valuable consideration.

Volunteer, it is a word that is heard around the Lodge on a daily bases. Yet it seems that we never appreciate the full impact of its meaning. "A person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service".

When each of us joined the Lodge, we did so willingly. We didn't volunteer, we joined. We joined an organization that gave us a location to come and socialize with friends. We joined an organization that made us feel good, because "we are giving something back to the community". We joined an organization that is recognized world wide as a leader in giving to charitable causes.

JOINING is the easy part. Just about anyone can join. We all know that the two primary questions that we ask of a candidate: "Are you an American Citizen", and, "Do you believe in God?"

Sure the Elks is a great organization to join. I, like many others, joined for just the reasons listed above. But, after being a member for a couple of years, I realized I wanted more than to join the Elks, I wanted to **BE** an Elk. I started attending the meetings. I started to listen to the officers, and understanding what the Lodge needed. I obtained a full sense of what it truly meant to be an Elk. It took time, commitment and understanding. A commitment to the beliefs of Elkdom.

An understanding of what your lodge needs. It was by doing this that I finally came to understand what it was that separated, **JOINING** the Elks and **BEING** an Elk. It was one simple word: **VOLUNTEER**

It is the Volunteers that make the Elks Lodge a great place to socialize. It is the Volunteers that give something back to the community. It is the Volunteers that raise the money for all those Charities that depend on us annually. So now ask yourself: "**Did I join the Elks, or did I Volunteer to BE AN ELK?**"

"Reprinted with the approval of the Greenfield Elks Exalted Ruler Larry Hinds."

A big thank you goes out to Past President Harry Smith for leading the Indiana Elks Association for this past year. Great job Harry.

Congratulations to Franklin Lodge #1818 on winning the State Ritual Contest and good luck at national competition in Orlando.

Fran and I are looking forward in seeing all Indiana Elks at the National Convention in Orlando next month.

See you soon.

Tom McQueary
State President
Indiana Elks Association

FROM PAST STATE PRESIDENT

Harry E. Smith PSP Notes

For all of those who attended the Clarksville Convention I am sure you will agree that it was one of the most enjoyable conventions in recent years. The venue was not only new to us but the staff at the Holiday Inn far exceeded our expectations and went out of their way to satisfy everyone need and requirements. For all those who had the opportunity to meet our Grand Exalted Ruler Jim Grillo, you would have to agree he was the most personable and approachable Grand Exalted Ruler we have had in my 30 some years as an Elk. His extended visit with us gave us the opportunity to get to know him and his wife. The highlight of his visit was his inspiring speech on Friday evening. Very few people have his speaking ability.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Jeffersonville and New Albany Lodges for their great job acting as host Lodges for the Convention. Both Lodges made the membership of the Indiana Elks Association feel right at home.

I would like to thank the State Officers and Committeemen for their hard work during this last year. Your hard work exemplifies the true meaning of the Elks spirit.

I am well on the road to recovery and I wish to thank everyone for their help and consideration during the convention. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Orlando.

Harry Smith, PSP

ELKS DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Dale S. Phillips – State Chairperson

- A packet containing samples of most Grand Lodge Drug Awareness materials, revised order form for the material and a letter which outlined many Drug Awareness Education projects working in Indiana lodges was given to Exalted Rulers and Leading Knights attending the noon luncheon. Please review this material and share it with your lodge Drug Awareness Chairperson if not already done. (If you didn't receive this material, please respond to one of the numbers below.)
- Kids, Cars & Marijuana and Parenting; HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CHILD IS USING DRUGS?; and PARENT'S GUIDE TO INHALANTS pamphlets are new or revised. Please read.
- Now is the time to utilize or schedule the Drug Awareness trailer at local county fairs and other events. Please call 812-268-6022 or E-mail me to arrange a schedule. Many open dates now exist.

- Drug Identification Case with a DVD is available for loan or purchase (\$130.00 – your cost after Applying matching funds)
- Fatal Vision goggles are available for loan or purchase (your cost \$50.00) and are good to help reach out to the youth.
- Elroy the Elk Drug Awareness costume is available for your local events.
- Matching funds for qualified Drug Awareness projects (up to \$300.00) are available until I run out of funds. Please submit your plan now.
- Next month – I hope to have new information available for you after attending a (2) day training session at Grand Lodge convention. Look for the Drug Awareness booth at the convention.
- For more information call 812-268-6022, FAX 812-268-6550, E-mail dphillips@custom.net

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Lucky Bucks Calendar Winners for 2006

MAY 2006

NAME	CITY & STATE	LODGE	CALENDAR NUMBER	AMOUNT
Teri Rose	Boonville, IN	Boonville #1180	5561	100.00
Robert E. Wahlstrom	Indianapolis, IN	Indianapolis #13	3289	100.00
Terry Stepp	Michigan City, IN	Michigan City #432	3111	100.00
Jeremy Starkey	Farmland, IN	Muncie #245	9016	250.00
Ron Greenlee	Crawfordsville, IN	Rockville #2471	2122	100.00
Bill Catt	Vincennes, IN	Vincennes #291	5635	100.00
Mike Jones	Terre Haute, IN	Terre Haute #86	9607	100.00
Susie Avery	Kokomo, IN	Kokomo #190	0933	100.00
Eric N. Walsh	Elwood, IN	Elwood #368	3844	100.00
Gary M. Richardson	Anderson, IN	Anderson #209	3795	100.00
L. J. Summers	Elwood, IN	Elwood #368	1398	250.00
Shirley Hicks	Boonville, IN	Boonville #1180	8085	100.00

Thanks,
Bill Schaab, PSP
State Calendar Chairman

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Well this is my last newsletter. Again I want to thank everyone for their help all of the years I have been the Under the Spreading Antlers state chairman.

Your new state chairman is Sara Kixmiller I know she will do an outstanding job and keep improving the state newsletter. We have talked and she would like everyone to email her any articles to her at mkixmiller@charter.net I wish her all the best and any help I can be to her I will.

Fraternally

Larry Mercer