



Under the Spreading Antlers

Indiana **Elks** State Newsletter

From the State President May 2006

An update on Harry Smith State President

As most of you know Harry had to have bypass heart surgery, he is still in the hospital. He is up walking in his room but still doesn't have much of an appetite, only wants pudding. EI has asked that if you want to send a card PLEASE send them to the home address and she would take it to him. Let's all keep Harry and his family in our prayers and thoughts.

05/08/06 Update: President Harry was released from the hospital and is now at home recuperating.

Property Plus Program

This year, the insurance industry in general is increasing rates across the board due to the catastrophic losses experienced in several areas of our nation. Because excess insurance expenses have increased, it will be necessary to increase the Property Plus assessment by 25%. This increase is substantial but the cost of coverage to the public in general increased to a greater extent.

The Property plus Program has provided the Order the means to maintain coverage for the benefit of all local Lodges, regardless of location, underwriting limitations or exclusions generally enforced on the individual risk.

Child Supervision

Don't let members, guests or anyone using the premises to allow children to play or in any way use the Lodge premises or facilities without appropriate adult-controlled supervision. This should be a strictly followed rule without exception.

If any group uses, rents or participates in events at the Lodge, the group should indemnify and hold harmless the Lodge and, among other duties, agree to be responsible for the supervision, control and well-being of any minors in such groups or accompanying the group to the Lodge.

Bingo Operations

A large number of liability claims that are made involve bingo players. Many of these players are not members, may have other ailments, and tend to be quick to make a claim. Further, it seems that the exaggeration of alleged injuries is much more likely. Most of these type claims allege a trip/fall or slip/fall. Be sure to keep all walking areas clean, dry, and free from obstruction. Lodges must be vigilant in this area to reduce claim possibilities.

Larry Shaver – PSP
State Insurance Chairman

DOWN AND OUT

Trying a drug just once can get a person hooked and the drug addiction can ruin that person's life or drastically change the course of his/her life.

- You can find these Down and Out kids at the bottom end of the grade scale in almost any junior high or high school class.
- When they are unable to keep pace in an average classroom, they may be placed in an alternative school setting where at the best their career path will be different from a high school graduate.
- Some may end up on rock bottom making bigger mistakes and ending up in an offender setting where others will determine their future.
- They can also end up in the hospital emergency room or on a slab in the morgue.

- An addiction will damage the person's health, family relationships and as mentioned school records such as grades and sports activity. These are usually some of the first signs.
- The habit will mushroom into hundreds of dollars a week—money his parents and grandparents may give him. Often the addicted person needs even more money and resorts to stealing or even selling drugs to support the habit.
- It then becomes a vicious circle of drug dealers, law enforcement, and trying to survive with a brain that no longer can make good decisions.
- As the addiction claims its victim, the addictive stimulant that directly affects the chemistry of the brain causes the person to make more and more bad decisions. At this point there are, of course, many serious and potentially deadly—health risks. For example cocaine can lead to fatal heart attack or a stroke, induce tremors, muscle twitches, and even paranoia. Users often don't want to eat or sleep. Meth and other drugs of choice cause many of the same above-mentioned problems.

If you know of someone going down this path, try to get him or her into a professional treatment facility where they can help the person regain control of his/her life. This stage is like walking on a tight rope. They will need a lot of support to keep from falling off and going back to drugs. The environment is very important in helping the person regain control of his/her life. Progress is measured in months. The bottom line – that is why the Elks Drug Awareness objective is to educate Youth starting in grade school thru high school about the ill effects of drugs. The drug awareness program also includes educating Elks, teachers, parents and other members of the community so that they will work together as a coalition to attack drug problems in the community and schools.

For more information on this subject: The Elks Drug Awareness Program has pamphlets – “HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CHILD IS USING DRUGS?” and “PARENT’S GUIDE TO INHALANTS” plus other related pamphlets or contact your local Elks Drug Awareness committee person or Dale S. Phillips, Indiana Elks State Drug Awareness Chairperson. E-mail dphillips@custom.net or Elks Grand Lodge Web site.

Death of an Innocent

I went to party, mom, I remembered what you said.
 You told me not to drink, mom, so I drank soda instead.
 I really felt proud, mom, I know you said I would.
 I didn't drink and drive, mom, even the others said I should.
 I know I did the right thing, mom, I know you're always right.
 Now the party's ending, mom, as everyone is driving out of site.
 As I got into my car, mom, I knew I would get home in one piece

Because of the way you raised me so responsible and so sweet.
I started to drive away, mom, but as I pulled out in the road.
The other car didn't see me, mom, and hit me like a load.
As I lay here on the pavement, mom, I here the Policeman say.
The other guy is drunk, mom, and how I'm the one who will pay.
I'm lying here dying, mom, I wish you would get here soon.
How could it happen to me, mom, my life burst like a balloon.
There is blood all around me, mom, and most of it is mine.
I hear the medic say, mom, I'll die in a short time
I just wanted to tell you, mom, I swear I didn't drink.
It was the others, mom, the others didn't think.
He was probably at the same party as I.
The only difference is, mom, he drank and I die.
Why do people drink, mom, it can ruin your whole life.
I'm feeling sharp pains now, pain like a knife.
The other guy who hit me is walking, mom, and I don't think it's fair.
I'm laying and all I can do is stare.
Tell my brother not to cry, mom, tell daddy to be brave.
And when I go to heaven, mom, put" DADDY"S GIRL" on the grave.
Someone should have told him, mom, I would still be alive.
My breath is getting shorter, mom, I'm becoming very scared.
Please don't cry for me, mom, when I needed you, you were always there.
I have one last question, mom, before I say good-bye.
I didn't drink, so why am I the one to DIE?

- Anonymous

To parent to child, to child to friend,
Please never let this poem end!

John Barnes
Bluffton Elks

Stroke Recognition Simple and Easy to Remember.

During a BBQ, Ingrid stumbled and took a little fall - she assured everyone that she was fine and had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes. (They offered to call paramedics) They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening. Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital - (at 6:00pm, Ingrid passed away.) She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke perhaps Ingrid would be with us today.

Recognizing a Stroke

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed and getting to the patient within 3 hours, which is tough. Thank God for the sense to remember the "3" steps. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, this lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- * Ask the individual to SMILE.
- * Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.
- * Ask the person to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. ... It is sunny out today)

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

**BE A FRIEND AND SHARE THIS WITH AS MANY FRIENDS AS POSSIBLE,
YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE!!**

Lucky Bucks Calendar Winners for 2006

MARCH 2006

NAME	CITY & STATE	LODGE	CALENDAR NUMBER	AMOUNT
Todd Wright	Alexandria, IN	Anderson #209	9101	100.00
Gary Simpson	Evansville, IN	Boonville #1180	2884	100.00
Nancy S. King	Crawfordsville, IN	Crawfordsville#483	2027	100.00
Marty J. Harris	Crawfordsville, IN	Crawfordsville#483	7003	250.00
Gerry W. Avery	Kokomo, IN	Kokomo #190	3332	100.00
Kevin Mullendore	Fort Wayne, IN	Angola #2398	5275	100.00
Debi Barney	Jeffersonville, IN	Jeffersonville #362	3686	100.00
Tim Leighty	Lawrenceville, IL	Vincennes #291	8046	100.00
Grace HaHom	Lafayette, IN	Rockville #2471	2159	100.00
Anita Schmidt	Kokomo, IN	Kokomo #190	0905	100.00
Erika & B. J. Wood	Lawrenceburg, IN	Lawrenceburg #1836	3549	100.00
Larry Lappin	Danville, IL	Rockville #2471	9693	100.00
Larry & Cindy Flanagan	Chesterton, IN	Highland #981	8243	100.00

April 2006

NAME	CITY & STATE	LODGE	CALENDAR NUMBER	AMOUNT
Neal G. Scarlett	West Lafayette, IN	Lafayette #143	2093	250.00
John B. Lyons	Portland, IN	Portland #768	3871	100.00
Judy Pickering	Frankton, IN	Elwood #368	1419	100.00
E. I. Smith	Shelbyville, IN	Shelbyville #457	8507	100.00
Joe Bridwell	Terre Haute, IN	Terre Haute #86	4663	100.00
Herb Parker	Madison, IN	Madison #524	3525	100.00
Pam Hendrickson	Boonville, IN	Boonville #1180	3020	100.00
Matt Turley	Lebanon, IN	Lebanon #635	0949	100.00
Ronald L. Stier	Richmond, IN	Richmond #649	6489	250.00
Gregg Englert	New Albany, IN	New Albany #270	6041	100.00

Thanks,
Bill Schaab - PSP
State Calendar Chairman

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I have been taking care of the State Newsletter since 1997 – 1998. It has been a great working with all of the past State Presidents and with current President Harry Smith. All though as with any committee there has been some headaches though the years, either too much to put in or as most of the time to little. I feel that the changes that have been implemented this year, going to the email type system have made it possible for more members to receive our State newsletter. Also thanks to PSP Larry Shaver for his help. Larry has put the letters on the State web page, so now you can pull up all of this year's letters.

I will have one more newsletter to put together as incoming State President Tommy McQueary has replaced me as state chairman. So please send anything for the June letter to my email address LEMerc2@aol.com. I also asked that each of you work with the new State Chairperson. Remember, this is your newsletter. The chairman can only be as good as you the membership are. **IF** you do not send articles about your lodge and district then the chairmen, state and district cannot do you justice. It has to be a combined effort by all.

In closing I want to thank everyone who has sent articles and helped me do my job the last 9 years.

Fraternally
Larry Mercer
Under the Spreading Antlers
State Chairman

..... till next month!