



# GRAND LODGE Convention News

## MONDAY JUNE 30, 2025



## Elkdom shows 'heart' for America in 2024–2025

By Ruth Kellar

Convention News Reporter

Thousands of Elks and guests from all 50 states attended the Opening Ceremony of the 160th Grand Lodge Session, where they learned of the past year's successes by the Elks National Drug Awareness Program, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, and the Elks National Foundation. The evening's highlight was a presentation by Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer, who congratulated the assembled Elks for demonstrating during the past year "Elkdom's Heart For America."

To open the ceremonies, the assembled Elks were welcomed to Kansas City by PGER T. Keith Mills, who then introduced the Past Grand Exalted Rulers and Past First Ladies, followed by First Lady Julia Schiefer and GER Schiefer. Mills next introduced Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Chair Gwendolyn B. Parker, who oversaw the Parade of Flags, which included the flags of the first responders; all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and overseas possessions; the six branches of the US Armed Forces and the US Merchant Marine; the POW-MIA flag; and the flag of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. To close the parade, the members of the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee escorted the flag of the United States of America to the front of the stage, and assembled Elks recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PGER Mills then introduced PGER Millard C. Pickering, the chairman of the Elks Drug Awareness Commission. Pickering introduced William J. Bryan, Director of the Drug Awareness Commission. Bryan acknowledged the leaders of the commission, which was created during the 2022–2023 fraternal year in order to give the Drug Awareness Program a permanent



Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer and First Lady Julia Schiefer watch Sunday's Opening Ceremony with PGERs and Past First Ladies. Photo: Gary Rohman/Rohman Photography.

place in the Order's statutes. Bryan then gave the annual report and focused on the past year's highlights, which included Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer's recent meeting with Acting Administrator Derek Maltz of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); the educational speaking tours of Elks Drug Awareness Program spokespeople Ray Lozano and Dr. Heather DiBlasi, who spoke to thousands of students, teachers, and parents; and the continued success of the program's educational video podcast, which well surpassed the goal of reaching 750,000. Bryan emphasized the importance that education plays in preventing substance abuse.

PGER Mills returned to the stage and introduced PGER Paul R. Ryan, Chairman of the Elks National Veterans Service Commission, who proceeded to give the commission's annual report. He noted that the Welcome Home Kit provided basic household necessities to a record-breaking 4,242 veterans moving into new homes over the past year. In addition, an increase in the program's funding ensured that 43% of the kits included beds. PGER

Ryan also emphasized the importance of Welcome Home Kits to making veterans undergoing individual hardships feel seen and supported by their community. He noted that through the Voluntary Service Program, Elks continued to provide in-person support to veterans in need, with Elks volunteers visiting more than 380 hospitals, clinics, and VA facilities across the country. PGER Ryan showed a video illustrating the significance of the Emergency Assistance Program, which provided urgent financial aid to 558 veterans in 2024–2025 to help them exit homelessness or avoid losing their place of residence. He concluded his report with an appeal to Elks to continue extending support to veterans.

PGER Mills next introduced Elks National Foundation Director Jim O'Kelley, who gave the reports of the ENF. O'Kelley reminded Members of the ENF's illustrious history and congratulated them on their outstanding donations, which has ensured that

Please see **OPENING** Page 7

See Page 12 for Proposed Resolutions



INNOVATION

# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY



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# How Many Conventioneers?

The Credentials Committee has announced that the Registration figures from Saturday and Sunday were completed just in time for Opening Ceremony:

Grand Exalted Ruler . . . . .	1
Past Grand Exalted Rulers . . . . .	19
Grand Lodge Officers . . . . .	8
Grand Trustees . . . . .	8
Grand Forum . . . . .	6
Grand Lodge Committeemen . . . . .	77
District Deputies-Designate . . . . .	225
Special Deputies . . . . .	29
Representatives to Grand Lodge & Alternates . . . . .	1,370
State Presidents . . . . .	44
State Secretaries . . . . .	35
Grand Lodge Members . . . . .	1,587
Non-Voting Members . . . . .	1,850
Guests . . . . .	829
Vendors . . . . .	31

**Combined Totals: 6,119**

# 1ST DAY BUSINESS SESSION

<b>08:00</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> . . . . .	Grand Lodge Officers
	Procession of Grand Lodge Officers . . . . .	Larry A. Robertson, Grand Esquire
	Call to Order . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	— Invocation . . . . .	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Recognition of Delegates. . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	• From Distant Lodges • From New Lodges	
	Reading of Minutes from Previous Session — Motion to Dispense	
	Appointments . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	Annual Report of the Grand Exalted Ruler . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	Nat'l. Convention Commission Report. . . . .	Millard C. Pickering PGER, Chair
	Nat'l. Memorial & Publication Comm. Report .	Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER, Chair
	Veterans Memorial Restoration Trust Report . .	Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr., PGER, Chair
	Board of Grand Trustees ( <i>preliminary report</i> ) . . . . .	Timothy F. Jaeger, Chair
	Committee on Judiciary. . . . .	Joel W. Todd, Chair
	Legislative Session discussion ( <i>2 min/resolution</i> ) . . . . .	Joel W. Todd, Chair
<b>09:30</b>	<b>(estimated) Non-Members Admitted</b>	
	Ritualistic Committee ( <i>preliminary report</i> ). . . . .	Steve D. Rysdam, Chairman
	Announcements . . . . .	Larry A. Robertson, Grand Esquire
	Nominations and Election of 2025-2026 Officers . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	Designating Escorts for Procession of GER-Elect. . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	Presentation of Grand Lodge Officers-Elect . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	Celebration/Demonstration . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	Acceptance Speech. . . . .	Bryan R. Klatt, GER-Elect
	Announcements . . . . .	Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
	Announcements . . . . .	Larry A. Robertson, Grand Esquire
	Announcements . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER
	Benediction . . . . .	Rev. Christopher J. Ford, Grand Chaplain
	Grand Lodge Session Recessed . . . . .	Douglas A. Schiefer, GER

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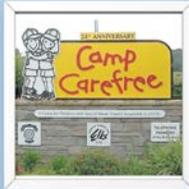


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### G/L ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

#### ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE SEMINARS

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee will be holding two seminars at the Kansas City Convention Center on Monday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday from 12:30 to 2 p.m., both in Room 3501A. The seminars provide an overview of the committee's programs, including the Soccer Shoot, Student/Teenager of the Month/Year, JROTC Awards, Dictionary Project, Antlers, Community Projects Contest, Public Safety Medals, and the Junior Golf Program.

At the end of the seminar, there will be an opportunity to ask questions to the committee members regarding the programs. This is a great way to learn about programs that can help your Lodge become more visible in your community.

## Special Recognition Award Best Grand Lodge Area

The generous donations in 2024-25 by the B.P.O. Elks of

### Manila, PI Lodge No. 761

are gratefully acknowledged by the Grand Exalted Ruler and our Board of Trustees

**Elks National Foundation**



## Special Recognition Award Best New Lodge in Per-Member Giving

The generous donations in 2024-25 by the B.P.O. Elks of

### Elizabethtown, KY Lodge No. 2891

are gratefully acknowledged by the Grand Exalted Ruler and our Board of Trustees

**Elks National Foundation**



ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

# ENF seminars for Monday

The Elks National Foundation is hosting three seminars to highlight its work and give tips to volunteers—you won't want to miss them! Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open 30 minutes before seminars begin, and rooms are subject to change.

### ENF Fundraising Chairs: How and Who—Soliciting ENF Donations

This session will help identify prospective donors in your Lodge and provide details on how to solicit gifts. Though the content for this seminar is designed for ENF Fundraising Chairs, all are welcome to attend. *Monday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Kansas City Convention Center—Room 3501G.*

### Elks Hoop Shoot: Unleashing Gritty Kids

Catch the tip-off for the upcoming Elks Hoop Shoot season and learn how you can help unleash gritty kids. *Monday, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Kansas City Convention Center—Room 3501A.*

### Community Investments Program: #CIPTurns20

This session is an opportunity to celebrate 20 years of helping Elks build stronger communities through Lodge grants while learning more about 2025-26 grant specifics, including a \$1,000 increase to the Gratitude Grant base amount and best practices for grant use. *Monday, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Kansas City Convention Center—Room 3501A.*



In addition to the seminars, members of the ENF staff and Elks Scholar Advisory Board can answer your questions at the ENF booth during convention.

## Grand Lodge Budget proposed for 2025-2026

### REVENUE

Per Capita Assessments . . . . .	5,397,665
Interest/Dividend Income . . . . .	910,000
Merchandise Sales . . . . .	9,000
Convention Revenue . . . . .	298,500
Management Fees . . . . .	52,800
Royalties . . . . .	160,000
Other Income . . . . .	46,000
Transfer From Reserves . . . . .	1,900,000
	<hr/>
	<b>\$8,773,965</b>

### EXPENSES

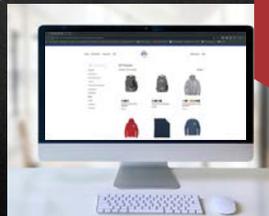
Grand Trustees . . . . .	58,950
District Deputies . . . . .	614,200
Special Deputies . . . . .	33,450
Special Representatives . . . . .	54,750
Rose Parade . . . . .	100,000
Grand Lodge Session . . . . .	127,200
Grand Lodge Conference . . . . .	1,959,000
PGER Office and Travel . . . . .	500,000
Legal Fees . . . . .	200,000
Audit Fees . . . . .	45,000
Bank Fees . . . . .	30,000
General Insurance . . . . .	86,000
Investment Manager Fees . . . . .	240,000
Disaster Relief Donation . . . . .	150,000
Contingency . . . . .	117,000
Other Grand Lodge . . . . .	355,846
Grand Exalted Ruler . . . . .	456,714
Grand Secretary Expenses . . . . .	2,627,584
Committees & Other . . . . .	1,018,271
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## GRAND LODGE RITUALISTIC COMMITTEE

### RUSH LAMOTTE HOLLAND AWARD

This award, given to the highest scoring Leading Knight in the Ritual Contest, will be presented Monday on behalf of Colorado Springs, CO Lodge No. 309 PER Association, Colorado State Sponsor PGER John Amen, and the Colorado Elks Association.

Rush LaMotte Holland was the Exalted Ruler of Colorado Springs, CO Lodge No. 309 in 1902-1903. Holland was a highly respected attorney, and during the Grand Lodge Convention in Baltimore, MD in 1903, Holland was appointed to the Committee on Laws by GER Joseph T. Fanning.

In 1905, Holland was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Work and Ritual by Grand Exalted Ruler Robert Brown. GER Brown instructed the committee to prepare and submit an entirely new Ritual, for approval at Grand Lodge in Denver, CO, in 1906.

Brother Holland wrote the lecture of The Esteemed Leading Knight. This lecture was "written like no other and has stood the test of time and has resisted changes."

On July 14, 1908, Rush L. Holland was nominated and elected Grand Exalted Ruler at the National Convention, held in Dallas, TX.

It is no doubt that PGER Rush L. Holland exemplified the virtues of Elkdom. Colorado Springs Lodge No. 309 is truly proud of his accomplishments to both our country and our Order.

### WILLIAM A. KING AWARD

It is our honor to present this award on Monday in memory of William A. King. This award is given each year by the Union City, GA Lodge 1617 to the Officer in the Eastern Division and the Western Division who achieves the highest overall scores of all Officers competing in the ritual contest.

Bill King was an Elk for over 50 years and a Life Member of Union City, GA Lodge 1617. He was active as an Officer, ritual coach, and judge. He was an All American Lecturing Knight and served as a Grand Lodge ritual judge.

In 1991, 1992, and 1994, Bill coached his home Lodge, Union City, GA No. 1617, to three National Ritual Contest Championships. His teams have been Eastern Division Champions five times and have produced 26 All-American Officers.

Bill King's dedication to the Ritual and his contributions to the members of his teams as a coach, mentor, and friend makes this award special.

Bill has passed beyond "The Eleventh Hour" for his Promised Reward, but his love for the Ritual continues in us as it is inscribed on this award given today:

*"There is no activity throughout Elkdom that more consistently and continually furthers the fundamental principles of our order than a dignified, impressive rendition of the ritual."*

### ROBERT GRAFTON AWARD

This award, given to the highest scoring Esquire in the Ritual Contest, will be presented on behalf of Florida State's Co-sponsor PGER Michael F. Smith and the 55,000+ Elks of the great Sunshine State. It is named in honor of Robert "Bob" Grafton, the senior member of the Grand Lodge Advisory Board. He has served this Order with honor and distinction for more than 75 years.

He was initiated into Elkdom in July, 1948 in West Palm Beach, FL Lodge No. 1352. He progressed through the chairs, serving as Exalted Ruler in 1957 and became a certified Ritual Judge in 1958. In 1962, Bob became Exalted Ruler of the Riviera Beach Lodge No. 2069. Bob served the Florida State Elks Association as Southeast District Vice President in 1964-65 and District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in 1965-66. He served the Florida State Elks Association as a member of its Judiciary Committee from 1958 to 1977, serving as chairman from 1968-77. His hard work and dedication were further recognized when he was elected State President in 1971-72. He received Elkdom's highest honor when he was elected Grand Exalted Ruler and held our highest office in 1979-80.

Bob has had a long and distinguished career within the Grand Lodge, serving as State Sponsor of Florida, as well as Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Puerto Rico, and Panama. He has served on the Grand Lodge Judiciary, Grand Lodge Board of Trustees, as its chairman in 1976. He served on the Grand Forum, Grand Lodge Advisory Board, serving as chairman in 1991, Elks National Service Commission, Grand Lodge National Foundation Trustees and Grand Lodge Elks National Convention Committee.

**OPENING** from Page 1

the Order will have nearly \$44.5 million to spend on charity. He also recognized the 20th Anniversary of the Community Investments Program, whose budget this year is \$18 million. He then introduced a video highlighting the ways in which the Members of Chattanooga, TN Lodge No. 91 have successfully used a CIP grant to make a difference in their community and encouraged Members to follow their example.

O’Kelley gave a report on the 53rd annual National Hoop Shoot Finals competition, held at Wintrust Arena in Chicago in April. O’Kelley introduced the two winners of the Getty Powell Award for the highest scoring boy and girl overall at the Finals.

The female winner was Carrigan Price, who was sponsored by Columbia/Middletown, PA Lodge No. 1074 and competed in the Girls 8-9 Division. The champion of the boys’ competition was Cooper Thompson, who competed in the Boys 12-13 Division and was sponsored by Claremore, OK Lodge No. 1230. O’Kelley noted that Price and Thompson will be sent to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA, where they will attend the Class of 2025 Enshrinement Weekend and see their names displayed in the Elks Hoop Shoot digital exhibit.

Next up to the podium was ENF Assistant Director Deborah Kahler Doles, who called out two scholarship opportunities, the Most Valuable Student Scholarships and the Legacy Awards scholarships, noting that 850 high school seniors received one of these scholarships this spring. She also spoke about the annual Most Valuable

Student Leadership Weekend, saying the experience provides opportunities for the MVS scholars to learn more about college, create lasting friendships, become members of the Elks family, and acquire a support system that includes past MVS scholarship recipients.

ENF encouraged Members to support its programs by making a one-time gift or by joining the ENF Fidelity Club, which involves making monthly donations to the foundation. Elks were reminded to take advantage of all of the ENF’s wonderful programs in ways that will help their communities.

Following the conclusion of the reports, the Opening Ceremony’s keynote presentation was given by Grand Exalted Ruler Douglas A. Schiefer, who spoke about his successful year leading the Order. He recalled his year of travel with First Lady Julia, during which he encouraged Elks across the country to continue supporting the ENF and use the opportunities it provides for community outreach. He also urged Elks to keep focusing on membership retention while attracting new Elks.

Schiefer went on to commend the “hope, truth, and service” he and First Lady Julia had witnessed Elks demonstrating by volunteering with youth, veterans, people with disabilities, and more.

“We experienced firsthand how the proud Members from your home Lodges are truly the hearts of Elkdom,” Schiefer stated. “We Elks are committed to the service of others, because we know that is what makes our communities strong and healthy.”

In closing, Schiefer once again applauded the Elks for an amazing year and thanked them for their guidance during the future business sessions. ★

# Thank You to the ELKS STATE ASSOCIATIONS



**FLORIDA Booth #125**



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## ELKS NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

# Leather program collects more than 8,000 hides

By Mary K. Morgan

Director, Elks National Veterans Service Commission

The Elks Veterans Leather Program volunteers came through for veterans again this year, collecting and preparing 8,425 leather hides. These leather hides are brought to the tannery and then made into wheelchair gloves and craft kits, and are used in recreation therapy programs at the VA.

In 2024-25, Elks and volunteers in nine states collected and prepared hides and transported them to locations around the country. In total, Elks distributed 1,305 pairs of wheelchair gloves to veterans last year in VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, and other facilities.

Every year Veterans Leather Program volunteers also attend national adaptive sports events to meet with veterans personally and distribute these gloves. Each of these pairs of gloves is emblazoned with the Elks logo, so veterans can appreciate the hard work Elks put into running the program.

Finished leather is also turned into craft kits, thanks to our longtime partner Help Heal Veterans (HHV). This past year, Elks donated 34,044 square feet of leather to HHV to make craft kits for veterans. In return, HHV helped Elks volunteers in State Veterans Homes and elsewhere hand out 8,929 craft kits directly to veterans. These kits help with physical therapy, foster improved concentration, and offer



Visitors can purchase wheelchair gloves for \$25 at the ENVSC booth.

veterans a sense of accomplishment.

Finished leather is also donated directly to VA Medical Centers, which recreation therapists use to plan creative projects focused on helping veterans recover. In 2024-25, Elks distributed 4,821 square feet of leather directly to facilities for use in therapeutic crafting.

This program requires the time and energy of so many. Every year, there's a challenge to see which states can contribute the most hides. This year, Iowa came out on top, contributing 3,545 hides. Missouri came in second place with 2,636 hides, and Nebraska came in third place with 1,127 hides. Congratulations to these states!

A big thanks goes to Veterans Leather Program Chair Chuck Mudge and Vice-Chair Curtis Blystone for all their hard work.

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS for 2024-2025

By Mark Eaton
Committee Member

We are proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of our Americanism Essay Contest winners. The theme for the contest in 2024-25 was What Does Patriotism Mean To Me?

This year, 41 states participated in the contest. One state alone reported more than 5,400 participants! This was a great response to our essay contest and we hope to continue to grow its participation further.

I'd like to congratulate this year's winners:

EIGHTH GRADE

1st Place: Azalea Snowmassara. Sponsored by Tacoma, WA Lodge No. 174.

2nd Place: Jace Simonds. Sponsored by Wolcott, NY Lodge No. 1763.

3rd Place: Luca Capalbo. Sponsored by South Kingstown, RI Lodge No. 1899.

SEVENTH GRADE

1st Place: Rachel Liu. Sponsored by Clawson-Troy, MI Lodge No. 2169.

2nd Place: Kayleigh Kim. Sponsored by Greater Palisades, NJ Lodge No. 2475.

3rd Place: Anna K. Montgomery. Sponsored by Summerville, SC Lodge No. 2719.

SIXTH GRADE

1st Place: Palmer Revier. Sponsored by Clark Fork Valley, MT Lodge No. 2757.

2nd Place: Navee Gupta. Sponsored by Clawson-Troy, MI Lodge No. 2169.

3rd Place: Brisa Avila. Sponsored by Irving, TX Lodge No. 2334.

FIFTH GRADE

1st Place: Salina Jajo. Sponsored by Macomb, MI Lodge No. 2292.

2nd Place: Sterling Lunde. Sponsored by Winston-Salem, NC Lodge No. 449.

3rd Place: Samuel J. Lambson. Sponsored by Coquille Valley, OR Lodge No. 1935.

Thank you to all the Lodges and states for their participation in this program.

The winners' plaques will be displayed at the Fraternal Committee booth during the convention and can be picked up after the session on Tuesday. The winning essays can be read in a later issue of Elks Magazine.

The theme for the 2025-26 American Essay Contest is: What Does Service to Your Country Mean? We feel there will be a wide variety of opinions, and we look forward to reading each one.

Advertisement for The Elks Youth Eye Service. Includes text: 'The Elks Youth Eye Service, or EYES, is the major project of the Oregon State Elks Association.' 'To make an online donation visit: www.oregonelks.org/donate or scan the QR code below:' and a QR code. Also features a list of services: RESEARCH, VISION SCREENING, OREGON ELKS CHILDREN'S EYE CLINIC, SATELLITE FACILITY IN BEND, 75+ YEAR COMMITMENT. Includes an image of a bronze elk statue and a row of seven diverse children wearing glasses.

GRAND LODGE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Elks announce Virtual National Soccer Shoot champions

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024-25 Elks Virtual National Soccer Shoot. This year, the Elks Virtual National Soccer Shoot had nearly 24,000 children participate from 27 states. The National Soccer Shoot Champions are as follows:

- U-8 Boys KADEN SANDERS, Sponsored by Lebanon, IN No. 635
U-8 Girls MADISON ALLEN, Sponsored by Danielson, CT No. 1706
U-10 Boys BRECKEN OWENS, Sponsored by Amarillo, TX No. 923
U-10 Girls ADRINA CRUZ, Sponsored by Kearny-Belleville, NJ No. 1050
U-12 Boys JASON JOHNSON, Sponsored by Maynard-Clinton, MA No. 1568
U-12 Girls ELLE SANDERSON, Sponsored by Eureka-Pacific, MO No. 2644
U-14 Boys JAMES GOOD, Sponsored by Newport, VT No. 2155
U-14 Girls JAVYN GRESS, Sponsored by Newcomerstown, OH No. 1555
U-16 Boys ANDRES LOPEZ, Sponsored by Plant City, FL No. 1727
U-16 Girls STELLA WATKINS, Sponsored by Garden Grove, CA No. 1952



Each winner received a certificate and National Champion's lapel pin, along with a congratulatory letter from the Grand Exalted Ruler. These awards were sent to the State Association (or Lodge) to present the awards to the winners locally. In the coming year, we encourage every Lodge and State Association to offer a Soccer Shoot in their communities. By doing so, you have an opportunity to show that Elks Care—Elks Share.

Advertisement for the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee. It features a large question mark graphic and lists several questions: 'How do I submit to the FRS?', 'What is the FRS?', 'How do I use QuickBooks?', 'What's a Restricted Fund? How do I handle it?', and 'How do I use QuickBooks Desktop?'. Below the questions, it says 'WE HAVE ANSWERS' and provides contact information for experts from the committee and the FRS Applications Specialist. It also includes the Elks USA logo.

Advertisement for the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee. It features a purple header with the text 'G/L AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE'. The main text describes seminars on Monday and Tuesday, including 'Introduction to Lodge Accounting for Officers seminar' and 'Advanced Lodge Accounting Topics seminar'. It provides details on the software used (QuickBooks), the topics to be covered, and the schedule for both sessions. It concludes by stating that each session will have a question and answer segment and that members can stop by the committee's booth for one-on-one meetings.

# Florida State Elks Association Major Projects



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# Summary of Proposed Resolutions

**2025-01**—To make participation in the physical loss and crime coverage policy procured by Grand Lodge optional for Local Lodges and to require proof of alternative insurance coverage.

**2025-02**—To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Secretary through an outside insurance company.

**2025-03**—To allow a Lodge to satisfy the bond requirement for the Lodge Treasurer through an outside insurance company.

**2025-04**—To authorize the issuance of electronic membership cards, allow the Office of the Grand Secretary to determine requirements, and require Local Lodges to recognize an electronic membership card in the same manner as paper cards.

**2025-05**—To define what constitutes a Lodge Affiliate.

**2025-06**—To clarify the suspension of the social privileges of a member applies to all social functions and social activities of the Order.

**2025-07**—To clarify, if a Local Lodge adds the Secretary and Treasurer to the Board of Directors, the Lodge must ensure such action is consistent with its corporate documents.

## G/L FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

### CONTEST "I" WINNERS

The Contest I - State Bulletin Contest recognizes the best State Association bulletins. Judging is based on four categories: Content, Layout & Typography, Pictorial, and General.

From covering major events to recognizing individual Members' contributions, these bulletins play a crucial role in preserving our traditions and inspiring future generations of Elks. *And the winners are:*

#### 5 Star ★★★★★ Awards

State	Editor
Florida	Rachael King
Georgia	Linda Lewis
Illinois	Elizabeth Conaway
Kansas	Carl E. Lindsey, Jr
MD, DE, DC	Janie Swigert
Michigan	Jean Chapdelaine
Missouri	Joy Clarkson
New Jersey	Joyce Powell
New York	Timothy R. Welp
Pennsylvania	Jason L. Cook
Washington	Jen Steele

#### 4 Star ★★★★★ Awards

State	Editor
Arizona	Shawnee Carlile
Colorado	Sandy Bassett
Connecticut	Richard Poole
Louisiana	Brian Baye
North Carolina	Ashley Buckwell

#### 3 Star ★★★ Awards

State	Editor
Idaho	Susan Ketchum
Oregon	C. Blake Whitson

## 2025 RITUALISTIC CONTEST PRELIMINARY SCORES

EASTERN DIVISION			WESTERN DIVISION		
STATE	LODGE & NO.	SCORE	STATE	LODGE & NO.	SCORE
SOUTH CAROLINA	Charleston, SC No. 242	95.6431	ARIZONA	Phoenix, AZ No. 335	94.2147
NEW YORK	Carthage, NY No. 1762	97.7407	CALIFORNIA	Santa Clarita, CA No. 2379	96.3470
FLORIDA	Gainesville, FL No. 990	95.3626	OKLAHOMA	Broken Arrow, OK No. 2673	92.5589
NEW JERSEY	Middletown, NJ No. 2179	97.2970	NEVADA	Reno, NV No. 597	96.1757
OHIO	Kenton, OH No. 157	98.4573	WASHINGTON	Kelso/Longview, WA No. 1482	93.1797
MAINE	Sanford, ME No. 1470	96.4251	COLORADO	Colorado Springs, CO No. 309	95.1797
PENNSYLVANIA	Bridgeport, PA No. 714	96.5871	OREGON	Ashland, OR No. 944	93.6246
			NEBRASKA	Grand Island, NE No. 604	94.8914
			MISSOURI	Festus-Crystal City, MO No. 1721	92.2119

**2025 GRAND LODGE RITUALISTIC CONTEST**  
**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

### FINALS – MONDAY JUNE 30, 2025

1:00 p.m.	Santa Clarita, CA No. 2379
2:15 p.m.	Kenton, OH No. 157
3:30 p.m.	Reno, NV No. 597
4:45 p.m.	Carthage, NY No. 1762