President
Dane A. Dysert, PSP

As tough as it may be to me, because of commitment, I am going to try to express some of the feeling that Dick Treacle had for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, which he spent over 40 years nurturing into an introductory message. This will be a little bit me and a little bit Dick Treacle. At least anything I can contribute will be the results of a little more experience than Dick. My collaboration with this organization and association with fellow Elks representing the same values that all outstanding members possess, has proved to me one of the things that Dick Treacle expressed, communication is the key to the success to any project or endeavor our Order attempts. You cannot be just an idea man; the bar is full of them. How many times have you heard a member repeat, “You know what you ought to do?” Don’t say it, do it. Make it happen. Many a good idea dies when the lights are turned out. Take your idea, add some helpers and communicate. Raising dues won’t work anymore; it’s a tale of diminishing returns. The last 100% raise 10 years ago is almost gone now because of lost membership. We have to stop paying for everything we want done. Whatever happened to volunteers? When I became an Elk everybody was a volunteer.

2017 Ohio Elk’s Association Officers

President
Dane Dysert, PSP

First Vice President
Nevin Taylor

Trustee Chairman
Mark Ratliff

Approving Member
Lugene Ignaffo

Trustee Secretary
Ed Connors

Second Vice President
Thomas Pavlik

Interim Board Member
Richard P. Wolfe

Chaplain
Brad Goodballet

Tiler
Mary Carolyn Nichelson

Sergeant-at-Arms
Terry Rinehart

Inner Guard
Rose Durant

Secretary/Treasurer
Lee Young, PSP

"Elks Care
Elks Share"
**President’s Message Continued**

The purpose of the Order and its founding was to promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship.

Our mission as Elks, is to inculcate these principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members, to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United State of America that will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.

**North Central District**

**Elyria #465**

Elyria Lodge #465 used their ENF “Beacon Grant” to assist Blessing House. Blessing House is a children’s crisis care center, caring for children birth through 12, whose parents or caregivers are facing a crisis or emergency or who are experiencing a high level of stress that might put their children at risk of abuse or neglect.

The grant assisted parents of seventeen children in providing new clothes and shoes for the upcoming school year, as well as provide each child with a new book bag full of school supplies.

In addition to this, the lodge held a “Pajama Party”, where members donated pajamas for the children who come through the home during emergencies. Over 6 dozen pairs of pajamas were donated.

**Lorain #1301**

**BLACK RIVER CONCERTS**

Going to Black River Landings Friday night to listen to some music? Stop down for a pre-concert and post-concert drink! Why pay overpriced drinks when you can come visit us, sit on our beautiful outside patio or air conditioned bar. Our bartenders are waiting to serve you!

**CDC GOLF RE-CAP**

This year’s CDC Carl Leadbetter Memorial Golf Outing was a huge success, mostly because of our very own trustee, PJ Newbert. The outing was originally cancelled this year due to not having anyone to run it and PJ volunteered to take on the task. Please give PJ a big thank you for all the hard work he put in to make the tournament happen. On behalf of the Lorain Elks, The Children’s Developmental Center was presented with a check for $10,000. Just another example of “Elks Care, Elks Share”

**Sandusky #285**

**Teen scholarship banquet dinner**

I’d like to thank Bernie Seiler and Joe Groscost for organizing the Teen scholarship banquet dinner. Thanks also to everybody that helped serve the food and clean up. Next, we need to give a big thanks to Steve Bacnî for his generous donation of all the pizzas that night, we served between 140 - 150 students and parents. We presented 2 Teen of the year plaques and also scholarships to deserving students from our area schools.

**Willard #1370**

In May some of the officers and I participated in the Spring District Meeting in Wooster, Ohio where we made some good contacts, caught up with old friends and had a great time! In May also saw the annual awarding of our Elks Scholarships. This year we fed the 4 winners and their parents steak dinners.
In the past three months the Elks Club has sponsored a Little
League Team, donated to the WHS After Prom, donated to
repairs to the Willard baseball fields, awarded 4 graduating
seniors $1000.00 scholarships, fed the NOL Champions, fed
the WHS girls Bowling Team, donated to the Salvation
Army’s summer program that feeds local children, donated to
the WHS Music Boosters, donated to the WHS Athletic
Boosters, donated to Ohio Veteran’s Home in Sandusky for
their TV in every room campaign, donated to the WHS
Athletic Boosters Golf Scramble, donated to the WHS Fine
Arts. We’ve been busy the last three months! GREAT JOB
EVERYONE!!! This is what the Elks is all about!!!

Wooster #1346

Kevin Garrison, Chairman of the ENF Committee, presented
checks to Patio of Patriots and Medway Drug Enforcement
Agency. Thank you Kevin for all your efforts as the Chair of
Elk’s National Foundation.

Norwalk #730

Norwalk Elks Lodge #730 has been busy this summer!

On May 27th local youth competed in the annual Elks Soccer
Shoot. This annual event promotes exercise, competition
and fun for school age children. Trophies were awarded to
the winners in each of the categories.

Flag Day Ceremony on June 14th showcased Boy Scout
Troop #236 as they participated in the patriotic honoring of
the American Flag. The ceremony was held at Heritage
Park at Eagle Creek Golf Club.

Ohio Elks Cerebral Palsy Fund $15,000 grant was awarded
to Fisher-Titus Pediatric Therapy Department on June 6th.
The Local Cerebral Palsy Fund Committee of Laura
Wheeler, DeEtte Zimmerman, Scott Whitehurst and Mel
Holina encouraged Fisher-Titus Pediatric Therapy
Department to complete the grant application in March.
Local Cerebral Palsy Fund Committee Chairperson, Laura
Wheeler, commented “Each year the Norwalk Elks send
funds to the state Elks association and we wanted to see the
money come back to your community.” Grant funds will be
used to purchase therapy equipment to help patients with
cerebral palsy improve balance, coordination and function.

On July 16th, Elks members Al Koontz, Steve Schneider and
Bill Terry were honored as the newest inductees with
“forever” honoree plaques on the wall of Eagle Creek
Heritage Park. All three men have proven successes with
years of demonstrating their passion and skill in their golf
game. Each inductee shared their memories and
accomplishments that was first the Elks Club then
transitioned into Eagle Creek Golf Club. Al Koontz
described his day of induction as “one of the greatest days
of my life”.

Contributed by: Kevin Garrison, Chairman of the ENF Committee;
Steve Schneider, Steve Schneider;
Bill Terry, Bill Terry
Sandusky #285

Sandusky Elks Lodge #285 hosted a Elks kids fishing derby on June 18 at Shoreline Park in downtown Sandusky. There were around 60 kids that participated in the derby and after three hours of fishing, we enjoyed lunch together. Some very nice prizes were handed out to the boy and girl winner (the biggest fish) and everyone of the kids who participated received a prize also. It was a fun day for all!!

Our motto for the event is “Get hooked on Fishing not on Drugs!”

Marion #32

Marion 32 use Gratitude Grant to purchase funbrella for city’s pool. Veterans, seniors, and families will be able to enjoy shaded area at the pool during the summer. Pictured Park Director Mike Chaney ENF Chairman Karen Shaffer, Mayor Scott Shertzer, Trustee David Feliciano back row Rex Coldwell project coordinator.

NorthEast District

Salem Lodge

Presenting the Ohio Elks Cerebral Palsy Fund Raising Board grant check for $1,500; is Mike Mahouski, Exalted Ruler of Salem Elks Lodge #305 to Andrew Garber, Principal of Robert Bycroft School. The bike pictured is used for therapy and was purchased with last year's grant funds.

The Salem Elks Lodge #305, held a dinner for the students. The committee distributed $12,800 in scholarships which included those that received a 2 year scholarship in 2015 - 16. Pictured in the front row is Olivia Norman, Delaney Mellinger, Valerie Sitler, Grace Ayers all of Leetonia HS; Bethany Jewell of United Local HS; McKenzie Martin and Emily Null of Salem HS. Back row is Terry Kornbau, Lodge Scholarship Chairman; Joshua Rainer and Isaac Stecker both of Leetonia HS; Jacob Clark of Columbiana HS; Zack Martin of Salem HS and Mike Mahouski, Exalted Ruler.
Salem Elks Lodge #305 held the local Soccer Shoot at the Salem Community Center. Winners will continue onto the NE District shoot in June. Front row Evan VanHorn 8-9 boys; Sydney Lane 7 & under girls; Luke Stephens, 7 & under boys. Back row John "Mike" Mahouski, Exalted Ruler; Tim Stephens, 10-11 boys; Madison Mashuda, 8-9 girls; Ar Sharma, 12-13 boys; Andrew Null, Chairman.

**FUND RAISER FOR THE OHIO ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS ENDOWMENT**

A fund raiser is being held during the Fall Reunion on Saturday August 19, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The purpose of this event is to raise money for the Ohio Elks Major Projects Endowment.

This year we will be selling gun raffle tickets and offering event sponsorships. The gun raffle tickets will be $10.00 each. The event sponsorships are $325.00 each, which will be applied to lodge’s per capita and will be announced during the event.

Tickets are being mailed to the Lodges for pre-sale before the drawing, so please contact your Lodge Secretary.

One $10.00 ticket will give a chance to win any of the following items:

- Glock of your choice
- Henry Golden Boy
- Henry .22
- Savage 93 .17HR
- Ruger Stainless 10/22
- Mossburg 500 combo
- Heritage .22 Revolver
- Smith and Wesson 9 mm

Winners will pick up guns at Wyandot Firearms as there will be no guns on site at time of drawings.

Remember it will take everyone’s support to make a difference.

For additional information please contact Lance Knight at 440-227-0134 or Roger Martin at 937-288-2654.

By CHANDA NEELY
Daily Chief-Union

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 83 is partnering with A&A Grocery and Kimmel Corporation, all of Upper Sandusky, to feed 100 Wyandot County children in a unique way this summer.

The three entities will provide 100 backpacks filled with healthy snacks to food pantries in Carey, Sycamore and Upper Sandusky. Four food sites each will get 25 backpacks to send home to parents of children in their communities.

Mark Ratliff, Ohio Elks Association Chairman of Trustees and also District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler of the Northwest District, learned about the backpack program after a Florida lodge had been successful with a similar program. The local Elks Lodge paid for the food with a $2,000 grant from the National Elks Foundation. Kimmel Corp. provided the backpacks and A&A Grocery helped get the food at the best prices possible.

What we found is that a lot of times children and families are reluctant, even though there is a need, to utilize programs like food pantries, Ratliff said. They are more likely to use a backpack walking down the street as opposed to carrying a sack of groceries from a food pantry.

Food pantries are most in need in the summer, he added. A lot of people think about it over Thanksgiving or Christmas, but a lot of people are in need of assistance during the summer when school is out because they depend on those school meals. In the summertime is when some people find they actually need assistance.

The backpacks will go to (4) food pantries at Memorial United Methodist Church in Carey, Sycamore United Methodist Church, as well as Liberty Freedom Center that operates out of Trinity Evangelical United Methodist Church and Open Door Resource Center's Christian Food Center, both in Upper Sandusky.
We just thank them for thinking of the Christian Food Center, board member Darlene Schaadt said. The Elks has always been very supportive of us. It will be a special treat for a lot of those children to, No. 1 get a new backpack, and then to have it filed with healthy snacks. It’s a great idea, a new idea, and we’re excited to try it.

The backpacks are filled with oatmeal, canned soups, raisins, crackers and cheese, individual macaroni and cheese servings, sports drinks, bottled water, fruit snacks and other healthy treats. There's also dental floss and a toothbrush in each bag which were donated by a local dentist.

We tried to think of things that kids might eat or like, said A&A Grocery owner Jeff Amos, an Elks member. We also tried to be frugal and to get the most we could for the money. It's just the right thing to do, Amos added. We're just trying to do projects that benefit the community that we live in.

Brian Kimmel of Kimmel Corp. also is an Elks member. He said the company provided the backpacks. We believe in reinvesting in our community and helping develop young people, Kimmel said. Helping young people is important to the future of our area. We're grateful because we've been able to provide services to companies and people from all over the county and various surrounding counties. When the opportunity is available, we try our best to give back to the communities we live in.

Ratliff explained projects like this, that help others, are what the Elks are all about. The first word in the Elks name is Benevolent and our organization has done a better job over the years of reaching out to the community, whether it's through our programs or support, Ratliff said. The Elks have been in Upper Sandusky for over 129 years and that's what we stand for; and that's what we're doing in Elks lodges all over the United States. That's our focus to be leaders in the community.

Pictured are local Elks members filling the backpacks to be delivered along with assistance from Katelyn Kinley who volunteers her time to the local Elks after receiving an ENF Legacy Scholarship.

Norwalk #730

Officers from the Norwalk Elks Lodge No. 730 and the Norwalk Elks Cerebral Palsy Committee presented a $15,000 check to the Fisher-Titus Pediatric Therapy Department on Tuesday, June 6. This $15,000 grant from the Ohio Elks Cerebral Palsy Fund Board was submitted by the Local Cerebral Palsy Fund Committee and the Fisher-Titus Pediatric Therapy Team. The grant will help support programs for pediatric patients with cerebral palsy. Pictured front (from left) Lindsey Esker, Special Program Coordinator, Fisher-Titus Pediatric Therapy; Laura Wheeler, DeEtte Zimmerman, Kathy Capehart and Karen Barnett of the Norwalk Elks Lodge No. 730; and Lorna Strayer, President, Fisher-Titus Medical; back row (from left) Elks members Denise Reilly, Mike Reilly, Scott Whitehurst (also a licensed physical therapist at Fisher-Titus), Mel Holida, John Moslener and Becky Parcher; and Mary Helton, Director of Rehabilitation, Fisher-Titus Medical Center.
Ohio Veteran’s Home

Pictured:
Jim Gottron, OVH Rep Mary Beaston and John Wadsworth.
John is a OVH Navy Veteran and Jim is his close friend who lives in Toledo and joined us for the game.
On July 16, 2017 we were able to provide a great day of baseball and food for a total of 67 people who attended the game. There were 36 Veterans from the Ohio Veterans Home and Honor Flight Veterans were in attendance. 31 Elk Elk members were also in attendance for the Mudhens game.

Thanks to the generosity of the Elk members from the Lodges involved, there were a total of 93 Veterans adopted. The totals donations raised for this event was $4,360.00. After subtracting all expenses, including Tickets and goodie bags we were left with a net amount of $1,843.54. This will be given to the Ohio Elks 1 Northwest outside patio project.

Again, "THANK YOU " to everyone who participated in making this event a success. We will be planning a bigger and better Adopt A Vet program for 2018.

Berea #1850

What an awesome night hosting the vets from the Wade Park VA at our lodge tonight. Truly an honor to see the brave men and women of our armed services enjoying themselves to a fantastic steak dinner hosted by PER and current Trustee Nate Moore. Nate, a veteran himself, does a great job putting this on twice a year, and dedicates a lot of time and energy along with Trustee Carla Moore to ensure our vets eat well, have a great time, and know they are appreciated. A special thanks to all those that helped this evening, including the Scouts from our own Troop 215, all the other members and officers that came to help from our lodge and others (too many to name), and Michelle Hill for organizing the therapy dog group for a special visit. We should also take a moment to remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice that could not join us this evening, but are forever in our hearts, and never forgotten. "As long as there is a veteran, the Elks will never forget them."
On Monday June 26th Ohio Elks attended as the 122nd Army Band Ohio National Guard based out of Columbus entertained approximately 75 Veterans at the Sandusky Ohio Veterans Home. An hour long musical performed by extremely talented Men and Women was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

At the end of the performance we were able to chapter this group picture with some of our Hero’s. Pictured left to right; Korean Veteran Jim, Airforce Glenn, WW11 John , American Legion Carl,

Back row: Marine Jim, Past First Lady Julia, her husband, Ohio Elks PSP Doug Schiefer, & Veteran Rep, Mary Beaston Sitting in front, future Elks, Ashly Flahiff and Stephanie Flahiff.

Joining us also were Julia’s Parents. PSP Doug distributed American Flag pins to several Veterans along with thanking them all for their dedicated service to our Country.

Natalie Zyzski, second from the right received a $4000 Legacy scholarship from the Elks National Foundation. Pictured with her from left are Jan Linder, Fremont’ Scholarship Chairman, Mom Laurie Zyski, ER Kris Cantrell. Natalie honor student and Granddaughter of Elk member Jim Wright will begin her studies this fall at the Ohio State University. Fremont is very proud of Natalie and wish her well.

Fremont #169 once again was awarded the $750. Ohio Elks Community Grant with which was used to purchase 3 new pairs of Fire proof boots for our Local Ballville Township Fire Department. Accepting the check is Fire Chief Doug Crowell, PER Mary Beaston and Trustee Diann Hamons on board for the presentation.

PER’S Grandson collects food for Liberty Center PER Jim Reardon’s Grandson Sam Long, son of Jon & Becky Long, recently completed his Eagle Scout project which was a canned food drive to benefit Liberty Center Homeless shelter in Fremont. With the help of Fremont Elks, more than a dozen of businesses and organizations, over a 2 week period he was able to collect over 876 cans of food which Sam and other Volunteers delivered to the facility.
Gals get a chance to pose for a picture with Local Marine Recruiter and his team

Once again Fremont #169 Color Guard stepped off as the Color at the annual 4th of July parade. Bringing up the back was our Elk banner and a large family group comprised of Fremont recreation Baseball youths and their parents carrying the 22 American Flags that flank our Flag park beginning Memorial day to Labor Day.

Elks Club Honors Old Glory

Fremont Elks #169 observed its annual Flag Day on June 14th to celebrate the birth of Old Glory and pay honor and respect to the US Flag. In attendance were our local essay winners from BHCS, Sacred Heart Campus 5th grade Liz Rellinger, and 6th Grade Dominic Rodriguez who read their first place winning entry “What the American Flag means to me”. Our Guest Speaker, the Honorable Judge Robert Hart and Past Exalted Ruler spoke about the lasting endurance and respect for our Flag. Our American Legion served as Color Guard among many elk members and local dignitaries’. Shown is Larry Cronin our Americanism Chairman, whom introduced the 2 youth and was very touched and proud by the excellent essays they created.

NE District Golf outing

Shown are Jeff Chapman, PER; Wayne Gorby, PER; both of Salem Lodge #305; Tom "Pav" Pavlik, OEA 2nd VP of Ashland Lodge #1360 and Gary Wadlow, PDDGER of Salem Lodge #305 at the 3rd hole on the Salem Hills Golf Course in Salem during the NE District Golf outing. This hole was sponsored for CP and $280 was donated by the golfers.

NE District meeting

At the NE District meeting, CP Fund Raising Board checks were presented for funds distributed covering the 2016 - 2017 Lodge year. Dane Dysert, PSP, OEA State President with Mike Mahouski, ER of Salem Lodge #305 received $1,500 going to Robert Bycroft School. Charles Venable, ER of Ravenna Lodge #1076 received $6,790 going to Hattie Larlham by Jim Vasey, PER; CP District Chairman of Lakewood Lodge #1350. Willoughby-Cleveland Lodge #18 will be receiving $25,000 going to UCP of Greater Cleveland.
Upper Sandusky # 83

Carey Teen Leadership Group
With the proceeds from the lodge's 2nd Annual Accessory/Purse Bingo event, they were able to donate $900 each to 3 different local charities. The Angeline School of Opportunity, Open Door Resource, and pictured here is Lecturing Knight Tammy Groves presenting a $900 check to the Carey High School Teen Leadership Group. These high school students assist many local senior citizens, veterans, and community projects in the community.

Presidents Award
State Drug Awareness Chairman Gary Wadlow attended a lodge meeting to present PER Amy Ratliff with the Presidents Volunteer Service award for her lifelong commitment to the Wyandot County community with her efforts in assisting with the Halloween Walk Thru, Elks Hands on Art, Soccer Shoots, Hoop Shoots, and many other lodge programs and fundraisers!

Young Business Professionals
ER Ken Bather is pictured with Brian Kimmel President of the local Young Business Professional group. The lodge has partnered with them to provide funding for many of their events as well as opening our facility to hold meetings and fundraisers.

Larry Clement- Willoughby/Cleveland #18 Elk Hall of Fame

Mike Mason- Springfield #51 Elk of the Year
Elks Big Nut Scholarship- This year the annual scholarships were awarded to Turner Dilley and Alaney Oney. Pictured are the winners along with their parents as Jon "Big Nut" Peters presents them with their scholarships, plaques, and official signed Brutus Buckeyes! Go Bucks!

Middle School Student of the Year- ER Zac Amert presented Kaylyn Shock and Emery Pahl awards for being selected as the Elk Student of the Year. Awarded monthly each student is then asked to complete an essay and winners are chosen. Along with their plaques each student is presented with a gift card. Also pictured is Middle School Teacher Bert Dible who is also an Elks member.

Van Wert Elks Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, again assisted the Van Wert City/County D.A.R.E. program with their annual DARE graduation party held on Friday evening, May 12, 2017 at the YMCA. 295 boys and girls from Van Wert County Schools converged on the local YMCA to enjoy a fun filled evening. The students hand the opportunity to play basketball, swim, dance and visit and socialize with their classmates.

Members of Van Wert Elks Lodge were busy grilling hamburgers and hotdogs to feed the hungry boys and girls. The kids also enjoyed ice cream at the end. The local Elks Lodge provides the food and drinks for the local event each year and prepares the food for the hungry youngsters. The monies are made available to the local lodge from the Elks National Foundation in the form of a Promise Grant. These grants are available to the local lodges that wish to sponsor any type of drug and alcohol free event in the community. The Elks are proud to be able to assist with this great event for the kids.

Pictured are left to right are Charles White, Lodge Exalted Ruler and Lodge Organist Linda Stanley feeding some of the kids. Also lodge members grilling the food for the hungry kids.

Van Wert Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently donated $100.00 to the Van Wert City Parks and Recreation Department towards the July 4th Holiday At Home Fireworks display. Since there is nothing within the city budget to cover this time long tradition, the city department has reached out again to the local businesses and organizations to help make this annual event possible.

Pictured are Charles White, Lodge Exalted Ruler with Sue Heppeard, City Parks Director.
The Veteran’s Committee of Van Wert Lodge No 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently made an additional $500.00 donation towards the renovation of the Military War Album Chapel which is located next to the Van Wert County Courthouse.

Pictured left to right are Barry Johns, Van Wert County Veterans Service Officer with lodge members Wayne Warren, US Army Veteran and Keith Collins, Lodge Veteran Chairman and US Marine Veteran.

In 1944, then Sheriff Roy Shaffer had a collection of pictures of local Veterans that were serving their country, and it was then decided the pictures could be best displayed in a centrally located building open to the public. The frame was constructed at the Marsh Foundation and was then erected at the site it now stands, beside the County Courthouse. By the end of August 1944 over a thousand pictures were collected for the display. The pictures were displayed at the Van Wert County Fair that year prior to being placed in the new building.

Over the years more pictures have been added to the display and it reached its capacity around 2007.

With the addition to the building, all the pictures have been removed and have been reproduced so they are all the same size. The pictures are displayed in an alphabetical order.

The Van Wert County Veterans Service Office had some of the funds for this project from previous donations, but are relying on additional donations to complete the project. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has a motto, “As long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them”. It is with this motto in mind that the Van Wert Elks Lodge is happy to contribute to this very worthwhile cause.

Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently donated $125.00 to the Black Swamp Area Council, Boys Scouts of America. The donation is part of the annual Friends of Scouting fund raising campaign.

The Black Swamp Council which is headquartered in Findlay covers thirteen counties. It provides two camps, Camp Berry near Findlay and Camp Lakota near Defiance for the scouts to hold activities at and attend summer camp. The Friends of Scouting campaign contributions held the Council fund for camping programs, adult and youth training programs. For 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has been instilling the values embodied in the Scout Oath and Law, the Scout Motto, “Be Prepared” and the Scout Slogan, “Do a Good Turn Daily”. The council provides scouting programs to 6,300 youth.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has a history of supporting Boy Scouts. Many lodges nationwide sponsor scout troops and provide a location for them to meet as well. The Elks provides monies annually to the scouts for camping equipment and helps to sponsor camping trips as well.

Pictured are: Greg Amstutz from the Black Swamp Council accepting the check from Lodge Chaplain Larry Miller.

The Golf Outing Committee from Van Wert Elks Lodge No. 1197 recently made a donation of $400 to Village of Convoy Historical Association for the restoration of the Opera House. Golf outing committee members Shane Mills and Paul Cucciarre present the check to Jan McIntosh.
Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks held their Annual Flag Day Ceremony on Wednesday, June 14 at the Lodge Home.

The annual event is sponsored by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Assisting this year was Seth Baker who read the History of the Flag and Craig Bell gave the Response.

The Elks is the first and only fraternal organization to mandate that every year, each Elks Lodge must conduct a solemn and beautiful Flag Day ceremony.

Peter J. McMaster and Kaitlyn Motyka who placed first at Van Wert in the Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest read their winning essays to those present.

Mr. Milo Wyandt, a World War II veteran and recent Honor Flight participant was present and showed the lodge a flag which was presented to him by his family in honor of this honor flight trip.

Van Wert Lodge was able to provide this thru both a Promise Grand and a Gratitude Grant they received from the Elks National Foundation.

“We were very pleased with the turn out and happy that the kids came out to enjoy the day. This was our sixth year at providing this type of entertainment for the youth and it is growing each year. We have members who look forward to volunteering for this event each year.” stated Mike Stanley, Lodge Chairman for the event.

Van Wert Lodge looks forward to being able to provide another free day at Camp Clay in 2018.

YMCA Camp Clay for the 6th ELKS DAY AT CAMP CLAY

The kids and adults alike certainly took advantage of the gorgeous day on Tuesday, June 20th. Over 675 kids along with 100 or so parents showed up at the YMCA Camp Clay for the 6th ELKS DAY AT CAMP CLAY. This free day at Camp Clay was provided to all the youth of the area by Van Wert Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

The participants enjoyed swimming, the new splash pad, wall climbing, paddle boats, kayaking, canoeing, the nature trail and especially the aqua park from 12 noon until 4:00 pm.

The Elks also provided a free lunch from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm along with an afternoon treat of ice cream for all the kids who attended.

Pictured is Milo Wyandt with Exalted Ruler Charles White showing his flag.

Pictured are some of the kids enjoying the water at the aqua park and getting their free lunch.
The program includes breakfast and lunch as well as recreational and educational activities. While during the school year, free and reduced-price breakfast and lunches through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs provide nutritional food for area children, the Summer Food Program aims to fill in the gap between the end of classes and the beginning of the next school year. During the eight weeks of the program last year the YWCA served over 20,000 meals to 340 children of Van Wert County. This year the YWCA expects to see 400 participants and serve more than 21,000 meals.

In previous years, the program has been free for all participants. Due to the increasing operating costs expected, the YWCA is asking for a nominal donation for the recreational portion per family. Since some families can not afford to make this donation, the monies donated by Van Wert Lodge will help to feed these children.

Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197 is happy to be able to assist the YWCA with this important summer program.

Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently donated $750.00 to the Van Wert City Parks and Recreation Department. The monies were used by the department to purchase 10 each, 55 gallon plastic done top drum lids for the trash receptacles in the city parks.

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 $32,643.76 back into Van Wert County to assist the city, county and villages.

Van Wert Elks Lodge is proud to be able to assist the Van Wert City Parks and Recreation Department as they provide clean and safe parks for the citizens of our city.

Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently donated $500.00 to the YWCA of Van Wert County. The monies are earmarked towards the YWCA Summer Food Program. This is the 22nd year the YWCA has run this important program. The monies are from a Gratitude Grant the lodge received from the Elks National Foundation for achieving the required goal of donations at $4.60 per member.

Van Wert Elks Lodge is proud to be able to assist the Van Wert City Parks and Recreation Department as they provide clean and safe parks for the citizens of our city.

Pictured, left to right are: Lodge Community Service Grant Chairman Michael C. Stanley and City Park Director Sue Heppeard with one of the new lids.

Pictured, left to right are Jenna Weigle, Jordan Dettrow, Summer Food Program Supervisor and Lodge Lecturing Knight Mary Yackey.

Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently donated $500.00 to the Van Wert City Parks and Recreation Department. The monies were used by the department to purchase 10 each, 55 gallon plastic done top drum lids for the trash receptacles in the city parks.

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 $32,643.76 back into Van Wert County to assist the city, county and villages.

Van Wert Elks Lodge is proud to be able to assist the Van Wert City Parks and Recreation Department as they provide clean and safe parks for the citizens of our city.

The program includes breakfast and lunch as well as recreational and educational activities. While during the school year, free and reduced-price breakfast and lunches through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs provide nutritional food for area children, the Summer Food Program aims to fill in the gap between the end of classes and the beginning of the next school year. During the eight weeks of the program last year the YWCA served over 20,000 meals to 340 children of Van Wert County. This year the YWCA expects to see 400 participants and serve more than 21,000 meals.

In previous years, the program has been free for all participants. Due to the increasing operating costs expected, the YWCA is asking for a nominal donation for the recreational portion per family. Since some families can not afford to make this donation, the monies donated by Van Wert Lodge will help to feed these children.

Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently donated $750.00 to the Van Wert City Parks and Recreation Department. The monies were used by the department to purchase 10 each, 55 gallon plastic done top drum lids for the trash receptacles in the city parks.

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Van Wert Elks Lodge 1197 is happy to be able to assist the YWCA with this important summer program.

Pictured left to right are Jenna Weigle, Jordan Dettrow, Summer Food Program Supervisor and Lodge Lecturing Knight Mary Yackey.
Van Wert Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks helped sponsor the annual D.A.R.E Camp held June 12, 13 & 14. Again this year the camp was held at the Goedde Building. The kids attending have various activities each day which include swimming at the YMCA and the water fight which concludes the camp on the last day. Van Wert Lodge, thru a Promise Grant they received from the Elks National Foundation, was able to provide food for the campers. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and pop were provided. On the last day of camp, the campers were all treated to ice cream, again provided by the Elks.

The Promise Grant is provided thru the Elks National Foundation to local lodges that wish to sponsor any type of drug and alcohol free event in the community. The Elks are proud to be able to assist with this great fun and learning event for the kids.

The Golf Outing Committee from Van Wert Elks Lodge No. 1197 recently made a donation of $600.00 to the Van Wert Co Op Ministry Food Pantry. Golf outing committee members Al Zimmerman and Brett Thatcher present a check to Terry Plas.

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 29 & 30, 2017.

The annual weekend will be held in the Commercial Building, Agriculture Building and the Junior Fair 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 are some of the campers enjoying their ice cream with Mike Stanley, Elks National Foundation Chairman and DARE Officers Biberstine and Blackmore.

Van Wert Lodge No. 1197, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks recently made a donation of $400.00 to the Middle Point Park Association. Accepting the check from Golf Committee member Mike Elston are Eme Renner, Brian Renner and Wayne Longstreth.

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Practice the three R’s: recruit, retain, respond

Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler
MALCOLM J. McPHERSON JR.

With summer winding down and your Lodge meetings and fall programs starting up again, there’s no better time to focus on an important aspect of Elkdom: membership. We cannot sustain our organization without installing new Members, and by focusing on membership growth at your Local Lodge, you are investing in the future of the Order.

Membership is key to my theme of “Strengthening Elkdom Through Community Awareness,” since there can be no community without Members. At the local level, I encourage all Lodges to actively promote new Member recruitment at your upcoming fall events, and I call on officers and committees to lead the charge in creating programming and opportunities to involve new faces.

When your existing Members are engaged and excited to lend a hand, it generates interest in joining the Order, as well as shines a positive light on your Lodge within your greater community, county and state. A Lodge that successfully recruits and retains will be better poised to respond to helping those in need.

There are many ways to practice the three R’s. Recruit new Members from your circle of friends and family, invite non-members to Elks events, and further promote the Elks organization at all events by setting up a membership and public relations information table.

Retain your current membership by working with officers and Members to keep your Lodge active in the community with monthly charitable and social events, and enlist the help of each and every Member to help run these functions. Teamwork boosts morale and keeps Members happy to be part of the group.

With these practices in place, your Lodge will be set up for success, as we have in the past 150 years, to respond to the needs of your community and ultimately fulfill your organization’s goals.

Keep those old paper membership records!

GRAND SECRETARY
Bryan R. Klatt

Each year, many Local Lodges have new and inexperienced Lodge Secretaries. With this office, there is a learning curve each new and continuing Secretary must navigate in order to manage this important responsibility, as well as the continuing education of our Constitution and Statutes, plus our CLMS2Web and PC membership programs.

A word to the wise: Never destroy or discard paper membership applications and records. Those documents are the only records available. It is the responsibility of the Local Lodge to maintain the records indefinitely.

Sure, there is CLMS2, which started in fall 2008, but a vast majority of the old membership records, prior to 2008, were never entered into the program; hence those records need to be maintained in case a former Member requests a Reinstatement, a Certificate of Release or other membership information.
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321