

North Carolina Elks News USA



June-July 2021



State President Frank Brady (left) and PSP John Bullock (right) with the North Carolina flag at the Grand Lodge Convention in Tampa. Due to the cancelation of the Convention last year John and Frank jointly presented the flag during the opening Ceremonies.

More convention photos follow.

Message from State President Frank Brady

Grand Lodge Convention Report

A new year, a new day for Elksdom! After a year of loss of our members due to Covid-19, Elks showed up with enthusiasm and large numbers. The Credentials Committee announced that 6,672 Elks and guests attended the opening ceremony. On Sunday afternoon, the Convention convened with the Scottish Pipes and Drums escorting the First Responders flag to the podium, with the State Presidents then presenting their state flags. I was so very proud to have walked and waved our NC state flag with my friend, Past State President (2020-2021), John Bullock, beside me. GER, Paul R. Ryan, delivered the key note speech, while Past GER, Malcolm McPherson, handled the introductions and delivered the closing remarks. At the end of the session, the crowd was treated to entertainment by the lively band, the Party Crashers.

During this session, the Elks National Foundation announced that its Most Valuable Student Scholarship Awards went to Gellila Asmamaw and Jacob Lockman, who each won scholarships of \$50,000. ENF, for 2021-2022, allocated \$2.9 million to fund the MVS Scholarship Program, which includes 500 4-year scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000.

ENF also announced the 2019-2020 (delayed) Hoop Shoot winners: Caden Thompson (boys) and Ellison Graham (girls). ENF has allocated \$1.1 million to fund the Hoop Shoot Program for 2021-2022.

Monday's business session was opened by GER, Paul R. Ryan. The ENF Per Member Contest winners were announced by Division. Division II, ranging from 301-500 members: Raleigh Lodge #735 took third place with \$36.11 per member, for a total donation of \$13,757.50. Congratulations, Raleigh!

The Grand Lodge Activities Committee announced its Community Project Contest winners by Division. Division I, ranging from 0-300 members: New Bern Lodge #767 received first place; Roxboro Lodge #2005 received second place; and Shallotte Lodge #2854 received third place. In Division III, ranging from 501-700 members, Hickory Lodge #1654 received second place. Way to go North Carolina!

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee announced its State Bulletin Contest winners. North Carolina and Ashley Buckwell, Editor, received the coveted Five Star rating. Congratulations, Ashley!

Tuesday's business session was opened by GER, Paul R. Ryan. First business of the session was to elect T. Keith Mills from Caldwell, ID Lodge #1448, as Grand Exalted Ruler for 2021-2022. The new GER spoke of his vision for the order which encompasses his theme, Meeting the Challenge. He and his wife, Amy, are looking forward to visiting all of the State Associations this coming year.

There were 15 proposed resolutions to be voted on; and nine passed. Details will be addressed by the Exalted Rulers of each lodge.

Continued on next page

State President Message Continued

Wednesday's business session was opened by GER, T. Keith Mills, where he encouraged exalted rulers to be active in national programs that change the lives of those in their communities, i.e., youth activities; veterans services; and drug awareness. He also encouraged lodge leaders to use new electronic tools; and to take full advantage of the many ENF grants for which their lodge may be eligible.

The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Chairman, Robert Hinkle, from Virginia, congratulated the winners of the 2020-2021 Americanism Essay Contest. Division I – Eliza Corday from Winston-Salem Lodge #449. Hinkle announced that the theme of the 2021-2022 essay will be 'What Does It Mean to Love Your Country?'

In closing, the Tampa Grand Lodge Convention was a total success, from the sound of the opening gavel until the end. The North Carolina delegates attended every session; and I felt proud that all of the chairs allocated to us on the convention floor were filled—a total of over 70 North Carolinians made the trip to attend. I think all of us will agree that our NC Hospitality Suite was awesome. Many thanks to John and Cheryl Lawrence for all of their hard work and dedication in giving us 'a home away from home'. It takes many hours of planning, shopping, transporting and organizing to set up a successful Hospitality Suite; and we owe John and Cheryl a round of applause.

Fraternally,

Frank T. Brady
NCSEA President



**Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills &
NCSEA President Frank Brady**

Message From Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills



Elks keep moving forward and Meeting the Challenge Wow, what a fantastic opportunity to serve our great Order. I would like to first thank my wonderful wife, Amy. Without her love, support, and commitment this experience would not be possible. We both are very grateful to have been chosen to take this incredible journey. I would also like to thank my other family members. Knowing they are helping take care of our personal obligations at home during this time is a huge help to both of us. My theme this year is “Meeting the Challenge.” This past year was like no other in the history of our Order. With the ongoing COVID-19 situation, I want to congratulate local Boards of Directors and members for their efforts in continuing Lodge operations and remaining active in their community. Thank you for taking and showing pride in our Order. Not only could we not meet regularly, but

we all experienced a crash course in virtual meetings. Summer is still upon us, but fall is closing in. Now is the time to begin planning Lodge fall activities. For example, begin working on a school supply program, or start one if one is not available in your community. This is an opportunity to engage with your schools, help children who need it by providing critical school supplies, and lay the groundwork for other Elks youth programs (e.g., Hoop Shoot, scholarships, drug awareness). This year, my goal for Elks National Foundation will remain at \$4.80 per Member. I know this goal is easily obtainable since we have more than doubled this number for many years now. The stronger your Lodge, the greater benefit to your community.

With the various grants from the Elks National Foundation, we can readily add to existing Community Service Projects. Today, our communities need us more than ever. There are always projects that could use our help to strengthen the charitable works we do. For some ENF Grants, your Lodge just needs to apply. Others are competitive. However, ENF personnel are there to assist you with these proposals. The Elks Most Valuable Student applications are now open and online. Create a little explanation sheet or download one from elks.org. Then call your high school counselors to inform them of our program and where they can direct their seniors for the eligibility requirements and application. Follow up that call with a small letter. Remember we also have the Student/Teenager Month and Year Program. This is one way for your Lodge to recognize high school students for their work and volunteerism. Look into this program within the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Program Manual. Finally, this week, visit Elks.org. Under the Fraternal Committee, print off the “Patriotism Week Proclamation.” Have your city mayor sign it to proclaim September 6-12, 2021 as National Patriotism Week in your town. Then, use this opportunity to encourage new Members to join our great Order.

Congratulations to Your District Deputies for 2021-2022



We congratulate your 2021-2022 District Deputies who were sworn in at the Grand Lodge Convention in Tampa on July 7th.

From L-R: East District DD Steve Tyler; West District DD Carole Anderson; West Central District DD Mark Alderman; and East Central District DD Justin Schaeffer.

East Central DD Clinic	August 8, 2021	Roxboro Lodge PDD Meeting 9:30 am, DD Clinic 10:00 am
East DD Clinic	August 15, 2021	New Bern Lodge PDD Meeting 9:30 am, DD Clinic 10:30 am
West Central DD Clinic	August 22, 2021	Winston Salem Lodge PDD Meeting 9:30 am, DD Clinic 10:00 am
West District	August 29, 2021	Hickory Lodge PDD Meeting 9:30 am, DD Clinic 10:00 am

Also we would be remiss if we did not say THANK YOU to your 2020-2021 Past District Deputies for their dedication and hard work during a trying year having to deal with the restrictions imposed on the Lodges due to Covid.

East District PDD Al Harms, East Central PDD Kyle Puryear, West Central PDD David Doherty, and West PDD Shane Cook.

Grand Lodge Convention Photos



North Carolina District Deputies
being sworn in.

Michael Bryant presenting Jodi Pascarella
from the New Bern Lodge the Community
Project 1st place award for Division 1.



Michael Bryant presenting Kyle Puryear
from the Roxboro Lodge the Community
Project 2nd place award for Division 1



Michael Bryant presenting the Shallotte
Lodge the Community Project 3rd place
award to the Shallotte Lodge.
Accepting the award for Shallotte is DD
Steve Tyler.



Convention Photos Continued



Michael Bryant presenting Gary Gantt of the Hickory Lodge the Community Service Award 2nd place Division III .

Past Grand Exalted Ruler and State Sponsor Arthur "Jack" Frost and wife Sharon being introduced at the convention opening.



Frank and John presenting the North Carolina Flag during the opening ceremonies.



Members of the North Carolina delegation enjoying some down time in the hospitality room.





**Mark your calendar and make plans to attend the Fall meeting of the
North Carolina State Elks Association
in Atlantic Beach NC**

**October 29th—31st 2021
at the Doubletree by Hilton Oceanfront**



Highlighted by the visit of Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills and his wife Amy, the NCSEA will be assembling in beautiful Atlantic Beach on the last weekend in October. Whether you enjoy relaxing on the beach, or engaging in world class fishing, or just enjoying the hospitality, you will find the Crystal Coast a wonderful fall getaway. See the reservation forms for a schedule of activities and meetings.

Reservation forms are available online at ncelks.org

Plan Your Lodge Fundraiser for the North Carolina Elks Charitable Trust

NORTH CAROLINA ELKS CHARITABLE TRUST



**ELKS GUIDING
NORTH CAROLINA
FORWARD**

Elks Care - *Elks* Share

ncelks.org

Has your Lodge donated to the North Carolina Elks Charitable Trust? If you answered no, then now is the time to start planning a fundraiser within your Lodge. Each Lodge is asked to have a Charitable Trust Committeeman who is knowledgeable about the Trust and can keep the Lodge up to date with Trust programs and fund raising activities.

Like the Elks National Foundation, donations to the Coates Endowment Fund are invested and only the interest from that fund can be used.

Each year the Trust awards grants to the Lodges for community projects and funds scholarships. They have also used interest from investments to assist in purchasing handicap busses for our North Carolina Veterans Homes and provided funds for Camp Carefree.

To keep the Trust growing and enable it to continue its history of giving back to North Carolina Elk Lodges and major projects we ask that your Lodge consider a donation.

The Charitable Trust thanks you.

News From the Lodges

New Bern Lodge Aids in Bringing “Wall That Heals” to New Bern

The Wall that Heals started its 2021 Tour in our very own city of New Bern (8-11April) thanks to the tireless efforts of Chairman George Halyak of American Legion Post 539 and the Knights of Columbus Father Kenneth Parker Assembly 1820, along with volunteers from sixteen other veteran's organizations, to include members of the New Bern Elks Lodge.

The Vietnam Veteran's 3/4 scale Replica Wall and mobile museum spreads the history of the memorial located in our nation's capitol and relates the historical impact of the Vietnam War.

Our community raised fifty thousand dollars to cover the expenses of bringing this significant Memorial to our area. After thirty thousand dollars in expenses, one thousand dollars was given to each of the eighteen volunteer organizations to continue their work with our local Veterans. An additional one thousand five hundred dollars was given to the New Bern Elks Lodge to be dedicated to the welfare of those living in the Kinston Veteran's Home.



Pictured L-R; Elk Volunteers: John Serumgard, Tom Perretta, Mike Markham, Dick Mushet, Esteemed Leader, Guy Pascarella, Doug Forster, Bob Schrader, Skip Beijen

Morehead City Beaufort Elks Bless the Fleet

Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world. It is those little bits of doing good where you are that begins the change for a community. On this side of the Covid-19 pandemic, Jane and Bob McClughan, along with lots of other members of the Elks Lodge in Morehead City, wanted to do something good for their community. Since 1868, millions and millions of Americans have joined the Elks. They bring so much to their communities.

With the mission of honoring their community, Jane said, "We all thought that 'The Blessing of the Fleet' would be a great project to raise the spirits of our community and to honor our commercial and leisure fishermen who bring tourism to Carteret County. I am so proud to be a part of it all." The Elks Lodge chartered the Carolina Princess to be in the 'blessing fleet.' Many children and their families were able to be on the boat, and all the children were supplied a backpack. Mayor Jerry Jones opened with comments, and Arnold Baldwin sang the National Anthem. Rev. Karl Zorowski, the pastor of St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Morehead City, said the opening prayer, followed by the song Eternal Father, Strong to Save, sung by his daughter Aspen. This song is a mariner's hymn written in the 1860s and is known as the Navy Hymn. Psalm 107:23.31 was read and then began the ceremony of Laying of the Wreath. Rev. Zorowski said, "We remember now those who have gone out upon the waters and not returned safely to port. Gracious Lord, we thank you for their lives which were shared with others on this earth for a time; and for their loved ones, we offer a prayer for comfort, peace, mercy and grace." As the boats processed, the blessing was stowed upon them. "Creator and Father of all, we pray for those who go down to the sea in ships and serve you upon the waters of the world. Bless them and those who serve their needs, that they may put their whole trust in you and find in you a strong anchor for their hopes, and so be filled with your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless these boats and all who sail upon them. Give the captains and crews presence of mind in danger, and guide them as they keep these vessels in good repair. Grant them the wisdom of knowing when to go out and when to stay put, so that they may have a safe passage. May everyone who ventures upon the waters in these boats be renewed in spirit through their encounter with the beauty of our Creator's handiwork. Amen."



Goldsboro Elks Donate Freedom Grant to NuHope Community Center

The Goldsboro Elks Lodge is a proud supporter of our military community to include Airmen currently serving at Seymour Johnson Air Force base, Veterans, and their families. We chose to donate our \$2500 Freedom Grant to NuHope Community Center, a local organization that provides safe, affordable housing to at risk military Veterans and their families. Currently, NuHope manages a six-unit apartment complex and one single family home with plans to expand with the renovation of two additional properties.

Our Exalted Ruler Alex Wingate and ENF Grants Coordinator Shelby Ostendorf were present to welcome Airman JoBeth Graczyk and her family into their NuHope Community Center sponsored home and in addition present them with a \$300 Elks Welcome Home Gift Card.



Airman JoBeth Graczyk, her husband
Daniel, and daughter Grace on the
porch of their new home

Freedom Grant Presentation.
Pictured are Board Member/
Trustee Charlie Waters, the
Freedom Grant recipients Mrs.
Janice Johnson, Director of
NuHope Community Center, her
husband Jerry Johnson, ER Alex
Wingate, and ENF Grants
Coordinator Shelby Ostendorf



Shallotte Lodge Presents Scholarships & Grant Donations



Before their regular monthly meeting on 6/21/21, the Shallotte Elks Lodge handed out scholarships to 3 lucky participants totaling \$900.00.

Pictured L-R, Elk Lodge Secretary Carolyn Garramone, Amelion Williams from Brunswick County Early Collage, and Katherina Nguyen from West Brunswick High School. Not pictured is Caroline Bryant from West Brunswick High School.

The Shallotte Elks awarded Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. \$250.00 for their Warm Homes Warm Hearts utility assistance program. The money came from the ENF \$3000.00 Gratitude Grant.

Pictured from left to right Brookes Versaggi, Engagement and Communication Manager and Sue Berardi, Exalted Ruler.



The Shallotte Elks Lodge awarded \$500.00 to Brunswick County Interfaith Homeless Outreach. The money came from the ENF \$3000.00 Gratitude Grant.

Pictured from left to right; Exalted Ruler Sue Berardi, Reverend Donna Phelps & her husband Garry Phelps.



Goldsboro Awards Air Force Family Scholarships

The Air Force Family Scholarship Program is an all-volunteer team led by the Goldsboro Elks Lodge #139 that provides educational scholarships for North Carolina families of fallen or disabled airmen. Supported by a grant from their partner organization the Patriot Foundation of North Carolina, the Goldsboro Elks recently awarded scholarships totaling \$27,500.

The 2021/22 Air Force Family Scholarship Program recipients are:
Juliette Tufano; Anna Prezbindowsk; Kiera Negron; Brianna Martin; and Jakob Volk.

These merit-based scholarships will pay tuition and other eligible expenses for students attending college and accredited vocational institutions within North Carolina.



Pictured L-R: PER and Program leader Doug McGrath, Juliette Tufano, Jakob Volk, MaKenzy Schinsky, Anna Prezbindowski, Kiera Negron, Col. Kurt Helphinstine, Commander, 4th Fighter Wing, Brianna Martin, CMSgt Eric M. West, Command Chief, 4th Fighter Wing, and ER Alex Wingate.



**The Elks National Veterans Service
Commission
Celebrates 75 Years of Service**

High Point Elks Use Grant to Support Summer Camp for Children



The High Point Lodge used its \$2,000 Spotlight Grant to support High Point LEAP's Camp Carey. This is a summer camp for children in underserved communities.

Pictured from left to right; Emma Skinner, LEAP Development and Resource Coordinator; Claire Robinson, LEAP President/CEO; and Phil Driscoll, High Point Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler.

Oak Island Lodge Uses ENF Grants for Beach Access Mat & Food Pantry

The Lodge used the \$2500 Gratitude Grant to purchase a new mobility mat for the Womble Street beach access by Oak Island Pier. The old mat was damaged by the heavy equipment making repairs to the beach and pier after Hurricane Isaias. We've partnered with the Beach Preservation Society, who purchased the original mat. The mat has been ordered along with a sign to advertise our lodge's donation. The volunteer activity is to help with ongoing maintenance of the mat. Volunteers from BPS and the Elks will help sweep off the sand to keep it usable for people using wheelchairs, walkers, or canes.

Their Spotlight Grant of \$2000 was donated to Brunswick Family Assistance food pantry. The volunteer activity for this grant is to help pack food boxes for families in need.

Calabash Lodge Holds Flag Day Ceremony With Help From Boy Scouts



Boy Scout Troop 201 from Sunset Beach assisted the Calabash Lodge during their Flag Day Ceremony.

Pictured are the Scouts, their Scout Leaders and Lodge Officers.

Goldsboro Lodge Uses Grant to Fund Spay Neuter Program

The Goldsboro Elks Lodge donated Gratitude Grant funds to the Spay Neuter Assistance Program of North Carolina. SNAP-NC is a state of the art, mobile veterinary surgery clinic that addresses pet overpopulation by offering high quality, low cost spay-neuter surgeries for pets belonging to North Carolina families in need. Our lodge's donated Gratitude Grant funds will be used to sponsor spay/neuter surgeries for Wayne County residents.



Hickory Lodge Member Supplied NC Veterans Home With Needed Items

Joe Elko and his wife Mary and distributed items to the NC State Veterans Nursing Home in Black Mountain, that he was able to provide because he received the Frank Drendel Community Service Award from his employer, Commscope. The items included 10 MP3 players with 10 Bluetooth speakers, and an I-Tunes gift card valued at \$200.00 to load the players with music. This program has been found to lower the need for sedatives in troubled residents, just by playing music that is familiar to them. In addition they were able to provide 20 baseball hats, lotions, bath wash, and a wide assortment of snacks for their pub. Yes they have a pub at the home, that he has stocked twice a year since the home opened in 2012, with well anticipated snacks. The total expenditures for this trip was around \$1,500.00. Joe thanks all who have made this trip possible. And thanks the Hickory Elks Lodge Veterans Committee, who generously provided the lotions and bath wash.

Joe and his wife Mary with the many items
he donated to the NC Veterans Home in
Kings Mountain



Shallotte Elks Use Grant to Help Local Homeless And Receives Grand Lodge Award

The Shallotte Elks Lodge used their Beacon Grant to donate \$1250 to Brunswick Christian Recovery Center. Brunswick Christian Recovery Center helps with local homeless and substance abuse of young Adults.



Pictured from left to right CEO Joshua Torbich, Exalted Ruler Shallotte Lodge Susan Berardi, and Shallotte Secretary Carolyn Garramone

District Deputy Steve Tyler presents the Shallotte Lodge with their 3rd place plaque for competing in the Community Project Contest Division 1.

Pictured are District Deputy Steve Tyler, Shallotte Exalted Ruler Susan Berardi, and Shallotte Secretary Carolyn Garramone.



SDGER John Boyd and SDGER's From Across Elkdom

John Boyd, seated far right, has been the Special Deputy GER for North Carolina since 2007, and for the past few years has been the Chairman of the Special Deputy Association. At the Grand Lodge Convention earlier this month, John relinquished his Chairmanship of the Association. While still a SDGER, we thank John for his continuing work on behalf of North Carolina Elks and his service to Eldom and the Special Deputy Association.



**This publication is produced for and by the
North Carolina State Elks Association.
The NCSEA Communication Committee
encourages all member Lodges and
Committee Chairmen to submit articles
to be included in future issues.**

**All submissions may be forwarded to
Ashley Buckwell, Editor at ashbuc@atmc.net**

North Carolina Elks A Beacon of Light

