

AFP's National  
Philanthropy Day  
Outstanding Service  
Provider !



October 2023  
Volume 79, Issue 1

# Colorado Elks Association

## Stand Out In a Crowd State President Geff McDaniel

In today's fast-paced and competitive world, being able to differentiate yourself from others is crucial for personal and professional success.

How do we make that "lasting impression" and get noticed for all the right reasons to be successful and add Members?

Here are five skills we can develop to make our Lodges and the Elks more inviting and attractive to potential members.

1. *Be genuine and authentic.* Embracing our uniqueness as Elks can instantly differentiate us from other organizations in the crowd. It is time to showcase our beliefs, values, and personality, as these qualities make us great. People are naturally drawn to those who are genuine and unapologetically themselves.

(Continued on Page 15)



## Care & Community

### 1st Vice President Elevinio "JR" Cruz



It is once again an honor to represent the Colorado Elks Association as 1st Vice President. I look forward to a great year with everyone.

Janet and I also have enjoyed our visitations and hope to continue this year to visit more lodges in this great state. Thanks to all who have welcomed us into your lodge, whether it is for a meeting or a social event. You have made us feel at home.

Anthony D'Angelo said, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." This holds true to all members and their lodges.

(continued page 15)

### ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

#### President

Geff McDaniel  
Englewood 2122

#### First Vice President

Elevinio Cruz  
Leadville 236

#### Second Vice President

Dennis Morgan  
Pueblo 90

#### Third Vice President

Terry Gaber  
Greeley 809

#### Secretary

John Hutson  
Greeley 809

#### Treasurer

Frank Sommer  
Littleton 1650

#### State Sponsor

PGER John Amen  
Colorado Springs 309

### DISTRICT TRUSTEES

#### Chair

Robert Keyser  
Littleton 1650

#### Vice Chair

John Beach  
Fort Morgan 1143

Shirley Tipton  
Aspen 224

Julie Wesseling  
Ouray 492

Dan Daigle  
Arvada 2278

Fred Sola  
Trinidad 181

#### PSP, Board of Directors

Ron Carpenter  
Creede 506

## WHAT WE'RE COLLECTING AT THE QUARTERLY

- School & art supplies for Laradon (see p.3)
- Toiletries for The Joseph Center (see p.3)

## CEA BANQUET THEME

Thanks Giving For  
Our Veterans

Wear your best  
Red, White, and/or Blue!

**OILDALE**  
★★★★★  
THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 9, 2023  
5:00 PM  
AUDITORIUM OF THE RMRVAMC  
1700 N. WHEELING ST.  
AURORA, CO 80045  
\* FREE TO THE PUBLIC \*  
SPONSORED BY  
COLORADO ELKS ASSOCIATION  
WATCH THE TRAILER:  
OR AT:  
OILDALETHEMOVIE.COM

"5 stars isn't a high enough rating. I can't recommend this film enough."  
"Uplifting, family-oriented. Don't miss it!"

[www.Colorado Elks Association.org](http://www.Colorado Elks Association.org)



**CEA First Lady  
Ellen McDaniel**

## Creativity, Patriotism, & Gratitude

Greetings!

I'm looking forward to seeing all you lovely people in Grand Junction for the Fall Quarterly, and especially looking forward to you all decked out in your finest patriotic outfits at the banquet Saturday night.

For the spouses, we have two activities for Grand Junction:

- On Saturday, Chery Gordon is going to show the spouses how to do diamond painting at the hotel. Please bring your own kit (you can get one at most craft stores or online).

The Leadville Lodge will have a limited number of kits available that day if you aren't able to get a kit or if you decide to join us at the last moment.

If you aren't into learning a new craft, bring whatever craft you are currently working on.

Not into working on projects? No prob-

lem: come for the visiting/getting to know you/game time. Interested, but not sure if you fit in? Come join us. We can all use a wider support network.

- On Sunday, we'll have the Spouse's Breakfast as usual. This year's theme for the breakfast will be a combo of patriotic and gratefulness.

When we do introductions, I'd like everyone to share something that you either find to be patriotic or for which you are thankful.

Props are encouraged, such as photos of your favorite veteran/active duty personnel (or first responder) or your kids, pets, or whatever else you are particularly grateful for this year.

If you have any questions, suggestions, things you'd like me to do better, feel free to reach out

to me at any time  
[ellenjmcDaniel@gmail.com](mailto:ellenjmcDaniel@gmail.com)

Thank you and wishing you all safe travels!

### **Fall Quarterly Spouses' Activities:**

*Learn Diamond Painting with PER Chery Gordon, Saturday 9:30-10:30am, Kokopelli Room*

*Spouses' Breakfast, Sunday 9am, Grand Parlor*

## Congratulations & Commitment

### 2nd Vice President Dennis Morgan

Funny how time flies by when you are having fun!

I want to say thank you to all of you for electing me Second Vice President. I appreciate your support very much. Marcie and I are looking forward to visiting your lodge and getting to meet more of our Elk family. Last year was truly an amazing experience.

Congratulations to Geff McDaniel on becoming our new State President, and welcome Terry Gaber our 3rd Vice President and his wife Gloria.

The Fall Quarterly convention is being held November 3-5 at the Double Tree Hotel in Grand Junction. Quarterly conventions are held for the benefit of the lodges. I encourage every member to attend. I would also like to see all of the District Chairpersons attend.

I want to thank all of the C.E.A. committee Chairpersons this last year. What a fantastic job all of you are doing. What a great group of committee chairs we have, we are lucky to have their experience and knowledge.

Veterans Day is November 11th. Don't forget to thank a Veteran every chance you get. We owe them for everything we have in this country. Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!



#### **THE COLORADO ELKS ASSOCIATION**

is a non-profit fraternal organization operated under the direction of its elected officers and trustees.

It is a part of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America.

The official Association mailing address is  
825 Lowrey Lane  
Berthoud CO 80513

The COLORADO ELKS NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Colorado Elks Association under the direction of its officers and trustees.

Lodges are encouraged to submit news articles, photos and all correspondence to:

#### **EDITOR**

Cynthia Wyszynski  
PO Box 447  
Norwood, CO 81423

email: [CEApublicity@gmail.com](mailto:CEApublicity@gmail.com)

970-708-4803

## LARADON WISH LIST

Please drop off all collected items at the Registration Room at the Fall Quarterly

### Art Supplies

Washable Markers  
Pipe Cleaners  
Glue / Glue Sticks  
Non-Toxic Paint  
Construction Paper

### Food Items

Bottled Water  
Plastic Forks / Spoons  
Animal Crackers  
Goldfish Snacks  
Pretzels  
Veggie Sticks  
Dish Detergent  
Dishwasher Detergent

### School Supplies

3 ring binders all sizes  
Dry Eraser Markers (large size)  
Markers (Washable)  
Page Protectors for binders  
Kleenex  
Safety scissors  
Sticky notes  
Laundry Detergent  
Velcro with Adhesive backing  
Laminating Sheets  
Highlighters  
Paperclips, Binder clips



## Elks Care, Elks Share 3rd Vice President Terry Gaber



Gloria and I are very excited to visit 14 lodges this year. We get to visit Aurora, Central City, Craig, Delta, Fort Collins, Fort Morgan (which we have already visited), Hotchkiss, Lakewood, Littleton, Loveland (their new lodge), Pueblo, Salida, Summit County and Tri-City.

We have several visits planned and are working on a timetable for the rest of the year. We have asked the lodges to include us in one of their activities, ie a fund raiser or something to help in their community. Gloria and I are working VP's and we are not afraid to jump in and help - just ask. After all "Elks Care, Elks Share".

Speaking of Elks Care, Elks Share, what better way to share than by donating blood. You can form an Elks donation club from your lodge and report on how much your lodge donated.

Gloria and I are very excited to visit 14 lodges this year. We get to visit Aurora, Central

You can even give recognition to your members that donate. This is special to me as I am a donor of over 24 gallons. Remember, "Elks Care, Elks Share".

Scouting! Do you know that the Elks Grand Lodge has awards to be given Eagle Scouts and Gold Star Scouts.

If you have a Boy Scout Troop or Girl Scout Troop in your area, check with them and ask if you can present awards to these Scouts. They have worked very hard to attain this high award and they need all the recognition due them. I will be very happy to assist your lodge in this endeavor. We just need three week notice before the ceremony to get the Congratulatory Letter from the Grand Exalted Ruler, the Certificate of Merit, the gold eagle feather, and Scouts gold pin. These events are really fun and it gives our Elks visibility to our community. Be Loud, Be Proud.

Gloria and I are looking forward to meeting you all on our visits.

## The Most Remarkable Woman



The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Committee is honored to host Mona Highline - Nexstar's 2023 Most Remarkable Woman – at the Fall Quarterly 9:30am breakout session.

Ms. Highline was chosen from more than 10,000 applications for her work with the homeless in Colorado as founder and executive director of the Joseph Center, a non-profit community outreach center in Grand Junction.

The Center was originally designed to provide homeless families with children a safe place to stay during the day but has expanded since its founding in 2016 and now helps more than 600 at-risk families and individuals annually. The center offers not only shelter and a hot meal, but also provides help with job searches, obtaining disability payments, and applying for housing benefits.

Anyone who is in Grand Junction Friday afternoon, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, is invited to meet at the Joseph Center at 1pm for a tour of the facilities.

The DEIB Committee will be collecting toiletries for The Joseph Center at the Fall Quarterly. You can "meet" Mona our YouTube Channel - [@CEANews](#).



**Colorado Elks Association, Inc.**  
**Fall Quarterly Meeting at the Double Tree Inn**  
**Committee Meeting Schedule**  
**Saturday, November 4, 2023**

	Horizon	Telluride	Aspen	Grand Parlor
8:30	<b>Elk/Officer Training</b> Steve Rysdam  <i>President McDaniel</i>	<b>Drug Awareness</b> Tom Chambers  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>Business Practices</b> Jim Keyser  <i>3rd VP Gaber</i>	<b>Veteran's Services</b>   <b>2 HRS</b>
9:30	<b>Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</b> Art Terrazas  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>	<b>Americanism</b> David Norvell  <i>3rd VP Gaber</i>	<b>Accident Prevention Risk Management</b> Steve Nelson  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>	Troy Erickson  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>
10:30	<b>Ritual</b> Steve Rysdam  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>Soccer Shoot</b> Susan Arenella <b>Hoop Shoot</b> Ron Hays <i>VP Gaber/VP Cruz</i>	<b>ENF</b> <b>ENF Grants</b> Larry Herrera  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>CEA Camp</b> Bob Keyser  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>
11:30	<b>Break for Lunch</b>			
1:00	<b>Sustainability</b> Brett Nelson  <i>3rd VP Gaber</i>	<b>Youth Activities</b> Maggie Rysdam <b>Scholarships</b> Lyle Miller <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>NWSS</b> <b>Catch-a-Calf</b> John Beach Ron Carpenter <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>	<b>Laradon Hall</b> Alice Hilzer  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>
2:00	<b>Banquet Setup</b>	<b>Government Relations</b> Ann Marie Keyser  <i>President McDaniel</i>	<b>Meetings Comm. Lodge Secretaries</b>  <b>2 HRS</b>  John Beach Bill Hartless  <i>1st VP Cruz</i>	<b>PAST STATE PRESIDENTS</b>
3:00	<b>Banquet Setup</b>	<b>Membership</b> Ruth Grainger-Starr  <i>2nd VP Morgan</i>		<b>DD/DL MEETING</b>
4:00	<b>Banquet Setup</b>	<b>Leadership Resources</b> Jeannette Rogers  <i>President McDaniel</i>	<b>Mountain DD Clinic</b> Shirley Tipton, DDGER	
<b>Saturday: PER Association Meeting - 5:00 pm - Grand Parlor</b>				
<b>Saturday Banquet - Grand Ballroom - Cash Bar - 6:30 pm - Banquet - 7:00 pm</b>				
<b>Worship Service - Grand Ballroom - Sunday - 7:45 am    General Session - Grand Ballroom - Sunday - 8:30 am</b>				
<b>Sunday Breakfast - Grand Parlor - Sunday 9:00 am</b>				
<b>Hospitality Suite - Friday with Karaoke &amp; Saturday 4pm to 11pm - Coffee &amp; Donuts - Saturday &amp; Sunday 7am to 8:15am</b> <b>Kokopelli</b>				

**FRIDAY, November 3rd**

**1pm** State Trustees Meeting      **2pm** Board of Directors Meeting

All members welcome

FALL QUARTERLY 2023

# SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF ELKDOM!

8:30 am



**THE MYSTERY OF CANDIDATES**

WITH STEVE RYSDAM  
Horizon Room - Elk & Officer Training

**THE MYSTERY OF GAMING**

WITH JIM KEYSER  
Aspen Room - Business Practices

**THE MYSTERY OF SERVICE**

WITH TERESA PARKS  
Grand Parlor - Veterans

**THE MYSTERY OF JUSTICE**

WITH DEPUTY LUKE FEDLER  
Telluride Room - Drug Awareness

**THE MYSTERY OF AMAZING**

WITH MONA HIGHLINE  
Horizon Room - DEIB

**THE MYSTERY OF INSURANCE**

WITH STEVE NELSON  
Aspen Room - Accident Prevention

**THE MYSTERY OF PATRIOTISM**

WITH DAVID NORVELL  
Telluride Room - Americanism

9:30 am



10:30 am



**THE MYSTERY OF RITUAL**

WITH STEVE RYSDAM  
Horizon Room - Ritual

**THE MYSTERY OF GIVING**

WITH MATT AND LARRY  
Aspen Room - ENF

**THE MYSTERY OF CAMPING**

WITH BOB KEYSER  
Grand Parlor - Youth Camp

**THE MYSTERY OF GRIT**

WITH BRANDON WILKINS  
Telluride Room - Hoop Shoot / Soccer Shoot

**THE MYSTERY OF RECYCLING**

WITH BRETT NELSON  
Horizon Room - Sustainability

**THE MYSTERY OF LIVESTOCK**

WITH RON AND JOHN  
Aspen Room - Catch-a-Calf

**THE MYSTERY OF BROTHERLY LOVE**

WITH ALICE HILZER  
Grand Parlor - Laradon

**THE MYSTERY OF KIDS**

WITH KIRK AND LYLE  
Telluride Room - Youth & Scholarships

1:00 pm



2:00 pm



**THE MYSTERY OF THOSE WHO**

**KNOW ALL, PART I**  
WITH BILL HARTLESS  
Aspen Room - Secrtaries & Meetings Commission

**THE MYSTERY OF THOSE WHO**

**KNOW ALL, PART II**  
Grand Parlor - Past State Presidents

**THE MYSTERY OF CHARITY**

WITH ANN MARIE KEYSER  
Telluride Room - Government Relations

**THE MYSTERY OF THOSE WHO**

**KNOW ALL, PART III**  
Grand Parlor - District Deputies

**THE MYSTERY OF MEMBERSHIP**

WITH RUTH GRAINGER-STARR  
Telluride Room - Membership

3:00 pm



4:00 pm



**THE MYSTERY OF PARLIMENTARY PROCEDURE**

WITH JEANNETTE ROGERS  
Telluride Room - Leadership

**THE MYSTERY OF MOUNTAIN**

WITH SHIRLEY TIPTON  
Aspen Room - Mountain District DD Clinic

**PER ASSOCIATION MEETING**

5 PM - GRAND PARLOR

**C.E.A. BANQUET**

6:30 PM - GRAND BALLROOM  
Theme: Thanks(giving) For Our Veterans - wear your red, white, and/or blue!

**HOSPITALITY ROOM**

4-11 PM - KOKOPELLI ROOM

5:00 pm +





L. to R.: Larry Burgess, Alice Hilzer, Dennis Carbrey

**Watch their acceptance videos on our YouTube Channel**

[CEA News!](#)



### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

November 3-5	Fall Quarterly
November 11	Veterans Day
November 13	MVS Application Deadline
November 26	Elks Night @ Nuggets
December 1	Emergency Scholarship Deadline
December 3	Elks Memorial Day
December 15	Americanism Essay Lodge deadline
January 26-28	Winter Quarterly
February 5	Legacy Scholarship Deadline
April 13	Elks Night @ Avalanche
April 26-28	Spring Quarterly

## Congratulations Alice & Larry!

On October 12th, a whole slew of Colorado Elks gathered at Rag & Bale in Downtown Denver to celebrate Laradon's 75th Anniversary.

They also celebrated MVP Awards for two of our members.

Alice Hilzer of Fort Morgan Lodge was named Laradon's MVP Elks Volunteer, and Larry Burgess of Littleton Lodge was named Laradon's MVP Community Leader.

We had two additional surprises that morning. The MVP Individual—Dennis Carbrey—has applied to be a member of our organization.

And the emcee—journalist & news anchor Bazi Kanani—was an Elks scholarship recipient!



L. to R.: Dennis Morgan, Marcie Morgan, Jerry Hilzer, Kathy Wingert, Alice Hilzer, Bob Wingert, Suzanne Bradeen, Larry Burgess, Mary Jane Burgess, Tony Bonanno, Joyce Bonanno, Jim Wolf, Dennis Carbrey, Bazi Kanani, Lauren Wolf, Brandy, Geff McDaniel, Cindy Wyszynski

## Growth Hinges on Membership Retention

By Rick Gathen, Membership Marketing Manager

Membership retention begins with a welcoming atmosphere in the Lodge.

Be sure to reach out to new Members and let them know their presence is appreciated. It's also important to give new Members the chance to be actively involved. Let them know about volunteer opportunities and encourage them to become active in strengthening the Lodge and reaching out to assist the community. People who volunteer to help others usually will also find themselves more deeply attached to the Elks.

The next step in Elk's involvement is leadership. If there's a new Elk who has become an active volunteer, encourage them to take the next step with a leadership role by joining a Lodge committee or even becoming an Elks Officer.

Momentum is building for another gain in membership. Last year we attained a 19,558 net gain in membership. This has generated remarkable momentum for this fraternal year. Membership retention is the key to sustainable membership growth.



**Top:** West District Soccer Shoot contestants

**Right:** Jillian Millard at the South District Shoot (photo courtesy Nick Millard)

**Far Right:** Dennis Morgan, JR Cruz, Cory Bungard, Terry Gaber, & Geff McDaniel with Elroy at the State Soccer Shoot (photo courtesy Cory Bungard)



## State Soccer Shoot 2023

The State Soccer Shoot was held on Saturday, October 15th in Florence, CO. Ten contestants from six different Lodges will be competing at the Regional Shoot in Kansas.

### 2023 Winners

U-8 Girls: Ellianna Hogan (Florence)

U-8 Boys: Calaghan Smith (Lakewood)

U-10 Girls: Rozilynn Herzing (Florence)

U-10 Boys: Alan Piquette (Cañon City)

U-12 Girls: Angela Summers (Golden)

U-12 Boys: Jackson Ceccant (Denver)

U-14 Girls: Ciel Johnson (Golden)

U-14 Boys: Kolton Maikowski (Sterling)



U-16 Girls: Sara Swart (Cañon City)

U-16 Boys: Dylan Evans (Sterling)



“The Whole Gang” at the South District Soccer Shoot

(photo courtesy Debbie Channel)



2023-24 DENVER NUGGETS

# MILE HIGH BASKETBALL



**COLORADO ELKS GROUP NIGHT WITH THE DENVER NUGGETS**



vs



**San Antonio Spurs vs Denver Nuggets**  
 Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 • 6:00 pm • Ball Arena

**TICKETS:**  
 Starting at \$37 each

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE AT:  
[HTTPS://NUGGETS.KSETICKETS.COM/ELKSLODGES](https://nuggets.ksetickets.com/elkslodges)

**\*\$5 per ticket will be donated to Colorado Elks Hoop Shoot!\***

Tickets are sold on a first come first served basis and are subject to availability.  
 Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.  
 All sales are final – no refunds or exchanges permitted



SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE

**NUGGETS.COM** For more information, please contact Tia Smith at 303.405.3993 or Tia.Smith@TeamKSE.com



**COLORADO AVALANCHE**  
2023-24

**ELKS**  
 with the Colorado Avalanche



vs



**COLORADO AVALANCHE vs WINNIPEG JETS**

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> • 2:00 PM • Ball Arena**

**TICKETS START AT \$90**

Subject to change  
 \$10 of each ticket will benefit the Colorado Elks Association  
 With each ticket comes a Colorado Mammoth lacrosse ticket! Please keep an eye on your email for details on how to retrieve your included Mammoth ticket to attend your group's night





**TO ORDER TICKETS:**  
[Avalanche.KSETickets.com/ELKS](https://Avalanche.KSETickets.com/ELKS)

For questions please contact Lauren Harper with the Colorado Avalanche at 303.513.2957 or email Lauren.Harper@TeamKSE.com

# Grand Exalted Ruler's Visit

The Colorado Elks Association had the honor of hosting Grand Exalted Ruler Randy Shook and First Lady Wanda Shook at their 120th State Convention, September 7-9, 2023.

The Shooks toured Laradon, where they were presented with clients' original art work. They also toured the History Colorado Museum in Downtown Denver.

In return, the Colorado Elks were treated to GER Shook's auctioneering skills!



**Top:** GER Randy Shook & First Lady Wanda Shook at Laradon

**Middle:** The Shooks at History Colorado

**Bottom (L to R):** First Lady Susan Amen, PGER John Amen, PSP Cindy Wyszynski, GER Randy Shook, Kim Lenort, PBOGT Allen Lenort, GL Fraternal Committee Member Tom Fraker, First Lady Wanda Shook, Debbie Fraker



**Top:** PGER John Amen, First Lady Susan Amen, GER Randy Shook, & First Lady Wanda Shook with gifts from Laradon



**Bottom :** First Lady Wanda Shook & GER Randy Shook at History Colorado, viewing the US Flag of the 1st Regiment of Colorado Volunteers, which was carried at the battle of Glorieta Pass in 1861



# CEA 120th State Convention

Many, many awards were handed out at the Colorado Elks Association's 120th State Convention. Plus, there was quite a bit of fun AND new officers installed!

These are just a few of the highlights.

**Left:** Elk of the Year  
Debbie Channel (Florence Lodge)

**Middle:** 2023-24 State Officers

**Right:** Officer of the Year Shanon Conley  
(Victor Lodge)



Opening Ceremonies entertainer,  
comedienne Dee Wright, Navy  
Veteran & Winter Sports Clinic  
participant



To see all the Convention photos,  
visit our website & look under  
"Meetings"

[www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org](http://www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org)

**Congratulations to Littleton Lodge #1650 for placing  
1st in the State Ritual Contest!**

**We can't wait to cheer you on in Austin!**



**Left:** ER Flag Charge  
winner Jimmy Stanley  
(Littleton Lodge)

**Right:** State Ritual  
Champions Littleton  
Lodge



**Right:** 11 o'clock Toast Winner  
Becky Schmitz (Northglenn  
Lodge)

**Middle:** CEA Officer of the  
Year John Beach (Fort Morgan  
Lodge)

**Far Right:** First Lady Ellen  
McDaniel and State President  
Geff McDaniel (Englewood  
Lodge)



## Meet Your State Officers



### Shirley Tipton

State Trustee  
District Deputy  
Mountain District

#### What is your home town?

Marfa TX

#### Where is your current lodge?

Aspen 224

#### Who proposed you & when?

Jackie Lothian, 2005

#### What is your favorite Elks program?

That's like asking me to choose a favorite child! Veterans Services Commission and ENF

#### What are you most curious about?

How to build up our communities through our programs and member recruitment and retention. And electricity.

#### Who is your favorite person?

My husband, Steve, the best person I know.



10



### Elevinio "JR" Cruz

1st Vice President  
Mountain District

#### What is your home town?

Leadville CO

#### Where is your current lodge?

Leadville 236

#### Who proposed you & when?

PER George Sebestyen, 2003

#### What is your favorite Elks program?

My favorite Elks program has to be Membership. I enjoy talking with the candidates thru indoctrination and then watching them grow into great Elks.

#### What are you most curious about?

I am curious how other lodges work. From fundraising to conducting a meeting. Everyone has the same goal and guidelines but how it is done is the fascinating part.

#### Who is your favorite person?

My favorite person is my wife Janet. I know that sounds cliché, but she's the person who I want to see, talk, and be around every day. She is the strongest person I know because she can put up with me and I don't know who in the world could or who would want to do that. Hahaha

## Meet Your State Chairs



### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

North District

#### What is your home town?

Delta CO

#### Where is your current lodge?

Greeley 809

#### Who proposed you & when?

Louis Dunson, PER

#### What is your favorite Elks program?

Ritual & Hoop Shoot

#### What are you most curious about?

Curious about how to strengthen my spiritual inner self.

#### Who is your favorite person?

"People" accepting me for who I am.



### Government Relations

Central Southeast  
District

#### What is your home town?

Pueblo CO

#### Where is your current lodge?

Colorado Springs 309

#### Who proposed you & when?

Ron Elliott, 2007

#### What is your favorite Elks program?

Veterans

#### What are you most curious about?

ENF Grants

#### Who is your favorite person?

My favorite person is our State President Geff McDaniel. But of course that is after my hubby, Jim Keyser.



## IT'S HUNTING SEASON!

Time to start collecting hides for the Veterans Leather Program!

The Veterans Leather Program relies on the charity of hunters across the nation to donate hides so they can be turned into leather used for therapy programs for recovering veterans.

Leather is also used to provide professionally-crafted gloves for veterans in wheelchairs, which are distributed at veterans adaptive sports clinics and gatherings throughout the country.

### IN 2021-22:

- 9 states collected **13,401** hides.
- **1,059** veterans received free wheelchair gloves.
- **71,294** square feet of leather was donated by Elks to provide free craft kits for recovering veterans.
- **5,800** veterans received craft kits from the Elks

(Statistics & text from [Elks.org/vets](https://www.elks.org/vets))

For more information on collecting hides, please contact Dan Daigle [drdaigle@comcast.net](mailto:drdaigle@comcast.net)



## Veterans Programs

“As long as there are veterans, we shall never forget them”

### Wreaths Across America & Colorado Parks and Wildlife

The Veterans Services Team is partnering with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Home Depot to repurpose Veteran Wreaths from the Wreaths Across America Program into Fish Habitats across the State! Please let us help you get involved!

Also, check out the articles about Lodges participating in this program in the “CEA News” section of our website:

[www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org](http://www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org)



### Celebrating Brotherhood: A 30-Year Partnership

As part of the 30 year anniversary of the partnership between Colorado and the Republic of Slovenia, the Colorado Elks Veterans Committee was invited to explain our partnership with the Colorado National Guard and why it works.

Below, State Veterans Chair Troy Erickson presents a Colorado Elks Challenge Coin to Maran Sarec, the Slovenia Minister of Defense.



You can read more about this program [here](#).

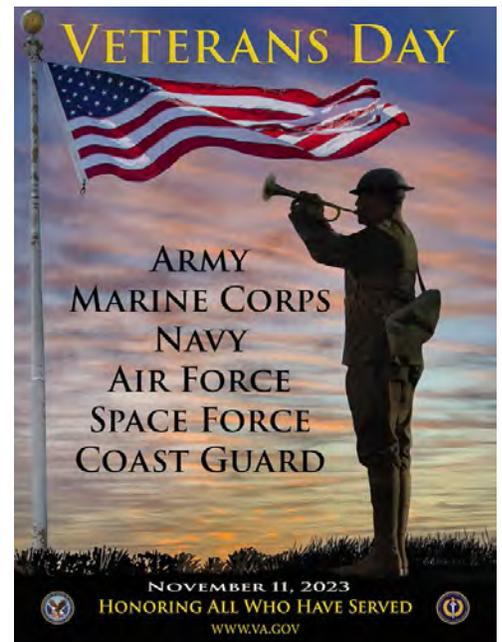
### Get the scoop on the Winter Sports Clinic at the Fall Quarterly!

Teresa Parks with the Department of Veterans Affairs will be speaking at 8:30am in the Grand Parlor Room Doubletree Grand Junction November 4th

### THANK YOU!

PSP Cindy & Michael Wyszynski would like to thank EVERYONE who made a donation for their pins last year.

Over \$2,000 was raised for [BurnPits360.org](http://BurnPits360.org)!



## Local Lodges Shine!



Parker Lodge #2873 combined their Beacon & Gratitude Grants to present the Parker Task Force Food Bank with an \$8,000 donation!



The Littleton Elks Veterans Committee was honored to award Freedom Service Dogs of America (FSD) the \$1,000 Freedom Grant Spark.

The funds are intended to assist with training, food, shelter, and other needs for the service dogs.



The Littleton Elks Americanism Committee served 60 meals to three local fire stations in September.

They also donated 55 dictionaries to 3rd grade students at Columbine Hills Elementary School.

## Local Lodges Shine!



On September 26th, the Longmont Elks Lodge held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for joining the Longmont Chamber of Commerce. You can read all about it [here](#).

Also, on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Longmont Elks Lodge #1055 and Boulder Elks Lodge #566 hosted their annual Flag Retirement Service. The afternoon started with the proper folding of the flags in preparation for the service. Hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled and enjoyed. After dinner, the Officers of both Lodges performed the Flag Retirement Ritual. Once the Ritual was completed, attendees were encouraged to retire a flag in memory of a Veteran or loved one.

### FLAG RETIREMENT 2023

Thanks to Byron Dunn for hosting again this year!



## Elks Remain Committed To Serving Veterans In Need

By Randy Shook, Grand Exalted Ruler



November brings to mind a couple of very special days. On November 11, Veterans Day, we honor our veterans, past and present. There are so many ways to say thank you to our nation's veterans. Hosting dinners in our Local Lodges, sending care packages, and participating in events at Veterans Administration hospitals are just a few ways.

The Elks are committed to their mission "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." The Elks National Veterans Service Commission takes that pledge one step further and promises to render aid to our nation's veterans and military members with a special focus on those in need. The ENVSC empowers local communities by giving them the resources to directly serve veterans, military members, and their families.

The ENVSC supports a vast network of Voluntary Service Representatives, providing local outreach support to our veterans in need all over the country. This network is only successful because of the hard work performed by individual Lodge Members.

In VA Clinics, veterans' homes, USOs, homeless shelters, and elsewhere, thousands of Elks volunteers generously give their time, energy, and resources to serve veterans and military members each year. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, who are reminding our communities, "We Are THE Elks."

November 23 is Thanksgiving, a day for us to thank God for all the blessings that have been bestowed on each of us, our family, our friends, our Order, and our great country. It is also a day we ask for the blessings of God to guide us and show us ways to help those who are less fortunate so we may make their life better, proving "Elks Care — Elks Share." Happy Thanksgiving.

Remember: "We Are THE Elks."

God bless our great Order, our troops, and the United States of America.

## Essay Contest Participants Will Consider Bill of Rights

By Gwendolyn B. Parker,  
Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee Member

The topic for this year's Americanism Essay Contest is "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me."

This is the second year to have the new divisions and monetary prizes. The contest has separate divisions for fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. For each division, first place wins \$1,000, second place earns \$500, and third place gets \$250.

There are some very important dates to remember. If you miss your deadline, your essay will be ineligible to win. Keep in mind that all initial essays should go to the Local Lodge first for judging. It is important to communicate this information to your schools and teachers.

Keep in mind that you should send your essay to the Elks Lodge nearest your home, and only to one Lodge! Each level of judging will send the top three in each division to be judged on the next level.

### Deadlines

- Student/teacher sends essays to Local Lodge: No later than December 15, 2023.
- Local Lodge sends to District Chair: No later than January 31, 2024.
- District Chairman sends to State Chair: No later than February 28, 2024.
- State Chair sends to Contest Administrator: No later than March 31, 2024.

### Rules

1. No more than 300 words. Essays must be typed or legibly printed in ink (by the entrant).
2. Must be submitted to the Lodge nearest their address.
3. The participant must be identified by name, grade, school attending, and the sponsoring Elks Lodge on the essay itself.
4. The cover page provided on our website must be attached to the essay. This cover sheet will follow the essays through every level of judging.

### Judging and scoring

1. Originality. Avoid the use of clichés and worn-out words and phrases. 30 points.
2. Development of the theme. Stay focused on ideas and thoughts. Don't ramble. 40 points.
3. Mechanics and neatness. Use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. 30 points.

Publicize your contest via social media, newsletters, and e-mail blasts, as well as through local newspapers and radio. Prizes at the local level are also a good idea for increasing participation.

National winners of first, second, and third place in each division will be announced in our spring newsletter. Awards can be picked up at the Fraternal Committee booth at our next Grand Lodge Session in Austin, Texas on July 3, 2024.

## Stand Out In a Crowd (continued from p.1)

2. *Exemplify a growth mindset.* Adopting a growth mindset is crucial if we want to stand out from the crowd. This means embracing challenges, learning from mistakes, and constantly seeking ways to improve. When we exhibit a growth mindset, we demonstrate resilience and adaptability – qualities that are highly attractive to others. Additionally, a growth mindset will empower you to be open to new ideas, overcome obstacles, and ultimately achieve greater success.

3. *Demonstrate collaborative teamwork.* Collaboration and teamwork are essential for standing out in today's interconnected world. We demonstrate our value and create a positive impression by being excellent team players or partners and helping others succeed. Collaborating effectively contributes to our success, builds strong relationships, and establishes our reputation as a reliable, supportive, and trustworthy organization.

4. *Be prepared.* When we show up prepared, we exude confidence and command respect, making it easier to stand out and make a lasting impression. Do the research, practice, plan, and anticipate potential challenges.

5. *Adopt a solutions-oriented approach.* A solutions-oriented mindset can help us stand out from the crowd, as it demonstrates the ability to tackle challenges head-on and find innovative solutions to problems. By focusing on possibilities rather than obstacles, we showcase our resourcefulness, creativity, and determination – highly attractive qualities to others. To adopt a solutions-oriented approach, practice reframing challenges as opportunities for growth, brainstorming multiple solutions, and being persistent in the pursuit of success.

By implementing these game-changing strategies in our own Lodges, we can transform the way we, the Elks, are perceived and become a beacon that draws the community together. Our mission as leaders is not only to attract new members but to have our current members engaged and excited to belong to our Lodges. Remember, the road to success is ongoing, so it's crucial to continually refine our skills, learn from past experiences, and adapt to new situations, whether you are a new Exalted Ruler or in your fifth term as an Exalted Ruler.

## Care & Community (continued from p.1)

Every lodge has helped their community thrive and assist its members. It is the caring of the members that make the community. They are a part of each community and know what each community needs. Each lodge has their committees and I hope you find your niche to help with one or several. Remember, they need assistance in everything a lodge does.

Your time and talent are never wasted if you volunteer and ask someone to volunteer. Sometimes that is all it takes.

The Fall Quarterly will be in Grand Junction and hope to see many of you there. Make sure you pass along those successes stories of what is going on in your lodge and even ask if other lodges are doing something similar of those committees that are not doing as great. You may find another method on how to make those successful as well.

God Bless you and your family. Hope you get to enjoy the beauty that this state has to offer this fall with its spectacular colors. Careful with those first snow falls. No one is truly ready but yet we know it is coming.

Love to you all....

## Public Relations Update

By Cynthia Wyszynski

I'm very excited to be able to continue to serve the Colorado Elks Association as Public Relations Chair.

It took an excruciating amount of time to put this newsletter together, but I'm looking forward to bringing on District Editors next quarter.

I'm still looking for District Editors from West, Mountain, and North.

If you have photos/articles you would like to see in the next newsletter, please email them to:

[CEApublicity@gmail.com](mailto:CEApublicity@gmail.com) by **January 1st.**

Our [website](#) is now a year old! I feel it's a valuable resource for all our members. If you're having difficulty logging on, please [email me](#).

We have a YouTube page! View some great videos about our Lodges, our members, and leadership programs.

You can find us on YouTube [@CEANews!](#)

We'll also be working on building up our leadership video library this year.

You'll see us at the quarterlies filming some of the breakout sessions.

If you're interested in videography, I could use some help! Again, email me!

See you at the Quarterly!



# KARAOKE NIGHT PARTY

DOUBLETREE GRAND JUNCTION  
KOKOPELLI HOSPITALITY ROOM  
FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 3  
4:00 - 11:00 PM

## SAVE THE DATES!

*Upcoming Colorado Elks Meetings*

- January 26-28, 2024** ▶ Winter Quarterly  
Doubletree Colorado Springs
- April 26-28, 2024** ▶ Spring Quarterly  
Denver Marriott South
- September 5-7, 2024** ▶ State Convention  
Denver Marriott South
- November 1-3, 2024** ▶ Fall Quarterly  
Denver Marriott South

[www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org](http://www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org)

*Colorado Elks Association*

## CALENDAR RAFFLE

**\$20 per ticket**      **WIN! \$25 - \$500**

**365 CHANCES TO WIN!**

CONTACT YOUR LODGE OFFICERS OR STATE TRUSTEES FOR TICKETS

PROCEEDS ARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COLORADO ELKS ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

visit [www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org](http://www.ColoradoElksAssociation.org) for drawing information

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## IS MEDIA YOUR JAM?

# Volunteers needed

**CEA Newsletter Co-Editors**  
1 per district  
Need to know & have access to Microsoft Publisher

**Videographer for Quarterlies**  
equipment will be provided

**if interested, please contact**  
[CEApolicy@gmail.com](mailto:CEApolicy@gmail.com)

## GOT NEWS?

Submit by January 1st to  
[CEApolicy@gmail.com](mailto:CEApolicy@gmail.com)