Maine Elks Association

Summer Meeting

Portland Elks #188

August 8, 2021

**Call to Order: President** Scott Monroe called the Maine Elks Association Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Invocation** – State Chaplain Randy Ellis gave the Invocation

**Pledge of Allegiance** – All present.

**Roll Call of Officers**, **Secretary** DwayneGuy: 28 were present with the following absentees noted: Administrative Assistant Claris Ranger, Past GL Admin Assistant Roger Sicard, Past GL Loyal Knight Jim Ferland, Past Grand Tiler Robert Drisko, Bath 934 Craig Johnson, Brunswick 2043 Rodney Bauer, Ellsworth 2743 Robert Hubbert, Sr and Presque Isle 1954 Patricia Lovely.

**State President** **Scott** asked that all past and present State Presidents, District Deputies, Grand Lodge Committee Chairs and Grand Lodge Officers stand and be recognized, 26 were present.

**Reading of the minutes** **of the previous meeting:** Dwayne Guy moved to accept the minutes of May 1, 2021 as printed and emailed, Andy Constantine seconded, and motion approved.

**Sickness and Distress:** Secretary Dwayne Guy presented the names of deceased members since May’s meeting: **# 188 Portland:** Alan Smith and Elizabeth Smith: , **# 244 Bangor:** Melvin Brown, LM, Paul Hodgins, LM, Roy Hostetler, LM, Martin Philbrick, Scott Preston and Debra Robertson: , **# 835 Houlton:** David Henderson and Donald Levasseur, LM, PER: , **# 905 Waterville:** Kenneth Cashman, Donald Colson, Herbert Foster, 2nd, LM, PER, , Daniel Hanson, Sr., LM, Charles Kent, Jr., LM, Gerald King, LM, Robert Palmer Jr, LM, William Saucier, LM, and Spiro Yotides, LM: , **# 934 Bath:** Donald Almy, Earle Robinson, LM and Lawrence Worden, LM: , **# 964 Augusta:** Harold Jones Sr, LM: , **# 1008 Rockland**: Jeffrey Comerford and and Sherry Teele: , **# 1287 Old Town:** Richard Watson, LM: , **# 1293 Gardiner:** Scott Christie: , **# 1470 Sanford**: Robert Porell, LM: , # 1521 Millinocket: Terry Kelley, LM: , **# 1597 Biddeford-Saco:** Anne Bernard, Roland Cloutier, LM, Albert Cowles Jr., LM, Gerard Dallaire, LM, and Louis Janson, LM: , # 1954: Presque Isle: Robert Belyea: , **# 2043: Brunswick:** Robert Hood, LM, and Joe Rollins: , **# 2430 Farmington**: Kermit Haines and Charles Spear, LM: , and **# 2738 Well**s: Richard Johnson.

It was reported PDDGER Rodney Bauer of Brunswick was in a motorcycle accident and is in ICU following surgery.

State President Scott asked all to rise for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of all those who passed

**Reports of Officers:**

**State President:** First I would like to take a moment to thank the Officers and members of our Association for the many condolences and prayers for the loss of Monika’s mother. This happened un-expectantly while we were in route to the National Convention. Your kind words and thoughts made our stay at the convention less stressful. Thank you for the support.

 To date we have made two visits. The first being on Friday August 6, to Biddeford-Saco where we enjoyed the Luau Dinner, and silent auction with all proceeds going to MCCP. We had a lot of fun and enjoyed the music. Thanks to ER Vassie and the Biddeford-Saco Lodge for a fun and relaxing evening. Then on Saturday, August 7th we visited the Portland Lodge, and were treated to an awesome two-hour Schooner cruise in Portland harbor. After the cruise we then attended an Italian buffet at the Lodge and enjoyed another relaxing night of music and fun. Thank you Exalted Ruler Martha Binnette and the Portland Lodge for such an outstanding experience.

 We are looking forward to our next visits at the Augusta Lodge on August 14th, the Ellsworth Lodge on August 21st, Visiting the Forks for a day on August 28th, and then September with visits in Sanford and Farmington. Thanks to the Lodges who have set up your visits and I ask the remaining Lodges to please schedule a visit to your Lodge soon as my calendar is filling fast.

 Prior to my appointment as State President, I began working with some of our Past Presidents to come up with a way to get more of our membership involved in our committee work. While working on committee appointments I have noticed that some of our members currently chair more than one committee, and there were several Past Presidents who were advisors to several committees. As I continue to work on spreading the work evenly in our organization, I would ask your help in filling the following committees:

Fraternal Committee, (Advisor Wayne Cotterly, PSP), Public Relations: specifically: Photographers, E-News and Public Relations Assistants.

 I would like to thank the following members for coming forward and accepting responsibility for the following committees: Lodge Activities Chair, Ron Darling PER, Millinocket Lodge #1521; New Lodge Development, Chaired by the 1st Vice President with the President Elect and 2nd Vice President as committee members and Business Practices, Scott Monroe PDD, Bangor Lodge #244.

 As we continue to improve our State Association, we must all do our part to ensure we are communicating our goals to ensure success. Please AIM for Success by helping me fill these vacant committees so that we can continue to prosper.

  **Report for the Grand Lodge Convention:** The 2021 Grand Lodge Convention was held July 4th, through July 7th 2021, at the Tampa Bay Convention Center in Tampa, Florida with over 6400 members in attendance.

 Prior to the start of the daily convention meetings I had the opportunity to attend the Grand Lodge Ritual competition. As this was my first time witnessing such competition, I can honestly say that it was very impressive. Our state was represented very well by the members of the Sanford Lodge #1470, led by PSP Frank Ricker. Although the team did not win the competition their performance was impressive. I would like to thank our Ritual team for their brave performance and encourage them to keep up their works in the ritual competition.

 The daily sessions were quite informative. Most importantly, 15 resolutions were proposed and voted on. Of those resolutions, 9 were adopted by the members voting. The results of the vote should be available in your Lodge or you can view on Elks.Org.

 To see Maine Lodges recognized on the big screen made me feel proud to be part of this Association. The Wells Lodge #2738 received a second place in the ENF per Member Contest for their division with a total of $11,499.00 in donations and a per capita of $145.00 per member. Three Lodges received an award for their participation in the Grand Lodge Community Projects Contest. They were; Presque Isle Lodge #1954 received a First place in Division 2, Waterville Lodge # 905 won First Place in Division 4, and Augusta Lodge # 964 won 2nd place in Division 4. Also of note was two very deserving winners recognized on the Grand Lodge Wall of Fame for their work as Veteran Volunteers of the Year. They were Jean Oliver from Bangor Lodge #244, and Bruce Sargent from Presque Isle Lodge #1954. Congratulations to all the award winners.

 It was also an honor to witness the installation of our newly installed District Deputies. Northern District Brooke Green, Bangor Lodge #244, Central District Anthony Gause, Augusta Lodge #964, and Coastal District John Desjardin from Biddeford Saco Lodge #1597. Congratulations and good luck on your new adventure.

 Lastly, I would like to give a big thanks to President Elect Al Ingraham and Stephanie for the dedication and hard work maintaining the Maine hospitality room. The preparation and shopping to meet the needs of those who attended was top notch. Especially when a Hurricane was bearing down on us. Thanks to all who volunteer to make the Maine Hospitality room a success.

 **Business Practices Chairman Scott Monroe** By now everyone should have received their Grand Lodge insurance renewal for the year 2021-2022. You should have noticed that Gallagher Insurance is the new insurance broker effective April 1st, and First Insurance Funding is the new Property Plus Financing Company. The Officers, Trustees or Board of Directors, should have reviewed your existing coverage for your buildings and its contents. Contact Gallagher if you have any changes or questions.

 The next topic is dues. When was the last time you raised the dues of your Lodge? During the Grand lodge session in Tampa, Grand Trustee Chairman Jeff Miller announced that the 2022-2023 Grand Lodge year dues will be $24.00 per member. The breakdown is $6.50 for the GL, $12.00 for the Insurance, and $5.00 for the Elks Magazine. This represented a $5 increase in insurance costs, which was made necessary by a series of high-cost judgments. He also indicated that a second $5 increase is likely to be necessary next year. I ask all Lodges to go back to your Lodge and review your dues amount to ensure it’s not going to cost the Lodge money in the future with current and planned increases. Also make sure next year budgets include the new amount.

**President-Elect** **Al Ingraham:** Six Lodges have completed the Elks Training with only 14 to go. Each lodge has received the PDF test and answer sheets. I have copies if anyone wishes to have a printed copy.

**First Vice-President Sandi Anderson:**

Thank you again for all of your votes and also for selling MEA Calendars! So far, after I give a couple of checks to Dwayne, the total amount of calendars we have sold is now $22,630.00, which is up another $1,230.00 from my last report. It is going a little slower now as it usually does, but we are still selling calendars and they are now $10.00 each. From now until the end of the year, there is a chance to win $5,725.00. If anyone needs any more calendars, please see me.

 **Central District Chair of MCCP:** No report at this time.

 **Memorial Service:** This year’s Memorial Service went very well considering we included 2 years of our members who have passed away. It took just a little bit longer, but was very necessary not to forget any of our members who have passed on. Thank you and at this time there is nothing more to report.

 **New Lodge Development:** No Report.7

**Second Vice-President Corey Day**: I too want to say thank you for showing confidence in me to elect me as 2nd VP. Regarding Calendars for 2022, they are out and available. Please start selling them. We’re hoping COVID-19 will quickly go away and we can step up our efforts selling calendars. As each Lodge sells their calendars, come back for more to sell.

**State Secretary** **Dwayne Guy:** It’s been a busy summer!The changes we approved at the Convention to the MEA Constitution and By-Laws were approved by Grand Lodge Judiciary on May 24, 2021. Since we printed 500 copies just last year, we are not going to print new ones now, but I have made copies of the revised sections only and they are included in the large envelope on the back table, one for every lodge. Just a reminder, the Nominating Committee has been eliminated, if a member wants to be a candidate for office, you need to submit the notice, in writing, with your name, your Lodge’s number and name and the office you’re running for, to the State Secretary, **BEFORE** the Spring Meeting, usually March. This applies to current officers wishing to advance or retain their current positions. This is true even if you announce it at a meeting.

 Also, we have the new Lodge Directories today, we have provided 10 copies to each Lodge for distribution, and a copy to every MEA officer and Committee Chair. If you’d like 1 or need a 2nd directory, please ask your Lodge secretary for 1 of the 10 they’re received. Due to some reason the Antlers and Youth Activities Committee Chairs were omitted from the directory. I have made copies of Antlers with Michael Michaud and Youth Activities with Debi Briggs to go along with the directories. These are valuable resources to contact other members of other Lodges. Another valuable resource, that I have used the past several years, is Carlette Eaton, whose help and perseverance have proven again to be invaluable in creating this directory each year.

 I also ask that when you have a check to be deposited, please specify what it is for, example, payable to MEA/MCCP does not fully indicate what it’s for. Is it for MCCP Owie Box, MCCP Bells or just MCCP?

**State Treasurer** **Felecia Gaulin:** No Report.

**Administrative Assistant** **Claris Ranger:** Good morning and thank you Scott for giving my report. Visitations for our State President have started coming in, thank you to those who have done this already, 10 of the lodges have set up visits. Time will go by very quickly. Check your calendars and get a date locked in. They will also make visits on Friday nights.

 Anthony and Linda missed a lot of visits last year. If you are so inclined, you can have them visit this year. Also, John and Jessica missed some lodges because of their time spent in the hospital.

 I don’t want any lodge to go beyond their means and don’t feel obligated on these extra visitations. It can be just a casual night at the lodge where you recognize them.

 You can invite them the same time as Scott and Monika, but by no means should they take away from our current State President and First Lady. Thank you for your understanding.

**State Tiler** **Shawn Stacey**: S**occer Shoot Committee:** State Soccer Shoot in Bangor on October 17th, Regional Soccer Shoot in Auburn, MA November 5th – 7th. Lodges can purchase an ad in the Regional program book. Derek White is the Central District Assistant, Derek White, (Trisha Porter), 4 Eagle Ln

Belgrade, ME 04917-3952, email - derek@maineinstallsandservice.com, 207.440.2443.

**State Chaplain** **Randy Ellis:** “It’s good to be an Elk!”

**Sergeant at Arms** **Kyle Smart:** 50/50 has $280, so $140 to winner at this time.

**State Trustee Chairman** **Tom Chase:** No report.

**GL Special Deputy** **Andy Constantine**: Good morning all, you may hear the same information multiple times this morning, but that is a good thing as the information is important.

Grand Exalted Ruler T. Keith Mills will arrive in Maine on Tuesday, November 9th and the Banquet will be at 6:00 at the Bangor Lodge.

I Congratulate New DD’s John Desjardins, Anthony Gause, & Brooke Green

Grand Lodge Convention,for those of you who attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Tampa, I hope you went away with a renewed interest in the Programs of the Grand Lodge. It was great to get together again. I thought the safety concerns were well handled by the Convention Committee.

I’m sorry I only got one chance to visit the Maine Hospitality room, but from what I saw and heard, Al and Stephanie did a fine job. I’m sure we will hear Al’s report on the Hospitality room. The convention will be held in Atlanta next year July 3rd through the 6th.

**Service of Alcohol in our Lodges**. A resolution passed that requires a Lodge establish a written Policy to their House Rules regarding preventing the over service of alcohol. This should be the responsibility of the Exalted Ruler, Secretary and Bar Manager’s. District Deputies will be looking for the written policy during their inspections. Stewards also need to be aware of their customers and if they present as already having several drinks before they appear at the Lodge. The insurance claims have gone through the roof, regarding over serving. If such a policy is not established and enforced, the Lodge could be on its own if sued.

**Lodge incorporation.** I asked Alan Harding of Presque Isle Lodge #1954, our Legal Justice to see if all the Maine Lodges are incorporated. Here is his written report as sent to me.

**Legal Justice Alan Harding**: Of the twenty Elks Lodges in the State of Maine, nineteen are incorporated as non-profit corporations with the State of Maine, Division of Corporations. In order to maintain their status as non-profit corporations in good standing, Lodges must file an annual report on or before June 1 of every year and pay a $35 fee. In the transition from one secretary to a new Lodge secretary, this annual requirement is often overlooked in the orientation of the new secretary. I’m happy to report all current Lodge corporations are in good standing with the Maine Secretary of State.

 Incorporating a nonprofit group or association and maintaining its good standing as a corporation provides a liability shield for the individual members of that association. Until the association is incorporated, each individual member of the group or association may be held civilly liable for the contractual obligations of the association as well as acts of negligence or other forms of non-criminal malfeasance or misfeasance. For example, if the association owes a vendor for goods supplied or an individual is injured upon the premises used by the association, each individual member can be sued by the unpaid vendor or injured business invitee, such as a BINGO player. By incorporating a Lodge, its individual members are shielded from such individual civil liability.

 I look forward to working with the twentieth Maine Lodge as it seeks to achieve non-profit corporate status in Maine for the reasons stated above.

**State Sponsor Michael Zellen, PGER:** I would like to bring you the greetings of our Grand Exalted Ruler, the Honorable T. Keith Mills from the great state of Idaho. As you may know GER Mills motto this year is “Elks Meeting the Challenge.”

 Donna sends her best wishes to all. Due to a chronic shoulder issue, she was not able to accompany me here to Portland today.

 I know from reading the MEA Newsletter and Monthly Lodge Bulletins that I receive, that your lodges are working hard at fulfilling the many great works of charity within your communities and that the Elks of Maine are Meeting the Challenge to Make a Difference in the lives of others.

 I would like to congratulate your three District Deputies, Anthony Gause, John Desjardins, and Brooke Green who were officially installed last month in Tampa. As you know the DD’s will be holding their respective District Clinics over the next several weeks. In addition to those Officers who are required by Grand Lodge Statute to attend, I urge all lodge officers and committee members to attend as the clinics are very informative. It also builds comradery within the district and the opportunity for lodges to exchange ideas.

 I also have the pleasure to announce that Grand Lodge Committeeman Wayne Cotterly is the Endorsed Candidate for Grand Trustee from Area 1 and will be installed to a four-year term at the next Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta.

 I would also like to announce that Grand Trustee Bruce Hidley of the Watervliet, NY Lodge #1500 is the Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler. And as in the past when a member of Area 1 is the Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler the New England State and New York conducts a fund-raising event in their state in support of the Endorsed Candidate for GER. I will be working with Andy Constantine to select a lodge and a date to invite Bruce Hidley to Maine for the fund-raising event.

 Although we have just started the Grand Lodge Year, we are now beginning the fifth month of the lodge year. I hope that the Exalted Rulers are enjoying their year as ER and that you and your lodge are achieving the many goals that you set for yourself at the beginning of your year. Thank you for your service. And thank you for your continued support of the Elks National Foundation

 Speaking of the ENF, GER Mills announced that the per capita goal for this year will remain at $4.80 during his year. As of today, the State of Maine is over half-way there with a current per capita of $2.96 per member. As you may know last year the State of Maine ranked 10th in the country with a ENF per capita of $10.92. Keep up the good work.

 In closing I would like to thank all of you for your thoughtfulness and courtesies extended to me and my wife Donna throughout the many years. Your friendliness and fellowship are greatly appreciated. Thank you for being an Elk and for Caring & Sharing.

District Deputy Coastal John Desjardins: DD Clinic will be held August 15th at Bath Lodge #934.

**District Deputy Northern Brooke Green:** DD Clinic on September 12th in Millinocket at 10:00.

**District Deputy Central Anthony Gause:** DD Clinic at Waterville Elks #905 on August 22nd at 10:00.

 **Drug Awareness Anthony Gause**: The Seminar will be held at the Augusta Elks Lodge #964 on September 26th at 10:00 a.m. It’s mandatory the Exalted Rulers and Lodge Drug Awareness Chairperson attend, this will be the onlt Seminar and the only time to get supplies, crayons, coloring books, rulers, etc. This year’s thems is “The Better Me is Drug Free”’

**Special Rep James Ferland:** None.

**Special Rep Roger Sicard:** No report.

 **Credentials Committee Roger Sicard:** No report**.**

**Special Rep Robert Drisko**: No report

**GL Activities Committee Member Wayne Cotterly:** Good Morning,

I am pleased to report that at the Grand Lodge Convention in Tampa, Florida in July, three Lodges in the State of Maine were recognized for their Community Projects in the Grand Lodge Activities Committee Community Projects Contest. The Lodges recognized were as follows:

* Presque Isle Elks Lodge #1954 received first place in Division II
* Waterville Elks Lodge #905 received first place in Division IV
* Augusta Elks Lodge #964 received second place in Division IV

Congratulations to each of these Lodges for getting out into the community to show that Elks Care—Elks Share.

As we are now approaching the school year, the summer is the best time to talk with them about a few programs that would benefit their students. Now is the best time because they are not in session yet and have some time to talk with you about the programs.

The programs include the Student Recognition Program or what is also known as the Student or Teenager of the Month/Year, and the Dictionary Project.

The Student Recognition Program is conducted by the school with students determining the student and/or teenager of the month, and not the teachers or administration. A minimum of five students would serve on a nomination committee and review nomination forms submitted by other students. An advisor would be needed to keep the kids on track. Each month, the students would select a winner for their school, who would be recognized as the Student of the Month. If you have multiple schools in your jurisdiction, each school could conduct their own program, and select a winner. In this case, to determine a community wide winner, each school would send two student representatives from their nomination committee to serve on the community wide selection committee. The school representatives would present their Student of the Month nominee to the community wide selection committee and after each school has presented their nominees, the student selection committee would determine who is the community wide Student of the Month for one boy and one girl.

So, what would the Lodge need to do? The Lodge would provide the awards for the monthly winners, and if a community wide selection committee is needed, provide a place for them to meet and offer refreshments. The Lodge does not determine who the winners are, only the students.

At the end of the school year, the student community selection committee would determine from the monthly winners a Student and/or Teenager of the Year for one boy and one girl. The Lodge again would provide the awards as well as provide an awards banquet for each of the Monthly Student and/or Teenager of the month winners, and their families. Teachers and administrators should also be invited along with the media. At that event, the Student and/or Teenager of the Year would be announced, and is not announced ahead of time to encourage attendance. When to hold this event? Elks National Youth Week during the first week in May would be a suggestion, but any time toward the end of the school year would work.

The Student Recognition Program is an excellent way to get out into the community to become visible, and to hopefully gain support of the schools in your jurisdiction. This program is designed for High Schools in your area, but you can also offer a Junior Student and/or Teenager of the Month award for youth in Junior High School or Middle School.

Award certificates, nomination forms, and instructions on how to conduct the program are available for download from the Activities Committee page of Elks.org.

For students in the elementary school, the Dictionary Project is available for third grade students. This is one of the easiest programs to conduct. Simply work with the elementary schools in your community and determine if they would like to participate. If they do, then all you need to do is find out how many third-grade students there are, order the dictionaries from dictionaryproject.org. Once received, coordinate delivery to the children of the 3rd grade class and present them in person. Don’t forget to put a label in each book that has a place for the child’s name as this is a personal gift to them and does not belong to the school. On that label, it is suggested that you indicate that this is a gift from the Elks Lodge.

If you run into the situation in which another organization has already provided dictionaries, then offer to provide other types of books such as a thesaurus, atlas, or language translation dictionary as an alternative. All can be ordered from dictionaryproject.org.

If the school does not want to participate in the Dictionary Project program, then ask what your Elk Lodge can do to support the children and the school. You will be surprised that there are other ways in which to provide support.

If the school will still not participate, don’t give up. Try working with your town library to offer a “Dictionary Day” for any third-grade student to get their free dictionary. Just make sure there are plenty on hand for the number of third graders in your community. While there, don’t forget to provide the parents with information about the Elks and our programs.

The third grade is the level at which students transition from learning to read to reading to learn and having access to a physical dictionary that they can use for many years will be a welcomed addition. While schools are using technology today, nothing replaces a book that does not require time to boot up or run low on batteries when they want information. So, I encourage everyone to try these out.

Information on these, and many more youth programs are available in the Activities Committee section of Elks.org. I encourage you all to check out the programs, and implement them in your Lodge and community.

**Accident Prevention/Insurance Risk Program** **Darryl Nadeau**: President Scott read Daryl’s report. Daryl has been asked when an accident report should be filled out. Answer is anytime some sort of fall, slip or cut that you know about. The form should be completed at the time of the incident, when it is still fresh in your mind, even if the person says they are OK. This is because sometimes injuries don’t show up until weeks later. Good documentation is important just to cover the Lodge in case something comes up later. Lastly, make sure your D&O Insurance is current.

 Andy Constantine reminded all that the Grand Lodge publishes an Accident Prevention Newsletter, make sure your Lodge’s Accident Prevention and Insurance Risk Chairperson receives that newsletter.

**Activities Committee Debi Briggs**: With School starting up, now is the time to start thinking about Student of the Month. Go and talk with your local schools about setting up this program with them. Certificates are available at elks.org or if you have trouble finding these please contact me. Does any lodge participate with the ROTC Programs in your local schools? IF not and your schools have this program, you can award certificates to the outstanding students.

Please add me to your newsletter list, my email is briggsie1990@yahoo.com. I would love to hear all

about your activities that your lodge does for our youth.

**Americanism Committee David Hammond**: Americanism’s Essay Contest is “What does it mean to love your country?” this year. I gave to each lodge the copy of the information that they need to get to the schools also said that you can hand them out many other ways. Last year Waterville handed them out at our backpack event and our drive-thru Trunk or Treat event which I received 3 essays. The 3 district chairs are Coastal Sheri Fredette (Sanford), Central Duane “kip” Clark (Farmington), and Northern Ronald Darling (Millinocket)

**Elks National Foundation David Hammond:** I have 4 lodges with no chairmen and no one for central district chair. Last year Maine donated $117,005 which was 10th in the country. Which gave the State $202,650 that equals a ratio of $1.72 return on the money that we donated. Also, there was 18 lodges that received a total of $122,000 in grants. Right now, Maine is 17th with $30,155 so let get all donations that all lodge have received so far sent in. I would like to see that all money received each month get sent in the next month don’t hold them. We have had 8 lodge so far this year received in grants a total of $52,000. Let’s get all lodge apply for these grants if you need help ask.

At Grand Lodge in Tampa, they gave the report on Pearl Harbor which was a little over $500,000 still short from what they wanted to raise. In our state we had 12 lodges that raised $5,831 which was short of the $1.00 goal that the GER asked that each lodge raise.

If you get 5% of your members that join the Fidelity club which is monthly giving, your lodge will receive $500 more in your Gratitude grant. Then if you get 15% or more of your membership to donate in a year your gratitude grant will be $500 more the next year.

David Hammond Chairman 207 660-2807, Dah471@yahoo.com

**Antlers Program:** **Mike Michaud:** No report.

**Auditing Committee** **Scott Gray**: No report.

**Convention Kathleen Cotterly**: Next year’s MEA Convention will be from April, 29, 30 and May 1, 2022 at the Lewiston Ramada. The convention packet will be available at January’s meeting. The Committee is seeking proposals for the 2024 MEA Convention, contact me for the Request for Proposal Form a kcotterly@twc.com. The deadline to submit the proposal in February 28, 2022.

**Elks Education Seminar Committee** Bruce Brunells & Claris Ranger: Bruce Brunelle at Bath Elks #934 on October 16th, with registration at 9:00 and starting at 9:30. The second Seminar is at Bangor Elks #244 on November 14th same times for registration and starting. Exalted Rulers, Leading Knights are encouraged to attend and all members are welcomed, even though it is geared toward members who aspire to be Exalted Rulers, just give a head count for your Lodge by Wednesday, October 14th so we have enough food for everyone. This is a great opportunity to gain insight on the Grand Lodge and Maine Elk Association programs and the expectations.

**Endowment Fund Mindy Voisine**: Major Endowment Fund

Introducing the 11 O’Clock Toast Flag Raffle. This flag was made by Old Town Lodge PER Tom Ammerman and is gorgeous. Tickets are $5.00 each and will be drawn once the tickets are sold. I am asking each lodge to sell 20 tickets and they are in envelopes out back for everyone. I appreciate everyone’s help and am looking for a volunteer to host the flag for a while. If you are interested please see me after the meeting.

**Maine Elks Motorcycle Riders:** The Owie Box Run on July 10th was a success and a lot of fun and we raised $3,570.00. Thank you to Rockland, Bath, Brunswick and Gardiner lodges for your hospitality! Thank you to Jeff Bosse and Dwayne Guy for helping to plan this ride (with Alice’s help). Your help is appreciated more than you know! Our next planned ride is the fall run on September 25th that will begin in Bangor and run through Ellsworth to Jasper Beach and back to Old Town. This will be done by donation and the rider who donates the most money will get a gift card to Miguel’s in Bangor.

**Membership**: As of this week we have gained 287 members statewide and I am encouraged by these numbers. Statewide our delinquency rate is at 13% which is also encouraging. Congratulations to Biddeford-Saco Lodge for a 5% delinquency rate. I have sent emails to local membership chairs and Exalted Rulers regarding their current numbers and encouraging them to reach out to me. Thank you to Renee Grover from Rockland Lodge for stepping up as a Coastal District Chair for Membership. I am still looking for a chair for Northern and Central.

**Financial Reporting System (FRS):** **Jo Spielvogel**: Everyone hase their emails in so reports will go through, this is a good thing. We also have all the 2020 budgets and ending balances for March 2019, all 2020 Actuals and all of the 2021 Actuals. Challenges are entering budgets for 3 Lodges for April 2019, and for 2021 budgets 8 Lodges 2022, 3 months into the year, 15 Lodges have reported 6 lodges are missing, 10 lodges in great shape, everything is done. I am available to attend all DD Clinics and will be visiting all Central District Lodges as part of Anthony’s DD Suite. Working closely with 5 Lodges, if there are other Lodges who would like help, please let me know.

**Fraternal Committee** **\_\_??\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:

**Government Relations** **David Anderson:** I attended the Government Relations Training in Tampa this year. It was very informative and I will be sharing some information at the State Meetings.

 Please take the time to review the LD’s: From Veterans and Legal Affair: LD16 – LD139 – LD173 - LD205 – LD301 – LD306 and LD378. Look on maine.gov and they all could have an effect on our Lodges.

 There was a very informative list to help you decide what to report on the charity records report sent to Grand Lodge included in the hand out.

 It all helps to maintain the BPOE status with the IRS as a 501C8.

 There was good news about the license plates the Elks in Maine advocated to purchase to fund the Barbara Bush Cancer Program which raised $480,000. Thanks to everyone that purchased them

 There’s an envelope for each Lodge with important information, so please take yours. Let me know if you have any questions.

**Hoop Shoot Committee George Jones:** Sorry I cannot be here this morning but here’s the dates beyond local lodge contests: District Shoots on January 16, 2022 and 2 weeks later the State Contest will be in Bangor on January 30th. Portland will host the New England Regionals Shoot on March 11th – 13th. The Hoop Shoot Finals will take place in Chicago on April 22, 2022. This will be the 50th Anniversary of the Elks Hoop Shoot.

**Lodge Activities David Anderson**:

**Major Project Committee:** **MCCP: Michael Desjardins:** Complete the form to order bells so we can get them ordered.

 Augusta Music Festival next weekend and also State President’s visit, please join us.

 Weekend at the Forks on August 27-29th, poster in packet. Mike D will be donating a private white water guided rafting trip for 6 people, redeemable next year.

 Ellsworth hosting State President on August 21st, having Pig Roast and Street Dance.

 Sanford Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, Sept 11th, spots still available, Friday it’s the Chili/Chowder contest maybe live auction.

 Skowhegan – Fair is back on and their booth will be there, one of their biggest fundraisers.

 First Lady Monika, thanked Lodges for the visits they’ve attended, still having raffles for the rifle, and bracelet.

 **Elliott and Friends:** **Michael Desjardins**

**National Veterans Service Commission David Hassen:** Plan to house 100 veterans in 100 days: Maine Homeless Veteran Action Committee (MHVAC) initiated its plan to house 100 veterans in 100 days on 3 August to end 11 November if all 100 are housed. The by name list for July was 198 veterans, 40 chronically homeless. The highest in recent memory. The Elks and other organizations are working together to support this ambitious plan. We will work to provide furniture and welcome home kits. The support will be a variety of means, volunteers, grant funded for commercial move or funded by Maine Veterans in Need,(MVN). How about 1008 PER purchase welcome home and will be reimbursed byb Vet Services.

 Stand Down: This year’s Mobile Stand Down will be coordinated by the Maine Veterans Bureau same as last year. They will be held in a minimum of 3 locations: Caribou CBOC on 5 October, Bangor CBOC on 12 October and Lewiston CBOC on 19 October. A 4th location may be added later.

 Presently we have not finalized the funding for the noon meal. We are looking at a grant or donations. We are estimating a minimum of $500 per location.

Our goal is to organize the fund raising as we have in the past at The Augusta Lodge.

President Scott announced David Hassen have been selected by Govenor Mills as an Aide to Maine Veterans’ Bureau.

**Public Relations Committee Leon "Mac" McCreary**: Dave Chasse (Augusta Lodge) is working on updating and clarifying the Web Site; Anyone who is interested in helping on this committee, we’ll be meeting after the State Meeting concludes. Again, please submit your upcoming events to the website and we’ll publicize them for you and put them on the calendar.

**Ritual Committee Frank Ricker:** Officers from the Sanford Lodge #1470 represented the Maine Elks Association in Tampa, Florida.  The team competed at 8 a.m. on Saturday July 3rd. The following were the team members:

 Exalted Ruler Dawna Legere, Esquire Bruce Brunelle, Leading Knight Sheila Pillsbury, Loyal Knight Robert Shaw, Lecturing Knight J Andrew Bolz, Chaplain Brigette Morrison, Inner Guard Marise Anagnost and Candidate Christine Cote.

 Maine finished 7th in the Eastern Division with a score of 94.2461 and is coached by Frank Ricker, Andy Bolz and Bruce Brunelle

 Kenton, OH #157 won the national finals with a score of 97.1112.

 Robert Wilkins, PER Sanford Lodge #1470 represented Maine in the 1st ever Grand Lodge 11 O’clock Toast Contest. I’m still attempting to get scores of that contest, but it was won by Diane Bodwell — Phoenix, AZ Lodge No. 335

 On October 24th, Ken Rice, Grand Lodge Ritual Committee Chairman, will be in Maine to present a judge’s clinic for first time and recertification of floor, word and computer judges.  The clinic will be in Sanford and will start at 9 am. Past Exalted Rulers and current Exalted Rulers are able to take the floor judges test for 1st approval. Any member of the order can take the word judges test and computer test for certification. Please download the Ritualistic Manual from the Grand Lodge website and review prior to the clinic.

  This year’s state ritual contest will be held on February 27, 2022 at a lodge to be determined. If your lodge has not competed, find a PER that has ritual knowledge to work with the officers.  Substitutes can be used to fill the team if needed.  Repeat officers who are installed and have not competed at any level in the last 3 years will not be penalized.  87% of your score is based on your words and how you say them.  If you have memorized your part, you are over the hardest step.  So, plan now to compete for a chance to represent Maine in the National Contest in Atlanta, Georgia in July 2022. It should be noted that should the first-place team is unable to attend the national contest the 2nd place team is eligible to represent Maine in the contest.

  The Grand Lodge Ritual Committee has announced a new contest for 2022, The Exalted Rulers charge to the Flag, in addition to the Eleven O’clock Toast Contest. Both contests are open to Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers The winner of each will represent Maine in the National Contests in Atlanta, Georgia in July 2022. Maine’s contest will be held in Rockland on March 13, 2022. Details and rules for these contests will be posted on the MEA website as they become available. I have left copies of the required words of the Toast and Flag charge and entrance forms at the tiler’s desk.

 The ritual is one of the components of the supreme law of the Order and should be treated as such.  Your presentation to new members will make a lasting impression! Make sure it’s one you want to make; lasting gratification that they made the right choice by joining the Elks.  The instructions for its presentation are included in the “Yellow” “Rituals of Local Lodges” ritual books #511500 dated 10/11/2017. Please take time to present it properly.  You as officers are selling the product of Elkdom.

 The purpose of the Ritualistic committee is to assist lodges in making impressive presentations to new members and I will be glad to assist any lodge asking for help please feel free to call on me. Anyone wanting more information on ritual, competing in the contest or just being part of our ritual please contact me.

 These 5 Lodges do not have a Ritual Chairman listed in the new Directory: Bath, Waterville, Gardiner, Old Town and Millinocket. Exalted Rulers, please try to rectify this issue.

**Scholarship Chair** **Lina Michaud**: Greetings: I am honored to report that the *2022* Elks Scholarship Year has kicked off with the ENF Most Valuable Student Contest, underway, as of August 2nd Last year, within the midst, of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were still able to do some incredible work for the youth in our local communities. All 20 Maine Lodges had at least 1 student apply for an MVS Scholarship through their Lodge. I think that is totally, awesome!

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This year, things are still feeling a little unsettled, as our school administrations, scurry to put safeguards in place and work hard to figure out what will work best, to protect our students and keep them healthy, with the Delta Variant, in our midst. We are still unsure if remote distance learning, will come into play, once again, as we move forward in the school year.

**The Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest** opened on August 2, 2021, and the deadline for high school seniors to apply is November 15, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. Students may apply online at: enf.elks.org/MVS.

Counselor Reports: Due by: November 22nd

Lodge Judging: . December 3 - 20, 2021

District Judging: December 27, 2021 -January 10, 2022

State Judging: January 28- February 14, 2022

 The MVS Portal opened August 2nd, as well, MVS Coordinators and committee judges. This portal will contain everything you need to know, including demos, videos and scoring information.

\*\*\*NOTE: Our secretaries need to appoint an MVS Coordinator for your Lodge in CLMS. This role will allow the person at the Lodge in charge of the scholarships to access and score through the MVS Portal, as well as appoint committee judges. It is important that this is updated if there are any changes.

 The MVS Coordinator will choose how their committee scores the MVS applications, as well. Manual or automatic scoring options will allow coordinators to set up their committee to score the full application (Academics, Financial Need and Leadership sections), just the Leadership section or a combination.

 Judges at all levels will use their elks.org account to access the MVS portal and tech support will be provided by ENF.

 Also, ENF has continued to waive the standardized test requirement for the 2022 MVS Scholarship Contest. Students will not need to submit ACT and/or SAT scores.

 The **Legacy Awards** opened on September 1, 2021, and the deadline is February 7, 2022, at 11:59 Central Time. ENF will offer a total of 350 awards in the 2022 contest. A reminder this contest is open to any child or grandchild (or stepchildren, step grandchildren or legal ward) of a living Elk. There are other details that apply, as well. Great-grandchildren are not eligible.

ENF has also waived the standardized test requirement for the 2022 Legacy contest. Students do not need to submit ACT and/or SAT scores.

 If selected for a 2022 Legacy Award, the recipient, will be required to perform service once a year with an Elks Lodge, during the 4 years of the scholarship. I encourage Lodges to help these scholars fulfill their obligation. This will help them to truly, understand, firsthand, who the Elks are, what we represent and how we serve our lodge, community, state, and country.

Please remember to advocate for about the **Emergency Educational Grants** provided to undergraduate college financial assistance to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks (parent or stepparent) in the form of renewable, one-year grants of up to $5,000.00. These applications may be requested beginning May 1st of the application year of which the assistance is desired. All applications must be received by November 1, 2021.

 Emergency Educational Grant Applications may be requested by emailing: scholarship@elks.org or call 773-755-4732.

 Have you thought about the **Gunther** & **Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship,** exclusively for our Elk Scholars pursuing a medical degree or Osteopathic Medicine degree? For the 2021 contest, there were (10) $22,000.00 scholarships for Elk Scholars entering their first year of medical school in the fall of 2021. The application period was January 1st through May 24, 2021.

 You ask, what is an Elk Scholar? It is a current or former scholarship recipient of the Elks National Foundation. Winners of local Lodge scholarships and State Elks Association scholarships are not eligible for this program, and it is not open to the general, public.

Please see the new MEA Directory for the Elk Year of 2021 - 2022, for the new District Coordinator, updates. I am also, pleased to announce that John Desjardins, PSP will be coming back on board with the Scholarship Program, as our Past State President Advisor. A "BIG" Thank You to Tom Callahan, PSP for his years of support and dedication to the Scholarship Program, as our Past State President Advisor.

 Have you heard about the **ENF Service Trips** that are offered to any Elks scholar 18 or older by the start of the trip is eligible, Winners at the local Lodge and State Elks Association, levels, are not eligible to apply. This, Summer, August 19th - 22nd, the Service Trip will be to *Boston.* How exciting! The participants will serve with various community organizations, engage in meaningful programming, explore fun sites and activities. They will also have the opportunity, to meet local scholars attending school in the area.

 The scholar is responsible for planning, booking, and covering the cost of their trip to the destination. If selected, the scholar must provide a $50.00 participation fee within seven days of acceptance of the trip. Other trip costs will be covered by the Elks National Foundation, including housing and food. The scholar would be expected to work approximately from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on workdays and must be available for the entire trip. Generally, 12 scholars are selected for each Service Trip, and they have remarkable experiences that they will surely be talking about for years to come. If you know of any present or past ENF Scholars, please share the Service Trip, opportunity, with them.

 I have attached a copy of the latest, ENF Press Release, please be sure that your local television stations, newspapers, and radio stations are aware of the Elks National Foundation 2022 Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest. I have no doubt that we will have another great year in Elkdom, assisting our Scholars in fulfilling their Educational Endeavors. We are the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and we stand, tall and proud to serve the youth in our local communities and beyond. I, thank, each of you for your commitment and dedication to our scholars, for they are the future leaders of our country.

Fraternally and sincerely,

*Lina Michaud,* PER

MEA State Scholarship Coordinator

Tel. #207-485-4710 or E-Mail: slaale@hotmail.com

**Have I missed anyone?**

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Association:** Award presented to Brunswick – District Best Veterans Program 2020-2021.

The next Maine Elks Association meeting will be at Presque Isle Elks Lodge, #1954, on Sunday, October 10th at 10:00, Trustees at 9:00.

Wayne Cotterly announced Rumford Lodges’ financial assets liquidated and presented $12,318.69 to MEA Endowment Fund.

Ron Darling, Millinocket, suggested we find different ways to sell MEA Calendars, perhaps at other locations, i.e. Craft Fairs, set up at local stores,

50/50 is $237 to winner – Jo Spielvogel, #083179.

Monies Received.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Amount | Received From | GL Account | GL Name |
| 110.00 | Waterville #905 | 31550 | MEA Calendar 2022 |
| 40.00 | Craig Johnson | 31550 | MEA Calendar 2022 |
| 740.00 | Donald Piper | 10201 | PSP Account |
| 12,318.69 | Rumford #862 (Defunct) | 36740 | MCCP - Endowment |
| 1,500.00 | Houlton #835 | 24450 | MCCP |
| 1,373.00 | Old Town #1287 | 24450 | MCCP |
| 5,000.00 | Ellsworth #2743 | 24450 | MCCP |
| 80.00 | John Desjardins | 10201 | PSP Account |
| 40.00 | John Desjardins | 10201 | PSP Account |
| 237.00 | Shawn Stacey Sgt-At-Arms | 24450 | MCCP |
| 20.00 | Jo Spielvogel | 24450 | MCCP - Jo Spielvogel - Phone Rang |

There being no further business to come before the Association I will now close this meeting of the Maine Elks Association.

Please stand as State Chaplain Randy Ellis gives the benediction followed by one chorus of God Bless America.

I now declare this meeting closed!

Meeting adjourned at 12:05.

MEA PSP Association