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|  | *Maine Elks Association* SCOTT M. MONROE 568 South Main Street Brewer, Maine 04412“AIM for Success” |  |

Maine Elks Association

Winter Meeting

Waterville Elks #905

January 9, 2022

**Call to Order: President** Scott Monroe called the Maine Elks Association Meeting to order 10:00 a.m. Masks and sanitizer are available for those who wish.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance** – All present.

**Roll Call of Officers**, **Secretary Dwayne Guy**: 24 were present with the following absentees noted: Sergeant-At-Arms Kyle Smart, PDD, Administrative Asst Claris Ranger, PSP, Past GL Admin Asst GER Roger Sicard, PSP, Past Grand Loyal Knight Jim Ferland, PSP, Past Grand Tiler Bob Drisko, PSP, Trustees: Rockland 1008 Helen Rogers, Sanford 1470 J Andrew Bolz, PSP, Biddeford-Saco 1597 Roger Sicard, Presque Isle 1954 Patricia Lovely, Wells 2738 Thomas Chase, PDD and Ellsworth 2743 Robert Hubbert, Sr.

**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, 20 were present.

**Reading of the minutes** **of the previous meeting:** Dwayne Guy moved to accept the minutes of October 10, 2021 as printed and emailed, with the correction that Corey Dewitt is not from Old Town #1287 and he is not seeking the office of MEA 1st Vice President. That would be Corey Day of Old Town. Corey Dewitt of Sanford is seeking 2nd Vice President. David Guay seconded, and motion approved.

 **Sickness and Distress:** Secretary Dwayne Guy presented the names of deceased members since October’s meeting: **Augusta # 964:** Charlene J Lastella, Rene C Pomerleau, William R Welsh, LM,Bangor # 244: Robert G Cyr, Sr., LM, Joan B Glans, Mary E Ireland, Barry F Leland, Keith C Mahaney, LM, Robert J Mc Kay Sr, LM,Charles P Taylor, LM, Bath # 934: William K Angell, Timothy P Duncan, LM,Sherry E Harris, Michael A Scanlon, LM, Biddeford-Saco # 1597: Richard E Clark, LM, Kenneth P Rock, Franklin C Tarbox, LM, Brunswick # 2043: David Burns, David Mockler, G Roy Slocum, LM, Linda Webber, Ellsworth # 2743: Harry S Jones III, LM, Leroy C Smith, LM, Farmington # 2430: Robin Binns, John G Kezal, LM, Gardiner # 1293: Al Cray, Houlton # 835: James

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| Albert IngrahamPresident-Elect | Sandi Anderson1st Vice-President | Corey Day2nd Vice-President | Dwayne R. GuySecretary | Felecia Gaulin |
| Randy EllisChaplain | Shawn StaceyTiler | Maine Elks AssociationNovember 18, 1928 | Kyle SmartSergeant-At-Arms | Claris RangerAdministrative Assistant |

Cole, LM, Millinocket # 1521: Joanna Berry, Paul Blanchette, LM, Robert Carlstrom, LM, James Doucette, LM, Donald R Elliott, Charles Perry, LM, Jon R Smith, Wilbur S Stewart, LM, Roy Voisine,

Kenneth Wedge, LM, Rockland # 1008: Douglas W Crute, LM, Charles L Godfrey, Philip E Robinson,

LM; Sanford # 1470: Forest Dart Jr, LM, Gisele MacDonald, Edgar Morin, LM, Susan Normand, Joanna Berry, Waterville # 905: Robert J Bilodeau, LM, Ronald Bourgoin, John C Brown, LM, Leo H Bujold, LM, James R Carey, Ernest A Gauer, Paul J Labrie, John J Levesque, LM, Kenneth A Marks Sr, Norman R Michaud, Sr, LM, Wilfred E Pellerin, LM, Merlon F Sylvester, Jr, Harland L Weeks, LM, Wells # 2788: Sal Salvatore, Thomas White, Charter Member #8,

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

**Reports of Officers: State President Scott Monroe:** Happy New Year! I want to start out the New Year with a thank you to the Officers, Members and most importantly the Committee Chairs who do so much for our organization. The attendance during the fall meeting in Presque Isle was most impressive. But most importantly, during that meeting, our committee chairpersons provided thorough reports to our members, which contained a lot of useful information. While this may have lengthened our meeting it truly displayed the dedication and hard works of our Association. Thank you all so much for the outstanding support and dedication. Keep it up.

 As you know I had set a lot of goals for our Association during my acceptance speech in Waterville. One of those goals was to increase our membership in each Lodge. Thank you to those Lodges who are working hard to increase their membership numbers. Please keep pressing the members in your Lodge to continue the effort. I also want to congratulate a few Lodges who have worked extra hard and are currently showing a gain in membership. They are: Oldtown, Portland, Biddeford Saco, and Augusta. Thank you for your efforts.

 Also, during the convention, I asked that each Lodge in our state reach the GERs ENF per capita of $4.80 with a goal of total donations of $125,000.00. To date we are half way there. So far, we have raised over $62,000.00 and 8 Lodges have met the GER goal. I want to remind everyone that March 31st is the deadline to have our ENF donations submitted. Please don’t hang on to those donations let’s turn them in.

 During the month of November our Grand Exalted Ruler Keith Mills and First Lady Amy visited our state on November 9th thru the 11th. I want to take a moment and thank the following for the planning, and hard work that was involved to ensure their stay was enjoyable. Special Deputy Andy Constantine for making all the reservations along with the demanding schedule we had to follow. To the Augusta Lodge for holding the GER luncheon on Tuesday. The Bangor Lodge for the outstanding service and meal during the Tuesday evening Banquet. The Ellsworth Lodge for their outstanding luncheon and the donation of the massive lobsters. The Grand slept the whole way to Portland after eating both of them. The Portland Lodge for providing a stopping point during the GERs final travels to Portland. The meal and hospitality hit the spot. And lastly and most importantly, the Membership. Thank you for your attendance and hospitality during their visit. You truly displayed that Maine Elks are doing their Part. GER Keith asked for me to pass on a big thank you to all Maine Elks for the gifts and hospitality that was shown to him and Amy and he looks forward to seeing us during the 2022 convention in Atlanta.

 Monika and I have conducted 14 visits to date. Since the October meeting our visits included the Ellsworth Lodge on October 16th, for an evening of dinner and dancing, on October 30th, the Rockland Lodge for their Halloween party and costume contest. Then on November 13th the Gardiner Lodge where we enjoyed a nice ham dinner and country show which was performed by many Lodge members, The Bath Lodge on December 4th and 5th, for their annual Jingle Jam where they raised funds for needy families and the homeless teens in their community. The next day we also attended the Bath Lodge memorial service. December 11th, we visited the Sebasticook Lodge and participated in their annual Gift swap, and Christmas party. On December 17th we visited the Wells Lodge, and on December 18th the York lodge where we attended a Toys for Tots auction and dinner. On December 31st we visited the Waterville Lodge and rang in the New Year. We also attended their annual new year’s toast the following day. We truly thank all the Lodges for the great hospitality we have received during our visits and look forward to our next upcoming visits.

 Finally, I ask everyone to keep up the great work that is happening in our state. Continue to “Aim for Success” in all we do. Continue to work hard at growing our membership numbers, continue to participate in our charitable works, and always practice brotherly love. Let’s all make 2022 a success like we did in 2021.

**Business Practices Scott Monroe:** It is no surprise that crime losses have been reported that involve Lodge employees, officers and members. All of these claims could have been avoided if Lodge management had used good business practices and some common sense. We should all take the time to review our Property Insurance Guide, and the Auditing and Accounting Manual regarding internal controls.

 Our Property plus Insurance Program clearly defines an employee as an Officer, trustee, volunteer, or employee of the Lodge. The booklet also identifies the property coverage which includes money, securities, and any tangible property including stock, furniture and equipment. The program provides $50,000.00 of coverage for Employee Dishonesty.

 If our Lodges follow the following good practices and common sense many of the theft issues can be avoided.

* Don’t tempt any Officer, Member or employee. Simply put, don’t leave monies lying around
* Create Checks and Balances by not allowing only one person to have control over all aspects of your money handling processes
* Internal audits should be conducted without prior notice
* No one should be allowed to obtain credit for the Lodge without approval of the Lodge
* Audits should review all operations concerning the handling of money and invoices
* Remember that anyone handling the BOOKS should welcome inquiries since it will show they are doing a good job

 Please take some time and refer to the Auditing and Accounting manual for any guidance on internal controls in your Lodge. Challenge your Auditing and Accounting committee for any assistance, and guidance they can provide. Also review your Property plus Insurance booklet for financial loss coverage. If you have more questions on property loss coverage contact Gallagher Insurance, their contact information is in the insurance booklet.

**MEA Website Update – Wayne Cotterly, given by President Scott Monroe:** I wanted to give you an update on the Maine Elks Association website. Several months ago, State President Scott Monroe held a meeting with Public Relations Director Mac McCreary, member David Chasse, and me to talk about what can be done with the MEA website, which sadly over the past 10-years had fallen into disrepair. At that meeting, we developed a plan to redesign and redevelop the MEA website so that it becomes useful once again to both the members and the public.

 For several months, David Chasse and I have been working diligently on redesigning and redeveloping the Maine Elks Association website. I’m pleased to report that we are nearing a point in which we have the core site structure established and are now working on refining the site to make it more efficient and user friendly. We plan to have it go live by the State Meeting in March.

 David is the CEO of Goldbridge Partners, a nationally recognized software development and IT consulting company, and he is also a dedicated Elk in the Augusta Elks Lodge who is donating his time and resources to help us make the Maine Elks Association Website the best it can be. David did some great work for the Augusta Elks Lodge website, and if you haven’t had a chance to visit that site, you can do so at augustaelks.org.

 While David can use his vast technical skills to create the functionality of the website, he needed someone from the association to provide the content and information. That’s where I stepped in, as having served as the Public Relations Director for the Maine Elks Association from 2003 to 2010, and also have the ability to do photography and photo editing. I also have an extensive library of photos from past Maine Elks Association events which helped to fill in some of the gaps that we have experienced over the past several years, as there has been little in the way of photos taken.

 Together, we have put in hundreds of hours into the project, and we feel that the site will be useful and informative once again. Here are some of the features of the new website:

* Cleaner and Easier to use Interface
* Modern Look
* A new Membership Inquiry Form
* New Calendar
* New Member Only Section (Password Protected)
	+ MEA Meeting Minutes
	+ MEA Handbooks
	+ State Directory (PDF)
	+ State Bylaws (PDF)
	+ Business Practices tools and information
	+ State Budget Information
	+ Contest Information
	+ PowerPoint Presentations & Videos
	+ Training & Education
	+ Other Resources to help make Elk work easier
* New Member News section
	+ News can be categorized and will appear on Committee Pages throughout the site.
	+ Member News vs Public News
* New Sickness & Distress Section with a form for submission of information that will be vetted before appearing on the site.
* Instant News signup to get the latest news from the MEA via e-mail.
* Feedback System for keep improving the site
* Support Ticket system to report errors and issues with the website.
* A sitemap and search function to find what you may be looking for on the website
* And more.

 Some of these features may not be ready when we go live, but are in the plan to make them active over time.

 This is only phase one of improving the communications capability of the MEA. We plan to introduce in the future the ability to have position related e-mail addresses through our own domain. So you might be able contact the State President at statepresident@maineelks.org or any other officer or committeeman This will help make the transition from year to year a bit easier and to have one address per position, rather than using personal e-mail addresses which change quite often. Also, it will make it easier to create the MEA State Directory.

 Also coming down the road will be other features that will hopefully make the Maine Elks website a place that will serve as a center for information and communication between members and the association and the public. We are also looking to tie this in with social media as well.

However, I need to point out that putting together the website is only part of the communication solution for the State Association. As we’ve already seen with our current website, if you don’t keep it fed with updated information, the site will die, and the time and effort into putting it together will have been wasted.

 Our State President and Incoming State President will hopefully be asking people to fill several positions that will help to make sure that the website is kept alive with news and information. Training will be provided, and David Chasse will become our technical advisor to help find solutions to any issues that arise. The Public Relations team will need the support of everyone to provide information so that we can get the word out about what your Lodge is doing so that other members across the state can help support your fundraisers and projects.

 The entire project requires your support for it to work.

 Between now and March, I would ask that you think about what you may want to see on the website, and send any suggestions to me, and we’ll look to see if we can integrate that with the site. Your feedback is very important to make this project the best it can be.

If you would like to help make the website a success, I ask that you contact Scott Monroe and Al Ingraham.

**President-Elect** **Al Ingraham:** For the lodges who have yet to turn in your Elks Training, I gave each lodge a copy of the Test and answer sheet on the table. This is fun and educational. You may do it as a group on Zoom if you wish. This will be your last chance before the Convention to get a certificate of completion. Remember it is not pass or fail. When filling out your answer sheet please use the Name you wish to appear on your certificate. Send back to me at the address in the Directory.

**First Vice-President Sandi Anderson:** As of December 31st, it was the end of my year of Calendar sales. I just want to again, thank everyone who purchased Calendars to support the MEA. I received $10.00 more dollars since my last report giving me a total of over $22,500.00. On my last report, I realized I had error an extra $100 that wasn’t there. That is why I usually use a calculator!

Please support our 2nd Vice President, Corey with his sale of calendars for 2022!!

**New Lodge Development:** No Report.

 **Memorial Service:** New ER’s, just a reminder that Convention is coming up in a few months so make sure you have your white jacket, black slacks/skirts, black tie and gold jewels ready for the memorial service as it will be here before you know it! Lodges can start sending names of deceased members now.

**Central District Chair of MCCP:** Our MCCP Train Ride was a success. I am still awaiting a few sweatshirts and vests to finalize the profits but I am thinking about $2,500.00. Thank you to all the donors (The list is in the January Newsletter for 905), and especially Peter and Jackie Reny who organized so much and donated the train and Karen and Greg Grenier for cooking and serving the food and snacks.

We are raffling off the fire ring today with the proceeds going to MCCP. It was donated by Northeast Doran, Inc. We will draw the winner under Good of the Association. Tickets are $5.00 each if you still want a chance before we draw.

**Second Vice-President Corey Day**: Currently 725 calendars have been sold with $14,540 raised but not all money has been received and deposited yet. The most calendars have been sold by Bangor #244 with 279, Ellsworth #2743 follows with 212, 7 Lodges are under 100 sold and 11 Lodges have not turned in any calendars or money. I expect more money and calendars to be turned in today. We need to get everything turned in because we will be drawing soon.

**State Secretary** **Dwayne Guy:** I have received written notification from the following candidates for office: 2nd Vice-President Corey Day from Old Town #1287, will be seeking the office of 1st Vice President and 1st Vice-President Sandi Anderson, of Waterville #905, is running for President-Elect. Corey Dewitt from Sanford $1470 is seeking 2nd Vice President and Dwayne Guy from Rockland #1008, current Maine Elks Association Secretary is seeking MEA Secretary for next year.

 I have a suggestion if we do calendars in the future, please preface the calendar number with the year, i.e., 23-001, 23-002, etc. And add a note to “Send Calendar Stubs to 2nd Vice-President, send money to State Secretary”.

**State Treasurer** **Felecia Gaulin:** Trustee reports for the budget are on the table, I have copies if others would like one. Lunch available after the meeting suggested donation of $5.00. Felecia announced she is running for State Treasurer, paperwork to follow.

**Administrative Assistant** **Claris Ranger:** Absent, No Report

**Elks Learning Seminar Claris Ranger/Bruce Brunelle:** We were only able to have one seminar this year because of the covid-19, we would like to thank Bangor Lodge and ER Eric Robinson for hosting the seminar on. November 14, 2021. Bath Lodge didn’t have any other open dates

 There were 34 members present, including the speakers. Would like to thank everyone that attended. Still looking for some feedback from you.

 If your lodge would like to host the Learning Seminar, please send a date to clarisranger@gmail.com that you have open. We like to have one seminar in October and one in November, this one should be on a Sunday because of hunting season. Would like to lock in the dates by the March meeting so that other events won’t be scheduled the same time. There is always some kind of conflict which is bound to happen.

 The Coastal District Hoop Shoot originally scheduled for today has been rescheduled for January 16th at 10:00 at Bath Middle School.

**State Tiler** **Shawn Stacey**: 50/50 is currently $450.00, we’ll be around to sell more. Several envelopes are still on the table to be picked up

S**occer Shoot Shawn Stacey:** I Would like to congratulate the following Maine Soccer Shoot Champions who participated in the Area 1 Soccer Shoot with took place the first week of November in Auburn MA, Emma Heal from Rockland, Cooper Hickey 3rd place winner from PI, Violet Lay from Bangor, Ben Smith from Bangor, Emily Collins Area 1 Champion from PI, Kemper Hipsley from Houlton, Chloe Lento from Houlton and Raiden Cochran Area 1 Champion from Houlton!

 Emily Collins had the Senior Girls best score with a 50!

 Our State President Scott and First Lady Monika truly enjoyed seeing all this smiling Faces!

 Lastly, The State of Maine will be hosting the 2022 Area 1 Soccer Shoot the first weekend in November, I have formed a committee of myself, Andy Constantine, Scott and Monika Monroe, Anthony Gause and George and Rachel Jones to assist me with all the details of this event.

**State Chaplain** **Randy Ellis:**

**Sergeant at Arms** **Kyle Smart:** President Scott thanked Gary Turner for covering for Kyle

 .

**State Trustee Chairman** **Tom Chase:** Absent No report. Duane Clark, filling in for Tom Chase: moved to use $1000 from Drug Awareness to buy new Elroy costume, seconded by? And approved.

 Scott Gray moved to transfer money from 24498 Endowment Fund 12319 into an interest-bearing account, seconded by Stephanie Ingraham and approved.

 Scott Gray informed all that the State Trustees will investigate moving some of the $264,000 in 10202 General Checking into an interest-bearing account. Not amotion, just informative.

**GL Special Deputy** **Andy Constantine**: Special Representative to the Coastal District will remain Roger Sicard and in the Central District it will remain Jim Ferland. Grand Lodge Activities Committee Chairman will remain Wayne Cotterly until July when he will become a Grand Lodge Trustee. Special Representatives to the current Lodges on probation or defunct will remain the same.

 Grand Lodge Convention will be held in Atlanta, Ga July 3rd through July 6th. Each Lodge is required to have a representative attend. Information regarding the convention is being mailed out to the Lodge Secretaries. I have also placed registration forms for each Lodge at the back of the room. Secretaries if you do not know who will be the ER I encourage you to send in the registration form and money now to guarantee a room. Then send in the name after you have held the Election. All Maine Elks must use the New England Elks Tour to book your rooms which has rooms reserved from Saturday, July 2 through Wednesday night, July 6th, leaving on the 7th.

 Also, a reminder that at your February Nominations you must nominate an alternate to the Grand Lodge Convention. It must be a PER who is available to attend the convention.

**Special Guest Tony Piccolo,** Medford/Malden Elks Lodge #915, PSP Massachusetts Elks Association, Past Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight: Were glad to be able to be here to support your State President Scott Monroe and Monika. I noticed the Drug Awareness material on the tables this morning,

 I am on the Board of Directors of a national group called Team Sharing – support and friendship for parents who’ve lost a child through drug abuse. We have a trailer that mimics a teenager’s bedroom and it shows all the places where a teenager can hide drugs. We dealt this to the Massachusetts Elks Association and we hope to tour New England in the coming year. The material I’ve seen today is so helpful, I will be bringing it to share with the Board. Thanks again for your hospitality and drive safe.

**State Sponsor Michael Zellen:** Special Deputy Andy Constantine, Grand Lodge Committeeman and Endorsed Candidate for Grand Trustee Wayne Cotterly, Past Grand LodgeDignitaries**,** State President Scott Monroe, other distinguished Elks present, my Brothers and Sisters all.

 I hope that you and your families had a Merry Christmas and wish you a safe and joyous New Year.

 I would like to bring you the greetings of our Grand Exalted Ruler the Honorable T. Keith Mills, GER Keith asked that I extend to you his personal greetings and to thank you and your lodges for all that you do for Elkdom.

 2021 is officially behind us, but the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year is not. There are three months left in the current lodge year which means there is still time to achieve your State Association’s and local lodge’s goals.

 Every member should be proud of the work they do for our veterans, our youth, our elderly, and our communities. Also, for your outstanding work and support of your Major Project, The Maine Children’s Cancer Program.

 I would personally like to congratulate and thank all the ER’s, their officers, and their lodges for their continued support of the many Grand Lodge programs especially for your donations to the Elks National Foundation which as you all know is the G*reat Heart of Elkdom.* As of this past week, the State of Maine has exceeded GER Mills goal of $4.80 by $1.36 per member and stands at $6.16 per member.

 I would also like to thank your State President Scott Monroe and his Suite of Officers and Committee Members for a job well done thus far this year. I would also like to thank your three DD’s John, Anthony and Brook for their hard work and dedication thus far this year.

 Maine has a long history of setting the mark high for others to follow and this current year will be no exception. I wish President Scott and his team nothing, but great success for the balance of his year and I know that with all your support, Maine will have another successful year.

 At this time, I would like to announce the names of the Members who will serve the State of Maine as District Deputies for the 2022-2023 year: Maine Central District, David A. Hammond of the Waterville Lodge, the Maine Coastal District, Alan Heal of the Rockland Lodge, and the Maine North District Eric E. Hoard of the Ellsworth Lodge. Please keep in mind that the District Deputy Designates will not assume office until they are sworn in at the Grand Lodge Convention in Atlanta this July.

 I also would like to comment on your membership numbers. As of this week, Maine Lodges initiated and reinstated 682 members and currently has a net gain of 438 members after dropping for non-pay, absolute demits and deaths of 244 members. Also, as of today date there are 628 members in arrears. I realize that because of the Covid-19 pandemic many members are not visiting the lodges and have not paid their current year’s dues. So, we need to have every lodge work diligently on lapsation over the next three Months to avoid a loss in membership. Currently, there are 141 candidates in waiting and every lodge needs to get these candidates initiated before the end of this lodge year.

 As has been the custom for many years, our membership has supported the endorsed candidate for GER by purchasing one of his fund-raising pins and/or pendants. Pins are $100.00 each or a set for $150.00. Any member purchasing a pin will be invited along, with a guest, to the Cocktail Party during the National Convention on Monday evening honoring Endorsed Candidate Bruce Hidley and his wife Helen. As of today, I have not received the pins and pendants, however, PER Lena Michaud has copies of the pin application and if you would like to purchase a pin or pendant, see Lena after the meeting. Once we receive the pins and pendants, they will be distributed to you.

 In closing, I would like to thank each of you for your thoughtfulness and courtesies extended to my wife Donna and me over many years. Your friendliness and fellowship are appreciated and will never be forgotten.

District Deputy Coastal John Desjardins: Absent, no report.

**District Deputy Northern Brooke Green:** All visitations in Maine North have been done and I’m proud of all the Lodges. We’re working together and are close to meeting our goals. I’d like to thank those who have offered advice and also Anthony Gauss who performed the Bangor Lodge’s visitation.

**District Deputy Central Anthony Gause:** All Central District Lodges have been inspected and all reports have been filed.

 The Spring DD Clinic will be on April 10th in Augusta at 10:00 am.

 I’m hoping all Central District Lodges have put in their House Rules Liquor Liability Provision or will do it soon.

**Drug Awareness Anthony Gause**: All contests are ending on January 20th, please judge and send to the district chairman and then forward the winners to me. There is Drug Awareness material on the back table. Use caution when ordering your medication online, a lot of counterfeit meds is out there. And never use medication that does not belong to you and properly dispose of medication no longer used or viable.

 Looking to purchase 2 new Elroy outfits, the other 2 are old.

**Special Rep James Ferland:** Is available if needed

**Special Rep Roger Sicard:** Absent, No Report.

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

**Past Grand Tiler Robert Drisko**: Absent, No Report.

**GL Activities Committee Member Wayne Cotterly as read by Al Ingraham:** Good Morning, as you may know, the Elks have had a long relationship with the Boy Scouts of America, and the Elks & Scouting Program is currently coordinated by the Grand Lodge Activities Committee.

 Over the past few years, the Boy Scouts of America have been inundated with lawsuits involving inappropriate behavior on the part of Scouting leaders that took place decades ago. The Boy Scouts of America was forced to file for bankruptcy, as the number of claims was immense.

 In December, the Grand Exalted Ruler sent out a memo to all Elk Lodges regarding the Elks and the Boy Scouts of America. In that letter, Elk Lodges were asked to not sign paperwork with the BSA until our legal counsel has established a legal opinion on our relationship with the Boy Scouts of America and developed a plan with three options going forward.

 At this time, any Elk Lodge that signs on as a Charter Organization with the BSA will not be covered by the Elks Liability Insurance should any inappropriate activity be conducted by the Scouting Organization within their Lodge or on Lodge property.

 We expect that the Lodges will be given three options going forward. As of this date, we have not received any information on what those options will be but expect them soon.

 This currently does not impact the Marvin Lewis Awards which recognize outstanding Elk members serving as leaders in the Boy Scouts of America. Applications for this award are available for download from the Activities Committee section of Elks.org.

 It also does not currently impact the ability of the Elks to provide Scouting award certificates such as the Eagle Scout Certificate, or to allow Eagle Scout Courts of Honor at their Lodges.

 It also does not currently impact involvement with the Girl Scouts of America or any other Youth Scouting groups. However, this may change as the situation develops.

 At this time, we have not received any further information on whether the Elks will continue with the Elks & Scouting Program in the future. There will likely be ongoing discussions with our attorney’s and the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee.

 We hope that a positive resolution to the issue will be forthcoming soon so that the Elks can continue supporting the scouts in our communities in the future.

**Accident Prevention/Insurance Risk Program** **Darryl Nadeau**: On Behalf of the Grand Lodge, we are exploring alternative coverage options for the upcoming renewal. In order to pursue these options, we will require the attached Liquor Liability Questionnaire from each lodge.

 This questionnaire is **required** from your Lodge in order to provide coverage. Please do not leave any questions blank.

 We would greatly appreciate receiving this completed questionnaire **no later than January 21, 2022.**

Please send completed questionnaires to ggb.elksinsurance@ajg.com.

 Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

 If anyone needs a copy, they can email me and I will forward a copy. Contact information in the directory is correct.

**Activities Committee Debi Briggs**: Sorry I cannot be at the meeting on Sunday as I am at the end of my quarantining from testing positive this week. David had it over Christmas but I kept testing negative. It caught up with me this week unfortunately.

 Lodge Secretaries, please add me to their newsletter email list. I will be sending out the youth activity report form to all lodge secretaries so be watching for it. She can only b contacted via email.

 I wish I was able to be at the meeting with you all and not quarantining!

**Americanism Committee David Hammond**: Essays “What does it mean to love your country” need to be sent to District Chairs by January 31st. Coastal is Sheri Frechette of Sanford, Central is Duane “Kip” Clark from Farmington and Northern’s is from Millinocket, Ron Darling. Only the top 3 essays should be sent to these 3 members. The District Chairs should have them to me by February 28th.

**Elks National Foundation David Hammond:** Maine is currently $50,000 less than last year and our goal is to equal what we did last year. Nine Lodges have not met the GER’s goal of $4.8. I’m challenging all Lodges to raise another $2,500 to reach our goal of $50,000 more. Last year we sent in $117,000 to ENF and got back $204,000. ENF also awards grants and Maine received more than $117,500 but 6 Lodges have not applied for even 1 grant. Four Lodges do not have an ENF Chairman and Northern and Central District do not have a District Chair.

**Antlers Program:** **Mike Michaud:** Absent, no report.

**Auditing Committee** **Scott Gray**: Pre-Budget meeting on February 13th at 1:00 and I strongly encourage anyone to attend.

**Convention Kathleen Cotterly as presented by Carlette Eaton**: The MEA State Convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn-Riverwatch in Auburn, Maine on April 29-May 1, 2022, this venue change is due to recent changes at the planed hotel. To provide background, our 2020 State Convention was to be held at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston. When the convention was cancelled due to Covid restrictions and lockdowns the convention committee made a good faith attempt to reschedule the event at the Ramada Inn which was to be this year 2022.

 However, since 2020, the Ramada Inn had taken on a contract to provide COVID quarantine housing for the State of Maine, and that nearly half of the facility’s rooms were taken by that contract. When asked about this in relation to our event the convention committee was told that by our convention the rooms would be available and refurbished. In truth, this has not been the case and has left the State Association with only half of the rooms needed for the event. Thus, the search began to find replacement venue that could offer good pricing and value for the members.

 A new location was found at the Hilton Garden Inn-Riverwatch in Auburn, Maine. The Hilton Garden Inn could house all the members and guests in their hotel, plus provide a suitable facility for our meetings and banquets. There will be a slight cost increase over what was originally planned, but to compensate for the price increase, each room will receive two free breakfasts per night. In the convention packet is a copy of their breakfast menu and a map of proper parking areas. Cost of the hotel rooms will be $104.00 plus tax. The overflow hotel, if needed, will be the Hampton Inn in Lewiston which is nearby at a rate of $119 plus tax.

 The convention packets have been handed out to lodges today and will be posted on our state website. The deadline for hotel reservations is March 29 for the ELKS rate and we have a new feature this year where you can book directly on the Hilton Garden Inn website using code ELKS22. You may call into the hotel as well with the same code. The packet has the information on how to use this feature.

 Convention and meal registration deadline is April 1 or a late fee of $15 will be charged. Convention booklet ads, reports, and pictures are due no later than March 15th to Carlette Eaton, her information is in the packet. This is so Anthony Gause has ample time to print the convention booklet for us.

 Finally, the convention committee is still accepting request for proposals for the 2024 State Convention to be held May 3rd through 5th, 2024. Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2022, by noon and my information is correct in the directory.

 Thank you and I’d be happy to answer any questions at this time or you can speak to me after this meeting.

 Message from Jim Ferland, thanking Kathleen for the extra effort with the change of venue.

**Endowment Fund Mindy Voisine**: Flag Raffle has been called and won by a member from Augusta. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the MCCP/Mariners game yet again. The collective decision is that it is not safe for the children to participate and we should hold off one more year. We have been advised that we can still work the concession stand for the March 19th game. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

**Maine Elks Motorcycle Riders Mindy Voisine**: Owie Box Scheduled for July 16, 2022. End stop will be Farmington Lodge. If there is anyone else interested in hosting a stop please let me know.

**Membership Mindy Voisine**: End of year is coming quicker than we think. Delinquency is still high and we need to make a dent in this. Please do not leave this solely on your secretary. They have enough to do this time of year and can use help from anyone!

**Financial Reporting System (FRS):** **Jo Spielvogel**: As of today, 16 of the 20 Lodges are current in their reporting, the other 4 are 1 or 2 months late.

**Fraternal Committee** **Michael Hannigan:** I am still learning what the Fraternal chair is all about, but today I would like to go into a little detail about a program that you may be able to use to get a foothold into your local schools. The fly the flag program is designed to provide a means for Lodges to recognize businesses and organizations that correctly fly the American flag twenty-four seven (all day, all week, all year).

 The form can be obtained from [elks.org](http://elks.org) in the fraternal MOt tab. It is a downloadable PDF file that has fillable text boxes so you can personalize it. Most schools in Maine fly the flag all year long, most of them are illuminated at night, and the staff of most schools in Maine raise and lower the flag to half-staff as directed by the president or the governor. Why not take advantage of that and present your local school with a certificate?

 Don’t just mail it to them, make arrangements to meet with a principal or administrator and show your appreciation for their correct flying of our national symbol. You can then use that meet and greet to espouse the other opportunities that Elks can provide the school. I have enclosed a sample certificate that Houlton #835 has used in the envelope for each Lodge containing an announcement from Houlton Lodge. If you have any questions see me or contact me, the form is easy to download but I’d be glad to help out.

**Government Relations** **David Anderson:** Very short report: Please review the report from the last State Meeting: Still current info. Also remember to do your Charity Reporting. The Maine Legislation is back to work so I will have more to report at the next meeting.

**Hoop Shoot Committee George Jones:** Most Lodges have completed the local contest, districts are January 16th. State is in Bangor on January 30th, also at the James Doughty School. Regionals is March 12th in Portland, Nationals in Chicago on April 30th.

**Legal Justice Alan Harding**:

**Lodge Activities Ron Darling**: As Lodge Year comes to an end, please file your report for All American Lodge to District Deputy. Lodge Bulletin Contest send 3 newsletter to Ron, address is correct in the book, alternate email address use lovedarlingmary@yahoo.com.

**Major Project Committee:** **MCCP: Michael Desjardins:** No report from me. I will not be at the meeting because I have Covid. Please open the floor for anyone that would like to announce or discuss any MCCP events. President Scott presented an Award to Sandra Welch for her dedication to MCCP the past 25 years, most notably the Farmington Fair Pie Booth. From this day forward the MCCP Pie Booth at the Farmington Fairgrounds will be known as the Sandra Welch Pie Booth.

 **Elliott and Friends:** **Michael Desjardins:** No report.

**National Veterans Service Commission David Hassen:** **MAINE ELKS RESPONDING TO STORM EMERGENCY IN KENTUCKY:** ENVSC Assistant for MEA Coastal District, William Demmons PER, Rockland Lodge #1008, received a call from a local veteran who had a trailer to give away, a 42-foot Tagalong trailer that the veteran, a family of 4 had been living in while waiting for an apartment.

 The veteran said he wanted it to be given to a veteran in Kentucky who had been displaced by the recent Tornado. William placed a call to Martin Harbolt Kentucky State Elks Chairman who said that they had a veteran, family of 4, had just lost everything in the tornado. Martin arranged to have the trailer shipped on 19 December and it arrived on December 22. The trailer was placed on a lot and the family moved in before Christmas. The total cost to ship was $3950 with $450 paid by William Demon.

 Thank you, William, for taking the initiative, answering the call, solving a critical and immediate problem. Your quick and caring action assured that a veteran and his family had a place to live and recover from a devastating storm during this special time of the year.

**WELCOME HOME KITS:** The current cost of the kits is $375 per kit plus 5% for shipping. The kits have a current lead time of about 6 weeks.  If you have any questions, please let me know.   Thank you and have a great day!

 On Mon, Jan 3, 2022, 8:12 AM Jenifer Andrews <jandrews@lodgingkit.com> wrote: Hello, thanks so much for reaching out.  Jessica is handling all of our Veteran Support efforts.  I am looping her in to this email.  She is working remote for a few days so her response might be delayed but she will get you some info as quickly as she can.

Thanks!

Jenifer Andrews

Director of Government Sales

Lodging Kit Company

800-328-8439 X 2204

jandrews@lodgingkit.com

**WALK FOR VETERANS** John Ring from the walk for Vets Organization reached out to me before the Holidays.  They are going to kick off their next walk in Augusta.  ( [walkforvets.org](http://walkforvets.org/) )

 They are beginning on 2-2-22, walking 2.2 miles a day for 22 days in 22 States to raise awareness around Veteran Suicide.  I don't have to tell you both that  22 Vets commit suicide a day. They will meet in front of the Capital at 9:30 and start walking at 10.

 We will be holding a dinner at the Augusta Lodge to welcome them to Maine on Tuesday, Feb 1 from 5-7.  I would love for you both to attend. I spoke with Jerry Dewitt and got some of the Silhouettes from the Silhouettes Project to display at the lodge that evening.

 I am also trying to help them organize the Maine Kick-off in a few different ways.

* Donations towards their lodging (there are 8 of them)
* Donations towards the dinner ( we will charge people to try and cover the cost)
* They would like other Vets to join them in walk
* People to see them off Wednesday
* Maybe someone to speak Wednesday
* Press coverage
* Donations to their cause

 I am open to any and all ideas that you have! I know we do not have much time to plan but I am super excited that the Elks can be involved in this in any way!

**WINTER CLASSIC AMERICAN LEGION SOFT BALL FUNDRAISER:** Good Afternoon,

 I would like to inform you that the membership of the Mighty American Legion Post 202 voted unanimously to donate the proceeds of the 2022 Winter Classic to Maine Veterans in Need Inc.

  This year the softball charity event will be February 19th & 20th due to increased popularity. All of your organizational members are welcome to be part of the weekend with us by setting up a table indoors or out.

     Happy Holidays.  v/r Nicolas Hamlin: AL Post 202 Trustee; AL Dist 8 Adjutant

Two years ago the Maine Elks received $3500 from this Fundraiser. All of it this year will go to Maine Veterans in Need to pay for food, furniture, moving and gift cards. I am a member of this organization which replaced the VA HVNG.

 DONATED FURNITURE PICK UP AND PLACED IN STORAGE

 PROCEDURES FOR VETERANS PICKING UP FURNITURE

 RESULTS OF 100 HOUSED IN 100 DAYS

 DONATIONS of FUNDS TO THE VA

Specify what you would like have done with your donation.

Gift cards, food, gas, clothing or a recreation event for veterans.

VETERANS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

FREEDOM GRANT

**Public Relations Committee Leon "Mac" McCreary**: GLC Cotterly and Dave Chasse (Augusta #934) have been working hard on the update to the MEA website and the refreshed structure is more engaging and interesting, and it incorporates a few functions we weren’t able to include previously such as the interactive Google Map of Maine’s lodges, arranged by both District and the whole state. This is an extensive effort being undertaken and it will need assistance in keeping it fresh and current going ahead.

 We still need more team members to help gather and coordinate news and events from the three districts, as well as to edit & distribute the e-newsletter.

 As we’re now into the final quarter of the year I’ll be reviewing the various lodge online sites:  Grand Lodge VHPs, Facebook, Public Webpage, Instagram and Twitter.  I hope to find a presence that not only informs our members as to events and meetings, but should provide public information to our neighbors as to what the Elks is about, and to travelling Elks where they should plan on visiting while here in Maine.

**Ritual Committee Frank Ricker:** On October 24th GL Ritual Committeeman Ken Rice held a judge’s clinic at the Sanford Lodge #1470. Judges from Maine and New Hampshire were in attendance. The Sanford Officers performed for the Live judging test. In all 12 judges were certified in floor, Word and Computer judging. Congratulations to Maine’s newest Word Accuracy Judges Kelly Pillsbury from Waterville #905, Al Ingraham from Wells #2738 and Sheila Pillsbury from Sanford #1470.

 Having not received any requests to host the state ritual contest, it will be held on February 27th at the Sanford Lodge #1470. Any teams wishing to compete please contact me as soon as possible please remember should the first place team not be able to compete at the national contest the second place team will have the opportunity to represent the Maine Elks Association.

 The Eleven O’clock Toast and Exalted Rulers Flag Presentation contests will be held at the Rockland Lodge #1008 on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 10 am. This is open to all Lodge Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers. The winner of the contest will represent Maine at the National Contest in Atlanta at the Grand Lodge Convention. Details and instructions have been sent to each lodge and will be posted on the MEA website.

 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.

**Scholarship Chair** **Lina Michaud**: I am honored to report that we had **99** Applications submitted for the ***2022 ENF Most Valuable Student Contest***. This is the exact number of students that applied in 2021, however, last year, we had 100% participation from all Lodges and this year only **18** of our Lodges had applicants. We had only 8 Lodges, that scored the Leadership Section of the applications, which includes the essays written by the students. This did not have a big impact, at this level of judging, however, as,

* Districts with 6 or fewer Lodges, were able to advance: 6 highest scoring males and 6 highest scoring females.
* Districts with 7 to 9 Lodges, were able to advance: 9 highest scoring males and 9 highest scoring females.
* Districts with 10 or more Lodges, were able to advance: 12 highest scoring males and 12 highest scoring females.

We are currently completing the **District Level** of Judging, which runs from **December 27th – January 10th** and we’ll move forward to the **State Level** of Judging, **January 28th – February 14, 2022.**

 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 1, 2022**. Emergency Educational Grant Applications may be requested by emailing: scholarship@elks.org or call 773-755-4732.

 **Seeking** **Nominations** for the ***2022 Maine State Elks Association Scholarship Volunteer of the Year Award***, to be presented to a Maine Elk with **(past or present)** service, that has had a significant impact on our Scholarship Programs, at the Lodge, District or State Level. This is a new award that was started in 2021 to acknowledge and honor the dedicated and meritorious service of our Scholarship Leaders that work, unselfishly, to help students realize their dreams of higher education. Our, first award, was presented to Bill Bachofner of Rockland Elks Lodge, #1008, in 2021. Please send your nomination to: Lina Michaud, MEA Scholarship Coordinator at: slaale@hotmail.com by **March 10th, 2022**.

 Please, include: Name of Nominee, Address, Tel. # & E-Mail address, along with an overview of their service to the Elks Scholarship Programs.

I wish you all, Good Health, Prosperity and a very Happy New Year!

Fraternally and sincerely, Lina Michaud, PER

**Have I missed anyone?**

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Good of the Association:** Waterville’s Cornhole 50/50 last night raised $1000 including the winner’s donation to MCCP.

Shawn Stacey 50/50 $245 to the winner, ticket # 084734

Total money received 1/9/22:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1,105.00 | 10201 | PSP Account | Coin Clock Raffle |
| 940.00 | 24450 | MCCP | MEA Bells |
| 5,554.00 | 24450 | MCCP |   |
| 22,520.00 | 31500 | MEA Calendar 2022 |   |
| $30,119.00 |  |  |  |

Shawn Stacey 50/50 $245 to the winner, ticket # 084734

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

MEA Budget Meeting on March 5, 2022 at Bangor Elks #244 at 1:00

MEA President's Homecoming on March 5, 2022 at Bangor Elks #244

The next Maine Elks Association meeting will be at Bangor Elks, #244, on Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 10:00, Trustees at 9:00.

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 12:15.