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| ElksUSAred&blue628.bmp  | *Maine Elks Association*John Desjardins28 Locke StSaco, ME 04072 “Maine Elks Stronger Together.” |

Maine Elks Association

Spring Meeting

Biddeford-Saco Elks Lodge #1597

March 1, 2020

**Call to Order State President** John Desjardins called the Spring Meeting of the Maine Elks Association to order 10:00 a.m.

**Invocation**–State Chaplain David Guay gave the Invocation

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Americanism Chairperson – David Hammond

**Roll Call of Officers**, Secretary Dwayne Guy: Absentees noted: Past Grand Loyal Knight James Ferland, Past Grand Tiler Robert Drisko and Trustee: Skowhegan-Madison Michael Riggs

**State President** John Desjardins asked that all past and present State Presidents, District Deputies, Grand Lodge Committee Chairs and Grand Lodge Officers stand and be recognized, 30 were present.

**Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting:** Dwayne Guy moved the minutes be accepted as emailed and printed, second by Floyd Howes and approved.

**Sickness and Distress**: State Secretary Dwayne Guy read the names of recently departed members: **Portland #188:** Guy Ciccarelli, Jr., LM, PER, Charles Sowerby, LM, Robert E. Martin, Edward Willette, Jr., **Bangor #244**: Terry F. Duran, LM, Ronald R. Emery, LM, Kim Erickson, Brian Lawson, **Houlton #835**: Duane Maheu, LM, **Waterville #905**: George A. Snedden, Jr., LM, Peter P. Maroon, Sr., LM, Wilfred J. Roy, LM, Gerald J. Gagnon, LM, Gilbert J. Deroche Sr, Whitney Blakeslee, **Augusta #964**: Joseph L. Quirion, LM, Peter B. Oakes, Raymond C. Bineau, Richard Seilhan, **Old Town #1287**: Lester F. Cote, LM, Sanford #1470: Ernest L. Cote, LM, **Millinocket #1521**: William R. Boyington, Jr., Michael Pooler, **Presque Isle #1954**: Joseph P. Peluso Jr, Verna Ferland, Former First Lady of MEA, **Brunswick #2043**: Joseph E. Sheehan Sr, LM, Robert F. Smith Sr, LM, **Farmington #2430:** Thomas J. Cummings, LM, **Millinocket #2531**: Robert J. Shibley, LM, Raymond D. Nunn, LM, Jack C. Dionne, LM, Robert E. Shibley, Francis (Gary) Laney, **Ellsworth #2743**: Alonzo A. Wentworth.

**State President** John Desjardins asked that all stand for a moment of silence. Remember sickness and distress is always in order.

Special Presentation: SDGER Andy Constantine introduced Area 1 Grand Lodge Committeeman, William Chinn, who spoke about the new Financial Reporting System (FRS) that went into effect April 1, 2019 and is to be used for Lodge Year ending March 31, 2020. This system replaces the requirement of your Lodge contracting with an independent CPA to audit the financials.

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| Anthony D. GausePresident-Elect | Scott Monroe1st Vice-President | Albert Ingraham2nd Vice-President | Dwayne R. GuySecretary | Felecia A. GaulinTreasurer |

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| David GuayChaplain | Gail HowesTiler | **Maine Elks Association November 18, 1928** | Floyd HowesSergeant-At-Arms | Claris RangerAdministrative Assistant |

**Reports of Officers:**

**State President John Desjardins:** Expressed thanks for everyone who attended last night’s Homecoming. Upcoming visits include Millinocket and their Comedy Show, Regional Hoop Shoot on March 14th, Sanford Installation March 21st, National Hoop Shoot in Chicago April 16th-19th and of course, the Maine Elks Convention May 1st through the 3rd.

**President-Elect** Anthony Gauss:

 **Drug Awareness** Anthony Gause: Maine has a winner of the Enrique Carena Award, Cpl. Bradley Fitzgerald from Millinocket. PSP Sue Piper is preparing the order for National Convention shirts, please give her your order by March 25th.

**First Vice-President** Scott Monroe: None

**Second Vice-President** Albert Ingraham: Calendars

 **Elks National Foundation Committee** Albert Ingraham: Maine’s per capita is now at $5.85 with 8 of 20 Lodges haven’t yet met the GER’s goal of $4.75. Please get your donations in by March 15th, so all monies can be included and our return is as much as possible. In 2018 more than $97,000 was donated for a per capita total of $7.97.

**State Secretary** Dwayne Guy: Please complete the Activity Reports on your table and turn them into me up here.

I will prepare and mail MEA Assessments later in March, Secretaries please complete and return with check.

 I’m also suggesting and encouraging we adopt a standardization for email addresses at both the Lodge level and the State level. This will streamline/simplify transition from 1 year to the next, contact continuity and simplify email groupings for chairmen and leadership.

 If you are a chairman or officer, please do not wait for these minutes, make your own notes as they pertain to you and follow through.

**State Treasurer** Felecia Gaulin: Placed handouts and P&L on the table.

**Administrative Assistant** Claris Ranger**:** If your Lodge has not scheduled the President’svisitation, John and Jessica are available the weekend of March 20th-21st and April 24-25th.

**Elks Education Seminar Committee** no report.

**Pearl Harbor Restoration** As of January 31st we have raised $3,941, about 35% of the $10,000 for our $1.00 per capita goal.

**State Tiler** Gail Howes: No report.

**State Chaplain** David Guay: No report as Chaplain but as MEA PER Secretary I’m asking lodges to submit the dues soon I can have the cards ready. Remember, the dues this year are $10 per PER.

**Sergeant-At-Arms** Floyd Howes: We’re at $500 so far for the 50/50 which we’ll draw under Good of the Order.

**State Trustee Chairman** Tom Chase:Had the Budget Meeting yesterday, one item mentioned was it’s time to update the MCCP Booth for the Grand Lodge Convention.

**State Sponsor** PGER Michael Zellen: Greetings to All from GER Duitsman, whose motto this year is “Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future. Wayne Cotterly has been once again appointed to GL Activities Committee and will serve as Chairman for the coming year. William Chinn will serve again on GL Accounting and Ken Rice on Ritualistic, New England is doing well on GL Committees.

 District Deputies for next year will be Shawn Hubbard of Sanford, Duane “Kip” Clark from Farmington and Houlton’s very own Mike Hannigan; Congratulations to all.

 We’re approaching the end of the year, less than 1 month to do our work for Veterans, Youth, MCCP and Community.

 Big “Thank You” to MEA President John, Officers and Committee persons for excellent work this year.

 District Deputies maybe you can coordinate “District Initiations” in March to clear the pending candidates.

 I still have pins and pendants for anyone wishing to purchase them and support the endorsed candidate for GER.

**GL Special Deputy** Andy Constantine: Still asking for Pearl Harbor Donations, due by June 1st. By now Lodges should have received the New England Tour package for GL Convention in Baltimore, MD. If Exalted Ruler-elects have not yet sent in the $400 deposit, do it now or you risk not getting lodging at the New England hotel.

 Jim Ferland sends is greetings, he is unable to attend as he’s at his grandson’s track competition.

**Special Rep** James Ferland**,** PGELK, PGLCC: absent no report.

**Special Rep** Roger Sicard,PGLIG, PAAGER: No report.

**Special Rep** Robert Drisko**,** absent no report.

**GL Activities Committee Member** Wayne Cotterly: Make sure your lodge’s Soccer Shoot Report has been filed in the Activity Report to Grand Lodge. There have been changes to the Soccer Shoot Manual and is available online at <https://www.elks.org/grandlodge/activities/manuals.cfm>, click on Soccer Shoot Manual (513800, 2/19/2020)

**Accident Prevention/Insurance Risk Program** Darryl Nadeau reminded Lodges that Director and Officers Insurance (D&O) must be renewed each year. TIPS Training at Waterville Elks and other Lodges are invited to send member. The thawing weather is causing frost heaves so drive carefully.

**Activities Chairman** Debi Briggs

**Americanism Committee** David Hammond said American Essay Contest

**Antlers Program:** Michael Michaud reports there are still only 2 Lodges with the Antler Program and both are very successful.

**Auditing Committee:** Scott Gray Meeting in March with Corey Day, Scott Monroe and Felecia Gaulin

**Business Practices Chairman** David Anderson emphasized maintaining self-preservation with mask, gloves and sanitizing.

 **Fraternal Committee** David Anderson no report.

**Government Relations Committee** David Anderson no report.

**Convention** Kathleen Cotterly reminded all that meal choices and hotel reservations need to be made by April 1st. No proposals for the 2022-2023 MEA Convention have been received, which means the MEA will begin planning to host the convention.

**Endowment Fund** Melinda Voisine no report.

**Motorcycle Riders** Mindy Voisine**:** no report.

**Hoop Shoot Committee** George Jones the Regional Hoop Shoot Contest will be at Deering High School on March 14th and Maine has 1 contestant.

**Legal Justice** Alan Harding no report.

**District Deputy Coastal** Corey Dewitt Spring DD Clinic will be April 19th at Portland.

**District Deputy Northern** Shawn Stacey: Spring DD Clinic will be April 19th at Millinocket and All-American Lodge Contest entries due by March 15th.

**District Deputy Central** Carlette Eaton Spring DD Clinic will be April 19th at Augusta. Convention ads and pictures for the Booklet are due by March 15th, but will extend to April 1st if a Lodge guarantees to submit one.

**Major Project Committee MCCP** Mike Desjardins reiterated this year’s goal is $300,000. We have surpassed the $5,000,000 mark and will celebrate with a Toast at the MEA Convention in the Ramada’s Courtyard.

**Membership Committee** Kristie Durgin: Encouraged lodges to Initiate the available candidates.

**Memorial Service** Sandi Anderson, Lodge Secretaries please submit names for the Memorial Service and for the Convention Booklet..

**New Lodge Committee** Sandi Anderson, Corey Dewitt and I are still investigating the possibility of a new lodge in the Oxford area.

**National Veterans Service Commission** David Hassen: Maine Veterans Bureau is pickup up costs of most motel stays for Homeless Vets. The MEA has saved about $5,225 over the past 2 years through the Reny’s Donation. Fifty mattresses and 50 home kits from the VA will be stored at Veterans Inc, Lewiston. A hotel in Wilton being refurbished has made furniture available and we have already picked up 3 loads in a rented 26 foot U-Haul at a cost of $300 per trip, which the Reny Homeless Veteran Donation has covered.

During 2019 Maine housed 253 veterans, through various agencies, and the numbers continue to grow, both in being housed and new homeless veterans found. The first 50 veterans housed will receive the 50 beds and kits from our storage, leaving 200 to take shopping. 200 Shopping trips is between $60,000 to $80,000, all of it reimbursable so at no cost to the Lodge.

 Lodge Veterans Committee may participate at their discretion, $300 per kit, $400 with a bed.

**Nominating Committee** Glenn McCallum:

**Public Relations Committee** Leon “Mac” McCreary encouraged all lodges, officers and committee chairs to email events to maineelks.pr@gmail.com. This is the best and easiest wat to get the word out to other Lodges.

**Ritual Committee** Frank Ricker: On Sunday January 26, 2020 the annual meeting of the Area I Inter-lodge Relations committee was held in Auburn Massachusetts. Since several contests had to be canceled over the past few years and only Maine and Vermont had sent teams to the lodge contest for the last several years. A motion to disband the committee was made and seconded.

 On Sunday February 16, 2020 Judges from Maine worked the New Hampshire 11 O’Clock Toast Contest at the Concord-Epsom Lodge #1210. Floor Judges were Kathleen Cotterly, Roger Normandeau, Frank Ricker and Wayne Cotterly; word Judge Robert Shaw and Frank Ricker and Roger Normandeau worked the computer room.

 The Maine Elks Association Ritual Contest was held, Sunday, February 23, 2020 at the Sanford lodge #1470. Sanford was the winning team with a score of 92.0261. Individual awards went to the following Sanford Members: Exalted Ruler, Adam Brock, Esquire, Sheri Frechette, Leading Knight, Dawna Legere, Loyal Knight, Sheila Pillsbury, Lecturing Knight, Robert Shaw, Chaplain, Shawn Hubbard , Inner Guard, Becky Conley, Candidate Bruce Brunelle the Winning Coach was J Andrew Bolz. Sanford will be representing the Maine Elks Association the Grand Lodge Contest in Baltimore. Thanks to the following for serving as judges for the contest Floor judges Kathleen Cotterly, Roger Normandeau and Wayne Cotterly; Word Judge Monique Normandeau and Lisa Brunelle in the computer room. Sandra Stillwagon served as out tiler for the day.

 The Eleven O’clock Toast contest will be held at the Bangor Lodge #244 on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 10 am. This is open to all Lodge Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers. There will be two contests, one for current Exalted Rulers and one for Past Exalted Rulers belonging to member lodges pf the Maine Elks Association. The person with the highest score of all contestants will represent Maine at the National Contest in Baltimore at the Grand Lodge Convention. Please notify me via email fjflrick@msn.com if you intend to participate by Wednesday March 4th. The procedures are: Dress: Business attire: 11 O’clock Toast **Must be from memory** – Please study the version used in the Initiation Ritual – Page 44 of the “Ritual for Local Lodges” Manual. You will only be judged on Impressiveness, Pronunciation and Word Accuracy. Any questions on these captions please refer to the #519900 ritual manual. Contestants will not be judged on deportment (gestures, movements, etc)

 The winning Exalted Ruler will be asked to give the toast at the State Convention Memorial Service. The highest of all scores, Exalted Rulers and Past Exalted Rulers, will represent the Maine Elks Association at the first ever Grand Lodge 11 O’clock Toast Contest in Baltimore, Maryland, July 5th-8th, 2020. One New England Elks Tour room and 1 coach airfare for the winner will be

covered by the MEA ritual committee. If the Winner cannot attend, the runner-up will be given the opportunity.

 Please contact Frank Ricker, MEA Ritual Chairman @ fjflrick@msn.com if you intend to participate.

 Looking ahead to 2020-2021, A Grand Lodge Ritual Clinic will be held on November 1st and the state Ritual Contest will be held February 28, 2021 and March 14, 2021 the O’clock Toast Contest. These dates are firm, but locations are TBA. Any lodge wishing to host these events please contact me as soon as possible.

 Incoming Exalted Rulers, please appoint an active ritual coach to work with your officers next year. Having someone to guide and encourage your officers in their ritual performance is an important step in making that first impression on your new members a positive one!

 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 Regular “Yellow” ritual books (code 511500 revised August 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.

**Scholarship Chair** Lina Michaud reported the Most Valuable Student semifinalists will be notified tomorrow (3/2) by ISTS via letters. Sponsoring Lodges will be notified as well. ENF for 2020-2021 applications only ISTS judging done by ENF. Still waiting to hear on Legacy Scholarships.

**Soccer Shoot Committee** Lisa Brunelle no report.

**Have I missed anyone?** MEA Past State President’s meeting following this meeting, in this room.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** Tom Chase moved to have the MEA Secretary bill Lodges $100 each year for the MEA Hospitality Room at Grand Lodge, seconded by Scott Monroe and passed. Tom Chase proposed to amend proposed budget prepared yesterday, Andy Bolz seconded and approved. Tom Chase moved to accept the budget as amended, publish it in the Convention Booklet and present it at the MEA Convention for approval by the membership, seconded by Kathleen Cotterly and approved. Scott Monroe moved to donate 50/50 proceeds go to Pearl Harbor Restoration, 2nd Corey Dewitt, passed.

**Good of the Association:** Watervilleannounced 1 last Initiation Ceremony on March 24th, welcomed other Lodges to send their candidates to be initiated.

 Wayne Cotterly announced distribution of new Roaming Elks will be at MEA Meeting in August.

 Floyd Howes collected $640 for 50/50, half for MEA (Pearl Harbor Restoration) the other half for the winner who is Mike Shu Michaud who donated $170 to Pearl Harbor Restoration, #176070

**Receipts**

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| Amount | Received From | GL Name |
| 3,000.00 | Augusta Elks 964 | MCCP |
| 125.00 | Bath Elks 934 | MCCP |
| 150.00 | Bath Elks 934 | MCCP |
| 10,901.47 | Biddeford-Saco Elks 1597 | MCCP |
| 215.00 | Biddeford-Saco Elks 1597 | MCCP |
| 50.00 | Brunswick Elks 2043 | MCCP |
| 241.00 | Farmington Elks 2430 | MCCP |
| 320.00 | Floyd Howes Sergeant-At-Arms | MCCP |
| 30.00 | J Andrew Bolz | MCCP |
| 310.00 | J Andrew Bolz | MCCP |
| 185.00 | Old Town Elks 1287 | MCCP |
| 405.00 | Old Town Elks 1287 | MCCP |
| 600.00 | Rockland Elks 1008 | MCCP |
| 170.00 | Mike “Shu” Michaud 50/50 | Pearl Harbor Restoration |
| 40.00 | David Merrill | MEA Calendar 2020 |
| 120.00 | Gardiner Elks 1293 | MEA Calendar 2020 |
| 40.00 | Waterville Elks 905 | MEA Calendar 2020 |
| 120.00 | John Desjardins | PSP Coins |
| 850.00 | Augusta Elks 964 | Pearl Harbor Restoration |
|   |   |   |
| 17,872.47 | TOTAL |   |

The next state meeting will be at Lewiston Ramada Inn on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 10:00, Trustees at 9:00.

There being no further business to come before the Association, President John Desjardins proceeded to close the meeting.

State Chaplain David Guay gave the benediction followed by one chorus of God Bless America.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully,

Dwayne R. Guy

Dwayne R. Guy, PDDGER, PSP

MEA Secretary