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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

Bangor #244

March 6, 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**: 28 were present with the following absentees noted: 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. Donald Piper was installed as Trustee for Ellsworth.

**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, 29 were present. Special Guest Endorsed Candidate for GER, Bruce Hidley and wife Helen.

**Reading of the minutes** **of the previous meeting:** Dwayne Guy moved to accept the minutes of January 9, 2022 as printed and emailed, with the correction that **Special Guest Tony Piccolo,** Medford/Malden Elks Lodge #915, PSP Massachusetts Elks Association, Past Grand Esteemed Lecturing Knight was Past Grand Esteemed Leading Knight, seconded by David Hammond and approved.

**Sickness and Distress:** Secretary Dwayne Guy presented the names of deceased members since January’s meeting in Waterville: #188 Portland: Joseph T Davio, H Richard Langella, LM, Edwin W Locke, Jr., LM; #244 Bangor: Stuart L Fongemic, Wayne P Gray, LM, William C Hughes, LM, Beverly A Lambert, Arthur P Leighton, Lisa Russell, cancer survivor – other issues, Victor J Sands, LM; #835 Houlton: James T Bledsoe, PDD, PER, Philip Cloney , Leland Cyr, LM, Dewey Dewitt , Philip E Hill, LM; #934 Bath: Norman W Billings, LM, Kathleen M Travis; #905 Waterville: David R Bourque, LM, Wyman C Goodwin, LM, Florian J Lachance, LM, PEY, Maurice Rossignol, Thomas O Watson, LM; # 964 Augusta: William J Delisle, LM, Charlene J Lastella , Camille Rodrigue, LM, Donald F White , Conrad E Wight, LM; #1287 Old Town: Peter Bosse, LM, Dale H Porter, LM; #1470 Sanford: Randy Clavet , Allan R Turmelle, LM, John L Tuttle Jr., LM, Harold Waitt, LM, Brenda Williams; #1521 Millinocket: Paul Blanchette, LM, Walter V Goodine, LM, Michael McLain, LM, Harley F Thibedeau; @2430 Farmington: William P Papsadora, Sr., LM; #2531 Skowhegan-Madison: Alfred M Carpenter, HLM, Robert B Cross Jr., LM, Diane J Ellis , William A Frigon, LM; #2738 Wells: James R Bryant, PER, PEY, POY; #2743 Ellsworth: Kevin Matthei, LM, William C Walker; #2788 York: James Flynn. Gerald “Slugger” Barnes, Millinocket Secretary, in hospital with flareup of diabetes, had aheart attack while in hospital.

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:** Here we are finishing up one successful Lodge year, and eagerly ramping up to start another. By now every Lodge should have a complete slate of Officers and the Exalted Ruler should be busy appointing committee chairpersons. This is not the time to relax or slow down and forget about the many programs that we must continue to support. We still have members waiting to be initiated, and we must continue to raise ENF funds in hopes we all make our per capita. Also please continue your efforts collecting contributions to our state major project MCCP as those should be turned in by April 15th, to allow time to compute our accomplishments, and present the check during our State convention. Outgoing Exalted Rulers and Officers please continue to give advice and assist in your Lodge to ensure a smooth turn over. We must continue to work hard and as always “A.I.M. for Success” to ensure another outstanding year.

 As you know our State Hoop Shoot originally scheduled for January 30th, had to be rescheduled due to a state wide snow storm. This created some major coordination by our State Hoop Shoot Chairman George Jones. After numerous phone calls to the families and children, our district leaders, and volunteers it was rescheduled to take place on February 6th in Bangor. I want to thank George, his team of district leaders, and volunteers for ensuring the shoot was a success. I look forward to attending the regional shoot next week March 11th and 12th in Portland.

 Lodge visits are going great. Monika and I have completed 18 to date, and have two that have had to be rescheduled due to weather or a conflicting schedule. Since our last meeting in January we have visited Millinocket, Houlton, Skowhegan and Bangor. Thank you to all the Lodges thus far for the warm welcome we have received during our visits.

 Lastly, I ask the entire membership to continue in the great work that has been accomplished so far. Our efforts in membership are truly remarkable and it looks like we are going to end this year with a positive gain in membership. Thank you to everyone who work so hard to ensure our numbers grow. Continue to “A.I.M. for Success” and always practice brotherly love.

**Business Practices Scott Monroe:** Every year we elect new Officers including Trustees of our Lodge. Often times we overlook the improvements in the Lodge that have taken place the prior year. It is a requirement by our Auditing and Accounting Manual for the trustees to maintain a current list of fixed assets. This list must include land, buildings, furniture, fixtures and equipment. This real and personal property of the Lodge is under the control of the Board of Directors or Trustees, as outlined in Statute 12.070. A physical count and verification of all fixed assets should be made annually. Depreciation of Lodge fixed assets is a mandatory reporting requirement and a provision for Depreciation Expense should be included in your Lodge approved budget.

 For more information on fixed assets and depreciation please refer to the Auditing and Accounting Manual and also talk with a qualified accountant if possible to ensure an accurate depreciation schedule is maintained.

**President-Elect** **Al Ingraham:** I’d like to thank all who did the Elks Training, there is still time to do it and send the info to Al.

**First Vice-President Sandi Anderson:** I am sending 2 different sheets around for everyone going to Grand Lodge Convention to see what your beverage of choice is and the 2nd sheet is ideas for snacks and breakfast foods. We don’t know yet what we will have for cooking arrangements so all ideas are welcome. Please make sure I get these sheets back before the end of the meeting.

**New Lodge Development:** No Report.

 **Memorial Service:** All Secretaries: I need you to email me your list of Deceased Members so we can make our brochure. I mentioned it at the last meeting and I got one but please email it to me at sandaveharley12@aol.com. I don’t want to retype from paper as I would not want to make a mistake on a name. Also, you should know who your new ER’s are now so make sure you bring your white jackets, black slacks/skirts, black socks and black bow tie plus your gold jewels.

**Central District Chair of MCCP:** No Report.

**Second Vice-President Corey Day**: As of March 1st, 2022, a total of 1,358 calendars were sold and a gross amount of : $27, 160.00 thus far. I remain active in promoting sales and encouraging all lodges to continue to sell 2022 calendars and in July, 2022, the cost of the calendars will be $10.00 each as it has been in the past.

**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. Felecia Gaulin from Waterville #905, current MEA Treasurer, is seeking re-election to MEA Treasurer.

Secretaries – Please update your membership records and drop your delinquent members before midnight of March 31st. Grand Lodge will lock you out of your CLMS and you will be charged the $24 per capita. I will print the state’s Membership report on April 1st and your ending membership count is the number I’ll use to verify the $4.00 per capita you pay and the number of delegates you determine for balloting at the MEA Convention.

 I have prepared the Assessment Worksheet for each lodge and I have put them on the back table with Lodge Number and name addressed to the Secretary. If you want it electronically, I can send your Lodge specific worksheet to you, it’ll be in WORD and you can enter the information directly on the worksheet and send it back to me. Please verify the information on page 2, past Presidents and Past District Deputies. This page is for calculation and historical purposes. I also enclosed a return address label for you to mail it back to mke.

 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:** The Trustees approved the budget for presentation at the MEA Convention in April.

**Administrative Assistant** **Claris Ranger:** Scott mentioned they had 2 visits left. Lodges should already have started planning incoming President Al Ingraham and Stephanie’s visit, do it early avoid conflicts.

**Elks Learning Seminar Claris Ranger/Bruce Brunelle:**

**State Tiler** **Shawn Stacey**: 50/50 is currently $350which $175 to MCCP and $175 to winner.

S**occer Shoot Shawn Stacey:** Good morning Everyone, A quick report on Soccer Shoot for 2022. Maine will be hosting Area 1 Regional Soccer Shoot on November 4, 5 and 6, in Augusta. A Committee meeting will take place is the Spring.

**State Chaplain** **Randy Ellis:** No report.

**Sergeant at Arms** **Kyle Smart:** No report.

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**State Trustee Chairman** **Tom Chase:** State Trustees developed a budget and we’ll vote on it at the Convention Meeting on April30th.

**GL Special Deputy** **Andy Constantine**: Good Morning, I see a lot of smiling faces on Exalted Rulers out there this morning. 25 days until the Lodge year ends. You and your Lodge have a lot to accomplish in these last days.

 First and foremost is to initiate any candidates you have in waiting. As of February 24th, we have 151 candidates awaiting Initiation. Coastal and Central Districts you have 64 each in waiting. Northern District you have 23 waiting. Let's get these new members in under your year. These candidates could mean a difference in a loss or a gain for our State.

 ENF Monies need to be submitted this month to get credit for this year. As of Feb 21st only 3 Lodges have not met the GER goal of $4.80 per member. You’re leaving Free Grant money on the table that your Lodge could use for your community. Send it in now. I’m sure you will hear more about these issues from the State Chairpersons this morning.

 Incoming Exalted Rulers and Lodge Secretaries. You have had your elections, you know who the new ER is going to be. Get your Grand Lodge Convention room reservation in to the New England Tour Director Mark Cronin now to be sure you have a room at convention. Each Lodge must have representation at the convention and you must go through the New England Tour director. To those Lodges who pre-registered their ER Elect, I thank you. Now is the time to resend with the Exalted Rulers information.

 I hope you all have had a great year, and I look forward to seeing the results at our State Convention.

 And I thank you for your time and attention this morning.

 And now I would like to introduce our State Sponsor, He represents Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, from Saugus-Everett Lodge #642, please welcome the Hon. Michael F. Zellen.

**Special Guest Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler:** Bruce A. Hidley and his lovely wife Helen. Thanked the entire MEA for hosting him and Helen in the beautiful state of Maine. Maine stands at $8.80 per capita right now. First Lady Monika is very passionate for MCCP, which is greatly appreciated because Helen is a 5-year cancer survivor. Helen’s hair fell out during treatment pso, of course, Bruce had the hairdresser shave his head and he’s kept it that way since. Soon to be President Al Ingraham will be part of the Installation Ceremony in Atlanta, as will all other New England State Presidents.

 As is common, the endorsed candidate works at raising money for his year, to that end, we’re selling pins and pendants to defray costs.

 Helen and I are impressed with Maine’s passion for MCCP and the children experiencing this terrible disease.

 Helen also addressed the members and thanked us for the hospitality and the enthusiasm for our programs, keep the passion, keep jp the great works.

**State Sponsor Michael Zellen:** Special Deputy Andy Constantine, Grand Lodge Committeeman Wayne Cotterly, Past Grand Lodge Dignitaries, State President Scott Monroe, other distinguished Elk’s present, my Brothers and Sisters all.

 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 Lodge’s Fiscal Year is not. There are three and a half weeks 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’ s goal of $4.80 by $4.08 per member and stands at $8.88 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 Brooke 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.

 I also would like to comment on your membership numbers. As of this week, Maine Lodges initiated and reinstated 830 members and currently has a net gain of 504 members after dropping for non-pay, absolute demits and deaths of 326 members. Also, as of today date there remain 493 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- and one-half weeks to increase your current net gain in Membership. Currently, there are 165 candidates in waiting and every lodge needs to get these candidates initiated before the end of this lodge year.

 At this time, I would like to announce that Bruce Brunelle of the Sanford Lodge will be appointed to the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee.

 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 one of his wife’s pendants. Pins are $100.00 each or a set for $150.00. Any member purchasing a pin or pendant 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 you may know Lina Michaud has been selling pins here in Maine. If you would like to purchase a pin or pendant, see Lina or me after the meeting.

 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 greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

 I would like to now introduce the Endorsed Candidate for Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Hidley and his lovely wife Helen.

District Deputy Coastal John Desjardins: Spring DD Clinic will be 10:00 April 24th at Biddeford-Saco Elks.

District Deputy Northern Brooke Green: Spring DD Clinic will be 10:00 April 24th at Bangor Elks.

**District Deputy Central Anthony Gause:** The Central District Deputy Clinic date has been changed to: April 24th to be held at the Augusta Elks Lodge at 10am.

**Drug Awareness Program**: The contest is over and the lodges have been notified that they have a state winner. We have a new Elroy and he will be making his debut at the Area #1 Hoop Shoot next weekend in Portland.

I have left you a letter on your table from the DEA please take the time to read it. Prevention saves lives # onepillcankill. Mr. President thank you

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

**Special Rep Roger Sicard:** Absent, SDGER Andy C reported Roger is doing well, has continuing medical issues.

 **Credentials Committee Roger Sicard:**

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

**GL Activities Committee Member Wayne Cotterly:** Good Morning, in January, I reported on the Elks involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. At that time, Lodges were instructed to not sign any paperwork with that organization until the Grand Lodge provides guidance on the direction our Order will take.

 It was anticipated that a decision would be made in February, but unfortunately, the court case has been moved to later this month. Until a recommendation from our attorney’s and the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee, we continue to ask that that you do not sign any paperwork with the Boy Scouts of America.

 While the Elk Lodges should not sign any paperwork with the Boy Scouts, this does not prevent us from supporting the scouts in other ways. We continue to encourage Elk Lodges to provide recognition certificates to Eagle Scouts, host Eagle Scout Courts of Honor, and support other Scouting Organizations such as the Girl Scouts of America.

 This also does not impact the Marvin Lewis Awards which recognize Elks who serve as Scout Leaders. While the deadline for submission of applications for this award has passed, we encourage Elk Lodges to see if there are any members in their Lodge who are long time Scout Leaders in their communities and consider nominating them next year.

 The Boy Scout situation brings to the surface the issue of our own Youth Programs, and that we must be committed to protect our young people while participating in these programs. Every Elk Lodge that conducts any Youth Program, including the Antlers is strongly encouraged to download and read the Elks Youth Supervision Guide Booklet. This booklet is freely available in the manual’s section of Elks.org. It contains important recommendations for working with youth. Recommendations such as having a minimum of two adults present at all times, that the adults supervising youth be at least four-years older than the oldest youth present. The prohibition of touching between youth adults, and a number of other important ways we can prevent what happened with the Boy Scouts.

 While we know that the B.P.O.E. are the Best People on Earth, we still need to be mindful that by following the guidelines, we help protect ourselves, our Lodge, and the Order as well as our youth.

 I ask that all Exalted Rulers ask their Officers and Committee members to review this guide. It’s only six pages long but contains important information.

 We must do everything we can to mitigate opportunities for others to sue the Elks, and this booklet will help not only protect our Youth, but our Lodges and the Order as well.

 Finally, the end of the Lodge year is rapidly approaching, and I wanted to remind everyone that we have some deadlines and events coming up.

 April 1st is the deadline for the Community Projects Contest, you can download the application from the Activities Section of Elks.org.

 Also, the first week in May is Elks National Youth Week. You can also obtain and have published in your local newspapers a proclamation from your town or city government recognizing Elks National Youth Week in your community. In addition to the proclamation, we encourage every Lodge to hold an event in support of our Youth as well.

 The Elk programs that support youth are a vital part of who we are as an organization, and I encourage each Lodge to continue conducting them in the coming year.

**Accident Prevention/Insurance Risk Program** **Darryl Nadeau**: I received an email from Brian O’Neill, GL Risk Manager, who asked that I forward his email to the lodges. When a member clicks on ​**Emergency Response & Repairs ​**the attachment for **FIRST ONSITE** property restoration will open.  Please share this information with your Lodges.  Amber Johnson and Kim Hartz from **FIRST ONSITE**are copied on this email.  Please connect with Amber and or Kim if you need additional information. I can add emails to the distribution list if you want to receive future emails from me.

 D&O Insurance make sure you maintain coverage from year to year, and that coverage is adequate.

 Alcohol should not be viewed mainly as a means of revenue, train your stewards to stop serving persons who appear intoxicated. The Elks have lost several multi-million-dollar lawsuits!

 Slips and falls are most reported injuries at our lodges. Snow melts in warmer weather, like today, and it’ll probably freeze overnight creating a hazard.

**Activities Committee Debi Briggs**: Youth week is May 1st – 7th, it’s a good time to honor our youth.

**Americanism Committee David Hammond**: 3 lodges have submitted 11 entries in Americanism, Sanford, Houlton and Millinocket. This is also my last year as chairman

**Elks National Foundation David Hammond:** 16 Lodges have improved over last year and only 3 lodges have not reached the goal of $4.80/capita. We have a lot of new donors but finding existing donors are not still donating. If your Lodge needs help writing grant, seek help from other lodges.

**Antlers Program:** **Mike Michaud:** The last 2 years have been very difficult for the kids. Now is a good time for your Lodge to get involved with Antlers. If your Lodge wants to start the Antlers I am available to help, I will come to your Lodge if you’d like me to.

**Auditing Committee** **Scott Gray**: We’ll be making a few motions under new business – President Scott moved to **New Business** to address these proposals and other new business items.

 1: Invest current Endowment Account into a 7-year fixed account with an interest rate of 3.2%.

 2: allocate $5000 from defunct lodge account to cover this year’s donation to MCCP and move remaining money into the new 7-year account.

 3: Have the MEA Treasurer setup an interest earning savings account for future donations to the Endowment Fund, currently we have no place to put it, excess monies that can be withdrawn if needed.

 Tom Chase moved to approve these items as explained by Scott Gray, seconded by Corey Dewitt and motion was approved.

 Tom Chase moved to present the budget as printed to the membership at convention, seconded by David Hammond and approved.

 Tom Chase moved to donate $1,000 from Drug Awareness to the Augusta Police Dare Program, seconded by Andy Bolz and approved.

**Convention Kathleen Cotterly:** Convention starts next month on April 29th and end on May 1st, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Auburn. Reports must be to Carlette Place by 3/15: each lodge get 1 free page and can buy additional spaces. 3/28 deadline for registration a special rates or cost will increase $15.00. Lodges need to register their youth winners, pay for family rooms and meals. At the Inn, we can’t put posters in public areas, no holes in walls but can use painter tape. Next Year’s convention will be at Hilton again and 2 lodges have submitted proposals for 2024.

 The travelling Gold Star Tribute Wall will be coming to Maine and will be on display at the Augusta Elks Lodge on May 28th-30th. The purpose of the Wall is to “Honor the Fallen and their families during the Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

**Endowment Fund Mindy Voisine**: Plans are already in the works for next year. Any fundraiser ideas are welcome to add to the notes already started. We are exploring the idea of redesigning the Hoopa pins and centering a fund raiser around that.

**Maine Elks Motorcycle Riders Mindy Voisine**: Owie Box is still July 16th.  I have no volunteers so far for a starting point and stops along the way so please reach out. Fall run will be September 17th and follow the same route planned for last year since we were unable to ride. Exploring the idea of running the Four Corner of Maine route with Elks. If you are interested in participating please contact me.

**Membership Mindy Voisine**: End of year is coming at the end of this month. Delinquency rates look better but still need work. Secretaries, if you have not already sent out the final letter please do so asap as this is the final notice before these members will need to be dropped. Thank you to the lodges that have done an incredible job in initiating candidates over the past few months! This is going a long way to help with our goals!

**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:** Greetings Maine Elks and guests, First, on behalf of Houlton Lodge #835 I wish to thank everyone who ventured North to our Lodge room rededication.  I believe we had all but 2 northern district Lodges and several from outside the district.

 For the Fraternal Committee report:  You have all just had elections for the next fraternal year in your Lodges and many of you have elected new exalted rulers.  I would recommend to those exalted rulers that you print off a copy of the contest A form before your first meeting.  This form is how you will apply for being an all American lodge next spring.  Keep the form in your Exalted Ruler’s notebook or binder.  It is a great checklist of Grand Lodge Programing, it will help you to ensure you meet all of the grand lodge expectations, it will remind you of programs your Lodge may not have previously taken advantage of, it will also make it easier next spring if you’ve kept a running total instead of having to go back and figure it out from memory what you did next spring.  If anyone needs a copy of the contest A form send me an email and I’ll get it to you. Thank you.

**Government Relations** **David Anderson:**

1. Remember to submit your Charitable Reports to the Secretary so he or she can submit to Grand Lodge. Time is short and your Lodges have been busy doing charitable work. The reporting is key to keeping our Non-Profit 501-C8 status. This is the only document of proof of the dollar value of the work we do.
2. There aren’t too many State Government LD’s but LD-1980 should be of interest. It is an act to create a small non-profit raffle operator license.

 Also check at LD2001 in regards to Veterans homes.

 When congress, your state legislatures and county and municipal governing bodies are in session, keep watch for changes to laws affecting discrimination and harassment; U.S. Postal regulations; sales tax and exemptions; alcoholic beverage control rules and regulations; bingo, raffles, and games of chance rules and regulations; and property tax exemptions laws. All Lodges day-to-day operations are affected in the same way by these rules in their state and locations.

I hope this information gives some insight into what government relations is all about. I wish all the officers the best of luck for the coming year.

**Hoop Shoot Committee George Jones:** Thanked Scott and Shawn for hosting the State Hoop Shoot, had a great turnout. Winners will compete in the Regionals on March 12th at University of Southern Maine in Gorham, I encourage anyone who can to come watch and support our kids. The winners are: U-8 Girl Grace S of York Elks # 2788, U-8 Boys Landon H from Skowhegan-Madison Elks #2531, U-10 Girls Liana H also from Skowhegan-Madison Elks #2531, U-10 Boys Hudson P from Presque Isle Elks #1954, U-12 Girls Grace M. of Rockland #1008 and finally U-12 Boys Brayden F also from Skowhegan-Madison Elks #2531.

 The Alan W Richard Award for highest scoring girl shooter was earned by Grace M. of Rockland #1008. The Amos McCallum Award for highest scoring boy shooter was won by Landon H from Skowhegan-Madison Elks #2531

**Legal Justice Alan Harding**: No report.

**Lodge Activities Ron Darling**: No report.

**Major Project Committee:** **MCCP: Michael Desjardins:** Mike thankedeveryone who kept MCCP fundraising events going durning the past few years, not an easy task with the pandemic. Mike yielded the floor to Lina Michaud/Mike Michaud to talk about The Forks.

 Mike M said 130 Elks from 12 Lodges attended the Forks and we raised $20,000 in 3 days. We’re making this an annual event. This year it will be 3 days, on August 25,26 and 27, at Three Rivers, registration is $25/person, go through your own lodge who will get recognition for the donations.

 Lina Michaud said $1,200 in toys were delivered to the Owie Box, after the recent loss of a 21-year-old patient.

 Mac reported UBM will be holding belt sander racing on May 15th.

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

**National Veterans Service Commission David Hassen:** **STAND DOWN** Four locations Funds have been allocated to feed veterans only, Locations still being worked on.

**LEGION SOFT BALL TOURNNAMENT TOPSHAM** Annual event Fund raiser for homeless veterans, Donated to Veterans in Need 501c3, MEA received $3500 from last year’s event Funds will be available for us to pay for motel stays

**FURNITURE FUND** Volunteers will no longer be asked to pick up furniture. Funding will be a combination of MEA, grants and donations. Veterans needing furniture will be asked to provide their own transportation. For those who are unable funding will be sought out.

**MAINE VETERANS HOME IN AUGUSTA** Bob Kittridge has been appointed the as the ENVSC Representative He will receive $125.00 per month With duties to plan programs and events utilizing volunteers.

**FREEDOM GRANT** 2 options =Spark for $1000 and Classic for $3000 Freedom Grant applications will be available April 1 at 12:01AM Central time. Lodges to see their Grants Coordinator to prepare and process their grant application.

**BOOST GRANT** For State Veterans Chairman to continue with programs Adaptive Sports activity has been submitted to fund spotting scopes for air rifle and air pistol teams. GOLDEN AGE games will be held in Sioux City July this year.

**Public Relations Committee Leon "Mac" McCreary**: **PR Report, March 6, 2022**

1. Progress on website by Dave Chasse & GLC Wayne Cotterly is excellent, ready to open it to the public.
2. I’m conducting the process of reviewing the variety of lodge Websites, Facebook pages, Instagram and Twitter accounts. Some very good activity and content developing throughout the state
3. A few items come to consider:
	1. When our members may occasionally need a helping hand all lodges pull together to provide some assistance, however please keep in mind our obligation: ***“I will never reveal to anyone not an Elk the name of a member asking or receiving aid or relief from the order.”***
		1. Unless it’s an already established effort (i.e. *Hugs for Haley*) “published” event fliers shouldn’t include the name(s) of the members having trouble without consideration.
	2. Please make sure your publicly posted “official” lodge information displays proper spelling and accurate & complete information.
	3. Picture quality is good, but without update or context they’re not very enticing to potential visitors.
	4. Filter your pics for the ***BEST*** few, tell the story
	5. Many events are out there, bands appearing in lodges, dinners, shows, etc, advertise what they’re there for!

**Ritual Committee Frank Ricker:** The Maine Elks Association Ritual Contest was held, Sunday, February 27, 2022, at the Sanford lodge #1470. Sanford was the winning team with a score of 94.4749. Individual awards went to the following:

Exalted Ruler, Sheila Pillsbury, Sanford

Esquire, Roger Normandeau, Sanford

Leading Knight, Robert Shaw, Sanford

Loyal Knight, Sheri Frechette, Sanford

Lecturing Knight, Rob Wilkins, Sanford

Chaplain, Marise Anagnost, Sanford

Inner Guard, Sooz Roberts, Sanford

Candidate Adam Brock, Sanford

Winning coach was J Andrew Bolz

Sanford will be representing the Maine Elks Association the Grand Lodge Contest in Atlanta.

 Thanks to the following for serving as judges for the contest Floor judges Wayne Cotterly, Kathleen Cotterly, Bruce Brunelle and Andy Bolz, Word Judge Frank Ricker and Lisa Brunelle in the computer room. Sandra Stillwagon served as the Tiler.

 The Eleven O’clock Toast contest and Flag Presentation Contest will be held at the Rockland Lodge #1008 on Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 10 am. Each will be two contests one for current Exalted Rulers and one for Past Exalted Rulers belonging to member lodges of the Maine Elks Association. The highest score of the two contests will represent the Maine Elks Association the Grand Lodge Contests in Atlanta.

 Looking ahead to **2022-2023**, The **Maine Ritual Contest** will be held on **February 26, 2023** and the **11 o’clock Toast and Flag Presentation contests** on **March 12, 2023** both locations TBA. Any lodge wishing to host these contests please contact me as soon as possible.

 This year is Maine’s turn to send a judge to the Grand Lodge Ritual contest and I’m pleased to announce that PSP, PDDGER J Andrew Bolz will represent Area I as a Floor judge at the Grand Lodge Ritual Contests in Atlanta. Dress for the constest is suit not tuxedo.

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. Please take the 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**: Update on the 2022 Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Contest.

    Six Scholars promoted to National Level are from the following lodges:

    Bangor, Houlton, Millinocket, Portland, Rockland and Skowhegan

    Lodge Scholarship Coordinators have been notified to invite these Students and their Parents to the State Convention for the Awards Evening.

    MEA MVS District and Lodge Award Letters will be sent out to the winning Scholars this next week.

    Last Call for Nominations for 2022 Maine Elks Association Scholarship Volunteer of the Year Award

    Please appoint a Scholarship Coordinator for your Lodge and be sure their contact information is updated in CLMS by your Secretary.

    We had 5 Lodges this year that ENF had no contact information and it makes things much more difficult and challenging, at all levels when there is no assigned Coordinator.

   We will be in need of a Northern District Scholarship Coordinator for 2022 - 2023.  If you are interested please contact either myself or MEA Scholarship Advisor, John Desjardins. This is an awesome opportunity to help out with the Scholarship Program on another level.

    We welcome Casey Kenniston of Rockland Lodge, as the new Coastal District Scholarship Coordinator.

    A “Big” Thank You goes out to:  Bill Bachofner of Rockland and Jon Turner of Houlton Lodge for their years of service and dedication as District Scholarship Coordinators.

**Have I missed anyone?**

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** We moved to NEW BUSINESS under **Auditing Committee** **Scott Gray**, Page 7, and handled all new business.

**Good of the Association:**

Monika Monroe’s raffles raised $7,130 for MCCP.

Shawn Stacey 50/50 $237 to the Eric Hoard, winner, ticket # 188998 and $238 to MCCP.

Receipts of Session 3/6/22:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Amount | Rcvd From |  |  |  |
| 100.00 | Frank Ricker | 10201 | PSP Acct | Coin Clock Raffle |
| 5.00 | Andy C | 10201 | PSP Acct | Coin Clock Raffle |
| 120.00 | Waterville # 905 | 31500 | Calendar 2022 |   |
| 220.00 | Brunswick # 2043 | 31500 | Calendar 2022 |   |
| 60.00 | Waterville # 905 | 31500 | Calendar 2022 | rcvd same time with ck 32837 |
| 185.00 | Portland 188 | 31550 | MCCP | 90/95 |
| 165.00 | Portland 188 | 31550 | MCCP | 80/85 |
| 564.00 | Monika Monroe | 31550 | MCCP | Raffle Henry Rifle & Veteran Bracelet |
| 3,000.00 | Gardiner # 1293 | 31550 | MCCP | Fishing Derby |
| 865.00 | Rockland # 1008 | 31550 | MCCP | Dance Proceeds |
| 5,000.00 | Biddeford-Saco # 1597 | 31550 | MCCP | not specified |
| 200.00 | Biddeford-Saco # 1597 | 31550 | MCCP | Memory Tammy Dejardins |
| 17,551.74 | Bangor # 244 | 31550 | MCCP | Various Fundraisers |
| 100.00 | Millinocket # 1521 | 31550 | MCCP | Honor of Scott Monroe |
| 50.00 | Millinocket # 1521 | 31550 | MCCP | Honor of Monika Monroe |
| 270.00 | Waterville # 905 | 31550 | MCCP | Christmas Bells |
| 520.00 | Waterville # 905 | 31550 | MCCP | Elliot & Friends |
| 648.25 | Waterville # 905 | 31550 | MCCP | Fire Ring/Grill Raffle |
| 2,500.00 | Waterville # 905 | 31550 | MCCP | Train Ride |
| 6,566.30 | Monika Monroe | 31550 | MCCP | Raffle Henry Rifle & Veteran Bracelet |
| 237.00 | Eric Hoard | 31550 | MCCP | 50/50 at MEA Meeting Winner |
| 238.00 | Shawn Stacey Tiler | 31550 | MCCP | 50/50 at MEA Meeting  |
| 50.00 | Ernie Bryant | 31550 | MCCP | Phone violation |
| 100.00 | MCCP unknown | 31550 | MCCP | Phone violation |
| 39,315.29 | TOTAL |  |  |  |

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

The next Maine Elks Association meeting will be at the MEA Convention at Hilton Garden Inn-Riverwatch in Auburn, on Saturday, April 30, 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 1:15.