I have just been your President for 2 weeks and have already started a wonderful journey that Susan and I will never forget. I want to thank all of the members of the West Virginia Elks Association for electing me as your President. We hope that we will continue to make you proud of us as we visit Lodges within our great state of West Virginia as well as the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Kentucky. As well as the Grand Lodge convention to be held in Houston, Texas.

We have just gotten back from our visit to the Pennsylvania State Elks Association at their convention held in Harrisburg, PA. Stanley Welsh and his wife Mary Ellen were the perfect host and hostess while we were there. It was nice to get to know Víctor Cid and his wife Donna, they are a great couple. We learned some great ideas from them, and we were blown away with their State Major Project, the PA Elks Home Service Program which they donated $544,151.77 this year. They have Nurses that go all around the state helping people out. We saw many Elks that we had met before, both when they were State Presidents and at the Grand Lodge Convention. Like our good friend Ron Hawkins and his wife Donna Jean. Also Kathy Foy who just attended our Convention in Weirton. Good Luck to their State Ritual team from Bridgeport Lodge No.714 who came in Second Place in the Nation last year as they hope to go one more rung up the ladder to first place.

We are starting to get our visitation schedule together. If you have not given me a date yet, please do so as soon as you can. I will get back with you if it is open or not. I would prefer to visit during an event on a weekend as I am still working.

If I can help you in anyway please feel free to contact me. My number is 304-224-5202 and my email address is rogerkirkpatrick@wvelks.org

Yours in Elkdom,
Roger “Hambone” Kirkpatrick
A NOTE FROM OUR GRAND LODGE SPONSOR

Do You know who is on your Lodge’s Membership Committee? You all are. Each of us knows of a friend, relative or acquaintance who would enjoy being a member of the Lodge.

Often all you need to do is ask them to join.

There are other ways as well to get new members. Rick Gathen, the Grand Lodge Membership and Public Relations Director, recently produced a pamphlet for West Virginia identifying 50 recruitment ideas. See your Lodge Secretary for a copy.

Included in Rick’s list is the development of a flyer describing your Lodge that can be presented to non-members at various events throughout the year. He suggests you can also rent your Lodge to civic, benevolent and fraternal groups, such as Rotary, Lions and the Knights of Columbus. These civic-minded folks are more likely to join organizations likely ours.

You can also open your Lodge to Scout groups and other youth organizations. Consider asking your Secretary to run a list of all former members dropped for non-payment of dues over the past five years. Then call the ones you want back. Build a Lodge website and a social media page. Rick’s list of 50 ideas goes on and on.

West Virginia’s membership is trending toward a gain in the very near future. State Membership Chairman David Westfall of Princeton Lodge #1459 is always ready to help you. But it is up to each of us to make it happen. I know you can. I know you will!

Sincerely and fraternally,
Lester C. Hess, Jr. PGER
John Penn, Vice President...CENTRAL DISTRICT

I’m going to direct this column towards the upcoming year. I don’t know if I am giving away secrets that I shouldn’t give away. But I will still tell it somewhat as it is. **For me, personally and Elk-wise, this year is a year of preparation for “my year” next year. That means that I need to plot and plan the personnel needed to carry out the functions of the WV Elks Association, as well as the start of planning for everything else during the coming year of 2017-2018.**

So, the first issue to talk about is committee membership. **If there is a committee that you would like to chair, then I need to know about it. If there is a committee that you would like to serve on, then I need to know about it. “AND” if you have been serving as a committee chair, and you are tired of being in that position, then I need to know about it.** There is always the dynamic of trying to find the right people to do all of the jobs that need done. After I know your interests, then there is the issue of selection of the right personnel and trying to find the right mix. Unfortunately, interest in the position does not mean that you will get the position for some, hopefully, obvious reasons. But the first step in the process requires that I know of your interest.

Once I know who wants to serve and who doesn't want to serve anymore, I need to try to put together the right slate of personnel, so that no one gets too much to do, and no one has too little to do. After I make my proposals of committee structure, there is a review process by those who have been State Presidents previously, before committee assignments can become “official”. Therefore, I am asking you specifically to let me know what committees that you might like to serve on, or what committees that you would like to get off of. My timeline for completing this assignment is the mid-year convention. Therefore, you can anticipate that I will be conducting “interviews” for committee chairs, committee positions, and getting out of committee assignments. **If you send me something in writing, I prefer email to John.howard.penn@gmail.com, but if you send it by regular mail, make sure to send it to 1532 Point Marion Road, Morgantown, WV. 26508. Or just give me a call at 304-685-1755.**

**Finally, a word or two about the Adopt-a-Veteran program.** Details about the 2016-2017 program year will be forthcoming by email prior to the end of June. Watch your email, or just go to the website www.wvelksadopt-a-veteran.org. **The budget was significantly cut, so there will be some changes this year.** The changes are still in the adoption phase by the committee, but I will communicate with you concerning these changes.
It is always bittersweet when it comes time for the changing of the guard, but each time brings new inspiration and exhilaration for the new year. The southern lodges wish to thank our fellow southerners, Jackie and Brenda Barlow, for a terrific year as WV Elks President and First Lady and wish even greater success to our new President and First Lady, Roger and Susan Kirkpatrick.

The new lodge year has commenced and it will take the teamwork of all of our Lodge Officers, Trustees, and members to work hand in hand to achieve a successful year. It cannot be impressed enough that our Members need to increase their efforts in becoming more active members in order to keep our Lodges alive. Lodges need to bring new members into their fold to help foster new ideas, but we also need to reach back to our lapsed members and inquire as to why they dropped their membership and lead them back on track to renewing by reminding them of the true beliefs of Elkdom which prompted them to become a member in the first place.

As Vice President South, I am always here to answer any questions or be a nexus to providing you any information that you as a member, as an Officer, or as a Lodge needs.

Bill Verelt, Vice President North

I would like to begin by saying how honored I have been this spring and summer visiting our Northern Lodges as our Vice President North. Whether serving as a keynote speaker or spending some time at our Northern Camp. I am continuously impressed by what our District and State accomplish for our local communities and throughout our State. Now that the summer months are beginning to wane. We will again come together as Elks this August to renew acquaintances and begin lifelong friendships in Charleston, WV. Having visited the Charleston Lodge many times. I would encourage all convention goers to set aside part of their weekend and visit with our fellow Elk members of Lodge #202. Since first becoming an Elk it has been the August Conventions that I have always enjoyed the most. It is during our Saturday afternoon Youth Scholarship Program that the true measure of what West Virginia Elks mean to our State is most apparent. The Greek Philosopher Plato once said, “The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life.” Each time that we as Elks help to educate the Youth of our communities. We are helping to guide them towards successful futures and impactful lives within our communities.
June is a great month to focus on community

June triggers the most active time of year for our Lodges and a great time to demonstrate our Community Focus. We open our youth camps and pools for the summer, award college scholarships, sponsor Boy and Girl Scout troops, plan for picnics, barbeques and Lodge trips, and prepare for many other fun events in our Lodges and throughout the Community. June also provides the opportunity to showcase two of our most engaging values: patriotism and family, with Flag Day and Father’s Day.

There is no more beautiful sight than the radiant red, white and blue displayed in our Lodges and in front of our homes and businesses, as we pay special tribute to the most enduring symbol of freedom in the world, our American flag. By celebrating our nation’s flag, and solemnly retiring those flags that have served their purpose. We are expressing our love of country, our support for the military and our veterans, and our dedication to the ideals that have made our Nation and our Order so great.

Father’s Day offers the opportunity to thank our fathers and father-figures, recognize the influence of fatherhood in our lives and show our commitment to family values. Use this occasion to invite family, friends and community into our Lodges, and let them know we are a family oriented, community minded organization.

This month Nancy and I will attend the Virginia Elks Association Convention. It will be a homecoming for us and an opportunity to visit with the many Virginia Elks who contributed so much to our campaign and helped get our year off to a great start. Then, it will be off to Houston for the Grand Lodge Session to thank every Elk for your hospitality during our travels, for Caring and Sharing, for exceeding our every expectation, and for helping to make this year, “a year of a lifetime!” Follow our travels at: www.virginiaelks.org/GER_Ron_Hicks_Blog.htm

Public Relations: Good Communication is a Must

Local Lodges can create a sense of community with good communication forged by an effective Lodge Public Relations committee.

Some people are compelled to join the Elks because they crave a connection to people with whom they work or live. In addition to making new Members feel “welKcome,” successful Lodges use their newsletter, website and members-only social media page to remind existing Members how they benefit from belonging to the Elks and to encourage them to remain involved.

The reasons that Lodges utilize such a variety of communication vehicles are many. Whether small or large, it is important that your Lodge communicate effectively with Members, foundations, donors, Legislators, media and the general public.

Effective communication can create a sense of community, which should be a primary goal of your Lodge Public Relations Committee.
Roger Kirkpatrick, and family, WV Elks State President 2016-2017
March 17, 2016

Members and Families,

Where has the year gone? Seems like it was only yesterday that I was installed as President of the West Virginia Elks Association. Travelling through this beautiful state and visiting every Elks Lodge has been a tremendous pleasure. If you have the opportunity to do it, I would strongly encourage it. It will bring you a lifetime of memories.

Brenda and I have also traveled to Gettysburg for the Pennsylvania convention, Pittsburgh for Caring and Sharing for the Veterans, and Virginia and Kentucky for their conventions. The friends that we have made will be cherished forever by knowing that every Elk in their heart is the same. They all have the same belief that Elks Care – Elks Share by donating thousands of hours helping in their community and supporting their Major Projects.

I am truly honored to have a great and talented slate of officers, Barry Perdue, PER, Bluefield Lodge No. 269 as Sergeant-At-Arms, James. Perkins, Jr., PER, Parkersburg Lodge No. 198 as Chaplain, Kathleen Huey, PER, Mannington Lodge No. 388 as Inner Guard, and Adam Macias, PER, Morgantown Lodge No. 411 as Tiler.

This year has been a great year for the Elks National Foundation; hopefully by the time this letter goes to press West Virginia has achieved 100%. We know Ted will be proud to be able to stand up at the Grand Lodge Convention in Houston and be recognized for your great work.

We were fortunate to have Rick Gathen of the Grand Lodge Membership to attend our Spring Convention. I was able to hear his great presentation in Kentucky in February and what a motivated speaker he is. We are really close to meeting the goal of GER Ron Hicks.

Congratulations to all the incoming officers for the Lodges, I know you will do a great job and promote Elkdom in all your endeavors. Also the incoming officers of the State Association, I wish you a successful year. I know that our new President, Roger “Hambone” Kirkpatrick along with his First Lady Susan, will have a great year and represent West Virginia proudly.

As I have made my way around in Elkdom this past year, I hope I have made an impression on the membership that with my slogan, MOVING FORWARD WITH INTEGRITY and it has left you with a true meaning of what Elks are all about.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Jackie W. Barlow/President //West Virginia Elks Association 2015-2016
WVA ELKS FIRST LADY, BRENDA BARLOW, 2015-2016

March 16, 2016

Members and Families,

I wanted to drop a few lines to let everyone know that my year as First Lady was remarkable. I can truly say that I have had the best time of my life. Visiting all the West Virginia Lodges and the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland, where each one were there to greet us with open arms.

We have met a lot of new friends and also got a chance to catch up with our old friends along the way.

The Ladies functions have been terrific and we had a lot of fun. We have learned and laughed a lot. I couldn't ask for anything better. We probably gained a few pounds with the wonderful and delicious foods that we have eaten.

I want to thank, Becky and Ted Hess for their support and all the help they have given us. I want to thank the West Virginia Elks for the opportunity to represent West Virginia as your President and First Lady. All of our memories will be engraved in our hearts forever.

God Bless and Keep You All Safe,

Brenda G. Barlow

First Lady///WV Elks Association 2015-2016

PARKERSBURG Lodge #198 SUPPORTS OUR SOLDIERS PROJECT

The Parkersburg Elk’s Lodge #198 currently has an on-going "Support Our Troops" collection going on. The first 13 care packages to the C Co. 2/104th WV Army National Guard Aviation Unit, currently deployed to Kuwait, were sent out the first week of February. Efforts are underway to collect items or cash donations to send additional care packages to the soldiers the first week in April.

If you would like to donate items or make a cash donation to purchase items to send, please contact the Parkersburg Elk’s Lodge at (304) 422-6546 or e-mail tmoyers@suddenlink.net for a list of approved items.
WV LODGE ACTIVITIES FROM AROUND THE STATE

Huntington Lodge Promotes 2016 Warfighter Weekend

It's Challenged Athletes of West Virginia Winter camp for disabled veterans and their families held annually at the Silver Creek ski resort side of Snowshoe Mountain. We do all the preparation of meals for the veterans and their family members. We also conduct several fundraising events in the Huntington area to help offset the cost. The disabled vet and family members do not pay for anything except their own transportation to get there. Each Camp (winter/summer) cost between $20,000 - $22,000 to run. We've helped to raise over $60,000 in the past few years for this cause, with the help of other lodges.

WV Elks Association Thanks Veterans for Their Service Tailgate and Marshall University Football Game Huntington, WV, November 14, 2015: The WV Elks Association teamed with the Marshall University Military and Veterans Affairs Office to host about 65 veterans for a Marshall Football against Florida International University. Veterans from the Beckley VA Center, the Huntington VA Center, the Barboursville Veterans Home, and the Huntington Homeless Veterans Association were treated to more food than they could eat, including pizza, chicken wings, hot dogs, cookies, and sodas in a tailgate party. Then, in a bittersweet day, the haunting memories of the day that the Marshall University football team airplane tragedy occurred were somewhat cured with a resounding victory by the Marshall Thundering Herd football team’s glorious victory over Florida International University team by a score of 52-0. Representing the WV Elks Association were Jamie Webster, David Webster, Reva Noble, and John Penn, while Kim White, Director, represented the Marshall University Military and Veterans Affairs Office and David Moske, President, represented the Veterans for Veterans. Contributions from Starbucks, DP Dough, BW3, and Marshall University are also grateful acknowledged.

Editors Note: Huntington Lodge submitted their final 2015-16 Lodge Year Charitable Report to Grand Lodge. Your Lodge donated $25,604.00 to charities, veterans programs, senior citizens, youth programs and those in need. Great Job!!
So long as there are veterans, the BPOE will never forget them

150 Veterans Get Treated To a Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Game

To Say “Thank You For Your Service”

_Pittsburgh, PA, May 3, 2016_: In a joint mission coordinated by several groups, nearly one hundred fifty (150) veterans and family members were treated to a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game at PNC Park in Pittsburgh, PA on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. Three buses, each fully loaded with Veterans and their families, were chartered to take these veterans to the game, with one bus originating in Clarksburg, WV (from the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center), one bus originating in Morgantown, WV, and one bus originating in Wheeling, WV with an intermediate stop in Weirton, WV. The Veterans ranged in age and experience from a Korean War Veteran all the way through our current combat experience in the Middle East. The popularity of the event is characterized by the fact that the event was never officially announced but all of the tickets were spoken for within 24 hours of the official decision to make the trip. Quotes from participants include:

• “I am so excited to be going in order to see my first professional baseball game.”

• “Although the Pirates played the worst game that I have ever personally seen them play, I am thankful for the opportunity to have gone to PNC Park in Pittsburgh.”

Several organizations were responsible for securing the funding for the event. The Pittsburgh Pirates (through Pirates Charities and the MLB Commissioner’s Community Initiative) donated the tickets for the game. The Louis A Johnson VA Medical Center used their bus for transport of veteran patients, while the WV Elks Association donated the busses from Morgantown, WV and Wheeling, WV. Most importantly, organizational time and effort was contributed by Operation Welcome Home, a Veterans Job Placement and Service Facility in Morgantown, WV.
FIRST RESPONDERS, POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS RECOGNIZED

By MARTINSBURG ELKS LODGE #778

First responders in Martinsburg who not only risk their lives for others but who also go above and beyond in their care for locals were awarded for their efforts on Sunday evening.

The Elks Law and Safety Day recognized 15 outstanding emergency service police officers and civil service members in the tri-county area.

“Berkeley, Morgan, and Jefferson counties are here. We have police officers from the city of Martinsburg. We also have firefighters from the city of Martinsburg, paid fire department and we also have representatives from the FBI,” Rodney Woods, co-chairman of the Elks Law and Safety Day, said.

Those who were awarded were recognized on behalf of their departments for service that went above and beyond the call of duty.

“Many times they spend Christmas and Thanksgiving on the highways away from their families,” Woods said.

“It’s very gratifying,” Deputy Chief George B. Swartwood, of the Martinsburg City Police Department said.

“I think it’s very nice when people take a moment of their time to simply say, ‘thank you,’ and it’s a way to show that this area and this community and especially the Elks Lodge here, that they very much appreciate the hard work they do every day,” Swartwood said.

The Elks association has been hosting the award ceremony for more than 20 years.

LEATHER AND HIDES PROGRAM

Ronnie Sigley, WV Leather/Hides Program! The leather and hides program had another successful year by collecting a total of 1,411 deer hides. A lot of this was due to the efforts of Elizabeth and Joe Parnell again setting up a collection center at Cabela’s in Wheeling, Ron Sigley and Dirk Fluharty from Mannington, John Penn from Morgantown and Mike Shizak from Mississippi collecting deer hides. Robert Lanham has outdone himself again this year by collecting, salting scraping, and stacking 1,150 hides himself. Way to go Robert and thanks again to everyone that helps to make this Veterans program a success!
Several community members and organizations joined together this week to make the season bright for local veterans and their families in need.

Holiday dinner items and snacks, toys, bedding, household items and more made up the 100 gifts supplied to Helping Heroes Tuesday, provided by local groups including Happy Tails pet grooming service in McMechen, The Wheeling Elks Lodge 28, The Wheeling Daughters of the American Revolution, Benwood American Legion Auxiliary, American Electric Power, the Upper Ohio Legion Riders and the Weirton Woman's Club.

According to founder Jeremy Harrison, several families and individuals also participated with gift and monetary donations. Harrison began Helping Heroes with his wife, Susan, after his time serving in Iraq and working for the Veteran's Association. The primary goal of the nonprofit agency is to assist homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless in obtaining benefits.

He added the organization receives the most attention around Christmas, taking in about $2,000 just in monetary donations.

"We're becoming more active and starting more initiatives than ever before," Harrison said. "We hope to continue creating new programs to benefit our veterans in the future."

According to Pat Duffy, co-chairman for the West Virginia Elks Veterans Association, the club decided to give food baskets, including meats, canned goods, pasta and more to families through Helping Heroes in an effort to give back to former military servicemen and women. In February, the Elks donated two stoves for a Helping Heroes apartment complex, set to house veterans this winter.

Giving back to our community is important to us and veteran issues are one of the best ways for us to accomplish that," Duffy said. "We want to honor these individuals and their families."

Elks veterans association trustee Charles McKee added the organization has supported various military causes over the decades.

"We've been providing baskets for 40 years," McKee said. "It is all funded by members and their efforts to support our nation's veterans."

Wheeling Elks Lodge supports VETERANS

Wheeling Elks Lodge feeds Hungry Kids

Frank Bonacci with the Elks Lodge in Wheeling says "if I had the wherewithal there would be no hungry kid in this Valley. I unfortunately don't. I wish we could do more we wish we could do more, but as an organization, we do all that we can." Sunday, volunteers spent their day packing and delivering 100 boxes of Christmas dinners, doing all they can do bring the holiday spirit to those in need.

Ted McKeets with the Lodge says, "then they can make use of it for their families and have a good Christmas dinner although they would probably not be able to afford to get it and it'll help them through probably a couple weeks of food."

This is the 56th year of giving for the Wheeling Elks, and McKeets says every year the number of volunteers who show up to pack boxes grows. Sunday they stuffed the boxes with dry goods, bread, meat, potatoes and other necessities.

It's a tradition going strong since 1956. This year they got a special visit from the West Virginia state Elks president, Jackie Barlow, who's proud of the elk example set here in wheeling; " this is one of the greatest things that this lodge can do its one of the biggest events of the year. It just shows you that elks share and elks care."
WV Elks Assoc Announce 2016 WV Citizen of the Year from Martinsburg

The West Virginia Elks Association announced this week, that Martinsburg resident, Rodney Woods has been selected as their 2016 Citizen of the Year for the State of West Virginia. Woods, a long-standing educator in Berkeley County, has served forty-five years as a school administrator and educational consultant. Martinsburg Mayor George Karos recently commended Woods for his years of service to the City of Martinsburg as a former At-Large City Councilman and his service on a number of Boards, Authorities and non-profits. Woods currently serves as Chairman of the City’s Human Relations Committee and represents the City of Martinsburg on Berkeley County Schools’ Multiculturalism and Global Competency Advisory Team. According to Martinsburg Elks Lodge’s Exalted Ruler, Nanci Hovermale, Woods, along Deputy Chief of Police, George Swartwood have co-chaired the Lodge’s high-profile Law & Safety Day for the last 18 years. The ceremony salutes the important work of law enforcement and emergency responders across the tri-county.

Previously recognized as a National Distinguished Principal by the U.S. Office of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Woods has assisted the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense with overseas education consultation in the Middle East. According to Woods, “It is an honor to live, work and volunteer in a community that fosters youth activities, supports veteran’s services, and acknowledges the important work of law enforcement and emergency responders.” Woods has been a member of Martinsburg Elks Lodge 778 for 27 years and resides in the City along with Cindy, his wife of of 32 years.

6th Generation Elk Initiated in Mannington

MANNINGTON, WV, USA - On Sunday, May 22, 2016, Tyler Hayes became a member of the Mannington Elks Lodge #388 after undergoing the solemn ceremony of initiation and became the 6th generation of Elks from the same family. Other family members who were members of the Mannington Lodge were mother Jennifer Moore (2002), grandmother Kathleen Huey (initiated November 1998), great grandfather Delbert J Huey (initiated April 1949), great, great grandfather Delbert R Huey (initiated 1933), and great, great, great grandfather Jeptha Washington "JW" Huey (initiated May 1914). Grandmother Kathleen Huey has been an officer of the Mannington Lodge #388 for almost 20 years and was quoted as saying "Our family has Elks blood in it". Congratulations to Tyler Hayes who was initiated and became a member of our solemn Order. (Pictured at right are) Mom Jennifer Moore (L) and Grandmother Kathleen Huey (R) proudly look on.
The Wellsburg ELKS #1553 (pictured above) working with the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Museum remembered and gave thanks to those Pacific theatre Vets, and all other Vets for defending freedom and liberty and for the sacrifices they made. A wonderful spaghetti and chicken dinner was cooked up and served by ELKS of 1553! The weather was cold with some light snow but that did not dampen the spirit of the day at all. We had a great turnout along with a visit from WV Elks Association Central VP John Penn. Thanks to ALL!

Lewisburg Elks Lodge #1758 recently completed its 'Veterans-In-Need' project. Gift bags were assembled and distributed to 65 veteran-residents of local, Greenbrier Co. nursing homes. The gift delivery was possible with the generous support of local citizens and help from Magic Mart of Ronceverte and one of their employees, Linda Dowdy. A portion of the funding for the project came from a $500 WV Elks Adopt-A-Veteran Grant, a $2,000 National Elks Freedom Grant, of which Lodge #1758 was the only WV recipient of a Freedom Grant and from proceeds from The Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament held in September. (Pictured at right are Bob Powell, Lewisburg #1758 Lodge Veterans Committee Co Chair & Linda Dowdy, of Magic Mart).

Charleston Lodge holds bowling night for handicapped youth: Members of Charleston Lodge hosted mentally and physically challenged youth at a fun afternoon of bowling at Venture Lanes followed by pizza and drinks. This Christmas community program is a long standing and cherished tradition of Charleston Lodge dating back over 50 years. Santa (aka Jim Hughes) always has gifts for all of our guests. Jo-anne Stiltner was this year’s Committee Chair.
Morgantown Elks Scholars give Back

On May 19th, Sarah Bartlett and A.J. Bartlett presented care packages to the Clarksburg Veteran’s Hospital on behalf of Elks Lodge #411. A.J. was a recipient of a 4-year Elk’s Foundation Scholarship in 2012 and is graduating from WVU. Sarah is the 2014 WV State Champion of the Elk’s Hoop Shoot. They are the children of Misti and Scott Bartlett, an 18-year member of Elks Lodge #411.

The family wanted to find a way to say “thank you” to the Elks and to give something back for our blessings. The care packages were warmly received at the VA Hospital, and we were asked to send along a “thank you” to the Elks for all that is done for Veterans by the B.P.O.E.

WV Elks State Hoop Shoot Winners

The contest was held and all contestants were present. I only received one complaint and put-down for including the Fairmont contestants. We included the problem in our opening instructions before the contest and there were Elks from 7 (I think) different Lodges present. Neither of the Fairmont boys won but both families thanked me for being included. They were thankful for the Elks from Fairmont and Elkins who arranged the shootouts. Here are the results:

**Girls 8-9**
1st - 16/25 - Cali Masters, St. Mary’s #1701  
2nd- 15/25 - Danika Prescott, Harrison County #2875  
3rd- 14/25 - Kiana Kennedy-Mestel, Huntington #313

**Girls 10-11**
1st - 14/25 - Heidi Carter, Huntington #313  
2nd- 13/25 - Lauren Tekely, Wheeling #28  
3rd- 9/25 - Kenzie Fluharty, Mannington #388

**Girls 12-13**
1st - 24/25 5/5 - Lindsey Garrison, Wheeling #28  
2nd- 24/25 2/5 - Ava Lee, Huntington #313

**Boys 8-9**
1st - 21/25 - Cohen Ruterford, Martinsburg #778  
2nd- 19/25 - Aaron Ku, Huntington #313  
3rd- 18/25 - Julius Butler, Fairmont #294  
4th- 16/25 - Vinnie Guice, Parkersburg #198

**Boys 10-11**
1st - 22/25 - Adam Seams, Lewisburg #1758  
2nd- 17/25 - Kaden Humphreys, Fairmont #294  
3rd- 15/25 4/5 - Makel Galloway, Wheeling #28  
4th- 15/25 2/5 - Braden Maynard, Elkins #1135

**Boys 12-13**
1st - 24/25 - **Grant Barnhart, St. Mary’s #1701**  
2nd- 20/25 - Isaac Winans, Elkins #1135  
3rd - 14/25 - Andrew Justice, Charleston #202

Grant Barnhart was a contestant in 2012-2013 year and went on to win the National Contest for 8-9 Boys in Springfield. He told me he wants another win.
DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE Nov. 15, 2016.

Newsletter editor: Jack M. Bennett, Weirton Lodge. Please submit information or comments to: bennettgrade3@gmail.com or bennettgrade3@yahoo.com or jack m. bennett, 3842 Marion Ave., Weirton 26062 or call (304)482-0597.

Advisor: Lester C. Hess, Jr., PGER, Wheeling #28

Assistant Chairman: Ashley M. Martin III, PSP, Grafton #308

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Houston, TX, July 3-6, 2016..........Reno, NV, July 16-19, 2017........San Antonio, TX, June 30-July 3, 2018

West Virginia Elks State Mid-Year-Convention, August Charleston, WV 2016!

District Deputy Clinics:

NORTHERN DISTRICT! David Schlarb……August 20, 2016……Sistersville Lodge #333. 9:30am

CENTRAL DISTRICT! Curtis Beard………..Harrison County #2475……date to b determined

SOUTHERN DISTRICT! Richard Maack…….August 27, 2016……Hinton Lodge # 821, 10:00am

Facebook is a great way to get information to me.