



# THE MID-WINTER 2021 BUGLE





*Published Quarterly by the*  
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**(3 YEAR TERMS)**

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## **STATE MEETINGS**

2021 Mid-Winter Conference – CANCELLED

2021 State Convention, Appleton

May 6 – 9, 2021

Paper Valley Convention Center

2021 Fall Conference – Appleton

September 16 – 19, 2021

Paper Valley Convention Center

## **GRAND LODGE CONVENTIONS**

2021 . . . . . July 4 – July 7, 2021 . . . . . Tampa, FL

2022 . . . . . July 3 – July 8 . . . . . Atlanta, GA

# ***STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Hello to all,

By now each of you have had the opportunity to celebrate the holidays. I hope that each and every one of you were safe and healthy. Kathy & I wish all of you a better 2021 than you had in 2020.

Covid continues to dominate our Lodges since I last addressed you. It has certainly changed how we have lived our lives. I have seen and read how your Lodges have been impacted; even in some cases having to shut down your Lodge for a period of time. Our Wisconsin Elks even has been impacted with no formal gathering since our last Mid-Winter Conference. I know this has disappointed many of who are eager to meet in person. Please believe me when I say these decisions were difficult to do. Looking out for everyone's health and safety was our number one concern. It has challenged us on how we can do the business at hand. Several options have been considered and will be considered as we move forward. We ask your patience as options are explored. I know that some Lodges have used virtual meetings to communicate to their members. We have had three state committees and the Board of Directors who used a virtual meeting. I would ask that other committees consider a virtual meeting; especially those who have money to spend on the charity side.

Moving away from Covid, I want to compliment our Lodges in continuing to impact your communities. I have seen firsthand, read your bulletins, or seen your posts on Facebook. You have not quit being the difference maker in helping others. You have donated food to your local food pantries, made sure that veterans were not forgotten, found ways to help your schools, delivered or offered meals, donated to homeless shelters, etc. etc. Keep up the good work. I am very proud of what you do.

Membership continues to be a high priority. We, of course, can't control deaths. We however can control members who have not paid their dues. We need to communicate not just by mail but in person. It is too easy to recycle paper but personal words are hard to avoid. We do need to attract new members. We need to showcase our Lodges. Once we get that new member we need to involve them in an area that interests them. Please do not just throw them into a chair. Let them experience what your Lodge has to offer. They can then evolve to leadership roles if that interests them. I have asked Lodges to give me names and phone numbers of new members. I have made around 75 calls with many personal responses or some where I had to leave a message. I have welcomed them to the Wisconsin Elks and wished them well in their new venture in Elks.

Kathy and I have enjoyed going to several Lodges since my year began. All but one was an unofficial visit. We hope to still get to the 6 Lodges that we have not visited. We have been part of a variety of functions. It has been great renewing and starting new friendships. We look forward to official visits also in the future. We have also enjoyed finding out where our Grand Lodge money goes to Veterans facilities across the state. We have only one more to see.

Kathy & I continue to hope for a relief from Covid. Until that happens though you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. May God Bless You.

Faternally,

*Jerry*

Jerry Brien, President  
Wisconsin Elks Association



# ***FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE***



Happy New Year! I hope you had a happy, safe, healthy holiday. This has been a year that none of us has ever experienced, but we Elks faced it as we always do-with brotherly love. Your Lodges have done a great job in using the grants to help your community. Now, more than ever, your communities need us to help them. Since Jerry and I aren't making official visits where I can raffle my baskets off, which support our State Major project & Benevolent Fund, please support these charities throughout the year. As much as we would like to be together to share ideas and enjoy each other's company, we must put that on hold. Let's be patient & pray for a time when we can get together as a group.

I wish you a safe & healthy 2021.

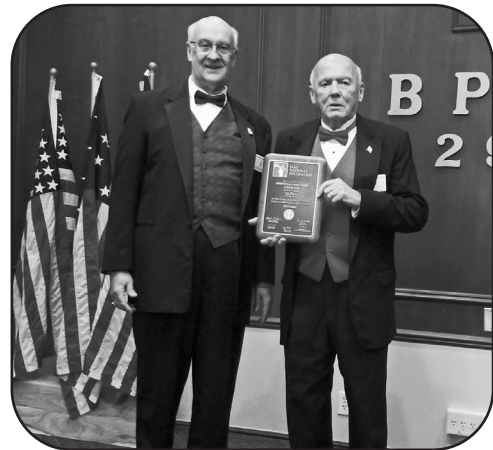
*Kathy*

Kathy Brien, First Lady  
Wisconsin Elks Association

## **ENF CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE CONTEST**

As the ENF Chairman for Wisconsin, I had the privilege of presenting an award to Secretary/ENF Chairman, Bill Richards of Sheboygan Lodge #299 for being the #1 ENF Chairman in the **Nation** in the Chairman's Challenge Contest. Congratulations, Bill!

Also, Tim Green, the Secretary/ENF Chairman for Portage Lodge #675 received the Chairman's Challenge Award for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the category of Lodges with membership of less than 300 members. Congratulations, Tim!



## **2021 ELKS STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The 2021 Elks State Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, June 21, 2021 at the Town and Country Golf Course in Sheboygan. Please watch for more details that will be mailed to each Lodge at a later date.



## ***SPONSOR'S MESSAGE***

Greetings everyone -



We can definitely say that this has been an unprecedented year in all of our lives while we struggle with the COVID-19 Pandemic. It has affected the way we handle our day to day routines and of course it has upended our Elks lives as we know it. Lodge meetings may have been cancelled, DD visits altered, and of course we were forced to cancel our Fall State Convention. Unfortunately, this resulted in all of us missing the opportunity to welcome Grand Exalted Ruler Paul Ryan and First Lady Stacey from Minnesota for their official visit.

Thank you to everyone for all your efforts in continuing the good works we do in our communities throughout these difficult times, as now more than ever, there are many people who need our assistance and benevolence.

As I'm sure you have heard, our State Association was forced to cancel the February 2021 Mid-Winter Meeting. This decision was based upon hotel and State of Wisconsin requirements related to the pandemic.

We, of course, are keeping a good thought that things will improve in future months so that we will all be together again in May for our Spring Convention.

Beth and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their friendship and support this past year. We send best wishes to you and your families for a happy, healthy and virus free 2021!

God Bless you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "F. Louis Sulsberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

F. Louis Sulsberger  
Past Grand Exalted Ruler  
Wisconsin State Sponsor

### **MESSAGE FROM BELOIT ELKS LODGE**

The Beloit Elks Lodge #864 has recently had their By-Laws updated. In doing so, we have changed our meeting dates. We are now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month throughout the year, except in the months of July & August and December, in which the Lodge shall meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (July & August) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (December).

Albert "Dutch" Engleson, Secretary  
(608) 365-1851 (H)  
(608) 751-1304 (C)  
[Per864@charter.net](mailto:Per864@charter.net)

# CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

*When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers, but a ruler with discernment and knowledge maintains order.*

*Proverbs 28: 2 NIV*

Leadership intuition is often a factor that separates the great leaders from the good. It seems that some people are born with great leadership intuition, while others have to work hard to develop it. Both ways, it is a combination of natural ability and learned skills. Perhaps the best way to describe this "informed intuition" is an ability to discern intangible factors, understand them, and to work with them to accomplish leadership goals.

Successful leaders view every situation in terms of available resources: money, technology, raw materials, and (most importantly) people. A great leader senses people's hopes, fears, and concerns and in doing so; leadership can reflect on where they and their people have been, and where they are heading.

Leadership is more art than science; the principles of leadership are constant, but the applications change with every leader and every situation. It is here where intuition enters the fray. Without intuition a leader can get blindsided, and lose their focus.

It seems that the unanticipated events of the year 2020 has caused a bit of chaos throughout the entire world. Leadership in all levels of government, religious, and social organizations are challenged from within and without.

King Solomon wrote many proverbs intended to be used as principles in an individual's daily life. In this instance, many neighboring kingdoms were experiencing internal troubles and Solomon remarked accordingly. It seems that his intuition helped him to overcome many of his challenges.

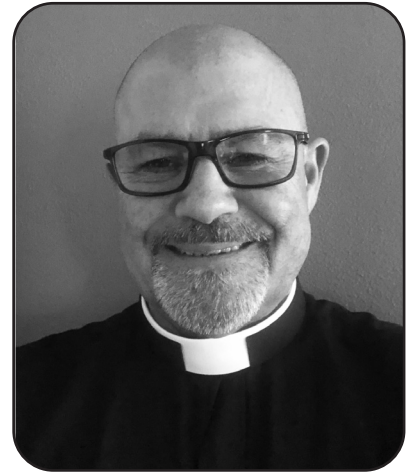
I do not believe as a country we are "rebellious," yet, I do believe that our levels of anxiety over controls placed on our everyday activities and traditions is causing concern. It is here that firm leadership in all of our Lodges is needed to keep our focus on our stated principles of Caring, Sharing and Brotherly Love. Our leadership needs our help, patience, and understanding.

Remember, God loves you and so do I,

*Rev. Mike*

Reverend Mike Hackbarth, Chaplain

Wisconsin Elks Association



## **NEW ADDRESS AND MEETING TIMES**

Our revised By-Laws were approved and we now will be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, still at 7:00 pm. When required to have two meetings, the second meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Also a reminder, that since the sale of our building in July, our new mailing address is PO Box 773, Platteville, WI 53818.

Sue Vavricka, Secretary  
Platteville Lodge #1460

## ***DISTRICT DEPUTY REPORT***

### **CENTRAL DISTRICT**



**DAVID DECONO, D.D.**

Hello from the District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler (DDGER) for the year 2020-2021 Central District.

Happy Holidays. Thanksgiving has come and gone, and Christmas is just around the corner. There will be some different gatherings this year.

Some had a little high cost of goods but that is being addressed. We have a DD Clinic scheduled this February. I'm very proud of our district and all our DD Lodge visits. I still need to thank Jackie, Don Behnke and Aaron for their previous hard work and commitment to Elksdom as DDGER. They made my life so much easier.

There is still some uncertainty with Covid-19. The Central District has completed all I'm enjoying my new position and will do everything within my power to help you out on whatever you need help on.

I hope to maintain and keep the Central District Strong. All you need to do is reach out to me. Here is all my contact information: David DeCono, W5916 E. Clymet Road, Watertown, WI, 53098, Home 920-696-3825, work 920-696-3000, mobile 920-248-9504, e-mail [david.decono@donaldson.com](mailto:david.decono@donaldson.com).

Looking forward to a good year.

## ***VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT***

### **SOUTH DISTRICT**



**PAT MORAN, V.P.**

Hello from the South District. Hoping you all had a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season.

As we all know 2020 was a difficult year for all of us. The pandemic has had a huge impact on all of us and the Lodges we belong to. Despite this, Lodges in the South continue to make a difference in their respective communities in some way. Use of State and Grand Lodge Grants have helped along with fundraisers at each Lodge. Many thanks to the Lodges for their help.

It is now time to think about our next fiscal year of 2021. Do you have officers in place to take over? Are you thinking about the use of grants for the upcoming year and where they can have an impact in helping others? This planning should be underway.

We all have had many interruptions and cancellations in our Lodges during 2020 and into 2021. Here's hoping that the New Year will be better and things can return to normal.

Pam and I wish each of you and your families a great 2021 and look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible. Please continue to keep up the great work that Elks do to help others.



# 2019 AWARDS OF THE YEAR



Sue Vavrika  
Platteville Lodge #1460  
Secretary of the Year



Kevin Keener  
Superior Lodge #403  
Exalted Ruler of the Year  
*(with State President 2019 Nikki Shannon)*



Ginny Hinkens  
Elk Lady of the Year  
*(with State President 2019 Nikki Shannon)*



Jeff Langton  
Elk of the Year



Portage Lodge #675  
Lodge of the Year



# **David Hagen**

## **Hat in the Ring For**

### **President-Elect of the Wisconsin Elks Association**



I hope that you and your families have remained healthy and safe during this unforgettable and challenging year.

Our Lodges were closed down due to Covid-19, Lodge meetings were conducted virtually, new officers were installed virtually, state association convention and conferences were cancelled. Our Lodges have all suffered financially and we all wear masks to protect ourselves from the virus.

I threw my Hat in the Ring for President-Elect of the WEA at the Grand Lodge Convention in San Antonio in 2018. 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 years were filled with traveling to all of our great Wisconsin Elks Lodges for the WEA State President Lodge Visits, meeting your officers and members and marveled at the charitable work Lodges due for local communities. Kathy and I have developed great Elks friendships during these two years.

Then in 2020 Covid-19 restrictions stopped all Lodge visits and postponed the election. This stopped the momentum of the campaign; however, it did not stop my desire to be your next President-Elect of the Wisconsin Elks Association

I joined the Elks because of my passion for the charitable work that we as Elks do in our communities and state. Promoting our charitable work and instilling our Members with the Great Heart of Elksdom is the foundation of my campaign as I seek your support for President-Elect of the WEA.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!**

**NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS: FINAL REQUESTS FOR FUNDS ARE DUE TO ME NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2021. NO EXCEPTIONS!! THIS IS DONE SO THE TRUSTEES CAN WORK ON CLOSING THE BOOKS FOR THE AUDIT.**

**KEN JOHNSON  
STATE SECRETARY**

# **HATS IN THE RING FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Are you ready to roll up your sleeves and make 2021 the start of something amazing? Because I am.

My name is Karl Hanke and as I am sure most of you know I love being an Elk.

You see, for me being an Elk is much more than being a member of a Lodge. To me being an Elk is about passion. And it's a passion that I want to share with everyone.

When I listen to the Camp Wawbeek campers talk about the incredible experiences they have at camp and when they tell us it would never have happened without the Elks. My passion for the Elks grows.

When I see Lodges prompting new ideas and sharing programs on Facebook the passion again increases inside of me. That is why I love helping Lodges promote events on Facebook. In fact, I do it every single day. The reason I created the state Facebook page was so all members of the Wisconsin Elks can see and learn from other Lodges and share my passion.

I believe that passion is the key to being a good leader and as State President- Elect, I plan to share ideas of success, encourage membership activities, continue to promote the great works each Lodge is doing, and continue to help grow the membership at each and every Lodge.

This is the main reason, along with my wonderful wife, Annie, that we have thrown my hat in the ring for State President-Elect. I want to reach every Lodge and share my passion for Elksdom with all Wisconsin Elks.

I hope you will help me achieve this honor by voting for me at the Spring Convention on May 8th.

Sincerely,

Karl K. Hanke



## **BONSPIEL CANCELLED FOR 2020**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Elks Curling Association decided to err on the safety of our curlers and Elk members and cancelled the Wisconsin Elks Curling Bonspiel that was to be held in 2020.

The 2021 Wisconsin Elks Curling Bonspiel will be held in Rice Lake the weekend of October 29, 30 and 31, 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the following:

Carolyn Mickelson, Rice Lake #1441, [carolmick@yahoo.com](mailto:carolmick@yahoo.com), Jake Roberts, Marshfield #665, [roberts,jacob.c@gmail.com](mailto:roberts,jacob.c@gmail.com), Mike Swanson, Wisconsin Rapids #693, Jack Konopaky, Stevens Point #641 or Randy Buchkowski, Wausau #248.

Wisconsin Elks Curling Association Board of Directors.



**WISCONSIN** *Elks* **ASSOCIATION**  
*a fraternal organization*



Ken Johnson, Secretary • Office: 715-355-0758 • Email: [elksbugle@aol.com](mailto:elksbugle@aol.com) 1602  
FootHill Avenue, Schofield, WI 54476

**BUDGET YEAR**  
**ACCOUNT #**  
**LAST YEAR BUDGET:**  
**LAST YEAR SPENT:**

**(TO BE FILLED IN BY STATE SEC'Y)**

COMMITTEE NAME:

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

BUDGET REQUEST:

BUDGET YEAR:

**DUE BY APRIL 1**

Please explain in detail on the page how the requested funds will be used. Miscellaneous should not exceed 5% of your request. When the amount has been approved by the Wisconsin Elks Association Board of Directors and the budget passed, the items listed are approved for expenditures. If expenses occur that are not listed, ***prior authorization* MUST COME FROM** the Wisconsin Elks Association Board of Directors. Please use additional pages as needed for the list.

**NOTE:** All requests for remaining funds for the current year must be submitted to me by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. **After March 1<sup>st</sup>, the accounts are closed.**

This form is available on the web site ([wielks.com](http://wielks.com)) under Publications/Forms. Please fill it out and e-mail it to me at [elksbugle@aol.com](mailto:elksbugle@aol.com) (***preferred method***) or mail to Ken Johnson, State Secretary, WEA, 1602 FootHill Avenue, Schofield, WI **by April 1<sup>st</sup>**. **Every committee must have a form on file.**

# THE BUGLE

## COPY DEADLINES

FALL CONFERENCE  
August 1

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
December 1

CONVENTION ISSUE  
March 1

SUMMER ISSUE  
June 1

*Mail all news articles and photos to Editor Ken Johnson, 1602 Foothill Ave., Schofield, WI 54476. Photos will not be returned unless requested.* Use coupon printed at right to make changes in address, lodge or telephone number. Your cooperation will help us keep our address list current and save the Association address correction fees made by the Postal Service.



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