Best of the Best earn Getty Powell Award

On April 23 seventy-two of America’s best free throw shooters, ages 8-13, converged in Springfield, MA, the home of basketball, with the dream of becoming a national “Hoop Shoot” champion and having his or her name secured on the Elks Plaque in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. After nearly three hours of shooting 155 free throws, the dream came true for six youngsters. Then it was time to determine the best of the best by selecting one male and one female shooter who would be the recipients of the coveted Getty Powell Award. This prestigious award was named after Gerald Powell who implemented the “Hoop Shoot” program on a national level and served with distinction as its first national director.

The best female shooter of the day was easily determined as 10-year-old Karlie Samuelson, an honor student at Arovista Elementary School in Brea, CA, calmly sank 25 free throws out of 25 attempts to claim her first national “Hoop Shoot” title. She registered the only perfect score of the day, earning her the Emile Brady Trophy for having done so, as well as the Getty Powell Award. This extremely talented young lady, in her third year of competition, placed second in the California State contest in 2004 and third in the National Finals in 2005. She gets lots of practice at home with her sister Bonnie who is a two-time national “Hoop Shoot” champion.

Selecting the best male shooter of the day was a little more difficult as there was a three-way tie between the champions of each age division. Each made 23 of 25 attempts prompting a shoot-off in which 9-year-old Nicholas Fortenberry emerged victorious by shooting a perfect score. Nicholas, another exceptional athlete and honor student at Warren Road Elementary School in Augusta, GA is active in sports as well as in his church. Winning is not new to this young man, as he also played on a championship recreational team. His dream is to become a famous basketball player. With his outstanding achievements in the “Hoop Shoot” program, he is off to a great start.

Sponsoring Lodges for these exceptional young student athletes are Fullerton, CA Elks #1993 and Augusta, GA Elks #205. Each lodge will receive a plaque honoring the accomplishments of these two national champions.

Exalted Ruler’s Challenge Update from Elks National Foundation

Four people answered Marshall Paulson’s ER challenge, donating a total of $2,250 to the Elks National Foundation. They were James J. Dehen, Jr of Brainerd, MN #615, Rochelle L. Peterson of Central City, CO #557, Richard E. Jacobs of Seminole, FL #2519, and Larry Kibbee of Russell, KS #1715.

Thanks to them and to everyone else who helped make this convention such a success for the Foundation. The list includes, but is not limited to, PGER Roger True, Pat Heller-Jackson, the guest at Sleuth’s Mystery Dinner Theater, Father Wald’s mass attendees, the belly floppers, the fountain faeries, and everyone who lost a credential, mispronounced a word, or was otherwise fined. We couldn’t do what we do without you.
Top Female Most Valuable Student—$60,000 scholarship winner
Tracy L. Meng, Cuyahoga Falls-Akron-Barberton, Ohio, Lodge No. 1923

Armed with 1,200 shoes, Tracy Meng led anti-tobacco youth advocates as they climbed Capitol Hill. On that summer day, they created a temporary memorial with shoes representing the 1,200 Americans who die every day from tobacco use. Tracy, the top-female 2006 Most Valuable Student scholarship winner and student council president, spent her entire high school career fighting tobacco. While other students attended pep rallies, she spoke at symposiums. When other students griped to their principals, Tracy complained to her senator.

“It’s inspiring to become involved,” says Tracy, from Copley, Ohio. “There are many different ways to make a difference on the public policy side of things.”

Tracy joined the Asian American Youth Against Tobacco in ninth grade to make friends and volunteer rather than to change the world. But, after learning about how tobacco companies target youth and minorities, and how little the government was doing to regulate tobacco, she took action. Since then, through her work at Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and Ignite, a youth-led organization focusing on holding politicians accountable, she’s conducted letter-writing campaigns, lobbied in front of Congress, and organized street activism.

Convincing her grandfather, a life-long smoker, to quit, has been Tracy’s biggest victory in the war against tobacco. Her advocacy has also spread to her birth country, China, where one in three of all cigarettes in the world are smoked. Street vendors sell cigarettes to children and citizens lack awareness of the health effects of smoking. Knowing these circumstances, Tracy met with students from a high school in her hometown of Anshan, about 500 miles north of Beijing.

“The students felt powerless, like ‘what can we do about it,’” says Tracy. “But hearing about what I had accomplished empowered them to do something.”

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids honored Tracy with a $2,000 grant for receiving the Youth Advocate of the Year Award. Tracy will give the funds to the high school in China where the students started their own tobacco prevention projects. Tracy keeps connected with the students online and serves as their mentor by reminding them, as her parents did for her, of their ability to make a difference.

“My parents taught me to embrace America’s freedoms and opportunities, including education,” says Tracy whose parents grew up during China’s Cultural Revolution era. “Education is crucial to be open-minded and to not succumb to oppression.”

Tracy will attend Harvard in the fall to study humanities, public policy, international relations or any other topic she’s inspired to explore. After visiting Cambridge in April, Tracy knew it would become her home, and she instantly bonded with the students. She looks forward to learning inside and outside of the classroom; meeting students with similar interests but diverse backgrounds; and building long-lasting friendships. Receiving the Most Valuable Student scholarship solidified Tracy’s decision to attend her dream school.

“My parents want what’s best for me and what will give me the most opportunities,” says Tracy. “Before receiving the scholarship, I worried my parents would struggle financially. Now, I’m relieved to help my parents out.”

While Tracy rode beside her mother in the car doing errands, her cell phone rang with news she had won the top-MVS award. Frightened her mother would get into a car accident from the excitement, Tracy hesitated to tell her mom the news. After the car pulled into the Sam’s Club parking lot, they leaped out and starting jumping up and down.

“It was absolutely indescribable—I was speechless,” says Tracy. “I’m so grateful not only for the financial support, but for the honor the Elks have given me.”
Top Male Most Valuable Student—$60,000 scholarship winner

Robert T. Ryan, Mesa-Buckhorn, Arizona, Lodge No. 2656

One afternoon, Robert Ryan’s parents came home to find their living room, family room, dining room, and garage brimming with boxes. The cardboard obstacle course sprinkled with draperies, cans of food, clothing and toys, was the product of a family vacation months earlier. While driving through Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, the family paused to read a weathered sign for La Casa Esperanza Orphanage. Robert, the 2006 top-male Most Valuable Student Scholarship winner from Mesa, Ariz., had always dreamed of launching a service project. With this in mind, the family drove six miles up a winding dirt road. At the end of the road they found an orphanage housing 80 children with few toys, no carpet or window coverings, some sheet-less beds, and poor air conditioning.

“It was inspiring to see how happy the children were with what they had,” says Robert. “They didn’t realize that they had little.”

After returning home, Robert mobilized his neighborhood by creating the “Fill a Bag with Hope” program. Robert and his parents stapled flyers explaining the orphanage’s needs to grocery bags and placed the bags on neighbors’ steps. On the first round, they picked up 50 stuffed bags. For his second request, Robert set out to collect 50 industrial-sized cans of staple foods, so that the kids could share the same meals. Before he knew it, Robert was on his first of many trips to Mexico. Two trucks delivered 500 gigantic cans of food, two couches, and enough toys to supply Christmas gifts to all the orphans.

“For me, philanthropy has always been fun,” says Robert, whose charitable deeds could fill a resume. “It’s great to see the appreciation from people and the response from the community.”

Now the three-year project has taken a turn Robert never expected. The families in his community have made La Casa Esperanza a regular rest stop on their way to their Mexico vacation destination. This additional outreach gives Robert peace of mind as he heads to Stanford University in the fall.

“People don’t realize that charitable opportunities are out there, but once they do, they want to help,” says Robert. “It’s important to make the need known. I think I got more out of the whole experience than the children at the orphanage did.”

Worrying about the legacy of his philanthropic project presents Robert’s only concern about heading to college. He’s excited to become a “small fish in a really big pond.” Planning to major in public policy and economics, Robert, who ranked first in his high school class of 854 students, looks forward to studying with some of the best students, faculty and facilities in the country. And, after winning the Most Valuable Student award, Robert doesn’t have to worry about financing his education.

“The scholarship made my decision,” says Robert whose principal called his cell phone during first period to break the news. “I couldn’t believe it. My ears are still ringing from my parents screaming after hearing I’d won. I didn’t think Harvard or Stanford would be a possibility, but the award made all the difference.”

Robert’s college plans include studying abroad in South America to further hone his Spanish language skills. While most high school students reserve language lessons for the classroom, he has already studied for three weeks in Mexico. While there, Robert lived with a host family and immersed himself in the rich culture.

“Our host mother, Guadalupe, took us in as if we were her own sons,” says Robert, who went with a friend. “Families are so important to the Mexican culture. I learned more in those few weeks than I learned in my five years of Spanish classes combined.”

This summer, Robert will intern for his congressman and join his older brother at Brigham Young University to take summer courses and get a head start on college. Just like three years ago in Mexico, Robert heads down another unfamiliar road as he starts freshman year at Stanford. While he’s not eager to predict what waits for him at the end, Robert hopes to have a career in some aspect of consulting. No matter what career path he chooses, if he can fill a home with generous gifts for children in need, Robert’s bound to fill his future with success.
Appointed Assistants for 2006 Grand Lodge Convention

ASSISTANT GRAND TILERS
Charles Campbell..........Carbondale, IL Lodge No. 1243
David S. Gorghis..........Knoxville, TN Lodge No. 160
Lorrey Michela..........Jackson, MI Lodge No. 113
Jerry R. Parker..........Coeur d’Alene, ID Lodge No. 1254
Denly J. Thompson.........Hastings, NE Lodge No. 159
Edward M. Willis.........Dover, DE Lodge No. 1903

ASSISTANT GRAND ESQUIRES
Louis J. Connolly........Tewksbury-Wilmington, MA Lodge No. 2070
Frank B. Cowell.........Tri-Cities, WA Lodge No. 2755
Richard F. Gathen........Lake Hopatcong, NJ Lodge No. 2109
Roger Haut...............Jamestown, ND Lodge No. 995
Terry Hubbart, Sr..........Manitowac, WI Lodge No. 687
Kevin Ward...............Rawlins, WY Lodge No. 609

CLERKS OF ELECTION
Rodney D. Bellman..........Hillsdale, MI Lodge No. 1575
Ashley Buckwell.........Calabash, NC Lodge No. 2679
Craig Caslavka..........Waterloo, IA Lodge No. 290
Andrew J. Constantine....Bangor, ME Lodge No. 244
Robert Hansen..........New Britain, CT Lodge No. 957
James F. Wright..........Eureka Springs, AR Lodge No. 1042

ASSISTANT GRAND INNER GUARDS
Barbara Bergener..........Roswell, NM Lodge No. 969
William C. Borchert......Greenville, SC Lodge No. 858
David Fenster..........Bennington, VT Lodge No. 567
Tommy M. Harrell.........Middleboro, KY Lodge No. 119
Walter Kettelle, Jr..........South Kingstown, RI Lodge No. 1899
Carroll Schleeter.........Columbia, MO Lodge No. 594
James L. Van Osdel.........Yankton, SD Lodge No. 994

INSPECTORS OF ELECTION
Gar L. Amundson........Wolfgang, MT Lodge No. 1764
Roy De Los Santos, Jr.....Brownsville, TX Lodge No. 1032
Henry A. Deese..........Newport News, VA Lodge No. 315
Piper Holton........Hotchkiss, CO Lodge No. 1807
Mike Luhr...............Petersburg, AK Lodge No. 1615
Pat Pittman........Stillwater, OK Lodge No. 1859
Michael C. Stanley........Van Wert, OH Lodge No. 1197

ASSISTANT CLERKS OF ELECTION
John C. Bailes........Beckley, WV Lodge No. 1542
Frank Collins........Keene, NH Lodge No. 927
Jane Gaddis........Myrtle Creek, OR Lodge No. 1943
Jesse Hartle........New Orleans, LA Lodge No. 30
Ron Larson........Newton, KS Lodge No. 706
Christopher Maddock......Lyons, NY Lodge No. 869
Kevin Riegelman........Red Wing, MN Lodge No. 845
Gary T. Schenk..........West Shore, PA Lodge No. 2257

Youngest G.L. attendee?
Exalted Ruler, David L. Delk, and wife Betsy of Wheeling, WV #28 are attending their first Grand Lodge Convention. When they attended the Sunday night session, they brought their 10-month-old daughter, Merrit, to the Opening Session.

ARIZONA ELKS MAJOR PROJECTS

Children’s Research Center

President: Bob Phillips
“Participation”
The Key to Elkind
Children’s Laughter Is What We’re After

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- Connection to our Website server for automatic timely updates, fixes and downloads
- Minutes of Lodge Meetings
- Events/Meeting & RV parking
- Elks National Foundation posting and reports
- Automatic CASS Mail Certification via Internet
- All Grand Lodge Reports
- Ability to Send Reports via Internet
- Ability to Send Lodge Bulletins via Internet
- Ability to Send Dues Statements via Internet
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Visit www.yumasoftware.com to learn more about this amazing software and why hundreds of Lodge Secretaries have made it their tool of choice.
Arizona Elk head goes to Connecticut
Jeanne Bonaldo, Woodbridge, CT was the lucky winner of the Elk head raffled at the Arizona Elks Major Projects booth. Congratulations, Jeanne!

Arizona Major Project reaches $4 billion
A donation of $125,000 from Arizona Elks Major Projects (AEMP) in October will reach the $4,000,000 mark in support of the Children’s Research Center (CRC) in Tucson. With these funds, AEMP has supported the Arizona Elks Laboratories for Transplantation Research, the Arizona Elks Endowed Chair in Neonatology; the Arizona Elks Clinic for Children and Young Adults; the Marvin Lewis Training Center; and the Physician Scientists, to name a few accomplishments. AEMP motto is “Children’s Laughter is What We’re After!”
Video for Flag Day program available

Pierre, SD #1953 has a video available for reproduction. This video is the recognized Elks Flag Day program. It was shot at the Flaming Fountain area located at the Capitol grounds. The area used is designated in memory of veterans who served during WWI, WWII, and Korea. In September a dedication to the Vietnam Vets will be held. Bronze life-sized figures represent those who served our country, and granite stones inscribed with the names of South Dakota soldiers who gave their lives.

Our video contains the Flag Day program, a presentation to a 4th grade class by a new U. S. citizen, the folding of the flag, an explanation of what the 13 folds represent, the playing of taps, and closes with a pan of the American flag. The cost is $5 for S/H. Contact Dwight or Lorie Pogany, Pierre Elks Lodge 1953, PO Box 292, Pierre, SD 57501-0292. Call 605-224-8679 or e-mail dpogany2@pie.midco.net.

At the Hoop Shoot booth Garland V. Smith, Exalted Ruler of Yuma, AZ #476 tries his hand at making freethrows.

It is the veteran, not the preacher,
Who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the veteran, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the veteran, not the poet,
Who has given us the freedom of speech.

It is the veteran, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to assemble.

It is the veteran, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the veteran, not the politician,
Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the veteran,
Who salutes the flag.

It is the veteran,
Who serves under the flag.
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</table>

**AND SHE SAID YES!**

Pictured above with GER James Grillo and Lucia are Matt Helmer Exalted Ruler, Greencastle, Indiana #1077 and his new fiancée Joyce West.

At the combined dinner of the Indiana and Kentucky State Associations, Matt came to the microphone to address the attendees and after a few words called the beautiful Joyce to join him in front of those assembled. At that point, to her utter amazement, he fell to one knee and proposed. It was a total surprise, but she said “yes.” Congratulations to Matt and Joyce from all of Elkdom.

**Elks National Foundation will distribute $14 million in 2006-07**

The ENF will distribute $3.162 million in scholarships through the Most Valuable Student Scholarship Contest, Legacy Awards, for children and grandchildren of Elks, Emergency Educational Grant program, for children of deceased or totally disabled Elks and the Eagle Scout and Gold Award Scholarships.

The ENF has allocated $787,550 to uphold the Elks pledge that, “so long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.”

The Elks National Hoop Shoot Free-throw Program will receive $683,810 to fund the contest and $598,000 for the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

The Foundation allocated $525,000 for the Community Investments Program to improve the quality life in communities where Elks live and work. To support the efforts of the state Elks Associations, including state major projects, the Foundation will distribute $5.53 million in state grants.

To view a complete list of 2006-07 appropriations, visit www.elks.org/enf/ourgrants.cfm.
Remembering a fallen brother

On Monday evening, June 26, members of the Clinton, Missouri, Elks Lodge #1034 had gathered for dinner prior to the regular bi-monthly lodge meeting in which initiation was to be held. Exalter Ruler Tony Komer was alone on the third floor of the three-story building preparing his lines for the meeting. At about 7:30 p.m., the second floor suddenly gave way and the building collapsed, trapping 10 people inside the rubble. While most escaped with just minor injuries, the exalted ruler wasn’t as fortunate. The 32-year-old Komer was fatally injured.

The Des Moines Elks Lodge was holding its meeting at the same time as the building collapsed and upon hearing the tragic news, quickly arranged a special memorial service for June 28. They also decided to accept donations for the Komer family. Fortunately, the service coincided with the Wednesday Night meal and a nice crowd turned out.

With nearly 100 members and guests in attendance, a short, but solemn service was held at 7 p.m. While we did not personally know Tony Komer, we felt we had to do our part to remember our fallen brother. He was an Elk and Elks are “never forgotten, never forsaken.”

A reporter from a local TV station covered the service and it was the top story on the station’s 10 p.m. newscast that evening and the following morning. A news release announcing the service was sent out the night before and it led to extensive coverage by the other 2 TV networks in the area.

We are pleased to report that we raised $300 for the Komer family. Thank you to those who donated, who helped plan and conduct the service, and to all of you who took the time to attend. We did not hold the service for the publicity, but the news coverage provided an excellent example of what the Elks are all about, and for that we can all be proud!
Flag Day Tribute now includes POW’s, MIA’s

Amendments to the Flag Day Ceremony were approved by delegates to the Grand Lodge Sessions in Minneapolis in 2004 and in Reno in 2005. These changes have been included in the Rituals of Special Services (Code 511601) now available from the Grand Secretary. But to help Lodges which may still be using older editions in conducting the Flag Day Ceremony, we are providing you with this “courtesy” notice.

A flag honoring Prisoners of War and soldiers still Missing in Action will officially become part of Flag Day ceremonies for the first time in June at Elks Lodges nationwide.

A POW-MIA Flag is being included in the traditional procession of flags taking place during the Flag Day Ritual. That flag will be introduced, along with the 50-star Flag.

Exalted Rulers now state during the ritual: “On July 4, 1959, a star was added for Alaska, our first non-connected state and a year later, Hawaii, our island state added a 50th star.”

Added to the statement are the words: “It is accompanied by the POW-MIA Flag to recognize the plight and demise of a special group of our Armed Services, those who were Prisoners of War and still remain Missing in Action.”

The addition of the POW-MIA Flag is called for on Page 33 of the Rituals of Special Services Manual, which was updated in 2005. That Special Services Manual is available at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA office in Chicago.

The POW-MIA Flag also will be available at the Chicago office, beginning in May. The white-on-black flag bears the silhouette of a POW, encircled with the letters POW-MIA on the top and the words, “You Are Not Forgotten,” on the bottom.

The newly updated Special Services Manual contains two other changes, also in connection with the Flag Day Ritual.

At the bottom of Page 31, under the “The Flag: It’s History” subhead, referenced to the landing of the pilgrims in 1620 was replaced with reference to the founding of Jamestown. The sentence now states: “From the founding of Jamestown in Virginia in 1607 until 1775, the Flag of England was the Flag of the Peoples of America.”

The manual also had been updated in 2004 in observance of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, and the war against terrorism. Page 35 now contains the passage: “And who among us will ever forget the sight of firefighters raising our Flag over the ruins of the World Trade Center, the military personnel draping our Flag on the side of the Pentagon, or the citizens of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, placing our Flag near the site where brave Americans died fighting the hijackers of Flight No. 93? No other symbol could have offered such comfort, as we still endure the horrors of that day.

“Today, American Armored Forces carry our Flag in the villages of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanisan and the jungles of the Philippines and wherever terrorism may reside. Their struggle against the sponsors of terrorism is the hardest battle yet, and this threat to our Nation, and to our way of life, is certainly as great a challenge that our Flag has ever seen.

“The resurgence of patriotism since September 11, 2001, has rekindled respect for our Flag. Today, we see the Star Spangled Banner wherever we turn, on homes, businesses, automobiles and billboards. Such displays stimulate our love for our Nation and for what it stands; they remind us of the sacrifices being made by the men and women of our Armed Forces around the world; and they are a tribute to the heroes of the Police and Fire Departments the Nation over.”

Dan Lowe  Jan Lowe
Name Badges by Jan
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Care—  Share

Elks  Elks
The Grand Lodge CONVENTION NEWS was prepared by Carl and Susan Jacob, editors, and a host of Florida Elks volunteer proofreaders. Stories were gathered and edited by PR committeemen and their wives: Lou & Judy Connolly, Bob & Emma Stevens, Verne & Jane Jarvela, Rod Ralston, John & Ann Boyd, Denny & Helen Garrels, Richard & Elaine Goldner, and Lowell Hootman, chairman.

Special thanks also go to Ann Boyd of North Carolina, Cathy Engelking of Minnesota, Chuck Buechman of Kansas, Shelly Berger and Denise May of Iowa, and Elaine Nix of Florida.

PGER Gerald L. Coates honored National Veterans Service Commission volunteers Jack and Bet Strickland of Kinston, NC #740 for their work in raising funds for a wounded Marine who was hospitalized in their area. Jack is Secretary and Bet is Exalted Ruler. They went the proverbial mile in serving our nation’s veterans.

Donate to ENF with debit
What starts with one act of generosity and over the course of a year multiplies? A recurring gift to the Elks National Foundation!

If you want the satisfaction that you are helping students, families and veterans every month, consider joining the Recurring Gift Club.

Through the ENF’s Recurring Club, you allow us to automatically debit your bank account or charge a credit card on a monthly basis. There are no checks to write or coupons to mail. It’s safe, reliable and allows us to spend less time on administration and more time on our mission.

Say goodbye to checks, stamps and reminders, and hello to pain-free pledging. Stop by the ENF booth for a sign-up sheet, or visit http://www.elks.org/enf/RecurringClub.cfm. Donors who join our Recurring Gift Club have their name listed on our website and receive a special gift.

Contact us at enf@elks.org or 773/755-4728 for additional information. Reduce the number of things on your “to-do” list, and let the ENF do the work for you by signing up for a recurring gift today!
Lawrence twins get double the education with ENF grant

The Lawrence twins don’t read guidebooks or seek expert advice to navigate life. The ENF Emergency Educational Grant recipients, Margaret (Maggie) and Robert (Ben), are fraternal twins who share identical philosophies: They want to learn from their personal experiences. With support from the Elks, the Lawrence kids don’t have to take anyone’s word for it.

“I’m all about firsthand experiences,” says Ben. “You learn a lot in school, but life’s really about going out and doing it.”

Talented in art with a penchant for nature, Ben chose to study Landscape Architecture at North Carolina State University. To help him better understand the materials he’ll use in his profession, Ben spends summers working various jobs including masonry, working at a saw mill and a tool and die shop. He’s also found time to complete internships with landscape architecture firms.

“What I’m studying is my hobby, and thanks to the Elks, I’m able to focus more on school,” says Ben of his dream to work for an urban design firm. “I’ve learned that if you do something you’re good at and you love, you’ll be happy.”

Great Minds Think Alike

Also choosing an environmentally-focused career path, Maggie graduated in May with a degree in Geography from East Carolina University. She chose the major because she likes putting the world in perspective and it inspires her to think globally and act locally. While in school, she went to Australia for four months to study Sustainable Ecology at Victoria University. With only a backpack, a tent, a change of clothes and a sleeping bag, Maggie set out to experience the Outback’s striking, diverse culture and environment. She traveled throughout the country while working on organic farms and absorbed herself in the culture by making friends with locals and attending unique events such as a folk music festival.

“What you read can’t compare to the actual experience,” says Maggie. “I learned so much while in Australia—much more than any book could tell me. The most important thing I learned was to stay open to new ideas and jump at any adventure that comes your way.”

Words of Wisdom

Maggie and Ben’s parents told them repeatedly that they could become anyone they wanted and that college was a great start to their future. Their father, John Lawrence of Southern Pines, N.C. Lodge, died of cancer when they were 10 years old, but his encouragement endured. When it came time for college, the twins applied for the Emergency Educational Grant, which provides educational financial assistance to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks. The two oldest Lawrence siblings, Emily and Elizabeth, also received grants.

“The grants have helped us finish our undergraduate degrees in four years,” says Maggie, who notes the grants also helped Emily afford to study abroad in Prague, and Elizabeth to complete a double major. “We will all spend our lives doing what the Elks stand for—giving to others and taking care of what we’ve been given.”

Growing up, the Lawrences lived less than a mile from the Southern Pines Elks Lodge. Their grandfather helped build the Lodge pool, and Maggie followed in her five uncles’ footsteps when she worked as a lifeguard there. She also assisted with a special education swim program, which allowed the students new experiences in the water. Ben reminisces about playing golf at the Lodge and hanging out at the pool almost every sunny summer day.

“The Elks are about community,” says Ben. “This is something we want to create as landscape architects—a sanctuary to interact with your neighbors.”

Striking Resemblance

For fraternal twins, Maggie and Ben are more identical than different. They’re both passionate about what they’re doing and strive to understand the environment. They’d rather spend spring break hiking in the woods than partying in Cancun, and they’re both grateful for what they’ve received and are determined to give back.

“I love being a twin,” says Maggie. “We’ve been down similar paths in life, so we can relate to each other, and I can go to Ben for anything and he has no choice in the matter. He has to be there. It comes with being a twin.”
Delegates from Tennessee, Missouri, and Iowa gather to celebrate the nomination of GER-elect Arthur H. “Jack” Frost III.

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At every national convention the pin traders gather. Here are Penny Burns of Illinois, Thomas Hogan, Jerry and Carol McCorkle from Michigan.

PDD Tracie Hart of Memphis, and ER Terry Ellis of Lawrenceburg, TN, took part in the celebration.

We couldn’t make it to this year’s Grand Lodge convention but you can meet us on-line from any computer with Internet Access. Our next on-line meeting will be on July 20th. For more information please call Anthony Osuna at 800-359-9315 or visit our web site @ www.elms.us

It is said that with great power comes great responsibility!

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Some of the Topics covered:

• Email Broadcasting: As Postage cost is increasing each year, it makes sense to use your computer to send your monthly bulletin and weekly announcements. This tool will improve member retention. Members will be reminded about the various events.
• Grand Lodge Reports with Membership Reconciliation: see how you can create these forms and print them on your laser/inkjet printer or even e-mail them with ease of use.
• Membership Cards: All the details about printing your own cards. Regular Members, Life Members, and Widows cards
• Queries and Custom Reports: How to drill down and search your membership records
• Year-End Billing, Statements, and Payment Processing
• Bank Deposit Report and General Ledger Posting

“We looked at several Elks program last year and chose ELMS because it had more benefits to offer our lodge!” Dale Inman, Redding Elks Lodge #1073, Redding CA

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The 11 O’Clock Toast
created and delivered by Dr. C. H. Harvey of Erie, PA #67 at a Lodge banquet held 9/8/1896

Here! Stop that song, look at the clock, Although it’s to our liking; The joke must wait, ease up the talk, Eleven O’Clock is striking; Fill glasses for that old-time toast, We hold above all others, The one we love to honor most, “Here’s to our absent brothers”

Good fellows all, where are you now? Who came with cheery greeting, In other days, and wondered how, Men thought that life was fleeting; There’s Charlie, brightest of them all, His face shines in the claret, He wore a smile to conquer all, As none but he could wear it.

Dear boy! His shadow in the glass, Shines bright and fair and cheery; I almost hear the old jest pass, “Let’s drink and all be merry,” And Jack who died a year ago, When life was in its summer; I see him in the shadows now, A new and loving comer.

Dear boys! I know not where you are, Nor do I care to ponder, Upon your home in that far land, Across the fairy yonder; But yet I know where’er you are, You’d hurry out of heaven, To drink this toast with those you love, When the clock points to eleven.

So we who gather ‘round the board, Remember all the others; Drink deep the toast, without a word, “Here’s to the absent brothers”

The Eleventh Hour
by Mrs. H. A. Morton
Santa Monica, written 10/31/1913 and dedicated to Santa Monica Lodge # 906 reprinted from The Pacific Coast Elk

Eleven has struck on the Eastern coast, The Elks have given their standing toast,

“To our absent Brothers,” where’er they be. Whether on land or on the sea.

“To our absent Brothers,” from East to West. Good wishes we send our very best.

The Lodge in the mountains and on the plain. At eleven takes up this glad refrain:

“To our absent Brothers,” the toast peals forth From the sunny South, to the frozen North.

Though many in foreign lands may roam. They know at that hour they are thought of at home.

The toast even reaches the other shore. Where they live who meet with us no more.

Like an echo, it comes back loud and clear “To our absent Brothers,” ’till we meet here.

So with loving thought, and helping hand, The work goes on o’er all our land.

And only the Ruler Supreme can know The good Elks do wherever they go.

Eleven strikes on the Western coast. The Elks are giving their standing toast.

“To our absent Brothers,” from West to East. Including the greatest unto the least,

For at this Elks’ hour we all agree, “To our absent Brothers,” BPOE
GRAND LODGE SESSION – 2006
THURSDAY – July 13th
SPOUSES AND GUESTS INVITED

7:55 Call to Order ........................................................ Louis J. Grillo, GER
Invocation ...................................................................... Rev. Father Jeffrey Wald, Grand Chaplain
7:58 Pledge of Allegiance ................................................................. All
8:00 Welcome ................................................................ Louis J. Grillo, GER
8:05 Youth Awards
“Hoop Shoot” Program ......................................................... Cam Cronk, National Director
“Hoop Shoot” Winners
8:35 ENF .................................................................. Lester C. Hess, Jr., PGER, Chairman of ENF Trustees
Scholarship Awards
9:15 Drug Awareness .............................................................. Kent D. Gade, National Director
9:30 GUEST SPEAKER .............................................................. Cliff Sage
9:50 Announcements .............................................................. James A. Coggins, Grand Esquire
9:55 Installation of 2006-2007 Grand Lodge Officers ............ Amos A. McCallum, PGER
10:10 Grand Exalted Ruler Remarks ........................................... Arthur H. Frost, III, GER
10:13 Installation of DDGERs ...................................................... Arthur H. Frost, III, GER
10:18 Special Resolution .......................................................... Donald D. Dapelio, PGER
10:23 Presentation ................................................................. Jack M. Jensen, Grand Secretary
10:25 Special Presentation ....................................................... Minnesota “Ring”, gifts from State Ass’n
10:30 Appointments ................................................................. Arthur H. Frost, III, GER
10:40 Presentation of Grand Lodge Officers &
Committee Chairmen ......................................................... Arthur H. Frost, III, GER
10:45 Presentation of Jewels to outgoing GL Officers ............. Louis J. Grillo, PGER
10:50 Announcements .............................................................. G. Stephen Clarke, Grand Esquire
10:55 Further Business ............................................................ Jack M. Jensen, Grand Secretary
11:00 Closing Ceremony .......................................................... Grand Lodge Officers
11:05 Benediction ................................................................ Rev. Father Jeffrey L. Wald, Grand Chaplain
11:10 Grand Lodge Closed

Meet Arthur H. “Jack” Frost III
Grand Exalted Ruler-elect Arthur H. “Jack”
Frost III hails from Oak Ridge, TN Lodge #1684. He
became a member of our Order in 1977 and will serve
as our National President in 2006-2007.

Jack and his wife Sharon have two daughters,
Michelle and Jennifer, and one grandson, Johnny. Jack
is an engineer who has worked for NASA, Martin Marietta
Corporation, Science Applications International
Corporation, and Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC.