



ALBERTA ELKS ASSOCIATION

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TO: All Alberta Elks Association Lodges

DATE: October 9, 2018

PLEASE READ IN OPEN LODGE

I hope to keep members informed with messages such as this, every two months or as needed to inform all members of the Alberta Elks Association of the work of your Executive.

In August, your Executive started off with a Strategic Planning session in Nisku. We wanted to see how we could lead this great group into the future and make it a viable and attractive organization that others would want to become a part of. We spent our time on the Association's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The discussions were as varied and diversified as the members present. They expressed how they felt the new plans would affect our image and goals. We followed this up with a September meeting in Red Deer which included the District Deputies to keep them informed of our findings.

In my travels to eight Lodges to date, I find they are busy raising funds for various causes and using different methods to achieve these goals.

I also find the same obstacles in every Lodge - low attendance and no way to gain members. This is an ongoing dilemma. Yes, other Lodges and the Provincial and National Associations can give advice and aid. But, it is up to each Lodge to identify the problems in their own Lodge and to apply solutions to their own communities. What works in one town may be out of place in another.

It is good to see that some Lodges that were on the verge of folding are up and running smoothly. In some cases, officers had to be removed in order to keep harmony in the Lodge. I am happy with the results. To all Lodges in Alberta, do what is necessary to keep your doors open and your members coming and being active.

Yours fraternally,

Vic Schmidt
Provincial President, 2018-2019