



ALBERTA ELKS ASSOCIATION

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February 14, 2019

TO: All Lodges and District Deputies

Cc: Alberta Elks Association Executive

RE: Ron Potter's Report

PLEASE READ IN OPEN LODGE

I was somewhat taken aback by Ron's message. I feel the members who ask these questions do not have any interest in our Order or Association. Lodge meetings to them are socials or a means of entertainment. If they wanted to know what our objectives are, they would have found out about the Order long before a Grand Exalted Ruler or President shows up at their meeting.

Yes - the District Deputies may be derelict in putting out the message the Association wants conveyed to the members but this will be reflected in their reports back to the Association. Are they picking up what we are putting down? By the time one achieves the position of District Deputy, one should have been exposed to practically all situations of Elkdom, good or bad, and should have some knowledge of how to embrace the successes and remedy the problems of the Lodges that have those. They will not go away if you ignore them. Like Ron said – one has many avenues of knowledge to solve practically every situation that should befall a Lodge. Use them and pass the results onto fellow Lodges and members.

Many Lodges are turning in their Charters not because of lack of membership but due to the members who just don't care. One sees Lodges bleeding members and people stand back and say "WHAT CAN I DO"? There are a million dollars-worth of answers if one just takes the time to pursue them.

District meetings and Provincial Conferences are coming soon. Let us fill those meeting places with as many members as we can so they will learn what we do and what we are about.

One District has asked the Provincial Membership Director to be present at their District Meeting to give a presentation on how to attract and keep members. Has your District Deputy thought of this line of information? Our District Meetings should have no less than 30 members in attendance so the whole District is informed of the changes that have happened in our Order and the direction the leaders want to take the Lodges in.

Maybe my health issues did not allow me to be the leader I hoped to be (one Past Provincial President told me this was the worst Executive we have ever had). I am letting that remark become a stepping stone to improve our Association and move upward.

Every President wants to leave the Association in a better place than they found it. Remember - as Dr Phil said – “You can't fall off the floor.”

I ask each and every Executive member to put a little extra time into your efforts so we can have a little better Association this year than we did a year ago. We (the members of the Association) will all benefit from that little extra effort. To the Executives of all aspects of our Association - Association Executive, District Deputies and Exalted Rulers - be well prepared to discharge your duties so we don't get blindsided by un-informed members or Grand Lodge officers again.

See you at your District Meetings and at our Provincial Conference in Drayton Valley.

Yours fraternally,

Vic Schmidt
Alberta Elks Association President 2018-2019