

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Part of the Association's Strategic Plan was to develop a means of regular communication to the Lodges. This is YOUR newsletter – a place to share with other Lodges what you are doing!! Contributions from you are encouraged. Drop a note, an article or a photo to elks.secretary@abelks.org. We are looking for a great name for the newsletter – send your suggestions in.

As we don't currently have an email address for each individual member in our Association, may we suggest to the Secretaries that you photocopy this newsletter and pass them out to your members so they can read it at their leisure. This way, informed and you don't it in open Lodge!!

they are all
have to read

ALBERTA ELKS ASSOCIATION

Box 445, Bentley AB T0C 0J0

Phone – 403-748-4922

E-mail – elks.secretary@abelks.org

CONFERENCE – JUNE 6 – 8, 2019

Have you registered for conference yet?? Breton Elks, Royal Purple Elks, Drayton Valley Elks and Royal Purple Elks promise you a great time. Grand Lodge will be presenting a **LEADERSHIP TRAINING** course which will be free to you. You do, of course, have to pay for your conference registration and hotel. This is a great chance to get some training for our future leaders. Cory Blair from Grand Lodge will be the facilitator. Reports from previous attendees have been very positive!! (SEE FURTHER DETAILS IN THIS NEWSLETTER).

WEBSITE - Our membership has so many exciting functions happening and too often we hear of it too late. Why not take the time to send your posters or even just the information with a contact number to the Association Office so that it can be added to the website?

The site was updated at the request of the membership, yet we find very few Lodges submitting information. PLEASE – take the time to forward what is happening in your Lodge.



BIOGRAPHY OF ROBERT J. LARSEN

Grand Exalted Ruler

Robert was a member of the Grande Prairie Elks Lodge No. 285. He first joined the Elks in 1977 in Crossfield. Robert's parents were members of the Elks and Royal Purple in Hardisty. When his parents were working on projects in Hardisty when he was growing up, they brought him along. It was through his parents he became interested in community service and the Elks, and thus when asked if he was interested in joining, the answer was yes.

As a member in Crossfield Lodge, he became Exalted Ruler in 1981-82. That year the Lodge celebrated its 25th anniversary and saw the Lodge gain 23 new members. He served as P.E.R. continuously for 2 years, rewriting the Lodge's Bylaws, and serving on many committees.

Robert served on the Grand Lodge Finance Committee for two terms from 1984-1986 and for the 1985-86 term, was elected as District Deputy. In 1986 he was elected to Tyler in the Provincial Association and progressed to Provincial President for the 1991-92 term.

Robert served 3 – 3 year terms on the Alberta Elks Foundation (3 years as chairman), 7 years on the Provincial Judiciary, and 7 years on the Provincial Forward Planning Committee, as well as 2 terms on the ISTAR board (two years as chairman). In Grande Prairie he served as District Deputy twice (2000-01, 2003-04) for Alberta District No. 11 and was part of the organizing committee for the District meeting in Whitehorse, which saw 3 bus loads of people attend.

Robert spent time with his family, 5 children; Jo-Anna (Dwayne) Camrose, AB; Victoria, Hafford SK; Martin (Jackie) Fairview, AB; Evelyn (Bruce), Rainbow Lake, AB; Baron, Lloydminster, AB and 5 grandchildren. He also enjoyed his high-performance cars, collecting firearms, and the great outdoors including photography and hunting.

*Robert's theme was "**The Future is Now**". This stems from the belief that the Elks have built a strong foundation to continue into the next century with confidence that the principles and ideals of the Elks hold true. We can and will make a difference to those who need the help as we are families, couples, individuals working together for the betterment of the communities that we live in.*

REST IN PEACE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.



Has your Lodge been busy collecting toys for the Association's 1st Annual Toy Drive? How about using this as a Mother's Day activity with a toy as admission?? Remember – the children are the ones who benefit from this small gesture. Pick one up the next time you are at the mall and bring it to Conference!!

FOUNDATION REMINDERS

If your Lodge is considering applying for grants, including Tabs for Tots over \$2,000, don't forget that the applications must be in the Foundation Office no later than May 1st. The mailing address is Box 445, Bentley AB T0C 0J0. Call 403-748-4922 should you have any questions.

Have you ever considered becoming a member of the Board of Trustees of the Alberta Elks Foundation? Elections will be occurring at Conference. Consider putting your name forward – this is an interesting and rewarding committee to be involved with.



WALK FOR CHILDREN

We do these walks for the children. Get your runners out, organize a group, get your pledge sheets completed, and join in. Hosts for this year are:

- North Zone – Host – McLennan Royal Purple Elks – May 4th
- North Central Zone – Host – Breton Royal Purple Elks – May 4th
- South Central Zone – Host – Trenville Royal Purple Elks – May 18th

Need further information?? Go to the website – Elks of Alberta – and look under Events. All contact information is there.

INSPIRING COMMUNITY LEADERS

What is it? And why should you be interested?

How it started. The Elks asked how they could become a better, stronger more effective organization. The answer was to build a strong base of leaders. After a search for a program to help reach this goal the “Leadership is Everyone’s Business” program written by James Kouzes and Barry Posner was selected.

Where to next? - A pilot project was held in Calgary, Alberta. The plan was to hold a day and half session. But what to call the program? After several ideas the goal, to help communities, made the choice easy. The *Inspiring Community Leaders* program was born and the first pilot session was held on April, 2011.

Was it successful? – YES.....a huge success. Here are some of the comments from the participants:

- “These skills will go with me not only as an Elk member but my professional and personal life.”
- “I thought I was prepared and a good Leader. I found out I was an average Leader but now have the tools to be the Leader I want to be.”
- “Awesome, very good for personal development. I would take this class again & again. Would like to see it extended to at least 2 full days.”
- “Leadership starts with me.”

Getting the leaders on board. - A meeting of our national executive and provincial presidents was held and our senior executives were introduced to the Leadership program. We were able to engage a great facilitator: Jack Huntington who has worked with the Business and Leadership Program out of the University of Saskatchewan. On November 3rd & 4th, 2011 the second official *Inspiring Community Leaders* session was held.

And the result? - Rave reviews! The national leaders were “in”. But again, what next? How could we keep this leadership program growing? A motion was made at our national convention to set aside funds to continue our program and it passed unanimously! Another session was held in May 2012, in Kamloops, BC.

Drayton Valley, June 6 – Are you interested?

- After reading about our Inspiring Community Leaders program are you interested?
- Would you like to attend?
- Next FREE session set for Drayton Valley. June 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- If you are interested, send your name to elks.secretary@abelks.org
- **Note - Course costs are covered by Grand Lodge; Conference costs (ie. Registration and hotel are your responsibility)**

Deadline for Submissions May 15, 2019

First Come – First Served

ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS FOR AN ENTHUSIASATIC LODGE

1. Help each Lodge be right – NOT wrong.
2. Look for ways to make things work – NOT for reasons they will not.
3. If in DOUBT, check it out! Do not make negative assumptions about each other.
4. Help each other win and take pride in each other's VICTORIES.
5. Speak positively about each other and about your organization at every opportunity.
6. Maintain a positive mental attitude no matter what the circumstances.
7. Act with initiative and courage as if it all depended on you.
8. Do everything with ENTHUSIASM – it is CONTAGIOUS.
9. Whatever you want – give it away.
10. Do not lose faith – never give up.
11. HAVE FUN!!

Submitted by a very dedicated ELK member.

REMEMBER –

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND IT CAN ONLY BE

SUCCESSFUL IF YOU TAKE THE TIME TO CONTRIBUTE. COMMENTS ARE WELCOME.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIOINS TO: elks.secretary@abelks.org