

ALBERTA ELKS NEWS

Conference Update

As we all know, that at this time when the world has gone into a tailspin from the Virus from hell and many communities are struggling to deal with the Covid 19, now is the time to move forward and do what the ELKS do best which is helping others in need.

In the letter sent out March 16, 2020, it was stated that we the Alberta Elks Association Executive would make a decision on the 2020 Conference by May 1, 2020. With receiving a letter from Grand Lodge stating they were pausing everything until next year, the Provincial Executive held a teleconference on April 15, 2020.

Note: Grand Lodge has postponed Convention until July 2021 to allow for Associations and Lodges to prepare for Convention business. Their Executive will remain in place for this year.

The following decisions were made:

- Alberta Elks Association has **postponed the June 2 - 4, 2020 Provincial Conference in Whitehorse.**
- Conference 2020 is tentatively rescheduled for **October 2 - 3, 2020 dependent on whether or not the Governments have relaxed the travel bans.**
- Conference 2020 will be held in a central location in Alberta in hopes that this will allow as many members as possible to attend without having to travel by Air to Whitehorse. This is with the understanding that the health and safety of our membership is our top

priority and whether the Government lifts restrictions on social gatherings.

- By August 28, 2020, the Provincial Executive will confirm the dates and location of Provincial Conference 2020.

We would like to **THANK all the Members** of the Whitehorse Lodge. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort they have invested in planning the 2020 Conference and it is with deep regret and sadness that we can't go. #elksproud.

As suggested by Grand Lodge, the Alberta Elks Association Executive have decided to remain in their current chairs until we are safely able to host a Conference. Should we be able to convene Conference, the intent will be to conduct our business, hold elections and installation over the two-day period.

Thanks for your patience as we work through the challenges we have never been forced to manage before. Thank you for all your hard work that you have done in your communities this year. Each of our communities will need non-profit organizations more than ever and we are confident that you are up to the task. We hope you and your families stay safe as this CO-VID 19 carries on.

Fraternally,
Darren Scott
Provincial President



District Deputies

Re: Covid-

- If you have been able to host your spring meeting and have chosen a new District Deputy-Elect, please forward the information to our Association office. We will accept that nomination.
- If you have not had the chance to host your spring meeting but have an Assistant who is ready to move forward as District Deputy-Elect, please forward to our Association office
- If you have not had the chance to host your spring meeting but you are willing to stay in your position for another year, please confirm with our office.
- If you are able or unable to continue, please inform the Association office.

The Alberta Elks Association congratulates each and every District Deputy for a job well done this year, and thank you for volunteering!



Doug Becotte our District Deputy for District 1 presented this to our Dawson Creek Elks #289 at our last meeting in Feb.

To the Lodges

Re: Covid -

We know that times have changed. Your community is going to need you more than ever. With members' health and safety being our first priority, we also recognize that meetings may need to happen to serve your communities during this time of need. Consider holding a virtual meeting using such websites as Zoom, Google Hangout meeting and Skype just to name a few. (*Excellent information on the website*).

In the efforts of moving forward to prepare for Provincial Conference in October and for the sense of normalcy, we ask that your Lodge submit your reports no later than **May 1, 2020**. All reports can be emailed to the Association office elks.secretary@abelks.org where they will be distributed to the proper Chairs.

For REPORTS that need to be done, please get them in as most Lodges would have completed them for their district meetings already. Please forward them to the District Deputies and to Lynda at the Association office by **May 1, 2020**.

To the Committees

Re: Covid -

- We ask that you let our Association office know if you are willing to stay on your committee continuing with the great work you have accomplished thus far. You are appreciated and we cannot function without your tireless work.
- If you feel you are unable to continue on your committee, please advise the office.
- Should you know of anyone in the Alberta Elks Association who wishes to serve on a committee, please advise the Association Office.





**ELKS OF
CANADA**

Whitehorse Elks Lodge #306

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Whitehorseelks@northwestel.net



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

By now you will have received notice from President Scott that the Alberta Elks Association has determined the need to postpone the Alberta Conference to October 2nd & 3rd and it will, of necessity, be held somewhere in Alberta IF the government has lifted the travel restrictions by August 31st. In the alternative, it will be held in June 2021.

At this time, the Whitehorse Conference Committee recognizes that there are things that need to be dealt with. We have advised the High Country Inn and all reservations booked through the Association have been cancelled. If you booked hotel, you should call them to confirm that your cancellation has been put through.

With regards to flights booked with Air North, they have confirmed that they will waive the cancellation fee, but their practice is to only provide 'credits' for reservations. We are currently in negotiations with Air North to have them refund all tickets booked for the Conference. We will continue to keep everyone advised of the outcome of those talks.

People and lodges who registered for Conference and sent in funds...they must be refunded at this time. To be honest, some of the funds we deposited upon receiving them, but once things started to unravel we put all the funds in our safe. So, if we've deposited your funds, we will be sending refund cheques shortly. If we did not bank your cheque, then you will be contacted to see if you want the cheque mailed back or if we can "VOID" it and email you a picture of the void cheque and then destroy them. This will save a lot in time and postage!

Be assured that the Alberta Association Executive are disappointed in having to postpone Conference. It was a difficult decision as Conference is an annual affair we all look forward to attending... getting the business done, hearing what had been going on and most importantly, getting together for conversation, entertainment and just a great time. In Whitehorse, we are particularly disappointed as we know that everyone was anticipating the chance to have a great conference and vacation here in Yukon. Maybe someday....

Stay healthy...stay safe... and stay optimistic. Look after yourselves, your families and your communities.

Fraternally,

Gary Hewitt, Co-Chair
Whitehorse Conference Committee

Barbara Evans, Co-Chair
Whitehorse Conference Committee



RAFFLE UPDATE - URGENT- PLEASE READ

Please be advised that due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the guidelines for gatherings and social distances, AGLC has allowed us to postpone our 2nd Early Bird Draw from April 9th to May 14th. This means that we will be holding 2 draws on May 14th at the Elks Hall in Didsbury. I ask that the lodges continue to sell as they can, as I realize that the selling in malls, grocery stores, etc. is not possible until we are through this pandemic. We want all our members to be safe. After the May 14th draw, we will still have over a month to the end of the raffle and it is hoped by then that we can get out and sell. Unfortunately, some of our annual events that we sell at will have been cancelled at that time. I am requesting at this time that you DO NOT return unsold books, as I have enough here to keep our members supplied. Please send what you have left unsold to me in June along with the last of your sold books. I would like to applaud those lodges who took advantage of the tickets coming out early as we have 25 lodges that have sold through. Great job!

My second part of this update is to inform you of the results of our annual review of my Financial Report for Raffle #50. After 5 years of being told that your commissions could be put into your general account, I have now been informed by a new auditor that these funds are still considered gaming funds and must be put into your gaming account. This will be a change for this year going forward. After explaining to AGLC that I had been misinformed 5 years ago, it does not appear that there is any intention of AGLC trying to go back over the last 5 years. The auditor just wanted to make sure that it is corrected going forward. I do apologize for this as I was telling you what had been told to me. When you receive your commission this year please make sure that it goes into your Lodges' gaming account and is used for the approved purposes. If anyone needs further information, please feel free to contact me at meward25@telus.net.

ALBERTA ELKS FOUNDATION
51st ANNUAL RAFFLE
First Prize \$30,000 CASH
Second Prize \$10,000 CASH
Third Prize \$5,000 CASH
Fourth Prize Fas Gas Gift Cards Value \$1500

Tickets \$2 each OR 3 for \$5

FINAL DRAW DATE JUNE 27, 2020
 All draws to take place at Didsbury Elks Hall, 1914 - 20th St., Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0

Early Bird Draws
 March 12, 2020 \$500 Fas Gas Gift Card
 April 9, 2020 \$750 Fas Gas Gift Card
 May 14, 2020 \$750 Fas Gas Gift Card

Alberta Elks Association Annual Toy Drive
 in support of
Alberta Children's Hospital
Stollery Children's Hospital

Last year with the support of the Brothers and Sisters of this great organization we were able to raise \$6000.00 and hundreds of new toys, books, crafts, and puzzles for our Alberta Children's Hospitals. This year I believe we can do it again and more! Join the Alberta Elks Association in our 2nd Annual Toys Drive!

Over 50% of children born in Alberta will access a children's hospital in one form or another. For many of our Elks families the children's hospitals have played an active role in their lives. This is a small way to help pay it forward to help kids be kids during their stay in the hospital!

Children's hospitals try to make the kids as comfortable as possible. They provide the children with craft rooms, play rooms, libraries, play areas and more. Due to the severity of some of the illnesses toy swapping isn't always possible. Toys get damaged easily during the sterilization process, making restocking toys a high priority! Children admitted into the hospital during their birthday's or Christmas receive a present as well!

Wish List

- Toys
- Books
- Crafting Supplies
- Markers
- Sketch Pads
- Playdoh
- Video Games
- Board Games
- Electronics
- Personal Hygiene Products
- Ear Buds
- Adult Activity Books
- Kid Bandaids
- Small Lego Kits
- Walmart Gifts Cards
- Michaels Gift Cards
- Sports Check Gift Cards
- I pads
- Laptops



Cash donations can be sent to the Alberta Elks Association, Po Box 445, Bentley AB, T0C 0J0. Mark it for Toy Drive in the memo. Donations will be split between the Alberta Children's Hospital and the Stollery Children's Hospital



ALBERTA ELKS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL WALK-A-THONS

North Zone - Valleyview Elks & Royal Purple Elks
 North Central Zone - Breton Royal Purple Elks
 South Central Zone - Acme Elks
 South Central Zone - Hanna Elks

Funds raised support the Fund for Children. Watch for further information in the coming days. This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

Postponed



Miles View

By Miles Johnson

Part 2

Last month we looked at a bit of history as to the relationship between Elks Lodge and Clubs. History when told is always somewhat subjective, but I tried to be fair. At the end of the day no two people see the same rainbow.

What is referred to as "The Animal Lodges", Us, the Moose, the Eagles, as well as a large number ethnic clubs, and the Legions jumped on to this band wagon (Mason's and Odd Fellows, not so much). The Lodges set up Clubs to run these new establishments. The Club was owned by the Lodge but appears to in most cases be run separately. The Club had its own Executive, and it's own Employees. By the 1950's and 60's there were buildings built for these clubs, they housed restaurants, pubs, stage areas for public events, in at least one instance a Golf Course. They were the "Happening" place in town. I remember when I was young my Father was on the Granum Town Council, once a year the Councillors and their spouses went to the City (Lethbridge) for a night out at the swankiest place in town. And that place was? The Elks Club of course! When the Prime Minister of Canada came to Medicine Hat where did he meet the public? Well the Elks Club of course! Life was Good! The Government was happy, The Lodges were happy because to use these clubs you had to join the Lodge, The Public was happy to have such a High Class facility in the community.

But then some cracks started to show. First of all enrolment was large in the Lodge, but for the most part it was full of people who wanted to have a place to party and a good restaurant to go to, most of them had little or no interest in belonging or even being involved in any type of Fraternal organization. This led to two things:

1. Here in Medicine Hat our Lodge had 2500 members but was still only getting 30 people out to a Lodge Meeting.
2. There began to be discord between "The Club People" and "The Lodge People".

I noticed in the Elks History Book a Lodge ended its submission with a comment of, "We have Lodge Members, not Club Members." A divide had come.

Big huge nice buildings have big huge nice expenses. Especially when some of the money used to build them was borrowed either from banks or by way of debentures. Management at times was questionable and The Club would have to go to The Lodge for money to stay afloat. This would exacerbate the negative feelings between "The Club People" and "The Lodge People". There were acts of treachery and shenanigans, at one point in 1993 our ER got sent to Provincial Gaol (yes that is the proper spelling of jail in Canada) for 90 days for stealing from the Club and Lodge. The next year a Club manager was charged for

taking his family to Hawaii and changing it back to the Club. The request for money to meet payroll, taxes, utilities became so prevalent that the Tail (The Club) appeared to be trying to wag the Dog (The Lodge).

There was also more competition from the Private Sector. New Hotels with nice restaurants and large ballrooms.

And then the Government charged the Liquor Laws! Restaurants were licensed, and neighbourhood pubs were allowed. People could go to these and not buy a membership or be initiated into a Fraternal Order where something might be required of them.

In my opinion the low point in part of our history was when an Elks Club and an Elks Lodge wound up facing each other in court. I know that there are places in Alberta where the Elks Club/Elks Lodge relationship works, I don't know how but I suspect it is a case of very good Lodge leadership. I can tell you that in the case of 412 Medicine Hat having an Elks Club for whatever reason almost buried us. Our beautiful large building got sold because we couldn't afford the utilities and taxes and finally became a Night Club and Pub, and then a few years ago it burnt to the ground. We did not die! We bought an old Kingdom Hall and life goes on, without a Club.

So there you have it:

The Elks Lodge - The Organization we joined and put your hand on a Bible and made a promise to look after each other, to accept each other even when we make a mistake. To extol the virtues of Love, Justice, Charity and Fidelity to hopefully make Life Sweeter, People Better and The World Happier.

The Elks Club - A semi-autonomous organization set up by an Elks Lodge to deal with Liquor, Restaurant and Catering activities of the Lodge. All profits will be turned back to the Lodge to support its goals both within the Lodge and in the Community at large.

Were there lessons learned?

A few I'm sure. But one of them was that nothing we do can become more important than the Lodge itself. Not necessarily the building, but the idea of the Lodge, no person, no activity, no investment, not even a favourite charity. Because without a Lodge there is nothing.

