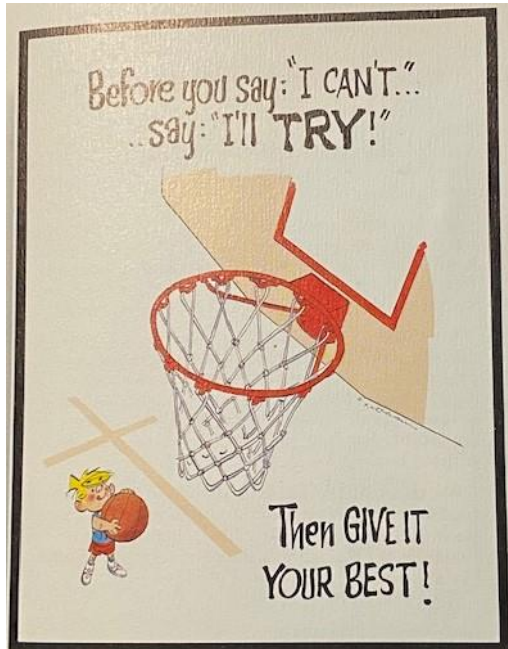


# President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters...

As summer comes to a close, and the world is slowly allowing us to move about freely, it's time for all Elks to renew their commitment to "Serving Our Communities". For a number of years, we've heard that to survive as an organization we must get new members, but it's more than that...

DON'T JUST GROW MEMBERSHIP..GROW IT STRONG! We must realize that we don't grow by chance, but by CHANGE. So what does that change mean? It means GETTING PEOPLE ACTIVE and finding ways to CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.



Too often we hear Lodges complain that their membership is small and aging. Okay. So how about reaching out to other organizations to partner on an event or project? When groups come to you for sponsorship, why not use them as volunteers to help raise the money they are asking for? You want to hold a Seniors' Christmas Dinner...so how about reaching out to the local Graduation Class and having them (and their parents) do the set up, serving, clean up and in exchange, you make a donation to their Graduation Party?

We must recognize that many other non-profit organizations are facing the same challenges we are...so join together for resources, ideas, volunteers. Maybe strike a committee and their task is to identify all the "groups" and "organizations" in your community...everyone from Chambers of Commerce to Boy Scouts and Sport Associations. Who shares common goals? Who needs

funding? We are great at giving money away, but isn't it just as important that the people we give to feel like they also helped?

... And what about Lodges in your District? Fraternity is a core value in Elksdom...so what about getting together with other Lodges in your area and having some fun working together on a project?

"Weathering the Storm Together" means finding ways to be not just what we were before the storm...but how we can come out on the other side stronger, wiser and healthier as Elks/RP Elks. We must change...we must STOP BEING INVISIBLE...we must get out there and show our Community that volunteering is FUN and REWARDING.

So, Brothers and Sisters...get busy... go to our Alberta Elks website and take a look at the ideas for projects and events...reach out to other Lodges and ask them to help make your project successful.

Be safe...stay healthy and get active!

Barbara Evans  
Alberta Elks Association President