



2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, June 1, 2023 – Stettler, Alberta
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Ward at 7:04 pm

2. Introduction of Trustees

Chair – Bill Ward

Trustees – Lynda Petten, Darren Scott

Judiciary – Jim McLeod, Duane Felt, Roland Gagnon

Association 2nd Vice President – James Zimmer

Secretary/Treasurer – Joanne Siemens

Raffle Chair – Margo Ward

Tabs for Tots Chair – Nick Henger

Casino Chair – Phyllis Anderson

Regrets: Trustees - Brad Biette, Joan Hannah

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Don Gillies, Breton, seconded by Don Rush, Crossfield to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- Grants
 - 8f) GA2023-04 Stavely Elks Lodge, \$5,000.
- New Business
 - 10a) Proposal to modify the ticket and prize structure.

4. Adoption of Minutes from the last Conference as distributed

Moved by Margo War, Didsbury seconded by Ron Townrow, Didsbury to adopt the 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes as previously distributed. CARRIED

5. Reports

a) Chair Report – Bill Ward

The Foundation has had an active year internally and externally. Early on it was felt by some that there may be a conflict with Linda as Foundation Chair and Secretary/Treasurer of the Alberta Elks Association, so she resigned, and I took over. I can report that as usual donation requests were managed in an expeditious manner. We reviewed the changes to our bylaws and regulations that were passed and the 2022 AGM and made the necessary changes. As we have been undergoing an audit by AGLC we have been made aware of changes to their handbook that require us to do things differently to become compliant. This has had a major effect on both our raffle and the new trial program "Mighty Lil Elk ". Our raffle chair has had a trying year as AGLC has required that all the information on our ticket

stubs be filled in including addresses, phone numbers and Cities/Towns. As well the person's full name (no Initials) needed to be filled in. Unfortunately, our members in several instances did not heed the instructions and this resulted in numerous phone calls to the ticket buyers to get the information and then the chair having to physically enter the information. It is imperative that we improve in this area so that the raffle can run smoothly.

With the Might Lil Elk program, we had, as with any new program, some growing pain but we finally got the packages into the hospitals and are looking forward to getting feedback on how they are being received. Of a major concern is that use of gaming funds to support the program has been denied. This will necessitate some discussion as we understand that some of our lodges have already supported the program with funds that unfortunately cannot go to the program because of AGLC restrictions. I am sure that we will have much further discussion on this topic.

We reviewed the float usage and determined that with our weather conditions it was in our best interests to obtain an enclosed trailer to transport and store the golf cart in as well as Charlie who accompanies the float. We have been fortunate in finding a trailer at cost and will soon be taking delivery of it with the subsequent change of trailers including the recovery of some costs from our current trailer. We have several summer bookings already and are looking forward to an active year with the float. We have also looked at costs and cost sharing in getting the float and Charlie active in our communities and lodge functions so that visibility is increased.

We are in the final stages of the AGLC audit, and several areas have been raised which will require changes. Most of these have already been addressed with changes to our procedures and the remainder will be addressed soon. One area that has changed due to the Covid era is that gaming has allowed for some grants to be directed to halls with the Elks name on them for repairs and upgrades which in the past were denied. It is imperative that we continue to monitor changes to AGLC regulations to take full advantage of what we can do and be aware of what we cannot do.

We have a casino coming up in July and I am sure that our casino chair will need volunteers to assist so if you are able to volunteer for this you will be aiding the Foundation in raising the funds essential in our continued operation. Please volunteer if you can.

I want to thank all our committee chairs as well as the board for their continued commitment to the operation of the Foundation and encourage the membership to consider putting your name forward for a position.

b) Raffle Chair Report – Margo Ward

It has been another year of challenges as we move forward with the AGLC Audit that started last year. The Audit has brought many challenges, especially to our Raffle. There were many changes to deal with and I do thank all the Lodges for their support. Many more hours were spent this year, both at the sales level as well as at the chairperson's level. As we move closer to the end of the Audit I and the Board are working towards more clarification and some possible changes to make the overall process simpler.

Ticket shipments went out to the lodges beginning the first week of September this year. Sales started immediately and I was already getting calls for more tickets by the end of

September. For a while I did not have any books on hand to distribute, which was great. Books coming in for the 1st Early Bird numbered over 4,000, by the 2nd Early Bird we were at over 5,000 sold, and as it is right now, we are over 5,200, but this week will get busier as we approach the 3rd and final Early Bird Draw.

At the time of writing, we have over ½ of the Lodges sold out. As we have almost 2 months until the final draw, I hope we are much closer to that magic 6,500 books. Lodges who helped by taking more books to sell were Brooks, Carstairs, Castor, Edmonton RPE, Grande Prairie, Gwendale, Hairy Hills, Hanna, Lac La Biche, Leslieville, Red Deer, and Vulcan. Of these, over half are sold out. Great Job! The position of top selling lodge is still up for grabs!

The final draw will take place the week after the Conference as it was last year. This change allows last-minute delivery of sold books and logistically is easier on the Raffle Chairperson, as the tickets do not have to be carted along with the draw barrel to the Conference. Tickets for the final draw are supposed to be in by June 1st and it would be preferred if not a lot of tickets arrive at Conference. The final draw will take place in Didsbury on June 8th. We will have dinner that night and everyone is welcome, just let us know ahead of time if you plan to attend.

This has been my 6th year as raffle chairperson. At this time there has been no one to come forward to volunteer to replace me. You can see the Foundation Board advertising in the Alberta Elks Newsletter, please consider this as it is very rewarding and a great way to get to know other lodges. I have agreed to stay on if there is no one immediately available or if my help is required to train the new chairperson so there is a smooth transition.

As this may be my last report to the members, I want to sincerely thank all the participating lodges for their unwavering support. Especially this year. It is a lot of work but the wonderful people you meet make it very worthwhile. Please contact me if you are at all interested.

Update on number of books sold - 5,824 out of a total of 6,500. That being 89.6% sold. Last year we sold 5480 for 84.3% of sell out.

c) Tabs for Tots Chair Report – Nick Henger

The Association Lodges continue to support the Tabs program with their donations of tabs, other metals, and financial contributions. This is evident with a total of 2,256 lbs. of tabs and 2,682 lbs of other metals donated in 2022-2023.

Since the start of the program in 2000, a total 64,300 lbs of tabs have been donated and 138,330 lbs of other metal for over 200,000 lbs of metal recycled.

This past year, prices have remained relatively steady, giving a good return on the sale of the material donated.

The recycling of the meal trays from Meals on Wheels continues to work well as we have now recycled 11,000 aluminum trays, since the start, and continue to collect the used trays each week.

d) Float Report – Joanne Siemens

The float has been a great success this last year! Lodges were very busy making bookings and showing off the new golf cart.

Charlie was also busy in the winter months with lodges using him for different types of events for promotion.

During 2022 the Float & Charlie were used a total of 12 times: Float & Charlie - 6, Float only - 3, Charlie only – 3.

Keep the requests coming, it is such a wonderful opportunity to get our name out in the communities.

e) **Mighty Lil Elk Report – Kelly Sandford**



BACKGROUND

Mighty Lil' Elk (MLE) program was an initiative created by the Alberta Elks Foundation following the 2021 Zoom Conference. The delegates in attendance gave direction to the Foundation to look at possible programming or initiatives that could be supported by the Alberta Elks Foundation and bring awareness to the Alberta Elks Association and our vision and mission. The 2022 Foundation Executive spent the term researching and brainstorming different avenues for programming and decided the Mighty Lil' Elks would be a great way to support children and families directly and use as a rebranding for the Alberta Elks Foundation itself.

INITIATIVE

Mighty Lil' Elks was created for one reason; to help families in their time of need. By providing families with a Mighty Lil' Elk Hospital Survival Bag, we as the Alberta Elks Foundation, are giving families support in some of their darkest hours. This program does not provide the traditional medical support that the Alberta Elks Foundation is known for in terms of medical equipment. Instead, Mighty Lil' Elks Hospital Survival Bags provide families with their basic needs when they are not able to access them themselves. By providing this service to families as they enter the healthcare system, we are providing first touch support to the caregivers of pediatric patients to help them be better equipped to help in their child's care.

Throughout the launch of the program a second initiative was identified; marketing. The Alberta Elks Foundation is one of the very few foundations that will provide individual personal assistance. Many "Middle Class" families in the province of Alberta, fall through the gaps in the system especially in terms of financial supports that are available to them in times of crisis. This concern has been identified by Alberta Hospital supports and the staff have been actively looking for avenues to support these families through non-conventional resources. By putting our name front and center in front of these medical professionals and families it is our hope that the Alberta Elk Foundation gains attention and more publicly for the great work we do.

MIGHTY LIL' ELK PROGRAM

While Mighty Lil' Elk has a lot of potential to grow and change to address different needs the Board is focusing on phase one of the program, the Mighty Lil Elk Hospital Survival Bags. All the products placed in these bags were done to strategically meet the needs of a pediatric patient and their caregiver for 24 hours. With the support and recommendations of hospital staff at both the Alberta Childrens and Stollery Hospitals, as well as input from pediatric families the following items were chosen for the first roll-out.

- **Hygiene Products** – Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, two (2) toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouth wash and a hairbrush

- As a patient in hospitals, these products are provided to the patient (child) only and often the units themselves don't have extras of these products to provide them to the parent/caregiver.
- **Lip Chap**
- **Kleenex**
- **Universal Phone Charger**
 - In medical emergencies, most parents/caregivers don't have time or think about grabbing a spare phone charger.
- **Visa Gift Card**
 - A \$25 Visa gift card is provided in the bag to ensure the Parent/Caregiver can eat at the hospital especially for those who may be admitted on a weekend when services on-site are limited.
- **Charlie**
 - A mini-Charlie stuff animal has been provided for the children in this set of bags because of a personal donation. Going forward the Charlie most likely will not be included due to the cost of the bags and the cost of the Charlie's.
- **Post Card**
 - Post card directs families to our website to access more information about the Alberta Elks.



The cost of each Mighty Lil' Elk Hospital Survival Bag is \$60.00. Due to the cost of the bags the hospitals have been given specific direction for distribution. Bags are to be given to a child / family when they arrive to a hospital in a different town in a medical emergency who don't have anything with them focusing on supporting rural families transported into the site from outside a major center.

Example: A child from a small town experiences a medical emergency. The family takes their child to their local municipal hospital. That hospital is not able to handle the medical case and the child and family are immediately transferred by ambulance to a Regional Hospital that has the expertise required to treat the child.

In an instance like this the parent/caregiver would have traveled in the ambulance with the child and potentially arrived in a Regional Hospital without any personal supplies. In a lot of cases like this the families are scared, and not thinking about packing anything, their sole concern is on the medical situation.

Bags are distributed by the hospital staff; social workers, nurses, and doctors who see the need.

LAUNCHING

Mighty Lil' Elk was officially launched on Feb 4, 2023. When the program was launched it was done so with a Program Logo, Branding package, Social Media Content, and a brand specific website link.

150 bags were distributed in Alberta as follows:

Grand Prairie Hospital	70 bags	Grand Prairie serves an area with a population of 350,000 people and provides support care for Northern Alberta, Northeastern British Columbia, and Northwestern Saskatchewan. It was determined that because of the larger support area that this site receive more bags as they expressed a higher need.
Red Deer Regional Hospital	50 bags	As per original plan, number was based on the hospital predicted need
Medicine Hat Regional Hospital	30 bags	Medicine Hat has a predicted need of 50 bags max, due to Grand Prairie expressing a higher need, Medicine Hats bag number was lowered and is being monitored.

ROADBLOCKS

The biggest roadblock that the Mighty Lil' Elk program faced was one that all of Canada is facing which is inflation and supply. This was beyond the control of the board and certainly something that was not anticipated. This is a concern with all industries globally and something that will need to be take into consideration moving forward. Every Albertan has noted an increase on their grocery bills, and we can agree that we all saw the empty shelves at the grocery store over the last year as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Due to both availability and inflation the launch of the Mighty Lil' Elk program was delayed until February 2023. Original products and pricing were based on Amazon Global including availability and shipping time. The board did note that with the per bag budget and the inflation on their products utilizing Amazon might be an issue moving forward with re-stock. The bags, phone charges and gift cards were readily available for purchase but finding well priced hygiene products was not. The Alberta Elks Foundation was able to get assistance from Pharmasave in Brooks, AB who generously sold all the hygiene products to the Foundation at cost. It took six weeks to receive all the products before the bags could be put together.

MOVING FORWARD

Funding

Corporate Sponsorship	To make this program sustainable, we will be looking for support from businesses operating within the province of Alberta. A Sponsorship Package has been created for distribution to businesses in the province. Every level of sponsorship offers different incentives.
Personal Donations	The Alberta Elks Foundation will accept personal donations earmarked for the Mighty Lil' Elk Program in the notes section of all donations. These donations will most likely be received from past bag recipients who are looking to "Pay it Forward". On the website, the email address for the Alberta Elks Foundation is provided with instructions for etransfer.
Lodge Donations	Lodges and members within the Alberta Elks Foundation will have the opportunity to support the Mighty Lil' Elk program through their traditional lodge donations. Donations will be earmarked for the Mighty Lil Elk Program
In Kind Donation	The Alberta Elks Foundation is actively looking for donations of products for the bags. We will continue to reach out to companies for these donations. We don't predict this to be a reliable method of attaining products but as we are able to gain data to share with "Big Brand" companies we hope to obtain this down the road
Grants	There are a variety of grants that could be explored to support the Mighty Lil Elk program. These can be further investigated if the delegates wish to adopt the Mighty Lil Elk program as a permanent program of the Alberta Elks Foundation.

Growth

The Alberta Elks Foundation has provided three (3) regional hospital with survival bags. 150 bags were made using the budgeted \$10,000.00 provided to the program at the 2022 annual conference in Brooks. Ideally each year we would like to be able to increase the number of bags distributed across the province. The Foundation will not get a full picture of the hospitals needs until February 2024. In the next five (5) years we would like to achieve:

Medicine Hat Regional Hospital	50 bags	13 bags have been distributed in 75 days. In addition, they gave 2 bags to families on the maternity ward who delivered preterm babies.
Red Deer Regional Hospital	50 bags	21 bags have been distributed in 81 days.
Grand Prairie Regional Hospital	70 bags	26 bags have been distributed in 81 days.
Lethbridge Regional Hospital	50 bags	Currently they are not in the program. Would like to add in the future.
Stollery Children's Hospital	300 bags	Currently they are not in the program. Would like to add in the future. Number is based off hospital predicted need.

Alberta Children's Hospital	300 bags	Currently they are not in the program. Would like to add in the future. Number is based off hospital predicted need.
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IMPACT

The Mighty Lil' Elk Program is just starting, and we ask the members of the Alberta Elks Foundation to respect that and keep it in mind. It will take time to determine the full impact and potential that this program has. This past year both the Provincial President and all the current District Deputies have been marketing the program to the lodges during their visits. Lodges and the members have been very receptive and excited about the program and in most cases, there is one member from every lodge who has a story to share. An important statistic to share with you is 100,000 children visit each of the hospitals - Alberta Children's and Stollery Children's every year.

***“We appreciate the Alberta Elks for their compassion and dedication to enhancing healthcare within our community. The Mighty Lil' Elks Hospital Survival Bags provide comfort and care in an unexpected situation for out pediatric families.”
-Susan Edwards – Medicine Hat Health Foundation***

To date, the Mighty Lil' Elk Program has received \$3,560.00 in donations. The launch of the Mighty Lil' Elk program showed a 263.7% increase on social media. The first Mighty Lil' Elk social media post alone reached 5,848 people without boosts. We have seen a 180% increase on visits to the Alberta Elks Facebook page and increased “likes” by 100%.

On behalf of the Alberta Elks Foundation, we would like to thank you for your support of this program, we ask you for continued support of the Mighty Lil' Elk program and look forward to seeing the full impact of the program.

f) ISTAR Representative Report – Heather McLeod

- ISTAR currently has two Administrative Assistants, three Clinical Staff and a Clinical Director. The ISTAR Foundation was pleased to welcome Director Darren Abbot to the team this spring. Darren is a graduate of ISTAR's May 1989 three-week intensive stuttering program, and long-time supporter of ISTAR.
- With the lifting of restrictions, ISTAR was able to offer in-person training clinics again and has continued with virtual sessions to meet the changing needs of clients. This year ISTAR had 375 clients comprised of children, teens and adults who received speech therapy.
- The Associazione Trevisani Nelmondo had a casino in which ISTAR was one of their recipients of the proceeds. I had the pleasure of volunteering with that group in Edmonton in October.
- In the April edition of the Canadian Elk, 12-year-old Magdalena Manoli shared how her life changed because of ISTAR. Magdalena was bullied because troubles with her speech, but with the funding support from ISTAR client-assistance program and the Alberta Elks, her family was able to access programming that has seen her blossom into a confident, outgoing child who is thriving socially and in school.
- During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, The Alberta Elks donation from all sources was **\$48,430.75**, which supports the equivalent of 14 children to attend a full session. ISTAR

has a sliding scale of support they use to try and help each family as much as they can, which means more than 14 children were helped. Well done Brothers and Sisters!

It is exciting to witness the work ISTAR does with children, teens, and adults who struggle with stuttering to speak clearly and with confidence. When I hear about clinics taking place, stories of client success, or get to witness final speeches from clinics, I am reminded of the impact of the partnership between the Alberta Elks and ISTAR. I encourage members to read Holly Lomheim's [Alberta Elks Foundation Partnership Impact Update](#) to learn about the clients ISTAR supported this year and how important the Alberta Elks donations are to their programs.

g) Elks - ISTAR Impact Summary – Holly Lomheim, Clinic Director

Year End Fiscal 2022-2023

As reported April 4th, 2023.

Dear Alberta Elks Foundation Members,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share with you the impact that you have made to the lives of people who stutter and to our entire ISTAR team. I am happy to report that we have had another successful year both financially and clinically. The hard work that all of your members put into fundraising and then thinking of us through donating to our ISTAR Client Assistance funds has had a tremendously positive impact. We are so appreciative of all that you do to keep programs such as ours going strong.

I would like to share a few of the highlights from our 2022-2023 fiscal year. More details for all the items are below in the report:

- 375 clients received speech therapy at ISTAR.
- Elks donations from all sources were **\$48,430.75** and supported the equivalent of 14 children to attend a full session (therapy for children averages \$3,500 each) but actually **dozens benefited directly from your help** due to our sliding scale of support to help each family as much as they need, usually between 25% to 90% of the total therapy cost.
- Research studies and training clinicians have continued which helps us contribute to the field of stuttering and helps our colleagues across Canada provide effective speech therapy.
- Clients who were directly impacted include recent immigrant 12-year-old Magdalena Manoli who will be featured in an upcoming Canadian Elks article.

As our former Research Director, Dr. Marilyn Langevin often says, ISTAR lives our mission and vision every day. This mandate is to: deliver effective speech therapy to people of all ages who stutter, train students and practicing clinicians to provide quality fluency therapy, participate in conducting research into the cause and nature of stuttering and educate the public about the experience of stuttering and stuttering treatment.

This year ISTAR treated 375 clients, including 337 who stutter. 232 children, 69 teens and 74 adults. More than 55% of our clients require funding support of some kind. We were thrilled to be able to offer our summer intensive clinics again with some in-person contact. We delivered our June 2022 adult clinic partially via virtual care and partially in-person. Our July 2022 teen clinic was conducted completely in-person and our July Calgary children's clinic,

and our August Edmonton children's clinic were both done partially remotely and partially in-person. These formats were able to meet the changing needs of our clients. Many of our clients are experiencing real financial hardships and are not easily able to afford both the costs of treatment and the expenses for food and accommodation for 3 weeks if they are not local to Edmonton and Calgary. While our ISTAR Client Assistance programs help with the burden of treatment costs, being able to save money on accommodation and food expenses by only traveling 1 week and not 3 weeks has really helped. We are pleased to be flexible to allow more clients access to this life-changing treatment. We are even more pleased that these two formats have been shown to be equally efficacious as noted in our recent research into comparing virtual care to in-person treatment.

In our commitment to educating Speech-Language Pathology students and practicing clinicians, ISTAR trained 15 students in our summer intensives and refreshers, and in our Fall and Spring Triple R maintenance program. In addition, ISTAR clinicians, Holly Lomheim and Jessica O'Byrne taught a 4-hour course to AHS clinicians in the Fall on Acquired Stuttering that trained 28 clinicians. It is our pleasure to nurture clinicians who are keenly interested in stuttering and want to provide excellent therapy to people who stutter.

In August 2022 our Research Director, Dr. Torrey Loucks, resigned his position at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and ISTAR so that he could return to the United States to be closer to his wife and children. Although we were sad to see him go, he is still keenly interested in promoting ISTAR and our work and in collaborating with us for future research endeavours. The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is currently conducting a search for a new director of research. ISTAR clinicians continue to participate in research interests and hope to submit an article for publication on our recent study regarding virtual care and in-person treatment comparisons in the Fall of 2023.

Our passion for stuttering also caught the attention of a group of documentarians this year. One of former clients from several years ago suggested that he and his team of filmmakers document the experience of stuttering and stuttering treatment at ISTAR. They followed an 18-year-old client as he completed a two-day refresher in February 2023. The film is expected to be completed for public viewing in the Fall of 2023. This was an exciting project, and we hope people who stutter see the film and are inspired. We were sure to mention all the support that the Elks and Royal Purple have given us over the years!

While it is important to us to train, conduct research and educate the public, our true passion is in helping people as it is for your members. We recently shared a story with the Canadian Elks Magazine about one of our young clients who attended speech therapy this past year. I wanted to share a short excerpt from that article with you in this report.

When 12-year-old Magdalena Manoli immigrated with her family from Moldova, she faced many new challenges including bullying, but she was able to find confidence with her speech with the help from the donor-assisted funds at ISTAR that your lodges support. Magda says, "This was the greatest year I could ask for. Having the best therapy teacher and getting invited to the summer camp were amazing! I am so happy and honoured that I got to come to ISTAR."

A heart-warming update from that story is that this brave young person recently tried out for her school play, got the part and performed in the play in March. She reported that she had a bit of stuttering in the first performance due to nerves but the second day she was amazing! We are so happy for her and so thankful to you for donating funds to ICAP so that she could attend therapy.

As you know, ISTAR is solely responsible for our operational costs, and we receive no financial support to do this from the University of Alberta or the Alberta Government. We rely on client fees and donor funds to support our work. We continue to see a need for donations to our ISTAR Client Assistance Programs as our client's request approximately \$150,000 per year in funding. Your continued support quite literally helps us to stay operational and to do the important work that we do. This year we raised ~\$147,000 to support the ISTAR Client Assistance Program and expended ~ \$125,000.

ISTAR funding summary for April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023	
Total donors (including non-Elks)	52
7 Elk Lodges	\$4,449.00 donated to ISTAR
Alberta Elks Foundation	\$33,981.75 donated to ISTAR (includes some Lodges who gave via AEF)
Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children	\$10,000.00 donated to ISTAR
All donations	\$165,866.11 donated to ISTAR

Thank you again for your donations, support, and friendship!

Donor recognition

We are so appreciative of the long-time and ongoing support of the Elks Lodges, Alberta Elk Foundation and the Elks members who serve on our ISTAR Foundation. The Elks are the only donor group that we mention to every new client, volunteer, and visitor. Individual or other donors are not displayed on site or on our website or newsletter by default, only if they are featured in a brief story or if their grant requires it.

We continue to acknowledge and celebrate the support of the Elks in many ways:

- Recognition of Elks support are noted prominently in our reception and the Clinic Director's office space.
- Acknowledged and featured at our presentations to local community groups, including ISTAR final speech events and workshops to practicing Speech-Language Pathologists
- We are honored to continue having both the official positions of the Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children Clinical Chair and the Alberta Elks Foundation Clinical Chair be named in recognition of Elks support – All written correspondence from the Clinic Director and Clinical Chair position cites the Alberta Elks and the Elks and Royal Purple, respectively.
- The support of the Elks is displayed on a banner and sign on premises.
- Featured prominently in the annual newsletter for decades, and on a feature donor page on the ISTAR website since its inception.
- An annual story about a child or family supported by Elks donations is featured in the Canadian Elk magazine and also given circulation on our website and social media.
- This year, ISTAR had the added pleasure of hosting Her Honour, Dr. Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta as a patron. The support of the Elks towards

supporting our clients to attend therapy and pursue their communication goals was highlighted at the final speech event that she attended along with other VIPs.

- ISTAR has been a partner at various times to boost volunteer support or ticket sales for various Elks events, raffles, casinos, and community events.
- ISTAR clinicians and clients have presented and participated at various Elks meetings and we continue to offer that availability.
- Elks members are featured on our website and social media as ISTAR Foundation members, including their bio, photo, and video.

Our clients are also very grateful for the direct and indirect support that your group gives towards their support at ISTAR.

Here are some clients thank you notes that we have received that we wanted to pass along to you.....

“My sons Jake and Leo [twins, age 10] have both benefitted from the ICAP fund. Leo continues to have speech therapy sessions and completed the camp [recently]. I am not sure where Leo would be speech wise, if not for ISTAR's excellence and kindness. I imagine he would be struggling in school and self-conscious of his speech. I am happy to report he is making gains in school and becoming more confident in his speech. The ICAP funding has truly been a lifesaver and we are grateful for the relief it has provided... Thank you for your kind generosity.”

“There are no words to show our appreciation for all of your support to [our son]. Today he got up in front of a VERY large crowd not once but twice and said his lines with such smooth, articulate, expressive speech. Something that we can honestly say would have been a tremendous challenge for him a year ago. He even used his fluency skills that only a trained ear would hear and without even realizing he did it! He was just beaming tonight and was in awe of the number of teachers and community members who came up to compliment him on how well he did. He is so very proud (as are we) and we are thankful for this experience (and all of you). Thank you, thank you, thank you!” Parents of a 10-year client.

The monies that the Elks have donated over the past 36 years have directly impacted over 4,399 people who stutter and have communication challenges, helped to train hundreds of clinicians, and have indirectly supported research into the cause and nature of stuttering.

Since our report from November 2022, your donations have helped the equivalent of 14 children to attend a full session of intensive stuttering therapy (averaging \$3,500 each) - but truly the impact is greater than that. Most clients receive partial coverage, depending on their circumstances so your donations are in effect helping dozens of children and their families in the amount that they need. Your donations make up for 28% of our total donations. We couldn't do this work without you! 100 % of the money that you donate to ISTAR goes directly into supporting clients and our ISTAR Client Assistance Programs. These programs exist to help support people who stutter by providing financial supports to offset the financial burden of our specialized therapy.

Your generosity is vital to our work and the lives of people who stutter. In the last year (April 2022 to March 2023), ISTAR has been able to serve a total of 375 clients (children, teens,

and adults). Of those, 3 children were helped from direct donations from individual lodges and by the Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children. An additional 11 children were helped by the Alberta Elks Foundation and member Lodge donations during this time. Your recent generous gifts of \$48,430.75 will continue to help many more people in the months to come. You have helped so many people over the last 36 years of commitment and we are very grateful to the Alberta Elks Foundation, the Elks and Elks Royal Purple Lodges and the Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children that you have chosen ISTAR to support.

Moved by Bob Shave, Breton, seconded by Ron Townrow, Didsbury to receive reports, CARRIED.

6. Audited Financial Statement for 2022-2023

- Review Engagement Report read by Darren Scott, Breton.

Moved by Margo Ward, Didsbury seconded by Murray Fleming, Stavely to receive the Engagement Review Report for 2022-2023, CARRIED.

Moved by Duane Gould, Didsbury, seconded by Don Gillis, Breton to table the budget to Friday morning, CARRIED.

7. Resolutions

Moved by Leonard Shain, Sherwood Park, seconded by Nick Henger, Red Deer to bring Uncirculated Resolution #1 to the floor for discussion, CARRIED.

UNCIRCULATED RESOLUTION #1.

WHEREAS: As part of the 2023 AGLC audit, a review of the Foundation Bylaws was conducted and;

WHEREAS: The AGLC has instructed the Foundation to amend their Bylaws to comply with AGLC basic eligibility by removing the Secretary-Treasurer honorarium from Bylaws.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaw Section 12.4.2 be removed; and moved to policy.

CLARIFICATION:

AGLC Section 2.1 (amended May 2, 2022, Section 5.25.4) of the CGPH states:

“1. To be eligible for gaming licensing, the applicant group must have:

d) *no paid members, directors, or officers. (Note: Some persons in these positions may be paid for other work done for the group, and the group may still be eligible for licence. However, for each paid position, the group must provide the AGLC with the position title, position job description, full disclosure of salary, and benefits and the source of the funds for salary and benefits); ...”*

Moved by Duane Felt, Vulcan, seconded by Roland Gagnon, Westlock, APPROVED.

Moved by Faye Rever, McLennan, seconded by Ron Read, Whitehorse moved to bring Uncirculated Resolution #2 to the floor for discussion, CARRIED.

UNCIRCULATED RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS: Regulation Section 6.3 Foundation Raffle Committee now reads “The Chair shall provide an approved current copy of the rules and regulations for the sale of the raffle tickets including an approved list of the regulations, prizes and draw dates for attachment to the Foundation Regulations. The Chair

shall be paid an annual honorarium of \$100.00 per month for use of personal facilities to conduct the annual raffle.” And;

WHEREAS: the annual honorarium is established at the Annual Meeting and having the actual amount in the regulation requires the regulation to be changed whenever the amount is changed and;

WHEREAS: the term of the Raffle Chairman has changed to better reflect the actual term of the raffle;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Regulation Section 6.3 be amended as follows:

“6.3 Foundation Raffle Committee: The Chair shall provide an approved current copy of the rules and regulations for the sale of the raffle tickets including an approved list of the regulations, prizes and draw dates for attachment to the Foundation Regulations. The term of the Chairman shall be from the time of initiating the raffle application until completion of ALL reports and approval processes for that raffle.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the following be added to policy:

The Chair shall receive an annual honorarium from the Foundation, which shall be established annually, by the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting and approved in the Annual Budget by the Membership.

Submitted by the Alberta Elks Foundation Trustees.

Moved by Jim McLeod, Sherwood Park, seconded by Roland Gagnon, Westlock, APPROVED.

8. Grants

- a) PA 2023-01 Edmonton Royal Purple Elks for \$5,000 for support to help purchase a wheelchair accessible van for a child with a disability.

Moved by Bev Monette, Edmonton RPE, seconded by Leonard Shain, Sherwood Park to support PA 2023-01 in the amount of \$5,000 to help purchase a wheelchair accessible van for a child with a disability. CARRIED.

- b) PA 2023-02 Brooks Elks for \$5,000 for support to help a family with travel costs to the USA for their child to have 3D ear reconstruction.

Moved by Duane Romuld, Brooks, seconded by Bev Monette, Edmonton RPE to support PA 2023-02 for \$5,000 to help with travel costs to the USA for their child to have 3D ear reconstruction. CARRIED.

- c) TFT 2023-01 Breton Royal Purple Elks for \$5,000 for 3 – blanket and fluid warming cabinets with mobile base.

Moved by Don Gillis, Breton seconded by Bob Shave, Breton to support TFT 2023-01 in the amount of \$5,000 for three blanket and fluid warming cabinets with mobile base. CARRIED.

- d) TFT 2023-02 Red Deer Elks for \$5,000 for a Jaundice Meter for Red Deer Hospital.

Moved by Nick Henger, Red Deer seconded by Doug Becotte, Dawson Creek, to support TFT 2023-02 in the amount of \$5,000 for a Jaundice Meter for Red Deer Hospital. CARRIED.

- e) Elks Royal Purple Fund for Children annual commitment \$5,000

Moved by Darren Scott, Breton seconded by James Zimmer, Heisler to provide the annual commitment of \$5,000 to the Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children. CARRIED.

- f) GA2023-04 Stavely Elks for \$5,000 for an outdoor pole structure venue for the Stavely Ag Society.

Moved by Ken Lengyel, Stavely seconded by Jayson Hughes, Okotoks to support GA 2023-04 for \$5,000 for an outdoor pole structure venue. CARRIED.

Discussion:

- AGLC must approve this grant prior to funds being sent. Lodge will be notified if grant is not approved by AGLC.

9. Old Business

- a) Mighty Lil Elk Project
- Presentation of the Mighty Lil Elk Bag and the website.
 - Bags were delayed in getting out. A local pharmacy provided the items in the bags at cost.
 - The hospitals have been advised of the restriction on who receives the bags. The bags are for families of pediatric kids that have nothing with them.
 - Gaming funds cannot be used to purchase the items in the bags; only the bag themselves.

Discussion:

- During coffee, Louise Higginbottom, Trenville RPE will be collecting donations for the Mighty Lil Elks
- Can lodges order bags for distribution?
 - At this stage, no.
- Can the Tabs for Tots program cover some of the cost for the project?
 - Have not thought of this.
- Are there any more Elks toys for purchase?
 - Grand Lodge is placing an order, but cost will be going up.
- Have you approached larger companies like Dove, etc.?
 - PG products are not able to support as this is a new project.
- Can donations be made from lodges for this project?
 - Yes, but only with general Lodge funds.
 - Gaming donations must be deposited into the Foundation gaming account and used for projects approved by them.
- How much to build each bag?
 - \$60.00 per bag.

10. New Business

- a) Proposed changes to ticket format and prize structure.
- Prize structure:

- One Early Bird draw with three prizes of \$750.00 each and eliminate the fourth draw, making this raffle a cash raffle. Prize total would be \$48,500.00 in cash prizes.
- Ticket format:
 - First Name (no initials or nicknames) / Last Name / City / Town (no postal code) / Phone Number (including area code).

b) 55th Annual Foundation Raffle

Moved by Margo Ward, Didsbury, seconded by Nick Henger, Red Deer to hold the 55th Annual Foundation Raffle. CARRIED

Moved by Nick Henger, Red Deer, seconded by Ron Read, Whitehorse seconded to approve the prize structure being one 1st prize - \$30,000.00 2nd prize - \$10,000, 3rd prize - \$5,000 and one Early Bird draw with three prizes of \$750.00 each, for a prize total of \$48,500 in cash prizes; further, the ticket format to include first name (no initials or nicknames), last name, city, town (no postal code), and phone number (including area code). CARRIED

c) Budget 2023-2024 for approval by membership

Friday, June 2, 2023

- AGM expense increased for travel expenses for Association executive mileage covered under the AGM. AGLC has indicated a donation can be made to the Association for travel.
- Increased Personal Assistance grants from \$7,500 to \$17,500 to cover the two grants approved.
- Increased General Assistance grants from \$25,000 to \$30,000 to cover the General Assistance grant approved.
- Increased Tabs for Tots grants from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to cover the two grants approved.
- GIC reported at the bottom of the budget should be \$50,000 not \$43,000.

Moved by Nick Henger, Red Deer, seconded by Louise Higginbottom, Trenville RPE motioned to lift the budget from the table. CARRIED.

Discussion:

- Auditor recommended last year that we reduce our commitment to ISTAR to what would be a sustainable figure going forward. Members at the AGM had agreed with the auditor's recommendation and the board was to review and recommend a future sustainable figure.
- When GIC matures, we will be adding the \$25,000 to our account to cover our deficit that we are presenting in the budget.

Moved by Margo Ward, Didsbury, seconded by Heather McLeod, Sherwood Park to ratify the \$25,000 donation to ISTAR for 2023/2024, CARRIED.

Moved by Gordon McLeod, Sherwood Park, seconded by Meghan Pollard, Ft. Saskatchewan, to amend the Mighty Lil Elk line to \$10,000, CARRIED.

Moved by Leonard Shain, Sherwood Park, seconded by Murray Fleming Stavely to change the ISTAR Lodge Directed expense from \$2,500 to \$5,000, CARRIED.

Moved by Terry Reid, Carstairs, seconded by Meghan Pollard, Ft. Saskatchewan to adopt budget as presented, CARRIED.

11. Good of the Order

Deferred to Saturday

Discussion:

- Can a brewery company receive a tax receipt for their donation of dented cans?
 - Yes, the Foundation can provide a tax receipt.
- a) Presentation of Certificates
 - i) Bill Hiltz (largest single contribution) – **Stavely Elks # 112**
 - ii) Bob Manning (highest per-capita donation) – **Edmonton Royal Purple Elks #22**
 - iii) Tabs for Tots Contribution Award
 - a) Highest Other Metals – **District # 9 over 2000 pounds**
 - b) Most Tabs – **District # 13 for 900 pounds**
 - iv) Raffle Certificate (top raffle sales) – **Strathmore Elks # 491**

12. Adjournment at 8:31 pm