



# ALBERTA ELKS ASSOCIATION

95<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE MINUTES  
June 1 – 3, 2023  
Stettler Alberta

**Opening Ceremonies** were performed at 6:00 p.m. with the presentation of colors.

The following individuals were presented to the membership -

## Past Provincial Presidents

- Jim McLeod – 1996-97
- Nick Henger – 1997-98
- Bill Ward – 1998-99
- Duane Romuld – 2000-01
- Roy Poisson – 2003-04
- Sharen McLean – 2004-05
- Duane Felt – 2006-07
- Bob Shave – 2011-12
- Leonard Shain – 2013-14
- Don Rush – Honorary Past President - 2016
- Lyle Ozouf – 2016-17
- Ron Townrow – 2017-18
- Darren Scott – 2019-20
- Barbara Evans – 2020-22

## Past Grand Lodge Leaders

- Roland Gagnon – 2002-03
- Bill Ward – 2006-07
- Duane Romuld – 2009-10
- PSHRL Sharen McLean – 2011-12
- Jim McLeod – 2013-14
- Duane Felt – 2014-15

Grand Exalted Ruler – Leonard Shain

## Grand Lodge Officers

- Grand Exalted Ruler Leonard Shain
- Grand Leading Knight Don Gillis

## Grand Lodge Committee Chairs and Members

- Jim McLeod - Judiciary
- Bill Ward – PGER Advisory
- Don Gillis – Audit/Finance, Strategic Planning
- Darren Scott – Audit/Finance
- Lynn Williams – Member Services
- Meghan Pollard – Branding & Marketing

## **Words of Welcome**

- a) Conference Co-Chair – Vern Thuroo thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone an enjoyable time
- b) District Deputy – Eugene Thuroo expressed thanks to his committee for the hard work; this was District 11's project
- c) Mayor Sean Nolls – welcomed everyone for coming to Stettler and thanked the Elks for everything they have done for the community of Stettler
- d) County of Stettler Reeve Larry Clark - welcomed all to the community; indicated the high school rodeo was taking place, lots to do in the community this weekend and encouraged all to take part in the festivities if possible
- e) Grand Exalted Ruler – Leonard Shain - thanked the Association for the invitation to attend the conference and the members for attending and supporting each of our communities
- f) President – Kelly Sanford - appreciative of District No. 11 for putting on the conference and was sure all were looking forward to the train ride

**Protocol** was read to the membership by President Kelly Sanford.

## **Preliminary Report of the Credential Committee**

The first credential report was given –

Provincial Officers	6
Delegates	60
Total Voting Members	66
Visitors	0
Total Members Present	66
Lodges Represented	(Not provided)
Districts Represented	11

Quorum was declared.

## **Moment of Silence for Departed Members**

**Welcome all First Time Attendees** – six first time attendees were asked to stand and given a warm welcome. All were encouraged to participate.

## **Presentation of the Budget**

Moved by James Zimmer, Heisler Elks, Barbara Evans, Whitehorse Elks to table the budget until Saturday. CARRIED

It was explained to the members that the budget is tabled in order for all members to have time to review and prepare themselves for questions before final acceptance.

## **Adoption of Minutes from the last Conference**

Moved by Meghan Pollard, Ft. Saskatchewan, seconded by Bill Ward, Didsbury to adopt the minutes from the last conference as distributed. CARRIED

## **Reports from the Officers of the Alberta Elks Association**

### **President, Kelly Sanford**

I started on this journey nine years ago in Westlock. I was young with big dreams and high hopes. I felt that I had something to offer while following in my dad's footsteps and many other greats before me. Through those nine years I wore many hats and saw a lot of change. Not all change was to modernize. It was a balance of modernizing our ways while bringing back some of the methods of past executives that were lost along the way.

When I joined the executive, I lived in a world of glitter and rainbows. A world where everything was perfect and the little "extras or donations" we offered were the icing on the cake. When I started getting involved with Provincial my main objective was to gain us ultimate exposure for the lowest costs. I spent more hours than I can possibly calculate getting presidents press releases and public recognition with the goal of being the most visible service club not only in Alberta but in Canada.

2017 started to show signs of change and in 2019 my family's world changed completely. We went from not knowing where the Children's hospital was to knowing which storage closets had the "good lotions". We went thinking all medical tests were free, to anxiously awaiting to see if a \$35,000.00 genetic test would be approved. Our son has Hypoglycaemia, which is low blood sugar. The rarity is his condition is not food related - an apple juice doesn't fix him. Our son is essentially allergic to adrenaline. That means, getting excited can be deadly. His condition is further complicated by being the 34th person in the world to be diagnosed with a CHD3 genetic mutation.

It is through this journey in the health care system I learned the holes, gaps, and needs within the health care system and where we the Elks could play a vital part in making life better for families. It changed the way I looked at donating, volunteering and discovered what could be done to help kids in need. I learned the "everything is covered world" doesn't exist. In reality it is everything is offered and some things at a cost. Through this knowledge I learned that one little human can cost tens of thousands of dollars in a year. I learned that in the tough times families are forced to choose between a doctor's appointment for one kid and a hockey game for another because sometimes there are not resources for both. I learned that hospitals don't know who the Elks are, but they need to because families in Alberta need us. Our mission is to help kids, these are some of the kids.

Mighty Lil' Elks was born from these years of experience and the people that I have met along the way. The project was dreamt up in 2019 and became a reality in February 2023. Mighty Lil Elks was created to help the single mom whose son has cancer and was going for a simple check-up, but the blood tests showed infection and just like that they are admitted or the lacrosse dad who travelled for 3 hours for a game whose kid broke his arm and needed immediate surgery and recovery time. Put yourself in their shoes for a second - imagine what it would mean to get a bag after hours of having

nothing - no money – no phone charger and being in desperate need of a shower. We as Elks help people in their time of need and that is what those bags represent.

It was also through this journey that the Alberta Elks Annual Toy drive was born. It's hard to comprehend as an outsider what a hospital full of kids looks like. It's hard to wrap your head around how many kids there are to entertain every day all day. Someone not exposed would have no knowledge about the activities that they host in the hospital to brighten a day. You probably don't even realize that both the Children Hospital in Alberta see over 100,000 kids each year, these are things that I have learned along the way. By supporting a children's Hospital, we are making a difference for children and families all over Alberta. This year while touring as president I was collecting donations to put audiobooks into the Children's hospital, so every child has a bedtime story no matter what. Be proud Brother and Sister Elks and Thank you. It is because of you this goal was made, and it is because of the Alberta Elks that the Alberta Children's Hospitals has Audiobooks. There was not a single lodge that I presented the idea to that didn't have their own story to tell. I think it is important to note that the Alberta Elks Toy Drive puts product directly in the hands of the kids.

This journey also made me realize the importance volunteers like us and how truly special the Elks are. The Elks is one of the very few groups that will write a cheque to an individual and we do this on a local, provincial and national level which is truly amazing. Appreciate for a moment how special that is. People have often asked what sets us apart from the Kinsmen, Lions, and other organizations and the fact that we offer personal assistance is it. We can catch those who are falling through the gaps.

Not everything that was accomplished during this journey is hospital related. I believe that strides were taken to improve communications between the executive and lodges and lodge to lodge with the creation of the Alberta Elks Newsletter. This newsletter started out as a little two-page newsletter. It quickly started growing in popularity and now is a consistent 8-10 pages produced every single month. I will admit that I am only human so if an article is missed, I'm sorry in advance. It was also from travelling to lodges that we realized lodges needed assistance in getting recognition for their donations. For years we have said "Blow your own horn" but we as Elks are humble. A new approach to getting recognition was talked and a donation request form was created for lodges to use as a tool should they want to. On the form it asks how you will recognize the donation, which will insist the recipients publicly recognize the lodge for their contribution.

Through the years I have learned a lot. I learned how to do public speaking, how to handle media, construct press releases, run meetings and how to plan events and fundraisers. I learned that there is funding beyond 50/50's and casinos. There are grants available to help lodges. Unfortunately, I learned to develop thick skin, because there are people in every crowd that will go out of their way to say things against your intentions and your character. I will say to the members in Alberta who have experienced this in your own lodge. Keep pushing and keep persevering. Their actions don't reflect on you, they are just little people.

When I started travelling as president, a member that I deeply respect asked me if I felt the travel was worth it; was it making a difference. I said no. I felt it was just a victory lap. However recently I realized that it does matter. The lodges that you don't think care about provincial and national have strong opinions and truly care. I can't tell you how refreshing that is. They aren't at conference - no! Life is expensive; conference is expensive, and it may not be feasible. If we want the true opinion and engagement of our members, we are going to have to re-examine how we are doing things, and how we can change.

I have gained some of my best friends through this journey both provincially and locally. It's because of this friendship and teamwork that I was willing to bet the bank on hosting a concert in my own lodge last year. I have met friends that drive hours out of their way when you are short on volunteers just to lend a hand. A few members of the Alberta Elks Association received the Queens Jubilee Medal this year. I was so proud to see them receive their medals and they were well deserved. Having said that I wish we had enough medals to give one to each and every Elks member because we are a team

I can truly say more than ever, I am proud to be an Elk. It is a privilege to have been granted the opportunity to travel the province, meet members, listen to projects, and have open and honest discussions with the lodge about how they are doing and how we can assist them. As I step back in my duties, I truly hope that projects such as the Toy Drive, Mighty Lil Elks keep pushing forward. I truly believe that Alberta is pushing forward into the future, and we will see great things in the years to come from our lodges, foundation and executive. Together we can.

I need to thank my executive members, both present and past, as I have gained knowledge from each one of you. Thank you to my dad for guiding me as I navigated my way through this journey, (and on the road multiple times). The Past Presidents, for every "chin up" or "good job" pep talk that they gave me. My family for covering for me while I was on the road, and the lodges that welcomed me with open arms. Special thanks to my husband Nathan for being supportive and my biggest fan all these years. And thank you to all you members who took a chance on the newbie 9 years ago.

### **Immediate Past President, Barbara Evans**

As tradition demands, this is my annual report as the Immediate Past Provincial President. The Principles of Elkdom include Equality Love & Kindness...of which bring us to RESPECT for this Great order and each other. So, I would first like to thank the Executive of the Alberta Elks Association for their diligent work over this past year, particularly with their efforts in a number of Lodges who reached out to the Association for assistance and guidance.

Your Executive has continued to provide communication through monthly newsletters and it's great to see the activities of many lodges as we try to rebound from the impacts of COVID. Thank you to those who have contributed to the newsletter and supported the Facebook page. Social media is the way of the world and if we want to enhance the reputation of the Elks, especially to younger folk, we need to embrace the power of social media.

I expect that a report on the changes to our Bylaws will be presented at Conference and I would like to applaud the work of our incredible secretary/treasurer Lynda Petten for all her efforts. We have also been working on our Officers Manual and hope to release an updated version later this summer.

So, before I go, let me remind you of some of the things I believe:

- I believe we CAN stop saying "We can't...we don't have enough members...we're all too old, tired and burned out."
- I believe we must honour our traditions while opening our hearts and our minds...to listen and be open to change and growth.

- We need to stop the “OLD” ways of thinking that “that’s how we’ve always done it...no reason to change.”
- We need to recognized that to survive, we must continue to share the ceremony, history and Elks Pride while taking on the role of being members to those who bring us new ideas with their youthful energy.
- We need to reach out and take inventory of our communities to partner with out groups to plan activities, getting them to help deliver services to our communities.

And finally, as I said last year at Conference, we have to stop giving away all our funds and start taking care of our Lodges. For many communities, the Elks Halls are the Elks identify; many are used as community halls, serving a broad spectrum of community events and meetings. I believe we must try to retain our physical presence in communities...and with expenses escalating, and volunteer help dwindling, we must find ways to keep our doors open.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Alberta Elks Association.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – after the passing of Brother Ian Sundquist, the Executive chose to leave this position vacant

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – James Zimmer**

Another year has come and gone working with a great executive. It has been my privilege to work with an ambitious, talented group of people who want to see the Elks succeed into the future.

I feel we have accomplished many outstanding jobs this year due to the tremendous efforts of many on the executive team. It seems there is always more to do but with a great people, things go smooth.

I joined the Elks as an eighteen-year-old not really knowing what to expect, my dad and friends were members so that seemed like a good enough reason to join. As the years passed, I realized what an important part the Elks played in many communities. I never thought I would ever be in the position I am now, but in 2009 I started my journey into higher levels in the Elks by becoming District Deputy, a few years later I joined the provincial executive as an inner guard, then esquire and finally as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice President. Interesting how easy something becomes when you are passionate about it.

Thank you to the many people who have encouraged and mentored me along the way, through their belief in me I am confident going into next year. I have met many great friends and members through my years with the Elks and am looking forward to what next year will bring as President.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Meghan Pollard**

I wish to thank the membership for allowing me the opportunity to continue working with the Alberta Elks Association Executive. My thanks are also extended to the many members who helped me in navigating my year, I truly appreciated the support and am excited for the future of the Alberta Elks and our great Order.

In early August, I mysteriously found myself being put to work in Brooks assisting the Brooks Lodge with the Paul Brant concert they hosted. While I'm sure I wasn't the best help when it came to the heavy lifting, I hope I was able to help a bit and really enjoyed meeting new friends and seeing some familiar faces amongst the crowd. It was an amazing thing to witness and participate in and I applaud the Brooks lodge for their ingenuity and the hard work that went into such an amazing event. I went home tired with sore cheeks from the laughing and smiles and was very happy to have heated seats for the 6-hour drive north on the Sunday!

With the sudden loss of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Brother Ian Sundquist in August of last year, the Executive moved to slightly different roles to help share the duties assigned to that position and opting to leave the chair vacant for the year out of respect for Brother Ian and his contributions to the Order. Together we completed several tasks assigned to the executive over the past year.

Over the past year serving as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, I have continued working with the Executive team through regular monthly zoom meetings as well as our in-person midterm meeting held in February in Red Deer. This year we welcomed the District Deputies to join us to move our Association forward. With several Lodges across our Association still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic fallout from the restrictions as well as rapidly declining membership, the Association Executive has been focusing our attention on supporting the members in those Lodges as well as developing a plan moving forward.

Much of the past year has been focused on increasing membership in the Association and looking for ways to assist Lodges that are struggling offering tools and resources to ensure they feel supported. This has included an increase in publicity and marketing for the lodges assisting with various media campaigns and promotions of local events. I look forward to hearing the results of all the events that have been held and encourage everyone to share what they are working on in their lodges including the take aways from hosting them. I am happy to see several Lodges increasing their membership over the last year and am eagerly anticipating the new ideas and projects that come from the new members joining the Association.

The past year has also given me the opportunity to attend the National Curling Championships held in Claresholm hosted by the Stavely Elks as well as the National Darts Tournament hosted by the Edmonton Elks Lodge. Both events were such fun and I encourage all members to attend these events and others to support the Lodges hosting them. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with members and spectators from across the Association and Canada. We have some incredible talent within our membership and congratulations to the winning teams in all the events.

If given the opportunity by the membership, my goals for the coming year include continued learning within the Association as well as sitting down and having conversations with the members of our Association on how best to help them and meet them where they are at. I look forward to the upcoming year and thank you all for the privilege of serving the members of the Alberta Elks Association.

## **Esquire – Terry Read**

It feels strange to be writing this because it feels like I just started my term. It has been a privilege to serve this organization and help with the programs that we have. I have attended all of the Zoom meetings that we have had and the 2 in person meetings that have been held. I have attended the Membership committee meetings and helping where I can.

President Kelly and the rest of the executive have been very helpful in making sure that my questions-silly as they may seem are answered. I am looking forward to moving up the chain of command, if is the wish of this body.

Thanks for putting your trust in me and I look forward to seeing everyone at Conference.

## **Committee Chair Reports**

### **Communication – Shelley Fakir (Chair)**

The Committee has had a busy year and I would like to thank committee members Sisters Meghan Pollard and Miranda St. Thomas and our Provincial President Sister Kelly Sanford for all their hard work. I have enjoyed working on this committee and encourage the new Committee members to continue with the good work that this Committee does.

Over the term, the Committee has focused on key elements for the Association; Publicity, Marketing and Promoting the things that are important to our members.

### **President's Travels**

This year the Committee focused on the President's travels and supporting the Lodges being visited throughout the Association. The feedback has been positive offering a snapshot of Lodges across the Association and their contributions to their Communities and the Order.

Thank you to the many Lodges who hosted President Kelly this year. Your hospitality was top notch and we know your donations are impacting families and communities across the Association.

### **Marketing**

This term, the Communications Committee started making event and advertising posters for Lodges within the Alberta Elks Association. To generate a poster through Communications a Lodge can email [abelkscommunication@gmail.com](mailto:abelkscommunication@gmail.com) with information on the event they are hosting to include the time, date, location, costs along with any other pertinent details. The Communications Committee will then draft a poster for the Lodge to review and approve. Once edits are complete, the Committee will email the Lodge a PDF format for printing and a JPEG to use on social media. This new service has already started to pick up speed with positive feedback received from those who access the service. There is an average of a one week turn around time for this and is dependent on availability of Committee members.



## **Newsletter**

The Newsletter is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year of production and is averaging between eight (8) to ten (10) pages each month, and is distributed to approximately 1300 members and Lodges in the Alberta Elks Association. Content includes Lodge donations, events and upcoming events, Alberta Elks Foundation News, Executive updates and the Hour of Eleven. Lodges are welcome to submit articles or pictures to the Newsletter at any time during the month. Submission can be made by email to [elks.secretary@abelks.org](mailto:elks.secretary@abelks.org) with the subject line being Newsletter. The submission should be sent as two separate files, one being a short write up including names of the members in the photograph with any important details and the second one being a photo in JPEG format for posting

## **Regalia Room – Conference**

A letter was sent out to the Lodges letting them know that there will be a room at Conference available for a Regalia swap and Lodges have been invited to bring up any regalia they would like to pass on to other members. All items need to be marked with their Lodge name and number and at the end of Conference any left-over items are to be picked up by the Lodge and taken back with them. We hope that this will be provided yearly for those members seeking Regalia items of the Order.

## **Social Media**

I would like to thank Sister Shellene for asking me to provide an update on the Association's Social Media platforms. This past year serving on the Communications Committee has again been so much fun. While we continue to work towards completing the tasks assigned to us for the Strategic Plan, I feel that we have had many successes to share with you all over this past year.

In 2018 I made one of my goals to continue to grow and promote the Association on Facebook and unite the information into one focused page allowing us to share within our network the events and activities of the lodges. We continue to see our public Social Media page grow since I originally started working with it daily in 2017.

Since our last AGM in June 2022, we have seen the Alberta Elks Association Facebook page grow to approximately 780 "followers" with an average of about 625 individuals who routinely check into the page and see every post we have shared pop up on their newsfeed.

Focus continues to be liking, following, and sharing Lodge Facebook pages to increase their insights, this bring our number to 48 of the 92 Association lodges with active pages sharing current events, meetings, fundraisers and donations in their communities that we are able to share with a larger network.

With the continued collaboration between the Communications Committee and the Association Membership the plan is to continue to promote the lodges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by accessing media that appeals to the masses. Please continue to send the Association Secretary photos and events so we can share them on Facebook as well as the Newsletter. We are still struggling for daily things to share, although the continued push to find info is slowly increasing the overall traffic. The continued use of the associated Provincial Hashtags is also helping us with organic users, and we have seen an increase in community awareness by sharing those in a consistent basis.

I'd like to thank all the members who I had the pleasure of working with this past year. We have an amazing group of people in our Association, and we need to keep growing our community engagement and sharing our knowledge with our membership, they all have a common goal to not only serve but to volunteer in their community and help families in need. Many congratulations to those who will be stepping into Association roles this term, I wish you nothing but continued success! I hope to be able to serve this Association in the future and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

### **Toy Drive**

The Alberta Elks Association Annual Toy drive for the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary and the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton, was created by the Communication Committee in 2020. The Committee felt that it was a great way to impact over 200,000 children and their families from all over Alberta, while encouraging Lodges to host fundraisers to gain donations for the cause. Since its creation, the Toy Drive has been turned over to the Alberta Elks Foundation as they can offer tax receipts for personal donations. The Communications Committee has continued to play a role in the ongoing marketing of the project.

The focus of the Toy Drive this year continued with providing Audio players and audio books to the Alberta Childrens Hospital and the Stollery Hospital, so that children of all ages have the opportunity of a book being read to them.

The past term has been incredibly busy for the Committee and we have seen amazing things happening all over the Association and are happy to be a part of sharing that with the members. Thank you to all the members for your ongoing support.

### **Membership – Darren Scott (Chair)**

The Membership Committee has been busy working on promotional information for our Lodges that may help in recruiting new members.

As Conference rolls around, we are now ready to start sending out this information. We have created a poster which has space for the Lodge to add their information. This poster will be added to the website. At this time, we are looking at other ways of getting this information to the Lodges.

We have also created a letter to the editor which will inform the public as to who we are and what we have done in our communities over the years. This is for attracting new members through a "town hall style" meeting by ASKING what is needed in our communities.

I would like to thank Sisters Lynn, Terry and Brothers Guildor, Brad and Blake for working on this with me. I would also like to give a big thank you to Lynda as well as the communications team for their help with these documents.

### **Sustainability – Don Gillis (Chair)**

Work on the Investigation Protocol is ongoing and it is taking more time than I anticipated. That, in itself, may provide a boost in resources to bring the project further along but it will not be completed in time for the Annual Conference.

The Investigation Protocol fits nicely into Section 2.1, Organizational Development priorities of the Strategic Plan. All Associations across the Order are in need of a comprehensive protocol to respond to issues within the Order. The issue may involve an individual member or a group of members. It also

could be related to management of a Lodge or lack of training or experience. It may involve a deliberate misuse of authority or property of the Lodge.

Ultimately, there must be resources available to guide us all in Investigation. To that end, I will commit to broaden the scope of work on this protocol to engage all Associations of the Order.

I wish to thank the Alberta Elks Association for the opportunity to serve in this capacity over the past two years.

### **Walk for Children – Vern Thuroo (Chair)**

I would like to thank everyone that has walked and contributed to the Walk for Children fund. This is a worthwhile cause that Elks and Royal Purple Elks have taken on over many years.

I would like to thank the three Lodges that stepped up this year – Halkirk Elks, Trenville Royal Purple Elks and Stavely Royal Purple Elks. It is great to get out to support these Lodges to bring out the rivalry that some have to raise more than their sisters and brothers.

At present, we have had two Lodges donate \$1,250 before the walk even started. In closing, I will have a better picture of how our Province has contributed to the Walk for Children at the 2023 Conference.

### **District Deputy Facilitator – Duane Romuld (Chair)**

After the challenges that we have all faced over the last few years, it is finally back to life as normal or as normal as the world will be from now on. This year we have moved from online training which we have done back to in-person training. While remote learning and meetings may have their place and do serve us well while we had no choice. In-person does allow for more back-and-forth conversations and a greater experience. This year we have several new updated forms which have been a long time coming we also have new programs that not all members may know about and therefore a lot of information to get to the new District Deputies who are our first line of contact with the lodges.

We once again have many returning District Deputies but we have some new members stepping up and we have filled a couple of spots that have been vacant over the last year or so. We still have some lodges operating with very limited and or no meetings and it will be the job of our District Deputies to get them going again. Thanks must be given to all of the dedicated members who over the last year have taken on the job of District Deputy they have done their best and they are to be commended on the job that they have done.

In closing, I thank this year's District Deputies for stepping forward and wish them well on their travels. I also take this opportunity to thank the Association for allowing me to be involved and help in some small way.

It was mentioned that Ken Lengyel has come on board as a District Deputy Facilitator for the upcoming year and a good training session was held with those District Deputies in attendance.

## **District Deputy Reports**

### **District 1 – Doug Becotte**

October 15, 2022 a motion was made to join Districts 1 & 3 into District 1, we are a large District covering 1600 km's from Grande Prairie to Whitehorse, covering part of NW Alberta, NE British Columbia and the Yukon. Over time we have seen 20 — 25 Elk and Royal Purple Lodges close, because of retirement, replacement of interested long term Members is main problem. Replacement of Lodges are troubling, Members are asking, using different ideas, fingers are crossed.

The Covid problems made it much harder in attracting new Members. Member Elks use our Elks Proud Card to help explain our Order of what we as Elks do.

Remember, The Alberta Elks Association is an Alberta, Yukon and Eastern British Columbia Volunteer Organization of Men and Women Serving Communities. We are an organization dedicated to the benefit and welfare of others, whenever there is a need for Fraternity, Friendship, Service, in short, we are really "People Helping People". We must always look forward.

ADVERTSE OUR Order, let the public know who we are; along with what we do for our communities. Many great results have taking place with our Elks Foundation, Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children, Hearing Aids, Stuttering and Speech, Fire Victims, Handicapped personal.

Ask your Good Buddy, friend who invited you to Elkdom, invite Friends, may gain interest, talk with fellow Elk Members, your Exalted Ruler, Secretary, DD etc. Our Alberta Elk Magazine shows many thoughts on attracting new Members along with other ideas and promotions, express your ideas, send them in, ideas once printed may be helpful to Fellow Lodges and Districts.

It has been eight years since accepting the District Deputy position in District 1, working with our Lodges and neighbouring Districts has been great, it's time to step down, thanks for assisting over the time, like a lot of other Districts we are having problems.

### **District 2 – Mike Irla**

First, I would like to thank all the lodges for allowing me to visit their lodges this past year. As the 2022-2023 began there seemed to be more excitement within the lodges that they can finally start planning and become active within their community. We have planned our district meeting for April 15, 2023, in McLennan.

Over these past 5 years as district deputy, I admire the dedication the members of District #2 have toward Elkdom. As our membership is decreasing and aging, we continue to help our communities. We will miss the Manning Elks Lodge #286 as they could no longer continue with the members that were left.

I will be stepping down as District Deputy #2, Sister Faye Rever has agreed to take the position. Thanks to Linda for putting up with me these past years, greatly appreciated. Thanks again to Bro. Danny Fell for travelling with me on my visits.

A big hand out to Stettler/District #11 for hosting the 2023 Provincial Conference.

**District 4/5 – David Coates** – no report submitted

**District 6 – Lawrence Pidluzny**

I am now finished my third round as District Deputy, and as before, I enjoyed a good year. I wish to thank all our Lodges in District 6 for being accommodating and receptive to my visits. I just hope I didn't bore anyone to death with my visitation forms and reports.

Besides having Myrnam Lodge #350 being in the process of leaving Elkdom, all others seemed to be working hard to maintain their activity in their communities. During our District Meeting of April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Elk Point Lodge #460, each of the Lodges presented a very positive report on all the fund-raising, donations and fellowship activities carried on throughout the year 2022. We had also bid a farewell to 14 deceased Brothers who left us over the past year or so.

One of the main concerns emanating from each of the Lodges was the fact that membership was aging and decreasing. I did discuss some of the points of the 100 Ways to Increase Membership booklet that I had given out to each Lodge, but one particular one sticks out in my mind. And that is, we must ensure that our existing members feel excellent about being a part of the Lodge, as this feeling will filter out into the community and perhaps help with securing new members.

I feel that we should recognize and thank members for jobs well done and also let them know about our confidence in their abilities and work. Let us make a strong effort to share jobs and responsibilities. Let us find ways to celebrate accomplishments and achievements of our Lodge by having some events which could reward our hard- working members and somehow celebrate these accomplishments and achievements of the Lodge.

I was nominated and elected for another year as District Deputy of District 6 at our District Meeting. I feel honored to regain this position, but am very hopeful that next year, a new DD will come forth. There are a few members that seem quite interested. We'll see how it goes. This is indeed a great opportunity.

**District 7 – Edward Haun** – no report submitted

**District 8 – Claude Fell**

District 8 consists of six Lodges with about 210 members. Spring visits and ritualistic competitions have been completed. Unfortunately, ritualistic has less enthusiastic representation than usual, but interest is still there. The Spring Meeting for this District has not yet occurred at the time I write this report but it is scheduled to occur very shortly.

Some of our Lodges struggled to get members out to meetings post-lockdown and restrictions but lately seem to be experiencing an upswing in participation. It is also being reported that our Lodges are receiving support equal to pre-pandemic levels from the communities at recent fundraising functions.

Some Lodges in our District have expressed concerns about failing membership due to the falling numbers of younger families and population in smaller communities. That being said, they all continue to explore options and new ideas for recruitment. As we are all aware, many small communities and organizations are experiencing the same issues and concerns.

Concerns aside, our Lodges continue to be a visible and active presence in their areas and continue to look for new causes to aid in and to be more visible.

**District 9 – Gerard Hermary** – no report submitted

**District 10 – Louise Higginbottom**

It has been a busy year with a most enjoyable learning curve. At all my visits, I was greeted with respect and equality. I enjoyed meeting everyone and it was nice to see familiar faces. Thank you for all the hospitality lunches and new friendships.

I was installed at Provincial Conference in Brooks. In February, I attended the Provincial Executive midterm meeting in Red Deer. It was nice to put faces to names. The weekend was very informative.

Travel to all Lodges was good. I put on 1773 kilometres. Four new members were initiated, three I Delburne during GER Leonard Shain's visit. The other was in Delia by myself during my official visit. It is nice to see new members coming on board.

Now that we can get out and visit, I am glad to see the Lodges visiting other Lodges in the District with the travelling gavel. Ritual competition is once again started. I will be contacting the Lodges to see who wants to participate. I have had one Lodge participate to date. You have until the end of 2023 to qualify for the competition with the district. Thank you to the judges for work well done.

Thank you to my home Lodge – Trenville Royal Purple Elks – for all their help and support over the year. To PDD Jean Frere, PDD Lynn Williams, PDD Sharon Davis – thank you for your guidance when asked. To Phyllis Anderson, thank you for being Secretary-Treasurer and for being there when I asked for help. To my wonderful husband, Louie, for the patience, love and understanding when I was visiting. Yes, Louis did come travelling with me, just not all the time.

To all of you here today, thank you for coming and have a safe journey home.

**District 11 – Eugene Thuroo**

I attended the Provincial Conference in Brooks and was installed as District Deputy. I made two official visits in District 11 and held two District meetings at Halkirk. I made a visit when the Grand Exalted Ruler Leonard Shain was visiting Stettler Royal Purple Elks and met with Provincial President Kelly Sanford at Big Valley, Castor and Hanna.

Thanks goes to Big Valley in hosting an initiation for the surrounding Lodges to bring in new members of Elkdom.

On my travels, I have met many new friends in Elkdom and got to see what other Lodges are doing since Covid is over. Lots of great ideas and projects are being put together to make the communities a better place to work and play in.

I also travelled to Stettler to help organize the 2023 Provincial Conference. I would like to thank the Lodges in District #11 for coming together to help host the Elks and Royal Purple Elks Conference in 2023.

### **District 12 – Terry Read**

It has been a busy and exciting year for us!!

At the beginning of the year, we started raising money for a young boy (Colin Brown) to get a service dog. Colin is five years old and has fourteen disabilities and the service dog would go a long way into helping with his quality of life.

Okotoks Elks were very instrumental in helping raise this money. I just want to give a big shout out to this Lodge. Okotoks has been under supervision for the last year and I am happy to say that it is coming to an end. By the time you read this, I believe that it should be over.

Most of the Lodges in the District are having a problem with membership or lack thereof. It is something we are working on.

We had two successful District Meetings this year and have a new District Deputy that will be taking over for me this year. He is a very new member, has lots of energy and ideas so I am hoping that the district will get behind him like they have helped me.

I attended the Spring Midterm with the rest of the District Deputies and found it very informative. It was good to know that we are having the same problems. Good luck to everyone in the coming year. I look forward to seeing just how far we can climb.

### **District 13 – no District Deputy**

### **District 14 – Ken Lengyel**

The lodges of District 14, Kimberly Elks #90, Fernie Elks #81, Pincher Creek #474, Fort Macleod #129, Stavely Elks Royal Purple #99 and Stavely Elks #112 are doing well. All the lodges in the district have survived the recent Covid shutdowns and are resuming normal activities.

Depending on the lodge, one of the challenges that has emerged post-Covid is getting members and the public back into the habit of attending regular meetings and events, in person. During the Covid era, all of the lodges developed communication protocols to keep their members informed of what was going on and to help them stay engaged. For the most part, attendance of members at regular Lodge Meetings is lower than what it used to be pre-Covid. Now we have to use some of those same tools and maybe develop new ways to encourage members to actually attend meetings.

The good news is, when a call is made for volunteers for a project or an event, members are stepping forward and showing up.

District 14 has completed their District Bylaw and Regulation review. The revised document has been approved by all of the District 14 lodges and has been submitted to the Alberta Elks Association for ratification. The new document will be distributed to all the lodges in the district for their records.

District 14 has had a positive growth in membership over the last year. The lodge that has attracted the most, new members, Stavely Elks Royal Purple 99, attribute their success primarily to three reasons:

1. Being seen in the communities being actively busy
2. Having fun and working collaboratively
3. Being open to new ideas, both on how things get done and taking on new projects

In the spring of 2023, District 14 (Stavely Elks 112 and the Elks Royal Purple 99) again hosted the Elks of Canada National Curling Event. This event is struggling. Elks are not coming out, the number of teams showing up is ½ of what it used to be pre-Covid. The National Curling Committee is going to try a radical change to try to get more participation. There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Elks National Curling events in 2023. Shaunavon #386 is going to host the event the first weekend in December. It is hoped that by moving it to this time of year, more Elks will be able to show up to keep the event going.

These last 12 months have been a year of learning for me as the District Deputy of District 14. I have been impressed with all of the lodges in the district. Coming through Covid on our feet, continuing to support our communities, Provincial Association and Grande Lodge is an accomplishment. It is evident that the members of the District 14 Lodges are active, vocal and Proud Elks.

Moved by Darren Scott, Breton Elks, seconded by Bob Shave, Breton Elks that the reports be accepted as printed. **CARRIED**

### **Credential Committee Report #2**

Provincial Officers	6
Delegates	78
Total Voting Members	84
Visitors	0
Total Members Present	84
Lodges Represented	48
Districts Represented	12

### **Grand Lodge Strategic Planning Presentation**

Meghan Pollard explained the re-branding and communication for the Order

- The logo was shared with those in and has been approved to go to the Convention floor for final approval
- The logo we currently have will remain and be used for important documents
- The new logo is a marketing tool as a result of re-branding to give us a fresh, new look.
- It is designed not for new members, not our current membership
- \$25,000 was designated for the re-branding.
- Why spend this amount of money when we already have a logo that is effective and beautiful? Praxis suggested the re-branding; they were hired to help



- How many logos are we going to end up with – a few years ago the three headed Elk was developed? The three headed Elk logo is not a legal logo. It was not registered and can be used and changed by anyone.
- 62.1% of those who completed the survey voted in favor of the new logo.
- There was nowhere in the survey to provide further feedback with only one question being asked.
- With the low result from the survey, it is difficult for the committee to find out what the membership wants.
- Trying to have a fresh approach to attract younger members; we need to change.
- The registered logo will be with us forever as that is where our tradition comes from.
- Did Praxis come back with facts and figures that suggested the logo that was proposed three years ago is no longer effective and we needed a new one?
- Inclusivity is not a result of a logo – it is from the membership that reaches out to the community
- A new strategy needs to be developed to get the Elks name out into the community rather than a new logo

Don Gillis provided a brief overview of the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan

- Strategic map has been approved by the membership and which provides us with the direction we are headed
- It was developed by experts and with the leaders in the organization to make sure something was developed that works for everyone in the Order
- Praxis to came up with two proposals that would allow us to receive grant funding from the federal government. We were not successful for those grants but are continuing to look for grants to help with the funding so the membership is not footing the bill.
- not receiving the grant funding, it has caused a slow down in the project for this year. As funds become available and we can afford to move on, we will move forward.

## **Other Presentations**

### **Lodge Donation Form**

- Kelly Sanford showed the membership the Lodge Donation Request form that can be used by an individual/group that is asking for funding from a Lodge.
- This is not a required document (*not to be used for personal assistance grants*) that Lodges need to use but it would help to get your Lodge's name out into the community. It is available on the Alberta Elks Association's website.
- In Whitehorse they send a Lodge member to the organization, not the other way around.
- It is a form for your Lodge's use and not to be shared with anyone but your Lodge. The Association does not want a copy.
- A suggestion was made to add lines in the form regarding the proposed budget of the project and other income sources. The form can be modified to be more applicable to each individual Lodge.

## **Communications Document**

- What is the best way to get this information to our membership if secretaries are not reading the information coming from the Executive. Should we be using Survey Monkey to get feedback on some of the communication to see if Lodges are actually using?
- Alberta Elks Association Communication Chart was shared with the membership to let the members know where to go with their questions/issues. Members were requested to familiarize themselves with the procedures.

## **Grand Exalted Ruler Leonard Shain's Presentation**

- Grand Exalted Ruler is to promote the Order through television and newspaper interviews and talking about the Order.
- GER Shain's theme for this year was "Not Without You"
- This year's convention is virtual because of cost
- Funds are being put towards the strategic planning process
- There will be hard starts for election of officers, resolutions, budget so that members know exactly when they will begin to enable members to provide input
- Encouraged everyone in attendance to provide Elks of Canada and the Association with your email address so that you are receiving pertinent information
- Grand Lodge is working on a new database which will enable them to pull information which can be shared with the Associations
- Lodges have some great ideas and we need to share those ideas; reach out to the communications committee to get the word out to other Lodges
- If a Lodge for whatever reason has to go under supervision or trusteeship, Grand Lodge relies on the District Deputies and the Association for help
- Formally apologized to the Delburne Elks. They were put under supervision because Grand Lodge listened without doing proper investigation; we need to ensure we speak to everyone involved before such a step is taken
- There seems to be no communication coming from Grand Lodge to the membership. GER Shain assured those in attendance this will be taken back to the office to share with the Executive.
- Could we possibly do a national advertising campaign and apply a QR Code to help people know what the Elks are all about, including the fact that we have women in our Order?
- Whether you are a social media person or not, posts can be made on the Lodge Facebook, as well your personal one. Be sure to hit the "share" button to get the word out to others!!

## **Executive Report to the Membership**

Welcome Brothers, Sisters, and Ladies of the Royal Purple Elks to the Alberta Elks Association Conference hosted here in beautiful Stettler, Alberta. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to take part in this year's conference. Thank you to District 11 for all your work making this year's conference possible.

Three years ago, the Alberta Elks Association recognized that we were spinning circles and trying to stay afloat. It was determined that every incoming president had a different vision but no one president was in office long enough to make true change. To change this the Alberta Elks Association

executive made the step to work together and develop a strategic plan with the focus of building a stronger association able to weather the turbulence of a changing non-profit sector in Canada. When the plan originated, we had four (4) areas of focus; Communication, Membership, Governance, and Relevance and Sustainability.

The first step the executive took was to change Membership and Communications from a single-member committee with a chair and 4 members. It was unfair and unreasonable for us to expect one person to take on these important roles for the entire association. By designing these strong committees of members from across the Association items like the Alberta Elks Newsletter, could form, develop and focus on growing the membership and sharing the amazing things happening. The newsletter is a great example of the positive impact of the Strategic Plan. Since it was developed, the newsletter has grown to 8-10 pages and is delivered to ~1800members every month. Furthermore, we are starting to see submissions from members and lodges that we haven't in the last 4 years. The positive responses reinforce how important it is to communicate with the lodges, and members and provide an avenue for lodge-to-lodge and member-to-member communication.

The pillar of Governance will forever be a standing item as we grow as an association. This year the committee has been able to complete all the items on their task list. These items include updating the association bylaws, regulations, and the officer manual. There were items the executive felt should be moved from the bylaws and into regulations, so it was easier to adjust the expectations and requirements of the standing committees. One example of this is the communications committee, as previously outlined the only job tasked to the Communications Committee was to promote the conference. Now it is a requirement for the committee to develop the newsletter, ensure the social media channels are sharing lodge activities and information from the executive, an update on the president's travel, and anything else needing to be shared. Because of this change, if some changes or tools become relevant to the order, the executive of the day can easily delegate it to the committee.

Another important change that was made was the creation of the District Deputy Committee. Traditionally, at every post conference two districts would be assigned to each Executive member. This member would then be the designated District Liaison for those areas. The Liaison was to report back to the executive relevant information on their districts. For years this system has not been successful, it was noted that Executive members were not reading reports, they were being lost, and reports were not being filled out honestly by the elected members and district deputies. It also glaringly pointed out that many of the District Deputies didn't know who to go to for assistance or where to direct questions or concerns.

With these concerns in mind, the Executive created a committee. The District Deputy Trainer and one other member of the Executive now serve as the touch point for all the serving District Deputies for the association. This committee is the communication point for the District Deputies, and they are responsible for reading the visit reports, and bringing to the attention of the executive any problems, questions, and successes of lodges. A flow chart of communication was also developed and shared to create better communication for all parts of the association.

This past February all 14 District Deputies were asked to join the executive for in person midterm hosted in Red Deer. Historically in the past, when the District Deputies attended midterm, they were provided additional training separate from the Executive meeting. This year the District Deputies attended and engaged with the Executive meeting from start to finish. The District Deputies were asked to bring a write-up about every lodge in their district to present to the executive and bring forward

concerns, questions, or feedback to the executive. The joining of the parties allowed each Deputy to provide a detailed report on every single lodge in Alberta; the good, bad, and ugly. These presentations were eye-opening and insightful and from these reports, the executive was able to then identify 10 lodges of concern to focus support and resources on.

It was at this meeting that the District Deputy visit form, Community Service Form, and Expense form were finally re-evaluated and updated to be of use to the serving deputies. The District Deputy forms went from 3 pages of yes/no questions to 6 questions where the District Deputy is required to write frank comments about the lodge. Thus far we are very impressed with how the forms have changed the feedback we are receiving and how it allowed the executive as a whole to intervene earlier and offer help if possible.

It came to the executive's attention through the reports from our District Deputies that we had lodges that needed assistance asking for recognition for their incredible community donations.

To ensure our members were getting that recognition, the executive developed a donation request form for lodges to use as a tool should they want to. On the form it asks, "*How will you recognize the donation from the Lodge*", which will insist the recipients publicly recognize the lodge for their contributions to their project as well as where the lodge can look for that information to be shared (i.e., social media, print materials, etc). That form is on the website and is available for any lodge to use. We appreciate any feedback as well from lodges that have used the form so we can keep it relevant to the needs of the membership.

The executive continues to work to connect with lodges struggling in small, isolated communities across the Association. Due to the expansive nature of the association, the executive is often informed of lodge issues well after the members themselves have become tired of the struggle of maintaining their lodge space, and the required formalities of the order itself. It is being reported that smaller lodges are either thriving and growing or are completely stagnant with members unable to volunteer due to age and health concerns. We continue to encourage our members and district deputies to connect with the executive as soon as possible if they are having concerns. We are unable to support anyone if we don't know what's going on.

One of the gains since covid has been the ability for non-profits to access funding sources through the provincial and federal government through targeted grants source funding. Grant funding has been a resource available to the non-profit sector, but the process of finding and then applying for them can be overwhelming for many. There have been several members in the association who have stepped up stating they can help members and lodges source and submit applications for funds. The executive is happy to support any member or lodge looking for this tool connecting them with someone in their region who can help. There are members of the executive that have experience with sourcing and applying for grants. Reach out if you have questions or need assistance.

We recognize that we have lodges in trouble in Alberta, and we are working hard to identify them and send in the right help to assist them. On a positive note, we are happy to report that we also have lodges thriving. As mentioned before Strathmore Elks had a waiting list for membership and had to build an addition to accommodate the membership.

In August of 2022, the Association as a whole experienced the loss of long-serving Elk's member Brother Ian Sundquist of the Stavely Elks Lodge #112. Brother Ian was a cornerstone for the Association and his loss was felt by all who knew him. Brother Ian was so very proud of his community and the Elks

lodge that thrives there and was well known for being a strong fixture and ambassador for the Order. Ian loved attending meetings and was someone we all reached out to if you had a question. Ian served the order locally, provincially, and nationally. Serving his community brought him tremendous joy and he will be dearly missed by us all.

At our first meeting in September, the executive decided to leave the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Presidents chair vacant for the term. This was a unanimous decision and the serving executive all stepped in to support the tasks outlined in the officer's manual for that position. This past fall the executive purchased a bench and plaque in memory of Brother Ian that will be placed within the region in memory of Ian.

On behalf of the Executive thank you for allowing us a moment to share what has been happening in the background during the year. The work of the executive is determined by the members who elected each of us to the chairs and we are working hard to ensure that the association is growing in the ever-changing landscape of the non-profit and charitable sectors. We look forward to the challenges and are excited about the future of the Alberta Elks Association.

### **General Discussion**

- White Rock Elks – did some renovations to their building and decided that City Council should be aware of the Elks; held an open house, prepared a short video and have two of the council members joining. Meeting with Town/City Councils is an avenue we need to explore to be sure the community as they are the ones who can make the community aware of our organization.
- Sherwood Park – asked City Council to promote the Elks as the Elks were giving grants to the city; hold Councils accountable
- Virtual Convention – there is an opportunity if your Lodge/District wants to hold a viewing party it can be accommodated this year; each viewing party will have a scrutineer and that person will submit the voting results to Grand Lodge
- GER Shain attended the Ontario Convention virtually; they held theirs so one could join in either manner they wished.
- Stavely Elks will be hosting a viewing party.
- Lodges closing or selling their building – GL seems to find out via Facebook; difficult to help Lodges if it hasn't been asked for; before going to that extent, Lodges are asked to reach out to the Association or Grand Lodge
- Need a hard start on the Strategic Plan discussion at Convention – Don Gillis assured that this would be done.
- Is there some way that Grand Lodge could comply with their own regulations regarding Lodges selling or closing their doors and notify the Associations of this as soon as possible when word is received.

- 60 people were in attendance at the last virtual convention when the decision was made to go with Praxis. What has it cost us so far for Praxis to prepare the Strategic Plan - \$250,000 has been spent to this point. \$25,000 is allocated for each year forward. It is up to the membership as to whether this continued.
- Virtual Conventions - Trenville RPE – is using the Three Hills College auditorium for a virtual viewing of the convention, Stavely, Ft. Saskatchewan, McLennan RPE, Whitehorse are all doing virtual conventions
- Gowns for Grads -- Trenville RPE have the gowns in a movable trailer; if any Lodge wishes to host an event, they are willing to help out
- Submitting an article to the newsletter – send the picture as a .jpeg and write a word document of the event, send to the Elks Secretary who forwards it for publishing; names of those in pictures, what is the occasion of the presentation are also required
- Toy Drive - to get Lodges to do a simple project and to help the hospitals; we can no longer take the toys to the hospital because of covid changes; this project has now been changed to audio books; we have our name on \$6,033 worth of audio books; charitable receipts can be issued for any cash donation
- “Every child needs a bedtime story” – could we use something similar as a tag line that would tug at people’s hearts??

### **Credential Report #3**

Provincial Officers	6
Delegates	83
Total Voting Members	89
Visitors	0
Total Members Present	89
Lodges Represented	48
Districts Represented	12

Moved by Bill Ward, Didsbury, seconded by Leonard Shain, Sherwood Park that the credential report be accepted. **CARRIED**

### **Election of Association & Foundation Officers**

- a) President – James Zimmer
- b) 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (President Elect) – Meghan Pollard
- c) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Terry Read
- d) 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Vern Thuroo

- e) Esquire – Lynn Williams
- f) Foundation Trustees (Five Positions)
  - Lynda Petten
  - Bill Ward
  - Darren Scott
  - Al Gummesen
  - Brad Biette

Moved by Nick Henger, Red Deer Elks, seconded by Duane Romuld, Brooks to destroy the ballots after thirty days. CARRIED

### **Conference Site – 2024**

- Claude Fell, Heisler indicated that District 8 are putting forward a bid to host the 2024 Conference in Camrose
- Have contacted a couple of the larger hotels and they are potentially full for that weekend – June 6, 7, 8, 2024.
- Could we move it to the following weekend after if necessary; resolutions that would be going to Convention would not be affected by a date change
- District 8 will continue to work with the hotels to find suitable dates

### **Incoming President's Comments**

President James Zimmer addressed the assembly and thanked everyone for supporting him. He feels it has been a great 13 years of learning and meeting new people. Told everyone he does not like the words “I am too busy” and stated that all on the Executive are here to do the best they can. If you don't like it and criticize, put your name forward to sit on the Executive or a committee.

### **Presentation of Cheques to Foundation**

Total donations received to the Alberta Elks Foundation = \$30,747.63  
Total donations received to the Fund for Children = \$11,390.00

### **Presentations from the Standing Committee Chairs**

- Travelling Gavel – Rosalind Elks
- Provincial Inter-District Visitation – no award given
- Provincial Community Service
  - 1 – 30 members – Vegreville Elks – \$2,011 per member
  - 31 – 60 members – Brooks Elks – \$754 per member
  - 61 plus – Bow Island Elks – \$826 per member
- Expansion Award - Whitehorse Elks – presented with 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary certificate by Kelly

**Budget** (see the approved budget as an attachment to these minutes)

Moved by Barbara Evans, Whitehorse Elks, seconded by Meghan Pollard, Ft. Saskatchewan Elks to lift the budget from the table. CARRIED

Moved by Bill Ward, Didsbury Elks, seconded by Al Gummesen, Ft. Saskatchewan Elks that the budget be approved. CARRIED

### **Queen's Jubilee Awards**

Doug Becotte, Nick Henger, Jim McLeod, Duane Felt, Margo Ward, Leonard Shain, Ed Heck, Doug Bernard, Don Rush, Marjorie Dowell, Ian Sundquist, Matthew Peacock, Al Gummesen and Maggie Gervais were acknowledged and congratulated for receiving the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

### **Kyle Stevenson, Saskatchewan Provincial President**

*The following is the document President Kelly Sanford had to read because she lost the bet with President Kyle Stevenson!!*

Thank you so much for allowing me a few more minutes to speak at the conference. I have been looking forward to this day for the past 11 months, to be able to celebrate with Saskatchewan and its epic win against Alberta.

Now that I am nearing the end of my term, it has been recommended that I have my eyes checked again as I seemed to be very fuzzy about the details of our bet and how we decided the ground rules. I am so very happy that Brother Kyle kept a record of that conversation from last July to be able to remind me of what the battle lines were - percentages are very important units of measurement. And those numbers are in – Saskatchewan won with an increase of 2.75% and we, Alberta has an increase of 2.61%.

What started out as a friendly bet quickly gained momentum across both Associations. I wanted to personally extend my congratulations to Brother Kyle and to the members of Saskatchewan on the great win he experienced this month. You know, I tried so darn hard, cheering all the Alberta Association lodges to bring in those members! It does hurt a bit losing to Saskatchewan....but really, 0.14% - that is such a small number.

This year Alberta welcomed 68 new members to their Association and the Saskatchewan Elks Association welcomed in 41. Welcome to the Elks of Canada! Being a member of the Elks is really amazing and I know you see the impact of our actions in your own communities.

At the end of all this, it was never about who had the higher numbers. It was really about growing the Order. The last 11 months has been a friendly competition focused on an issue that affects us all, each member we gain brings new energy and ideas to our Lodges.

We have struggle over the last number of years with nationally falling membership numbers but I think the past year has proven that we know how to start fixing the problem and moving forward.



This was only one step in the direction we need to go. I encourage you all to reach out those hands to people in your community and share with them the elks, we are such an amazing group of people and we need to share that more.

Kyle, thank you for being such a great sport, it was fun. Let's work to keep this going so we can look back and say we started the revitalization of the Elks while we were able to both serve as President of such an amazing group of people.

### **Past President's Report**

Barbara Evans, Chair reported that the Past Presidents unanimously voted to give the honor of Honorary Provincial President to Brother Ian Sundquist.

### **Good of the Order**

- Leonard Shain Grand Exalted Ruler – presented a picture to IPP Barbara Evans from Grand Lodge on the occasion of Whitehorse Elks 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

Moved by Leonard Shain, Sherwood Park Elks, seconded by Darren Scott, Breton Elks that Pivot LLP be appointed as the auditor for 2023/2024. CARRIED

### **Walk for Children**

Vern Thuroo, Chair reported that he had collected \$10,158.00 for the 2023 walk.

Moved by Bill Ward, Didsbury Elks, seconded by Meghan Pollard, Ft. Saskatchewan Elks, to hold the Walk for Children in 2024. CARRIED

GER Leonard Shain shared a walk story wherein the members created a scavenger hunt in their walk; he encouraged members to try something different to get people interested.

### **Closing Resolution**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That all legislation, orders, edicts, declarations and resolutions which have been adopted this 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Alberta Elks Association be confirmed and wherever necessary, the Bylaws, rules and privileges of the Association be amended to give full force and effect thereto.

Moved by Duane Felt, Vulcan, seconded by Roland Gagnon, Westlock CARRIED

# RESOLUTIONS

## **RESOLUTION #1: Grand Lodge to Withhold Membership Cards**

**WHEREAS** Currently the only power the Alberta Elks Association has if a Lodge has not paid their dues is to stop them from attending Conference.

**WHEREAS** Grand Lodge has the ability to prevent them from attending Convention only if Grand Lodge fees are not paid.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** Membership cards will be withheld for Lodges which are three months or more in arrears for Provincial Dues at the time membership cards are issued.

**AND FURTHER** Provincial Associations will notify the Grand Lodge Office of any Lodge that is three months or more in arrears of Provincial Dues prior to October. Notice will be made by the Association to the Grand Lodge office immediately when dues are paid.

Submitted by the Alberta Elks Association Executive

Moved by Duane Felt, Vulcan, seconded by Jim McLeod, Sherwood Park    APPROVED

## **RESOLUTION #2 – STRONGER COMMUNICATION**

**WHEREAS** the survival of the Elks of Canada requires stronger membership involvement, attending Provincial Conferences and/or National Conventions to ensure clear communication and provision of clear direction; and

**WHEREAS** Strong Lodge and Membership support for National and/or Provincial programs and projects is limited by inadequate communication and support; and

**WHEREAS** In today's fast-moving society, with lightning-fast technologies there are ways to move ideas and concepts very quickly and to a larger cross-section of the membership.

**AND WHEREAS** Executive bodies and committees have limited members and resources, often with limited input from a large cross-section of the membership on a project and/or concept except by presentation at a Conference, Convention or Special Meeting.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Elks of Canada investigates opportunities for developing different options, including by electronic means for members to provide feedback and/or vote directly on concepts, proposals, and or resolutions either as lodges or as members.

Submitted by the Brooks Elks Lodge # 77

Moved by Duane Romuld, Brooks, Meghan Pollard, Ft. Saskatchewan

Moved by Gordon McLeod, Sherwood Park, seconded by Barbara Evans, Whitehorse to amend the resolution to read "The Elks of Canada investigates opportunities for developing different options, including by electronic means for members to provide feedback and/or vote directly on concepts, proposals, and or resolutions either as lodges or as members and to report back to the Alberta Elks Association prior to our 2024 Conference. AMENDMENT APPROVED MOTION APPROVED

### **UNCIRCULATED RESOLUTION #3 – HONORARY PAST PRESIDENT**

**WHEREAS** Brother Ian Sundquist was a valued member of the Alberta Elks Association as well as his Lodge, community and the Elks of Canada.

**AND WHEREAS** Brother Ian had served on the Alberta Elks Association executive up to and including the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President as well as numerous other duties.

**AND WHEREAS** as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President he would have been installed as the President of the Alberta Elks Association at this Conference

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the title of Honorary Past President be bestowed upon Brother Ian Sundquist from Stavely Elks Lodge #112.

Presented by the Alberta Elks Past Presidents

Moved by Bill Ward, Didsbury Elks, seconded by Barbara Evans, Whitehorse Elks. APPROVED

# BUDGET

	Proposed Budg	Actuals to	Approved Budg
	2023/2024	March 31/23	2022/2023
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Membership Fees	\$ 62,479.00	62,425.00	67,275.00
Special Project - Toy Drive	\$ -	2175.00	5,000.00
Member Services Grant	\$ 500.00	500.00	500.00
Interest Earned	\$ 4,600.00	2323.65	620.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 250.000	1,020.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 67,829.00</b>	<b>68,443.65</b>	<b>73,495.00</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
<b><u>Officer Travel -</u></b>			
President's Travel	\$ 1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Officer Travel	\$ 500.00	119.39	500.00
GL Delegates (1st Vice President	\$ -	0.00	3,000.00
Other Travel Expense	\$ 100.00	521.99	500.00
<b><u>District Deputy -</u></b>			
Lodge Travel	\$ 6,000.00	6,064.65	10,000.00
<b><u>Conference -</u></b>			
Executive	\$ 9,000.00	8438.24	10000.00
District Deputies	\$ 8,000.00	7649.45	10000.00
Committees	\$ 4,000.00	5053.13	500.00
Booklet & Proceedings Cost	\$ 2,000.00	1917.87	1930.90
Past Provincial Presidents	\$ -	0.00	175.00
Other Conference Expenses	\$ 100.00	1,830.88	100.00
Grand Lodge Delegates	\$ 2,000.00	2,060.40	2000.00
<b><u>Midterm -</u></b>			
Executive	\$ 6,000.00	5,603.87	4,000.00
District Deputies	\$ 5,000.00	5252.32	4,000.00
Committees/Strategic Planning	\$ 2,500.00	3754.76	1000.00
Meals/Meeting Room	\$ 2,000.00	2019.14	
<b><u>Committees -</u></b>			
Communication	\$ 100.00	151.84	500.00
Sickness & Distress	\$ -	0	150.00
District Deputy Facilitator Suppli	\$ 500.00	0.00	500.00
Website	\$ -	84.00	0.00

Relevance/Sustainability	\$ -	154.99	500.00
<b><u>Administration -</u></b>			
Insurance/Officer Liability	\$ 3,000.00	2,956.00	2,800.00
Accounting/Legal Expense	\$ 4,800.00	4,725.00	4,725.00
<b><u>Office/Secretary -</u></b>			
Computer Programs	\$ 800.00	1,040.42	500.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 800.00	800.00	800.00
Postage/Meter Contract	\$ 900.00	1,421.56	1,500.00
Office Supplies/Equipment	\$ 150.00	494.86	500.00
Honorarium	\$ 8,400.00	8,400.00	8,400.00
Officer Regalia	\$ 150.00	123.94	250.00
Storage Unit	\$ 1,000.00	1,009.26	1,100.00
<b><u>Transfers -</u></b>			
Toy Drive Paid Out	0.00	2,595.00	5,000.00
Miscellaneous Transfers	\$ -	177.00	0.00
<b><u>Bank Charges -</u></b>			
Service Charges	\$ 100.00	93.50	100.00
<b><u>Miscellaneous Expenses</u></b>	\$ 100.00	1,647.25	100.00
<b><u>Write-offs</u></b>	\$ 2,500.00	4,225.00	4,000.00
<b><i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i></b>	<b>\$ 72,000.00</b>	<b>80,385.71</b>	<b>80,730.90</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$67,829.00</b>	<b>68,443.65</b>	<b>73,495.00</b>
<b>LESS TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$ 72,000.00</b>	<b>-80,385.71</b>	<b>-80,730.90</b>
<b><i>NET</i></b>	<b><i>-\$4,071.00</i></b>	<b><i>-11,942.06</i></b>	<b><i>-7,235.90</i></b>
Note - Invested - \$125,000.00 (5 x \$25,000 - 15 mos. @ 4.8%)			
Approved AGM June 2023			