

Alberta Elks Association 2024 Executive



President
Meghan Pollard
Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge



Imm. Past President
James Zimmer
Heisler Elks Lodge



1st Vice President
Terry Read
Carstairs Elks Lodge



2nd Vice President
Vern Thuroo
Hanna Elks Lodge



3rd Vice President
Lynn Williams
Trenville RP Elks



Esquire
Jayson Hughes
Okotoks Elks Lodge



Inner Guard
Jordie Bronson
Stavely Elks Lodge



Secretary / Treasurer
Lynda Petten
Red Deer / Breton Elks Lodge

Committee Chairs

Membership Chair
Miranda St.Thomas

Communication Chair
Kelly Sanford

Judiciary Chair
Duane Felt

Contact information for executive and committee chairs is available on the Alberta Elks website



elksfalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org

96th Annual Alberta Elks Association Conference Summary June 6-8 2024 Camrose AB

Summary of the Alberta Elks Association Meeting Resolutions:

Resolution #1: Membership Dues Increase

- Context: The Alberta Elks Association has not increased membership dues since 2015, despite ongoing fiscal challenges and deficit budgets.
- Decision: Approved an increase in dues by \$5 per member, effective January 2025.
- Rationale: To address the deficit and ensure the continuation of the Association's activities.
- Impact: Dues will rise from \$25 to \$30, aligning with what they would be if adjusted annually for inflation.

Resolution #2: Volunteer Hours Reporting

- Context: Grand Lodge mandates Lodges to report volunteer hours, but this data is not actively utilized or shared.
- Decision: Grand Lodge should either find a meaningful use for these reports or stop collecting them.
- Rationale: To avoid unnecessary reporting and improve the usefulness of collected data.
- Impact: Lodges may no longer need to report volunteer hours unless a beneficial use for this data is found.

Resolution #3: Annual Statistical Report Review

- Context: The Annual Statistical Report collected by Grand Lodge is underutilized in supporting or promoting Lodges.
- Decision: Grand Lodge should review the report's usefulness and inform Lodges of any changes or non-compliance actions.
- Rationale: To ensure the data collected is valuable and used effectively to aid Lodges.
- Impact: Lodges could see improved feedback and support based on the statistical data they provide.

Resolution #4: Review of Funds for Grand Exalted Ruler (GER) Visits

- Context: GERs receive funds for Lodge and provincial conference visits, considered valuable learning experiences.
- Decision: Grand Lodge to review and possibly revise this funding practice.
- Rationale: To evaluate whether the practice provides sufficient benefit to continue.
- Impact: Potential changes to how GER visits are funded and conducted.

Resolution #5: Termination of Praxis Contract

- Context: Praxis services have shown little visible benefit to the Order, leading to questions about their continued value.
- Decision: Approved the termination of the Praxis contract.
- Rationale: Funds could be better used for other Grand Lodge programs and initiatives.
- Impact: Praxis services will no longer be used, and funds will be reallocated.

Resolution #6: Rescinding Remote Work Policy

- Context: A "work from home" policy was instituted during the pandemic but is now perceived as impacting service availability.
- Decision: The resolution to end the remote work policy was defeated.
- Rationale: Employment policies are determined by the Grand Executive, not by general membership resolutions.
- Impact: The remote work policy remains under the jurisdiction of the Grand Executive.



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Resolution #7: Transparency in Grand Executive and Committee Meetings

- Context: Members have limited information on the activities of the Grand Executive and committees between conventions.
- Decision: Approved that minutes of these meetings be posted on the Member Portal within 5 days of approval.
- Rationale: To improve transparency and keep members informed.
- Impact: Members will have timely access to information on Grand Executive and committee activities.

Resolution #8: District Deputy Visits

- Context: District Deputies are required to visit Lodges twice a year, but some believe focusing on at-risk Lodges could be more effective.
- Decision: The proposal to limit second visits to only high-risk Lodges was defeated.
- Rationale: Regular visits are crucial for maintaining communication and support across all Lodges.
- Impact: District Deputies will continue to make two visits to each Lodge annually.

Resolution #9: National Crest of Elks of Canada

- Context: The Elks of Canada need a consistent and official crest for all documentation and promotional purposes.
- Decision: Approved the registration and consistent use of the Elks of Canada Crest.
- Rationale: To ensure a unified and recognizable emblem across all official uses.
- Impact: The designated crest will be used on all official documents and communications.

Uncirculated Resolution #1: Reinstating the Inner Guard Position

- Context: The Executive proposes adding the position of Inner Guard back to the Provincial Executive to extend experience before becoming President.
- Decision: Approved the reinstatement of the Inner Guard position.
- Rationale: Adding another year to the Executive is seen as beneficial for member development and the Association.
- Impact: The Inner Guard position will be reintroduced immediately, enhancing the Executive structure.

Meeting Outcomes:

- Approved Resolutions: Membership dues increase, review of volunteer hours and statistical report usage, transparency in executive actions, and reinstatement of the Inner Guard position.
- Defeated Resolutions: Proposals to end the remote work policy and limit District Deputy visits.
- Out-of-Order Resolution: The termination of the Praxis contract was initially questioned but proceeded and was approved after clarification.

Election of Association & Foundation Officers

- President - Meghan Pollard nominated by Jim McLeod
- 1st Vice President - Terry Read nominated by Bill Ward
- 2nd Vice President - Vern Thuroo nominated by Ken Lengyel
- 3rd Vice President - Lynn Williams nominated by Linda Ogilvie
- Esquire - Jayson Hughes nominated by Bill Ward
- Inner Guard – Jordie Bronson nominated by Gordon Moon;
 - Linda Ogilvie nominated by Gordon Higginbottom
 - Jordie Bronson elected

Moved by Bill Ward, seconded by Meghan Pollard to destroy the ballots after thirty days. CARRIED



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Foundation Trustees (Five Positions)

- Darren Scott nominated by Bob Shave
- Bill Ward nominated by Leonard Shain
- Gerard Hermary nominated by Michelle Engelman
- Al Gummesen nominated by Lyle Ozouf
- Vanessa Grant nominated by Barbara Evans
- Sharen McLean nominated by Joanne Siemens

Moved by Meghan Pollard, seconded by Al Gummesen to destroy ballots after thirty days. CARRIED

Reports from the Standing Committee Chairs

- Provincial Inter-District Visitation - Trochu Elks Lodge
- Provincial Community Service
 - (1-30) Breton Elks, Okotoks Elks, Valleyview Elks
 - (31-60) Didsbury Elks, Fort Saskatchewan Elks, Brooks Elks
 - (61+) Stavely RPE, Bow Island Elks
- Travelling Gavel Award
 - Less than 30- Breton RPE, Leduc Elks
 - 31-60-Heisler Elks
 - 61 + Stavely RPE
- Ritual Award- Heisler Elks
- Award of Distinction- Sister Kelly Sanford-Brooks #77

Budget

- Added \$1,000 to Executive midterm for position if Inner-Guard
- Added line for membership in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Moved by Al Gummesen, seconded by Murray Fleming to approve the budget as amended. CARRIED

Next Conference Presentation

- Will be held June 11 – 14, 2025 and hosted by District 12 in Olds
- Evergreen Centre will be the Conference Centre
- Training and Pre and Post Conference at Elks Hall
- Pomeroy Inn has been booked as the hotel space

Appointment of Auditor

Moved by Nick Henger, seconded by Leonard Shain to appoint Pivotal LLP as the auditor for the 2024/25 year. CARRIED

Walk for Children

Moved by Lynn Williams, seconded by Diane Worsley to hold 2025 walk. CARRIED

