



A Fraternal Organization

1005 Sophia Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
Email: RLHGER1516@aol.com

RONALD L. HICKS

Past Grand Exalted Ruler

To all Lodge Officers and Pennsylvania Elks,

Thank you for Caring and Sharing, and Thank You for the warm reception you gave Nancy and me last weekend at the 2017 Fall Convention in Harrisburg, my first as the new Pennsylvania Elks State Sponsor. Grand Exalted Ruler Malcolm McPherson, and his wife Pat, who made their official visit to Pennsylvania for the Convention, asked that I also extend their sincere thanks to all PA Elks for a great weekend. Just like Nancy and I, they were thoroughly impressed with your hospitality and everything they saw and heard about the Elks of Pennsylvania.

I understand the Convention was blessed with its highest attendance in many years, and know that all who attended were extremely proud to hear about how the Pennsylvania Elks are serving our Veterans, Youth, Drug Awareness and State Major Project, and how more and more Lodges are taking advantage of the ENF Grants to fund their programs and better serve their Communities. No doubt, the Elks of Pennsylvania have much to be proud about!

The Committee Reports were interesting and informative, and were delivered by each State Chairman with enthusiasm. And, there was much excitement as many individuals and Lodges were recognized for their dedication, service and many accomplishments.

The Seminar/Workshops were well attended, and provided much valuable information on topics of interest to all Lodges: Ritual (Developing team unity leads to a successful Lodge and a review of the Toast and Flag Tribute Contests), Drug Awareness (DA Contests, Quiz Show, "SMOSH," Alex's Lemonade Stand, and DA Spokesman, Ray Lozano, coming to PA in November and May to visit Lodges and schools), Government Relations (New Gaming Laws, Charity Reports, Taxes, and Unrelated Business Income), and Membership (PA off to a good start as Elkdom trends to a gain this year, importance of Orientation, and how to reduce Delinquencies).

There was wonderful food, refreshment and fellowship in the District Hospitality Rooms, and many dollars were raised for the Lodges through various raffles, pull tabs and other games of "Skill." The gift baskets donated by Lodges were a huge success and raised over \$2,500 for ENF, with each donating Lodge sharing in the proceeds, plus over \$700 was raised for DA and Alex's Lemonade Stand. There was a lot happening to keep your interest and attention over the entire weekend. I didn't win a thing, but it was fun and exciting to be a part of the action.

For those who were not able to attend the Fall Convention, please begin making plans now to join us in May for the Spring Convention. I look forward to seeing you, learning more about your Lodges, and having you participate in the meetings and other festivities. Our State and District Meetings are there for you and define Who We Are and What We Do as Elks!!

Fraternally and sincerely,

Ron Hicks

Ronald L. Hicks, PGER and State Sponsor

"Elks Pride – Community Focus"

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks • Grand Lodge *Elks Care - Elks Share*

LODGE SECRETARY:

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER AT YOUR NEXT REGULAR LODGE MEETING