

Ashley Martin, III President
West Virginia Elks Association
State Convention
Canaan Valley Resort
April 30-May 2, 2009

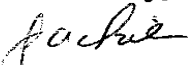
Mr. President and Members All:

The Drug Awareness Program is a very important asset to our Country and to our State. This year all 22 Lodges have participated with this worthy program. We have made tremendous accomplishments this year with the individuals we have been able to educate regarding the harmful affects of drugs and alcohol. The area that needs improvement is letting our members and our communities know what we as Elks provide as a service to our communities and the educational benefits that are available to each and every citizen.

In the coming year I would like to see 100% participation from all the Lodges in notifying the community and the news media on the events that we do day in and day out for the Drug Awareness Program. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

To date, 13 states have enacted laws to legalize medical marijuana. Our sister state of Pennsylvania is now being faced with the same issue. We as Elks need to write our legislatures before this becomes an issue in West Virginia and let them know that we will not be willing to let this come through our doors.

Fraternally,



Jackie Barlow, FDD
Chairman, West Virginia DAP

cc: Hon. Lester C. Hess, Jr., PGER
William Lambert, PSP
Randolph Holley, V.P. South
Vince Guerra, V.P. North
Jerry French, V.P. Central
Robert R. Stevens, PSP, Advisor