

I would like to welcome everyone to this year's convention in the great state of West Virginia. A special welcome to our guests: R. Pat Shelor, President Virginia and Terrell and Rita Cartwright, President and First Lady Kentucky Elks Association.

GOOD OF THE ORDER MID YEAR REPORT 2009  
**CHAIRMAN:** VINCE GURRERA, V.P NORTH, WEIRTON #1801  
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**ADVISOR:** WILLIAM H. ROSEN, PSP, WILLIAMSON #1408

The objection of the committee is to improve the image of the West Virginia Elk's Association. We have to inform the public of the good things we do for our youth, veterans and our communities. To inform the public you have to tell the public, contact your local media. Television, radio and newspapers are always looking for stories of people doing well! We also need to be sure to recruit good members for the future of the West Virginia Elks Association. We must find a way, a unique way, to increase the membership. We must find a way to locate younger, open-minded, goal oriented, go getters to join and become active members of your lodge. It is great to get an increase in membership, but we also need to be sure the people we recruit are going to be active members and join us in our common goal of helping the community and helping our organization stand out! Quantity does not always equal quality. Let's take a hard look at our recruits and be sure they have the quality we need and deserve! We are a great organization, but without new members and the next generation of Elk's, where will we be in 10 years? I am asking all of you as members, take a hard look at your lodge, your community and yourselves, find the good in all of this and ask yourselves, does your community deserve more? Does your community need the continued support of the local Elks Lodge? If you answer yes to either of these questions lets work together and find a way to recruit GREAT members. As you all know this is our biggest problem, if we let this problem continue other problems will continue and get worse. I'm sure all of you know when one thing backs up or becomes an issue other problems follow. One way I know each lodge can help is by donating to the Elks National Foundation. The more we donate the more they are able to give back for our state functions. I want to thank all of you who donated 2008-2009 year, but now it is time to look ahead. I know we all have a few dollars extra to donate for the good of all of our lodges. First donate the amount the Grand Lodge requests and then reach a little bit deeper. We all spend money on things we want instead of things we need, if we take the time to donate to the National Foundation we are giving to those who need and rely on us.

Thank you,

Vince Gurrera, VP North