

**West Virginia Elks Association**  
**State Convention Report 2009**  
**Youth Activities Committee**

Good Morning,

Elks Youth Week starts the first Sunday every May. There are many activities that can be held this week including a banquet to honor your past years winners in Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot, Scholarships, Teenager of the Year, Tournament of Champions contestants, Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients and any other Elks Youth award winners. I don't get many letters from the Central or South Districts but I do know that 4 out of 6 Northern Lodges held banquets and I know that Huntington, Clarksburg and Grafton has had them in the past few years. I have a lot of helpful information on the Youth Activities tables in the lobby.

Are you honoring your Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold and Silver Award recipients by securing a congratulatory letter from our Grand Exalted Ruler? How about presenting them with a framed certificate and a candidate flag? The Marvin M. Lewis Award is for Elk members who bring Elks & Scouting together. Again information is available on our table.

Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee has started a new program this year. It is to honor Elks around our country that have devoted much of their free time to assisting youth in both our Elks Programs and youth programs outside of our programs. Each lodge has received a letter from me describing this award which will be presented to 1 Elk from each area annually. To enter a deserving Elk from your lodge simply send me a resume by email or US mail and I'll gladly process it for consideration. The deadline is May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Flag Day is quickly approaching and I urge you to involve local youth groups to participate. This not only helps the youth both will also increase your attendance in this mandatory program.

The Elks Junior Golf Program is great way to introduce youth to this quickly growing sport. With 5 lodges owning their own courses I would think they would be some of the first to embrace this program. There is also a brochure contest surrounding this program that Wheeling Lodge complies each year with great results. More information is available on our table.

The deadline for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Elks Youth Invitational Tournament of Champions is approaching. June 22, 2009 is the date all registrations must be in. Each lodge has a new package describing everything in detail. As a reminder our state association will reimburse each lodge ½ the cost of each contestant up to 2 youth. This means you can send two contestants for the price of one! Choose your contestant carefully as they should excel at either golf, tennis or bowling. We have extra packages on our table. (Tell about Kayla)

We also have a Student / Veteran Volunteer Program wherein we assist youth who are interested in helping our Veterans. You would be surprised at the number of youth that would like to assist our veterans but have no avenue or encouragement to do so. This is an easy way for us to help our youth help our Veterans. There are many ideas on our table.

The Dictionary Project consists of presenting a Student Dictionary to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students for as little as \$1.25 apiece. Wheeling lodge started this program this year and it was a huge success with the students and teachers. Again more information is available outside on our table

The Antlers Program is a means of getting our local youth involved in helping your lodge help others. The youth will elect their own officers,

hold their own supervised meetings at your lodge and help us assist our Veterans, help at Soccer Shoots, Hoop Shoots, Lodge dinners, picnics, highway cleanups and many others events. Sistersville is in the beginning stages of forming an Antlers Program. More information is available on our table.

Student of the Month certificates, instructions on how to start this program and sample news releases are available on our table. I'm sure Chairman Dick Gosnell can answer any further questions you may have.

This year's Best Youth Program was bittersweet. The sad part was that only 2 WV Lodges entered a brochure this year and unfortunately both were in the same Membership Division. The good news is that both of these lodges have excellent Youth Programs but only one could be chosen as having the best in the state. I have made an exception this year and decided to award a second place plaque for this lodge's effort in both their program and their fine brochure. It is displayed on our table outside and I encourage everyone to stop by and look it over. Second place this year in Division II is Weirton Lodge #1801.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> place winner is no stranger to this award. Let me quickly run down some of their youth programs this year and I apologize if I leave any out. Wheeling Lodge #28 has participated in the following:

Student of the Month, Our Disabled Childrens Camp, Elks Youth Week, Involving youth in their Flag Day Ceremony, Honoring Eagle Scouts, involving youth in their Veterans Day ceremony, Hoop Shoot, Just for Kids "free meals on Wednesdays", Drug Awareness Programs, Americanism Programs at their local schools, Youth Veterans Volunteerism Program, Americanism essay contest, Subordinate Lodge Scholarships, Soccer Shoot Program, Youth Bowling Tournament, Athlete of the Month, Youth Golf Program, Tournament of Champions, Youth Banquet and the Dictionary Program. All this and compiling a super brochure earns Wheeling Lodge #28 and Chairman Joe

Marchlenski the honor of 1<sup>st</sup> place in Division II and West Virginia's Best Overall Youth Program. Congratulations!

Mr. President this concludes my report.

J.B. Phillips, Chairman