



## **REPORT OF WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2010**

I have enjoyed my tenure as government relations Chair and appreciate President Holley for asking me to serve in this role. A year goes by too quickly and allows a short time to accomplish many goals.

DeEtta and I attend the meeting of all State Government Relations Chairpersons in Oklahoma City. A great meeting, and another opportunity as Elks to share both formal and informal ideas. Much of the meeting was discussing the issue of unrelated business income and the strong enforcement tactics being employed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Also, we were told and I have advance to those lodges on Ashley Martins email list the importance that our Lodges retain their 501 (c) (8) status. Remember that local lodges can now form a separate 501(c)(3) Corporation for charitable purposes. All of these issue should be discussed with your accountant and attorney. You each have one, I hope!

I have attended District Deputy meetings when asked and enjoyed the opportunity to share thoughts with many of you. It is important that Elks stay in touch with their government leaders--city, state and national. Invite them to be members and to social functions so they are more aware of the many good things done by Elks.

As Elks many of our lodge activities are viewed as competition with state interests. Nothing could be further from the truth, we are merely trying to keep our lodges open as a place of enjoyment for our members and families.

Lastly, I encourage the Elks Association to have an "Elks Day" at the West Virginia Legislature. We need to allow our leaders to see the many things Elks do in West Virginia and nationally. Nothing could be better that for our Grand Exalted Ruler to have a visit with our Governor. Keep caring and keep sharing.

Steve Hunter, Chairman