

## ANNUAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The 102d Annual State Convention of the West Virginia Elks Association May 6-9, 2010 at Pipestem Resort produced the following highlights:

- 171 Elks and guests attended the Annual Convention. All of West Virginia's 22 Lodges, with the exception of Williamson Lodge, were represented.
- Darlena Sue Trent of Huntington Lodge was honored as the West Virginia Elk of the Year. She is the first female to receive that honor. Past State President P.M. Carper of Charleston was selected as State Officer of the Year.
- Vincent Gurrera of Weirton was elected to succeed Randy Holley of Hinton as President of the State Association. The other new officers installed at Pipestem are:

Vice President Central, Jerry French of Clarksburg

Vice President South, Carl T. Mooney of Huntington

Vice President North, James L. McIntyre of Sistersville

Secretary, William R. Lambert of Grafton

Treasurer, Darry N. Harris of Clarksburg

Sergeant-at-Arms, Debi Yakunich of Weirton

Chaplain, David Blankenship of Huntington

Inner Guard, Dennis G. Hayes of Mannington

Tiler, Walter S. Ice of Charleston

Organist, David McClure of Morgantown

Trustees Chairman, Howard D. Boyd, Sr. of Martinsburg

Trustee, John C. Bailes of Beckley

Trustee, Jeffrey R. Miller of Wheeling,

Trustee, Ashley M. Martin, II of Grafton

Trustee, Randolph Holley of Hinton

- Special guests at the State Convention were State President Ronald L. Hicks and his wife Nancy of the Virginia Elks Association and State President Skip Saunders and his wife Beth of the Kentucky Elks Association.
- Hinton Lodge No. 821 was honored by Grand Lodge for having the Best Subordinate Lodge Website in West Virginia.
- Lodge Activities Chairman Carl Mooney announced 19 of West Virginia's 22 Lodges participated in the All-American Lodge Contest. The division winners were:

Division I – Wheeling – 384 points

Division II – Mannington – 387 points

Division III – Sistersville – 340 points

Division IV – Princeton – 156 points

- The District Deputies who will be installed at the Orlando Convention in July are:

North – Mark E. Olexick of Wellsburg

Central – John H. Penn of Morgantown

South – Robert Davis of Lewisburg

- PGER Ted Hess announced the new Deputies Esquire will be:

North – Roger Kirkpatrick of Weirton

Central – William Wolf of Elkins

South – Walter S. Ice of Charleston

- National Service Chairman Howard Boyd announced the Male and Female Veterans Volunteers of the Year for West Virginia are Ralph Honaker of Huntington and Deloris

Trimbach of Clarksburg. Mr. Honaker has been a volunteer for more than 25 years. He volunteers four days a week at the Huntington VA Hospital. Ms. Trimbach is the wife of Elks member William H. Trimbach of Payson, Arizona, Lodge No. 2154. They recently relocated from Arizona to Clarksburg. Deloris and her husband volunteer 40 hours a week at the Louie A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg. Ralph and Deloris will each receive a watch and a plaque from the Grand Lodge and flag, desk set.

- Bill Sutphin of Beckley was honored for his years of service as the VAVS Representative of the West Virginia Elks Association at the Beckley VA Medical Center. Bill recently announced his retirement effective July 1, 2010. Carl Mooney is the VAVS Representative at the Huntington VA Medical Center. Rodney Emery is the VAVS Representative at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center. Albert and Dorothy Kehrer serve in that capacity at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center.
- Chairman Boyd announced the Lodge winners in their respective divisions for the Veterans Remembrance Reports. They are:

Division I – St. Marys

Division II – Mannington

Division III – Sistersville

Division IV – Huntington

Division VI – Clarksburg

- Benny Allen, Pastor of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Hix, West Virginia, delivered the Memorial Address at the annual Memorial Service on Friday during the Pipestem Convention.

- Drug Awareness Chairman Jackie Barlow reminded everyone the two Drug Awareness trailers maintained by the State Association are fully stocked with Drug Awareness literature and are available for the asking by any West Virginia Lodge. Elroy the Elk is frequently available to accompany the trailer.
- Chairman Bill Verelst of the Teenager of the Month Committee announced applications for the West Virginia Teenager of the Year and Junior Teenager of the Year must be postmarked to him no later than June 4, 2010. The winners will be announced at the Mid-Year Meeting in Weirton in August.
- PSP J.B. Phillips of St. Marys Lodge and PSP P.M. Carper of Charleston Lodge were recognized for their service as members of the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee and the Grand Lodge Auditing & Accounting Committee, respectively. Both will complete their terms on these committees at the Orlando Convention in July.
- J.B. Phillips, who doubles as State Youth Activities Chairman, announced Weirton Lodge had the best youth program in Division III and Wheeling Lodge had the best youth program in Division I. Wheeling Lodge won the best overall youth program. Chairman Phillips said the winners of the Best Youth Week Program and the winner of the Outstanding West Virginia Elks Youth Volunteer competition will be announced during the Mid-Year Meeting in Weirton.
- State Webmaster Ashley Martin of Grafton received the coveted Five Star Award from Grand Lodge for Best State Association Website. You can access our website online at [www.wvelk.org](http://www.wvelk.org).
- President Rick Romino of the West Virginia Elks Major Project Board of Directors detailed plans for the North/Central Handicapped Camp to be held June 20-26, 2010 at

Camp Muffley near Morgantown. The South Camp will be held July 18-24, 2010 at Camp Glenwood near Princeton.

- Debi Yakunich of Weirton was elected to succeed Carl Mooney of Huntington as President of the State PER Association. Ronnie Sigley of Mannington is Vice President Central and Walter S. Ice of Charleston is Vice President South. Glen Shook of Wheeling was elected as the new Vice President North. John Penn of Morgantown was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the PER Association.
- Convention Committee Chairman Jeffrey Miller announced the next Annual State Convention will be held April 28-May 1, 2011 at the Ramada Inn in Morgantown. The delegates at Pipestem approved a proposal to hold the 2011 Mid-Year Meeting at the Wingate Inn in Clarksburg August 11-14, 2011.
- The State Elks Golf Tournament will be held June 18-20, 2010 at Lewisburg Lodge. State Golf Chairman Russell Lowry announced the Seniors Golf Tournament will be conducted August 19-22, 2010 at Willow Wood Elks Country Club near Hinton.
- It was announced West Virginia was again one of only a handful of State Associations having 100 percent participation of its Lodges in the Elks Training Program. Chairman Randy Stevens of Bluefield was recognized for arranging the participation of all 22 Lodges in the State Association.