

West Virginia Elks Soccer Shoot Mid-Year Convention, 2010

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I am pleased to report that the soccer shoot program is once again growing in West Virginia. Last year seven lodges reported holding shoots as compared with five the previous year. I have also received enquiries from other lodges interested in starting or re-instating the soccer shoot. Additionally, the Michigan Elks Association participated in the Mid-Atlantic Regional and several other states have expressed interest in either joining with us or perhaps starting another regional shoot. Needless to say, this is an exciting time for the soccer program.

I am also pleased to announce that we have had three lodges express interest in hosting the state shoot this year. Barring unforeseen circumstances, this year's shoot will be sponsored by Charleston Lodge #202 and be held at the Quantum Sports Facility in Hurricane, WV. It is an indoor soccer facility with artificial turf. The shoot will be held on Saturday, November 20th. Registration will start at 1:00 and the shoot at 2:00 PM.

Lodges should plan on holding their local shoots in September or October. I have packets for each lodge, which includes registration forms, scoring sheets, and various report forms. Please be sure to send me the completed report forms as soon as possible after your local shoot. This will allow me to get your winners pre-registered for the state shoot and make things much easier for me in completing my report to the Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee. If any lodge needs a new soccer shoot manual, please see me after the meeting. If you need help in setting up a shoot, especially if your lodge has never done one, please let me know.

The next Mid-Atlantic Regional Shoot will be held once again in Carlisle, PA in March of 2011. The committee is actively seeking other sites for future regional shoots and Huntington Lodge #313 has expressed interest. I recommend that any lodge interested in hosting the regional plan on attending the shoot in Carlisle to see what all is involved.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for your continued support for the Soccer Shoot. The youth involved are very passionate about their sport and soccer fields are sprouting up across our state. Let's take advantage of this fertile ground and make the West Virginia Soccer Shoot program the envy of the region.

Submitted,
James McIntyre, Chairman