

Jerry French/President
WV Elks Association
Mid-Year Convention
Bridgeport, WV

August 11-14, 2011

President Jerry,

The Elks Drug Awareness Program in most areas in the country is not only the largest prevention and education program, we are the only program.

Federal funding for these efforts have merely dried up and our communities are paying the price for and suffering dramatically. An example of this lack of funding is the Drug Free school funding which is no longer available to the communities.

Being one of the best kept secrets in Elkdom, the demands are going to increase and we are going to require the help of every Elk to meet this demand.

Just returning from the 147th Grand Lodge Convention in Phoenix, AZ, I spent 2 days in training with the Drug Awareness Program. I was one of 41 State Chairman that attended with 553+ years of collective service to the Elks Drug Awareness Program.

Highly qualified and motivated speakers were there including Professor Calvina Fay, from Drug Free America, who spoke about legalization related issues. As of this date they are tracking 421 pieces of legislation including 131 pro-drug bills and 290 anti-drug bills.

Eric Akers from DEA spoke about the latest drug trends. We also shared interesting facts regarding the Elks DAP's comic book "Hard Choices."

The highlight of our training came from Mrs. Geneva Camarena, wife of DEA agent Enrique S. Camarena, who was slain 26 years ago by the drug cartel in Mexico.

In the future, when ordering material, instead of quantities of 1,000 in a box, material will be offered in boxes of 250. This will help keep the Lodges from having an excessive amount of materials on hand that cannot be distributed.

Fraternally;

Jackie Barlow, PDD/Chairman

cc: Lester C. "Ted" Hess, Jr. / PGER
Carl Mooney/VP South
James McIntyre/VP North
Darry Harris/VP Central
William Lambert/PSP-Sec.
Dr. Randy Stevens/PSP-Advisor