

**REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE TO THE
WEST VIRGINIA ELKS ASSOCIATION AT ITS 2011 MID-YEAR MEETING**

As was reported at the Annual Meeting in May, the West Virginia Elks Association Scholarship Committee had another outstanding year. On Saturday afternoon, I will have the honor and privilege of presenting to you many of the outstanding youth of our State who will be recipients of both Legacy and Most Valuable Student Scholarship Awards.

Yet, even as we take time to honor our 2011 scholarship recipients, preparations are already underway for the Elks' various 2012 scholarship programs.

In the very near future, Applications for the 2012 Most Valuable Student Scholarships will be ready for distribution by the Elks National Foundation. I encourage each and every Lodge in our State to make sure it appoints a Lodge Scholarship Chairman to oversee this Program for 2011-2012. Once the MVS Scholarship Applications are received by the Lodge, it is critical for the Lodge Chairman to immediately distribute those Applications to all of the local High Schools in your area. Remember, under the current rules, students must now turn in their MVS Scholarship Applications to local Lodges by December 1, 2011. It is extremely important that all Lodge Chairmen distribute these Applications right away. I also encourage the Lodge Chairmen to work closely with the Guidance Counselors in their local High Schools to help promote this Program as soon as classes begin in those schools.

In addition to the MVS Scholarship Applications, the 2012 Legacy Scholarship Applications will also soon be available. However, please remember these Applications are now entirely online. Beginning September 1, 2011, students will need to go to the www.elks.org/enf/scholars website in order to download and print the 2011 Legacy Scholarship Application. Remember that the Legacy Scholarships are now four year awards from the ENF, so make sure you identify any eligible high school senior in your area to apply for a Legacy Scholarship as well. Legacy Award Applications must be submitted online by February 1, 2012.

Also, as many of you already know, a significant bequest was left to the Elks National Foundation by a woman from the Martinsburg, WV area. As a result of that bequest, the WV Elks Association is receiving significantly higher amounts for its annual grants from the Elks National Foundation. Furthermore, because of that bequest, we have now been advised that for the 2011-2012 year, our State's quota of Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student National Scholarship Awards will be increased from 4 to 7, and our quota for Elks National Foundation Legacy Award Scholarships will be increased from 4 to 12. This will result in an additional \$44,000 in scholarship monies being given to West Virginia high school students this year.

In the near future, each Lodge will receive a mailing from me that will include the 2012 MVS Scholarship Application, a Fact Sheet regarding the Legacy Scholarships, and various promotional materials to help you advertise our Scholarship Programs. That mailing will also include a list of all of the applicable deadlines for this year's contests. In addition to mailing each Lodge one copy of the MVS Scholarship Application, that Application will also be available online beginning September 1, 2011.

In addition to the Legacy and Most Valuable Student Scholarship Programs, the Elks National Foundation also makes additional monies available through its Emergency Educational Grant Program. Applications for those grants can be obtained either from the Elks National Foundation office in Chicago, Illinois, or directly from me. These grants provide financial assistance to children of deceased or totally disabled Elks who wish to obtain or further their college education. Grant amounts are based on the information submitted in the Application, and can range up to \$4,000.00 per year. Each grant is for one year only; however, you may submit up to three annual renewal applications for succeeding years as long as you meet all other eligibility requirements.

I encourage all Lodges to make known to their members the availability of monies from the Elks National Foundation Emergency Educational Grant Program. Anyone having any questions regarding that program may contact me directly.

In closing, I wish to again thank my District Chairmen for their continued outstanding assistance. They are Bill Verelst of Weirton Lodge No. 1801 in the Northern District, Ashley Martin of Grafton Lodge No. 308 in the Central District, and Chris McGuffin of Huntington Lodge No. 313 in the Southern District.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Miller, Chairman
West Virginia Elks Association
State Scholarship Committee