

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION**

April 28 – May 1, 2011  
Morgantown, West Virginia

Jerry French of Clarksburg Lodge No. 482 was installed as State President on April 30, 2011 at the State Convention in Morgantown. Darry Harris of Clarksburg Lodge was elected Vice President and Katie French was elected State Treasurer. Outgoing State President Vince Gurrera was elected as a State Trustee. There were 172 Elks and guests in attendance.

Lewisburg Lodge No. 1758 finished first in per capita contributions to the Elks National Foundation from West Virginia at \$17.52 per member. Huntington Lodge contributed the largest amount of money to the Foundation, \$7,363.50.

Special guests at the Annual Convention were State President Jimmy Powell and his wife Leah of the Virginia Elks Association and State President Pete Slankard of the Kentucky Elks Association.

Bernice Brackens of Lewisburg Lodge No. 1758 was announced as the State Elk of the Year. Wood McCue of Lewisburg Lodge was selected as Citizen of the Year. The State Officer of the Year was Robert E. Kuehne of Sistersville Lodge No. 333.

State Webmaster Ashley Martin, PSP, was congratulated on achieving a Five Star Award from Grand Lodge for the West Virginia Elks website. This is the highest award given by Grand Lodge. Editor Jack Bennett of the West Virginia Elks Newsletter was congratulated for his Four Star Award from Grand Lodge in the competition for Best State Association Publication. PSP Randy Stevens of Bluefield Lodge No. 269 was congratulated for achieving 100% participation by all 22 West Virginia Lodges in the Elks Training Program.

It was announced Sistersville Lodge No. 333 had won the State Ritual Contest. Morgantown Lodge No. 411 finished in Second Place. The All-State Award winning officers were Exalted Ruler Sue Stone, Leading Knight Jim McIntyre, Loyal Knight Heidi Hubbard, Lecturing Knight Roger Suter, Chaplain Mike Herrick and Inner Guard Curtis Heintzman, all of Sistersville. The All-State Candidate was Wayne Martin of Sistersville and the All-State Coaches were Mike Herrick and Jim McIntyre of Sistersville. The Eleven O'clock Toast Contest and the Tribute to the Flag Contest will be held at the Mid-Year Meeting in Clarksburg in August. Weirton Lodge and Wheeling Lodge finished first in their membership divisions in the State Competition for Best Youth Program. Wheeling Lodge's program was adjudged the best overall program in the State. Ronnie Sigley of Mannington Lodge No. 388 and Robert Lanham of St. Marys Lodge No. 1701 were congratulated for gathering 990 hides for the Hides for Veterans Program.

Bernice Brackens of Lewisburg Lodge and Curtis Beard of Martinsburg Lodge were announced as the Veterans Volunteers of the Year in West Virginia.

PSP Ashley Martin conducted a seminar on the new CLMS II Program. ENF Chair Dave Blackenship and PSP Jeff Miller conducted a seminar on the ENF Impact Grants, Promise Grants and Gratitude Grants.

Ronnie Sigley of Mannington Lodge was elected President of the State PER Association. Brian Morris of Mannington Lodge was elected as the new Vice President. Debbie Yakunich was congratulated upon the completion of her year as President of the State PER Association.