

## INTERIM REPORT OF FUTURE OF ELKDOM COMMITTEE

After receipt of over 6,000 responses (many, many were duplications) the Future of Elkdom Committee met several times. Recommendations were made to the Advisory Committee, which has approved the following issues for preparation of legislation by the Judiciary committee and the Advisory Committee on Laws. Those bodies will prepare and distribute the proposals for the delegates (where legislation is required) at the July 2011 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. It will be a big job. Please review the following:

### Grand Lodge:

1. Change the name of the Grand Lodge to "National Lodge" (Passed & effective 2011)
2. Modernize titles of "National Lodge" Officers (Passed & effective 2012)
  - National President from Grand Exalted Ruler
  - National Vice President from Endorsed Candidate for GER. (Elected National Vice President will be elected a year earlier and will automatically become National President the following GL year.)
  - National Secretary from Grand Secretary
  - Eliminate Grand Treasurer
  - Sergeant At Arms replaces Grand Esquire, Grand Inner Guard and Grand Tiler.
  - National Chaplain from Grand Chaplain.
  - National Trustee(s) from GL Trustee(s).
3. Restructure Grand Lodge Committees as follows:  
(Passed & effective 2012)

#### Activities Committee

Community Project  
Public Relations  
Youth Activities  
Hoop Shoot Program  
Drug Awareness

#### Fraternal Committee

Americanism  
Elks National Foundation  
Flag Day  
Memorial Day  
Membership  
Lodge Activities  
Veterans

Auditing & Accounting Committee

Committee on Judiciary

Ritualistic

This eliminates virtually ALL current Committees with only Auditing & Accounting, Judiciary and Ritualistic remaining. However the activities of the Americanism, Lodge Activities/State Association, Membership, Public Relations and Youth Activities Committees will be the responsibility of the Activities or Fraternal Committees.

4. A uniform job description for Special Deputies duties and responsibilities to be created in Grand Lodge. (Passed and effective 2011)
5. Amend Statues to provide that Lodges may collect dues annually or semi-annually. (Passed & effective 2011)
6. Remove all references to Communist party. (Passed & effective 2011)
7. Allow Local Lodges (optional), by By-Law, to grant suitable rewards for members who recruit other members that remain "paid up" member for one full Lodge year. (Passed & effective 2011)
8. Place the Membership application on the GL Web site. (Passed & effective 2011)
9. Eliminate all Grand Lodge Contests except Ritual, newsletter, website, exhibits and All American Lodge (Passed & effective 2012)

Changes affecting the DDGER

1. No longer require the DDGER to witness and grade the Initiatory Ritual at the official Lodge visit, DDGER Report will continue to be filed. No GER response will be made. State Sponsor may still comment and make recommendations to the Lodge. (Passed & effective 2011)
2. Will no longer conduct a January DDGER Clinic. (Passed & effective 2012)
3. All DD Indoctrination would be arranged by State Sponsor within the State. Budget funds for the State Sponsor's Indoctrination would be applicably made for DD Designates. (Passed & effective 2012) DD would no longer attend Grand Lodge Session at Grand Lodge expense.
4. Lodge Officer memorization of the Initiatory Ritual would no longer be required. (Passed & effective 2011)

Subordinate Lodge Changes:

1. Change the Name "Subordinate Lodge" to "Local Lodge". (Passed & effective 2011)
2. Lodge Meeting may be held once per month, or more often at the Lodge decision.
3. The Local Lodge may opt to shorten the Lodge Opening & Closing rituals by By-Law Change. (Lodge Altar already set up and remains set up as the ER closes the Lodge).
4. Local Lodge change in Officer titles (Passed & effective 2012):

President	from Exalted Ruler
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	from Esteemed Leading Knight
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	from Esteemed Loyal Knight
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	from Esteemed Lecturing Knight
Sergeant at Arms	from Lodge Esquire, Inner Guard & Tiler
Secretary*	from Lodge Secretary
Treasurer*	from Lodge Treasurer

- \*These two offices may be combined by a By-Law, if Lodge so chooses  
Trustee(s) retain name of Trustee(s) & one of who would be signatory on checks & provide for paper trail  
Inner Guard & Tiler would be eliminated-see Sergeant At Arms

5. Allow for one Community Program to be solely identified as the Elks sponsored in each community. This would answer the question in the Community as to what the Elks are known for in that community. (Passed & effective 2011)
6. Lodge Committees would consist of the following three:

Activities Committee

- Community Project
- Public Relations
- Youth Activities
- Hoop Shoot Program
- Drug Awareness

Fraternal Committee

- Americanism
- Elks National Foundation
- Flag Day
- Memorial Day
- Membership
- Lodge Activities

- Veterans

Auditing & Accounting

7. Shorten the Membership process; applications to be given to the Investigating Committee when received by the Secretary. Applicant's information posted on the bulletin board. At next Lodge Meeting the application is read. If Investigation has met and reported, and Indoctrination has occurred, vote can be conducted by lodge.

The changes recommended would secure the following savings:

<u>ELIMINATE OR MODIFY</u>	<u>SAVINGS</u>
Government Relations Comm.	\$ 66,775 (Comm Seminar and Convention Costs)
State Association/Lodge Activities Comm.	\$ 21,700 (Convention Costs)
Membership Comm.	\$ 24,750 (Convention Costs)
Public Relations	\$ 26,200 (Convention Costs)
Americanism Comm.	\$ 24,000 (Convention Costs)
Youth Activities Comm.	\$ 24,000 (Convention Costs)
District Deputy Indoctrination at Convention	\$459,275
Sunday dinner for G.L. for officers and Committees, Exalted Ruler, State President and Secretary Luncheon, Ladies entertainment personalized stationery format for meetings of PGER's and Officers	\$187,400
Reduce Convention 1 Day (estimate)	\$ 89,000

Suggestions made by Future of Elksdom Committee where NO Legislation is required:

1. Local Lodges encouraged to make facilities available for use by civic groups so long as all laws are obeyed. (Passed & effective 2011)
2. Local Lodges establish Mentoring Program for Lodge Officers. (Passed & effective 2011)
3. If not already existing, Local Lodges to establish an Activities/Entertainment Committee. (Passed & effective 2011)
4. A new Member Welcoming Committee for local Lodges is seriously recommended. (Passed & effective 2011)
5. Installation and use of electronic games (ie; Wi-Fi) and other games in Game Room of Local Lodges ( for members and children) (Passed & effective 2011)
6. Create a suggested format for State Association Meetings and Conventions with emphasis on less reporting and more training of Elks. (Passed & effective 2011)
7. Suggested dress code for GL advisory Committee after Sunday be optional for business casual. (Passed & effective 2011)
8. National President appoint a Committee of five members knowledgeable and experienced in the Initiatory Ritual to study and make recommendations to the following Convention in Austin, Texas.
9. DDGER will no longer receive Business Cards and it is no longer an allowed expense (Passed & effective 2011)
10. Eliminate Elks Training Program (annual review of Statutes) (Passed & effective 2011)
11. Eliminate Membership Benefits Program. (Effective when present contracts expires)
12. Eliminate the printing of GER Acceptance Speech for audience Monday morning and not in the daily Convention newsletter. The Elks Magazine will keep it in a later issue. (Passed and effective 2011)
13. Eliminate the spouses' entertainment on Tuesday morning. (Passed & effective 2011)
14. Eliminate the "bull pen" roped off area for PGERs at the Exalted Ruler Ball on Wednesday evening of the Convention. Attending PGERs will still be introduced. (Passed & effective 2011)
15. Eliminate all "Honorable" titles for all Grand Lodge Officers. (Passed & effective 2011)
16. Sunday OPENING SESSION to start at 4:00PM until completion (approximately 6-6:30pm) thus allowing for State Associations to conduct Sunday evening parties. (Passed & effective 2012)

17. Grand Secretary will develop a bank of Elk Building Plans for purpose & use of and by Local Lodges in rebuild actions. (Passed & effective 2011)
18. More Meetings by Grand Lodge will be by electronic (along this line, teleconferencing is being considered where it may be practical in costs) (Passed & effective 2011)
19. After February 2012, the February GL Advisory meetings and Grand Trustees Meetings will be held in Chicago without spouses attending. (Passed & effective 2012)
20. Repeat Accident Prevention State Chairpersons attend their national seminar every other year. (Passed & effective 2011)
21. Standard Elk Stationery for all. Personalizing is okay. (Passed & effective 2011)
22. Create an Elks Web Leadership School on internet for access by Elks in local Lodges. (Passed & effective TBD)
23. Reduce the GL convention by one full day. (Passed & effective dependent upon hotel contracts-TBD)
24. For Phoenix-For Committee Chairpersons to have their written reports to be published on the Web site. Chairperson introduces the Committee members and thanks Lodges for their support and participation. All awards will be published in the Daily Convention newsletter and received at the booth. On Tuesday morning the majority of the Session will be devoted to the discussions of aspects, presented by the Future of Elkdom Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge Advisory, by the Lodges and their representatives. (Passed & approved for Phoenix Convention)

While the savings are needed, the Order is losing 100,000 members every 3 years (by 2020 at this rate we will be down to about 500,000 members) it is more important to change our focus, to stabilize and rebuild.

Since shortly after World War II, when our membership was growing 20 to 40 thousand members per year, more and more Programs have been sent by Grand Lodge to the Local Lodges.

That was a change from traditional Elkdom when the Lodges focused on Community Activities. The Community is the Future of Elkdom.

Thus our direction - reduce Grand Lodge, much more Community involvement, 21<sup>st</sup> Century appearance, retain our basics of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity and our gift to America - Elks Care-Elks Share. We will build a better Elkdom!