



**Our thoughts and prayers for the 9-11-01
Victims and Families.
And the U.S. Troops
and their families.**

All About Us...

Welcome to the New Mexico Elks Association's Web site. We hope you enjoy your visit. New Mexico has 22 Lodges located in most major cities in our state.

The BPO Elks of the USA has more than 1.1 million members in more than 2,100 local lodges nationwide, making the Elks one of the largest and most active fraternal organizations in the world!

Elks Care, Elks Share - Elks care for their families, their friends, and their Members. Elks share their lives, their time, their talents with their family and friends. If you're not a member of the Elks, we encourage you to contact your local Elks Lodge and ask them how you can becoming a member.

How It All Began....



The moving spirit for the Elks was an Englishman named Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian. Born October 22, 1842, this son of a clergyman was a successful comic singer and dancer in the music halls of London. In November 1867, Vivian arrived in New York City to try his fortune.

Other actors and entertainers soon gravitated toward his magnetic personality, and soon this group dubbed themselves the Jolly Corks, a name derived from a practical joke of the time.

When one of their members died shortly before Christmas in 1867, leaving his wife and children destitute, the Jolly Corks decided that in addition to good fellowship, they wanted to have a more enduring organization to serve those in need. On February 16, 1868, they established the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Its social activities and benefit performances increased the popularity of the new Order. Membership grew rapidly. Elks traveling to other cities spread the word of the Brotherhood of Elks. Soon there were requests for Elks Lodges in cities other than New York. In response to these appeals, the Elks asked the New York State legislature for a charter authorizing the establishment of a Grand Lodge with the power to establish local Lodges anywhere in the United States. When the Grand Lodge Charter was issued, the founders then received the first local charter as New York Lodge No. 1 on March 10, 1871.

Over the years, the mission has been consistent, and the membership has become more inclusive. Today's guidelines for membership are that the candidate be invited to join, be a citizen of the United States, and believe in God.

The legacy of Charles Vivian continues to this day. As long as there are those who need help, the Elks will be there to give aid and comfort.