

September 1, 2009

New Mexico Elks Association
New Mexico

Re: 2009 Grand Lodge Convention

Dear Members,

The following is my report on the 2009 Grand Lodge Convention in Portland, Oregon held July 5 – 9, 2009:

All paperwork was coordinated with Grand Lodge Convention Committee in Chicago for Hotel information, and all other pertinent matters concerning the convention. A visit was made to Portland Oregon by President Jim Larrabee, first lady Josie, I and my wife Fabiola on December 9-11, 2008 in order to make arrangements for all matters, housing, hospitality room, margarita party, etc.

Our Hotel was the Marriott Downtown Waterfront. Our room block requested was made and met, with our guarantee met and exceeded.

Information packets were made available to the 22 Lodges and the Ritual Team from Carlsbad #1558, as the Exalted Ruler's and the team were going to Portland. Other packets were made available to other members requesting, as well as to Past State President's and other dignitaries. 75 Packets were distributed at the Spring Convention in Farmington, as well as others, after convention at Lodges. 56 Elks and spouses were registered representing our State of New Mexico.

The Hospitality room at the Marriott was a wonderful experience with all Elks pitching and successfully serving refreshments and snacks to our visitors. We had our "quiet time" in the room for our delegation, which also

included a few meeting to prepare for the voting on amendments at the Session.

The Margarita Party was a huge success, and was held at the Gateway Elks Lodge #2411. It was held there as liquor laws in the State of Oregon have to be adhered to, and it would have been too costly to have at the Hotel. There was wonderful cooperation between the Gateway Elks and the New Mexico Elks, making this a very busy but effective and enjoyable party, keeping the New Mexico tradition alive.

Expenses for the Convention Committee stayed within budget, with only the pre-visit and a small portion of one room being paid for from Association finds as well as the expenses by the President for flight and the mileage by the committee chairman. The Hospitality room and Margarita party were both self-funded due to the Elks fees charged with registration and sales of Margarita Party tickets and pins.

I would like to apologize for the report being a few weeks late, but it was not intentional as I had other commitments.

I would also like to thank our President Jim Larrabee for appointing me to Chair the committee and for the help he and First Lady Josie gave to me and my wife.

I also would like to thank PSP Jimmie Fitzpatrick and his wife PER Mary, for their help on being on the committee.

My final thanks go to all the members and their spouses who helped in the Hospitality Room, the Margarita Party, and all over Portland.

Muchas Gracias to all.

Robert A. Guillen PSP
G.L. Convention Committee Chairman