

New Mexico Elks Association
Government Relations Committee
October 2010

Attention All Lodges,

I recently attended a Grand Lodge Government Relations Seminar conducted in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. There were a number of issues discussed and I will attempt to highlight them.

On-line Charitable Records and Government Relations Communications.

On this, all Lodge Secretaries are able to input all information that is in the Charity Workbook which had to manually be recorded during our submission with the Annual Report. In the CLMS, there is an icon indicating 2010-2011 Charity. The Secretary inputs the information after an event and it automatically adds it up and gets it ready for the annual report. Hit a couple of buttons, and it is submitted. A lot neater and a lot easier. You Exalted Rulers push you committee chairman to give you and the Secretary their information. Remember, this report is mandatory and Grand Lodge uses these figures to maintain our non-profit status. Please get this done.

On the Grand Lodge website, there is a Government Relations icon that can be accessed to find out what else his happening. Easy to use.

As I told you before, the IRS is still going out and about auditing non-profit organizations. Make sure your Lodge is a 501-C8. Some Lodges have a 501-C3 or C10 which is not the right one for us.

The IRS will also require after December 31, 2011 that all vendors that are paid a cumulative amount of \$600.00 or greater must have a 1099 form issued to them. We might as well get used to it, as they will require them for the taxable year 2012 on. It is for the calendar year and is for any incorporated company.

You might want to review your bookkeeping systems for vendors, and get their taxpayer number(s), also known as TIN's. Call the vendors and get them, as you will eventually need them. Section 6041 of the Internal Revenue Code outlines 1099 reporting requirements. This requirement was added to the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act (Senate Bill 3578) and any help in contacting our United States delegation in having this Bill appealed, is appreciated.

In the Grand Lodge newsletter, there is a notice from our Grand Secretary requesting input from the members for consideration. It is an Advisory Ballot and has 8 questions. Please help Bryan Klatt out and submit them.

All Lodges are again asked to have a Personnel Policy in place and add a harassment policy with it. Grand Lodge has a book available which has two different policies in them for your guidance. Get this one done as soon as feasible, if you do not have one now. There are typically four types of harassment; Verbal, Visual, Physical and Sexual. Make sure you cover these in your policy.

Rental agreements are a big issue around the country and the Lodges should be re-visit theirs in the event they are out of date or against State Law and Regulations and/or Grand Lodge Statutes.

Closed Door guidelines were again discussed with a major effort to re-advise the Lodges that we are NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. We are a private organization. Enough said.

While we are at it, it is about time that we toot our own horns when it comes to the Charity work we give to a community. Contact your local newspapers and see if we can get the information out to the general public of events that we do that help out youth, etc.

One last note, there is a group called the "Elk Riders USA" that are NOT affiliated with Grand Lodge or local Lodges. They are improperly using our logo's, name and emblems for their own use. If your Lodge is contacted by them, remember, they are not one of us. Contact me if they contact you. Thanks.

Thank you for your attention on all of this and thank you to the District Chairmen, Wilson VanLoon, Juan I. Gonzales, John Mason and Bill Fraley III, for your work and support. If you need more info, please contact us.

Bob Guillen PSP
NMEA Government Relations Chairman