

# Message from the GER

## Incoming leaders start year with proactive mindset

April is here and spring has finally arrived. It always feels like a new beginning in April, especially if you live in the colder regions of our country.

A new fraternal Lodge year begins. I want to congratulate all the newly installed Exalted Rulers and Lodge Officers. It is a proud moment to be installed and take on the challenge of providing leadership within your Lodge. Be sure to review and implement the programs of the 2024-2025 Grand Lodge Program booklet so you can continue showing “Elkdom’s Heart For America.” Make sure that you have all your committees prepared and that committee members know their responsibilities. Communication is the key.

Financially, it is the Trustees and Officers who need to submit a budget to the Lodge for adoption no later than the last regular meeting in April or the following regular meeting. Your Lodge should be ready to present a sound budget to your Members. The annual report for the previous year is also due May 1 so make sure that your FRS financial reporting system is up to date.

On a housekeeping note, you should review any by-laws or house rules and regulations that need to be updated. It’s for the good of the Lodge to make everything orderly and that you always prioritize the integrity and safety of the Lodge.

On a festive note, it’s time to make a calendar of social events for your Lodge. Create reasonable, achievable monthly events that will excite and attract your membership. Outside of your Lodge you are encouraged to establish a community project that emphasizes charitable work. Your Lodge life should always have a balance of what you do inside your Lodge and outside in the community you serve. Don’t forget to set aside May 1-7 as Elks National Youth Week. All Lodges are urged to sponsor programs dedicated to the youth of our country.

Julia and I wish you a blessed Easter season. It is a celebratory time for our family. God bless you and God bless America!