

ENF Director Jim O'Kelley to Speak at VEA Training March 5



Elks
National
Foundation



SAVE THE DATE, MARCH 5, 2016, THIRD ANNUAL ELKS TRAINING DAY

To all exalted rulers, secretaries, lodge officers, committee chairs, committee members and Virginia Elks.

Save the date, March 5, 2106 for our third Annual Virginia Elks Training Day. Our guest speaker will be Grand Lodge member, brother Jim O'Kelly, Director of the Elks National Foundation. Jim will give us an overview of the workings of the ENF and tell us how it affects our lodges and our members. He will also give us insight for securing ENF grants, tell us ways to painlessly donate to the ENF and answer any other questions.

More information and other topic descriptions will be released after our final planning session to be held on January 16th. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Get the latest Virginia Elks news and catch up with old friends.

March 5 will also be one of the last times to interact with our State Sponsor of 23 years, the Honorable Lester C. "Ted" Hess, Jr., PGER. This alone should be enough incentive to drive to Charlottesville for a relaxing and informative day.

See you there,

Tim Knotts, PSP

Chairman Virginia Elks Training Day

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Short Bio of Jim O'Kelley



Jim O'Kelley started working for the Elks in May 1991 as an editorial assistant for The Elks Magazine. The following year, he was promoted to associate editor, a position he held until February 1996.

In the Fall of 1995, O'Kelley developed The Elks Magazine's Internet presence. When Grand Lodge established its Internet Department in February 1996, O'Kelley was chosen to

direct the effort. Under his direction, elks.org developed into the premiere source of information about the Elks.

In July 1997, O'Kelley was hired as director of the Elks National Foundation. During his tenure, the Foundation has rolled out the ENF Legacy Awards scholarship program; revamped the Most Valuable Student contest, including a couple of dramatic increases in the amounts of the top six scholarships; increased the maximum Emergency Educational Grant amount as well as the Special Project and State Charities grants; and introduced the Community Investment Program, which puts Foundation dollars to work directly in Lodge communities. The CIP is now the Foundation's largest program.

O'Kelley was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, but has lived in the Chicago area since he was 4 1/2. He graduated from the Harvard of the Midwest, Indiana University, in 1989. O'Kelley is a past president and past chairman of the board of trustees for Chicago Northshore, Ill., Lodge. He lives in Chicago with his wife, Meghan; sons, Kevin (14) and Patrick (2); daughter, Jane (born September 2014); and dog, Savannah (12). They're all avid White Sox fans.

Submitted by Tim Knotts

Send comments to webmaster@virginiaelks.org