



April 2009

To: District Drug Awareness Chair-person(s),
Lodge Drug Awareness Chair-person(s)

Yes it is true! We now have five Drug Awareness Trailers in the State. The fifth trailer was received the second week of April and is in the process of being outfitted. We hope to have the new trailer ready for use by the first part of June. We have not confirmed the new location for all the trailers, so in the mean time, please continue to contact the following people.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Contact Number</u>
Area 1	Robert Swisher	Pana #1261	(217) 562-9292
Area 2	Eddy Lundmark	Wheaton-Glen Ellyn #2258	(630) 964-8247
Area 3	Karl D. Wilson	Centralia Elks Lodge #493	(618) 532-5681
Area 4	Matt Stropes	Pekin #1271	(309) 303-1036

The earlier you schedule the trailers and the costume the better chance you have to get them when you need them. The Area Contact Person will go over what needs to be done to schedule the trailer, when it can be picked up, and when it needs to be back for someone else can use it.

When scheduling to use one of the Drug Awareness Trailers or Elroy, please make sure **ahead of time** that you can return them **on time**. We have had a couple of issues last year that the trailers and/or Elroy were not returned on time, so the next Lodge that was scheduled to use them missed out on a great chance to get the word out, about the Elk's Drug Awareness Program. As I have written in the past, make sure that when locating the Drug Awareness Trailer at an event, that it is placed in a kid friendly location. Next to or across from the beer wagon is not a good location. Also, please make sure that anyone working the Drug Awareness Trailer is alcohol-free at the time. The Drug Awareness Trailers are not to be used to transport or store alcohol. This would not be the type of news coverage or pictures we would want for the Drug Awareness program.

We are in the process of getting a Fifth Elroy for the Illinois Elks Association. The exact time frame cannot be determined at this point as we are waiting to see if we will receive a grant from the National Drug Awareness Program to help cover the cost of the costume. I will keep you posted.

To help reduce cost and save time, I will only be sending the IEA-DAP Drug Awareness News letter out by e-mail. I have asked Jack Williams to create an email group for Lodge and District Drug Awareness Chairs. Please contact Jack and let him know that you would like to be added to the e-mail group. I would also, like to ask all current and incoming District Vice Presidents to let your District and Lodge chairs know about this new e-mail group and that they should get involved.

Please remember when sending an e-mail relating to the Elk's, please put ELKS – at the front of the subject line. This way everyone will know it is an Elk issue and not just another email.

I would like to thank all the Lodges that turned in their 2008-09 Drug Awareness Report. The following Districts had 100 percent of their Lodges turn in a report and will receive a \$200 Grant to be used in the Drug Awareness Program at the September State meeting.

- East Central District
- West Central

There will be a Drug Awareness session at the State Meeting in May. While reviewing the year end reports, I received a few request for help from Lodge's in starting or growing their Drug Awareness Program. I even saw a few Lodges that did not even have a chair-person for their Drug Awareness Program. With this being said, I will be setting some time aside at the session in May so that Lodges that do not have a program or need help in growing their Drug Awareness Program can hear some of the things that other Lodges are doing and ask questions. So bring your ideas, comments and questions and lets help everyone grow their program. Remember, what we are doing is not just for us, the Lodge, or even the Elks - it is for the Kids!!

The Drug Awareness Essay contest is slowly coming to an end. Please get your Lodge or District winners to me as soon as the selection has been made. This contest closes the end of April and the theme is the same as the poster contest: "Get Smart...Don't Start".

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month.

- Alcohol is used by more young people in the United States than tobacco or illicit drugs.*
- Excessive alcohol consumption is associated with approximately 75,000 deaths per year.*
- Underage alcohol and other drug use has been linked to unintentional injuries, physical fights, academic and occupational problems, and illegal behavior.*
- Long-term alcohol misuse is associated with liver disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and neurological damage as well as psychiatric problems such as depression, anxiety, and antisocial personality disorder.*

*Statistics provided by the U.S. Center for Disease Control















The Senate did not vote on SB 1381 to legalize marijuana as medicine. They are on a short break and will back in session later in April. Please continue to contact your State Senator in their District Office's or their Springfield Office and ask them to vote NO on SB 1381. As you already know, the Elks have by Grand Lodge resolution voted to oppose the legalization of any illegal drug including marijuana. By opposing this legalization (SB-1381) or any House or Senate bill that tries to legalize an illegal drug, you are not going against your obligation as an Elk. You are not using your membership in the Elks for political or personal gain you are using our strength in numbers to show our legislators that we are against this type of legislation. Marijuana is considered a "gateway drug" and has become even more addictive than it was in the past. We must, do everything in our power to inform your legislators that the Illinois Elks and Elks across the country are opposed to this type of legislation.

On another note, there has been some mis-understanding/mis-informaiton about us contacting government officials as Elks and letting them know that we are against the legalization of Marijuana as a medicine. We are not endanger of lossing our non-profit status, since we do not spend any funds provided by the Elks, The IEA Charitable Trust, or the Illinois Elks Association.

The following web site gives you information about non-profits and lobbying.

http://www.clpi.org/Lobbying_and_the_Law.aspx Once you get to this web site, click on the section for The 1976 Law Governing Nonprofit Lobbying. This is a 2-page sheet from the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest.

The following are other organizations that are opposed to the legalization of Marijuana as a medicine:

-  Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP)
-  Educating Voices, Inc.
-  Illinois State Police
-  Illinois Department of Public Health
-  Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
-  Illinois Sheriffs' Association
-  Illinois Police Association Inc.
-  Illinois Municipal League
-  Prevention First
-  Illinois Drug Education Alliance
-  Drug Watch International
-  Eagle Forum
-  Concerned Women of America
-  Illinois Family Institute

Program Ideas:

There are a few Lodges in the state that have approached several restaurants in their area and asked them to hand out our Coloring Books to children waiting for their meals. This is a great no cost idea to get the Elks Drug Awareness message in to the hands of the kids.

If you have a program idea you would like to share please let me know and I will include it in one of the monthly Drug Awareness News Letters.

Always remember, participation in a positive Drug Awareness Program enhances the lives of Americans at all levels and helps shape the future of young Americans. Remember we can have this:



Or This



If you have any questions or need any help with your Drug awareness Program, please call me at (630) 424-0280 or e-mail me at Frank.Burr@Illinois-Elks.org or Drug.Awareness@Illinois-Elks.org

Sincerely:

Frank J. Burr

Frank J. Burr

IEA Drug Awareness Chair

CC: F. Louis Sulsberger (State Sponsor – Past Grand Exalted Ruler),
Darrell Swisher (IEA State President),
IEA State Officers,
Elks National Drug Awareness Directors

MARIJUANA RESEARCH REVIEW

and Related Issues

P. O. Box 409 ● LA CENTER, WA 98629 ● PH: 360-263-3336 ● FX: 360-263-2628

March 19, 2009

To everyone working in drug prevention:

Because of the military experience of our family and because we know that our men and women in the military go wherever they are sent, to do the job that they were trained to do, and because we believe they deserve to know that they have our appreciation and support, Bill and I participate in the www.anysoldier.com endeavor and send gift packages to troops stationed in such places as Afghanistan, Iraq, The Philippines, Somalia, etc. We frequently receive wonderful letters of appreciation but one we received recently highlighted why the work we do in primary drug prevention is so very, very important. Certainly we all agree that the funds generated by drug trafficking fuel much of the terrorist activity around the globe and that the U.S. remains the major consumer of these socially devastating substances. Until this appetite for drugs is radically curbed, the problem will continue. Unfortunately, the emphasis continues to be on treatment and other forms of "harm reduction" to those who engage in the use of illicit drugs or illegally use prescription drugs, and little or no concern is given to curb demand and thus ameliorate the tragic and costly harm to society. We must remember that **"You can't win a war by simply treating the wounded."**

Here are a couple of excerpts from a recent letter we received from a woman stationed in Iraq. She and her husband are both there and their daughter is being cared for by the grandmother and she writes of the tragedy that drugs have brought to her family, but it is her ending comment that brought tears to our eyes:

"I'm sorry to hear about your son. How tragic. I have a cousin who has been on and off drugs over 20 years now. Between the 'fixes' came the babies – one after the other until there were five. Three of them were raised by one aunt of mine, one is with his father and the fifth is with another aunt of mine. Two of them have had illegitimate children out of wedlock and are both living on welfare, the only boy is a bum and doing nothing with his life but standing on street corners and procreating, the other two are minors getting in and out of trouble. Drugs hurt – really they do. I hope something can/will be done about the drug trade in the US. And fast.

*"Thank you very much for your support. I know there are a million charities you could devote your time and resources to, but you chose Anysoldier.com and we are grateful. Please take this patch. This patch represents the best of the best soldiers in the world. We are proud to serve America. It is hard to leave home, leave behind loved ones and the creature comforts of the world, but I am happy that **when our nation asked "Who will go for us" only the best of the best stood up and answered "Here I am. Send me."** (Isaiah 6-8 NKJ)"*

Sandra S. Bennett
Marijuana Research Review