



## A Message from our SDGER

Members all,

As you know Massachusetts history was made in Houston, Texas during the recent Grand Lodge convention when Michael Zellen became the seventh Grand Exalted Ruler to come from Massachusetts. Best wishes go out to Mike and Elk - dom's First Lady Donna for a successful year as they are "Leading the Way" in promoting Elkdom throughout the country!

With the GER from our State, Massachusetts is in Elkdom's national spotlight. While Mike is away we should be continuing to do all we can to make this year the best year ever for Massachusetts. The two most visible goals are the ENF Per Capita goal of \$4.65 and the goal of reaching a net gain in membership. Let's work together in reaching those goals.

As the new Massachusetts Special Deputy I bring you greetings from our State Sponsor PGER Dr. Leonard Bristol. I join with Dr. Bristol in saying thank you to all of the Elks in Massachusetts for the work and dedication you've demonstrated in supporting our Grand Lodge Programs. This year we've assembled a great team with new Area 1 ASR Ron Lanzoni and new Area 2 ASR Craig Shurtleff joining veteran Area 3 ASR Tony Piccolo. This team is diligently working with our new District Deputies to insure that Lodges have the resources they need to have the best year possible.

As Special Deputy I need your help to eliminate current problems and to avoid the creation of others. It's not as difficult as you may think. As Elks we should recognize that we all share the same goal of making our Lodges, our State Association and our Order as strong and as successful as possible.

That commonality of interest is what should bind us together tighter than any glue in existence... And most of the time it does! But we're human and humans don't agree with each other all the time. There are times when heated discussions can pry us apart. It's during those times of disagreement that we must remember our commonality of interest and recognize that the disagreement is with an issue and not necessarily with an individual.

Remember even when a fellow Member is thought to be your temporary adversary, one thing never changes. Both of you are still Elks. So during any disagreement with a fellow Member, I'm asking that you attack the is- sue and not the person. I'm asking that you be civil with each other and allow yourself, as you promised when you became an Elk, to be governed by the Constitution, statutes and laws of the Order and your Lodge By-laws. I'm asking that if the issue is one that is decided by a Lodge vote, abide by the decision of the Lodge, even if it goes against you, and move on without holding a grudge. If you do that, I'd say you're a true Elk.

Fraternally yours,

Dan DeGregorio, SDGER