

B.P.O.E. NCD GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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**To all Lodge Government Relations Chairmen,**

You may think you have been assigned an unthankful job as your Lodge's Government Relations (GovRel) Chairman. You may believe that there is not much to do; I can tell you there is lots to do...

GovRel's purpose is to; "...help protect our Order's right to exist as a private organization." Furthermore; "...Legislative bodies at the National, State, and local level often consider legislation which would negatively impact our exercise of this freedom. Additionally, there are areas where fair and appropriate legislation would enhance our community and charitable work. To effect this, Elks need to be aware and need to establish positive relationships with their legislators — local, state, and national."

This says that we, as American Citizens and Elks, must be ever vigilant in awareness of the government actions, laws, rules and regulations that may adversely effect how we operate. To do this takes many eyes, ever watching, ever listening to our our elected officials.

To do this it is YOUR JOB to MAKE YOURSELF AWARE of what YOUR local City Council, State Representative and State Senator is doing.

In the past, Elks GovRel has taken a "top down" approach whereby notification of relevant information that effects us came from Grand Lodge. I contend that there should be an effort by each Lodge to

1. Ascertain and record who represents your area of influence at the City, County and State level,
2. Sign up for their email notifications,
3. Bookmark their websites,
4. Notify all representatives of your existence and purpose,
5. Add all representatives to your mailing list and send them your monthly newsletter,
6. Invite those representatives to your Lodge for a community based event whereby they can positively see the worth of your Lodge within their constituency.

You will be working with your E.R. and Public Relations Chairman.

You will be receiving and forwarding information to your District Chairman.

You should write a newsletter article at least once a quarter reminding your Lodge members that they are part of the solution, to keep you informed of what an individual might see or hear and then pass it on to the District Chairman.

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In this CD there is:

1. The Grand Lodge GovRel Manual, in PDF format
2. A District Chairman report form in PDF format.

The Report form could not be simpler to use; Open the form, type in the information and click on the SUBMIT BY EMAIL button.

Remember, It is up to YOU to be aware of the governmental environment your Lodge is in and to inform your Lodge of anything that may effect your Lodge.

**You must now do one thing:**

**OPEN THE NCD GOVREL REPORT FORM AND SEND ME YOUR NAME,  
ADDRESS AND ALL CONTACT INFORMATION, FOR MY RECORDS.**

Thank you,

Matt Chitiea

2010 NCD GovRel Chairman

2008 RitCon Chairman

2001 PER