

Flag Day, June 14th, 2026
To: CHEA District Membership Chairs

100,000 Plus Members by April 1st, 2027

Yes, CHEA posted another net gain in membership last year. Yes, CHEA led the nation with a net gain of over 1200 members. Yes, at the upcoming GL Convention in Chicago President Lynn Glick and former President Scott Stephens will accept the recognition of CHEA as the national leader in Membership. And congratulations to the Orange Coast District for winning the model Elks Lodge for membership development. Orange Coast had seven of eight Lodges with a net gain with the eighth Lodge at a single digit loss. Other district and Lodges throughout the Association also posted nice results.

Great to reflect on last year, but we have some unfinished business. The goal is still to reach 100,000 active dues paying members in our association. As an incentive to reach 100 grand in members, this year the companion model of a model Elks Golf Club House will be awarded at the 2027 CHEA convention Fresno to the district with the best overall membership development.

Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere

Membership retention begins with fostering a welcoming atmosphere in the Lodge. Here are some ideas you may share during your communications with the Lodges in your district to help new Members feel valued and engaged:

Reach Out: Make a point to personally welcome new Members the night of their initiation. Let them know their presence is appreciated and that they are a vital part of the Lodge.

Encourage Involvement: During orientation inform new Members about various volunteer opportunities. Follow through with calls, texts, and e-mail members about specific volunteer opportunities within the Lodge. Post volunteers sign-up sheets on the bulletin board, make overtures in social media like Constant Contact and continue to promote membership development in the Lodge Bulletin.

Promote Engagement: In communications, explain how volunteering deepens a connection to the Elks. Note that participation leads to a stronger sense of belonging and commitment and a stronger, more cohesive Lodge. “Actions Build Community” and taking action with effective communication will help nurture a welcoming atmosphere in the Lodge.

“Actions Build Community”

*Encourage the Exalted Rulers in your district to take action by attending one of the Membership Seminars at the Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago.

**Take the action and e-mail me a membership report by July 10th. I in turn will share the results/ideas back to you from all the districts.

- 1-What do Lodges in your district do to engage new members into committees?
2. Do Lodges have a Membership Round Up Night to reinforce participation by existing members?
3. How many Lodges have representatives attending monthly Chamber of Commerce and Business Ribbon Cutting events?

4. How do membership teams help sponsors describe what it means to be an Elk to potential members?
5. How many Lodges use flyers/information sheets to describe their Lodge offerings?
6. How many Lodges have created a membership interest database which may be accessed by committees?
7. How many Lodges in your district have active Membership Development Teams and how many just have the Lodge Secretary do all the membership work?
8. How do Lodges maintain a viable membership program? How many Lodge post membership sponsor charts?
8. How many Lodges have Second Step Programs?
9. What is being done about members owing dues?
10. How many Lodges use Constant Contact or similar programs?

CHEA Membership as of June 13th, 2026

The benchmark goal for another CHEA net gain in membership is to have a gross lapsation figure of 10% or less by Wednesday July 1, 2026. Currently CHEA posts a 13.5% lapsation rate, 2059 candidates waiting for initiation and a 1.0% membership gross gain.

District	Gross Increase	Lapsation	Candidates
Bay	.8	12.3	120
Central	.4	13.7	60
E. Central	1.5	13.9	70
Inland	.9	14.7	30
Metropolitan	1.1	16.9	50
North	1.4	11.6	117
North Central	1.0	12.3	81
Northeast	1.3	13.3	12
Northwest	1.3	14.1	84
Orange Coast	1.5	14.1	465
San Gabriel	2.9	10.7	126
South	1.4	17.9	92
South Central	.4	12.9	79
South Central Coast	.9	15.6	50
South Coast	1.4	14.5	117
Southeast	1.2	13.3	136
West Central	.9	19.6	83
West Central Coast	.9	12.5	194
Hawaii	.3	10.5	72
CHEA	1.0	13.5	2059

James. Warrick, CHEA Membership
(916)671-6652 (cell/text)

CC:

PGER Robert Duitsman

CHEA President Lynn Glick

CHEA PSP Marty Mello/GL Judiciary Mel Keeter

CHEA DDs and AVPs

CHEA Office

