



The Rack

The Official Newsletter of the St. Cloud Elks #2843

January, 2011

Meeting the 1st & 3rd Thursday
7:30 P.M. at
The East side VFW #4847

To All District Deputies, Exalted Rulers, Officers and Members:

A Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler Hon. Michael F. Smith

As we wind down from the Holiday Season and enter the New Year, I want to challenge each of you to make this the best year your Lodge has ever experienced. There are three months left in the Lodge year and it is very important that you compare your accomplishments with your goals.

I hope you are on track to surpass your goals. If you have not reached the goals, it is crucial that you not accept anything less than attaining them. There is adequate time to meet the Elks National Foundation's \$4.50 minimum per capita, a positive gain in Lodge membership and the many other objectives that you wish to attain.

You and your Lodge Members need to respond, make some plans on how to get to where you want to be and go to work. Do not let complacency rule you or the Lodge.

With challenging times, both economic and social, come a great opportunity for those willing to seize the moment. While we can read or watch many negative issues surrounding our lives, we can also feel the warmth and satisfaction of all of the good deeds of our Order.

Share the good works with others. Many people in your community would welcome the

opportunity to be a part of a progressive, positive and “passionate” organization if approached. It is way past time that we let people know who we are and they can participate. I would encourage you to ask.

As we initiate new Members I would ask that you get them involved very early, but not as Chairman or as an Officer immediately. Groom the Member into your Lodge. As you visit your Lodge and sit at the same table with the same people each visit...look around and shake some hands, pat some backs in your Lodge.

Some of the feedback I am getting from new Members is that they do not feel welcome. Now is time to “Promote Elks Passion.” Seize the opportunity!



GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS

Greetings to All

Happy New Year to everyone!! As I write this article we are in the midst of a blizzard. Old Man Winter has sure staked a homestead on Minnesota this year!

My message to everyone this month is to encourage each of you to enjoy your Lodges. All of us work hard to help others, but often forget to take time for ourselves. As

we do the great works of Elkdom, make sure to have fun; take time to strengthen friendships or make new friends. All of us should celebrate who we are and what we do. All of the hours that are volunteered toward making programs, projects and community service efforts successful are very rewarding, and we should not be embarrassed to show how proud we are to give back to our communities.

One of our mission statements is to enhance the fellowship and happiness of our members. So as you are working together to make a difference in the lives of others, also take the time to enjoy each other and celebrate your friendships. Just one more reason why I believe – “ELKDOM - IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE!!”

I wish each of you a happy and prosperous 2011. Thank you for the great job in 2010.

Jerry Shoults
Minnesota State President



MESSAGE FROM THE EXALTED RULER

What a wonderful holiday season it's been.



Thank you to all who helped fill bags and participated in the St.Cloud and Sauk Rapids holiday parades this year. The dedication of those who have worked to ensure our presence in the community over the past year cannot be overstated, and continues to be of tremendous inspiration to me personally.

I am also pleased that Elks members continue to reach out to those in need, by providing snow removal and other acts of kindness in what is turning out to be a very trying winter for many.

I encourage all to take a few moments as we begin this new year to refresh and renew our commitment to the principles of our Order- Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity - and how we may better dedicate ourselves to the motto - "Elks Care, Elks Share".

Peace and Joy to you all in this New Year,

Marcia LaVine – ER

Veterans Message: Homeless vets need help more than ever

As we begin the New Year, it is appropriate that we dedicate ourselves to our Elk commitment: “So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them.” One group of Veterans who need our help more than ever before in our history, are our homeless Veterans. They come from all walks of life and have a wide range in age. They were in Vietnam, Granada, Iraq and other locations, too numerous to name; but they all have one thing in common, they are all Veterans who have served and protected this great nation. You can see them walking the streets, and sleeping on benches. They are dirty, unshaven and wearing tattered clothes. Our homeless Veterans are now estimated to be 200,000 in number. However it is also reported that as many as 500,000 Veterans are homeless at some time during the year.

There are several ways that your Lodge can provide assistance to our homeless Veterans. Our Adopt-A-Vet Program would be a great way to get started and get involved; or contact your local area Veterans support groups. You may also get in touch with the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans at www.nchv.org. It doesn't matter how we help our Veterans, just as long as we do help them. Get involved, get active and don't forget our real American heroes.

**ROGER R. TRUE, PGER
Commission Secretary**

Vocabulary

As you know being from the South, I do talk a little differently than some of my fellow Elks. So with that said...new words: thank – to ponder a thought or idea...The more I thank about it, the more I thank it is a bad ide'er.



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| • Elks Lodge Meeting | January 6, 2010 – 7:30 pm | VFW Post 4847 |
| • New Year's Eve Party | December 31, 2010 – 7:00 pm | James' House |
| • NEW YEAR'S DAY | January 1, 2011 | With Family |
| • Hoop Shoot | January 9, 2011 – TBA | YMCA |
| • Elks Lodge Meeting | January 20, 2011 – 7:30 pm | VFW Post 4847 |



Message from the Chaplain

To those who have been under the weather, may you feel much better real soon and to those who have lost a loved one, the sympathy of the Lodge goes out to you.



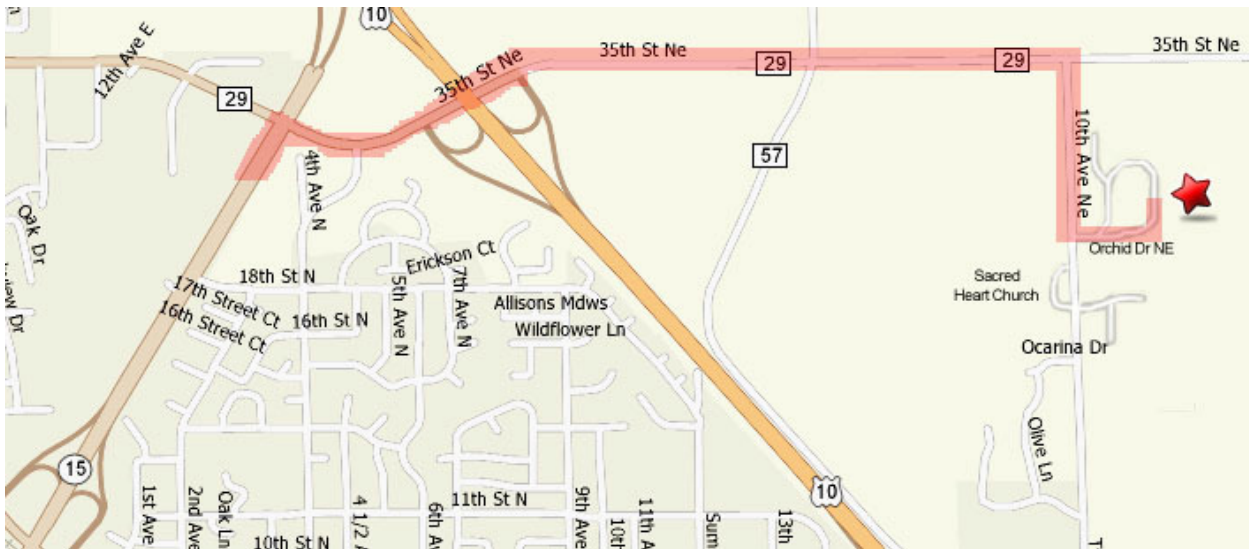
Happy New Year



St Cloud Elks Fifth Thursday Friday, AKA New Year's Eve
The December Fifth Thursday has been moved to Friday, December 31st to celebrate New Year's Eve.

James and Jean Michael's house, 3090 Orchid Dr NE, Sauk Rapids (320-291-2113)
Start time is 7:30 pm and bring a dish to share.

Directions from Highway 15



☆☆

See you all at the meeting! Sign up a new member. It's the only way we can guarantee that our lodge will survive. Membership is everyone's job!

**How To Get
New Members?
ASK THEM!**

**If you have anything you would like to add to the newsletter, E-mail to me at:
patpr@charter.net
Or mail it to me at:
124-37th Ave. N.
St. Cloud, MN 56303**