



## The Rack

***The Official Newsletter of the St. Cloud Elks #2843***

**FEBRUARY 2010**

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

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**February 2010 GER Message:**

**A Message from Grand Exalted Ruler James L. Nicholson**

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

All right, February is not spring, but it makes the point that there are a few things to clean up to finish the Lodge year.

First, have you designated your Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year and Citizen of the Year? It is not too late to recognize those persons who have made a difference this past year. Do not waste the opportunity to give much-deserved pats on the back.

It is also time to finalize plans for Nomination of Officers and Past Exalted Rulers Night. The importance of a smooth succession of interested and competent Officers cannot be over-emphasized. PER's are the backbone of the Lodge. Give them appropriate honors.

Have you met the Elks National Foundation goal of \$4.50 per member? If not, strive hard now, as meeting the goal makes the Lodge eligible for a Gratitude Grant of \$500.

On a more personal note, February 14 is Valentine's Day. Make time in your busy Elks schedule to remember your sweetheart.

Finally, Happy Birthday to our great Order. On February 16, 2010, we celebrate 142 years of service to America.

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**From our Exalted Ruler**

Now that the holidays are behind us, we can start the getting ready for the end of the lodge year. We will be taking nominations for officers for the next year and will be voting on them shortly. Then once the ER is elected he/she will begin appointing positions.

In the past month we had a couple of things happening, first the hoop shot was held at the YMCA on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Many of the members showed up to help. The winners of the competition in their age groups moved onto districts that were held on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Also this month was the District Deputy Meeting. The reports of the district committee chairs were given and then Craig Deforge, the District Deputy, gave us a brief rundown of the year. They also held brake out groups for business practices and CLEMS.

Thank you everyone for your help.

Steven Zinken  
**ER**

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**Herman Wisneski  
Minnesota State President**



**Just One More**



I want to take this time to invite all Elks in good standing to the Minnesota Elks Association State convention to be held in Red Wing on June 24-26, 2010. The convention is open to ALL Elks not just the lodge officers, trustees or PERs. You will have to pay for your own lodging and meals but, I guarantee that you will find the convention fun and informative. The sessions start on Friday morning, go until noon that day and restart on Saturday morning and end at noon on that day. There is a banquet on Saturday night with awards given for State Elk of the Year, Penny-A-Day, National Foundation, Membership and Veterans Service leaders from the lodges. There is plenty of fellowship on Thursday night, Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday Afternoon. There is also a golf tournament during the weekend and the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Minnesota Elks Association Marshmallow Driving Championship will be held on Friday. You will find a large number of members from lodges all over the state that will be in attendance and they are ready, willing and able to answer your questions about what is going on in their lodges. You can find answers to questions about fundraising, gambling, lodge governance, food service, lodge activities and you will find yourself giving answers to the same questions about your lodge. When you attend the convention you will understand more about what this organization is about and what it does. Attend your local lodge meeting and ask who is going to the convention and how you can get involved.

Finally, by attending the convention you can take an active role in the direction of this association. We need "Just One More" person to become involved from each lodge to make a difference.

Herman Wisneski, President  
Minnesota Elks Association

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**February, 2010 Veterans Message:**

**In 1948, the Elks of California donated 25,000 hides to our Order for the benefit of Veterans. This was the beginning of the Elks National Veterans Leather Program.**

Today, Elks in twenty one states participate in this program. Last year, over 16,000 hides were collected, prepared, and shipped to tanneries for processing. The finished hides become craft kits, fingerless gloves for wheelchair bound Veterans, or craft leather for Veterans' hospital therapy and recreational programs.

In 2001, the Elks began a partnership with Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV). In 2008, this non-profit organization produced 30,727 craft kits for Veterans in hospitals from leather we supplied, at no additional cost to the Elks. The kits come in various styles and assemble with relative ease into moccasins, pouches, handbags, and wallets.

To those hospitals with the proper leatherworking equipment, the Elks supplied over 6,000 square feet of leather in 2009. Skilled Veterans turn this raw material into various items, some approaching the level of art. The National Creative Arts Festival, sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, exhibits many items created from leather.

Our National Leather Program Chairman, Dennis McAleese (Mountain Home, AR Lodge No. 1714), last year distributed nearly 3,000 pairs of fingerless gloves for use by wheelchair bound Veterans. These are made of high quality leather, embossed with the Elks USA logo, and greatly prized by their owners. Elks Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Representatives order the gloves for distribution at the facilities they serve, and there is no cost. McAleese also travels to special events sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and distributes the gloves personally to Veterans in wheelchairs.

Under the able leadership of McAleese, the Veterans Leather Program is growing every year. If your Lodge or state would like more information on participating in this program, please contact Dennis McAleese. Brochures about the program are available, at no cost, from our office in Chicago.

If you already collect hides, please do not ship them to a tannery before first consulting with Dennis. Over the last couple of years, there have been several changes in the tanneries we employ, and Dennis is the one to consult before shipping. Dennis is also the expert on collecting and preparing the hides, so do not hesitate to contact him. His contact information is: Dennis McAleese, Chairman, Veterans Leather Program, 384 County Road 852, Elizabeth, AR 72531-9603; telephone 870-488-5786; and E-mail, [kdmc@mtnhome](mailto:kdmc@mtnhome).

by Roger R. True, PGER  
Past Chairman

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## State Calendar of Events

- |  |                                |                  |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|
| • State Elks Bowling Tournament                                  | February 2010 (all 4 weekends) | Alexandria       |
| • State Hoop Shoot Contest                                       | February 6, 2010               | Hutchinson       |
| • Elks International Bonspiel                                    | February 26 - 28, 2010         | Eveleth          |
| • Regional Hoop Shoot  | March 20, 2010                 | Iowa City, IA    |
| • State Officers Budget Meeting                                  | March 28, 2010                 | Minneapolis      |
| • Youth Camp Opening   | May 7 - 9, 2010                | Youth Camp       |
| • Ladies Youth Camp Opening Weekend                              | May 14 - 16, 2010              | Youth Camp       |
| • 2010 State Convention, Grand Exalted Rulers Visit to Minnesota |                                |                  |
| •  | June 25 - 26, 2010             | Red Wing         |
| • 2010 Grand Lodge Session                                       | July 4 - 8, 2010               | Orlando, Florida |
| • 2010 Mid-Year Conference                                       | October 22 - 23, 2010          | Minneapolis      |
| • 2009 Mid-Year Conference                                       | October 16 - 17, 2009          | Faribault        |

## Metro Dist. Calendar of Events

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| • Lodge Hoop Shoot/St. Cloud YMCA | January 10, 2010 | St. Cloud  |
| • Winter District Deputy Clinic   | January 16, 2010 | Alexandria |
| • District Hoop Shoot             | January 23, 2010 | Wadena     |

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**NOMINEES FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICES FOR THE 2010 YEAR**

Exalted Ruler --- Marcia LaVine  
Leading Knight --- Mark Eliason  
Loyal Knight --- Patches Presfield  
Lecturing Knight --- Rich McCarty  
Esquire --- James Michael  
Chaplain --- Steve Zinken  
Tiler --- Julie Lundblad

Inner Guard --- Chad Srur  
Trustee 1 --- Jessica Zinken  
Trustee 2 --- Frank Presfield  
Trustee 3 --- John Voth  
Trustee 4 --- Aaron Lundblad  
Trustee 5 --- Dan Graven

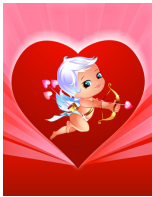
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*Vocabulary*

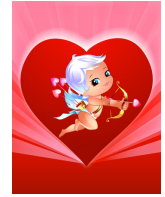
I am going to give this section a whole new ring: As you know being from the South, I do talk a little differently than some of my fellow Elks. So with that said... new words: retard – used in a sentence: My grampaw retard at 65 yers ole.

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**UPCOMING LODGE ACTIITIES**



January 30 District President Jerry Stout's Visit & Gathering,  
PER Brad Slocum's home, 7:00 p.m. Mexican Theme  
February 4 Lodge meeting, VFW, 7:30  
February 18 Lodge Meeting, VFW, 7:30



Big events coming up in the months to come...keep a watchful eye so you won't miss out.

District President Jerry Stout's Visit  
Youth Camp Lodge Party  
Elks Bowl Tournament

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**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!**



**If you have anything you would like to add to the newsletter, sent it on to me at [patpr@charter.net](mailto:patpr@charter.net)**