



## **The Rack**

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

MAY 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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**A Message From Grand Exalted Ruler: James L. Nichelson  
To All District Deputies, Exalted Rulers, Officers and Members:**

### **Remembering Veterans is basic to our Order**

The approach of Memorial Day later this month reminds Exalted Rulers, Lodge Officers and all of us to assess Lodge plans to honor Veterans and those fallen in defense of our American way of life. It also serves, in a broader sense, to tell us it is not too late to review the Lodge plans and goals for this Lodge year. Are Lodge goals in place and being advanced satisfactorily?

Memorial Day gives all of us a chance to ask ourselves if our efforts on behalf of Veterans and Veterans' families are up to par. Are we doing our best for the Adopt-A-Vet Program? Are we joining in the Army of Hope? Are we visiting our hospitalized Vets and are we assembling gifts and personal care items for them? If not, perhaps it is time to reorganize and reenergize the Lodge National Service Committee. Remembering Vets is basic to all of Elkdom.

The same goes for all other Lodge programs. Are the Officers practiced and ready to perform an impressive Ritual of Initiation for a well-oriented class of candidates? Is the Elks National Foundation Committee planning fundraisers, writing articles for the Lodge Bulletin and making sure all Officers are donors? Is the Americanism Committee planning the Flag Day Service, preparing for the Americanism Essay Contest and sponsoring flags in classrooms? Are family participation and community activities a prominent part of Lodge committee activities?

The committees mentioned here and all other Lodge committees are important to the soundness of your Lodge. As you track their success, it is not too late in the Lodge year to make adjustments to help meet the reasonable goals you have established. As a leader, it devolves upon you to keep the ball rolling. If your Lodge is working hard and meeting or exceeding your expectations, good for you! If the Lodge is lagging in any area, put your shoulder to the task and move that ball. Plain and simple, this is your time to ensure that, in your Lodge, "Elks Make A Difference."



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXALTED RULER



Spring is well underway, and we have so much to do. It is a season of rebirth, and I see similarities in nurturing our lodge as we nurture our gardens into an exuberance of growth.

I attended the Spring Conference and DD Clinic on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Minneapolis Lodge #44, and was able to hear of all the good things other lodges in our district are planning for the year. It is gratifying to know we do so much as a district, but there is always room for improvement, and this must happen through each individual lodge. This year, I believe we need to strive to improve our participation in the activities we are committed to, both in the numbers who help as well as in attitudes and spirit. It's not easy when members feel burned out, but if we remember why we became Elks and know in our hearts that what we do is important, our smiles should broaden, and our joy increase. More members should feel that joy, so I encourage all to get re-involved, and renew your commitment to the work of an Elk.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday social event on April 29<sup>th</sup> was precluded this year. Since our lodge anniversary follows so closely behind, we are incorporating the two. I hope everyone is planning to attend or help with our lodge's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration- "the 'Mazin' Race", on Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be a wonderful occasion that we all should feel good about celebrating. For more information, contact Aaron Lundblad.

Youth Camp opening follows shortly after- May 14-16 and Ladies Opening May 21-23. Kids sponsored by St. Cloud will be going to camp July 11-17. There will be two weeks for Elks Kids and Grandkids this year- July 25 - 31 and August 1 - 7. Be sure to get registrations in early to the camp, since the first session is expected to fill up fast.

I'm still working on getting a firm date for the Flag Day ceremony. Flag Day is on Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup> this year, so I am trying to schedule the ceremony for Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> or Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Be watching for the date in the June newsletter, or call for the date and time. Be sure to come out to the VA Medical Center and join us in celebrating our nation's flag with our veterans.

Don't forget- the State Convention in Red Wing is fast approaching, on June 25-26. If you wish to attend, contact me or Brad for registration and hotel information. We've always had solid participation as a lodge at the State Convention- I hope this year is no exception.

Again I urge all members to come to our regular meetings on the first and third Thursday of the month (except July and August), where you can find out more on what we're planning, and become involved and active in what we're here to do. We need you all!

Marcia LaVine

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## **GL Newsletter May 2010 Veterans Message:**

### **Vets need comfort care kits**

As our Veterans from previous wars and conflicts get older, they continue to need our help, as do those Veterans returning daily from Iraq and Afghanistan. We, as Elks, must never forget our long-standing

pledge, "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

In an effort to enhance the level of comfort for our nation's Veterans, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission teamed up with Federated Wholesale Inc. in 1997 to put together comfort care kits. The kits can be customized to fit any budget, and the plastic bags can be imprinted with the Elks USA logo. Each Lodge across this great free country can help our Veterans by providing Comfort Care Kits (and they are relatively inexpensive).

These kits have proven to be an integral part of our Adopt-A-Veteran Program when presented with the Adopt-A-Veteran Certificate. They are perfect for Veterans in hospitals, assisted care facilities, nursing homes and homeless Veteran shelters. These kits contain items for personal hygiene, and are available for both men and women. There are several types of kits available, and they can be customized to fit your budget. All products are guaranteed by the FDA, EPA and other Federal agencies to guarantee safe and effective products. You can purchase individual items in case lots as well.

The Federated Wholesale catalogue can be viewed online at: <http://www.federatedcares.com>.  
PLEASE!!! Call or write for their catalog today:

Federated Wholesale, Inc.  
6095-D Northbelt Drive  
Norcross, GA 30071  
Telephone: 1-800-346-0859 -- Fax: 1-770-458-2633 -- E-Mail: [info@federatedcares.com](mailto:info@federatedcares.com)

Along with the work of our volunteers, these kits give the Elks greater exposure and recognition for the work we perform with and for our nation's Veterans. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to our Elks National Veterans Service Commission in Chicago.

By providing Comfort Care Kits we can demonstrate our pledge: "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Dwayne E. Rumney, PGER  
Commission Chairman

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## **State Calendar of Events**

- Youth Camp Opening May 14-16, 2010 Youth Camp
- Ladies Youth Camp Opening  
Weekend May 21-23, 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
- #44 Harness Races Bus Trip July 17, 2010 Minneapolis

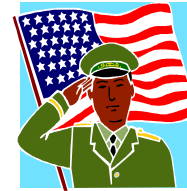
- Golf Tournament July 24, 2010 Faribault
- 2010 Mid-Year Conference October 22-23, 2010 Minneapolis
- 2009 Mid-Year Conference October 16-17, 2009 Faribault

## *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: Terminal Illness – Getting sick at the airport.



### UPCOMING LODGE ACTIVITIES



<p>April 30 May 6 May 8</p> <p>May 14-16 May 21-23 May 20</p>	<p>Stand Down Lodge Meeting, VFW, 7:30 Lodge 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – contact Aaron for further details Youth Camp Opening Ladies Youth Camp Opening Lodge Meeting, VFW, 7:30</p>
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Big events coming up in the months to come...keep a watchful eye so you won't miss out:

Our Lodge's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of coming up May 8, makes plans to join us for our 'Mazin Race celebration. Contact Aaron for further details.

Flag Day ceremonies at the St. Cloud VA in June, day to be set

State Convention in Red Wing, June 25-26

4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in St. Joseph on, of course, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Youth camp week for our Lodge will be July 11-17. If you know any non Elk members children who might be interested please let Patches know.

Elk's Golf Tournament, July 24<sup>th</sup> at Faribault. Tee time 11:00, \$65 per person, 4 person teams. Deadline to enter is July 3.

Elk's kids and grand kids Youth Camp weekends July 25-31 and August 1-7

Brat Sale @ Cash Wise West (the one by Wal-Mart) Aug. 4 & 5, 10:30 to 6:00 each day, volunteers needed.

Youth Camp Lodge Party – more to come later

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## 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.



**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)**