



## **The Rack**

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

June 2008

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### **June Meetings**

Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

7:30 P.M. at

The East side VFW #4847

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#### **June, 2008 GER Message**

##### **Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger**

##### **June is month to honor flag and fathers**

One of the most important dates in the calendar of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks falls this month. You ask what it is. The answer is Flag Day.

Then-Grand Exalted Ruler Henry A. Melvin, in his report to the Grand Lodge in Philadelphia, PA, in 1907 recommended the observance of Flag Day by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Members in attendance adopted his suggestion and urged all lodges to take part in ceremonies honoring our flag and its history. In doing so, our Order became the first fraternal organization to observe Flag Day.

In 1911 the Order decreed that the observance would be mandatory for all lodges. This year, we will mark the 100th observance of Flag Day by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States of America.

The Flag Day ceremony of our Order is impressive. It is a great opportunity for our lodges to show everyone in their communities of the great patriotism the Elks have for the great nation and the enormous respect we have for our country's flag. I encourage the lodges of our Order to hold a public ceremony and invite local dignitaries as well as general members of the community to be a part of and witness the Flag Day presentation.



Another date of significance this month is Father's Day. Take time to honor our fathers whether they are living or dead. It might be another opportunity for us to show our communities of the respect we have for family and their value in society.

My final thought for this message is on an important filing deadline. Make sure the lodge submits the Annual Financial Report with the District Deputy and the Area member of the Grand Lodge Auditing and Accounting Committee before the end of the month. There is a \$100 fine for being late with the report, and if everyone is diligent in their duties, Grand Lodge will not have to impose the fine on anyone this year.

As the first quarter of the lodge year ends this month, it is a good point at which to assess how the lodge is doing. It is time to really stress reduction of lapsed members. Encourage your lodge to make personal contact with each member who is behind in his or her dues. Let them know we care about their membership and participation in our great work. If they have a concern, determine if it can be remedied. Let them know we stand by our motto of "Elks Care — Elks Share" and we need them to help us carry out that pledge.

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### From our Exalted Ruler

The Youth Camp Opener was held on the weekend of May 9<sup>th</sup>. St. Cloud had six people up there to work. On Saturday afternoon it was a bit rainy but we still got some work done.

Also we had surprise party for Aaron Lundblad's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday night. Since Aaron said he would not make it to 40 we built him a coffin. The coffin also doubled as a cooler since we insulated it. It will now be the traveling cooler for future functions.

Memorial Day was May 26<sup>th</sup> and the Lodge would like to thank all the vets who have served and those who are currently serving their country. The Metro Vets put on a parade and ceremony at the St. Cloud VA on morning of Memorial Day. The St. Cloud Times had very nice picture of John Voth from that day.

In the afternoon we helped out with a hamburger and brat cookout. We served about 100 hamburgers and 100 brats. We also had the usual cookout fixings and pop.

Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>, is on a Saturday this year. We will be having the Flag Day Ceremony at the St. Cloud VA this year. The exact location on the VA grounds and time is to be determined yet. We will hopefully have more information by the next meeting. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to attend the ceremony feel to contact me 253-0933. Tom Kremin from the Willmar lodge will be our guest speaker. Tom will be the State Veteran's Service Commission Chair next year.

### 2008-2009 Officers

Exalted Ruler

James Michael

Esteemed Leading Knight

Steven Zinken

Esteemed Loyal Knight

Marcia LaVine

Esteemed Lecturing Knight

Mark Eliason

Inner Guard

Craig Pogatshnik

Trustees

Brad Slocum 5<sup>th</sup> Year

Dan Gravin 4<sup>th</sup> Year

Frank Presfield 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Shirley Zager 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Bob Zager 1<sup>st</sup> Year

Secretary

Aaron Lundblad

Treasurer

Larry Nusbaum

Esquire

Rich McCarty

St. Cloud Elks #2843

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Tom is also looking for a deputy to represent the St. Cloud Lodge at the meetings at the VA. There are four meetings during the year. If interested please let me know.

Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened on June 14th by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777. On June 14, 1907 the Order held a Flag Day observance. This tradition later was declared a national holiday by President Harry S. Truman.

We are still having the fertilizer fundraiser with UAP out of Big Lake. If interested, contact me at 320-253-0933 or by email [jmmichael@gmail.com](mailto:jmmichael@gmail.com).

Upcoming Events:

-June 14<sup>th</sup>, Flag Day Ceremony at St. Cloud VA.

-June 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 State Convention, Grand Exalted Rulers Visit to Minnesota. The convention will be in Rochester.

-June 28<sup>th</sup>, Granite City Days Parade. We will have the Drug Awareness Trailer in the parade.

-July 4<sup>th</sup>, St. Joseph Independence Day Parade. We will have the Drug Awareness Trailer in the parade and be handing out drug awareness literature and candy.

-July 31<sup>st</sup>, Fifth Thursday Get Together will be at John and Dickie Voth's with a summer cookout theme. This will be George Walter's (State President) official visit.

James Michael  
ER

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### **June, 2008 Veterans Story Invite veterans to July 4 events**

**By Robert M. Hennings Program chairman**

The Fourth of July, the date we celebrate our nation's independence, will soon be here.

The Armed Forces of a fledgling country achieved that independence, and for more than 200 years, that independence has been maintained by the heroic and selfless efforts of our nation's veterans. What better way to show how much the Elks appreciate all they have done than to include them in our celebrations? If your lodge will host a Fourth of July event, be it a picnic, party or excursion, invite local veterans and make them the guests of honor. Show them how much their service and sacrifice means to all of us, and that "Elks Care — Elks Share."

Playing Cards for Veterans program

Throughout the year, volunteers provide hospitalized veterans with services not rendered by the hospitals or centers to which they are confined. The Adopt-A-Veteran program brings outside contact to them, the Leather Program provides craft kits and gloves for wheelchair-bound veterans, Re-Creation

provides entertainment, and there are parties, bingo and other events hosted and sponsored by volunteers and their lodges.

These are all wonderful programs, but for the veteran who spends 24 hours a day in a facility, there is often little to do but watch television or read. While there is nothing wrong with these distractions, they provide little social interaction.

The Playing Cards for Veterans program provides playing cards, at no cost, to veterans. Card games are a great method of providing social interaction, mental stimulation and improved dexterity. Tom Jamison, of Beardstown IL Lodge No. 1007, began this program 10 years ago and to date, more than 250,000 decks of cards have been delivered to veterans.

Tom gathers nearly new decks of cards from riverboats and casinos, which generously donate them to our cause. Elk's volunteers make sure that each deck is in immaculate condition and sealed. They place a sticker with the Elks National Veterans Service Commission logo on each pack.

The Playing Cards for Veterans program is an easy way to get your lodge involved in helping our nation's heroes. If your lodge is planning an event for veterans, make a deck of cards part of a gift package. If your lodge has taken advantage of this program in the past, do so again, as playing cards in continuous use have a short lifespan.

To get free playing cards for our veterans, send your request to Tom Jamison, or contact the Elks National Veterans Service Commission at the Elks National Headquarters in Chicago.



### *Ask the Esquire aka Rich McCurdy*

*Dear Esquire, The summer is here and I am worried about my hair are there any tips that you can offer?? Ms J.K.*

*Dear J.K: These hair-care solutions turn the season into one that promises simple beauty. And isn't that what summer's all about?*

*Your hair may feel "fried" after a day at the beach but hair can't technically burn because it's not alive. Sun exposure will, however, damages your hair's natural protective film. According to a study by the Renee Furterer Research Center, after just three days of sun exposure, the scale-like cells that cover each individual hair shaft begin to pull off. This makes your hair dry, dull, fragile and brittle. Choose hair products containing sunscreen since hair can suffer damaging effects from the sun if not well-protected.*

*Hair that has been dyed or highlighted (stripped of it's natural color) is especially prone to UV damage, according to Nancy Hamm, a senior scientist for Pantene. "Color-treated hair is already damaged, the sun will make the cuticle even rougher which makes hair more fragile and dried out.*

*Look for a product that contains an oil or sun protectant. Frederic Fekkai's Sun Protectant for Hair contains a sunscreen and shea butter which super-moisturizes hair. The French line Phytoplage was developed to protect hair from splitting and breaking in the sun in the early 1970s. The classic Phytoplage Oils contain oak acron extract oil which shields the hair from the sun. In a newer, lighter product called Phytoplage Protective Sun Veil, sunflower oil is used as a sun filter. Renee Furterer has a Sun Mousse containing jojoba wax to form an invisible protective coating on the hair. Whatever you use, apply it liberally and often, especially after you've been swimming.*

*Both chlorine and salt water dry and discolor hair, according to Hamm from Pantene. "Chemicals in pool water bind to the hair and can give hair a grayish or green cast. Mineral deposits in salt water, in combination with sunlight, severely dehydrate hair and can turn it brassy." Rinse hair in fresh water immediately before and after swimming in a pool or sea water. (Wet hair will absorb less chlorine than dry hair.) Club sodas make a good post-pool rinse, or try a shampoo designed to remove chlorine and salt from the hair.*

*Deep condition your hair using a product containing keratin, jojoba oil, wheat germ protein or other natural ingredients that increase moisture, shine and elasticity. Leave-in conditioners can be especially good choices during the summer months since heat helps activate the ingredients to better penetrate the hair. If your hair seems dull, condition after shampooing then rinse it with a mixture of vinegar and water. Finally, schedule trims for the beginning and end of the summer season to rid your hair of dry, older ends and keep your cut in shape.*

*If all else fails remember to brush it 100 times before you go to bed... Rich...*

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## **State Calendar of Events**

- 2008 State Convention, June 27 - 28, 2008, Rochester
- 2008 Grand Lodge Session, July 6 - 10, 2008, Anaheim, California
- 2008 Mid-Year Conference, October 17 - 19, 2008, Winona

## **Metro Dist. Calendar of Events**

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Honor, Service, and Survival

I have recently been approached by several members whose common question has been, "What can we offer a prospective member to influence him to join the Elks?" This question is often expressed in a context of comparison of lodge amenities and personal services offered by other organizations as opposed to those offered by our Lodge.

It is a question posed by members who are sincerely concerned about our decline in membership and in the survival of Elkdom. And yet, I firmly believe that this question, thus phrased, is not central to our survival as an Order and is not a worthy issue for any protracted discussion amongst our members.

The question presumes that we are seeking candidates who are "in the market" for material benefits ... candidates who will adhere to Elkdom if we offer tangible rewards and member services which surpass those offered by competitive Orders.

In the early days following the Civil War, our Order was founded and modestly grew upon such a principle of tangible benefits (including insurance) to a limited and narrow membership. But, as our Order matured from its adolescence, its absorption with its own survival and welfare was replaced with a compassionate concern for the society by which it was surrounded.

Elks began to be noted for the contributions they made to those suffering from natural calamities such as the San Francisco Earthquake and the fires and floods which were endemic at the century's end. Men sought membership in our Order to share in the honor of such service.

World War I brought large scale opportunity for service in which Elks excel. The problems of the Depression and yet another World War brought additional opportunity to serve our communities and our Country through the Elks organization.

With every opportunity for service which was grasped and realized, our Order has grown and grown. It has grown because good men and women seek to honorably serve and help others. It has grown because it has offered those good men and women the Challenge to Serve in an organization with the strength to leverage and multiply their individual efforts in a spirit of fraternal friendship and common endeavor.

In recent decades, however, our membership has fallen from its zenith reached in 1986. The decline has been precipitous and has been accelerated by the natural ravages of age upon our cadre.

As the culture of the society in which we are immersed has changed, the links of communication, generation to generation, have diminished and thus the family tradition of membership has been impaired.

As well, the transition from community based radio, television, and newspaper outlets to centrally managed, mass media conglomerates has nearly quieted the voice of local expression. Good men and women today do not hear about the opportunities for service with the Elks as they once did.

It is of the greatest importance that our Grand Lodge organization immediately adapt to the requirement for nationally managed advertizing in mass media markets to get our message of service opportunity out to potential members.

Locally, however, we must weather the storm of problems resulting from reduced membership by adjusting ourselves to the reality of our situation. We must change and adapt our business practices and reallocate our assets so that we survive as an honorable instrument of charity and service without regressing into an organization of narrow self interest.

Most importantly to our survival as a group, Elks must continue to offer, foremost to our potential members, the Challenge of Service. It is that offer which will result in a membership that remains committed to our principles of "Charity, Justice, Brotherly love, and Fidelity" ... it will be that membership which cannot fail to survive in service to America.

Submitted by: Mark Clark PER, Secretary BPOE #2134, Twenty nine Palms, CA email: secretary.2134@BPOELKS.NET

**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!**

