



The Rack

The Official Newsletter of the St. Cloud Elks #2843

June 2009

Thursday the 16th, 2009

7:30 P.M. at

The East side VFW #4847

(Remember we only meet once in July & August)

July 2009 GER Message

Message from Grand Exalted Ruler Paul D. Helsel



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

This is my 12th and final message as your Grand Exalted Ruler. My term will end with the installation of a new Grand Exalted Ruler on July 9th at the National Convention in Portland, Oregon.

This has been a busy, but fantastic 12 months for Jane and me! Please accept and extend to all Elks, everywhere, our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful reception we experienced throughout this incredible journey and more importantly, for all your dedicated efforts to Grow Elkdom in your Lodges and across all the 2000+ communities we serve. It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve our Order this year and to represent you, the "Best People on Earth"!!

While my time is up as your leader, the task before us is certainly not done. New leadership may bring new and perhaps even better approaches to our efforts, but the job remains to build a bigger, better, stronger Order through improvements in each and every Lodge and by increasing our presence in the Lodge communities through our national and local programs of service, support and aid.

As I have expressed many many times this year, each Lodge must continue to work on building a lasting relationship with its Members — not just the new Members, but also the current 80% to 90% we never see or, for the most part, are not involved in anything we do. We need to show those uninvolved Members who we are, what we stand for, and what great things we do. We must enlist more Elks to take an active role in our efforts and not just pay dues and carry an Elks Card! Just imagine what we could accomplish with as little as 10% to 20% more of our Members involved in our efforts. Just think what your Lodge could do if you could double the number of Members involved in the day-to-day operation of your Lodge and programs!

Jane and I thank you once again for a most exciting and wonderful year; thank you for your service; thank you for your continuing efforts to *Grow Elkdom*; and best wishes for a successful 2009-2010 year.



From our Exalted Ruler



We have finished the first month of the summer; I hope all is going well. June had a few things happen. Dan Graven and John Voth were nice enough to represent the lodge for Granite City Days.

Dan also ran the soccer shoot at the Stride Academy in which approximately 240 kids participated. Patches Presfield arranged for transportation for nine kids to attend the elks youth camp. They will be there from June 28th until the 4th of July. The Minnesota State Elk's Convention took place June 26th and 27th. Those who went up to Eveleth, hosted a hospitality room Friday and Saturday.

In July, there is the Elk's National Convention in Portland, OR. I will be attending the Meetings the 5th through the 9th. We are also working on a few other activities for the VA hospital in August.

As July 30th is the 5th Thursday of the month, John and Dickie Voth are going to be hosting a cookout that evening, the time will be announced at the meeting July 16th.

Steven Zinken
ER



July 2009 Veterans Message:

Playing Cards program adds social dimension for veterans
By Roger R. True, PGER
Past Chairman



In February 2003, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission announced a program of mobilizing an Army of Hope to assist the families of Military Reservists and the National Guard who have been called to active duty during this time of crisis.

The news media have called some of our Lodge and national leaders to obtain a local perspective on our program. The response from our Members and non-Elks has been overwhelming. Our elected government officials at the local, state and national levels are greatly impressed, and have responded favorably to our initiative.

The Army of Hope has many facets and literally any activity that supports our troops and their family falls under this vital program. Lodges are also partnering with local and state organizations to adopt units and families to help them through these trying times.

Here is just how easy it can be to contribute to this vital program:

The first step in setting up your local program is to identify a Lodge Chairperson. This position may be especially attractive to a Veteran; however any volunteer can chair your program. The first priority of that chairperson is to establish a list of volunteer Members who are willing to provide their individual expertise. In addition a subsequent list identifying the specific skills of each volunteer will also be helpful in matching the needs of the families with the skills of the volunteers. (For example: Volunteer John Doe – minor automobile repairs, Volunteer Jane Doe – painting and back-up child-care support).

After you have established your Army of Hope volunteers you will need to contact your local Reserve and/or National Guard units. When contacting them explain what the program is and how your Lodge can help the families. (It is understood that not every Lodge will be able to handle every request). You can provide the list of volunteers along with their expertise directly to the local Reserve or Guard units. The military units may then contact the Lodge or the volunteers directly, depending on how you set up your local program.

You still might be thinking what can my small Lodge or State Association specifically do to help? The following are examples of how easy it can be for your Lodge or State Association to make a difference in the lives of our service men and women and their families.

- Have a family-oriented dinner at the Lodge in honor of our troops and host the families and Guard/Reserve representatives. This is a great way to introduce the families and Reserve or Guard representatives to the Elk volunteers with whom they will be working.
- Supply the families with phone cards.
- Provide lawn mowing, landscaping or sprinkler service.
- Perform automobile repairs, or transportation when needed.
- Complete minor home repairs, such as plumbing, or painting, etc.
- Provide either full time or “back up” babysitting service.
- Send comfort care packages to our troops – (check with local military bases for requirements and regulations).
- Send copies of the service person’s daily hometown newspaper.
- Have a photography buff in your volunteer listing? Take some pictures of the soldier’s family and possibly some local sights to send to the troop member.

- Host a welcome-home party at your Lodge, or for the troops who return home and thank them and their families for their service.
- Hold some fundraising activities at the Lodge to provide monetary support to specific families if identified.

Now that you have seen what some of the other Lodges are doing in their programs, I know with the initiative and creativity of our Members and support organizations that you will be able to think of hundreds of more ways to help.

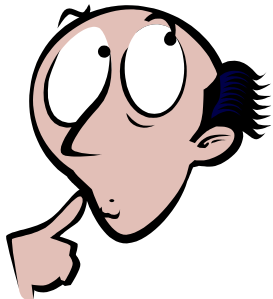
STILL don't think your Lodge is large enough to establish its own Army of Hope program? Then team or volunteer with another local organization (V.F.W., etc.) to help them with a program. Even if your Lodge just does one of the tasks listed above you can make a difference!

The final responsibility of the Army of Hope chairperson is to take a few minutes to write up a short report of the activities and mail it to the office of the Grand Secretary on behalf of these families. This will be of immeasurable help as we continue to tell our story of service to these American patriots.

Please send your letters (pictures) and reports to:

Army of Hope

Robert M. Hennings, Director
National Veterans Service Commission
2750 North Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889



Ask the Esquire aka Rich McCurdy

I'm hitting the beach, back with you next month... Rich

5th Thursday

July brings us yet another 5th Thursday club...

St Cloud Elks Lodge 2843 Fifth Thursday get together.

Fifth Thursday get together on Thursday July 30th at 6:30 pm, come and join use at John and Dicki's, 3463 Roosevelt Road, St Cloud, MN.

The theme is summer picnic, burgers and brats will be on the grille, bring a dish and come and join us.

Any questions give me (Brad) a call on my cell 320-761-1845.



State Calendar of Events

- 2009 Grand Lodge Session July 5 - 9, 2009 Portland, Oregon
- 2009 Mid-Year Conference October 16 - 17, 2009 Faribault

Metro Dist. Calendar of Events

Vocabulary

We as Elks, continuously strive to bring back civility and genteelism to a world that seems to have lost it. As such it was suggested by a member at a meeting recently that we try to bring some words that appear to be lost to history. The word for this month is: **Sciapodous**. Please endeavor to use this word in everyday conversation with friends, relatives, clergy, Exalted Rulers, District Deputies, District Presidents, State Presidents and spouses.

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!**

Advertise your business or special event, shout-out here.
nusbrew@gmail.com for more information