



The Rack

The Official Newsletter of the St. Cloud Elks #2843

July 2008

July Meetings

Thursday the 17th, 2008

7:30 P.M. at

The East side VFW #4847

July, 2008 GER Message

Message from the Grand Exalted Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger

Thank you for this amazing journey

I would like to begin this last message by thanking all of you for this opportunity of a lifetime for Beth and me. This incredible experience cannot be put into words, and I want you to know what an honor and privilege it has been to serve as your Order's Grand Exalted Ruler.



To the district deputies, I thank you for your service and dedication to our Order. You have helped guide the ship of Elkdom through another year. A leader is only as successful as his crew. You have made this year a success for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in many ways.

As this Grand Lodge year nears its end, we can look back on a year that was the beginning of a Veterans Coin Can collection effort in conjunction with the Vietnam Veterans of America that will be of benefit to our returning veterans of this war. It sadly came at a time when we lost Michael Manning, the national director of our National Veterans Service Commission. The campaign was renewed in his honor, but his presence will always leave a void in the lives of those who knew him and his overwhelming dedication to our Order.

Our Order is still struggling to eliminate the membership loss which is plaguing our Order as is the case in many fraternal and other organizations. If we continue to let our communities know of the great works the Elks perform for them, we can have hope of turning the loss into a gain.

The dedicated Elks from across this land continue to amaze and encourage Beth and me on our travels. It would be very difficult to choose which excursion has been my favorite! Each and every trip is unique in itself, and we have learned so much about each state we have visited and its membership and associations. Beyond the unbelievable beauty of the land we live in, is the unbelievable beauty of the membership of this Order. Your generosity and commitment cannot be measured and your devotion to every part of Elksdom is amazing. The most moving and memorable vision I have is the overall passion of the membership for support of our veterans both old and new and their continued generosity to them.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to mention the overwhelming kindness, respect and generosity shown to Beth and me by every state we have visited. From “touch down” to “take off,” the Elks in every state have taken such wonderful care of us and left us with many wonderful memories. We thank each and every one of you for this. You have really shown that

"Elks Care – Elks Share"!

As we end this amazing journey, our prayers are for good luck and health to each of you.



From our Exalted Ruler

In July and August there will be only one meeting each month on the third Thursday. This allows the ER to represent our lodge at the National Convention which starts on July 6th in Anaheim, CA.

The Minnesota State Convention was held in June 27th and 28th in Rochester, MN. George Walter from the Eveleth lodge was installed as the State President. His motto for the year is “Charting our Course”. His official visit will be at our fifth Thursday this month.

On June 14th we held our Flag Day ceremony at the VA hospital here in St. Cloud. They advertised to the patients and staff. Now that they have the ceremony they have asked us back again next year and will advertise it in the newspaper to the general community.

Dan Graven and John Voth participated in the Granite City Days parade by pulling the Drug Awareness trailer. We will also be participating in the Fourth of July Parade in St. Joseph. For this parade we will be handing out drug awareness bags. We have about half of them ready and will be finishing them **on July 2nd at 6:30 pm**. This will be at the VFW 4847. Any who can come and help would be greatly appreciated. We also need people to help hand out the bags

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 5th Year
Dan Gravin 4th Year
Frank Presfield 3rd Year
Shirley Zager 2nd Year
Bob Zager 1st Year

Secretary
Aaron Lundblad

Treasurer
Larry Nusbaum

Esquire
Rich McCarty

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during the Parade. Please meet Lot 5 on the College of St. Benedict at 9:30 am on the fourth. It is best come in from the south to the campus as you will avoid the parade route and the people lined to watch already. By Mills Fleet turn onto CR 138 and then a right onto CR-121 get into St. Joseph this way.

We filled our allotment of kids this year for youth camp, three girls and three boys. Thank you to Larry Nusbaum for being the youth camp chair and coordinating all of this. Also I would like thank all those transported the kids to and from camp. Also thank you to Dr. Greg McAuliffe for doing the head lice checks. Our kids go up the same week as the Troup's week, where kids of active military personal can for free. This was the third year for the Troup's week and has grown.

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.

Upcoming Events:

-June 27th – 28th, 2008 was the State Convention, Grand Exalted Rulers Visited Minnesota. The convention was in Rochester.

-June 28th, Granite City Days Parade. We had the Drug Awareness Trailer in the parade.

-July 4th, 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 31st, 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.

-October 24th – 25th, 2008 The State Mid-Year Conference will be in Winona, MN

James Michael
ER

July, 2008 Veterans Message Army of Hope: You can make a difference!

By Dwayne E. Rumney, PGER Past chairman, Elks National Veterans Service Commission

In 2003, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission announced a new program called the "Army of Hope" to assist families of military reservists and National Guard who have been called to active duty during time of crisis.

The "Army of Hope" has many activities that support our troops and their families under this vital program. Lodges partner with local and state organizations to assist units and families to help them through these difficult times.

How your lodge can make a difference!

To set up your local program, first identify a local chairperson. This position may be especially attractive to a veteran; however, any volunteer can chair the program. The chairman's first task is to

establish a list of volunteers who are willing to provide their individual expertise to help our veterans. The chairman then provides a subsequent list identifying the specific skills of each volunteer. This helps in matching the needs of families with the skills of the volunteers.

When you have established your "Army of Hope" volunteers, you will need to contact your local Reserve and/or National Guard units. Explain the program to them and how your lodge can help the families. Then 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.

The following list contains a few examples of how easy it can be for your lodge to make a difference in the lives of our service men and women and their families.

1). Have a family-oriented dinner at the lodge in honor of our troops and their families. Invite the Guard and/or Reserve representatives to the Elks along with volunteers they will be working with. 2). Supply the families with phone cards. 3). Provide lawn mowing, landscaping or sprinkler service. 4). Perform automobile repairs or transportation when needed. 5). Complete minor home repairs such as plumbing, painting, etc. 6). Provide babysitting service. 7). Send comfort care packages to our troops. 8). Send copies of the service person's daily home town newspaper. 9). Host a welcome-home party at your lodge for the troops who return home and thank them and their families for their service. 10). Come up with your own creative way to help our troops and their families.

Work together with another local organization (VFW, American Legion, etc.) to help them with this program. Even if your lodge does only one of the tasks listed above, "You can make a difference."

Please let us know what you are doing by sending your letters, pictures and reports to: Army of Hope, Robert Hennings, director, National Veterans Service Commission, 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614.



Ask the Esquire aka Rich McCarty

Dear Esquire, The summer is here and I would like to burn off a few extra vanity pounds can you help??? Ms D.V.

Dear D.V: I have found that I can burn off about 150 calories per hour by banging my head against a wall.

Sit ups are an equally beneficial exercise as well; although the sky never has as many pretty colors as after a rousing workout of wall banging...

Pump some iron for me... Rich...

State Calendar of Events

- 2008 Grand Lodge Session, July 6 - 10, 2008, Anaheim, California
- 2008 Mid-Year Conference, October 17 - 19, 2008, Winona

Metro Dist. Calendar of Events

- Keep tuned for the new calendar

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 adapts 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

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: **Tibialoconcupiscent**. 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!**