



## **The Rack**

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

June 2009

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Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

7:30 P.M. at

The East side VFW #4847

### **June 2009 GER Message**

**Message from Grand Exalted Ruler Paul D. Helsel**



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

**Soon a quarter of the 2009-2010 Lodge year will be behind us and the question is, are you and your Lodge ahead, behind or on schedule for a successful year. As I mentioned last month, now is the time to assess where you are and make any adjustments. If you haven't done that yet, don't wait any longer! Do it now to ensure that everything is being done to offer our programs to your community, as well as achieving growth and operational stability in your Lodge.**

**June is busy with many State Conventions, with everyone getting ready for the National Convention in Portland, and, of course, every Lodge conducting the mandatory Flag Day Celebration and hopefully a Father's Day tribute.**

**Flag Day and Father's Day are perfect for involving the community in what your Lodge does as a patriotic and community-oriented organization. It is the perfect time to show your interest and devotion to your community, country and family. Seize these opportunities to build a stronger relationship with your community and Members.**

**Your Lodge remains in a unique position to help your community, as well as your own membership. Lodges generally are well established and staffed with caring Elks. They are**

perfectly positioned to be of great support to their communities and Members. This is particularly true with today's uncertainty we are experiencing nationwide.

Reach out to your membership and community and determine what your Lodge can do to help. You certainly can continue to provide economical social opportunities for your Members, as well as a friendly facility to gather for support, discussion and possible examination of opportunities. Show your membership your concern for their well being and your Lodge's willingness to be there for them.

Do the same thing for your community and use your membership to help. Make your facilities and the expertise of your membership available to your community. Reach out and make your Lodge a leader in community support. Be a rallying point for your Members and community.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to Grow Elkdom and make our Order shine during these difficult times.



#### From our Exalted Ruler



The month of May went well. On the 9<sup>th</sup> we had three members help get the youth camp up and running for the summer. On Memorial Day we had fifteen members prepare and serve the veterans hamburgers and hotdogs along

with chips and sodas at the VA. We severed one hundred hamburgers and one hundred hotdogs. All the Vets were appreciative.

Next Month we will be just as busy. At one o'clock on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June we will be performing the Flag Day ceremony at the VA Hospital. The State convention is also at the end of June in Eveleth. We will be hosting a hospitality room at the Coates Hotel in Virginia. We will be arriving the night of the 25<sup>th</sup>. The meetings are being held from 8 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Steven Zinken  
ER

#### 2009-2010 Officers

Exalted Ruler

Steven Zinken

Esteemed Leading Knight

Marcia LaVine

Esteemed Loyal Knight

Mark Eliason

Esteemed Lecturing Knight

Jessica Zinken

Inner Guard

Craig Pogatshnik

Trustees

James Michael 5<sup>th</sup> Year

Aaron Lundblad 4<sup>th</sup> Year

Dan Graven 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Frank Presfield 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

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

Secretary

Brad Slocum

Treasurer

Larry Nusbaum

Esquire

Rich McCarty

St. Cloud Elks #2843

PO Box 8

St. Cloud, MN 56302-0008

[www.stcloudelks.org](http://www.stcloudelks.org)



## June 2009 Veterans Message:



### Playing Cards program adds social dimension for veterans

Elks have a great heritage of service to our community and our fellowman. We have humbly worked to make our communities a better place to live, provide programs and scholarships for our youth and enhance the level of comfort for our nation's Veterans.

This is especially true as it relates to the committees that care for many deserving Veterans. Spending quality time visiting Veterans is probably one of the most important things that we Elks can do to fulfill our motto: "So Long As There Are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Will Never forget them". Playing cards for Veterans is a program that goes hand in hand with our motto.

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 began this program 10 years ago. Tom gathers nearly new decks of cards from riverboats and casinos, which generously donate them to our cause. Elk volunteers make sure that each deck is in immaculate condition and sealed. They also place a sticker with the Elks National Veterans Service Commission logo on each pack. Over 40,000 decks were distributed last year alone!

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, you could make a deck of cards part of a gift package. Playing cards in continuous use have a short lifespan, so give decks of cards to our Veterans often, letting them know that "Elks Care - Elks Share."

It's easy to get free playing cards for our Veterans. Send your request to:



Tom Jamison, Chairman  
Playing Cards for Veterans Program  
12102 Chandlerville Road  
Beardstown IL 62618-7679



### *Ask the Esquire aka Rich McCurdy*

*Dear Esquire: Summer is here and my flowers are about ready to start blooming. I like to decorate my house with as many cut floral arrangements as my flower beds will allow me. Is there a right or a wrong way to arrange flowers? Can you help me?? Ms. S.Z.*

*Dear S.Z:* It is that time of the year isn't it... Wild flowers are my particular favorites but with so many varieties, shapes, sizes, and colors you can not go wrong. However, to get technical for a second or two, there are two kinds of stems: hard and soft. With hard stems, like hydrangeas, you want to open up the stems so the flower can drink up more water. To do that, simply scrape off the outer layer of the stem with a knife or shears. And hard-stemmed flowers drink through their petals, too — so spritz the flowers with water to keep them looking fresh.

Soft stem flowers, like calla lilies, are too fragile to scrape the stems. But their stems are pliable, so you can do fun things with them. To do this, run your fingers from the flower down the stem to loosen up the stem. Then you can easily wind the stem into round shapes — use floral twine or wired raffia to wrap around the stem and hold its shape.

Other tips:

- Remove all foliage that falls below the waterline, otherwise it will rot and shorten the life of your flowers.
- Use long tropical leaves to conceal stems. To make the leaf work inside your vase, first you have to make it more pliable by thinning the spine. You can scrape off the thickness of the spine with a knife. Then just roll it up and stick inside your vase of water. You may need to snip any leaf overflow sticking above your vase, depending on the size of your container.
- Use waterproof tape to create a grid over the top of your vase. This will help keep your flowers standing upright — since one common problem with making arrangements is getting the grouping to stand together.
- Always start with greens to provide the support base for your flowers. Then start adding flowers (if you have a big bunch, like hydrangeas, start with the big flowers first). Keep turning your vase as you go so you evenly distribute the flowers everywhere. Stick your flowers in at an angle.

Take some of the above tips in mind when you're making your arrangements and your flowers should last all week!

Remember to mind where your thumbs are before you snip the stem... Rich

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## State Calendar of Events

- |   |                       |                  |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| • 2009 State Convention                   | June 26 - 27, 2009    | Eveleth          |
| • Grand Exalted Rulers Visit to Minnesota |                       |                  |
| • 2009 Grand Lodge Session                | July 5 - 9, 2009      | Portland, Oregon |
| • 2009 Mid-Year Conference                | October 16 - 17, 2009 | Faribault        |

## Metro Dist. Calendar of Events

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## *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: **Runcation**. Please endeavor to use this word in everyday conversation with friends, relatives, clergy, Exalted Rulers, District Deputies, District Presidents, State Presidents and spouses.

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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!**



Advertise your business or special event, shout-out here.  
[nusbrew@gmail.com](mailto:nusbrew@gmail.com) for more information