



The Rack

The Official Newsletter of the St. Cloud Elks #2843

November 2008

November Meetings

Thursday the 6th & 20th, 2008

7:30 P.M. at

The East side VFW #4847

November, 2008 GER Message

Key events mark November, December

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

November finds us in the eighth month of the Lodge year and well on our way toward logging many accomplishments. It also finds us with ample time remaining to complete or correct any deficiencies or shortcomings that still persist.

The next two months include a number of important and celebrated holidays and annual events: Election Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Elks Memorial Sunday, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's Eve. While this time of the year presents many distractions from the normal routine and the important business at hand, it also provides many opportunities for Lodges to perform and provide service to their community, as well as for their membership. It is the perfect time and opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the Lodge, community and membership.

On Election Day we will elect a new leader of the Free World, the President of the United States. While the Order of Elks does not take political sides, as a patriotic organization that firmly supports our Nation and way of life, we strongly encourage all Elks, and indeed all Americans, to exercise their right and duty to participate in the election process and cast their vote. Our active involvement in the process demonstrates that we are "Elks Strengthening America"!



November is also Elks' Veterans Remembrance Month. That observance, coupled with Veterans Day on November 11th, should prompt every Lodge to go that extra mile in service to our Veterans and Service Personnel. We have a long and proud record of service to our Veterans, and this month should be the high point of carrying out our pledge; "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Jane and I wish each and every Elk, their families, our Service Personnel, and all the others whom we unselfishly serve, a most wonderful Thanksgiving. And as we give thanks for our many blessings, let us also rededicate ourselves to "Grow Elkdom and Strengthen America" through our service programs and relationship with one another. In doing this we will continue to demonstrate that "Elks Care – Elks Share"!!

God bless the Elks, our Troops and our great Nation!



From our Exalted Ruler

The Mid-Year Convention was held in Winona on October 17th-18th. We had a bid in for the 2011 Mid-Year Convention. As there were no other bids put in for the same time, we were awarded the 2011 Mid-Year. If another lodge had put in a bid for the convention the vote would have been held at next year's convention.

We need to start the planning for hosting this convention. There will be a convention host committee setup. I would like to have the initial committee meeting after the regular lodge meeting on Thursday November 6th. If you are interested in serving on the committee but cannot make please let me know. This is your chance to participate in making this a great convention.

At this meeting we will discuss what needs to be completed immediately such as securing a site for the meetings and hotels. Aaron Lundblad has already contacted the Holiday Inn, Kelly Inn and the Radisson to see if they are available for convention on Oct. 21-22, 2011.

The state association has provided us with information on hosting a convention. They do have requirements that we need to meet for hosting a convention. Will be using this information to organize and plan.

We also hosted a hospitality room at the Mid-Year convention to show our fellow Elks that we can be great hosts. I wish to thank all

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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St. Cloud, MN 56302-0008
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those who donated items, time and money for the hospitality room. There are too many to mention here.

As a fund raiser for the youth camp each lodge is asked to donate a silent auction basket. Julie Lundblad and Jennifer Kraipowich put together a Vikings vs Packer tailgate basket that raised \$150 for the youth camp. Thank you to Julie and Jennifer for putting the basket together. Also thank you to all those who donated items for the basket.

The October fifth Thursday will be at James and Jean Michael's house on Friday, October 31st. We have made the change from a fifth Thursday to fifth Friday to make Halloween official. Costumes are not required.

The District Deputy's, Jeff Ellison, visit will be held on Saturday, November 1st. We will need to do an initiation at 1 p.m. and all welcome to attend.

Also November 1st, we will have a lodge bus trip which will be making stops at various establishments around the St. Cloud area. If you are interested and plan on going let me know so we make sure we have a large enough bus.

On Sunday, November 9th, at 1 pm is the Veteran's Day Parade at the St. Cloud V.A. leading to Apollo High School. Please come out and show your support for the Veteran's.

Upcoming Events:

-Fifth Friday/Halloween Party at James and Jean Michael's.

-District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Visit November 1st with initiation at 1 pm at the VFW 4847

-Lodge Bus Trip November 1st leaving the VFW 4847 at 4 pm sharp.

-Minnesota Elks Mixed Curling Bonspiel, November 21 - 22, 2008, in Hibbing

- State Ritual Contest, January 3, 2009, Red Wing

James Michael
ER

November, 2008 Veterans Message

Lodges should honor fellow Elks who do the most for Veterans

by HON. AMOS A. McCALLUM, PGER Commission Chairman

The Elks are very fortunate to have many dedicated Elks and spouses who volunteer their time to help our Veterans and make their lives a little more comfortable. These Elks and spouses who give unselfishly of their time to improve the lives of our Veterans should be recognized for their efforts even though they do not seek this recognition.

Each Lodge should honor the two Elks or the Elk and spouse who do the most during the year for our Veterans and then submit their choices to the State NVSC Chairman by January 31st for State Association judging. The State NVSC Chairman will then submit the state winners to the National Veterans Service Commission office, 2750 N. Lakeview Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-1889 by February 28th.

To be nominated for this award, one of the following criteria must be met:

* Work with hospital Veterans * Work with Veterans at Outpatient Clinics * Work with Veterans in Nursing Homes * Work with homeless Veterans * Work with Veterans and Veteran groups in the community * Host Veterans functions at their Lodge on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and July 4th; have a Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas party, etc. * Visit Veterans confined to their homes * Adopt-A-Veteran (a Lodge can adopt more than one)

To be eligible, those nominated must be an Elk, spouse of an Elk, VAVS Representative, Deputy VAVS Representative, Members and spouses who visit VA Medical Centers, Veterans homes or work with Veterans in the community.

Nomination narratives must be submitted in written form not to exceed 300 words and submitted to the State NVSC Chairman by January 31st. List the Member's name, Lodge name and number in the upper left hand corner of the paper.

The State Association can honor one male and one female each year. To enable other volunteers to receive recognition, winners will not be eligible for future selection.

We have many dedicated Elks and spouses who give freely of their time to provide aid and comfort for our Veterans who gave so much for us. Therefore, I urge you to take the time to honor those in your Lodge who are "Serving Our Nation's Veterans"



Ask the Esquire aka Rich McCurdy

Dear Esquire, I am always at a loss for a stuffing recipe for our Thanksgiving meal... Can you help me???? Ms. J.K.

Dear J.K: History is full of great disputes - the conquests of the Roman Empire, the Napoleonic Wars, and the debate whether to stuff the Thanksgiving turkey or cook the stuffing on the side, (thereby renaming it "dressing"). For many years I was a die-hard stuffer but I've finally been converted to dressing. Food is a very wonderful and diverse topic and one that I may say is near and dear to my stomach as well... On to our topic; Okay, let me get this out there for all of you; read it, live it, be it, and please re-read it twice before you look up and say... huh?? Stuffing increases mass. Mass extends cooking time. By the time enough heat gets into the stuffing to cook it and render it safe, the turkey, or a good portion of it, will be overcooked. You want to cook a turkey as fast as you can to minimize juice loss, and the fastest way is without stuffing it. So make stuffing, save your drippings, and stuff it in something else to cook it. Just don't cook it in the turkey. You could cook the stuffing separately and put it in the turkey after the turkey is cooked, or you can definitely take the bird out of the oven and put the stuffing in then. So take the turkey out of the roasting pan, toss your dressing in the drippings, stuff it in the turkey while it rests, and then take it to the table. Stuffing is only evil when it's stuffing. If it's dressing, it's fine.

That being said there are some wonderful dressing combinations out there. I've broken them down into a few major categories:

Cornbread:

- *Creole Cornbread Stuffing*
- *Apple Pecan Cornbread Dressing*
- *Cornbread and Sausage Dressing*

Sausage, Giblet and Oyster Dressing:

- *Sausage, Apple and Cranberry Stuffing*
- *Dad's Oyster Dressing*
- *Elegant Turkey Stuffing*
- *Basic Yankee Bread Stuffing*
- *Old Fashioned Giblet Stuffing*

Other Favorites:

- *Rice Stuffing with Apples, Herbs, and Bacon*
- *Chestnut Stuffing*
- *Wild Rice Stuffing for Turkey*
- *Libby's Pumpkin Mushroom Stuffing*
- *Milk Cracker Stuffing*
- *Vegetarian Stuffing*
- *Cranberry Apple Raisin Stuffing*
- *Bulgur Stuffing*
- *Wild Mushroom Stuffing*

And the most used category Grandma's.

- *Sorry these are top secret and may not (under penalty of death or being banished to dry dishes with a hand towel at all family gatherings for the rest of my natural life) be published!!!*

Now that I've gotten the appetite going, and stomachs growling, of some of our bachelor members of the lodge in full gear...

Enjoy and happy Thanksgiving all

Save a drumstick for me... Rich

State Calendar of Events

- Minnesota Elks Mixed Curling Bonspiel November 21 - 22, 2008 Hibbing
- (for information contact Charlie or Becky Radika)
- State Ritual Contest January 3, 2009 Red Wing
- Exalted Ruler Seminar January 24 - 25, 2009 Wadena
- State Elks Bowling Tournament February, 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009 Stillwater
- State Hoop Shoot Contest February 14, 2009 Hutchinson
- Elks International Bonspiel February 28 - March 1, 2009 Thunder Bay
- Regional Hoop Shoot March 14, 2009 Iowa City, IA

- State Officers Budget Meeting April 25, 2009 Brainerd
- Youth Camp Opening May 8 - 10, 2009 Youth Camp
- Ladies Youth Camp Opening Weekend May 15 - 17, 2009 Youth Camp
- 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

- Wine Tasting & Silent Basket Auction November 22, 2008 Faribault
- Minneapolis Toy Dance December 6, 2008 Minneapolis
- Red Wing Member Christmas Party/Silent Auction December 5, 2008 Red Wing
- Christmas Party December 7, 2008 Dakota County
- Ice Fishing Tournament January 7, 2009 Red Wing
- Bahama Mama Night January 21, 2009 Minneapolis
- Winter District Deputy Clinic January 17, 2009 Minneapolis
- Lodge Luau with the Fabulous Love Handles January 24, 2009 Faribault
- District Hoop Shoot January 25, 2009 Minneapolis
- Minneapolis PER Auction February 28, 2009 Minneapolis
- Spring Conference / District Deputy Clinic April 18, 2009 Dakota County

Past Exalted Ruler's (PER) Section

This space reserved for our Past Exalted Rulers to pontificate from... Stay tuned to see if they have anything to say/share.... **(It's been quite a few months now hasn't it... But I do have faith that as their big Elk hearts swell and throb that every conscious moment of their day they're thinking about the welfare of our lodge and our brother and sister Elks.)(I suppose I could maybe try and get the District Deputy to use this space as well... But they can get kind of stuffy sometimes too...)**



Tales of the Tiler

Hello... I'm Julie your Tiler for this year. I've asked for some space in the newsletter to let our members know of items that may have fell through the cracks... This month I would like to talk about communication. I know ER James and all the lodge officers strive to keep in touch with our members as much as possible. It is difficult as we have no physical facility to call home. The fastest (and cheapest) way to keep in touch with everyone is over the internet. If you're not getting your newsletter via email please let us know an address we can send it out via email. You'll receive it much quicker and we can do this for free as opposed to the price of first class postage every month.

If you haven't checked out our website please do, you're in for a treat. The address is www.stcloudelks.org. We are considering putting a bulletin board section out there so members can post general comments or let other members know of goings on, things for sale, things that are looking for, etc.

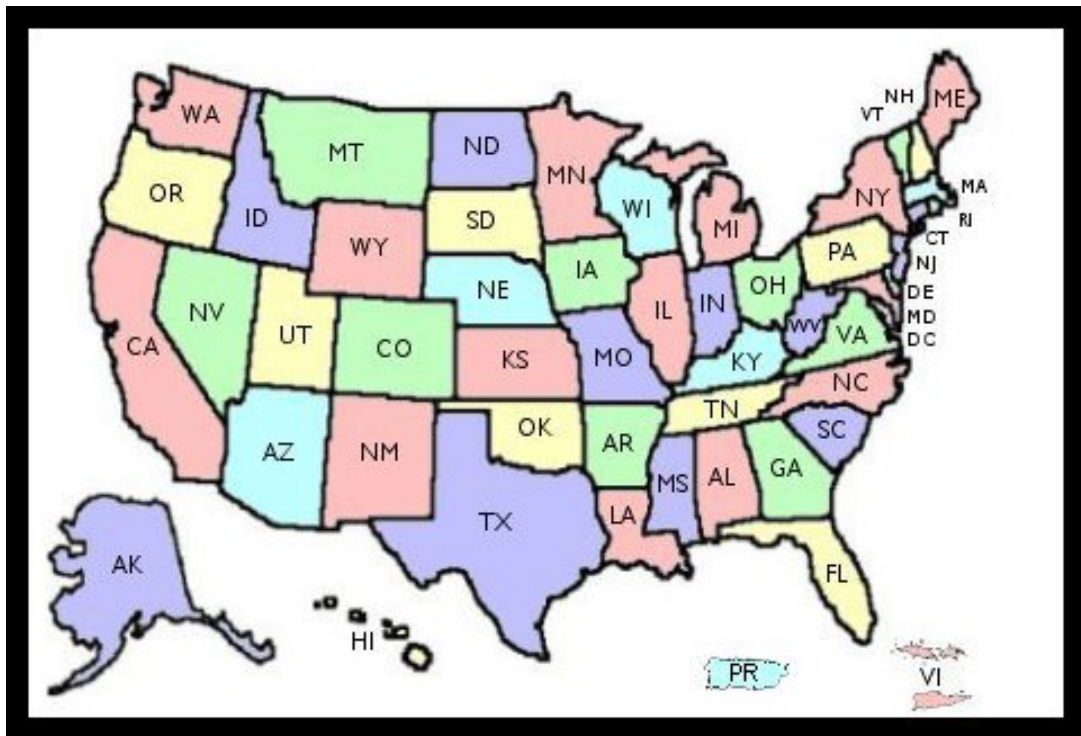
That's all for now,
Watch for me in later issues...
It's great to be a St. Cloud Elk!!!

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

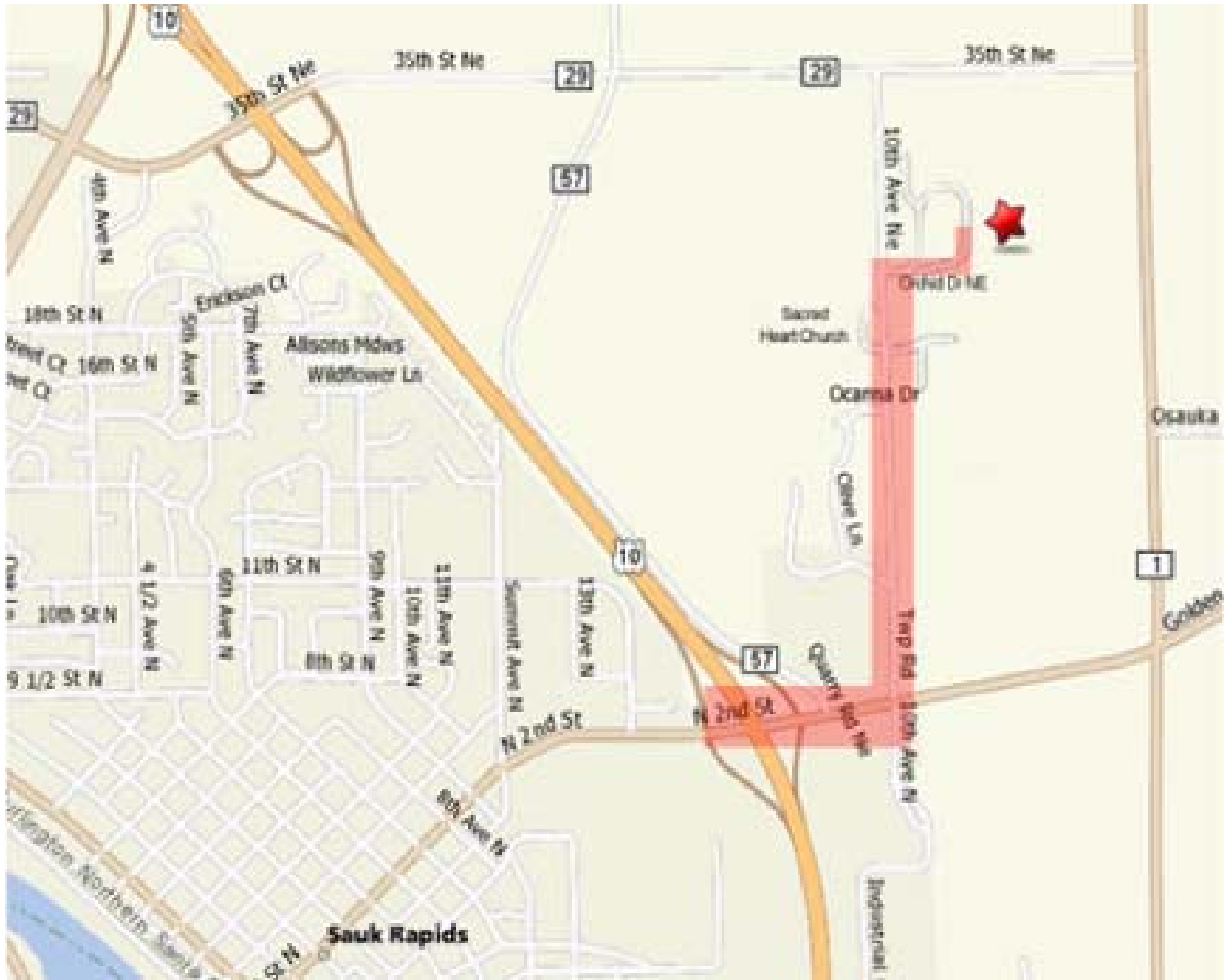
!!!Snow Bird Alert Network!!!

The Snow Bird Alert Network has been activated. Please let us know where you'll be spending the snowy months and drop us a note on the local goings on where you are.



St Cloud Elks Lodge 2843 Fifth Thursday get together.

Since October's Fifth Thursday falls so close to Halloween we have moved to it to a Fifth Friday to October 31st. Please join us on at Jean and James Michael's house at 3090 Orchid Dr NE, Sauk Rapids at 7:31pm. This should allow for plenty of time for the trick or treaters to make their rounds. The theme is of course, Halloween. Costumes are welcome but not required. This an adult get together so children, beware. Any questions contact Jean and James at 253-0933.



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!**