



## **The Rack**

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

**February 2009**

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Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**7:30 P.M.** at

The East side VFW #4847

### **February 2009 GER Message**

#### **Trying Times Create Opportunities for Elkdom**

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



Two months still remain in the 2008- 2009 Lodge year. We still have time to make our goals and objectives in membership and ENF per capita donations, as well as in the many service-oriented programs we individually and collectively pursue. It is time that we all reach down deep and give all these activities and pursuits that final and extra level of effort before the March 31st deadline. As we celebrate the 141st Anniversary of our great Order this month, let us all rededicate ourselves to the work at hand and ensure that the records will show this year to be the very best in terms of "Elks - Growing Elkdom and Strengthening America."

Since the latter part of 2008, our nation and indeed all Elks individually and collectively as Lodges and an Order, have been affected by the dramatic economic downturn that prevails. This is but another challenge in our long-standing efforts to keep our Lodges and Order healthy and viable. For almost thirty years we have faced declining membership and revenues, always adjusting and coping to remain a prominent and successful organization. We have shown we know how to do it and we must continue to apply that same initiative through these difficult times.

I view these poor economic conditions as an opportunity. Lodges are usually the least expensive place in town for an Elk and Elk family to eat, drink and participate in safe social enjoyment and fellowship. We must continually impress upon our Members, and those who are interested in membership, the value of

an Elks membership, as well as encourage them to take advantage of what their Lodge has to offer. Even with annual dues included, the cost to participate in the Lodge is usually a bargain compared to what one would pay in the public sector for the same services and activities.

This is also an opportune time for the Lodges and their memberships to lend a helping hand in efforts to assist those adversely affected during this uneasy time. We should all be thinking out of the box and identifying ways the Lodge can take a leading role in helping residents of the community, as well as Members of the Lodge, cope and adjust to the crisis at hand. Lodges should strive to be a prominent source of assistance to both the residents and their membership. We have the opportunity to do much good, thereby generating much goodwill, strengthening relationships and showing all in the communities across America that "Elks Care – Elks Share."

Thank you for your continuing efforts to "Grow Elksdom" and more importantly at this critical time "Strengthen America"!



**From our Exalted Ruler**



The Elks will celebrate their 141<sup>st</sup> year in the month of February. For more on the history of the Elks visit <http://www.elkshistory.org/>.

We are looking into the possibility of doing an entertain night at the St. Cloud V.A. Medical Center. It would mostly likely be something like hosting a bingo session. More information will follow once things have been firmed up with the V.A. and our V.A.V.S. Representative, Jessica Zinken.

The V.A. Medical Center will be having a National Salute Open house on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

In January we held our Hoop Shoot at the YMCA. We had 5 kids there. We are looking at other ideas for improving this event for next year.

Nominations are now open for the election of officers for next year. If you are interested in becoming an office please let us know or be nominated at the next meeting. So far we have the following for nominations:

**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

PO Box 8

St. Cloud, MN 56302-0008

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

- Exalted Ruler – Steve Zinken
- Leading Knight – Marcia Lavine
- Loyal Knight – Mark Eliason
- Lecturing Knight – Jessica Zinken
- Inner Guard – Open
- Secretary – Brad Slocum
- Treasurer – Larry Nusbaum
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year Trustee – James Michael
- 4<sup>th</sup> Year Trustee – Aaron Lunblad
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Dan Graven
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Frank Presfield
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – Shirley Zagar



The Esquire, Chaplin and Tiler are appointed positions by the incoming Exalted Ruler.

Minneapolis Lodge #44 will be holding their Valentines Dinner on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The PER association will be arranging a bus to go to Minneapolis Lodge.

The Minnesota State Elks bowling tournament will be held in Stillwater on the four weekends in February. Stillwater will also be hosting a Texas Hold'em tournament on Saturday night. If you are interested in bowling let me know at 253-0933 so we can plan for teams. I will be submitting the registration soon and the weekend are first come, first serve. The first choices of weekends would be Feb 21<sup>st</sup> or Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

The International Bonspiel (Curling Tournament) will be held in Thunder Bay, Canada from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup> this year. If you are interested curling please let me know.

James Michael  
ER




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**February 2009 Veterans Message**  
**Veterans Leather Program continues to grow**  
 By Robert M. Hennings  
 Commission Director



In 1948, the Elks of California donated 25,000 hides to our Order for the benefit of Veterans. This was the beginning of the Elks National Veterans Leather Program.

Today, Elks in twenty states participate in this program. Last year, over 15,000 hides were collected, prepared and shipped to tanneries for processing. The finished hides become craft kits, fingerless gloves for wheelchair bound Veterans, or craft leather for Veterans hospital therapy and recreational programs.

In 2001, the Elks began a partnership with Help Hospitalized Veterans. In 2008, this non-profit organization produced 40,000 craft kits for Veterans in hospitals from leather we supplied, at no additional cost to the Elks. The kits come in various styles and assemble with relative ease into moccasins, pouches, handbags and wallets.

To those hospitals with leatherworking equipment, the Elks supplied over 6,000 square feet of leather in 2008. Skilled Veterans turn this raw material into various items, some approaching the level of art. The

National Creative Arts Festival, sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, exhibits many items created from leather.

Our National Leather Program Chairman, Dennis McAleese (Mountain Home, AR Lodge No. 1714), last year distributed nearly 3,000 pairs of fingerless gloves for use by wheelchair bound Veterans. These are made of high quality leather, embossed with the Elks logo, and greatly prized by their owners. Elks Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Representatives order the gloves to distribute at the facilities they serve, and at no cost. Brother McAleese also travels to events sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and distributes the gloves personally to Veterans in wheelchairs.

Under his able leadership, the Leather Program is growing every year. For information on participating in this program, contact Dennis McAleese. Brochures about the program are available, at no cost, from our office in Chicago.

If you already collect hides, please do not ship them to a tannery before consulting with Chairman McAleese. There have been changes in the tanneries we employ, and Dennis is the one to consult before shipping. Dennis is also the expert on collecting and preparing the hides, so do not hesitate to contact him for advice: Dennis McAleese, Chairman, Elks National Veterans Leather Program, 384 County Road 852, Elizabeth, AR 72531-9603, 870-488-5786, E-mail: [kdmc@mtnhome.com](mailto:kdmc@mtnhome.com)



### *Ask the Esquire aka Rich McCurdy*

*Dear Esquire, It is winter time and my skin again feels dry what can I do to help alleviate this?? Mr. D.G.*

*Dear D.G: I could tell winter was coming just by the way my skin was feeling. The humid summer evenings seemed to turn to arid winter days that left my skin dry and parched.*

*The cool winter winds coupled with central heating is a double whammy, sucking the moisture from your skin. This often leaves your skin dry, itchy and flaky. If not protected from the drying effects of winter conditions, your skin may be permanently damaged.*

*To prevent excessive moisture loss and keep your youthful appearance try the following tips:*

*Drink plenty of water: Supply your body with adequate moisture by drinking eight 250 ml glasses of water per day. Moisture loss really can not be prevented, so, provide additional moisture for your skin to draw upon to prevent dryness.*

*Take short warm showers: Taking long hot showers will rob your skin of its natural oils. Not only will your skin thank you your electricity bill will thank you to!*

*Avoid harsh soaps and cleansers: Choose mild ones to avoid excessive drying and stripping of your natural oils.*

*Moisturize your skin: While it is still damp, once your shower is complete. This helps keep the succulence in the skin instead of permitting the water to evaporate from the surface. Use a moisturizer suitable for your skin type. If you have problem areas extra attention with emollient cream can help provide much needed relief.*

*Use a sun screen: Just because summer is finished, do not over look the value of a sun screen. To protect your skin from the harmful effects of the sun, apply a block with a minimum SPF 15. Do not forget about your lips. Prevent chapped lips by using a SPF 15 on your lips as well!*

*Use a humidifier: Using a humidifier will put more moisture in to the air thereby slowing the moisture loss from your skin.*

*Protect your skin from harsh winter conditions. Taking care of your skin is important and an investment in the future. A simple routine can prevent damage and leave your skin healthy and feeling hydrated throughout the arid Minnesotan winter.*

Rich

## State Calendar of Events

- |                                           |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| • 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

- |                                              |                   |               |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| • Minneapolis PER Auction                    | February 28, 2009 | Minneapolis   |
| • Spring Conference / District Deputy Clinic | April 18, 2009    | Dakota County |

Past Exalted Ruler's (PER) Section





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## *Valentines Dinner February 14<sup>th</sup>*



Join us in attending the Valentines Dinner at Minneapolis Lodge #44.

We will have a bus leaving St Cloud around 3:45 – 4:15 to attend the dinner with refreshments and snacks on the bus. There will be other surprise items for couples on the bus as well. The cost of the dinner at the lodge is \$25.00 per person with the bus and items on the bus the cost for the evening would be \$45.00 per person. We will pickup and drop off as many people as possible at their homes

Those interested in attending Contact Brad Slocum  
320-761-1845

Deadline to sign up is February 7<sup>th</sup>

Social Hour at the Minneapolis #44 lodge starts at 5:30 pm, with the Dinner to be served around 6:30

### **Menu for the evening**

Assorted Canapés before dinner

#### **Appetizer**

Stuffed Portobello with crabmeat, vegetables with  
Blue Cheese

#### **Soup**

Cream of Cucumber

#### **Salad**

Penne Pasta with Alfredo sauce, Grilled Salmon Bread & Flavored Olive  
Oil Dip

#### **Entrée**

Beef Tenderloin with burgundy sauce or  
Stuffed bell pepper with assorted vegetables & Swiss cheese  
(For those not wanting beef), twice baked acorn squash, garlic  
Baked baby red potatoes, bread with strawberry and/or garlic butter.  
Wine will be served with dinner



#### **Dessert**

Tiramisu



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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: **Liripip**. 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!**

**How To Get  
New Members?  
ASK THEM!**

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