



The Rack

The Official Newsletter of the St. Cloud Elks #2843

March 2008

March Meeting

Thursday the 6^h & 20th, 2008

7:30 P.M. at

The East side VFW #4847

March 2008 GER Message

A Message from Grand Exalter Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger

To all district deputies, exalted rulers, officers and members:

Best wishes for success to new officers

A Message from Grand Exalter Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger

To All district deputies, exalted rulers, officers and members:

On behalf of the Grand Lodge family and all Elks, I want to personally thank the exalted rulers, officers and committee members who contributed their time and energy to the success of our great Order this year.

Our Order has a long and proud heritage of service to those in need, our communities and our nation. A strong, renewed commitment to our cardinal principles of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity will ensure that we will continue this tradition and spread the word that "Elks Care – Elks Share."

March has finally arrived. Hopefully the worst of the winter season is behind us. March also signals the end of yet another lodge year. To the current lodge officers who are leaving the offices, my heartfelt thanks for the service you have rendered to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. To the officers who will be serving in leadership roles in the upcoming lodge year, I extend my congratulations and best wishes for a successful year.

March also brings us to one less than pleasant task. That would be the task of removing lapsed members from our rolls. I would ask that each of you assist your lodge in making one last concerted effort to bring those members back into the fold. The more our numbers decline, the less we will be able to be a strong force in our communities, states and our nation. Also make one last push to make sure there are not any candidates waiting in the wings when the lodge year ends. It is such a tragedy to see a lodge drop in numbers with candidates waiting for their initiation into the Order.

Finally, this is the time of year when you as leaders recognize that member and that officer who have made a significant contribution to your lodge by designating them as Elk of the Year and Officer of the Year. At the same time I hope you recognize the spouse of a member who has gone above and beyond to help your lodge.

Let me also take time to thank the current district deputies for their efforts to this point in their appointments. Continue the good work. Make sure the new exalted rulers have all of the resources they need to lead their lodges.

I would ask that each member find a friend and ask him or her to join. It should be an easy task. Just tell the person about all the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks does for our communities. Let them know that "Elks Care – Elks Share" and ask them to help us in our efforts. Additionally, remember our veterans and those currently serving in our Armed Forces, for without them we could not enjoy the freedoms we have today.

A Message from Grand Exalter Ruler F. Louis Sulsberger

From the ER

From the ER:

Heading into my final month as ER, I would like to say thank you to the members of the lodge for giving me the opportunity to represent our lodge as ER over the last two years. I also would like to extend a big thank you to all of you in your help throughout this time in helping our lodge to continue to move forward and grow.

Upcoming events:

-April 12th Metro Spring Conference being hosted by our Lodge here in St Cloud.

(Keep this date in mind as with the District meeting being in St Cloud it would be nice to have a large contingency there. The tentative start time for this meeting is 1:30 pm with a rib dinner and karaoke to follow after. We will also be looking for people to help during the meeting and meals, more information to come as the date approaches.

-April 12th Installation of new Officers for St Cloud Lodge #2843. Tentative time is set for 10:30 am; Minneapolis Lodge #44 will be here to aid in installing our new officers.

-May 9th – 11th Youth Camp Opener

-May 29th Fifth Thursday Get Together. The time and location will be announced.

-June 27th – 28th 2008 State Convention, Grand Exalted Rulers Visit to Minnesota. The convention will be in Rochester – If you need a room contact me at cell 320-761-1845 by May 15th I have a block of rooms reserved for our lodge.

I'm looking to seeing you at these events and other Elk activities, remember participation is what keeps a lodge alive and active in the community.

In closing I would like to extend my deep appreciation and thank you to the officers for there help in bearing with me and getting me through my time as ER.

Brad Slocum
ER

March 2008, Vets Message

Strong budget a necessity

By Arthur Mayer, Jr., PGER Past commission chairman

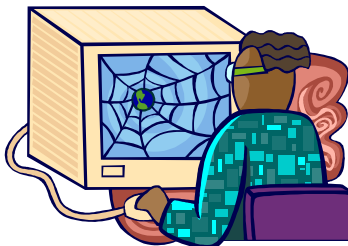
We, as Elks, have an unparalleled history of proud and charitable contributions to our nation's glory at every level, from Grand Lodge programs to state association programs and to the grass-roots efforts of each of our lodges across America. All of these programs are budgeted by each of these entities and that is the very basis of this message.

It is no secret that the true effect on our veterans comes from the efforts given on the grass-roots level, our subordinate lodges. These lodge programs absolutely touch veterans personally on a one-to-one basis. This is where a strong lodge budget becomes necessary because without it many of those programs will be hollow or possibly even left out.

Today, there are a few more avenues we can take to help to make the lives of veterans, "The Heroes of America," a little brighter. You know what they say, "Life is all the Sweeter for a Song," and this is just one of those avenues to take by supporting Re-Creation, a group of young men and women who travel around the country visiting and entertaining our veterans. We now offer Comfort Care Kits to those who are hospitalized; an Adopt-a-Vet Program, where we accept a vet as a family member; and our Elks Army of Hope, where we help the families of our "Fallen and Severely Wounded Heroes." These are the programs we now have and they add to the already long established Leather Program in which we are the largest source of hides to the Veterans Administration. Our On Station and Off Station programs speak for themselves. They certainly brighten the days for thousands each year. These are just some of the creative programs we offer to those who sacrificed so much for "Our America."

Now is the time to make a sacrifice yourself. Now is the time for all lodges to provide that little extra in their veterans program budget to help expand and strengthen your program, thereby making them "All the Sweeter for a Few More Dollars in the Pot"!

!!!Web Site!!!



The address of our website is: www.stcloudelks.org
Check there from time to time to see what is new as more content is added over time.



Snow Birds

We have activated the snowbird watch network. As you take off to your locations to escape the winter months drop us a line and let us know what you're up to, where you are, and if you've visited any local Elks lodges where you are wintering.

Ask the Esquire

Aka Rich McCarty

Dear Esquire: Dear esquire; in our lodge's meeting room I see you bounding about around the alter holding what appears to be a scepter.... What is that all about? Mr. B.Z.

Dear J.K. *A rod or staff has long represented authority. Among the early Greeks the scepter was a long staff, such as Agamemnon wielded (Iliad, i) or was used by respected elders (Iliad, xviii. 46; Herodotus 1. 196), and came to be used by judges, military leaders, priests and others in authority. It is represented on painted vases as a long staff tipped with a metal ornament. When the scepter is borne by Zeus or Hades, it is headed by a bird. It was this symbol of Zeus, the father of Olympus that gave their inviolable status to the kerykes, the heralds, who were thus protected by the precursor of modern diplomatic immunity. When, in the Iliad Agamemnon sends Odysseus to the leaders of the Achaeans, he lends him his scepter.*

Among the Etruscans scepters of great magnificence were used by kings and upper

orders of the priesthood, and many representations of such scepters occur on the walls of the painted tombs of Etruria. The British Museum, the Vatican and the Louvre possess Etruscan scepters of gold, most elaborately and minutely ornamented.

The Roman scepter probably derived from the Etruscan. Under the Republic an ivory scepter (sceptrum eburneum) was a mark of consular rank. It was also used by victorious generals who received the title of imperator, and its use as a symbol of delegated authority to legates apparently was revived in the marshal's baton. Under the empire the sceptrum Augusti was specially used by the emperors, and was often of ivory tipped with a golden eagle. It is frequently shown on medallions of the later empire, which have on the obverse a half-length figure of the emperor, holding in one hand the sceptrum Augusti, and in the other the orb surmounted by a small figure of Victory.

In the Christian Era:

1873 Portrait of Emperor Peter II of Brazil, holding the very large Imperial Scepter, and invested with other items of the Brazilian Crown Jewels. With the advent of Christianity the scepter was often tipped with a cross instead of with an eagle, but during the Middle Ages the finials on the top of the scepter varied considerably.

In England from a very early period two scepters have been concurrently used, and from the time of Richard I they have been distinguished as being tipped with a cross and a dove respectively. In France the royal scepter was tipped with a fleur de lys, and the other, known as the main de justice, had an open hand of benediction on the top.

Scepters with small shrines on the top are sometimes represented on royal seals, as on the great seal of Edward III, where the king, enthroned, bears such a scepter, but it was an unusual form; and it is of interest to note that one of the scepters of Scotland, preserved at Edinburgh, has such a shrine at the top, with little images of Our Lady, Saint Andrew and Saint James in it. This scepter was, it is believed, made in France about 1536, for James V. Great seals usually represent the

sovereign enthroned, holding a scepter (often the second in dignity) in the right hand, and the orb and cross in the left. Harold appears thus in the Bayeux tapestry.

The earliest English coronation form of the 9th century mentions a scepter (sceptrum), and a staff (baculum). In the so-called coronation form of Ethelred II a scepter (sceptrum), and a rod (virga) appear, as they do also in the case of a coronation order of the 12th century. In a contemporary account of Richard I's coronation the royal scepter of gold with a gold cross, and the gold rod (virga) with a gold dove on the top, enter the historical record for the first time. About 1450 Sporley, a monk of Westminster, compiled a list of the relics there. These included the articles used at the coronation of Saint Edward the Confessor, and left by him for the coronations of his successors. A golden scepter, a wooden rod gilt, and an iron rod are named. These survived till the Commonwealth, and are minutely described in an inventory of the whole of the regalia drawn up in 1649, when everything was destroyed.

For the coronation of Charles II of England new scepters were made, and though slightly altered, they continue in use. They are a scepter with a cross called "St Edward's scepter", a scepter with a dove, and a long scepter or staff with a cross of gold on the top called "St Edward's staff". To these, two scepters for the queen-consort, one with a cross, and the other with a dove, have been subsequently added.

Cheers everyone and thanks for another great year... Go St. Cloud Elks!!!

Rich

State Calendar of Events

- Elks International Bonspiel, February 29 – March 1, 2, 2008, Virginia
- Regional Hoop Shoot, March 8, 2008, Iowa City, IA

- State Officers Budget Meeting, April 26, 2008, Eveleth
- Youth Camp Opening, May 9 - 11, 2008, Youth Camp
- Ladies Youth Camp Opening Weekend, May 16 - 18, 2008, Youth Camp
- 2008 State Convention, June 20 - 22, 2008, Rochester
- 2008 Grand Lodge Session, July 6 - 10, 2008, Anaheim, California
- 2008 Mid-Year Conference, October 17 - 19, 2008, Winona

Metro Dist. Calendar of Events

- Minneapolis PER Auction. March 1, 2008, Minneapolis
- Spring Conference / District Deputy Clinic, April 12, 2008, St. Cloud

Elections

Congratulations, the following individuals have been elected to the following positions for the upcoming lodge year.

Officers

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Exalted Ruler: | James Michael |
| Leading Knight: | Steven Zinken |
| Loyal Knight: | Marcia LaVine |
| Lecturing Knight: | Mark Eliason |
| Inner Guard: | Craig Pogatshnik |
| Tiler: | Open |

Trustees

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 5th year: | Brad Slocum |
| 4th year: | Dan Gravens |
| 3rd year: | John Voth |
| 2nd year: | Shirley Zager |
| 1st year: | Bob Zager |

Please wish them well and lend them a hand as they perform their duties in the upcoming lodge year.

Contact Information

In an effort to save some money and get the word out about events and happenings we would like to distribute the newsletter and other information via email as much as possible. Send your email address to me via my email address which is: nusser@charter.net.

Thank you in advance.

Happenings at the Post

Here's a small part of what happening at the VFW #4847. Come check them out and support our hosts:

Monday's

Taco Bar - \$3.00 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Tuesday's

Burger Baskets \$3.50 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Thursday Night Rib Night

½ Rack BBQ Ribs French Fries, Cole Slaw & Toast \$6.00, Full Rack \$9.00

Friday Nights

Meat Raffle & All you can eat Fish Fry every Friday Night 4:00-8:00 PM \$7.50

April 13 the Fish Fry will be 4:30 – 7:00 PM

Karaoke

Every Wednesday and Friday evenings 8:00 pm until Midnight.

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: **Callipygean**. Please endeavor to use this word in everyday conversation with friends, relatives, clergy, Exalted Rulers, 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!**

