

Lakewood Rancher



A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

MONTHLY NEWLETTER LAKEWOOD RANCH SARASOTA ELKS LODGE 2855

December 2019

Message from Exalted Ruler Randy Volkart



When I think about Thanksgiving and Christmas, it brings up memories of precious time with family and friends. It is also a time of thankfulness and giving. The Elks embody that spirit all year by saying "thanks" to our veterans, and giving both money and time to our charitable causes.

Since our Lodge was chartered in 2009, we have given more than \$700,000 to veterans, children, and others in need. So, this holiday season, I want to say "THANK-YOU" to each of you for what's

been accomplished through your generosity.

Upcoming events at the Lodge in December include Memorial Day on December 1st, Meals on Wheels Plus Shoebox Reception on December 8th, Children's Christmas Party on December 14th, the Lodge Christmas Party on December 21st, and a New Year's Eve Party on December 31st.

We now have an event form, so if you have an event planned or will soon be planning one, please fill one out before presenting your event to the Board of Directors for approval. The form will help all involved make your event a success. If you need to see if a date on the calendar is available, contact our Activities Chair, Norma Perugini.

This month's Volunteers of the Month are the Veterans Committee, led by Tom Sweeney, who had three very successful events (the Sarasota Homeless Veterans Stand Down, the Bay Pines VA Picnic, and the Veterans Free Lunch) within a four-day period in November. Kudos to all!

The Quote of the Month by Oren Arnold:

"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."

Elks Memorial Service Sunday Dec 1, 12:30pm

GLS Section 2.020

The first Sunday in December each year shall be a day commemorated to the memories of departed Members, and shall be known as "Elks Memorial Day"

Our Lodge will be presenting our program on Sunday, December 1st at 12:30 in the Lodge Room.

All Members are urged to attend this solemn ceremony as we pay our respects to those Members who have died during the past Lodge year.



From the Lodge Secretary



Brett Davis, PDDGER
Secretary

Members all:

Early dues renewals are underway and many of you have taken advantage of receiving a \$10 gift certificate by renewing before December 31st!

Early renewals save the Lodge money - mainly from cost savings related to not having to send out paper statements. Please help us by re-

newing today! You can renew online at our website: LWRELKS.ORG. Your new card and door key can be used immediately upon receipt. Please dispose of your current card once you receive your new one.

We still have 114 delinquent members this Lodge year. A list of their names will be posted next week on the bulletin board. Please look it over and if there is anyone on it you can contact, please do so and urge them to pay their 2019/2020 dues. By statute, delinquent members will be dropped from the membership roll in March.

Registration for Florida Elks Youth Camp has opened as of Nov 1st. Last year only 14 beds went unfilled during the entire camp session. The camp will once again fill up well before the opening date. For anyone interested in getting a child into the camp please go to FEYC.ORG and all the information is there. All registrations are done online.

Sickness and Distress - Always in Order

The Order of Business for a regular Lodge session lists all items of business that must be brought before the membership.

Item (e) is labelled , "Sickness and Distress (always in order). Under this section, the Chairperson for that committee gives a report on members who may be ill, hospitalized or recovering from an illness or accident.

The only names that the Chairperson can report on are those that are given

to her for reporting. Many times a name is given to the bartender such as, "John" or "Mary" but no surnames. This makes it impossible for the Sickness and Distress Chairperson to send a card or flowers to that person and in most cases the distressed person never hears from the Lodge.

Our Chairperson, Joanne Dicarlo wishes to ensure all members who are in need of remembrance, receive acknowledgment from our Lodge to show that we

know of their plight and that we care . So please, if and when you know of someone that should receive a card or flowers from our Lodge, give all the information necessary . Joanne can be reached at 941 730-7767.

And , by the way, the term "always in order" means just that. If you want to report on someone during a regular meeting, you may rise and inform the Lodge at anytime during the session.

A message from the PER Association

For the benefit of our newer members, the initials PER stand for Past Exalted Ruler and our Association is comprised of all Past Exalted Rulers from this Lodge as well as Past Exalted Rulers who served as ER of other Lodges but have since joined Lakewood Ranch Sarasota Lodge. And our purpose is to help the Lodge in any way we can.

We have several events planned to raise money. The next immediate event will be a Christmas Tree Scratch-Off. The next two (which still need approval from our Board of Directors) will be a special Valentine fundraiser where you may purchase a \$5 paper Valentine to hang over the bar with others. You will receive a ticket and will be entered into a 50/50 drawing on Valentines Day.

The next fundraiser will be our Annual Day at the Races later in February. It's a fun day filled with excitement where you can place your bets on actual horse races shown on our giant screen . The PERs thank all the Lodge volunteers for all they do to help make these events successful.

Tonya Ditty, PER Assoc. President

An Old-Fashioned Christmas

Helen Monnette

I thought of an old-fashioned Christmas
When the world was aglitter with snow,
When stars, in their lockets of velvet,
Their silvery beams rain below.

Where a Christmas tree stands in a corner
Decked out in the season's attire,
With a pearl-white necklace of popcorn,
The stringing, the children's desire.

The shutters unclosed at the windows
And friendly the light shining there,
Like the neighbors who linger when passing,
For it is the hour of prayer.

I thought of an old-fashioned Christmas
And a church in the valley of peace,
And the bell with its silver chiming
That eased our cares ere it ceased.

The peals of the laughter of children
In toyland around the green tree;
Pleasing and happy the merriment,
How wonderful childhood must be.

The logs blaze bright in the fireplace
As the hearts that are merry and gay,
As the sleighbells I hear in the distance
And wish they were coming my way.

I wish you an old-fashioned Christmas
With neighbors and family and friends,
With church bells and singing and blessings
As the old year comes to an end.

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We're on the Web
Lwrelks.org

Lodge Officers 2019-2020

Exalted Ruler	Randy Volkart
Leading Knight	Tonya Ditty, PER
Loyal Knight	Rick Thorson, PER
Lecturing Knight	Kathy Hogue
Secretary	Brett Davis, PDDGER
Treasurer	Gloria Wilkinson
5 yr Trustee	Jerry Ditty
4 yr Trustee	John Piper, PER
3 yr Trustee	Darrin Simone Sr. PER
2 yr Trustee	Terry Layland
1 yr Trustee	Leon Duis
Esquire	Frank Malatesta, PSP
Chaplain	Kay Thorson
Inner Guard	Frank Iannello
Tiler	Ron Lee
Lodge Advisor	Brett Davis PDDGER

PER Association

President - Tonya Ditty
Vice President - Darrin Simone Sr
Secretary - Rick Thorson

Committees

Activities - Tonya Ditty, PER
Community Projects - Rick Thorson, PER
Youth Activities - Randy Volkart, ER
Hoop Shoot - Joe Halpin
Soccer Shoot - Randy Volkart, ER
Drug Awareness - Sarah Davis
Fraternal - Randy Volkart, ER
Americanism - Rick Thorson, PER
ENF - Brett Davis, PDDGER
Flag Day - Rick Thorson, PER
Elks Memorial Day - Randy Volkart, ER
Lodge Activities - Norma Perugino
Veterans - Tom Sweeney
Accident Prevention—Terry Layland
EFELT - Clay Wakefield
Elks Training - Tonya Ditty, PER
Entertainment - Norma Perugino
Government Relations - Rick Thorson, PER
Inter-Lodge Visitation - Brett Davis, PDDGER
Investigation - Don LaFrance, PDDGER
Orientation - Darrin Simone Sr., PER
Ranch Hands - Tonya Ditty, PER
Ritualistic - Frank Malatesta, PDDGER, PSP
Scholarship - Dawn Fallon
Sickness & Distress - Joanne DiCarlo
State Major Project - Kathy Hogue & Joanne DiCarlo
Website - Kayla Goddard