

# LAKEWOOD RANCHER

Merry  
Christmas

## Lodge Officers 2020-2021

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

## PER Association

President	Randy Volkart
Vice President	Darrin Someone, SR
Secretary	Don LaFrance

**Lakewood Ranch Sarasota  
Lodge 2855 BPOE**

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## WILL COVID-19 KILL CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN THIS YEAR

In 2019 when times were simpler, the collection and distribution of toys such as unwrapped games, dolls, footballs, skateboards and dozens of other toys was always fun and sufficient to meet the need.

This year the need is expected to be greater because of the pandemic. And getting the job done is also expected to be tougher due to the health restrictions.

While many groups of volunteers such as churches, youth groups and other charitable organizations are involved, the job will still be tougher this year.

2020, because of economic and health concerns, at least 10 percent more toys need to be donated and distributed.

The BPOE with its motto of "Elks Care - Elks Share" will be severely tested to show



that we can be counted on to provide the support so desperately needed in this year's Toys For Tots campaign.

We have provided a donation box in our lobby to accept your donations and we hope the box becomes filled to overflowing.

The cut-off date for donations

will be December 12th.

Please be as generous as you can so the children of our community, especially those less privileged, can look forward to a happy Christmas morning.

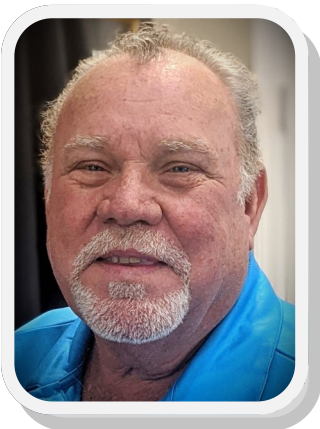
*Elks Care Elks Share!*

## FOR 2020 LODGE 2855 MEMBERS BLOOD DONATIONS SAVE OVER 100

Lodge 2855 finishes year with over 35 donors who have donated a total of 36 units of blood products. The last drive this past October saw 18 members donate additional blood units and

the Suncoast Blood Centers have shown their appreciation by awarding an Honor Roll certificate which can be seen on [page 5](#) of this newsletter.





## Message from Exalted Ruler Jerry Ditty

*While we try to get back to normal operations, we continue to employ all necessary safety measures to keep our Members safe.*

I hope this message finds everyone safe and healthy and that you all had a great Thanksgiving.

We are continuing our safe sanitation regimen throughout the Lodge to protect all our members.

Volunteers are still needed at the door to check temperatures. I will have a sign up sheet for the rest of November and December. If you can spare a couple of hours during the week it would be greatly appreciated. November was a very successful and busy month that included the golf tournament, Homes for Our Troops, and the Turkey Shoot. Thanks to all who

made it so great.

We are bringing back bands on a few Saturday nights along with the dinners. We will also be having Karaoke once a month on Friday nights. The Queen of Hearts is continuing to increase and a big shout-out to the committee for their diligent dedication as volunteers to this effort.

December will be another busy month as we have lunches on the first and third Wednesdays. Tickets for the Wednesday lunch must be purchased by the preceding Monday

On December 5th we will be host-

ing a Shoebox fundraiser for Meals on Wheels and on Sunday the 6th we will be holding our Memorial service. Our 2nd annual Car & Truck Show will be on the 12th.

Our Elks Christmas party will be on the 19th and on the 31st our New Year's Eve party.

Please purchase tickets in advance for all lunches and dinners

I want to thank ALL our volunteers for all they do for our Lodge and I along with entire Board of Directors wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas. Remember we are the friendly Lodge of Brotherly Love, Justice, Charity and Fidelity.



## Elks Memorial Service Sunday December 6th

The most festive month of the year begins with a solemn event: The first Sunday of every December is Elks

Memorial Day. It is commemorated to the memories of departed Members, Per Section 2.020, the service is mandatory even if there were no deaths in the Lodge during the year. The service consists of a

speech from the Exalted Ruler, a prayer from the Chaplain, a roll call of the deceased, and an offering of a forget-me-not, an amaranth, and ivy to the Altar. "Auld Lang Syne" is then sung.

This year's service is scheduled for Sunday, December 6th at 1pm and all Elks are urged to attend and join in honoring and cherishing the memories of those Elks who have passed away.



The Grand Lodge Spotlight Grant debuted with off-the-shelf projects designed to give every Lodge the opportunity to shine a light on two important issues facing nearly every American community—family literacy and homelessness among our nation's veterans.

Pictured above is Kathleen Cramer, Executive Director of Turning Points holding a check in the

amount of \$2,000 which was presented to her by our Lodge's Veterans Committee Chairman, Tom Sweeney.

Edwin Robinson, Veterans Director of Turning Points is on her left and will assist in seeing that the funds will be used to provide housing and medical appointment services to Manatee County Veterans.



The Lodge is offering a \$10 gift certificate to regular members who pay their dues before December 31st this year. The certificate is good for any purchase at the Lodge.

Life Members are **not** eligible, but regular members can take advantage of this offer.

Dues for the 2021-2022 year which starts April 1, 2021, are \$87. The Lodge portion of your dues is

\$65 with the balance going to pay Grand Lodge and State Association fees which have not been raised for the first time in many years.

You may pay your dues of \$87 either on line at our website or mailing your check to the Lodge. Within two weeks of your renewal please be sure to specify whether you would like your new card and certificate mailed to you or that you wish to pick them up at the Lodge.

Once you receive your new Membership card please dispose of your old card. The new key card you receive may be used immediately to open the Lodge door.

Your early renewal helps us to keep our Lodge cost down.

Thank you for your continued support of our Lodge and the Order.

[To pay online click here](#)

## American Essay Contest Winners Announced

Since 2010 our Lodge has participated in the annual Americanism Essay Contest for students in Grades 5-8. Due to the pandemic and the resulting closing of our Lodge, we were not able to honor our lodge's contest winners on March 26th as planned. With special thanks to the Essay Committee, Americanism Chairperson Rick Thorson, Kay Thorson, Joanne DiCarlo, Teri Dengel, Joanne Reddy and Diane Reddy, the following winners were chosen:

### Division 1 (Grades 5 & 6)

**Chloe Miller**, 1st Place (\$100 gift card)

Grade 6, St Martha's School

**Laine Garner**, 2nd Place (\$75 gift card)

Grade 5, St Martha's School

**Samantha Gentile**, 3rd Place (\$50 gift card)

Grade 6, St Martha's School

### Division II (Grades 7 & 8)

**Matthew Schefer**, 1st Place (\$100 gift card)

Grade 8 Dr. Mona Jain Middle School

**Gage McGregor**, 2nd Place (75) gift card)

Grade 8, St Martha's School

**Laila Ward**, 3rd Place (\$50) gift card)

Grade 8, Dr. Mona Jain Middle School

In addition to their gift cards each student also received a small American flag and Certificate of Honor. AND.....it is a pleasure to report that the essay submitted by Chloe Miller, Grade 6, St Martha's School, was selected as the 2nd place winner at the State level. Chloe received an award of \$750 from the Florida State Elks Association.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**

## Lakewood Ranch Riders Announce Events For December



After a 69 mile ride on Thursday, November 19th, the Lakewood Ranch Riders met to schedule their next event that would be accommodating for all Lodge members. It was agreed by all in attendance to hold all Lakewood Ranch Riders trips on the third Saturday of the month.

Beginning in December a ride will be scheduled to leave from the Lodge at 9:30am and return no later than 4:00pm. All members of the Riders are asked to be at the Lodge on that date no later than 9:00 am to receive the ride and safety briefing.

The ride or drive will begin at 9:30 am and all should have a full tank of gas.

These Saturday rides will be held rain or shine to a destination previously emailed to all Riders. The notice will also be posted on the Lodge

bulletin board one week in advance to allow all Riders to decide on whether to participate in the planned trip.

Our December ride on the 19th will be led by Exalted Ruler Jerry Ditty. The destination is about 95 miles from the Lodge and travel time there is approximately 2 hours. If you require more information email or call Elks Riders #2855 President Matthew Dansbury at, [email mdansbury@icloud.com](mailto:mdansbury@icloud.com) or phone (910) 624-4444.

## PER Association Cancel Meetings During Holidays

The PER Association has cancelled their monthly meetings until after the holidays. Their next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, January 21, 2021. In the meantime they have on their drawing boards their next fundraiser for the Lodge.

A day at the Races scheduled for February 2021 and

Race Chairman, Don LaFrance says that there will be **\$1,000 in cash prizes** offered in addition to the actual races.

Enjoy the holidays and watch for more information on this planned event.



# BLOOD DONOR HONOR ROLL



**Blood Drive Date:** Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Organization:** LWR-SARASOTA ELKS LODGE

On behalf of the many patients who will benefit from the blood donations made by members of this organization; the Blood Bank thanks the LWR-SARASOTA ELKS LODGE for giving the Gift of Life:

MISTY DOYON-POPE  
SARAH DAVIS  
DIANNE REDDY  
PAMELA MONTESINOS  
STEPHEN PARK  
PAUL REDDY  
GENE PAPES  
JAMES OROURKE  
ANDRICE NELSON

DIANE DAVIS  
BRETT DAVIS  
DONNA VANRIPER  
LORRAINE PARK  
LINDA BIRDY  
SHARON POMPOSI  
ANITA WONZNIAK  
CHARLES BULLOCK  
DENIS COOPER

*In all we registered 18 donors to give and we collected **18 UNITS OF blood products**. Every single donation can help to save up to 3 lives. That means that your blood drive saved up to **54 lives!***

*We appreciate you and all you do in our community!*

*Thank you,  
Cassie Vassallo*