

# LAKEWOOD RANCHER

## 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

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[Lwrelks.org](http://Lwrelks.org)

## FLORIDA STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION 2020 MIDYEAR CONVENTION

The 2020 Florida State Elks Association Midyear Convention is being held at the Tampa Airport Westshore located at 2235 N. Lois Avenue in Tampa.

The dates of the convention are Friday, November 20th through Sunday, November 22nd.

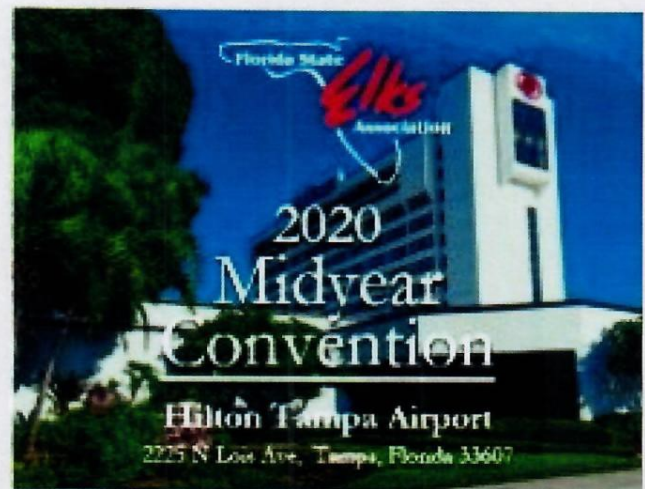
All reservations must be made with the hotel and the cutoff date is Thursday, October 28th or when our room block is sold out. After that date rooms and rates are subject to availability.

The room rate is \$119 plus 14.5% tax or \$136.26 per night for a standard room. You may make your reservation by phone, the number for the hotel is (813) 877-6688. Our group block is FSEA20. You will need to mention our group block in order to get a

room at the Elks discounted rate. If you call the hotel and do not give them the group block FSEA20, they will probably tell you they are sold out.

Check-in time is 3:00 pm and Check-out is 12:00pm.

Elks guest receive complimentary on-site parking.



For more information you can visit the Florida Elks Association website. [www.flrelks.org](http://www.flrelks.org)

## STUDENTS TO DISCUSS PATRIOTISM FOR ESSAY CONTEST

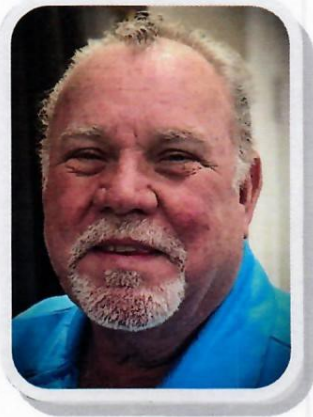
The Americanism Essay Contest stirs youth pride in America. Grand Lodge once again is pleased to offer this national contest to fifth and sixth graders for Division I, and seventh and eighth graders in Division

II. For 2020-2021 the Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee has selected the theme, "How Can Patriotism Be Demonstrated?"

This very important Patriotic Contest gives school children

the chance to express their views on their pride in America. Kindling our youth's appreciation and respect for patriotism is central to understanding our country's heritage. .

[See Essay page 2](#)



## 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.*

October got off to a good start and it looks like we are starting to turn the corner getting members back into the Lodge.

This past month we were in the parade that honored the World War II veteran who turned 100 years old. Following the parade we served 20 lunches here at the Lodge

I want to thank Tom Sweeney for his efforts in arranging the event and all the Elks that participated.

I happy to report that the October-fest party was a great success.

The planned Halloween party seems to be picking up steam.

Come out and have a ghoulish good time!

Also on that date we will be drawing for the cash prizes for Homes for Our Troops. You all have a chance at winning \$100 so be sure that you have enough tickets.

The first Wednesday of each month we are offering a lunch for

\$10.00.

The Florida State President will be visiting our district on the weekend of November 6-8.

And don't forget our Turkey Shoot on the 14th.

In January we will be holding our annual membership drive the date will be posted later.

In the meantime, remember we are open and eager to see everyone return to our friendly Lodge.

### Essay from page 1

Our youth come to understand the symbols that represent what this country stands for, and can get a deep appreciation for the individuals who sacrifice everything so all can enjoy its freedom. The Grand Lodge Fraternal Committee and all Elks across the country enthusiastically endorse this program because patriotism is one of the BPOE's great cornerstones.

For information on contest rules

contact our Lodge's Essay Contest Chairman, Kathy Dattilo at [kdatilo28@aol.com](mailto:kdatilo28@aol.com) or phone (941) 896-6957. This contest is important because it involves school children in our area, showing them Americanism at its best.

Plaques will be awarded by the Grand Lodge for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place for winning essays in Division I and Division II. Winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Tampa July 4-7, 2001.

Essays must be submitted by December 15, 2020.





## Elks Memorial Perpetual Care

Originally dedicated in 1926 for our fallen Elks of World War I, the Veterans Memorial Building is at the heart of Elksdom. Magnificently constructed in Chicago, the Memorial is a breathtaking structure representing the values Elks cherish. Through the years the Memorial

has been rededicated to honor the memory of American veterans who have died for our great nation. Our duty is to ensure that this memorial remains an extraordinary symbol of the bravery and patriotism of these veterans. By making an individual or Lodge 501 © (3) do-

nation, you will assist in the perpetual care and continued restoration of this beautiful Memorial. Go to [elks.org](http://elks.org) and click "Veterans Memorial" on the home screen, Take a virtual tour, read about the history, plan a visit, make an online donation or mail a donation today.

### Board of Directors



Needless to say, this has been a challenging year for all of us. At Lodge 2855, we have had to limit some of our events and reschedule others. And we thank you for your patience and understanding. On November 14th, we will be

hosting our annual Turkey Shoot with all net proceeds earmarked for our Lodge operating fund. It's one of our Lodge's most important fundraisers.

In past years we have offered 50 each of turkeys, liquor and wine and our attendance has been just about standing room only.

This year because of the COVID pandemic and the uncertainty of expected attendance, we will be offering only 30 of each of the prizes. We hope we can count on you to make this year's event as successful as possible knowing we be doing all we can in making the Lodge safe

for you to attend.

You have all received raffle tickets in the mail and we hope you will be as generous as possible even if you are unable to attend.

A special thanks to all our members, guests and volunteers who have always made this event one of the premier and most popular events.





Elks Lodge 2855 just formed their own, 'Lakewood Ranch Riders' association on October 15th 2020.

What makes this Riders group so unique is it is open to all current Elks members that enjoy traveling around the Florida countryside on 2 wheels, (MC), 3 wheels (Trikes, Can-Am Snyder's & Slingshots) or

4 wheels (Rag Tops, Jeeps, Corvettes, etc.)

The prerequisite for joining the Lakewood Ranch Riders is you must enjoy socializing with fellow Elks members and traveling to different locations to eat together and on occasion we will schedule an overnighter and visit something interesting outside our local area. Safety and security of all Riders will be stressed at all times.

The motorcycles and three-wheeled machines will travel together as a unit and the other vehicles will follow as their own unit to our destination to regroup again

and enjoy ourselves all together.

So, if you are looking for something different to do or try, you can contact Matthew Dansbury for more information on Lakewood Ranch Riders Lodge 2855, by email: [mdansbury@icloud.com](mailto:mdansbury@icloud.com) or cell phone: 910-624-4444. Ride & Drive Safe Always Elks!



## Elks Lodges Provide Respite From Wildfires

Since the middle of August, wildfires have raged across the West Coast, affecting the lives of people throughout California, Oregon and Washington.

"It's nasty here, to put it mildly," says Emma Pletz, the Secretary of the Oregon State Elks Association. "The smoke is awful. It looks dark at noon. We have about a quarter mile visibility all around us."

Pletz's Lodge, Milwaukie-Portland No. 142 has mobilized to help people affected by the fires. Thousands of Oregonians have evacuated their homes or were preparing to do so. The Lodge opened its parking lot and property for evacuees to park their RVs or set up campsites.

The Lodge rooms filled up quickly with necessities—clothing, diapers, food and produce, bedding and toys for children.

"People have had to flee their homes, some with only minutes notice," Pletz says, "Some got out with only the clothes on their backs."

The Lodge received many donations, they had extra necessities to donate to other organizations, including a local food pantry, a women's shelter, and the Humane Society. On top of that, the Milwaukie-Portland Elks brought nearly 4,000 pounds of clothes and bedding to an area veterans organization, and are working with Vancouver, Washington Lodge 823 who have also opened their parking lot for RVs and tents.

The Ashland area, in southern Oregon, has been hit hard by the fires too. Two towns near Ashland Lodge 944 have burned completely and the Lodge has become a hub for meals and donations. Opening its doors to the public, the Lodge provides evacuees respite from the smoke, a warm meal, and any necessities they need.

A little further south, Calpine, California Lodge 2432 jumped into

action and applied to use its Beacon Grant to donate to the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center instead of hosting its annual Christmas party.



The parking lot at Milwaukie-Portland, Ore., Lodge No. 142 offers respite for evacuees.

Besides COVID, the communities of Plumas County have been impacted by wildfires that are currently causing evacuation of small communities.

One month ago, one of Plumas County's largest resource center was burned down and lost all its emergency baby supplies. The Calpine Lodge's donation will help replace those supplies and assist with emergency shelter for evacuees in motels.

In the midst of one of the worst wildfires in history, Lodges on the West Coast have proven no matter the circumstances, the Elks will always step up and support their communities.