

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

**Lakewood Ranch Sarasota
Lodge 2855 BPOE**

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We're on the Web!
Lwrelks.org

COVID Continues To Hurt Businesses And Elk Lodges

The year 2020 was defined by the coronavirus pandemic, the worst pandemic the world has seen in 100 years. COVID-19 has affected nearly every aspect of life, from work and school to everyday activities like getting groceries. And, sadly 1 in 3 small businesses have closed due to its impact. While we, the BPOE, are not a business in the sense of profit –making, we are in the business of raising funds to assist charities such as Harry Anna, our Veterans, and programs like EFELT and many others. We continue to promote fundraisers for these events and so far, with our Members generosity, we have done a pretty good job.

However, in order for us to continue to provide financial assistance to these worthy causes, we have to also generate the revenue to pay our bills, employee salaries, mortgage, utilities, etc.

It's no secret that our limited hours of operation and the cancellation of many events, is causing a negative affect on our bank account.

And with the uncertainty of how long this pandemic will last, we must be certain that we can survive to continue our good works. One event we have been offering each year is our "Day at The Races". It is the one event with the proceeds directed to our Lodge building fund to help pay our mortgage.



We are fortunate this year to have one member come forward and offer to pay for the video that show the races and another member who has paid for most of the printing costs associated with the event.

You will be receiving a letter soon announcing this year's event and an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for \$1,000 in cash prizes.

We have over 1,000 members and if just half of our memberships participate, we can raise about \$10,000! Wow, wouldn't that be great!!

In the meantime let's hope that the new vaccines being offered will help end this terrible nightmare.



This month we elect new officers who will be our leaders for the 2021-2022 Lodge year. See the article on page 3 with all the information .
Your Vote Counts!



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 everyone had a Happy and Safe New Year. January came with a lot of challenges. We had to cancel several events again including the New Year's Eve party, the Open House and the First Responders dinner. In addition, we closed for a couple of days to disinfect the lodge for the safety of our members. We will be starting a second "Feather Your Nest" on Saturday, January 30th from 2 to 4 pm. Bring your friends and enjoy an afternoon of fun.

It looks like things are starting to turn around and the numbers are starting

to pick up on most nights. We can look forward to events coming this month. There will be a Valentine Dinner on Saturday, February 13th, and the Races on Sunday, February 21st. I can't thank our volunteers enough for what they do. This month, Norma and Don went above and beyond with all the changes that had to be made to the calendar newsletter and the blast. Darrin for getting the light pole replaced and the plumber to fix the men's room. And, last but not least, Mike for coordinating the gutter repair and the roof getting cleaned.

Also I want to thank Coleen and Bobby for stepping up and filling in when Dee and Paula were out. As always, thanks go out to all our volunteers who run our games that provide entertainment to our members. And a great big THANK YOU to our kitchen liaisons, our officers, staff and members who keep our Lodge moving forward.

Come and join us for some fun this month and in the meantime...stay Safe and Healthy.

2021 Grand Lodge Convention to be Held in Tampa and Volunteers are Needed.

This year's Grand Lodge National Convention will be held right here in our own backyard. This a boon for Florida Elks as we won't have to incur any of the usual costs for travel to get there.

The committee in charge of this year's convention is asking for volunteers to help with the many areas that need staffing. If YOU plan on attending and would like to help as a volunteer, you can register at the Florida Elks web-site. www.flfelks.org

More information will be forthcoming as we get nearer the date of the convention this coming July.



Latest News from Secretary Brett Davis, PDDGER



Brett Davis, PDDGER
Secretary

paid. A list of the Members who will be dropped can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Once a Member is dropped from the rolls he becomes an unaffiliated Elk and in accordance with GLS 14.190 is not permitted to visit any Lodge nor avail himself of the privileges of the bar or restaurant of any Lodge in any way or manner.

In accordance with Grand Lodge Statute Section 14.160: A member delinquent and owing at least five month's dues to the Lodge shall be dropped from the rolls any time during the month of March each year without a vote of the Lodge. The effective date for dropping the Member shall be not later than March 31, provided the delinquent dues are not

For information on how an unaffiliated Member may be reinstated, contact the Secretary at his direct line (941) 567-4245



Nominations - February 11, 2021

GLS 3.080

Any Member in good standing, regardless of residence, and except for those ineligible under Secs. 8.180, 9.010, 9.011, 9.040 and 9.300, may be nominated for any elective Lodge office by any Member in good standing. Nominees are not required to openly accept a nomination, and need not be present.

If a Member has been nominated for more than one office, he must declare that he accepts one nomination and withdraw from other nominations and if he does not do so, he must accept only the first nomination. Nominations may be made on election night only if no nomination for that office has been made or if all candidates for that office have declined or withdrawn. Nomination speeches may be limited with the consent of the Lodge.

Election of Officers - February 25, 2021

GLS 3.090

Only Members who are not delinquent in their dues may vote in an election.

Absentee or proxy voting is not permitted.

The vote is by secret ballot and a Member should not disclose his vote. The nominee receiving the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected. If there shall be but one nominee for any office, the Lodge may direct any officer to cast the vote of the Lodge for the nominee. If the Lodge approves, speeches for candidates may be made at the Lodge election.

Officers retain their office until their successors are duly installed.

Members to Be Dropped on March 31 for Non Payment of Dues

Robert Allen	Kathryn Kelchner	Raymond Vogel
Dawn Anderson	James King	Charles Wagner
Shawn Anderson	Marilyn Kiracofe	Marc Wallis
Paul Arcand	Celeste Krickl	Mark Wells
Ronald Beck	Richard Kuertz	Robert West
Finley Benjamin	Van Lam	James Williamson
Gail Bilkie	Ruth Leifer	William Worrel
Jerry Bladdick	Christine Lemieux	Nancy Yake
Franklin Bolander	Joseph Lemieux	Anne Zabriskie
Todd Boylan	Annette Leo	Doris Zielinski
Richard Breem	Robert Levy	
Tim Brooks	Edward Markavitch	
George Brunson	Anthony McElroy	
Bruce Bubser	Virgil Mellott	
Thomas Bukata	Thomas Messano	
Peggy Bunn	Robert Mikulski	
Mark Butler	Ronald Morse	
Daniel Cacchiotti	Christine Page	
Sandra Camp	Arthur Paterson	
Wayne Camp	Maryellen Paterson	
Richard Cappiello	Deborah Poppell	
Janna Carman	Susan Reavis	
Michael Carone	Willard Reavis	
Virginia Carter	David Rhodes	
Frederic Chapman	John Riley	
Tom Cofer	Susan Rivera	
Ronald Coffey	Jodie Roberts	
Joyce Cole	Martin Rocks	
JoAnn Corso	George Rucker	
Sal Corso	Rosalie Russo	
Susan Cueto	Richard Sebastian	
Phyllis Dempsey	Ronald Sell	
Joseph DeRenzis	Ronald Shaw	
John DeYoung	Bruce Silverman	
Thomas Farrell	Don Skalman	
Raymond Gape	Jack Smith	
Michael Gardner	Nicole Smith	
John Girlus	Michael Sordillo	
Gerald Gorski	Gary Sorley	
Rebecca Gorski	Kellie Sorley	
Joan Hagopian	Robert Stinger	
Joseph Halpin	Francie Sweet	
Linda Hample	Jerome Tomasso	
Lane Hendrix	Breanna Trautweiler	
Barbara Janzen	Valerie Trent	
Steven Josephson	Thomas Turco	
Mel Keifer	Robert Van Nostrand	

"Why are you leaving the Elks?"

Our community still needs the Elks, and the Elks still need people who care. People like you.

Even if you're not as active as you used to be, your dues still make our charitable and philanthropic works possible. We need you, and our community needs you!

Your dues make you a member of one of the greatest organizations in the world! Your dues enable our Lodge to continue making our community, state and country a better place to live!



How is the Elks National Foundation Helping Florida?

When you give to the Elks National Foundation, you're doing more than funding the [Elks National Drug Awareness](#) and "[Hoop Shoot](#)" programs. You're doing more than supporting the [Community Investments Program](#) and providing [Emergency Educational Grants](#) to the children of deceased or totally disabled Elks. You're doing more than meeting the needs of [today's veterans](#) and maintaining the [Elks National Memorial](#).

You're doing all that, *and* you're supporting Elkdom in your state.

During the 2019-20 Lodge year, the Elks of Florida donated \$387,846.65 to the Elks National Foundation. This year, the Foundation will give back the following:



These grants support [your state's major charitable project](#), as well as other philanthropic projects. Portions of these grants will also support your state's Drug Awareness Program, Hoop Shoot, Soccer Shoot and educational programs.

State Charities Grant: **\$305,670.00**
 Special Projects Grant: **\$270,900.00**
 Bonus Grant: **\$58,550.00**



We will award a total of 35 Most Valuable Student scholarships to high school seniors from your state. ([Click here](#) to check out your recipients.) In addition, we will award up to 11 Legacy scholarships to children, grandchildren and stepchildren of Elks. ([Click here](#) to check out your recipients.)

Most Valuable Student: **\$140,000.00**
 Legacy Award: **\$44,000.00**



We also provide the Elks National Veterans Service Commission with funding to support its volunteers working in veterans hospitals and medical centers.

Funding for VAVS Volunteers:
\$27,780.00

Grand Total: \$846,900.00

That's a ratio of **2.184** for every dollar the Foundation received from your state last year. And that doesn't even include the money Lodges in your state will get back through our [Community Investments Program](#).

For the 2019-20 fiscal year, for example, we awarded a total of **\$545,760.00** to 85 Florida Lodges.

For more information about the Elks National Foundation, contact your local chairman or write us at Elks National Foundation, 2750 N. Lakeview Ave., Chicago, IL 60614, enf@elks.org.