

# Lakewood Rancher

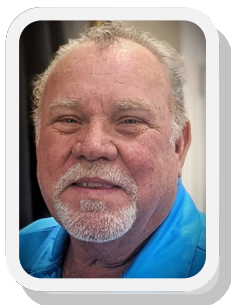


A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

MONTHLY NEWLETTER LAKEWOOD RANCH SARASOTA ELKS LODGE 2855

July 2020

## Message from Exalted Ruler Jerry Ditty



It's now been three months since I've been installed as Exalted Ruler and this is my first newsletter.

Things have changed a lot because of Covid-19 but we're working our way through it.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for their support and helping us get through this pandemic.

They have come up with some great ideas to aid in the re-

opening of our Lodge.

We have instituted what I believe are some great safety procedures for our Elk members when they return including sanitation, temperature checks and a list of questions pertaining to their health.

In addition, all our great volunteers will be checking membership cards at the door because the pandemic happened during our renewal of membership month. They will also be sanitizing and disinfecting tables, chairs and doors to keep us all safe.

Last month on Saturday June 20th, we had a return of live music and I want to thank Nor-

ma Perugino for her commitment in selecting and scheduling our entertainment.

Also, I thank Faith Frost for the great job she is doing as our Bar Manager. Keep your eyes open and look for some of her new, innovative and exciting drink specials.

We are open Monday thru Saturday noon till 9pm and Sunday noon till 8 pm and have restarted all our weekly activities; Trivia, Feather Your Nest, Bingo, Bar Poker and Queen of Hearts

I encourage all members to come in and support all of our activities.

## 156th Grand Lodge Convention Cancelled



Due to the Corona -Virus pandemic, Grand Lodge has cancelled this year's convention that was scheduled from July 5 to 8 in Baltimore, Maryland. Resolutions that would normally be voted upon at the

annual session, will be carried forward to the next annual session.

Special provisions for Installation of Officers and District Deputy Exalted Rulers have been adopted in addition to providing for the annual budget items.

## From the Lodge Secretary Brett Davis PDDGER



The Grand Lodge convention has been cancelled this year as a result of the pandemic. However, the State Con-

vention was held on June 18-20th albeit with significant fewer numbers in attendance.

While neither ER Jerry or myself attended this year, our own Steve Carruthers was installed as the new District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for our district. Congratulations to Steve and I know he will have a very successful year serving the Order.

Also at the State Convention, our new State President, Rudi Masi was installed along with our new State Vice President –at-Large, Suzi Simonelli.

Many know Rudi as he is local to the St. Petersburg Lodge and has visited us many times for not only official functions, but fun events such as or bus trip pub-crawl Suzi is from Stuart-Jensen Lodge and should be no stranger to those that are the least bit involved in following the state organization. We are certainly in for a great two-year period with those two at the helm Congratulations to both.

Delinquent membership renewals continue to trickle in but our delinquents still top 100. Please renew today if have not already done so. You can pay on our website, stop in or call the Lodge, or mail your check. Please be aware that a few members have mailed their checks to the old address. For those that use an

online bill-pay service please make sure you update our address to reflect our new building or your check will not arrive since the mail is no longer being forwarded .

Finally, many many thanks to all our great members who donated funds to the Lodge during the shutdown period. Also , a big thank you to those members who, not only donated their time and talents during the shutdown, but continue to help by doing the things that help keep us all as safe as possible.

Fraternally,  
Brett

## Southwest District Vice President Visit

Jack Cantwell the District Vice President will be visiting our Lodge on Saturday July 11th. His visit will commence with a meeting with our Lodge officers followed by social cocktails at 5pm and dinner at 6 pm

guided by current CDC guidelines concerning the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendees will be limited to the members of our Lodge and Invited dignitaries.

a 50/50 to help the Lodge offset the cost of the evening. If you plan on attending, please buy your tickets at the bar.

This year's visit will be different than previous years as it will be

The price of the meal will be \$10.00, and we will be holding

## July 4th and the Declaration of Independence



It might make for an iconic painting, but that famous image of all the Founding Fathers and Continental Congress huddled together, presenting the first draft of the Declaration of Independence for July 4, 1776 signing, isn't quite how things really went down. As famed historian David McCullough wrote, "No such scene, with all the delegates present, ever occurred at Philadelphia."

It's now generally accepted that the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on the Fourth of July—that's just the day the document was formally dated, finalized, and adopted by the Continental Congress, which had officially voted for independence on July 2 (the day John Adams thought we should celebrate). Early printed copies of the Declaration were signed by John Hancock and secretary Charles Thomson to be given to military officers and various political committees, but the bulk of the other 54 men signed an official engrossed (finalized and in larger print) copy on August 2, with others to follow at a later date. Hancock (boldly) signed his name again on the updated version.

So if you want to sound like a history buff at your family's barbecue this year, point out that we're celebrating the adoption of the Declaration, not the signing of it.

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**We're on the Web**  
**Lwrelks.org**



## 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 Simone Sr  
Secretary - Don LaFrance

## Committees

Activities - Tonya Ditty, PER  
Community Projects - Tonya Ditty, PER  
Youth Activities - Randy Volkart, ER  
Hoop Shoot - Joe Halpin  
Soccer Shoot - Barbara Mikimmin  
Drug Awareness - Sarah Davis  
Fraternal - Frank Iannello  
Americanism - Kathleen Dattilo  
ENF - Brett Davis, PDDGER  
Flag Day - Tonya Ditty, PER  
Elks Memorial Day - Frank Iannello  
Lodge Activities - Norma Perugino  
Veterans - Tom Sweeney  
Accident Prevention—Terry Layland  
EFELT - Clay Wakefield  
Elks Training - Tonya Ditty, PER  
Entertainment - Norma Perugino  
Government Relations - Brett Davis, PDDGER  
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 - Arlene Jurkcheit  
Sickness & Distress - Joanne DiCarlo  
State Major Project - Kathy Hogue & Joanne DiCarlo  
Website - Kayla Goddard