

# LAKEWOOD RANCHER

## Lodge Officers 2021-2022

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

## PER Association

President	Jerry Ditty
Vice President	Charles Stolteben
Secretary	Tonya Ditty

Lakewood Ranch Sarasota  
Lodge 2855 BPOE

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

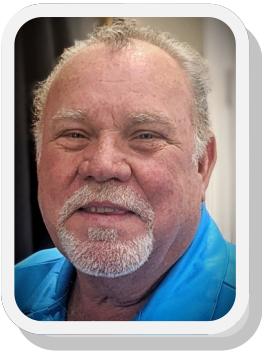
On June 6, 1944, Allied forces crossed the English Channel and landed on the beaches of Normandy, France to liberate Western Europe from the occupation of Nazi Germany. With 176,000 troops arriving by landing craft and ships, as well as nearly 14,000 aircraft, the Allied forces were able to secure Northern France within 3 months despite a vicious effort by Nazi forces



Each year on June 6, Sainte-Mère-Église, the first village to be liberated by American paratroopers, hosts a historic parade, military units, marching bands, cultural and civic groups march down the same streets that were lined with American troops in 1944. The town has since named their streets after Allied Generals including General Eisenhower. They have also preserved WWII era artifacts in the WWII museum in the center of town. The Mayor has expressed his best wishes and looks forward to greeting the parade participants again this year as they visit his wonderful village. In addition to the parade a concert series will be staged in the town square featuring outstanding performing groups.

This event has been recognized by numerous veterans associations, community organizations, military and government officials and will provide participants and spectators an opportunity to salute those men and women who have sacrificed for our nation.





## Message from Exalted Ruler Jerry Ditty

*Join us for  
our Flag Day  
ceremony on  
Sunday June  
13 at 12:30  
pm*



May came with a surprise as Richard our chef resigned. His sublimation print business has taken off and we wish him all the luck and hope it goes well.

For now, we are running the kitchen with volunteers. We are going to have some events catered and we are looking into using some food trucks. Thanks to all that have stepped up to help.

If anyone wants to help or has a

good idea, please see me.

The outside Cinco de Mayo event went very well. Everyone enjoyed the IPA band and the food.

On June 5th we are having a sock-hop and everyone is encouraged to come in their best 50's attire.

Robert and Wolfie will play on June 12th. On June 18 and 19 our FSEA President will be visiting our district. Please plan to attend this event more details will follow.

June 26th is when we will be having a "Christmas in June" with Lynn's Spins playing for us.

The Grand Lodge has asked to use our knight stations at the Grand Lodge convention in Tampa this year. The stations were made and donated by Jeff Reynolds.

Good job Jeff.

### UPDATE: 2020-21 Grand Lodge Americanism Essay Contest Division 1 - Grades 5-6—1st Place— Luca Schlosberg "How Can Patriotism Be Demonstrated"

As reported in our March newsletter, the essay submitted by Luca Schlosberg was selected as the Division 1, Grades 5-6 1st Place winner from our Lodge. Luca is a fifth-grade student at Robert E Willis Elementary School.

We are pleased to announce that Luca's essay has been selected as the Division 1, 1st Place winner by the Florida State Elks Association.

Luca, his family and his teacher, Ms. Suzanne Tomlin, were invited to the Lodge on May 13th, at which time Luca read his essay and was presented with a \$1,500 award from the Florida State Elks Association. Luca and his family will be attending the Florida State Elks convention, May 28 & 29th, in Orlando

Congratulations, Luca!





This year's annual Grand Lodge Convention is being held right here "in our own backyard!"

It's a great opportunity for us all to stop in and see what a Grand Lodge Convention is all about without having to incur the air-travel or hotel room expense.

While registration for this year's event is closed, there is still an opportunity to stop by for daily events at the convention. And if you want to get involved more, you can volunteer your services to the many sites needing assistance. If you want to learn more about volunteering, go the [flelks.org](http://flelks.org) website and click on the icon showing 'volunteer now' and look for the image below.

Please click the images below for a simple "How-to" on becoming a volunteer for the 2021 Elks Grand Convention in Tampa, Florida.



# Treasurer Report

March 12, 2021 to April 8, 2021

## Income

Opening Balance From April 8, 2021		\$145,925.10
Received from the Secretary	\$93,218.11	
Charity Funds Received	\$ 8,464.00	
Transfer to Reserve Acct	\$ 2,300.00	
Interest on Reserve Account	\$ 1.67	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>\$103,983.78</b>

## Less Expenses

Lodge Bills Paid	\$70,004.91	
Charity Funds Paid	\$ 250.00	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>- \$ 70,254.91</b>

**\* Cash Balance May 13,, 2021** **\$179,653.96**

\* Charity Fund Balance \$18,491.36

\* Reserve Fund Balance \$42,827.68



Brett Davis, PDDGER  
Lodge Secretary

## Secretary's Annual Report To the Membership

The Elk year 2020-2021 is "in the books." I probably speak for most when I say "good, it can stay there!" Our Elk year starts on April 1 and runs through Mar 31. Coincidentally, more or less the same time period as what history will probably record as the lost year of Covid 2020. As we look back there are mixed emotions. Extreme sadness at the friends and family affected by the pandemic - and particularly at the loss suffered by too many people worldwide, including a number of our own. However, this is tempered by the profound human spirit, compassion and support shown by so many of our members. When we voluntarily closed the lodge at the beginning of the pandemic we made the decision to help our own and continued to pay our employees while not knowing how long it would last. Later we reopened, only to be shut down again in what seemed like a never ending cycle. The mortgage, utilities, payroll, and other bills continued. The call went out for help and with our members generous donations we were able to pay our bills and our staff. We truly have the best members around!

**Membership:** We ended the year with a drop of 87 members, which considering the pandemic, that 7% drop was much better than many other lodges across the state and nation. Let's turn this year around and make up for lost ground with a renewed interest in growing membership.

**Inclusiveness:** An unfortunate side effect of our rapid growth the last few years is we are not as

close-knit with many members as we once were. It's a lot easier to know everybody when there are 200 of you than when there are 1100. It's natural and understandable. However, I think most of us can do a better job of introducing ourselves to someone we don't know (or perhaps don't remember) and to make them feel welcome. We used to be known for being one of the friendliest lodges around but with our growth it might take just a little more work from us to keep our good reputation.

**Honorary Life Membership:** At the last Lodge meeting, Rick Thorson, PER was voted to Honorary Life Membership. Rick was integral to the formation of our Lodge, served as our 2nd Exalted Ruler and has gone above and beyond in serving the Lodge and Order. I was proud to put his name forth for it!

**ENF:** We were once again able to meet our annual ENF (Elks National Foundation) contribution goal of \$4.80 per member thanks to our members.

I have been the chair of the ENF committee for the majority of our 12 years but it is time to pass the torch. I couldn't be happier that Diane Jethwa has agreed to head up this very important committee. I know it is in good hands! As Diane begins the new year please consider joining the **ENF Fidelity Club** - which is a monthly automatic donation of any amount you wish. Diane will be providing more information on that great program in the weeks and months ahead.