

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

LWR Members Give Blood and Save Lives

Did you make the HONOR ROLL in February? We registered 20 donors, collected 21 units of blood products and saved 63 lives! If YOU donated, keep a look out for your \$10.00 Amazon gift card which was sent you your email.

The Lakewood Ranch Sarasota Elks Lodge, the Wakefield family and the Suncoast Blood Bank want to thank everyone that participated in the Rosalie Wakefield Memorial Blood Drive in February! We appreciate your continued support. The bus will be at our location every other month on the third Thursday. Join our April 15th Honor Roll and get ready to donate blood. The bus will be here from 3pm to 8 pm.

We also had a couple of people speak to the Suncoast Blood bank representative to donate Convalescent Plasma for COVID pa-

tients in our area. If you are interested in donating, please call 941-993-8119 and ask Desiree or email covid19@suncoastblood.org. Let them know Sarah Davis sent you so the Lodge gets to boost our honor roll. Did you know, Convalescent Plasma can be donated every 14 days, it takes approximately an hour of your time and they give you a special gift for donating. Please help people in your local



community beat COVID.

Without Convalescent Plasma some hospitalized COVID patients will die.

Your community needs you! It as simple as giving blood. Call today to find out more. Please contact Sarah Davis at

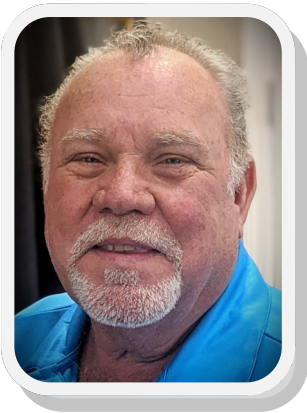
sarahw0410@gmail.com for more information or to reserve your spot in April for blood drive.

February Honor Roll

Gary Johnson
Brett Davis
Joann Reddy
Lorraine Park
David Thompson
Robert Mariano
Ronald Boblooch

Nicole Smith
Andrea Hitcho
Michael Reddy
Stephen Park
David Roseberry
Jerry Quinn
Darlene Boblooch

Sarah Davis
Francis Iannello
David Goddard
Charles Bullock
Stacy Kalman-Mariano
John Piper



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.

At our Lodge meeting on February 11th, nominations were made for next year's officers.

All nominees listed below were uncontested and will be officially elected at our meeting on February 25th and installed later this month.

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

I've also made the following appointments to help lead us next year.

Esquire—Frank Malatesta, PSP

Chaplain—Joann Dicarlo

Inner Guard—Tonya Ditty, PER

Tiler—Ron Lee

The following Trustees will continue to serve : 4 yr Trustee Randy Volkart, PER, 3 yr Trustee Leon Duis, 2yr Trustee John Piper PER. The 1yr Trustee position is vacant.

I look forward to working with the new Board of Directors and I am positive we will do our best to make it a successful year. A big THANK YOU, to our current Board for the great job they did dealing with the trying year we had.

On a social note I'm pleased to report that Valentine's Day Dinner was successful with 57 members enjoying Chef Richard's great meal and the music. And the Rib dinner on the 20th was another great meal. Hopefully, Saturdays will continue to grow as we work our way through this pandemic.

Many thanks to Kathy Dattilo and her volunteers for all their work on the Americanism Essay Contest. Please see her report on page 3 and also learn what our Veterans Committee is doing. Chairman Tom Sweeney let's us know what his committee is up to in his article below.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make all these activities happen. Be safe and I look forward to see you at the Lodge soon.

A Report from our Veterans Committee



Our Veterans' Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis (3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm) and we are always looking for new members to join us.

While we are finding it difficult to raise funds for our programs during this Pandemic Era, we were able to donate \$500 to the Manatee Veterans Council to support their Flag program, and we have fundraisers scheduled for Southeastern Guide Dogs through our

'Paws for Patriots' program and a Reverse Drawing raffle that will start on May 1 with 9 winners chosen on August 19. Tickets will be \$30 each and only 300 will be sold.

Finally, we expect to have another fundraiser for 'Home for Our Troops' in the fall. A big THANK YOU goes out to all our Lodge members who continue to support our Committee efforts to assist Veterans in need.

Tom Sweeney
Chairman



Each year the Grand Lodge offers a national essay contest giving students the opportunity to express their pride in America. Since 2010, our Lodge has participated in the annual Americanism Essay Contest for students in Grades 5 to 8. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we were not able to invite our students to our March meeting as we have done in the past. With special thanks to the Essay Committee, Rick Thorson, Kay Thorson and Joann Reddy, the following winners were chosen:

Division I (Grades 5 & 6)

1st Place (\$100 gift card) - Luca Schlosberg, Grade 5, Robert E Willis Elementary School

2nd Place (\$75 gift card) - Addison Crutchfield, Grade 5, Robert E Willis Elementary School

Division II (Grades 7 & 8)

1st Place (\$100 gift card) - Devon Travell Womack, Grade 8, Dr. Mona Jain Middle School

2nd Place (\$75 gift card) - Peyton Lynn Stambaugh, Grade 7, Braden River Middle School

3rd Place (\$50 gift card) - Abby Wilson, Grade 8, Braden River Middle School

In addition to their gift cards each student was sent a small American flag and Certificate of Honor. Their essays were forwarded to the Southwest District for further consideration at the district level.

National winners will be announced at the Grand Lodge Session in Tampa in July 2021

Congratulations to all!

Submitted by

Kathy Dattilo, Essay Chairperson

Lodge 2855

Sickness & Distress..... *“always in order”*

During this stressful time and social distancing, it's difficult to remain in contact with many of our members who we would normally see on many occasions here at the Lodge. And it could happen that some of them might not be feeling well or able to get out and around.

If you know of any of our members who may not be doing well or may even be hospitalized, a simple greeting card may be just enough to help them get through the day. Should you know of any member that you feel needs some cheering up or a get well card, our Sickness & Distress Chairperson, Joanne Dicarlo would love to send them a card so that they know they are not forgotten.

You can contact Joanne at jdicarlo41@verizon.net or (941) 388-0996

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

Robert Allen
Dawn Anderson
Shawn Anderson
Paul Arcand
Ronald Beck
Finley Benjamin
Gail Bilkie
Jerry Bladdick
Franklin Bolander
Todd Boylan
Richard Breem
Tim Brooks
George Brunson
Bruce Bubser
Thomas Bukata
Peggy Bunn
Mark Butler
Daniel Cacchiotti
Sandra Camp
Wayne Camp
Richard Cappiello
Janna Carman
Michael Carone
Virginia Carter
Frederic Chapman
Tom Cofer
Ronald Coffey
Joyce Cole
JoAnn Corso
Sal Corso
Susan Cueto
Phyllis Dempsey
Joseph DeRenzis
John DeYoung
Thomas Farrell
Raymond Gape
Michael Gardner
John Girlus
Gerald Gorski
Rebecca Gorski
Joan Hagopian
Joseph Halpin
Linda Hample
Lane Hendrix
Barbara Janzen
Steven Josephson
Mel Keifer

Kathryn Kelchner
James King
Marilyn Kiracofe
Celeste Krickl
Richard Kuertz
Van Lam
Ruth Leifer
Christine Lemieux
Joseph Lemieux
Annette Leo
Robert Levy
Edward Markavitch
Anthony McElroy
Virgil Mellott
Thomas Messano
Robert Mikulski
Ronald Morse
Christine Page
Arthur Paterson
Maryellen Paterson
Deborah Poppell
Susan Reavis
Willard Reavis
David Rhodes
John Riley
Susan Rivera
Jodie Roberts
Martin Rocks
George Rucker
Rosalie Russo
Richard Sebastian
Ronald Sell
Ronald Shaw
Bruce Silverman
Don Skalman
Jack Smith
Nicole Smith
Michael Sordillo
Gary Sorley
Kellie Sorley
Robert Stinger
Francie Sweet
Jerome Tomasso
Breanna Trautweiler
Valerie Trent
Thomas Turco
Robert Van Nostrand

Raymond Vogel
Charles Wagner
Marc Wallis
Mark Wells
Robert West
James Williamson
William Worrel
Nancy Yake
Anne Zabriskie
Doris Zielinski

"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!



If you are dropped from membership and wish to re-instate at a later date, information is available through our Secretary's Office

(941) 567-4245