

# Lakewood Rancher



A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

MONTHLY NEWLETTER LAKEWOOD RANCH SARASOTA ELKS LODGE 2855

October 2019

## Message from Exalted Ruler Randy Volkart



Elks Care, Elks share. That motto has never been more evident at our Lodge than in recent weeks.

We asked our members to support two separate causes during the same period. First, relief supplies for the Bahamians after Hurricane Dorian, and second, extra food for "Elks Feeding Little Tum mies" since their Food Bank was low on inventory. Not only did you respond, but you gave above all expectations!

As of this writing, my role as Exalted Ruler is about half over and

Members often ask me, "how's your year of being ER going?" While the answer to that question may be different with some ER's at some Lodges, I can honestly say that for me it's been very rewarding.

Our Lodge has talented and knowledgeable leaders who have guided me every step of the way. Why am I mentioning this? It's simple, if you have any thoughts about becoming one of our Lodge's leaders, just do it! The next election for our Lodge officers is only about four months away. You'll be glad that you made that decision.

On October 12th we will be holding our 9th annual Golf Tournament. We need players (this is an open event and players do not have to be Elk Members), hole sponsors,

and items for the raffle and auctions. If you have questions, contact any of the members of the Golf Committee. Speaking of the Golf Committee, they are my Elk Volunteers of the Month!

Kudos go to Chairperson Tonya Ditty, Wayne Carr, Cindy Bevelhymmer, Pat Plunkett, Joanne DiCarlo, and Jerry Ditty for their untiring work on this important event. We truly appreciate you!

The Quote of the Month by Albert Einstein *"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."*

## Social media gaffes can sully everyone.



Social media is becoming more prominent every year, and the way we share information can be compromising. Often times we share events, birthdays, and other personal information from someone without realizing—it only takes one photo to sully a member, guest, or Lodge's reputation. A

Member might want to post something they feel is a moment to treasure, but others could be embarrassed to be associated with the posting.

The web never forgets. It's time to question how individuals (both children and adults) should manage boundaries around sharing personal information,

and how they can control information that is shared about them. Posting embarrassing photos of others on Facebook, for example, without consent is definitely tricky territory and could cause unrepairable damage to someone



  
**The Snowbirds are coming..**  
**they're heading this way** 

This month we begin welcoming back our winter members who will be with us for the season.

Many more will be arriving over the next few months and we look forward to having them back and enjoying their participation in all our social activities.

We continue to stress the importance of using your door card to gain entry, and also remembering to show your membership card when ordering beverages at the bar.

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## From the Lodge Secretary



Brett Davis, PDDGER  
Secretary

Remember that in October the membership application fee is reduced from \$25 to just \$1.

What a great time to bring in your friends and neighbors!

Spouse and widow cards will expire on March 31, 2020 and the Lodge will no longer issue them.

For those current spouse and widow identification cardholders who want to join, now is a great time to do so and save \$24

As we continue to grow I can't stress enough the importance of recognizing and acknowledging our newer members.

When you see a stranger he/she may be a new member so please make an effort to give a friendly greeting or strike up a conversation. A new lifelong friend is just a "hi" away.

Have a safe and

healthy October and thank you to all our members for all that you do.

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## Army of Hope

The families of Florida active-duty military personnel, military reservists, Coast Guard, National Guard and/or their dependents are eligible. Active-duty members stationed in Florida with their dependents qualify as Florida residents.

Since its inception, the Army of Hope has raised \$620,208.29 and distributed \$508,591.35 for families of deployed military members. The help you give through the Florida Elks' Army of Hope allows the military members to safely concentrate on their duties without worrying about their families at home. The Army of Hope also assists returning veterans with costs to re-establish their civilian life after deployment.



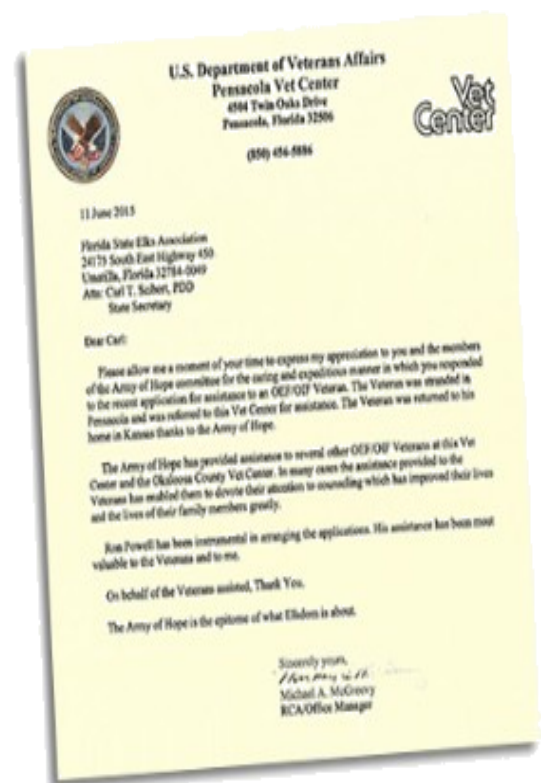
### Examples of assistance include:

- School lunches
- Medical and dental emergencies not covered by insurance
- Minor home repairs (plumbing, painting, etc.)
- Auto repairs or transportation when needed
- Full-time or backup babysitting
- Phone cards to contact loved ones
- Lawn mowing, landscaping, sprinkler repairs
- A/C and major appliance repairs
- Clothing and shoes

In 2009, the Army of Hope began bringing dependent children of deployed military personnel to the Florida Elks Youth Camp. It has been a great opportunity for the kids to relax with their peers and enjoy the camp.

Individual aid requests may be made by submitting a completed assistance request form to your local Elks lodge. The lodge will review the request and submit it to the District Veterans' Services Chairman. The District Chairman will then submit the request for final approval to the Army of Hope Committee.

The time to process an application for aid may take as long as four weeks. Emergency requests may be expedited at the request of a local lodge.



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

## DDGER & DVP Visits This Month

**DDGER Joe Cooper will visit the following Lodges this month:**

10/8 – Palmetto  
10/16 – Manasota  
10/24-Lakewood Ranch

**DVP Steve Carruthers will be visiting the following Lodges**

10/5- Bradenton 10/16 – Homecoming Lakewood Ranch

### Lodge Officers 2019-2020

Exalted Ruler	Randy Volkart
Leading Knight	Tonya Ditty, PER
Loyal Knight	Rick Thorson, PER
Lecturing Knight	Kathy Hogue
Secretary	Brett Davis, PDDGER
Treasurer	Gloria Wilkinson
5 yr Trustee	Jerry Ditty
4 yr Trustee	Roe Hyer
3 yr Trustee	Darrin Simone Sr. PER
2 yr Trustee	Terry Layland
1 yr Trustee	Leon Duis
Esquire	Frank Malatesta, PSP
Chaplain	Kay Thorson
Inner Guard	Gene Brusco, PER
Tiler	Ron Lee
Lodge Advisor	Brett Davis PDDGER

### PER Association

President - Tonya Ditty  
Vice President - Darrin Simone Sr  
Secretary - Rick Thorson

### Committees

Activities - Tonya Ditty, PER  
Community Projects - Rick Thorson, PER  
Youth Activities - Randy Volkart, ER  
Hoop Shoot - Joe Halpin  
Soccer Shoot - Randy Volkart, ER  
Drug Awareness - Sarah Davis  
Fraternal - Randy Volkart, ER  
Americanism - Rick Thorson, PER  
ENF - Brett Davis, PDDGER  
Flag Day - Rick Thorson, PER  
Elks Memorial Day - Randy Volkart, ER  
Lodge Activities - Norma Perugino  
Veterans - Tom Sweeney  
Accident Prevention—Terry Layland  
EFELT - Clay Wakefield  
Elks Training - Tonya Ditty, PER  
Entertainment - Roe Hyer  
Government Relations - Rick Thorson, PER  
Interlodge Visitation - Brett Davis, PDDGER  
Investigation - Don LaFrance, PDDGER  
Orientation - Darrin Simone Sr., PER  
Ranch Hands - Tonya Ditty, PER  
Ritualistic - Frank Malatesta, PDDGER, PSP  
Scholarship - Dawn Fallon  
Sickness & Distress - Joanne DiCarlo  
State Major Project - Kathy Hogue & Joanne DiCarlo  
Website - Kayla Goddard