

Lakewood Rancher



A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

MONTHLY NEWLETTER LAKEWOOD RANCH SARASOTA ELKS LODGE 2855

September 2019

Message from Exalted Ruler Randy Volkart



The members of our Lodge are extremely generous with their time and money in supporting our various charities. And if you would like to contribute more **without any out of pocket cost**, do this now!

- 1) Visit smile.amazon.com
- 2) Sign in with your Amazon credentials.
- 3) Choose your charitable organization, ENF, Harry-Anna or EFELT.
- 4) Start shopping and add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com.
0.5% of every future purchase

will be donated to your selected charity. While one-half of one percent may not sound like much, but over our lifetime and with all of us involved, it could result in hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Our Queen of Hearts game has been a huge success and I want to recognize those who made Friday nights an event not to be missed. Kudos to our event committee members, Jerry Van Riper, Darrin Simone, Rick Ormsby and Brett Davis. Also, thanks go to Donna Van Riper for handling the 50/50, our numerous "Door Greeters", Chuck Barbour and Leon Duis for the video entertainment, our dedicated kitchen workers, food servers, and bar staff. Frankly it was hard work but they all did it with a smile and I am in awe!

In the weekly "Blasts" you will see the dinner event posters for September. This is still our slow time of year, so please come out and support your Lodge.

There is also a poster for our annual Golf Tournament in October, so it's time to get your foursome together for this fun event.

I also want to mention that after traveling as ER to other district Lodges, our event posters are the best. This doesn't happen by chance. They are the work of Norma Perugino who gathers the information needed for each event, and Don LaFrance who creates the posters. You're the best!

The quote of the month by Franklin P. Jones, "*Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger.*"

Why Should I Donate to ENF?

We are constantly being asked to dig into our pockets and donate money to our State Major Projects as well as the Elks National Foundation.

Last month you read how your dollars given to the Harry Anna Foundation

help the children in our State, now on page 3 of this issue you will read how your donation to the Elks National Foundation helps in a situation you would never think of.

It's an interesting and inspiring read.





“ Since our inception in 2010, every Friday, during the school year, Elks Feeding Empty Little Tummies, Inc. provides six meals, snacks, drinks, bread and other non-perishable foods to homeless children and children living in food deprived households.

Items we need most:

- Peanut Butter 15 Oz.
- Dry Milk in Individual Packets.
- Individual Fruit Drinks.
- Small Mac n' Cheese Cups.
- Pudding Cups.
- Fruit Cups.
- Ramen Noodles.
- Tuna Salad in Packets.
- Small Chef Boyardee Meals.
- Individual Oatmeal Packets.
- 5-7 Oz (Small Only) Can of Vegetables.



From the Lodge Secretary



Brett Davis, PDDGER
Secretary

Let me tell you a story of four people by the names of Tom, Dick, Harry and Joe.

Their full names in fact were: Tom **Somebody**, Dick **Everybody**, Harry **Anybody** and Joe **Nobody**. They were all members of a fraternal organization.

Another member, **Someone Else** passed away and the four were greatly saddened to learn of the death of one of their

most valuable members.

Someone Else's passing created a vacancy that **Somebody** would have to fill and yet **Nobody** ever offered to help.

Whenever **Anybody** mentioned leadership, **Everybody** had always looked to this wonderful person for inspiration and results. When there was a job to do, a need to be addressed or a vacancy to be filled,

Everybody said, “get **Someone Else** to do it.”

But now **Someone Else** was gone and the boys all wondered what they would do. No longer could they say, “let **Someone Else** do it.”

Now if it has to be done, one of them will have to do it.

Who will it be? **Somebody**, **Anybody**, **Everybody**, or **Nobody**?

"I didn't know what I was going to do."

Moving On

The moments of our lives are like the chapters of a book. Some chapters, you hold close and recall often. For Jesse, these chapters are about marrying his high school sweetheart, raising his 11 children, and watching his 28 grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow up.

"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO," JESSE SHARES. "I CALLED ON THE ELKS, AND THEY CAME THROUGH FOR ME."



Elks
National
Foundation, Inc.

Other chapters, we skip over—they're too painful. For Jesse, they're about witnessing the deaths of his fellow Navy comrades on the USS Guadalupe, being diagnosed with PTSD after returning from the war, getting a call that told him his youngest son had passed away, and losing his twin brothers 10 months apart.

No matter what happens, Jesse continues moving on and writes his story. In 1972, when his soon-to-be wife became pregnant with their first child, Jesse followed his father's lead and joined the Navy. One year aboard the ship changed his life; he returned home a changed man. Jesse was diagnosed with "shell shock," which would later

become known as PTSD.

"The thing with trauma is it always put me in a bad place," Jesse recalls. "I have been in some dark places in different times in my life."

Another moment that sent Jesse into the dark was losing his youngest son. With conviction, Jesse shares that he wouldn't be here today if the V.A. hadn't been there to get him through it.

"If I didn't have the V.A., I don't think I would have made it through that," Jesse shares.

Not only did the V.A. offer mental health care, it also referred Jesse to the Elks' Emergency Assistance Fund. The funeral costs for Jesse's son wiped out the money he had put aside for rent and bills.

"I didn't know what I was going to do," Jesse shares. "I called on the Elks, and they came through for me."

"I appreciate the Elks organization," Jesse shares. "They're a Godsend. I will spread the word that you guys are there for veterans." He even hopes to be an Elk himself one day.

Since July 2015, the Elks National Foundation has contributed \$5.3 million to help end veteran homelessness. The money funds the Elks National Veterans Service Commission's Welcome Home initiative, which includes an Emergency Assistance Fund for veterans in eight metropolitan areas targeted by the V.A. for increased focus by the Elks. To date, the Elks have helped more than 1,350 veterans exit or avoid homelessness through emergency assistance. Learn more at enf.elks.org/WelcomeHome.

4602 Lena Road
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211
Phone: 941.727.2855
Lodge: info@lwrelks.org
Editor: don88831@gmail.com

We're on the Web
Lwrelks.org

DDGER & DVP Visits This Month

DDGER Joe Cooper will visit the following Lodges this month:

9/24 – South Hillsborough
9/26 – Sarasota South

DVP Steve Carruthers will be visiting the following Lodges

9/14– Palmetto

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