

ELKS TALES

GREENVILLE SC #858 -7700 PELHAM ROAD - PHONE: 864-458-8443



SUMMER CONVENTION

MYRTLE BEACH
AUG. 4th – 7th
SPRINGMAID RESORTS
RES:



AUGUST 2011
Yearly Volume 5

First let me start by saying it was an Honor to represent the Greenville Elks Lodge 858 at the Elks Grand Lodge Convention. There were numerous Resolutions to be voted on concerning the "Future of Elkdom". I will place a brochure in the clubroom letting the members know how our vote was cast and how the outcome was on each Resolution and give a report at our next meeting on Aug. 17th.

Our new Grand Exalted Ruler is the Hon. David R. Carr. His home Lodge is: Ticonderoga Lodge, New York #1494.

SOME CONVENTION CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

- 1). Lodge Officers no longer have to remember their parts.
- 2). To allow a reward for recruiting and retaining new members.
- 3). Renaming most Committees into 2 parts, Fraternal Committee and Activity Committee.
- 4). To do away with the requirement of the DD from witnessing the Ritual during their visit.
- 5). To do away with the Winter DD Clinic.
- 6). Replace the word Subordinate with Local when talking about the Lodges.
- 7). Able to recognize affiliated organizations (RV Group, etc.)

Remember this month we will have our State Summer Convention. It is being held in Myrtle Beach. I hope some of you will be able to attend! Our Ritual team will be competing Friday Morning. Please come on out and support us. There will be district Hospitality Suites this year. Rock Hill Elks Lodge will be heading up our Districts Hospitality Room. Please help out in any way you can by bartending, bringing a dish/snack to pass. We want to show as much support to this as we can. Next year it will be Greenvilles turn to host the District Hospitality Room.

We will be having our monthly Birthday Dinner on August 19th. Judy Brayman will be cooking for us. The cost is \$5.00 per plate. Come on out for an enjoyable evening with your fellow Elks.

I will be setting a Lodge clean up day in Sept. and will let you know the date at our Aug. meeting.

Hope to see you at the Lodge!

Fraternally,
Carroll Smith
Exalted Ruler



Membership Statistics

March 31 st 2011.....	106
Gain:	
Initiated	
Transferred.....	1
Reinstated.....	1
Subtotal:	2
Losses:	
Transfers.....	
Dimits	
Death	2
Dropped	
Subtotal	2
July 31 st 2011.....	106

Getting a little behind in your dues? Check your card and ensure you are current.

Card should read "April 2012". We don't want to and cannot afford to lose you. If there is any doubt, contact the lodge secretary.



Don't Miss

LODGE RENTALS

Have an upcoming event? Our Lodge should be your first choice for an event. Contact Dennis Kerwin at (864)-567-0419 for availability.



**Message from
The Grand
Exalted Ruler**

**Hon. David R.
Carr**

Mr. Carr was initiated into Whitehall, New York #1491 in February 1975. He immediately became active with the Youth Activities Committee and served as the Lodge Organist and Chaplain. He transferred his membership to the Ticonderoga, New York Lodge after moving to Crown Point in 1978. Here, he served as Lodge Chaplain, Esquire, and Organist and was active on many committees and fundraising activities. He proceeded through the chairs and served as Exalted Ruler in 1989, PER Association Chairman in 1990, and Lodge Trustee from 1988-2005. He served as Lodge Editor and Public Relations Chairman from 1988-2004 and was District Editor and Public Relations Chairman from 1993-1996.

Mr. Carr served the New York State Elks Association as State Vice President in 1990-1991, as Community Activities Chairman from 1995-1997 as State Editor from 1997-2002, as State Secretary from 1999-2009, and as State President in 2009-2010. He introduced the Dictionary Project to the New York State Elks Association in September 2003.

Mr. Carr served the Grand Lodge as District Deputy in 1994-1995, as a member of a Grand Lodge Steering Committee, as Trustee Chairman overseeing the financial assets of a defunct Lodge from 2002-2010, and as a member of the Board of Grand Trustees from 2006-2010. He introduced the Dictionary Project to the Grand Lodge in July 2004.

Mr. Carr believes strongly that "Elks Give from the Heart" because Elkdom, like patriotism, is in the hearts and souls of our members.

**Let's all wish The Grand Exalted Ruler
HON. DAVID R. CARR
A very successful year!**



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 8/3 - Sandra Cher
- 8/3 - Catherine Musacchia
- 8/7 - Edward Degges
- 8/16 - James Stringfield
- 8/16 - Kenneth Smith
- 8/17 - Jimmy Shiflett
- 8/17 - James Laidley
- 8/24 - Shawn Arness
- 8/25 - Garnett Foster
- 8/28 - Dennis Kerwin



Birthday Dinner
AUG. 19th, at 6:30
Cook: Judy Brayman
Price: \$5.00 per plate

SUMMER CONVENTION

Summer Convention is August 4th – 7th.

It will be held in Myrtle Beach at the Springmaid Resorts. Convention and Registration forms are located in the Club Room.

Come on out for a GREAT weekend fellowshipping with your fellow Elks from around the State!!

ELKS FUNNIES



Request for Disaster Relief Assistance

TO: State Association Presidents
Lodge Exalted Rulers

FROM: Michael F. Smith, Grand Exalted Ruler *MFS*

RE: BPO Elks Disaster Relief Fund

Since its earliest days, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been committed to easing the burden of those most affected by natural disasters. Recently, severe storms and tornadoes struck the southern portion of our country and wreaked havoc..... Thousands of people have seen their homes wrecked and their personal belongings destroyed. Many lives have been lost.

Since we have a Disaster Relief Fund established, we were able to quickly send money to the Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia State Elks Associations which were affected by these terrible storm systems. To date, over \$100,000 has been distributed and, with the summer months coming shortly, your assistance is needed.

We, as Elks, come forward to lend a helping hand to those in need. It is what our Order is known for and it is a responsibility from which we will not shy. Now, your help is needed to prove, once again, that *Elks Care – Elks Share*.

I'm asking Elk Members to "*Be Proud...Be Loud...and Be Visible*" by sending donations to our Disaster Relief Fund to replenish the funds expended and build our reserves so we have money available to lighten the burden and lend a helping hand to victims of future catastrophes. Donations are tax deductible as allowed under the 501(c)(3) IRS Code.

All checks should be made payable to: BPO Elks Disaster Relief Fund.

Contributions should be mailed to:

BPO Elks Disaster Relief Fund
2750 N. Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889

LODGE OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler	Carroll Smith
Leading Knight	Dave Loudin
Loyal Knight	Jim Laidley
Lecturing Knight	Mike Carey
Esquire	Kate Musacchia
Chaplain	Gary Pittman
Inner Guard	Cindy Roth
Candidate	Todd Varholy
Tyler	Gwen Keitt
Secretary	Sam Vasquez
Treasurer	Bob Cher
5 Year Trustee	Tommie Graves
4 Year Trustee	Bill Borchert
3 Year Trustee	Richard Vaught
2 Year Trustee	Howard Barker
1 Year Trustee	Fred McGregor

The House Committee is asking for your assistance in bartending occasionally. Volunteers are needed for Elks Meeting Nights and Saturdays. There is sign-up sheet in the ClubRoom, or contact Kate at 918-6367. THANK YOU!



If you have an article for the Newsletter, please email them to me by the 15th of the Month. My email is carrollsmith@bellsouth.net or you may call me at (864) 360-3406

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Audit & Accounting	Jim Laidley
Community Activities	Willie Wilson
ENF	Bill Borchert
Lodge Activities	Kate Musacchia
Americanism	Michelle Vasquez
Government Relations	Tommie Graves
Memorial Day	Bob Cher
Veterans Services	Bob Keitt
PER Association	Bob Keitt
Scholarship	Michelle Vasquez
House Committee	Kate Musacchia
Public Relations	Price Atkinson
Visiting Committee	Richard Vaught
Membership	Sam Vasquez
Indoctrination	Mike Cary
Investigation	Kate Musacchia
Lapsation	Sam Vasquez
Youth Activities	Sam Vasquez
Drug Awareness	Gwen Keitt
Hoop Shoot	Cindy Roth
Soccer Shoot	Mike Carey
Accident Prevention	Richard Vaught
Relief	Carroll Smith
Bulletin	Jolene Thomas
Elks Training	Tommie Graves
Ritual	Bob Cher
Website	Dave Loudin

DID YOU KNOW TRIVIA From Grand Lodge Session

God Bless America

Was written by Irving Berlin in 1918. It was revised in 1938 with the rising of Hitler and first performed by Kate Smith her radio show in 1938.

Irving Berlin was and Elk. He and Kate Smith donated all Royalties from this song to the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the USA through the God Bless America Foundation. This is still in effect today.

Elks Membership

The BPOE once had a membership of 1.6 million after WWII. Now we have 869,000 members. Our organization has loss 9.4% in the last 3 years, and on average 25,000 members per year since in 1980.

MILITARY AGENDA

The month of **July** we collected items for our Military Members over seas. This will continue through the month of August as well. They need our support over there, as the conditions are very poor.

ALSO

In **August** we will start raising funds to send WWII vets to Washington to see the WWII Memorial. We had the Founders of Greenville Honor Flights at our Lodge for a presentation at our first meeting in June. If you would like any information please see me or ask someone that was at that meeting. It is a very worthy cause. Our WWII Veterans are dying off at 1200 Vets a day. It takes around \$475.00 to \$550.00 to fly a Vet to Washington. I would like to see our Lodge try to send at least 2 Vets there with the next Flight in Oct. If you have any ideas on how to help raise money for this, or would like to donate, please let Bill Borchert or Carroll Smith know.



ELKS CHARITABLE MONEY AT WORK – SAFE HARBOR

Safe Harbor the shelters for women and children victims of domestic abuse last year provided safe shelter for 398 women and 225 children. The shelters are located in Greenville and Anderson each providing about 30 beds for clients. Unfortunately at times both shelters are full.

Nationally 1 in 4 women are physically or sexually abused by their husband or boyfriend some time in their life. South Carolina is one of the top 8 states for women being murdered by their intimate partner. Safe Harbor offers a wide myriad of services for the clients including: shelter, group and individual counseling, transitional housing, legal support, job searches, teen education programs, community counseling, a resale store and community education programs. Also new this year, are services and shelter (separate from the women) for men who are victims of domestic violence.

Each of us know now, or in the past, of individuals living in a physically, psychological or emotionally abusive relationship and there is help available for them. You may be able to help someone make a major change in their life by sharing the following 24-hour phone numbers with them. 1.800.291.2139 or the Greenville Crisis Line number 864.467.3636.

Many volunteer opportunities are available in working at Safe Harbor, and if interested the volunteer coordinator is Julie Meredith...467.3636.

Several years ago my granddaughter (Marie) and I started a project called “**KIDS CASES**”. When the families check into the shelter, mom is given a container with soaps, shampoos, deodorants, tooth brushes, paste etc. for the family. The children have little other than a few clothes of theirs. By getting fabric donated from various stores we began to sew $\frac{3}{4}$ size pillowcases or bags with bright colored fabrics and filling them with age appropriate items.

We make bags for children 0-3, boys 4-7, girls 4-7, boys 8-12 and girls 8-12. In these bags we put books, stuffed animals, puzzles, yo-yo's, cars, trucks, dolls, school supplies, games, cards, jacks, hair items, rattles, sippy cups etc. When the children check in, they are each given a bag of their own to keep, Last May, the Elks after a presentation at a business meeting, gave us \$300 for the purchase of items for our bags. Marie and I have used that money shopping at flea markets and Dollar stores for all new items for the bags. We make up 20 bags at a time and deliver them to the Anderson and Greenville shelters so they always have some on hand. At this point we have given out over **650 bags** and we hope to keep our project on going. Individuals and local sewing guilds and church groups have helped in making bags and providing items for the bags and in the process more and more people are becoming aware of domestic violence information and resources people can use.

Your hard-earned money is being put to good use in making some difficult days for children of our community a little bit better. Marie, the kids and I thank you for that.

If you wish further information about Safe Harbor or our project feel free to call me.

Norma Guzzardo 286.8505



Article from the Arizona Republic on July 19th

Elks group aims to attract members

Organization also hopes to spread word of its charitable successes

by **Connie Cone Sexton** - Jul. 19, 2011 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

Leaders of the Elks are hoping to breathe new life into the fraternal organization so it won't become a dying breed. It's time to get serious about turning around declining membership, said Michael Smith, the group's outgoing national president. That means making the Elks more transparent, finding ways to attract younger members and doing a better job of letting the public know about the group's charitable successes, he said.

Several thousand Elks are gathering at the Phoenix Convention Center through Thursday for an annual meeting that is expected to result in several new initiatives.

Over the past 20 years, membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been slowly dropping, from a high of 1.6 million members to 950,000 today. That's still a hearty number, but because the average Elk is in his or her late 60s, there is a huge drop-off of membership to come, Smith said.

The Elks hired a consultant to review the need for retention and recruitment, said Smith, who is passing over the leadership reins as the national Grand Exalted Ruler this week. "One of the findings is we're one of the least known civic and fraternal organizations, but we do some of the highest amounts of charitable work. Shame on us. We're a well-kept secret, and we're not very proud of that."

Elks have tapped into the social network. They use Facebook. They tweet. But not enough of their communication highlights their charity work, Smith said, which totals in the millions each year to help communities, many of the projects aiding children, college students and veterans. "So it's full speed ahead for modernizing and letting people know who we are," Smith said. "The motto this year is 'Be proud, be loud and be visible.'"

Tom Erhardt, president of the Arizona Elks Association, blames slipping membership on the economy. "Young people are struggling to support their families" and may think they don't have the money to donate to the Elks' causes, he said. But he said the Elks organization also exists to allow people to give their time. "We're trying to support young people with kids to make them feel more at home, more welcome in the lodges."

Erhardt is aware that the lodges have an "old-fashioned" connotation. "Some people think we still have old guys sitting in a corner, but there aren't that many anymore," he said.

Other fraternal organizations across the country also are working to bolster their numbers.

Kurt Wehrmeister, director of communications and public affairs for the Loyal Order of Moose's Moose International, said his group has worked to stem membership losses. "We have been very aggressive in our efforts for both retention and sponsoring new members," he said. Membership 20 years ago had a high of 1.8 million. Today, it's not quite 1.1 million. On average, that would be a loss of about 35,000 members a year. But in the past fiscal year, the group lost only 812 members.

The Moose organization has expanded benefits for members, adding new partnerships with car-rental companies and hotel chains that will give member discounts, Wehrmeister said.

Elizabeth Minelli, a media-relations specialist for Rotary International, said its U.S. membership has decreased. The organization has 360,800 U.S. members, down about 7,300 members from the previous year. During the past 10 years, Rotary lost about 32,000 of its U.S. members.

Fraternal organizations play an important role in the community, from an economic and social standpoint, said Patricia Lewis, senior professional in residence at the Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation at Arizona State University. "They have contributed to communities and in the bonding between people with similar business interests," Lewis said. "But we're just in a different culture with each other, different than 30 or 40 years ago," she said. "Some people come together in virtual communities."

Being part of the Elks or other such groups provides an important face-to-face socialization, Lewis said. But newer members may want less pomp and circumstance, less formality than what some organizations offer with uniforms or pageantry of meetings, she said.

The Elks have changed their ways over the years, as in 1995 when the organization allowed women to become members. Today, Marilyn Burkhardt is exalted ruler of Lodge 335 in Phoenix. She had been involved with the group for several years, helping her husband, Sam, until she decided she wanted to go to a meeting and vote. She believes her leadership will help "expand the voice of women."



DOES ARTICLE

August Does News

I hope each of you, as well as myself have a very happy birthday and that all of your dreams will come true.

Those of you who missed the one meeting in July truly missed a treat. Our ice cream social was a huge success. We had about 6 different flavors of ice cream and at least 8 different toppings. Then, as usual, Louise Harrison came through again with an enormous hot peach cobbler. Nothing goes better with ice cream than hot cobbler. It's a good thing we only have ice cream socials once a year. All of our Does would weigh as much as I do.

I was very sorry to learn that Jolene Thomas will no longer be doing the "Elks Tales" due to her husband's health problems. I hope he will soon be feeling much better. I have known Jolene for about six years and she does a terrific job at everything she undertakes. Good luck Jolene!

This will be the last month that we only have one meeting. We will go back to our two meetings per month in September.

Louise Harrison has promised to make us a special pie for our August birthdays. I am sure that this will make turning 71 years old worthwhile.

For our August social we will be having a taco supper. If you haven't already heard, Joan Roper makes a fantastic taco. The birthday pies will also be there. Anyone is welcome to eat and the cost will only be \$3.00 per person. Now, where else could you get homemade tacos, dessert, good company and great conversation for \$3.00 and still be helping to raise money for charities? This supper will be held on August 10, 2011 at the Lodge. Be sure to put this on your calendar!

Speaking of charities, we are collecting paper products for Shepherd's Gate. This is a home for abused and battered women. The paper products that are needed on a permanent basis are paper towels, plates, cups, toilet tissue, Kleenex, bowls, etc. If you would like to help this worthy cause, please bring them to the Elks Lodge or contact one of our Does to pick them up.

On our sick list is Marti Cain. She has been having problems for quite a while and may need more surgery. Please put Marti on your prayer list.

The 2012 National Convention will be held in Reno. Now would be a good time to start saving your money to attend this one. It is a great place for a convention and better yet, a great place to have fun. Trust me! I know!

For your information, Ruth and Willie Wilson are making plans for their annual party in September. There will be more information in my September article. Be sure to watch for it.

Will close for now. If you have information or announcements that I need to know about for our next issue, please call me at (864) 466-2079 or drop me a note at 232 Philippi Church Road, Union, SC 29379 prior to the first of the month as that is my cutoff date.

Please remember that God loves you and I do too.

Dot Owens – Reporter

Does having birthdays in August are:

August 1st – Lois Paradowski
August 3rd – Sandy Cher
August 11th – Lynn Smith
August 14th – Dot Owens

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 RITUAL PRACTICE	2	3	4 STATE SUMMER CONV. MYRTLE B.	5 LODGE OPEN SUMMER CONV.	6 LODGE OPEN SUMMER CONV.
7 LODGE CLOSED SUMMER CONV.	8 RITUAL PRACTICE	9 LODGE CLOSED	10	11 LODGE CLOSED	12 LODGE OPEN	13 LODGE OPEN
14 LODGE CLOSED	15 RITUAL PRACTICE	16 LODGE CLOSED	17 ELKS MEETING 7:30	18 LODGE CLOSED	19 BIRTHDAY DINNER 6:30	20 LODGE OPEN
21 LODGE CLOSED	22 RITUAL PRACTICE	23 LODGE CLOSED	24	25 LODGE CLOSED	26 LODGE OPEN	27 LODGE OPEN
28 LODGE CLOSED	29 RITUAL PRACTICE	30 LODGE CLOSED	31			

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