Members All,

My year as Exalted Ruler is fast coming to a close. With just two months left there is still lots to do, February and March look very busy.

On February 11 and 12, 2017 is the State Elks Bowling Tournament in Hopkins, Minnesota. Approximately five teams will be representing our Lodge at the tournament this year. If you have an interest in bowling contact Lane Schlecht, 583-0587; and he can help you get on a team. There are doubles and singles events to join in on.

February 18th is the State Elks Hoop Shoot at Park Elementary School in Hutchinson. Stop out at Park Elementary School at noon and watch these young kids participate in this great Elks program. If you would like to volunteer just let Mark Johnson from the Wadena Lodge know you are interested in helping. You can look Mark’s information up on the MN Elks website. There is also a dinner at the Days Inn on Saturday evening February 18, 2017 to honor all the participants in the Hoop Shoot.

Elks’ year 2016-2017 is coming to a close and at this time we will need Lodge officers and Board Members. Speaking from experience, both can be a lot of fun and challenging. Nomination of Officers will be held on February 2, 2017 and Election of officers will be on February 16, 2017. If you or anyone you know has expressed an interest in becoming an officer or board member, please contact any current officer or board member. Again, we are looking forward to a productive 2017-2018 year and hope you will step up and become an officer.

Everyone talks about membership because it is the lifeblood of any organization. The big question is:

How to keep the current Members, reinstate former Members and recruit new Members?

Stop for a moment and think where it all begins. First a person must have an interest in the Elks organization or its programs. Is it our social activities, our friendly lounge area, or one of our charities, youth programs, community service projects, scholarship programs or Veterans programs that attract a new Member? Whatever the reason, the door is always open to sell Elksdom, if only you will take the time to do just that! Sell Elksdom!!!!

Our Elks Charity is about doing good unto others without doing so for personal gain or benefit. As Elks we should try to leave more than we take.

Our Justice frames the laws of life and holds us accountable for doing the right thing. As Elks we need to uphold the laws of this great country, as well as the rules of our Order.

And our Brotherly love teaches us to truly cherish and care for others.

And Fidelity requires that we are true to ourselves and what we believe in.

As Elks we live our lives under the Golden Rule, and treat others as we would like to be treated.

Just a heads up….Sometime in March/April we are looking to do our annual Shrimp Boil. If you would like to help out, please contact one of the Lodge Officers.

Fraternally,

Tammy

P.S. A huge THANK YOU goes to the PER group for purchasing the new stainless steel and shelving units in the kitchen!! Also, Thank you to Rick & Kelly Phillips, Paul & Jeanie Ackland and George for cleaning up the kitchen before the Stainless Steel was installed!! Thank you to Lee Cox and Dave May for installing the shelving units in the kitchen. Thank you George for assisting me in installing the shelving units in the walk-in cooler. A few volunteer hours were put in by these groups of people!!! THANKS!!!!
Does Talk - Louise Schroeder, Does Drove 233 President

Our Minnesota winter is here in full swing—cold (brrrrrrrrrrrr) and snow! Well, we do live in Minnesota but some can’t get with all the COLD!

Thanks to Karen Scieszka for hosting our January Business Meeting and the Installation of Officers was held. A donation was made to the Hutchinson Elks Lodge for including our Does Talk in the Tale of Elks newsletter.

Karen Scieszka is going to check and update our Grand Lodge history book.

The National Does Convention is scheduled for June 4-7 in Rochester, Minnesota. Room reservations were made for the Convention.

Please keep in mind and clear the dates of September 23-24 for the Elks Gun Show which will be held at the McLeod County Fairgrounds. We will be operating the Food Stand for the Gun Show with the Elks members. All of your help will be needed.

The Audit Report will be completed by the next Business Meeting that will be held on February 14 to be hosted by Karen Gehrke.

Happy Valentine’s Day to everybody!

Energy Bites

Ingredients:
1 cup (dry) oatmeal (could use old-fashioned oats)
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/2 cup ground flax seed
1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips (or vegan chocolate chips)
1/3 cup honey or agave nectar
1 tablespoon chia seeds (optional)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Mix ingredients and roll into large walnut size balls.

February is good time for reflection and planning

February is the time of the year when our current Exalted Rulers look back and reflect on the many accomplishments they achieved during their term. They should re-examine the goals they set for themselves at the beginning of their year, and strive to complete any that may remain unfulfilled. There is still much time remaining, during your term of office, to complete those goals and to bring your year as Exalted Ruler to a successful conclusion.

It is also the time for Exalted Rulers to recognize those Members who have helped to make a positive difference in the success of their Lodge. Designating your Elk of the Year, Officer of the Year and Citizen of the Year will go a long way to generate pride in your membership and in your community. In addition, each Exalted Ruler may issue two Grand Exalted Ruler Outstanding Service Certificates to Members who provided outstanding service to his or her Lodge.

February is also a transitional month, as each Lodge will hold nominations and elect new Officers for the coming Fraternal Year. The success of any organization depends on Member support and a strong, well-trained and dedicated leadership team. Members who have exhibited a sincere interest in your Lodge, have volunteered to serve on committees, or have participated in your community projects should be encouraged to seek office. First-time Officers often bring a renewed essence, as well as new and fresh ideas and programs to your Lodge.

Also, this month on the 16th, our beloved Order will celebrate its 149 years of service to our fellow man, our veterans, our youth, our communities, and those who are less fortunate. This certainly reflects my motto for this year, “Elks – Leading the Way.”

February 14 is Valentine’s Day, a day to be happy and to spend it with the people you care about and love. My special Valentine is my loving wife Donna, who has supported me and has been by my side for the last 46 years. She is the “Wind beneath my Wings.”

And finally, thank you for being an Elk, and for Caring and Sharing.
State Hoop Shoot
February 18th

The State Hoop shoot will be in Hutchinson at the Park Elementary — We are fortunate this year in that we have a participant that will be in the state shoot!!

Sad to report….

No first of the month pancake breakfasts / bloody Mary bar to bring in extra funds for our maintenance outside projects.

We need volunteers to make this happen and not enough came forward after last month’s request.

Stay tuned, we won’t be giving up — perhaps we can look into that in Fall

Have you heard??

Many of our members are finding the addition of the delicious soups at the Elk have become very popular, stop on by and try some!

We have also started to add in coffee and dessert — We are keeping it simple at this time. Cupcakes by Catherine, Elk member/volunteer will be creating the desserts. Something different every week.

Thank you to Jen our Club Coordinator for all those yummy soups!

Nominations coming up!

Now is the time to have your voice heard! Do you have a desire to join the Elk’s board? How about an office?

We are looking for people to step up and join our board, or be an officer.

We are changing and growing, and would love for you to be a part of us, please come to a meeting—the first Thursday of the month of February, there will be nominations — the second Thursday of the month will be elections! Be heard!!
Inclusive Park Update

Phase 1 is already purchased and here. The Park committee feels that they will have the funds to put in Phase 2.

February 28th, the intent of the committee will be to go back to the City Council meetings and present another check for Phase 2. At that time request will be made for off street parking. If that isn’t going in this year, the hopes are that it will be next year. An attempt will be made to approach businesses, organizations, youth groups, etc. to start selling the independent pieces that can go into the park also.

A huge thanks to our supporters for all the extra efforts they played in helping with this.

PER Association Message

Lane Schlecht President/Duffers Co-Chair

Only a couple months remain in the lodge year, and as in past years, the lodge is looking for officers, committee volunteers and members to serve on the board of trustees. Contact E.R. Tammy and let her know you are interested. It is also the time of year that budgets are presented for lodge approval so if you have a concern, now is the time to voice them. It’s hard to make changes if no one speaks up.

Finally, on behalf of the PER’s I’d like to send condolences to the family of Ken Erickson who passed away recently. I mention Ken here because Ken was not only a past member of our lodge but one of our original officers as well as our 3rd Exalted ruler. His guidance helped to establish the Annual Gun Show (which is our biggest fundraiser) Ken will be missed.

Lane Schlecht
PER President
Upcoming Events!

Bar BINGO

Every Friday Night
at the Elks - 6:30 p.m.
2 Cover-all Games
Chance to win up to $1,000
Check HCVN Channel 7 for Coverall Numbers
And don't forget.....
Tuesday BINGO — 5:30 p.m.
Chance to win $1,000 JACKPOT!

Volunteers needed for Meat raffle on Saturdays!

Is it a step out of your comfort zone? How about challenging yourself to working a Saturday to help sell raffle tickets on Saturdays for our meat raffle —

Perks: You get to meet a lot of great people, have a great time, and give back to your lodge.

There is a sign up sheet at the club — give some thought, come down as a couple if you so choose to bring your spouse with — We’d love to have you!! Typically you are there less than 2 hours.

Support The Following Advertisers

Elks – Leading the Way

Elks – Leading the Way

Place your “Business Card’ ad on this page. Your ad will run in each month’s issue for one year. The Tales of Elks is mailed to over 325 members and others, is available at the Lodge and can be read on hutch-elks.org website. Cost is only $6.25 per month. Payment must be made in advance and be for the full year. Send ad information/business card and $75 to Elks, Box 272, Hutchinson, MN.

Dale’s Auto Sales
20641 Hwy. 7 West, Hutchinson, MN 55350

www.DalesAutoSalesMN.com
Dale Harbarth Open 9 am - 8 pm (320) 587-2663
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Hutchinson, MN 55350
Phone 320-587-5250
Fax 320-234-7637
tctire@hutchtel.net
# February 2017

## Monthly Planner

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<td>Happy Birthday Mick Wigen</td>
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<td>Happy Birthday Richard Schumann</td>
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<td>Happy Birthday Jon Luckemeyer &amp; Arlie Schlecht Jr.</td>
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<td>Happy Birthday Stanley Schuette</td>
<td>Elk’s State Hoop Shoot - Hutchinson</td>
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Elk Members

New Year’s Resolutions

* Resolve to attend Regular Lodge Meetings
  1st and 3rd Thursday each month 7:30 pm @ The Elks Lodge

* Pledge to and actively serve on one or more committees

* Determine to Invite Family, Friends and Acquaintances to become Members, then MENTOR

We Grow by Change….

NOT by Chance!
Lodge is Available for Rentals!

Whatever the occasion, the Club can accommodate groups from 2-100. Catering is available. Call the Lodge for prices and to reserve your date! Call 587-3116.

SECRETARIES CORNER

It’s crunch time and the next three months will determine if we finally show membership growth in our lodge. As of right now, we have 12 delinquent members that have not paid their dues. There is a list posted on the bulletin board at the Lodge. Let’s all resolve to retain and grow membership. Feel free to invite friends, family and acquaintances to become members.

As a reminder, we would like to see more members attend our Regular Lodge Meetings which are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday’s each month starting at 7:30 P.M. at the Lodge. With the start of the new Lodge Year, there are many opportunities for you to become active to serve on one or more committees.

Come down and see our new food menu. We have good food choices. We also still have our Burger Nite every Wednesday Night.

Hope to see you at the Lodge.