



# Elk- -Gram

July 2009

Volume 121 Issue No. 4

Lincoln Elk's Lodge No. 80 5910 South 56th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516

(402)421-6363 [www.elks80.org](http://www.elks80.org)

Home of Past Grand Exalted Ruler Vincent R. Collura & Past Grand Exalted Ruler George B. Klein

## FIREWORKS SAFETY WITH THE LARRY'S



- Obey local laws. If fireworks are not legal where you live, do not use them.
- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Always have water handy. (A hose or bucket)
- Only use fireworks as intended. Don't try to alter them or combine them.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes then soak in water.
- Use common sense. Spectators should keep a safe distance from the shooter and the shooter should wear safety glasses.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a "designated shooter".
- Only persons over the age of 12 should be allowed to handle sparklers of any type.
- Do not ever use homemade fireworks of illegal explosives: They can kill you! Report illegal explosives to the fire or police department in your community.
- The National Council on Fireworks Safety and the Larry's invite you to celebrate our nation's heritage on the Fourth of July, but celebrate safely!



**HAVE A HAPPY JULY 4TH!**



Pictured L-R:  
John Brooks ER,  
Terry Edwards PER,  
Larry Schwindt,  
Sam Carter,  
Randy King,  
Vi Berst,  
Larry Bratt,  
Rich Todd PER,  
Stephen Wirth PER  
and  
Diane Walkowiak

## All Shined At The Gold Awards

Thank you to all that took the time to attend the Girl Scout Gold Awards at the Nebraska State Capital Rotunda on June 14, 2009.

The presentation by Stephen Wirth was well done and the girls appreciated being awarded the certificates and an American Flag, as luck would have it, on Flag Day!



Stephen  
Wirth PER  
and  
Rich  
Todd PER  
with  
Gold  
Awardees

Most of our Lodge Officers were present and several of our members. It made for a nice showing from the Elks. The guest speakers were Senator Danielle Nantkes, and First Lady Sally Ganem. A lovely reception was held afterwards at First Christian Church, north-east of the Capital.

**Elks Care - Elks Share**



## SCC Scholarship Night

by Rich Todd, PER



### Grand Exalted Ruler Paul D. Helsel

Messages from the GER  
GL Newsletter, July 2009

**To All District Deputies,  
Exalted Rulers, Officers  
and members**

This is my 12th and final message as your Grand Exalted Ruler. My term will end with the installation of a new Grand Exalted Ruler on July 9th at the National Convention in Portland, Oregon.

This has been a busy, but fantastic 12 months for Jane and me! Please accept and extend to all Elks, everywhere, our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful reception we experienced throughout this incredible journey and more importantly, for all your dedicated efforts to Grow Elksdom in your Lodges and across all the 2000+ communities we serve. It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve our Order this year and to represent you, the "Best People On Earth"!!

While my time is up as your leader, the task before us is certainly not done. New leadership may bring new and perhaps even better approaches to our efforts, but the job remains to build a bigger, better, stronger Order through improvements in each and every Lodge and by increasing our presence in the Lodge communities through our national and local programs of service, support and aid.

As I have expressed many many times this year, each Lodge must continue to work on building a lasting relationship with its Members — not just the new Members, but also the current 80% to 90% we never see or, for the most part, are not involved in anything we do. We need to show those uninvolved Members who we are, what we stand for, and what great things we do. We must enlist more Elks to take an active role in our efforts and not just pay dues and carry an Elks Card! Just imagine what we could accomplish with as little as 10% to 20% more of our Members involved in our efforts. Just think what your Lodge could do if you could double the number of Members involved in the day-to-day operation of your Lodge and programs!

Jane and I thank you once again for a most exciting and wonderful year, thank you for your service, thank you for your continuing efforts to Grow Elksdom, and best wishes for a successful 2009-2010 year.

Lincoln's Elks Lodge #80 awarded nearly \$30,000 in scholarships to area seniors on May 4th. An overflow crowd was at SECC for the presentation of these scholarships, plus the awarding of certificates of achievement in 16 different academic and extra curricular categories to junior class members from the following High Schools: All Lincoln schools, Waverly, Norris, Malcolm, Milford, Crete, Raymond Central, Lincoln Christian, and Lincoln Pius X.

Those students earning scholarships of \$1,000 or more included: Charles Aman, Pius X - \$2,000; Ashley Sneller, Northeast H.S. and SECC - \$2,000; Kyle King, Southwest H.S. and Briar Cliff College - \$1,000; Veronica LeDuc, Waverly H.S. - \$1,000; Jessica Traudt, Norris H.S. - \$1,000 for 4 years; Zaina Mayer, North Star H.S. - \$1050. In addition, by being awarded two scholarships, one from the Lincoln Elks and one from the State Elks Association, Will Drevo of Crete H.S. received a total of \$1,550 and Olivia Lambkin of East H.S. received \$1425.

Each of the 26 scholarships are fully or partially funded by the Paulding and Esther Smith Memorial Youth Activities Endowment. In addition 18 individuals and groups, all associated with the Lodge, originally funded their scholarship, now supplemented by the Smith Fund. Both the Lincoln Elks #80 Charitable Fund and the Smith Fund use only earnings from the principal amount to provide the scholarships, thus insuring their perpetuity.



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## Exalted Ruler John W. Brooks

### *Dear Elks and Does:*

June has been a very productive month at the the Lodge. Fundraisers for the Ritual Team were very successful. The Girl Scout Gold Awards was a great ceremony and was well represented by Lodge Officers and Members. The Lodge Officers performed a wonderful Flag Day Ceremony. We had a record crowd at the first burger night of the month. The Jamaican Dinner had a lower attendance than I hoped for, but the dinner was delicious and we all had a great time. The breakfasts for Father's Day & Mother's Day were so successful we are planning to have other breakfasts to raise money for the Lodge. Chuck and Kathy Meisinger's fundraiser for the Ritual Team was a huge success and a great time. The Ritual Team has greatly improved this month. We are ready to perform in Portland. A big thank-you to Bobby Klinkenbeard for stepping up to help coach the Ritual Team.

On a more serious note, long time Lodge Employee Cheri Amack's job was eliminated for financial reasons. Cheri served ten years as secretary of the Lodge. She was an enthusiastic and dedicated employee and has formed many great relationships with many of the Lodge Members. Cheri was given a severance package and a letter of recommendation for her ten years of dedicated service. We wish Cheri continued success in her future endeavors. The Trustees, Officers, and Lodge Members labored over the budget for months to come up with a plan where we would not have to eliminate existing benevolent programs. Cheri's duties are being spread among Lodge Members and Officers. We will have some kinks in the system for a time until we get duties worked out. If you need assistance you can contact any of the officers.

Fraternally yours,

John W. Brooks, Exalted Ruler



## FLAG CEREMONY

The June 14, 2009 Flag Day Ceremony at the Lodge was a very nice presentation. Scouts from Troops 49, 28 and 64 were our Flag bearers. A special treat that day, Life Scout Brendan Love is the Grandson of PER John Love (1967). Brendan was quite surprised to find his grandfathers picture on the wall of fame in the Lodge.

A big Thank You goes out to Sam Carter for volunteering to take our new flag display stands home and paint them. And A Huge Thanks for Randy King and all his hard work making this day a success.

Thank you to all that attended our Flag Ceremony it is such an important piece of our Nation's History!



Randy King with his crew of Scouts for 2009 Flag Ceremony

## Does News...

The BPO Does Drove #4 are holding their 2nd Annual Scholarship wine tasting tour on Saturday August 1st from 9:00AM - 9:00PM.

The tour will stop at 6 vineyards in Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa. We are planning prime rib sandwiches for lunch in Mineola Iowa and Pie Ala Mode in Nebraska City in addition to the various wine tastings. We will be visiting Deer Springs Winery East Lincoln, Slattery Vintage Estates outside Louisville, Soaring Wings Vineyard in Springfield, Kings Crossing Vineyard in Mineola, Sugar Clay Winery in Thurman Iowa and finish up with Kimmel Orchard/Arbor Trails Winery. Watch for flyer coming soon. Call Betty Dankliff 489-7011 for reservations or Marjorie Wyant 423-5939 for further information.

The DOES will be in recess July and August. We will meet again on September 21st at 7:00PM. The meeting will be white dress for officers. It will soon be football season and the first game is September 5. Volunteers are needed so please call DorothyAnn at 466-6598 or Kelli Stanley-Smith at 489-8673



**Secretary  
Jerry Wilson**

### *Secretary's Corner*

Hopefully you all are enjoying the summer. As a reminder and in recognition of summer, the Lodge only meets one time during the months of July and August. Those being the 3rd Wednesday of each month. These are "casual" months so Officers can wear their red polos instead of suits. You all know your welcome to show up to the Lodge anytime, the Lounge is open!

We will be sending out "second notice" dues statements at the end of July. As I mentioned earlier, Lodge expenses are a concern and you can help if a second mailing is not required. If you misplaced your dues statement, or you are not sure if you have already paid; your membership card should read 2009-2010. If your card does not reflect those dates, please send in your payment. If unsure, please call me and I will help you with the details.

As always; my goal remains the same "to be the best, and I can only do that with your help". If you have any questions or comments on how I can better serve you, please contact me; 402-570-2555 or by email at [secylodge80@yahoo.com](mailto:secylodge80@yahoo.com). See you around the Lodge.

## JAMAICAN DINNER

June 20 was a successful Jamaican Dinner and all those who attended had a wonderful time and festive dress. Thank you to all that came to support our Lodge and John Aman PER, our Chef for the evening for a great meal. Applaud all the helpers that make these evenings possible!



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Gary L. Aksamit
- 06 Sterling "Scott" Harwick
- 10 Lupe Damian  
Jeff Sneller, PER  
Norval W. Stewart
- 11 Greg Hansen
- 12 David Townley
- 13 James H. Ray
- 14 Carroll R. Burns
- 17 Duane L. Vanderbeek
- 18 R. Bruce Campbell
- 19 James A. Reeves
- 21 Linda Denkinger  
Earl Stewart
- 24 Wade A. Graft  
Kevin Hurt
- 25 Christine Vanderford
- 28 David L. Cassner
- 30 Randal D. King
- 31 David E. Reiber



On the third Wednesday of the month, we will be celebrating this month's birthdays following the Lodge meeting. Come join us for a birthday treat!



**Lodge #80**

# Ribfest

**July 18, 2009**  
**5:30 Cocktails**  
**6:30 Dinner**



**Baby Back Ribs Corn on the Cob**  
**Baked Beans, Potato Salad**  
**Melon Salad,**  
**Dessert of Desire**



## Ulbrick's Family Style Dinner

**Famous Landmark from Nebraska City, NE**

**\$10.00**

**August 15, 2009**  
**5:30 Cocktails**  
**6:30 Dinner**

**Fried Chicken, Creamed Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes,**  
**Chicken and Noodles, Lettuce Salad, Side Salads,**  
**Country Style Green Beans, Rolls and Butter and**  
**Apple Pie Ala Mode for Dessert**

**September 11, 2009**

## Italian Night

**Spaghetti and Meatballs,**  
**Stuffed Manicotti,**  
**Vegetables, Italian Rolls, Salad and**  
**Italian Cream Cake**

**5:30 Cocktails 6:30 Dinner**



## Our Members...

### Deaths:

Paul Peterson passed June 11th, 2009

### Sickness & Distress:

Ken Studier is at Gold Crest.

Terry Edwards PER Stroke & Bladder Cancer.

Jim Chestney has recovered from cancer treatment and is looking forward to getting back to the Lodge.

### Published for Membership:

Aaron Marshbanks, proposed by Jeff Sneller

### Members Initiated in June:

None

**Membership Drawing:** You need to attend the meeting to win! **IT PAYS TO COME TO MEETINGS.**

6/3 drawing did not happen. A number could not be given that evening.

6/17 drawing was at \$230.00. Harry Blum was the name drawn but not present to win.

**June's hidden membership number** was for member 15476- Dennis Byars

**Did you find your hidden member number in this issue of the Elk-O-Gram? Call the Lodge 421-6363 and get two free tickets for our next fabulous dinner!**

#### NOTES FROM THE EDITORS:

**19TH OF JULY IS THE EOG ARTICLE DEADLINE**  
Let's work together to get our EOG out on time!

**Email your news, photos, or articles to**

eog.lodge80@gmail.com

or CONTACT

Randy King @ 402-450-0978 / Carrie Fiedler @ 402-325-8741

"Three cheers for our Elk-O-Gram folding crew for June, Carrie Fiedler and Jack Fiedler". Please call Randy King to see how you can help with our newsletter.

## Farmers Bank

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Havelock Branch: 6345 Havelock Ave.. - Lincoln, NE 68467 - 402/437-8375

## Now for the Quickies...

Be sure to wish our Ritual Team well as they prepare to head off to National Ritual Comptition. They have practiced long hours and sacrificed a lot of time and effort to represent our Lodge at Nationals.

Lapsation is at 70, nearly a fourth of our members.. This is way too high. I know times are tight, but \$85 is a bargain, and your Lodge needs the income to pay the light bill. We were finally forced to downsize, as we do not have the income to support our current activities. We need your dues money to keep the doors open. Please encourage your brother or sister Elk to pay their dues. Even try to recruit one new member. Think of the impact that would have. All it takes is asking your friend to be an Elk.

Stephen Wirth reports that an additional \$80 was received for the pancake feed, and is being donated to the Lodge. Thank you to the Elks Lodge 80 Scholarship Foundation for this donation.

Chuck Meisinger reports that due to a scheduling conflict, Fall Conference will be moved. The Sandhills Convention Center could not accommodate change, so plans are quickly being redrawn for the location and venue.

Jim Chesney is improving with his health issues and says his smiling face will soon be seen cooking at Burger Night and other dinners and events. Way to go, Jim!

A nice check was sent in for ENF, which will bring our per person level to almost \$1.50. Our goal is \$4.50. Please keep filling the red banks or send in your checks to ENF with our Lodge #80 in the memo so we receive credit.

The Veteran's Committee voted to sponsor a Burger Night at the Lodge. A check for \$100 was given to defray food costs. Thank you Vi and Sam!!!

In July, the Deer Hide Committee will be reforming, with a "target" set on planning a coordinated effort to gather deer hides this fall. Please consider helping with this Committee. It takes very little time. Randy King will need volunteers to help gather the hides from those who wish to donate them, people to make posters and hang them in areas of interest. Having your name on a call list of volunteers will be handy when people call the Lodge. Randy will make arrangements to salt them and store until we transport them to Thayer. Randy 450-0978.

Quickies continued pg 7

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& Maser  
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Quickies continued

The Inner Guard position is still open. Please consider becoming the Inner Guard for your Lodge. It is an easy chair to fill. See any Officer for details.

House Committee reports that the dinners are well attended. Clean up is smooth thanks to those who stay and help. Burger Night is very well attended, especially with the Legion and VFW attendees. Stop in and take a peek at the progress on the new cabinets in the card room.

A special Thank You is in order for Jack Jensen Past Exalted Ruler, State President and Grand Secretary. The Lodge has been working to develop an archive library of past Elk-O-Grams. Thank goodness, Jack has saved many things from the past including those Elk-O-Grams that we have been in search of. Thank you again for your commitment and help, Jack!

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Social Community Welfare - Amy Jacobson - No Report  
 Veterans - Vi Berst - No Report  
 Midget Football, Hoop/Soccer Shoot - Doug Rinks - No Report  
 Lapsation - 70 Members  
 Scholarship - Dave Kirby - No Report  
 Americanism - Sonny Lane - No Report  
 Drug Awareness - Amy Jacobson - Coloring Books for  
 Boo at the Zoo have been ordered.  
 Eagle/Gold Scout - Randy King/Stephen Wirth - See Article  
 Hide Program - Randy King - See Quickies  
 House Committee - John Aman - No Report  
 Trustees - Larry Schwindt - Staff cutbacks due to budget  
 shortfalls

#### Elk's Lodge No. 80 Officers 2009-2010

Exalted Ruler	Secretary
John Brooks	Jerry Wilson
Leading Knight	Treasurer
Amy Jacobsen	Duane Vanderbeek
Loyal Knight	Chaplain
Jeff Sneller	Larry Bratt
Lecturing Knight	Trustees
Diane Walkowiak	Larry Schwindt,
Esquire	Randy King,
Doug Rienks	Gerald Miles,
Inner Guard	PER John Aman,
OPEN	PER Sonny Lane
Tiler	
Sam Carter	

## Ritual Team Report

by Rich Todd, PER

As you read this, all members of the ritual team should be on their way to Portland for the Grand Lodge Ritual competition. We will be performing on Monday, July 6 at 8 A.M. In this competition, State winners from all over the U.S. will perform the Elks initiation ritual before a panel of judges. Lincoln will compete against State winners from the west half of the country for the right to compete in the finals against the east half winners. This competition is held because Grand Lodge feels that it is important to perform this ritual impressively in our own Lodges and encourages us to do so by offering this contest.

An important aspect of this project has been the fund raising done by the officers to raise money for the trip. In the past month and a half several big projects have been undertaken and thanks to the participation and generosity of our members and Elks' friends statewide, we have raised nearly \$5,000. Notable events were the Meisinger fund raiser, the Mother's Day and Father's Day breakfasts, and the spaghetti dinner. In addition, many PERs and members simply opened up their pocketbooks and gave generously. As this is being written, donations are still coming in, so the list of donors is not complete. But, to all who have given and those that still may, the Ritual Team says a great big thank you to each and every individual and group. We have worked hard to improve and promise to represent our State and Lincoln Lodge #80 in a manner that will make everyone proud.



Pictured above Larry Schwindt, Larry Bratt, Grand Raffle Winner Linda Miller, Spencer Hagan and Rich Todd This was the June 14, 2009 Picnic at Chuck and Kathy Meisinger's Cabin for a Ritual Team Fundraiser. Many friends and colleagues gathered together for good food and fun. Over \$1,300.00 was raised at this event. Thank you all!



## Lincoln Elk's Lodge No. 80

5910 South 56th Street,

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## Elk's Creed

Believe in the goodness in thyself as well as in others.

Protect childhood with tenderness, old age with respect, cherish with reverence the memory of those who have passed.

Observe faithfully the golden rule.

Enjoy the good things of earth.

Keep within thee the Glorious shine of youth and remain always of good cheer.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7/1 Ritual Practice
- 7/4 Lodge Closed
- 7/6 Ritual Team Competes in Portland, GOOD LUCK!
- 7/9 VFW 7:00 PM
- 7/14 Burger Night 5:30 PM
- 7/14 American Legion 7:00 PM
- 7/15 Lodge Meeting 7:30 PM
- 7/16 American Legion 7:00 PM
- 7/18 Rib Fest Dinner  
5:30 PM Cocktails 6:30 PM Dinner
- 7/21 American Legion 7:00 PM
- 7/28 Burger Night 5:30 PM
- 7/28 Charitable Trust Scholarship Meeting 7:15 PM

