

VOLUME 126, ISSUE 9

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Grand Exalted Ruler, 2014-2015 John D. Amen Message from the GER Grand Lodge Newsletter, December 2014

Let Christmas be time to 'Elevate America'!

This is the busy holiday season when social activities at our Lodges are at the maximum and we as Elks have the opportunity for fun with our friends. December can also be a time for great voluntary service in our communities.

I am reminded of a good friend who is an active and prominent Elk in my home state. He grew up in a dusty town in another state where the economy was chronically in poor shape. My friend learned of the Elks when he was a boy in his small town because of the annual Christmas party hosted by the Elks for the whole community.

Some 50 years later he would recount the pleasant experiences of sitting on Santa's lap at the Elks Lodge, grateful for the simple gift he received from the Elks on those happy occasions.

This remembrance of my friend exemplifies the message of our Leading Knight's Initiatory charge that "the influence of a good deed, honestly and promptly performed, will continue forever."

One of the most heart-warming activities that we can participate in is Christmas basket donations to the needy. It takes a little planning and a few requests to local businesses for donations of food items and small gifts. My experience is that at this time of year our businesses are supportive and generous in this type of activity. If your Lodge does not have a community gift basket program you are missing out. This is one activity that when the call goes out for volunteers you will be pleased at the positive response.

This can also be a time of year when sadness can be felt in our VA hospitals. A friendly visit with a veteran who is sick or in distress will be rewarded greatly. It costs nothing other than a little time, and "the influence of a good deed will last forever."

Marcia and I wish all Elks and families a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I



Exalted Ruler Lodge No. 80 2014-2015

Larry R. Bratt

Merry Christmas to all!!!!! How time flies, it is hard to believe that Thanksgiving has passed and the Christmas season is here already. I trust that everyone had a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving, and found many things to be thankful for. I know I did.

I realize that these days society expects everyone to be politically correct, but I cannot bring it upon myself to say "Happy Holidays". Our order is founded on the belief in God and Christmas is about the birth of our savior. Therefore I will continue to say and greet everyone with Merry Christmas. As the saying goes, Jesus is the Reason for the Season as well as let's keep Christ in Christmas.

During the Christmas season, let us not forget all those who have made sacrifices for us. Our Military, Police, Firefighters, EMT's have to work on Christmas and do this willingly to allow us to celebrate with our loved ones and family safely and with the knowledge that they are there if we need any type of assistance. God bless our Military and Public services personnel.

I hope to see everyone that is able to help at the Christmas sacking on Friday, December 19th on the 5th floor of the Pinnacle Arena at 10:30. Then at the Christmas party at the lodge that evening starting at 5:30. I know that we can use as much assistance as possible on Sunday at the arena for the 107th annual Children's Christmas party. Contact Larry Schwindt with and questions or to let him know that you can help.

Don't forget to buy your cash calendars from the lodge. The proceeds go to our scholarship program and the lodge. See Stephen Wirth for additional calendars.

May God bless you and your family during the Christmas season and may you all have a very blessed and safe Christmas.

Remember: Faith, Commitment, Be a Beacon.

Knight's Tales

This is just a reminder to get your dinner reservations in for the dinner on December 13th. Please get your reservations in **early** so the food preparation crew can purchase and prepare the correct amount of food. Our November dinner was very well attended, and there were very few people who didn't call in for reservations. The only problem we had for the November dinner was that there were a lot of last minute reservations (many reservations were still coming in on the day of the dinner).

Since the amount of food prepared was based off of early reservations, the late reservations meant that more people attended than we had initially expected. Due to the larger than expected

attendance, the serving portions had to be scaled back a little so we were able to serve everyone that came to the dinner. We have always prided ourselves on the fact that no one would leave our dinners hungry, and we want to continue that tradition.



-Larry Schwindt, Leading Knight

Happy Holidays! What a wonderful time of year. A time for family and friends, good food and gift giving.

It is a special time for Elks. We have our Memorial Service in December. This is a very moving ceremony and I hope many of you will add it to your calendar to attend. One of the things that sets us apart from other service organizations is our brotherly love for each other.

Another important activity for our lodge is the Children's Christmas Party. For more than 100 years we have held this event! Many of you take part in making this a success. If you have never helped sack, I promise you won't regret taking part. Then

come to the party on Sunday and see the joy we bring to young and old alike. You will make our chairman, Larry Schwindt very happy if you take part. He has worked very hard to make this year special. We have the start of a new tradition having it at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Come join in the fun! See you at the Lodge...



-Mary Brooks, Loyal Knight

DOES News

The Drove held their November meeting on Thursday November 6. During that meeting, we initiated two new members. Please welcome Marcia Malzer and Sherry Axe.

The Drove Christmas will be held December 6 at Hillcrest Country Club. Cocktails 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. For menu choices and reservations call Jan <u>402-489-1089</u>.

We would like to thank everyone that worked concessions this football season. It is such a big fundraiser for the Elks and the Does!

We are still selling are t-shirts and bracelets. This is a fundraiser for the Grand Lodge Convention that will be held in June, 2016 in Lincoln. The Does need to raise about \$10,000 to host the convention, so please purchase one. They will make wonderful Christmas gifts! Please call Kelli, <u>402-489-8673</u> to get a shirt or bracelet.

Have wonderful Holiday season!!

...and now for the Quickies...

... November flew by! Lots of activities happening with the Lodge ... good attendance at the Cowhorn Pepper Company dinner, sponsored by the Becker family, that was a lot of fun ... you should have seen the Larry's! Well, maybe not ... a few more renewals drifting in. Please get your dues in if you are delinquent. We can really use the money right now, we are robbing the left pocket to pay the right ... hides are coming in for the hide program, place your cleaned hides in the collection bin on the south side of the Lodge, let PER Jeff Sneller know, and Thank him for chairing this project. It takes a lot of effort on his part ... we have a Cub Scout pack meeting in our Lodge room on the occasional Monday evening ... hats off to Ryan Fiedler for leading this group, and Thanks to the Lodge for supplying the room ... drug awareness bookmarks were placed in the Thesauruses handed out by our Lodge to the area schools, a big Thanks to Kathy Meisinger's sister Cynthia for all her work organizing, labeling, and placing bookmarks in each of the Thesauruses ... this is no small undertaking! They give out over 4,000 ... Wade Graft has been busy visiting Veteran's on their birthdays, at least 5 in November ... please Thank Wade when you see him for his service, the Veterans Committee is a very needed and important Committee in our Lodge, and he puts in a ton of time and effort ... the Veteran's Beer n Burger night on Veteran's Day had about 70 in attendance ... Hoop Shoot was held on the 29th that was well attended ... Thanks to all the Elks (and non-Elks) helpers that lent a hand ... our ENF contributions are at \$15.69, well above the goal of \$4.60 each. We have one Lodge in the State ahead of us in contributions, it would be great to beat them and take 1st in the State once again. So if you have a spare \$10 or \$20, please see E.R. Bratt, or Jerry in the Office and make a donation ... letters of nomination for 3rd Vice President of our State Association were read on the floor of the Lodge, both nominees from Grand Island Lodge 604 ... several of our Lodge members went to the Kearney Lodge to help initiate the E.R.'s son, they were very welcomed and much appreciated ... P.E.R. Amy Jacobsen tells us that Teen of the Month celebrations will be held on March 15 & 22, so mark your calendars, come to the Lodge, and cheer on the kids who are recognized for doing it right ... the Corvette Club, which meets in our Lodge, donated \$20 to the ritual team ... P.E.R. Larry Schwindt is a member of that club ... Be sure to be at the Meatloaf Dinner on the 13th, and prepare for the candy sacking party on the morning of the 19th at the Arena ... later that evening, pot-luck Christmas Party at the Pub ... please come and participate in the Children's Christmas Party at the Arena on the 21st... first time ever at the new Arena ... P.E.R. Larry Schwindt donated \$20 in tips from our concessions efforts to our general fund ... be sure to mark your calendars for this Sunday, our annual Memorial Service at the Lodge ... fortunately we have few to honor ... Carrie Fiedler won the raffle at the last meeting, donated \$20 to the Lodge ... the membership drawing was \$197, and was won by yours truly (it does pay to come to the meetings!) \$50 was given back to the fund to seed it for the next winner, and the remainder was donated to help sponsor the meatloaf dinner on the 13th ... a big thanks to our Thesaurus delivery crew this year, P.E.R. Chuck Meisinger, P.E.R. Rich Todd, P.E.R. Larry Schwindt, P.I.G. Bob Sindlar, and several other hands that prepared the books for delivery ... please come to the Lodge for lunch and beverages, our Pub needs the income to offset expenses ... it is crunch time, we have to get patronage up or cut hours, plain and simple ... we can't keep the doors open all day for one or two ... this is a busy month, you are all out and about, and you have to eat lunch somewhere ... make it the Pub ... see you next year - Randy ...

Two Fine Musicians

On Sunday, November 9th, at the O'Donnell Auditorium, Nebraska Wesleyan University, the Lincoln Civic Orchestra, a symphonic orchestra comprised of the finest amateur musicians from Lincoln and the surrounding communities presented 'Four Seasons'. Musical selections including <u>An Outdoor Overture</u> by Aaron Copland, <u>Spring Song, Op. 16</u> by Jean Sibelius, <u>Summer Dances</u> (2010) by Brian Balmages, <u>In Autumn, Op. 11</u> by Edvard Grieg, and Disney's music from "Frozen" by Robert Lopez. The orchestra was formed in 1977 on the campus of Union College. The LCO became the resident orchestra at Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1987. Their mission is to provide a quality symphonic experience for musicians and the community at large, through collaborative musical performances and education. Two of our own performed at this event, as well as other events throughout the year. **VIOLIN 1**, Heather Pedersen, wife of Chaplain Troy Pedersen and **BASSOON**, Bob Sindlar (PIG). Heather is a Violin/Viola Instructor and Bob is a retired Electrical Engineer. They are both awesome and deserve a big round of applause!





Military Kids Support

On Friday, October 24th at the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard's Haunted Armory, Lincoln Lodge No. 80's ER Larry Bratt presented a check for \$2,500 to Brigadier General Richard Dahlman in support of the Nebraska Guard Warrior & Family programs. Spokesperson, CPT Melissa Kramer, Nebraska State Family Program Director, said our Child and Youth program's mission is "to create opportunities to cope with the unique challenges faced by National Guard children, youth and families." They primarily serve youth ages 5-18, however, they love to have children of all ages at their family events. Some of the goals include support for youth dealing with the stress and challenges of deployment and reintegration of a loved one, provide social, recreational, leadership and educational opportunities for military children and youth to mitigate at-risk behavior and enhance life skills, and provide schools, or other community organizations which support military youth, with training and information necessary to support military children. LEL #80 has supported our military community since 2010 and plan to continue into the future. A big Thank-You to Samantha Montag, who was the first female ELROY mascot at the event.

Midget Football



The Elks midget football team has just completed their 60th season with another banner year. All the teams played hard with always giving 110 percent and showing good sportsmanship and respect to their opponent's. Justin White took over as Athletic Director this year as Clayton Tomjack stepped down after serving more than 25 years with the Elks program.

At the annual banquet this year 4 young athletes were honored with winning the Shawn Jeffery Schwaller Award. This award is presented each year to the "Elks Football" player who best exemplifies the "Leadership, Good Sportsmanship and Citizenship" attributes of Shawn Jeffrey Schwaller. The young men winning this award are Brayden Sellon, Barrett Sellon, Thomas Brennan and Zach Peterson. Another award is the Andrew Harvey

Memorial Award for recognition of outstanding leadership, dedication to excellence, sportsmanship and enthusiasm displayed throughout one's career. The recipient's contributions to the youth of this

community and the lessons they have instilled in their players will be forever lasting in all their tomorrows. This award went to Justin Throener who was the "A" Team Head Coach.

The Elks Lodge # 80 is proud of the achievements all the coaches and athletes this year. We are looking forward to next season.



...Our Members...

Sickness & Distress: Ray Norris - cancer rehabilitation, he is at Gateway Vista Fred Gustin - heart attack and bypass surgery Harry Montag - cataract surgery

Deaths: None

Members for Consideration: Jerry Whitte, proposed by Larry Bratt Milt Schmidt, proposed by Larry Bratt

Members for Reinstatement: None

Members Initiated: None

Hidden Number: 13019, Dewitt Harouff, hidden in the Pub specials blurb.

Membership Drawing: The membership drawing for the November 19th meeting was \$197. 12311 Randy King was the name drawn, and he was present to win.

The Jolly Corker Pub is open for lunch starting at 11:30 Monday—Saturday. Now also serving light suppers!

Chef Salad Specials on Wednesdays! Come in and enjoy good food and good company!



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Committee Reports

Americanism: No Report

Boy Scouts: The "first" Cub Scout pack meeting was held this month and was termed a success. It was well attended, and the cub scouts were instructed about what areas of the lodge were off limits.

Drug Awareness: Our bookmark inventory is very low, as they were used to support the Thesaurus book project.

Girl Scouts: Stephen Wirth talked with Tracy Stuart. Things are not yet finalized. We will mail the Bronze Certificates to the Troop Leaders. Hide Program: There are several hides in the collection box. PER Jeff Sneller has been contacted to pick them up.

Hoop Shoot: The Hoop Shoot was November 29th, at East High. House Committee: No Report

Hunter's Safety: No Report

ENF: \$15.69 as of November 5th, this year's goal is \$4.60. A new ENF video has been received and ER Larry Bratt recommended that if you get a chance, please view it. Our \$/member ranks us 2nd in state. Membership: PER Larry Schwindt read a letter from Grand Lodge indicating that canceling membership is not the solution; we must strive to encourage the delinguent members to keep their membership. Midget Football: No Report Retention: Total members 265; 21 Delinguent; 3 candidates. Scholarship: No Report Soccer Shoot: No Report Social Community Welfare: No Report

Veterans Committee: 1) Visited 5 Veteran's in recognition of their birthdays. 2) On Veteran's Day, the Committee picked up dinner for 70+ Veteran's at Beer and Burger, which was well attended.

2014-2015 Elks' Lodge #80 Officers

Exalted Ruler	Larry Bratt
Leading Knight	Larry Schwindt PER
Loyal Knight	Mary Brooks
Lecturing Knight	Gerald Miles
Esquire	Carrie Fiedler
Inner Guard	Laurie Montag
Tiler	Sam Carter
Secretary	Jerry Wilson
Treasurer	Imre Bonyhady
Chaplain	Troy Pedersen
Organist	Wauneta Peterson
Trustee 1 Year	Scott Schrage
Trustee 2 Year	Kim Wiseman
Trustee 3 Year	Daryll Thavenet
Trustee 4 Year	Terry Edwards PER
Trustee 5 Year	Robert Sindlar

Elk-O-Gram Editor's Note

Articles Due: December 19

Deadline is ALWAYS midnight of the Thursday after last

meeting of the month!

Articles can be sent to Maureen Sadler at:

eog.lodge80@gmail.com

All past issues, lodge information, and more can be seen at:

www.elks80.org

Created and managed by Webmaster Larry Klein

an advertisement that you wanted to add? Do you have

pictures from a recent Lodge activity? Have suggestions or

updates to share?

Please! Contact the Editors at: Eog.lodge80@gmail.com with

any tidbits you would like to see included in your Elk-O-Gram.

Remember, if it's important, let us know! You might have been the only one to remind us...

Secretary's Corner

A reminder, on Sunday, December 7th, we will hold a Memorial Service recognizing all Elk members that passed away during the past year (November 16th, 2013 through November 15th, 2014).

Christmas shopping! Remember, if you are tired and in need of refreshment or food, the friendly atmosphere of the Elks Lounge awaits you. The Lounge area is removed from the hustle and bustle of the everyday world. Enjoy the Christmas Holiday, and may your joys be bountiful!

Please, If you have any questions or comments of how I can better serve you, please contact me. My phone number is 402-570-2555 and there are two emails that you can use to contact me: lodge80secy@yahoo.com, or lodge80secy@gmail.com. See you all around the lodge.

DOES Donations!

Did you see something missing? Was there something that the On Wednesday evening, November 5th, Lodge Lodge has coming up that you want to announce? Did you have Organist and Does Drove No. 4 Treasurer Wauneta Peterson presented a check for \$1,000 to ER Larry Bratt.

> The money raised was from the August 2nd Wine Tasting trip and proceeds to be credited to the Does scholarship. On behalf of the Board members of Lincoln Lodge No. 80's Scholarship Fund, Inc. we thank-you for your continued support of your scholarship and the youth of our communities.

ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION

On Sunday, August 17th, during the recognition luncheon celebration for the 2014 Lincoln Lodge No. 80's National Ritual Team, ER Larry Bratt made a special presentation to two of our lodge members present, who have contributed to ENF this year.

Member(s) Deborah Burns and PER Terry Edwards received their recognition pins for Sustaining Member (\$250+) and Distinguished Member (\$500+), respectively. Thank-you both for contributing and believing in the great works the Elks National Foundation provide and the many lives it has and continues to touched, then and now.

wishes to remain anonymous... Please Join us December 23 to assemble the Ek-O-Gram for January!

Our November EOG folders were: Randy and Allen King, Vicki

and Larry Jurgens, Dave Kirby, Laurie and Samantha Montag,

Luann Hamilton, Jim Tomka, Sharon Buss, and another Elk who

Remember, many hands make light work...

2014-2015 Committees

Accident: Darvll Thavenet Americanism: Sonny Lane PER Auditing: Duane Vanderbeek Benevolence: Richard Todd PER/PDD Community Activities: Stephen Wirth PFR Drug Awareness: Larry Bratt ER ENF: Larry Bratt ER, Chairperson Eagle Scouts: Randy King Flag Day: Doug Rienks PER Gold Award: Stephen Wirth PER Gov. Relations: Richard Todd PER/PDD Hide Program: Jeff Sneller PER Hoop Shoot: Gerald Miles Hunters Safety: Randy King Indoctrination: Larry Bratt ER

Investigation: Larry Bratt ER Retention: Jerry Wilson Lodge Activities: Richard Todd PER/PDD Membership: Larry Schwindt PER Midget Football: Scott Schrage Public Relations: Stephen Wirth PER PER Association: Doug Rienks PER Ritual: Stephen Wirth PER Scholarship: David Kirby PER Soccer Shoot: Doug Rienks PER Veterans: Wade Graft Visitation: Wade Graft Youth Activities: David Kirby PER

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Delinquent Members					
Bredemeier, Dixie	•	Messing, Todd	•	Stone, Jack D.	
Bruhn, Leon	•	Olson, Dr. Leif	•	Thone, Charles	
Caskey, Leland L.	•	Ostrander, Karla	•	Traudt, C. H.	
Cox, PER,	•	Petersen, Neil C.	•	Tucker, Melvin E.	
Timothy E. Eliason, Nicholas,	•	Pumel, PER, Glen D.	•	Walker, Karen E.	
G.	•	Russell, Jack	•	Wicht, Rhonda	
Hardesty, Patrick	•	Smalley, Sally	•	Wingrove, Dirk	
Hoppel, Lon	•	Sprague, Philip			
Hunter, Tonia		C.			
Keller, Dr. Scott	•	Stettinger, Phillip			

Robert Edmund Miles, Recognized

At our November 19th, Wednesday night lodge meeting, a special presentation was made to Esteemed Lecturing Knight Gerald Miles by Exalted Ruler Larry Bratt. The beautiful certificate states: The United States of America honors the memory of Robert Edmund Miles. This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States. Signed by: George W. Brush, President of the United States. Robert Miles was in the Army and was in the 58th Engineer Battalion stationed in Bend, Oregon. He was a construction foreman sergeant in charge of building ships. His active duty was from July 1943 to December 1944. Toward the end of his tour he became a Military Policeman (MP) and training

sergeant. Gerald's dad passed away in 2004 and it wasn't until recently that the certificate was uncovered during document reviews at the lodge. The certificate may have been temporally misplaced, however, Robert's service to our country never forgotten. Lincoln Lodge No. 80 apologizes for this delay and salutes your father, Gerald, and family.







Happy December Birthdays!

- 3 Hansen, Dale R
- Montag, Laurie K
- 5 White, Phillip D
- 7 Eskra, Roger
- 9 Hanway Jr, Donald G Rozanek, Rod
- 10 Harouff, Dewitt Sindlar, Robert S
- 12 Livingston, Bobby D Spatz, Dwain
- 13 Horsham, Tim Smith, Michael
- 14 Johnson, Xan S Ly, Daniel

- 17 Bredemeier, Dixie
- 19 Novicoff, Ben
- 21 Campbell, Jack D
- 24 Rickers, Frederick R Smith, James B Wiseman, Pat
- 27 Jones, Buford W Peeks, Ed
- 28 Andersen, Donald B
- 29 Noel, William J
- 30 Alegria, Tyson
- 31 Medina, Angel





Interested? The Does Drove are selling these long sleeved t-shirts as well as bracelets to help raise funds for their National Convention to be held in Lincoln in 2016. Contact Kelli Stanley-Smith for more info!

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Lodge 80 GOAL: \$4.60. As of 11/5/14: \$15.69

Don't forget to look for the member number in this issue. If you find yours, call the Lodge for your prize!

December 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Lodge Meeting 7P DD Visit	4	5	6
7 Memorial Service 2P Ritual Practice	8 Scout Meeting	9 Burger Night 5:30P	10	11	12	13 Meatloaf Dinner 6.30P
14 Room Rented	15 DOES	16	17	18 American Legion	19 Sacking Party 10:30A	20
21 Children's Christmas Party	22 Ritual Practice 6:30P	23	24 Lodge Closed 2P	25 Christmas Lodge Closed	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve Lodge Closed 2P	New Years Lodge Closed		