

## To: District Committee Members;

### Narrative:

It is with great pleasure that the Past Exalted Ruler Association of Lincoln Lodge No. 80 presents **Larry J. Schwindt** for State Officer of the Year. He has been a member in good standing since his initiation December 17, 1997. His father, Adam "Curley" Schwindt, was his proposer. He has held many committee and officer positions. He was installed as a 1 Year Trustee in 2008, 5 Year Trustee in 2009, progressed to 4 Year Trustee in 2010 and was appointed and installed as Esquire in 2011. Elected and installed as Loyal Knight, 2012, elected and installed as Exalted Ruler for the fraternal year 2013-2014 and will be installed as Leading Knight on April 2nd, 2014.

He has brought in a total of 3 new members in 2013 - 2014. He reaches out to new and current members and encourages them to get involved with our many lodge activities and committees. As a leader, he knows involvement in our organization and community is critical in maintaining a strong membership base as well as an active PER Association.

He is a contributor to the Elks National Foundation. In addition to reminding members to make a donation to ENF, he is proud to have all 15 of his current lodge officers contributing to ENF. He is partially responsible for the lodge exceeding the Grand Exalted Ruler's ENF goal of \$4.60 per member and which currently stands at \$19.83.

He stepped up to Co-Chair the Girl Scout Gold, Silver and Bronze Award ceremony in June during chairman's absence due to a family wedding. He Co-Chaired our 106<sup>th</sup> annual Children's City Wide Christmas Party as well as the 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Christmas Sacking Party. Larry was responsible for organizing and purchasing all of the fruit, candies and snacks to complete the 1,600 bags of goodies given out at the end of Sunday's Children Christmas program. These two holiday events alone bring together many volunteers as well as the collection of toys and monetary donations which help and support these two traditions. Larry helped to buy, haul and organized over 400 free toys at Pershing Center so lucky winners could pick from the many selections available during the Christmas program. He provided monthly lodge bulletin (Elk-O-Gram) articles regarding upcoming events and thanked members and volunteers deserving of recognition.

He assisted with delivering 3,400 thesauruses to 5th graders at 31 elementary and parochial schools in Lincoln and surrounding communities over an 8 day period of which he took off from his employment. The Haunted Armory is a 1 night event prior to Halloween. Lincoln Lodge No. 80 participated in the Nebraska Army and Air National Guards Haunted Armory in October. As co-chairman of the Halloween committee, he helped set up a fishing booth with all the lake effects. He was an active participant dressed in a goggled, snorkeling, feet flippered, aqua easy fit arm and waist floater costume while providing truly a fishing experience allowing kids the chance to catch drug and alcohol prevention mini Frisbees during this 4 hour event. ☺ While at the Haunted Armory, he made a special presentation of \$2,500 to Nebraska State Adjutant General, Daryl L. Bohac, in support of our Military's family kids

which has become an annual event since 2010. The donation helps to support many youth activities which makes the absence of Mom or Dad, or both parents, while on active duty, a little more tolerable.

He represented Lincoln Lodge No. 80 at the 3rd Annual 'Make A Difference' Fair and attended all 44 booths set up by Scott Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. The 44 story boards provided public awareness on such topics as bullying, illiteracy, poverty, animal cruelty, hunger, cancer, foster care, wounded warrior and child advocacy to name a few. He then presented a monetary donation to the 6th grade teachers responsible for the "M.A.D" Fair to apply toward four special groups to include Foster Care, Child Advocacy Center, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Wounded Warrior.

His support and efforts toward kitchen and dining room duty is tireless. Co-coordinator, Beer and Burger, every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, total = 24 nights, volunteers at all Lodge dinners, which consisted of the Bowlers Strikes & Spares, Cinco de Mayo, Spaghetti Feed, Tacos 'n Talent, Oktoberfest, Veterans Day Soup and Sandwich, Fried Chicken, BBQ Ribs, Chili Cook Off, Co-Sponsor and server at the Valentine's Day Dinner and St. Patrick's Day = 12 nights throughout the year. He helps serve food and collects for the Corvette Club members, who started meeting every 2nd Wednesday of the month since May, 2013. He dresses up in costume to whatever the dinner theme is for the night. He sells raffle tickets during the cocktail hour at these dinners for chances at various door prizes. Then the serving gloves come on and he helps serve food to the crowd in attendance. In addition, he volunteers for all the special Ritual and Scholarship fund raisers which consist of Mother's Day and Father's Day Brunches, ENF Breakfast and the Annual Pancake Feed = 4 days. He assisted the Trustees and House committee in putting in a new cement floor and shelving inside the kitchen's walk in cooler. He made arrangements with neighboring restaurants for the refrigeration of the kitchen's food until the floor and shelf project was completed. He coordinated a major fund raising project to replace the heating and cooling system in our lodges' facility at a cost of \$19,000. The membership answered his call and the \$19,000 was reached within 6 months and considered a fund raising success. He attended and participated in the Elks Midget Football program team picture day, Sunday afternoon games and the end of the season awards banquet. Lincoln Lodge No. 80 currently sponsors 8 teams consisting of 158 players, 32 coaches and 6 volunteers now in its 58th consecutive season. He assists with the annual September Soccer Shoot program as a scorer, ball chaser, or as a cheerleader for the participants while providing "you can do it" encouragement. He was a Does Drove No. 4 concession stand volunteer at 8 home Nebraska football games held at Memorial stadium from start of September to end of November. Each game requires an average of 7 hours of volunteer effort from start to finish. He participates [in custom character] in Drug Awareness (Haunted Armory) programs. He organized and conducted the Lodge Memorial Service held 1st Sunday in December. He volunteers and assists local and district Hoop Shoot competitions, annually in January. He volunteers for the Scholarship Fund, Inc. Pancake Feed from a 6 a.m. start time to a 4 p.m. end of the day time cleanup for the past 9 years. He assisted with Clean-up Duty of the lodge facility, this past February. He participates in Youth Night, held annually the 1st Monday in May, at Southeast Community College where he conducted opening remarks and then helped hand out scholarships and special recognition awards to exceptional students. He participated with his team during the awards recognition for Teen of the Year, two (2) Sundays in a row in March. Nineteen (19) Middle Schools were present which recognized one boy and girl who were selected by

their teachers and counselors to attend this annual event. He provides set up and tear down of tables and chairs for various functions including Beer and Burger, Corvette Club, dinners, brunches, Teen of the Year, Lodge meetings and Ritual practices. He has lunch almost every Friday and Saturday at Lincoln lodge's Jolly Corker Pub with officers and committee members who can attend to discuss lodge activities and facility needs. Assist in folding and labeling the lodge's monthly (Elk-O-Gram) bulletin usually after working the evenings Beer and Burger night. He traveled to Omaha Elks Lodge No. 39 as part of Lincoln's Ritual Team and performed two separate initiations for the third-niners while in preparation for the upcoming National Ritual competition held in July, in Reno, Nevada.

On the State Association level, he is a member of the selection committee for the Great Heart of Elkdom, John Brooks Memorial Award given during the State Elks Convention banquet, now annually.

He has been a very active Elk member for 18 years. He has logged over 926 hours of volunteer service and a total of 7,324.5 miles traveling to and from our lodge functions, at state and national conventions, during the 2013-2014 lodge year. He is currently a member of the Elks Bowling League in Lincoln and has been for over 20 years. He bowls 2 nights a week during a 32 week season.

He has attended all lodge and committee meetings throughout the 2013-2014 year while missing none. As Exalted Ruler, he attended the 4 quarterly Lincoln Lodge No. 80 Scholarship Fund, Inc. business meetings conducted by an 11 member fund board. He provides valuable information regarding lodge scholarship needs. He has always memorized his chair position's including opening and closing parts as well as Ritual for initiation. He contributes information about Elk members who have passed to their eulogies. He participates in all the required Grand Lodge functions, including Flag Day in June and Memorial Service in December. He has attended all State spring and fall conferences since 2009 and all Ritual Clinics held in Grand Island, Cozad and the Practice under Pressure (PUP) held in York. He was a team member of the State Memorial Service held in North Platte at the 101<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention last April, 2013. He has been a member of five straight State Championship Ritual teams, receiving All-State honors as Candidate in 2010 and 2011, Esquire in 2012 and Loyal Knight in 2013. He also won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Flag Tribute as well as the 11 O'clock Toast awards competition during the 2013 State Convention. He has attended five straight National Conventions where he competed in the National Ritual contests starting with Portland 2009, Orlando 2010, Phoenix 2011 (where the team finished 2nd in the nation), Austin 2012 (where he won Esquire All-American) and then Reno in 2013 at the 149<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention held in Nevada in July .

**NOTE:** Besides being so heavily involved with his lodge duties and functions locally, at state and nationally, he stays strong in support of his wife who has been diagnosed with 4<sup>th</sup> stage lung cancer. They are currently fighting this terrible disease together with strong support of his lodge officers and its membership.

**Therefore, be it resolved:**

It is with great pride that the members of Lincoln Lodge No. 80's Past Exalted Rulers Association present to our District Lodge Activities Committee Members and State Chairman the name of

**Larry J. Schwindt, Exalted Ruler**

for extreme consideration as the Nebraska 2013-2014 State Officer of the Year to be presented at the 2014 Nebraska Elks Convention in North Platte, Nebraska, Saturday evening April 26<sup>th</sup> during the awards banquet at the Quality Inn-Sandhills Convention Center.

Fraternally,

Doug C. Rienks, PER  
Lincoln Lodge No. 80  
President, Past Exalted Rulers Association, 2014-2015

Stephen F. Wirth, PER  
Lincoln Lodge No. 80  
Past President, Past Exalted Rulers Association, 2013-2014

Amy G. Jacobsen, PER  
Lincoln Lodge No. 80  
Past President, Past Exalted Rulers Association, 2012-2013

cc: Richard Todd, PER, Secretary  
Charles Meisinger, PER, Treasurer