

chronELKle

Henderson/Green Valley Lodge 2802



Volume 14, Issue 1

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

Lodge Hours:

Sunday & Monday Closed Saturday 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm Tuesday to Friday I pm to 9 pm For info. Call the lodge at **565-9959**

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Lodge Address

P.O. Box 90007 Henderson, NV 89009-0007

631 E. Lake Mead Pkwy. Henderson, NV 89015

www.elks.org Our local web page is: www.bpoe2802.org

Greetings From Your Exalted Ruler John Stevens, PER





Thank you to all of those who worked so hard to make the installation of the new Officers a success. The Lodge Officers for the Lodge year 2009 – 2010 deserve a big **Thank You** for all of your efforts during the past year. We are now up and running in the new Lodge year and need the support of all the members. I promise I will work very hard and I need your help and support to make the coming lodge year a banner year for Henderson/Green Valley Lodge #2802.

We now have all of the office chairs filled as well as the committee chairman have been identified. We would ask that those of you who would like to serve on a committee to contact me or any of the officers. The more help we get the more effective each committee will be. Thank you to all who have stepped and lets make this a great year for your Lodge. Filling these chairs and showing that we are serious about the requirements of Elkdom we can quickly rise above the supervision we are under and can again take our place as a leader in Nevada Elks.

Jesse Grant has stepped up and is managing the kitchen operations. He has committed to preparing two meals a month and his last two meals have been very good indeed, Look for his menus which will beginning appearing in the bulletin. Good job Jesse and thank you for the work so far!! Come on and meet this new member and sample his great food.

Else where in the bulletin you will see a discussion regarding the partition walls that were constructed last year. Please read the discussion which traces the history of the work and some of the controversy regarding this work. Please read the article and let us know what your preference is. The subject is scheduled for a complete discussion during the Lodge meeting on 20 April 2010. At the conclusion I will call for a final vote on a course of action and direction to the Lodge Trustees on how to proceed.

The response to the dart teams/players and the proposal for Taco Wednesday has not been very good. We can not have the Tacos until someone steps up to prepare them. What do you want and what can we do to encourage participation. Please voice your desires and how things can be implemented to make this a fun place to visit. Let's work together to make this Lodge a fun place where you want to be.

Finally, the Trustees have put together a budget for the new Lodge year and will be bringing before the Lodge for final approval;. It was a real difficult task this year and cuts were required in some areas from previous years to provide a balanced budget. We are going to have to live with less and throughout the year will be faced with some hard choices just as we are seeing in the budgets in the city and state. I feel confident that the judgment of the Trustees will keep us on course this year. ****** **Hope to see you at the Lodge!!**

VOLUME 14, ISS	UE I		chror	nELKIe					PAGE 2
	WHO'S WHO IN T	HE ELKS		С	OMMITTE	EE CHA	IRS FOR 200	7-2008	
Grand Exal		ames L. Nich	elson, GER	Accident Preve	ention	Richard I	DuPont	436-	5581
Nevada State Sponsor Don Dapelo, PGER			Americanism Leslie		Leslie Sn	Smith 385		-1515	
Nevada South DDGERBob Waits, DDGERState PresidentLarry Rackley, PDDGER		Auditing Eva		Evalyn Sherwood		454-	4389		
	th District Leader L			Blue Pig]	Richard I	etendre	236-	9061
Nevada Sou	1th District Leader R	Robert Morwi	ick, PSP	Bulletin		Bill Wise	man, PER	523-	-2278
L	ODGE OFFICERS F	OR 2007-200	8	Bowling		Betty Co	urtney	433-	-9306
Exalted Ruler	John Stevens, PEI	R	301-4927	Community Ac		James Ma	•	837-	9976
Leading Knight	Dona Hoesly		379-7863	Drug Awarenes		Dan Rive	rs	563-	-8663
Loyal Knight	James Matthews ((Sandy)	837-9976	Elks Training		John Stev	vens, PER	301-	4927
Lecturing Knight	Leslie Smith		385-1515	Ū Ū	Government. Relations Bill Wiseman, PER				-2278
Esquire	Patrick Bleakley		566-9613	Hides			vens, PER		-4927
Chaplain	Marty Lange (Jim	l*)	564-4904	Hoop Shoot		Patrick B	·		-9613
Inner Guard	Ron Gesell (Cand	y)	280-0562	Insurance Risk		Frank Vir	•		-9464
Tiler	Bob Mathews, PE	ER (Phyllis*)	435-9592	Investigation		Gloria M	C		-2264
Secretary	Bill Wiseman, PE	R (Mela)	523-2278	Lapsation		Gloria M			-2264
Treasurer	Richard Letendre	(Sunny)	236-9061	Lodge Activitie		Therese S		202- N/A	
	TRUSTEES FOR 2	2007-2008		Membership		Gloria M			-2264
Three Year	Richard DuPont (A	Ann)	436-5581	ENF		Marty La			-4904
Two Year	Jack Waldock		454-3315	Public Relation		James Ma	0		-4904 -9976
One Year	Frank Vining		568-9464	Scholarship			man, PER		-2278
	LODGE HONOR	ROLL		Scouting Coord		Vacant	IIIdil, FLIX	Vaca	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Elk of the Year</u>	<u>Officer</u>	of the Year	Soccer Shoot		vacan Patrick B	laaltlari		un •9613
2009-2010	Patrick Bleakley	Dona	a Hoesly	Veterans			n Nelson		-8242
2008-2009	Jack Waldock	Ror	n Gesell			U			-8242
2007-2008	Joan Wodjenski	Ker	n Bazar	Adopt-A-Vet Youth Activitie		Dona Ho	n Nelson		-0242 -9576
2006-2007	Delbert Winkle	Bill	Wiseman				man, PER		
2005-2006	Marty Lange	Richar	d Letendre	Web Master			IIIAII, PER TION CONTA		-2278
2004-2005	Clint Courtney	Bill	Wiseman	Diels DuDent					070
2003-2004	Karen MeChek	Ker	n Bazar	Dick DuPont,			Bill Wiseman, RULERS RO		2278
2002-2003	Barbara Adams	Charli	e Hannold	2009-2010	John Steve		1997-1998	Mike Owe	ns*
2001-2002	Ann DuPont	Robe	ert Miller	2009-2010	Larry Mun		By Affiliation		
2000-2001	Marty Lange	Jay	Ashford	2007-2008	•		By Affiliation		-
1999-2000	Shirley Gulick	Jea	n Allen	2006-2007			By Affiliation		-
1998-1999	Jean Allen	John	Stevens	2005-2006	Bill Obsza		By Affiliation	-	
1997-1998	Jim Ray	John	Stevens	2004-2005			By Affiliation		
	ELK OF THE M	ONTH		2002-2004	Dick DuPo		By Affiliation	-	
Mar 2011 TI	BD Sep 2	2010 TBD		2002-2003	John Steve		By Affiliation		-
	1	2010 TBD		2001-2002	Larry Ucov		By Affiliation	-	•
	BD Jul 2			2000-2001	Faye Ashfe		By Affiliation		
	BD Jun 2			1998-1999	George Ad		By Affiliation		
		2010 TBD			. 8 10	* Dece	•		
	•	2010 TBD		61ks	_FLKS		ONAL HOME		Ale
	Elks Care - Elks			usa		For informat	tion, contact: tional Home Coordinate	<	usa
	Viv Care - Zio	Share			500 WIOLWI		containe coordination		<u> </u>

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From Your Leading Knight Dona Hoesly	From Your Loyal Knight James Matthews
Thanks to all of you for electing Leslie Smith as your Lecturing Knight and myself as your Leading Knight for the coming 2010-2011 Lodge year. We are looking forward to a great year at Elks Lodge 2802 with all of you. I'm inviting all of you to please come join us, so 2010 will be a full and complete year for us. Please! Please! Please! Looking forward to seeing all of you. Sincerely and Fraternally yours, Dona Hoesly, Leading Knight Leslie Smith, Lecturing Knight	Knight during Dick DuPont's year as Exalted Ruler. I have now transferred back to the Henderson/Green Valley Lodge, picking up where I left off as you Loy- al Knight. I'm looking forward to the coming year
Greetings From the Secretary Bill Wiseman, PER	

Contraction of the second seco

As this year draws to close and a new one begins with a fresh group of officers and committee chairs and members I'm looking forward to a successful 2010-2011. I thank our new corps of officers; PER John Stevens Exalted Ruler, Dona Hoesly Leading Knight, James Matthews Loyal Knight, Leslie Smith Lecturing, PER Bill Wiseman Secretary, Richard Letendre Treasurer, PER Robert Mathews Tiler, Patrick Bleakley Esquire, Marty Lange Chaplain, Ron Gesell Inner Guard, PER Dick DuPont 3-year Trustee, PER Frank Vining 1-year Trustee and Jack Waldock returning 2-year Trustee all the new committee chairs and members for stepping up and helping with the operation of our lodge.

Congratulations to Patrick Bleakley **Elk of the Year**, Dona Hoesly **Officer of the Year** and Ann DuPont **Citizen of the Year** for your well deserved recognition. We are looking forward to your continued leadership and participation in the coming year.

We ended the year with a net loss of five members (220 to 215). For those of you dropped as of February 28th I remind you there is 30 day grace period for reinstatement without the \$25.00 fee. I encourage each and everyone of you to take advantage this. The Lodge needs you and your participation. As the new year begins we have fifty members whom have not paid their dues for 2010-2011. If it has just slipped your mind please send your dues. If you have a problem or an issue with the Lodge, its Officers or its Members that is preventing you from paying your dues, please come talk to us so we may resolve the issues and get on with the great work of Elkdom. For those of you whom have paid your dues we thank you. I thank those of you whom took the time to fill out the questionnaire on your dues statement. This information was very much needed to help us with decisions that need to be taken with regard to the distribution cost of the Lodge Bulletin and Nevada Elks News. Again, I thank those of you providing the requested Veterans information. I have already included the information on the NSEA website Veterans page.

I have included the Organizational Chart again in this issue with names added in each of the positions shown. Look at the chart, see if there is a committee you would feel comfortable with lending a hand. The biggest contributions you can make towards the betterment of the Lodge is to step-up and participate. Remember this is your Lodge; it is imperative that each and everyone of you become active in **your** Lodge to keep it growing and stable.

This lack of involvement in Elkdom by its general membership has had a very negative impact on the over membership of this great Order and our continued decline in our growth. As I have stated over the past five years "**One Member Can Make a Difference**" - please be that member. **We need**

your involvement and help to keep this Lodge and the Order viable and growing!



Fraternally Bill Wiseman, PER

Membership Committee News, Gloria Mason

ventive maintenance. A tall order but a necessary one. We will

welcome your input. Let us make our Lodge more inviting than

it is now and with your help we can.

We ended the year with a net loss of five members. This is the second consecutive year we have had a lose in membership. We peaked during Lodge year 2008-2009 with a total of 258. Lodge year 2009-2010 found us with a lose of 38 and 2009-2010 with the lose of five. We presently have fifty unpaid members for the start of 2010-2011. We need those of you whom have not paid to please send us your dues so that we may end this year with a net gain. We ask each of to help by bring in new **ACTIVE** members for this coming year.



Fraternally, Bill Wiseman, PER Per Association Secretary



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Let' go for the big push for successful year!

Congratulations, new Exalted Rulers. Yours is now the opportunity to make good on your plans and goals for the Lodge year. Accept the challenge to MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Determine that all Lodge committees are in place and working hard. Encourage the timely formation of Lodge and clubroom budgets. Make sure all Lodge Officers are Members of the Elks National Foundation.

New Exalted Rulers - you are the leaders of your Lodge. An Elks Lodge is a volunteer organization and requires deft and gentle handling. I am sure you know the best leader is bers an impressive ritual. Be seen at Lodge one who leads by example. The very best example you can give is to be there! Sit in on committee meetings. Attend Trustee meetings that ensures your Lodge fully participates in in your ex-officio capacity. Lend a hand to the the programs of the Order. Through experimembership effort. Participate in the orientation of new Members. Make Initiation of Mem-

ENF Marty Lange, Chair



Another year has passed and we are starting on a new one. This will be my 10th year as ENF Chairperson. Every year we get better and give more to our charities. My sincere gratitude to all who have donated this year, especially Bill Wiseman and Richard Le-

tendre who have donated \$100 every month this year. If you don't have an account please start one.

Thanks to all the officers of last year and welcome the new officers and chairman.

Fraternally, Mary Lange



Elks

National

Foundation

Message from The Grand **Exalted Ruler**

Hon. James L. Nichelson

functions and activities.

New Exalted Rulers - you are the catalyst ence in the chairs you know the areas that need attention. Follow through now to bring them

up to speed.

I ask that you make the Elks National Foundation a priority. Making the GER goal of \$4.50 per Member is important for you and for your Lodge. This achievement makes the Lodge eligible for a Gratitude Grant of \$500. With this grant, your Lodge can help local causes and receive valuable publicity.

Similarly, encourage good participation in Veterans Service, Hoop Shoot, Drug Awareness, Americanism and Scholarships. Your leadership in these areas and in all Grand Lodge programs will reflect well upon you and your Lodge.

Thank you, in advance, for all your hard work in the coming Lodge year. Together, you and I and all Elks make up the finest co-ed fraternal service organization in the United States. Together, ELKS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

The House Committee has spent a lot of time looking at the cost of goods sold at the bar and these costs continue to go up and have now reached a point where we have to raise our prices. Effective 1 May 2010 the price of beer, wine and well drinks will increase by \$0.25 per drink to \$2.50. The happy hour prices will also increase to \$1.75. Drinks served to renters at the back bar will increase to \$2.75. We regret that this price increase is necessary but have to maintain the required percentages.

In addition, effective 1 May 2010 the bar will not be manned by a paid bar tender on Saturdays. The sales volume has not been sufficient over the past year to support a paid bartender on this day. We would still like to keep the bar open on Saturdays and man it with volunteer bartenders. Please contact the Exalted Ruler or any officer if you can volunteer to man the bar on Saturdays.

Still have not implemented the TACO Wednesdays as no one has volunteered. Any volunteers for this effort!!???

John Stevens, PER Chairman



Nevada Veterans Recognition

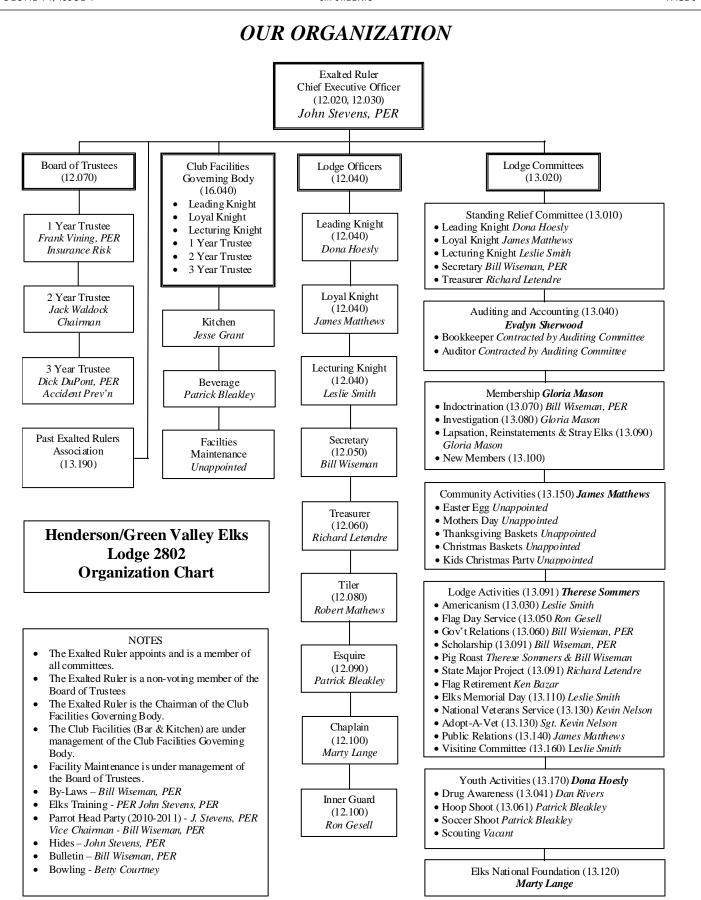
I thank all you Veterans for providing the much needed information requested on the questionnaire that was part of your dues statement. This has helped bring Henderson/Green Valley's portion of the Nevada State Elks Association's Veterans webpage current (http://www.nsea-elks.org/nvelksvets.html). If I have made any errors in the information entered please inform me by e-mailed at coordinator@nsea-elks.org. The Nevada State Elks Association's thanks you for all that you have done to preserve the freedom we so much enjoy in the United States of America.

Fraternally, **Bill Wiseman**, PER NSEA Coordinator and Web Master





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Note: We are looking for someone to step up and take over National Veterans Services and Adopt-A-Vet Chairs.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO "THE GREAT WALL" DEBATE

One issue that has raged in the Lodge for the past year has been the construction of the partition walls as part of a Lounge enhancement project and the subsequent vote directing the Lodge Trustees to remove the partitions. The following is a brief history of this issue and a recommended course of action to resolve the issue and proceed with a firm direction to the Lodge Trustees. The politics and the emotion that has been entwined in this issue is best left aside and only the facts will be presented.

In the late summer or early fall of 2008 the members of the House Committee in conjunction with the Trustees undertook a project to enhance the Lounge within the Lodge. A concept was developed which was to be phased to allow for available funds to be programmed over several years. The first phase was to resurface to walls in the Lounge, provide a new entrance to the storage room and walk-in cooler, and add two partition walls. The later was to separate the Lounge from the office and conference area, also to provide a separation from the Entrance/ Lobby area, the Lodge room and Kitchen used for hall rentals. This was to provide a segregated area for "Members Only" away from non-members and to limit the Lodge's liability at the time of Hall rentals. Additionally once completed it was believed it would provide a more intimate and relaxing area for the Lodge members to enjoy.

The concept was finalized, a contractor was identified, a source of funding was identified and the plan for a direction to proceed was submitted to the members at a regularly scheduled meeting. The plan was approved and direction to proceed with the work was provided by the members present.

The necessary materials and supplies were assembled and workers were directed to proceed. Construction was subsequently halted by the city of Henderson until the appropriate permits and a licensed contractor were procured. No work was performed during the Christmas Holidays. During this delay concerns were registered regarding the length of one of the partition walls. In early January 2009 the design of the partition walls was modified to satisfy these concerns and other minor changes were made to the work. Again at a regularly scheduled meeting the changes were discussed additional funding was identified and the project again received approval and direction was provided to proceed with the revised work with the proper permits and a licensed contractor. Construction of the partition walls was subsequently completed inspected by the various city of Henderson agencies and accepted by the representatives of the Lodge. At this point colors were selected for painting the new work; colors were submitted to members at a regularly scheduled meeting and approved. Paint was procured based on this approval.

At a regularly scheduled meeting in February 2009 a motion was introduced directing the Lodge Trustees to remove the newly constructed partition walls. The motion carried. A second motion was introduced and approved directing the Lodge Trustees to proceed with the purchase of the paint but not to proceed with the painting until the partitions had been removed and the restoration of the effected areas was completed. Subsequently, and without approval of the members of the Lodge the Exalted Ruler directed the Trustees to paint the walls of the Lodge to include the partition walls that had been previously identified for removal. This was accomplished by a licensed contractor.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees subsequently developed a Statement of Work to remove the partition walls and associated electrical and mechanical work required by the removal of the walls.

No further action was taken by the Lodge Trustees to obtain the necessary permits, hire a licensed contractor or identify a source of funding to comply with direction provided motion at the February Lodge meeting. As of this writing the partition walls remain as originally constructed and painting was completed.

Now, here we are in April of 2010. Nothing further has been done! The partition walls have not been removed and no further course of action has been developed. There have been members expressing opinions both supporting the removal and those supporting leaving the work as constructed. The bottom line is it is now time to take a fresh look at this whole subject and determine if the partition walls are to be removed with the added costs or if they should now remain after being installed now for over a year and press on and use the money to finish the work such as a new bar top, removing and replacing the ragged carpet with tile, change the lighting and other enhancements,

It is your choice, please tell us what you want, voice your opinions and respond to this document!! I propose to compile your comments and catalogue them and then open the Lodge floor on 20 April 2010 to debate the issues and then finalize action with a vote providing the Lodge Trustees with final direction on how to proceed. It should be noted it will require a two-thirds vote of those present to overturn the two pending motions. Please respond to the Lodge 565-9959 or the Exalted Ruler 301-4927. Thank You!!!

Side Note: The lodge's are being directed by Grand Lodge, as identified by the IRS, to post our Lounges as **"Members Only"** to comply with our 501(c)(8) tax status. Thus, more strongly emphasizing the necessity of isolation of the Lounge from the rest of the Lodge especially at the time of hall rentals.



'01 Games (301, 501, 701, 901 & 1001)
High Score Shanghai



Buckets of Beer Domestic Beer (6 for \$12.00) Heineken (6 for \$18.00) Newcastle (6 for \$18.00)



- - Two Units - -Model SD-A-E2-10

Cricket (Cut-throat Cricket, Master Cricket, Hat Trick & White Horse)



Hard Shell Tacos \$1.00 Soft Shell Tacos \$1.50 (Served on 6 inch shells with 2-1/2 ounces of meat)



Chips and Salsa \$1.00 Add Cheese Sauce \$0.50 Add Meat & Cheese \$1.00

Come help us get a Dart League started. As we get more teams playing we will be able to set up completion play between the other Southern Nevada Lodges. Boulder City - Las Vegas - North Las Vegas All Play is With Soft Tip Darts - Yours or Ours.

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			April 2010)		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			A REAL PROPERTY OF A READ PROPERTY OF A REAL PROPER	1 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM	2 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM	3 Happy Hour 3-6 DD Clinic - 11 AM Boulder City
4 Officers Brunch 9-11 AM Easter	5 Indoctrination 5:00 PM	6 Lodge Meeting 7:30 Initiation	7 RSVP Fri. Dinner	8 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM	9 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM PER Steak Night	10 Happy Hour 3-6 Officer Installation Mesquite 11 AM
11 Officer Installation Pahrump 4 PM	12	13 HC Meeting 6:00 PER Meeting 7:00	14 RSVP Fri. Dinner	15 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM Convention Boulder City	16 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM Annual Convention Boulder City	17 Happy Hour 3-6 Annual Convention Boulder City
18 Annual Convention Boulder City	19 Patriots' Day	20 Lodge Meeting 7:30	21 RSVP Fri. Dinner	22 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM	23 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM	24 Happy Hour 3-6
25	26	27 Trustees Mt'g. 5:00 HC Meeting 6:00	28 RSVP Fri. Dinner	29 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM	30 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM	1 Happy Hour 3-6
			May 2010)		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Officers Brunch 9-11 AM	3 Indoctrination 5:00 PM	4 Lodge Meeting 7:30 Initiation	5 RSVP Fri. Dinner	6 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM	7 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM	8 Happy Hour 3-6
9 Happy Area Day	10	11 HC Meeting 6:00 PER Meeting 7:00	12 RSVP Fri. Dinner	13 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM	14 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM	15 Happy Hour 3-6 Armed Forces Day
16	17	18 Lodge Meeting 7:30	19 RSVP Fri. Dinner	20 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM	21 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM PER Steak Night	22 Happy Hour 3-6
23	24	25 Trustees Mt'g. 5:00 HC Meeting 6:00	26 RSVP Fri. Dinner	27 Thirsty Thursday 5-8 PM	28 Happy Hour 4-6 Dinner 6:30 PM	29 Happy Hour 3-6
30	31 M Indoctrination D 5:00 PM Memorial Day	emorial ay				

Bulletin Blips Bill Wiseman, Editor

Would you like to be a bulletin benefactor? As a benefactor you would make a donation of \$10.00 per year which would be used to help offset the cost of the bulletin. If you are interested, please send payment to the Lodge and mark the outside of the envelope "For Bulletin Benefactors".

Bulletin Benefactors

Bill & Mela Wiseman Dick & Ann DuPont Richard & Sunny Letendre James D. Smith Llewelyn Stoddard Tena Bleakley John Stevens John E. Barnes Delbert & Vera Winkle Jack Waldock Ron Girard David Angel Dennis Jarworski Dave C. Smith Ben & Bernie Olson Don Koppenhaver If I have neglected to add a Benefactor, please let me know.

Are you interested in advertising in our Bulletin? Call for rates and information. Our Bulletin reaches approximately 275 to 300 people directly.

If there are any changes or suggestions you like to add to the bulletin, please contact Bill Wiseman. All input is welcome.

To submit news, place in the bulletin mail box in the conference room or send an email to bill.wiseman@earthlink.net. News must be submitted by the 15th of the month and be within one month of the event. All input is welcome.

The bulletin is now posted to our local web site: http://www.elks.org/lodges/home.cfm?LodgeNumber=2802

State information can be found on the state web site: <u>http://www.nsea-elks.org</u>





*** Help Wanted ***

Veterans Chairperson needed: We are looking for someone to fill this very important position. The Veterans Program is very import important part of our Order. You will be interfacing with the local Veterans Organizations.

Committee Members needed: We are looking for interested members to participate on all committees for Lodge year 2010-2011. We need your help to make **your** Lodge a success.

Part Time Bartenders needed: Hours 1-9 PM Tuesday through Friday and 12-6 PM Saturday.

Friday Night Dinners: We are always looking for help with Friday Night Dinners. If you have a favorite meal you would like to share with the membership, please come volunteer to prepare it for the Lodge. This can be a very rewarding experience.

Tax Preparation

Jack Blackford

268 Lilium Street Henderson, NV 89015-2750 (702) 564-3816

Birthday Coupons

Members of Lodge 2802 in Good Standing. You are entitled to **One Friday night Dinner or Two Drinks of your choice,** not to exceed \$9 in total value. Birthday coupons are available from the bartender

Recipe of the Month

Minestrone Soup

Good minestrone depends upon letting all the vegetables cook long enough to exchange personalities. The formula here is the essence of country soup making: Use what's in season, deepen the soup's character with plenty of onion, sauté some of the vegetables for contrast and don't forget the beans and herbs for flavor and body. Then let heat and time do the work. This recipe changes with the seasons and my mood, so don't hesitate to play with what's listed below.

Ingredients

- 1 to 1-1/2 gallons beef broth (as needed)
- 2 medium onions, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 medium carrot, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 medium potato, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 medium stalk celery, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1/4 pound green beans, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 medium zucchini, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 (14 ounce) cans diced tomatoes, with their liquid
- 1/4 large green cabbage, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 tightly packed cup of fresh Italian parsley
- 1/4 tightly packed cup fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 1 (14 ounce) cans green beans
- 1 (14 ounce) cans cannellini beans
- 1 (14 ounce) cans garbanzo beans
- 1 pound elbow macaroni
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation

- 1. Set aside about one third of the onions. In a 6-quart pot, combine the rest of the onions and all the ingredients up to and including the tomatoes. Cover by an inch with beef broth. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Cover and simmer very gently 45 minutes.
- 2. Meanwhile, film the bottom of a 10-inch skillet lightly with olive oil, Set over medium-high heat. Add the reserved onions, and a handful of the cabbage. Sauté to a rich golden brown. Stir in the garlic, parsley, and basil. Cook another minute.
- 3. Blend the sauté into the cooked vegetables along with the remaining cabbage, the beans, and beef broth to cover everything by about an inch. Simmer slowly, partially covered, another 45 minutes. Add more broth as needed so the soup has the consistency of a watery stew.
- 4. Season to taste, stir in the pasta, and simmer until tender, about 15 minutes. Serve hot or warm with olive oil, a peppermill, and freshly grated Parmesan cheese passed separately. Some like to add a little fresh chopped basil at the time of serving. This goes with a Tuscan red Syrah or Carmignano. (Minestrone reheats beautifully and is even better the second day.)
- 5. Serves 8 to 10 as a first course, 6 as a main dish

