

# Tidewater Trail News

Fredericksburg Elks Lodge #875

Vol. XI No VIII

Serving the Community Since 1903

August, 2016

## Exalted Ruler's Message



Greetings my fellow Elks! We are now in the dog days of summer and to me both the spring and summer are flying by way too fast. The "Dog Days" the sultry part of summer, are supposed to occur during the period that Sirius, the Dog Star, rises at the same time as the sun; now often reckoned from July 3rd to August 11th. It's a period marked by lethargy, inactivity, or indolence. It is a time where children are off from school and families are taking more vacations. Simple meals are taking the place of traditional hot meals and the pace of life

just slows down for a bit. With that said, it is also a great time to look ahead to the remainder of the calendar year and the Elk year and generate ideas on what we can do as Elks to improve our organization and contribute to our community. We are always open and receptive to new ideas and hard-charging people who are willing to spearhead those efforts from start to finish.

I had the honor of attending the National Convention which took place in Houston, TX from 2 - 6 July. It was a historical event not only for Virginia Elks, but especially for Fredericksburg Lodge 875! Many of marathon runners limp across the finish line, but not PGER Ron Hicks. Ron gained more and more speed throughout the year and sprinted across the finish line. Ron didn't run that marathon across the United States spreading Elkdom throughout the country without some help. Nancy was by his side the entire way, as they both were motivated and inspired by what they witnessed throughout Elkdom. This year will go down in history as one of the best years on record for the Elks. Under PGER Hicks leadership, the Elks achieved the lowest membership decline since 1980. A significant contributing factor to this number was an astonishing addition of over 72,400 members which was 13 percent more than the previous year and the highest percentage of new members in over 40 years!! Thank you Ron and Nancy for your tireless efforts throughout the year and setting the Elks on a steady course for success.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has never been stronger or more relevant than it is today and our Lodge is certainly doing its part with the work we do with Youth, Veterans, Drug Awareness and the list goes on. By joining together and working together as a "TEAM", we will continue to be one of the best Lodges in the Nation and we will continue to make our Lodge a comfortable and inviting home away from home for our members and their families, and prove ourselves an even stronger partner for our community.

Continued on page 2

## UPCOMING FOR August...

**Wed. Aug 3**-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

**Fri. Aug 5**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

**Mon. Aug 8**-Lounge Cookout

**Wed. Aug 10**-Home Committee Meeting, Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

**Fri. Aug 12**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

**Wed. Aug 17**-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

**Fri. Aug 19**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

**Mon. Aug 22**-Lodge Meeting, 7pm

**Wed. Aug 24**-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

**Fri. Aug 26**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

**Wed. Aug 31**-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm

Visit our Lodge's website [www.bpoe875.org](http://www.bpoe875.org) for the latest information, photos from past events, and newsletters from the past.

## Exalted Ruler's Message

Continued from page 1

We invite all Elks to the Lodge to see what is happening and join us to make a difference. I encourage everyone coming to the Lodge to bring a friend, a family member or a neighbor and show them around the Lodge and tell them all about the Elks and give them a membership application before they leave.

Last, but most importantly, welcome aboard to our newest Elks, Tony and Cathy Ryschon! When you see them around the Lodge, please take the time to shake their hands and introduce yourself.

Until next month, take care of yourself and take care of your fellow Elks!

Fraternally Yours,

**Tim Mead**  
Exalted Ruler

## Queen of Hearts Game

Just \$5 a ticket! Come out and join us on Friday nights. Great food, great fellowship, and a great chance to win \$. You could be the next winner! You do not have to be present to win, make sure you put your name & phone number on the ticket and return for the drawing.

David and Elaine Canty



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## Many Thanks from the Past Grand!

Nancy and I would like to thank the Members of Fredericksburg Lodge #875 for your tremendous support and encouragement during my campaign for Grand Exalted Ruler, preparations for the Grand Lodge Conventions in Indianapolis and Houston, helping with the Luncheons and Receptions, and for your warm welcome when we were able to return to the Lodge! We offer a special thanks to my Administrative Aide Ray Dameron for manning the GER office and having my back throughout the year, and to my Transportation Committee, led by Steve Ravinsky, with assists from Jim Norton, George Newbill and Tony Bradley, for making our trips to and from the airports go so smoothly. Please know that Nancy and I could never adequately express our “Thanks” to you for helping to make this year possible and for your cherished friendships. We could not have done it without you!!

The Grand Lodge Convention in Houston brought to a close an incredible year for Nancy and me, travelling the length and breadth of our Nation, delivering our message of “Elks Pride and Community Focus,” and sharing in the many remarkable accomplishments of Elks Lodges everywhere. Along the way, we experienced every range of emotion from great joy and uncontrollable laughter, to profound sadness, and every emotion in between. All tempered by an immense pride in “Who we are” and “What we do” as Elks, as we realized the vastness of our reach, the number of people we touch, the quality and depth of our Programs and the incredible way we are changing people’s lives every day.

We witnessed the tireless efforts of Elks in our Veteran’s Homes and Hospitals, the Therapy and Training Centers for the physically and mentally challenged, the Camps and Schools for the disadvantaged and disabled, and the vigorous fundraising efforts that support these and so many other worthwhile Programs. We saw the joy in the faces of brave young children overcoming obstacles; shared in the optimism of our Scholarship Winners; presented Awards to countless Members and outstanding Lodges; congratulated many Essay and Contest Winners; accepted the gratitude of parents, educators and government officials for our fight against drug abuse and our support of the Military and our Veterans; and had the privilege of saluting and paying tribute to those who gave all.

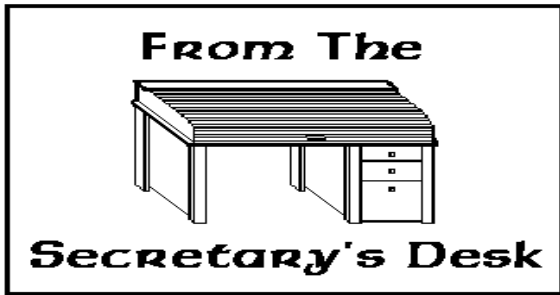
“Elks Care – Elks Share” is not just a motto, we are living it every day, and Nancy and I were fortunate to bear witness to so many extraordinary efforts. Indeed, the heartbeat of Elkdom beats within every Elk, throughout this Country, in every corner, along every corridor and in every city, town and community we serve. And, we have every right to be proud and honored to be Members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the “Best People on Earth.”

It’s an incredibly exciting time to be an Elk, to recognize the gift we have in Elkdom and to know that we are more relevant today than at any time in our history, and we look forward to our future times “Caring and Sharing” together at our wonderful Lodge. There is no place like Home!!



*Ron Hicks,*

Past Grand Exalted Ruler and  
Member of the Fredericksburg Elks Lodge



Members,

On 13 July 2016, our Lodge held a special Indoctrination and Initiation for two new members. Our very own Past Grand Exalted Ruler, Ron Hicks attended providing valuable insight as to why we join the Elks to our newest members. If you see Anthony and Catherine Ryschon at the Lodge, please introduce yourself and welcome them to the Elks family and to our Lodge.

This month at our regular scheduled meeting, 7:00 PM, on 22 August 2016, we will ballot on five new candidates. We have an Indoctrination scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on 7 September 2016 with an Initiation at our regular scheduled meeting at 7:00 P.M., on 12 September 2016. It would be great to see our members at these events to welcome the new members to the Elks family.

Our delinquents are still way up there at 12% of our membership. The list is posted on the Lodge bulletin board. If you are on this list, please consider paying your dues. If you know someone on this list, please call and persuade them to come back to the Lodge.

As a reminder, we have 51 members who are in good standing and eligible for Life Membership. If you are 65 years of age, a member of the Elks at least 30 years, of which the last ten years a member of this lodge, you are eligible. A written request must be made to the Lodge Secretary for consideration. If you need help with your written request see me.

I have had several inquiries about e-mailing our Lodge Bulletin to save the Lodge money. Yes, we can e-mail the Lodge Bulletin to a member "*who has given written authorization to receive notices electronically*". Please send me an e-mail at [\*\*\(diblesi@hotmail.com\)\*\*](mailto:diblesi@hotmail.com) if you desire to have your Lodge Bulletin e-mailed to you.

As we move into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of our Lodge year we have an opportunity to review, renew, and refresh our obligation to ourselves, our fellow members, and our Lodge. The past several months we have experienced a change in our Lodge that has troubled some of our members. Let us bond together to keep moving forward and to keep building Elkdom in ourselves, our Lodge, and our community. We can do it if we come together and continue to pull towards a common goal.

Do a friend a favor and ask them to join the ELKS. As always, it is indeed a pleasure and an honor to be your Lodge Secretary. Thank You!

Fraternally

*Diane M. Blesi*

# *Happy Birthday to our Elks born in August*

1	Jeremy Bullock Tim Garrett	11	Robert Truslow	21	Catherine Ryschon
2	Thomas Badillo Daniel Gilham Warren McCauley	12	Bert Devore James Smith	22	Richard Blair Kenneth McConkey
3	Judith Cooper Betty Gallahan Richard Merryman Kylene Miller	13	Stanley Adams Charles Hart Nancy Hicks	23	Lois Blaisdell Robert McCalley
4	Wayne Cash	14	William R Campbell Ronald Hall	24	Francis Cooke Craig Jones
6	Michael Dawson Jack Fairbaugh Joyce Jessee	16	Julia Crabtree Michael Hoopes	25	Kathy Maher
8	Thomas Deshazo	17	John D Skinner Julie Leitch George Schremp III	27	Rudolph Mills
9	Guy Aman Donna Sears	18	James Maher	28	Ronald W Barley Eric Kibala Ken Kirk Kenneth Moore
10	Joann Weigert	19	Francis Carosella Phyllis Murray	30	Dennis Berry Thomas Fines
11	Edward Ryan	20	Barbara Pickering Jeffrey Scott	31	Russell Howard

## Pictures - Grand National



## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

When an article is to be considered for publication there are several pieces of information needed. There is a difference in the content for articles to be publicized in the Free Lance Star, Elks Magazine and/or the web, whether or not for the general public or Elk members only. These articles are worded differently and photos have guidelines.

If you have an event that will be **open to the public**, please notify me when you begin the planning. It is important that I receive all the pertinent information in a timely manner. Once I have all the information, I can submit the articles to the Free Lance Star, ELKS Magazine and/or the web. There are cut-off dates as to when I can submit articles.

If you are having an event for **Elks members only** and would like to have publicity in the Elks Magazine and/or on the web, send me all the information on the event and I will ensure it is in the proper format to forward. Once again, there are cut-off dates.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: Maureen Moe Nolet,  
(h)540-370-0036; (c) 571-236-2692; [NLTMAUREEN@aol.com](mailto:NLTMAUREEN@aol.com)

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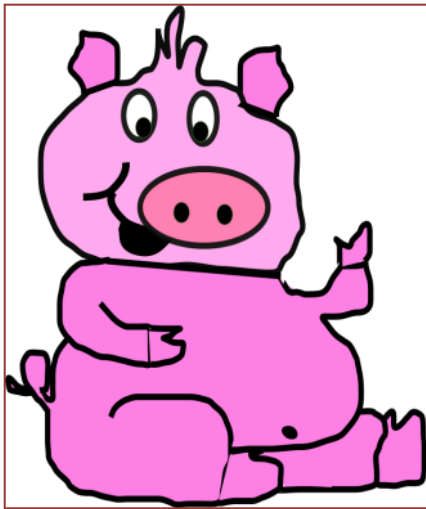
## **ELKS FUNERAL RITUAL**

The Past Exalted Rulers, in an effort to honor our departed brothers and sisters, have formed a group of dedicated members to perform **THE ELKS FUNERAL RITUAL** at the visitation or funeral of a lost member.

Any family wishing to have this ritual performed for their loved one passing should contact PER Pete Decatur (540-273-7425) or PER Ray Dameron (540-760-1272). Timing is very important. As soon as the family decides these services are needed, please call.



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***RAY'S COLLARDS***

***CORN ON THE COBB***

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### UPCOMING FOR September...

- Fri. Sept 2**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm
- Mon. Sept 5**-Labor Day Lounge Cookout
- Wed. Sept 7**-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm
- Fri. Sept 9**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm
- Mon. Sept 12**-Lodge Meeting, 7pm
- Wed. Sept 14**-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm
- Fri. Sept 16**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm
- Sat. Sept 17**-Pig Pickin Party Lounge, 4:30
- Wed. Sept 21**-Dinner & Happy Hour, 6pm
- Fri. Sept 23**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm
- Mon. Sept 26**-Lodge Meeting, 7pm
- Wed. Sept 28**-Lodge Meeting, 7pm
- Fri. Sept 30**-Dinner & Queen of Hearts, 6pm

### Campaign and Committee Updates

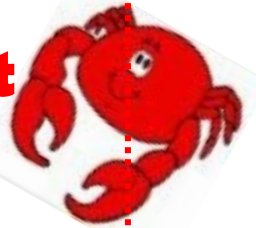
#### Lodge #875 Sickness & Distress Committee

The Sickness & Distress Committee has been established for Elks Lodge 875. If you are in need of assistance, or know of any of our Elk members that may need our help, please notify a committee member. The Committee members contact information is as follows:

- Ed Blesi, [edblesi@hotmail.com](mailto:edblesi@hotmail.com),  
540 371-5240 or 571-643-8668,
- Diane M. Blesi, [diblesi@hotmail.com](mailto:diblesi@hotmail.com)  
540 494-8899 or 540-372-3783,
- Linda Decatur, [linda.pete.decatour@verizon.net](mailto:linda.pete.decatour@verizon.net),  
540-548-4889,
- Pete Decatur, [linda.pete.decatour@verizon.net](mailto:linda.pete.decatour@verizon.net),  
540-548-4889,
- Maureen (Moe) Nolet, [nltmaureen@aol.com](mailto:nltmaureen@aol.com),  
540-370-0036,  
571-236-269
- Richard (Dicky) Smith,  
540 786-8155

### **Elks Crab Feast October 8th**

**Contact  
Home Committee  
Ladies Auxiliary**



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# August Wednesday Night Specials

## 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday August 3rd

<i>Roast Prime Rib au Jus served with Baked Potato, Vegetables &amp; Roll</i>	\$16.00
<i>Chicken Cordon Blue (breast topped with ham &amp; melted Swiss) served with Potato, Vegetable &amp; Roll</i>	\$8.25
<i>Bacon and Cheese Quiche served with Small Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.75
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.75

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday August 10th

<i>Beef Liver with Sautéed Onions &amp; Mashed Potato, Vegetable &amp; Roll</i>	\$8.00
<i>Shepherd's Pie served with Small Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$8.00
<i>Shrimp Quiche served with Small Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$8.00
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad &amp; a Roll</i>	\$7.75

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday August 17th

<i>Corn Bread Topped with Chili served with Small Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.25
<i>Crabmeat Salad Plate with Fresh Fruit, Vegetables &amp; Roll</i>	\$8.25
<i>Broccoli and Quiche served with Small Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.75
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.75

## 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday August 24th

<i>Salisbury Steak with Gravy &amp; Onions served with Potato, Vegetable &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.25
<i>Fish Cakes served with French Fries, Cole Slaw &amp; Roll</i>	\$8.75
<i>Ham &amp; Cheese Quiche served with Small Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.75
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.75

## 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday August 31th

<i>Pork Sausage with Gravy served on Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.25
<i>Chicken Parmesan served with Pasta, Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$8.25
<i>Sausage &amp; Pepper Quiche served with Small Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.75
<i>Bowl of Soup du Jour served with Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad &amp; Roll</i>	\$7.75



# August Daily Lunch Specials

## Monday

Ham, Turkey, Cheese and Bacon Wrap served with Chips and a Pickle \$6.00

## Tuesday

Steak and Cheese on a Bun served with French Fries and Pickle \$6.75

## Wednesday

Grilled Cheese and Bologna Sandwich with Chips and a Pickle \$6.00

## Thursday

Grilled Rueben Sandwich served with Chips and a Pickle \$6.50

## Friday

Crabmeat Salad on a Croissant with Lettuce, Tomato, Chips and a Pickle \$6.75

**ALSO OFFERING A DAILY SOUP !**

# More Pictures - Grand National



# Delinquent Members

002019	Robert Belman	002513	Judith Brooks
003558	Flora Ciuffreda	002111	William G. Clarke Jr.
003652	Mark Wayne Cline	003467	Hazel Cobb
003093	Douglas R Cox	003353	Patricia F Cox
003401	Rodney M Cox	003058	Richard E Crosslin
003358	Robert C Crum	003573	Gina Marie Dabney
002960	Michael Dawson	003610	Catherine Delossantoscoy
003609	Romero Delossantoscoy Jr	002976	James E Deviers
003103	Bert Devore	003249	James J Dixon
002069	Warren E Edwards	003177	Stephanie M Ennis
003048	Frank F Ferrara	003088	Melissa P Ferrara
003591	Michael Ferrari	003352	Anna Lee Fleming
002955	Diane C Franklin	003391	Michele T Griffin
003049	William H Harris	003611	Gregory Hockman
002866	Michael J. Hoopes	003289	Patricia D Hope
003617	Marjorie "Margie" Hurt	003328	Joshua S Johnson
003229	Michael Kay	003379	Eric J Kibala
003156	Ben J Lawrynas	003631	Scott D Lawson
003634	Deborah S Lee	003649	William Lee
003382	Ronald L Martin	001759	Ingvaid N Martinussen
003644	Warren R McCauley	003681	Sarah "Tricia" McFadden
002390	Willard W McWhirt	001926	James C Miller
003143	Kenneth M Moore Jr	003476	Eric Noakes
001138	John G Otoole	003220	David C Patton
003092	Mary Payne	002517	Raymond L Payne
003384	David Pickett	001915	Joseph R Plummer
003292	Janet Rushing	001120	Anthony P Seftas
002990	Hubert H Shockey	002966	Jack R Sowers
003626	Kevin L Sullivan	003214	Roger L Taylor
003419	Jonathan T Truslow	003677	Edward Wayne Vogt
003587	Edward A Vollbrecht	003498	Daniel Webb
001912	Robert W Withers	003215	William A Withers
003108	Michael S Woodson	003233	Stephanie C Woodson
003621	John Zawora		

**Benevolent & Protective  
Order of Elks (BPOE)**  
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Exalted Ruler	Tim Mead
Leading Knight	Tim Henderson
Loyal Knight	Ed Blesi
Lecturing Knight	Bob Bennett
Esquire	Betty Gallahan
Tiler	Shelby Frantum
Inner Guard	Nancy Avery
Chaplain	Debbie Cash
Secretary	Diane Blesi
Treasurer	Charlotte Leitch
Alt to Grand Lodge	PER Ron Sykes

**TRUSTEES**

Linda Pickering  
 Travis Bullock  
 Gary Leitch  
 Carol Baker  
 Georjean McDermott

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

Editor: Maxine Schremp  
 E-mail:  
 mschremp2002@yahoo.com  
 Distribution: Donna Bivens  
 Printing: M J Printers

**AUGUST**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Bingo	3 Dinner & Happy Hour	4 Bingo	5 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	6
7	8 Lodge Pot Luck Dinner	9 Bingo	10 Dinner & Happy Hour	11 Bingo	12 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	13
14	15	16 Bingo	17 Dinner & Happy Hour	18 Bingo	19 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	20
21	22 Lodge Meeting	23 Bingo	24 Dinner & Happy Hour	25 Bingo	26 Dinner & Queen of Hearts	27
28	29	30 Bingo	31 Dinner & Happy Hour			