



Calling all Elks

Hastings Lodge
#159



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A Fraternal Organization

Hastings, Nebraska

Jackie's Message by Jackie Norris, Exalted Ruler

January brings us to the end of the holiday season and the beginning of a New Year. Duane and I hope you had a season filled with family, friends and festivities.

I want to start the New Year with a Thank You to our members who volunteered their time, resources and contributions to all of the Christmas activities the Lodge held throughout December. There were lots of new faces at the events and parties, as well as the faithful members who come every year.

Our Lodge is especially proud of the People's First party. I think this is one of the most important events we have every year. The people who attend this party look forward to it all year long, and they are so appreciative! The crew that runs the evening loves doing it, and they do an amazing job!

I'm always so pleased to see the number of volunteers who show up for the Hoop Shoot every year. Thanks to all of you, and especially Shane Eckhardt for all his hard work in organizing the shoot.

This year, KHAS-TV joined us for our yearly gift delivery to families who are struggling. Scott Yackley dressed as Santa, and the reporter filmed the whole process from sorting by address to delivery (with Santa.) We hope you caught the report on the newscast. Joe Thompson did a very, very good interview.

Duane and I wish you a happy and healthy New Year. It is sure to be a year filled with new fun and new friends. We can hardly wait to see what 2012 will bring. Watch the calendar and join us for upcoming events!

From the Trustees by Dave Osborn, Chairman

Members all,
It has been a very difficult year financially at the Elks. With the debt of \$294,000.00 and the loss of revenue on the golf course due to weather, we have had to make very tough decisions to remain solvent. Needless to say revenues so far for the year are down over \$52,000.00 which means we are not able to meet all our obligations. If cuts were not put in place, foreclosure would be imminent.

The Trustees decided at that point we could no longer pay the golf course manager's salary and Shane was placed on lay off status. Our biggest concern was he would quit, however Shane has assured us he will return in the spring. As you remember we laid off club house hourly employees last year. This year when the club manager resigned we made the decision to operate without a manager until February of 2012 to save money.

Had we not made that decision we would have been forced to also lay off a new club manager. Our loan comes due January 8th 2012 and I have been working with Wells Fargo to secure another five year loan.

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Hastings Elks Club delivers toys to needy

by Kevin Rempe
Story Created: Dec 19, 2011 CST
(Story Updated: Dec 19, 2011 at 3:28 PM CST)

The Hastings Elks Club has been gathering funds from its members and Saturday put those funds to good use. As News 5 videojournalist Kevin Rempe shows us, the group spent the day delivering presents to those in need. View the video for the full feature.

The delivery of gifts to needy children in the community was well-covered by NewsCenter 5 (KHAS-TV) the week before Christmas. The feature story, showing our Elks Lodge working hard to get the gifts ready, and following Santa (Scott Yackley) on his deliveries, was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our good works for the young people in Hastings. Congratulations...and a big "Thank You" to every Elk who helped!

Notes From the Secretary by Joe Thompson, Lodge Secretary

Happy New Year from the Officers of Hastings Elks Lodge #159! I hope you had a chance to enjoy the Tom & Jerry Party on January 1st. Thanks to our Sunday New Year's Day, it was from 12 noon to 2pm, but that just gave all of us a chance to sleep in a bit.

Our Christmas Fund goes over \$5,500. Thanks to all that gave. You'll find a complete list of donors on Page 5. (Donations received after December 20th will be listed in the February Newsletter.)

A special Thanks to all who helped in purchasing and delivering the gifts to the children. YOU made their Christmas a little better.

It's not too early to be thinking of helping the Elks Lodge. There are many Committees to work on, and we will be electing a Trustee for a 5-Year term. Also, we'll be electing a new Lodge Tiler - which is step one in an eight year process for becoming Exalted Ruler. Nominations will be held February 14th, with the election on February 28th.

Support for the Stag/Staggett's is increasing. The numbers of members and guests in attendance has grown each time. Please keep up your interest, and bring a guest! They just might become a member.

The Nebraska Elks Association will be holding the Mid-Winter State Elks Meetings in Cozad on Saturday, January 7th. There will be a State Advisory Committee Meeting, followed by the State Trustee Meeting.

For 2012, LODGE DUES WILL NOT INCREASE! Lodge dues notices will be sent in Mid-January. Regular dues remain \$89. Life Member dues are still \$41.

Seventeen dollars of each member's dues is sent to Grand Lodge and the State Association for their operating expenses. The breakdown is as follows: \$3 goes to insurance, \$11 to Grand Lodge for operations and the magazine, and \$3 to the Nebraska Elks for operations.

While Elks dues remain the same, golf course membership dues will increase by 3.5%. Remember though, if golf dues are paid in full prior to April 1, 2012, the rate will be the same as 2011 (no increase). There will be a flyer with your Lodge dues notice explaining all of the options available.

Could it be you? The Elks need your talents!

In February, we will be taking nominations for:

A 5-Year Trustee and a new Lodge Tiler.