



# Calling all Elks

Hastings Lodge  
#159



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A Fraternal Organization

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# Happy New Year!

## Brad's Message by Brad Norton, Exalted Ruler

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope everyone got to share the true meaning of Christmas with family and friends and set your sights ahead with several inspiring New Year's resolutions.

We truly lived up to this year's Grand Exalted Ruler's motto "Elks Live, Elks Give" in December. We began the month somberly, with my toughest duty as Exalted Ruler this year, by remembering 13 of our departed members at our annual Elks Memorial Service. I want to thank my officers for their outstanding job performing this ceremony. I also extend my appreciation to everyone attending for showing your support to those of us experiencing the loss of our loved ones this year.

Neal Rusher held our local Hoop Shoot, garnering the best participation we've had in past years. Thank you to everyone helping him make this event a huge success. He'll need your help again at the Middle School at 2:00 on 12 Jan when we host the Region 4 Hoop Shoot in preparation for the State Hoop Shoot in York on 8 February. On 5 Dec we co-hosted Our Special Friends Christmas Party with the Knights of Columbus. Our first year in this joint venture was an enormous success, as our developmentally disabled guests and their caretakers enjoyed an evening of sing-a-longs, a chicken dinner, gift exchange and a greatly anticipated visit from Santa Claus. It was a wonderful evening for all and I want to thank everyone who participated. My special thanks goes to Beekman's and Krammer's for making the party favors, coordinating the food order and facilities and cooking for over 130 guests and helpers.

We celebrated our Elks Christmas party on Friday, 6 Dec by dining in candle light until the power was restored, then by stealing gifts from thy neighbor until we all walked away with a special gift and a memorable evening. On Sunday we hosted the annual Kids Christmas party. Thanks to all the ladies who made this event fun for the kids. Please thank John and Lynn Folcik for running the Christmas gift wrapping and delivery again this year. I must extend a huge Thank You to everyone who supports the Christmas Fund which enables us to make this one of our lodge's trademark events every year. Finally, my hat's off to Kent and Julie Rothfuss for stepping up to host the New Year's Eve Party. I hope to see everyone at Tom & Jerry's while watching the Husker's Bowl game at the lodge.



The "Elves" who took your generous Christmas Fund donations, and turned them into holiday joy for disadvantaged kids in our community. Elks Members and spouses volunteered their time and energy to do the shopping in early December, then on the 21st this group of Santa's Elves came together to do the wrapping and delivery of gifts. Thanks to all who helped make Christmas wonderful for so many children and families!

## Notes From the Secretary by Butch Lyons

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE OFFICERS OF HASTINGS ELKS 159!

As of Christmas Day, our Christmas Fund has reached \$6025.00. Thank you to all that gave! A list of donors can be found on the back cover. (Donations received after 12/24/2013 will be listed in February Newsletter.)

I want to send out a very special "Thanks" to all that helped in purchasing and delivering the gifts to the children. YOU made their Christmas one to remember!

It is not too early to be thinking of helping the Elks Lodge by becoming an Officer. There are many Committees to work on, and new perspectives are always needed. We will also need to elect a Trustee for a 5-year term. It's a crucial position. In addition, we will be looking for a Lodge Tiler (this is step one in an 8-year process of moving through the Officer positions before becoming Exalted Ruler.) Nominations will be held February 12th, and the election will be February 26th.

Support for our Stag/Stagette nights is increasing, and the the numbers of members and guests in attendance has been grown each time. Please keep up your interest in these fantastic winter get-togethers. Don't forget to bring a guest - they may become members.

Dues notices will be going out in mid-February. Please watch for them. LODGE DUES WILL REMAIN THE SAME in 2014-15. The Trustees have decided to continue with a minimal 3.5% increase on golf dues. Don't forget: IF YOU PAY YOUR GOLF DUES IN FULL PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 2014, THE RATE WILL BE THE SAME AS 2013 (no increase.)

*What do YOU care about?*

Visit [IAmAnElk.org](http://IAmAnElk.org)

to see what others say.

What makes you most proud of being an Elk?

Tell us so we can include your story!

Send your thoughts and a photo to [webmanager@hastingselksgolf.com](mailto:webmanager@hastingselksgolf.com)

Continued on Page 5