



Calling all Elks

Hastings Lodge
#159



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A Fraternal Organization

Hastings, Nebraska

Brad's Message by Brad Norton, Exalted Ruler

I enter July with mixed emotions. We lost two highly respected members and dear friends very suddenly in June, Chuck Trutna and Tom Hehnke. I extend my deepest condolences to the families of both departed Elks, and was honored to conduct the Elk's Funeral Ritual at Tom's Service. They each leave an enormous gap in our ranks and both will be sincerely missed, but not forgotten, as we will always remember them at the "Hour of Eleven."

My thanks goes out to our members and spouses for your support to their families. I do know how wonderful it is to have the "Elks Family" comforting, caring and sharing during this extremely difficult time!

June was host to several key events in which our lodge excels. First, we paid tribute to our Nation's Flag by conducting the annual Flag Day Ceremony on June 14th at the Lodge. My hat's off to the officers, PERs and Alpha Troop for making this event a success. We had a wonderful turnout, partially due to scheduling it just prior to "divorce golf" tee-off, but also the inclement weather forcing us to change the venue indoors. Thank you to everyone who attended, and I hope you enjoyed our presentation and the snacks provided afterwards.

Also, thanks goes out to Rich Freeman, our Veteran's Committee Chairman, for hosting another extremely successful and deeply appreciated "Sandwich Day at the VA" on Monday, June 17, at the Grand Island VAMC.

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From the Trustees by Randy Rippen, Chairman

As discussed at our June 25th Lodge meeting, the 2013 golf year is off to a very strong start. Despite challenging weather that eliminated many golf days in April and May; and the cancellation of our biggest tournament of the year (in June), the golf course is well ahead of last year in sales.

Golf and Clubhouse revenue will be up around \$10,000 compared to 2012 by the end of June, and given the weather differences between last year and this year, we think that is a remarkable result!

Keep in mind that it is your support of the golf course, the Lodge and the Club that makes it possible for us to experience this kind of growth. We can make big changes to our financial status just by joining Family Night on Wednesdays, eating a delicious meal at the Club on Friday nights, or enjoying a round of golf and a couple of drinks on the weekends. That's how our business will grow, and that's how our finances will improve.

As a final note, the past few weeks have seen our old mowers break down, one after another. Our turf fleet has been at end-of-life condition for the past few years. The Board of Trustees decided that the nearly \$100,000 it would take to fully repair this EOL equipment would be better spent on a lease-with-purchase option on four new mowers.



Trustee Jim Horsham and Secretary Butch Lyons cook hot dogs for the Elks-sponsored Little League Baseball team and the players' families at Lib's Park on June 26th. The Elks Lodge has sponsored a team for many years, and Youth Activities Chair, Jackie Norris, has made an annual event of providing a meal for the team after their last game of the season.

Notes From the Secretary by Butch Lyons

What a great start we have had this year in our Lodge. We've had a couple of very large Initiations so far this year, and it's great to see new faces joining the Lodge.

Don't forget, in July and August the Lodge will have only one scheduled meeting per month. In July, our meeting will be held the 23rd, and in August on the 27th. Both of these meetings will start at 8 pm.

The Lodge still has a large number of unpaid dues and would like to resolve the issue, so I will be sending out another Delinquent letter this week. If you are one of the folks who have not paid, and there is a problem, please feel free to call the Secretary (402) 460-6562.



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