



Calling all Elks

Hastings Lodge
#159



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Brad's Message by Brad Norton, Exalted Ruler

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their leadership, hard work and relentless motivation in maintaining our reputation for Excellence: to **Rich Gion** and all who helped run the State Soccer Shoot; to **Julie Rothfuss, Rich Freeman** and **Matt Norton** for helping me with the Army of Hope Haunted Armory events in Kearney, Grand Island, Omaha and Lincoln; to **Jackie Norris, Bill Mooney, Dean Poppe** and all who assisted them in hosting the Halloween party; to **Rich Freeman** and his volunteers for hosting Bingo at the VA Hospital and assisting me in donating bedding and food vouchers to the VA Transition Home and residents in Grand Island. They exemplify what it means to be an ELK and I encourage everyone to recognize their contributions next time you see them.

I want to thank everyone for your generous donations towards meeting our ENF goal last month, allowing us to apply for a Gratitude Grant to help fund youth activities. Did you know that you can go on-line to Elks.org and have ENF contribution made automatically from an account of your choice? We have already received a \$2000 Freedom Grant to aid our veterans programs and applied for a Beacon Grant to host nearly 100 developmentally disabled citizens for a highly anticipated Christmas celebration.

In these waning days of 2013, there's still many opportunities for you to volunteer your special talents.

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From the Trustees by Randy Rippen, Chair

It was delayed by a week, but we finally kicked off our "Friday Dinner at the Elks" on November 1st. This is a very important new offering for our Clubhouse for three reasons: First, it has the potential of generating much-needed revenue during the off-season; secondly, it is an opportunity to bring the public into our Lodge and expose them to the Elks; and third, it includes a fundraising "Soup That Helps" item that will allow us to support the important Transition House for homeless veterans on a continual basis this winter.

A lot of planning has gone into this new effort, and we hope it will become something that our Members (and the public) enjoy. Selena is always happy to hear your feedback, and when something new starts, your opinion is more important than ever!

On a related note, and something that has brought some concerned comments from Members, we are without a staff cook again. The resignation of our cook was unexpected, but we wish her the best of luck. We are talking to the Culinary Arts program at CCC, hoping that one of their students is looking for some practical experience. In the meantime, a number of our Trustees have a restaurant

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E.R. Brad Norton attended multiple "Haunted Armories" in the State, in the guise of Elroy the Elk. The Haunted Armories are great events for the soldiers and families of National Guard Units, and Brad was there as Chairman of the Elks' Army of Hope. Attendance was good, and all the princesses and fairies were pretty impressed with Elroy. See more from the Haunted Armories on Page 5.

Notes From the Secretary by Butch Lyons

I'll start with a meeting reminder: We'll have two (2) Lodge meetings in November one (1) Lodge meeting in December (November 12th & November 26nd & December 10th.)

Our Annual Christmas Charity program will be sending its request letter shortly after the Thanksgiving Holiday - your generosity and help in this program will be greatly appreciated by children in and around Hastings who might not otherwise have a Christmas gift. Don't forget, we will need helpers to deliver packages on Saturday December 21st.

Also, I wanted to send out a SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS THAT HELPED AT THE STATE SOCCER SHOOT in OCTOBER. And, a Big Special Thanks to Rich and Lori Gion for the organizational efforts!

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Friday Dinner at the Elks

The quiet...relaxed dinner atmosphere you've been looking for.

Enjoy a brand new dining experience -

every Friday evening from 6-9pm.

Excellent service...superb entrees...delicious desserts.

Every Friday, our Lodge will become the restaurant Hastings has been asking for.

Quiet. Subdued. Candlelit. Great food. Excellent service.

Your favorite "date night" restaurant will soon become "Friday Dinner at the Elks"

Soup That Helps

The net proceeds from every serving of our "Soup That Helps" will be donated to the TRANSITION HOUSE at the VA Medical Center to help homeless veterans find a new start.

Look for a new "Soup That Helps" each week beginning October 25th.