



Calling all Elks

Hastings Lodge
#159



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John and Lynn Folick, Randy Rippen and Brad Norton working the Elks booth at the State Fair on August 30. Not pictured: Rich Freeman and Dick Hansen

Rich's Message By Rich Freeman, Exalted Ruler

The following is an excerpt from the National Conference held in New Orleans this past July from the Grand Exalted Ruler John D Amen.

Our motto for this year: **"Elks Elevating America"**.

Let me explain a little bit about our motto this year, Elks elevate, or lift up America by their good works in their communities. The good works make America a better place to live and work. When we go into a Veterans hospital and entertain the patients with a game of cards or a healthy snack we are **"Elevating America."** We make our country higher and better than before we performed that voluntary act. When we grant a scholarship to a student who would otherwise miss the opportunity to attend college, we **"Elevate America."** The work to educate our young regarding the dangers of illicit drugs carries forward the theme **"Elks Elevating America."** Like wise, when we help a fellow Elk who is sick or in distress, we are taking a step toward our motto:

As you can see from the above excerpt, the service we provide to our community is of value not only to our community but our country. When we support our Youth Activity programs we are elevating the youth of our communities and the country as a whole. When we provide services to our Veterans Programs, we are elevating their lives and our country. Participation, repeat **PARTICIPATION**, (whether that participation be physical or financial) is a key element in our ability as a lodge to accomplish our motto, **"Elks Elevating America"** this year.