



Exalted Ruler My Final Hoof Prints Article

Greetings my fellow Elks! As you all know, this will be my last article as ER for the fraternal year 2024-2025. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to you all for allowing me to serve another term as your ER, and I have every faith and trust that the incoming officers will continue the great work we have accomplished this past year. We, as One Team, have accomplished so much over the past year, and I want to take this time to reflect on just a small portion of the good work we have done. First, we secured our lodge from future storms by erecting a sea wall that will last for decades. As an added bonus, we have reclaimed our back yard that had been slowly eroding away and can use this for future events for years to come. We have also replaced aging air conditioners, upgraded our sound system, replaced TVs, organized fun events that are too numerous to count... the list goes on and on.

However, I believe our greatest accomplishment as One Team is the charity (both physically and momentarily) that we have done. Our tireless team of over 1,700 Elks

Lodge 497

have donated their time, talent, and treasure to the noblest of causes, helping those in need in our greater community. This, aside from all else, is what we as Elks are all about. Together we accomplished great things this past year, and we will continue to do so well into the future.

So, as I say goodbye as your ER, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed this past year to make it a success. YOU are the reason we exist, YOU are the engine that drives our order, and You are part of the One Team that makes this the greatest organization on the planet. Thank you again, congratulations and best of luck to the 2025-2026 officers, never forget why we are here, and always remember as ONE TEAM we can accomplish great things!

**See You at the Lodge,
Fraternally,
Jim Rodriguez, ER**

Welcome New Members



Ladies of the Elks

Marvelous March is upon us. I am very glad that daylight savings time will begin this month; I hate when it gets dark SO early! With more daylight in the evening, the L.O.E.s will have even more time to work around the lodge!!

Our Mardi Gras PJ Party was a HUGE success. With party ticket and raffle ticket sales, we raised over \$3,600! At our February meeting, we voted to donate some of that money to Favor House of Northwest Florida (serving victims of domestic violence) and Faith House (serving displaced single female veterans).

It seemed like everyone who attended the party had a great time. I got many compliments on the food, games, band and door prizes. Winners of the costume contest were Suzette Thomanson and Bobby Gailmard, both shown with me below.



In addition, the winners of the Mardi Gras baskets were as follows: 3rd place, Debbie Hinners; 2nd place, Jackie Henderson; and the 1st place winner was Tina Riskie. Tina was responsible for selling a plethora of raffle tickets to members and friends, so it was quite fitting that she won the grand prize. Congratulations to everyone who won either a raffle or door prize!

A big thank you goes to all Elks, L.O.E.s and friends who came out for the party. I appreciate the efforts of the L.O.E.s who spent time and money preparing food, decorations and door prize baskets. The success of the PJ Party was a group effort and your generosity is truly appreciated! A very special thank you goes to Joy Jackson (pictured below with Tina Riskie) who spent tireless hours canvassing businesses in the Pensacola area for donations. We could not have pulled off the prize giveaways without her!!

L.O.E. Officer elections will take place at our regular membership meeting this month. I hope all members can turn out to vote for the ladies who will lead them during the next fiscal year. Please note the new meeting time: 6:30 PM!!

Finally, I'd like to welcome new members Carol Gilroy, Betty Hooper and Linda Tibbits who joined our group in February. If you are a female Elk or spouse/widow of an Elk, you too can join our great group of ladies. I invite you to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30 PM in the third-floor meeting room. Come check out who we are and what we do!

Exalted Ruler	Jim Rodriguez
Leading Knight	Greg Eddins
Loyal Knight	Ingo Starke
Lecturing Knight	Milton Address
Secretary	Lisa M. Levchik
Treasurer	Shannon Fell
Esquire	Clayton Sanders
Tiler	Johnny Graves
Chaplain	Tammy Eddins
Inner Guard	Hiram Hill
Presiding Justice	John Unzicker
Lodge Advisor	Toni Palmer
BOD Chairman	Greg Eddins
5 Year Trustee	David Warren
4 Year Trustee	Debra Patroni
3 Year Trustee	Phil Gambrell
2 Year Trustee	Will Berry
1 Year Trustee	Nina Summer
Accident Prevention	Ramsey Landry
Americanism	CK Dupuis
Army of Hop	Carey Seigle
Asst. Dock Master	Dave Dalton, Jr.
Auditing	Scott Abel
Blood Bank	Celeste Whisenant
Club Manager	David Christian
Community Activities	Ron Christian
Dock Master	David Dalton
Drug Awareness	Sandra Hansen
Entertainment	Celeste Whisenant
Flag Day	Robert Randall
Harry-Anna	Chris Wells
Hoof Prints	Steve Dupuis
Hoop Shoot	David Dalton, Jr.
Investigation	Ron Castle
Lapsation	Shelli Branch
LOE President	Jamie Ferbezar
Maintenance	Will "Dude" Hausmann
Marketing	Steve Dupuis
Mediator	Ramsey Landry
Membership	Lisa Levchik
Memorial Service	Beryle Farmer
Nat'l. Foundation	Sandy Milburn
Nat'l Vet. Service	Pam McGinty
Orientation	Cap Pratt
Therapy Services	Chris Wells
Training	Vacant
Under 40	Slater Dance
Webmaster	Steve Dupuis
Youth Camp	Larry Bragg

Jamie Ferbezar
LOE President

Raffle Winners



Costume Contest Winners Suzette Thomanson & Bobby Gailmard



2nd Place Jackie Henderson

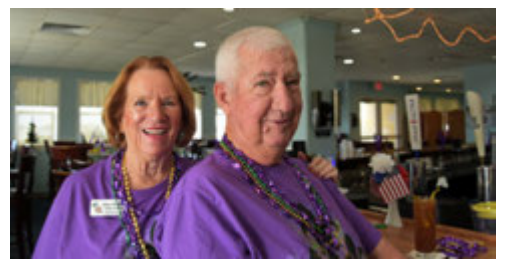


1st Place Tina Riskie



3rd place, Debbie Hinners

Fun At the Lodge / LOE Mardi Gras PJ Party



Valentine's Day



Shoutout Chef Dan Dunn

The Valentine's Day Event was a blast, a good time was had by all. A special shout out to Private Chef for another fabulous meal, job well done. Thanks to all, we hope to see everyone at our next event down at the Lodge!

Florida Elks Youth Camp June 15th-21st, 2025 Open for Registration



The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, would like to invite your child to Florida Elks Summer Youth Camp this summer. The camp is available for boys and girls between the ages of 9 through 13. Transportation to camp is being provided by Pensacola Beach Elks Lodge, #497 for Week 2-NWD Bus. Our week is June 15-21. Permission to register for camp and ride the bus **MUST** be obtained from the lodge representative in charge. For more information contact:

Larry Bragg 850-380-9275



Elks Care & Save Lives The Dan Smith Memorial Blood Drive

The Dan Smith Memorial Blood Drive was held Sunday, February 9, from 10 am-3 pm at our Lodge. Thirty-three donors signed in, the highest ever for our Lodge, and they gave twenty-seven units of blood. That is almost four gallons. Since each unit can save up to three lives, our generous Lodge donors contributed to saving 81 lives. Several participants mentioned they came specifically to give blood in honor of Dan's memory. We appreciate all our donors, and that Dan has left a wonderful legacy.



Fraternally, **Celeste Whisenant**

Past Exalted Rulers (PERs)

We had PER night Thursday 13 February at the Elks Lodge. Thank you PERs Don Padgett, Ken Branch, Cap Pratt, Wayne Levchik, Mike Warren, Dave Wiley, Ron Christian, Jim Rodriguez, Scott Field and a special thanks to Lisa Levchik for filling in on PER night at the Lodge and conducting the regular Lodge meeting. Congratulations to the new officers-elect of Pensacola Beach Lodge 497, good luck and we'll be there for anything you need.

Fraternally,
Wayne Levchik, PER
PER President

Northwest District Umatilla Quarterly Meeting



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2	3 Bingo 6:00 PM	4 Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM	5 PER Mtg 6:30 PM LOE Meeting 7:00 PM 3rd Floor	6 Lodge Meeting 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	7  The Koolerators (Paul & Jeff) 6:00 - 10:00 PM	8  KARAOKE with Shannon & Birthday Bash
9	10  AUTISM Bingo 6:00 PM LOE Officers Meeting 1:00 PM 3rd Floor	11 Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM New Member Interviews Start 5:30PM	12	13 LOE Meeting 7:00 PM 3rd Floor Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	14  Joshua Strickland Trio 6:00 - 10:00 PM	15
16	17  HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY Bingo 6:00 PM	18 Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM	19	20 BOD Meeting & Governing Body 6:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	21  Platinum Premier Duo (Misty & Loren) 6:00 - 10:00 PM	22
23	24 Bingo 6:00 PM	25 Taco Tuesday 5:00 - 7:00 PM New Member Orientation 6PM	26	27 Lodge Meeting & Initiation 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts ~8:00 PM	28  'Tomato' DINNER & 6:00 - 10:00 PM	29
30 LOE Officers Installation 1:00 PM 3rd Floor LODGE Installation of Officers 2:00PM 3rd Floor	31 Bingo 6:00 PM					

TACO TUESDAY
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There's a Signup List at the Lodge...



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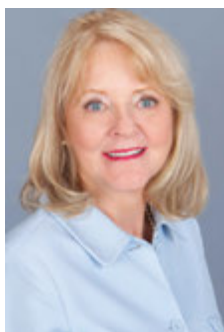
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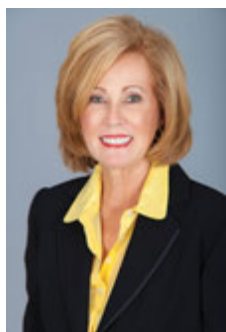


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From the Secretary

Everyone should have received their dues notices. Please pay before the 3/31/2024 deadline. If you don't pay before 3/27 when the bulk mail is sent out, you will need to pickup your card at the lodge. Beginning April 1st the readers will be swapped out and you will no longer be able to gain access to the lodge with your blue card. We are also providing new parking stickers with your cards. The old stickers will no longer be valid.

Early Bird Dinner will be held on March 23rd from 4-7pm for those members that paid their dues by March 15th.

Members are free, spouses are \$5.

If you are not planning on renewing, you should email me that you want to absolute dimitt. You will then be an inactive member in good standing. You must do this prior to March 31 st . If you are dropped for non-payment you will not be allowed to enter any lodge as you will considered delinquent and not in good standing.

**Thanks,
See You at the Lodge!**

March

Interviews: Tuesday, Mar 11th on the 2nd floor beginning at 5:30pm. Please sign in on the sign-up sheet by the library.

Orientation: Tuesday, Mar 25th 3rd floor 6pm.

Initiation Meeting: Thursday, Mar, 27th, Meet on the 2nd floor at 6:15pm for further instructions.

Lisa Levchik
SecretaryElks497@gmail.com

Office Hours Mon & Thurs 1-5pm

Club Hours

Mon-Thurs : **Noon - Til**
Friday : **Noon - Til**
Saturday : **Noon - Til**
Sunday : **Noon - Til**

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Secretary: (850) 932-8050
Reservations: (850) 932-4444
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www.elks.org/Lodges/home.cfm?Lodgenumber=0497

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