

Sebring Elks Lodge at Work

The following article was previously written by Ronna Mason, Past Exalted Ruler, and has been updated by Diane Morse, Sebring Elks Leading Knight

The Sebring Elks Lodge #1529 was chartered on July 14, 1927, with an initial membership of 26 men all of whom were civic leaders or developers in the Sebring community. Within six months the membership grew to 105. These men saw a need for Highlands County to have a Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for the good of the community.

Today, we have surpassed the 700 mark and are enjoying a significant growth rate during the past few years. There are many reasons for this increase. The main reason is the comradery of the Elk members. You have only to attend some of the functions to see the respect and affection shown by the members, spouses, and guests. We are all here for a common goal, to have a good time and to share our good fortunes with others. Friendships are made and good things are done for our community.

We are PROUD to be an Elk and therefore we are making strides to let the community know the good that this Order does by participating in community events that help our youth, veterans, and those needing help within the community. During past years we have received grants from the National and State Elks Associations to help in these areas. The most recent grant was to again sponsor the Downtown Children's Festival, which is scheduled each October. We also received a Freedom Grant to help replenish the clothing closet for veterans through the Disabled American Veterans program. The lodge is again asking for the Spotlight Grant to be used to purchase food for needy children and families at local schools and community feeding programs such as the Hands for Hope program through the Christmas Holiday. Members are needed to help volunteer at all of these events as we show that **Elks Care, Elks Share**.

We are reaching out to people by Facebook, email updates, and by the monthly bulletin which is sent via e-mail or mail and bulletin copies at the lodge. There are so many ways that showcase the good that our lodge does for those in the community. The Elks lodge offers a Charity Bingo on Monday evenings for others to help those in need. The donations collected are given to various community needs such as Little League & Softball; sending kids to camp; supporting the Elks Harry Anna Trust Fund; high school scholarships; ARC programs for disabled adults; and many other activities. The Elks support these programs through their yearly giving to the Elks National Foundation and the Harry Anna Trust Fund.

Come join us and share with us all the good we do. And as you may have heard, BPOE also means –

“BEST PEOPLE ON EARTH”